

Young Lady 361

Chapter 361 – Seven-Colored Sacrificial Clothes

After the prayer session at the Buddha Hall, the young ladies did not take the soft sedans. Instead, they followed the Third Princess to the small ancestral hall of the royal family and waited. It was very quiet along the way. After turning a few intersections, they arrived in front of a small ancestral hall.

Despite the fact that it was a small ancestral hall, it was a little bigger than the ancestral hall of an ordinary family, and its grandeur already reflected the dignity of the royal family.

When they arrived at the entrance of the hall, they did not immediately enter. Ten young ladies of aristocratic families lined up on both sides of the hall, five in one row. The Fourth Princess appeared out of nowhere and stood near the door while the Third Princess stood on the opposite side.

The Third Princess was the focus of attention today, so she was dressed in a particularly beautiful dress. The bright and beautiful embroidered scarf was draped over her gorgeous ceremonial robe with the phoenix patterns stitched on both the robe and the scarf. On her belt was a red-colored fragrance sachet stitched with golden thread, and the golden tassel hanging under the sachet flickered as she walked. Her attire and makeover made her figure look even more graceful.

There was a faint smile on her delicate and pretty face. Her gaze calmly fell on the Fourth Princess, who was standing opposite her. The corners of her eyes unconsciously twitched, and there was a bit of displeasure in her heart.

She was supposed to be the center of attention today, but the Fourth Princess was dressed up in an equally gorgeous manner as if she wanted to compete with her. The Third Princess was dismayed, but she did not show it on her face. She was still smiling gently and elegantly.

Not long after, the Emperor came over with the Empress, Crown Prince, and the other princes.

The people on both lines knelt down and shouted, “Long live Your Majesty.”

Amidst the cheers of the crowd, the Emperor and Empress entered the great hall. Everyone followed them in. Inside, they worshipped the ancestors of the royal family and the deities.

The Emperor offered incense to the ancestors and the deities while the young ladies and the Third Princess knelt down behind him. Then, the Empress faintly said, "Rise!"

Everyone stood up together.

The following ceremony was somewhat similar to the ordinary coming-of-age ceremony.

The host tied the Third Princess' hair and inserted the hairpins. Empress Tu and Zhaoyi Tu gave their blessings and presented her their gifts. The Emperor, Crown Prince, Third Prince, and Fourth Prince also gave their gifts. Finally, a beautiful and colorful robe was draped over the Third Princess' shoulders.

The garment was extraordinarily gorgeous, and it made the Third Princess as beautiful as a flower. It was as if she had transformed into a magnificent peony, and it was a mesmerizing sight. Seeing this, the Fourth Princess squinted slightly with a trace of jealousy flashing through her eyes, and she looked at her eldest brother, the Crown Prince Wen Tianyao, in dismay. This was the only garment they had. Now that it was given to Wen Caidie, she had none.

She refused to accept this fact! The more the Fourth Princess thought about how her own brother treated Wen Caidie better than her, the angrier she became.

"Your Majesty, it's almost time." Empress Tu saw it was about the time and whispered to the Emperor.

The Emperor nodded and smiled. He was very satisfied with his third daughter. In addition to her generosity and dignity, she also had a good reputation in the harem and would never do anything arrogant and domineering, on the contrary to the Fourth Princess who was a troublemaker.

If he had to choose, he felt that he would let his third daughter marry the State of Yan. Compared with his fourth daughter, his third daughter was outstanding in every aspect. The only thing was that she was not born by the Empress. Her background was a little inferior, and he could not promote Zhaoyi Tu to a higher position due to the Empress' existence.

This was the reason that the Third Prince's background was a bit inferior to that of the Fourth Princess.

However, if Yan Huaijing took a fancy to his third daughter, the Emperor decided to give the State of Yan more benefits. After all, the Third Princess seemed to be much more capable than the Fourth Princess. If the Third Princess was pregnant with the next Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State, he would have a bloodline of the royal family in the State of Yan. The Emperor felt that he could use this method to make the State of Yan a part of the country again.

If a daughter of the royal family was married to the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State, their offspring would definitely become the next heir-apparent with the entire royal family backing him. Of course, the premise was that his daughter needed to give birth to a son.

On this point, the Emperor favored his third daughter more.

The mellow and crisp sound of chime-bells echoed across the hall. The Third Princess leisurely walked over to the large incense burner in the middle of the Buddha Hall. A monk came over and handed over three incense sticks that had just been lit. The Third Princess took them and respectfully bowed towards the large incense burner. The ten aristocratic young ladies behind her all had solemn expressions as they slowly knelt down.

The atmosphere was both solemn and peaceful.

The Third Princess stood up straight, followed by the aristocratic young ladies. They bowed their heads and stood in two rows. The Fourth Princess had already stood behind the Empress.

In the middle of the hall, the Third Princess was standing with two rows of aristocratic young ladies.

Two rows of palace maids came in. Each of them held an exquisite brocade box in their hands. The brocade boxes were carved with dragons and phoenixes. It was obvious that they were from the imperial palace. The palace maids walked in front of the Third Princess and lined up one by one.

The Third Princess walked to the front of a palace maid, opened the lid of the brocade box, and took out two sets of exquisite clothes inside the box. The clothes were so gorgeous that they did not pale even in comparison to the robe the Third Princess was wearing. In fact, they seemed to be a little more bright-colored and dazzling.

Seeing this, the aristocratic young ladies who followed her all widened their eyes in astonishment and were envious.

At the back of the line, Wei Yuewu did not look at the gorgeous clothes, but she looked at the young ladies in front of her. She realized that almost all the young ladies were in an uproar when they saw the clothes. Indeed, every woman loved beautiful things. They couldn't suppress their eagerness even on such a solemn occasion.

They wanted to see the clothes clearly.

Only Wei Qiufu, who was standing on her left side, did not speak or move. She was well-behaved as if she did not care about anything. She just waited wholeheartedly for the next process.

Wei Qiufu was still so calm in such a situation. A trace of sharpness flashed through Wei Yuewu's eyes. Sure enough, Wei Qiufu knew about the matter.

The two sets of clothes that were given to her were not Wei Qiufu's, but Wei Qiufu knew that there was a problem with the clothes...

The Third Princess placed the clothes on the ground and went to open another brocade box. Then, she took out two sets of clothes. As the young ladies saw more and more clothes on the ground, everyone could see what was going on.

These clothes were divided into seven sections, which meant that they represented seven colors: red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, blue, and purple. Now, there were four colors on the ground, so there should be three colors in the remaining three boxes.

Sure enough, at this moment, the Third Princess took out two sets of green clothes...

The color of the final two clothes would be blue and purple. Wei Yuewu raised her head and quietly looked at the scene in front of her. Her clear eyes revealed a cold look.

The two sets of clothes that Wei Qiufu gave her were exactly blue and purple!

When the Third Princess took out the first set of clothes from the first brocade box, Wei Yuewu had already confirmed that the material of those clothes was of the same fabric. Although the styles were different, the brilliance was actually comparable to the garment that the Third Princess wore. This also verified her previous speculation.

Judging from the jealous glare when the Fourth Princess looked at the Third Princess, Wei Yuewu could tell that the garment the Third Princess was wearing was probably the one and only in the world. However, the Fourth Princess showed disdain when she looked at the equally gorgeous seven-colored clothes. She simply glanced at them and did not give too much attention to them.

When the sixth box was opened, the palace maid, who was holding the box, knelt down with a plop as the Third Princess reached out, crying out in a trembling voice, "Princess, please spare me!"

This scene was too strange. Everyone looked at the kneeling palace maid in shock. Then, another palace maid could not hold it any longer and knelt down too.

They hugged the brocade boxes tightly in their arms. Their faces were ghastly pale, and they were trembling.

Zhaoyi Tu's expression became dismayed. She calmly looked at Empress Tu, who was standing next to the Emperor. A trace of anger flashed in her eyes, but then she lowered her head and hid her emotions.

Today was the Third Princess' coming-of-age ceremony. Zhaoyi Tu suspected that the Empress or the Fourth Princess was most likely the person who wanted to sabotage the Third Princess' ceremony and humiliate her. However, she knew that it wasn't appropriate for her to speak on such an occasion.

"What's going on?" The Emperor was also very surprised and asked the Empress on the side.

Empress Tu frowned as she watched the scene in the hall. She waved her hand and called the palace maid over to ask about this odd scene.

The palace maid complied and went over.

In the hall, the Third Princess' eyebrows were tightly furrowed. It was obvious that she was upset. No one would be happy when such an accident happened in a grand ceremony like this and ruined the entire process.

But the Third Princess was very well-mannered. Even in such a situation, she simply frowned but did not shout. She simply asked calmly, "What's going on?"

The two palace maids exchanged glances. One of them gritted her teeth and stammered, "T-Third Princess, w-w-when we woke up this morning, w-w-we found that.... the clothes in two boxes were missing!"

Two sets of clothes were missing?

The people in the Palace who clearly knew that the Third Princess had chosen seven-colored clothes as a sacrifice to pray for the prosperity of the country all exchanged shocked glances. They knew the fact that the clothes were useless despite their gorgeous appearance and the fine fabric because a slight touch would cause the clothes to tear, bulge, and be concave.

Originally, this kind of material was used especially to worship the heavens or the ancestral shrine. It looked beautiful, but it was not practical. The Third Princess used it to make clothes, but no one would have expected the clothes to be missing. Everyone unconsciously looked at the aristocratic young ladies after their speculation.

The people in the Palace knew that these clothes could not be worn, but the people outside the Palace did not know it. Even if they knew a little, they would not know in detail. Maybe someone would take those two sets of clothes. Just now, many people noticed the young ladies' enthusiastic gazes when they looked at the clothes.

At this time, the palace maid sent by the Empress also arrived. She walked to the front of them and asked in a deep voice, "When did it happen?"

“T-This morning. W-We checked the boxes yesterday, and they were still there!” The palace maid stammered, and a trace of despair flashed across her eyes. They had actually lost the clothes at such a grand ceremony. They wouldn’t be able to survive even if the clothes were found.

“So, it means that the clothes were missing yesterday afternoon!” The palace maid pondered for a moment and asked, “Did you see any suspicious people yesterday?”

The palace maids who were holding the brocade boxes exchanged curious and skeptical glances at each other. They could not think of anyone who was suspicious.

“I-I remember. S-Someone is very suspicious!” One palace maid who was standing suddenly blurted. Immediately, everyone’s eyes fell on her.

In the crowd, Wei Yuewu looked at Wei Qiufu’s face, and she could see the sneer on the corner of Wei Qiufu’s lips. Sensing Wei Yuewu’s gaze, Wei Qiufu turned her head. The ridicule on her face was even more obvious, and there was also a trace of vicious pleasure...

Chapter 362 – The Eunuch Who Committed Suicide

Wei Yuewu smiled at Wei Qiufu. Then, as she saw Wei Qiufu’s smile stiffen, she slowly retracted her gaze and continued to pay attention to the event in front of her.

“Who is it?” The Empress’ palace maid snapped.

The palace maid, who was kneeling on the ground, replied with a trembling voice, “I-It’s Eunuch Zhang Yu, who is usually working with us.” She knew that she would probably die soon, yet she hoped that she would not implicate her family.

“Go and investigate!” The Empress, who heard the remark, frowned, her expression cold and gloomy. Today’s ceremony was important to her too. Now that such a thing had happened, as the head of the harem, she was also very embarrassed.

Zhaoyi Tu hid herself in the darkness, coldly watching the Empress’ reaction.

A eunuch hurriedly ran out of the hall. The so-called Eunuch Zhang Yu was a staff working at the royal family's small ancestral hall, so he did not need to go far. He just needed to bring him over from the side room.

In the hall, the Empress' palace maid continued to interrogate. "Why do you feel that he is suspicious?"

"Eunuch Zhang Yu wasn't in charge of things like clothes and sorts, but he suddenly came to us yesterday afternoon and said that he wanted to see the Third Princess' rainbow-colored clothes. I figured that it was not a serious issue, so I brought him over to have a look. Then, someone looked for me, so I went away, and Eunuch Zhang Yu left when I came back."

"I opened a few boxes to check the items and didn't find anything unusual, so I closed the boxes and walked out." The speaker was the palace maid who was holding the red clothes. She was obviously the leader of this group of palace maids.

"I-I remembered seeing Eunuch Zhang Yu bring a box out in the afternoon!" Another palace maid also thought of something and said anxiously.

"Yes, I saw him too. I asked him where he went after he came back, but he looked panicked and seemed as if he couldn't answer my question!" Another palace maid spoke up.

At this moment, the palace maids started to provide information about the so-called Eunuch Zhang Yu. It was almost certain that there was something wrong with this eunuch.

It was highly likely that he stole the two sets of clothes, but as a eunuch, he couldn't wear such dresses. Why did he steal them?

Wei Yuewu, who had been standing in the crowd, donned a surprised expression just like everybody else. Only when her long eyelashes fluttered slightly did her lips curl into a cold smile. Her gaze fell on the two palace maids who were filled with despair.

This mastermind did everything he or she could for the sake of framing her. Zhang Yu and these two palace maids were their first batch of scapegoats.

Judging from this, the mastermind was indeed vicious. Just a few words could make people die miserably, and no one could see anything malicious about the method.

Compared to those arrogant and domineering criminals, this method was even more vicious and diabolical!

The eunuch, who was sent away by the Empress, rushed back in a hurry to the Empress' side and reported in a low voice, "Your Majesty, Zhang Yu hung himself in his own room!"

"He's dead?" The Empress looked at the Emperor, who stood beside her and also heard the news.

The Emperor's face immediately darkened.

"Send someone to investigate how he died, how long he has been dead, and if there's any sign of intruders!" The Empress ordered sternly. "Also, check if anyone saw where Zhang Yu went!"

Of course, Empress Tu did not believe that Zhang Yu kept the clothes because he wanted to wear them.

Only women would like this kind of dress. He was a eunuch, not a woman. Why would he risk his life to steal those clothes?

"Yes!" The eunuch hurriedly ran down again.

The Third Princess leisurely walked to the Emperor and Empress and called out, "Father Emperor, Mother Empress!"

Tears fell from the corners of her eyes, but she forced a smile on her face. Anyone who looked at her would think that she was sensible and mature. "Father Emperor, Mother Empress, now that things have come to this, we can only worship the mountain and river deities with these clothes. Although two sets were missing, at least we still have twelve complete sets of clothes!"

Realizing that she was crying, the Third Princess quickly turned her head and wiped away the tears in her eyes with a handkerchief. She tried to smile even more brightly.

She wasn't irritated and she didn't demand the Emperor and Empress to investigate the matter either. She only succumbed to reality and was ready to make do with two sets of clothes missing.

A woman's coming-of-age ceremony was the most important thing in her life, let alone a princess of the royal family. In addition, the princess had been praying for the prosperity of the country. How could it go on casually?

"Empress, what do you think about this?" The Emperor asked coldly, his face as dark as the night sky.

"Don't worry, Your Majesty. I will get someone to investigate it. I won't let the Third Princess suffer. Since the clothes were missing, I'll ask my maid to get two more sets, but the color will be a little different." Empress Tu pondered for a moment and said, "The Fourth Princess had actually also prepared a few sets..."

"Mother, those are mine!" When the Fourth Princess, who was standing at the side, heard that the Empress was going to give the clothes she had prepared to the Third Princess, she immediately became furious.

"It's still early to use your clothes, so we can make new ones in the future, but the Third Princess' event is more urgent." Empress Tu gently comforted the Fourth Princess and winked at her. However, the Fourth Princess was exasperated. Wen Caidie's clothes were gone, but why did she have to take her clothes? She wanted to use the clothes to worship the heavens too.

"Mother Empress, I..." The Fourth Princess wanted to argue her points, but Wen Tianyao interjected her directly. "That's it. Go to the place where the Fourth Princess' sacrificial gifts were prepared and bring two sets of clothes over. If there is no pure blue or purple, bring the ones that are in similar colors."

The Third Princess prepared the seven-colored clothes that symbolized the rainbow in the sky, while the Fourth Princess prepared a set of clothes with twelve colors that symbolized each month of the year.

When the eunuch heard this, he retreated and hurriedly assigned someone to take the Fourth Princess' clothes.

"Brother!" The Fourth Princess was so aggrieved that tears were about to fall. She glared at the Third Princess indignantly, feeling that she always had to be the one to suffer in the end even though it was Wen Caidie's fault in the first place. The same thing had happened repeatedly since they were little girls.

It was clearly Wen Caidie's fault, but everyone was on her side, including her own brother and mother.

"Mother Empress, Royal Brother, you don't have to do this. The Fourth Younger Sister's clothes are also going to be used as a whole. It'll be incomplete if I take two sets of her clothes," The Third Princess uttered softly with tears in her eyes.

"Never mind, we've made the decision. There's still more than a month to go for your sister's ceremony!" The Emperor decisively affirmed while waving his hand.

The Fourth Princess wanted to say something, but when she saw her mother's cold gaze and the Emperor's unhappy face, she could only grit her teeth and swallow her anger. Although she was the arrogant Fourth Princess, she knew that she could not talk back to her Father Emperor.

"Thank you, Father Emperor. Thank you, Mother Empress. Fourth Younger Sister, I'm sorry. It's all my fault. When this matter is over, I will send someone to supervise the seamstresses who make your clothes and make sure that the clothes look exactly the same as before." The Third Princess politely thanked the Emperor and Empress. Then, she apologized to the Fourth Princess with a modest tone.

But her words enraged the Fourth Princess even more. What did the Third Princess mean by that?! She could send someone to supervise the seamstresses herself. It sounded as if the Third Princess' people could do a better job than hers!

However, the Fourth Princess only glared at the Third Princess with hatred. She didn't say anything.

Wei Yuewu observed the mental confrontation between the two princesses, and her gaze slightly deepened. The Third Princess feigned her fragility and weakness and seemed to suppress the Fourth

Princess, but with the Fourth Princess' temperament, she would definitely not let herself suffer any grievance.

Wei Yuewu believed that if the Emperor was not present at this time, the current situation would be different, and the Emperor could not keep an eye on everything in the harem.

Soon, two sets of the Fourth Princess' clothes were brought over. Although they were somewhat different, they basically looked very similar.

Thus, the fourteen sets of clothes were stacked layer by layer. The Third Princess took a small fire stick from the monk's hand and lit the clothes. Immediately, the few sets of beautiful clothes burned violently.

Before long, the clothes turned into ashes!

At this time, the eunuch, whom Empress had sent out to investigate, also came back. He walked to the Empress' side and reported in a low voice.

"Your Majesty, I've asked around. Zhang Yu took a box to Chu Xiu Palace, and I was told that he went to see the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang's Sixth Young Lady and Fourth Young Lady. He claimed that he went there to send pastries to them on behalf of Zhaoyi Tu, and then he left in a hurry."

"Sister, have you sent pastries to the two young ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang?" The Empress turned to look at Zhaoyi Tu in surprise.

"Sister, I-I haven't. Even if I had, I would have sent the pastries to all the young ladies and not just the two of them. Also, I've never seen that Zhang Yu before. You can verify it." Zhaoyi Tu raised her eyes and answered gently in confusion.

The Third Princess was her biological daughter. After such a thing had happened during her daughter's coming-of-age ceremony, Zhaoyi Tu was still able to maintain such a solemn bearing. It was truly rare.

“Empress, this matter should have nothing to do with Zhaoyi Tu. I’m thinking that the bastard eunuch did such a thing by using her name,” The Emperor said to the Empress while looking at Zhaoyi Tu with a pitiful glance.

The long pearl curtain of the crown on his head covered his face. From Wei Yuewu’s angle, she could only see that it was a dignified middle-aged man. Perhaps it was because of the lighting, Wei Yuewu felt that his side profile looked rather familiar as if she had seen him before.

But when Wei Yuewu looked more closely, it was clearly a middle-aged man that she had never seen before. Ever since she entered the capital, she had not met many people, and there was no such dignified middle-aged man in her memory.

She lowered her head slightly and concealed the doubt in her eyes. Was it because of Crown Prince Wen Tianyao that she felt that the Emperor’s side profile looked somewhat familiar?

“Call the two young ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang over!” The Empress raised her eyes and coldly looked at Wei Yuewu.

Chapter 363 – Fights Between The Legitimate And Illegitimate Children In The Palace

Hearing the eunuch’s instructions, Wei Yuewu followed Wei Qiufu to Empress Tu.

“Did you receive any pastries yesterday?” Empress Tu asked Wei Qiufu as she looked at the latter’s face with her cold gaze.

“Pastries?” Wei Qiufu was bewildered for a moment before she suddenly remembered it and nodded. “Yes, Your Majesty. I did receive the pastries sent from Zhaoyi Tu yesterday, but it was Sixth Younger Sister who brought the pastries over.”

“Sixth Miss Wei, what do you have to say about this?” Empress Tu’s gaze finally fell on Wei Yuewu’s face. Her expression was indifferent and cold, and no one could read her true emotions.

“Your Majesty, I was resting in my room yesterday when the eunuch sent the pastries over, saying that they were from Zhaoyi Tu, so I asked Jin Ling to take them. Then, the eunuch said that he wanted to send the pastries to Fourth Elder Sister, and that Zhaoyi Tu had a message for both of us, so I followed him to Fourth Elder Sister’s room. But when we arrived at the door, the eunuch sent me away, saying that we could talk about it later, so I went back.”

Wei Yuewu was already prepared. When she heard this question, she raised her eyes slightly and explained unhurriedly.

She was almost certain that the eunuch was already dead. He held all the clues, so it would be a disaster if he was alive. Now that he was dead, there would be no evidence.

The lack of evidence brought the same effect to her and the person who plotted against her.

No matter what she said to the eunuch at that time, no one else could prove that what she said was false. So, what if Wei Qiufu said that she had brought the eunuch to her room?

“You followed the eunuch all the way to your Fourth Elder Sister’s room because the eunuch said that he had something to tell you, but he decided not to say it later. Am I right?” Empress Tu mouthed calmly, her deep gaze falling on Wei Yuewu.

“Yes, Your Majesty!” Wei Yuewu was serene.

“Fourth Miss Wei, what about you?” Empress Tu turned to Wei Qiufu and asked.

“I-I-I don’t know!” Wei Qiufu did not expect Wei Yuewu to be so calm. To her surprise, her words did not bring any effect at all, so she was a little tongue-tied. Fortunately, she reacted quickly and knew that she would look suspicious if she was caught unawares, so she hurriedly quavered, “I don’t know what happened either. The eunuch put down the pastries and left.”

In other words, neither of them knew what the eunuch meant since he left immediately after delivering the pastries.

However, how could the eunuch leave after delivering the pastries without stating his reason? Moreover, he did it in Zhaoyi Tu's name and went to the two young ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang specifically. This matter seemed very mysterious and skeptical.

Wen Tianyao's gaze turned from Wei Qiufu to Wei Yuewu and then back to Wei Qiufu. His handsome eyebrows wrinkled.

"Guards, go check their rooms!" Empress Tu ordered.

Hearing that Empress Tu was going to send someone to check their rooms, Zhaoyi Tu gasped in shock and hurriedly blurted, "Sister, it's better for me to send my people. After all, someone sent whatever pastries to them in my name. I want to see for myself what kind of secret is behind this."

"Uh..." Empress Tu hesitated for a moment and looked at the Emperor, who was donning a gloomy face.

"Let Zhaoyi Tu send her people. After all, such a serious incident happened in the Third Princess's ceremony. You can send your people to follow them if you're concerned." The Emperor asserted.

He was right. Zhaoyi Tu had a reason to intervene since something like this happened in her daughter's ceremony. As for the Emperor's last remark, Empress Tu pretended not to hear it.

Even if she wanted to send her people over, she would not express her intention right here.

"Sister, send your people over then! Yao'er, the Crown Prince Mansion is close to Chu Xiu Palace. Send your people to follow Zhaoyi Tu's people. If there is anything that harms you and your palace, you must report it immediately!" Empress Tu said to Wen Tianyao who was at the side.

This reason was sufficient to stop the Emperor from saying anything more.

Compared with the Crown Prince's safety, the Third Princess' coming-of-age ceremony was not so important anymore.

“Yes, Mother Empress!” Wen Tianyao was curious about the truth of the matter, so he nodded. Next, he ordered his eunuch to follow Zhaoyi Tu’s palace maid, and they went to check Wei Qiufu’s and Wei Yuewu’s rooms.

The Third Princess’ coming-of-age ceremony had also come to an end at this time. What ensued was the matter of the harem. After talking to Empress Tu briefly, the Emperor left with his people.

The Third Prince and Fourth Prince also left together. Meanwhile, Wen Tianyao stayed behind to wait for the report.

Chu Xiu Palace was near the Crown Prince Mansion. If something really happened, the first one to be in danger would be the Crown Prince. Therefore, it was necessary to let the Crown Prince stay to listen to the report. If he found anything wrong, he could find out the reason right there and then.

After the ceremony had been completed, everyone moved to the side hall with Empress Tu, who took the main seat, and Zhaoyi Tu sat beside her. Beside them were the Fourth Princess and Third Princess.

Wen Tianyao did not sit down. Instead, he stood behind the Empress and observed Wei Yuewu thoughtfully. He sized her up cautiously.

From this angle, Wei Yuewu looked very gentle as she stood there quietly. She wasn’t wearing something outstanding. In fact, she was the least outstanding among the rest of the young ladies who dressed up to the nines, but she looked gentle and elegant in plain clothes.

Compared with her, the rest of the young ladies looked tacky and indelicate.

It was rare to have such an elegant orchid in the sea of bright-colored peonies.

The image in front of him gradually blurred, as if he saw the little girl wearing coarse clothes standing among the orchid flowers and smiling at him...

“Crown Prince, if you are busy, you can leave first!” Empress Tu smiled a little coldly.

“Mother Empress, I’m not busy. I’ll be with you here.” Wen Tianyao spruced himself up and smiled at Empress Tu. “Father Emperor wanted me to stay here and help you.”

“In that case, sit over there!” Empress Tu nodded and pointed to a big nanmu chair at the side.

“Yes, Mother Empress!” Wen Tianyao glanced at the nanmu chair that was obviously a lot further away. He was about to walk over when the Fourth Princess stopped him.

“Wait a moment, Royal Brother. You are the dignified Crown Prince of a country. How can you sit so far away? Come and sit with me!” The Fourth Princess, who was rarely sensible, stood up and called out to Wen Tianyao.

These words were very reasonable. Even Empress Tu could not say anything, so she asked someone to move a chair over. Wen Tianyao and the Fourth Princess sat next to each other.

Seeing this, the Third Princess and Zhaoyi Tu could not sit still.

“Sister, please let the Fourth Princess sit on my chair. I can take another chair,” Zhaoyi Tu stood up and said with a smile. The Third Princess also stood up without hesitation and smiled.

“Never mind. Just sit like this. Besides, you are an elder. How can I let you give up your seat for the Fourth Princess?” Empress Tu grabbed Zhaoyi Tu and revealed a faint smile on her face.

Perhaps it was because she did not often smile, Empress Tu’s smile looked a little stiff at this moment.

At this point, Zhaoyi Tu couldn’t force the Fourth Princess over. Moreover, the Fourth Princess raised her chin as if she didn’t see her, so she secretly shook her head and sat back down.

“You’re too polite, Sister!”

Zhaoyi Tu sat down, and the Third Princess also sat down.

“Sixth Miss Wei, come over here for a moment.” The Fourth Princess, who felt that she had the upper hand, was very smug. She felt that she had finally won a round. She raised her eyebrows and said to Wei Yuewu who was at the side.

Wei Yuewu walked over and bowed to the Fourth Princess.

“Sixth Miss Wei, I heard that you have an older sister who is an illegitimate daughter. Why didn’t she enter the Palace this time?” The Fourth Princess asked with a smile, but when she said this, she glanced sideways at the Third Princess.

“My grandmother did not let Third Elder Sister enter the Palace.” Although Wei Yuewu knew that she had become an excuse for the Fourth Princess to attack the Third Princess, she donned an innocent look as if she didn’t know anything and respectfully replied.

“Logically speaking, it should be the elder sister entering the Palace, but it turned out to be you. Was it because she is an illegitimate daughter?” The Fourth Princess looked at Wei Yuewu with a puzzled expression as if she was genuinely curious about this.

It was a hard question to answer, so Wei Yuewu simply smiled and did not answer it.

“It seems to be true then. Well, the aristocratic families have always been like this. The legitimate children will always be legitimate, and the illegitimate children will always be illegitimate. It can never be changed. The status of nobility is set by the bloodline. You can surpass it as you please!” Of course, the Fourth Princess did not need Wei Yuewu’s answer. She glanced at the Third Princess and said in a strange tone.

The meaning behind her words was way too obvious. Wen Tianyao’s face darkened, and he scolded in a low voice, “Fourth Younger Sister, don’t talk nonsense!”

“Royal Brother, how am I talking nonsense? What I said is true. Think about it, your future Crown Princess must be a legitimate daughter from some aristocratic family. You can let an illegitimate daughter become the Crown Princess, right?” The Fourth Princess widened her eyes and retorted smugly.

Zhaoyi Tu lowered her head, a trace of fierce hatred flashed across her face. It disappeared quickly, but Wei Yuewu happened to see it...

It seemed that the relationship between Empress Tu and Zhaoyi Tu, who were both from the same family, was not as harmonious as it seemed on the surface.

“Luan’er, stop it!” Empress Tu scolded with an unhappy expression.

“I’m sorry, Mother Empress!” The Fourth Princess apologized with a bit of grievance, but she didn’t pick another fight.

A eunuch rushed in with two sets of clothes in his hands. They were blue and purple. The bright colors indicated that they were the last two sets of the two colors from before.

So, they did find the clothes. At this moment, everyone stared at the two sets of clothes with wide eyes.

Wei Qiufu’s gaze also fell on the two sets of clothes. The smile on her lips was full of pride. Even though Wei Yuewu did not wear the two sets of clothes today, she did not care.

Now, they found the clothes! Next, it was Wei Yuewu’s turn to be doomed...

She was the only legitimate daughter that Marquis Hua Yang valued the most...

Chapter 364 – Provocation, The Dresses From Concubine Dong

“Your Grace, we found two sets of dresses in Fourth Miss Wei’s room!” The eunuch came over and reported.

As the remark echoed across the hall, everyone immediately quieted down. It felt as if there was something pressing in their chests, so stuffy that they felt breathless.

The Third Princess shivered and turned to look at Wei Qiufu in disbelief.

Wei Qiufu's expression changed drastically, and she immediately knelt down. "Your Majesty, I didn't take the dresses that the Third Princess used in the prayer session. I don't know why the dresses were in my room! The dresses are not meant to be worn. Why would I take them?"

"Perhaps you don't know that the dresses are not wearable!" Zhaoyi Tu snapped coldly and glared at Wei Qiufu, who had ruined her daughter's coming-of-age ceremony, in disdain. In the past, Zhaoyi Tu would think that Wei Qiufu was well-mannered and soft-spoken, but now, she seemed so hypocritical and treacherous.

"I-I know. The Third Princess told me in private that the clothes were pretty but not practical." Wei Qiufu looked up at the Third Princess pleadingly, her face full of tears.

"Die'er, did you? Is what she said true?" Empress Tu pondered for a moment and asked the bewildered Third Princess.

"Yes, Mother Empress. We talked about the rainbow-colored clothes in private one day, and I told her that the dresses were not made to be worn although they looked pretty." Regaining her composure, the Third Princess lowered her head and slowly answered.

"Your Majesty, why would I steal them since I knew that I cannot wear the clothes?" Wei Qiufu felt a little relieved since the Third Princess spoke up and vouched for her.

"Why did the eunuch come over to send you pastries in my name?" Zhaoyi Tu was slightly relaxed after hearing the Third Princess' remark, but she was still a little angry.

"M-Maybe he didn't come to me..." As Wei Qiufu stammered, she peeked at Wei Yuewu timidly and immediately drew everyone's attention to Wei Yuewu.

From the looks of it, Wei Yuewu was indeed suspicious too.

"Fourth Elder Sister, do you think that the eunuch came to see me?" Wei Yuewu turned her eyes and looked at Wei Qiufu quietly. There was a hint of sadness in her expression. It was as if she was sad about Wei Qiufu's euphemism.

They had always looked so close as sisters in public, but now that she was accused by Wei Qiufu, it was quite a pitiful sight. The so-called sisterhood dwindled at this moment.

The question was directed back to Wei Qiufu, and she had to answer it.

“Sixth Younger Sister, it’s not that I think that the eunuch went to see you, but the eunuch was quite suspicious. We have to cooperate with Her Majesty to investigate the matter clearly.” Wei Qiufu had no choice but to bite the bullet and say.

“So, do you think that I’m the most suspicious in this matter?” A bitter smile appeared on Wei Yuewu’s face, but she looked beautiful and stubborn as always. Without waiting for Wei Qiufu’s explanation, Wei Yuewu turned to Empress Tu and conceded, “Your Majesty, you can ask this eunuch about what happened in my room.”

She pointed at the eunuch from the Crown Prince Mansion who went to search their rooms.

In comparison, Empress Tu would trust the eunuch from the Crown Prince Mansion more.

“What happened in Sixth Miss Wei’s room?” Empress Tu asked after hearing the hint in Wei Yuewu’s words.

“Many of Sixth Miss Wei’s clothes were stained and ruined.” The eunuch answered after a moment of hesitation. Compared with the seven-colored clothes he found in Fourth Miss Wei’s room, he felt that this matter was not important, so he reported truthfully.

Zhaoyi Tu’s palace maid stayed behind to check the ruined clothes.

“What about the clothes that are not stained?” Empress Tu asked.

“They are at the back. Because many of them were cut, Jinxiu Palace’s palace maid will bring them over after tidying them up!” The eunuch reported.

As he spoke, Zhaoyi Tu's palace maid walked in with a few sets of beautiful clothes in her hands. When Empress Tu saw those gorgeous clothes, her expression shifted dramatically. Her gaze suddenly darkened, and her hand that was hidden in her sleeve clenched tightly. She saw that pattern again.

It seemed like there were really many people with ulterior motives! There was someone who continuously provoked her!

Zhaoyi Tu stood at the side, her expression already returning to normal. She indifferently looked at her palace maid as she slowly walked over. There was no change in her expression.

Wei Yuewu's long eyelashes fluttered twice. She quietly stood at the side, neither servile nor overbearing, looking beautiful as usual. From time to time, she would pay attention to the expressions of Empress Tu and Zhaoyi Tu.

"Your Majesty, these are the clothes we found from Sixth Miss Wei's room. Some of them are not damaged. And here are a few that are not only stained but also cut. The damaged clothes cannot be worn at all." The palace maid came over and reported to Empress Tu.

Empress Tu slowly released her fist. "Are these the clothes that the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang prepared?"

When she said this, she did not look at Wei Yuewu, but Wei Yuewu answered Empress Tu's question tactfully. "Your Majesty, the clothes on the top are made from the materials that a concubine in our mansion gave me. The clothes on the bottom and the one I'm wearing right now are from Miss Zhao. I borrowed them from her."

Hearing Wei Yuewu's words, Empress Tu noticed that the pattern and design of the clothes on the bottom were not colorful, and the fabric was ordinary brocade. She didn't notice them in the beginning because the several clothes on the top grabbed her attention.

"Why did you borrow someone else's dresses?" Empress Tu asked coldly, forcing herself to contain the chaotic emotions in her heart.

“I accidentally tore my dress when I went to Miss Zhao’s room yesterday, so she lent me two sets of clothes.” Wei Yuewu replied.

“Why two?” Empress Tu asked coldly after hearing the specific number.

Zhao Ruo’e, who was standing at the side, became nervous, afraid that Wei Yuewu would tell Empress Tu about the clothes that were bound to irritate the latter.

“Because my clothes were ruined and the ones that I have are too colorful and eye-catching which I don’t take a fancy to, so I borrowed Miss Zhao’s clothes.” Wei Yuewu answered with a gentle smile, already preparing herself for the question.

She was wearing Zhao Ruo’e’s clothes now, which were considered the most ordinary clothes that the latter had. Judging from the plain color, Wei Yuewu deduced that they were not Zhao Ruo’e’s favorite color, but they came in handy for her.

Hearing her answer, Zhao Ruo’e relaxed and let out a soft sigh of relief.

Since Empress Tu was concerned about the pattern and design, she was even more concerned about Zhao Ruo’e revealing her secret. Zhao Ruo’e was sure that if Wei Yuewu had told Empress Tu that she heard those rumors from her, Empress Tu would not spare her.

Fortunately, Sixth Young Lady from the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang did not tell the truth and give her out, Zhao Ruo’e secretly wiped her sweat and looked at Wei Yuewu with gratitude.

“How did you find out that your clothes were damaged? Even if you knew, why didn’t you ask the supervisor in the Palace?” Empress Tu asked with a sullen face.

“After the prayer session with the Third Princess yesterday, I came back to select the dress for today and found out that other than these few clothes, the rest were damaged. However, this happened in the Palace and during the princess’ prayer period. Since it was just a small matter, I didn’t want to bother the supervisor in the Palace with such a trivial matter.”

Wei Yuewu raised her head and looked at Empress Tu with her sparkly eyes and a calm expression.

So, she thought it was just a trivial matter?

This remark inexplicably reminded Empress Tu. After pondering for a moment, she slowly relaxed, and there was even a faint smile on her face. She turned to Zhaoyi Tu, who was at the side. "Sister, what do you think?"

Just now, when Empress Tu was interrogating the ladies, Zhaoyi Tu watched silently from the side. When she heard Empress Tu's question, she shook her head in confusion. "It seems that this matter has nothing to do with Sixth Miss Wei. It is like someone framed her, but why did that person damage some of her clothes?"

"This kind of behavior is indeed childish. I wonder which young lady dislikes Sixth Miss Wei."

Zhaoyi Tu quietly concluded that this matter was a dispute between girls and minimized the impact of the matter.

"That's true. Did anyone go to Sixth Miss Wei's room recently?" Empress Tu nodded in agreement and looked at the other young ladies of aristocratic families standing at the side.

When she asked this, everyone shivered in fear and fell to their knees.

"I live far away from Sixth Miss Wei. I have never been to her room."

"I never went to their side of Chuxiu Palace!"

"I went there once. When I left, Sixth Miss Wei's clothes were still intact!"...

It was Zhao Ruo'e who said the last statement. She didn't dare to withhold the truth because many people saw her there at that time. She couldn't falsify the truth. In addition, even though Wei Yuewu's

clothes were perfectly fine when she left, it might sound doubtful. Furthermore, not telling the truth would make her look even more suspicious.

So when she finished her sentence, she looked at Wei Yuewu with pleading eyes.

Wei Yuewu nodded reassuringly. "Yes. When Miss Zhao left, my clothes were still fine!"

Hearing Wei Yuewu's words, Zhao Ruo'e felt utterly relieved.

The Third Princess quickly judged the situation and finally smiled softly. "Mother Empress, it might be a dispute between sisters. It is not a big deal."

When Wei Qiufu heard this, she stiffened in shock and cried out anxiously, "Princess..."

"Fourth Miss Wei, maybe it's someone's prank by putting the clothes in your room, but I don't think it's someone from outside the Palace since he or she could bring the clothes to your room." The Third Princess smiled and said amiably.

"Y-Yes, but I wonder who that person is..." Wei Qiufu was overjoyed after hearing the Third Princess' remark and hurriedly responded.

"Mother Empress, this thing had happened. Please just forget it and let it slip. After all, Fourth Miss Wei and Sixth Miss Wei are innocent. It's Die'er's fault that the two of them are like this now." The Third Princess turned to Empress Tu and donned a well-mannered demeanor, trying to minimize the impact of the matter.

The matter became more confusing if they went on debating it, but miraculously, everyone regarded the matter as a dispute between sisters. However, after Wei Qiufu accused Wei Yuewu just now, they could see that Wei Qiufu was the cause of the dispute.

Everyone was sizing up Wei Qiufu, and Wei Qiufu's face was as pale as snow...

“Die’er, this is a big matter for you!” Seeing that the Third Princess did not want to pursue the matter, Zhaoyi Tu could not help but exclaim.

“Mother Consort, it’s fine. Didn’t Mother Empress give me two of Fourth Younger Sister’s clothes because of this? My matter is settled now, but Fourth Sister has to make clothes again. The fabric of each set is somewhat different. It must be troublesome for her to select the fabric and make them again.” The Third Princess sounded more and more thoughtful.

Hearing this, Wen Tianyao nodded his head vigorously, but it also made the Fourth Princess, who was at the side, pale with anger.

The Fourth Princess was furious about Wen Caidie, whom she thought was taking her undeserved gain for granted! She showed how sad and innocent she was in this matter to the others, but the Fourth Princess thought that she herself was the most innocent one in this case!

“Mother Empress, wait!” The Fourth Princess could not bear it anymore and suddenly reached out to stop them...

Chapter 365 – The Inexplicable Outcome Of The Farce

“That’s enough, Luan’er. Your Third Elder Sister didn’t say anything about it, so you should stop too. I’ll have someone make new clothes for you,” Empress Tu rebuked in dismay.

Seeing Empress Tu’s angry face, the Fourth Princess pursed her lips and glared at the Third Princess in resentment.

“Sixth Miss Wei, do you want to get to the bottom of this?” Empress Tu looked at Wei Yuewu and asked with a hint of probing.

Wei Qiufu’s expression immediately changed.

“No, I don’t. We’re sisters, so these are just some things that we don’t have to say out loud.” Wei Yuewu shook her head decisively. Her gaze fell on Wei Qiufu with a bit of desolation, but she did not say a word to her.

Wei Yuewu’s silky hair was as smooth as a waterfall. Her long and curly eyelashes were like half-unfolded butterfly wings. Her pale lips were slightly pinkish as she bit it lightly. It was a pitiful encounter, but she donned a benevolent expression. Looking at her demeanor, everyone present felt sympathy for her, and they felt that what she said was true.

On the other hand, Wei Qiufu’s expression was extremely stiff. She wanted to defend herself, but she did not have the chance to speak at all. Besides, Wei Yuewu did not directly accuse her of anything, so there was no case for her to argue!

“Since Sixth Miss Wei is so big-hearted...” Empress Tu thought for a moment and slowly uttered.

“Your Majesty!” Wei Qiufu could not help but cry out. Although Wei Yuewu did not pursue the matter, the first branch of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would not support her unconditionally if these matters were to spread to the mansion.

“Fourth Miss Wei, what else do you have to say?” Empress Tu hissed coldly as her cold gaze fell on Wei Qiufu, and Wei Qiufu trembled in fear. “Sixth Miss Wei won’t pursue it, so I won’t pursue it any further too. You should cherish your sisterhood. You’d better behave in the future. Don’t say I didn’t warn you.”

After Empress Tu finished speaking, Wei Qiufu was already trembling like a leaf in the wind. Her face was as pale as snow, and her eyes darted around in a daze before she finally looked at Third Princess pleadingly. She didn’t want to bear the reputation of harming Wei Yuewu, although dispute between sisters was not a big deal in the usual days.

However, Wei Yuewu’s clothes were destroyed in the Palace, and it even caused a ruckus in the Third Princess’ coming-of-age ceremony. No matter what, it had become a big deal. Even though Wei Yuewu didn’t intend to get to the bottom of it, it didn’t mean that others would not think of her as being frivolous and vicious when they talked about her.

Such a reputation was completely the opposite of her previous dignified and magnanimous image. Even if she wasn’t blamed for this matter, this notorious stature would haunt her.

It was because Wei Yuewu, Empress Tu, and Zhaoyi Tu had somewhat accused her of destroying Wei Yuewu's clothes, to the point where Wei Yuewu did not have any favorite clothes to wear to the Third Princess' coming-of-age ceremony.

Although no one had told her anything about Wei Yuewu's clothes, she was sure that it must have been the Third Princess' doing. It was the Third Princess who had asked her to give the clothes to Wei Yuewu. Although she did not know the reason behind this, she was delighted to be able to help the Third Princess to secretly harm Wei Yuewu.

However, she did not expect that the matter took a turn for the worse, and that the clothes were found in her own room. Furthermore, they discovered that Wei Yuewu's clothes had been destroyed before she could clean up the mess.

Wei Qiufu tried to defend herself, but the outcome was that she had a conflict with Wei Yuewu and destroyed the latter's clothes. Although neither Empress Tu or Wei Yuewu stated the accusation clearly, everyone would come to the same conclusion that she had done this because of the dispute between her and Wei Yuewu.

The Third Princess turned a blind eye to Wei Qiufu's pleading gaze. Her expression was calm and natural.

Wei Qiufu then turned her gaze to the Crown Prince Wen Tianyao, but she discovered in despair that the Crown Prince was looking at Wei Yuewu. His gaze was profound and thoughtful. He was deep in thought, so much so that he didn't even notice her looking at him.

"Alright, let's end today's matter here. All of you, pack up and leave the Palace. As for Fourth Miss Wei, you should reflect on yourself. I will give you an admonition ruler. No matter where you are in the future, you must be broad-minded! As for the matter of someone framing you in the Palace, I will investigate the matter thoroughly!"

Empress Tu put the matter to an end by making the final decision.

Initially, this kind of matter could be considered a serious offense, but both Empress Tu and the Third Princess, the master of the harem and the person involved respectively, intended to minimize the impact of the situation. No one could interject or express their doubt at this point.

Thus, Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu, whose faces were pale and their feet were weak, returned to the group together. Together with the Third Princess, they bid farewell to Empress Tu and Zhaoyi Tu and then retreated outside the imperial ancestral hall.

“Third Princess, I...” When they arrived outside, Wei Qiufu hurried forward, wanting to stop the Third Princess who was about to leave.

“Fourth Miss Wei, what else do you want to say? Those clothes? Didn’t Her Majesty say that she would investigate the matter? Don’t you believe Her Majesty’s words?!” The Third Princess stopped in her tracks and asked with a face full of displeasure.

“No... I mean, it’s about my Sixth Younger Sister’s matter...” Wei Qiufu waved her hands anxiously. She refused to bear such a conviction.

“Sixth Miss Wei’s matter? What matter?” The Third Princess turned her head to look at Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu smiled slightly and raised her watery eyes, looking pure and innocent. “Fourth Elder Sister, what’s the matter? It’s just a small matter. Yes, my clothes are destroyed, but it’s okay. You don’t have to blame yourself!”

These remarks almost confirmed that Wei Qiufu was the mastermind behind this matter. The few young ladies who were skeptical looked at Wei Qiufu with a strange expression.

“I-I mean, I have nothing to do with her clothes!” Wei Qiufu blushed in embarrassment and gritted her teeth hatefully.

“I didn’t say that you have anything to do with it. Why are you so agitated?” Wei Yuewu smiled faintly. “Also, I don’t blame you!”

Of course, she would not blame Wei Qiufu. However, after this incident, Wei Qiufu would not be able to get the selfless support of her father, Marquis Hua Yang!

In addition, outsiders also knew how fake Wei Qiufu's so-called sisterhood was.

"Yes, Sixth Miss Wei decided to forget about it, so why are you still holding on to it, Fourth Miss Wei?" The Third Princess frowned in displeasure. She turned from Wei Qiufu to Wei Yuewu. "After returning to your residence, you have to treat your sister better. You are sisters, you can talk things out."

After the Third Princess finished speaking, she ignored Wei Qiufu's pale expression and turned to leave.

"Fourth Elder Sister, let's go back!" Wei Yuewu smiled and blinked. "Third Princess did not mind it."

As she spoke, she walked down the steps.

"Sixth Miss Wei, please wait!" A low voice suddenly came from behind her. Wei Yuewu turned around and saw the Crown Prince Wen Tianyao walking out with his eunuch.

Wei Qiufu, who wanted to take a step, blinked and decided to stay.

"Fourth Miss Wei, you can go back first!" Wen Tianyao's indifferent and impolite words made Wei Qiufu's eyes turn red, but she had to turn around and leave.

"Greetings, Your Highness!" Wei Yuewu did not feel that Wen Tianyao had the need to talk to her at this time. At this point, the whole thing had come to light due to the development of the matter.

After a respectful bow, Wei Yuewu quietly looked at Wen Tianyao, waiting for him to talk first.

Wen Tianyao was also looking at her. In fact, this was not the first time he had seen determination and steadiness in the eyes of such a fragile girl. They were not supposed to exist in her childish temperament, but they gave her a unique and wonderful vibe.

It was as if the orchid that should have lived in a warm spring was bloomed in the world of ice and snow. She was extremely beautiful and gorgeous.

He had never seen such a woman before!

“Did the Fourth Young Lady really destroy your clothes?” Wen Tianyao restrained the thoughts in his heart and asked indifferently.

“I don’t know!” Wei Yuewu decisively shook her head and looked at Wen Tianyao with vigilance. It turned out that the Crown Prince was here to stand up for Wei Qiufu, but she did not directly accuse Wei Qiufu of anything just now.

After a brief preface, Empress Tu and the Third Princess, who were trying to minimize the impact of the matter, pushed all the blame to Wei Qiufu, and all Wei Yuewu did was make use of the opportunity to achieve her goal.

Wen Tianyao did not expect such a decisive and straightforward answer from Wei Yuewu. He was taken aback for a moment, and his eyes turned cold. “Then why did you hint Her Majesty that Fourth Miss Wei destroyed your clothes?”

“Today is the last day of the Third Princess’ praying ceremony, and we will soon leave the Palace. No one wants to cause trouble at this time. I just casually said that it is just a small matter between young ladies. Do you not think so?” Wei Yuewu asked calmly.

Wei Yuewu was astounded that the Crown Prince would really stand up for Wei Qiufu. However, she simply mentioned the matter briefly just now, and the ones who pushed the blame on Wei Qiufu were Empress Tu and the Third Princess. She did not believe that Wen Tianyao would dwell into this matter and embarrass Empress Tu and the Third Princess.

Therefore, even if Wei Qiufu did not admit it, everyone would presume that she had something to do with it!

Wen Tianyao was befuddled because Wei Yuewu dared to contradict him. It was beyond his expectation.

“Your Highness, if there is nothing else, I’ll take my leave first!” Wei Yuewu raised her eyebrows and bowed.

At this time, Wen Tianyao could not say anything more and waved his hand to dismiss Wei Yuewu. After getting Wen Tianyao's permission, Wei Yuewu left with Jin Ling.

Looking at the beautiful figure that was walking away, Wen Tianyao squinted, and his gaze became deeper and gloomier.

"Eldest Brother! What's wrong?" The Third Prince appeared out of nowhere and called him warmly. Among the princes, only the Third Prince addressed Wen Tianyao as Eldest Brother, and the others addressed him Royal Brother.

"Nothing. I just asked Sixth Miss Wei a few questions. How is the portraits that Mother Empress asked you to draw?" With a smile, Wen Tianyao retracted his gaze and shook his head. He did not expect that a young girl would defeat him.

"All of them were rejected." The Third Prince's heart skipped a beat. He calmly withdrew his gaze and slowly replied.

Chapter 366 – What Kind Of Person Is Eldest Miss Jing

"He didn't take a fancy to any of them? What exactly does he want?" Wen Tianyao's face sank. "Is there not one noble lady in the capital that he likes?"

"The eunuch that was sent over said that Yan Huaijing mentioned Jing Wenyan's name." The Third Prince said meaningfully.

Wen Tianyao frowned. "Didn't they say that the two families wanted to arrange the marriage for the two of them but it was canceled because Yan Huaijing didn't agree to it at that time?"

"Maybe he changed his mind." The Third Prince's eyes gleamed as he spoke in a steady voice.

The Third Prince said so because back then, the State of Yan had intended to attack and conquer the State of Jing, so the Yan Family was not keen on the marriage between Yan Huaijing and Jing Wenyan. If

they had gotten married and then the State of Yan invaded the State of Jing, it would have discredited the Yan Family.

“So, are you saying that Yan Huaijing has taken a fancy to Jing Wenyan?” Wen Tianyao mouthed slowly, but his expression suddenly turned stern. “Jing Wenyan will not marry him!”

“Why not? Eldest Brother, if he wants to marry Jing Wenyan, just marry them off so that we can prevent him from stirring up more trouble.” The Third Prince faltered in confusion and looked at Wen Tianyao hesitantly. “Eldest Brother, do you like her too?”

Jing Wenyan, who was the most beautiful woman in the State of Jing or maybe even the country, was very attractive and charming. It was understandable for the Third Prince to think this way.

“Third Younger Brother, what kind of person do you think Eldest Miss Jing is?” Wen Tianyao shook his head, his lips curling into a mocking smile.

It was such an abrupt question that the Third Prince could not comprehend what Wen Tianyao meant. But they were close since they were young, so after pondering for a moment, the Third Prince answered bluntly, “She’s quite ambitious!”

The reason why he said that was that after the State of Jing perished, Eldest Miss Jing entered the imperial palace almost every day after she came to the capital, and she was much liked by the Empress Dowager, Empress, the other imperial concubines, the Third Princess, and the Fourth Princess. It could be said that from the Empress Dowager to palace maids, every woman in the imperial palace praised her for her dignified and gentle demeanor.

A woman who could achieve this would not be simple-minded.

The Empress Dowager and the Empress had always been at odds with each other. In the Crown Prince’s and the Third Prince’s opinion, it was almost impossible to be able to satisfy both women.

The Third Princess and the Fourth Princess were also on bad terms with each other. They had no mutual connections or friends except Jing Wenyan.

This kind of unlikely thing happened right in front of their eyes. In fact, everyone in the harem praised Jing Wenyan.

“If we let her go to the State of Yan with either Third Younger Sister or Fourth Younger Sister, do you think our sisters will be able to give birth to the State of Yan’s future heir-apparent safely?”

Wen Tianyao sneered.

These words reminded the Third Prince. He frowned and nodded with a serious face. From the looks of it, they couldn’t give Eldest Miss Jing to Yan Huaijing.

“But, Eldest Brother, Yan Huaijing said that he has taken a fancy to Jing Wenyan, and he disdained the portraits we sent over. Does this mean that he insists on marrying Jing Wenyan?” The Third Prince asked.

Wen Tianyao suddenly laughed and patted the Third Prince on the shoulder. “Don’t worry, Jing Wenyan is not the only one he has taken a fancy to. Isn’t his childhood sweetheart a young lady of an aristocratic family? From the looks of it, he cares a lot about this woman. If this woman knows that Yan Huaijing wants to marry Jing Wenyan...”

Master Fenghe also said that if he couldn’t figure out her identity, then she really was Yan Huaijing’s childhood sweetheart.

The Third Prince’s eyes lit up. “There will definitely be a commotion! That woman even barged all the way to the capital. This shows that this woman is not a simple person!”

This woman must be extraordinary since she even wanted to get involved in the State of Yan’s marriage with the princess. In fact, she must be on par with Jing Wenyan.

If they placed such a woman together with Jing Wenyan, it would definitely cause a great stir. If Yan Huaijing wanted to marry the two beauties, he must be able to withstand such pressure.

“But he is very protective of that courtyard. No one in the mansion can even get close to it. There is also a woman bodyguard inside serving the woman, and even the food is delivered by his own bodyguards!”

The Third Prince showed a hint of concern on his handsome face when he thought of Yan Huaijing’s strict protection.

Since the first time that woman showed up in the Palace, Yan Huaijing had installed layers after layers of protection in the courtyard. It was impossible for anyone to go in and see the young lady. Thus, even the Crown Prince and he did not know what the woman looked like.

“So what if he protects the place? Women always like to go out for a stroll. Moreover, the customs and culture here must be very different from the State of Yan.” Wen Tianyao sneered. Since they could not enter that courtyard, they could lure the woman out.

Yan Huaijing could guard other people against entering, but he could not extinguish the young lady’s curiosity.

“Alright. Our people will stay close to Duke of Yan State Mansion. As long as we find any suspicious woman, we will keep an eye on her immediately!” The Third Prince nodded. It seemed that the best plan was to lay low and wait.

“Eldest Brother, the selection will begin soon. Is there really such a woman?” The Third Prince suddenly thought of something and asked in surprise.

“Let’s see how it goes. Since you said so, I have to select my bride.” Wen Tianyao said indifferently.

“If Master Fenghe can’t find a suitable person, what should we do then?” The Third Prince was very worried about this. The matter seemed like a small problem, but the implication could be serious. If the Crown Prince could not pick that woman, others would say that the Crown Prince was not the successor chosen by the heavens. By then, it might cause chaos in the country.

“I’ll pick her!” Wen Tianyao smirked. “No matter who she is, I’ll definitely select her!”

The matter about the so-called phoenix-fate woman and the selection based on the palm print had already been secretly circulated in the capital. Then, no matter who was chosen in the end, his Crown Princess would definitely be the phoenix-fate woman.

“But Master Fenghe...” The Third Prince asked hesitantly. Master Fenghe had always been known for being fair and strict. This was also the reason why everyone would believe his result.

“So what? He has the blood of the royal family after all. Even though he has now become a monk, he is still part of the royal family. Besides, his position as Prefectural Prince has also been granted to his younger sister’s son according to his request. The royal family has not mistreated him!” Wen Tianyao snapped coldly.

These words made the Third Prince silent for a while, and a flash of sadness flashed through his eyes. Indeed, because of the bloodline of the royal family, he had to serve the royal family no matter what. Even if he knew that something was wrong, he had to do it. If he could choose, he would rather be born into an ordinary family.

It was easier to be an ordinary mortal. The burden of the royal family was too heavy, so heavy that he almost couldn’t bear it.

Sensing the Third Prince’s sadness, Wen Tianyao relaxed and said, “Don’t worry, I’ve always taken your matter to heart. I will definitely investigate it for you.”

“Thank you, Eldest Brother!” Feeling the lump in his throat, the Third Prince lowered his head to hide the pain in his eyes and bowed deeply to Wen Tianyao.

“You don’t have to thank me. We are brothers. How can I not take your matter seriously?” Wen Tianyao reached out to support the Third Prince and shook his head.

Even though he never said anything, it didn’t mean that he didn’t know. Wen Tianyao had already known that his Third Younger Brother was different from the others since a long time ago, so he would definitely help him find his family.

Wen Tianyao inexplicably thought of Wei Qiufu and frowned, feeling irritated. But when he saw the Third Prince's grateful face, he felt that everything he had done was worth it.

This time, regardless of whether it was Wei Qiufu who did it or not, she had already suffered a big loss. For the sake of his Third Younger Brother, he had to help her, or she would definitely be very miserable when she returned to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

When he thought of Wei Qiufu, another beautiful face with a hint of childishness flashed past his eyes. It seemed that from the moment Sixth Miss Wei entered the capital, she was so different from everyone else. For some reason, his heart became a bit more upset.

"Let's go, Third Younger Brother!" He patted the Third Prince's shoulder. This time, he did not say anything else, turned around, and walked down the steps. The Third Prince followed behind him.

The brothers were chatting enthusiastically. Meanwhile, the atmosphere between Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu was not that intimate.

Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu almost didn't say anything to each other since they went back to their rooms to pack up their things and followed all of the young ladies of aristocratic families to leave the Palace. Wei Qiufu wanted to chat with Wei Yuewu several times, but Wei Yuewu avoided her coldly every time, and Wei Qiufu gritted her teeth indignantly as she couldn't find a chance to talk to Wei Yuewu.

When they finally returned to Chu Xiu Palace, the ladies parted ways to return to their respective rooms. Wei Yuewu took Jin Ling and walked away quickly. Wei Qiufu wanted to chase after them, but it was inappropriate for her to run in the Palace. She had no choice but to watch as Wei Yuewu and Jin Ling got further and further away from her.

When they arrived at their rooms, Wei Qiufu thought about it and decided not to knock on Wei Yuewu's door.

There were two palace maids standing outside the door of their rooms, and the palace maids were looking at her with burning eyes as if they were the anti-theft monitors. Wei Qiufu was indignant and frustrated upon seeing this, but there was nothing she could do!

When she entered her room, she found that the things in the room were neat. There was no trace of being flipped over before. Her things were placed separately, which was still the same as when she left earlier.

“Miss, what should we do now?” Ming Yan followed her with a bitter face.

Wei Qiufu turned around and slapped Ming Yan hard on the face, causing Ming Yan to fall to the side and almost hit the screen.

“Bitch! Bitch!” Wei Qiufu cursed fiercely.

“Miss, I...” Ming Yan covered her face and trembled in fear. Her eyes also reddened.

“What the hell are you crying for? Check and see if the note from that day is still there. If it is gone, I will kill you!” Wei Qiufu scolded with a sinister face.

“Yes, Miss. I will go and check it immediately!” Ming Yan was startled for a moment and immediately understood. She covered her face and timidly went to the writing desk in the outer room.

Chapter 367 – Madam Dowager’S Panic

The writing brush washer was still the same as before, but the flower-shaped note in the writing brush washer was missing.

“Miss, t-the note inside is missing!” Ming Yan cried out in alarm. She picked up the writing brush washer and poured it out hard. She then looked down at the brush container, but she could not find the note no matter how hard she tried.

“It’s gone?” Wei Qiufu walked over with a gloomy face.

“Yes, it was there before. I saw it several times!” Ming Yan hurriedly said, afraid that Wei Qiufu would think that she was not doing her job well.

Wei Qiufu had seen the note by chance, but she did not know where it came from, so she did not dare to move it. Unexpectedly, after so many days, no one came to take it, which was really surprising. However, the most surprising thing was that it disappeared at this time.

The people who entered her room just now were none other than Crown Prince's and Zhaoyi Tu's people. When they came in, they wouldn't take things randomly, let alone a small slip of paper. No one would care about it.

But the truth was that this slip of paper was no longer there!

When Wei Qiufu saw the slip of paper, she had a faint feeling that there was something going on inside, so she did not dare to make a careless move. She had been waiting for the last day to open the slip of paper and take a look. She always felt that it might be related to a big secret.

But now, the slip of paper had disappeared under her eyes!

"Pack my things, let's go!" Wei Qiufu said decisively. This place made her feel dangerous, and she even hated Wei Fengyao for arranging for her to stay here.

Two identical rooms, plus that flower-shaped slip of paper. No matter how she looked at it, the situation seemed unusual. In addition to Zhaoyi Tu's fury and so on, Wei Qiufu felt that it was not safe to stay here for long.

"Yes, Miss!" Seeing that Wei Qiufu did not blame her anymore, Ming Yan secretly breathed a sigh of relief. She hurriedly picked up the luggage she had prepared before and looked at it a little. She did not find anything missing, so she hurriedly followed Wei Qiufu out.

On the other side, Wei Yuewu's door was still tightly closed, as if she had not left yet.

Wei Qiufu hesitated for a moment and wanted to go over and knock on the door, but under the unfriendly gaze of the palace maids outside the door, she retreated and walked out with Ming Yan.

When Wei Yuewu returned to the room, she saw that it was neat. Only her cut clothes were casually thrown to the ground on one side. The rest of the place was exactly the same as when she left.

“Miss, the people in this palace... they are really well-trained!” Jin Ling looked at the neat and tidy room and then at the pile of ruined clothes. She could not help but sigh in awe.

“Zhaoyi Tu’s people were the last to leave!” Wei Yuewu smiled. Although Zhaoyi Tu did not say much today and did not do much, and she even looked like she was doing this for her daughter, everything present indicated that Zhaoyi Tu cared about this place.

Everything here must be restored to the past, and she also found a secret, a secret about Zhaoyi Tu...

“What about these clothes?” Jin Ling pointed to the pile of tainted and damaged clothes.

“Take them away. There are also the clothes that Grandmother rewarded me!” Wei Yuewu said with a bright smile. “I can’t just simply throw away the clothes that Grandmother gave me!”

Of course, all these clothes would be placed in front of Madam Dowager in the end. Those that weren’t sent by Concubine Dong were all ruined, but all the clothes sent by Concubine Dong were left intact. For Madam Dowager, it was also a slap in the face.

As for the Empress, Wei Yuewu clearly sensed that when Empress Tu saw the pile of clothes, she almost couldn’t hold back her anger. Those clothes seemed to make Empress Tu very agitated. Wei Yuewu was curious. Why would the bright colors make Empress Tu so angry? She was so out of control that she even reprimanded Zhao Ruo’e.

Before leaving, Zhaoyi Tu’s palace servants had already returned all the clothes to Jin Ling.

“Miss, please wait a moment. I will tidy up a bit more!” Jin Ling nodded. She walked over and found something else to wrap up the tattered clothes that had been thrown on the ground.

Their delay caused them to come out a little later than Wei Qiufu.

When they came out, Wei Qiufu had already left.

When the palace maid, who was standing guard outside the door, saw Wei Yuewu come out, she respectfully bowed, "Sixth Miss Wei, have you taken all of your items?"

"Yes, I have!" Wei Yuewu smiled.

"Did you leave anything behind?" The palace maid asked again.

"No!" Wei Yuewu shook her head decisively.

"Sixth Miss Wei, this way, please. The soft sedan is already waiting at the entrance of the Palace!" The palace maid stepped aside.

Wei Yuewu nodded and slowly walked out with Jin Ling. She saw that the door of Wei Qiufu's room was open. There seemed to be a palace maid tidying things up inside. It seemed that the two palace maids outside the door were also Zhaoyi Tu's people.

She had already tidied it once before, but she was still worried and sent someone to tidy it up again!

What exactly happened that made Zhaoyi Tu care so much, and she even cared about it for so many years, so much so that she still seemed to be brooding over it until now...

Soft sedans were parked at the door, but there were only a few left behind. Since the young ladies were granted to leave the Palace, everyone could leave separately, and there was no need for them to leave together.

Wei Qiufu stood guard in front of a soft sedan. When she saw Wei Yuewu coming over, a smile immediately appeared on her face. She took two steps forward and was about to speak to Wei Yuewu.

“Fourth Elder Sister, let’s go out of the Palace first. Maybe Grandmother has already received the news and her servant is waiting for us at the entrance of the palace.” Wei Yuewu smiled gently, but her expression was very distant as if she did not want to talk to Wei Qiufu.

No one would be able to pretend as if nothing had happened after what happened earlier. Wei Yuewu’s reaction was actually very reasonable.

Seeing her get on the sedan, Wei Qiufu had no choice but to get on her sedan. The two sedans exited the palace gate one after the other.

Outside the palace gate, the carriages of the various mansions were indeed already parked there. Everyone knew that today was the last day to accompany the Third Princess to pray for blessings. The mansions had prepared the carriages early.

As soon as Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu got off the soft sedans together, they saw the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang’s carriage parked there. There were two carriages, one in front and one in the back. They looked exactly the same, but there was only one old maidservant guarding there, waiting for them. When she saw the two misses coming out of the Palace, she hurriedly came over and bowed to them.

Wei Yuewu went first and went to the carriage behind. Wei Qiufu could only get on the carriage in front. Seeing that the two misses had already gotten on the carriage, the coachman waved his whip and drove the carriage to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

The carriage entered the mansion from the side door and stopped at the parking lot for carriages. The two of them got off their carriages and saw Nanny Hong, who was in Madam Dowager’s courtyard, guarding below.

“Nanny Hong, why are you here?” Wei Qiufu was taken aback for a moment. She hurriedly stepped forward and asked politely. She did not dare to offend the confidant of Madam Dowager.

“Madam Dowager heard that the two of you have returned to the mansion, so she asked me to come and pick up the two of you.” Nanny Hong smiled.

"Is Grandmother alright?" Wei Qiufu's heart skipped a beat. She stole a glance at Nanny Hong, only to see the smile on her face. It was no different from before, but she did not dare to let her guard down.

The things that happened in the Palace were too serious. Even now, she still had not come out with a plan to deal with them. She was especially afraid of people asking about this matter.

"What can happen to Madam Dowager? It's just that she hasn't seen the two of you for a long time. She also wants to ask about the situation in the Palace, so she asks the two of you to go over now." Nanny Hong continued with a smile and turned to Wei Yuewu, "Sixth Young Lady, you are finally back. Madam Dowager has been anxious to see both you and the Fourth Young Lady for the past few days."

She was particularly intimate and friendly.

Wei Yuewu was flustered, but she smiled faintly and asked, "Has anything happened in the mansion recently?"

"Nothing. It's nothing. It's just that what happened to Eldest Young Lady made Madam Dowager very sad. Madam Dowager specially went to see Eldest Young Lady. Now, she is still lying on the bed and can't get up! Prince Nan'an Mansion also said that the place where Eldest Young Lady lived was unlucky, so they moved her to a remote place. It was cold and cheerless. When Madam Dowager went there, she didn't see many people."

Nanny Hong grunted angrily. Speaking of this matter, she really felt angry. She had watched Eldest Young Lady grow up, but she didn't expect that she would end up like this.

"Has Eldest Sister's injury not healed yet?" Wei Qiufu's eyes flashed, and she couldn't help but ask.

"Let's not talk about this anymore. Please come with me. Later, when you see Madam Dowager, please don't ask anything about this. When you talk about Eldest Young Lady, Madam Dowager is sad." Nanny Hong turned around and walked in while wiping the corners of her eyes with a handkerchief.

Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu followed behind.

Along the way, Wei Qiufu tried her best to find out if Madam Dowager knew what had happened in the Palace. However, Nanny Hong was very tight-lipped. She couldn't find out anything.

Wei Yuewu just followed Nanny Hong silently. She didn't say much. Her eyes fell on Nanny Hong's obviously reluctant face, and she frowned slightly. She was basically sure that Madam Dowager had already received the news. Otherwise, she wouldn't ask Nanny Hong to take them to see her.

As for why they knew, it was likely that when the few misses who had left the Palace were at the palace gate, they had already been eager to talk about it. Moreover, there were two carriages at the palace gate, but only one old maidservant was guarding the carriages. In the usual situation, since the mansion had sent two carriages over, there should be at least two old maidservants guarding them.

The other old maidservant must have returned to the mansion early to report to Madam Dowager! However, she could only briefly report the matter, so it was likely that only Wei Qiufu was mentioned...

"Nanny Hong, Nanny Hong, have the two misses entered the mansion..." A maid hurriedly ran over. She shouted anxiously since she didn't notice Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu.

But the next moment, when she saw the two of them, her voice suddenly stopped, and an awkward smile appeared on her face.

"Fourth Young Lady, Sixth Young Lady, Madam Dowager is anxious to see you. She specially sent me to take a look," the maid explained with an awkward smile.

"Let's go!" Wei Qiufu's face was a little stiff.

Wei Yuewu raised her eyebrows and looked at the maid thoughtfully. The corner of her lips revealed a smile of understanding and she glanced at Jin Ling who was at the side.

Jin Ling understood and took a few steps forward. She whispered to the maid, and immediately, the maid's expression changed...

Chapter 368 – Something Off About The Clothes

“So, it has something to do with Concubine Dong?” The maid was so shocked that her face turned pale.

“Yes! If you don’t believe me, you can ask Ming Yan!” Jin Ling nodded, her face full of fear.

“I-I will go and report to the Madam Dowager first!” The maid did not dare to stay for a moment. She quickly turned around and walked towards Tranquility Courtyard.

In Tranquility Courtyard, the Madam Dowager was sitting on the chair, her face gloomy.

Her goal was never simple when her two granddaughters entered the Palace. It was a great honor to join the Third Princess’ prayer ceremony. It might be even more glorious to her family if the imperial family took a fancy to her two granddaughters. However, the old maidservant, who was waiting at the entrance of the Palace, reported that she heard from the other young ladies saying that Fourth Miss Wei had plotted against Sixth Miss Wei and even the Empress was alerted.

It seemed that the matter even involved the seven-colored clothes used at the Third Princess’ sacrificial ceremony.

This was serious. Therefore, one of the maidservants rushed back to the mansion to report to the Madam Dowager.

At this time, the Madam Dowager was very anxious and wanted to know the whole story quickly.

She had sent Nanny Hong and a maid over to take a look. When she was jittery, the maid, who had been sent earlier, ran in and informed, “Madam Dowager, I heard that the whole thing started because of Concubine Dong.”

The maid said, panting.

“What does it have to do with Concubine Dong?” The Madam Dowager’s face sank, and she snorted coldly.

“I am not sure, but Sixth Young Lady’s maid said that Concubine Dong seemed to have done something that irritated the Empress so much that she was furious, and then many other things were involved,”
The maid gasped again and continued.

Although Jin Ling had only said one sentence to her, the general situation had been clear.

In fact, there shouldn’t be any connection between the high and mighty Empress and Marquis Hua Yang’s concubine, but it was different because the Empress had been engaged to Wei Luowen in the past.

Therefore, although these words were not very convincing, the Madam Dowager immediately believed them.

At that time, Concubine Dong was just her maid and not Wei Luowen’s concubine. The former was quite diligent when she was serving her. Being engaged to the Tu Family’s daughter was good news. At that time, the few most trusted servants around the Madam Dowager knew about it, and Concubine Dong could also be considered the Madam Dowager’s most trusted servant at that time.

After that, because Wei Luowen fell in love with Qin Xinrui, the engagement was blown out. Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion solved the problem swiftly, and the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang did not comment anything about it since they were in the wrong. In fact, they even executed some of the trusted servants who knew about the episode, leaving only Nanny Hong and Concubine Dong.

The Madam Dowager did not execute Concubine Dong because she wanted the latter to become Wei Luowen’s concubine and put Qin Xinrui in a difficult situation. Moreover, Concubine Dong didn’t know much at that time. All she knew was it was the Second Young Lady of Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion but had never seen her in person.

At first, the Madam Dowager felt that there was nothing serious, but now, she felt that it was not as simple as it seemed. Did Concubine Dong know who the person was at that time?

Thinking of this, the Madam Dowager looked up and urged the nanny beside her, “Go and see what Concubine Dong is doing. If she doesn’t have urgent things to attend to, ask her to come!”

“Madam Dowager, have you forgotten? Concubine Dong has been busy in the backyard for the past few days?” The old maidservant reminded the Madam Dowager.

These words indeed reminded the Madam Dowager. Thinking that Concubine Dong was indeed busy with her matters, she looked slightly relaxed. “How is the progress of the construction?”

“It should be completed soon. The geomancer also said that this is the best option. Since we can’t burn Marquise Hua Yang’s courtyard, at least we can’t let this bad luck spread out and ruin the luck of you and the entire Marquis Mansion!” Seeing that the Madam Dowager was unhappy, the old maidservant carefully reported.

With that said, she figured that the matters in the backyard were also very important because it was related to the fate of the entire Marquis Mansion. The Madam Dowager coldly snorted and no longer asked more questions. At that time, the geomancer had said it well. If she didn’t take some measures, something unfortunate would always happen to her. First, it would start from the younger generation to herself. No one could come out unscathed.

She didn’t expect that Qin Xinrui would be such a source of bad luck. She had died for so many years, yet she was still causing some trouble now. For this matter, the Madam Dowager even confronted her eldest son. Finally, for the sake of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang and Wei Yuewu, Wei Luowen decided to give way.

At this time, Nanny Hong lifted the curtain and walked in. “Madam Dowager, the two Misses have returned!”

“Let them in!” The Madam Dowager restrained the worries in her heart and said to Nanny Hong.

A young maid had already come over to lift up the curtain. Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu slowly walked in. The two of them were still wearing the clothes they had worn to the prayer ceremony earlier. One was gorgeous and outstanding, while the other looked too ordinary.

Both the dresses were made of silk, but judging from the quality of the material, the meticulous embroidery, pattern, and style, one could tell that the dress Wei Yuewu wore, which Zhao Ruo’e had given her, looked rather casual, and there was nothing special about it.

With just a glance, the Madam Dowager felt deep displeasure in her heart, and her expression became cold.

Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu came in together to greet the Madam Dowager.

The Madam Dowager waved her hand and cut to the chase, "What's going on? Why did such a big thing happen? Didn't I tell you sisters to be kind to each other when you entered the Palace? Why did you cause so many things when you just entered the Palace and even alarmed Empress?!"

"Grandmother, I'm innocent. S-Someone set Sixth Younger Sister and me up! The Empress also said that she would give closure to our mansion." Wei Qiufu had already thought of all the appropriate responses along the way. At this time, she should avoid the key issue and even expressed that she was as innocent as Wei Yuewu.

"Someone set you up? Tell me, what's going on?" The Madam Dowager shouted coldly, her gaze sweeping over Wei Yuewu who was standing at the side as calm as water.

"Someone cut Sixth Younger Sister's clothes, and there was nothing she could wear, so she borrowed some dresses from another young lady. The Third Princess' dresses for the sacrificial ceremony were in my room. I don't know who put them there. Grandmother, Sixth Younger Sister and I are really innocent, I swear! Someone must have disliked us, that's why we sisters have been in trouble one after another. Look at what happened to Eldest Sister! Grandmother, please help us!"

Wei Qiufu covered her face and cried. Her acting became more and more skillful. She even dragged Wei Fengyao, who had an accident, into this, and she illustrated the whole thing as if she was completely unaware of what had happened.

"Who did this?" The Madam Dowager was furious.

She knew that the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang was very reputable and was very pleased about it. She felt that it was because of her endurance and perseverance for all these years. However, someone would be so jealous of them that they set up traps for her granddaughters in the Palace. The Madam Dowager felt that she could not bear it anymore. She slammed her hand on the table and was exasperated.

“Uh... I don't know. The Empress only said that she would give us closure!” Wei Qiufu was taken aback and stuttered because she didn't know what to say. The Empress did say that she would give them closure, but she didn't know when it would be.

Of course, she didn't dare to say who was behind this.

“Yuewu, is this what happened?” The Madam Dowager turned to the composed Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu had long been waiting for the Madam Dowager to ask her. She raised her head unhurriedly. “Grandmother, someone stained my clothes first and then they were cut open, including the ones you gave me, so I couldn't wear any of them. Only the clothes given by Concubine Dong were not ruined. However, the Empress was once furious when she saw the clothes made of the material Concubine Dong had given me, so I did not dare to wear them.”

Wei Yuewu looked at the Madam Dowager with her clear eyes. Her expression was extremely natural and her narrative was very organized. She did not cry out for injustice just like how Wei Qiufu did, which made the latter seem a little guilty.

“Sixth Younger Sister, these things...” Wei Qiufu subconsciously felt that something was wrong. She wanted to stop Wei Yuewu, but Wei Yuewu coldly glanced at her.

“Since Fourth Elder Sister still has something to say, Grandmother, I'll let her speak first.”

“I-I have nothing to say...” Seeing that the Madam Dowager's gaze swept over with displeasure, Wei Qiufu stammered in a low voice and secretly cursed in her heart. Wei Yuewu, this bitch, was really too good at talking. A simple remark from her made the Madam Dowager feel Wei Qiufu's annoyance and anxiety.

“What clothes did Concubine Dong give you? Why would the Empress be angry?” The Madam Dowager asked coldly.

“I don't know either. Grandmother, please take a look at it!” Wei Yuewu turned her head and gestured to Jin Ling behind her.

Jin Ling stepped forward carrying two bags in her hands. She placed them on the ground in front of the Madam Dowager. She first untied the knot of the first bag, and immediately, a few bright and outstanding clothes appeared in front of the Madam Dowager.

The Madam Dowager looked at them with a face full of confusion, apparently not comprehending why these clothes would upset the Empress.

“Grandmother, these are the dresses that were made of the materials that Concubine Dong gave to me. All these clothes, along with the ones you prepared for me, were all ruined and stained. Only these few sets were left intact, but I didn’t dare to wear them!” With that, Wei Yuewu pointed to the other bag that Jin Ling opened.

“The clothes that you and I had prepared were in there. Please take a look, Grandmother.”

When the second bag was opened, the Madam Dowager saw not only the large patches of stains on the clothes but also the cuts. It was such an eyesore to look at those ruined dresses, let alone to wear them.

Anyone who looked at the clothes from these two bags would choose the clothes in the first bag.

“Before entering the Palace, I went to the ready-made clothes shop outside and happened to meet Miss Zhao from the mansion of Marquis Huaiqin. We chatted for a bit since she was also part of the Third Princess’ prayer convoy. When she saw my fabric, she liked it very much, so I gave her one piece. This time, she made clothes from the fabric and brought them with her to the Palace. But before she could even wear the clothes, the Empress scolded her!”

Wei Yuewu quipped reservedly.

Was there really something off about these clothes that Empress Tu was afraid of? The Madam Dowager was originally skeptical, but now her eyes fell on the clothes. “Nanny Hong, bring the clothes over!”

“Yes!” Nanny Hong came over and carried the complete sets of clothes to the Madam Dowager.

The Madam Dowager looked at them in surprise and frowned in confusion. Suddenly, she seemed to have thought of something, because her eyes widened, and her face turned ashen...

Chapter 369 – The Betrothal Gift, Those Hairpins

Although it had happened a long time ago, the past events had slowly appeared in the Madam Dowager's memory because of these materials in front of her.

The engagement between the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang and Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion was something that was beneficial to both mansions, so she requested on behalf of her eldest son to marry the Second Young Lady, who was Grand Preceptor Tu's biological daughter.

The Tu Family's daughter was famous all over the world. The outstanding ladies from the other branches of the Tu Family would also be included in the main branch. However, Second Miss Tu was Grand Preceptor Tu's biological daughter, which made her special from other daughters. Marrying her was equivalent to obtaining Grand Preceptor Tu's support.

Since this daughter was different from the other Tu Family's daughters, marrying her would naturally require more effort. The Madam Dowager also racked her brains for this, fearing that this Tu Family's Second Young Lady, who allegedly was said to be proud and lofty, would despise Wei Luowen.

After all, there was such a ferocious scar on Wei Luowen's face. Many timid women did not even dare to look at his face.

Unexpectedly, the marriage proposal went very smoothly. Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion immediately agreed to the proposal because Wei Luowen had once rescued Second Miss Tu when she encountered danger. Therefore, when she heard that the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang came up to ask for her hand, she immediately agreed.

This matter went very smoothly, and it eventually came to the step of exchanging birth horoscopes, and the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang had sent over the official written marriage proposal. At that time, the Madam Dowager even deliberately delivered a few bright pieces of fabric. Those pieces of fabric did not seem to belong to Central Plains. They were obtained by Wei Luowen by chance, and they looked different from the local fabrics.

Among all kinds of exquisite flowers, there were also some small red flowers embroidered on the fabrics. The flowers were bright and different, and they made the fabrics even more outstanding. Therefore, the Madam Dowager sent them to Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion along with the official written marriage proposal.

In return, Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion sent Second Miss Tu's birth horoscope and betrothal letter over. There was also a pair of hairpins. One was big and the other was small. They were not ordinary gold hairpins, but they were very rare wood carving products. However, the degree of delicateness and elegance was far beyond that of gold and diamond hairpins.

The Madam Dowager remembered that she had sighed in awe at that time. Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion was really awesomely powerful. Otherwise, how could he have obtained such exquisite hairpins?

Originally, after the two families finished this process, they were going to go through the process of exchanging betrothal gifts in an official manner. It was exactly at this moment that Qin Xinrui entered the capital, and Wei Luowen fell in love with her, so much so that he wanted to break off the engagement with Second Miss Tu.

Because of this, the marriage between the two families was delayed. After hearing that there was a change in the marriage, Second Miss Tu was rumored to go to meet Wei Luowen in the middle of the night. Then, it was said that they had an awful argument, and consequently, the engagement was called off.

In order to protect his daughter, Grand Preceptor Tu ranked a sick woman into the main branch, making her Second Miss Tu. As a result, the original Second Miss Tu became Third Miss Tu, who later participated in the nationwide selection and entered the Palace. Later, she was selected to be a Princess Consort, and eventually became Empress.

The Madam Dowager felt guilty toward Grand Preceptor Tu, so she tacitly agreed with Grand Preceptor Tu's way of doing things and even executed some of her own most trusted servants. The two families had not completely publicized the marriage, so not many people in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang knew about the truth. Only a few of the Madam Dowager's most trusted servants knew that the bride was supposed to be Second Miss Tu.

Later, the alleged Second Miss Tu was very weak, and she died a silent death without marrying anyone in the end.

In this case, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang owed Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion a life. This was also the reason why there were some things that the Madam Dowager could not say when Ninth Miss Tu came to the mansion that day.

Although the cancelation of the engagement was secretly carried out by the two families, both families kept their mouths shut in order to protect Empress Tu's reputation. In the end, they didn't even return the betrothal gifts to each other.

Everyone silently agreed that this matter was over and should let the dust settle.

Therefore, the two hairpins were left at the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. When they prepared the betrothal gifts to Qin Xinrui, the Madam Dowager specially asked someone to send the bigger hairpin to the Qin Mansion as a part of the betrothal gifts, and she gave the smaller one to Wei Luowen. This was how the Madam Dowager expressed her dissatisfaction with this marriage.

A daughter of a small aristocratic family from a small place was no match to the daughter of the renowned Tu Family, not to mention the biological daughter of Grand Preceptor Tu, whose identity was noble beyond description!

And now, the Madam Dowager saw such color and pattern again...

"Grandmother, I don't know why the Empress is so angry when she saw the clothes with such patterns. Oh yes, and there is also the hairpin that Concubine Dong gave me before. Fourth Elder Sister borrowed it from me and wore it, and the Empress reprimanded her too!" Wei Yuewu looked at the Madam Dowager in puzzlement.

"Hairpin? What hairpin?" The Madam Dowager asked coldly.

"Grandmother... I-it's not necessary about the hairpin, right?" Wei Qiufu stammered, feeling that Wei Yuewu was trying to imply something in her words, but she had no way to refute her.

"Take it out!" The Madam Dowager shouted.

“Grandmother, I have given it to the Third Princess. It’s a gorgeous and unique wooden hairpin. I heard that it was a betrothal gift from my father to my mother. I don’t know why it fell into Concubine Dong’s hands. After Concubine Dong returned to the mansion, she gave it to me. I heard that Third Elder Sister has a smaller one,” Wei Yuewu cut in and answered softly.

This was clearly one of the two hairpins from back then, the one that she had sent people to deliver as a betrothal gift to the Qin Mansion. For a moment, the Madam Dowager was exasperating. She propped herself up with her hand and shouted sternly, “Maid, bring Concubine Dong here at once!”

“Yes!” Seeing that the Madam Dowager was so angry, a maid immediately responded and rushed out.

The Madam Dowager took two deep breaths in fury. With Nanny Hong’s support, she sat down again and snapped angrily, “Why did the young ladies say that you two were at odds with each other and that Qiufu destroyed Yuewu’s clothes?”

The series of unpleasant events drove the Madam Dowager up the wall. For many years, she consciously felt that she had everything under control as she took control of the management of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Unexpectedly, someone dared to exploit this past incident under her eyes.

If this matter was blown up, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would definitely be dragged into this mess!

Grand Preceptor Tu, on the other hand, had already had a perfect way to deal with this matter due to the death of the so-called Second Miss Tu. Others would even blame the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang for being heartless and irresponsible and subsequently causing a weak woman to die in despair.

“Grandmother, I didn’t destroy Sixth Younger Sister’s clothes!” Wei Qiufu was so angry that she wanted to vomit blood. All she did was send those two clothes to her, and she was totally unaware of the matter of the ruined clothes. If Wei Yuewu brought up the matter of the two clothes, she would have an answer for them. It would be hard to verify the authenticity of their answers since there were only four of them present at that time.

She could just deny it and insist that she didn’t know anything about it!

However, she didn't expect that Wei Yuewu didn't mention anything about the two clothes, and the worst part was that those clothes were found in her room. Because of this, she couldn't say that she had given the clothes to Wei Yuewu before.

Wei Qiufu felt that she had become a scapegoat of some kind. Fortunately, the Third Princess vouched for her, and she could claim that she was a victim of someone's scheme.

However, eventually, she was to be blamed for Wei Yuewu's ruined clothes. Wei Qiufu had never been wronged like this before, and it made her blood boil.

"Grandmother, the clothes had always been in the room. The place where Fourth Elder Sister and I live was quite a distance from the other young ladies, so they had almost never come to our place. The only person who came was Miss Zhao, but she came to talk about the clothes. When she left, all of my clothes were well and intact."

Wei Yuewu recounted without haste.

It meant that no one but Wei Qiufu came to Wei Yuewu's room. Moreover, others might not know about the relationship between Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu, but the Madam Dowager knew. She had already heard that Wei Qiufu had framed Wei Yuewu during the Plum Blossom Nunnery incident, but she chose to turn a blind eye to her since the Crown Prince took a fancy to her.

However, the Madam Dowager did not expect that Wei Qiufu would do something like this again in the Palace. The Madam Dowager was so angry that her eyes were red, and she felt more and more disappointed when she looked at Wei Qiufu.

It was normal for two sisters of aristocratic families to have some quarrels and were jealous of each other, but it was unforgivable that they created such a big mess because of their personal feud. The Empress was saving the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang's reputation by not specifying any conviction or punishment to the girls.

However, the Madam Dowager was convinced that Wei Qiufu had secretly harmed Wei Yuewu. Compared with Wei Yuewu who had just entered the capital and did not know anything, Wei Qiufu knew too much.

“Grandmother, I did not!” Judging from the Madam Dowager’s furious glare, Wei Qiufu knew that the table had turned, so she quickly explained, “I didn’t! I... Oh right! There was a fire in our place. Maybe someone took advantage of the fire to enter Sixth Younger Sister’s room and destroyed her clothes.”

At this time, she was anxious. She suddenly remembered the fire and immediately pointed it out.

“Was there a fire in the Palace?” The Madam Dowager frowned and asked.

“Yes, there was! For some reason, there were a lot of withered branches and leaves in my patio, and they suddenly caught fire. At that time, Sixth Younger Sister and I were both out of the house.” At this time, Wei Qiufu seemed to clutch the straw and shrieked in a hurry.

The Madam Dowager looked hesitant.

“Fourth Elder Sister, do you really think someone could pick out the specific clothes from the pile of clothes to stain and cut them in such a short time?” Wei Yuewu sighed softly, and her face showed a faint sneer.

The remark rendered Wei Qiufu speechless, and her expression immediately stiffened.

Time. Yes, time! She did not consider the time. In such a short period of time, she only cared about taking out the package.

“After that... Zhaoyi Tu called the two of us over...” Wei Qiufu was unconvinced. “At that time, there was no one in our rooms.”

“What do you want to say, Fourth Elder Sister?” Wei Yuewu asked in astonishment. “Are you implying that Zhaoyi Tu wants to sow discord between us sisters?”

“Shut up!” At this time, the Madam Dowager had a rough understanding. Seeing that the two of them were talking more and more outrageously, she couldn’t help but angrily shout with a gloomy face, “Go back to your room at once! I’ll see what I’ll do to you after I investigate this matter thoroughly!”

After saying that, she waved her hand helplessly, indicating for them to leave.

The Madam Dowager gave the order for them to leave, and the two of them didn't dare to stay any longer. They respectfully bid farewell to the Madam Dowager and left with their maids.

When they reached the entrance of the courtyard, Wei Qiufu stopped and wanted to say something, but Wei Yuewu had already brushed past her and walked away, ignoring her blatantly.

Wei Qiufu could not hide the hatred in her eyes. She gritted her teeth and forced out a gentle smile on her face. With a somewhat stiff expression, she turned and walked towards her own courtyard.

When she gained the upper hand in the future, she would definitely not spare this little bitch!

Wei Yuewu was not in the mood to speak to Wei Qiufu, but at this moment, she bumped into Concubine Dong on the way...

Chapter 370 – Making A Scene, The Taoist Priest

The Madam Dowager's maid came with Concubine Dong and happened to meet Wei Yuewu. Upon the sight, Concubine Dong stopped and bowed slightly to Wei Yuewu. "Greetings, Sixth Young Lady, welcome back. How was life in the Palace? Was it good?"

Wei Yuewu curtsied slightly. "Greetings, Concubine Dong. How are you doing in the mansion?"

"I'm doing well in the mansion, thank you for asking. It's just that Lord Marquis has begun to meet guests recently. He had people prepare some gifts before, saying that he was going to meet the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State. I figured that this matter was related to you, and I had better wait until you returned to the mansion before making the arrangement."

Concubine Dong smiled politely, but she did not mention the matter of burning Wei Yuewu's mother's courtyard. It was as if she did not know about this matter at all.

Wei Yuewu's gaze fell on Concubine Dong's clothes. She was dressed quite neatly and did not look like she had just come out of the room in a hurry. Wei Yuewu squinted slightly. Concubine Dong did not stay in her room at a moment like this, so she must be out there doing something.

Although her hair was combed meticulously, a strand of hair could still be seen hanging down. It should have been blown by the wind.

Her clothes were tidy, but her hair was a little messy. It seemed that she had been outside the house.

Instead of staying in her room in the middle of winter, she went outside. What was so important out there that she had to personally check it out for reassurance?

Wei Yuewu's watery eyes flashed, and there was a coldness in her eyes. She stared at Concubine Dong.

During the time she was in the Palace, Concubine Dong was constantly on the move too. This Concubine Dong was probably trying to stir up some troubles again.

Wei Yuewu's bone-piercing cold glare made Concubine Dong very uncomfortable, and Concubine Dong inadvertently avoided her gaze. She was shocked to see the sharpness in Wei Yuewu's gaze, which made her feel sheepish.

"Thank you, Concubine Dong!" Wei Yuewu smiled slightly, but the look in her eyes was still cold.

"I have to go to meet the Madam Dowager now, so I can't continue to chat with you. Excuse me," Concubine Dong lamented politely.

"Please, Concubine Dong." Wei Yuewu nodded.

With that, Concubine Dong followed the Madam Dowager's maid and left in a hurry.

"Miss, did Concubine Dong do something again?" Jin Ling stared at Concubine Dong's figure skeptically. From the looks of it, Concubine Dong looked rather sheepish and sneaky.

“Let’s go back first!” Wei Yuewu sneered and walked towards Lotus Courtyard. No matter what Concubine Dong had done before, with what happened today, she would definitely have her share of despair.

Shufei and Huamo had been waiting in Lotus Courtyard for a long time. When they saw Wei Yuewu and Jin Ling return, they were both excited and frustrated. Before Wei Yuewu could sit down and drink a cup of tea, Huamo couldn’t help but stand out.

“Miss, Concubine Dong is too much of a bully!” Huamo rebuked angrily.

“What’s wrong?” Wei Yuewu put down the tea in her hand and looked around. Only then did she realize that Nurse Mei was absent. Today was the day she returned to the mansion. No matter what Nurse Mei was busy with, she should be waiting for her here.

“Miss, Nurse Mei was injured. Someone pushed her, and she sprained her waist. Now, she is bedridden and unable to get up!” Shufei knew that Wei Yuewu had noticed Nurse Mei’s absence and quickly informed her.

“What actually happened?” Wei Yuewu hooked her tender fair fingers on the porcelain cup handle and asked gently.

“What else could it be? It was because of that damned geomancer again! He claimed that Madam’s bad luck lingered in the courtyard, and something must be done, or everyone in the mansion would die. He said that we must burn down the courtyard because Madam was too overwhelmingly stubborn, but this plan failed because of Zhaoyi Tu. Then, he told them to seal up Madam’s courtyard by building a wall around it. Nurse Mei was frustrated and wanted to argue with the geomancer, but Concubine Dong’s maids pushed her, and she sprained her waist!”

Huamo was getting more and more furious when she heard Wei Yuewu’s question.

Since Wei Yuewu was not in the mansion, Concubine Dong’s maids actually dared to push the nurse-in-charge in Madam’s courtyard because Concubine Dong was supporting them! Moreover, there were many people at that time, and they didn’t know who actually pushed Nurse Mei. Shufei and Huamo were angry and outrageous, but their hands were tied.

“They wanted to seal up Mother’s courtyard? How?” Wei Yuewu raised her cold eyes and asked.

“I heard that they want to build a wall outside Madam’s courtyard and then place a talisman or something to suppress Madam’s soul, or the entire mansion will be in great danger, especially the oldest person in the mansion. The geomancer said that the series of unfortunate events that had happened to the young misses were just a reminder of the danger. If we don’t do anything about it, someone will eventually die!”

Shufei growled furiously with a pale face.

Wei Yuewu tightly held the cup handle and sneered in contempt. She wondered how many tricks Concubine Dong kept up her sleeves. She actually planned to seal Mother’s courtyard in the high wall and stick a talisman on the wall as if her mother was some kind of evil spirit, and she wanted to seal her inside.

The geomancer, whom she hired, was an equal genius to think of this idea.

“So, have they started to build the wall outside the courtyard?” Wei Yuewu asked.

“Yes, they started to do that a few days ago. I even went there to peek today. Concubine Dong was personally supervising the work, so I could only look from afar. They were building the wall at a high speed. One side of the walls is almost complete, and the geomancer was drawing runes there.”

Shufei recounted.

“I also heard that after Eldest Young Lady returned to the mansion, the Madam Dowager personally went to see her. After returning to the mansion, she even urged the workers to hurry up,” Huamo added when she suddenly remembered something.

Although these two maids could not do anything because Wei Yuewu was not around these days, they inquired about everything clearly so that they could answer Wei Yuewu’s questions when she returned.

“Let’s go and see!” Wei Yuewu sneered and stood up.

“Now?” Shufei was taken aback for a moment, not expecting Wei Yuewu to go immediately.

“Yes. I want to see what the so-called talisman is right now!” Wei Yuewu snapped sternly.

Seeing that Wei Yuewu had made up her mind, the maids gave up persuading her and followed her out.

They strode all the way to the front of Wei Yuewu’s mother’s courtyard. From afar, they could see a group of people working and a few maids and old maidservants supervising on the side. There were also a few gardeners cleaning the yard. Everyone was chatting and laughing. It was a lively atmosphere.

Wei Yuewu’s gaze fell on the person who was holding a writing brush and smearing something on the wall.

He was dressed in a Taoist robe. From his back, he looked somewhat like an immortal. Occasionally, he would turn his face sideways. The long white beard made him look dignified. He looked like he knew what he was doing when he was drawing runes on the wall.

Only when he stopped to look at his own drawing did his eyes look a little too playful and sparkly than those of a Taoist priest.

It was a Taoist priest with an extraordinary appearance!

“Miss, should we go over?” Jin Ling could not help but ask.

“Jin Ling, go and ask.” Wei Yuewu shook her head. At this time, it was not convenient for her to show up casually. However, she could let Jin Ling go to inquire about the news. Everyone in the mansion knew that Jin Ling had followed her to the Palace. When they saw Jin Ling, they knew that she had returned.

“Okay, Miss. I will test him!” Jin Ling nodded. She was always the best at this kind of thing.

Wei Yuewu continued to stay in the same place with Shufei and Huamo and watch from a distance. Jin Ling leisurely strode over.

When the maids and old maidservants at the construction site spotted a maid coming in their direction, someone stood up and wanted to stop her, but she was stopped by the person beside her. She pointed to Jin Ling and secretly made a gesture, representing six.

Sixth Young Lady returned to the mansion? Sixth Young Lady returned from the Palace?

The maids and old maidservants exchanged frightful glances, and no one dared to step forward.

Concubine Dong was not here, so no one dared to confront Jin Ling. The few sharp-eyed maids spotted Wei Yuewu standing in the distance and did not dare to move a muscle.

Everyone in the mansion now knew that Sixth Young Lady, who seemed to have been abandoned, was actually the most favored by Lord Marquis. If they upset Sixth Young Lady, even Concubine Dong might not be able to protect them.

“Hey, where did you come from, priest?” Jin Ling walked behind the Taoist priest, placed her hands on her waist like an unruly maid, and shouted indignantly.

The geomancer was highly respected in the mansion, and even the Madam Dowager’s maids treated him with full respect. When he turned around and saw an arrogant maid, he didn’t give her much thought. Instead, he sized Jin Ling up and snorted in disdain, “Where did you come from? You’re so rude. How dare you speak to me like this?!”

“How else should I speak to you? You’re nothing but a fraud, and you even dared to deceive the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang! I’ll beat the crap out of you!” As Jin Ling spoke, she looked around as if she was searching for something, and her eyes lit up when she spotted a small tree branch on the ground.

She walked over, picked it up, and fiercely whipped the geomancer.

No one had expected that Jin Ling would actually hit the geomancer without hesitation. The geomancer was stunned. Although he did not feel any pain, his face was burning hot out of shame.

He was highly respected ever since he entered the mansion, and he had never been humiliated like this. He was indignant, and he snatched the branch from Jin Ling's hand and broke it.

"Whose maid are you?! Even the Madam Dowager treats me politely when she sees me! You're just a maid, and you dare to beat me up! Come on, we'll go to the Madam Dowager and make things clear. Let's see who's right? You, or me!"

The geomancer snarled angrily.

Of course, he didn't really mean to take Jin Ling to see the Madam Dowager. Concubine Dong had already warned him not to cause trouble. At this time, he naturally wouldn't disturb the Madam Dowager because of such a small matter, in case he would stir up any unnecessary problem.

Concubine Dong had promised him that after this matter was over, she would give him a large sum of money. After that, he could go as far as he liked with the money, and whatever happened to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang in the future was none of his business.

"Meet the Madam Dowager?" Jin Ling rolled her eyes and suddenly shouted, "Alright, let's go see the Madam Dowager now! Let's see if you are right or if I am right!"

After saying that, she turned to the servants who were piling up the bricks and rebuked them in an extremely arrogant manner, "Hey, all of you! Yes, you guys! Stop right now! I'll take him to see the Madam Dowager now. Maybe the Madam Dowager will order you to tear down this wall in a while!"

For a moment, the servants exchanged confused glances and slowed down their work...