

Medical Princess 781

Chapter 781 Everything Happened Just Right in Time

"Fifth... Fifth Miss!" Shuqi turned around in a panic and almost knocked over the bedside chair.

"What did you say to the supervisor eunuch just now?" Shao Wanru looked at Shuqi calmly and asked.

Shuqi didn't have time to care about where she had been hit. She calmed down, lowered her head, and said, "I... I didn't say anything. I just sent a pouch with money to this eunuch as Miss had said and then I asked him to take care of Miss!"

Since they would be living here for a while, it was certain that they needed to establish a good relationship with the supervisor eunuch.

After saying that, Shuqi breathed nervously a few times. In fact, she had wanted to explain it in this way when coming in, but the Fifth Miss had not asked. This made her breathless as if there was something weighing on her heart. Only when she said it out did she feel relieved now.

Originally, there was a good reason for her to do this, so the Fifth Miss couldn't find anything wrong with her even though she might suspect Shuqi of lying. Most of what Shuqi had said just now was true, and she said this on the Fifth Miss's side. Even if the Fifth Miss knew this, she couldn't say that Shuqi did something wrong.

Thinking in this way, she calmed down.

Had there not been too much mental pressure just now, she would not have been so nervous.

Shuqi told herself again and again that her words were justifiable, and she gradually looked relaxed. She bowed sideways to Shao Wanru and said, "Fifth Miss, let me go to see if the medicine has been decocted for my Miss!"

The medicine was being decocted by a little palace maid in a small room next to the side hall.

"Ok, go ahead!" Shao Wanru said, but her eyes still fell on Shuqi.

Under Shao Wanru's gaze, Shuqi went to the small room on the side. When she stepped out of the door, she felt that the pressure on her finally disappeared. She took two deep breaths and reached out to wipe the cold sweat on her forehead, which had just appeared because of her nervousness. Since she had passed this test, there was nothing to worry about next.

She had guessed that the Fifth Miss would ask her about this. Shuqi followed Shao Yanru, so she naturally knew that Shao Wanru was smart. Otherwise, her Miss would not have failed repeatedly.

"Miss..." Seeing Shuqi go out, Yujie called Shao Wanru and hinted that Shao Yanru was still lying in bed.

"Let's take a walk!" Shao Wanru stood up, looked at Shao Yanru, who was still lying in bed, and said calmly.

"Miss, you'd better stay here!" Yujie advised. Considering that First Miss had been badly injured, and they were in the Phoenix Palace, if Miss still went out for a walk, some malicious gossip about her would start.

"It doesn't matter!" Shao Wanru said, and stood up to walk out. She was really not worried about what Shuqi had said to the eunuch, because she had never intended to show the sisterhood with Shao Yanru.

Shao Yanru was ambitious. Shao Wanru didn't know what had happened in the last life, but that was similar to the current situation. In the last life, she had not entered Prince Zhou's Mansion or Prince Yue's Mansion, but finally entered the imperial palace. It could be seen that something had happened in the last life that had forced her to enter the palace.

In the last life, she had seemed to be quite distant from Duke Xing's Mansion. Although Duke Xing's Mansion had tried its best to kill her, she had never been clear about it and had not paid much attention to Duke Xing's Mansion, so she had not known what had happened to Shao Yanru. However, even though something had happened, it had been impossible for her to find out anything about it in her situation at that time.

Just like what had happened to Shao Yanru this time, the two princes were also involved, so a gag order might have been issued and it was impossible to inquire about it. In this way, Shao Yanru's reputation could not be considered ruined. However, after such a matter had happened, she would miss the opportunity to enter Prince Zhou's Mansion or Prince Yue's Mansion.

It was impossible for her to marry well after getting out of the palace. Although the aristocratic families in the capital city might not be able to get any information, they might notice that something must have happened, because Shao Yanru was sent out of the palace, who used to be the most popular candidate for the princess. The aristocratic families would not marry such a girl who was sent out.

Therefore, staying in the palace was her only chance and also her only chance to get in touch with people in authority. Shao Yanru would not give up this opportunity.

There was no benefit of getting close to her!

There was an injury in the side hall, so the stove heated the room. When standing in the corridor, they suddenly felt the cold air. Shao Wanru stood still in the corridor and looked out.

This was the most remote side hall of the Phoenix Palace. There were no people around but only a few palace servants passing by. Everything was quiet and desolate.

"Miss, did Shuqi say something to that eunuch?" Yujie finally had a chance to talk to Shao Wanru. She took two steps forward and asked in a low voice. She always felt that Shuqi was as restless as her master.

Shao Wanru nodded and smiled faintly. Shuqi definitely had spoken ill of her and told something bad about her in an indirect way, which sounded like Shuqi was defending Shao Wanru.

"Miss, I'll ask her about it clearly!" Yujie said worriedly.

"No!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said. She didn't care about what Shao Yanru said about her, but one thing that she must let others know was that she didn't get along well with Shao Yanru and she had no choice but to stay here.

As for the reason why their relationship was awful, if someone inquired about this, he would definitely find out the affairs of Duke Xing's Mansion. So, just let this be a key link for things later!

After standing at the door of the side hall for a while, Shao Wanru took a walk outside, but didn't go far. She was only noticed by a few palace maids passing by outside the side hall. Seeing the palace maids' vigilant and alert eyes, Shao Wanru smiled and suddenly knew what Shao Yanru had asked Shuqi to say.

Considering that her words could arouse the vigilance of the palace servants and Shao Wanru was a beauty candidate, the answer was self-evident. Shao Yanru was just afraid that Shao Wanru would have something to do with Prince Zhou and this poor Fifth Miss would irritate the Empress for forcefully getting Prince Zhou involved.

Just now, she had deliberately kept silent in front of the eunuch and left everything to Shao Yanru, who had been so seriously injured that she almost couldn't hold on anymore. For one thing, Shao Yanru would not rest assured unless she did so. For another, she wanted to show the supervisor eunuch that she was really useless and had no sisterhood with Shao Yanru.

A useless Miss from an aristocratic family couldn't help Prince Zhou in anything. What could she be used for Prince Zhou and the Empress?

If such a useless Miss from an aristocratic family got close to Prince Zhou and made the Empress unhappy, the Empress would vent her anger on all the palace servants of the Fengyi Palace. So, it made sense for them to stare at her alertly.

Shao Wanru smiled in a good mood and looked up at a white plum tree in front of her.

It was a lone tree over there with light plum blossoms, which seemed to be not so carefully planted. The ordinary colors and only a few blossoms on it could obviously tell that it had not been taken good care of.

This was the side hall of the palace, so the masters would not come to such a remote place to enjoy the flowers. It was not easy for the flowers to be left alone but grow naturally.

She raised her hand and pinched off a small branch from the tree. There was only a small flower on it. Looking at the small but tenacious plum blossom, she smiled more brightly. She narrowed her eyes, took the flower, and turned it against the sun. Although the blossom was small, it was still beautiful.

An elegant girl, dressed in plain clothes, had delicate facial features on her beautiful face. Her white and tender skin was as smooth as jade, and what was more outstanding was her pair of watery eyes. Her dark long eyelashes fluttered like butterfly wings, and her eyes were glittering and charming. When she smiled, her cherry-like red mouth made her more charming and lovely with less elegance.

She held the flower in her hand and put it in front of her nose. It was light, but because of her smile, it also became beautiful and fragrant.

Chu Liuchen stood there and saw this scene. His heart, which had always been icy cold, seemed to be hit heavily. It became sour and soft, and there was a trace of affection in his eyes.

He didn't know when it started, but he knew that he, who had cared about nothing at first, gradually cared about something. First of all, he cherished his life.

In fact, what he cared least about was his health. No one had cared about it before, so why had he cared? There was no difference whether he died young or later!

As long as he was alive, he would live wantonly. It also didn't matter if he couldn't live. Who in the world really cared about him?

However, unknowingly, he seemed to be willing to stay alive, and he felt that he had to properly treat his illness. If he was always badly ill and even on the verge of death, he might really die at any moment. Then what would she become after being left alone?

As long as he thought that she would be alone, he would feel very sad and painful in his heart. Even though it was for her, he seemingly could no longer give up himself. In fact, he could do better and do more for her.

From the innocence at first to the clear mind later, Chu Liuchen was glad that he understood this quite early and he could pull her into his arms step by step. With her, he would not make his heart completely cold and indifferent.

Fortunately, he was able to clearly and quickly understand his intentions. And it was lucky that he had already known how to keep her firmly by his side before he understood his intentions.

Everything happened just right, just in time.

For some reason, he felt a part of his heart slowly relaxed. She could finally walk up to him and would no longer just watch from far away.

It was a wonderful feeling, as if the two of them had known each other for a long time and cared about each other all the time, but had never had the chance to say it. It seemed that they would not settle down until they had experienced thousands of hardships.

But in fact, they had only known each other for about three years. Why did he feel that they had passed through thousands of hardships? Chu Liuchen thought for a moment and felt that he didn't need to care about such feeling. He just needed to understand his mind now. Since he didn't allow himself to die early, he planned to protect her for the rest of his life.

To protect her forever rather than to make her sad and painful.

There was basically no big problem with his illness, and he just needed to recuperate in the future. Besides, he also had the foundation of martial arts. Although he didn't look well, in fact, his condition was no worse than that of an ordinary person!

"Zhuozhuo, what are you looking at?" He asked with a smile at the corner of his mouth. The man, who was as elegant as jade and a god in heaven, interrupted Shao Wanru's stare.

Chapter 782 A Palace Maid Who Knew How to Seize Opportunities

Shao Wanru turned around, put down the plum branch in her hand, and bowed to him, "Your Highness, why are you here at this time?"

"Uncle Emperor asked me to have a look!" Chu Liuchen said casually, "Is Shao Yanru okay?"

The original order would be to ask a eunuch instead of Chu Liuchen to come and have a look, because the Emperor did not think that he needed a prince to do this. However, since Chu Liuchen volunteered himself, the Emperor had not been surprised.

Chu Liuchen had taken a fancy to Shao Wanru and their marriage had been decided by Empress Dowager three years ago. Others didn't know this clearly, but the Emperor did.

"She is fine and she just asked the supervisor eunuch to tell me to go out early and come back late every day. She really takes care of me!" Shao Wanru said softly with a smile.

"What does she want to do again?" Chu Liuchen said lazily, "Need I stop her?"

"No, just let her do it!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said. She didn't want Chu Liuchen to ruin Shao Yanru's plan. She wanted not only Shao Yanru but also Duke Xing's Mansion to slowly come to the surface.

The matters about her father and mother were full of doubts. She would find out the truth about what had happened that year.

"Take a walk?" Chu Liuchen suggested.

Shao Wanru shook her head and said, "Your Highness, you'd better go back first. This is the Phoenix Palace."

Since the Phoenix Palace was the Empress's territory, it was certain that Chu Liuchen's every act here was closely monitored. Before their relationship was officially made public, she did not want to attract more attention.

The Empress might know something, but probably it had not been confirmed yet.

"Well, if you need anything, just tell me. I'll ask someone to prepare a sedan chair and send you to the Phoenix Palace every day!" Chu Liuchen said. He glanced at Shao Wanru's soft face with his beautiful eyes, and felt inexplicably peaceful in his heart.

"No, that makes me too special!" Shao Wanru felt that it was better to keep a low profile.

"If anyone says so, just let them come to me!" Chu Liuchen said unhappily. The gentleness in his eyes suddenly turned into coldness. He looked exactly like the Crown Prince in the last life in Shao Wanru's memory, but now she was no longer frightened when she thought of this.

"Then keep it first. I will take the sedan chair when I want to, ok?" Shao Wanru made a concession.

"Okay!" Chu Liuchen reluctantly answered and reminded her again, "If you have any difficulties, just come to me. You also know that place. Even if I am not there, you can ask others to send a message to me!"

"Thank you, Your Highness!" Shao Wanru lowered her head and bit her lips, feeling inexplicably soft in her heart.

Chu Liuchen said a few more words to Shao Wanru, and then he left with Xiao Xuanzi. As for the side hall that Shao Yanru was in, he didn't even step in and he just let Xiao Xuanzi go in to have a look.

"Master, someone is over there!" After turning the corner of the side hall, Xiao Xuanzi noticed with sharp eyes and pointed at a corner. Just now there was a figure poking his head out, who obviously was monitoring them.

"Ask him to come over!" Chu Liuchen said lazily.

"Come out!" Xiao Xuanzi took a few steps forward, walked to the corner and said in a sharp voice.

Chu Liuchen stopped and saw a cowering figure coming out of the corner. That was a eunuch.

"Your Highness!" The eunuch knelt down to kowtow and said in a panic.

"Who sent you here?" Chu Liuchen lowered his eyes and said coldly.

"I... I... I didn't..." The eunuch stammered. His chest had been kicked so hard that he fell to the ground.

"Your... Your Highness..." Holding his chest, the eunuch trembled and could not even finish his words.

"Are you blind? How dare you bump into the Master? Next time, you just wait to be thrown into the lake to feed tortoises!" Xiao Xuanzi said coldly.

Chu Liuchen turned around to stride away, and Xiao Xuanzi trotted to follow him.

The eunuch, who had held his chest and been too panic to finish a word just now, did not stand up until the two of them disappeared. He rubbed his chest with his hand and held his waist to stand up. Looking at Chu Liuchen's back, he smiled proudly.

Prince Chen was still weaker than he looked. This kick seemed to be powerful and made him painful, but actually Prince Chen had not used much strength. Had it been other princes, they would have kicked him so hard that he might have spit blood at least.

He needed to report to the Empress that there was no need to fear Prince Chen!

Getting such an important piece of information, the eunuch happily went to report to the Empress. As for checking the whereabouts of Prince Chen, it was none of his business. Moreover, although Prince Chen was not powerful, there were many strong bodyguards around him, so no one dared to monitor him closely.

He vaguely saw that this Prince left after talking to the Fifth Miss Shao of Duke Xing's Mansion for a while. It should be the Emperor who had asked Prince Chen to do this.

Shao Wanru waited for a while, but Shao Yanru had not woken up yet. Seeing that it was getting late, she went back with Yujie.

The sedan chair had been waiting outside the palace gate, and palace servants immediately came to serve her when they saw Shao Wanru coming out. After she arrived at Chuxiu Palace, the Nanny in-charge invited Shao Wanru over and asked her about what had happened to Shao Yanru in detail.

The Nanny in-charge did not know what had happened outside Chuxiu Palace.

Shao Wanru told her what she had seen. Since this was an accident, she could not tell in detail and looked very confused. As for the two Misses who were going to leave, they had already been sent out of the palace. Shao Yanru was seriously injured, so Shao Wanru had to go to the Phoenix Palace to take care of her in the next few days.

The Nanny in-charge agreed with the Empress' arrangement without hesitation.

Seeing that she couldn't get anything from Shao Wanru, she asked Shao Wanru to go back and have a rest. On her way back, Shao Wanru met the palace maid Han Dan, who was waiting at the corner outside her room.

Seeing Shao Wanru coming over, Han Dan was overjoyed and hurriedly stepped forward to salute her, "Greetings, Fifth Miss!"

Shao Wanru stopped and looked at Han Dan, "What are you doing here?"

"I am worried about the two Misses. When I heard that something had happened to you two, I was extremely worried and have been waiting here since then!" Han Dan replied obediently.

In fact, she was really anxious. Both of the two Misses were considered promising by her. Although they were different, they were both the people she had chosen. It was unexpected that something had happened to both of them. The palace maid who had come back to deliver the message had not explained the whole story clearly but only said that they stayed in the Phoenix Palace together. Han Dan had never been relieved until now.

"Big Sister fell into the water and she has been injured. There is no one to take care of her. Are you willing to take care of her?" Seeing that Han Dan's flattery really left a good impression, Shao Wanru suddenly had an idea and asked.

"Yes, yes. Fifth Miss, I'm willing to do anything you ask me to do!" Han Dan was so happy that she nodded repeatedly and said joyfully. If the selection of beauty candidates in the Chuxiu Palace was over, the palace would be quiet for three years. She couldn't afford to wait for such a long time.

Her words were very smart. Not only did she show her sincerity but also flattered Shao Wanru.

"You can go to serve Big Sister, but you have to understand what you should do most importantly." Shao Wanru smiled slightly. Her smile was beautiful and charming, but it made people feel a little cold in the night.

"Fifth Miss, don't worry. I will listen to you and I know who my real master is!" Han Dan said in a hurry.

It was the Fifth Miss Shao who came back, but the First Miss Shao was left in the Phoenix Palace. Seeing this, she knew that the Fifth Miss in front of her was not someone that she could deal with at all. If she did not obey, she would probably lose her life.

She wanted to stand out in the palace instead of losing her life!

The First Miss Shao and the Fifth Miss Shao had been fighting against each other secretly, but the Fifth Miss Shao had always held the upper hand. It seemed to be the same this time.

In Han Dan's mind, Shao Wanru made her unable to refuse.

As for the Phoenix Palace, it was the Empress's place, where she had no chance to go in the past. Even if First Miss Shao had no hope, she might still have the opportunity to stay in the Empress's palace. Thinking of this, she became more excited and looked at Shao Wanru with more desire in her eyes.

She was a palace maid who had always been very good at seizing opportunities, but she had never had a good opportunity. Now that the opportunity was coming, how could she not grasp it?

“Then you just wait. When the time comes, I will ask you to serve my Big Sister!” Shao Wanru left, leaving only these light words in the air.

Han Dan was so happy that she was unable to contain her joy with her heart pounding when looking at Shao Wanru’s back in the dark. The opportunity that she had been waiting for finally came.

Han Dan was summoned to the side hall of the Phoenix Palace two days later, because Shao Yanru needed someone to take care of her. When Han Dan had been in the Chuxiu Palace, she had taken care of Shao Caihuan, who had had an accident at that time. Now she was asked to take care of Shao Yanru. For one thing, it was because that she was good at taking care of people. For another, Shao Yanru also needed someone familiar with her to help Shuqi take care of her.

Of course, the reason why Shao Yanru suddenly thought of Han Dan and asked Han Dan to serve her was that Shao Wanru had repeatedly wanted to keep Yujie by Shao Yanru’s side. Shao Yanru had refused again and again, so she thought of Han Dan in the Chuxiu Palace. Compared to Yujie, she would rather find a palace maid who had secretly surrendered to her before.

Shuqi was indeed terribly busy sometimes.

It was not difficult to transfer an ordinary palace maid over, and Shao Yanru could also return her to the palace later, so this did not need to be recorded in the roster. This was settled after the eunuch in charge of the remote side hall asked the supervisor eunuch of the Phoenix Palace for instructions. It was a trivial matter, so there was no need to report it to the Empress.

Therefore, Han Dan went to Shao Yanru’s side and served her with Shuqi.

She was very well-behaved and tried her best to please Shao Yanru. No matter what Shao Yanru said, she followed everywhere and helped Shuqi with her work. In less than two days, Shao Yanru had been very satisfied with her and felt that she was a useful palace maid. She had always been busy these days, because Shao Yanru had asked Han Dan to go out to inquire about something when needing her. Although the information she got was not very useful, Shao Yanru was still quite satisfied with her.

The information included when Prince Zhou would come, when Prince Zhou would leave, when the Emperor would come, and how long the Emperor would usually stay...

Chapter 783 Duke Xing’s Way of Rescue

“Born to be the empress?” Prince Cheng stood in front of the window with his hands behind his back. He said this without turning back.

His plain robes made him look like an ordinary recluse in the mountain.

The room was very simple. It was just an ordinary Zen room hidden behind the stone forest. It was a room for cultivating in seclusion. There was a table and two chairs. On the square table, there was a spread scripture, a string of sandalwood beads, and the four treasures of the study. They were all the simplest ones. It was hard to believe that this was the place where the current emperor’s only younger brother lived.

However, Prince Cheng indeed lived here now.

At this moment, he was not alone in the room. There was a man standing behind him. He raised his chubby face. It was Duke Xing Shao Jing.

"Yes, it was said that... but... I don't dare to spread the news. I'm afraid... afraid that Ru'er will suffer a lot!" Duke Xing frowned tightly and looked worried.

His most outstanding daughter had such an accident in the palace. As a father, he was in a dilemma at the moment. For a moment, he didn't know what to do and could only ask Prince Cheng for help.

"Is there really such a thing that she is born to be the empress?" Prince Cheng said lazily. He squinted his beautiful eyes slightly, which were unique to the royal family, and asked casually. He turned around and sat down at the table, picked up the teacup with fresh tea, lifted the cover, brushed the foam off, took a sip, and put it down. "Did the abbot tell you this in person?"

"He did not talk to me in person, but I heard someone told him. I couldn't hear who it was, but Prime Minister Zhang was also in Huaguang Temple that day. I don't know if it was Prime Minister Zhang!" Duke Xing said hesitantly.

"Prime Minister Zhang?" Prince Cheng lowered his eyes slightly. After thinking for a while, he said coldly, "It can't be him. If he knows it, my brother must also know it. At this time, maybe he has already..."

Speaking of this, Prince Cheng stopped and leaned back. He gazed at Shao Jing and said, "Could it be... that my brother, the emperor, has already known it?"

He already knew what had happened in the palace. At first, he thought that Shao Yanru was ruined, and it was basically no big deal. But now he felt that if this was true, then was the news he got just a show?

Since she was born to be the empress, she must marry the emperor. The next emperor was still in the competition, but now the emperor was still there. If Shao Yanru was really framed up this time, would it be his elder brother, the emperor, who took action?

It was still hard to tell who Prime Minister Zhang favored. At least when he sent someone to contact him in private, Prime Minister Zhang was extremely fair. He was only loyal to the emperor. That was to say, he was loyal to the one on the throne and did not care about joining in whose group.

Prime Minister Zhang and Prime Minister Wen were the two prime ministers in the palace. Usually, they did not get along well with each other, but there was one thing in common. They were both very sophisticated and seemed to be loyal to the current emperor. But it might not be the case in private. It was not so easy to tell whether they were on the side of one prince or not.

But according to the current situation, if Prime Minister Zhang really knew that the First Miss of Shao was born to be the empress, he would definitely not allow the First Miss to get married as her will. If she wanted to get married, she could only marry the emperor with regard to this statement.

Shao Yanru had a relationship with both Prince Yue and Prince Zhou. The two princes fought in the abandoned garden and then went to the Empress. Prince Cheng had his own channels to inquire about it. Although he was not very clear, he was basically sure that both Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou seemed to want to marry the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion.

If it was true, and the Emperor had known about the statement, it was inevitable that the First Miss Shao could not marry any of them, and she would be sent to the imperial palace.

"You said that your First Miss was framed up?" Prince Cheng touched the teacup in his hand with interest and said slowly.

"My eldest daughter has always been steady and decent. She has been well-behaved over the years and has not been so enthusiastic about entering the imperial palace to attend the Beauty Contest. When the imperial palace selected consorts for several princes three years ago, Ru'er had wanted to avoid it and only wanted to marry into an ordinary family. Since Ru'er was unwilling to enter the palace, I support her. But I didn't expect that such a thing would happen as soon as she entered the imperial palace. What... what should I do!"

The rims of Shao Jing's eyes turned red. He had always looked like a kind person, and now he looked more like a kind father.

Three years ago, Prince Cheng also knew that Shao Yanru avoided the Beauty Contest. Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou did not expect that Duke Xing, who they had been trying to draw over, had actually been Prince Cheng's person for a long time and had been working for Prince Cheng secretly.

Prince Cheng knew about it. When he asked Shao Jing before, Shao Jing said that his daughter did not want to enter the palace, so she did not want to attend the Beauty Contest. For this reason, he secretly thought that Shao Jing's daughter was not bad.

"Your Highness, please save my daughter. She is still... still in the palace. What should we do?" Shao Jing said with eyes turning red slightly.

"If someone has investigated your daughter's fate, if it is true that she was born to be the empress, and if my brother knows it, it is impossible for your daughter to marry any prince or have any connection with any of them. The final result is that she will marry my brother," Prince Cheng said.

Was this part of his brother's plan?

"What... what should we do then?" Shao Jing panicked and said.

Prince Cheng raised the corner of his mouth and asked with a smile, "Isn't it good? My brother maybe has other plans for your daughter. At that time, you will be the emperor's father-in-law. Even the current Empress might give way to your daughter!"

Shao Jing knelt down with a thud, lowered his head, and said loyally, "Your Highness, if my daughter must have connections with the royal family, I hope that she could help you. No matter what kind of status you give my daughter, I won't care about it!"

"Are you going to give your daughter who was born to be the empress to me?" Prince Cheng smiled and looked down at Shao Jing with unclear meaning in his eyes.

"Yes. In my heart, I only recognize Your Highness!" Shao Jing said respectfully.

His words pleased Prince Cheng. He reached out to help Shao Jing up and said, "Duke Xing, get up. I understand what you mean!"

Of course, the person born to be the empress would marry the emperor. Shao Jing meant that he was loyal to Prince Cheng and firmly supported him to become the next emperor.

"Ask your daughter to recuperate in the palace quietly. There is a benefit to living in the side hall of the Empress. At least my brother can't visit her at will. As long as your daughter is obedient and sensible, I have my way to get her out of the palace."

Prince Cheng was satisfied and in a good mood. So he said this.

He was not young anymore, so he did need a wife. This time, he could not refuse the consort selection. In this case, it was not difficult for Shao Yanru to marry into his mansion even if Shao Yanru was born to be the empress. Now there was the Empress on the throne. He did not believe that his royal brother dared to admit this.

The Empress was still on the throne, and she had done nothing wrong. Moreover, she gave birth to Prince Zhou, the legitimate son. It was impossible for her to be abolished. The person who was born to be the empress should not only marry the emperor.

"However, in your daughter's current situation, she may not be able to be the Princess," Prince Cheng said with some pity. He really did not mind Shao Yanru's reputation. Marrying a person who was born to be the empress would make him more confident.

Moreover, he heard that First Miss Shao was also smart and beautiful, so it was acceptable for him to marry her. However, after such a thing, it would be difficult for her to be his Princess.

"I'll do as you say, Your Highness." Shao Jing wiped away his cold sweat as a weight lifted from his heart.

Shao Yanru had an accident in the imperial palace, and the two princes fought for her. The news was like thunder on a sunny day, making Shao Jing dizzy and almost unable to believe it was true.

His daughter had always been scheming, so it was impossible for her to do such a thing. After thinking for a few days in the mansion, he immediately thought of Prince Cheng, who was the only one able to save his daughter now.

Originally, he chose to join Prince Cheng's group, but he let his daughter hook up with Prince Yue and Prince Zhou in order to maximize the interests of Duke Xing's Mansion. Now it seemed that only Prince Cheng could be relied on, so he came to meet Prince Cheng secretly in a hurry.

"Write a letter to your daughter later and tell her to do what she should do in the palace. Don't meet anyone in the side hall while she is recuperating. Later I would think of a way to let her out. Tell her not to panic, and not to act on her own!" Prince Cheng waved his hand and ordered. He liked obedient women.

"Yes, I'll write a letter now!" Shao Jing said in a hurry. He couldn't get any news from the imperial palace and couldn't send it in. He, who was hopeless, finally heard some true words from Prince Cheng. How could he not be happy?

After being led to a simple room on the side by the guard, Shao Jing went to the desk, picked up the writing brush, and immediately began to write. He was really anxious. After asking some specific

matters, he told Shao Yanru not to act rashly and only to heal her wounds quietly without any other thoughts.

The letter was going to be sent to the palace secretly. In case it would be discovered, Shao Jing couldn't tell her straightly. So he could only hint that Shao Yanru should wait for him, and he would definitely save her out and marry her into a good family in the future.

Shao Jing couldn't write more than two pages in the letter. He put down the writing brush in his hand and read it again. After it was dried, he folded it up and put it into the envelope.

He handed the letter to the guard at the side.

After receiving it, the guard said to Shao Jing, "The Duke, please go down the mountain first. My master said that this place is simple and inconvenient to treat you. Please talk next time if you have a chance to meet again!"

His words meant that Shao Jing just met Prince Cheng by chance.

"Yes, yes, I know. I will definitely remember it!" Shao Jing nodded repeatedly, bowed respectfully toward the direction of Prince Cheng's room, and then left the place where Prince Cheng cultivated in seclusion in a hurry with his trusted followers.

With Prince Cheng's help, he could rest assured!

But his so-called relief would just cause a mess...

Chapter 784 A Letter Robbed Halfway

Shao Jing couldn't send this letter to Shao Yanru himself, but Prince Cheng could. Shao Jing thought that Shao Yanru had always been smart, so she should know what he meant at a glance and wouldn't act rashly again. He was afraid that if it happened suddenly, his daughter would panic in the imperial palace, which meant that she was doomed to death.

He wanted to make Shao Yanru rest assured. Of course, he would send his daughter into Prince Cheng's palace. Although Prince Cheng was not a good choice, if he could be the emperor, his daughter would be the empress. This was enough for Shao Jing. As for the matter of their children, he would deal with it later!

As long as she could be the empress, everything could be solved in the future.

It's pitiful that she could not marry Prince Yue and Prince Zhou. But given their behaviors, compared with them, Prince Cheng tended to be more mature.

Those two were so reckless. How could they be the emperor?

Prince Cheng stood by the window and watched Shao Jing leaving in a hurry. He looked calm but a little cold.

"What do you think?" He looked out of the window and asked. But these words were said to a person behind him.

“Born to be the empress? Can it really be predicted?” Another voice came from behind him. It came from a monk, the abbot Jieyan of the Yuyun Temple.

Although the Yuyun Temple couldn’t compare with the royal temples like Huaguang Temple, it was quite famous in the capital city. The scale of the temple was not small, and some people even came to the Yuyun Temple especially for quiet cultivation.

That Prince Cheng chose to cultivate in Yuyun Temple tended to be more convincing than cultivating in Huaguang Temple.

No one knew that the abbot of Yuyun Temple, Jieyan, had long been on Prince Cheng’s side. Or it could be said that Prince Cheng’s trusted subordinates had entered Yuyun Temple a long time ago and became the abbot of Yuyun Temple step by step. Prince Cheng had been plotting for more than a decade.

“I don’t know if it is true, but I would rather believe it than not!” Prince Cheng said with a sneer.

“Your Highness, it’s good for you to think so. If you must marry a princess, you’d better marry a smart one that you trust rather than one that you do not trust!” Jieyan said after a moment of silence. Prince Cheng had never allowed anyone to mention this. It was rare to have such a chance, so he advised him carefully.

“How trustworthy are Shao Jing’s words?” Prince Cheng paid attention to another aspect, and he didn’t take Jieyan’s words seriously.

“A half!” said Jieyan.

Shao Jing was too sophisticated to believe.

“He should have known about his daughter’s fate early, but he did not tell you. If his daughter had not really had an accident in the palace this time, he would not have mentioned it in front of you. From this, it can be inferred that you are not his only choice!”

Jieyan said implicitly. He had hit the nail on the head!

Prince Cheng nodded, smiled coldly, and muttered to himself, “Born to be the empress? Is there really such a thing?”

“Your Highness, it is hard to say whether there is or not.” Jieyan put his palms together and said in a low voice. Since he was the abbot of Yuyun Temple, he naturally believed in the mystery of Buddha dharma. “But is this First Miss Shao really born to be the empress? How could it be predicted? I can’t figure it out!”

“It doesn’t matter if you can’t figure it out. She is just a woman! When you deliver the letter, add one more sentence so that she would not misunderstand the meaning!” Prince Cheng waved his hand and stopped thinking about Shao Yanru. She was just a woman. He hated women the most...

“Is this a letter sent by Duke Xing?” Chu Liuchen looked at the letter on the desk and asked lightly, raising his beautiful eyes slightly.

“Duke Xing wrote it to the First Miss Shao and it would be sent to the Phoenix Palace.” Xiao Xuanzi reported that the letter was seized halfway, and the little eunuch who delivered the letter was still unconscious in the corner.

In fact, there were not many important secret matters in the letter. He just reminded Shao Yanru to be careful and not to act rashly. He comforted her that he would send her out of the palace, and her marriage would not be influenced. The words were what an ordinary father worried about his daughter would say to his daughter.

The problem was not what was in this letter but this letter itself.

“Shao Jing can’t have access to the Phoenix Palace of the Empress!” Chu Liuchen said lazily. He leaned against a couch and wore a loose cyan robe, which made him look like a sage. If others saw him at first glance, they would think that he was a sage coming out of a painting.

He had the elegant, thin, and unrestrained style unique to the Ancient Saints.

Only when he rolled his eyes slightly, there was a strange concern in his eyes, which made him a bit colder than the child.

“Master, who do you think it is?” Xiao Xuanzi asked cautiously.

“Prince Cheng!” Chu Liuchen curled his lips and said. In fact, he was concerned about Prince Cheng most. Prince Cheng, who had been hiding in the dark, was the biggest opponent to him. Compared with Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou, Prince Cheng was calmer, but now he had intervened in Shao Yanru’s business.

This was really an accident!

With Prince Cheng’s temperament, how could he care about Shao Yanru? He knew a secret of Prince Cheng. He had never doubted whether there was something going on between him and Shao Yanru. In this case, he and Shao Yanru were totally unrelated. It was really suspicious for them to be related to each other.

“Master, I think that Duke Xing did something inside.” Xiao Xuanzi thought for a moment and said.

Chu Liuchen narrowed his eyes with a trace of sly coldness flashing in his eyes and a cold smile on his lips. Duke Xing was really on Prince Cheng’s side.

In the past, he had only suspected it, but now he was basically sure about that. The only thing he was not sure of was Prince Cheng’s character since he should not have intervened at this time. Even if this person was Shao Jing’s daughter, so what? Prince Cheng would never be worried about a woman.

Why did he do this then?

Prince Cheng had people in the palace, and they were well hidden. It was not worthy for him to take action to seize someone from the Empress’ palace. Then what was the reason for him to take action? How much benefit could this matter bring him? How much benefit could he gain from it?

“Master, would Prince Cheng also like... First Miss Shao?” Xiao Xuanzi asked hesitantly.

This conclusion was easily drawn from this thing. If Prince Cheng didn't like the First Miss Shao, how could he take action in the Empress' palace? If he was not careful, he would easily get into trouble.

In fact, Xiao Xuanzi also knew that it was almost impossible, but he was convinced by the First Miss Shao. She could hook up with two princes and make Prince Yue and Prince Zhou fight for her. How could the First Miss Shao be simple? It seemed not impossible for her to hook up with Prince Cheng, who didn't like women at this time!

"No!" Chu Liuchen shook his head and denied it. There was a hint of sarcasm on his pale lips. Everyone only said that Prince Cheng was devoted to Buddha and there was no wife or concubine in Prince Cheng's Mansion. The palace maids sent to his room were also left aside. He should really be devoted to Buddha and live a simple life.

However, they didn't know that his uncle really didn't like women but loved young men.

Without concubines in his mansion, it was more convenient for him to do whatever he wanted in private.

If Shao Yanru's identity as a woman could not attract Prince Cheng's attention, then what her other identity could make Prince Cheng care about?

Suddenly he thought of what Shao Wanru had told him before. A sharp cold light flashed in his eyes. Was it for the so-called fate?

Being born to be the empress was really a good thing, which made Prince Cheng, who didn't like women, wanted her and was even willing to reach out to the Phoenix Palace regardless of danger.

"Send the letter to the Empress!" Chu Liuchen said with implicit meanings.

"But this letter... has been opened!" Xiao Xuanzi looked at the widely opened letter. If this opened letter was sent to the empress, it would be discovered.

"So what? There are too many people in the palace with ulterior motives. Even if I want to, I can't do anything with my ill body!" Chu Liuchen waved his hand lazily and said.

He wanted the Empress to suspect it. The more suspicious she was, the better it was. There would always be someone who took the responsibility?

"Yes, I will put the letter back on the little eunuch's body later!" Xiao Xuanzi didn't understand at first, but when he saw the smile on his master's face, he immediately understood.

He picked up the letter and was about to leave. But he suddenly stopped and looked at Chu Liuchen hesitantly. "Master... what if... what if First Miss Shao was really born to the empress?"

If Shao Yanru was really born to be the empress, it meant that the one marrying her would be the emperor. Xiao Xuanzi's words were very straightforward. If they knew that Shao Yanru had the fate, they would definitely try their best to marry her, so that one of them could become the emperor and enjoy the world.

"Though she was really born to be the empress, so what? Do I have to live with her hand in hand to see the glory of this life?" Chu Liuchen said with a faint smile.

Seeing his smiling face, Xiao Xuanzi trembled in his heart. He was really talkative. He knew that his master didn't care about these things, but he still asked him. Wasn't he looking for trouble?

"If so, I would rather die of illness early! Xiao Xuanzi, don't you have anything to do recently?" As expected, the next moment, he heard Chu Liuchen's elegant voice. He asked with a smile.

"No, I have something to do. I really have something to do. I'm so busy. Master, I'll go first!" Xiao Xuanzi turned around in a hurry and was about to slip away.

"Do what you need to do first. After that, receive ten stickbeats so that you would not have nothing to do all day and say something ridiculous!" A lazy voice came from behind. Under his long eyelashes was a cold and gloomy face. "My wife doesn't need to be born as the empress. She should be the empress with me!"

He did not need to know whether she was born to be the empress or not, nor did he need to use her fate to support his identity. As long as she was by his side, he would definitely take her straight to the top. As for the so-called fate, he did not need to care about it!

Chapter 785 A Few Words Are Missing

After a few twists and turns, the letter, containing many missions and plots, was finally given to Shao Yanru.

A palace maid secretly gave the letter to Han Dan, who put it into her sleeve, and presented the letter to Shao Yanru while nobody was around.

Shao Yanru hurriedly took it. Seeing that the envelope was open, she frowned tightly and asked, "Why is the envelope open?"

How could her father send a letter with an open envelope? He had always been a discreet person. How could he do such a careless thing?

"I don't know. Maybe... they sent it in a hurry! It's said the letter is from the Duke to you, Miss. It's not convenient for the Duke to visit the Empress's palace."

Han Dan answered lightly, lowering her head respectfully. It was a little dim in the side hall, so her flustered face could not be seen clearly!

"Miss, why is the Duke in such a hurry?" Shuqi asked in confusion. She was also from the Duke's Mansion and had always thought that the Duke was a sensible person. "Could it be fake?"

Shao Yanru looked at the words on the envelope and took out the letter inside to have a look. It was indeed her father's handwriting, including some details.

In the past, her father Shao Jing had told her about these details, so that she could be able to tell if her father was the real author or not at the critical moment.

In any case, it was indeed her father's handwriting.

She read it suspiciously and frowned deeply. She didn't know what her father meant. He wanted her to leave the palace? If she left the palace, she would be done for. It was impossible for her to marry

anyone from the royal family. Moreover, in her current situation, she could only marry a man inferior to her. If she married outside the capital, her life would be over. How could she be willing to do that?

Looking through the letter over and over again, Shao Yanru still couldn't figure it out, so she asked, "Is there anything else?" With her father's cautiousness, it was very likely that he would send another message.

"Miss, there is nothing else. The palace maid just passed the letter to me and then left. She only asked me to hand the letter to you as soon as possible. She said that you would understand when you read it!" After thinking for a while, Han Dan shook her head lightly and answered.

The little palace maid seemed to be very nervous. After pulling her aside to deliver the letter, she left in a hurry.

Han Dan didn't know where this palace maid came from. She lived in the side hall with Shao Yanru and had met very few people. She didn't know whether this palace maid worked for the Empress or other masters.

Shao Yanru's face clouded as she looked at the letter in her hand. If there was nothing else, it meant that her father asked her to stay in the Phoenix Palace to recuperate and go back when the time was right. She must not act rashly.

Why? Why did father send such a letter in?

Since such a big thing had happened, she was almost ruined. If she didn't come up with an idea at this time, she would really have no chance in the end!

It was impossible that her father meant that, but it was him who wrote the letter.

Shao Yanru read the letter under the lamp for a long time. Through careful thought, she couldn't figure it out. She suddenly put down the letter in her hand and breathed a sigh of relief. She knew her father well. If there was any hope, he would never want her to marry outside the capital. Thus, he meant another.

The letter was opened. It meant that the letter must have been read by someone. No one knew who might have read it. In order to prevent others from seeing the letter, her father said these words in the letter. But in fact, he meant another.

Her father wanted her to seize the opportunity to plan in the palace and settle the matter before leaving the palace. Otherwise, there would be no hope for her.

After understanding it, Shao Yanru relaxed and felt that she realized her father's intention.

However, she didn't expect that the meaning of the letter was indeed Shao Jing's intention, and he did want her to leave the palace quietly and not make trouble again. After leaving the palace, Prince Cheng would naturally help her. When Prince Cheng ascended the throne in the future, Shao Yanru's title of "future empress" would still come true.

In Shao Jing's opinion, Prince Cheng would certainly not allow others to read the letter. He also wanted to send a message originally, but he didn't. He knew Prince Cheng very well. If he said more, it meant he

did not trust him, which would irritate the prince. If he did not say anything, Prince Cheng would add an obvious sentence in order to deal with it carefully.

The message would be passed by one after another. As long as those people were reliable, it would not be discovered.

However, neither Shao Jing nor Prince Cheng had expected that Chu Liuchen had been keeping an eye on Prince Cheng. The letter was sent to Chu Liuchen as soon as it was delivered to the palace and then was sent to the Empress. After several turns, some messengers were changed into the Empress's subordinates instead of Prince Cheng's. The words that had been passed down had vanished.

The message Prince Cheng sent to the palace was actually very simple: everything would be solved by His Highness.

The word didn't mention who the prince was. However, there was one thing that Shao Yanru could make sure—the salutation "His Highness" must be a certain prince. If Shao Yanru got this message, she would definitely know that there was a certain prince secretly saving her. With someone protecting her, she certainly would not act rashly.

Shao Yanru lowered her requirements again and again. As long as it was a prince, she didn't care who he was.

Even if it was Chu Liuchen, she felt satisfied. Even if she would be a widow in the future, it was better than marrying someone out of the capital city.

About choosing her fiancé, she had indeed been hesitating between Chu Liuchen and Chu Liuxin in the past few days.

Which one was more suitable?

At present, she thought that she had figured out Shao Jing's "real intention". Her father was urging her to take action. She leaned against the bed with a deep frown. She did not have much time left.

The injury seemed to be serious, but in fact, it wasn't. The wound had healed a few days ago. If she had not asked two servant girls to pour out half of the potion secretly, she would have been able to get out of the palace.

"Who came here more often? Prince Chen or Prince Xin?" Shao Yanru asked. Under the light, her face was a little pale.

She asked Han Dan, who was better than Shuqi in the palace.

"Prince Xin comes here often, and he also comes to see you, Miss. Prince Chen never comes here." Han Dan concluded after thinking for a while.

"Prince Chen made a single visit, but he asked his eunuch to come in and have a look. You were still asleep at that time, Miss!" Shuqi added.

Shao Yanru bit her lip and inexplicably felt that it was a pity. In fact, she would rather choose Chu Liuchen. Except Chu Liuchen's health, she was really satisfied with other aspects.

He was the son of the former emperor, so what? He was favored by the Empress Dowager and the Emperor. Commandery Prince Qing was also the son of the former emperor, but the Emperor didn't favor him at all, and Empress Dowager ignored him. From this perspective, the benefits of marrying Chu Liuchen were obvious.

Moreover, Chu Liuchen was extremely handsome. Since Shao Yanru was a child, she had secretly compared others with Prince Chen and found that no one around her could compare with him. He was the most handsome and elegant man in the world. It would be her great fortune to marry someone like him.

However, he just had no interest in her!

Shao Yanru was very clear about this. At that time, she had feelings for Chu Liuchen and threw herself on him, but he pushed her away with disgust. Every time she thought of this, she felt ashamed. In the past, when she had seen other ladies from aristocratic families throwing themselves on Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou, she had mocked them. She didn't expect that one day she would be like them.

However, he had no feelings for her.

As for Chu Liuxin, she always felt that he was too childish. As a prince, he looked lively and immature. How could he ascend the throne in the future?

At present, she had no other choice.

"Do you think Prince Xin will come tomorrow?" Shao Yanru asked. She would act tomorrow because she couldn't wait any longer. She had thought that her father would try his best to help her, but now it seemed impossible.

"Prince Xin may come. He came here more often these days," Han Dan said with a faint smile. "Prince Xin cares about you, Miss. When he knew that you were injured, he came over and told you something interesting and fun. He would also comfort you. If you reciprocate his love, he will be very happy!"

In the past few days, when Prince Xin came to the Phoenix Palace, he would inevitably come to the side hall to see Shao Yanru. At this time, the Fifth Miss would sit quietly at the table and drink tea. Prince Xin chatted and laughed with First Miss Shao. It was obvious that Prince Xin was interested in First Miss Shao. Otherwise, why didn't he pay attention to the Fifth Miss Shao?

Han Dan thought so, but she didn't expect that Chu Liuxin ignored Shao Wanru because she was always indifferent when answering questions. Sometimes he couldn't continue talking.

If there had not been Shao Yanru, Chu Liuxin really couldn't have sat still. Since Shao Wanru was so cold, how could he continue? Fortunately, Shao Yanru was eager to please him making the chat enthusiastic.

"Miss, Prince Xin may not mean that!" Shuqi had known that Chu Liuxin had fallen in love with Shao Wanru before. Seeing that Han Dan did not understand the fact, she reminded her softly, for fear that Han Dan would mislead her master's thoughts and make the thing out of control in the end.

"I know... but so what? Marriage has always been decided by parents. What's more... won't he marry me if it's his fault?" Shao Yanru responded with a faint sneer. Of course, she did not expect Chu Liuxin to

marry her willingly. However, he was just an immature child. If she married into Prince Xin's Mansion and coaxed him well, wouldn't she be able to win his heart back?

"Early in the morning tomorrow, ask the Fifth Miss to come here. Tell her that I want her to find some painkillers for me. Although the wound is much better, it still hurts when I sleep at night. With some painkillers, I can sleep better," Shao Yanru said after making up her mind.

"Early in the morning?" Han Dan asked with a puzzled expression.

"Yes, early in the morning, and say that I woke up early because of poor sleep. It's easier to make her believe!" Shao Yanru said with a sneer, "My 'good' sister is very smart. If you don't go early, she may misinterpret me!"

Shao Wanru would be indispensable in the matter tomorrow!

Seeing Shao Yanru's complacent and cold smile, Han Dan shivered and hurriedly lowered her head to cover up her panic...

Chapter 786 None on Duty in Imperial Institute of Medicine

Han Dan arrived at the Chuxiu Palace early the next morning when Shao Wanru just got up. Actually, she had been up early these days.

Although she didn't want others to think that she had a good relationship with Shao Yanru, she had to show her the respect that she should show. Anyway, she could not let others gossip that she was indifferent to Shao Yanru and that it was all her fault.

As soon as she finished breakfast, Yujie came in with Han Dan.

"What could I do for my sister?" Shao Wanru asked. Han Dan didn't come at this time for nothing. Shao Yanru had recently regarded Han Dan as her confidant. She put her in a more important position than she had put Shuqi.

"Fifth Miss, First Miss wants you to go to the Imperial Institute of Medicine early in the morning and fetch some doses of the painkiller for her. First Miss said that she couldn't sleep well at night because of the pain!" Han Dan lowered her head and said.

"That's all?" Shao Wanru asked calmly.

"There... there's something else..." Han Dan trembled and hurriedly said, "First Miss said that on purpose... It seems she intends to get... Prince Xin..."

She didn't dare to lie to Fifth Miss Shao. Besides, she also had a selfish motive. Fifth Miss Shao had not only deterred her but also seen through her selfishness.

"Prince Xin?" Shao Wanru raised her eyebrows. She didn't expect that Shao Yanru now aimed to target Chu Liuxin. Compared with the others, Chu Liuxin was inevitably too childish. Unexpectedly, Shao Yanru aimed to target Chu Liuxin instead of the current emperor in the palace.

But after thinking about it carefully, she was not surprised. The emperor was old, the empress still ruled the imperial harem, and the emperor also had other favored concubines, who had given birth to many sons. If Shao Yanru really liked the emperor, it was hard to tell if she could see daylight someday.

Compared with the emperor, Chu Liuyue had at least a few advantages that the emperor didn't have: he was young and had no princess.

Being young meant that he would have infinite possibilities!

"Yes, it is Prince Xin. She said... said that Prince Xin was coming in a while," Han Dan answered gingerly and stole a glance at Shao Wanru.

Prince Xin seemed to have a good character and he had a good relationship with the Shao sisters. Every time he came to visit Shao Yanru, although Shao Wanru didn't like to talk much, he would try to raise some topics and chat a bit with her. It seemed that he didn't want to snub Fifth Miss Shao.

"Go back and tell my sister that I will go to the Imperial Institute of Medicine and fetch the medicine!" Shao Wanru pondered for a moment and said.

"Okay, I'm leaving then!" Han Dan replied.

Shao Wanru waved her hand and Han Dan left respectfully. Only when she had come outside did she turn around and go back.

In the room, Shao Wanru stood up.

"Do you really want to go and get the so-called painkiller, Miss? I think First Miss is quite healthy. Every time Prince Xin is here, she smiles happily. She doesn't seem to suffer from unbearable pain," Yujie said.

"I said I would go, so I have to go, right? Otherwise, people who see this will spread rumors!" Shao Wanru said with a smile and went out. Of course, she needed to go.

But she had the absolute right to decide how she got the medicine.

The Imperial Institute of Medicine was a little far from the Chuxiu Palace. Fortunately, there was a comfortable sedan chair prepared for her. She got on the sedan chair and went all the way to the Imperial Institute of Medicine. Then, the sedan chair stopped when it had carried her to the gate of the institute.

Yujie stepped forward, held the door frame of the sedan chair, and helped Shao Wanru get off.

But she frowned when looking at the plaque hanging over the gate of the Imperial Institute of Medicine and the opened double doors. At this time, it happened that the doors were open, but there was no one here.

The two of them walked in while a little eunuch was coming out. He was stunned when he saw Shao Wanru and her servant. Yet, he didn't know her identity, so he didn't dare to address her with any titles. But he was sure that she was a mistress.

"What can I do for you, mistress?" The little eunuch asked with a witty smile, looking so kind.

"Aren't there any imperial physicians in... the Imperial Institute of Medicine at this time?" Shao Wanru asked.

"Now is off-duty time. The imperial physician on duty last night has gone back. The imperial physician to work today will not come until a while later. Please wait a few moments. He will probably be here soon," the little eunuch answered with a smile.

Hearing his words, Shao Wanru was stunned. She really didn't know about it.

There were imperial physicians on duty in the Imperial Institute of Medicine. Even the palace heads knew it. There were people on duty here 24 hours a day, but how could there be a period of time without anyone on duty?

"The imperial physicians on duty should not go home until other imperial physicians arrive, should they?" Yujie looked curiously at the empty Imperial Institute of Medicine and asked.

Almost everyone in the palace knew it. If no one was in the Imperial Institute of Medicine, what if the masters and mistresses in the palace fell ill? Something sensational would happen. The imperial physicians were probably not so bold to do so.

Having learned what Yujie meant, the little eunuch shook his head and said with a smile, "There're many imperial physicians on duty in the palace. Some are elsewhere, but those on duty in the Imperial Institute of Medicine can leave a little earlier. If something emergent happens to the masters or mistresses of the palace, we can go to other places to summon the imperial physicians on duty. Now there're imperial physicians on duty in the Chuxiu Palace!"

His words were clear, and Shao Wanru immediately understood.

The Imperial Institute of Medicine was the headquarters of the imperial physicians, but not all of them were on duty here. Actually, some took duty in turns in other palaces in case something happened. For example, they might be needed if many people gathered in the Chuxiu Palace, and some should be around the emperor or in Empress Dowager's place.

Even if there was a period of time when no physicians on duty were in the headquarters, it was fine to summon imperial physicians from other places if an emergency occurred.

"Why is there a period without anyone on duty?" Shao Wanru asked with a smile. "Actually, such a period can be avoided!"

Hearing these words, the little eunuch said with a bitter face, "There was no such period previously. However, since some imperial physicians began to have to take duty in turns in the Chuxiu Palace, the imperial physicians had become too busy with their work. Later, they reported it to the empress and the empress agreed to this adjustment. Only in this way can the Imperial Institute of Medicine operate normally."

"This is the idea of the empress?" Shao Wanru thought of something.

"The empress has agreed. Mistress, do you have an urgent business? If you do, you can go to other places to summon an imperial physician," the little eunuch answered casually. He found that the mistress was not on anything urgent, or she would not have wasted so much time on the explanation.

"I want some doses of the painkiller. My eldest sister is injured and she is in the palace now. She can't sleep well at night," Shao Wanru said vaguely.

Her sister got injured in the palace, and she was in a mistress's clothes, so she didn't look like a mistress living in the palace. The little eunuch thought that she was more like one of those ladies from aristocratic families in the Chuxiu Palace. The more he thought about it, the more he thought she looked like one.

After hesitating for a moment, he asked, "Are you First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion?"

It was said that First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion was injured and she was now recuperating in the empress's place. No one else seemed to have been heard injured. And she was injured so seriously that she even had to take the painkiller at night.

"Our Miss is Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion. She wants to get some doses of the painkiller," Yujie took one step forward, raised her head, and said.

"Oh, you are Fifth Miss Shao. There are painkillers. Please come in with me," the little eunuch said with a smile. Then he led her to a pharmacy.

The pharmacy was densely packed with medicine cabinets, which were many more than those in an ordinary pharmacy.

"Fifth Miss, I don't have medical skills and I can't read. Fifth Miss, please take a look and choose what you need!" the little eunuch said with a smile while pointing at a long row of medicine cabinets. Each medicine cabinet was pasted with a note, on which the name of the herb was written.

This was not difficult for Shao Wanru and her maid at all. Yujie stepped forward and was about to look for it, but Shao Wanru pulled her sleeve gently.

"You can't read, little eunuch?" Shao Wanru asked softly.

"No, I can't read. Almost all the palace servants in the Imperial Institute of Medicine can't read, except for the disciples of the imperial physicians," the little eunuch explained smilingly.

Shao Wanru had never had exchanges with those from the Imperial Institute of Medicine in her previous life. At least, she had no memory about the institute, so she didn't know this rule of it.

But after thinking about it carefully, she thought that it was appropriate. In the Imperial Institute of Medicine, the medical records of the emperor and his wife and concubines were the most precious. Such things could not be peeked at by anyone at will, so the ordinary people who sorted out such things had better be illiterates. Only in this way could they ensure that the medical record information would not be spread out.

"Have you ever seen other imperial physicians take painkillers before, little eunuch?" Shao Wanru asked softly with a deep look in her eyes after thinking it through. Shao Yanru lived in the side hall of the empress's Phoenix Palace, but she still knew such a thing. Obviously, someone was helping her secretly.

She must have had the intent toward Prince Xin when he came to visit her in her sickbed, but she had not found a suitable opportunity or made her decision yet. Now it seemed that it was time for her to take action.

And she, Qin Wanru, was probably that opportunity!

“Well... I actually know something about it, but I’m afraid that I can’t get the accurate doses.” The little eunuch was smart. Although he could not read, the nobles in the palace were very delicate. When they were sick, they would use painkillers, which were a kind of common medicine. The little eunuch had seen the imperial physicians take the medicine quite a few times, but he was prudent, afraid that he would make mistakes, so he said so deliberately.

“Can you take me to have a look, little eunuch?” Shao Wanru said with a soft smile.

Seeing that she had been calm and left a good impression on him, the little eunuch became bold. He took Shao Wanru to the medicine cabinet in the first row on the right, pointed to a medicine cabinet in the middle, and said, “Is this what you are looking for, Fifth Miss?”

This was the spot where the imperial physicians usually came most.

Shao Wanru looked up at the characters on the note. It was indeed a kind of painkiller.

“Okay, this one. Could you please get some for me, little eunuch?” Shao Wanru nodded and said.

Seeing that Shao Wanru had chosen this medicine, the little eunuch skillfully turned around, fetched a paper bag, put a handful into the bag, wrapped it up, and handed it to Yujie.

Yujie was about to take it, but Shao Wanru stopped her and asked, “Could you please put more paper bags outside of it, lest that the smell of the medicine should spread on the way!”

Shao Wanru’s attitude was gentle. This was not difficult at all, so the little eunuch nodded in agreement and put two more paper bags on the outside. Feeling that there was no smell of medicine, he handed the bags to Yujie.

After thanking the little eunuch, Shao Wanru left the Imperial Institute of Medicine with Yujie. They had not spent much time coming in and going out, and the imperial physician on duty had not come yet. It seemed that the Imperial Institute of Medicine had recently been a little short of physicians...

Chapter 787 The Insensitive Chu Liuxin

Having come out of the Imperial Institute of Medicine, Shao Wanru got on the comfortable sedan chair and Yujie walked abreast with it, which was carried all the way to the side hall of the Phoenix Palace and put down outside it.

There was a small side door in the side hall, through which Shao Wanru could go inside and avoid going to the main entrance of the Phoenix Palace. This saved her a lot of trouble.

When she got into the room, she saw Shao Yanru reclining with a soft look on the couch against the window. She was neatly dressed, but her face was ashen, looking like she was quite ill. The hair on her temples was slightly loose with a little of her tiredness, showing that she was delicate and poor in the bones.

Her hair was a little messy, but it was not ugly. Instead, it made her look uniquely weak and soft, quite different from the usual dignified look in public. Yet, in her current weak state, even if someone thought

that she was different from before, it didn't matter. The situation that she could not fully exhibit her momentum when she was physically weak had happened in the past.

In the past few days, Shao Yanru had always changed her state calmly. She had turned her high-status and dignified image into the current poor and fragile look.

When Shao Wanru met Shao Yanru in her previous life, the latter had already been a concubine of the emperor. She had always posed as someone superior and arrogant. Sometimes she would pretend to be well-behaved and gentle. Seeing Shao Wanru being brutally trampled on by her subordinates, she would have a sympathetic look, meaning that this was what Shao Wanru had asked for and that she would have wanted to let her off mercifully.

Indeed, Shao Wanru had never seen her like this before.

She glanced at Shao Yanru's thin and light clothes, which were quite fit, clearly showing her slender figure. Shao Yanru was in a woman's golden age. With her thin waist tightly bound at the age of 17 or 18, her chest looked so bugling. Although she was more gorgeous, Shao Wanru had to admit at this moment that her sister had a more beautiful figure.

It was because when she was in the reclining position, the collar of her dress was a little loose, giving her an inexplicable charm.

Shao Yanru was so fully prepared today.

"Are you feeling better today, sister?" Shao Wanru stepped forward and asked lightly in a routine manner. She asked like this every day she came over.

"I'm fine!" Shao Yanru said lazily. After that, she covered her bugling chest and rolled on her side, coughing a few times. Then, she rolled back and said weakly, "Wanru, please put the painkiller into the medicine prescribed by the imperial physician and boil them together."

Shao Wanru nodded, and Yujie retired and took the medicine to the palace servant responsible for boiling herbs.

"Why did you get up today, sister?" Shao Wanru sat still in the chair next to her, picked up the teacup at hand, took a sip, and asked.

"If I lay all the time, I would lose all my bones for being too lazy. Anyway, I have to get up and walk. If I can recover early, I can go back to our mansion. Staying in the side hall of the empress all the time is not suitable anyway," Shao Yanru lowered her head and sighed. "I don't hope to get anything now. I just hope that you can achieve what you want. After all, you are a member of Duke Xing's Mansion. You can't let others look down upon you!"

What she said was true as if she were supporting Shao Wanru wholeheartedly.

The four ladies of this generation from Duke Xing's Mansion had entered the imperial palace to attend the Consort Selection, but due to various reasons, only Shao Wanru was left now. In this case, the family could only put all their hopes on Shao Wanru. Before the Selection, Shao Yanru had been a very promising candidate, but she ended up like this today. Anyone who had such an experience would feel discouraged.

Actually, there was nothing wrong with her current state. Besides, having survived a disaster, she had thought through those things that she could not think through and she no longer wanted to fight for those things that she had wanted to strive to get.

Without the previous reasons to excel over others, her concern about Shao Wanru looked much more natural.

In their mansions, young ladies competed with their sisters for jewelry, the attention of the elders, and even resources. But now in the palace, sometimes what they competed for was life!

She almost lost her life, so what else should she take to heart?

Compared with her own life, things like jewelry were too superficial.

Shao Yanru thought that her performance at the moment could probably satisfy Shao Wanru and let her put down her guard. She knew that she had hurt her sister many times in the past, but she, who was always prudent in handling things, had often been behind the scenes. So, she didn't think that her sister had sensed many of her actions. At most, her sister would think that she was the helper of her mother and their grandmother.

Now she showed the white feather, so Shao Wanru would probably put down her guard against her!

"First Miss, Fifth Miss, Prince Xin is here!" Han Dan came in and reported.

Shao Wanru took a sip of tea in silence. The owner of this place was Shao Yanru, so she didn't need to give instructions.

"Invite Prince Xin in!" Shao Yanru said. She moved slightly and Shuqi helped her sit upright hurriedly.

Chu Liuxin strode in. Seeing that Shao Yanru had sat up and freshened up, he looked her up and down in surprise and asked, "You've recovered, First Miss Shao?"

When he came to visit the patient in the past, there had always been a gauze curtain between him and her. The curtain was not thick, but he could only vaguely see the figure inside. He could only see Shao Yanru lying in bed and Shao Wanru, looking silent, sitting next to her.

"Yes, I'm a little better. Thanks for your visiting me, Prince Xin!" Shao Yanru said in a soft and powerless voice. She raised her extremely soft and tender eyes, ill but charming. Coupled with her slender waist and bulging breasts, she could make a man get so interested in her and feel sorry for her.

At this moment, any normal man would be involuntarily tempted by the beautiful woman in front of his eyes.

Shao Wanru glanced at Chu Liuxin's face calmly. Obviously, this man still had no idea about the charms of women. Staring at such a beauty, he had nothing but joy in his eyes.

"That's great. With First Miss having recovered, Fifth Miss won't have to be so tired. She won't have to shuttle between the Chuxiu Palace and the Phoenix Palace every day!"

Chu Liuyue said in a very good mood, but he didn't notice that Shao Yanru's face turned a little stiff because of his words.

Chu Liuxin liked Shao Wanru. He had wanted to find an opportunity and ask the emperor to grant him a marriage. Unexpectedly, the marriage was not granted and First Miss Shao, her sister, from the mansion where she was from, had an accident. If he asked his father, the emperor, to grant him the marriage, his father would be angry. And his mother, the emperor's concubine, had repeatedly warned him not to act rashly during this period of time, and also asked him to stay away from the sisters of Duke Xing's Mansion.

But Chu Liuxin didn't think so. Now was a good opportunity because he could come and visit Shao Wanru. Therefore, he came to the Phoenix Palace every time with the excuse of greeting the empress, and then he would pay a special visit to Shao Yanru.

Visiting Shao Yanru was a lie. Of course, his main purpose was to come and see Shao Wanru. In his heart, Shao Yanru was just the cousin of Fifth Miss Shao, no more than that.

When he was here, the one he talked most enthusiastically about was Shao Yanru, but in fact, his eyes had been on Shao Wanru. Yet, Shao Wanru seemed to have something on her mind, looking dull. When he asked her questions, she only answered simply. Then he could not continue talking with her.

Fortunately, Shao Yanru was also there.

"Fifth Miss, if First Miss goes back home, you can have a good rest!" Chu Liuxin said to Shao Wanru with a smile.

Shao Wanru raised her head, had a small smile, nodded but did not give a reply.

"What you said is reasonable, Prince Xin. During this period of time, Wanru couldn't eat or sleep well because of me. After leaving the palace, I will surely send some good tonics over to her!" Shao Yanru restrained her anger and said with a soft smile, looking at Shao Wanru with gratitude in her eyes.

Although he found that Shao Wanru ignored him as always, Chu Liuxin didn't care much about it, and he nodded repeatedly at Shao Yanru's words. Then he looked at Shao Yanru's complexion and said in a way that he thought he knew it quite well, "First Miss Shao, you look much better indeed. You look almost the same as Fifth Miss. I think that you're healthy enough to leave the palace. Or let me go to my mother in a while and ask her to send you out!"

Chu Liuxin thought that he meant well and his words were appropriate, but Shao Yanru got so angry that she almost couldn't control herself. She pinched her leg with her hand on her knee so hard that she almost screamed.

His words seemed to say that she was a burden for Shao Wanru and that he couldn't wait to drive her out of the palace.

Should she really choose Chu Liuxin? If possible, she really didn't want to choose him. But she had no choice now. Chu Liuxin was her best choice.

Compared with the dissolute Chu Liuyue or even the reckless Chu Liuzhou, Chu Liuxin was so insensitive to what she meant.

Shao Yanru always knew how to deal with men. She knew when she should stop talking even if she wanted to say something, but she didn't think she could communicate with Chu Liuxin now. Couldn't he see that she was a fragile, helpless beauty who had gone through a disaster?

What was so good about Shao Wanru? Except that her face was slightly nicer than hers, what else could she use to compare with her?

She almost couldn't control her anger, but she had to put a gentle smile on her face. "Prince Xin, what you said is right. Wanru is indeed tired. Just now, she said that she wanted to go out for a walk and breathe fresh air. The room is full of the smell of medicine, and it's really uncomfortable to be here!"

Shao Yanru waved her handkerchief gently in front of her nose with a charming look. Shao Wanru stood up quietly and bowed slightly to Chu Liuxin, saying, "Your Highness, I do want to go out for a walk. Sorry, I have to go now!"

Shao Yanru told a barefaced lie, but this kind of lie was harmless. Even if her sister exposed it, it was useless. Either of them would have reasons to defend themselves, but they would be laughing stocks.

She had wanted to find an opportunity to leave here. If she didn't go out, the next plot of the drama could not go on. Shao Yanru thought so, and so did she. It was appropriate to take the chance to get out of the predicament.

"I happen to be tired..." Seeing that Shao Wanru was going out for a walk, Chu Liuxin was overjoyed and wanted to go out for a walk with her. It was rare to have such a chance to accompany the beauty, so he had to seize it. Eunuch Liu had said that one had to have a chance if he wanted to please girls.

For someone like him who had few chances, he had to seize every one he had.

"Prince Xin, I have something to consult you. Please give me a chance to say it!" Shao Yanru interrupted him with a smile.

Chapter 788 A Strong Smell of Medicine

Hearing the delicate girl's words, Chu Liuxin really couldn't refuse her. He could only watch Shao Wanru leave. In fact, he didn't want to hear First Miss Shao's words at all. He just wanted to hear Fifth Miss Shao's words, but he had no choice but to hear.

Helplessly, he sat down again and said as if he had lost strength, "First Miss, if there's anything, please tell me."

If she had something to tell him, she should just say it. After that, he could go out for a walk.

Thinking of this, he felt a little better and smiled.

Shao Wanru lifted up the door curtain and walked out. Dressed in a lot of clothes, she felt comfortable when the cold air outside rushed over. She stood still in the corridor and then walked toward the small room beside the side hall. "In this case, let me add fuel to the fire lest that Shao Yanru come up with other tricks."

A palace maid was boiling herbs inside. When she saw Shao Wanru coming over, she hurriedly put down the cattail leaf fan and bowed to Shao Wanru.

"Not done yet?" Shao Wanru pointed at the medicine pot on the stove and said.

"Soon, Fifth Miss. Wait a minute!" The palace maid nodded and said.

"The medicine brought here just now has been added?" Shao Wanru asked as she looked at the steaming medicine pot.

That the herbs were boiled did not mean that the medicine was ready. Instead, they had to be decocted second by second so that the liquids of the herbal residues were extracted. This process should be slow, or the medicine's efficacy would not be so good.

"Yes, it has. Next, I'll stew the herbs with a small fire," the palace maid nodded and said. The painkiller was not a big deal. She just needed to add it to the medicine powder and boil them together.

"Ignore me. Just stew it carefully," Shao Wanru nodded and said.

"Yes." The palace maid did not dare to stay too far from it. She squatted attentively next to the stove, picked up the cattail leaf fan, and continued to fan the fire.

Shao Wanru walked into the room and saw some sheets of paper scattered on the table that was on the right. They were basically the paper used to hold the herbs before the decoction began.

The smell of medicine was quite strong. Those few paper bags that she had brought from the Imperial Institute of Medicine were also among them.

Shao Wanru sat down on the round stool at the table, supported her head with her hand, and flipped through the sheets of paper scattered on the table in boredom. Suddenly, she smelled something strange and narrowed her eyes.

She picked up a medium-sized paper bag from the messy paper and sniffed it, realizing that she had guessed it. Shao Yanru had been prepared a long time earlier.

Having found what she was looking for, she checked the time for decocting the medicine and found that it would be ready sometime later, so she stood up and walked out with Yujie.

In the past, she would occasionally come to see the decocted medicine for Shao Yanru, so the palace maid boiling the herbs did not care about it.

Out of the room, she walked out of the corridor slowly. When she saw Han Dan hurriedly coming over, she signaled to Yujie with her eyes. Yujie stepped forward and stopped her.

"Go and get a basin of water. Fifth Miss wants to wash her hands!" Yujie ordered.

Han Dan had to stop and went to another small room. She poured a basin of water and put it at the end of the corridor in front of the room door. Shao Wanru came over and washed her hands.

In fact, she didn't have to wash her hands. She had just touched the bags gently for a short time, and her hands didn't have a strong smell.

"Where have you been earlier, Han Dan? Why didn't I see you serve First Miss here?" Yujie took the chance to ask Han Dan.

Han Dan didn't dare to hide anything from Shao Wanru. She said, "Earlier, First Miss said that if Prince Xin came over, I should go to the general steward of the Phoenix Palace."

Shao Wanru took the handkerchief from Yujie and dried her hands, asking, "What did she say?"

"First Miss asked me to invite the general steward to come over, saying that she wants to discuss something with him and then ask him to report it to the empress."

It was hard for Shao Yanru to meet the empress directly. Even if she had something important to report, she had to tell the general steward of the Phoenix Palace first.

In fact, she could not meet with the general steward of the empress as immediately as she wished. Instead, she could only say that she wanted him to come over in a while.

"Did the general steward agree to come over in a while?" Shao Wanru asked calmly. Some things gradually formed a clue. Slowly combining it with a few things in her memory, she found that she could see the truth more clearly.

"The general steward said that he would come over shortly. The emperor is now in the empress' place, so he can't leave for the time being!" Han Dan said. "First Miss didn't think that the general steward would immediately come. The general steward is the general keeper of the Phoenix Palace. He always has all kinds of things to deal with, and he also has to serve the empress. First Miss said that I didn't have to mind it even if I heard such words."

Han Dan stole a glance at Shao Wanru with mixed feelings. Actually, she thought that First Miss Shao was great because she had guessed the reaction of the general steward. But Fifth Miss Shao was even greater. Now she regretted being a double agent for the two ladies. She just wanted to have one mistress, but now she seemed to have two mistresses.

And the two mistresses seemed to be sharply opposed to each other.

Ignoring the hesitation in Han Dan's eyes, Shao Wanru sharpened the look in her eyes. Shao Yanru's calculation was so careful that she had even predicted the reaction of the empress.

As the confidant of the empress, the general steward certainly knew what the empress thought. Currently, the empress didn't like Shao Yanru. Even if there was something, she would delay it on purpose, punishing Shao Yanru from an empress's stance.

No matter whether there was anything or not, the general steward would never be on call. And he would even delay it for some time. But this period of time was enough for Shao Yanru. The medicine was now still being boiled over the fire, and it would take some time.

"Go to the general steward again." After thinking for a moment, Shao Wanru said, "Tell him that Prince Xin is also here. Ask him to come earlier!"

"Prince Xin is really innocent. I can't let him fall in the hands of Shao Yanru! Go in a little earlier and ruin Shao Yanru's plot. Attack her when she is off guard!"

Han Dan looked at Shao Wanru in surprise. She meant to force the general steward with the status of Prince Xin. Could this work? The general steward of the Phoenix Palace was the confidant of the

empress. Even when he met him, Prince Xin had to call him “general steward” respectfully. It was completely useless to deter the general steward with the prince’s status.

She knew it even as a little palace maid. It was impossible that Fifth Miss Shao didn’t know it!

“Go and say that. If he asks you what Prince Xin is doing, you should answer vaguely!” Shao Wanru said. If he came quickly, the plot could be ended, absolutely.

“Okay, I’m going right now!” Han Dan didn’t dare to say anything anymore. She replied and went there again.

When she arrived at the main hall of the Phoenix Palace, she saw the general steward standing at the roadside. Excitedly, she trotted over, ready to open her mouth when she saw a yellow brocade robe from the corner of her eye. Scared, she turned ashen and hurriedly dropped to her knees.

In the palace, only the emperor could wear a yellow robe.

She had trotted over. In fact, she had alerted the people present. The emperor came here with a simple retinue. Apart from the general steward of the Phoenix Palace, there were even no other servants around him.

Of course, the guards who secretly followed him would not show up in public.

Startled, the general steward of the Phoenix Palace rebuked sternly, “What is it you want to see me about, little maid? Do you know that if you disturb His Majesty, you will be sentenced to death?”

The emperor waved his hand and his chief eunuch went to fetch the file the emperor had left in the empress’ place.

“Your Majesty... I... I’m the maid of First Miss Shao of Duke Xing’s Mansion... I should be severely punished for having disturbed you!” Han Dan stammered. She had turned ashen in fear.

Although she wholeheartedly curried favor with Shao Yanru, hoping to get a chance to work her way up in the imperial palace, she had not realized the dream yet, nor had she ever really met the emperor.

The emperor naturally knew First Miss of Duke Xing’s Mansion. He frowned and asked seriously, “What are you here for?”

Although his two sons had claimed that the incident on that day was a misunderstanding and that it had nothing to do with First Miss of Duke Xing’s Mansion, how could the emperor, who had rich life experience, not perceive the fishy operations of it? But if he continued the investigation, he himself would lose face, so he simply gave it up.

But this didn’t mean that he had a good impression of Shao Yanru.

The woman had even provoked his two sons to fight each other. Even just from this point of view, the emperor was so dissatisfied with Shao Yanru. He thought that the woman would be unfaithful to her husband if she was married, so she could not marry a prince and be his princess. Fortunately, the final decision about the Consort Selection was not made yet. If she really married one of his sons but still kept a relationship with another, a more unimaginable scandal might happen then.

“Your Majesty, First Miss asked me to invite the general steward. She said... said that Prince Cheng is also there... she asked the general steward to go... go... go over. She has something to tell... tell him!” Han Dan finally finished her words in stammers. Now she was panicky and scared, so her words were incoherent.

But on the whole, she made it clear with her words.

The emperor’s face turned colder and colder. He was so angry that his eyes glistened with fierceness. Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou had been involved earlier, and now Chu Liuxin was dragged in. The eldest daughter of Duke Xing’s Mansion was so unfaithful!

“Go! Take me there!” The emperor said. He had planned to go back to the imperial study, but he was not in the mood now. He turned around coldly. He wanted to see what this woman would do. If she really had any improper behavior, he would kill her!

Seeing the emperor turn around, the general steward of the Phoenix Palace was slightly stunned. He didn’t know why the emperor was interested in such things, but he reacted quite fast. He called out to Han Dan and then hurriedly caught up to lead the way.

Han Dan hurriedly got up and followed the two people in a shiver, heading to the side hall.

Inside the side hall, the infusion had been brought over and put on the table, just in front of Chu Liuxin. The infusion was so hot that it could not be drunk at the moment. The smell of it was pungent, and it was in front of him. He sniffed it and thought that it smelled bad. But this was medicine to heal injury, so he could not speak ill of it. More importantly, Shao Yanru’s words were interesting to him because they were all small matters about Shao Wanru.

She spoke of what had happened after Shao Wanru recognized her ancestors in the mansion and the inexplicable fire in her courtyard. She said that she had not been in the mansion at that time. If she had been there, she would have protected Shao Wanru from being bullied.

Chu Liuxin nodded repeatedly and felt the regret. If he had known that he would like Shao Wanru, he should have been to Duke Xing’s Mansion to protect her back then. He would have never let her suffer such a great grievance. Maybe it was because he wore too many clothes, he suddenly felt hot.

Looking at Chu Liuxin smelling the curling smoke from the bowl in front of him, Shao Yanru looked a little complacent. It would be done in a while...

Chapter 789 Imminent Disaster as His Majesty Is In

Standing outside the side hall, the emperor asked sternly, “Where is Prince Xin?”

Outside the side hall, Shuqi stood there with a pale face, staring blankly at the emperor. Then, she dropped to her knees.

Why was the emperor here? How could the emperor be here?

“It should be the general steward who came here with some people, shouldn’t he? How could it not be him?” Even if she didn’t know the emperor, she knew that only the emperor could wear such clothes in the palace.

"Where is Prince Xin?" Seeing the maid standing a little far from the room door outside, the emperor became angrier. He strode forward, lifted the door curtain, and went straight into the room.

"A man and a woman in the room alone without even a maid watching them! What does Shao Jing's daughter want to do?"

Inside the room, Chu Liuxin closed his eyes for a moment, feeling even hotter. In his eyes, Shao Yanru looked even more delicate and alluring and her watery eyes seemed to contain great charms. He felt that his heart was so itchy that he couldn't help wanting to see the water in Shao Yanru's eyes clearly.

When he suddenly heard a sound coming from the door, he looked back but was surprised to see that his father was standing there. The heat that was gushing forth from his heart vanished as if someone had immediately poured a basin of cold water down his head. He was cold all over.

He said bluntly, "Father..."

"Get out!" The emperor looked at him and said coldly.

Chu Liuxin finally realized that something had been wrong moments earlier, so he became anxious, wishing to explain. "Father, I'm not..."

"Get out!" The emperor rebuked with a dark face.

Chu Liuxin did not dare to explain anymore. Instead, he ran out hurriedly. When he was outside, he took a deep breath. Instantly, the clean and cold air drove away all the surging heat in him, but he suddenly had a sense of horror.

Why did he think Shao Yanru was very beautiful just now? He even thought that she was the most beautiful woman, and he even wanted to hold her in his arms and enjoy her.

He liked Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, but when did he have this intent toward her? Obviously, he wanted to get close to Fifth Miss Shao by taking the chance of visiting First Miss Shao in her sickbed. "What happened to him just now?"

He rubbed his forehead and knitted his eyebrows, depressed and ashamed. How could he do that?

The general steward of the Phoenix Palace walked up to him with a grin and greeted him. "Fifth Prince!"

Chu Liuxin calmed down and tried to look indifferent, asking, "Why is my father here?"

"The emperor heard that you were here, so he came over to have a look. Where were you just now, Prince Xin?" The general steward looked back and asked uneasily. The situation today was obviously bad. As soon as he heard that Prince Xin was in First Miss Shao's place, the emperor came over angrily. Was there any other secret behind it?

When he suddenly thought of something, he gasped and narrowed his eyes. The incident with Prince Zhou and Prince Yue involved was still vivid in his mind. "Is the emperor also involved?"

First Miss Shao was really sophisticated. She could even make so many people interest in her, and they were the emperor and his sons. He must report it to the empress and let her make a decision.

The general steward was the general keeper of the Phoenix Palace, not the chief eunuch of the emperor, so he didn't know about the emperor's thoughts.

Rolling his eyes, he didn't think that he could make a decision about the current situation, so he took a few steps outside and pointed at a little eunuch who was sweeping the floor outside, asking him to come over. Then he took him aside and whispered a few words to him.

The little eunuch threw away his broom, turned around, and trotted to report to the empress.

Shao Wanru came out of the small room on the side and looked at the eyes of Chu Liuxin, who was standing outside in a daze. At the sight of Shao Wanru, Chu Liuxin became even more ashamed and blushed, feeling that he didn't know how to face her. With a red face, he swung his sleeves and strode away.

He didn't know how to face Shao Wanru now.

At the moment when he was in the room just now, he even had a crush on Shao Yanru, which was beyond his imagination. How could he be interested in Shao Yanru? He obviously liked Shao Wanru and wanted her to be his princess.

With his mind being in a mess, he was too ashamed to see Shao Wanru, especially at this time. Now he felt like he had been caught while fornicating with a woman in bed. Being upset, how could he have the mood to continue to stay here at this time?

Seeing Chu Liuxin turn around and leave without saying anything, Yujie asked curiously, "What's wrong with Chu Liuxin, Miss?"

Shao Wanru shook her head and fixed her eyes on the general steward of the Phoenix Palace. Judging from the eunuch's clothes, she could tell that this man should be the general steward of the Phoenix Palace. And she frowned.

Although she was in the small room just now, she clearly saw the emperor enter the room and drive Chu Liuxin out, so now the person in the room was emperor, right?

She subconsciously twisted her handkerchief and frowned slightly, feeling something different. "Does it mean that this incident will be the same as what happened in my previous life?"

Would Shao Yanru still be the emperor's Zhaoyi in this life? Shao Yanru had put an aphrodisiac powder in the bowl of medicine. There was no need to take this powder because it would work when one smelled it for some time.

Today, Shao Yanru's cleaning and her action of letting Chu Liuxin stay all showed that she had an attempt on him but was afraid that he had no interest in her, so she came up with this plan. Even if something was found out by then, it would have nothing to do with her. She would just be a victim, and it was she, Shao Wanru, who had dealt with the powder.

She was the one who had been to the Imperial Institute of Medicine, and it was possible that she had touched this powder. At that time, there was no one in the Imperial Institute of Medicine. The little eunuch who took her to get the powder did not know herbs, but each one's name was on each cabinet box. One who could read could tell which was which.

Besides, she knew something about medicine, so it was normal for her to know some special functions of herbs. She and Shao Yanru were not on good terms, so she had put some doses of aphrodisiac powder into Shao Yanru's painkiller, which she took regularly, and decocted them. If something went wrong, it was she who had trapped Shao Yanru.

Even if the victim Shao Yanru lost her reputation, it was her fault and the victim was innocent. Since she was so innocent and she was also supported by Duke Xing's Mansion, she could be Princess Xin anyway.

In order to frame her, she even prepared a medicine bag, which was in the room where she had decocted herbs in the past. Among the pile of paper, there was a small sheet of wrapping paper giving off such a smell.

The wrapping paper was there and anyone could smell it. If someone investigated it, it was easy to find something.

After finding out her scheme, she had deliberately asked Han Dan to take the general steward of the Phoenix Palace here and let him take Chu Liuxin out of the room.

Just now, she looked at Chu Liuxin's face and saw that his face was slightly red, but it turned quite red when he saw her. It was obvious that he had not inhaled so much of the powder.

But it would be hard to tell if he stayed there a little longer. If he was seriously poisoned, the general steward of the Phoenix Palace would inevitably find something unusual after going inside. But now, when she saw Chu Liuxin's ashamed and annoyed face, she could not guess anything.

But she did not expect the emperor to come. "Why did the emperor come at this time?" Her fingers went into spasm and twitched, and her eyes looked blank for a moment. "Can't I really change anything?"

She lowered her head slightly to hide the coldness and panic in her eyes and squeezed the handkerchief in her hand hard to give herself some strength.

The general steward of the Phoenix Palace was stunned for a moment when he saw Shao Wanru coming out of the small room on the side. Then he saw that she, who seemed to have found something, stood there and lowered her head without making any sound. Therefore, he thought that Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion was sensible and that she was much better compared with First Miss Shao who ignored ladies' precepts.

The general steward was flustered. "The emperor is interested in First Miss Shao?" If he had known this earlier, he would have advised the empress to drive her away. Now, a sordid affair was about to happen in the Phoenix Palace of the empress.

How could she be called the most beautiful woman in the capital? It seemed that the Fifth Miss Shao in front of him was a real beauty. She was much better than the pretentious First Miss Shao.

She was a girl from an aristocratic family, not a prostitute who often showed up in public, so why did she become the so-called most beautiful woman? This title sounded unpleasant, and First Miss Shao tried her best not to behave herself. If she became a palace concubine, she would mess up the whole palace.

The general steward was so worried that he had no mind to care about Shao Wanru. He took a glance at her and then lowered his head to think about what he would say when the empress arrived.

The emperor and First Miss Shao were alone in the room now. In fact, the general steward also wanted to go in and keep an eye on the emperor, but he didn't dare. He was the confidant of the empress. If he rashly went in and caused trouble, even the empress would not be able to protect him, so he could only wait here anxiously.

The empress was here soon with a few people, with Derong, the chief eunuch of the emperor, being among them.

Seeing the empress, the general steward of the Phoenix Palace heaved a sigh of relief and hurriedly went up to bow. "Your Majesty!"

Shao Wanru fell on her knees in the corridor.

The empress looked sharply at Shao Wanru in the corridor and then the general steward. After that, she asked coldly, "Where is His Majesty?"

The general steward pointed inside and whispered, "His Majesty has been inside for a while!"

The empress's expression changed drastically. She suddenly took two steps forward and was about to rush in, but Derong stopped her and said, "Empress, please wait. Let me go in!"

If nothing was wrong inside, it was fine for the empress to go in. But if something was going on inside, the emperor would be furious if the empress rushed in like this.

She took a deep breath, knowing that she could not act rashly at this time. She gritted her teeth and said, "Please go, Eunuch Derong!"

She was not opposed to the thing that the emperor took women as his concubines. During the Consort Selection, she had wanted to pick a few beauties and bring them to the palace. But such a thing happened in her own palace and under her nose without her knowledge, which was like slapping her hard in the face. She was the empress of the imperial harem, but such a sordid affair occurred under her nose, then how could she bear it?

"This is what I should do!" Derong said helplessly.

Chapter 790 The Secret About the Medicine Bowl

Derong, the chief eunuch, was really helpless. What was going on? He just hurried to get something from the Empress's place, but the Emperor had disappeared when he came back.

Since the Emperor was missing, Derong went to look for him. When he did that in a panic, the Empress came and said that something had happened to the Emperor over there, so he hurried over with the Empress. Then what he saw made him shocked. In this situation, he had to deal with the aftermath instead of making a big deal out of it.

The matter was a scandal.

Derong walked to the door and knocked gently on it. "Your Majesty, Your Majesty!"

It was very quiet in the room and there was no response, so Derong looked uneasy. He looked back at the Empress, whose face had turned pale out of anger. Seeing that the Empress couldn't hold back her anger, he pushed the door open and went in.

When the door opened, a stuffy and pungent smell of medicine rushed over. Derong was caught off guard and couldn't help coughing loudly.

Hearing his racking cough, the Emperor said in the inner room, "Derong, come in!"

"Your Majesty, I'll come in right away!" Derong said hurriedly. Then he turned around and entered the inner room which was behind the screen. He lowered his head and did not dare to look straight at the scene there.

When he came in just now, he could roughly understand what was going on inside. Miss Shao was crying on the bed, and her clothes were a little messy. Meanwhile, the Emperor stood by the bedside and frowned.

The Emperor strode out as he said, "Get someone to help her dress up."

When the Emperor walked out and took a breath of fresh air, the anger in his heart dissipated a little. Then, he met the Empress's angry eyes, and when he looked around, he saw many people kneeling on the ground.

"Your Majesty, I heard that you were here, so I came to see what happened!" The Empress suppressed the anger in her heart and stepped forward to bow to the Emperor.

"Ask a maid to help her dress up!" The Emperor's face turned grave. He went into the room just now to ask Shao Yanru who she liked. His son was not like the cabbage on the market that could be chosen by people at will. He was really disappointed with Shao Yanru.

She had seduced two of his sons, and now, she even dared to seduce his youngest son.

Unexpectedly, after entering the room and asking her some questions, he felt that she was as beautiful as a fairy, and he couldn't help walking over to hug her.

The Emperor had many women around him and he was experienced. He sensed something fishy after entering the room, but he also felt that Shao Yanru was increasingly pitiful, especially when she started crying later. Her pitiful look even made him hallucinate, making him feel like the woman in front of him was his sweetheart.

Thus, he couldn't help being gentler to her. Then, he heard Derong's racking cough. He suddenly sobered up, stood up, and asked Derong to deal with it.

Now when he breathed in some fresh air, he immediately realized that something was wrong.

When the Empress heard the Emperor's words, her expression changed greatly, and she looked at the Emperor in disbelief. Her lips trembled, but she still waved her hand and asked two palace maids to go into the room.

"Call an imperial physician over!" The Emperor was even more suspicious and felt that he seemed to be bewitched just now. How could he become interested in Shao Yanru? He knew exactly who he loved.

No matter how beautiful Shao Yanru was, it was impossible for her to get his affection.

The Empress waved her hand, and a eunuch behind her hurriedly turned around and ran to call imperial physician. There was an imperial physician serving in the Phoenix Palace and it was not far away from here.

The Empress took a deep breath to suppress the anger in her heart. "Your Majesty, you..."

"How do you manage Phoenix Palace? How could such a thing happen? If she stays here for recuperating, she has almost recovered; why haven't you sent her out of the palace earlier!"

The Emperor rebuked coldly.

"Your Majesty, I..." The Empress was about to cry. She did not expect that she had to take the blame for such a matter. She was the most innocent and angry person among them, and she was also the one who lost face.

"Check out the smell of medicine in the room and the person in charge of decocting medicine. After finding out the truth, you report it to me," the Emperor said coldly and strode out.

Derong came out of the room and hurriedly followed the Emperor to leave. This matter was thus left to the Empress to deal with.

Sure enough, this mess was left to her again. The Empress was so angry that her face turned pale and livid. Then, she turned around and walked to the side hall.

In the room, Shao Yanru choked with sobs, and her face was very pale. The incident happened so suddenly that she didn't know how to react for a while. She wanted to plot against Chu Liuxin, but why did the Emperor come over instead? It was obvious that the Empress was in charge of the affairs in Phoenix Palace, but why did the Emperor come to her room?

She did not want to accompany an old Emperor. What she expected was to marry the prince who had a bright future. She wanted to become the Empress in the future.

Two palace maids came in to help her tidy up her messy clothes. Then they stood aside when the Empress came in.

Shao Yanru hurriedly knelt down in tears. Before she could say anything, the Empress bent slightly and slapped her hard twice in the face. The corner of Shao Yanru's mouth immediately broke and blood flowed out of it.

"Your Majesty..." Shao Yanru said in a sobbing voice.

The Empress straightened up her back and looked at the messy things on the bed in disgust. As long as she thought that Shao Yanru had seduced her son and even dared to seduce the Emperor, she got so furious that she wanted to kill the bitch soon.

She had never seen such a shameless woman like Shao Yanru. It was absurd that Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion told her that Shao Yanru was dignified and decent. With regards to her base conduct, even the women in the brothel were more dignified than her.

Taking a deep breath and trying hard to suppress the anger in her heart, the Empress sneered coldly and said, "Shao Yanru, I heard that you are a lady from a noble family and have a good reputation. It seems that it is all fake. It's ridiculous that the Duke Xing's Mansion still values you!"

"Your Majesty, I..." Shao Yanru was panic-stricken and her face turned pale.

"Do you really think that you have won His Majesty's favor? There are many beauties in the palace, but all of them are virtuous and decent. None of them is as shameless as you. You really surprised me today!" Looking at Shao Yanru, the Empress disliked her even more.

The Empress had just come in, and she was wearing thick clothes, while Shao Yanru's was wearing thin clothes. Moreover, the Empress could tell that she had specially dressed up. Her belt was tightened around her waist, which made her look slender and lovely, and any man who saw her would think so. However, the Empress could figure out the scheme behind it.

Thinking of what the Emperor had said just now, the Empress gradually became less angry. She thought that it was a waste of time to argue with such a bitch. Even the Emperor did not pay much attention to this woman and thought that she had plotted against him. Being different from others, the Empress could figure out Emperor's thoughts better. It was impossible that the Emperor could be attracted by Shao Yanru's beauty.

The imperial physician arrived quickly. As soon as he entered the room, he sensed something unusual. After greeting the Empress, he said that he smelt aphrodisiac in the air.

There were no other unusual things in the room but a bowl of cold medicine on the table, emitting an unpleasant smell.

The imperial physician walked to it and tested it with a silver needle. After finding nothing wrong, he took a small drop of it and licked it. Then he reported to the Empress. "Your Majesty, there is an aphrodisiac drug in this medicine."

"How... could it be possible?" Shao Yanru knelt on the ground and said, trembling all over and staring at the sky blankly. "It... is my medicine. It was made for me!"

The Empress lowered her gaze and asked, "Did you drink it?"

"I... just took a sip. I was going to drink it up, but it was too hot, so I left it to cool down. Then I... saw His Majesty coming in. If... if... I had drunk it all..." Shao Yanru burst into tears.

She had calmed down a little just now, but now she cried bitterly in front of the Empress and became anxious.

It seemed that the medicine was for Shao Yanru. If Shao Yanru had finished taking it, she might have done something more errant when the Emperor was here just now.

"Bring me the palace maid who decocted the medicine!" the Empress said in a harsh tone. If this matter was actually a plot against the Emperor, it had to be handled seriously.

The palace maid was called over and knelt down beside Shao Yanru, trembling. She was always in charge of decocting the medicine. At this time, she did not know what had happened. "Could it be that there

was something wrong with the medicine?" She wondered. She was just a little palace maid and was afraid of this kind of thing the most.

"Why is there something else in the medicine? Who gave it to you?" asked the Empress.

The palace maid was trembling violently. "Your... Majesty, I... didn't put anything else... It was... just like before, nothing... nothing else..."

The general steward of Phoenix Palace looked at the palace maid and asked, "Nothing else? Did you find anything unusual?" Judging from the palace maid's expression, she really didn't know anything. Moreover, if it was really a plot against the Emperor, it was impossible to find out the guy behind it so easily.

However, nothing could prove that the palace maid really had nothing to do with it.

"Let... me... think..." The palace maid was so frightened that she opened her eyes wide and didn't know what to say for a while. After a long while, she suddenly remembered something. "Fifth Miss Shao came over with painkillers and asked me to add it into First Miss's medicine."

"Where is Fifth Miss Shao?" The Empress asked with a gloomy face.

The general steward of Phoenix Palace cautiously asked, "She's right outside the door. Shall I go to call her in?" He knew that the Empress had been suppressing her anger, so he should be more cautious at this moment.

The Empress nodded with a cold face. She felt very annoyed when she heard the name "Duke Xing's Mansion". "None of the people in the mansion are good," she thought.

Shao Wanru was led in, knelt down in front of the Empress, and greeted her.

Looking at Shao Wanru, who was relatively calm, the Empress took a deep breath and was no longer that angry, and then her face also relaxed. "Get up!"