

## Medical Princess 291

### Chapter 291 Hundreds of Flowers Blossomed in the Imperial Garden

"Your Highness, I don't think I have any problem with Madam of Duke Xing. Madam of Duke Xing has always been gentle and appreciated me a lot. She would probably not frame me up!"

Qin Wanru said gracefully.

Her words made the Empress fall silent. She stared at Qin Wanru's face with a bit of coldness in her eyes, as if to make sure if Qin Wanru was telling the truth.

After a long while, the Empress said slowly, "Since you don't have any problem with this Miss from the Wang family, why does she intend to frame you up? The only connection between you is Madam of Duke Xing!"

She said gently even with a faint smile. Nevertheless, Qin Wanru had a bad feeling. The Empress enticed her to involve Madam of Duke Xing in this so deliberately. She must have an unusual intention.

The Empress was deliberately trying to make her say Madam of Duke Xing intended to trap her on purpose? But she couldn't do anything to someone with such a noble status like Madam of Duke Xing. Moreover, even if it could be considered the evidence for Wang Yishu, it was only an unspeakable speculation for Madam of Duke Xing.

If she dared to tell the Empress it was related to Madam of Duke Xing today, there would never be a good outcome! She was not sensitive to some things in the last life, but was particularly sensitive to them in this life!

"Your Highness, I don't know indeed!" With her long eyelashes fluttering twice, Qin Wanru respectfully replied. Her answer was quite neutral without any bias.

"You really don't know, or don't dare to say it?" the Empress said with a smile in an increasingly gentle tone.

Qin Wanru slowly became breathless with fear. With the meaning the Empress's words, it was very difficult to answer her question. What did "I don't know" and "I don't dare" mean? Despite the only difference in the last word, if she gave an answer with the slightest error in front of the Empress and so many Young Madams from aristocratic families, it would bring her endless trouble.

She would deal with Madam of Duke Xing, but not at this time. Moreover, the Empress seemingly insisted interfering in this.

"Your Highness, I really don't know!" Qin Wanru replied slowly. She clearly knew any carelessness at this moment would drag her into a desperate abyss. As the Empress kept asking her, her intention slowly appeared in Qin Wanru's mind.

"Mother, let's go!" There came a man's gloomy voice from the side of the Empress. Qin Wanru carefully distinguished it and found it was obviously Prince Zhou's voice which she had heard in the Imperial Institute of Medicine. She suddenly thought of something. Had they investigated the accident caused by Prince Zhou's running horse? It seemed that they didn't find anything?

She thought that Prince Zhou might not show up today. Unexpectedly he entered the palace so soon!

"I'll check it out for you. You may leave now!" Failing to inquire something from Qin Wanru and seeing her son's gloomy face, the Empress gave up asking Qin Wanru and waved her hand to motion for Qin Wanru to leave.

"Yes, Your Highness!" Qin Wanru stood up and stepped aside, waiting with other Young Madams till the Empress' palanquin passed by. There was a big garden in front of them, facing the flower bed in the middle. The Empress did not enter the tent surrounding half of the flower bed, and entered the garden with a group of people.

After the Empress left, they finally felt relieved and gently exhaled a breath. Many Young Madams clearly knew about their intentions of entering the palace today. Some of them had stolen a glance at Prince Zhou. They found him extremely handsome and had a crush on him.

Among the three Princes including Prince Yue, Prince Zhou and Prince Xin, if there was someone most likely to inherit the throne in the future, Prince Zhou seemed to be the best choice. After all, Prince Zhou was the only son of the Empress. Although Prince Yue was the eldest son and also very outstanding, most people focused on Prince Zhou.

If a girl could marry Prince Zhou, she would probably be the empress in the future. Such an identity was enough to make most of the Young Madams present extremely passionate about him.

Most of the Young Madams entered the palace today and targeted at Prince Zhou. Many of the Young Madams considered even if they couldn't marry Prince Zhou as the princess, being his concubine or inferior concubine was better than marrying other Princes.

Of course, some of them considered Prince Yue also had a good chance. After all, Prince Yue was the eldest son and his mother came from a powerful family. There were also some unambitious Young Madams considering it not bad to marry Prince Xin. They could at least live a wealthy life ever after if they married Prince Xin. Prince Xin could be a wealthy idle prince in the future. No matter Prince Yue or Prince Zhou inherited the throne in the future, they wouldn't do anything to a brother who was not threatening to them.

At the thought of this, they also considered Prince Xin a good choice.

The Young Madams, who attended the feast, were waiting to meet this prince. Regarding Prince Chen, he was not within the scope of their consideration. Everyone knew that Prince Chen wouldn't live long and had such an embarrassing identity. He was the Empress Dowager's favorite, so what? No one knew when he would die. No one was willing to live in widowhood, and he would probably die before getting married.

Moreover, with such an identity, even if he lived for a few more years, it was no good for their families or themselves.

Almost all the Young Madams thought so. Thus, after the Empress left, the Young Madams talked about the three princes in groups of three and four.

Some of them were not talking, but blushed on hearing the discussion. What had happened to Qin Wanru was just a small episode.

Qin Wanru was just a rarely known Miss who had just moved to the capital. Qin Huaiyong's official rank barely made her qualified to attend the banquet. Wang Yishu was even inferior to her, because she was not a real Miss from Duke Xing's Mansion. Although everyone considered the matter was related to Madam of Duke Xing, Qin Wanru didn't affirm it anyway.

For these Young Madams, the most important thing now was not what had happened to Qin Wanru, but their own affairs.

The banquet had not yet officially begun. The Empress had not come out of the garden. Everyone was curious, but didn't dare to approach the garden. They just talked and strolled in small groups on the path outside the tent.

Few people went inside the tent!

Prince Zhou had already come, and Prince Yue and Prince Xin should come over later. They couldn't see them in the tent. So everyone naturally walked out of the tent. Despite the coldness outside, everyone enjoyed standing outside and looked energetic.

A few of them even deliberately stood in the middle of a whirlwind. The wind raised their dresses, adding a bit of dreamlike beauty to them.

Qin Wanru stood silently in the crowd, and did not enter the tent conspicuously. Since everyone stood outside the tent, she certainly stood among them.

Her clothes were exceptionally gorgeous with a layer of gauze outside. Her fluttering dress made her look more fairy than other Young Madams and as delicate as jade. Although she was still young, her appearance was incomparable.

Some of them were jealous, some were envious, and some were scornful. Various gazes fell on Qin Wanru, but no one came to talk to her. Everyone was smart. What had happened between Wang Yishu and her was obviously related to Madam of Duke Xing. Confronting Madam of Duke Xing, there was no chance for Qin Wanru to win.

No one was willing to annoy Madam of Duke Xing because of Qin Wanru.

Although everyone didn't say it, they considered Qin Wanru must have done something offensive to Madam of Duke Xing so that Madam of Duke Xing did this to her!

"Sister Wanru!" A surprising voice suddenly came to Qin Wanru's ear. Qin Wanru looked up and saw Yan Xulan coming from the front with delight.

She set out late and had just arrived. When she walked through the door, she saw Qin Wanru in the crowd and immediately greeted her with a smile.

"Sister Yan!" Qin Wanru smiled and bowed.

Yan Xulan reached out to pull her and looked around. "Is it still early now? Let's have a walk!"

"Okay!" Qin Wanru nodded.

They walked hand in hand casually along the path. Several people glanced at them with malicious eyes from somewhere they didn't notice. Someone squinted coldly at them. Someone sneered. Someone whispered to the maid beside, and the maid turned and ran out when no one noticed.

Everyone acted calmly, as if what they did was natural! Even the maid that ran out to send the message disappeared into the crowd!

There suddenly came another disturbance among the crowd. Some people said Prince Yue had come!

A large group of Young Madams stood there gracefully and shyly shifted their gaze in succession.

The two handsome princes were coming here together in the opposite direction where Qin Wanru left, followed by several unusual noble ladies. They slowly walked over under the jealous or envious gaze of numerous Young Madams, and then entered the garden where the Empress went.

Although Qin Wanru and Yan Xulan had also heard them, they did not want to join them and continued going along the curved path.

On both sides of the path, many basins of delicate and enchanting Tang Qianyan were in full bloom. They stood firm from time to time to appreciate the flowers.

It was the time when plum blossom burst into bloom. It was really gratifying to see the flowers with a different color!

"What happened just now?" Being distant from the crowd, Yan Xulan tilted her head and asked.

"Nothing serious. It's just a minor accident!" Qin Wanru shook her head and smile. She did not want to involve Yan Xulan in what had happened.

"Is there anything I can do to help you?" asked Xu Xulan.

Qin Wanru shook her hand. "You don't need to worry about this!"

"Wang Yishu is not such a person. Why does she do this kind of thing!" Yan Xulan said with puzzlement. She was not ignorant. She had heard not a few people discussing it on her way here and had known the rough process.

Looking at Yan Xulan's confused and worried eyes, Qin Wanru felt warmth in her heart. She pulled Yan Xulan's hand and said with a smile, "It happened in the palace. Wang Yishu can't shift the blame even if she wants to!"

"I heard that she has been sent to the Imperial Institute of Medicine?" Yan Xulan frowned. "I'm wondering what the Empress thought. Such a person deserves this. Could it be..."

When she spoke of this, Qin Wanru immediately reached out to cover her mouth, gently shook her head and whispered, "Sister Yan, be careful of your words!"

## **Chapter 292 It Doesn't Matter, We Are in the Palace**

Yan Xulan nodded and remembered they were in the palace where they couldn't talk casually. Even if she said that in a low voice, she couldn't guarantee that it wouldn't be heard. If her words got out, she would be considered disrespecting the Empress, which was a grave crime!

Seeing her understand, Qin Wanru put down her hand. Looking around, only to see there were only two rows of flowers around them with no other big trees and no one nearby, she was relieved.

Seeing that Qin Wanru was so cautious, Yan Xulan considered herself reckless and felt sorry. "I've made a slip of the tongue and almost caused trouble!"

"Fortunately, there are no other people here!" Qin Wanru softly said, looking ahead in the distance quietly with her watery eyes. Seeing a few palace maids pass by without approaching them, she felt slightly relieved.

A lot of things had happened in the palace today. The Empress seems to be looking for someone to take the blame. She didn't want to cause trouble at this time.

"I had another accident when I entered the palace. I was trapped and almost got killed. I was saved by Prince Chen, but he passed out and is still in the Imperial Institute of Medicine. The Empress Dowager is also there. The horse causing the accident belongs to Prince Zhou's Mansion!" Qin Wanru said implicitly and warned Yan Xulan in a low voice.

After such an accident, the Empress would definitely not be in a good mood at the feast today.

Yan Xulan understood the meaning of Qin Wanru's words and gasped. It was much more serious than what had happened to Qin Wanru just now. Compared with this, she no longer cared about Wang Yishu.

"Has Prince Chen woken up?" Yan Xulan hurriedly said. Everyone in the capital knew that Prince Chen was the Empress Dowager's favorite. If the sickly Prince Chen was seriously injured, it would inevitably stir up a disturbance in the capital.

"He has woken up!" Qin Wanru whispered.

"Thank Goodness! Thank Goodness!" Yan Xulan felt relieved. Such a thing happened before the banquet. None of the Young Madams who attended the banquet today could stay out of it. Everyone must be tried. It was a blessing to escape from it.

"Are you alright?" Yan Xulan suddenly remembered this matter was related to Qin Wanru, and immediately said with concern.

"I'm fine. Prince Chen has interceded for me!" Qin Wanru shook her head, picked up a nearby petal and fiddled with it thoughtfully.

"Who intended to hurt Prince Chen? Could it be..." Speaking of this, Yan Xulan covered her mouth tightly, seemingly afraid that some inappropriate words would slip out of her mouth. She felt tongue-tied, didn't dare to finish her words and faintly felt the cold sweat on her forehead.

The identity of Prince Chen was too special. He could be considered the crown prince, especially when the emperor hadn't appointed another crown prince. His current identity had a far-reaching influence. Even Yan Xulan, who had always lived in the inner courtyard, knew about that.

Qin Wanru bit her lip and became speechless in a while!

Everyone considered it a conspiracy against Chu Liuchen. Only she knew that it was aimed at her. Chu Liuchen passed out, because she was swept by the whip and bumped into him. Chu Liuchen was actually the innocent bystander involved in the trouble.

Nevertheless, everyone had infinitely magnified this matter and thought someone intended to hurt Chu Liuchen. Even the Empress Dowager and the Empress thought so. This was an important reason why Prince Zhou hurriedly left.

At the moment, she couldn't explain this misunderstanding!

She was not the only one who had been trapped!

The meaning of the Empress' words rendered Qin Wanru a bold guess. Since the banquet was hosted by the Empress, she certainly did not want to have any accident. In particular, Duke Xing's Mansion was involved in it. She naturally wanted to reduce the trouble into a minor one.

Why did she try to involve Duke Xing's Mansion in it!

The Empress obviously tried to distract everyone from it. What had happened between Qin Wanru and Wang Yishu was a minor thing. Such a minor thing became uncertain because Qin Wanru was involved in it. Qin Wanru was also involved in the accident in which Chu Liuchen passed out.

In summary, Qin Wanru confirmed the Empress intended to make what had happened to her significant and reduce what had happened to Chu Liuchen into a minor thing.

If Qin Wanru continued talking as the Empress implied, she would inevitably become a victim of politics. It was barely possible to accuse Duke Xing's Mansion.

After thinking over various possibilities in a while, Qin Wanru had decided to make Chu Liuchen's plan a priority. It wasn't an urgent thing for her to deal with Madam of Duke Xing. What was more, even if she didn't say anything about what had happened today, the rumor of Madam of Duke Xing's dissatisfaction with her had got out.

After this, if Madam of Duke Xing showed excess intimacy with her, she would be doubted.

If Qin Wanru hadn't smashed the jade pendant first today, there must be some follow-ups, which she couldn't explain, after Wang Yishu's action. It indicated other people would continue to accomplish Wang Yishu's task. They hid in the dark because of Wang Yishu's accident. Madam of Duke Xing was quite powerful with people at her service in the palace.

These people might be the servants in the palace, or the Young Madams from different mansions.

"Sister Yan, this thing has not yet got out. You should pretend you know nothing about it." Qin Wanru told her in a low voice.

"Rest assured. I will not tell anyone and will be more careful!" Understanding the meaning of Qin Wanru's words, Yan Xulan put down her hands and said cautiously.

When they were talking, a palace maid suddenly ran over. Seeing Yan Xulan, she felt relieved and hurriedly stepped forward to say, "Miss Yan, Zhaoyi told you to be cautious and not to cause trouble in the palace today!"

Her words were incomprehensible, but Qin Wanru and Yan Xulan actually understood.

"Okay, I know!" Yan Xulan and Qin Wanru glanced at each other and nodded.

"Zhaoyi asked you to go over, and she has some other things to tell you!" The palace maid did not leave and said to Yan Xulan calmly after glancing at Qin Wanru beside.

It meant that Yan Xulan must visit Zhaoyi Yan although she had promised!

"Uh..." Yan Xulan hesitated.

"Sister Yan, you should go there. Perhaps Zhaoyi has something important to tell you!" Qin Wanru knew her scruple and said with a smile.

Most of the Young Madams attending the feast did not know what had happened outside the palace, while the well-informed imperial concubines had already known it. They might be afraid that their juniors didn't know it and irritated the Empress. There were not a few concubines like Zhaoyi Yan who asked her junior to her place and told her junior about it.

They seemed to be cheerful, but the disturbance was going to break out because of the injury of Chu Liuchen.

Since Qin Wanru had said that, Yan Xulan left with the palace maid and her maid after glancing at Qin Wanru with gratitude, leaving Qin Wanru alone on the path.

Qin Wanru turned a corner and continued walking forward.

"Miss, is Miss Wang really sent by Madam of Duke Xing?" Finding no one around them, Yujie stepped forward to walk behind Qin Wanru. She had not got the opportunity to talk with Qin Wanru privately.

"I think so!" Qin Wanru said slowly with a trace of deep coldness across her watery eyes.

"Why is Madam of Duke Xing so vicious? Does she hate you so much? She seemingly liked you a lot before!" Yujie said indignantly.

Others might not have seen Madam of Duke Xing's "kindness" towards Qin Wanru, but she had. At the thought that Madam of Duke Xing, who seemed to be gentle and dignified, was actually a woman with a kind face and an evil intention, Yujie felt strong disgust.

Qin Wanru raised her red lips, with her eyes getting increasingly cold.

Madam of Duke Xing would not let her go, and she would not let go of this woman. She would never forget the blood feud of two lives! Reaching out to rub her forehead, she thought she should be trapped by Madam of Duke Xing and thus to become Wang Shengxue's co-wife. In this life, Madam of Duke Xing intended to play this trick again!

Nevertheless, what had happened ended in the last life. In this life, she, who returned from the tragic doom, would never place herself unreservedly in Madam of Duke Xing's power!

"One day, I will get it back!" Qin Wanru said in an indifferent voice even with a slight smile on her face. But her voice and smile both looked penetratingly cold!

“Miss, what will happen to Miss Wang?” Yujie was not afraid of Qin Wanru’s expression and would like to see her become tougher. She suddenly thought of something and said indignantly, “She obviously pretended she has passed out. But she hit the ground heavily. I think she really passed out!”

Her words made Qin Wanru smile. “She didn’t expect to end up like this! Madam of Duke Xing will kill her!”

Wang Yishu could never imagine the outcome of what had happened. Madam of Duke Xing wouldn’t take the blame, so she had to take it, but she couldn’t afford to take it!

Things had changed so much. Madam of Duke Xing didn’t seem like a person submitting with folded arms. She would definitely think of a way according to the changing situation. The best result of this matter was Wang Yishu’s death. If Wang Yishu died from hitting the ground, Madam of Duke Xing could even condemn Qin Wanru for this!

Yujie was shocked, “Miss, if Miss Wang really dies, the blame will definitely be shifted onto you in the end. Madam of Duke Xing won’t let it go and will definitely put the blame on you!”

“It doesn’t matter. We are in the palace anyway. Madam of Duke Xing is unable to bribe many people!” Qin Wanru smiled slightly and said meaningfully.

Madam of Duke Xing would do something, but she had already attracted the attention of the Empress Dowager. The palace maid of the Empress Dowager would inevitably report the dispute between Qin Wanru and Wang Yishu to the Empress Dowager.

Chu Liuchen was injured, so the Empress Dowager was in a state of extreme nervousness now. Even the slightest disturbance could definitely attract the Empress Dowager’s attention, not to mention Wang Yishu was still in the Imperial Institute of Medicine.

Coincidentally, the Empress Dowager was also there! At this time, something interesting probably had happened!

She just needed to wait and see what would happen!

In the last life, Madam of Duke Xing had deployed her scouts in various places, and her daughter had a far-reaching ambition. They ruined her life in order to seek more power. It could be seen that Duke Xing’s Mansion had deployed scouts in the palace.

However, Qin Wanru was afraid that she would not do anything this time. If she did something, her scouts would be exposed...

### **Chapter 293 Lunatic, He’s a Lunatic!**

Today’s banquet looked splendid, but actually contained turbulence which was essentially caused by the daughter of Ningyuan Army General, a trivial official. No one had expected that.

The Empress and her son Prince Zhou sat in the room, with two intimate old maids of the Empress and a eunuch of Prince Zhou beside them, and the rest of the servants waited outside the door quietly.

“You didn’t find anything?” the Empress said coldly with a displeased face.



“Mother, I didn’t find anything. I only tracked down the family where the groom used to work. But the master of the family is just an ordinary merchant, and he’s not in the capital now!” Prince Zhou raised his eyebrows with faint coldness in his eyes. How could he not be angry? He had returned his mansion directly after getting out of the palace, but he was still too late. The groom had hanged himself with fear!

Who would believe this reason?

“No clue left?” the Empress resentfully asked.

“Mother, I really don’t know who deployed scouts in my mansion. How dare this person do that!” Prince Zhou banged the bars of the chair angrily.

He had always considered his mansion an impenetrable iron bucket, but now he discovered that it had been penetrated long ago. If it were not for what had happened to Chu Liuchen today, he would never figure out when he would be trapped and get killed!

At the thought of it, he couldn’t suppress the rage in his heart. He was Prince Zhou, the legitimate son of the Empress and the crown prince in the future. Someone actually dared to deploy scouts in his mansion. He couldn’t stay calm!

“Mother, I’ll directly ask someone to check the groom’s patriarchal clan. Even if he has no parents, I will kill the entire patriarchal clan of his!” Prince Zhou said with rage.

“Don’t, don’t do anything now!” The Empress reached out to stop him. “Report it directly to your father, complain tearfully that someone has secretly deployed scouts in your mansion with the intention of trapping you and ask your father to help you!”

“Okay, I’ll go to find my father in a while. Mother, who do you think did this to trap me?” Prince Zhou nodded and frowned with a sullen face.

“If the invalid gets killed and you take the blame, whoever gets the greatest benefit from it is the one behind it!” The Empress said gloomily.

Her only son was secretly trapped by someone under her eyes. How could the Empress not be angry? She even wanted to kill the one behind this.

“Chu Liuyue?” Prince Zhou gnashed his teeth.

“It can’t be denied that it is not Chu Liuxin. Imperial Concubine Ming is a person with wild ambition. She thinks that she has the chance to be the empress dowager because she has a son. How dare she have this imagination! Has she forgotten her humble status?” the Empress said with resentment. She wasn’t a very pretty woman, but in this case, she looked cold with hatred.

After so many years in the palace, she hadn’t showed her expressions on her face for a long time. But in this moment, with just her henchmen and her son around, she didn’t care about it!

“Mother, I understand!” Prince Zhou immediately understood what his mother meant. He had always been connected with his mother. After calming down for a while, he said, “Mother, I don’t understand why the daughter of Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion was involved in it. Chu Liuchen doesn’t look like

someone who will save anyone. Why were those people certain that Chu Liuchen will definitely save her? ”

Prince Zhou couldn't figure it out. Others might not know about Chu Liuchen well, but he did. Although Chu Liuchen had always pretended to be innocent in front of father and grandmother, he was actually cruel and ruthless. Even if an irrelevant person died in front of him, he would never raise his eyes.

If it weren't for all imperial physicians' prediction that Chu Liuchen couldn't live long, Prince Zhou would definitely regard him as a formidable enemy instead of Chu Liuyue or Chu Liuxin!

Prince Zhou considered it ridiculous that someone like Chu Liuchen would save a person out of kindness! Unless there was a relationship between Qin Wanru and him!

“Do you remember what happened before Chu Liuchen left the capital?” The Empress picked up the tea cup on her hand and took a sip, and said slowly.

“I do. At that time, Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuxin wanted to chase him, but Chu Liuchen has returned when they just arrived. It is said that they did that in vain!” Prince Zhou said with a sarcastic smile. Although he didn't go there, he extracted a lot of news secretly.

Chu Liuchen, who had always stayed in the capital, wanted to go on a tour one day, so the forces of all parties paid attention to his whereabouts. It could be said that wherever he went, the news of his actions and location were sent back to the capital. Although he was ill, many people dared not treat him lightly in certain things.

In particular, this time he behaved so abnormally!

“He once lived in Ningyuan Army General's Mansion located in Jiangzhou that time, and should have met the Second Miss Qin!” The Empress came to a conclusion.

“Would he help her because she is an acquaintance?” Prince Zhou said with disapproval.

“Perhaps they are more than acquaintances. He should have feelings for the daughter of Ningyuan Army General. Prince Zhou, have you forgotten what your grandmother asked you to do today?” The Empress reminded him.

“Pick a good match?” Prince Zhou froze for a moment, and then said with surprise, “Could it be possible that Chu Liuchen has a crush on the Miss from the Qin's Mansion? But she is really... too young?”

Chu Liuzhou had also seen Qin Wanru's appearance. She really looked brilliant and exceedingly beautiful at a young age, but she was too young anyway. Although Prince Zhou considered that Qin Wanru looked gorgeous, he didn't have a strong admiration for her. Compared with other Young Madams, Qin Wanru was immature and childish.

Even though she had a delicate face, Prince Zhou wouldn't have any feeling for a childish girl like her!

“You don't have any feeling for her, but it doesn't mean that Chu Liuchen doesn't. The Miss from the Qin's Mansion has a brilliant appearance. She would probably grow up into a gorgeous beauty in the future!” The Empress had seen numerous beauties, but she still marveled at Qin Wanru's pretty face at the sight of her.

"In the future? Isn't it a long time? Besides, with numerous grown beauties around, he would rather wait for her till she grows up than directly pick these beauties. How inexperienced should Chu Liuchen be to make such a choice!" Prince Zhou sneered at Chu Liuchen's taste and keenly thought that Chu Liuchen had insulted the imperial family. As a prince, Chu Liuchen could get any girl he wanted, but he intended to wait for a girl who had not yet grown up.

"You don't need to worry about it. You just need to know that this girl is special in Chu Liuchen's eyes!" the Empress said with a sparkle in her eyes.

"Mother, Maybe I can frustrate Chu Liuchen by picking her and making her an inferior concubine of mine!" Prince Zhou suddenly smiled complacently. "Anyway, he can't pick anyone today, since he has been injured. If I pick her today, he will be unable to pick her anymore! "

Prince Zhou had always suffered a lot of losses in front of Chu Liuchen. In this moment, he suddenly considered it a good idea. He just wanted to make Chu Liuchen unhappy, and would be even more pleased if Chu Liuchen died with anger!

"Don't provoke Chu Liuchen!" The Empress directly denied the idea of Prince Zhou.

"Why not? Mother, could Chu Liuchen really fight with me for a girl? What's more, even if he really does that, so what? I don't think an invalid like him can defeat me?" At the thought that Chu Liuchen had deliberately provoked him, Prince Zhou was resentful and thought that he must get even with him.

"Because he is an invalid, he can do anything he wants. He wouldn't take a girl very seriously, but he can do anything to get even with you if you steal the girl from him!" With her face darkening, the Empress thought of one thing. Up to now, at the thought of it, she always panicked, and even became fearful in front of Chu Liuchen and didn't dare to provoke him rashly.

At that time, Prince Zhou provoked Chu Liuchen for a palace maid. Chu Liuchen, who was still young, picked up a vase beside him and smashed it on Chu Liuzhou without thinking. At the sight of the situation, the servants around hurriedly came over to pull them away.

Chu Liuchen fell to the ground and spat up blood. But even so, he actually picked up the shards of the vase and smashed them on Prince Zhou. Prince Zhou was frightened at that time, and cried in pain because of being hit by a few shards.

The Empress came over and asked someone to hold Chu Liuchen. Chu Liuchen just rolled on the ground like a lunatic and bumped into her with his body full of blood. The Empress was also frightened, and even saw herself hit by Chu Liuchen and fell into the porcelain shards.

"He's a lunatic. He's a lunatic!" Prince Zhou also thought of it, tightly closing his eyes with his hands trembling.

Prince Zhou considered this incident a lifetime memory. Since then, he had never dared to mess with Chu Liuchen. As the legitimate son of the Empress, he had never given precedence to anyone except for Chu Liuchen. He had to give precedence to Chu Liuchen and didn't dare to refuse to do that!

He was a lunatic who could do anything to get even with anyone that had annoyed him. Chu Liuchen settled the matter happening in their childhood by ordering someone to beat the palace maid, who had caused the trouble, to death and send her to Chu Liuzhou's mansion. Chu Liuzhou was so terribly

frightened that he did not dare to go out at night for a period, because he saw the badly mutilated face as soon as he went out.

The legitimate prince was beaten, and the Empress was injured due to being hit. In the end, this matter ended up with nothing definite under the mediation of the Emperor and the Empress Dowager. Both the Empress and Prince Zhou understood what it meant.

A fall into a pit, a gain in your wit. They really didn't dare to do something that would provoke Chu Liuchen rashly.

Chu Liuchen knew that he could not live long, so he dared to do anything, but they didn't!

Thinking of this, Prince Zhou involuntarily shivered with shame and anger on his face. As Prince Zhou and the emperor in the future, he was afraid of an invalid. He really felt ashamed for that, but knew that he had to bear it at this time. After inheriting the throne, he must make this invalid kneel in front of him to beg for mercy, otherwise he would tear him to pieces. He wondered if the invalid still dared to mess with him at that time!

"Since there is a relationship between the Miss from the Qin's Mansion and Chu Liuchen, I'll help her find out Madam of Duke Xing's intention behind what happened at the feast today. She's just a little girl. Why did Madam of Duke Xing do that to her?" The Empress took a deep breath and suppressed a trace of scarlet red under her eyes.

"Mother, could it be possible that the groom in my mansion is also related to Duke Xing's Mansion? Otherwise, why is it so coincidental that the girl from the Qin's Mansion got involved in both of the incidents? I have no clue about what happened outside the palace. But if it were not for the girl's statement, we won't know Madam of Duke Xing also got involved in what happened in the palace later."

Prince Zhou said on a whim.

After he finished his words, the faces of Prince Zhou and the Empress changed...

### **Chapter 294 Who Is behind the Repeated Assassinations?**

"Is it related to Duke Xing's Mansion?" the Empress said with a gloomy face, as if there was something dark and cold condensed in her body.

"Mother, it's likely. Otherwise, as Madam of Duke Xing, why should she do that to a Miss from a small place?" Prince Zhou said with coldness on his face.

Both of them stopped talking at the same time, and the room was full of dreariest atmosphere. This was a problem that neither of them had thought of, so they could not figure it out in a while.

Duke Xing was a kind person. Despite his high official rank, he could be considered a nice person. He was also smooth and slick, without offending anyone or taking any side. The Empress and Prince Zhou had repeatedly tried to draw him over to their side. However, every time he rejected them and expressed his loyalty to the emperor.

Conversely, it meant that no matter who became the emperor, he was loyal to the emperor without taking any side.

Although the Empress and her son were not happy, they considered it just as well, because at least Duke Xing would not join any other parties. But what did the current situation mean? Could it be possible that Duke Xing's Mansion planned to do something?

"Secretly sent someone to Duke Xing's Mansion for investigation!" After a while, the Empress said with her face darkening. Regardless of whether Duke Xing's Mansion was really related to the matter, the Empress thought that she must pay attention to Duke Xing's Mansion...

No one had expected that the banquet, which was supposed to be held solemnly, just passed lightly. There was no performance on the flower bed which had been set up. The Empress came over at the beginning of the banquet, and then left early with Prince Zhou.

Prince Yue and Prince Xin just sat for a while, turned a blind eye to the affectionate and shy gaze of the Young Madams, and then also left.

Regarding Prince Chen whose life was said to be uncertain, they didn't even meet him at all.

The news of picking princesses for several princes at this banquet had been quietly spread among the aristocratic families, but just disappeared so silently, as if the rumor that had excited the aristocratic families before did not exist.

The banquet was supposed to be vigorous, but actually turned out to be flat. The reason for this was that the other incidents were too horrifying, and no one paid attention to the trifling love affair.

At the beginning, someone intended to assassinate Prince Chen at the entrance of the palace with the horse from Prince Zhou's mansion. The groom committed suicide immediately after returning to Prince Zhou's mansion. Later, Prince Zhou went to the imperial study to kneel down in front of the door and ask for punishment, and the Empress also went there.

Afterwards, Prince Yue was assassinated, and it happened suddenly on the way of Prince Yue's return to his mansion from the palace. At that time, besides Prince Yue, Prince Xin was also in the carriage. Both of the princes were injured. Fortunately the guards risked their lives to rescue them so that they fled back to the palace. What was even more surprising was that Prince Zhou was also assassinated in his mansion at night.

The princes were sent to the Imperial Institute of Medicine one after another, and the imperial physicians all panicked. They were the sons of the emperor. No matter what happened to anyone of them, the imperial physicians couldn't afford to take the blame.

In addition, these princes were all badly injured. The emperor temporarily ordered them to live in the Imperial Institute of Medicine. Every day, half of the imperial physicians took turns on duty in the Imperial Institute of Medicine, and none of them dared to treat it lightly in this period.

The emperor was shocked and furious because his sons had an accident one after another. The entire city was martialized. Even no one dared to make an idle talk on the street, fearing to break the royal taboo. Everyone only dared to talk about the weather or something else like that when meeting others and didn't dare to spread the rumors about this.

The affair of Wang Yishu was concealed silently. In this case, who cared about the dispute between two little-known young madams. Although it happened in the palace, compared with numerous things that they needed to check in the palace, the affair between girls was so trifling.

Nevertheless, some people still cared about it. The imperial physicians of the Imperial Institute of Medicine were baffled. Since Miss Wang Yishu was sent to the Imperial Institute of Medicine, she had been randomly placed in the corner, but she remained unconscious and couldn't wake up no matter what the imperial physicians did to save her. The imperial physicians had no choice and planned to ask Duke Xing's Mansion to take her away.

However, accidents happened in the palace one after another, so she was left aside in the corner. Anyway she wasn't a real Miss from Duke Xing's Mansion.

In this case, who cared about her life?

Duke Xing's Mansion had never sent anyone to pick her up, so Miss Wang had passed out for two days in a corner of the Imperial Institute of Medicine!

Chu Liuchen was the first to arrive at the Imperial Institute of Medicine, so he naturally occupied the best courtyard in the Imperial Institute of Medicine. The incense was burnt in the room, and the ambergris, whose smoke was curling up, was only offered to the royal family. The tranquilizing fragrance came out from a jade-colored beast pipe at the window, pure and light.

Chu Liuchen leaned against a soft couch, looking lazy. He slightly raised his eyes to look out of the window. It was a good day outside the window. The sunshine was genial, shining into the room through the window and making him look more vigorous.

Only Xiao Xuanzi accompanied him in the room, and everyone else guarded outside the courtyard.

There seemed to be a few people outside the courtyard, but in fact there were a lot of guards hiding in the dark. Everyone was staring nervously at these courtyards, for fear that something would go wrong. Several princes of the emperor were all in the Imperial Institute of Medicine. If anything went wrong, none of them could afford to take the blame.

"How are those injured?" Chu Liuchen said with gentle eyes.

"Prince Zhou is seriously injured, and the other two princes are just scratched a little with nothing serious!" Xiao Xuanzi curled his lip scornfully. They had shouted loudly and made great noises, seeming to be seriously injured. But they were just scratched a little.

"Chu Liuzhou is seriously injured?" Chu Liuchen said casually and reached out elegantly to take out a book. Xiao Xuanzi secretly glanced at it and found that it turned out to be a medical book which seemed to be out of print. Wasn't this kind of medical book Chu Liuchen's least-favorite? When did he change his hobby?

"Prince Zhou is seriously injured indeed. At this moment, he's still lying in bed and couldn't get up. The Empress visited him several times, and she was very sad every time."

Xiao Xuanzi reported.

"Which part is injured?" Chu Liuchen asked indifferently, shifted his gaze and looked gentle and innocent.

"It's said that his arm was severely stabbed with a sword, and he can't even raise his hand now!"

"It's not bad!" Chu Liuchen said meaningfully.

"Master, what do you mean?" asked Xiao Xuanzi cautiously.

"I don't mean anything, but just consider the troubled situation not bad!" Chu Liuchen seemed to be in a good mood, shifting his gaze with a bright smile.

"Master, since the banquet wasn't held successfully, you won't be able to determine your princess, right?" Xiao Xuanzi blinked and asked.

"I don't need a princess!" Chu Liuchen seemed to be in a good mood, picked up the medical book in his hand, beat the table twice with it and said with a smile.

"But Your Highness told the Empress Dowager that day you consider the Second Miss Qin a good match for you, right? Besides, you risked your life to save her that day." Xiao Xuanzi felt confused, raised his head and nerved himself to ask his master in astonishment.

Others might not know the situation that day, but Xiao Xunzi did. It was his master who asked the guards to save the Second Miss Qin. Their carriage was originally at the rear. Hearing that there was a traffic jam in front and the Second Miss Qin's carriage was also in front, his master got out of the carriage and walk slowly forward.

His master had clearly seen what had happened to the old beggar outside the crowd. After that, the maid and the coachman left, and the horse rushed towards the Second Miss Qin. His master asked the guards to rescue the Second Miss Qin and told them to pull her over to him. Thus, the Second Miss Qin bumped into his master so heavily that his mater passed out.

From Xiao Xuanzi's point of view, all of these indicated that his master liked the Second Miss Qin. However, his master told him that he didn't mean to marry the Second Miss Qin. So why did he do these?

Xiao Xuanzi was a little eunuch who had entered the palace since he was a child. He grew up with Chu Liuchen as his henchman. But he really didn't understand his master's intention this time. His master had done all these and almost got himself killed, but it ended up with nothing definite.

Xiao Xuanzi considered his master had suffered losses. His master almost got himself killed this time. In view of his master's poor health, such a collision might really make his master seriously injured. Xiao Xuanzi was scared that day that he almost passed out. But it happened suddenly, so the guards did as they were ordered. Xiao Xuanzi had no time to object.

Seeing Chu Liuchen knocked out and fall to the ground, if it were not for the only sanity left, Xiao Xuanzi would be scared senseless. It was a serious incident.

"I'm still young, and don't want any princess!" Chu Liuchen said lightly, without sensing Xiao Xuanzi's messy thoughts.

"But Your Highness told the Empress Dowager that you consider the Second Miss Qin a good match for you." Xiao Xuanzi repeated with a bitter face.

"So what?" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows.

"The Second Miss Qin is so outstanding. If Your Highness doesn't pick her first, I'm afraid she will be picked by several other Princes!" Xiao Xuanzi thought that he had better imply his master from another aspect. His master didn't seem like enlightened and might not know as much as a little eunuch like him.

However, thinking of his master's health condition, Xiao Xuanzi suddenly understood. The Empress Dowager and the Empress had sent several delicate and charming palace maids to his master's mansion to enlighten his master about sex. But they were thrown out directly, and some of them were even decapitated. It seemed that he should think of a way to make his master accept the instruction from the palace maids who knew about sex!

"They don't dare to pick my girl!" Chu Liuchen said with a gentle and innocuous smile. The sun shone on his face, making him look as handsome and elegant as the heavenly fairy.

Only looking at his face, no one would feel how terrifying this handsome teenager was and how tyrannical and outrageous the meaning behind his words was.

Xiao Xuanzi shuddered. Looking at his master's outrageously handsome face, he suddenly understood! It turned out that his master had expected all of this!

"Your Highness, what do you mean?" Xiao Xuanzi nodded and bowed unctuously with a smile.

"Have a look at that one over there and check if she's dead. If she's still alive, just throw her out. She makes me feel perturbed!"

"Yes, master. I'll do it soon!"

## **Chapter 295 The Woman Is Crazy, Crazy!**

Wang Yishu was sent out of the palace ostentatiously by two eunuchs.

The reason why she was not allowed to stay in the palace was that the descendants of the emperor were living in the Imperial Institute of Medicine and there was no room for her, a Miss who came from an inferior aristocratic family and had framed someone up!

She had stayed for a few more days because she was still unconscious.

But although she was still unconscious now, the two eunuchs just carried her out and directly left her at the gate of the palace. They then went away, leaving her lying down at the gate of the palace.

People outside the palace did not know what was going on and thought that she was an imperial concubine who had committed a crime, but later discovered that she was only a fainted Miss from an aristocratic family. But since she was thrown at the gate so casually, they considered her not a decent lady.

The carriage of Duke Xing's Mansion arrived shortly after, and the two old maids came up to carry Wang Yishu to the carriage, and then the carriage went away.



However, although the carriage of Duke Xing's Mansion went fast, the incident of Wang Yishu was dug up among aristocratic families. They couldn't talk about the incident of several princes being assassinated, and the incident of Wang Yishu was kept secret because of the assassinations. But as Wang Yishu was thrown at the gate of the palace, the incident became significant like fermentation.

There were many Young Madams who had witnessed the incident. It was indeed Wang Yishu who intended to frame up the Second Miss of the Qin's Mansion. However, they had never met before. Why was there a dispute between them? Why did Wang Yishu dare to frame up the Second Miss Qin in the palace? Wang Yishu intended to kill the Second Miss Qin or ruin her reputation. How profound was the hatred between them?

Some aristocratic families with keen insight even thought that this incident might have something to do with the incident of Prince Chen being assassinated. For a time, Duke Xing's Mansion, which had always been stable in the capital, slowly entered the sight of everyone.

Before that, everyone considered that despite the undercurrent among several princes, Duke Xing's Mansion was obviously not involved in it. However, based on how the palace disposed Wang Yishu today, everyone wondered if Duke Xing's Mansion had got involved in it early? That was the reason why Wang Yishu was left aside at the gate of the palace? Thrown at the gate of the palace, Wang Yishu had obviously disgusted the noble people in the palace.

As Wang Yishu was thrown out of the palace gate, the rumor made everyone shift their gaze to Duke Xing's Mansion.

At this time, any sign of disturbance could alert everyone, even Duke Xing's Mansion that was least likely to get involved in this kind of thing.

In Duke Xing's Mansion, Duke Xing, who had always showed a kind smile, was bawling angrily.

"What the hell is going on?" Duke Xing said sternly, with his cold and gruesome gaze falling on the opposite Madam of Duke Xing.

Today on his way to court, Duke Xing got a lot of doubtful gaze. A few friends, with whom he had been on good terms, didn't approach him, seemingly for fear that he would approach them. It made Duke Xing very surprised. After secretly inquired about it, the result made him so incensed that he literally coughed up blood.

He managed to insist with his usual smile till the meeting with the emperor ended. After returning home, he couldn't hold back his anger and went directly to the room of Madam of Duke Xing.

"Lord, don't be angry. No one knows Yishu is so useless!" Madam of Duke Xing said with her face darkening. When someone from the palace asked her to pick up Wang Yishu, she knew something went wrong. She originally intended to inform the Empress secretly and then take Wang Yishu away after some time.

Unexpectedly the palace directly sent someone to inform her to pick up Wang Yishu, carried Wang Yishu to the gate of the palace and left Wang Yishu there.

"She's just a little girl. What do you intend to do?" Duke Xing had always left the affairs of the backyard to Madam of Duke Xing, but at this moment, he involuntarily shouted in anger and beat the table hard with his fat hand.

Madam of Duke Xing was a capable woman who had handled the affairs of the backyard so well that Duke Xing didn't need to worry about it. But she caused such a big trouble this time.

"I can't leave the girl aside!" Madam of Duke Xing said with a cold and resentful face.

"What trouble can a little girl stir up? Should you intervene and deal with her again and again? She is now only a Miss from the family of an official at deputy third level, and has nothing to do with what happened before!" Duke Xing said with disapproval, frowned and sulked.

He had every reason to be so angry. This matter was not only a matter of the inner court, but also influenced the court. Duke Xing's Mansion, which had originally been low-key, also got into the sight of others. At this time, if this matter got into the sight of others, it would be difficult to keep it secret, which was not a good thing for Duke Xing's Mansion!

"I can't leave the girl aside, or she will be a scourge!" Madam of Duke Xing gnashed her teeth and refused to let go.

"Are you... are you capable of running affairs? If you are not, I will find someone to help you!" Seeing Madam of Duke Xing insist disobeying his order, Duke Xing flew into a fury, involuntarily glared at Madam of Duke Xing and shouted in anger.

Rebuked by Duke Xing, Madam of Duke Xing suddenly lost control and screamed, "You stop me again and again for her? The woman was crazy, crazy... you..."

"Shut up!" Duke Xing suddenly stood up in shock and seized Madam of Duke Xing by the throat with a violent force, and Madam of Duke Xing almost passed out!

The several henchmen in the room trembled with fear and shrank their heads, for fear that they would be noticed by this couple, but none of them dared to come forward to mediate!

Madam of Duke Xing grasped Duke Xing's hand fiercely with her sharp nails. Duke Xing screamed in pain, and then loosened his grip.

Madam of Duke Xing flushed with agitation, stared at Duke Xing, clenched her teeth with overwhelming hatred in her eyes, but unconsciously lowered her voice. "You still miss her. You still dare to miss her. You..."

She couldn't help but want to let loose a torrent of abuse, but it was completely contrary to years of education she had accepted. Nevertheless, she still lost control. The strong jealousy and rage in her heart almost burnt her entire body, even making her forget Duke Xing had seized her by the throat fiercely.

"Shut up. If you don't want to involve our son and daughter in this, just don't say anything!" Duke Xing said with an ashen face in a low voice. The couple stared at each other as if they were not the closest person to each other. The emotion in their eyes could almost be considered hatred.

After a long while, they finally calmed down and sat back in their chairs.

Duke Xing picked up the handkerchief of Madam of Duke Xing, wrapped it around his hands at will, and asked with a somber face, "How should we handle this matter?"

"I've no idea. It's up to you!" Madam of Duke Xing seemingly had given up on herself!

"Feed Wang Yishu some medicine and make her lie in bed. We can say that she falls ill and never recovers after waking up and lies at death's door."

Duke Xing said in a sinister voice.

The key to this matter lay on Wang Yishu. Fortunately, it could still be remedied. After all, Wang Yishu was not a daughter of their mansion, but just a relative.

"It's a life anyway. We just make her stay sick... till death?" After calming down, Madam of Duke Xing was hesitant, not out of kindness, but for fear that she would be involved in this.

"Or you want to keep her safe in Duke Xing's Mansion? Since you asked her to frame up the Miss of the Qin's Mansion, you should have thought about how to deal with her if she fails. Allowing Wang Yishu to live well in our mansion now will only make people wonder why she did something like that. Your daughter is coming back. If you don't care about your daughter's future, just keep her safe! "

Duke Xing stood up, grunted coldly and turned away.

"So be it!" Thinking of her beloved daughter, Madam of Duke Xing immediately made a decision. She stood up to set about it, looking at the back of Duke Xing with an increasingly cold face.

Her daughter, whom she raised like a treasure, was incomparable to these inferior girls like Wang Yishu and Qin Wanru. Even if her daughter was a little scratched, she would make these inferior girls pay for it with their lives.

Although Wang Yishu was also raised by her from childhood, she was inferior to her daughter anyway. Her daughter is a cloud up in the ninth heaven, while Wang Yishu and Qin Wanru were just the mud under her feet. They were unqualified to be compared with her daughter, and she would never cause any damage to her daughter's reputation because of them.

"Nanny Sheng, get Yishu some medicine, which could make her stay in bed every day, later. With her current reputation, even if she can recover, she won't find a good match. Tell her to nurse her body!" Madam of Duke Xing ordered.

It was not a difficult job. They just needed to ask the doctor to give a prescription containing some proper medicine. Wang Yishu wasn't really unable to wake up, but Madam of Duke Xing had sent someone to the palace to secretly tell her not to wake up, otherwise she would face something more terrifying than passing out.

Wang Yishu had actually woken up in the palace, but pretended to be unconscious until now as Madam of Duke Xing asked. Now she had got out of the palace, and it was inappropriate for her to keep pretending to be unconscious. Madam of Duke Xing simply made her get sick. No one could extract anything from a bedridden patient!

What was more, Wang Yishu's illness could reduce a little rumor, and even make people think that she was also a victim, which was beneficial to Duke Xing's Mansion!

Nanny Sheng, who tried to reduce her sense of existence beside, hurriedly stood up and promised, but then hesitated a little bit. "Madam, what should we do to the Qin's Mansion?"

"Prepare some lavish gifts. I will officially adopt Qi Rongzhi as my daughter and bring her back!" Madam of Duke Xing took a deep breath. Even if she was unwilling to do that, she had to pretend to be glad at this time. She should make people see that there was no resentment but kindness between her and the Qin's Mansion.

Regarding why Wang Yishu intended to deal with Qin Wanru, only God knew it. Wang Yishu could not speak clearly due to illness, and who could get the answer from her?

"Yes, Madam. I'll prepare immediately!" Nanny Sheng nodded and left.

An old maid in the yard suddenly rushed over and walked to the curtain of the main room to report.

"Madam, Countess Yong wants to meet you!"

"No!" Madam of Duke Xing refused coldly. "Just tell her that Yishu can't wake up due to illness, and I've brought many doctors to treat Yishu with no time to meet her!"

She had given Countess Yong some guidance, but she didn't want to get involved in it and it had nothing to do with her! They could not find any clues on her!

"Yes, Madam!" The maid didn't dare to say anything, and left after respectfully bowing.

### **Chapter 296 Keep Owing Duke Yong's Mansion without Returning the Money!**

When the lavish gifts Duke Xing's Mansion were sent to Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, Qin Wanru was walking with Shui Ruolan in the garden.

Shui Ruolan was in good spirits. Qin Wanru had asked someone to nurse her body well. Since Madam Di and her daughter were locked up, the mansion became much quieter.

"Madam, Madam of Duke Xing has sent lavish gifts to Miss Qi and asked you to send someone to check them!" An old maid hurried over to report it and presented the gift list.

"Lavish gifts?" Shui Ruolan raised her eyebrows but did not take the list.

"Yes, lavish gifts. At this time, they have been delivered here. There were several big boxes. Madam of Duke Xing asked Madam Shui to choose a day on which Madam of Duke Xing is going to take Miss Qi back!" Reported the old maid.

"Mother, ask Qi Rongzhi's servants to check them!" Qin Wanru suggested.

Although Qi Rongzhi lived in their mansion, she was not a formal Miss of their mansion. It was inappropriate for the Qin's Mansion to handle this kind of property affair for her. If there was nothing wrong, it would be fine. But if there was something wrong, it was difficult to clarify it and would even make others consider the Qin's Mansion coveted Qi Rongzhi's property.

Her words were agreeable to Shui Ruolan. Shui Ruolan immediately nodded and instructed the old maid, "Send the lavish gifts as well as the gift list to Miss Qi's yard!"

Shui Ruolan was also wary of Madam of Duke Xing. After returning from the palace, Qin Wanru told Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan that Madam of Duke Xing had asked her to take care of Wang Yishu and Wang Yishu intended to frame her up as soon as they met. Since then, both Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan no longer believed in Madam of Duke Xing.

She now sent lavish gifts here with a great fanfare, but Shui Ruolan didn't want to take it over. It was originally the matter between Duke Xing's Mansion and the Qi's Mansion. If it weren't for Qi Rongzhi living in the Qin's Mansion, it had nothing to do with the Qin's Mansion.

The old maid promised and was about to leave. Qin Wanru suddenly stopped the old maid, turned to Shui Ruolan and said, "Mother, send the gifts to the Qi's Mansion directly. Although Qi Rongzhi lives in our mansion, she still has her own family. It's inappropriate to place those gifts in our mansion! "

"Wanru, you mean that we can ask the Qi's Mansion to check them?" Shui Ruolan said thoughtfully.

"This is the best way. All the lavish gifts are sent to the Qi's Mansion. Even if anything goes wrong after that, it has nothing to do with us. None of our mansion has touched them!" Qin Wanru suggested with a smile. It was not that she was too cautious. She just had to be cautious when confronting Madam of Duke Xing.

This Madam of Duke Xing was like a venomous snake which hid in the grass and would come out at any time. Be cautious did no harm to them.

"Okay, so be it!" Shui Ruolan also understood Qin Wanru's meaning, nodded and instructed the old maid again. The old maid promised and left.

"Mother, have you found anything from Madam Di's dowry list?" Qin Wanru asked, looking at the back of the old maid.

"I haven't found anything, but the deficit is really suspicious!" Shui Ruolan shook her head in confusion. She had also got married, and Madam Dowager was generous to her at that time. She had two shops, so she wasn't completely ignorant of business. It was impossible that the shop kept losing money and Madam Di kept investing in the shop. What was more, it was a shop belonging to a married lady.

But the account was almost perfect so that she couldn't find any flaws from it.

"Mother, you haven't found anything" Qin Wanru asked softly.

"Yes, I haven't found anything!" Shui Ruolan shook her head and said extremely innocently. It was frustrating that although she knew there must be something wrong, she couldn't find anything after going through the account repeatedly.

"Mother, what do you mean?" Qin Wanru asked calmly, reached out to gently help Shui Ruolan and told her to be careful of a small stone under her feet.

After striding over the small stone, Shui Ruolan gently wiped her forehead with her handkerchief. Her forehead had been slightly sweated, because she was a little tired. She raised her head to look around, reached out to point at an octagonal pavilion in front of them and said, "Wanru, let's go to have a seat in front!"

“Mother, we shouldn’t go to the pavilion because of the strong wind there. Let’s go sit in the empty yard!” Qin Wanru shook her head and looked at an empty yard on the left.

There were a few masters in the Qin’s Mansion, so many yards were still empty. The yard in front of them was not small, but no one lived there. Only when some masters strolled around here in leisure time, they would take a short break here.

The masters, who liked to stroll recently, were Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru who accompanied Shui Ruolan. Madam Dowager spent most of the time resting in quietude, not very willing to move.

Shui Ruolan nodded. They entered the courtyard with several maids, and sat down in the main room.

The maids were busy setting up a stove to warming the room.

There were other maids lighting the stove to boil water. Because Shui Ruolan had usually come here to rest for a while, various utensils were well prepared.

This courtyard was uninhabited, so the layout was mainly for enjoying the view. The large window facing the main room was open and slightly transparent. Through the window, they could see a few plum blossoms in full bloom on the opposite side. There were red plum blossoms on the strong branches. It was a very elegant place to rest.

The maids retreated to the door after serving the tea. Qin Wanru personally reached out to pour a cup of tea for Shui Ruolan, and then poured another cup of tea for herself. The tea smelled so good!

“Wanru, what about we send the dowry list to your Big Sister?” Shui Ruolan smiled.

“Big sister’s dowry list?” Qin Wanru smiled with ripples in her eyes.

“Yes, it’s your Big Sister’s dowry list. Your Big Sister’s engagement with the heir of Duke Yong has been settled. It seems impossible to change, so we should begin to prepare her dowry!” Shui Ruolan picked up the teacup, put it down after taking a sip and then said meaningfully.

Qin Yuru’s dowry had actually been prepared long ago. Qin Yuru could be considered married once in Jiangzhou. Her dowry had been sent to the Qi’s Mansion. After that, there was a conflict between the two mansions on the marriage. In order to compensate for the loss of the Qi’s Mansion, the Qin’s Mansion didn’t ask the dowry back and left the dowry in the Qi’s Mansion.

A noble aristocratic family usually began to prepare the dowry for their legitimate Miss before her teens. Qin Huaiyong could be considered powerful in Jiangzhou at that time, so Qin Yuru’s dowry was abundant with much good stuff, but they were all left in the Qi’s Mansion in Jiangzhou. She was going to get married, so they had to prepare the dowry again.

However, this re-prepared dowry would definitely not be better than that in Jiangzhou, and even much worse. There was no doubt.

The Qin’s Mansion, which had just moved to the capital, was no longer the powerful Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion in Jiangzhou. Besides, in such a short period of time, they couldn’t buy many things even if they had enough money. Shui Ruolan understood the meaning of this, Qin Wanru did, and even Madam Di did, but Qin Yuru, who set her mind on becoming the noble Princess of Duke Yong and then a distinguished noble lady in the capital, didn’t necessarily understand.

"Father has prepared the dowry?" Qin Wanru asked with a gentle smile and rolled her watery eyes like a little fox.

"Your father has prepared and intended to show it to your Big Sister, but it's just a lot less!" Shui Ruolan bluntly said. Even she knew the dowry shrank a lot, but they could do nothing about it. All expenses of the Qin's Mansion now were very limited. Such a dowry was squeezed out by Qin Huaiyong, and Madam Dowager also added a lot of private property in it.

But even so, the previous dowry was incomparable to that they had prepared now.

"We'll subsidize Big Sister with Madam Di's shop?" Qin Wanru had understood Shui Ruolan's intention.

"There are too few dowries, so we have to subsidize it. But our mansion has not many properties, and even Madam Dowager offered her private property. Yuru is the only daughter of Madam Di, so she is supposed to subsidize it with her dowry. Even you don't mind it. I don't think Madam Di will mind it!" Shui Ruolan said calmly.

"Mother, you've come up with a good idea!" Qin Wanru laughed. This was her idea originally. She was thinking about giving her a hint, but didn't need to do that now.

There was a problem with Madam Di's shop. Duke Yong's Mansion had embezzled the money from her dowry shop. Now they gave the shop to Duke Yong's Mansion and thus to make Duke Yong's Mansion suffer through their own misdeeds.

Moreover, everyone knowing about the truth could reap the fruits of their actions, but Qin Yuru couldn't. At the thought of this, Qin Wanru slightly raised the corners of her mouth with more deepness in her watery eyes.

She would love to see Shui Ruolan came up with such an idea. If Shui Ruolan was still so weak, how could she protect her child? Without any means, she would only end up in the collusion between Duke Yong's Mansion and Madam Di as she did in the last life!

"What about the advance payment?" After thinking about it, Qin Wanru reminded Shui Ruolan. The reason was in the hands of Duke Yong's Mansion. In this respect, Ningyuan Army General's Mansion owed Duke Yong's Mansion lots of money.

"Just keep owing them. We are a family anyway, and can talk over any problem!" Shui Ruolan said. Since she saw her ex-husband's family, she clearly knew that she and Madam Di couldn't coexist. That being the case, she couldn't endure the hardship without fighting back.

"That's true. Madam Di is married to father, and now Big Sister is going to marry Childe Di. We and Duke Yong's Mansion are as intimate as a family. With such a close relationship, they won't rip open the face and ask us to return the money, right?" Qin Wanru smiled with increasing delight. She and Shui Ruolan glanced at each other and sensed the intention in each other's eyes.

They could keep owing Duke Yong's Mansion without returning the money!

Moreover, it would be Qin Yuru's dowry in the future and be sent to Duke Yong's Mansion with Qin Yuru. No matter how much Duke Yong's Mansion had embezzled from the shop, it would be in the charge of Duke Yong's Mansion. Even if there was something fishy behind it, it was Qin Yuru's business.

It had nothing to do with the Qin's Mansion!

Now that this matter had been settled, Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru talked about Qin Yuru's dowry in detail. This kind of thing was usually discussed by Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan. But Shui Ruolan did not hide it from Qin Wanru and told her in detail. Imperceptibly Shui Ruolan had already regarded Qin Wanru as the mainstay, and couldn't rest assured until she told Qin Wanru about this.

Qin Wanru listened, while helping Shui Ruolan add a few things she didn't notice before, and Shui Ruolan nodded repeatedly.

While they were talking, a maid suddenly hurried in and reported in the porch, "Madam, Countess Yong asks to meet you!"

### **Chapter 297 Madam, You've Been Framed up**

"Countess Yong asks to meet me?" Shui Ruolan was dumbfounded for a while, and then put down the list in her hand and asked with surprise. Every time Countess Yong came to meet Madam Di or Madam Dowager, and had never asked to meet Shui Ruolan.

"Yes, she asks to meet you!" The maid nodded repeatedly.

Shui Ruolan looked towards Qin Wanru, and anxiously frowned. "Why does she come to meet me?"

"She might feel guilty!" Qin Wanru said meaningfully with a slight smile.

"Guilty?" Shui Ruolan didn't understand for a moment, and even frowned more.

"Do you remember Miss Wang framed me up in the palace? As long as Miss Wang was not crazy, she would not frame up someone whom she just met, unless there are grudges between her and me!" Qin Wanru calmly analyzed for Shui Ruolan.

She did not tell what had happened outside the palace gate. This matter involved too many people. Since everyone considered it a murder targeted at Chu Liuchen, so be it.

"Does Countess Yong know this Miss Wang?" Shui Ruolan said with annoyance. If there was anyone who intended to frame up Qin Wanru and had any grievances against Qin Wanru, it was Duke Yong's Mansion except for Madam Di. Those of Duke Yong's Mansion couldn't bear to see Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru live a good life, so they would definitely frame up Qin Wanru!

Shui Ruolan had asked Qin Wanru why Wang Yishu framed her up as soon as they met, but Qin Wanru just vaguely said that she didn't know because she did not want to involve Shui Ruolan in this kind of thing. Now it corresponded to what Qin Wanru said before!

"I suppose so. I heard that Countess Yong and Madam of Duke Xing had a good personal relationship, so Countess Yong naturally knows Miss Wang, the niece of Duke Xing!" Qin Wanru deliberately diverted the topic.

"I see. No wonder Miss Wang framed you up as soon as she met you. It turns out that she did that because of Countess Yong!" Shui Ruolan was distracted as Qin Wanru expected. After thinking for a moment, Shui Ruolan said angrily, "What should we do now?"



"Mother, you can meet her first!" Qin Wanru stood up with a slight smile and said lightly, "If she has brought some gifts, you might as well accept them!"

"Ask Countess Yong to come here!" Shui Ruolan considered her reasonable, sat up straight slightly and said.

The maid promised and left.

Qin Wanru whispered to Yujie, and Yujie nodded and also left. After telling Shui Ruolan to pay attention to something, Qin Wanru went to the back of a large screen and hid there. She also wanted to hear what Countess Yong would say.

What happened at the gate of the palace was definitely related to Duke Yong's Mansion!

Countess Yong looked extremely kind when coming in. Someone ignorant might consider Shui Ruolan was the daughter who had married into the Qin's Mansion from Duke Yong's Mansion.

After they sat down, Countess Yong pushed a gift list over with a smile and said cheerfully, "I heard that Madam of Duke Xing is going to officially adopt Miss Qi as her daughter. I have nothing else to give your mansion, so I've brought some gifts."

The kind smile and the courteous tone made Countess Yong look like a completely different person, which was quite surprising.

"How, how can I accept them? Besides, this is the joyful event of Duke Xing's Mansion and the Qi's Mansion, with nothing to do with our mansion!" Shui Ruolan did not reach for the gift list, but refused politely with a smile.

"How can it have nothing to do with your mansion? Everyone knows that Madam of Duke Xing chose Miss Qi to be her daughter in your mansion. If Miss Qi is not in your mansion, there won't be such a joyful event!" Countess Yong said cheerfully. Although she sounded reasonable, it was farfetched anyway.

But her words made sense indeed!

"But it's..." Shui Ruolan smiled hesitantly, seemingly not knowing what to say for a while.

"Madam Shui, don't hesitate to accept them. Our mansions are closely related, since we are going to unite by marriage. Anyway it's the joyful event of both our mansions, and we should celebrate it. Being adopted as the daughter of Madam of Duke Xing is the blessing Miss Qi met in your mansion. I come here today to join in the joyful event and hope to be blessed with happiness!"

Countess Yong said in an increasingly amicable tone, and this reason became increasingly convincing. At this time, Shui Ruolan could no longer refuse.

"Since you say so, I'll accept them. Thank you, Madam!" Shui Ruolan smiled with kindness, reached out to take the list, and even became more cheerful after glancing over the list.

Countess Yong involuntarily showed a trace of scorn in her eyes. She thought that Shui Ruolan really came from a humble family as she expected, since Shui Ruolan beamed with joy at the sight of the gift list. But it was better this way, because it would be easier for her to inquire about information. Countess

Yong was terribly frightened during these days. The incident happened suddenly, affected the overall situation and developed too quickly, so that Countess Yong was terribly frightened.

Originally, it was only a matter of framing up Qin Wanru, but led to the major event of Prince Chen being assassinated. After knowing this, Countess Yong almost passed out with fear. At that time, she turned to Madam of Duke Xing to find a solution, but was told that Madam of Duke Xing was sick after reaching Duke Xing's Mansion.

Countess Yong felt that she was going to get sick too out of fear!

After returning home, she was increasingly scared by the development of the incident. She was in breathless anxiety every day, for fear that someone would accidentally come to check on her. After only a few days, there was white hair on Countess Yong's head. A slightest sign of trouble could make her cuddle up in a heap in panic.

Later, she went to meet Madam of Duke Xing again, but was told that Madam of Duke Xing was very busy. Duke Xing's niece framed up Qin Wanru in the palace, and then accidentally fell into a coma and was left at the gate of the palace after being treated by the imperial physicians. Madam of Duke Xing went to pick her up.

Countess Yong did not give up and went there again, but was told that Madam of Duke Xing was busy asking doctors to treat her niece with no time to meet her.

As Madam of Duke Xing kept avoiding meeting her, Countess Yong became increasingly flustered. Hearing that Madam of Duke Xing ostentatiously indicated that she was going to adopt Qi Rongzhi, who lived in the Qin's Mansion, as her daughter, Countess Yong involuntarily came to have a look and inquire about information.

Seeing Shui Ruolan accept the gifts with a cheerful smile, she looked relaxed. It seemed that no one related what had happened to Qin Wanru to her, and she would be fine.

"What happened to Second Miss in the palace that day? What happened to the niece of Duke Xing's Mansion?" Countess Yong held back the scorn in her eyes and asked with a smile and concern.

Countess Yong didn't dare to directly ask about what had happened at the gate of the palace, so she intended to talk about the incident in the palace first. Countess Yong was surprised by what Wang Yishu did. Countess Yong had seen the niece of Duke Xing several times, but she didn't look like a crazy person. Countess Yong had been told that she had a good reputation!

"I don't know what happened. Wanru was frightened and got sick after coming back. She's still nursing her body in the yard!" Shui Ruolan sighed and lay through her teeth. "I wonder why Miss Wang was so hostile to Wanru and did something so terrible to her as soon as they met!"

"Miss Wang had a good reputation. Despite her humble family, she was famous for her talents. It is really strange that she directly framed up Second Miss this time. She is really vicious. Fortunately, a wicked person will be punished by God. I heard that she didn't wake up in the palace. Even if she wakes up now, she can't get up. Her life is maintained by medicine every day!

Countess Yong seemed to share the same bitter hatred with resentment on her face.

“Yeah, Wanru is terribly frightened. She entered the palace happily, but...” Shui Ruolan didn’t dare to finish her words. Obviously the following words slightly broke a taboo.

“Second Miss was really unlucky that day. I heard that she had an accident at the gate of the palace and almost lost her life!” Countess Yong calmly shifted the topic to what had happened at the gate of the palace with a sigh.

After the screen, Qin Warun smiled slightly with cold eyes. Countess Yong came here today to inquire about this as she expected!

The incident was definitely related to Countess Yong. She just didn’t expect that Countess Yong had so superb means that she hadn’t been tracked down up to now.

It seemed that Duke Yong’s Mansion was not exactly as decadent as it looked.

“Wanru was almost seriously injured that day. She didn’t expect to have such an accident and almost... Our Madam Dowager intends to take Wanru to worship the bodhisattva after she gets better!” Shui Ruolan sighed with real panic in her eyes.

Shui Ruolan and Madam Dowager knew the accident after it happened. After knowing it, Madam Dowager and she almost passed out. If it were not for being rescued by Prince Chen, Qin Wanru would be killed at the gate of the palace.

At the thought of it, Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan were terribly frightened. The news that came later even indicated that it was a deployment targeted at Prince Chen and Qin Wanru was involved in the trouble. But for whatever reason, it was the truth that Qin Wanru almost got killed.

In the end, Madam Dowager kept Qin Wanru in the inner court and didn’t allow her to go out. Even if she wanted to see her own shop, Madam Dowager did not allow her.

“What the hell is going on here? Why was Second Miss involved in it?” Countess Yong asked carefully, and her face changed.

In fact, she was really curious, but found nowhere to inquire about it. If the trap they set for Qin Wanru was involved in the incident of Prince Chen being assassinated, it was a crime grave enough to confiscate her property and exterminate her family.

Fortunately, Madam of Duke Xing told her to keep out of harm by discretion and stay out of it. So she made a scout, whom she had deployed for years, take the blame. She originally thought that it was not a big deal, and just made use of a scout. Even if Qin Wanru was seriously injured or killed, so what? Qin Wanru was not among the noblest ladies in the capital. They just needed to report that a horse of Prince Zhou’s Mansion was agitated and accidentally hit Qin Wanru. Could there be anyone who would confront Prince Zhou for Qin Wanru!

However, the incident became so significant. No one expected that Qin Wanru was only an imaginary target and Prince Chen was the real target. It made the initiator Countess Yong lose her presence of mind. Why didn’t she know the incident of trapping Prince Chen? Could it be that the groom had turned to another master and played a set of interlocking stratagems targeted at her stratagem?

Because of this, Countess Yong was having a bad time in her mansion. She had been rebuked by Duke Yong, and even the Old Madam of Duke Yong's Mansion gave her a slap in the presence of everyone. Thinking of this, she seemed to feel faint pain on her face and gnashed her teeth secretly. The old b\*tch only cared about her daughter without thinking what kind of person her daughter was.

"Madam, it's a frame-up!" Shui Ruolan looked around and turned her head to say in a low voice.

Countess Yong was shocked and asked anxiously, "What do you mean?"

Behind the screen, Qin Wanru raised her red lips with cold and enchanting eyes...

### **Chapter 298 Grab, Let's See Who Is Lucky**

"Now this case is still being investigated. It is said that it is related to the previous rebellion. If the case is cleared, the criminal's entire family will be beheaded!" Shui Ruolan pressed Qin Wanru's hands and said nervously.

"This, this case is related to the previous rebellion?" Countess Yong worked hard to stop her lips from trembling, feeling that she had fallen into an ice cave.

The rebellion that took place several years ago nearly made the whole country fall into turmoil. Many rich and powerful aristocratic families were involved. In the end, all of them were uprooted, including a few that were more prominent than Duke Yong's Mansion. Thinking of this event, Countess Yong was not only afraid, but she also trembled.

At this time, she calmed herself down with great efforts!

"Who can deny it? Look, no one in the capital city dares to talk about it!" Shui Ruolan said.

"Madam Shui, you are right. Now I suddenly realize I still have something to do in our mansion. Then, I won't bother you, and I will come next time when I am free!" Countess Yong couldn't stay here anymore, suddenly rose, and said with a forced smile.

"Madam, you don't often come here, why not stay longer?" Shui Ruolan stood up and politely persuaded her to stay.

"No, if there is a chance, let's chat next time!" Countess Yong said. Now she had something on her mind and had no mood to chat anymore. She had to go and check if there was still any evidence. Previously, she thought there wouldn't be any, but now, the more she thought about it, the more she became worried. If any evidence related to their mansion was found, it would be a disaster.

"As you wish, Madam!" Shui Ruolan looked at Countess Yong who felt uneasy with a smile and said.

Countess Yong spoke something courteous again and hurried away. Hearing her leave, Qin Wanru walked out from behind the screen slowly.

As Shui Ruolan waved her hand, all the servants left.

Qionghua left at last and closed the door for them considerately. From the questions and answers of Countess Yong and her madam, Qionghua also felt something. After stepping out of the room, she guarded the door gingerly and dare not have the slightest slack.

"Wanru, this has something to do with you?" Shui Ruolan looked pale and asked in the room. Although she was not very smart, she had found that Countess Yong was scared and left hurriedly. If an unmarried lady like Qin Wanru was involved, it would be a big problem.

"Mother, don't worry, this matter nearly has nothing to do with me. I just got involved accidentally. That's nothing terrible, let alone I nearly died, and no one will suspect me!" Qin Wanru knew what Shui Ruolan thought of after hearing Countess Yong's words and comforted her hurriedly.

Shui Ruolan was finally relieved when she saw Qin Wanru smiling calmly, without any trace of panic. With her pink and tender little face being a little red, she was neither pale nor panicky.

"This seems not a big problem! That's good!"

After sitting down and taking up the teacup at her hand and gulping, she then felt a little relaxed. "I thought you were involved just now!"

As for such a thing, if one was involved, it would not only be one person's trouble.

"Mother, don't worry. If I had been involved, the palace would have sent someone to ask me," Qin Wanru said with a smile, looking peaceful, but kept the thing a secret. Since everyone thought so, Chu Liuchen obviously wanted everyone to think so, too. Naturally, the thing should be like this.

Knowing too much was not good for Shui Ruolan.

Although Shui Ruolan was not as vulnerable as she was in her previous life, this didn't mean that she dared to accept such a thing, which was almost like rebellion.

"As long as you are not in trouble!" Shui Ruolan whispered her concern and then changed the subject, her face turning cold. "What did Countess Yong mean? Is it that she has been involved? How can this end peacefully?"

If it was other crimes that Duke Yong's Mansion committed, the mansion itself would naturally take responsibility, but if it was rebellion, sometimes the whole clan would be incriminated. Qin's Mansion and Duke Yong's Mansion were now within the same clan. No doubt, Shui Ruolan was angry.

"Mother, their mansion won't be involved. If it had been, Duke Yong wouldn't have been safe and sound chatting with you just now!"

Qin Wanru soothed her softly.

"Right, right, right!" Shui Ruolan was soothed successfully and nodded repeatedly, but she felt very agitated and rubbed her forehead, which had a little dull pain.

"Mother, just now I especially asked you to follow what Countess Yong said to talk because I wanted to scare her. It seems that Countess Yong is very interested in my experience at the palace gate. If she is scared, she will not ask about it here and there and could avoid the possibility that if she causes trouble, our mansion will also be dragged."

When she found Shui Ruolan believed her, Qin Wanru explained with a smile again.

What Qin Wanru said was very reasonable. If Countess Yong asks about the thing that happened at the palace gate here and there, that is making trouble. Yesterday back at home, her cousin exhorted her repeatedly that no matter who mentioned this matter, she should only say she was unclear or didn't know, not speak more with others, and never discuss it!

Asking about it here and there like Countess Yong was the source of trouble. Scaring her away was also good!

When she found Shui Ruolan was not panicky anymore, Qin Wanru added a few more words and then left with her. It was not early now, and Shui Ruolan needed to rest.

When she was walking to her courtyard but had not taken many steps, she met Yujie who came back in a hurry. Seeing Qin Wanru, she came over to bow hurriedly.

"Saw her?" Qin Wanru smiled and said as she continued walking back.

"Yes, I did, but not only Mei Xue but also Meiyan. I saw two of them. First, I saw Mei Xue. When I walked past her accidentally and spoke of the matter of Duke Xing's Mansion, Mei Xue went away to see it and then went back hurriedly, but after a while, she and Meiyan went to see it together!"

The expensive gift was sent to Qin's Mansion by Madam of Duke Xing. Although it was announced to give to Qi Rongzhi, she was now living in Qin's Mansion.

But later, Shui Ruolan asked her servant to tell the supervisor of Duke Xing's Mansion who sent the gifts that they should send them to Qi's mansion directly. The gifts had been sent in. The process of re-packing and sending them would take a lot of time. Absolutely, Qin Yuru would have enough time to send her servant to ask about the matter after she learned it.

The gifts that Duke Xing's Mansion had sent this time were quite generous, and they also arrogantly stated that they would publicly take Qi Rongzhi to Duke Xing's Mansion and would raise her as the daughter of the mansion in the future.

With the status of Duke Xing's Mansion, if the process of adopting a daughter was too simple, others would laugh at the family. Previously, Madam of Duke Xing was not satisfied with Qi Rongzhi, so she just said it but didn't do anything, but this time the madam made vigorous publicity of the matter.

Madam of Duke Xing's previous and current actions differed largely, which also showed her guilt.

But different from Countess Yong, she did this for Wang Yishu. Qin Wanru was quite clear that Madam of Duke Xing would not leave any trace even if she was the one behind the scenes. Besides, if the worst situation occurred and Countess Yong was founded, Madam of Duke Xing would not be found, either.

The woman hid quite well. Without the details of her previous life as well as the loopholes Qin Yuru and her mother leaked from time to time through talking, she would not know that all the things were related to Madam of Duke Xing, who was the pusher behind her tragic fate.

Although she had been reborn, Qin Wanru dare not let her guard down at all when facing such a woman.

"Miss, will First Miss make trouble?" Yujie looked at the silent Qin Wanru and said. She deliberately sent such a message to Qin Yuru, who was being detained, and guessed this had something to do with First Miss.

"She will!" Qin Wanru confirmed. She passed the information to Qin Yuru for further use. Compared with the generous gifts given to Qi Rongzhi, Qin Yuru would think her dowry was too little and would not tolerate the situation because of the comparison.

But now this was not the most important thing, and her watery eyes looked cold. Qin Yuru was not the nominally adopted daughter of Madam of Duke Xing in her previous life, but she was almost like one, who was not only appreciated by Madam of Duke Xing but also liked by Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion.

Especially taking her to Duke Xing's Mansion to raise was not that they liked her at first sight. Qin Yuru was not that charming, and Duke Xing's Mansion would not adopt the Miss of another mansion randomly.

The secret in her previous life that brought her to the boundless sea of blood might surface gradually, and she would wait patiently...

Qin Yuru would admire the so many gifts that Duke Xing's Mansion sent today and have some ideas that she could not control herself. Madam Di had ideas a long time ago, or she wouldn't have been so interested in her mother's glazed cup or even evilly wished to destroy Jingxin Monastery.

Qin Yuru's clothes had the bluegrass seal's patterns, which drew the attention of Duke Xing's Mansion. Now it should be the time to "close the net"!

Currently, Madam of Duke Xing sending generous gifts to Qi Rongzhi provided a very good opportunity for Qin Wanru. After Wang Yishu's affair, Madam of Duke Xing wanted to use it to build a closer relationship with Qin's Mansion?

This was a good opportunity. She believed that Madam Di also thought so...

"Mother, why has Qi Rongzhi got better gifts? She is but one raised in our family. I don't believe Madam of Duke Xing likes her." Qin Yuru gritted her teeth and said in the candlelight. When she thought of the thing two servant girls described to her, she became envious instantly.

Why was Qi Rongzhi so lucky? And her luck was from Qin Yuru's family. Qin Yuru felt unfair. This should be her good luck, for she was the most distinguished Miss of Qin's Mansion and should have more honors!

Qin Yuru sneaked into Madam Di's courtyard, lifted the cloth covering her head, and told her mother about the matter angrily.

"Yu'er, don't be anxious!" The thin Madam Di caressed her and said. In the candlelight, ghostly cheekbones protruded high on her previous beautiful face.

"Mother, how can I not? In the past, you said I have good luck, but look at me now. I have been locked up by my father, and my good luck has been taken by Qi Rongzhi!" Qin Yuru didn't seem to see Madam Di's thin, bloodless face, and said willfully and angrily.

"She can't, and this is only to stop the public from gossiping!" Madam Di said sullenly and hinted to Nanny Zhou, and the latter walked into the inner room. After a short while, she came out with a seal and placed it before Qin Yuru. The bluegrass seal looked a little familiar to her.

"Mother, What is this?" Qin Yuru picked it up, observed it in the candlelight, and asked with a surprise.

### **Chapter 299 Age Changed to 13**

"I took this from that b\*tchy girl. Before that old beggar noticed it, I had taken it off her. The Fenghua Glazed Cup is possibly not as important as this!" Madam Di's bony cheeks were full of pride, and her eyes looked even bigger and more sinister.

"What is the Fenghua Glazed Cup?" Qin Yuru asked with confusion.

"When that girl was sent to me at that time, she wore this seal, and there was also a piece of precious Fenghua Glazed Cup in the package. After the old beggar came back, she took the Cup away, but had no idea about the seal the b\*tchy girl wore."

Madam Di sneered. If she had not been thoughtful, she would not have got this bluegrass seal. But now she had lost it and had to make a new one according to her memory of it!

"Mother, this seal has something to do with the b\*tchy girl's origin? What's the use of it for me?" Qin Yuru turned the seal in her hand and observed it, but showed no much interest, throwing it to the table.

Seeing this, Nanny Zhou rushed over hurriedly and held the seal thrown over and shouted loudly, "First Miss, my dear lady, this can't be thrown because it bears great luck!"

Madam Di was also taken aback by Qin Yuru's behavior and said irritably, "This can't be thrown because it is related to the current matter. If my guess is correct, this should be the only chance to solve your current dilemma!"

"Is the b\*tchy girl's stuff so good?" Qin Yuru said very dismissively as she heard it and frowned. Over the years, she had been taught by Madam Di that she was the most distinguished Miss and Qin Wanru was but a b\*stard picked up from somewhere. Raising her was nearly equal to raising one more servant girl in their mansion.

She was treated as a Miss only because Madam Dowager liked her.

Madam Di said so to Qin Yuru, who also thought so. Qin Wanru was but a servant girl, and no one else but she should be the scapegoat of trouble. Even if she was bullied by Qi Rongzhi, that was nothing. Anyway, she was but a b\*tchy servant girl living off their family.

But what Madam Di said today was not this meaning.

"If my guess is correct, this girl should be the biological daughter of the Heir of Duke Xing, whom I met in the capital city. Unfortunately, when the girl was brought to me, I heard her father had died. If I had seen him, I would have known if he was the Heir of Duke Xing!"

Madam Di stuck out her tongue to lick the slightly cracked corner of her mouth, with an excited glint in her eyes.



Before getting married, she was the daughter of Duke Yong's official wife. At that time, the mansion was even more prosperous than it was today. She was one of the few noble ladies in the capital city, but her status as a noble lady was no match for the status of the heir of Duke Xing.

In fact, the handsome young general was also a dream for Countess Yong before she got married, but it was only a dream at last. The Heir of Duke Xing fell in love with Infanta Qinghua, the daughter of Rui'an Great Elder Princess. Later, the emperor issued an imperial edict to designate the marriage. It was really wonderful.

At that time, many official wives' daughters in aristocratic families felt sad silently, but their statuses were a little lower than that of the only daughter of Rui'an Great Elder Princess, although they were all extraordinary.

"The biological daughter of Heir of Duke Xing? Is this true?" After learning the secret, Qin Yuru couldn't help breathing rapidly!

Having been in the capital city for some time, Di Fenglan had also heard about Duke Xing's Mansion. In private, she also loved the eldest son of Duke Xing's Mansion. In former days, if she was with Di Fenglan, what they talked about most was Duke Xing's Mansion, and she also knew some past stories of the mansion, including the fact that the current Duke Xing was not appointed as the heir of the duke in the beginning, but the original heir died, and so he got the current nobility title.

"I was not sure in the beginning, but after you wore the bluegrass dress to visit Duke Xing's Mansion, Madam of Duke Xing became nice to me gradually and secretly asked about the seal patterns on your dress. Then, I thought this is probably true." Madam Di became even prouder.

Initially, it was but a guess, only an unsure guess, and its cause was the Fenghua Glazed Cup. Formerly, she heard that the Fenghua Glazed Cup was among the dowry of Infanta Qinghua when she was married to the Heir of Duke Xing. It was said that the item was surprisingly valuable, but she had never seen it.

All glazed cups were almost from overseas and were quite valuable. One could say that all the families which had glazed cups were not ordinary. Allegedly, the Fenghua Glazed Cup was even more extraordinary. Yet, no matter how extraordinary it was, Madam Di had never seen it, but she saw one in Qin Wanru's package. Although she was not sure if that was the one, she thought of the one of the Heir of Duke Xing instantly.

But that time this idea just flashed across her mind and vanished. How could Qin Wanru be the daughter of the Heir of Duke Xing? How could the daughter of the Heir of Duke Xing become an orphan and be raised by Qin Huaiyong and Madam Dowager?

Madam Di thought so at that time, but she was still thoughtful and secretly took the bluegrass seal on Qin Wanru's neck and stowed it.

Later, she also sent someone to ask about the experience of the Heir of Duke Xing, but the information she got was the Heir of Duke Xing died in the rebellion. Infanta Qinghua was found and taken back, but she also died after she finally gave birth to a son. After that, no one heard the couple had a daughter.

This idea was deeply hidden in Madam Di's heart.

Later, when she arrived in the capital, she also asked Old Madam of Duke Yong about the experiences of the former Heir of Duke Xing and Infanta Qinghua, but Old Madam only said no one knew where they had been over the years. At that time, Infanta Qinghua could not get along well with Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion. After the old Duke Xing went furious, the former Heir of Duke Xing left the capital with Infanta Qinghua.

Then there was chaos again. No one knew what their life was like during these years or whether they gave birth to children or not, but the pregnant Infanta Qinghua was finally found and taken back. Rumors said that Infanta Qinghua was not so clear-minded when she was taken back, and so she could not tell what happened over the past years.

Madam Di thought the unclear condition was a very good opportunity, and it was even better now that Infanta Qinghua was dead.

She had not seen the bluegrass seal, but she once heard Infanta Qinghua had a bluegrass pattern seal. The patterns on Qin Yuru's clothes were slightly different, but they still drew the attention of Madam of Duke Xing.

Although Madam of Duke Xing had not said anything directly, Madam Di felt this was almost the truth, but she had no time to plot it later. She had been looking for the lost seal, but she failed. Finally, she had to ask Nanny Zhou to make a new one, which she got a short time ago.

"Yuru, if you become the daughter of Duke Xing's Mansion, no one will dare to belittle you. What's the matter that you had a romantic relationship with Qi Tianyu in former days? How can Qi Tianyu desire such a noble lady like you? Even if you are married into the Duke Yong's Mansion in the future, no one will dare to oppress you!"

Madam Di smiled neurotically and clenched her fists tightly, her twisted expression looking ferocious.

Qin Yuru looked at Madam Di with some disgust, backed off silently, and pretended to press her face with her handkerchief. "Mother, can Duke Xing's Mansion approve of me only because of this seal?"

"They may not approve of you in public, but taking you to Duke Xing's Mansion and raise you like a lady of it is a must. At least, you can't be worse than their adopted daughter Qi Rongzhi. Anyway, you will be better than her," Madam Di said in an eerily cold tone.

"Will Duke Xing's Mansion also send generous gifts?" When Qin Yuru thought of the gifts of Duke Xing's Mansion their mansion's servant girls discussed today, her eyes brightened.

"Not only generous gifts but also other things. The identity you will replace is the daughter of the former Heir of Duke Xing. In theory, this identity is even higher than that of the current Duke Xing's First Miss. How can Duke Xing's Mansion dare to treat you indifferently? Let alone you are also the biological granddaughter of Rui'an Great Elder Princess. Previously, Qin Wanru was admired so much by others only because she was appreciated by Rui'an Great Elder Princess. If you are her biological granddaughter, who will dare to look down upon you!"

Madam Di's eyes turned cold. As for some other deals, she was unwilling to let Qin Yuru know. It was enough if she could be the qualified daughter of the former heir of Duke Xing's Mansion!

"I see!" Qin Yuru nodded heavily and became very energetic. Thinking that she would become the real daughter of the former heir of Duke Xing's Mansion, she felt she was even nobler but never thought she was but a fake one or how serious the result would be if the plot failed.

"Yuru, but your age needs to be changed slightly. It happens your grandma has sent someone to discuss the marriage of you and Di Yan. I will try to ask someone to puff it off and only say you are 13. But after this, I am afraid your grandma won't be so close to you!" Madam Di had a sinister glint in her eyes, and her smile looked a little deeper in the candlelight as if she was a wolf who hasn't eaten for many days and had seen delicious food.

"Say I am 13?" Qin Yuru asked with confusion, "Why say I am 13?"

"If we say you are 15, no one will think you are their daughter because everyone knows the former Heir of Duke Xing and Infanta Qinghua were still in the capital city at that time. Only during the time they left the capital city, they could have a lost daughter. The father of the servant girl Qu Le was the servant of the former Heir of Duke Xing back then. Unfortunately, he disappeared later!"

This was also something disappointing for Madam Di. It would be better if the servant could prove the matter. She consumed so much energy and found the servant looking for the couple in Jiangzhou, but he strangely disappeared because of Qin Wanru. Thinking of that, Madam Di felt quite angry and hit the table hard with her palm.

The glazed cup, the bluegrass seal, and the servant of the former Heir of Duke Xing who was still looking for his master were shreds of evidence. With them, a human could be created. Even if the daughter didn't exist, she could be modeled. Although Madam Di had been doing so secretly, she dare not make her dream come true.

But now the pusher behind it appeared. With the current predicament of her and Qin Yuru, it seemed that making her daughter become the daughter of the former Heir of Duke Xing was the only chance to create a good future for them. How could she give up such a chance!

Her daughter should be born extraordinary!

Outside the room, a black shadow flashed past...

### **Chapter 300 Qi Rongzhi Shows off Everywhere**

Madam Di didn't care who Qin Wanru was. In her heart, she had been forcing herself not to believe the possible origin of Qin Wanru. Everything was but a coincidence!

The coincidence would only have to be her daughter. By then, she could trample on the old beggar and B\*tch Shui and also deal with the b\*tchy girl at the same time. Madam Di didn't think it was necessary for the possible lurking peril to exist.

How could a b\*tchy girl compare with her beautiful daughter who had been raised with so much care and love!

She wanted the b\*tchy girl and B\*tch Shui to live worse than death...

There always were new topics in the capital city. Since the matter of Wang Yishu, the news of Madam of Duke Xing taking the girl of a Jiangzhou magistrate as her adopted daughter had been spread, and the

process was very grand. It was said she especially appointed her servant to send generous gifts, and many of them were exquisite. She didn't look down upon the girl at all, although she was but the daughter of a small area's magistrate.

It was said the magistrate's daughter still lived in Ningyuan Army General's Mansion. Therefore, now many people could not clearly judge whether Duke Xing's Mansion and Ningyuan Army General's Mansion held gratitude or resentment toward each other. It was better to say this brought honor to Ningyuan Army General's Mansion rather than saying the small magistrate's daughter was liked.

It was said the gifts stayed in Qin's Mansion for a while and then were directly sent to Qi's Mansion in the capital city. But some others thought Miss Qi seemed not so generous and didn't know why Madam of Duke Xing liked her.

When she lived in Qin's Mansion as a guest, she was appreciated by Madam of Duke Xing who visited the mansion. No doubt, this was her good luck, but the good luck occurred in Qin's Mansion. That was to say, without Qin's Mansion, she would have had no chance to meet Madam of Duke Xing. For Madam of Duke Xing, Qin's Mansion should also be one of the reasons why she had sent generous gifts, and even some of them were possibly prepared for Qin's Mansion.

Miss Qi looked quite mean when she sent all the gifts back to her home hurriedly. Thus, before Qi Rongzhi moved to Duke Xing's Mansion and lived there, many people had disliked her.

Rich and powerful aristocratic families had their rules, and it was not so easy to get used to these rules. On this matter, Qi Rongzhi had been scorned by the Misses who also came from rich and powerful aristocratic families.

But Qi Rongzhi had no idea about these things. These days, she had been so proud that she nearly wanted to tell the whole world her current identity. Finally, she could join Duke Xing's Mansion. On that day, Duke Xing's Mansion sent their servants to set the date, and so much silk and satin among the generous gifts could be used to tailor the number several times her current clothes.

Previously, the gifts were sent to Qi's mansion, but Qi Tianyu returned half of them, with some used to thank Qin's Mansion. Qi Rongzhi did take these gifts to Madam Dowager, but she took all the luxurious brocades among them to make clothes for herself.

She was about to be a Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion. If she didn't prepare a few more clothes, how could she present herself in public?

Although she wore beautiful clothes daily, she could not find the right person to show them off. Qin Yuru was grounded. It was said Qin Wanru was ill, and Zhifang Pavilion was heavily guarded. She wanted to break in, but it was impossible.

Qi Rongzhi felt her charm was not seen. Today she also paid a special visit to Zhifang Pavilion of Qin Wanru. For this visit, she especially changed to another beautiful dress. During these days, she wore a different dress each day. Each of them was beautiful and unique and could be regarded as fine work.

But such fine work was not appreciated as it should be at the entrance of Zhifang Pavilion.

"Miss Qi, our Miss is ill and can't see you!" Qu Le came out and said to her respectfully. Although she was now still a second class servant girl, she was the assistant of Qingyue, helping her deal with the

affairs in the courtyard. Being a second class servant girl, she was bright, and servant girls of the courtyard also treated her as a principal maid. Everyone thought it was but a matter of time for her to become a principal maid.

Others thought so, but Qi Rongzhi didn't. She changed her expression to look Qu Le up and down and raised her head as her look turned cold. "Qin Wanru has made so many excuses to avoid seeing me. Is it that she dare not see me?"

A second class servant girl came to speak to her, making Qi Rongzhi burn with anger.

Who was she? She was about to be the Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion soon, but she was belittled so much by Qin Wanru.

"Miss Qi, our Miss is truly ill. She has been ill since she came back from the palace!" Qu Le explained.

"B\*tchy maid!" Qi Rongzhi went furious, ready to slap Qu Le.

Qu Le reacted extremely fast and avoided it as she shouted, "Miss Qi, our Miss is truly ill. You don't believe it, do you?"

Their noise became louder, and others in the courtyard shot an unfriendly look at Qi Rongzhi. When she found so many servant girls and old maids with brooms and rags were staring at her, she couldn't help feeling inexplicably guilty. Instantly, she dare not make trouble.

She gritted her teeth and snorted coldly. "I will leave Qin's Mansion in a few days. Tell your Miss to get up early, or she won't be able to see me in the future even if she wants!"

"Yes, Miss Qi, I will tell our Miss in a while. Miss Qi, please leave now! "If you have nothing to do, you can go and see First Miss in the name of our Second Miss. In a while, our First Miss and Childe Di may get married. By then, it might not be so convenient for First Miss Qi to see our First Miss!"

Qu Le said with a flattering smile and changed the previous topic to the visit to Qin Yuru.

"I want to see her? Look at Qin Yuru's identity! She doesn't deserve my visit!" With a cold snort, Qi Rongzhi turned and left.

"Miss Qi, take care!" Qu Le bowed toward her back, looking very courteous.

Qi Rongzhi turned and looked at Qu Le's smiling face, feeling more irritated. She stood outside Zhifang Pavilion, looked for the right direction, and then turned, but she still decided to take another path, which led to Qin Yuru's courtyard.

During these days, she had been declined several times by Qin Wanru, and she had indeed not visited Qin Yuru's place to show off. When she thought her identity was uncommon but the Qin Sisters hadn't seen her or admired her, she felt uncomfortable as if she was walking in the dark in beautiful clothes. Anyway, she needed to let the Qin Sisters admire her.

Since Qin Wanru had declined her, she needed to go to Qin Yuru.

In the past, it was inconvenient to visit Qin Yuru because Qin Yuru was grounded. But, after she was angered at the door of Qin Wanru and hadn't vented the anger that bounced in her chest, she didn't have to care so much and went to Qin Yuru's place with Chunyi.

She looked down upon Qin Wanru's identity, but the latter asked a second class servant girl to speak to her. What was it if it was not an insult?

"Miss, Miss Qi was angered and went to First Miss!" Qu Le did not leave but followed Qi Rongzhi for a while. When she saw her take the path to Qin Yuru's courtyard, she returned.

"In recent days, ask Qi Rongzhi to pay more visits to Qin Yuru!" Qin Wanru smiled and, referring to something, said.

Qi Rongzhi and Qin Yuru are on the same level of meanness and viciousness. Let them fight each other, and she could save so much trouble.

The disaster that happened in Jingxin Monastery must have something to do with Madam Di, but she was now in the capital city and could not do it from so far away, and the one who had ties with her and could secretly frame Jingxin Monastery in Jiangzhou was only the Jiangzhou magistrate.

It was not easy to deal with the magistrate's wife Madam Li, and Madam Di must have offered a condition.

Qin Wanru didn't mean to know the condition Madam Di offered. Possibly, the condition was to help Qi Rongzhi. What happened to Qi Rongzhi now was an example. Madam Di could say she helped make it come true. For her daughter's good, Madam Li in Jiangzhou would deal with the small Jingxin Monastery.

In the eye of the aristocratic families in the capital, the Jiangzhou magistrate was not powerful, but in the eye of the civilians, a magistrate was their ruler and could not be dealt with randomly. The Jiangzhou magistrate was very powerful in Jiangzhou, and he was far away from the capital. If he wanted to hurt Jingxin Monastery, a few words would do.

The trouble of Jingxin Monastery showed that Madam Di and Madam Li had colluded again.

Qin Wanru would never allow them to build a strong alliance. In this life, Qi Rongzhi and Qin Yuru should no longer collude to commit evil deeds.

No matter how Madam Di explained, it was useless about one thing. When Qi Rongzhi was liked by Madam of Duke Xing, she had been locked up. That was to say, she had contributed nothing to this matter. With this, it was enough for Qi Rongzhi to ridicule the condition Madam Di offered. In the eye of Qi Rongzhi, Madam of Duke Xing liking her was completely her luck. This had nothing to do with Madam Di and Qin Yuru.

With this and all their hatred, everything that followed was natural...

"Duke Yong's Mansion may send herbs again. Ask our servants to keep a special eye on the two new servant girls." She already had a firm prediction about Qi Rongzhi and didn't need to care about her anymore. Instead, she noticed another thing and softly gave her instructions now.

"Yes, Miss, I will take care of it!" Qu Le nodded and said smilingly. Now she kept an eye on the two newcomers and also connected with Qing Xue.

Qin Wanru nodded and looked out the window. Outside, large snowflakes were falling, but no one knew when they started. They were not dense, but they seemed to become heavier and heavier. Just after a while, the ground was covered with a thin blanket of snow. She tightened her clothes and walked to the window as her eyes glinted. This was the first heavy snow she had seen since she arrived in the capital.

"Miss, do you want to appreciate the snow? One pavilion is a good place to go to, and it is warm there!" Qingyue suggested. She had been in the mansion and was now very familiar with nearly every corner of the mansion!

"Go, let's take a look!" Qin Wanru agreed joyfully.

After Yujie brought a cloak and put it on her, they led her out along with Qingyue!

It snowed before, but it was not as heavy as this one. Snowflakes danced everywhere in the sky, but such a view wouldn't happen in Jiangzhou!

Qi Rongzhi angrily walked out of Qin Yuru's courtyard after a short time. Now she hated the Qin Sisters very much, for one was a s\*ut and the other was stupid. Anyway, both were very displeasing to the eye.

She was angered by Qin Wanru, and she was made uncomfortable by Qin Yuru, who didn't admire her at all and even ridiculed her.

Unexpectedly, it snowed outside, but it didn't when she came just now. She gave a cold, haughty snort and quickened her steps to walk to the outside. Before taking too many steps, she saw a person suddenly appear before her. After seeing the face clearly, she felt not confident. With a slip, she couldn't help bumping over hard!