

Young Lady 421

Chapter 421 A Snake in the Pit

“Fourth Prince, please come with me! Hurry!” Wei Yuejiao anxiously walked in front, looking fidgety.

Behind her, the Fourth Prince looked stern and cold as he followed her with large strides. Two bodyguards stood on his side and walked hurriedly too. The Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an, Wen Ruoming, trotted on his other side. A few lad servants jogged behind Wen Ruoming.

Wen Ruoming was a little chubby, and he began to pant after walking for a short while, but as the host of the mansion, he had no choice but to keep up. “W-What is going on? Why did they fight?” He asked, panting and huffing.

“I don’t know. It was the mansion’s maid who came to inform me. Eldest Sister asked me to go to you. I’m sure that they will stop fighting when they see you. Sixth Younger Sister has always been stubborn and willful. I-I wonder if it has anything to do with you, Fourth Prince.” Wei Yuejiao looked at the Fourth Prince, who was obviously a little flustered, and sneered smugly in her heart.

Wei Yuejiao didn’t expect Wei Yuwu to be so lucky that the Fourth Prince took a fancy to her. Wei Fengyao even told her that the Fourth Prince had seen the Empress and expressed his intention to marry Wei Yuwu.

Wei Yuejiao figured that her life would be over if Wei Yuwu really married the Fourth Prince.

After hearing the news from Wei Fengyao, she correlated it with the news she had received, and to her surprise, both messages were closely related. Because of this, she was even more confident that the news she heard from Wei Qiuju was true.

No matter what, she must convince the Fourth Prince to give up the idea of marrying Wei Yuwu and dissuade him from expressing his intention to the Empress again. Wei Fengyao had told her that if the Fourth Prince went to the Empress again with this intention, the Empress would agree with the wedding despite her reluctance because of Zhaoyi Tu.

Coincidentally, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan had always admired the Fourth Prince, and her trip to the capital this time was because of him too...

"Hurry up and go!" The Fourth Prince was clearly disgusted by Wei Yuejiao's prying tone. No, he was disgusted with every bit of Wei Yuejiao's actions.

Ever since the first time he met Wei Yuejiao and the misunderstanding that occurred, the Fourth Prince despised Wei Yuejiao to the core. He felt that she was a pretentious and uncultured person through and through.

He disliked such a woman!

Moreover, he was anxious at this moment because he was worried that something bad would happen to Wei Yuewu. Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was not an ordinary young lady who grew up in the capital. She had been practicing martial arts since she was a child. Although she was not outstanding in martial arts, she was strong and nimble.

Compared with her, Wei Yuewu was fragile and delicate. She was no match to Prefectural Princess Jia'nan in terms of strength and nimbleness. If they really fought, Wei Yuewu would definitely lose. Moreover, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan held an official title. No matter from which perspective, Wei Yuewu could not win against Prefectural Princess Jia'nan.

Wei Yuejiao rolled her eyes at the Fourth Prince's impatient voice. Likewise, she despised the Fourth Prince too. She would not have talked to him had it not been for his noble and dignified status.

Nevertheless, she was thrilled at this moment. Wei Fengyao had said that as long as she brought the men over, what happened next would not be her business. She could just wait to see Wei Yuewu make a fool of herself. They were at Prince Nan'an Mansion now. No matter what happened, Princess Nan'an would be on Prefectural Princess Jia'nan's side.

Therefore, Wei Yuejiao stopped talking and quickened her pace.

The only one who was gasping for breath was Wen Ruoming. He wiped the sweat on his forehead with a handkerchief and looked around. As the road they were taking was getting more and more desolate, he was spooked. They were heading to the courtyard that no one had dared to enter alone, weren't they?

It was a secret legend that had been only circulated in Prince Nan'an Mansion. Wen Ruoming did not know the details or the authenticity of the rumor. It was said that one of his father's concubines had died a tragic death, and her corpse was beyond recognition. In fact, all the servants in the courtyard had also died.

He heard this story by chance from an elderly servant of the mansion. It was said that the woman was his father's secondary concubine, and she nearly succeeded in replacing Mother Consort. However, such a woman died with all her servants in the courtyard in the end.

When he learned the news, he was naturally shocked and aghast.

He also learned that the investigation of the death took a long time, but no one could discover anything, so it was left unsettled.

Thus, the originally quiet courtyard was ruined and desolate now.

It would take ten days to two weeks before people cleaned the courtyard. The maids and old maidservants often hastily cleaned the courtyard. Over time, this courtyard became the creepiest place in the entire Prince Nan'an Mansion.

Wen Ruoming secretly came here when he was a child. At that time, he eerily felt that the air in the courtyard was cold and horrifying.

When he explored inside, he even stepped into a deep pit and almost fell to death. Later, with the help of his lad servant, he crawled out hastily. From then on, he never went to that courtyard again. Even when he passed by the door by chance, he felt chilly in his heart.

In Wen Ruoming's opinion, the most suitable definition for that courtyard was haunted!

“T-Third Miss, are you sure this is the right way?” Wen Ruoming gasped.

“Yes, I’m sure. The maid was very clear when she reported the matter, and Eldest Sister told me the direction very clearly too. I even asked the maids in the mansion.” Wei Yuejiao nodded confidently.

She spoke without stopping for a second. The Fourth Prince donned a gloomy expression and followed her without saying a word.

Wen Ruoming could not stop them, so he had to bite the bullet and follow them. No matter what, he had to go and take a look. If something happened to the Fourth Prince in Prince Nan’an Mansion, he and his family would be in big trouble.

When Wei Yuewu subconsciously pushed forward with her hand, Prefectural Princess Jia’nan suddenly turned her head around and grinned smugly. Seeing this, Wei Yuewu immediately came to her senses, grabbed Prefectural Princess Jia’nan’s sleeve, and pulled her back.

Wei Yuewu had lost her balance in the first place because Prefectural Princess Jia’nan had stepped on her foot. Hence, her body fell backward as she pulled Prefectural Princess Jia’nan. However, in the next second, she felt her head spinning, and her body actually fell forward.

She could hear Huamo screaming behind her!

Prefectural Princess Jia’nan almost pulled her sleeve back to brush her off. She even felt that Prefectural Princess Jia’nan fiercely pressed against her wrist.

She felt that her strength was suddenly drained out of her hand, and she almost let go.

Wei Yuewu gritted her teeth and bit down hard. The sharp pain and the faint smell of blood came from her lips. The intense sensation also sobered her up from the dizziness. She grabbed Prefectural Princess Jia’nan’s wrist with her other hand and twisted it hard.

Although she didn't have much strength and the twist didn't cause any harm to Prefectural Princess Jia'nan, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was caught unawares by Wei Yuewu's abrupt action because she had expected that she could easily shake Wei Yuewu off.

Annoyed by Wei Yuewu's resilience, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan pinched Wei Yuewu's slender wrist even harder.

Wei Yuewu's wrist was as slender as a brittle tree branch. It seemed as if it could be snapped into half easily. Originally, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan felt that it would be a piece of cake to get rid of Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu was the typical young lady of an aristocratic family who looked fragile and scrawny. She was no match to her in terms of strength. Therefore, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was confident that she could get rid of Wei Yuewu easily.

However, she did not expect Wei Yuewu to grab her tightly. What made her even more anxious was that she and Wei Yuewu actually fell down together.

There was a pit at the corner with some withered grass on it, and the two of them fell straight into the pit.

"Prefectural Princess Jia'nan! W-Why did you bring our Miss down? Let her go!" Huamo cried out anxiously.

The bottom of the pit was covered with straw, and the pit was not very deep. Wei Yuewu had been flipped over, and she was at the bottom, so she fell heavily into the pit. Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was dragged into the pit too. Wei Yuewu tasted a rustic taste in her mouth and almost spat out a mouthful of blood. She felt as if all the bones in her body had been broken.

But even so, she held onto Prefectural Princess Jia'nan's sleeve tightly. At this moment, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan had repeatedly pinched her wrist, wanting to pull her hand away from her sleeve and leave.

With Wei Yuewu on the ground, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was not injured at all.

However, she didn't expect that the delicate and weak Wei Yuewu would actually have such fierce strength and grab her sleeve tightly. Wei Yuewu moved her hand, which had been holding onto her wrist, to her clothes and refused to let go.

A trace of blood slowly slid down from her pale lips. It was a shocking sight...

Seeing this, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan struggled even harder and pinched Wei Yuewu's wrist with all her might. Wei Yuewu could almost hear the sound of her bones breaking. That heart-wrenching pain made her consciousness a little fuzzy.

But strangely, at this moment, she actually felt that she was sober...

The figure of the weak young lady flashed past her vision. She spat out large mouthfuls of blood, but she smiled when she looked at her. Then, she struggled to get up, extended one hand, and caressed the delicate little face of Wei Yuewu, who was crawling over. "Younger Sister, don't be afraid. I will be fine. You have to remember that we are sisters with similar bloodlines. You will always be my good sister. I will definitely protect you!"

At that moment, it was not only her wrist that was hurting but also her heart. It was so painful that she almost couldn't breathe. Was it so painful because they were related by blood?

Her so-called sisters were supposed to be those cousins in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang who had been scheming against her, weren't they? Who was this girl? Who else was related to her by blood?

She couldn't think of anyone, but she strangely felt that it was true. She felt even closer to this little girl than the so-called sisters in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang who tried to harm her over and over again!

At this time, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan desperately wanted to escape. She pinched Wei Yuewu's wrist hard and struggled to break free. She no longer looked elegant and beautiful. At this moment, her face was twisted in a heinous grimace. Wei Yuewu no longer had any strength left to grab her. At this moment, Huamo jumped into the pit. She pulled Prefectural Princess Jia'nan's sleeve and shouted anxiously,

“Miss, Miss! Are you okay? Do you hear me? Please, please talk to me! Don’t scare me! Prefectural Princess Jia’nan, let go! Stop pinching our Miss’ wrist! You’re going to break her hand!” Huamo was truly anxious at this moment. It was winter, but she was sweating profusely. Judging from Wei Yuewu’s appearance, she could tell that Wei Yuewu was not doing good.

Prefectural Princess Jia’nan was shocked by Huamo’s shout, and she quickly loosened her hand when she saw Wei Yuewu’s ghastly pale face. If something bad really happened to Wei Yuewu because of her, and Marquis Hua Yang held her accountable, she would be able to get away with it easily.

Wei Yuewu was in so much pain that she became numb. She looked behind Prefectural Princess Jia’nan with her dull eyes. From her angle, she could see a snake climbing out of the grass behind Prefectural Princess Jia’nan. The snake stuck out its tongue as it slowly crawled in their direction...

Chapter 422 What Did You Apply to Your Body

So it was like this!

So this was Wei Fengyao’s plan.

A trace of a cold smile appeared at the corner of her blood-stained lips. That cold and ruthless smirk seemed to bring out a soul-stirring viciousness to Wei Yuewu’s beautiful and delicate little face.

For the first time, Prefectural Princess Jia’nan shivered. The weak young lady of an aristocratic family that she had never paid attention to actually had a kind of coldness that made her tremble.

“Jia’nan, what are you doing?” A fierce shout came from above. In the next moment, Prefectural Princess Jia’nan’s body was heavily thrown out. The Fourth Prince jumped down from the top and picked up Wei Yuewu who was so weak that she almost fainted.

“Sixth Young Lady, how are you?” The Fourth Prince asked anxiously. No matter how he looked at it, Wei Yuewu was not in a good condition.

“Snake!” Wei Yuewu stretched out her hand weakly. The Fourth Prince’s eyes immediately twitched. The jade-like wrist she held up had been ruthlessly pinched. There was a bruise. In just a short while, there were traces of swelling and two deep marks on Wei Yuewu’s wrist.

He thought back to what he had just witnessed. Needless to say, it must have been Prefectural Princess Jia’nan who had pinched it.

“Your Highness, there is a snake!” Prefectural Princess Jia’nan, who had been thrown to the side earlier, also saw the snake. At this time, she rushed over and blocked the Fourth Prince’s body. Her eyes were fixed on the snake in the grass.

The snake’s head was triangular, and it was obvious that it was poisonous.

However, it was unknown whether it was because there were many people here or because Prefectural Princess Jia’nan’s aura was too astonishing. The snake’s cold eyes stared at this place for a while and then it turned around as if it wanted to leave.

One of the Fourth Prince’s bodyguards also jumped into the pit. He reached out and held the viper’s head. He directly picked it up and threw it at the wall on the side. The viper’s head was smashed into pieces, and it was dead...

“Ruoming, invite your mansion’s imperial doctor over here!” The Fourth Prince glared coldly at Prefectural Princess Jia’nan. He didn’t show any gratitude at all for how she rushed over to block the snake for him. He only said this to Wen Ruoming who was running toward him from behind.

Wen Ruoming looked at Wei Yuewu’s situation and hurriedly nodded. He asked a lad servant to hurriedly invite the imperial doctor over.

As the blue-blooded descendant who was close to the royal bloodline, Prince Nan’an Mansion naturally had an imperial doctor who was on duty in the mansion.

Wei Yuejiao looked at the scene in front of her in shock. For a moment, she was so angry that her face turned green. Wasn’t it said that she would see Wei Yuewu trying to push Prefectural Princess Jia’nan

into the pit, but Prefectural Princess Jia'nan counter-attacked, causing Wei Yuewu to fall into the pit, and she would then be injured or bitten to death by a poisonous snake?

That way, Wei Yuewu would be considered to suffer the consequences of her own actions. Even if she lost her life in the end, it had nothing to do with others. It was completely because she was vicious and meant to harm others in the first place.

The Fourth Prince and Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an who were brought here were witnesses. Even if her father wanted to say something, he had no reason or standpoint.

Even if Wei Yuewu died, she would die in vain!

Although Wei Yuewu's current situation was not good, it was not to the point of dying. Moreover, why was Prefectural Princess Jia'nan pressed against Wei Yuewu? Why did the snake slither away and not bite Wei Yuewu to death?

The Fourth Prince carried Wei Yuewu and jumped out of the pit.

"Prefectural Princess, why did you push our Miss down the pit?" Huamo cried as she crawled out with a bodyguard's support. Tears were streaming down her face.

"You're talking nonsense. It was your Miss who pushed me!" Seeing the Fourth Prince's gloomy face, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan became anxious and shouted loudly.

"If our Miss pushed you, why were you on top of her and were also pinching her so hard? I begged you not to pinch her, but you still pinched her so hard as if you wanted to break our Miss' hand. Prefectural Princess Jia'nan, our Miss has just arrived in the capital and has never even met you before. Why do you hate her so much?"

Huamo wept. She reached out and grabbed Wei Yuewu's hand which was hanging lifelessly to the side of her body. There was a shocking pinch mark on her wrist. There was no way to hide the handprint on it.

At this time, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan started to regret it. If Wei Yuewu had not clutched her, she would not have been so angry and pinched Wei Yuewu's wrist desperately. Just now, she was in a hurry to get away, so she left such a mark on Wei Yuewu's wrist.

Only if she got away could the poisonous snake in the grass come and bite Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu lowered her eyes slightly to hide the coldness in her eyes. Of course, she did not know why Prefectural Princess Jia'nan would harm her like this. But judging from the scene just now, the situation should be the same as she had guessed. Unexpectedly, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan had fallen for the Fourth Prince...

Sure enough, as soon as Huamo spoke, the Fourth Prince sneered. "Jia'nan, I don't know what you are thinking, but earlier today I have clearly told you that I will not marry you. Just give up on this idea!"

Princess Nan'an's maternal family also held a high-ranking title of a duke. However, it was not a major duke and was therefore not of much help to him. To be frank, the benefit it could offer was not even as good as Jing Wenyan's reputation. The reason why Prefectural Princess Jia'nan could get such a title was actually because the Fourth Prince fell from a tree when he was a child and it was Prefectural Princess Jia'nan, who was also a little girl back then, who saved him. For this reason, she was injured and had to lie in bed for a few months of recuperation.

Only then did Father Emperor confer the title of Prefectural Princess to her. It was also because Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was very close to him that Mother Consort had mentioned the matter of marrying Prefectural Princess Jia'nan to him.

Of course, the Fourth Prince knew what Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was thinking about him. However, even if he knew, the Fourth Prince had never thought of marrying Prefectural Princess Jia'nan. With Prefectural Princess Jia'nan's status, if she married him, he would definitely have to give her the position of Princess Consort, and the Fourth Prince was unwilling to do that.

Thus, he continued to drag on like this, but the relationship between the two of them had always been very close.

However, this closeness, because of the matter in front of him, suddenly became rigid.

“Fourth Prince, what does this matter have to do with me? It is clear that Sixth Miss Wei has some ill intentions. She wanted to push me down but was pushed down by me instead. And now, she is accusing me. Why would I harm her? It is the first time I have met her, okay? Why would I set up a trap to harm her?”

Prefectural Princess Jia’nan burst into tears and said hatefully as she wiped her tears with a handkerchief.

Looking at her aggrieved crying, coupled with the fact that she had just fallen into the pit so that her face was covered in dust and she was in a sorry state, the Fourth Prince eased his expression a little.

“Then tell me, why did you pinch Sixth Miss Wei’s wrist so hard that it ended up like this?”

“At that time, I only wanted to get up, so I didn’t notice anything. I just wanted to grab something.” Although Prefectural Princess Jia’nan was crying, she had been paying attention to the Fourth Prince. Seeing that his expression had calmed down, she heaved a sigh of relief in her heart and immediately acted more and more innocent.

She did not believe that the Fourth Prince could do anything to her without concrete evidence. Things had to be reasonable. Wei Yuewu’s maid, of course, would speak up for Wei Yuewu, and this could not prove anything either.

Seeing Prefectural Princess Jia’nan’s insistence, the Fourth Prince really hesitated. However, Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart. Prefectural Princess Jia’nan had injured her to such an extent today, and she still wanted to escape unscathed. She really overestimated herself!

“Prefectural Princess Jia’nan, the snake... why did it... see you and slither away?” Wei Yuewu gently and resolutely pushed the Fourth Prince away. The moment her feet touched the ground, she almost fell. Huamo hurriedly came over to support her, barely managing to steady her.

When she stood firm, Wei Yuewu asked in an extremely soft voice.

Her voice was very low, but the Fourth Prince heard her clearly. Just now, he was occupied with concerns about Wei Yuewu and did not notice this. Immediately, his eyes fell on Prefectural Princess

Jia'nan. There was a faint fragrance in the air. It was not strong, but it was different from the smell of perfume used by other common young aristocratic ladies.

It was a strange smell.

"What did you apply to your body?" The Fourth Prince asked coldly.

"I... I don't have anything on." Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was flustered, but she still persisted and asked in surprise, as if she really didn't know anything.

"I asked you what you applied to your body?" The Fourth Prince repeated sternly. "Don't think that I don't know anything. The imperial doctor will come over in a while. I believe that he will know what you have on your body, right?"

"It... it's just ordinary perfume. It may be that the perfume from my place is... somewhat different from that in the capital!" Prefectural Princess Jia'nan stuttered.

However, after saying this, she became a little more courageous. The place she lived in was not in the capital. Even if the smell was a bit strange, it was hard for people to really find something.

"That snake... that snake... saw Prefectural Princess and ran away!" Wei Yuewu's voice was extremely aggrieved. Although she did not say much, the meaning in her words made Prefectural Princess Jia'nan pale again.

"Imperial doctor, did Jia'nan apply something to her body?" As he spoke, Prince Nan'an Mansion's imperial doctor was already jogging over behind a lad servant.

The Fourth Prince asked sternly.

The imperial doctor sniffed. His brows furrowed tightly, but he hesitated for a moment.

"What is it? Speak." Wen Ruoming glanced at the Fourth Prince's cold face and said sternly.

“This... this is the aroma of snake repellent.” The imperial doctor had no choice but to answer.

“The aroma of snake repellent?” The Fourth Prince asked in confusion.

“It’s just something that when snakes smell this aroma, they usually won’t come closer. It will make them feel danger.” The imperial doctor braced himself and explained. He had already spilled the beans, so of course, he had to continue to explain. Even if he would offend Princess Nan’an this way, it would be better than offending the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an and the Fourth Prince now.

Jia’nan’s expression stiffened. Her eyes were looking left and right. She didn’t dare to look at the Fourth Prince anymore. It was obvious that she was feeling guilty.

“Jia’nan, what do you have to say?” The Fourth Prince asked sternly.

“I... I really don’t know. I... I didn’t know that my clothes were sprinkled with this kind of perfume. Perhaps my maid got it wrong. She... got the wrong perfume for me!” Jia’nan stammered, and it was obvious that she was very guilty.

At this time, the imperial doctor had come over to treat Wei Yuewu!

In fact, Wei Yuewu’s injury was not serious. The pit was not very deep, and there was some grass at the bottom. The wound on her wrist looked horrifying, but it was not severe. At that time, although Prefectural Princess Jia’nan was provoked by Wei Yuewu so that she was angry and anxious, she did not dare to kill her. If she really broke Wei Yuewu’s wrist, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would never let her go.

Wei Yuewu took two medicine pills and had topical medicine applied to her wrist. Then, her wrist was bandaged. Although Wei Yuewu was still weak, she stood up with the support of Huamo albeit unsteadily.

“Heir-apparent, the Princess invites you to go over!” An old maidservant hurriedly ran over. When she saw the situation here, she rushed over and said to Wen Ruoming.

Princess Nan'an knew it...

Chapter 423 Pack Up Immediately and Go Back

Princess Nan'an knew about it! How could she not know that such a mess had happened? When she saw her niece come over with her head drooping, followed by Wei Yuewu who was obviously injured, the Fourth Prince who had a cold face, and her son who was also listless, she immediately made up her mind.

"Jia'nan, pack up immediately and go back to your parents!" Princess Nan'an said coldly.

"Aunt!" Prefectural Princess Jia'nan did not expect that Princess Nan'an did not intend to help her at all. Prefectural Princess Jia'nan cried out anxiously. She had come to the capital this time to celebrate the New Year. Her father had also vaguely expressed that he could materialize the marriage between her and the Fourth Prince.

Originally, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan believed that with her status and the Fourth Prince's affection toward her, it would only be a matter of time before their relationship happened. However, not only did she fail to accomplish anything here, but she also was ordered to go back in such a sorry state. How could she be willing?

"Hurry up and leave!" Princess Nan'an, who used to dote on her, had no intention of standing up for her today and ordered coldly.

Prefectural Princess Jia'nan still wanted to argue, but she was stared at by Princess Nan'an callously. She could only leave the room with tears in her eyes. However, when she walked past Wei Yuewu, she gritted her teeth and glared at Wei Yuewu before leaving with her maid.

"Madam Dowager, Jia'nan grew up in the capital and saved the Fourth Prince when she was a child. The relationship between her and Fourth Prince is good. In the palace, the Empress and Zhaoyi Tu liked her, but we didn't expect that she would actually be fooled to do such a thing! How could she, who has just arrived at Prince Nan'an Mansion, know such a strange spot? I hope you can forgive her, Madam Dowager!"

Princess Nan'an sighed as she turned to Madam Dowager and smiled bitterly.

These words were very meaningful, but they also showed that Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was actually made use of by others.

"They are all children who don't understand things. How can they play around with this kind of thing?" Madam Dowager coughed softly, looking as if what happened was not a big deal.

Wei Yuewu sat there with her head down. Under her long eyelashes, her eyes were calm. She did not seem to care about what Madam Dowager said, but in fact, her eyes were cold. She was not seriously injured, but if she had fallen for the trick, she would have been half-dead. That poisonous snake was real...

It seemed that Princess Nan'an was not the only one who knew about this matter. Even Madam Dowager understood it. Therefore, she wanted to suppress this matter together and cover up for Wei Fengyao. No matter what, Wei Fengyao was a legitimate daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, and now she was Prince Nan'an Mansion's Heiress-apparent. However, even if Wei Fengyao had the protection of Princess Nan'an and Madam Dowager, she could not get away...

Princess Nan'an had chased away her own niece. Of course, she would not fall into a disadvantageous position just like that. After all, the matter of Wei Fengyao was also a matter of the two families. It was something that would embarrass both families.

However, the matter of Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was Prince Nan'an Mansion's matter. Since Princess Nan'an had chased away her own niece, how could the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang be acquitted completely?

"Third Miss, you were the one who brought the Fourth Prince and Ruoming over. I wonder who told you that Jia'nan and the Sixth Young Lady were arguing?" Sure enough, in the next moment, Princess Nan'an's face turned cold. She heavily put down the teacup in her hand before looking at Wei Yuejiao and asking harshly.

An originally good plan had ended up like this. It was indeed because of Wei Fengyao, but if Wei Yuejiao had not invited the Fourth Prince over, the matter would not have blown up. Jia'nan would not have

been seen framing Wei Yuewu by the Fourth Prince. If she stayed any longer, it would only disgust the Fourth Prince.

Princess Nan'an's family had intended to marry Prefectural Princess Jia'nan to the Fourth Prince. But this was not a matter of one or two days. Now that the Fourth Prince saw this side of Prefectural Princess Jia'nan, Princess Nan'an was furious. Wei Fengyao was considered someone under her mansion, but what about this Third Miss Wei?

She should be under the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, right?

Ever since Wei Yuejiao noticed that Wei Yuewu had only suffered some superficial injuries, she had been filled with resentment. She secretly hated Wei Yuewu for being so lucky. Not only was Wei Yuewu fine, but she also even made people see that Prefectural Princess Jia'nan wanted to harm her.

Now when Wei Yuejiao followed everyone over, she could only droop her head weakly. She did not have much spirit in her.

In her heart, Wei Yuejiao secretly thought that it was such a pity that Wei Yuewu was able to escape even though it was such a meticulous plan from Eldest Sister. Everything happened in Prince Nan'an Mansion and Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was even involved!

After returning, she would definitely tell Concubine Dong to be more careful!

Speaking of which, Wei Fengyao was too stupid. How could she let Wei Yuewu escape like this! If it had been in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, and things had already come to this, it was impossible for Wei Yuejiao to let Wei Yuewu escape unscathed...

Just as Wei Yuejiao was thinking about it, she suddenly heard Princess Nan'an mentioning her. She subconsciously let out an "ah" sound and looked up to meet Princess Nan'an's cold eyes. Only then did she realize what was going on.

"I... I was here to see Eldest Sister."

“If you were going to find Fengyao, why did you bring her over here?” Princess Nan’an did not plan to let Wei Yuejiao off the hook today and continued to ask.

“It’s... It’s a maid who came to report that Sixth Younger Sister and Prefectural Princess Jia’nan were fighting. Eldest Sister asked me to invite the heir-apparent over to persuade them. Coincidentally, the Fourth Prince was also here!” This was what Wei Fengyao had taught Wei Yuejiao before. In fact, these words did sound reasonable.

Prefectural Princess Jia’nan was Wen Ruoming’s cousin sister. If she really fought with someone in the Prince Nan’an Mansion, it would be reasonable for Wen Ruoming to go and check it out.

But the problem was that at this time, Princess Nan’an was full of anger and had no place to vent it. Hearing Wei Yuejiao’s words, she sneered. “Third Miss, you are really good at talking. Even if Jia’nan had a dispute with Sixth Miss Wei, you as a young lady of the inner courtyard did not report the matter to me but instead went to the front yard to inform Ruoming. Anyone not in the know might think that you were closer to Ruoming than me.”

These words made Wei Yuejiao blush, but she could not say a word to refute.

A young lady of an aristocratic family being more familiar with a stranger man—the meaning of this was enough to make Wei Yuejiao ashamed.

“Princess, it should be that Yuejiao doesn’t know better. Now that Prefectural Princess Jia’nan was implicated to be punished, I really feel bad. Yuejiao, hurry up and give Princess a bow.”

Madam Dowager coughed and scolded in a low voice.

These words sounded like a reprimand, and it faintly indicated that Wei Yuejiao and Prefectural Princess Jia’nan were tied together on the same boat.

If it was not a good idea for Wei Yuejiao to call Wen Ruoming over, then what Prefectural Princess Jia’nan did was even worse. Her viciousness was really outrageous!

“Yes... Princess... It was me who didn’t think too much in a hurry. I caused Prefectural Princess Jia’nan to suffer. I... When I go back, I am willing to be grounded.” Wei Yuejiao lowered her head, gritted her teeth, and apologized in shame.

People had to lower themselves when they were under someone else’s eaves. Of course, there was a limit to how much Wei Yuejiao lowered herself. Therefore, she only said that she would be grounded but she did not mention for how long.

“Princess, calm down. Speaking of Yuejiao, sigh...” Madam Dowager stood up and spoke up for Wei Yuejiao. No matter what, she was the one who sent people to invite Wei Yuejiao here. Wei Yuewu had already met with an accident. If Wei Yuejiao got into trouble too, Madam Dowager would not be able to explain it to Wei Luowen when she returned to the mansion.

“Madam Dowager, forget it. She is just a child. Speaking of which, the Third Miss is Fifth Young Lady’s elder sister. And Fifth Young Lady is a well-behaved and lovable lady,” Princess said slowly.

“Hmm...” Madam Dowager hesitated for a moment. Her face was a little gloomy, but in the end, she gritted her teeth and glared at Wei Yuejiao in anger. “Princess, everything will be up to your orders!”

Wei Yuewu saw all of this. A trace of imperceptible depth flashed through her eyes. It seemed that Madam Dowager and Princess had been discussing something before and had not reached an agreement. Now, because of Wei Yuejiao’s interference, Madam Dowager had no choice but to give in. This concession made Madam Dowager very frustrated and aggrieved.

Or rather, this had harmed the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang’s interests.

To be able to harm Marquis Hua Yang’s interests, and to be related to what had happened today, could it be that Prince Nan’an Mansion had prepared to take another concubine at the same time that Wei Qiuju entered the mansion? What Madam Dowager cared about most was not Wei Qiuju’s happiness, but who would the next Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an be.

If there was another high-ranking concubine, it would be hard to say who would become the next heir-apparent in the future...

“Sixth Young Lady, how are your injuries?” Princess Nan’an was very satisfied with Madam Dowager’s concession. A faint smile appeared on her face, and she no longer talked about Wei Yuejiao.

“Thank you, Princess. I’m fine!” At this time, Wei Yuewu had already recovered. Her watery eyes were slightly raised, and her eyes were calm as she responded.

If not for the fact that her clothes were still a little messy and her face was too pale, it would have been hard to tell that she had almost died from a snakebite just now. For her to be able to recover so quickly, even Princess Nan’an could not help but look at her a few more times and secretly praised her in her heart.

How many people could compare with her in terms of bearing and temperament?

“Do you want us to invite a few more imperial doctors to treat you?” Princess Nan’an asked kindly.

“No need. The imperial doctor just now has already applied medicine for me. The injury on my hand is not serious. It’s just that Prefectural Princess Jia’nan pushed me slightly heavily.” Wei Yuewu quietly downplayed the matter.

Although everyone knew that Prefectural Princess Jia’nan was up to no good, since the matter had been suppressed, Wei Yuewu obediently brushed aside the matter.

Sure enough, after Wei Yuewu’s understated words, Princess Nan’an’s impression of Wei Yuewu became better and better. The smile on her face also became a bit more sincere. She was thinking to say a few more words of concern, and she would reward Wei Yuewu with some accessories later as compensation, which meant this matter was considered over.

After a period of time, Princess Nan’an would ask Jia’nan to come back to the capital. Since the Crown Prince was in the midst of choosing a consort, the Fourth Prince’s matter would have to be pushed behind after the Crown Prince had chosen a consort. At that time, the matter would be whitewashed. Moreover, she was the one who drove Jia’nan away, so it could be considered a heavy punishment. With a few soft words now, the Fourth Prince’s matter would be considered over.

Speaking of which, the matters she discussed with Madam Dowager were all handled according to what she intended. It was just that Jia'an alone was aggrieved. As for the rest, Prince Nan'an Mansion did not suffer any losses.

After thinking about this, Princess Nan'an took a liking to Wei Yewu more and more. With Jia'an's status, if she married the Fourth Prince, she would have the identity of Princess Consort. Although Wei Yewu's status was noble, it was still inferior to Jia'an. If the Fourth Prince liked her, he could marry her as well. One would be the princess and the other secondary concubine. It could be considered a good ending!

Suddenly, a young maid hurriedly ran in and arrived in front of Princess Nan'an. She knelt down and reported, "Princess, Marquis Hua Yang sent someone to pick up Sixth Miss Wei!"

Chapter 424 The Fourth Prince's Suspicions

Marquis Hua Yang asked to pick Sixth Miss Wei up at this time? Was it because they heard something?

Princess Nan'an looked at Madam Dowager in surprise. With such a formal visit, and it was Madam Dowager who brought them over, how could they not stay for a meal?

"Who did Marquis Hua Yang send over?" Madam Dowager also frowned.

"It's said that it's a lad servant by Marquis Hua Yang's side. Marquis Hua Yang has such an urgent matter that he wanted to see the Sixth Young Lady. He asked the Sixth Young Lady to go quickly, but the Third Young Lady doesn't have to go with her," the maid explained cleverly.

That was, he really had something for which he needed to see Wei Yewu.

"Yewu, since your father has sent someone to pick you up, you should go back first. It's important because the injuries on your body will need a lot of rest!" Madam Dowager said to Wei Yewu kindly.

The incident happened so suddenly. After that, she was called over by Princess Nan'an. The clothes on Wei Yuewu had not been changed yet. They were still the same clothes. Although Huamo had already tidied them up for her, they were still messy and a little dirty.

"Yes!" Wei Yuewu bowed to Princess Nan'an. "Princess, I will take my leave first!"

Because she just had a fall, her body had a lot of sore points, but the posture of her greeting was still very standard, which made Princess Nan'an have a good impression on her.

"Go ahead!" Princess Nan'an said with a smile.

Wei Yuewu walked out slowly with Huamo's help. When they reached the door, Huamo asked anxiously, "Miss, how are you feeling? Are you okay?"

Previously, it was the masters' conversation. She, as a maid, could not casually interrupt. She was the only witness who saw the whole incident. She also saw that although Miss was weak, she was clinging to Prefectural Princess Jia'nian as best as she could, causing Prefectural Princess Jia'nian to fall into the pit with her.

Thinking about it now, she was still frightened. If Prefectural Princess Jia'nian broke free from Miss at that time, the snake would have definitely attacked Miss, and then Miss would have...

"I'm fine!" Her legs were in pain, her body was sore, and her head was dizzy, especially her wrist where there was a dull pain, and if she was not careful, there would be a stinging pain. However, Wei Yuewu's head was extremely clear. She walked out slowly with Huamo's support. When she heard the sound of someone lifting the curtain behind her, her lips curved into a cold smile.

Seeing Wei Yuewu's pale and weak face, Huamo did not dare to hesitate. She helped Wei Yuewu carefully move forward, afraid that it would trigger the injuries on her body.

"Sixth Miss Wei, please wait!" They had just arrived outside the courtyard when they suddenly heard the Fourth Prince's voice.

Wei Yuewu stopped in her tracks and turned her head to look calmly at the Fourth Prince and Wen Ruoming who had hurriedly followed her out.

Just now, they were in Princess Nan'an's room. Although the two of them had distinguished identities, it was inappropriate for them to speak. After all, it was a matter between the women in the backyard. Moreover, what Princess Nan'an had done could be considered quite impartial. Without saying anything, she sent Prefectural Princess Jia'nan away.

Therefore, these two were full of doubts!

Sometimes, the methods of the women in the backyard were not to be understood by the men in the front yard who thought they were smart enough to rule the world.

However, when her watery eyes swept across the corner of the wall on one side, she froze a little. There was a deep look in her eyes. The pink dress that was exposed actually looked somewhat familiar...

She knew that this self-righteous Prefectural Princess Jia'nan would not submit and be driven away so easily!

"Your Highness, Your Heir-apparent!" When they came forward, Wei Yuewu bowed sideways slightly. Her movements were magnanimous and appropriate, but anyone could see the stiffness when she bowed.

The Fourth Prince raised his eyes and looked at the graceful young lady before him. Her small face was exquisite like a flower of spring, but also like an orchid in an empty valley. It was as if there were two different styles, but they were contradictory and unified on her body, forming an aura that was both strange and attractive. For a moment, it made people feel that there was nothing in their eyes except her beautiful little face.

However, at this moment, her little face was with paleness and fluster. A strand of black hair dangled from her forehead. Although it was tucked behind her ears, it could be seen that her hair was dry. It was obvious that it happened when she fell down with Prefectural Princess Jia'nan just now.

Her wrists were tightly covered up by her sleeve, not revealing a single bit of them. But even so, the Fourth Prince knew that her delicate hands were still swollen.

He saw the two bruise marks just now. Even he felt painful when he saw them!

“Sixth Young Lady, what exactly was going on?” The Fourth Prince withdrew his gaze and said with a serious expression.

“I don’t know either!” Wei Yuewu lowered her head slightly to avoid the Fourth Prince’s burning gaze and said indifferently.

“Why would Jia’nan treat you like this? You have never met her before, have you?” The Fourth Prince frowned and said sternly. This was what he had always wanted to ask, but Princess Nan’an was his elder after all. With the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang’s Madam Dowager around, it was really inconvenient for him to ask about some things.

Speaking of which, the Fourth Prince’s feelings for Prefectural Princess Jia’nan were the fruit of them growing up together since their childhood. They were different from others. Although he had pushed her aside angrily just now, he still felt pity for her when he saw her being driven away.

Now, she was chased away not long after she entered the capital. It was really a shameful thing.

“I don’t know either. Perhaps... someone told her something!” Wei Yuewu smiled bitterly and shook her head. She turned her head to look at Wen Ruoming. He looked like he wanted to say something, but in the end, he did not say anything.

When Wen Ruoming saw Wei Yuewu staring at him, he frowned too. He thought for a while and a trace of anger rose on his face. There were some things that he really did not know without being enlightened. After Jia’nan came to the mansion, she was very close to Wei Fengyao, and Wei Fengyao was obviously not on good terms with her Sixth Younger Sister.

“And what happened to your Third Elder Sister?” Unable to find anything to ask, the Fourth Prince changed the topic.

“Third Elder Sister? What happened to Third Elder Sister?” Wei Yuewu asked in surprise.

“Why did your Third Elder Sister happen to find me and Ruoming at this time?” The Fourth Prince asked coldly. Now that he said this, he suddenly felt that Wei Yuewu was actually also suspicious. Could it be that Wei Yuewu was deliberately playing such a pitiful trick?

“What does Your Highness mean? Could it be that you think that I plotted against Prefectural Princess Jia’nan so you came to seek justice for her?” Seeing the cold expression on the Fourth Prince’s face, Wei Yuewu also pulled a long face. “I was in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. How would I know who Prefectural Princess Jia’nan was? And how would I know about that empty courtyard? Also, how did I make someone smear the scent of a snake repellent on Prefectural Princess Jia’nan?”

Wei Yuewu’s voice was very cold. Her appearance was also very weak, but her words were very straightforward and calm.

Her bright and beautiful eyes stared at the Fourth Prince, not avoiding him.

However, the corners of her eyes were filled with obvious anger. Anyone could see that she was really angry.

Well, it was reasonable for her to react like this because she was framed, but people actually suspected that she was the one who deliberately set up a trap to harm others. No matter who it was, it was impossible to take the blame without feeling annoyed.

Wei Yuewu’s anger at this time was extremely reasonable.

“I...” The Fourth Prince choked.

“Fourth Prince, did you think that it was such a coincidence that Third Elder Sister brought you and His Heir-apparent at such a time that you saw Prefectural Princess Jia’nan harming me, so I was the biggest beneficiary? But I wonder what exactly I benefited from such a trick. I have no enmity with Prefectural Princess Jia’nan, so why would I risk my life to harm her? Third Elder Sister indeed came at the right time. If I hadn’t grabbed Prefectural Princess Jia’nan tightly and fallen into the pit with her, I would have died after being bitten by the snake!”

Because Wei Yuewu was angry, she was not as polite as she usually was, and her words were a bit aggressive.

After she finished speaking, she did not even look at the Fourth Prince's somewhat stiff face. After bowing sideways to him, she actually held Huamo's hand, and just like that, she left under the Fourth Prince's slightly awkward gaze.

"Sixth Miss Wei... Sixth..." Seeing the beauty leave, the Fourth Prince wanted to call out to her, but he felt that his tongue was tied, and he was very speechless.

He regretted doing what he had done to her. How could he have thought that Wei Yuewu deliberately framed Jia'nan? Everything she said just now was reasonable. No matter how he looked at it, it was impossible that she was the one who harmed Jia'nan.

"Your Highness, don't ask anymore. It was the work of that evil person in the backyard!" Wen Ruoming stretched out his hand to stop him and said with a gloomy face.

He had been reminded by Wei Yuewu just now. When he thought about the situation in his family, how could he not understand? Now, he also recalled the situation when he welcomed the guests who had just arrived at the mansion in the morning. Wei Fengyao ignored the etiquette and directly called Wei Yuejiao over.

This Third Miss Wei was clearly incited by Wei Fengyao to do this. However, it seemed that this Third Miss Wei was not a good person either. Otherwise, she would not have helped Wei Fengyao to do such a thing.

"You mean it was done by the Heiress-apparent?" The Fourth Prince asked with a frown.

"Jia'nan and Your Highness have always been close. Jia'nan must have been egged on by her and then attacked Sixth Miss Wei. As for Third Miss Wei, I don't think she is a good person. She must have planned to harm Sixth Miss Wei with that evil woman. I heard that the concubine of Marquis Hua Yang is the birth mother of Third Miss Wei, and she is not as good a person as the rumors say!"

Wen Ruoming snorted coldly. The more he thought about it, the angrier he became. Today was supposed to be a good day for him, but now it ended up in such a mess. Jia'nan was his cousin sister, and they had grown up together. Now, she had no choice but to be driven away by Mother Consort.

"If that heiress-apparent of yours is not still recovering from injuries, I will definitely report her to Mother Empress to punish her well!" At this time, the Fourth Prince also understood the cause and effect of the matter, and he said angrily, "She talked so much nonsense in front of Jia'nan, causing Jia'nan to be driven away, Sixth Miss Wei to be injured, and Third Miss Wei to meddle in this. All the things that happened were caused by your heiress-apparent!"

"I..." Wen Ruoming couldn't say anything as he was being chided. He hated Wei Fengyao more and more. It was originally a good day, but now it had become like this. It was clear they wanted to make him unhappy.

"I'm going to divorce her!"

"Go ahead and try!" The Fourth Prince understood the meaning of Wei Fengyao's existence. He sneered, flicked his sleeves, and directly headed to the outer courtyard. Wen Ruoming stomped his feet in anger and chased after him.

Prefectural Princess Jia'nan walked out from the corner the moment they had just left. The reason why she stayed here was that she was angry with Princess Nan'an's decision. She decided to stay and ask Wei Yuewu why she pinched her and why she pulled her down together.

However, she did not expect to hear such words. She looked coldly in the direction where Wei Yuewu had disappeared before turning to Wei Fengyao in the backyard. She gritted her teeth and said, "Let's go!"

Chapter 425 It's Confusing. Bring Us Half a Year's Account Books

The carriage had already long been waiting at the entrance of the mansion. Huamo helped Wei Yuewu into the carriage and took a cushion so that Wei Yuewu could lean on it.

The lad servant sent by Wei Luowen sat with Old Li on the shafts of the carriage.

The carriage moved slowly and steadily. When they got on the carriage just now, Old Li saw that Wei Yewu was not in a good condition, so he deliberately drove slowly.

“Miss, are you really okay?” Inside the carriage, although Huamo had placed a few soft cushions beside Wei Yewu, she was still worried.

“I’m fine!” Wei Yewu shook her head and closed her eyes to rest. “Ask the carriage to pass through the road we came from!”

Jin Ling should be waiting over there at this time!

“Yes, Miss. When I got in the carriage just now, I had already instructed Old Li. He will pass through there later. Miss, you should rest first. When Sister Jin Ling comes up, I will call you!”

Huamo was worried about Wei Yewu and advised softly.

Wei Yewu nodded and closed her eyes. She really did not have much strength at this time. Things would not be calm when she returned to the mansion. It was good for her to have a good rest in the carriage first.

There were cargo boats that arrived at the dock in the morning. Some were just passing by, and some stopped to unload, but they were at different positions.

Although it was early winter, the dock was lively.

There were two cargo boats parked at the unloading dock, waiting to unload the goods.

After unloading these two cargo boats, Old Liu could go back and rest for a while. He was very satisfied. It was almost the New Year. After unloading, he could go home. After finishing this task, Master would definitely reward him with a lot of money. Then, he could have a prosperous New Year, which was a really good thing.

Two people hurried over from the shore. They scanned all the boats, and when they saw the familiar face on one boat, they walked over with a smile.

“Old Liu, how is it? Have you brought all the goods?”

Old Liu, who had just received the goods, replied with a smile, “They are all here. The goods this time are very complete. Some of the goods that I didn’t have in the past have all been brought in. This New Year, we can earn a lot from these.”

“That’s for sure! The boss will definitely reward you well!” One of them punched Old Liu hard on the shoulder, causing him to stagger, but he still had a smile on his face. It could be seen that he was truly happy.

“Why did only the two of you come? Why didn’t the two Shopkeepers come?” After Old Liu steadied himself, he looked behind them and asked curiously.

These two boats had a lot of goods. In the past, the two Shopkeepers would come on their own to pick up the goods. But now, the Second Shopkeepers had come. Old Liu did not understand.

“The Shopkeepers went into the mansion to hand over the accounts. Don’t ask anymore. After this, our two shops will be renamed. You just need to take care of the stock in the future. The boss knows what is going on!” One of the Second Shopkeepers instructed in a low voice.

“What... what about the other three shops?” Old Liu hesitated for a moment. Although he had already guessed it, he still could not help but ask. Previously, he had been responsible for buying goods for all the five shops.

“The boss of those shops isn’t our Master. Of course, the situation is different. However, the situation over there is not as good as on our side. They have been directly merged, and many old shop assistants have been driven away. They are using new staff now. It is different from our side—we only changed places. Speaking of which, our side is still in a better situation!” Another Second Shopkeeper sighed.

The two of them were not young. They came here when Marquise Hua Yang married over back then. However, after so many years, they had already changed Masters. How could they still remember the scene back then where they had expressed their loyalty to their Madam?

“Alright then. Unload, unload!” Old Liu did not dare to ask about these things. He knew that these were all secrets of the mansion, so it was better for him not to know so much.

The two Second Shopkeepers also felt that it was better not to gossip about their own Master. They waved their hands and a few strong shop assistants came over. These people were all brought over from their shops. With a command, they started unloading the goods in good spirits.

The two Second Shopkeepers and Old Liu just looked and pointed out what was wrong when they encountered an issue. The shop assistants’ movements were quite fast. In just a short while, they had already unloaded half of the goods.

The two Second Shopkeepers were very happy. Originally, one boat of goods would need to be split into five shops, and the goods were actually lacking for each shop when they got them. But now, there were only two shops sharing the same goods. This year’s New Year’s goods could be considered sufficient. With such a large supply of goods, Master would definitely reward them well. When they thought of this, their faces bloomed into a smile.

Just as they were standing there and chatting, they suddenly saw a group of people coming over from the dock. The one leading them was the familiar Shopkeeper Liu. They could not help but be stunned for a moment. Didn’t they say that the shop had been taken away by Madam Dowager, and that all the people had been driven away? Why did he come at this time?

“Eldest Brother, why are you here?” Old Liu also saw Shopkeeper Liu and was stunned for a moment. However, he immediately greeted him. The two of them had both come with Marquise Hua Yang as a part of her dowry. They could be considered brothers of the same sect.

“Come and move the goods!” Shopkeeper Liu rolled his eyes and waved his hand behind him. “Unload the goods!”

The person behind him was also a young shop assistant. Hearing his words, he came over with others and jumped onto the boat to move the goods.

The two Second Shopkeepers were unhappy. These goods had been said to belong to the two of their shops. What did Shopkeeper Liu appear here for? Now one shop had been split into the possessions of two Masters. Everyone knew very well that these were the goods of their Master, Concubine Dong. How could they let Madam Dowager's subordinates take these away?

Moreover, didn't Madam Dowager say that she was going to pay the bill for these three shops?

"Shopkeeper Liu, do you know the rules? These goods belong to our two shops." The two Second Shopkeepers looked at each other, walked over, and stopped in front of Shopkeeper Liu.

"These goods belong to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. When did they belong to your two shops?" Shopkeeper Qi bluntly reprimanded. He was the Shopkeeper. Compared to two Second Shopkeepers from the two other shops, whether it was in terms of qualification or reputation, he was at least two levels higher. Therefore, he was fearless when facing the Second Shopkeepers who were questioning him.

"Wasn't it said that it belongs to our two shops now? Shopkeeper Qi, you can't be so ill-informed, can you?" Of course, the two Second Shopkeepers didn't buy into what Shopkeeper Qi said and wouldn't give in.

"Who said that the goods belong to your two shops? Since Madam was around, this rule has been left behind. The shop that has more profits gets to take more. Our shop has a good profit now, so we have to take more. I heard that your two shops aren't doing well and the ownership will be transferred. It's better not to take these goods! All these are Old Master's goods!"

Shopkeeper Liu sneered, and then said to several shop assistants over there, "Come on, move. When we go back later, let's have a good meal!"

"Yes!" Several young shop assistants immediately laughed and nodded. They exercised their shoulders and began to move the goods. Although the shop assistants brought by the two Second Shopkeepers were also young and strong, they were a level lower. One or two shop assistants wanted to go over and carry the goods, but they were pushed by others and fell to the ground.

Seeing that their own shops could not get the goods, and even their own people were pushed aside, the two Second Shopkeepers were angry.

“Shopkeeper Liu, what do you mean?”

“Nothing, I just follow the old boss’ rules!” Shopkeeper Liu said calmly.

“Old boss? I...” The two Second Shopkeepers were speechless for a moment. There were some words that could not be said in front of so many people.

“What’s wrong? Whoever with a better profit takes more. The rules that have been established for so many years can’t be suddenly changed!” Shopkeeper Liu had an aggressive look on his face.

When they quarreled, many people had already surrounded them. It seemed that there was going to be trouble.

It was at this time that Jin Ling quietly sneaked into the crowd.

Seeing the crowd getting bigger and bigger, the two Second Shopkeepers did not dare to tell the truth. However, if they did not tell the truth, the goods would be moved away by Shopkeeper Liu’s people. The Second Shopkeepers were extremely anxious.

Suddenly, a light flashed in one of the Second Shopkeepers’ eyes and he said anxiously, “Your shop’s profit is not as good as our shops. Your shop is almost losing money. What profit is there to talk about? According to the rules, these two boats of goods should be divided by our two shops. You don’t have a share.”

“I don’t have a share? My shop has always been gaining profit!” Shopkeeper Liu seemed to be stunned for a moment, but he immediately straightened his neck and said. However, it was obvious that his voice was not as loud as before.

“Our shops are the ones that have always been gaining profit!” When the two Second Shopkeepers saw that Shopkeeper Liu’s momentum was low, they were overjoyed and hurriedly attacked him.

“Your shops? How is that possible?” Shopkeeper Liu raised his head, his face filled with disbelief.

“How is that impossible? Just you wait!” In order to increase the credibility of the matter, the two Shopkeepers looked at each other and made a decision.

To be honest, although Shopkeeper Liu’s shop did gain profit, it was obviously not as good as these two shops. Otherwise, Concubine Dong, who was familiar with the inside story, would not choose these two shops.

“I’ll wait. I’m really not afraid to wait. I will also ask my people to get the account book and show everyone. Let’s see whether your shops earn more profit or my shop earns more. Why? Why is it you can have the goods, but I can’t? You two are just Second Shopkeepers, right? Ask your Shopkeeper who can make the decision to speak to me!”

Shopkeeper Liu’s words became more and more arrogant, and he glanced at the two Second Shopkeepers with a bit of ridicule in his words. It was obvious that he did not take them seriously, as if he believed that they were not the decision-makers.

The two Second Shopkeepers were about to explode with anger, but in terms of qualifications, they really could not suppress Shopkeeper Liu. Judging from Shopkeeper Liu’s looks, if there was no proof today, he would definitely rob over the goods.

“Go, bring the account book for last month.” The two Second Shopkeepers instructed their shop assistants almost at the same time.

“Shopkeeper Liu, since you are so full of yourself, do you dare to take out your account book for last month and show it to me?”

“Why not? But just one month is not enough. Maybe you earned a lot last month.” Shopkeeper Liu had a guilty look on his face.

“Bring us half a year’s account books!” The two Second Shopkeepers gritted their teeth at the same time. Their respective shop assistants from the two shops responded and ran back.

On Shopkeeper Liu's side, he also took his time and sent his shop assistant to get half a year's account books...

Chapter 426 Who Won?

The account books were soon brought over. Each shop had six books, and they were placed on the dock.

"Everyone, take a look. The account books here clearly state whether our two shops gain profit or his shop gains profit. Let's see who exactly these goods should be given to!"

One of the Second Shopkeepers picked up an account book in his hand, flipped through it, and shouted to the people around him.

At this time, he found that after Shopkeeper Liu looked at his own account book, his momentum was much smaller, and he even had a faint look of wanting to retreat, but how could he be allowed to escape unscathed at this time?

Thinking of Shopkeeper Liu's arrogant appearance just now, this Second Shopkeeper gritted his teeth in anger.

Since that was the case, then Shopkeeper Liu shouldn't blame him for being on the offensive.

Some passers-by who were nosy really went over and flipped through the account books and then made a pertinent statement that those two shops did earn more money. Although Shopkeeper Liu's shop also made money, it was obviously not as much as those two shops.

"Their shops are big, and they are on a bustling street." Shopkeeper Liu obviously still wanted to argue, but at this time, everyone could see that he was trying hard to make up an excuse.

"Heh, is this related to the rules? As long as the shop has more profit, right? Our two shops have been earning profit for the past half year, and you have been suffering losses a lot recently!" One of the Second Shopkeepers sneered as he picked up an account book and waved it.

In the crowd, Jin Ling's hand moved slightly.

Of course, this Second Shopkeeper's purpose was to express the momentum of his side, but he didn't know why his wrist suddenly felt sore. The account book in his hand loosened, and it slapped straight on Shopkeeper Liu's face.

It looked like he deliberately threw the account book on Shopkeeper Liu's face.

With that, Shopkeeper Liu got really annoyed and said angrily, "If you have something to say, just say it. If there's nothing, why did you hit me? If you want to go this way, then I won't be polite too!"

He waved his hand, and the few shop assistants that he had brought with him rushed up and punched the two Second Shopkeepers. The two Second Shopkeepers didn't expect that Shopkeeper Liu's people would really dare to attack them. They were not on guard and were hit a few times in the face. Immediately, they became furious.

"Hit... hit back!"

"Hit them hard. If anything happens, I'll take the blame!" The two of them shouted together.

Therefore, the shop assistants on the Second Shopkeepers' side also came into the fight immediately. The dock was in chaos. Jin Ling saw that Yan Feng and Yan Yang were among the shop assistants brought by Shopkeeper Liu, so she slowly retreated. With Yan Feng and Yan Yang here, at least Shopkeeper Liu would not be beaten.

Her eyes turned to the frenzied crowd, and a small stone in her hand was sent toward the crowd.

It was like the same small stone that hit the Second Shopkeeper's wrist just now. If not for that small stone, the account book in the Second Shopkeeper's hand would not have hit Shopkeeper Liu's face.

“They’re fighting! They’re fighting!” The on-lookers at the dock slowly retreated. No one wanted to be punched amidst the chaos. However, for some inexplicable reason, one of the on-lookers actually felt being punched in the face by someone beside him.

A sharp pain came, and he was angry. He punched back, asking, “Why did you hit me?”

“I didn’t hit...” Before that person could say anything, he received a punch in his face and became angry too. He immediately started fighting the person around him.

At first, it was originally the shop assistants of the few shops who were fighting. Later on, more and more people were fighting. There were also shop assistants who accidentally bumped into others, knocked them over, and casually gave a few punches to the people around...

The entire scene was in chaos, and it was no longer a small fight in the beginning.

Someone had already brought the matter to Mayor of the capital city, who was maintaining the security of the capital. The Mayor of the capital city sent some people over, and without a word, all the people who were involved in the fight were arrested and brought over.

Together with the two shops’ Second Shopkeepers, Old Liu, and Shopkeeper Liu, as well as the several account books that were used as evidence.

The two Second Shopkeepers were quite shrewd. Seeing that the situation was not good, they hurriedly ordered a shop assistant on each of their side to quickly run back and report to the two Shopkeepers who had gone to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

The two shop assistants were extremely smart people. Taking advantage of the fact that others were not paying attention to them, they sneaked into the crowd and escaped.

After a few turns, they found that no one was chasing them. The two of them stopped in a small alley, gasping for breath and squatting down.

“What should we do?” One of the shop assistants asked the other.

“What else can we do? Let’s go find the Shopkeepers.” The other shop assistant rolled his eyes. No one knew that things would end up like this.

“Can we go in to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang?” The first shop assistant was a little timid. Even if he had been there before, it was the Shopkeeper who brought him along.

“We have to go even if we can’t! Let’s go!” The second shop assistant had already calmed down a little and knew that he could not delay the task any longer.

Thus, the two of them went to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang together.

The entrance of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang was dignified and awe-inspiring. Marquis Hua Yang was a general and therefore his mansion looked more intimidating in the eyes of common people than the mansions of ordinary officials. The two shop assistants trembled as they stepped forward. They cupped their hands at the doorkeepers guarding the entrance and kept bowing.

“Can you help us get the two Shopkeepers of our shops? There is an urgent matter!” The two shop assistants bowed again and again as they said.

The doorkeepers of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang were indifferent to the two shop assistants. One of them looked at the two shop assistants and rolled his eyes. “Why are you in such a hurry? It’s not like they won’t come out again. It has been a while since they entered. I think they will be coming out soon. It’s not worthwhile for us to make the trip!”

The meaning was that he was unwilling to make a trip.

A shop assistant took out a piece of silver from his pocket and handed it over. Then, he said with a smile, “We...We will have to trouble you, brother. We really have something urgent!”

The doorkeeper weighed the silver in his hand and then stood up reluctantly. “Wait here. Don’t run around. If you run into some master of the mansion, you won’t even know how you die!”

“Yes... yes, we won’t run around!” The two shop assistants nodded hurriedly. x

Therefore, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang’s doorkeeper went inside to look for a lad servant to get the two Shopkeepers. After all, the two Shopkeepers were in the inner courtyard.

At this time, Jin Ling had quietly guarded the place where Wei Yuewu’s carriage had dropped her previously.

Not long after, she saw Wei Yuewu’s carriage coming over. When Old Li stopped, she got on the carriage and the carriage continued to drive towards the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

Although the lad servant beside Old Li was surprised, he did not say anything. It should be that Sixth Young Lady had sent her maid to buy something. Now that she saw Sixth Young Lady’s carriage coming over, she was going back to the mansion together with them.

The lad servant felt that these things were trivial. However, Sixth Young Lady’s situation didn’t seem to be good. When she came out just now, she even staggered as she walked. Later, he must go back to the mansion to report this to Lord Marquis.

“Miss, the account books have been sent to the office of the Mayor of the capital city!” As soon as Jin Ling got into the carriage, she reported to Wei Yuewu with a smile.

But then she noticed that Wei Yuewu’s expression was not right. She looked Wei Yuewu up and down and said anxiously, “Miss, what happened to you?”

“Miss was harmed by Prefectural Princess Jia’nan. She almost died!” Huamo answered in a bad mood. She thought about how Prefectural Princess Jia’nan was chased back home in the end and felt that it was really not enough to vent her anger.

Her Miss almost lost her life!

“Prefectural Princess Jia’nan?” Jin Ling had never heard of Prefectural Princess Jia’nan.

“She is the cousin of Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an. She seemed to have been incited by Eldest Young Lady and wanted to harm our Miss. Third Miss was also there to stir up trouble. All of them were very vicious and wanted to take Miss’ life!” When Huamo thought of the scene at that time, she still felt scared.

“I’m fine now!” Wei Yuewu slightly opened her eyes. She had not fallen asleep just now. She had only rested for a while. Now she felt much better. She smiled gently.

“Half a year’s account books have all been sent to the office of the Mayor of the capital city?”

“Yes, Miss. Half a year’s account books for three shops!” Jin Ling hurriedly replied when she heard Wei Yuewu’s question.

She took a look at Wei Yuewu’s condition. Although her face was a little pale, her expression was still alright. Only then did she heave a sigh of relief.

With these half a year’s account books, even if Concubine Dong was a perfect liar, she couldn’t say that those two shops were suffering losses!

So now, of course, she had to go find her father...

The carriage smoothly entered the mansion through the side door and stopped in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang’s parking lot. However, before the carriage entered the gate, Jin Ling got off first and brought the two shop assistants in front of Wei Yuewu.

Wei Luowen’s lad servant excused himself at Wei Yuewu and quickly went inside to report. Sixth Young Lady’s situation looked really bad, especially when the maid got out of the carriage just now, which allowed him a glimpse to find that Sixth Young Lady’s wrist was completely blue with bruise. What had happened to her in Prince Nan’an Mansion?

Lord Marquis doted on Sixth Young Lady the most. He had to tell Lord Marquis about this matter immediately!

“What are... you guys here for?” Wei Yuewu did not get off the carriage. Instead, she leaned against the carriage and asked indifferently.

The two shop assistants were inexplicably brought over. They heard from the other people that the one inside was Sixth Young Lady. They did not know who this Sixth Young Lady was. However, no matter what, she was still the Miss of this mansion. They did not dare to be ignorant and hurriedly reported, “Sixth Young Lady, we are shop assistants from the shops.”

“What are you shop assistants doing in the mansion?” Inside the carriage, Wei Yuewu was somewhat displeased.

“We are here to find our Shopkeepers.” How could the shop assistants dare to hide the truth?

“For your Shopkeepers? Did something happen in your shops? Why are you here in such a panic?” Wei Yuewu reprimanded.

The shop assistants did not dare to displease Sixth Young Lady. They hurriedly said, “Our Second Shopkeepers were in a fight and have been taken to the office of the Mayor of the capital city. We want to ask our Shopkeepers to think of a way to save them!”

“Why are you fighting with people when you should be guarding the shops? Did you do something against the laws?” Wei Yuewu said lightly.

“No... no!” The shop assistants hurriedly waved their hands. “It’s just that shop assistants of the few shops started fighting, and our Shopkeepers are not around, so we are at a disadvantage. At this time, at the office of the Mayor of the capital city, no one can speak up. If something like this happens, we will need the Shopkeepers to be there!”

“The shops are all under our mansion?” Wei Yuewu asked in a cold voice.

“Something happened to the shops? What exactly happened?” At the corner, Wei Luowen, who had hurried over, also heard the shop assistant’s words. He quickly approached and asked in a deep voice.

He had heard the lad servant's report and then rushed over from his study! Unexpectedly, before he arrived, he heard that people of several shops under his own mansion were fighting. He was really angry!

Chapter 427 Another Set of Account Books Appeared

"Lord Marquis, it's... it's..." The two shop assistants didn't expect that Wei Luowen would come out to the parking lot at this time. They hurriedly knelt and saluted.

"Where are your Shopkeepers?" Wei Luowen asked coldly.

"They are reporting the accounts in the mansion!" One of the shop assistants quickly said.

"Send someone to call them over!" Wei Luowen instructed a lad servant in a low voice.

"Father!" At this time, Wei Yuewu had already held Huamo's hand and walked down the carriage. She said softly, "It's about Mother's shops. Can you call the Shopkeepers over? I want to ask them about it."

"Call the two Shopkeepers to the study. I have something to ask them!" Wei Luowen pondered for a moment and agreed. He had originally planned to give Rui'er's dowry to Yuewu. Since Yuewu was interested, then he would let her ask. In the future, these were all her own dowry. She had to deal with them anyway.

If there was anything she didn't understand, he could help deal with it on the side.

The lad servant answered and ran out.

"Yuewu, go change your clothes first, and then come to my study!" Wei Luowen looked up and down at Wei Yuewu's sorry state. He frowned tightly. He had heard that something had happened to Wei Yuewu and that she could not even get out of the carriage. That was why he had been in a hurry to come and see her. But now, she was not in a state to talk. That was why Wei Luowen sent Wei Yuewu away.

Wei Yuewu nodded. She knew that she could not see anyone in this state, so she returned to Lotus Courtyard and changed her clothes. Then, she went with Huamo to Wei Luowen's study.

In Wei Luowen's study, although the two Shopkeepers were sitting, they were both trembling with fear. It was the first time that they had come to Lord Marquis' study. Moreover, since they entered, Lord Marquis had not said a word. He continued to read through the documents by his writing desk. He actually ignored them, which made the two of them feel really uncertain.

It had been a while since they sat down, but Lord Marquis did not care about them. They were sitting on pins and needles. The two of them had been busy with the stamp and signature issues for the account books at Concubine Dong's place. The matter had not been settled yet, but Wei Luowen called them over. Even the account books had been brought over. Their hearts were in a mess, and they could not stop worrying.

"Father!" Wei Yuewu walked in with Huamo and bowed to Wei Luowen.

Only then did Wei Luowen raise his head and look at his daughter's face. He pointed to a chair and said, "Take a seat!"

"Yes, Father!" Wei Yuewu knew that Wei Luowen wanted to ask about what happened at Prince Nan'an Mansion, so she obediently sat down on the chair next to her.

"How did you end up like this?" Wei Luowen frowned.

"Eldest Sister asked Prefectural Princess Jia'nan to bring me there, and something happened, so Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was driven away by Princess Nan'an!" Because the Shopkeepers were around, Wei Yuewu only explained it vaguely.

But Wei Luowen understood. There was a trace of anger in the corner of his eyes, but this was obviously not the time to ask in detail. He nodded slightly to show that he understood.

He lowered his head and continued to deal with the documents on his desk, leaving the two Shopkeepers to Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu turned to the two Shopkeepers. “Shopkeepers, did you come to the mansion today to see Concubine Dong?”

The two Shopkeepers were both quick-witted people. After listening to the conversation between Wei Yuewu and Wei Luowen, they looked at each other and immediately understood that the seemingly weak Miss in front of them was the Sixth Young Lady born by their deceased Master.

But now, their new Master was Concubine Dong.

“Yes, we came to pass the accounts to Concubine Dong,” one of the Shopkeepers who was sharper quickly answered with a smile.

“The shops you two are in charge of are my mother’s dowry?” Wei Yuewu asked casually.

“Yes, but they’re gone now!” A Shopkeeper hurriedly said. This was what Concubine Dong had told them to say so that their statements were unified.

“Gone?” Wei Yuewu asked softly.

“That’s right. Sixth Young Lady, you might not know this, but our business has been getting worse and worse ever since Madam passed. Although Concubine Dong has asked people to take care of our two shops from time to time, but... there is really no way to reverse the situation. We have been losing more and more. Now we can’t even afford to open the shops anymore. They are going to be closed down eventually!”

The other Shopkeeper quickly took the cue and answered. His face was full of worry. He sighed and stamped his feet lightly. He looked like he really had no other way.

The two of them were hurriedly called over. Although they saw the shop assistants of their respective stores, they did not talk to them at all. Therefore, the Shopkeepers did not know that their account books had been sent to the government by the Second Shopkeepers. By now, the books should be placed on the Mayor of the capital city’s desk.

“You’ve suffered so many losses that you can’t even keep the shops?” Wei Yuewu looked surprised, as if she really didn’t know anything.

“Yes, Sixth Young Lady, if not for the fact that the loss we suffered was so severe, why would we not keep the two shops? The mansion had subsidized too much, so much so that both of us feel sorry for Concubine Dong. For so many years, Concubine Dong has been taking care of us. Otherwise, we would have closed the shops even sooner. However, there should be a limit to the subsidy. We feel guilty to Madam and Concubine Dong. So, after settling the accounts, we feel that it is best to close the shops.”

“Sixth Young Lady, we entered the mansion today to handle these formalities. The two shops have suffered great losses. It is not good to keep them. There is no benefit to the mansion keeping them, instead, it will drag down the other shops.”

The two Shopkeepers got a word in cleverly one after another, and they fended Wei Yuewu off.

Facing a young lady of an aristocratic family who had never stepped out of her room and was said to have come from a small place like the countryside, the two Shopkeepers felt that it was no big deal. Having been in the business field for so many years, how could they not be able to deceive such a young and tender Miss?

Therefore, they spoke more and more articulately.

“The shops have not been earning profit after Mother passed?” Wei Yuewu frowned slightly.

“Yes. At first, it was bearable, but then things became worse and worse. Recently, the losses have become huge!” One of the Shopkeepers sighed.

The other Shopkeeper immediately followed suit and said, “Exactly. This has been going on for a long time. We can’t even afford the salaries for the shop assistants. Many of them are going to make a scene because of this!”

The two of them played along with each other and described the two shops with earnings as a losing business. They also repeatedly listed what they had done for the shops.

Wei Luowen put down the document in his hand and looked at his daughter's frail face. He sighed. For a moment, he did not know what to say. He regretted it in his heart. If he had known that these two shops had such bad luck, he would have sent someone competent to manage them. After all, Concubine Dong started out as a maid and did not do things well. She probably would not understand business.

Otherwise, the two good shops would not have ended up like this.

"Have we suffered any loss recently?" Wei Yuewu lowered her eyes slightly. Her long eyelashes blinked twice to hide the coldness in her eyes. The two Shopkeepers spoke so fluently that it was needless to say that they had colluded with Concubine Dong.

Originally, she wanted to find an opportunity for the news to spread to her ears. Now, wasn't it just right for her to hear about it? Of course, the way they said it was almost flawless. If she had not prepared for this, she would have been fooled by them.

It was a joke that Concubine Dong, who had been plotting to steal Mother's dowry, was described as a kind-hearted Bodhisattva!

"Did you bring the account books today?" Wei Yuewu asked indifferently.

"Yes, yes. It's our original intention to talk to Concubine Dong about the closing of the shops and to handle some procedures. These accounts are necessary!" The two Shopkeepers picked up the two piles of account books in front of them and respectfully placed them before Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu picked up an account book and flipped through it.

"Sixth Young Lady, have a look for yourself. These are our accounts for the last three months. We have been suffering losses all this while. Moreover, the losses are so great that we really can't hold on any longer. This is why we decided to ask Concubine Dong to close the shops. There is no point in continuing to keep them open. They will only be a burden to the mansion."

One of the Shopkeepers looked at Wei Yuewu's face and said with a smile.

The two of them were not worried that Wei Yuewu would find out something fishy. As a weak lady confined to a boudoir, no matter how smart she was, she would not understand the ins and outs of the commercial world. It couldn't be that they would fail to fool this young and tender young lady of an aristocratic family, could it?

"Yes, just now, Concubine Dong said that she was unwilling to, but later on, she could not stand our begging and agreed to close the shops!" The other Shopkeeper also sighed and quietly said some nice words about Concubine Dong.

Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart. They were really servants who betrayed their Masters. They had completely defected to Concubine Dong so quickly. They had long forgotten the kindness that Mother had done for them years ago.

Wei Yuewu had already inquired about it clearly. These Shopkeepers had previously been a part of Mother's dowry. Their slave contracts were in Mother's hands. Later, Mother felt that they had done a good job, so she returned their slave contracts together with those of their families to them. However, she did not expect that they would be so ungrateful in return.

They actually colluded with Concubine Dong to steal Mother's dowry.

"Are these accounts genuine?" Wei Yuewu asked coldly without raising her head.

This question made Wei Luowen turn to the two Shopkeepers with a gloomy face, and he looked up and down at their expressions.

"Of course it is true, Sixth Young Lady. I, as a subordinate, swear to the heavens that if it is not true, there will be retribution for us!" The two Shopkeepers felt their hairs stand on end while being looked at by Wei Luowen, and they hurriedly swore on their lives.

Lord Marquis was not the Sixth Young Lady who had not experienced the society. If they answered too slowly, it would be troublesome if Lord Marquis found out something.

Since the two Shopkeepers' answers were quite neat, the doubts in Wei Luowen's heart slowly faded away.

“Are these the real account books?” Wei Yuewu raised her head, her gaze becoming sharp. Her pair of cold eyes fell on the two Shopkeepers, making them feel an inexplicable kind of power, and they actually shivered unconsciously.

However, the two of them were experienced business people. They knew that at this time, they could not retreat at all. Immediately, they smiled and said, “Sixth Young Lady, we can guarantee that these account books are absolutely real.”

Only their own most trusted Second Shopkeepers knew where the real account books were placed. Even if Wei Yuewu sent people to investigate, they would not be able to find anything. The two of them were very confident about this.

“Father, call those two shop assistants in!” Wei Yuewu smiled callously and turned to look at Wei Luowen.

Chapter 428 Malicious Intentions

Without a doubt, those two shop assistants had been brought here before, but they had been waiting outside the house.

“Go and bring them in!” Wei Luowen ordered after nodding.

At once, the lad servant ran out and brought the shop assistants in. After the shopkeepers saw Wei Yuewu’s childlike yet stern face, they inexplicably felt terrible, and their chubby faces began to sweat uncontrollably.

“Were you two fighting at the dock?” Wei Yuewu spoke while looking at the shop assistants coldly.

“Y-Yes!” Although the shop assistants saw the shopkeepers, it wasn’t a proper time to talk. They quickly answered Wei Yuewu after hearing her question.

“Was it because of the injustice in the distribution of goods? This issue has even been reported to the government and alerted the Mayor of the capital city!” She asked again.

“Y-Yes!” The shop assistants were frightened by the thick tension in the room and stuttered.

“When Mother was alive back then, the rule was whichever shop had the most profit could take more goods. But now, you said Shopkeeper Liu had the least profit, and he should not take the goods. When the time comes, you must clarify these things at the mayor’s yamen.” Wei Yuewu deliberately added the word “yamen” before finishing her sentence.

Immediately, the shop assistants’ foreheads began to sweat.

Once they entered the yamen, there would be witnesses. Since many people were at the dock then, anyone might have heard the commotion. Furthermore, the account books had been sent to the government.

“Yes... That’s right!” One of the shop assistants knew they could not lie, so he replied truthfully.

“What was the final result after the account books were sent over?” Wei Yuewu asked.

“O-Our shops have more profits, and Shopkeeper Liu’s shop has the least!” The shop assistant looked at the shopkeeper, who was shooting him a meaningful look, and replied helplessly.

There was no way out for the shop assistant. The evidence had been sent to the mayor. It would be illegal if they tampered with the evidence again.

“Tell me. What is going on?” At this time, Wei Luowen caught a few odd details from the conversation. As he roared, he slammed his hand onto the writing desk harshly, and his face turned cold.

Immediately, the shopkeepers and shop assistants shivered in fear and knelt with a loud thud.

“Lord Marquis!”

“Lord Marquis!” The shopkeepers’ faces turned pale, and a cold sweat broke out on their backs.

“You said the mayor has already gotten his hands on the account books, right? Then what are these?” Wei Luowen stood up, walked around the desk, picked up the several account books in front of Wei Yuewu, and flung them onto the shopkeepers’ faces.

The shopkeepers fell onto the ground from the force and begged for mercy while holding their heads.

After Wei Luowen threw the account books, his anger still hadn’t subsided. Therefore, he came over and kicked the shopkeepers fiercely. With that, they fell sideways from his kick while clutching their chests. They almost fainted from the kick.

“Do you want to say it here or in the mayor’s yamen?” Wei Luowen said harshly. The scars on his face twitched, making him look ferocious. Meanwhile, the murderous aura in him became more apparent.

Wei Yuewu sat quietly at the side, not saying a word. There was only a hint of sadness in her eyes. When Wei Luowen’s eyes met Wei Yuewu’s sorrowful gaze, he became angrier.

Wei Luowen’s anger could no longer be contained. He walked back to the wall behind the desk and pulled out a sword unhesitatingly. Then, he howled, “You useless imbeciles! If you dare to hide anything from me today, you will never get to leave this courtyard!”

He was a general who had just returned from the battlefield, which explained the cold murderous aura that exuded from his body. The shopkeepers were so scared that they trembled uncontrollably. How would they dare to hide anything?

“Lord Marquis... I-It was not our idea... I-It was Concubine Dong’s idea...”

“Lord Marquis, Concubine Dong told us to make fake account books to fool Sixth Young Lady. Then, she told us to close the shops and bring all the employees and goods to her newly opened shop. Besides, she sold the previous shops and used the money to purchase a better shop!”

“Lord Marquis... W-We did not do this on our own!”

“Lord Marquis, we were originally Madam’s servants, but since Madam is not here, Concubine Dong is in charge. Concubine Dong is our new master... Lord Marquis, we dare not disobey Concubine Dong.”

“Lord Marquis, spare us! It really wasn’t done by us!” The two shopkeepers pushed the blame onto Concubine Dong eagerly.

It was Concubine Dong, after all. When the shop assistants mentioned the profit of the two shops, Wei Luowen suspected it was Concubine Dong’s doing. Now that he heard she was behind everything, he trembled with anger.

“Quick! Bring Concubine Dong in!” He threw the sword in his hand and shouted to the people outside.

The lad servant ran out immediately after hearing the order.

“Father, please have a seat first!” Wei Yuewu stood up and walked over to help Wei Luowen sit behind the writing desk. After Wei Luowen sat down, she said softly, “Father, it’s just two shops. It’s not a big deal. If Third Elder Sister wants them, she can have them for herself!”

“What do you mean by she can have them for herself? Has she not taken enough? Everything in the mansion was hers when she was at the border, and she was still unsatisfied!” Wei Luowen’s eyes were furious, and he gritted his teeth angrily.

Thinking about it now, he realized that he had mistakenly thought Concubine Dong was a good person at first. However, he didn’t expect her to turn out to be this greedy. Even the few shops Rui’er left for Yuewu could not escape her greed.

“Aren’t there three more? Father... Let it go!” Wei Yuewu lowered her eyes and persuaded him.

These words reminded Wei Luowen of something. He suddenly sat up straight and asked with burning eyes, “How many shops did you say were left? Aren’t there five shops?”

Previously, he had asked someone to clean up the shops for Wei Yuewu and he knew five shops should be under her name. As for the other shops, he would never touch them.

Those things didn't belong to Rui'er in the first place. They were only sent to the mansion in the name of Rui'er.

He and Madam Dowager knew about this, and Rui'er herself also knew about this...

"That t-three..." The two shopkeepers looked at each other and stuttered.

"What happened? Have they gone to seek refuge with Concubine Dong just like you? Did Concubine Dong have them for herself?" Wei Luowen sneered.

"Lord Marquis, it wasn't Concubine Dong this time. It was M-Madam Dowager!" The shopkeeper timidly replied.

"Madam Dowager?" Wei Luowen was stunned. He did not expect Madam Dowager to be involved too.

"You are talking nonsense. Grandmother would not do such a thing. The two of you must be blindly accusing her!" As Wei Yuewu stood at the side, she sneered coldly. She knew Madam Dowager would be exposed. Madam Dowager and Concubine Dong were indeed birds of the same feather. One worked in the light, and one worked in the dark to seize Mother's shop. Their greed knew no boundaries, indeed.

The mansion of Marquis Hua Yang possessed many shops, but Mother had only five. How could they thirst after those few shops? Internally, Wei Yuewu scorned Madam Dowager, who had always appeared noble and elegant, in front of everyone else.

"Sixth Young Lady, I am not speaking nonsense. It really is Madam Dowager. If you don't believe me, you can call those shopkeepers over so that everyone can confront each other face-to-face!" The two shopkeepers were now saying whatever they thought of. How would they still dare to hide anything?

They had already spilled all the truth, fearing Wei Luowen would not believe them and his merciless punishment.

The account books were already presented to the yamen. In fact, what happened next was just a matter of a word from Wei Luowen.

Even though they were no longer servants of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, it would be child's play to take their lives away based on Marquis Hua Yang's power and influence.

"Lord Marquis, you must believe my words. It really is Madam Dowager. If you don't believe me, you can call the shopkeepers from those shops over. However, they all resigned because they did not want to follow Madam Dowager's orders. Only Shopkeeper Liu stayed behind. I heard he wouldn't be able to endure any longer and would be leaving. At that time, Madam Dowager will merge those shops with the other shops possessed by the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang."

"Yes, Lord Marquis. It is true. I swear that I'll be struck by lightning if I dare to tell a lie."

The two shopkeepers didn't need any more questions from Wei Luowen. They both swore and cursed, afraid he wouldn't believe them.

At this time, Wei Luowen, sitting behind the writing desk, had calmed down. He only stared at the shopkeepers with darkened eyes and quietly listened to them. When they finished speaking, he sneered, "It turns out not only Concubine Dong has taken a fancy to Madam's shops, but even Madam Dowager has also taken an interest in them. I didn't expect the few stores left by Madam to be this desirable. It is a blessing!"

He was so angry that he laughed in sarcasm, but his sinister laugh scared the shopkeepers and shop assistants. They were stunned and did not know what else to say.

"Father, don't be angry. Perhaps... Grandmother didn't know either..." Wei Yewu comforted Wei Luowen gently.

When Wei Luowen looked at his innocent daughter, who still believed it was a misunderstanding, his heart ached. "Yewu, don't worry. No matter who did it, they must return the shops to you. Your mother originally left behind the shops for you. You are my legitimate daughter. How can you be deceived like this!"

“B-But Concubine Dong and the others might also have their difficulties!” Wei Yuewu hesitated for a moment and exclaimed.

How could Concubine Dong surrender without a fight when she came later? She must have thought of thousands of reasons, and Wei Yuewu knew her father might soften once he heard Concubine Dong’s words. What Wei Yuewu needed to do now was to say what Concubine Dong would say before she could say it herself.

In that case, Concubine Dong’s words could not sway her father as much as she expected!

“Difficulties? What difficulties does she have? They ate and lived well when she and Yuejiao were at the border. They never lacked anything. What else does she lack?” At this time, the more Wei Luowen thought about it, the angrier he became. His hand slammed the table harshly, and his face darkened.

“M-Maybe Concubine Dong has mistakenly thought that Third Elder Sister doesn’t have any dowry? She might think I have more, so she should give some to Third Elder Sister...” Wei Yuewu hesitated for a moment but still defended Concubine Dong.

“I remember telling her not to worry about Yuejiao’s dowry long ago. Yuejiao won’t be treated unfairly. Moreover, she is wealthy and doesn’t need to take your shops.” Wei Luowen’s face turned stoic, and his voice was filled with hatred.

“Lord Marquis, I wasn’t interested in Madam’s shops. I am innocent!” Suddenly, a burst of crying came from outside the door. Then, Concubine Dong stumbled in and fell to her knees in front of Wei Luowen with a thud. She covered her face with a handkerchief and cried loudly, “Lord Marquis, I had no choice. Why would I have done such a thing if I had a choice!”

Chapter 429 One Sly Person After Another

“You had no choice? When do you ever lack a choice in the things you do?” Due to Wei Yuewu’s previous words, Wei Luowen did not buy Concubine Dong’s explanation and retaliated sternly.

Although his face still looked calm, everyone familiar with him knew that he was in a state of rage.

“You treated Yuewu as your biological daughter and even made new clothes for her, but you couldn’t make one more for Yuejiao in time and casually asked someone else to make one instead. It turned out that this was all just for show.”

Some things would have gone unnoticed without thinking much, but the more Wei Luowen thought about them, the odder things were. At this time, he also remembered that before Concubine Dong entered the capital, she repeatedly said she would definitely treat Wei Yuewu well and purposely made new clothes for her. Undoubtedly, he also thought of the dispute at the city gate.

“Lord Marquis, I really had no choice. I-If it hadn’t been for you, why would I have done this!” On the way here, Concubine Dong had already heard about the details. Therefore, she came prepared this time. She sobbed and cried, “Lord Marquis, you just returned to the capital. Many things needed money, but every expense in the mansion had a fixed amount. I can’t break the rules either, so I thought of this method. With this method, I can spend the profit of the shops in the meantime. Once your condition is stable after some time, I will return the money to Sixth Young Lady.”

“Are there many things that need to be paid off? Why don’t I know about them?” If it were in the past, Wei Luowen would not question anymore because Concubine Dong usually handled these things. But after his previous conversation with Wei Yuewu, Wei Luowen no longer believed in Concubine Dong, so he continued questioning her.

Concubine Dong was stunned for a moment. She did not expect Wei Luowen to care about such details, but she reacted quickly and cried, “Lord Marquis, after you entered the capital, many visitors came to see you. You have many close friends in the capital, and I must prepare gifts for them. Even though there was enough to spend when we were at the border, some things were still lacking. That was why I thought of using this method... But I was afraid that Sixth Young Lady would misunderstand, so I did it without telling others!”

Wei Luowen was born and raised in the capital and had a group of close friends. Even if they did not contact Wei Luowen throughout the year, they would pay a visit when he returned. The expenses were relatively large, and it was likely that Concubine Dong had trouble making ends meet.

“So, you came up with this method?” Wei Luowen’s anger was yet to quell.

"I thought Sixth Young Lady wouldn't notice once I return the money I have used. Then, I'll return the shops to Sixth Young Lady and tell her that the only thing that has changed is the shops' names and return the interest as well. Sixth Young Lady is the legitimate daughter Madam left behind. I deeply respect Madam and want to get close to Sixth Young Lady too. I was afraid that Sixth Young Lady and I would get into a conflict because of this matter. Therefore, it would be best if Sixth Young Lady didn't know about this!"

Concubine Dong wiped her tears and cried feebly.

Meanwhile, Wei Yuewu stood at the side and sneered in her heart. Concubine Dong had a way with her words and knew her father's temper well. Wei Yuewu could tell from the expression on her father's face that he had calmed down a little. However, today's matter was just a prelude. Many things could escalate as a result of today's matter, and Wei Yuewu wanted to see how Concubine Dong would talk her way out of the mess.

"Father, let's forget it. Since Concubine Dong said so, you should let it go. After all, it is just a misunderstanding, like those times with the hairpin, new clothes, and Mother's courtyard almost getting burned," Wei Yuewu said indifferently. Anyone could see the disappointment on her face.

She stepped back and returned to the writing desk. "Father, please go to the Mayor of the capital city's side to settle the case so that the outsiders won't gossip about our family."

"A misunderstanding? Of course, it was a misunderstanding!" Although Wei Yuewu was soft-spoken when saying those words, she reminded Wei Luowen of the grudges he held in his heart toward all those incidents, but he did not have any evidence back then. But when those incidents were put together, he found that not only Yuewu's but also Rui'er's courtyard had an accident. Was Concubine Dong truly not involved in those incidents?

When Concubine Dong heard Wei Yuewu mentioning the hairpin, clothes, and Qin Xinrui's courtyard, her heart sank. She subconsciously realized she was at a disadvantage. Although all those incidents had no evidence of her involvement, they were all related to her.

"In that case, do you dare to swear that you never intended to harm Yuewu?" Wei Luowen said with a gloomy face.

“Yes, I have never intended to harm Sixth Young Lady. If I am not telling the truth, I will die a horrible death.” In this situation, Concubine Dong had to grit her teeth and swear. She knew that if she didn’t swear today, things would go terribly for her.

“Concubine Dong, I remember telling you that if Yuewu disagrees, I can’t let you become the main wife. Are you getting ahead of yourself now?” However, Wei Luowen had been repeatedly egged on by Wei Yuewu’s words today. Now, he couldn’t trust anything Concubine Dong said and still gazed at her doubtfully.

“Yes, Lord Marquis. I get it!” When Wei Luowen said this in front of everyone, Concubine Dong was ashamed and angry, yet she had no choice but to answer.

Wei Luowen had indeed said it before, but that was when Qin Xinrui had only passed away. Moreover, he had said it to her privately, telling her not to dream about being the marquise. But later on, as Yuejiao grew up and won Wei Luowen’s favor, Wei Luowen didn’t seem to be that persistent anymore.

Sometimes, she would even jokingly say that if she were Marquise Hua Yang, Yuejiao would be a legitimate daughter, and she could marry into an even better family!

“Father, ask them to take their leave!” Wei Yuewu looked at the two shopkeepers and shop assistants and reminded Wei Luowen.

She brought it up at this time because the shopkeepers and shop assistants had heard enough and they could leave now. She didn’t want them to hear the words she would say next.

“All of you, leave and kneel in the corridor!” At this time, Wei Luowen also realized that outsiders were still present and waved his hand coldly.

The shopkeepers and shop assistants felt as if they had been granted mercy. Then, they hurriedly bowed to Wei Luowen respectfully, ran out, and knelt in the corridor.

The room immediately quieted down. Wei Luowen’s most trusted lad servant also lowered his head, standing at the entrance stiffly.

“Father, don’t be angry. I am not even mad anymore. Please spare Concubine Dong!” Wei Yuewu advised softly. She went over and gently patted Wei Luowen’s back in a coquettish manner.

Concubine Dong relaxed at once and was pleased with herself. It seemed that Wei Yuewu didn’t intend to pursue the matter further. After all, she had thought of a counter plan when coming here. Otherwise, Lord Marquis would definitely not let her off the hook today.

“Spare her? If I spare her, who knows what kind of thoughts she might have again in the future?” Wei Luowen said spitefully.

“Father, Concubine Dong is only a concubine, after all. If you are to marry another lady from a prestigious family, such a thing will not happen. The guests in the capital would also be received properly. I do not care much about the dowry, but I heard only a family that is declining will make ends meet by using the legitimate wife’s dowry.”

Wei Yuewu calmly brought up the topic of Wei Luowen’s remarriage.

Concubine Dong, who was kneeling on the ground, suddenly raised her head. Her face was pale with anger as she stared fiercely at Wei Yuewu. She was extremely vicious. This was what she was most afraid of now. This was a true issue compared with Wei Yuewu’s shops that she had stolen.

“It wasn’t easy to find a suitable noble lady either!” Wei Luowen didn’t have the heart to think about this at this time, and his eyes were indifferent.

“Father, the Ninth Young Lady from the Tu Family is a good candidate. She even took care of me when I was in the palace!” Wei Yuewu seemed to ignore the impatience on Wei Luowen’s face and smiled gently.

“Did she take care of you in the palace?” Wei Luowen was stunned for a moment. Although he had never seen this Ninth Young Lady from the Tu Family before, he knew she came to the mansion herself to pass a letter from Zhaoyi Tu. Only then did Madam Dowager give up her intention to burn Rui’er’s courtyard.

With this in mind, he had a good impression of this particular Ninth Miss Tu whom he had not seen.

“That’s right. I was unfamiliar with the palace and did not know anything. Fortunately, Ninth Miss Tu took care of me, so I could come back safe and sound. When I returned, I heard that Ninth Miss Tu had taken care of Mother’s courtyard. If Ninth Miss Tu had not sent a message, that liar would have burned Mother’s courtyard!”

Wei Yuewu lowered her head and had a pitiful expression on her face.

After listening to his youngest daughter’s reasonable words, Wei Luowen felt it was necessary to think about Ninth Miss Tu’s matter for the first time. If Ninth Miss Tu was as kind as Yuewu claimed to be, he could marry her because he could not let Yuewu continue to suffer.

As for Concubine Dong, she was, after all, a lowly and petty maid. It was despicable of her to think of doing such a thing. Even though he was part of the reason, it was still a hard pill to swallow.

Moreover, with so many things linked up, was Concubine Dong really as innocent as she claimed and did she genuinely not think of harming Yuewu? Did she not dream of taking over Marquise Hua Yang’s position?

Since that was the case, he might as well destroy her illusions, lest she became too greedy and did more absurd things.

“If you like Ninth Miss Tu, I shall choose her then!” Wei Luowen said indifferently.

When Concubine Dong, who was kneeling on the ground, heard their conversation, she almost exploded with anger. She secretly cursed Wei Yuewu. How did she dare to interfere with her father’s marriage? On the other hand, her brain was spinning rapidly. She was thinking of a way to ruin their plans.

No matter what happened, she could not let Wei Luowen marry Ninth Miss Tu.

“Lord Marquis... What happened between the Tu Mansion and us... Is this really a good idea?” Concubine Dong reacted quickly and immediately thought of the engagement between Wei Luowen and Empress Tu.

The engagement between Wei Luowen and Empress Tu was the incident he was most reluctant to bring up. It wouldn't benefit anyone if this incident were brought up. Since Grand Preceptor Tu tried to cover it up as much as possible, Wei Luowen would obviously keep his mouth shut tightly too. Therefore, when Concubine Dong mentioned it, he could not admit it.

"Father, I heard from Ninth Miss Tu that you were engaged to Second Miss Tu from Tu Mansion. But later on, you canceled the engagement to marry Mother. However, she said neither Empress Tu nor Zhaoyi Tu blamed you for that. Second Miss Tu had always been unlucky, and now she was more than willing to see the relationship between our families improved to clear any misunderstanding!"

Wei Yuewu said softly while turning a blind eye to Concubine Dong's hateful gaze.

The shop matter was just to initiate her father's dissatisfaction with Concubine Dong. Although Concubine Dong tried to explain herself, she was also proven incompetent at managing the family's finances. Therefore, she brought up Ninth Miss Tu at this time to cut off Concubine Dong's route of retreat. It was clear that Concubine Dong wanted the position of Marquise Hua Yang, but since Wei Yuewu was here, she would never let that happen, unless in Concubine Dong's dream...

"Lord Marquis, I remembered something important!" Seeing that Wei Luowen was considering the rationality in Wei Yuewu's words, Concubine Dong became anxious and hurriedly exclaimed while gritting her teeth. She had to bring this matter up no matter what!

Chapter 430 Lord Tu Was Brought Up Again

"What is it?" Wei Luowen asked coldly.

"I want to meet Lord Tu to confirm something." At this point, Concubine Dong could no longer wait. She could not let Wei Luowen marry Ninth Miss Tu.

"Tu Jiulin?" Wei Luowen thought for a moment and realized that the Lord Tu Concubine Dong mentioned was his best friend, Tu Jiulin.

"Yes. I-I have a few questions for Lord Tu. It's about his family!" Concubine Dong blurted.

“His family... Have you found his sister?” Wei Luowen frowned and suddenly understood the situation. Although he was dissatisfied with Concubine Dong’s untimely words, he still asked concernedly.

After all, this was something his close friend cared about. If there was any news, Wei Luowen should notify him early.

“I don’t know for sure, but I would like to ask you, Lord Marquis, to invite Lord Tu to meet with me.” Concubine Dong did not dare to speak of the details in front of Wei Yuewu and only asked Wei Luowen carefully.

“Do you... really have news about this matter?” Wei Luowen was very suspicious of Concubine Dong.

“Yes. I do have some news, but I don’t know if it is true, so I want to ask Lord Tu to be the judge of it.” Concubine Dong nodded with a solemn face.

“In that case, I will invite Tu Jiulin over in a few days. You can tell him directly if you have something to say, but you should solve the shops’ issue immediately for Yuewu. I don’t want to hear any excuse. These are Rui’er’s dowry, and they are for Yuewu. Do you want me to repeat myself again?”

Wei Luowen’s face was cold as he roared harshly.

“Yes. I understand. I was wrong!” Although Wei Luowen scolded her, she had successfully distracted them from discussing Wei Luowen’s remarriage. Concubine Dong breathed a sigh of relief.

Wei Yuewu glanced at Concubine Dong subtly, but she did not stop her from speaking.

“I shall take my leave!” Concubine Dong had survived a great disaster, so she was naturally well-behaved at this moment.

“Leave!” Wei Luowen rubbed his forehead, feeling annoyed in his heart.

Therefore, Concubine Dong left respectfully. She wiped away her cold sweat when she stepped out of the door. Then, she turned her head to look at the door. Her eyes revealed a cold trace of hatred. She almost got destroyed by that little bitch.

Madam Dowager also asked Nanny Hong to send her a message to settle the matter by today, but she did not know why this bitch had returned. At this time, no one came to tell her that Madam Dowager had returned to the mansion either.

This little bitch seemed to have Madam Dowager wrapped around her fingers too.

Not only did her plan with the shops get ruined, but that little bitch almost tricked Lord Marquis into marrying Ninth Miss Tu. She had waited so many years for Marquise Hua Yang's position. How could she allow others to pick the fruits of her labor?

"Madam... Are you really going to talk to Lord Tu about this?" Jinzhu followed Concubine Dong closely and said worriedly.

"What else can I do? That little bitch has forced me into a corner," Concubine Dong spat hatefully.

If it hadn't been for this topic just now, how could she have distracted Lord Marquis?

"But... Madam, you are not fully prepared." Jinzhu was Concubine Dong's most trusted servant. It was only natural for her to know some things about Concubine Dong.

"Nurse Li should be arriving soon, right?" Concubine Dong frowned and asked. She had asked Nurse Li to bring some things over.

At first, she wanted to let Tu Jiulin find out about this matter on his own. In that way, things would be more credible. But now, she had to go to him instead. Relatively speaking, it might raise his suspicions, but there was no other way.

"Concubine Dong, don't worry. Nurse Li should be here in a few days!" Jinzhu nodded gently.

“That’s good. Although Lord Marquis said that he would inform Lord Tu immediately, hasn’t Lord Tu been very busy recently? He may not be able to get away for a while. If it doesn’t work out, ask Qian Ying to buy more time. We must wait for Nurse Li to arrive at the capital.”

Qian Ying was Tu Jiulin’s concubine. Initially, she was Concubine Dong’s maid. Later, she was given to Tu Jiulin as a concubine. Because of Qian Ying, Concubine Dong knew about Tu Jiulin’s personal matters.

“Yes. I understand. I will send a message to Qian Ying tomorrow,” Jinzhu said cautiously.

Jinzhu’s attitude satisfied Concubine Dong. She continued to take a few steps forward, and her eyes fell on the faces of the two kneeling shopkeepers. Wei Luowen’s two lad servants were also standing there.

Her eyelids twitched and she strode over. How could she give the fruits of her own labor away...

Seeing that Concubine Dong had come out safe and sound, the shopkeepers’ eyes lit up, and they immediately heaved a sigh of relief. Since Concubine Dong, the main culprit, was unscathed, the two of them might only be punished for being accomplices.

“You two, bring over the original account books. We will send them to Sixth Young Lady when the time comes.” Concubine Dong walked over and instructed solemnly.

“The original account books?” One of the shopkeeper’s eyes twinkled. He looked at the lad servants on both sides and enunciated his words.

“Yes. Of course. The original account books. They were supposed to be a temporary measure initially. After the mansion gets through the crisis, the original account books still need to be returned to the Sixth Young Lady. They are Madam’s dowry, after all. Some of the things written in the book belong to Madam. Moreover, it is only appropriate to return the shops’ profit we have used!”

Concubine Dong sighed and looked regretful. “It was all because of my slip-up. It caused you two to suffer with me. In the future, you should listen to Sixth Young Lady. Sixth Young Lady has always been your real master.”

After Concubine Dong said this, she sighed again. Then, she took advantage of the time when the two lad servants lowered their heads and shot a fierce look at the two shopkeepers. At once, they understood her intentions.

“Madam, don’t worry. We will definitely listen to Sixth Young Lady’s instructions in the future.”

“Yes. We will obey Sixth Young Lady. Sixth Young Lady will decide the affairs of the shops!” The shopkeepers hurriedly said. The two lad servants glanced at Concubine Dong who was walking away and then looked at the shopkeepers who were still kneeling respectfully. They did not say anything.

Inside the study.

“Father, what’s wrong with Lord Tu?” Wei Yuewu asked curiously.

“The Tu Mansion had gone through hardships. Although they were also a part of the Tu Family, they had their lowest points. At that time, even his sister disappeared. He had been looking for his missing sister for so many years.” Wei Luowen sighed at the fate of his old friend.

“Is Lord Tu related to Grand Preceptor Tu?” Wei Yuewu blinked her lively eyes and asked in surprise. Grand Preceptor Tu was too famous, so she couldn’t help but overthink.

“Yes. Somewhat!” Wei Luowen smiled bitterly. It was a coincidence that he and Tu Jiulin came to know each other. At that time, Tu Jiulin’s family had recovered, and his sister had been missing for a long time.

There were some things Wei Luowen was unsure about. He only knew that Tu Jiulin and Grand Preceptor Tu did not have a good relationship.

“When did Lord Tu’s sister get lost?” Wei Yuewu asked curiously.

“When she was still little. Apparently, a few maids disappeared with her on the way to her maternal grandfather’s house. They went missing together with the carriage.” Wei Luowen’s eyes fell on Wei Yuewu’s pale face, and his face turned cold. “What happened in Prince Nan’an Mansion? How did Prefectural Princess Jia’nan get involved?”

He had wanted to ask Wei Yuewu when he saw Wei Yuewu just now.

“Father, Prefectural Princess Jia’nan wanted to push me into the pit.” Wei Yuewu looked up blankly. “Fortunately, I pulled Prefectural Princess Jia’nan into the pit. Otherwise, a poisonous snake would have bitten me to death. I don’t know how I offended Prefectural Princess Jia’nan, whom I had just met for the first time. She can’t tolerate me.”

“What? How dare she harm you like this!” Wei Luowen was furious.

“Prince Nan’an Mansion has already driven her away!” Wei Yuewu elaborated.

After hearing that Princess Nan’an had driven Prefectural Princess Jia’nan away, Wei Luowen calmed down a little and thought for a while before asking, “Why did she want to harm you?”

“I don’t know either. It was my first time meeting Prefectural Princess Jia’nan. After that, she tried to harm me.” Wei Yuewu shook her head blankly.

“Where was your Third Elder Sister? Why wasn’t she with you?” Wei Luowen looked at Wei Yuewu and frowned.

“Third Elder Sister was not with us. When we entered the door, Eldest Sister called her over. I went to greet Princess Nan’an with Grandmother. Later, when Prefectural Princess Jia’nan pushed me down, Third Elder Sister suddenly appeared with the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an and the Fourth Prince. Prefectural Princess Jia’nan even took the opportunity to say that I pushed her into the pit.”

There was a grievance in Wei Yuewu’s expression. Although she didn’t scold Wei Yuejiao, Wei Luowen understood the entire situation. His face immediately became glum. It is evident that his eldest daughter was also involved in this matter.

Yuejiao used to be quite obedient. Now, the older she was, the more rebellious she became. It seemed that there was really a problem with Concubine Dong’s upbringing. Perhaps an assertive marquise was necessary for his backyard. Otherwise, there would really be a mess.

His mother could no longer interfere with his internal affairs once there was a marquise. She couldn't interfere with Rui'er's shops either. A trace of anger flashed in Wei Luowen's eyes as he remembered how Madam Dowager had stolen Rui'er's dowry.

Rui'er's dowry was not much, except for a few shops. It was understandable if the others did not know about this, but how could Madam Dowager not know? Yet, she still tried to steal the shops' profit. It truly disappointed him.

Madam Dowager went too far. She had these evil thoughts that shouldn't be there in the first place. In that case, she shouldn't resent him for doing things the extreme way...

"Yuewu, go back and have a good rest. I will ask the housekeeper to tidy up the shops and send you the account books." Wei Luowen made a decision internally and said to Wei Yuewu.

"Alright, Father." Wei Yuewu replied softly and then slowly retreated. When she reached the corridor, she glanced at the shopkeepers who were still kneeling.

The shopkeepers smiled obsequiously, but their expressions were calm. Then, Wei Yuewu's eyes suddenly turned cold, and she slowly turned around and walked out. It seemed that Concubine Dong still had some tricks up her sleeve...

Outside the courtyard, Concubine Dong suddenly appeared from a bend of the long path. Her face was gloomy as she called out for Wei Yuewu, "Sixth Young Lady, please wait for me!"