

Noble Wife 141

Chapter 141 Bring Some Pastries to Visit Her

"The box?" Taken aback, Yu Chun denoted, "My lady, what's wrong with the box? I specifically asked for it."

"Where did you get it?" Qu Moying asked.

"I-I took it from outside, but I asked someone to do it. I couldn't find a suitable box in here when I wanted to tidy up the things, so I asked an old maid at the embroidery workshop to fetch a box for me," Yu Chun answered.

"Did you specifically ask for it? Did you tell them what you were going to use it for?" Qu Moying asked after a pause.

"I think so. When I asked someone to find a box, I told her to look for a slightly prettier one to keep your old things. When she brought it back, she told me that it was specially made by the embroidery workshop. It was pretty and well crafted but a little small, so I personally sent it back to the workshop to make it bigger."

Yu Chun replied.

"When you did it, did you tell them about what you would keep in it and how you would place the items?" Qu Moying stepped forward and looked at the box. Although the box was not gorgeous, it was very exquisite. There were a few tiny compartments in the box that were made into small drawers using satin. It was adorable and fancy.

"Yes. In order to be more precise, I told them what I wanted to put here and there and how big I wanted the compartments to be. Then, the maid at the embroidery workshop also gave me some suggestions, which I felt were good ideas. Oh yes, I talked to one of the maids in the workshop. She was the one who gave me the suggestions, and she even told me... Oh right, my lady, I remember now!"

At this point, Yu Chun suddenly widened her eyes in shock and quavered anxiously, "She told me that when I put away the old stuff, it was best to put them in a well-ventilated place, by the window, for

example. Otherwise, it might ruin the items, especially something like the sachet. Some incense might have been added into the sachet. If I kept the sachet in an enclosed place without dissipating the scent, it might go bad quickly.”

Qu Moying reached out to touch the box and then looked at the window. It was spring when the flowers bloomed and the air was refreshing. As long as it was not raining, the maids would keep the back window open.

“The embroidery workshop? Again?! Last time, it was the maid from the embroidery workshop who plotted against Miss with Second Madam!” It dawned upon Yu Dong. “They must have a motive behind the suggestion.”

Yu Dong was the first to realize what had happened. Following Qu Moying’s gaze, Yu Dong looked at the slightly ajar window and immediately understood. “My lady, someone must have come from the back and secretly took the sachet away. You hardly use the sachet, so we didn’t soon realize that it was gone.”

Qu Moying nodded. She wouldn’t have checked her items so thoroughly had she not met Qu Qiuyan’s wet nurse. Although now she knew Yu used the couple against her, she didn’t expect that Yu had already taken the evidence from her.

Needless to say, Granny Gu might have been kept in the dark since the beginning. There was something wrong with the sachet, but Qu Moying had never opened it when she took the sachet from Granny Gu, so she did not know what was inside.

Yu had never stopped trying to harm Qu Moying. Yu inflicted her eye disease when she was young. Later, the accident happened in the village. Had Qu Moying not been lucky, she would have died countless times. Then, the fire broke out in the mansion. It looked as if Qu Qiuyan did it, but actually, the real culprit was Yu.

Granny Gu’s sachet might have been a part of Yu’s plan before Qu Moying returned to the mansion.

Yu was like a poisonous snake hiding in the dark, ready to eat her at any time.

"Granny Miao, check the people in the yard, check..." Qu Moying paused for a while before continuing in a deep voice, "Check if there is anyone who will not cause suspicion when he or she goes to the back."

Only those who would not cause any suspicion as they walked to the back of the house was likely to take away the sachet.

"Okay, I'll do it right away, and please rest assured that I'll be even more careful." Granny Miao reprimanded herself too. She thought that since the people working in the yard were newly hired, they wouldn't have been Second Madam's people. Unfortunately, Second Madam's people were everywhere, and they had already infiltrated this place.

"After finding the person, there is no need to alert them. Just keep it to ourselves," Qu Moying reminded.

"Okay." Granny Miao nodded repeatedly and retreated. She quietly went to investigate this matter.

"Yu Chun, put the box back to where it belongs. Just make sure everything is the same as before. If someone asks you about the box when you go to the embroidery workshop, just pretend as if you don't know anything," Qu Moying instructed Yu Chun, who felt even guiltier. Compared to Granny Miao, Yu Chun felt that she was the careless one.

If her lady had not been prepared, she would have become Second Madam's accomplice to harm her lady this time.

Yu Chun nodded, her eyes turning red. "Don't worry, my lady. I understand. No one will find out anything from me!"

"Has Second Master been to Second Madam's place recently?" Qu Moying asked Yu Dong, who was very well-informed of such things.

"No!" Yu Dong answered with certainty. "Second Madam has been sick ever since she came back from Crown Prince's Mansion. Moreover, she is seriously ill. Second Master injured his leg previously. Since then, he has been staying at his concubine's place and has never been to the Second Madam's place."

Qu Zhizhen had a few concubines, but they all looked honest and reserved, and they never stirred up any trouble against Yu. There were quite a few concubines, but none of them had any children. In the past, Qu Zhizhen rarely went to their places, and these concubines were easily subdued by Yu.

However, it did not mean that it would be the same now. When Qu Moying went to see her so-called father, he didn't seem to trust her. Not to mention that Auntie Hai Lan, who was on Yu's side, was smart. She would definitely not let go of such a good opportunity...

"Yu Chun, do we still have pastries here?" Qu Moying nodded, turned around, and walked out while asking.

"New pastries?" Yu Chun asked in puzzlement since she did not understand what Qu Moying wanted to do.

"Yes, new pastries," Qu Moying said.

"I don't think there are any new ones, just some ordinary pastries. The chef made some," Yu Chun hurriedly said.

"Go and get a few plates of newly made pastries. It is best if they are new varieties. If there are really no new ones, the old ones are fine too. Bring them over immediately. I want to go visit Yu later," Qu Moying ordered in a faint tone. She had not visited Yu after returning to the mansion.

It was good to visit her. It wasn't dinner time yet, but it would be soon!

Qu Moying couldn't always be passive. Sometimes, she had to make the first move!

"My lady, are you going to visit Second Madam?" Yu Chun asked in surprise.

The keen and clever Yu Dong immediately understood Qu Moying's intention. No matter how awful Yu was, she was still Qu Zhizhen's official wife, and she was Qu Moying's senior.

“Yes, let’s go and visit her, so as not to let others reprimand me for being disrespectful,” Qu Moying asserted indifferently.

Yu Chun wiped the corners of her eyes, nodded, and went to the kitchen to prepare pastries.

Yu Dong helped Qu Moying redo her makeup. After she was done, Yu Chun also came back with a food basket. “My lady, the chef made some pastries, and he also made some new ones, saying that he had just received the recipe. He only started to make it these days, and it is very tasty. He just tasted it this morning. When the Masters from each yard go there, the chef will give them some to try.”

Qu Moying nodded indifferently and stood up. Yu Dong took the food basket from Yu Chun’s hand and opened it to take a look. There were four plates of pastries inside, and it seemed that there were quite a lot of them.

Closing the food basket again, Qu Moying smirked slightly and instructed Yu Dong, “When we leave Madam’s room later, block the way with the food basket!”

The pastries were just an attempt. It wouldn’t matter if they were useless.

“Alright!”

Yu’s yard was considered to be the most central yard in the Qu Mansion, and was also one of the best yards in the entire mansion. However, the place that was bustling in the past seemed much quieter at this moment.

When the old maid, who was guarding the door, saw Qu Moying coming over, she gestured to a maid behind her with her eyes and hurried out to greet Qu Moying, “Greetings, Fourth Lady.”

“How is Madam? Is she feeling better?” Qu Moying stopped and asked indifferently as if she did not see the maid who rushed in to report.

“M-Madam is... is... is doing fine,” the old maid stuttered hurriedly.

Qu Moying looked around the yard. Perhaps because there were fewer people walking around, the yard looked rather empty today. However, the pungent smell of medicine lingered in the air. It was so strong that it choked her nose, causing discomfort.

It went without saying that someone in the yard was taking medicine. Based on the strong smell of the medicine, that person must be either seriously injured or seriously ill.

"I came to see Madam." Qu Moying smiled slightly.

"Fourth Lady, t-this way, please!" The frightened old maid quickly stepped aside and said while trembling with fear. When the Madam was disfavored, even her servants had a hard time.

The servants in Yu's yard never expected that they would be beaten up one day. There were many maids and old maids in the yard who had been implicated and were beaten up by Old Lady's men. They knew that the Fourth Lady was the reason why they were beaten, so they did not dare to be cocky in front of her like they did before.

Now, even Second Madam was lying inside. If these servants did not know how to adapt to the situation, they would not know how they would end up being.

Qu Moying walked in. The maids who were cleaning the yard and other old maids were all very respectful, as if Qu Moying had returned to her own yard.

No one dared to look down on Qu Moying as they did in the past.

Perhaps they still despised Qu Moying, but they hid their real emotions inside and pretended to be extremely respectful to Qu Moying. They did not dare to be as indifferent as they had been before.

At the door of the main room, a young maid had already come out and lifted the curtain.

Qu Moying walked in. There was no one in the outer room of the main room, but the smell of medicine inside was even stronger, revealing a faint strange smell. Qu Moying had a good sense of smell, so she

could tell the difference. It was a really strange smell, unlike the smell of medicine outside, but it was very faint. It was probably because of the mixture of different kinds of medicine.

Qu Moying frowned slightly. This smell was quite awful.

“Fourth Lady, Madam is resting inside.” Hai Lan came out from inside and greeted Qu Moying.

“Aunty Hai Lan, is Madam awake?” Qu Moying asked softly with a smile.

She came to see Yu, Yu should also want to see her.

“Yes, she is awake. She just mentioned you. She can’t get up due to her deteriorating condition. Otherwise, she would have visited you,” Hai Lan explained. She welcomed Qu Moying inside and then led the way in the front.

Yu’s main room was very big, about half the size bigger than Qu Moying’s main room. Even her inner room was bigger than Qu Moying’s. When Qu Moying walked in, there was a wide folding screen with eight folds inside which blocked the sight of the bed entirely. It was impossible to see Yu clearly, but she could vaguely see through the transparent part of the screen that Yu seemed to be sitting.

Hai Lan led Qu Moying to the back of the screen, and then the latter saw Yu lying in bed...

Chapter 142 Interrogate Her for What Happened Back Then

Yu had lost a lot of weight. Because of her rapid weight loss, she looked a bit older. The wrinkles that had never appeared in the past appeared at the corners of her eyes and her eyebrows. At first glance, she seemed to have aged about ten years.

Leaning weakly against the bed, Yu did not have much strength. Judging from the yellowish paleness on her skin, it didn’t seem that she was faking the illness.

However, this did not surprise Qu Moying. There were so many doctors, it was impossible to bribe every single one of them. Moreover, it was said that the Imperial Doctor was also involved in diagnosing her.

This matter was a big deal as it even reached the imperial court. No matter what, it should not be totally fake. Otherwise, it would be the crime of deceiving the Emperor. Even if Yu dared, Qu Zhizhen would not dare. But who was it that plotted this?

Yu was leaning against a thick cushion behind her. She looked up at Qu Moying, and there was a trace of resentment in her eyes. The gentleness which she used to put up as a disguise in the past was long gone by now.

"How do you do, Madam?" Qu Moying looked at Yu on the bed and asked with a smile.

"Qu Moying, you framed me!" Yu glowered with hatred. Although she was weak, she glared at Qu Moying in resentment.

"Madam, didn't you send the clothes over? I heard that there are some bad things inside. Since you wanted to harm me, why do you say that I framed you now?" Qu Moying looked at Yu in surprise. "I know. I'm not your daughter, and you've never liked me. You even ruined my eyes, but..."

Qu Moying paused for a moment, a trace of ridicule flashing through her eyes. "Madam, you have harmed me many times, right? But no matter how much you hurt me, you will not erase the fact that my mother is my father's first wife. And you were just a concubine back then, remember?"

"H-How dare you to spout nonsense..." Yu was so angry that her face turned pale and she almost vomited blood. She reached out to grab her chest and coughed loudly.

Witnessing the situation, Hai Lan hurried forward and patted her back.

After Yu calmed down, Hai Lan glared at Qu Moying with a bit of anger, "Fourth Lady, Madam is your senior. Please mind your language and be respectful!"

“Mind her language? Be respectful? If this so-called senior is so cunning and wicked that she wants to kill my lady, why should my lady respect her?” Yu Dong retorted with a disdainful sneer.

“How dare you! You wild maid. How dare you speak to Madam like that?” Hai Lan chided indignantly. She was Yu’s personal housekeeper and had always been trusted by Yu, hence, she was quite respected in the mansion. Not to mention Yu Dong, who had just started working in the mansion, even the servants who had been working in the mansion for years had to treat Hai Lan with full respect and call her “Aunty Hai Lan”.

“How dare I speak to Madam like that? What about you? Aren’t you shouting to my lady too?” Yu Dong rebuked fearlessly, not intimidated by Aunty Hai Lan at all. In fact, when he spoke, he raised his eyebrows with a hint of provocation.

Hai Lan was so angry that her face turned pale, but she couldn’t just ask the maids to drag Yu Dong out and punish Yu Dong as she did before.

Had this happened a few days ago, Hai Lan would have known what to do even without reading Yu’s indication. Any servant who dared to offend Madam would be flogged to death. So what if the incoming person was Fourth Lady? Madam would not be at fault even if she slapped Fourth Lady and brought the matter to Old Lady.

In fact, Madam could even say that it was Fourth Lady who was rude to her. In Madam’s yard, she had the absolute authority, and even Old Lady might not be able to find out something.

But it was not the same now. Now, Madam had lost her power. The matter had become so serious that even Princess Ji had been implicated. It had even caused a ruckus at Crown Princess’ funeral. Following through with the most severe punishment, Madam might have even been charged for a serious crime, let alone her status. Right now, Madam was still the Qu Mansion’s Second Madam just because she was ill at the right time.

At this moment, it was best to not do anything. To display weakness was the best option at the moment. Moreover, she had already secretly sent people to invite Second Master over.

“Qu Moying, I have treated you well. Since you have entered the mansion, I gave you the same thing as I give Yan... Why... Why did you frame me?” Yu gasped and asked as she pulled Hai Lan’s sleeve.

Yu Dong retreated behind Qu Moying. Qu Moying looked up at Yu and fell silent for a long while before quipping, "Everyone has seen what you've done to me, Mrs. Yu. I won't argue with you about this. Even the Emperor knows about this matter. Are you still trying to argue your way out of it? Just stop. I want to ask something else."

"What is it?" Yu was so angry that she almost fainted. She grabbed the quilt under her hands and forced down the anger in her heart. Just now, Hai Lan had already told Yu that she had sent someone to invite Master over for dinner, so that Yu knew what to do.

"I heard that my mother went to the convent when she was pregnant with me. That was weird. Her due was around the corner, right? What made her go to the convent alone? Why didn't she wait for delivery in the mansion? Was it your doing? Otherwise, why would a pregnant woman go to the convent suddenly? In fact, it didn't seem like she was going for prayers but more like a punishment."

Qu Moying looked at Yu and mouthed word by word.

Her voice was gentle, but her words were sharp like a knife. Her simple statement was enough to tell what happened in the past. What she could not understand was also what she could not figure out.

However, Granny Zhou had already made it clear to her.

A trace of panic flashed through Yu's eyes. She did not expect that Qu Moying was asking about the past incident.

"Fourth Lady..." Seeing that Yu could not answer, Hai Lan hurriedly answered.

"Shut it! You're just a servant! You have no place to talk right now!" Qu Moying coldly chided, and a trace of terrifying frigidness flashed across her glare. "Were you also involved in what happened back then? Did my mother die from another reason instead of difficult childbirth?"

"Fourth Lady, what nonsense are you talking about? I-I'm just helping Madam to explain," the panicked Hai Lan muttered.

"Let your Master say it herself," Qu Moying said coldly.

Hai Lan could feel the coldness in Qu Moying's eyes even through the eye veil. The inexplicable aura made her subconsciously take a step back. When she was done retreating, she was ashamed and angry. She was actually forced back by Fourth Lady Qu, whom she had never acknowledged.

Hai Lan became angry and was about to speak, but Yu Dong stepped forward with cold eyes. There seemed to be some killing intent in Yu Dong's eyes. Hai Lan was so scared that her feet trembled and she did not dare to take a step forward.

Seeing that Qu Moying actually withheld Hai Lan, Yu paled in anger. She was weak and powerless at this moment. Otherwise, she would have slapped Qu Moying right now.

But she could not do it now. She really had no strength.

"What happened back then has nothing to do with me. If you want to investigate, just investigate it yourself," Yu took a deep breath and spoke more thoroughly.

It had been so long since that year, and she did not want to mention it again.

"I heard that Third Sister and Second Brother were born prematurely back then because you fell. It was difficult labor for you too, and you almost died with the babies," Qu Moying sneered.

"So what?" Yu snapped harshly.

"It's nothing. Mrs. Yu, you faced such a health risk back then, but you could still give birth to a son and a daughter and live well. My mother only gave birth to me, but she died. When my mother was exiled to the convent, she was also slandered as 'framing' you. In the end, you're alive but my mother died. Then, I had no mother, so you took care of me, turning my eyes blind!"

Qu Moying looked at Yu with a cold expression and unceremoniously lifted the veil hiding the past.

Obviously, the one who benefited the most from the incident back then was Yu.

After so many years, Yu had also risen to the top of the Qu Mansion, while the daughter of the ex-wife had become a person with eye problem and was detained in the village.

Qu Moying was isolated and left to fend for herself.

“W-What nonsense are you talking about...” Yu was a little flustered.

“I think you’re very clear whether I’m talking nonsense or not. You were the one who benefited the most from these things, weren’t you? You were like this back then, and you are the same now. If they had found out that I lost my courtesy at Crown Princess’ funeral, I would have definitely been the one to be punished. Tell me, do you wish to get rid of me again?”

Qu Moying hissed.

She was still talking about the past incident in the first half of her statement. In the second part, she suddenly changed the subject to the present naturally and logically. She glared coldly at Yu with a cold expression, her words as sharp as knives!

Yu’s body was weak and her head was buzzing. She was a little shocked by Qu Moying’s mention of the past. For a moment, she was anxious and panicked. She pointed at Qu Moying with difficulty and stammered, “Y-You’re talking nonsense... I didn’t... I... It was you...”

“Mrs. Yu, what happened to Mother in the past had something to do with you. I heard that you repeatedly blamed Mother for your fall, so Mother had no choice but to give in and go to the convent. But I heard that premature birth is normal for twins, and you were only a few days ahead of your estimated due date. What did the premature birth have to do with the fall? And now, you did the same thing. Mrs. Yu, why do you repeatedly harm Mother and me? I can’t figure it out. I am just a woman, and I won’t hinder Second Brother. Am I this unbearable to you?”

Qu Moying continued to ask, not allowing Yu to explain too much.

She estimated Qu Zhizhen should have come here from his study by now. Qu Zhizhen had doubts about the matter between Yu and herself. Since there was a chance to hear their private conversation, he would definitely come.

Coming here for dinner was the perfect excuse no matter who used it.

“You... you’re talking nonsense...” This was the only thing Yu said for now.

“Second Madam, you know full well if I’m talking nonsense or not. Tell me, why do you want to harm me? Or perhaps, I’m not your only target. You even want to harm Father, Grandmother, and the entire Qu Mansion!”

Qu Moying fumed aggressively.

Panicked, Hai Lan looked at the door and was about to speak up to help the inarticulate Yu when Yu Dong, who was blocking her, stepped forward again. The malicious look in Yu Dong’s eyes frightened Hai Lan. Her mouth was wide agape, but she didn’t dare to say anything. She just subconsciously took a step back and hit a shelf behind her, making a heavy impact sound.

After rushing to Yu’s inner room, Qu Zhizhen, who was standing at the door of the inner room, heard these words. His face showed a bit of coldness, and his heart skipped a beat. Then, his expression changed drastically.

Yu wanted to harm him?

Chapter 143 Bedside Discussion between the Vicious Master and Maid

“I-I didn’t...” After being interrogated repeatedly by Qu Moying, Yu was extremely aggrieved for being retorted back at every instance. Yu was already weak, and now she was angry to the point that the taste of blood appeared in her mouth. She clasped her chest and spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Madam!" Hai Lan rushed over in panic and cried out.

"What's going on?" Qu Zhizhen's voice suddenly came from the door. Qu Moying took a step back and gave a deep bow to Qu Zhizhen.

"Father!"

"Why are you here?" Qu Zhizhen glanced at Qu Moying and asked indifferently.

"I came to visit Second Madam," Qu Moying answered. She had never called Yu mother, always Second Madam. The Old Lady, Qu Zhizhen, and even Yu had never raised any objection at the address.

"Second Master, Fourth Lady irritated Madam so much that Madam fainted," Hai Lan immediately complained with tears in her eyes as soon as she saw Qu Zhizhen. Yu, who was on the bed, tilted her head and fainted.

Yu used a lot of strength just now and even vomited blood, so she felt a little dizzy already. No one could tell that she pretended to faint now.

"Father, I just wanted to ask Second Madam some things," Qu Moying lowered her head and said indifferently.

Without a word, Qu Zhizhen looked at Qu Moying with some scrutiny. Although Qu Moying lowered her head, she could sense this kind of scrutiny, and she sneered. She had heard at the door that Qu Zhizhen's breath suddenly became deeper and faster. But that was when she asked the last question, not when Yu vomited blood.

Her so-called father was not concerned about Yu as much as Qu Moying had imagined.

This was a somewhat unexpected confirmation.

"If you're just here to visit her, why do you irritate her so?" Qu Zhizhen asked coldly.

"Father, I just want to know the truth!" Qu Moying raised her pale face and answered stubbornly.

Qu Zhizhen was silent again. After a long time, he waved his hand and grunted impatiently, "I already know about this matter. Go back. Don't come again if you don't have any business here."

"But Father..." Qu Moying bit her lips, looking upset. Everyone outside the mansion knew about this matter, but no one inside the mansion had said anything since Qu Moying's return. Or more precisely, Qu Zhizhen had not expressed his opinion.

It was as if what Yu did was really just an accident.

"I know this. Now go back!" Seeing that Qu Moying was still not leaving, Qu Zhizhen berated her with a face full of displeasure.

This time, Qu Moying shut her mouth and did not speak again. After bowing to Qu Zhizhen, she lowered her head and turned to leave. Even though she had her head lowered, Qu Zhizhen could see the aggrieved expression that flashed across her face. After a moment of silence, he watched Qu Moying leave.

Yu Dong casually placed the food basket at the entrance of the room, turned around, and chased after Qu Moying.

"My lord... I didn't frame her." Yu, who was on the bed, woke up at the right moment. She looked at Qu Zhizhen, who was watching Qu Moying's back silently, and sobbed with red eyes.

"Yu, don't try to talk your way out of it! Do you think I will tolerate you if it isn't for the sake of our children?" Qu Zhizhen turned around coldly and looked at Yu's thin, haggard face.

"My lord, I... I swear to the heavens that it wasn't me. I didn't do anything to those clothes. I-It was Qu Moying! She must have wanted to frame me. That's why such a thing happened!" Yu cried loudly. She reached out and pulled twice in the air, as if she wanted to grab Qu Zhizhen's sleeve. However, the two of them were a little further away and her hands fell weakly.

"Imbecile!" Qu Zhizhen snapped angrily. Instead of moving toward her, he retreated two steps away from Yu and grunted with a grumpy face, "You can be an imbecile all you like, but don't implicate Yan and Cheng."

"My lord... I..." Yu still wanted to explain, but Qu Zhizhen would no longer listen. He flung his sleeves and turned to leave.

"Second Master, dinner is ready. Please stay for dinner," Hai Lan quickly said as Qu Zhizhen was about to leave. This was the reason why she invited Qu Zhizhen over, as well as telling him about Fourth Lady Qu's visit to the Second Madam's yard.

When Qu Moying sent a maid to get the new pastries, it took a lot of time, so Yu managed to get the news of her visit.

"My stomach is full of anger! Off you go!" Qu Zhizhen barked indignantly and kicked the food basket that Qu Moying had placed at the door. The pastries in the food basket were kicked over, and the plates and pastries inside were shattered on the ground. The crisp sound of glass shattering made Yu tremble in fear and tightly pulled Hai Lan's sleeve.

Qu Zhizhen's shoes were also splashed with some scraps. After kicking the basket in disdain, he turned around and strode away.

As for the sound of Yu crying behind him, he pretended not to hear it.

Yu cried miserably. She pulled Hai Lan's sleeve and sobbed. She had just vomited blood and there was still blood at the corner of her mouth.

"Madam, please calm down. It's okay. You're still the Qu Mansion's Second Madam. Everything will be okay," Hai Lan had to comfort Yu.

"No... he... he suspects me... He actually suspects me. I have been wholeheartedly devoted to him for so many years. He... He..." Yu cried so hard that she could not breathe. She held Hai Lan's hand and cried as she tried to speak.

Hai Lan's expression changed greatly. She covered Yu's mouth, lowered her voice, and spat in a trembling voice, "Madam, please stop talking!"

Yu seemed to have caught her breath at this time. She nodded seriously and stopped talking. She just kept crying.

Hai Lan put down her hand and comforted Yu with a gentle tone. After a long time, Yu stopped crying. She took Hai Lan's handkerchief and wiped her tears. Then, she leaned against the thick cushion weakly, and her eyes flashed with hatred. "Hai Lan, I can't just let her go like this. That little bitch actually set me up. I... I..."

Others may not know the whole thing, but Yu knew it very clearly. She definitely had not done anything to Qu Moying's clothes. Even though she had done something else, its outcome should not be like this. In the end, it was her own daughter who had such a reaction. Fortunately, the matter was suppressed due to her daughter's relationship with Lord Jing.

But who knew if it would be revisited one day.

After this incident, Yan said that Lord Jing was very angry and even hinted that the Princess he wanted to marry should have not only a high status, but also a high moral character. He could not let other royal family members gossip about them.

Both Yu and Qu Qiuyan felt that the status was not a big problem. In the past, there were also Crown Princesses who were from humble backgrounds. Moreover, Qu Zhizhen was now a Vice Minister. It was not an important position, but he could be considered a high-ranking official. However, Lord Jing was referring to this matter when he mentioned the so-called high moral character and gossip.

At the time of this incident, apart from Crown Prince and Lord Jing, even Princess Changyu and her family were involved.

Thinking that her daughter might have missed the chance of being Princess Jing and that all these years of planning would go up in smoke because of Qu Moying, Yu wanted to tear Qu Moying apart. Once again, she hated herself for giving in to her soft side. She hadn't made many moves against Qu Moying across the years. After Qu Moying survived, she had not taken further actions against Qu Moying, either.

Yu actually felt that she was being kind, but she never considered that the reason why she did not dare to kill Qu Moying was that she was afraid that Old Lady and Earl Ling'an's Mansion's Ji Hanyue would find out. She did not dare to make her move openly, so she could only do it secretly. Every time something happened, she would hurriedly hide behind the scenes and did not dare to make a move in a short time.

Later, she did not do anything rashly because Ji Hanyue had sent a doctor to check on Qu Moying's eyes.

"Madam, please calm down. It's not worth it. Think about it, Third Lady should be ready soon. At this time, you should treat Fourth Lady better. Didn't I tell you before to calm down no matter what Fourth Lady said? Talk nicely to her, and don't let her lead the conversation."

Hai Lan advised. She wiped the blood from the corner of Yu's mouth with a handkerchief.

"I-I was so pissed... That bitch..." Yu gritted her teeth. When Hai Lan sent someone to invite Qu Zhizhen, Yu wanted to say a few words to vent her exasperation before Qu Zhizhen arrived, but she didn't expect that Qu Moying would gain the upper hand and that their following conversation would go out of control.

"Madam, let's not talk about this for now. You have already arranged the rest of the matters," Hai Lan commented.

Yu nodded, a sinister expression appearing on her face. "This wretched girl, who does she think she is?! She should count her blessing. Who else would she be if she weren't born as the Qu Mansion's Fourth Lady by that bitch!"

"It's good that you can think this way, Madam. Anyway, we'll settle everything in the next few days. Since the Fourth Lady is a fake, everything related to her is naturally fake, and it can't be true that you tried to harm her. We can prove your innocence in this matter," Hai Lan reassured. "Fortunately, you had a plan when the Fourth Lady returned to the mansion."

When Qu Moying was going to come back to the mansion back then, Yu had already made a move, thinking that if one plan failed, there was still another plan.

“That’s all I can do for now. If I’m feeling well, I will definitely do it myself, but now... I am really worried about Yan.” Yu closed her eyes weakly.

“Don’t worry, Madam. Third Lady can do it. Didn’t you tell her very clearly when she came over? To say the least, even if this plan failed, Third Lady would not be implicated, right?”

“That’s all I hope for! I’m just worried that... Yan is too young. We don’t have enough evidence. If only there were more!” Yu nodded weakly.

The room quieted down. Hai Lan looked at the crushed pastries, got up, and walked to the door of the inner room, thinking about getting someone to clean them up.

However, when she walked to the pastries, she stopped and frowned. Her gaze fell on the pastries. She paused for a moment, and then lowered her head to look at the pastries, deep in thought.

“Hai Lan, what’s wrong?” Yu, who was on the bed, heard that Hai Lan had not moved. She slightly opened her eyes and whispered.

Hai Lan stood up and walked to Yu’s side. “Madam, look at these pastries...”

“What’s wrong with the pastries? Why aren’t you throwing them away? Who wants to eat that wretched girl’s pastries?” Yu angrily patted the bedboard.

“Madam, these pastries are all newly made. They don’t seem like the ones our mansion originally had...” Hai Lan muttered.

“So what? Where did that little bitch find new pastries? Even if she found new pastries, I wouldn’t eat them. Throw them away.” Yu patted the bed again. She didn’t understand why her trusted subordinate, Hai Lan, was so stupid today. Would she dare to eat the things Qu Moying brought over?

“Madam, these pastries look like new pastries from the kitchen. I’ve never seen them before, so they may be useful,” Hai Lan whispered in Yu’s ear. Yu was first surprised and then nodded repeatedly...

Chapter 144 Middle-aged Couple Who Came to Reclaim Their Child

“My lady, Second Madam did take some of the new pastries.” Qu Moying was embroidering a sachet when Granny Miao came in to report. Her work was sloppy, but she was very attentive in making it.

Putting down the sachet in her hand, Qu Moying thought for a moment, and a faint and cold smirk appeared on her face. “She didn’t take many, right?”

“No, just a few pieces. Later, a maid went out and said that she was going to the street to buy some candied fruits to help Second Madam drink the medicine,” Granny Miao reported again, her admiration for Qu Moying growing more and more. Qu Moying was really smart to be able to think of such a tiny detail.

Qu Moying nodded. Although the pastries were trivial, they would be of some help for her if they successfully played a role later.

There were some things that looked like small knots, but at a critical time, they might be the evidence to turn things around. Right now, she was looking forward to how Qu Qiuyan would go on with her ruse...

When a faint shade of brightness painted the sky, some people, who got up early, walked on the street in a bit of a hurry. Among them, there was a middle-aged couple who stood in front of the Qu Mansion. Looking around, they retreated sheepishly to the breakfast shop opposite the Qu Mansion.

There were already diners in the shop, and they were eating buns in small groups.

When the couple entered the shop, they looked so timid that it was obvious that they were not from the city.

“Morning, what would you like to order?” The attendants in the shop were not snobbish. An old maid, who came up to greet them, asked with a smile.

“Uh... two steamed buns!” The middle-aged man swallowed as he looked at the buns in the steamer and ordered two steamed buns.

“Right on!” the old woman replied and went over to bring two steamed buns.

The man took out the copper coins from his pocket and handed them to the old maid.

The old maid took the coins with a smile and went to take the other diners’ orders. At this time, there were not many diners, and she was not particularly busy.

The couple sat down and ate the buns slowly. After a few bites, the middle-aged woman suddenly lowered her head and wiped away her tears.

The middle-aged man also sighed and put down the steamed bun in his hand. He comforted the woman, “Don’t cry. What’s the use of crying? At least... at least she still misses you!”

“She misses me? No way! It’s been so many years. We told her that she is our daughter, but... who knows if she will accept us as parents or not! Even now... I... I feel disappointed!” the woman whimpered as she spoke.

Her remarks could be interpreted in so many ways that the people around them, who had nothing better to do, heard her clearly. A few of them could not help but turn their gazes over curiously.

“Look, her chef just invented some new pastries, and she immediately sent her maid to give us some. You can tell that she loves us. In the past, she would always bring something to us...” The man took out a small bag from his pocket and opened it, revealing the exquisite pastries inside. These exquisite-looking pastries were definitely not store-bought. They were more like pastries from rich and powerful families.

They were exquisite and delicious.

However, instead of eating such delicate pastries, they ate the bland steamed buns. Other than being surprised, the onlookers were skeptical. This matter seemed a bit mysterious.

“Do you think I crave for her pastries? A-All I want is to reunite with my daughter. I don’t want any wealth. All I’m asking for is that we stay together as a family.” The woman pushed the pastries away and continued to wipe her tears.

“What happened to your daughter?” a curious onlooker asked.

“Our daughter... she... she doesn’t accept us.” When the middle-aged woman heard this question, she immediately burst into tears. She couldn’t suppress her sorrow now.

“Don’t cry, and don’t talk nonsense. S-She won’t do that to us. She is in a difficult situation.” After the man comforted her, he also turned around and secretly wiped his tears.

Just looking at them made people sympathize with them.

“Why doesn’t your daughter accept you? Is it because... you are poor?” Someone sized up the appearance of this couple. It was obvious that they were poor. Although their clothes were considered clean, they had been patched several times. Their hands were full of calluses from hard physical labor.

“S-She wants to be a rich young lady and refuses to go back with us... She...” The woman cried and responded, but the man interrupted her.

“Don’t talk nonsense! Don’t cause trouble for our daughter.”

The woman immediately shut her mouth, and she did not say anything else no matter what the others asked. She only frequently glanced at the Qu Mansion that was opposite the shop meaningfully.

Their conversation was too ambiguous and mysterious that they intrigued everyone’s curiosity.

The onlookers originally thought that it was just a maid working in a rich family who did not want to accept her biological parents, but many people heard the term “young lady” just now. Was it not a maid, but a young lady?

Seeing the couple looking at the Qu Mansion's door from time to time, the onlookers came up with more speculations.

Many people were discussing on the side. There were also people who came forward to strike up a conversation with various excuses. They wanted to ask something, but the couple kept their mouths tightly shut. From time to time, they would cry, but they wouldn't say anything.

"Which of the Qu Mansion's young lady is your daughter?" Finally, a seemingly clever and skinny middle-aged man stepped forward and asked with a smile. This time, he asked the question in a different way which stunned the couple. The woman looked up at the man who asked the question and shook her head quietly.

"Is she First Lady Qu?"

"No!" The middle-aged lady shook her head.

"Second Lady Qu?"

"Of course, not." The middle-aged woman shook her head again.

"Third Lady Qu?"

"No, no!" The middle-aged woman panicked. She raised her eyes and shook her hands.

"Then it must be Fourth Lady Qu!" the person on the other side said with certainty.

As soon as he finished speaking, the middle-aged woman stood up in shock. Her expression changed greatly. She reached out and pulled the middle-aged man up. In a panic, they walked towards the Qu Mansion's door. They did not dare to stay here any longer.

Fourth Lady Qu? Wasn't she the Fourth Lady who was rumored to be dimwitted and ugly and have eye problems, and whose engagement was even called off? If it were in the past, many people in the capital

would have only heard these things about Fourth Lady Qu. But recently, many things about her had been revealed.

The news that the engagement had been annulled and the rumor of being framed by Second Madam Qu were still spreading in the city.

Speaking of Fourth Lady Qu, everyone now felt pitiful. When talking about Young Master Yongning, who had a good reputation in the past, many people despised him. As for Second Madam Qu, more people felt that such a vicious woman was too hateful because she couldn't accept the poor girl born by her husband's ex-wife.

But what was the current situation? Was Fourth Lady Qu not the biological daughter of Vice Minister Qu? Was she actually the poor couple's daughter?

Everyone exchanged bewildered looks and immediately felt that this was a piece of breaking news. There were a few idle passers-by who did not intend to leave. They just sat in the breakfast shop to watch the bustle. It was still early, and the Qu Mansion's door had not been opened. Everyone sat there and discussed. People who were busy left in a hurry, but there were more and more idle people sitting in the shop, waiting to watch the drama unfold in front of the Qu Mansion.

Fourth Lady Qu was fake!

Fourth Lady Qu was not Vice Minister Qu's biological daughter.

Fourth Lady Qu was the daughter of poor and lowly parents...

In just a while, more and more rumors spread among the onlookers. Everyone consciously did not approach the Qu Mansion's door and just watched the fun from afar.

Finally, it was dawn, and the Qu Mansion's door opened. When the servants guarding the door saw the couple huddled at the door, they immediately went forward and asked a few questions. Then, they turned around and ran inside.

Everyone waited for a while. Only then did they see a servant who looked like a manager come out. After looking at the middle-aged couple at the door, he gestured for them to enter. Then, the Qu Mansion's door closed again.

"They went in. They really went in."

"It looks like it is true. Otherwise, the couple wouldn't have the courage to enter the Qu Mansion."

"Fourth Lady Qu is fake. Did it mean that the wife of Vice Minister was..."

"It doesn't seem like it. It sounds more like their daughter had been snatched from them and they finally found her many years later."

The people in the shop discussed animatedly with all kinds of speculations popping up here and there. But there was one thing that everyone had in common—they were just here to watch the show...

Outside the mansion, the people were discussing the matter to their hearts' content. Inside the mansion, Qu Moying was greeting the Old Lady, but Qu Qiuyan had done it even earlier.

After bowing, an old maid hurried over and reported, "Old Lady, Second Master wants to invite Fourth Lady over."

"Now?" The Old Lady was also surprised. These days, Qu Zhizhen did not go to court, and he stayed in the mansion every day.

"Yes, now. It seems urgent," the old maid answered.

Old Lady frowned. "What exactly is it?"

"I don't know either. This is what Second Master has instructed," the old maid lowered her head and replied.

“Grandma, I will accompany Moying to take a look.” Qu Qiuyan volunteered.

Qu Moying’s eyes darted around, and a trace of ridicule flashed through her eyes. Now she understood why Qu Qiuyan came here so early today. No wonder Qu Qiuyan got up so early today—she wanted to make a scene personally.

Yu and Qu Qiuyan were really impatient. They had made their move so soon!

“Grandmother, maybe Father suddenly thought of something important and wanted to ask me,” Qu Moying explained softly.

Hearing their words, despite her doubts, the Old Lady let Qu Moying go. Coincidentally, Qu Qiuyan was going to accompany Qu Moying, so she let them go together.

In the study, Qu Zhizhen looked sharply at the crying couple kneeling in front of him. His eyes fell on the pile of little things in front of them, and he was furious.

“Are these the evidence you said?”

“Yes, this is our evidence. Sir, Fourth Lady is really our daughter. We just want to take her back. We are old, and she is our only daughter. Now we are going to return to our hometown, and we are worried about leaving her here. All we want is to take her back with us.”

The middle-aged woman kowtowed a few times to Qu Zhizhen and cried.

The middle-aged man, who looked a little dull, also kowtowed a few times and cried with the middle-aged woman.

The veins on Qu Zhizhen’s forehead bulged. He slammed the table hard, and the brush, ink, paper, and inkstone on the table bounced up. “Nonsense!”

Chapter 145 Evidence in the Sachet

“Sir, we are not lying. If you don’t believe us, you can ask the villagers about it. The year our daughter disappeared was when Fourth Lady was seriously ill. I-If my daughter had not been taken away, why would we have said that she disappeared? She replaced the Fourth Lady, who died of disease, and became your daughter.”

The middle-aged woman, Li, cried loudly as she knelt on the ground.

“Greetings, Father!” Qu Moying walked in and bowed to Qu Zhizhen.

“Father, what happened? W-Who are they?” Qu Qiuyan also bowed. Then, she looked up at the couple kneeling on the ground in shock. Her face was full of surprise.

Compared to Qu Moying, Qu Zhizhen favored Qu Qiuyan more, so the latter was a little casual when she spoke to him.

Qu Zhizhen waved his hand and gestured for his two daughters to get up. “Take your seat!”

The two of them obediently sat down on both of his sides.

“Dear... M-My dear daughter...” Upon seeing Qu Moying, Li immediately teared up and locked her gaze on Qu Moying. Li seemed to want to approach Qu Moying, but she did not dare. She could only kneel on the ground, sobbing and saying nothing. It was a pitiful sight.

“Do you mean that Granny Gu stole your daughter to replace my daughter, who died back then?” Qu Zhizhen asked impatiently, his eyes sharp.

Although he did not like Qu Moying, it did not mean that he wanted such a thing to happen.

Someone swapped his legitimate daughter, and he had raised a fake daughter. This kind of matter was simply humiliating and bizarre. He was the dignified Mr. Vice Minister who had a reputation in the imperial court. How could something so ridiculous happen in his mansion?

“Yes, Sir. Please return my daughter. We are going back to our hometown. If we don’t take our daughter with us, we will have to part with her forever. We don’t mind living a hard-knocked life as long as we can stay together as one family. Please grant us our wish.” Li kowtowed to Qu Zhizhen again, wiping away her tears as she spoke.

“W-When did you know that she is your daughter?” Qu Zhizhen asked with a gloomy face.

“We only found out about it recently. We wouldn’t have known about it had it not been for Granny Gu who spilled the secret while we were chatting. Then, we came to see our daughter privately, but she didn’t want to accept us and asked us to leave. She only gave us some clothes and... and some pastries that were newly sent to us...”

As Li spoke, she opened up a paper bag in front of her, revealing a few pieces of pastries inside. Although the pastries had shattered into pieces, one could still vaguely tell that they were pastries.

“Oh? Aren’t these the newly made pastries in the mansion? I think the chef made it yesterday,” Qu Qiuyan gushed in surprise.

After she finished speaking, she seemed to realize that she had spoken too much, so she hurriedly turned her head and gently wiped the corner of her lips with a handkerchief to cover up her slip of the tongue.

Qu Qiuyan didn’t talk loudly, but because the atmosphere in the study suddenly became quiet, Qu Zhizhen could hear her clearly despite her light volume. He massaged the throbbing veins on his forehead and glanced at the young servant who was standing at the side.

This young servant was in charge of his pastries and tidying up the study room.

The young servant took two steps forward, carefully examined the pastries, and then nodded silently at Qu Zhizhen, indicating that Qu Qiuyan was right. It was indeed the newly made pastries in the mansion that had just been introduced recently.

It was impossible that a couple from the village would obtain the newly made pastries from the mansion. Because the pastries were new products, they were made in limited quantities and were sent to the Masters. Even the servants did not have the chance to eat them. Judging from the pastries inside the paper bag, the servant could tell that someone in the mansion sent the pastries to them.

Qu Zhizhen looked at Qu Moying with a trace of doubt in his eyes.

“Father, did you call me here because of them?” Qu Moying raised her eyes at Qu Zhizhen and asked calmly.

“They claimed to be your parents, and they said that Granny Gu took you away from them when you were young. They only found out about this recently. Now, they wanted to go back to their hometown and want to take you with them,” Qu Zhizhen tried to calm down and patiently disclosed the matter.

After that, he stared at Qu Moying’s reaction intensely as if his eyes were burning.

“Dear, y-you gave us pastries, clothes, and even some money, and you wanted us to leave the capital, but we are your parents. We can’t bear to let you stay here. Dear, don’t worry, we will treat you nicely after you come back with us. We will not treat you shabbily. Although it will not be as lavish as your life here in the Vice Minister’s Mansion, we’ll definitely make you happy.”

Li turned to Qu Moying and whimpered.

They could differentiate the two young ladies who came in together easily. The one wearing the eye veil was the Fourth Lady, which was their target.

“Dear, you are our daughter, and it isn’t right for you to falsely keep your title as Fourth Lady Qu.” Liu Shan, the middle-aged man, wiped his tears and asserted.

Both of them looked honest and humble, and their hands were full of calluses from hard work. At first glance, one could tell that the couple was ordinary villagers.

“You said that I am your daughter. How can you prove it?” Qu Moying asked indifferently.

“Dear, you have recognized us. Why do you deny it now? G-Granny Gu had a slip of the tongue that day, so we immediately came to the capital to look for you. After seeing you, you knew that we were your parents, but you didn’t want to leave with us. Dear, although you can enjoy fame and wealth here, nothing is more important than being together as a family.”

Li wailed as she cried her lungs out. Her devastated emotions and voice seemed to prove that this was all true.

Qu Moying sneered in disdain. The couple that Yu had found had a solid background. They looked honest, and the most important thing was that their identities were real, so it was not hard to prove it. This was the Dabei Temple incident all over again. At that time, the man was real, and the proofs were easy to verify. All of these elements made the whole story believable.

Judging from Qu Zhizhen’s indignant expression and the cold aura emitting from his body, Qu Moying knew that he believed most of the couple’s story.

Although she didn’t like Qu Zhizhen and didn’t treat him as her father, she wouldn’t let others frame her up casually.

She had never wanted to give up the position of Fourth Lady Qu.

“You said that I am your daughter. How can you prove it?” Qu Moying repeated, looking calm and composed.

“We have proofs. These are the clothes and money you asked the maid to send us. And the pastries you just sent us. You asked us to taste them.” Li fiddled with the objects in front of her and pointed them out to Qu Moying. There was quite a lot of money, which were a bunch of silvers. From the looks of it, she vaguely calculated that they were at least ten taels.

Qu Moying's monthly allowance was only five taels, and she only obtained them after she returned to the mansion. Previously, when she was in the village, she got only a little money from the family.

"Dear, here are all the proofs, and this. Granny Gu made this..." Seeing that Qu Moying did not believe them, Liu Shan hurriedly took out a sachet from the pile of things. Sure enough, it was made by Granny Gu before Qu Moying came to the capital this time. "Granny Gu felt guilty and sorry after kidnapping our girl, so she often went to the temple to pray and ask for forgiveness for her selfish behavior."

"This is the sachet she got from the temple. I heard that there is an amulet or something in it. There is also proof of your identity."

The sachet was sealed with the thread still intact at the opening.

Qu Zhizhen's face became grey as he looked at the middle-aged couple kneeling on the floor. The corners of his mouth were tightly pursed. He did not say a word as if he was anticipating the development of the situation.

"Oh... That is indeed the sachet that Moying wore when she entered the mansion." Qu Qiuyan was not in the mood to watch the show. After recognizing the sachet, she exclaimed with a face full of surprise and glanced at Qu Moying. Qu Qiuyan seemed to want to say something, but in the end, she hesitated and fell silent.

"Where did you get this sachet? How about you open it and take a look?" Qu Moying asked.

"Did you forget that you asked Yu Dong to give us this sachet? Why don't you admit it now? But since you want to see it, o-okay then. We'll open it now," Liu Shan said and passed the sachet to the young servant. "Sir, please verify it."

Qu Zhizhen nodded. The young servant took the sachet, went to the side to find a pair of scissors, cut open the sachet, and took out two things from it.

One was a very small and ordinary amulet. Obviously, it was taken from the temple for protection and blessing. As for the other item, it was a very small piece of folded paper.

Qu Zhizhen took the note from the young servant. When he opened it, he saw the words written on the note, saying, "Father, Liu Shan. Mother, Li."

Qu Zhizhen looked at Qu Moying with a malicious gaze and did not say anything.

"This is the evidence you mentioned. Did you also hear it from Granny Gu?" Qu Moying did not go forward to check the evidence. Instead, she turned to the couple.

"Y-Yes. We wouldn't have known the truth had Granny Gu not had a slip of tongue. Dear, go back with us. A family reunion is more important than anything. Nothing matters as long as all of us are fine and happy," Li, the middle-aged woman, wailed again.

"Do you know what's inside?" Qu Moying ignored her crying and asked.

"Uh... Granny Gu said that it is the evidence that proves you are our daughter, and she put it in... I-I don't know what it is, but it must be the evidence." Liu Shan's heart skipped a beat. However, he managed to regain his composure and explained smoothly. As he spoke, he wiped away his tears pitifully.

"What if there isn't one here?" Qu Moying suddenly asked with a sneer.

She was saying this because she was certain that the couple was illiterate.

"I-Impossible!" The couple was taken aback. Li was the first to come to her senses and cried while shaking her head. "This was what Granny Gu told us. She wouldn't lie to us!"

"What if it isn't true? It is a crime to falsely claim the daughter of an imperial official as yours, and you'll be sent to the court for further investigation." Qu Moying's expression became calmer and calmer.

Qu Qiuyan similarly had calm expression, but it was just on the surface. She hid her hands in her sleeves and wrung the handkerchief tightly, indicating that she was anxious now. Her heart skipped a beat when she saw the panic expression on the couple's face.

She had a premonition!

Chapter 146 Does She Have a Mark on Her Leg?

“Dear...” Li came to her senses first. Suddenly, she wailed louder, “You are my daughter! I-if you don’t care about our feelings, we won’t mind being sent to the court. Anyway, when we can’t take our daughter back, w-what’s the point of staying alive?”

Liu Shan also wiped his tears, lowered his head, and cried, as if he would accept whatever came at him for the sake of his daughter.

Yu Dong glared at them furiously as if he wanted to burn them alive with his eyes. Although he had predicted this to happen, he was exasperated when he looked at this couple, who was soft-spoken and polite to him a few days ago.

What a shameless couple! Second Madam really put in a lot of effort to find such a pair of shameless people to harm his lady!

He would have beaten these two scoundrels up had they not been here in Qu Zhizhen’s study.

“Dear, you asked Yu Dong to give us things at the back door. The old maid at the back door can vouch for us,” Liu Shan blurted in between his cries as a thought suddenly flashed across his mind.

The old maid was in the backyard of the Qu Mansion. It was convenient to interrogate her. Even if they wanted to interrogate Granny Gu, who was the furthest away, they wouldn’t need to spend much time as they could just go to the village and ask. Compared to other proofs that were impossible to verify, the convenience in the investigation of this matter made the whole thing more believable.

Qu Zhizhen gestured at the young servant with his eyes. The young servant nodded and retreated knowingly. He then brought another person to the backyard to ask the old maid.

“Moying, are you really not... Father’s daughter? Then, you... you said that Mother harmed you before...” Qu Qiuyan felt that the time had come. She looked at Qu Moying in surprise and calmly brought up the issue about Yu.

People often thought that if a person lied, the other things that he did must be fake too. Since Qu Moying’s background was fake, she must have wronged Yu about the previous case.

Just like Yu, Qu Qiuyan was most suspicious of Qu Moying.

She suspected that Qu Moying was behind the incident that happened at Crown Prince’s Mansion. How else could she explain the coincidence? Qu Moying, who was supposed to be in trouble, was fine, but she was suspected to have an affair with Crown Prince. Mother said that she did not cause Qu Moying’s body to be red and swollen all over, and that Qu Moying did it herself.

Qu Qiuyan did not completely believe what Mother said. She knew that no one would risk their life to harm their body like that. Skin and body were the most important for women, especially the daughters of aristocratic families like them. They could not afford to be careless. Based on Qu Qiuyan’s personality, she deduced that there was something fishy about this matter.

But no matter what, this was the best time to bring up this matter.

It didn’t matter whether or not Qu Moying did it herself. As long as they could convince Father that Qu Moying was not his daughter, Qu Qiuyan could lay everything out on the table.

She had been Qu Zhizhen’s daughter for years, so she knew his personality more or less.

Seeing that the couple was a little withered just now, Qu Qiuyan panicked. Fortunately, the couple was smart enough to know that they must insist at this time that Qu Moying was their daughter.

Ignoring Qu Qiuyan completely, Qu Moying looked at Li and smiled slightly. “Does your daughter have any marks on her body?”

“N-No, she doesn’t.” Liu Shan answered.

Li's eyes darted around, and she suddenly cried again, "She was young at that time, so we didn't notice any marks on her body. At least she didn't have any obvious mark."

No obvious mark. It meant it was likely that their daughter had unobvious ones. As for the definition of "unobvious", it was ambiguous—one that was not overly obvious could be considered "unobvious".

"Our Miss's right foot..." Yu Dong glared angrily and interrupted. After that, he immediately came to his senses and hurriedly shut his mouth.

"Yes, yes! There is something odd on our daughter's right foot, but it's not obvious. S-she suddenly disappeared... W-We were panicked and crying non-stop. Sometimes, we would be confused and forget about some of the details about her childhood," Li hurriedly explained.

Therefore, even if they remembered wrongly, it was because of their longing for their daughter. In this case, their wrong memory shouldn't be taken seriously.

"How old is your daughter this year?" Qu Moying asked calmly without mentioning her right foot as if she felt nervous about it. Qu Qiuyan even spotted Qiu Moying's glare at Yu Dong secretly, and Yu Dong lowered his head in fright. At this moment, Yu Dong did not look like his fearsome-looking self in the past, which was different from ordinary maids.

Nervous? Qu Qiuyan was delightful. Did Yu Dong really make a slip of tongue just now?

Qiu Qiuyan had always been worried that Qu Moying had some kind of mark on her that could prove the latter's innocence. However, Qu Qiuyan did not get any news of the mark on her.

Qu Moying was served by her own personal maids, and most of the people in her yard were selected directly from the hiring agents, so it was not easy to bribe them.

Now it seemed that Yu Dong's slip of the tongue was true. No wonder Qu Moying was a little panicked and deliberately changed the topic. Judging from the topic Qu Moying switched to, Qu Qiuyan could tell that Qu Moying was trying to avert everyone's attention, but she did it in a clumsy way.

Then, Qu Qiuyan looked at Li. Mother said that Li was smart who could make a fuss in the middle of busy streets. Couldn't she notice such an obvious bug?

Qu Qiuyan wanted to go up and remind Li.

"Dear, you are over 13 years old, but not 14, that's why you look a little petite. You don't look like you're 14," Li answered.

She sounded more and more convincing. Indeed, compared to girls of her age, Qu Moying was petite. Qu Zhizhen's eyes fell on Qu Moying, and the suspicion in his eyes increased.

All the statements made sense. Was this true then?

"Since you said that it was Granny Gu who did this, we'll invite Granny Gu to testify. Coincidentally, I missed Granny Gu, so I specially sent someone to invite her here a few days ago. She should be here soon. When the time comes, you can confront Granny Gu face to face," Qu Moying said.

"O-Of course, Granny Gu will not admit it. S-She won't dare to admit the crime she committed in front of Mr. Vice Minister!" Liu Shan hurriedly protested.

"Why would she leave the evidence in the sachet if she didn't want to admit her wrongdoing? Did she do so to deliberately leave the evidence to you and let you come to the mansion to claim me back?" Qu Moying asked. Her expression was calm, and she didn't look flustered at all at this point. Qu Zhizhen's eyes fell on her face, and he fell into deep thoughts.

It made sense. Who would be so stupid as to put such a crucial piece of evidence in a sachet and give it to Qu Moying? Most importantly, why would Granny Gu tell this couple the secret?

After Qu Moying finished speaking, she accidentally dropped the handkerchief in her hand to the ground. She reached out to pick it up, and then subconsciously pressed her right leg.

Liu Shan was dumbfounded by the question, and his face turned red for a moment. He didn't know how to answer her. On the side, Li had a flash of inspiration. She pointed at Qu Moying's right leg and exclaimed loudly, "I don't care what Granny Gu thinks. Maybe she regreted her actions, and maybe she was careless at that time. It doesn't matter. But I clearly remember that there is a mark on your right leg. Yes, you have a mark."

As Li spoke, she burst into tears again.

"What mark? You're talking nonsense," Yu Dong angrily interrupted again, losing his composure.

The more Qu Qiuyan looked at Yu Dong, the more she felt that Yu Dong was acting weirdly. Qu Qiuyan immediately smiled and said, "Moying, why don't you show it to us? Everything will be cleared up that way!"

"What mark do I have on my right leg?" Qu Moying pursed her lips and ignored Qu Qiuyan. Her eyes fell on Li, and she asked coldly, her voice a bit fiercer.

This kind of fierceness made people more convinced of their own thoughts.

"Dear, when you went missing that day, your father and I cried and looked for you all over the place. We went everywhere we could, but we couldn't find you. After that, we fell seriously ill. When we got better, our memory was not as good as before. Sometimes, we couldn't even remember some small things in the past. We only vaguely remembered that there was a mark on your right leg, an obvious one."

Li explained while crying, making her words plausible again.

"Y-Yes! We were so sad back then. We fell ill, and we found we had bad memories after we recovered. Sometimes, we would get confused. All we remembered was that our daughter was gone," Liu Shan added and wiped his tears.

Any kind of the so-called marks would help, be it a mole, a birthmark, or a small patch of pigmentation. A trace of smugness flashed across Qu Qiuyan's eyes, and she was relieved. It seemed that Qu Moying was at her wit's end.

Qu Zhizhen, who was sitting behind the desk, frowned coldly and did not say a word.

“Since you don’t remember, how do you know... say that there was a mark on my lady’s right leg?” Yu Dong interjected again, seeming very anxious and agitated. As soon as he said the first part of the words, he cleverly changed his question, but no matter what, he couldn’t retract the statement “how do you know” after saying it out loud.

How do you know? This was enough to prove that it was true.

“Moying, let me check, okay?” Qu Qiuyan pushed forward. She looked at Qu Moying with feigned concern. “Only by showing that there is no mark on your right leg can you prove that they have recognized the wrong person. We need to stop making a scene with these people because it will ruin our reputation.”

“Since you are confused, you must remember it wrongly,” Qu Moying said, ignoring Qu Qiuyan.

Qu Zhizhen glanced at Qu Qiuyan. Originally, if Qu Moying responded to Qu Qiuyan, he would not feel it strange. After all, it was normal for Qu Qiuyan to be concerned about Qu Moying and to offer suggestions to her. However, now that Qu Moying had been ignoring Qu Qiuyan, Qu Qiuyan’s words immediately sounded awkward and abrupt.

Qu Qiuyan was different today because she kept on persuading Qu Moying despite being ignored repeatedly.

“Dear, it’s true! I really remember it this time. It’s true. I didn’t think about it clearly just now. Now I suddenly remember that you have a mark on your right leg. I can tell that you are our daughter at a glance at the mark.” When Li saw Qu Moying’s situation, she immediately knew what to say. She wiped her tears and cried loudly.

Liu Shan quickly added, “Yes, I also remember it now. There is a mark on your right leg.”

“What if I don’t have any?” Qu Moying asked coldly.

"If you don't, it will prove that you are definitely not our daughter," The couple looked at each other and said in unison. At this point, they were confident that there must be a mark on Qu Moying's right leg.

Chapter 147 The Unworthy and Affectionless Kinship

"Moying, let me take a look!" Qu Qiuyan could not help but speak again.

It was hard for Qu Qiuyan to hide the excitement in her eyes. As long as she could prove that Qu Moying was not Father's daughter, everything next would go smoothly, and Mother could be proved innocent from Qu Moying's "accusation".

In this case, Qu Qiuyan could blame everything that happened at Crown Princess' funeral on Qu Moying, claiming that everything was plotted by Qu Moying and that Qu Moying framed her and Mother up. Qu Moying did this because she found out that Mother suspected her of not being Father's biological daughter, so she set up such a trap and then claimed that Mother was to blame.

With this story, Mother and herself would be off the hook.

"Take a look? Why? Do you think that I, a dignified lady in Vice Minister's Mansion, should reveal my body for you to check based on some hearsay?"

Qu Moying sneered, and her snow-white little face showed a little fierceness.

"Dear, w-why do you not accept us? Just let us take a look. I-If you don't like it, y-you can show it to this young lady. We are your parents! H-How can you ditch us for wealth and glory!"

Li let out a heart-wrenching cry and shouted.

“Dear, we are your parents. Y-You have already accepted us as your parents in private, but why do you go back on your words now? Y-You have our blood. We will definitely let you live a good life in the future. Even if we are not rich and famous, we will make you happy.”

Liu Shan also howled sadly.

“Moying, just let me see, and then I’ll vouch for you.” Qu Qiuyan’s face was serious, as if she was on Qu Moying’s side.

“What do you want to see?” a cold voice suddenly came from the door. Everyone turned around and saw Old Lady standing at the door.

Qu Zhizhen hurriedly stood up from behind the desk and walked over to bow at Old Lady. After Old Lady glared at him coldly, her gaze fell on the couple kneeling in front of the desk. “Tell me, what mark is on your daughter?”

“There’s a mark on her right leg!” Seeing the imposing Old Lady, Li and Liu Shan were taken aback in fright, but Li still hurriedly answered.

“What kind of mark?” Old Lady asked sternly.

Qu Moying stood up and walked to Old Lady’s side to support her.

“It has been too long, and I couldn’t remember it clearly after I fell sick. I only remember that there must be a mark on her right leg,” Li explained.

“Since you can’t remember clearly, why are you so sure that there is something on her ‘right’ foot?” Old Lady sneered and stared at Li with burning eyes.

“Well, I remember it subconsciously just like I remember that our daughter disappeared. Other than this, we... we have forgotten many things...” Li started crying again, sounding plausible.

“Alright. I will check on my granddaughter myself. But if there isn’t any mark as you claimed, I’ll send you directly to the court!” Old Lady snapped indignantly and walked in. There was an inner room behind Qu Zhizhen’s study.

Qu Moying helped her walk in.

Qu Qiuyan stood up as well. “Grandmother, I’ll come with you.”

As Qu Qiuyan spoke, she wanted to follow. Although she was almost certain that there was a mark on Qu Moying’s right leg, she felt that it was better to verify it with her own eyes.

“Wait here. Don’t let these scoundrels escape.” Old Lady turned to look at her coldly.

After saying that, she ignored Qu Qiuyan and held Qu Moying’s hand as they walked inside.

Looking at Qu Moying, who was silently and obediently following by Old Lady’s side, Qu Qiuyan’s expression changed slightly. She suddenly felt a chill down her spine, and a bad feeling rose in her heart.

Sensing a gaze falling on her, Qu Qiuyan hurriedly raised her head and met with Qu Zhizhen’s eyes. She hastily pouted in grievance, called him “Father” gently, and returned to her seat. She no longer dared to show off, and she silently wrung the handkerchief in her hands.

She was a little flustered at this moment.

The couple kneeling on the ground was even more flustered. Li and Liu Shan exchanged cautious looks and saw the panic in each other’s eyes. They originally thought that as long as they insisted that Fourth Lady Qu was their daughter, everything would be fine. No matter what, their daughter’s disappearance and Granny Gu’s matter were both true. They even stuffed the note secretly into the sachet when Granny Gu sewed the opening. They were illiterate, so they didn’t know what was written on the note, but they did so because someone asked them to.

It was the same now. They would get a daughter and a lot of money out of the blue from this incident, and then they could leave the capital. Even if their scheme was exposed, no one would be able to find them.

That person even told them that they could fetch a good price for this daughter they got for free, and that they could get a large sum of retirement money. After that, they could buy a land and house when they returned to their hometown. For them, it was a perfect deal.

However, things seemed to develop in a different direction than what they had expected. Just now, they were intimidated by Old Lady Qu's last sentence.

The study room quieted down, and only the heavy breathing of the couple could be heard. After a while, their foreheads began to sweat. Their expressions were no longer calm. The two looked at each other, and their hearts beat wildly. Time now seemed to be moving extremely slowly.

All kinds of emotions were escalating rapidly.

"Second Master, Old Lady invites you in." Suddenly, a maid hurried out of the inner room and bowed to Qu Zhizhen.

With a nod, Qu Zhizhen stood up, turned around, and walked inside. The door of the inner room was ajar. Old Lady was sitting on the ottoman, while Qu Moying was standing beside the ottoman with her head lowered. Right now, Qu Moying had removed her eye veil. When she heard the voice, she looked up at Qu Zhizhen, who stopped abruptly when he met with her eyes.

The girl in front of him made his eyes light up. He had always been proud of Qu Qiuyan's beauty. Lord Jing was so deeply mesmerized by her that he didn't mind her misbehavior at Crown Princess' funeral the other day.

But one glance at Qu Moying in front of him made him realize that Qu Qiuyan was inferior to her. Her bright and sparkly eyes were like water, but there seemed to be a layer of faint mist hovering under them. Her long eyelashes fluttered twice, making her look even more beautiful. Her skin was as fair as snow, and her beauty was indescribable.

Qu Moying had a pair of beautiful almond-shaped eyes, which was somewhat similar to Yue, who also had a pair of almond-shaped eyes. There was a hint of red at the corners of her eyes, adding a bit of charm to her beautiful appearance. The combination of enticing charm and pure beauty made her appearance even more outstanding.

Although he had never seen her look before, there was a faint sense of familiarity.

With just a glance, Qu Zhizhen was sure that she was the daughter of Yue and him, although Yue almost no longer existed in his memory.

It was absolutely impossible that Qu Moying was the daughter of the couple outside!

He had thought that Qu Moying was at most delicate and pretty, but Qu Zhizhen never thought that Qu Moying was much more outstanding than Qu Qiuyan. Having such a perfect daughter, he couldn't casually marry her off to a nobody. So what if she had an eye problem? Judging from her swift movement, he could tell that her eye problem wasn't serious, not to mention that it wasn't physically obvious either.

In an instant, Qu Zhizhen made new adjustments to Qu Moying's position in the family.

"Father!" Qu Moying stepped forward and bowed, and then retreated to Old Lady's side.

"I have already checked. There is nothing on Ying's right leg. Ying specifically asked her maid to say something about her leg, and unexpectedly, that unscrupulous couple took the bait and lied about the mark on her foot!" Old Lady said coldly. "I know best if Ying is your daughter or not, that's why I asked her to remove her eye veil. When she was born, there was a faint red at the corner of her eyes. It was like someone dyed the ends of her eyes with lipsticks, and it was not too obvious. I have never seen other girls have this."

After hearing what Old Lady said, Qu Zhizhen also remembered that Old Lady had mentioned this when the baby was carried to him. She praised the baby for looking smart and adorable, and said that the baby opened her eyes not long after birth, and that her facial features were exquisite.

However, he did not care about Qu Moying at that time because for him, she was just a daughter. Moreover, in his opinion, Qu Moying was very ugly at that time because she wasn't fair or chubby. There was nothing special about her except the faint red at the corner of her eyes.

As expected, she was his daughter. He actually felt relieved.

He looked at Qu Moying gently and affirmed, "Now that we know the truth, I know what to do, and I'll take care of it. Help your grandmother to go back and rest."

Qu Zhizhen spoke in such a mild and gentle tone that Qu Moying almost felt that he had changed into someone else. This was the first time he had spoken so amiably to her.

"Father, since the matter is faux, why do they dare to come here to claim me as their daughter? They are from the village. Previously, they came to me because they couldn't find a job. Since they were from the village, I took pity on them and told Yu Dong to give them some old clothes and money. As for the pastries, I didn't give them. It wasn't me. The only place I brought the new pastries to was Second Madam's room when I went to visit her."

Qu Moying's words reminded Qu Zhizhen. He was the one who kicked over the food basket, and he saw the pastries inside. A trace of anger flashed in his eyes.

No matter how he judged this matter, it was a provocation to him because they falsely claimed his daughter as theirs.

"I also heard about Granny Gu. Yes, the old maid at the back door did see Yu Dong and the couple, but she only saw them talking and did not hear their conversation. Granny Gu was Ying's wet nurse. She is now in the village. I will send someone to investigate it. If Granny Gu does not know anything about this, this must all be a scam. Who is plotting against Ying?" Old Lady added without hesitation.

When Old Lady came over just now, she saw the young servant coming with the old maid who guarded the back door. Old Lady had asked a few questions on her way here. Now, the old maid was still waiting in the corridor.

There must be someone behind this matter. It was not difficult to guess who it was. Yu... It was Yu again! A touch of rage rose in Qu Zhizhen's heart. The previous incidents had happened one after another. At first, Qu Zhizhen wanted the matters to die down so that no one would talk about it anymore, but now, Yu made another incident...

Chapter 148 Search for a Maid

Qu Zhizhen had been inside the inner room for a while, but he had not come out. The people in the inner room spoke very softly. Those who were outside could only hear faint voices, but they couldn't hear what the people inside were saying.

Both the couple and Qu Qiuyan were on pins and needles now.

Qu Qiuyan crumpled the handkerchief in her hand into a ball. She released the handkerchief a little, and then wrung it again. She was restless.

After a long time, they heard a voice coming out from the inner room. Qu Zhizhen walked out first with anger. He sat behind the desk and glared coldly and sharply at the couple kneeling below.

His glare frightened Li and Liu Shan so much that they lowered their heads and did not dare to look up.

"Guards, take them down. Flog them twenty times as the punishment for falsely claiming the official's daughter as theirs, and then send them to the court," Qu Zhizhen shouted harshly.

When Li and Liu Shan, the seemingly honest yet cunning couple, heard this, they immediately knew that their scheme had been exposed. They hurriedly begged for mercy, "Please forgive us! Sir, please forgive us!"

If they were sent to the court, and if the judge found out that it was a fraud, they would be banished to the border. The couple did not expect such an outcome. Didn't the person promise them that they would be fine? Didn't he say that someone would help them? But it seemed that, among all the people here, only the Third Lady beside them could help them.

“Third Lady, save us! Third Lady, save us!” At this time, Li said whatever flashed across her mind. She immediately raised her head and shouted anxiously.

“I... I...” Not expecting that Li would directly call her for help at this crucial moment, Qu Qiuyan was startled in shock. Then, a trace of indignation appeared on her face, and she snorted coldly, “How dare you ask me to save you after falsely claiming Moying as your daughter? You’re disrespectful to our Qu Mansion?!”

At this time, Qu Qiuyan knew that the plan had failed. There must be nothing on Qu Moying’s right leg, and hence, Qu Moying did not have anything to do with the couple. Anyway, Mother was the one who did everything, and she did not involve in this matter directly. That said, Mother was so dumb. She was sure that she would succeed this time. How the hell did it end up like this now?

What a fool!

Sensing the coldness in Qu Zhizhen’s eyes, Qu Qiuyan hurried forward and bowed at Qu Zhizhen, huffing angrily, “Father, since this is a scam, we must not let them go. They falsely claimed that Moying was their daughter. They even made up such a plausible story that you and I bought it and suspected Moying. They deserve to die for their crime. Father, you should beat them to death.”

As Qu Qiuyan spoke, she included Qu Zhizhen into her statement, indicating that she did doubt Qu Moying just now, just like how Qu Zhizhen doubted Qu Moying too.

Hearing her say this, Qu Zhizhen shifted his gaze from Qu Qiuyan to the couple kneeling on the ground. His young servants had already come over to take them away.

Seeing this situation and hearing that they might be beaten to death, Li and Liu Shan struggled with all their might as they loudly quavered, “Sir! We don’t mean to falsely claim your daughter! Someone asked us to do it on purpose!”

Qu Zhizhen waved his hand, and the young servants silently retreated.

“Talk!”

"Sir, a few months ago, a man found us. He told us that Fourth Lady Qu was seriously ill when our daughter was missing, and he said that we could claim Fourth Lady Qu as our daughter. He gave us money and told us to secretly put a note in Granny Gu's satchel. Then, he told us to come to the capital, find Yu Dong, and tell Yu Dong that we couldn't find a job. Fourth Lady Qu asked Yu Dong to help us by giving us clothes and money at the back door."

"Just yesterday, someone sent us a bag of pastries and asked us to say that Fourth Lady Qu asked us to come here this morning to claim her. First, we needed to go to the breakfast shop in front of Qu Mansion to spread the news. Then, we came here and insisted that Fourth Lady was our daughter. He even told us that he would give us a lot of money after the deed was done and would send us back to our hometown."

Li wiped her tears as she cried. She was really afraid now, so she told the ins and outs in detail. Liu Shan nodded repeatedly and hurriedly kowtowed to Qu Zhizhen to beg for forgiveness. At this time, there was nothing they could think about but to survive.

"Man? What man?"

"He looked like a manager. H-He told us that it was his Master's order. We met him a few times later, but he always left mysteriously, and we didn't know where he went," Li answered quickly. She told everything she knew.

"Why didn't you keep an eye on him?" Qu Zhizhen asked coldly.

"W-We didn't dare to. I-It seemed that someone always brought him to us," Liu Shan stammered.

"Then how can you prove that you did not plan this? You're plotting against an official's family member, a young lady! Do you have any idea how heavy the punishment of such a crime is?" A glimmer of light flashed in Qu Zhizhen's eyes. He frowned tightly, and his eyes were full of rage.

"N-No! It was not us. Sir, it really wasn't us!" Hearing this kind of accusation, Liu Shan became more and more panicked and waved his hands frantically.

"The maid! Yes! Sir, the maid who sent us pastries yesterday told us to say that this was a gift from Fourth Lady. I recognize her!" The panicked Li suddenly thought of something. They didn't know where to look for the man who looked like a manager, but Li believed that the maid worked in the Qu Mansion.

She heard that this pastry was newly made by the Qu Mansion.

"Y-Yes, sir! We can recognize her. The maid is about twelve or thirteen years old. She's not very tall. I think... she's almost the same as her! She is quite petite and looks pretty. If only you can let us identify her from a lineup, sir..." Liu Shan hurriedly said as he came to his senses now. They saw the maid not long ago, so he remembered her look.

Liu Shan was referring to Qing Ju, who was by Qu Qiuyan's side. Hearing his description, Qing Ju's face turned ghastly pale, and she almost collapsed. She hurriedly lowered her head.

"Someone, call all the maids who are twelve to thirteen years old to the yard," Qu Zhizhen ordered with a livid face.

The young servant went away to give the order. Soon, the yard was full of early-teen maids of the Qu Mansion. Li and Liu Shan were dragged out to the yard to recognize the maid.

However, after looking at them one by one, the couple didn't find the maid, and they were taken aback.

"So, can you recognize the maid?" Standing in the corridor, Qu Zhizhen watched the couple recognizing the maid. Seeing them stop, he asked.

Qu Moying put on the eye veil again and helped Old Lady to sit on the chair in the corridor, quietly watching the rogue couple recognize the maid.

"S-Sir, she's not here." Liu Shan was so scared that he was about to cry.

"Is anyone absent today?" Old Lady turned to Qu Qiuyan and asked, "Are all the maids here, all the twelve- to thirteen-year-old maids?"

Right now, Qu Qiuyan was in charge of the mansion affairs with Luo's assistance.

"I'm not sure about that. Qing Ju, go and ask who has left the mansion today." Qu Qiuyan instructed Qing Ju who was standing at the side.

Qing Ju responded and left. After a while, she came back with the news. There were quite a number of twelve- to thirteen-year-old maids who were not in the mansion today: two maids from Yu's yard, one from Qu Qiuyan's, one from Old Lady's, and two from the front yard.

Qing Ju went forward to report this matter. Everyone had a reason to go out, and Old Lady sent her maids out herself. The manager at the front yard sent the two maids out. There was no mistake.

"Take the couple out, flog them twenty times, and throw them to the door of the mansion. Tell others that they're charged with falsely claiming the daughter of an imperial official," Qu Zhizhen instructed coldly and decisively. He had already had the culprit in his mind. Yu's maid was not in the mansion, right?

Two servants came over and dragged the couple out.

"Mother, let's end this here for now!" Qu Zhizhen turned around and said to Old Lady, who was rubbing her forehead.

Knowing that he was planning to gloss the issue over, Old Lady glanced at him and snorted in dissatisfaction. Then, she stood up, held Qu Moying's hand, and said, "Let's go back, Ying. Your father is in charge of this matter, so he will clear your name, for sure. Our family will be the laughing stock of the capital if these nuisance comes knocking on our door every day."

"Yes, Grandma." Qu Moying nodded gently and helped Old Lady out.

"Grandma, I will go with you." Qu Qiuyan said hastily after coming to her senses. She marched forward and wanted to hold Old Lady's other hand.

“Stay here and help your father deal with this matter. Now, you are in charge of the affairs of the inner yard. When something like this happens, you need to rectify the inner yard. If this goes on, the entire inner yard will be in chaos. Find out why your sister’s sashet is gone from her room,” Old Lady reprimanded coldly.

Then, she held Qu Moying’s hand and left. She did not smile at Qu Qiuyan at all.

A trace of jealousy appeared on Qu Qiuyan’s face as she stood still. She gritted her teeth and suppressed the resentment in her heart. She and Qu Moying were both Old Lady’s granddaughters, but why did Old Lady treat her so coldly yet treat Qu Moying so well? Old Lady even hinted that she had something to do with this matter. It was none of her business!

At most, she had only said a few unnecessary words. Mother was the mastermind behind this. Why did Old Lady blame her for this?

As expected, Old Lady was an annoying old woman who had overstayed her welcome in this world.

“Father, where are you going?” Suppressing the resentment in her heart, Qu Qiuyan turned around and saw Qu Zhizhen striding out. She hurriedly asked.

“I’m going to see your mother,” Qu Zhizhen grunted without turning his head. However, when he spoke, he emphasized the last word, and it sounded as if he was gnashing his teeth as he said it!

Seeing the angry look on Qu Zhizhen’s face when he left, Qu Qiuyan trembled in fear, and a chill went down her spine. She reached out her hand, held Qing Ju’s hand, and squeezed it hard. She used so much force that Qing Ju was about to cry from the enormous pain.

“Should I go over and take a look?” Qu Qiuyan asked in a low voice, staring at Qu Zhizhen’s back. She could guess that even if there was no solid evidence, Father knew that Mother was behind this, so he went there to denounce her. Qu Qiuyan was wondering if she should go. If she went, she would be embarrassed if they had a huge fall-out, and she might even lead the disaster to herself.

But if she did not go, would Grandmother and Father think that she was too cold and indifferent?

"My lady, as a daughter, you can't do anything about the matter between Madam and Second Master. Why don't you take care of the things here first, and then go to see Madam later?" Qing Ju knew what Qu Qiuyan was thinking. She had been working for Qu Qiuyan for so long, after all. She endured the pain and offered Qu Qiuyan the very suggestion that the latter wanted.

Qu Qiuyan loosened her hands, and her face relaxed. Looking at the trembling young maids in the yard, she calmly nodded. "Yes, I will deal with the things here first before going to see Mother."

She sounded as if she had planned to see her mother, but she was otherwise occupied at this moment...

Chapter 149 The Torn Swaddling Cloth

"Granny Zhou, did Mother leave these for me?" Qu Moying suddenly stood up and looked at the small package in front of her in shock.

There were two reasons why she took Granny Zhou with her. Firstly, Granny Zhou led a difficult life in Earl Ling'an's Mansion. Secondly, Granny Zhou was Second Madam Qu's dowry maid, so Granny Zhou had a good understanding of what happened to Mother.

When she came back, Granny Zhou did tell her some things about the past. Back then, Yu gave birth prematurely and blamed it on Mother. After a big quarrel, Qu Zhizhen reprimanded Mother and asked her to go to the convent for a period of time. Though Mother was pregnant at that time, she had no choice but to leave.

Because of this, Mother was heartbroken. The sorrow affected her health and led to her premature childbirth. Then, Mother died in difficult labor. Old Lady only managed to see Mother one last time when she rushed over, while the so-called Father did not even see Mother before Mother passed away. After he came over, he blamed the matter entirely on Granny Zhou.

"Actually, Madam did not leave this for you. I was the one who took them away as a memento. Now, I'll return them to you, my lady." Granny Zhou lowered her head and cried, wiping her tears.

She didn't want to mention what happened back then, but there was a reason why she had to.

Qu Moying bit her lips and felt a lump in her throat. Her eyes fell on the package in front of her. It was a bright red swaddling cloth. The material seemed to be of high quality, but the color and pattern on it faded a little due to the long period of time. There was a large double-colored peony flower embroidered on it. The golden thread was very beautiful and the embroidery was very delicate. It went without saying that it was excellent embroidery work.

For some reason, there was a tiny hole in the swaddling cloth. She wondered when it was torn.

Her heart moved and she felt that something wasn't right, but she couldn't pinpoint what it was!

Her gaze then fell on a set of children's silver accessories. There were silver bracelets, a silver necklace, silver anklets, and something that looked like a bell.

"Were these things not used back then?" Qu Moying asked as she reached out to touch the silver ornaments.

"Madam used the swaddling cloth a few times and then replaced it with a new one. She didn't get to use the silver accessories. At that time, I wanted to take Madam's and your things with me, so... I took them." Granny Zhou lowered her head and sobbed.

Qu Moying was silent for a moment and did not speak.

The room quieted down. For some reason, there was a strange and eerie serenity. After a long time, Qu Moying said in a hoarse voice, "Thank you for keeping these things for me, Granny Zhou."

"My lady, this is Madam's last wish. Originally, I would have sent these things to you before, but you were in the village, and it was inconvenient for me to go there." Granny Zhou asserted as she wiped her tears and looked up with her bloodshot eyes. Qu Moying could see that Granny Zhou was in panic.

When Granny Zhou came to Earl Ling'an's Mansion, she was wholeheartedly devoted to Qu Moying's Mother in the Ji Family. Later, she became an important assistant to Mother. Even before Mother died, Granny Zhou was the one who helped to manage the affairs. Qu Moying was extremely gratified

towards Granny Zhou for what Granny Zhou had done in her previous and current lives. She reached out and pulled Granny Zhou to sit down.

She ordered Yu Chun to put away the things and keep them well.

Yu Dong served her tea. Qu Moying took a sip and calmed herself down. Then Qu Moying told Granny Zhou the reason why she was called over just now— Qu Moying wanted to inquire about something.

After Granny Zhou arrived at the Qu Mansion, she had quietly helped Granny Miao.

Granny Miao was good at dealing with things in some aspects, but she was indeed inferior to Granny Zhou in managing the daily affairs of the yard. After all, Granny Zhou had once helped her Master manage the inner yard back when she was at Earl Ling'an's Mansion. Since she had no problem in managing so many yards, it was a piece of cake for her to manage Qianyue House now.

Granny Zhou had helped Granny Miao a lot the minute she came here.

"Granny Zhou, how is Second Young Master Ji?" Qu Moying asked.

"Second Young Master Ji?" Granny Zhou was taken aback and asked.

"Yes, Second Young Master Ji." Qu Moying nodded.

"When he was in the mansion, Second Young Master had always had a good relationship with Third Lady. They were about the same age. Although they were in the first and second branches respectively, they got along very well. In the past, when Second Young Master went outside, he would bring things back for Third Lady. When they were young, they played together. When they grew up, they kept their distances to avoid people's gossips, but Second Young Master would still come to see Third Lady from time to time."

Granny Zhou recounted as she composed herself. She wiped her tears with a handkerchief.

This was similar to the Ji Yuanhai in Qu Moying's memory.

"Granny Zhou, if Concubine Xiang, whom you mentioned the other day, wants to recognize Second Young Master Ji as Uncle's son, do you think it's possible?" Qu Moying asked again.

Although Qu Moying knew some things, she could not say it, let alone do anything. But with Granny Zhou here, it was much easier. Others would only think that it was Granny Zhou who told her something so that she knew about the inside story of the Ji Family.

"Concubine Xiang wants to recognize Second Young Master Ji as General Ji's son?" Granny Zhou was surprised.

"Yes, she wants to do it." Qu Moying nodded hard. The Emperor was informed of this matter. Cousin Yue said that there was no news yet, but it didn't mean that there was no chance. However, the possibility was not high since Princess Ji was on their opposite side.

Tomorrow was the day of Crown Princess' funeral, and Qu Moying had to attend it.

"It would be great if she could make it. Second Young Master Ji would definitely investigate Third Lady's matter, but... but I'm afraid she won't succeed. First Lady Ji is now Princess Ji in the Eastern Palace. I heard from the maids in the mansion that First Lady might be the Crown Princess in the future..."

Granny Zhou stopped at this point, as if she had something to add.

However, she had stated the key point. If Ji Youran became Crown Princess, Ji Yuanhai would never inherit the title. Ji Youran's brother, Ji Yuanxing, would become the new Earl Ling'an, but Qu Moying did not want to see this happen.

How could she let an enemy inherit Father's everything?

All she wanted to do with the current Earl Ling'an's Mansion was burn the place and the people down. Only when they turned into ashes would she be able to calm down from her vengeful hatred.

Ji Youran cooperated with Pei Luo'an to plot against Qu Moying's Father and even her sister. Hence, Qu Moying was certain that the Ji Family released the news about her Father's death, as well as the rumors about her sister. Even though the servants in the mansion did not know what was going on, the Masters, who was in charge of the Ji Family, would definitely know.

That day, no matter what she said, the Ji Family refused to open her Father's coffin because they knew there was something doubtful about General Ji's death. Therefore, they insisted the coffin should be shut so that the secret would not be revealed.

Ji Yong'an, Xiao, Ji Youran, Ji Yuanxing, and even the highly respected yet credulous Grandmother were all part of the scheme.

Every time Qu Moying thought of this, she felt her wrath of hatred burning intensely inside her, as if a faint bloodthirsty aura was surging in her heart. Her entire family had been murdered in miserable ways, but the people who killed them used her family as the stepping stones and enjoyed the glory that should not have been theirs.

The so-called family affection meant nothing as compared to the personal gains and benefits in their eyes.

Qu Moying pursed her lips tightly. She pursed her lips for so long that she felt a faint, bitter taste of blood in her mouth. Only then did she slowly speak, "What if Ji Youran is busy enough with her own affairs?"

"My lady, if we can make Princess Ji not interfere in this matter, or make Crown Prince's Mansion announce that this matter has nothing to do with them, this matter will be feasible," Granny Zhou answered after giving it some thought. She raised her eyes to look at Fourth Lady in front of her, complicated emotions surging in her gaze. Fourth Lady was supposed to be her Master, the little Master whom Madam had instructed her to protect.

However, because of what had happened back then, she had no choice but to leave. Thinking about how Madam looked that day, Granny Zhou felt a lump in her throat again. She had let Madam down for not properly protecting her lady.

Fortunately, her lady was intelligent. Ever since she came here, she could see clearly that her lady was surrounded by clever people. For example, although Granny Miao was not as good as her in managing the household affairs, Granny Miao was very capable in other aspects and was particularly loyal to her lady. Thus, Granny Miao was a great help to her lady.

Madam must be happy if she saw the current Fourth Lady. If... If Madam... When Granny Zhou thought of the past incidents and the people, she turned her head and wiped her tears, unable to hide her sadness.

She did want to say something, but it wouldn't make any difference if she said it! She would tell her lady if her lady found something, but now... She did not know where to start!

"I understand." Qu Moying nodded, and a trace of coldness flashed through her eyes. Ji Youran was the key to the Ji Family matter. Of course, Pei Luo'an, who was behind Ji Youran, was even more crucial. Faced with such a thing, even without Pei Luo'an's order, many people would volunteer to aid him and Ji Youran's brother.

After a moment of silence, Qu Moying suddenly raised her head and asked, "Granny Zhou, do you know that Mother had a pair of bracelets in her dowry?"

She asked this question because she wanted to shift the topic to the Mother in her previous life. Yue had a pair of bracelets which she gave to Ji Hanyue and her sister. Now, they should be in Ji Youran's hands.

Ji Youran had always coveted the bracelets! Given Ji Youran's character, she would definitely send her people to search for the bracelet even if Ji Hanyue, namely Qu Moying now, fell into the lake with it back then.

After falling from such a height, Qu Moying was certain that the bracelet would be broken into pieces, but Ji Youran would not give up no matter what. Even if the bracelet was broken, Ji Youran should have the fragments.

"Yes, I know about the bracelets. Not only Madam, but Yue also had a pair. The bracelets were given by Old Lady Yue before they got married. There were four bracelets that were made into two pairs, and they were given to Madam and Yue respectively," Granny Zhou asserted with a nod. "These two pairs of bracelets look the same, but they are actually a little different."

“What’s different?” Qu Moying was stunned for a moment, and a trace of surprise flashed in her eyes. She originally thought that Qu Moying did not have them. After all, after she became Qu Moying, there was nothing about this pair of bracelets in her memory. She had just wanted to change the topic, but she did not expect that it would really lead to something that she did not know about.

“The two pairs of bracelets were made from a piece of jade, and the jade was a family heirloom of Yue’s ancestors. I heard that it was ancient objects from a long time ago. In the Yue Mansion back then, Old Lady Yue gave these two exclusive pairs of bracelets to the two madams when they got married, hoping that the sisters could maintain a close and harmonious sisterhood in the future. Both the madams would live in the capital after the wedding, which was far away from the Yue Mansion, and the two sisters should get along well...”

Granny Zhou explained.

Yue’s ancestors were of high renown among the scholars in the South, but they had a relatively unsolid foundation in the capital. The reason why Old Lady Yue gave the bracelets to the two sisters was that she hoped they would always be on good terms and support each other. Yue was elder, while Second Madam Qu was younger.

Their personalities were slightly different. As the eldest sister, Yue had a fierce personality, while Second Madam Qu, as the younger sister, was soft-spoken and gentle. The two bracelets that Old Lady Yue had given them were made from the same piece of jade, so they were similar. It was a red blood jade with two pieces of tear-shaped, green gems as the pendant of the bracelet. However, there were some differences.

The difference was subtle. If Granny Zhou hadn’t seen the two pairs with her own eyes, she wouldn’t have been able to tell the difference...

Chapter 150 The Bracelets Would Only Be Passed on to Daughters and Not Sons

They were both blood jade bracelets with tear-shaped green gem pendants. The bracelet holder of Second Madam Qu’s bracelets was the design of a pair of peach blossoms with multi-layer petals. Meanwhile, the bracelet holder of Yue’s bracelets was a pair of five-petal, single-layer peach blossoms.

Although it was multi-layered, there were not so many petals. There were only three extra petals. Granny Zhou clearly knew this feature as she had seen it before. She would have missed it had she not looked it closer.

"I have never seen the pair of bracelets Mother left." Qu Moying shook her head, not remembering such bracelets in her memory. Needless to say, they must be in Yu's hands now.

"My lady, the bracelets were the dowry that Old Lady Yue gave to Madam. Back then, it was stated that the bracelets would only be passed on to daughters and not sons. When they had a daughter, the bracelets would be passed on to her. When they had a son, the bracelets would be passed on to the granddaughter in the future. The Yue's Mansion had it recorded because the bracelets were made from an ancient jade, made into two pairs, and priceless."

They would keep a record for such an expensive and rare item. They would also record in detail where this item came from and where it went.

Qu Moying bit the corner of her lips hard until she felt a faint sense of pain at the corner of her lips. Suddenly, there seemed to be a double vision in her eyes. She vaguely saw the bracelet on Ji Youran's wrist that day. It was not blood jade, but the solidified blood of her sister. Qu Moying clenched her hands tightly, and her fingertips pinched her palm. She would never forget the heartbreaking scene.

At that time, she wanted to drag Ji Youran to die with her so badly!

Why did Ji Youran do this? Even if she had an affair with Pei Luo'an, even if she wanted Qu Moying to call off her engagement with Pei Luo'an and to give up the position of Crown Princess, Qu Moying could agree with it. But why did Ji Youran have to murder her Father and sister without even giving them a second chance? Why was she so vicious?

"Grandmother said that the bracelets are passed on only to the daughters and not sons?" After a long time, Qu Moying finally cleared her dry throat and asked in a hoarse voice.

"Yes, that's what Old Lady Yue said. I think everyone in the Yue Mansion knows about this," Granny Zhou added, thinking that Qu Moying did not believe her.

Qu Moying's heart fluttered, and she slightly released her fists. "D-Does Cousin Yue know about this?"

"I'm not sure. He is a male descendant, after all, and he was so young back then." Granny Zhou thought for a moment and said uncertainly.

She was indeed not too certain about it. Yue Wenhan was a male descendant, and he was still young when the rule was stated, so he probably could not remember anything. When he grew up, no one would deliberately tell him this.

Qu Moying nodded and understood the situation. She did not intend to involve Yue Wenhan in this matter. Up until now, Yue Wenhan had already done a lot of things. It was he who submitted the letter about Concubine Xiang's plan to recognize a son for General Ji to the imperial court.

Originally, this was a family matter. They shouldn't alarm the Emperor, and the one that submitted the letter might even be reprimanded by the Emperor. However, the case in Earl Ling'an's Mansion was different. He did not have a son. His eldest daughter was the Crown Princess in Eastern Palace who was rumored that she died after saving the Crown Prince, and his youngest daughter was missing. There were many speculations about her disappearance. Of course, if the Emperor were to send his men to inquire about the matter, the Ji Family would definitely say that her younger sister had eloped with someone.

Father had worked hard and performed a valuable service. He had been loyal to the Emperor in his entire life. The Emperor would definitely miss Father. After Ji Hanyue's death, in order to show his concern for his imperial officials, the Emperor would probably find an heir for Father. This was also to win the hearts of the other officials.

Although Father died, some lords from the military still took Father's side.

Speaking of which, the matter happened during the wedding night. It was not because of Ji Youran's and Pei Luo'an's good intentions that they did not accuse Father as a traitor.

If Father was a traitor, Earl Ling'an's Mansion would be the first to be implicated. Not to mention the loss of the title, they might even be punished by death. Ji Youran would be implicated too if Earl

Ling'an's Mansion fell from grace. Under such circumstances, she did not dare to pin the blame on Father.

Similarly, Pei Luo'an did not dare to. The two women he married were both Ji's daughters, and they would definitely be implicated after the incident. If a story was made about this by the other factions, he would not be able to defend himself, and he would even provoke the Emperor. It would likely affect his position as Crown Prince.

She couldn't understand this when she was Ji Hanyue, but now, everything was clear.

It was not that Ji Youran and Pei Luo'an did not want to settle Father's matter once and for all, but they did not dare to.

After Yue Wenhan reported the matter of finding an heir for Father to the Emperor, it would be inappropriate for him to make the next move. After all, he was just a Vice Minister of the Dali Temple. It might implicate him if he made too many moves, especially those against the Crown Prince.

Right now, she was very satisfied by everything that Yue Wenhan had done thus far, and she felt deep gratitude toward him. She would rather make the next move herself.

Although a daughter of the inner yard was weak, it did not mean that she was incapable.

"Granny Zhou, may I know where Aunt's bracelets are now?" After making up her mind, Qu Moying calmed down and raised her eyes to ask.

"Crown Princess took one with her when she married Crown Prince into Eastern Palace that day." Granny Zhou thought for a moment and continued, "She left the other one to Third Lady."

Qu Moying felt as if someone had crashed her heart. Her eyes turned red, and her breathing became a little cold.

She knew very well about the bracelet she was wearing when she was Ji Hanyue. The river at Linyuan Pavilion where she fell into had a rapid flow. She fell into the river while wearing the bracelet, and she

believed she had died there. Her hands spread out weakly as she fell down from a high position. When she fell into the river, her wrist would inevitably hit the water. The jade was crisp and clear. Even if it didn't break into pieces, it should crack.

"Granny Zhou, who do you think have Crown Princess' bracelet now?" Qu Moying asked again. She wasn't asking Granny Zhou's opinion, but the assumption everyone would make.

No one knew that there had already been a problem with Ji Hanyue's bracelet.

"It should be with Princess Ji now. She had not only the bracelet, but all of Crown Princess' dowry. General Ji and Madam carefully prepared the dowry. Madam gave most of her dowry and half of General Ji's savings to Crown Princess. The Crown Princess' dowry procession was ten-li-long. She married Crown Prince in such a lavish manner, but... but..."

At this point, Granny Zhou could not go on. She began to cry again, feeling utterly sorrowful.

General Ji and Madam gave almost all of their assets to Crown Princess with the hope that Crown Princess would be able to gain a firm foothold in Eastern Palace. However, no one expected that a disaster struck the moment she entered Eastern Palace. Crown Princess was seriously injured and was in a coma. Xiao and First Lady Ji benefited from this. They claimed that First Lady Ji entered the palace to take care of the Crown Princess. Granny Zhou didn't believe it no matter what.

But so what if she didn't believe it? She was just a servant. She didn't even have a Master who could speak for her in the mansion, so she had no say at all.

"Granny Zhou, don't be sad. The matter of Crown Princess' dowry will be properly settled in the future." Qu Moying had already found out what she wanted to know and comforted Granny Zhou softly.

After ordering Yu Chun to help Granny Zhou back to rest, Qu Moying sat there and thought for a while. Then, she walked to the desk, grabbed a brush pen, and wrote a letter. After the ink dried, she took the envelope and wrote something on it before folding the letter, putting it in the envelope, and handing it to Yu Dong.

“Go to the streets and buy some silk threads I used for my embroidery. Find someone in secret to send this letter to me in the name of Princess Ji. The sooner the better! Next, investigate the matter of that couple. Don’t listen to the rumors and speculations. Take your time. You don’t have to come back in a hurry.”

The cunning couple had spread some fake news outside the mansion previously. Although the Qu Mansion had made clarification, some people might still make an issue out of this matter and bring her trouble, despite the faint possibility. Yu had to take care of her own things now, and Qu Qiuyan did not dare to do anything for fear that she would be implicated.

However, Qu Moying felt that it was better to send Yu Dong out to investigate the matter. It would be beneficial for her to have Yu Dong inquire outside, or to have someone spread some words appropriately.

Yu and Qu Qiuyan wanted to say that she was a fake Qu Moying. She wanted to show everyone whether she was fake or someone framed her.

Many of these things had happened during a short period of time, including Xu Lipeng calling off the engagement. If this went on, when Ji Youran confronted her, there would be people who would suspect that she had been framed again.

Qu Moying was too weak to go up against Ji Youran now. She should gather the small advantages in her hands bit by bit. Revenge was not a lonely bravery. She had to fight with her all, down to the very last detail.

Keeping a good reputation was not for the sake of getting married, but for an act of better revenge.

“Yes, I’ll do it right away,” Yu Dong responded and left. He left the mansion with the excuse of buying some embroidery threads for Qu Moying. After leaving the Qu Mansion’s door, he walked to a dark corner outside. Immediately, someone flashed out to see him. After saying a few words in a low voice, he handed over the letter in his hand to that person.

When Yu Dong was assigned to work for Qu Moying, he was accompanied by two secret guards. It was inconvenient for secret guards to be in the Qu Mansion during the day, so they could only follow him

outside the mansion. If there was anything to do, Yu Dong could assign it to the secret guards, and he did not need to do it himself.

The man left as soon as he took the letter. They did it very quickly, and they were in the dark corner. When people saw them, they only thought that Yu Dong had met someone on the street coincidentally and chatted with him briefly.

After that, Yu Dong came out from the dark and went to buy the thread. His lady told him that he didn't need to deal with the following things, so it wouldn't matter if he went back a little later.

"My lady, I heard that Second Master went to Madam's room and slapped her multiple times until she fainted. The doctors were getting busy again," Granny Miao told Qu Moying what she had heard as soon as she came in from the outside. She was certainly in a good mood!

Qu Moying smiled with a calm expression. Qu Zhizhen would be humiliated if she was proven to be fake. If Qu Zhizhen swallowed his anger without saying anything at this attempt, it meant that there was a bigger problem, and that Yu was a tougher opponent than she had anticipated. Now, however, she was glad to hear that Yu couldn't bear it and was beaten unconscious. This was just the beginning.

Of course, she did not believe that Yu would have a life crisis!

Let the show go on! From now on, it would probably be more chaotic.

"My lady, Granny Wu came with an old maid from the Crown Prince's Mansion, saying that they wanted to see you and convey a message from Princess Ji," Yu Chun suddenly lifted the curtain and came in to report.

"Let them in," Qu Moying nodded and said indifferently. She raised her watery eyes and looked at the door. The corners of her lips slightly curved.

They came!