

## Young Lady 341

### Chapter 341 – Obsessed With Stones And Likes

Wei Yuewu politely excused herself. The Fourth Prince did not insist on her to stay, but as he watched her leave, there was a bit of displeasure in his eyes.

He was a dignified prince. No one had ever rejected him like this before.

“Fourth Younger Brother, what’s wrong?” The Crown Prince Wen Tianyao slowly walked over and asked in a calm tone as if he had not heard what Wei Yuewu had just said.

The Fourth Prince retracted his gaze and shook his head. With a faint smile, he grunted in a rather distressed manner, “Royal Brother, does Sixth Miss Wei not like me?”

“What do you mean?” Wen Tianyao asked, puzzled.

“I wanted to invite her to admire the lanterns tonight, but she refused!” The Fourth Prince lamented sadly.

“Maybe because many things have happened recently, and they are all related to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang!” Wen Tianyao smiled warmly and comforted his younger brother.

“Oh yes, Royal Brother, did Marquis Hua Yang enter the Palace today?” The Fourth Prince raised his head and asked. Speaking of Wei Luowen, the Fourth Prince became a little more spirited.

“He didn’t. I heard that something happened in his mansion, and he is going to enter the Palace tomorrow. Do you want to see Marquis Hua Yang?” Wen Tianyao asked in surprise as he glanced at the Fourth Prince.

“It’s not a big deal.” The Fourth Prince suddenly became timid and coughed lightly as he held his hand to his lips. “I heard that Marquis Hua Yang likes precious stones. I have a few new stones in my palace, and I want to ask Marquis Hua Yang to take a look.”

“Fourth Brother, it’s easy to be addicted to the stones and likes. You can’t be too obsessed with them,” Wen Tianyao reprimanded him gently.

“Yes, I know. I’m just admiring them in my free time.” The Fourth Prince bowed respectfully to Wen Tianyao.

Looking at the modest Fourth Prince, Wen Tianyao donned a gentler expression and said while walking forward, “Actually, I’ve heard that Marquis Hua Yang has a lot of rare stones in his mansion at the border. Some of them are so rare that we’ve never seen them in the capital. If there is a chance, I would like to hear Marquis Hua Yang talk about his collection.”

“Royal Brother, why don’t you ask Marquis Hua Yang to send some rare and exquisite stones into the Palace?” Hearing that Wei Luowen actually had so many wonderful treasures, the Fourth Prince grinned in excitement. He followed Wen Tianyao closely and suggested with a smile.

“Stones are not like jade and other artifacts. Some of them are big. If they are transported from so far away from the border, something may happen on the way here, and it’s a big waste of money and manpower.” Wen Tianyao shook his head.

“Royal Brother, you are so considerate. I-I have only cared about my own curiosity, and I forget about the money and manpower that may be used in the transportation. I feel so ashamed!” The Fourth Prince hung his head low in embarrassment and sincerely denoted, “Next time, if I see something that I like but it’s too big, I’ll leave it be. I’ll listen to your advice, Royal Brother!”

“You don’t have to mind it so much. If you like, I have some small stones in my palace. Later, I’ll have someone send them to your mansion.” The Crown Prince smiled graciously at the Fourth Prince.

“Thank you, Royal Brother!” Hearing that there were other stones, the Fourth Prince was overjoyed. He immediately stood still and bowed to the Crown Prince.

“You’re welcome. Third Younger Brother likes calligraphy and painting, so I always send the good ones to him. Since you like stones, I can still afford to send you some small ones!” Wen Tianyao chuckled.

“How can I compare myself to Third Elder Brother? He is about to become obsessed with calligraphy and painting. His mansion is filled with works of calligraphy and painting. Last time, I accidentally obtained a piece of calligraphy and painting. Third Elder Brother immediately came over before I appreciated and took it away without a word. Next time, I’ll do the same thing if Third Elder Brother gets a good stone!”

The Fourth Prince grunted in an annoyed tone with a hint of complaint.

However, these childish words made Wen Tianyao laugh. “Okay, next time, if Third Younger Brother doesn’t give his stone to you, I will help you ask for it!”

Hearing that his Eldest Brother supported him, the Fourth Prince smiled even more proudly.

A eunuch hurriedly ran over. When he saw Wen Tianyao, he hurriedly stepped forward and bowed respectfully, “Your Highness, His Majesty invites you over!”

“Now?” Wen Tianyao paused for a moment, and the smile on his face slowly faded away.

“Yes, Your Highness,” the eunuch bowed and said.

Wen Tianyao glanced at the Fourth Prince, who immediately smiled and urged, “Royal Brother, since Father Emperor is looking for you, you should hurry over. I will ask Ruoming how he will deal with this matter later. The Heiress-apparent is, after all, a daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. We have to show them some courtesy.”

Just now, the two of them walked out and left Wei Fengyao to Wen Ruoming. The situation should be more or less sorted out by now. It could show the imperial family’s courtesy if someone from the imperial family saw them out of the Palace.

“Okay, then you stay and help Ruoming deal with this,” Wen Tianyao nodded and said.

The Fourth Prince nodded. When he saw Wen Tianyao hurriedly leave with the eunuch, the smile on his face slowly faded, and a hint of malice flashed in his eyes.

“Father Emperor favors him more and more!” He snorted coldly.

“Is His Majesty not feeling well?” Mo Huating slowly emerged from the nearby bushes. In fact, he had come with the Crown Prince and Fourth Prince, but he tactfully waited outside the hall instead of going in with them.

“No. Father Emperor is in good health. He is not sick at all. I secretly checked the case before. Father Emperor is absolutely fine!” The Fourth Prince grunted unhappily.

“When did you investigate it, Your Highness?” Mo Huating’s expression turned cold.

“A few days ago. This is so strange. Recently, Father Emperor always looks for Eldest Brother. It’s as if he can’t even handle the affairs without Eldest Brother,” the Fourth Prince snorted coldly, a trace of anger flashing through his eyes. Had it not been for what happened back then, he would have been the legitimate son of the Empress, and he would be the Crown Prince.

All of this should have been his! Even if Wen Tianyao was born first, he was only the eldest son of a concubine.

“Your Highness, don’t investigate His Majesty’s case. There are many people who have seen the case in the Institute of Imperial Doctors. If the Crown Prince finds out...” Mo Huating turned his eyes and reminded him.

“I’ll watch out.” The Fourth Prince nodded, feeling that he was a little reckless.

“Did you see Sixth Miss Wei just now?” Suddenly, he changed the subject.

“Yes, I did,” Mo Huating answered calmly with an expressionless face. It was as if the Fourth Prince had mentioned an ordinary young lady of aristocratic families who had nothing to do with him.

“When I went in just now, I saw that the Heiress-apparent wanted to scratch Sixth Miss Wei’s face, but the Heiress-apparent fell and fainted! She is really stupid!” The Fourth Prince shook his head and

expressed sympathy for his cousin. "When you ask someone to prepare the soft sedan, ask them to be careful. I don't know why Ruoming married such a woman!"

So, was it because of Wei Yuewu that not only was the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an injured, but she was also looked down upon by everyone? Despite Mo Huating's expressionless face, he squinted, adding some profoundness to his eyes.

He would never believe that sixth Miss Wei was truly innocent.

Since the first day he encountered Wei Yuewu, he had already discovered that she was not simple. Not talented and plain-looking? If Wei Yuewu had not been younger at that time, Mo Huating even suspected that this was Wei Yuewu's plot to confuse everyone in the capital and make herself invisible.

How could a stupid woman like Wei Fengyao be able to deal with Wei Yuewu's scheme?

Others might not know, but he clearly knew how she got out of the desperate situation at that time. He wasn't sure if he would be able to do so well if he was in her shoes. However, not only did she manage to escape the dire situation, but she also turned the table against him.

Of course, Yan Huaijing was involved in this matter, but Mo Huating believed that even if Yan Huaijing didn't help her, this Sixth Miss Wei might still have a way to escape his death trap.

"Your Highness, don't worry. I will let them be more careful later!" Mo Huating nodded.

"What do you think about my response in the conversation with Royal Brother just now?" The Fourth Prince changed the subject again and went back to talk about Wen Tianyao.

"Wonderful. You responded very well, Your Highness. As long as the Crown Prince misunderstands that you are obsessed with stones and the like, and you approach Marquis Hua Yang because of such stuff, he will not doubt you. By the way, are you serious about Sixth Miss Wei?" Mo Huating smiled warmly.

"No. Mother has her plan on her, so I won't go against Mother's intentions." The Fourth Prince hesitated slightly, and then he smiled and shook his head.

Women were important, but they were not as important as the country and the throne. Mother was right. When he ascended to the throne, he could have all kinds of women he wanted. Perhaps at that time, he could snatch Sixth Miss Wei back and make her his concubine.

Now, there was no need to argue with his mother for a woman.

Of course, if there was a chance, he would still try his luck. Mother probably hadn't selected her as his legitimate wife, but perhaps, Mother would not object if he wanted to take her as his secondary concubine...

"Zhaoyi Tu is right!" Mo Huating smiled and agreed. From the day he joined the Fourth Prince's force, he had become the Fourth Prince's confidant. He knew a bit about some secrets in the Palace, so he understood the Fourth Prince's implication.

As he spoke, Wen Ruoming walked down the steps with a straight face. Behind him, two maids supported Wei Fengyao, who could barely move, and walked very slowly and carefully.

It was just a few steps, but the distance between the two of them increased.

"Your Highness, let's go!" Wen Ruoming walked up to the Fourth Prince in a few steps. There was still a hint of anger on his face.

The Fourth Prince smiled and lightly punched him on the shoulder. "Relax. I heard that you are going to marry Fifth Miss Wei soon. What's there to be upset about?"

"Don't you want to have a beautiful woman in your arms and make her happy again?" Mo Huating also joked and laughed.

They had grown up together since they were young, so they talked casually between themselves.

“You’re right. If it weren’t for her stupidity, my attempt to please the beauty will not have been so convenient!” Wen Ruoming hissed disdainfully as he turned and glared at Wei Fengyao. He did not hide his disgust for Wei Fengyao in front of them.

After what Wei Fengyao did, Wen Ruoming believed that the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would agree to him marrying Wei Qiuju earlier than scheduled. Wen Ruoming was very satisfied with this point. As for whether his words would cause a great uproar to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, he did not care about it.

The mansion of Marquis Hua Yang had indeed been in turbulence these days, but Wei Yuewu was in the most chaotic situation now, because she saw the palace again from another angle.

Just as she saw that there was no one around and wanted to walk over, she suddenly heard a cold and anxious voice behind her, “Stop right there! Sixth Miss Wei, what are you trying to do?”

#### Chapter 342 – Where Do You Want To Go?

Wei Yuewu did not expect to be able to see the palace from this direction. She had already seen the name of the palace before, so when she saw it again, she immediately stopped.

From this direction, it looked even more deserted and was a little further away from the main palace path ahead. No one would notice her if she went through the small path, so Wei Yuewu was intrigued.

She was so curious to check out the palace! She wanted to go there right now!

Her childhood memories all pointed to this palace, as if there was something guiding her. She subconsciously walked forward.

“Stop right there! Sixth Miss Wei, what do you want to do?” A cold voice came from behind her, carrying a bit of imperceptible anxiety and urgency.

Jin Ling had already turned around one step ahead of her. Wei Yuewu also stopped and watched in shock as the Third Prince was walking over with his hands behind his back.

“Greetings, Your Highness!” After a slight pause, Wei Yuewu stopped and bowed.

“Where do you want to go, Sixth Miss Wei?” With a cold expression, the Third Prince pointed to the palace in front of him. There was only one destination from this direction.

“It seems that the palace is empty. I’m curious, so I want to go and check it out.” Wei Yuewu narrowed her eyes and smiled gently.

“Curious? Sixth Miss Wei, you should know that curiosity is the most forbidden in the Palace!” The Third Prince reprimanded fiercely. “A lot of people died because they were curious!”

Wei Yuewu was not intimidated by the Third Prince’s harshness. There was still a faint smile on her face. “Your Highness, are you trying to say that I can’t go to that place? But I seemed to have been there when I was young.”

“When you were young? How young? It’s amazing how you can still remember something that happened when you were young. Aren’t you worried that you might have remembered it wrongly? You might even die without knowing how and why!” The Third Prince’s gaze fell on Wei Yuewu.

The hair of the girl in front of him was as black and silky as a waterfall. There was a faint smile on her fair and flawless face. Coupling with a pair of sparkly and bright eyes, she looked natural and refreshing even without many accessories.

However, her face was slightly pale, and the colour seemed to drain from her lips. She seemed to be a bit weaker as compared to when he first met her. The Third Prince’s gaze became more and more profound as he looked at Wei Yuewu.

“Your Highness, is it that serious? It’s just an empty palace. Her Majesty has given us permission to walk around freely!” Wei Yuewu raised her eyes and smiled. Her clear eyes actually gave off a brimming feeling in an instant, and that familiar feeling captivated the Third Prince, so much so that he was almost unable to move his eyes away.

Sensing the Third Prince’s absent-mindedness, the keen Wei Yuewu asked with a smile, “Your Highness, is there something unusual or different there?”



Whether it was for her or the Third Prince, there must be something different or special about that place. In fact, if it weren't for the fact that there was no trace of the Third Prince in her memory, Wei Yuewu would even have suspected that the Third Prince was also there at that time.

The Third Prince withdrew his gaze and lowered his eyes slightly. He took out a bottle of medicine from his pocket and handed it over. "This is a bottle of medicine made by the imperial doctor in the Palace to strengthen the body and health. Look at you, so pale and weak. Take this!"

Did he give her medicine? Wei Yuewu was taken aback. Brocade and jewelry were common gifts, but she had never seen a man give a woman medicine.

"Your Highness..." She raised her clear eyes in surprise and glanced at the Third Prince. She did not understand what this Third Prince meant.

"This is the medicine from the Palace. It might be of help to your body!" The Third Prince suddenly became annoyed. He grabbed Wei Yuewu's hand, roughly stuffed the medicine into her hand and then turned and left.

He did not give Wei Yuewu any time to ask a question.

Behind him, Wei Yuewu frowned slightly. The feeling that the Third Prince gave her was really too strange.

It was as if he was a familiar stranger, or rather a strange familiar person!

This feeling was very strange, as if the key to understanding everything was with this the Third Prince. However, it was extremely difficult to make him talk.

So, there were many things that she had to investigate herself, right?

"Miss, what medicine is this?" Jin Ling asked nervously. "You can't take the medicine casually. Although you are quite weak, you don't need to take any medication."

“Just leave it be. I don’t need it anyway.” Wei Yuewu nodded, but unexpectedly put the medicine into her pocket. A trace of thoughts flashed across her eyes. If only the Third Prince could tell her more!

She believed that the Third Prince knew many things about her, whether it was the matter about herself, her mother, that little elder sister, or the Palace...

“Miss, do you still want to go over there to take a look?” Jin Ling didn’t say anything when she saw that Wei Yuewu had put the medicine bottle away, but she pointed at the palace and asked.

“Let’s go over and take a look!” Wei Yuewu nodded firmly. Since there was such a chance, she naturally had to go and take a look. This time, they were a bit far from the main palace path, right at the back of the palace. Their location was remote and secluded. Moreover, she was on her way here. Even if someone spotted her, they would only think that she was strolling around.

Since Wei Yuewu had decided to go over, Jin Ling would not have any doubts. They acted as if they were strolling around and headed towards the palace.

This palace was not big. It was the same as the palace that Wei Fengyao had temporarily lived in. They were both considered to be relatively small. Perhaps it was due to its remote location and quietness, when they walked over, an eerie feeling sent chills down their spines.

Then, they stood at the back door of the palace, where a large iron lock was tightly locked. Judging from the rust marks on the lock, they determined that the door had been locked for a long time, so much so that the lock was rusted.

A very old nurse bent over and diligently swept the floor. Even when she saw Wei Yuewu bring Jin Ling over, she did not raise her head and still diligently cleaned the withered branches and leaves under her feet.

Slowly, the old nurse approached Wei Yuewu’s feet as she was sweeping. She raised her slightly turbid eyes and glanced at Wei Yuewu. In a daze, she suddenly threw away the broom in her hand and knelt down with a thud, stammering frightfully, “Your Highness! I-I’m sorry! I didn’t see you!”

Your Highness? Wei Yuewu was shocked and hurriedly winked at Jin Ling as a hint.

Jin Ling quickly went over to support the old nurse and reassured gently, "You must be mistaken. She is the Sixth Young Lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. She is not a master in the Palace."

Jin Ling's gentle tone calmed the old nurse's emotions. She stood up while holding Jin Ling's hand and carefully looked at Wei Yuewu's face. After a while, she seemed to see Wei Yuewu clearly. She hurriedly lowered her head and explained, "Sixth Young Lady... I... I mistook you for someone else. I thought you were the concubine from the Palace."

"Are you from Shufang Palace?" Wei Yuewu smiled and asked casually.

"Yes, I am from Shufang Palace. My eyesight is not very good, so I stayed here to clean up." The old nurse nodded hard, her voice a little loud.

"You are the only one in such a big palace?" Wei Yuewu smiled warmly.

"Yes. Everyone was transferred away. There is nothing much we can do in a palace without a master," the old nurse asserted.

"So... why didn't you leave?" Jin Ling looked up and down at the old nurse and asked in confusion.

People strived to succeed. Since there was nothing much to do here, why did this old nurse stay here?

Wei Yuewu quietly sized up the old nurse. It was really rare to see such an old nurse in the Palace. When it came to a certain time, palace maids would be released from the Palace. Only some maids who were highly regarded by their Master would stay and be promoted to the position of nurse-in-charge in the end. However, which Master kept this old nurse here?

Moreover, the nurse-in-charge was not very valued. If something happened to her Master, she would often lose her life too. What was the matter with this ordinary old nurse in front of her?

"I stayed here voluntarily. I-I used to work in this place..." The old nurse sighed. Her eyes fell on the dark brown palace wall, and her expression was complicated.

"I heard that this place was haunted. Aren't you afraid of staying here?" Jin Ling pointed at the palace wall, her face full of fear. She lowered her voice and asked in a shaky tone.

"Haunted? I am old anyway, so I am really not afraid of ghosts. If there is really a ghost who wants to catch me, it does not matter." The old nurse chuckled very indifferently. The wrinkles on her face gave off a vibe that her life was dim.

It seemed that the old nurse would collapse to the ground at any time and place.

Wei Yuewu walked over, squatted down, picked up the bald broom, handed it over, and said gently, "Here, your broom."

"Thank you, Sixth Young Lady!" The old nurse's hearing was good, and she remembered that Jin Ling introduced this young lady as the Sixth Young Lady from the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

"Who is the last Master here?" Wei Yuewu handed the broom to the old nurse and asked softly.

"The last Master? Oh, it has been a long time! She was the Former Emperor's concubine of low rank, I think. As for who she was, I can't remember it now." The old nurse thought for a moment and shook her head forcefully.

"Where did she go?" Wei Yuewu asked thoughtfully as she turned to look at the palace.

"She died! They all died. None of them survived!" The old nurse's gaze also fell on the palace wall. She shook her head and added, "In this palace, if the Master could stand out, she would have stood out a long time ago. I lost count of how many people died in such a palace. No one even remembered who the Master who once lived here was!"

"After that, no one lived here anymore?" Wei Yuewu asked, her eyes slightly cold.

“No, no one. Rumors about this place spread around the imperial palace, claiming that this palace was haunted and cursed. Some even claimed that they had seen ghosts here. Actually, people died in every corner of the Palace, but why didn’t anyone say that they had seen ghosts in other places?” The old nurse shook her head again. With the broom in her hand, she trembled slightly as she walked to the other side and continued to sweep, looking like she didn’t want to talk anymore.

In other words, when the incident happened, this palace was empty. Then, why did she come here? At that time, she was just a child. How could she come to such a place alone? Who brought her here? Or who led her here?

The helplessness, panic, and fear at that time seemed to be right in front of her eyes. Her hand quietly pressed on her chest, feeling the rapid heartbeat. Her heart seemed to thump a bit faster than usual...

“Miss, what is that?” Jin Ling suddenly pointed to a corner of the palace wall and exclaimed.

#### Chapter 343 – The Aged Blood Stain

“Miss, please come over and take a look at this. I-It’s...” Jin Ling frowned as she pointed at a dark corner of the palace wall.

It was a small but fixed hole in the wall that looked a bit like a dog door. It was fixed by piling up a few bricks negligently. The bricks were covered with moss, and they blended with the hue of the surrounding palace walls. Apparently, the walls had weathered through the years.

However, it was unexpected to see such an untimely hole in such a tall and magnificent palace. Even if the wall had been broken before, the palace guards should have repaired it properly instead of fixing it in such a sloppy way. Perhaps it was the reason why Shufang Palace did not have a Master.

Otherwise, why would they negligently fix the wall instead of patching up the hole decently?

Looking at the sloppily patched hole on the wall, Wei Yuewu inexplicably felt as if someone was suffocating her and she couldn’t breathe. There was a faint cry of surprise echoing in her ears as if someone was calling her.

“Miss. Miss. Miss! What’s wrong?” Jin Ling turned around and cried out in alarm as she saw Wei Yuewu’s deathly pale face. She hurriedly came over to help her up.

An old nurse, who was sweeping the floor at the side, lifted her head and looked at Wei Yuewu thoughtfully. She sized Wei Yuewu up with her sharp gazes as if she was trying to see through the latter and read her mind.

Sensing Jin Ling’s physical touch, Wei Yuewu darted her eyes in confusion. She gripped Jin Ling’s hand tightly and took a few deep breaths. Only then did she manage to slowly relieve the feeling of suffocation in her chest.

“I’m fine. It seems like... I remember something!” Wei Yuewu shook her head. She was still holding Jin Ling tightly, as if only in this way could she give herself strength.

“What did you remember?” Jin Ling asked anxiously while looking at Wei Yuewu’s pale face in concern, not knowing the fragments that flashed through Wei Yuewu’s mind.

“Some things from my childhood... I-I’ve been here, but... I can’t remember all of them!” There was a tired smile on Wei Yuewu’s pale face, but her eyes were firmly fixed on the hole that had been patched up.

She was sure that she should have something to do with this hole. The hole was too small for adults, but she should be able to crawl in when she was a kid!

Something didn’t add up. She was the dignified legitimate daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Why would she come to the back door of this ruined palace? Did she not have any maids by her side? How did she come here? Everything was still in the dark.

Suddenly, Wei Yuewu’s eyes fixed on a certain part of the palace wall. There was a dark red mark on the side of the palace wall with the hole. It was not obvious under the moss, but when Wei Yuewu looked at it carefully, she could still spot it. This should be the place where Jin Ling pointed and shrieked in shock.

A dark red mark?

The scene of the girl vomiting blood inexplicably flashed through Wei Yuewu's mind. Was she the girl who vomited blood? Feeling the tremble in her heart, Wei Yuewu walked closer to the wall with Jin Ling's help, squatted down, and gently stroked the moss. Her heart was inexplicably sorrowful. Was that girl here too at that time?

Although the girl was thin and weak at that time, she was much older than Wei Yuewu, so it would be difficult for the former to crawl into this hole.

Was the girl playing with her at that time?

"Miss, this looks like blood!" Jin Ling squatted down beside Wei Yuewu and observed carefully.

Wei Yuewu's hand trembled. She almost couldn't control the pain in her heart. She fell into Jin Ling's arms and grabbed her own collar tightly with one hand. The pain almost made her brain turn blank in an instant, making her completely at a loss.

"Miss, Miss, Miss!" Jin Ling immediately saw that something was wrong with Wei Yuewu. As she shouted, she held her up and let her stand up.

"I'm fine!" Wei Yuewu panted heavily twice. After resisting the pain that was like a tide, she would be fine.

Sure enough, the pain gradually receded. Her slightly trembling hands calmed down to some extent.

"Miss, were you sick in the past?" Jin Ling asked with concern. She was given to Wei Yuewu by Yan Huaijing, so she did not know what Wei Yuewu was like when she was in her maternal grandparents' home.

"No, I'm not sick!" Wei Yuewu shook her head with a bitter smile and wiped her forehead with a handkerchief. After a while, a new layer of cold sweat covered her forehead, which proved how painful she really was just now. But as the pain resided, she found it so unreal that it seemed as if she had been in a dream.

“If you are not sick, how can you be so painful?” Jin Ling asked in surprise. It was hard for her to believe that Wei Yuewu was not sick judging from her ghastly pale face earlier.

But Wei Yuewu knew she was not sick!

With a slight frown, Wei Yuewu looked at the slightly damp handkerchief. When she was in her maternal grandparents’ family, even though she felt a little under the weather from time to time, it was basically a minor illness. Even if she needed a longer time to heal as compared to other people, her illness was curable, and there were no symptoms of heartache.

When did this symptom start? It seemed that it started after she came to the capital.

The biggest difference between her life in the capital and her previous life was the serenity. Her previous life was very calm, so much so that not a single obstacle existed. She liked this kind of calm and peaceful life.

Grandmother doted on her. Knowing that she enjoyed tranquility, Grandmother even placed her in the courtyard that was the furthest away from the center, not allowing anyone to disturb her peace. Thus, under the protection of Grandmother, she lived a peaceful life for a few years. Until one day, the Madam Dowager’s letter changed her life completely.

There was no such a thing in her peaceful life, but what happened after the peace was broken?

Wei Yuewu felt her heart skipping a beat, and a trace of frigidness flashed across her eyes. Did it have something to do with Mother? She suddenly remembered that Wei Yuejiao had once said that she had a congenital deficiency.

Was this a congenital deficiency? She had been safe and sound because her previous life was too peaceful.

Seeing that Wei Yuewu was deep in thought, Jin Ling shook Wei Yuewu’s hand worriedly. “Miss, are you okay?”



"I'm fine. Let's go!" Wei Yuewu shook her head and collected her thoughts. It seemed that she had to ask Doctor He what this so-called injury meant.

"Miss, do you want to rest?" Jin Ling saw that Wei Yuewu was not looking good, so she suggested in concern.

"Let's go. Someone will be suspicious of us if we stay here for too long!" Wei Yuewu shook her head and held Jin Ling's hand as she walked forward.

This was the imperial palace, after all. No one knew if someone would see her in an unknown place, so it was better for her to be careful. Since she had identified this palace as the place where she had an accident when she was a child, she could come back when she had the chance in the future.

However, it was not ideal to stay here for too long as it would arouse suspicion.

When Wei Yuewu passed by the old nurse who seemed to have not noticed anything, she stopped but only glanced at her. Seeing that the nurse was sweeping the ground nonchalantly, she walked away...

This place was very mysterious...

After returning to Chu Xiu Palace and passing by Wei Qiufu's room, Wei Yuewu saw that many palace maids and eunuchs stood at the door with gifts in their hands. Ming Yan had her hands on her waist and arrogantly instructed the people to put down the things in their hands. When she saw Wei Yuewu and Jin Ling, she did not come over to talk to them like she usually did. Instead, she rolled her eyes at them and unexpectedly turned around and entered the room.

"Miss, she..." Jin Ling was so angry that she wanted to say something in the heat of the moment, but Wei Yuewu waved her hand to stop her.

It seemed that this was another new reward from the Crown Prince. After what happened earlier, the incident not only did not reduce Wen Tianyao's adoration to Wei Qiufu, but he also increased his reward for her. Was there really nothing wrong with this?

Or was it that Wen Tianyao had really been deceived so that he had greatly changed his opinion of Wei Qiufu overnight, so much so that he could ignore what he witnessed with his own eyes?

The scene just now displayed the dispute between sisters, Wei Qiufu's cunning scheme in harming her with Wei Fengyao, and also Wei Qiufu's intolerance. In fact, it showed that she was vicious and sinister. Even so, did the Crown Prince not mind about it?

It seemed that the Crown Prince was also plotting something. Moreover, this matter was related to Wei Qiufu. In the past, there might have been a trace of uncertainty. Now, Wei Yuewu could basically be completely certain.

A faint sneer appeared on the corner of her lips. In fact, no one knew what was hidden behind this glory.

No longer paying attention to Wei Qiufu, Wei Yuewu went around the corridor and went to her own room, but she was stopped by a eunuch when she was at the door.

"Greetings, Sixth Young Lady." The eunuch smiled and bowed respectfully to Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu stopped in surprise. "Who are..."

This eunuch was wearing the same clothes as the guard at Wei Qiufu's door, so he should be the Crown Prince's eunuch. However, Wei Yuewu did not think that this matter had anything to do with her. Yesterday, she had only staged a play with Wei Qiufu and became Wei Qiufu's "prop". She did not have any interaction with the Crown Prince throughout the play.

"There is a lantern festival in the Palace tonight. The Crown Prince rewarded jewelry to all the young ladies in the Chu Xiu Palace. This is yours, Sixth Young Lady." With a smile, the eunuch took out a small but exquisite jewelry box from his sleeve and handed it over.

Jin Ling reached out and took it. Wei Yuewu bowed. "I thank the Crown Prince for the reward!"

"You're welcome, Sixth Young Lady!" The eunuch looked at Wei Yuewu meaningfully and left with a smile.

“Come, let’s go in!” Wei Yuewu said to Jin Ling calmly.

Just as she was about to take a step forward, she suddenly heard Wei Qiufu’s voice, “Sixth Younger Sister, you’re back!”

“Fourth Elder Sister!” Wei Yuewu stood still, her expression slightly cold as she said indifferently. No one would feel at ease after what happened earlier.

“Sixth Younger Sister, it was my fault for what happened just now. I thought that Eldest Sister was saying the truth and that she just wanted to slap you, so I helped her. I didn’t know that she wanted to scratch your face.” Wei Qiufu looked very pale. Her eyes were red, and she looked like she had cried.

Although the makeup on her face was still neat, her hair was a little messy, which made her look a little weak and apologetic.

Wei Yuewu’s eyes shifted from Wei Qiufu’s face to her hair, and she sneered in her heart. Wei Qiufu was always in her acting role all the time. Even at this moment, she was still trying to play a show of deep sisterhood affection with her. She was doing this show to the people from the Crown Prince Mansion.

However, Wei Yuewu was not in the mood to participate in this so-called play.

“Fourth Elder Sister, I still have something to do, so I’ll go in first!” After saying that, Wei Yuewu entered her room without waiting for Wei Qiufu to say anything else and closed the door under Wei Qiufu’s cold gaze.

She actually did not give Wei Qiufu the slightest chance to speak or perform.

The jewelry box was placed on the table, but the moment Jin Ling opened the jewelry box, she almost cried out in shock. She reached out to cover her mouth. Only then did she manage to suppress the shock in her heart...

Could such a thing be given away so casually?

This was the first thought that flashed across Wei Yuewu's mind as soon as she saw the item inside the jewelry box. She pressed the box hard.

"Miss, this is a Phoenix Hairpin!" Jin Ling opened her eyes wide and exclaimed in disbelief.

Phoenix hairpin. The Nine-Phoenix Hairpin. Wen Tianyao actually gave her the Nine-Phoenix Hairpin!

Wei Yuewu had seen this kind of hairpin before. It was part of Wei Yan's plot back then when she tried to harm her and sent her a real Nine-Phoenix Hairpin.

In the end, Wei Yuewu gave Wei Yan a dose of her own medicine using the hairpin.

Although the hairpin in the box right now looked a little different from the one Wei Yan gave her, the nine phoenixes looked very distinctive. In fact, this hairpin was even more exquisite and beautiful.

The gems hanging in the phoenixes' mouths were all bright and colorful, revealing a sense of nobility.

How could the Crown Prince give away such a hairpin casually?

"This is the Nine-Phoenix Hairpin," Wei Yuewu said in a low voice and closed the jewelry box.

"Did His Highness give you the wrong one?" Even Jin Ling felt astounded upon finding the Crown Prince gave this hairpin to Wei Yuewu. Supposedly, it should be given to the Fourth Young Lady instead of her Miss.

"No, he didn't!" Wei Yuewu couldn't figure out what Wen Tianyao meant. Only Masters in the Palace could wear this kind of phoenix hairpin. Moreover, only the Empress or the Crown Princess was qualified to wear such a beautiful phoenix hairpin.

“W-What does His Highness mean? Is he...” Suddenly, a premonition flashed across Jin Ling’s mind. Her expression changed drastically, and she hesitated.

“I don’t know. Find a time and give it back.” Wei Yuewu disclosed indifferently.

Wei Yuewu indeed did not know what Wen Tianyao meant, but she clearly knew that she could not accept this kind of jewelry.

“But... can we return the Crown Prince’s reward?” Jin Ling hesitated.

“We can’t return it, but we can ask someone to take it!” Wei Yuewu smiled coldly. No matter what the Crown Prince was planning, it was a good opportunity for Wei Qifu. The cunning and scheming Wei Qifu would never miss such a good opportunity, including this hairpin.

“Miss, do you want to give it to the Fourth Young Lady?” Jin Ling asked in confusion. Such a controversial hairpin would cause chaos if it was given out in such a circumstance.

“Of course.” Wei Yuewu got up, picked up the jewelry box, put it in her sleeve, and turned to the door. Of course, she would give it to Wei Qifu, and she would give it to her generously. Wen Tianyao admired Wei Qifu now, didn’t he?

In this case, this jewelry box came in handy.

Meanwhile, Wei Qifu was indignant when Wei Yuewu ignored her and went straight to her room earlier. A trace of viciousness flashed in her eyes. That bitchy Wei Yuewu was so ignorant.

“Miss, please take a look. The Crown Prince sent over a box of jewelry as well as a hairpin. Look, it’s so beautiful!” Ming Yan walked over delightfully with a small and exquisite jewelry box and showed Wei Qifu the gorgeous butterfly hairpin inside the box.

Just as Wei Qiufu was about to take it, a hand suddenly reached out from the side and took it. Jin Ling took the box from Ming Yan's hand without hesitation and stuffed the box in her hand into Ming Yan's hand.

"Miss, this hairpin is so beautiful, it should be yours. The eunuch must have delivered the wrong items just now!" Jin Ling gloated with a proud smile, completely ignoring Wei Qiufu's and Ming Yan's pale faces.

"It is quite beautiful. Fourth Elder Sister, thank you for returning this to me!" Wei Yuewu smiled coldly and turned to leave.

Jin Ling even raised her head, and the two of them actually swapped the jewelry box from Wei Qiufu's hands without any courtesy.

"Miss, Sixth Young Lady, she..." Ming Yan stomped her feet in anger.

Wei Qiufu's eyes turned red, and she lamented as she lowered her head, looking very sad and pitiful, "Forget it. Since Sixth Younger Sister likes it, let her be!"

In the eyes of the Crown Prince Mansion's palace maids and eunuchs, Wei Yuewu was rude and unreasonable, while Wei Qiufu was tolerant and magnanimous. The stark difference showed who was a better person.

Immediately, the palace maids and eunuchs who witnessed such a scene were pitiful and respectful to Wei Qiufu.

No wonder the Crown Prince looked up to Fourth Miss Wei.

"Miss, why do you always give in to the Sixth Young Lady? We don't know what she has given us. How can you accept it just like that?" Ming Yan picked up the jewelry box in her hand grumpily and fuddled at it.

This time, not only Wei Qiufu was curious but also the Crown Prince Mansion's palace servants. They quietly peeked at the jewelry box in Ming Yan's hand.

Wei Qiufu stood closest and was the first to see what was inside the jewelry box. As soon as she saw the item clearly, she immediately closed the box, and her expression changed dramatically. Then, she pulled the startled Ming Yan and quickly walked into the room, disregarding her pretentious gentleness in front of everyone.

The palace maids and eunuchs who stood closer to Wei Qiufu did not see what was inside the jewelry box. They exchanged puzzled glances as Wei Qiufu walked away.

However, they didn't dare to say anything since this matter had nothing to do with them. After settling their tasks here, they left.

Wei Qiufu had not recovered from her dramatic expression after all the palace servants left. She sat on the bed with the box in her arms. Her face was blushing and pale. She seemed to be surprised, happy, and angry.

It made Ming Yan, who also had a change in expression, really confused.

Hearing that there was no sound outside, Ming Yan called out in a low voice, "Miss..."

"Shut up!" Wei Qiufu shouted harshly, scaring Ming Yan so much that she didn't dare say anything else.

"The Crown Prince actually gave Wei Yuewu such a thing," Wei Qiufu hissed through gritted teeth. Her beautiful eyes were filled with dense jealousy.

Not only did Wei Yuewu get what Wei Qiufu wanted, she even casually swap her item with hers.

"M-Miss, I-I don't think the item belongs to the Sixth Young Lady. It must be the Crown Prince Mansion's people who made a mistake. It must be for you, Miss!" Ming Yan looked at Wei Qiufu's face and said timidly.

These words made Wei Qiufu's face ease up a little. "Why do you think so?"

Seeing that her Miss' expression was getting slightly pleasant, and hearing her encouragement for her to continue, Ming Yan uttered, "Please think about it. You were the one who saved the Crown Prince; you are the one whom the Crown Prince admires, and you will be the one who enters the Crown Prince Mansion. His Highness rewarded you this morning, and now, he rewarded you again. He even asked someone to take you to the lantern festival later. You know what he means, right?"

"So, are you saying that this hairpin is for me?" Wei Qiufu frowned, not very confident. Although she felt that Ming Yan made sense, it was Wei Yuewu who gave her this box, which frustrated her a little.

"It must be for you, Miss. The Crown Prince has given you so many gifts today, and the other young ladies only have one reward each. The Sixth Young Lady lives close to you. You have so many gifts, so it is possible that the eunuchs delivered the wrong item to her. Miss, please think about it. There is no connection between the Crown Prince and the Sixth Young Lady. Why would His Highness give her such a promise?"

Ming Yan lowered her voice and uttered.

"Is this His Highness' promise?" Wei Qiufu seemed to believe her.

"It must be. Even though you cannot enter the Crown Prince Mansion with a high position, he guarantees that in the future, you will..." Ming Yan lowered her voice even more as she pointed in the direction of the Empress' Feng Yi Palace and whispered, "Miss, His Highness is giving you a signal!"

"I-Is it really a hint?" Even Wei Qiufu couldn't help but breathe heavily after hearing this explanation.

"Miss, please digest it and think if I'm right." Ming Yan was getting more and more excited as she spoke, believing in her own words.

If her Miss had a chance to become the Empress in the future, she would have a promising future too!



“Alright, put away the thing!” Although Wei Qiufu was excited too, she quickly came to her senses and pushed the box to Ming Yan.

“Yes, I will put it away!” Ming Yan took it carefully and put it away.

“Miss, you have to dress up more beautifully later. I heard that His Highness has never invited any Miss to admire lanterns together!” Ming Yan had already inquired about it.

Wei Qiufu got up and sat down in front of the dressing table. Her reflection in the mirror was gentle, gorgeous, and outstanding.

Tonight? Of course, she had to firmly grasp the invitation of the Crown Prince. If the message behind the phoenix hairpin was that His Highness would make it up to her in the future as he couldn't give her a high position now, Wei Qiufu felt that she could endure such a hardship for now.

Wei Qiufu had to show the Crown Prince her appreciation and her understanding of his situation now, and the Crown Prince would definitely accept and dote on her even more.

As for whether this hairpin was intended for Wei Yuewu in the first place, Wei Qiufu thought about it and felt that it was absolutely impossible.

How could the Crown Prince give away such a hairpin casually? There was no reason for the Crown Prince to give it to Wei Yuewu.

As the night fell, the entire imperial palace was brightly lit. It was said that the reason why there were lanterns in the Palace today was that it was about to be New Year's Eve. When there was a big banquet for the officials, there was such an arrangement. Therefore, they hung up the lanterns in the Palace today for the Masters to admire them first.

This was an activity exclusively for the imperial family in the Palace without any outsiders, but the young ladies who entered the Palace to accompany the Third Princess in the prayer were invited to join the festival tonight.

Thus, Chu Xiu Palace prepared dinner early. After the young ladies finished their dinner, they dressed up one by one and went to the festival where lanterns were hung up in the Palace.

They were all young girls who enjoyed such a lively and extravagant event.

Under the envious gazes of everyone, Wei Qiufu left Chu Xiu Palace with the Crown Prince Mansion's eunuchs. Instantly, everyone knew that Fourth Miss Wei had received the invitation of the Crown Prince and went to admire the lanterns together.

Immediately, everyone was jealous and hateful when they saw Wei Qiufu, but there was nothing they could do.

No one would have thought that Fourth Miss Wei, who seemed to have lost her influence, would actually get the favor of the Crown Prince. This meant that the Crown Prince Mansion was about to have a new favored Master. However, with Yang Yuyan and the nationwide selection, no one could guess what kind of position Fourth Miss Wei would get.

But it didn't matter. The Crown Prince's adoration to her proved that Fourth Miss Wei would become the apple of the Crown Prince's eyes.

The night darkened. Unlike the other young ladies, Wei Yuewu had not gone out yet. She gave an excuse that she wasn't feeling well, and stayed in her room alone.

Wei Yuewu casually took a book and placed it in front of the desk. As she flipped through it, she suddenly heard a gentle knock on the window. She stood up, walked to the window, and pushed it open. Then, she saw the handsome heir-apparent appear at the window again.

Looking at Yan Huaijing, Wei Yuewu sighed. Who would have thought that this person would appear at such a time and in such a manner?

Chapter 345 – Disturbance At The Lantern Festival

“How is it? Are you ready?” Yan Huaijing, who was dressed in a snow-white fur coat, curled his thin lips into a gentle smile.

“Alright,” Wei Yuewu nodded and sighed helplessly, pretending not to hear his gentle and refined question. Judging from his overbearing personality, she knew that he wouldn’t take no for an answer.

Wei Yuewu speculated that she had to be prepared immediately, regardless.

Yan Huaijing supported the windowsill with his hand, and he jumped into the room lightly. His robe under the snow coat was wide and light. On the plain-colored robe were purple embroidery patterns, exhaling a sense of luxury and leisure. His tall and handsome figure made the window look narrow.

He stretched his hand out of the window, and a guard instantly appeared at the window. He respectfully brought in another snow coat.

Yan Huaijing took it, unfolded it, draped it over Wei Yuewu’s shoulders, and tied the strap for her.

His slender fingers deftly crossed Wei Yuewu’s neck, and Wei Yuewu subconsciously stretched her neck. When she raised her head, she saw his handsome eyes focused on her neck.

From Wei Yuewu’s angle, she could see his long eyelashes fluttering twice, and there was a trace of a cunning smile in his narrow eyes.

“I heard that the lanterns this year are particularly beautiful. If you see any that you like, you can take them directly.” Yan Huaijing had tied the strap for Wei Yuewu and then helped her put on the hat behind her. Immediately, Wei Yuewu was wrapped in the snow coat. Looking from the outside, she was so petite that her face was completely hidden in the coat.

Although she could see the light outside through the gap of the hat, it was too dark and too inconvenient for her to see her way clearly.

Yan Huaijing took two steps back and sized up Wei Yuewu who was wrapped tightly in the coat. She looked rather silly and naive. He could not help but smile.

He reached out and pulled off the hat on Wei Yuewu's head.

Under the hat, Wei Yuewu looked blankly at him with her pair of watery eyes and befuddled expression as if she couldn't understand what was going on. Her current silly and adorable look was completely different from her usual cold and distant image. However, Yan Huaijing couldn't help but laugh out loud.

"Yuewu, do you have a veil?"

"Yes!" Wei Yuewu blinked her eyes before answering.

"Bring me a veil," Yan Huaijing said to Jin Ling.

With a nod, Jin Ling took out a veil and helped Wei Yuewu put it on.

"Yes, use the veil!" Yan Huaijing looked up and down at Wei Yuewu, his thin lips slightly raised, making him look elegant and charming. In terms of temperament and appearance, Wei Yuewu could not help but agree that the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State was really unparalleled in the world.

"Won't I be discovered if I use the veil?" Wei Yuewu asked in puzzlement as her sparkly eyes blinked under the veil. Compared to the hat just now, the veil made her feel vulnerable and risky.

"No one will see you! I'll always be by your side. There's nothing to be afraid of!" Yan Huaijing smiled and raised his eyebrows in an evil way. He immediately turned from an elegant immortal into an enchanting monster.

"Exactly. People will notice me because of you!" Wei Yuewu cursed in her heart.

No one would pay attention to her if she was alone, but Yan Huaijing was a center of attention himself. Wei Yuewu could imagine that when they went out, they would attract attention no matter where they went. Everyone in the Palace knew that he would marry one of the two princesses, so obviously people would be curious about the female companion by his side.

However, Wei Yuewu rolled her eyes and did not say anything. She couldn't predict what this devilish and cunning heir-apparent would do. At least, she could use the veil. Everyone could see that she was a woman, but no one could tell who she was.

Moreover, Wei Yuewu had also made ample preparations. She had styled her hair in a different way and changed into a new dress with the design of large patches of butterflies on it. It was somewhat different from her usual style.

Even the people who were familiar with her would not be able to recognize her if they saw her current self.

"Alright, let's go!" Seeing that Jin Ling had tidied up Wei Yuewu, Yan Huaijing nodded with satisfaction after seeing Jin Ling tidy up Wei Yuewu. He reached out, hugged Wei Yuewu's slender waist, and led her out of the window.

Jin Ling jumped out and closed the window from the outside.

Yan Huaijing jumped a few times with Wei Yuewu and left from the roof. Then, they landed in a courtyard. Several of Yan Huaijing's guards and eunuchs stood in the courtyard. When they saw Yan Huaijing carrying Wei Yuewu down, they bowed respectfully together.

Wei Yuewu saw that there was also a woman among them, who looked similar to her height and physical appearance. She knew that this was the woman Yan Huaijing brought into the Palace.

"Your Heir-apparent, it's almost time. The lanterns outside have already been picked up. The Third Princess has already invited you to join the festival!" Little Dezi, Yan Huaijing's personal eunuch, reported.

Calculating the time, he assumed that the other heirs-apparent should have already set off.

Yan Huaijing held Wei Yuewu's slender waist and slowly walked out. He nodded. "Let's go!"

“Your Heir-apparent, am I pretending to be the daughter of an aristocratic family, who is also your childhood sweetheart?” Wei Yuewu asked Yan Huaijing with a blushing face. She didn’t think that the daughter of a rich family would walk so intimately with him if they had not been engaged yet.

“So what?” Yan Huaijing lowered his head and laughed carelessly, but he didn’t slow down. Instead, he took Wei Yuewu forward.

Only Little Dezi was following them.

“Do you think it’s appropriate for you to do so?” Wei Yuewu felt that it was necessary to remind him again.

“There is nothing inappropriate. Since my childhood sweetheart followed me all the way to the capital and appeared with me like this, it naturally means that we were engaged. Even if we were not engaged, our family had given us their blessings. Whichever princess who wants to marry me now will be a latecomer.”

Yan Huaijing looked at Wei Yuewu with an ambiguous smile.

“So...” Wei Yuewu was taken aback. She blinked her eyes and did not know what to say.

“So, it is the royal family who owes us, not us who are shameful. We can completely appear in front of everyone confidently. The royal family has robbed your marriage. Yuewu, you can’t suffer such a loss. When necessary, remember to be tough. So what if we are going up against the royal family’s princesses!”

Yan Huaijing advised Wei Yuewu patiently.

“Do you expect me to go up against the Third Princess and Fourth Princess?” Wei Yuewu’s eyes darted around, and the blush on her face slowly faded away. It seemed that it was not as simple as admiring the lanterns tonight. She should have predicted this since she was with the devilish heir-apparent.

“We will definitely bump into the two princesses!” Yan Huaijing affirmed with satisfaction as he looked at Wei Yuewu who was now on alert, and he hugged her slender waist even more tightly.

Yan Huaijing had always been quick with regards to his prey. He was quick, ruthless, and accurate. He never gave his opponent any chance. Since he had targeted this little fox, she could only be his.

Of course, he had to bring her to show everyone that she was his. He had heard that the Crown Prince had dispatched his most trusted eunuch to give the little fox jewelry.

Although he also sent jewelry to the other young ladies, it was done by the ordinary palace servants. On the contrary, Wen Tianyao dispatched his most trusted eunuch to deliver the jewelry to Wei Yuewu. The implication was not as simple as a plain act of gift-giving.

He had to brand his little fox, of course.

As for the ignorant little fox, he would teach her to rely on him little by little!

“I can’t talk!” Wei Yuewu whispered anxiously, not noticing that she was now in Yan Huaijing’s arms. She could change her clothes and hair accessories, but she couldn’t change her voice. Once she spoke, others would discover her.

“You don’t have to. Sometimes, you can express yourself with your body language!” Yan Huaijing smiled and wrapped his arm around Wei Yuewu’s slender waist tightly.

Only then did Wei Yuewu realize that she seemed to be in Yan Huaijing’s embrace entirely. Her face instantly turned red again.

“Heir-apparent of Yan!” A voice suddenly came from the intersection upfront. Wei Yuewu calmed herself down and raised her watery eyes. She suddenly saw the Crown Prince Wen Tianyao standing in front of her and couldn’t help but be stunned. What a coincidence! She had just stepped out of the door and met him.

“Your Highness!” Yan Huaijing smiled slightly and calmly stepped forward to salute. Wei Yuewu couldn’t bow deeply as Yan Huaijing was holding her, so she just slightly curtsied.

Then, her eyes fell on Wei Qiufu, who was next to Wen Tianyao.

Wei Qiufu, who was dressed up beautifully, had a shy look on her face. She looked so timid and lovable as she stood next to Wen Tianyao.

The simple wooden hairpin on her head made her look more elegant and dignified.

It was no wonder that Wei Qiufu wanted this hairpin so badly. In fact, this hairpin was really suitable for Wei Qiufu, who liked to pretend to be dignified and generous in front of others.

Wei Qiufu bowed at Yan Huaijing and stood beside Wen Tianyao, curiously sizing up the woman next to Yan Huaijing.

The Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State actually brought a woman with him, and it seemed that they were quite intimate. Wei Qiufu was very bewildered by this. Wasn’t the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State coming to the capital to be married to the princess? Why did he bring a female companion with him?

Was the woman from the brothel? Thinking of this, Wei Qiufu looked at Wei Yuewu with disdain.

Wen Tianyao’s gaze also fell on Wei Yuewu. Through the veil, he could only faintly see that it was a woman, but he could not see her real appearance clearly. Yan Huaijing protected her very well. No matter how his subordinates investigated, they only found out that there was indeed a woman in Yan Huaijing’s mansion.

However, she was heavily protected by Yan Huaijing’s guards, and it was impossible for his subordinates to explore her identity further.

His gaze fell on the snow coat on Wei Yuewu. He could tell that such a gorgeous snow coat was expensive. The most important thing was that although it was slightly different from the coat on Yan



Huaijing in terms of length and size, both the coats were almost the same. Therefore, he deduced that they were wearing matching coats.

From the looks of it, Wen Tianyao was certain that the relationship between this lady of a noble family and Yan Huaijing was indeed not simple.

Had both their families talked about their engagement? Judging from the circumstances, Wen Tianyao speculated that even if Yan Huaijing married the princess, the status of this woman would not be lowly. In fact, she and the princess might be at the same level.

However, this was something that Wen Tianyao could not tolerate. No matter which sister of his would marry Yan Huaijing, Wen Tianyao would not allow them to suffer such humiliations. How could a dignified princess be on equal footing with other women?

“Fourth Miss Wei, please entertain this fine lady. I would like to have a word with the Heir-apparent of Yan!” Wen Tianyao raised his displeased eyes and looked at Wei Yuewu.

Wei Qiufu was startled for a moment, feeling that it was unnecessary for her, the noble daughter of an aristocratic family, to entertain a lowly woman from the brothel.

“Your Highness, there’s no need to do so. She knows everything about me. Let’s just talk here,” Yan Huaijing smiled and said lazily.

“Even if it’s about the marriage?” This version of Yan Huaijing made Wen Tianyao’s eyes flash with a trace of fierceness.

#### Chapter 346 – The Familiar Flower-Shaped Paper On The Lantern

“The marriage is at Your Highness’ command, of course,” Yan Huaijing denoted with a light smile on his face without any change in his expression. He curved his thin lips into an elegant smiley arc. Under the lights of the lanterns, he looked as handsome as a deity.

Although Wei Qiufu disdained the woman in Yan Huaijing's arms, she had to react according to the Crown Prince's order. Reluctantly, she marched forward and extended her hands, wanting to take Wei Yuewu's hand, as she uttered in a soft tone, "Miss, let's go over there and talk. There is a pretty flower-shaped lantern over there."

Wei Qiufu had to do as the Crown Prince said despite her disinclination. By doing so, the Crown Prince would definitely see her generous performance and think that she was magnanimous and good-mannered.

However, Yan Huaijing curled his arm slightly and hugged Wei Yuewu tighter. Then, he looked at Wei Qiufu with his cold gazes. "Fourth Miss Wei, thanks but no thanks."

This time, Yan Huaijing was acting extremely passionless, which was inconsistent with his usual gentle and elegant image. Wei Qiufu subconsciously raised her head and met with his frosty and profound eyes. His glare was not only stoic but also callous as if he could see through her. His eerie glare caused Wei Qiufu to shudder unconsciously. Her hand froze in the air, not daring to approach Wei Yuewu.

Wei Qiufu involuntarily retreated.

Wen Tianyao frowned in dismay. Although Yan Huaijing sounded polite, there was a hint of dissatisfaction in his tone. He then looked at the woman in his arms. Although she was delicate and weak and did not say a word, she leaned against Yan Huaijing and did not move. It was obvious that she would not leave with Wei Qiufu voluntarily.

Although her face was covered by the veil, the veil couldn't hide her arrogance as she slightly lifted her head proudly. Judging from her proud attitude, Wen Tianyao deduced that not only was the woman the daughter of an aristocratic family in the State of Yan, but she was also not an ordinary young lady. She should be the legitimate daughter of a prominent family.

Only this kind of woman had the confidence to stand there and not respond to Wei Qiufu's words.

From the looks of it, Wei Qiufu's poise seemed to be a bit low!

If Wei Yuewu was here, her status would be equal to the woman no matter how he looked at it. Thinking of Wei Yuewu, Wen Tianyao thought of the Nine-Phoenix Hairpin incident. In fact, that hairpin was a test.

However, Wen Tianyao was satisfied by the outcome of the test. From the test, he concluded that Wei Qiufu was pettier and much more dimwitted. Not only did she not return the Nine-Phoenix Hairpin after receiving it, but she also assumed that she was the one he wanted to give the hairpin to.

Of course, he would not really give the hairpin to Wei Qiufu...

“Royal Brother, Heir-apparent of Yan, why are you still standing here? Let’s go and admire the lanterns!” The Third Princess appeared out of nowhere and stood at the intersection in front of them with a smile. There was only one palace maid beside her. The Third Princess looked at Wei Yuewu, and she began to judge her.

It was different from seeing her from a distance on the tall building that day. Now that she looked at Yan Huaijing and Wei Yuewu from a close distance, she could literally feel Yan Huaijing’s deep concern toward the woman.

Ever since Yan Huaijing entered the capital, the Third Princess had never seen him act so intimate with any woman. He did not even hold any woman’s hand, let alone hugging her in such a domineering manner. Hence, the Third Princess concluded that this woman was special.

The Third Princess was even more concerned about the woman’s identity. She was the daughter of a prominent family in the State of Yan and also Yan Huaijing’s childhood sweetheart. Even after Yan Huaijing married her, this woman would have the support of both Yan Huaijing and her prominent family. Therefore, this woman should be her biggest opponent.

“Let’s go together!” Because of the appearance of the Third Princess, the turbulent displeasure between Wen Tianyao and Yan Huaijing eased. Wen Tianyao smiled and stepped forward.

Wei Qiufu hurriedly followed him.

Yan Huaijing held Wei Yuewu’s slender waist gently and walked to the left of Wen Tianyao.

After leaving the intersection, the scene on both sides suddenly became brighter and livelier. The main palace path and a few small roads on the side were filled with all kinds of lanterns, which extended to as far as their eyes could see.

Wei Yuewu had never seen so many lanterns before, and her heart inexplicably began to stir in excitement. When she was at her maternal grandparents' home, Grandmother would forbid her to go out even if there was a lantern festival on the street. When her cousin sisters came back, she was envious of them as she listened to them chattering about the interesting things outside.

Wei Yuewu had always wanted to have a chance to see the scene of all the lanterns gathering together. Unexpectedly, her dream came true in the Palace today.

"How about it? Shall we go over and take a look?" Sensing Wei Yuewu's excitement, Yan Huaijing lowered his head and asked gently.

Wei Yuewu nodded forcefully, her watery eyes under the veil looking left and right. At this moment, she felt that there was too much to see, and she didn't know where to start.

"Your Highness, Third Princess, let's take a look over there. She hasn't seen the lanterns in the Palace, so she wants to take a look." Yan Huaijing raised his head and smiled at Wen Tianyao and the Third Princess.

Before Wen Tianyao could answer, the Third Princess had already laughed softly and said, "Heir-apparent, we also happen to be looking over there. Why don't we go together? There are many lanterns in the Palace, and some of them are placed in remote places. Why not take me as your tour guide today and show you around the place? This sister can enjoy her time here today. It will be a pity if she misses anything interesting today."

"I'll join you too, since I have nothing to do. Let's go together!" Wen Tianyao nodded and said. He and the Third Princess had the same goal. They both wanted to observe the interaction between Yan Huaijing and this woman closely.

"Okay. Thank you, Third Princess!" Yan Huaijing smiled in an unusual gentle manner.

The few of them went forward to admire the lanterns. Wei Yuewu began to relax more as she enjoyed Wen Tianyao's and the Third Princess' stealth observation. She was with Yan Huaijing anyway, so it was almost impossible for them to find out who she was.

She was tightly wrapped in a snow coat, and her face, which was exposed, was covered by a veil. Jin Ling carefully tugged the lower end of the veil into the coat. No matter how strong the wind blew, it would not be able to lift the veil up.

With Yan Huaijing around, Wei Yuewu believed that no one would dare to come over to lift the veil up.

The few of them walked forward together. The Third Princess happened to walk beside Wei Yuewu. However, Wei Qiufu had already been left behind by them. With her status, she could only follow behind the crowd. Because everyone ignored her, the smile on Wei Qiufu's face could not help but stiffen.

Despite her dismay, Wei Qiufu knew that she had to maintain a polite and calm smile. Otherwise, her meticulous makeover would be in vain.

Wei Qiufu believed that as long as she followed the Crown Prince closely today, it would improve her reputation, which would absolutely be beneficial to her. When she entered the Crown Prince Mansion, she might not be the Crown Princess, but since the Crown Prince had given her the hairpin, there was hope for her to become the Empress in the future.

Thinking of this, Wei Qiufu felt warm all over, and the stiffness on her face slowly calmed down.

Wei Yuewu stood under a lantern. The lantern was very big, and it was hung under a big tree. It had eight eaves in eight colors and tassels hanging down, making it look conspicuous and beautiful.

As the wind blew, the lantern spun, and the patterns on it rotated. The women with fluttering clothes seemed to be going to dance in the wind, and there was more than one such woman.

When Wei Yuewu stood still, Yan Huaijing stretched out his hand to stop the lantern from spinning.

There were pictures on the lantern, which seemed to be a scene depicting women in the harem who were playing. The painting was so realistic and surreal that the women seemed to come alive with their gorgeous smiles and sweet faces.

There were also some women who were passing a small note. Seeing the appearance of the small note, Wei Yuewu felt her heart fluttering, and she hurriedly squinted to look closely.

The flower-shaped paper! It was indeed the flower-shaped paper!

It was exactly like the one Wei Yuewu had found by her window and the one in Wei Qiufu's room. All of them were folded into a flower-shaped pattern.

Wei Yuewu stretched out her hand from within the snow coat. Her delicate finger touched the flower-shaped note on the picture, and she nudged Yan Huaijing lightly with her other hand that Yan Huaijing was holding, indicating for him to ask about this piece of paper.

"Third Princess, why did this paper have to be folded into the shape of a flower?" Yan Huaijing glanced at Wei Yuewu from the corner of his eyes. He pointed at the flower-shaped paper on the picture and asked the Third Princess with a smile.

A trace of jealousy flashed through the Third Princess' eyes as she glared at the two fingers that pointed at the flower-shaped paper on the picture. However, she did not show her emotion on her face. Putting on a sweet smile, she answered, "In the past, there was a trend in the Palace where everyone folded their notes in the flower-shaped pattern. I don't know which imperial concubine came up with it. But I don't see it now!"

"Why not?" Yan Huaijing asked lazily.

Wei Yuewu withdrew her hand and covered herself behind the thick snow coat again.

"I'm not sure about this either. I think because something happened in the past. Mother doesn't like these flower-shaped notes at all, saying that they look petty and inferior, so there are no more flower-shaped notes in the Palace now." The Third Princess shook her head, indicating that she was not clear.

That was to say, before the Empress entered the Palace, there were many people in the Palace who would fold their notes into such a shape, but no one passed the flower-shaped notes in the Palace when the current Empress was designated.

Wei Yuewu could tell that the person had been adept at folding the paper into a flower-shaped pattern when she first received the note. It was obvious that it was not the first time the person folded it. Did that mean that the person who sent her the message, advising her not to have any enmity with Wei Yuejiao, was someone from the Palace? Moreover, the person should not be younger than the Empress and had worked in the Palace for a long time.

But what did such a person have to do with her?

That person was older than the Empress, which meant that she might be older than her father. How could such a person have anything to do with her? Moreover, she was talking about the private matter between her and Wei Yuejiao, and the note was placed in her window.

There seemed to be too many connections in the imperial palace, but the only connection Wei Yuewu could find right now was Empress Tu. Unfortunately, it was not easy to investigate the matter. Due to Empress Tu's status, Wei Yuewu could only carefully speculate the matter instead of investigating it directly.

Therefore, this connection could be considered as null.

"What an interesting lantern. It even has a song on it!" Wen Tianyao seemed to have seen something interesting and smiled.

He was standing next to the Third Princess, but he was not looking at the lantern in Wei Yuewu's hand. Instead, he was looking at a lantern on the side. Wei Yuewu subconsciously looked back and saw an unremarkable lantern on the side.

Whether in terms of the style or the picture drawn on it, the lantern was very crude. It was almost hard to believe that such a mediocre lantern was made in the Palace.

But when Wei Yuewu looked at the picture drawn on it clearly, she was stunned as if she was struck by lightning...

#### Chapter 347 – Another Lantern, A Familiar Stranger

There was nothing special about the lantern. It was so ordinary that it looked similar to the other palace lanterns hanging in the corridor. The only difference was that there was a picture drawn on it. However, everyone overlooked it because the lantern next to it was too remarkable.

Wei Yuewu would not have discovered this ordinary lantern easily had she not stood here to admire the lantern in front of it.

However, when Wei Yuewu saw the unremarkable lantern, she was so shocked that she almost shrieked.

Because there was a woman in a palace dress who was surrounded by many palace maids and eunuchs drawn on the lantern. The woman looked so familiar to Wei Yuewu.

Yes! It was very familiar. It was not because she had seen the woman in her life, but the familiarity came from her memory.

The gentle and friendly little elder sister with a pale face in her memory looked very alike with the imperial concubine who was surrounded by the maids in the picture.

In fact, if the little elder sister in her memory was a little older and looked a little healthier, and her face wasn't as pale as if blood had drained from it, the two of them would have looked alike.

Wei Yuewu turned her head. At first glance, she thought that it was the little elder sister who had grown up.

But it was obvious that this was not the case!



After all, the little elder sister did not live to adulthood. Even if she grew up, Wei Yuewu did not think that the woman on the palace lantern was her.

As Wei Yuewu looked closer, she was more certain that they did not look alike. The imperial concubine's expression was cold and noble. She could tell that the woman was not the weak little elder sister.

They were not the same person, but there should be a connection between them.

Wei Yuewu opened her mouth and suddenly wanted to speak. She wanted to ask who the woman on the lantern was. However, as she opened her mouth agape, she suddenly remembered that she could not speak right now, or it would attract unwanted attention from the Crown Prince and the Third Princess.

"This lantern is really ugly!" The Third Princess also looked over and mocked.

"It is indeed ugly. I wonder who made this! It's so ugly! Get someone to take it down." Wen Tianyao nodded and ordered the eunuch next to him.

"Yes, Your Highness. I will get someone to remove it in a while. I don't know who put it here. It's really ugly. When I checked the area just now, I didn't notice the lantern at all." Chen Quan was the Crown Prince's personal eunuch. He hurriedly bowed and nodded.

Chen Quan was the one who gave Wei Yuewu the Nine-Phoenix Hairpin earlier.

Wei Yuewu felt her heart skip a beat. This meant that this lantern might not have been here before, but it appeared here now. Was it really just a coincidence?

"Royal Brother, Your Heir-apparent, there is a lantern riddle ahead. Should we go and play the riddle?" The Third Princess pointed to an empty palace on the other side, which was coincidentally used as a place to set up a riddle.

"Alright!" Wen Tianyao nodded and looked at Yan Huaijing.

Yan Huaijing agreed with a smile. He led Wei Yuewu and the others in a different direction and turned to the empty palace next to the palace path.

The palace doors were wide open, and the palace was brightly lit. However, there were not many people who came here. There were only a few concubines and a few daughters of aristocratic families.

When they saw the Crown Prince come with the group, everyone stood aside and curtsied, but they stealthily looked at Wei Qiufu, who was walking behind the group. There was a combination of emotions in their gazes such as disdain, jealousy, and envy. Wei Qiufu was enjoying the moment now. She lifted her head slightly, and she looked more dignified and confident.

The palace was very big. Everyone scattered to guess the riddles. At first, the Third Princess followed Yan Huaijing closely, but later, she fell behind. In the end, only Wei Yuewu and Yan Huaijing were left alone.

Actually, the two of them did not join the riddle-guessing game, but they just casually admired the lanterns.

“Your Heir-apparent, is the Third Princess not following us anymore?” Seeing that there was no one else around, Wei Yuewu chuckled.

“No. She’s already seen what needs to be seen, so she stops following us.” Yan Huaijing glanced at Wei Yuewu indifferently, curling up his lips into an elegant smile.

“Is she thinking of how to deal with me?” Wei Yuewu lamented helplessly, “Your Heir-apparent, although the Third Princess is not the daughter of the Empress, the Crown Prince adores her very much, more than Fourth Princess. Which princess do you think is suitable to be your bride?”

“I won’t marry either one of them!” Yan Huaijing smiled.

“If you don’t, will you be released from the capital?” Wei Yuewu asked in puzzlement. After the Emperor made such a big deal of marrying the princess to eligible heirs-apparent, she didn’t think that His Majesty would choose someone else instead of Yan Huaijing, who was the best among them.

Compared to the other three states, the State of Yan was a hot potato.

“I don’t think so,” Yan Huaijing answered in such an aloof tone as if he was talking about someone else’s business. Then, he reached out to take a smaller lantern for Wei Yuewu. The lantern was small and exquisite. Just now, Wei Yuewu had stood there and looked at it enviously but without doing anything about it.

No matter what, it was extremely inappropriate for her to bring the lantern back as it would expose her identity.

Therefore, she nudged Yan Huaijing. “I don’t want it. Put it back!”

“It’s okay. If you like it, I will bring it out of the Palace for you!” Yan Huaijing assured casually.

“Your Heir-apparent, since you think that the Emperor won’t let you go, why do you have to say that in front of the Third Princess and the Crown Prince?” At this moment, there was no point for Wei Yuewu to refuse Yan Huaijing’s offer. She reached one hand out from the coat, grabbed the small bamboo pole, and started carrying the lantern.

“It’s to show how deep my affection to you.” Yan Huaijing smiled gently and casually led Wei Yuewu forward.

Deep affection? Wei Yuewu frowned slightly. Of course, she wouldn’t just take the literal meaning of Yan Huaijing’s words. He was so cunning that his actions that could be seen by others were only the tip of the iceberg.

“You want to show your deep affection to me to indicate that you are a person immersed in love?” Wei Yuewu suggested hesitantly.

There was no threat to the royal family since he was just a person immersed in love.

“Sort of!” Yan Huaijing slowly adjusted Wei Yuewu’s snow coat with his slender fingers, his expression extremely leisurely.

“Do you want the royal family to feel that they owe you after they force you to marry the princess?” Wei Yuewu asked again, feeling that she couldn’t read the cunning man’s mind.

“Sort of too!” Yan Huaijing brought Wei Yuewu to the previous palace and turned into a small path. The path was not big, and there were not many lanterns. There were only a few lanterns that were just enough to illuminate the road below.

“Your Heir-apparent, I don’t think this is the place to admire the lanterns.” Wei Yuewu decided not to guess Yan Huaijing’s thoughts as she would not be able to guess it anyway. She focused on the path ahead of her, which was dark and quiet. No matter how she looked at it, it didn’t seem like a place to admire the lanterns. Moreover, there seemed to be no road in front of them.

“It’s fine!” Yan Huaijing narrowed his eyes slightly. His handsome eyes looked into the distance, and his lips curled into a gentle smile. “The empty space means that it’s a perfect place for a date.”

“Your Heir-apparent, what if the Crown Prince comes to us later?” Wei Yuewu blushed inexplicably and twisted her body uncomfortably. Just now, in order to conceal her identity in front of everyone, she did not feel that it was inappropriate to be held in Yan Huaijing’s arms. But now that there were only the two of them, she blushed shyly as she could almost see his handsome chin as soon as she looked up.

“The Crown Prince won’t look for us. Your Fourth Elder Sister must be doing something now, right?” There was a hint of certainty in Yan Huaijing’s eyes.

Wei Yuewu agreed and fell silent.

Just now, Wei Qiufu had been trying to stand next to the Crown Prince, but the Crown Prince seemed to have not seen her actions, and he didn’t even give her any hint.

However, there were fewer people now, so of course, Wei Qiufu would grab this rare opportunity to do something.

“So... we are now...” Looking at the dark path in front of her, Wei Yuewu walked carefully, following Yan Huaijing’s footsteps.

“Of course, we are going to watch a good show now!” Yan Huaijing said.

“Watching a good show at the so-called perfect dating place?” Wei Yuewu’s heart skipped a beat. She blinked and asked.

Wei Yuewu easily came to this conclusion after hearing what Yan Huaijing had said before. However, when she asked him this question, Wei Yuewu couldn’t help but giggle in amusement. A person like Yan Huaijing would not do something like watch someone dating.

She suddenly thought that if someone saw Yan Huaijing, who was like an angel, peeping, she wondered if this heir-apparent, who had always been calm and collected, could still smile so elegantly and indifferently.

“Of course!” His tone was leisurely. Sensing Wei Yuewu’s teasing, Yan Huaijing reached out and gently touched Wei Yuewu’s hair.

“I...” Before Wei Yuewu could finish her sentence, Yan Huaijing suddenly covered her mouth. She immediately stopped making any noise and stared at the rockery in front of her. She gently pinched Yan Huaijing’s waist, indicating that she would not speak.

This rockery was very big. Coincidentally, they were now on the side of the rockery. In the dark night, they could see that there was an attic behind the rockery. She wondered how Yan Huaijing had brought her to this place. The two of them happened to be between the attic and the rockery.

No one would be able to spot them in this location even in the daytime, let alone in such a dark night.

There was a faint sigh in the night, as if it echoed right next to Wei Yuewu’s ear. Such a sudden voice scared Wei Yuewu so much that she burrowed into Yan Huaijing’s arms. Only when she felt the warmth of his body did she relax.

As she listened carefully, there was no sound in her ears now, only the echoes of the cold wind blowing through the rockery.

The hand that was covering her mouth had already been put down, and her ears warmed up, carrying a man's special aura. "Are you afraid?"

Wei Yuewu shook her head and tightly shut her mouth. She did not know where the sigh came from, so she did not dare to speak.

Her cautious attitude tickled Yan Huaijing so much that he giggled. His watery eyes became more and more charming, and he was quite satisfied with Wei Yuewu's reaction.

A faint sigh rang out again. This time, Wei Yuewu was already prepared. She lay in Yan Huaijing's arms and listened carefully. She discovered that the sound came from the cave inside the rockery beside her.

There was actually someone in the cave. This surprised Wei Yuewu, but it seemed matter-of-fact. In order to prevent herself from accidentally stepping on something and making a sound, Wei Yuewu got closer and closer to Yan Huaijing, not daring to move a muscle.

"Your Highness, w-why do you have to do that?" After a faint sigh, it was a woman's bitterly melancholy voice.

#### Chapter 348 – The Feminine Prince In The Rockery

"What do you mean by that? If I can't even protect the woman I love, what else can I do?!" Another feminine voice resonated into Wei Yuewu's ears, shocking her to the point that her expression changed dramatically.

The man with the feminine voice was none other than the man who had almost spotted Wei Yuewu and killed her when she fell into Wei Fengyao's trap last time.

Your Highness? Now, Wei Yuewu could almost confirm the identity of this prince.

"I-I am useless, and I drag you into this..." The woman sobbed in a low voice.

“For you, I am willing to do anything. Even if I have to face Father Emperor with my incapacitated body, I will not hesitate to do so. Just you wait, I will beg Mother for you in a while.” His Highness seemed to be a little worked up, and his soft voice carried a bit of uncontrollable thrill and slight panting.

“Y-Your Highness... T-There’s no need to hurry. You don’t feel well. Don’t make yourself fall sick because of this. Y-Your affection to me is enough for me to die for you!” The woman seemed to want to help the prince, but she stepped on a stone in a flurry and let out a low groan.

“I-I am fine. As long as you are fine, I will be fine! Even if something will happen, let me be the one who suffers first!” The feminine prince panted and spoke with difficulty, but Wei Yuewu could feel his deep affection while listening to him.

In the darkness, Wei Yuewu looked up at Yan Huaijing. After blinking her watery eyes, she felt that not only did she know the identity of the prince, but she also knew the identity of this woman. It was really a rare coincidence!

Of course, she refused to believe that this kind of coincidence had nothing to do with Yan Huaijing!

“But, Your Highness, I... I already... belong to the Third Princess. I am afraid that it will be difficult to...” The woman sounded extremely sorrowful, and her tears slid down her cheeks slowly when she looked at the prince. She was deeply helpless. “I heard that you would marry the Tu Family’s daughter. I’m unlucky, so I...”

She was sobbing until she couldn’t talk.

In the darkness, the prince held the woman’s hand. “Don’t worry. You’re all I ever want to marry. But I’m sick... I’m afraid I will drag you down in the future!”

“No... Although Your Highness’ health is not good, it is not that bad. Your Highness will be fine!” The prince’s remark perturbed the woman’s feelings so much that she wailed in aggrievance. She held the prince’s hand and trembled slightly.

“Although the Tu Family’s women are noble and dignified, I only want to marry you. A-Although I have to marry the Tu Family’s daughter, you’re the only one I love,” the prince stammered. “B-But I have to sacrifice you. I don’t know if you’re willing to do so. Well, it’s unfortunate that I’m sick, or Father Emperor won’t force me to marry the Tu Family’s daughter against my will!”

After the prince finished speaking, he let go of the woman’s hand and seemed to want to walk away. “You should go back quickly, or it’ll be chaotic if they can’t find you. It doesn’t bother me. I’m just a good-for-nothing anyway. But you are different. You can marry a better man!”

As the prince urged, he seemed to be talking about his admiration and helplessness to the woman, but at the same time, he was being considerate to the woman. He seemed to be contradicting himself. The woman who heard this clenched her chest as if her heart was broken. The prince was walking away, so she rushed over and hugged his waist, stopping him in his tracks.

“Your Highness... D-Don’t say that. I’m willing to be with you even if you can’t give me a high status!” The woman cried.

Feeling that it was about time, the prince stopped and turned around to hug the woman. A smug smile appeared on the prince’s face, yet, he promised with a firm tone, “Don’t worry. Although I can’t give you a high status now, you’ll be my legitimate wife in the future!”

“Your Highness!” The woman was excited and threw herself into the arms of the prince.

Outside the rockery, Wei Yuewu deeply despised this man. The other day, he didn’t sound so weak, but today, he sounded as if he was ghastly ill.

As for this woman, after hearing her remarks, Wei Yuewu no longer sympathized with her. She was indeed a hypocritical woman. It seemed that both the prince and the woman were making concessions in order to gain advantages.

The two of them were a match made in heaven as they were faking their feelings for each other.

“Your Highness, the two young ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang have a restrained relationship. Wei Yuewu had the advantage at first, but now the Crown Prince is treating Wei Qiufu well,



so Wei Qiufu has the advantage now. If you wish, you can marry Wei Yuewu instead of the Tu Family's woman."

The woman suggested in a coquettish voice.

"They said that the legitimate daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang is ugly and untalented, but it is quite the opposite. She is gorgeous! It is so surprising!" The prince said softly while hugging the woman. "However, Marquis Hua Yang may not marry his daughter to me."

"Well, you can do it if you have the will. Your Highness, please hear me out..." The voice in the rockery became soft, and she sounded magnanimous and calm. It was exactly the same as Wei Qiufu's usual self. A trace of coldness flashed across Wei Yuewu's eyes.

Wei Yuewu was keeping to herself and did not mind their business, but someone came to plot against her again. Sure enough, all lay loads on the willing horse. Everyone thought that she was an easy target.

Since that was the case, she must make her move too!

Yan Huaijing picked up Wei Yuewu and left the gap.

After walking for a while until there was a light in front of them, Yan Huaijing let go of Wei Yuewu, spruced up her coat, and asked delightfully, "Do you need my help?"

"No!" Wei Yuewu shook her head. As long as she wasn't facing the prince who was feminine and cunning, she could still take matters into her own hands. Moreover, she had already thought of a countermeasure.

Everyone had their own way to survive in the Palace. No one could defy their ways.

"I wonder what will happen if I ask the Third Princess to marry me tomorrow." Yan Huaijing's long and narrow eyes darted around as he walked forward with Wei Yuewu in his embrace. Not far away, Little Dezi came out of nowhere and appeared behind them.

“The Third Princess will agree immediately!” Wei Yuewu thought for a while and answered. According to the Third Princess’ actions, she was sure that the Third Princess liked Yan Huaijing. However, Yan Huaijing had never expressed his intentions, and it wasn’t appropriate for the Third Princess to pursue him with great effort due to her status as the noble princess.

Of course, it was also possible that the Emperor directly decreed the marriage. Although the State of Yan was powerful, it was still part of the imperial territory now.

“What if I say I will announce to the public tomorrow that I want to marry the Third Princess?” Yan Huaijing glanced at Wei Yuewu and asked leisurely.

These words stumped Wei Yuewu, and she couldn’t help but frown.

Both the Third Princess and Fourth Princess both liked Yan Huaijing. One was Wen Tianyao’s favorite sister, and the other was the Empress’ biological daughter. No matter from which side she looked at it, both the princesses’ status didn’t seem to have much of a difference. Although the Fourth Princess’ status as the legitimate daughter of the Empress was noble, the Third Princess was equally competitive as both Wen Tianyao and the Emperor admired her.

The two generations of Emperors liked her, so it seemed that the Third Princess’ backing was even stronger.

Wei Yuewu thought about this matter further. Wen Tianyao was the Fourth Princess’ biological brother, so he wouldn’t turn a blind eye to his sister of the same mother, would he?

Thinking about this, Wei Yuewu seemed to feel that the Fourth Princess was even more powerful.

“In this way, the conflict between the two princesses might be even deeper. The Fourth Princess will not be able to endure it,” Wei Yuewu answered honestly.

In fact, everyone knew that the imperial family desired the State of Yan, so it was imperative for Yan Huaijing to marry the princess, regardless of which princess.

“Not only in the Palace, but also outside the Palace. I’m afraid Lu, Qi, and Chu will fight even more urgently, and some accidents will also happen.” Yan Huaijing’s beautiful eyes were filled with a bright smile, the corners of his lips slightly curved. It was as if he was talking about the weather when he mentioned the calm before the storm.

Wei Yuewu was speechless. He was probably the only person who could say such a big matter of the country so casually. But on second thought, she figured that it was likely for him to be like this. Thousands of soldiers would be sacrificed for a general to succeed. Moreover, this was the powerful and cunning heir-apparent who thought of the world as his game. He wouldn’t care about this.

“But nothing will happen for now. After that...” Yan Huaijing was taken aback to see the speechless and agitated Wei Yuewu. He then smiled and urged, “Let’s not talk about anything else today. Let’s go and admire the lanterns. That’s my purpose tonight.”

“Oh right, my lantern!” Speaking of the lantern, Wei Yuewu stared at her empty hands and shrieked. When she came here with Yan Huaijing, she was holding the lantern. However, she did not know when the lantern disappeared. Did it fall beside the rockery?

If it did, that prince would discover it.

“Little Dezi, where is the lantern?” Yan Huaijing looked at the flustered and bewildered Wei Yuewu and curled his lips into a smirk. The current Wei Yuewu finally looked like a normal thirteen-year-old girl. On ordinary days, she looked cold and mature at her age. It was as if she was wearing a mask at all times and keeping to herself.

“Miss, here’s your lantern!” Little Dezi had just lit up the lantern in his hand when he heard Yan Huaijing’s voice. The former hurried over and handed the lantern to her with a smile.

Wei Yuewu took the lantern with some embarrassment. Thanks to the veil, Yan Huaijing could not see that she was blushing. Otherwise, he would definitely make fun of her.

“Your Heir-apparent, it is getting late. I have to go back too, lest I be discovered.”

“It is still early. Let’s go back to the festival. I will send you back later!” Yan Huaijing did not intend to let her go so early. He revealed a gentle smile and continued to move forward with Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu had no choice but to obey. However, there was a variety of lanterns with amazing designs. They were more than what Wei Yuewu had seen over the years, and they were even more beautiful. After walking for a long time, Wei Yuewu finally realized that she had forgotten to go back, and there were fewer people admiring the lanterns right now.

By the time Yan Huaijing sent her back to her room, it was already close to midnight. Fortunately, Wei Qiufu, who was next door, had not come back yet. It seemed that Wei Qiufu would not come back so soon since she had such a perfect opportunity to get close to Wen Tianyao and make others look up to her due to her position by Wen Tianyao's side.

After Jin Ling helped Wei Yuewu wash up, Wei Yuewu went to bed. Just as Jin Ling was about to turn off the lights, she suddenly heard a rapid knock on the door, which seemed especially distant in the night.

"Sixth Young Lady, Sixth Young Lady, are you asleep? Please get up quickly!"

#### Chapter 349 – The Hairpin And The Empress' Scolding

"Jin Ling, go and find out what's going on," Wei Yuewu instructed as she sat up.

"Yes!" Jin Ling put down the lamp in her hand and walked out. When she opened the door, she saw a frightened Ming Yan.

"Ming Yan, what's going on?"

"I-Is Sixth Young Lady asleep? Our miss... our miss... has something to say to her!" Ming Yan's face was pale. At first glance, Jin Ling could tell that something was off.

Jin Ling looked outside and saw Wei Qiufu standing in the corridor. Under the dim light, she looked horrid with her ghastly gloomy expression mixed with a hint of ferociousness.

"Jin Ling, let Fourth Elder Sister in!" Wei Yuewu casually put on a robe and sat up.

“Yes. Fourth Young Lady, our Miss invites you in.” Jin Ling retreated to the side and made way.

Wei Qiufu walked in with a cold expression with Ming Yan in tow. Looking behind them, Jin Ling made sure that there was no one else. She closed the door and walked to stand behind the screen.

Behind the screen, Wei Yuewu had already put on her robe. Her long hair draped over her shoulders like a waterfall. Under the light, she looked very gentle, completely different from the fierce Wei Qiufu.

“Wei Yuewu, are you trying to frame me again?” Wei Qiufu, contrary to her usual gentleness, rushed in and shouted at Wei Yuewu as she glared at her.

“Fourth Elder Sister, what do you mean?” Wei Yuewu smiled and looked at Wei Qiufu’s hair bun.

It was different from the Wei Qiufu she saw before. When they went out for the festival, Wei Qiufu’s hair was combed perfectly with the wooden hairpin stuck in her hair bun. But now, her hair was disheveled, and there was even a strand hanging down. It was as if it had been forcefully pulled off, and the hairpin was gone.

Judging from this, Wei Yuewu knew that something had happened because of the hairpin!

“What do I mean? How dare you ask me what I mean! You framed me again and again, and you have the nerve to ask me what I mean! Wei Yuewu, I really underestimated you. I didn’t expect you to be so vicious that you harmed me again and again!” Wei Qiufu barked aggressively.

“What do you want to say, Fourth Elder Sister? If there’s nothing else, I’m going to sleep. I have to accompany the Third Princess to pray tomorrow!” Wei Yuewu looked indifferent. She calmly raised her watery eyes and looked straight at Wei Qiufu without fear.

Jin Ling quietly stood next to Wei Yuewu. If Wei Qiufu did anything extreme, Jin Ling could directly grab her hand.

“Where did you get that hairpin? Come with me and explain to Her Majesty now! Had it not been because of you, I wouldn’t have gotten the hairpin and pissed Her Majesty off!” As long as Wei Qiufu thought of the scene just now, she wished she could die right there and then. She glared at Wei Yuewu and wanted to tear her into pieces.

Just now, she was proudly admiring the lanterns with the Crown Prince. Along the way, Wei Qiufu felt a kind of fluttering excitement as she sensed the glances mixed with jealousy and envy.

Thinking about how she would be able to rely on the Crown Prince’s favor to climb up all the way to the high position as the future Empress, Wei Qiufu felt so excited that she couldn’t control herself.

Later, when the Crown Prince wanted to send her back, they bumped into the Empress.

Wei Qiufu had seen the Empress before, so she went up to greet her, thinking that the Empress would look up to her because of the Crown Prince. Unexpectedly, the Empress spotted the hairpin and immediately asked where it came from.

Wei Qiufu replied that it was hers. After that, she was mercilessly reprimanded by the Empress, who scolded her for having no sense of shame and taking possession of other people’s items. She even ordered the palace maid to remove the hairpin from her head in front of the Crown Prince. No matter how desperate and sorrowful she wailed, everyone ignored her.

Then, the Empress directly led the Crown Prince away.

The entire incident happened in a short period of time, but there were a lot of bystanders who saw the scene. Even the Crown Prince gave her a cold glare before leaving with the Empress. Everything that Wei Qiufu had done and achieved so far had been in vain.

The passersby were judging her with their glances and gestures. The ashamed and enraged Wei Qiufu stumbled back to Chu Xiu Palace. The minute she came back, she ordered Ming Yan to knock on Wei Yuewu’s door.

There was only one thought in Wei Qiufu’s mind right now. The humiliation she suffered today was all because of Wei Yuewu. It was Wei Yuewu who had framed her.

“Fourth Elder Sister, you’re so funny. I remember that I didn’t give you the hairpin, but you borrowed it. I didn’t want to lend it to you at that time, but you insisted. Also, I’ve told you that Concubine Dong gave me the hairpin. Don’t you remember? If you forget, you can ask Eldest Sister about it. She was present too.”

Wei Yuewu’s smile was light and aloof. She wasn’t flustered because of Wei Qiufu’s exasperation. Instead, she spoke in an orderly manner.

“A-Are you saying that it has nothing to do with you?” Wei Qiufu refused to believe her.

Wei Yuewu raised her eyebrows and looked at Wei Qiufu calmly. “Fourth Elder Sister, do you intend to blame me for this? If you don’t believe me, you can ask someone to investigate whether this hairpin was given to me by Concubine Dong. I heard that Concubine Dong also gave Third Elder Sister the same hairpin.”

Wei Yuewu was not intimidated. On the contrary, she wished that Wei Qiufu would make this a bigger deal than it was, because it would prove that she was innocent. Moreover, she hoped that it would become a big deal because she wanted to expose Concubine Dong and her ulterior motives, as well as knowing why the Empress cared so much about these things.

Back then, even though the cancellation of the engagement had caused some harm to the Empress, Wei Yuewu was sure that the other Tu Family’s woman was the one who had taken the consequences of the cancellation of the engagement.

The outstanding women of the Tu Family were eligible to be listed as direct descendants.

This meant that the lady’s guild in the family would shift. From the clues from before, Wei Yuewu had already sorted out some things.

When she was engaged to her father, the Empress was supposed to be Second Miss Tu. However, her father insisted on breaking off the engagement. For some unknown reason, Madam Dowager agreed to it. Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion did not make a fuss about it. The engagement was withdrawn silently, as if nothing had happened.

Then, Grand Preceptor Tu arranged another woman in. The ranking of the Tu Family's women then changed. The Empress' ranking should have been lowered, so that the new woman became Second Miss Tu.

Second Miss Tu, who was destined to be sacrificed, was not in good health. In the end, she did not get married and died of depression!

Her death indicated that this marriage was over. Even if someone were to unravel the matter again, they would think that it was Second Miss Tu who was engaged to her father.

However, no one would expect that this so-called Second Miss Tu was not the original Second Miss Tu. Then, the original Second Miss Tu and current Empress Tu, entered the Palace and was favored by the Emperor. She became Empress and gave birth to a prince and a princess. It could be said that the insignificant engagement back then did not hinder her at all. Even if someone investigated it, they could not find anything that was related to her.

Therefore, Wei Yuewu did not understand what the Empress was upset about. Her indignation was shown in Zhao Ruo'e's matter and Wei Qiufu's hairpin. Strangely, both the incidents happened in the direction that Concubine Dong had anticipated. There must be something that Wei Yuewu didn't know about. She hoped to see this hairpin incident escalating into a big deal so that she could inquire about it.

However, Wei Yuewu was also sure that this matter could not be stirred up, so Wei Qiufu was bound to suffer in silence.

It was just like if Empress Tu saw the hairpin on Wei Yuewu, Wei Yuewu would surely be the one to be scolded and disgusted by the Empress.

"Concubine Dong wanted to harm you. What does the hairpin have to do with me?" Wei Qiufu was not foolish. Previously, she was so angry that she was flustered. Now, she calmed down and looked at Wei Yuewu gloomily. She did not believe that Wei Yuewu did not know anything about it.

"But it was you who insisted on borrowing the hairpin from me!" Wei Yuewu looked back at her calmly and pointed out the most crucial point.



“But... but if you hadn’t worn it... I... I wouldn’t have borrowed it from you!” Wei Qiufu was extremely angry.

“Are you saying that when you are around, I have to inform you what I want to wear first?” Wei Yuewu replied sarcastically.

Glaring at Wei Yuewu’s cold and delicate face, Wei Qiufu felt a sense of hatred arise. She swung her palm toward Wei Yuewu’s face in resentment.

The keen Jin Ling grabbed Wei Qiufu’s hand and coldly warned, “Fourth Young Lady, please behave yourself!”

“Wei Yuewu, you... you...” Being grabbed by Jin Ling, Wei Qiufu could no longer move her hand. She flew into a rage. “How dare you! You are just a lowly maid. How dare you be so rude to me!”

“Fourth Elder Sister, I am the legitimate daughter with the highest status in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang! I don’t think you have the right to slap me!” Wei Yuewu glared at Wei Qiufu coldly, and her intense glare was horrifying under the dim light. “Fourth Elder Sister, it has nothing to do with me if you want to enter the Crown Prince Mansion, but don’t even think about stepping on me to achieve that. You know what you have done. If you think that making this a big deal is good for you, go ahead, I don’t mind. But I wonder whom Father will believe. You or me?”

“You...” Wei Qiufu was suffocated by Wei Yuewu’s words and almost gasped.

“Fourth Elder Sister, it’s getting late. It’s better to rest early. We still have to accompany the Third Princess to pray for blessings tomorrow!” Wei Yuewu turned to the side coldly, ignoring Wei Qiufu who was still in the room.

Jin Ling took the opportunity to put down Wei Qiufu’s hand and stopped her. “Fourth Young Lady, our miss is going to sleep. Please go back!”

“You... you...” Wei Qiufu was furious and pointed at Wei Yuewu and Jin Ling indignantly.

“Fourth Elder Sister, you should go back. Think about how to answer the other young ladies’ questions tomorrow when they ask you about tonight. Her Majesty did not pursue the matter. Aren’t you afraid that she will be angry if you want to pursue the matter?” Wei Yuewu sat down on the bed and asserted indifferently.

It was a wise reminder for Wei Qiufu. She immediately shut her mouth, glared hatefully at Wei Yuewu, and huffed angrily at Ming Yan, “Let’s go!”

Then, they turned around angrily and left.

Jin Ling followed them to the door and closed it. Then she turned back inside. Wei Yuewu had already got on the bed and laid down. It was really late now. After walking for so long, she was exhausted and did not have the energy to fight with Wei Qiufu. That was why she reminded Wei Qiufu.

When Jin Ling came in, Wei Yuewu had already closed her eyes.

Jin Ling walked to the table. She turned off the lamp, looked back at Wei Yuewu on the bed, and asked worriedly, “Miss, will something happen tomorrow?”

How could the Empress’ anger be ignored so easily? At this point, many people in the Palace already knew about this matter. After that...

## Chapter 350 – Scars Of The Past

Speaking of which, Wei Yuewu did take the lead in this matter.

“Don’t worry. The Empress will suppress the matter.” Wei Yuewu closed her eyes and shook her head. Judging from Wei Qiufu’s expression and what she had just said, Wei Yuewu knew the Empress had reprimanded Wei Qiufu directly without giving her a chance to explain herself.

If the matter, as well as the past incidents, were exposed, Empress Tu would definitely be implicated, and the Grand Perceptor Tu Mansion might be dragged into it too.

A woman who had a broken betrothal had actually become the Empress. It was a great humiliation for the Emperor. Therefore, the matter should end here. Not only would no one investigate this, but the Empress would even stop other people from investigating. Furthermore, there must be a reasonably “happy ending” to this matter.

Wei Yewu believed there would be such a happy ending to justify the Empress’ reactions.

Of course, Wei Qiufu would not let this matter slip so easily...

It seemed that tomorrow would be a lively day!

Seeing that Wei Yewu was so sure, Jin Ling relaxed and quietly blew out the lights for Wei Yewu.

At the Feng Yi Palace.

All of the palace maids and eunuchs had left, leaving only Empress Tu and Crown Prince Wen Tianyao in the main hall.

“Mother, what happened to you just now? Is there something wrong with the hairpin?” Wen Tianyao looked suspiciously at the hairpin on the table with a frown. He still didn’t understand why Empress Tu suddenly became angry.

Unexpectedly, she ordered her maids to hold Wei Qiufu down and directly pulled the hairpin from her hair.

“This hairpin belonged to your second aunt!” Empress Tu glowered with a gloomy face. Under the light, her face was still a little pale.

“Second aunt?” Wen Tianyao was befuddled for a moment.

“Madam Tu!” Empress Tu rubbed the space between her eyebrows and said tiredly.

This was the first time that Wen Tianyao had heard that Madam Tu was his second aunt.

“Since it belongs to Madam Tu, why is it in Wei Qiufu’s hands now?” Wen Tianyao asked in confusion, addressing her as Madam Tu out of habit.

“I don’t want to talk about it. It was something hateful that happened in the past. Now that she is dead, there’s nothing to talk about.” Empress Tu gradually eased up, and there was a hint of sadness on her face. “I was too worked up just now. When I saw the hairpin, it reminded me of the past, and I did what I did.”

“You mean...” Wen Tianyao knew what the Empress was implying and confided.

“Just say that Fourth Young Lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang offended me, and I reprimanded her for it!” Empress Tu leaned back, and her face was hidden under the dim light. Wen Tianyao couldn’t see her expression clearly.

“And the hairpin?” Wen Tianyao nodded and looked at the hairpin on the table. Of course, offending her mother was a sound excuse, and they didn’t have to come up with a specific explanation behind it. x

“Just say that the palace maid accidentally dropped it. Take this hairpin away and return it,” Empress Tu ordered with her eyes closed.

“Yes!” Wen Tianyao nodded.

“It’s getting late. You can go back now!” Empress Tu huffed.

Wen Tianyao stood up and picked up the hairpin on the table. After saying goodbye to the Empress, he left in large strides.

In the main hall, Empress Tu sat there alone with her eyes closed. She was as still as a statue. The maids would have thought that she was asleep had it not been for her right palm that was clenched into a fist from time to time.

“The past... The past...” Empress Tu suddenly mumbled in a low voice. Despite her soft voice, the resentment and sadness in her voice was enough to make people who heard her tremble.

The next day, at dawn, Jin Ling woke Wei Yuewu up and helped her wash up.

The breakfast had already been sent over. Wei Yuewu ate a little and took Jin Ling out of the door. When they reached the door, they saw that Wei Qiufu also pushed the door open and walked out.

When the two of them met, Wei Qiufu was stunned for a moment before taking the initiative to come forward and give Wei Yuewu a deep bow. “Sixth Younger Sister, I’m sorry. Last night... I-I was too worked up and disturbed you.”

After a night of thinking, Wei Qiufu decided to temporarily back down. The bitchy Wei Yuewu had ruined her plan time and time again. She would definitely not let her go in the future, but for the time being, it was not a good idea to have a fallout with Wei Yuewu.

“It’s fine.” Wei Yuewu nodded and bowed too. Neither she nor Wei Qiufu wanted to have a fallout in the Palace, or they would fall into Concubine Dong’s trap. Both Concubine Dong and Wei Qiufu plotted against her in the Palace, but the latter fell into Concubine Dong’s trap by accident. In that case, it was better for her to see the ensuing fight between Wei Qiufu and Concubine Dong!

“Sixth Younger Sister, was the hairpin really from Concubine Dong?” Wei Qiufu took two steps forward and asked, but her voice was not light.

“Yes. Concubine Dong gave it to me, asking me to wear it in the Palace.” Wei Yuewu nodded and continued to walk out. Her long eyelashes flickered, and the corners of her lips curled into an almost imperceptible sneer.

As expected, Wei Qiufu refused to back down. She was going to make Concubine Dong the scapegoat...

“Sixth Younger Sister, Concubine Dong has been indifferent to you for so many years. In the past, when you were in your maternal grandparents’ family, it was Grandmother who sent people to see you.

Concubine Dong never cared about you. What happened this time? Why did she give you such a fine hairpin?" Wei Qiufu continued to ask.

Along the way, there were more palace maids and eunuchs on both sides of the path.

Although Wei Qiufu did not speak loudly, it was audible to the palace maids who passed by to hear her.

"I-I don't know why!" Wei Yuewu shook her head and continued to walk.

"Should we tell Eldest Uncle that there is something wrong with the hairpin that Concubine Dong gave you? Thankfully, I was the one who wore it. Had you worn it last night, you would have been reprimanded. What exactly is Concubine Dong thinking?" Wei Qiufu bellowed furiously as if she tried to get to the bottom of it.

She sounded as if she was taking Wei Yuewu's side.

"Fourth Elder Sister, I'll tell Father when he comes, but we'd better not say anything for now." Wei Yuewu stopped and glanced at Wei Qiufu.

Even if she wanted to deal with Concubine Dong, she couldn't let Wei Qiufu do as she wished. Both Concubine Dong and Wei Qiufu were sly and malicious, and they wanted to harm her.

After Wei Yuewu finished speaking, she quickly walked out.

Behind her, Wei Qiufu gritted her teeth and looked at Wei Yuewu's back hatefully. She had no choice but to follow her with Ming Yan.

At this moment, the soft sedans were parking at the gate of Chu Xiu Palace. Several young ladies of aristocratic families had come early and been waiting at the gate. When they saw Wei Qiufu appear at the gate of the palace, a few of them were judging her. Their faces were full of disdain.

News in the Palace spread like wildfire. The young ladies, who had joined the Third Princess to pray, were very well-informed. They already knew that Wei Qiufu had been reprimanded by the Empress last night.

At this time, they looked at Wei Qiufu with ridicule on their faces.

Wei Qiufu was resentful, but there was nothing she could do. She lowered her head and was about to get on the soft sedan when a shrill voice came from behind.

“Fourth Miss Wei, please wait a moment!” Wei Qiufu stopped and looked at the eunuch who was rushing over.

“What is it?”

“Fourth Miss Wei, this is the hairpin His Highness asked me to send to you. Yesterday, His Highness heard that you dropped your hairpin, so he asked us to find it and return it to you.” The eunuch handed over the box in his hand to her with a polite smile.

She dropped her hairpin? Wei Yuewu stood in front of a soft sedan, deep in thought.

Just as she had expected, Empress Tu didn't want to make a big deal out of it. Therefore, Empress used the excuse of Wei Qiufu dropping the hairpin by accident to hide the real reason why she was angry.

“I dropped the hairpin?” Wei Qiufu was equally taken aback. She clearly remembered that she did not drop the hairpin, but it was pulled away by the Empress' palace maid.

“Yes. Please take a look at it, Fourth Young Lady. Is it this hairpin?” The eunuch handed the box in his hand forward again.

Ming Yan, whom Wei Qiufu gestured at, hurried forward to take the box and open it. Indeed, it was the wooden hairpin that her Miss wore last night.

“Miss, it really is yours!” Ming Yan looked at Wei Qiufu, not knowing whether to take the box or not.

“Take it!” Suddenly understanding the Empress’ intention, Wei Qiufu gritted her teeth and said to the eunuch, “I offended the Empress last night, and today, I have to trouble the Crown Prince to deliver my hairpin. I’m so sorry for all the trouble I’ve caused.”

Although Wei Qiufu didn’t know why the Empress didn’t make a move against her using the hairpin, she was sure that the Empress would do something from another perspective. “Offend” seemed to be the right word to use here. After all, she was facing the Empress now. Whether it was reasonable or not, the Empress could be justifiably “offended” by whatever Wei Qiufu did without giving any specific explanation.

Since she couldn’t say this in private, she should simply be frank and say it openly. Anyway, she had the Crown Prince as her backing, so the Empress’ reprimand would be suppressed to the minimum.

Wei Yuewu, on the other hand, was secretly impressed by Wei Qiufu’s quick understanding of the situation. Under her long eyelashes, her sparkly eyes became profound. Wei Qiufu was indeed a tough opponent. Just by relying on the hairpin, Wei Qiufu could understand the Empress’ indication and take advantage of the Crown Prince’s power to suppress the matter.

The Crown Prince’s gesture of sending the hairpin over demonstrated that he thought highly of Wei Qiufu. Getting the Crown Prince’s favor was also of utmost importance even if she couldn’t get the Empress’ favor. In fact, getting the Crown Prince’s favor was even more significant than getting the Empress’ favor.

After all, the Crown Prince was the future ruler of the country. Even though the Empress was the most powerful woman of the country and the Crown Prince’s birth mother, she could not be too overbearing towards the Crown Prince.

“Fourth Young Lady, His Highness asked me to tell you that everything is fine. Last night’s incident had passed, and you don’t have to worry about it,” the eunuch replied in a polite manner, even with a hint of comfort.

Since the eunuch was delivering the Crown Prince’s message, the message represented the Crown Prince’s stand. If so, the Crown Prince thought very highly of Wei Qiufu.



Hence, the way the young ladies of aristocratic families looked at Wei Qiufu changed from mockery to hatred.

“Please thank His Highness on my behalf!” Wei Qiufu was touched.

The eunuch nodded with a smile and retreated. Everyone went up the soft sedan and headed to the palace where the Third Princess held her prayer session.

Inside the soft sedan, Wei Yuewu frowned slightly. Crown Prince Wen Tianyao’s reaction was really too strange. It was as if he was here to help Wei Qiufu out.

What exactly did the Crown Prince mean by doing so?

However, this was not the only commotion. Even though the Empress was the master of the harem, she was spied on by many eyes!

It was fine if she hadn’t revealed herself, but now that the hairpin incident had occurred...