

Noble Wife 151

Chapter 151 Searching for the Blood Jade Bracelets

Granny Wu brought an old maid into the room. From the looks of it, the old maid did not come from an ordinary family. She followed the rules after stepping into the room. She first bowed to Qu Moying, then took out a letter from her pocket with a smile. With her head low, she respectfully handed it over. "Fourth Lady Qu, this is a letter from our Princess Ji."

"A letter? What's the matter?" When Yu Chun went to receive it, Qu Moying raised her eyebrows and asked.

"I do not know, Fourth Lady Qu. Please read the letter first." The old maid said with a smile. Her words and actions were very appropriate.

Not saying anything else, Qu Moying took the letter from Yu Chun and read it quickly. When she finished reading it, she paused for a moment and then turned to Granny Wu. "Granny Wu, do you know that my mother's pair of bracelets, which was a part of her dowry, was specially sent here by my maternal grandmother?"

"What bracelets?" Granny Wu was stunned for a moment. She accompanied the Crown Prince's Mansion's old maid to come over out of politeness. After all, Crown Prince's Mansion's servants could not be compared to ordinary servants. Even if they were sent by a side concubine, they could not be underestimated.

Qu Moying looked at the letter again and casually read, "A pair of red jade bracelets. They are made of blood jade. There are also tear-shaped green gems on them. They are extremely precious."

Granny Wu's gaze swept over the letter. Needless to say, the letter must have mentioned this pair of blood jade bracelets. Was it Princess Ji? Why did she mention this pair of blood jade bracelets?

After her heart churned a few times, Granny Wu saw that Qu Moying had already finished reading and turned to her. She hurriedly thought about it. The matter happened back in the days, and Yue had passed away a long time ago. In fact, there were many things that Granny Wu could not remember, but this pair of blood jade bracelets really did leave an impression on her.

When Yue first came to visit the Old Lady, she had worn this pair of blood jade bracelets. After that, the Old Lady also said that Yue's clan in the South was indeed worthy of its name. They had a great background and could possess such blood jade bracelets. It was clear that they were filthy rich. Although they were not officials in court, they were not to be disregarded.

After that, Yue had been wearing the bracelets for a period of time. Other bracelets rarely had gems on them. Only the bracelets Yue wore had a teardrop-shaped gem, and it was green in color. This way, the red blood jade appeared even more crystal clear and enchanting. It also complimented Yue's beautiful porcelain-like skin.

"It seems that there is such a pair of bracelets." Granny Wu hesitated for a moment and said frankly.

"Do you know where they are? Princess Ji asked me to wear them tomorrow. When Yue's family married off Aunt and Mother, they sent each a pair as their dowry. Aunt's bracelets are in Eastern Palace, and Mother's ones are in Qu Mansion. Princess Ji asked me to bring them there tomorrow," Qu Moying explained softly.

"I will ask the Old Lady later." After a moment of hesitation, Granny Wu agreed. However, her expression was a little strange.

After receiving the reply, Qu Moying gently said to the old maid who was from the Eastern Palace, "Go and report to Princess Ji, tell her that I got her message, and I will follow her orders tomorrow."

"Fourth Lady Qu, I will take my leave now!" Seeing that the matter was settled, Eastern Palace's old maid grinned.

"Granny Miao, send the guest off," Qu Moying instructed.

Granny Miao took two steps forward and bowed to Eastern Palace's old maid before leading the way out.

"Granny Wu, is there any inconvenience?" Qu Moying asked after the lot left.

"There is nothing inconvenient about it. Fourth Lady, please wait here for now. I will report to the Old Lady. There are... some things that are currently in the hands of the Second Madam. It is not convenient for me to directly ask for the bracelets." Granny Wu laughed awkwardly.

"Thank you then." Qu Moying stood up and bowed deeply to Granny Wu.

"Don't be too polite, Fourth Lady. I will go and report to the Old Lady now." Granny Wu hurriedly returned the greeting and then hurriedly bid farewell to return to the Old Lady's Kangming House.

Upon reaching Kangming House, Granny Wu sighed heavily and hesitated for a moment in front of the main room. After the servant girl lifted the curtain, Granny Wu walked into the room.

Old Lady Qu sat on the top. Seeing her return, she asked casually, "What's the matter with that Princess Ji? Why did she suddenly look for Ying?"

In fact, Princess Ji had nothing to do with her granddaughter. If it had been the original Crown Princess, the Old Lady would not have thought too much of it. It was only because it was Princess Ji that she found it strange.

Most people praised the reason Princess Ji entered Eastern Palace. Only a few people thought otherwise, and that included Old Lady Qu.

However, this matter had nothing to do with Qu Mansion. Moreover, compared to the previous Earl Ling'an's Mansion, Qu Mansion was much weaker. The Old Lady herself was not a blabbermouth, so she naturally would not say anything outside. However, now that Princess Ji had approached her granddaughter, the meaning behind this had already made Old Lady Qu dislike her.

"Princess Ji gave the Fourth Lady a letter. I am not clear about the specific details, but after the Fourth Lady read it, she asked me about a matter in the past about the Second Madam. She asked whether there was a pair of blood jade bracelets when the Second Madam married into here," Granny Wu reported in detail.

Although the Old Lady was old, her memory of this matter was still there. She tilted her head and thought for a moment and then asked, "As in the blood jade bracelets with two tear-shaped green gems?"

This pair of bracelets was really unique, so the Old Lady recalled about them.

"Yes, it's that pair of bracelets. It sounds like Earl Ling'an's wife also had the same pair, and it seems like they want our Fourth Lady to wear this pair of blood jade bracelets tomorrow."

Granny Wu explained with her own understanding. Just now, Qu Moying did not elaborate, so it was inconvenient for her to ask. Moreover, she was also extremely upset at that time, so she did not make any indirect inquiries.

"What is Princess Ji thinking of doing?" The Old Lady muttered to herself, her eyebrows tightly wrinkled, showing some displeasure.

"I am not sure either. It seems to have something to do with the Crown Princess, but it also doesn't." Granny Wu answered, "Old Lady, are these bracelets in the warehouse or in the Second Madam's hands?"

Granny Wu clearly knew that back then, Yue's dowry had been locked away by the Old Lady on the excuse that she would keep it and give it to Qu Moying in the future. At that time, Yu was weak, so she did not dare to say anything. But after so many years, the inner household was still under the control of Yu, so Granny Wu was not sure whether the stuff was still around.

However, one thing was certain, at least she had never seen this pair of bracelets in Yu's hands.

"Go check it out. If you find them, bring them over. If you don't find them... come back quickly to report to me." The Old Lady said in a deep voice.

Granny Wu nodded and went to the inner room to get the key. She carried a bunch of keys out but soon ran back sweating profusely.

As the Old Lady looked at her empty hands, her face immediately turned bad. "So? No?"

"Old Lady, I went to check out the warehouse over there. But there was an old maid stopping me from entering. She said that it was the Second Madam's order, and then she said that the inner household is now under Third Lady's control, so she has to listen to the Third Lady. That pissed me off. I pushed the old maid and opened the warehouse directly. And I found that almost one half of the things inside were gone."

Granny Wu reported.

"What? That much?" The Old Lady suddenly stood up.

"Yes, I roughly took a look. I heard from the old maid guarding the door that all the things in here were moved to Qianyue House, where the Fourth Lady currently resides. It is not a small amount. I did not bring the list with me just now, so I couldn't find out the exact amount," Granny Wu continued.

As soon as the Old Lady heard this, her expression eased a little, and she sat down again and asked, "Are that pair of bracelets there?"

She would put the investigation matter aside for the time being. As for the things Yu held in her hands, she would definitely make Yu hand them over, but now was not the time to investigate this.

The reason why Princess Ji had sent a letter here was what the Old Lady valued the most.

"I did not find them." Granny Wu spread out her hands and answered.

"They must be with Yu. Bring a few people to check Yu's dressing table." The Old Lady's eyes flashed as she said angrily.

"Old Lady, I have never seen them in the Second Madam's hands, nor did I see them in Third Lady's hands," Granny Wu said suspiciously.

"If they are not with the Second Madam, they must be with Yan." The Old Lady snorted coldly.

"Yes, I will check this out now." Granny Wu responded and left. She called up a few rough old maids and young maids in the yard and took them to Yu's Qingyu Garden. Along the way, all the servants who saw them bowed their heads and avoided them. They could tell that Granny Wu was not up to something good.

Moreover, it was said that Second Lord had beaten the Second Madam and knocked her out. Was the Old Lady going to punish the Second Madam now?

It seemed that something was going to change in Qu Mansion's backyard.

"What? Granny Wu went to Mother's yard to inspect her dowry?" Qu Qiuyan stood up abruptly. Her face turned pale, and she pressed her hands against the dressing table. In the mirror, she looked a little ferocious.

"Yes, apparently so. A little maid in Madam's courtyard was the one who saw it outside the window. She seemed to have asked Madam a few questions. Auntie Hai Lan wanted to stop her but Granny Wu asked someone to slap her. After that, she did not dare to say anything. Only the sound of rummaging through boxes and cabinets inside was heard. It seemed that she was looking for a pair of bracelets."

Granny Qing, an old maid serving Qu Qiuyan, reported in a low voice.

This old maid was recommended by Yu. In the past, she was not Qu Qiuyan's confidant and did not follow Qu Qiuyan all the time. She was just an ordinary old maid in Qu Qiuyan's courtyard, someone inconspicuous. But recently, Qu Qiuyan was very satisfied with the old maid's work. That was how Granny Qing became Qu Qiuyan's confidant. Right now, it was her who came in to report to Qu Qiuyan the secrets sent by the little maid who came from Qingyu Garden.

"I know. Let the little maid go back first. Don't let Granny Wu find out." Qu Qiuyan took a deep breath and waved her hand to signal the old maid to leave. Then, she suppressed the anger in her heart and calmed herself down. Bracelets? What bracelets? What bracelets would make Grandmother send people to check Mother's belongings?

It must be some priceless bracelets!

Suddenly, Qu Qiuyan thought of something. She stood up straight and pushed open a drawer in the dresser in front of her. Then, she took out an exquisite box from the innermost drawer. After opening it, she saw a pair of shiny blood jade bracelets lay quietly inside...

Chapter 152 Buck Passing

After searching through Yu's place, Granny Wu came to Qu Qiuyan's Furong House.

"Granny Wu, what's the matter?" Qu Qiuyan, who was sitting in front of the dressing table, stood up in surprise and looked at Granny Wu and the several rough servants behind her.

"Greetings, Third Lady." Granny Wu stepped forward and bowed. Third Lady was not like Yu. Yu's current situation was not good, but it did not mean that Third Lady's situation was bad as well.

Granny Wu was someone by the Old Lady's side. Of course, she knew that there was a relationship between Qu Qiuyan and Lord Jing. No one was sure what would happen in the future.

"Granny Wu, you are too polite. Do you come here because something happened to Grandmother?" Qu Qiuyan asked softly, her face full of surprise.

"The Old Lady lost a pair of bracelets. I went to Madam's place just now. Madam said that the bracelets might be with you, Third Lady, so she asked me to have a look here." Granny Wu said very tactfully.

"Bracelets? What kind of bracelets?" Qu Qiuyan frowned, looking a bit confused.

"Third Lady, may I take a look at the dresser?" Granny Wu asked with a smile. Although her words were euphemistic, there was a bit of force in them.

Since the Old Lady had called for an investigation, and since this matter was also related to Princess Ji in Crown Prince's Mansion, she naturally had to investigate clearly. Even if the bracelets were nowhere to be found, she had to know the reason.

"From Mother? And it's a pair of bracelets? They must be invaluable ones. Granny Wu, will you take a look and see if this pair is something you're looking for?" Qu Qiuyan seemed not to hear the toughness in Granny Wu's words. She reached out and casually fetched a jewelry box from the dressing table.

The jewelry box was casually placed there, and the owner did not seem to care about it.

"It should not be this pair..." Granny Wu said, but then she stopped. Staring at the jewelry box opened by Qu Qiuyan, she was in surprise. It was actually the pair of bracelets she saw!

Granny Wu found it astounding that the bracelets, which were Yue's dowry, and were said to be very valuable, were just randomly placed on Third Lady's dressing table!

Could it be that Third Lady really did not know anything?

"Third Lady, these bracelets are so beautiful. Why do you never wear it?" Granny Wu calmed herself down and asked in confusion.

"Granny, is this pair of bracelets what you're looking for?" Qu Qiuyan smiled.

"Yes, exactly." Granny Wu nodded. "Third Lady, do you not like them?"

The bracelets were so exquisite, beautiful, and invaluable. With Third Lady's temperament, how could she not like them?

"Indeed, they are beautiful. It's just that they were originally not with me. They were just sent to me by Mother not long ago, so I have no time to put them on yet," Qu Qiuyan explained softly.

"Not long ago?" Granny Wu looked up at Qu Qiuyan, only to see that her eyes were flowing, her complexion was not bad, and she looked very gentle and honest, without any sign of covering anything up.

"Yes, just recently. What is the matter with these bracelets?" There was anxiousness on Qu Qiuyan's face. "Granny Wu, did something that I don't know of happen? Is there something wrong with the bracelets? Did Mother piss Grandmother off again? If it is so, I will explain it to Grandmother."

"Third Lady, it's nothing. It's good that we found them. It's all right now." Of course, Granny Wu would not tell Qu Qiuyan the details, so she only replied vaguely.

"But why did Mother possess Grandmother's bracelets? And why did Mother give them to me?" Qu Qiuyan wouldn't be fooled easily. She reached out and pulled Granny Wu's sleeve. Her face became serious as if she had just realized that something was wrong.

The more she asked, the more inconvenient it was for Granny Wu to speak, and her words became vaguer. Granny Wu laughed awkwardly. "Third Lady, it's really nothing serious. Maybe the Old Lady rewarded them to the Second Madam in the past and forgot about it, so she specially asked me to look for them."

Granny Wu said as she reached out and gently pushed away Qu Qiuyan's hand, who had lost her manner. Then Granny Wu closed the jewelry box and waved goodbye to Qu Qiuyan. "Third Lady, I have to report to the Old Lady. I will take my leave now."

"Is there really nothing serious?" Qu Qiuyan asked.

"Really." Granny Wu said with a smile. She turned around and left with her people. This matter was not certain at the moment. Of course, she would not reveal it to the Third Lady.

Since the Third Lady took the initiative to take out the bracelets, it could be seen that the Third Lady did not know anything about it, and the Second Madam must have known about it. Having been able to find the bracelets without investigating directly, Granny Wu breathed a sigh of relief.

After all, she did not want to shed all pretense of cordiality in front of the Third Lady.

Compared to the Second Madam who was nearing her ends, Third Lady was the one who could not be offended.

Returning to Kangming House, Granny Wu presented the jewelry box and reported everything to the Old Lady. The Old Lady pondered for a moment, looked at the jewelry box in front of her, and asked thoughtfully, "Yan doesn't seem to know anything?"

"I think so. The Third Lady doesn't seem to know anything. Otherwise, such a precious thing that is inconvenient to show off should have been hidden away. But Third Lady just casually placed it on the dressing table. It seems that she doesn't know the twists and turns in this matter."

Granny Wu nodded.

There were only the Old Lady and Granny Wu in the room. They had been master-and-servant for so many years. Naturally, Granny Wu could say some things at this private time. She knew what the Old Lady was worried about, which was that the Second Madam would bring Third Lady and Second Young Master astray.

For so many years, the Old Lady had never liked the Second Madam, but she liked the twins that the Second Madam gave birth to very much. Second Young Master was sent to East Mansion to study. He did not visit West Mansion often. The Old Lady arranged this so that he could stay far away from Yu and would not be affected by Yu.

As for Third Lady, she was called over from time to time to be reprimanded, but no one knew if the Third Lady understood the Old Lady's painstaking efforts.

"It is indeed good if Yan really does not know." The Old Lady said, but the expression on her face was still stiff. Her brows were furrowed even tighter. "But if she deliberately acted out for us to see, then she would be more scheming than Yu, and also more..."

The Old Lady didn't continue. In fact, she didn't want to judge her granddaughter in this way, but the feeling that Yu gave her was really too bad.

"Old Lady, don't worry. Normally, Third Lady would say whatever she wanted. She isn't the kind of person who thinks too deeply. This matter really seems to have nothing to do with her," Granny Wu advised. She knew what the Old Lady meant.

The Old Lady nodded, and her expression relaxed a little. "It should be. Yu is not a good person. Fortunately, Yan and Mingcheng are different from her, and they are not very close to her."

"Old Lady, you have done a good job in teaching them. Naturally, Third Lady and Second Young Master will not go the wrong way," Granny Wu smiled and replied.

"Give the jewelry box to Ying later." The Old Lady nodded and her gaze stopped at the jewelry box. "What does Princess Ji want to do? Why does she want Ying to wear this pair of bracelets?"

This pair of bracelets were given to Yue and her sister at that time. Even though Ji Youran was Princess Ji from Eastern Palace, she had no direct relationship with Yue, Earl Ling'an's wife. The pair of bracelets must have been given to the Crown Princess as a dowry. However, the Crown Princess was gone. Could it be that all these things had fallen into Princess Ji's hands?

But this also did not make sense. Even if Princess Ji now took over these things, why did she want Ying's bracelets?

These two matters were clearly unrelated.

The Old Lady couldn't figure it out for a moment, but she still asked Granny Wu to send the bracelets to Qu Moying's Qianyue House.

Hearing that Granny Wu was here, Qu Moying hurriedly asked Granny Zhou to welcome her in.

"Fourth Lady, this is Madam's jade bracelet from back then." Granny Wu smiled and presented the jewelry box.

Granny Zhou took it and opened it on the table. She looked at the bracelets on the jewelry box and her eyes turned red. It was indeed the Second Madam's dowry bracelets. At that time, she had been

working as the Second Madam's servant, so she naturally knew that the Second Madam liked these bracelets very much. The Second Madam had always been wearing them.

"Granny Wu, were these bracelets not with Grandmother?" Qu Moying picked up a bracelet and looked at it a few times. A deep look flashed through her eyes.

When she looked carefully, she immediately saw a slight difference. But for what Granny Zhou had said, she would not have been able to see it at first glance.

There were slight differences in terms of details between eight petals and five petals. Moreover, three petals of this eight-petal flower were extremely small, almost sticking together at the top.

"Yes, they were found at the Second Madam's place." Granny Wu was silent for a moment and did not mention the Old Lady and Qu Qiuyan.

There might be a follow-up of this case in the future. It was clear that the bracelets were not found at the Old Lady's place. As for Third Lady, it seemed that this matter had nothing to do with her.

However, the Second Madam wanted to hide the bracelets. That was why she sent them over. And the Third Lady didn't know about this.

Since that was the case, there was no need to drag the Third Lady in. What the Old Lady disliked the most was seeing the two sisters quarrel and be on bad terms.

"Thank you, Granny Wu." Qu Moying stood up and thanked them respectfully. She did not ask any more questions. This was not the right time. She would take back everything that belonged to Mother, but the time was not right yet.

Since this pair of bracelets implicated Ji Youran, they could also be used to implicate Mother's stuff at Qu Mansion, but right now, they were the best medium.

When Granny Wu saw that the bracelets had already been delivered and that the Fourth Lady was generous enough to show no intention of investigating, Granny Wu heaved a sigh of relief in her heart and bid farewell to Qu Moying.

Qu Moying asked Granny Zhou to send Granny Wu out. The two of them were old friends. Back then, Granny Zhou had accompanied Yue to marry into Qu Mansion, and they had been on very good terms with Old Lady Qu.

“My lady, I heard that they even went to check on Third Lady.” Yu Dong said in a low voice. He had already investigated the matter.

Qu Moying looked at the blood jade bracelets and nodded silently. They were found at Qu Qiuyan’s place. She was not surprised. Yu seemed to be commanding everything, but she basically did everything for Qu Qiuyan.

“Did they stay long in Third Lady’s yard?” Qu Moying asked.

“Not long. I heard that Granny Wu came out soon after she entered. It was only a short while,” Yu Dong reported. He had just returned. He came back not long after Granny Wu arrived. When he encountered Granny Wu, he retreated to the side first.

“It looks like this matter has nothing to do with Qu Qiuyan.” The corners of Qu Moying’s lips curved silently, and her eyes were dark and sinister. Qu Qiuyan was more brilliant than she had imagined.

This feeling was very strange as if the Qu Qiuyan she saw before was not the Qu Qiuyan in front of her. After a short pause, she ordered, “Go and check who has gained Qu Qiuyan’s trust recently!”

If she guessed correctly, the difference in Qu Qiuyan was related to the people around her.

Chapter 153 Minister Liu’s Daughter, County Lady Jingyu

Early the next morning, Qu Moying got up. After saying goodbye to the Old Lady, she got into the carriage alone and went to the Crown Prince's Mansion. Today was the day of Ji Hanyue's funeral. Those who went there were people close to her in the past. In Qu Mansion, Qu Moying was the only one who had such qualifications. As for the others, they could only set up an altar by the road.

It was still early when she arrived at the Crown Prince's Mansion, but there was an old maid already waiting. She led Qu Mansion's carriage into the Crown Prince's Mansion's door and stopped in the parking lot.

Qu Moying got off the carriage, and the old maid went forward to salute.

"Fourth Lady Qu, please follow me."

Qu Moying nodded and brought Yu Dong along to follow behind the old maid. When they arrived at the flower hall, they found that there was no one else there.

The flower hall was not big, and it did not look like a place that could fit many.

After thinking for a while, Qu Moying understood Ji Youran's intention. It seemed that her duty today was to accompany Ji Youran.

It was actually not difficult to guess. If her sister was still around, the one accompanying Ji Youran right now should be her sister. But now that her sister was dead, Ji Youran thought of Qu Moying.

Pei Luo'an had always boasted that he was deeply in love with Ji Hanyue. Even if there were concubines in the mansion, they were palace maids rewarded to him by the palace, who had a lowly background. The only lady master of the inner yard, Ji Youran, entered the mansion because she had to take care of Ji Hanyue. Therefore, it was impossible for people from the Eastern Palace to accompany Ji Youran here.

As for the imperial family, although there were Princesses, infantas, and some others, it was basically impossible for them to stay by the side of Princess Ji. With their status, they ranked much higher than Ji Youran. Although Ji Youran, Princess Ji from the Eastern Palace, had a bright future, she was still just a Princess at the moment. They would be looked down on if they were to accompany her.

Therefore, she was truly the most suitable person to accompany Ji Youran right now.

The corners of Qu Moying's lips curled up coldly. How ridiculous! She, in this lifetime, was accompanying her own enemy while attending the funeral of herself in her past life.

The fate of life at this point really caught her like a fool.

Suddenly, a voice came from the door. It was the voice of a maid. Then, she saw two maids leading in a beautiful woman dressed in imperial clothing.

She wore a light snow-white dress. Although it was plain, it did not lose its charm. Her slender waist was shown, and her shoulders were straight and slim. Her black hair was like dark clouds. Even though she only had a simple hairpin in her hair, she looked more beautiful than a flower. The two strands of hair on her cheeks made her even more beautiful. One could not help but look at her a few more times.

In fact, the outfit was plain from her head to toe. At this time today, no one would dress up in bright colors. Otherwise, it was not only disrespectful to the Crown Princess, but also to the Crown Prince.

Qu Moying's gaze fell on this beautiful woman's face, and she was slightly surprised. She actually knew the woman. Not only in her previous life, but in this life, she had also seen this woman from afar.

County Lady Jingyu, Liu Jingyu!

The daughter of Minister Liu from the Ministry of Works, or, the daughter of Qu Moying's cheap father Qu Zhizhen's immediate superior.

Why was she here?

Qu Moying did not feel that Liu Jingyu had any intimate relationship with Ji Hanyue. It was also impossible for her to have any intimate relationship with Ji Youran. Moreover, she was not the county Princess of the imperial family. It was only because her Grandfather, Duke Qi, had placed his wealth and privileges on her. Therefore, she obtained the title of county Princess. In fact, she had nothing to do with the imperial family.

Why was she here at this time?

Qu Moying and County Lady Jingyu both spotted each other. After standing still, County Lady Jingyu frowned and glanced at Qu Moying, who was seated. There was a bit of pride and a hint of unclear look in her eyes. Then, she turned around and left, having no intention of greeting Qu Moying at all.

“County Lady, I got the wrong place.” The maid who led the way seemed to have not expected that there was already someone here, so she quickly explained.

Outside the door, Liu Jingyu said something in such a low voice that Qu Moying did not hear her clearly. Then, the footsteps were gone. They actually left. They completely ignored Qu Moying, who was sitting there. It was not even a case of turning a blind eye; they directly ignored her existence and left.

Qu Moying frowned slightly. She really couldn’t remember how she had offended this County Lady Jingyu. She always felt that there was a trace of disgust in Liu Jingyu’s eyes that she couldn’t explain just now. There was also... fear?

There was no trace of this County Lady Jingyu in her memory. Where did these complicated and inexplicable thoughts come from?

Looking at the slightly opened door, Qu Moying thought about it again and again, but still couldn’t figure it out.

In her memories, she had only seen this County Lady Jingyu several times, and every time, she seemed to come off unfriendly.

Last time, Qu Moying thought she might have gotten it wrong. Now, it seemed that it was not wrong at all. The County Lady Jingyu really did not like her at all.

Where did this conclusion come from?

Qu Moying did not wait long before Ji Youran appeared at the door with a few maids. Ji Youran was dressed in simple white clothes. Her eyes were red, swollen, and haggard. Anyone who looked at her would comfort her. They would feel that she was heartbroken about the death of the Crown Princess.

"Cousin, long time no see!" Ji Youran came over and called out.

Qu Moying stood up and bowed respectfully. "Princess Ji."

"My dear cousin, sit down first," Ji Youran said softly. She sat down in the middle. Qu Moying also sat down on the side. Just now, when she was bowing, her sleeves had gotten a little too loose, revealing the blood-colored bracelet, as well as a faint green color.

"Cousin, this bracelet of yours?" Ji Youran looked over and was stunned for a moment before asking.

Qu Moying seemed to suddenly come to her senses. Her expression changed slightly. She stood up and bowed deeply to Ji Youran, saying in shame, "I came in a hurry and forgot to take off the blood jade bracelet. I wonder if I can borrow a box from you to place my bracelet, Princess Ji?"

The color of the blood jade bracelet was eye-catching. Although it was not particularly bright, and it was natural, it was better to take it off on such a day.

"Someone, go get a jewelry box." Seeing that Qu Moying had misunderstood her meaning, Ji Youran did not explain much and turned around to give instructions to a maid.

The maid answered and left. Soon, she brought an empty and exquisite jewelry box over.

Qu Moying rolled up her sleeves, took off the bracelet on her wrist, and carefully placed it in the jewelry box.

"Fourth Lady Qu, this pair of bracelets is very beautiful. Where did you buy them?" Ji Youran asked in surprise. Her eyes fell on Qu Moying's bracelets.

She never thought that there was still another pair of bracelets, but she only had one in her hand.

That pair of bracelets had already made Ji Youran envious back then. The Crown Prince had praised them more than once, but no matter how envious she was, they were not hers. One belonged to Ji Hanyue, and the other belonged to Ji Yanyue.

Now, Ji Yanyue's bracelet was in her hands. As for Ji Hanyue's bracelet, it had been broken and could not be worn anymore. Ji Youran only got it after getting someone to fish it up for a long time in the pond of Linyuan Pavilion behind the Crown Prince's back.

For this, she was very regretful. However, she did not expect to see another pair under Qu Moying's possession today.

Then, she immediately recalled that Qu Moying's mother was also surnamed Yue. Could it be that Yue's clan had also given another pair of blood jade bracelets as dowry?

Did this mean she could make it a complete pair now? A trace of greed arose in Ji Youran's heart.

"This wasn't bought. It was left behind by my mother. I heard it was my mother's dowry," Qu Moying explained softly.

She also brought a bracelet over today. After putting it in the jewelry box, she closed the jewelry box. Yu Dong stepped forward and was about to take it away.

"Can you let me take a look? I'd like to ask the Crown Prince to help me find a pair too." Ji Youran interrupted, with longing in her heart.

"Go ahead, Princess Ji." Qu Moying nodded.

Yu Dong stepped back. One of Crown Prince's Mansion's maids stepped forward, took the box, and held it in front of Ji Youran. Ji Youran grew excited. She took the box and opened it. It was indeed a bracelet that looked exactly the same as hers. She was overjoyed for a moment. It was such a beautiful bracelet, but only having one side of the pair made her deeply regretful.

It was too surprising that there was still another one around.

Not only the appearance, but even the color, thickness, and size of the blood jade were also exactly the same. Ji Youran had already looked at Ji Yanyue's bracelet several times, and she had also carefully stroked it several times. She remembered it very clearly and also saw it very clearly. Therefore, the one in front of her now was definitely the one that matched hers.

That was great!

"Why is there only one bracelet?" After a long while, Ji Youran calmed down and put down the bracelet in her hand, indicating for the maid to return it to Qu Moying.

Yu Dong took it and retreated behind Qu Moying.

"There was originally a pair of them, but I heard that my mother accidentally broke one bracelet, so there was only one left. I wore it to commemorate my mother." Qu Moying lowered her head and toyed with the handkerchief in her hand as she explained. From Ji Youran's perspective, Qu Moying's expression was sad.

Qu Mansion's matter was not a secret. Although it had been so long, Ji Youran had recently heard a lot and understood Qu Moying's mood.

Her birth mother had passed away, and a concubine was allowed to take the position of her birth mother. It had caused Qu Moying to suffer from eye disease and then be sent away. Anyone in her shoes would find it unacceptable and feel down.

When she thought of Yu's daughter, Qu Qiuyan, she felt a wave of disgust in her heart.

She understood what had happened between her and the Crown Prince. The first thing that happened was that she had an ambiguous relationship with him. That day in the mourning hall, Qu Qiuyan also had this kind of thought, hadn't she?

She herself got her position through such a means, so now she suspected that everyone else thought so too.

Although she had heard that Third Lady Qu and Lord Jing had a relationship, how could Lord Jing have a far-reaching future like the Crown Prince? Qu Qiuyan must have other ideas in her heart. However, when Qu Qiuyan planned to have an affair with the Crown Prince, she should have looked herself in the mirror first—she wasn't worthy of the Crown Prince.

Ji Youran hated Qu Qiuyan.

"It's not a good idea for you to put it in the hands of a maid. Why don't you keep it in Eastern Palace and put it back on when you go back later?" Ji Youran no longer talked about what happened back then and only suggested out of concern.

"Thank you, Princess Ji. But there's no need to trouble you. It's fine." Qu Moying politely refused.

"Well... alright. Tell the maid to be careful. Things like bracelets are the easiest to break." Seeing that she couldn't persuade Qu Moying, Princess Ji kindly added.

Qu Moying nodded and thanked her. As they spoke, a maid came to report that the Crown Prince asked if they were ready.

Ji Youran stood up, and Qu Moying also stood up. The two of them walked out one after the other. The funeral ceremony was about to begin...

Chapter 154 Putting on an Act when Crown Princess's Coffin Passed By

Inside the mourning hall, the Crown Prince, Pei Luo'an, was crying on a large chair. He looked haggard, and his face was obviously sickly. His eyes were red and swollen, and his gaze, all this while, was on the coffin in the middle. His reluctance to part with his love was obvious.

Beside him were Second Prince, Lord Jing—Pei Yusheng, Third Prince, Lord Wei—Pei Qingmin, and Fourth Prince, Lord Yan—Pei Yanxun.

Lord Wei was not in good health. Even though he was an adult, when other Princes were attending hearings, he only occasionally went there, and from time to time, he would get seriously ill. The Emperor only turned a blind eye to his condition. Lord Wei's birth mother was Consort Zhu, and she was not very favored in the palace. In addition, Lord Wei was not in good health, so it was unlikely that he had a chance to fight for power.

Since there was no possibility of fighting for power, the Crown Prince had always been concerned about him. Now, the Crown Prince also allowed him to sit on a chair at the side and asked someone to take care of him carefully. The Crown Prince was so afraid that this weak brother of his would fall ill again.

The Fourth Prince, Lord Yan, Pei Yanxun, had a lower status. Rumors had it that his birth mother was just an ordinary palace maid. When she gave birth to Lord Yan, she did not have a title. Later, she died of dystocia, but there was another saying that Lord Yan's birth mother was a guilty palace maid. Therefore, after giving birth to Lord Yan, she did not have a title, either. Later, she died of depression when Lord Yan was still young.

These rumors came from the palace. Ordinary people had no way to verify it, but one thing was certain. Lord Yan's birth mother had a low status and had died early.

Lord Yan had been lonely since he was young. The Emperor sent him to Lord Yun Mansion, where he asked his old Uncle Yun, Lord Yun, to take care of the boy. When Lord Yan grew up, he returned to the palace with Pei Yuanjun. When Lord Yan was young, he always followed Pei Yuanjun around. Speaking of which, Lord Yan was slightly older than Lord Yun, Pei Yuanjun, but his seniority was lower than the latter.

Because he grew up together with Pei Yuanjun, their relationship was also different from the others.

Later, when he grew up, a mansion was bestowed on him and he officially became Lord Yan.

Lord Yan grew up with Pei Yuanjun, and Lord Yun Mansion's family advocated martial arts. Thus, Lord Yan learned martial arts when he was a child. It could be said that he was the most skilled in martial arts among the Princes.

He no longer had a pale and thin appearance as he used to be when he was a child. Standing next to the Crown Prince, he had a dignified expression and a bit of a fierce aura of a soldier, which made him look mighty.

He had followed Pei Yuanjun to the battlefield several times.

At this time, he and Lord Jing stood behind the Crown Prince's chair and spoke in a low voice. Their voices were not loud, and their faces looked a little heavy.

It was at this time that Ji Youran and Qu Moying arrived. Behind Ji Youran, Qu Moying looked up at the coffin that was being put down. There was no trace of ripples in her eyes. She quietly watched the large coffin that symbolized the Crown Princess being put down.

There were cries in the mourning hall.

Ji Youran had begun to wipe her tears as she knelt down. No matter how powerful she was in Eastern Palace, she had no choice but to kneel at this time and face the coffin of the main wife as a concubine.

Qu Moying also knelt. She was the Crown Princess' cousin, and her status was much lower. This was also the reason why Ji Youran asked Qu Moying to accompany herself.

They were both close to the Crown Princess and lower-ranked, so they had to kneel down to greet the deceased Crown Princess.

Both of them had a maid with them, each of whom fell to their knees as well.

After the coffin had been put down, the Crown Prince held the hand of a little eunuch beside him and stood up with a slight tremble. Lord Wei, who also had a pale face, also stood up with a eunuch by his side. He bore his illness and strived to make his way here because today was the Crown Princess's funeral.

"Third brother, just sit." Pei Luo'an saw it and whispered to him.

“Crown Prince, it’s fine. I’m fine, but you... be careful.” Lord Wei, Pei Qingmin, advised in a low voice, his expression gentle.

He was good-looking, but he looked a little delicate. Fortunately, his appearance was outstanding. It was just that he looked a little sick and weak.

“Be careful yourself... I can’t care for you now...” Pei Luo’an looked up at the coffin, his eyes red again, and his voice choked.

“Please accept my sincere condolences, Crown Prince. Although Crown Princess is gone, she did it for you, big brother. If you stay so sad, Crown Princess will not be able to rest in peace in the underworld.” Pei Qingmin advised in a low voice. His eyes were also slightly red. His personality was originally softer than the other brothers. At this time, he was sincerely advising the Crown Prince.

“I know... but I...” Pei Luo’an was speechless. Tears welled up in his eyes, and he hurriedly turned his head to wipe them away.

Ji Youran, who was kneeling on the ground, saw the scene in front of her. She lowered her head slightly to hide the jealousy on her face. When Ji Hanyue was alive, she could not compete with Ji Youran. Now that she was dead, how could she compete with Ji Youran?

In order to cover up her thoughts just now, Ji Youran picked up the handkerchief and started sobbing.

The maid kneeling behind Ji Youran was next to Qu Moying. She gently pushed Qu Moying, indicating that the latter should go and comfort Ji Youran.

Yu Dong was also kneeling on the ground. He moved forward and pushed the maid to one side, separating the maid and Qu Moying. Then, he gave the maid a death stare.

The maid was baffled. She just hoped that Fourth Lady Qu would step forward and say something because, as a maid, she was not allowed to speak at such a time.

Never did she expect Fourth Lady Qu's maid would be as insensible as Fourth Lady Qu. Did they think she was up to no good?

Ji Youran's maid looked back at Yu Dong helplessly, but she did not care anymore about Qu Moying.

Of course, Qu Moying knew about the little exchanges between the two maids. She picked up the handkerchief and gently pressed the corner of her eyes. She could not cry. All she felt was a cold depression inside her chest. It was so heavy that she almost could not breathe. The bloody smell in her throat rolled.

The hand holding the handkerchief tightened, and the sharp nails pierced her palm.

It hurt a lot, but what hurt even more was her heart. Everything in front of her was full of ridicule. The so-called deep love and kindness were all feigned for others to see, and thanks to such pretense, everything was ruined.

How could she not hold resentment?

Her eyes were cold under the eye veil, and her whole body could not help but tremble. Only by tightly holding her hand could she force herself to behave.

Pei Luo'an went forward and lit the incense. He placed it in front of the incense burner in front of the coffin. Not only the incense burner, but also Crown Princess' funeral processions would all be buried together.

The Crown Prince moved aside. The coffin was then carried by eighteen people and was moved forward.

Ji Youran and Qu Moying knelt at the side. When the coffin passed by them, Qu Moying suddenly cried out, "Cousin!"

Her body went limp and she fell backward.

Yu Dong reacted quickly and hugged Qu Moying, anxiously calling her in a low voice, "My lady, my lady."

The coffin continued moving forward.

"What is it?" Ji Youran looked at Yu Dong unhappily. She tugged at her clothes that were tightly pressed down and asked in a low voice. She finally remembered she needed to stand up and throw herself at the coffin to cry, but Qu Moying had her skirt pressed down. Qu Moying had fainted at this time, but her knees were still tightly pressing against Ji Youran's skirt.

The coffin slowly passed by.

"Princess Ji, please ask an Imperial Doctor to come and treat Fourth Lady. She is too sad. And... and she fainted." Yu Dong cried and begged.

Ji Youran was frustrated and annoyed. She raised her eyes to look at the coffin that almost passed by completely. Her face was livid with anger. It was such a good opportunity just now. If she rushed out and knelt in front of Ji Hanyue's coffin to cry and then passed out, there would definitely be many people who praised her for their deep sisterhood.

But now, this sisterly love act was actually snatched away by Qu Moying. So if she did the same, people would think that it was a crude imitation.

For a moment, she could not control her face and was glaring at Qu Moying.

The coffin continued to move forward. They were the only two lady Masters on this side. Servants in the other mansions were all kneeling, so she was not afraid of being seen.

"Princess Ji, Crown Princess has always been very good to my lady, and she has always been very grateful. Now that Crown Princess is gone, and so is Earl Ling'an... My lady has been sad every day in the mansion. That's why... that's why she can't bear it all at once now." Yu Dong wiped away his tears and supported Qu Moying.

The coffin went past them. On the other side, Crown Prince and the others were alarmed by the commotion. They looked up and saw that Ji Youran was a little angry. Right then, Pei Luo'an narrowed his eyes, revealing some displeasure. His face darkened. Last time, when Ji Youran was dealing with the matter of Ming Xian'er, she had lost her composure.

In front of so many people, the case of Ming Xian'er was exposed, and Pei Luo'an had lost face because of this. He even heard the rumor that he was actually not so affectionate to Ji Hanyue. In the past, he said that there was no concubine in Eastern Palace, but only a few palace maids rewarded by the palace, who did not have any status. However, after Ming Xian'er made a scene that day, people knew that Ming Xian'er was a concubine in Eastern Palace.

This made Pei Luo'an very unhappy. He scolded Ji Youran afterward. And now, what did Ji Youran want to do again? Looking at Fourth Lady Qu who fainted in the arms of the maid, he knew that Ji Youran was making trouble again. No wonder Mother repeatedly said that Ji Youran was too petty and was not suitable to be the Princess Consort.

"What's wrong?" Crown Prince asked in a hoarse voice.

Ji Youran did not expect the coffin to pass so quickly. She immediately sensed something was wrong. She quickly lowered her head and immediately restrained the hatred and anger on her face. "Your Highness, Fourth Lady Qu is not feeling good and has fainted."

"Since she fainted, just help her to rest." Pei Luo'an said impatiently. He held the eunuch's hand and walked out. Since he was "affectionate" to the Crown Princess, how could he not send her out at this time?

Several brothers followed closely.

Although they were also Princes, they could not be compared to Crown Prince.

"Is she the Fourth Lady from Vice Minister Qu's family?" On the other hand, Lord Yan, Pei Yanxun, seemed to be a little surprised as he stood in front of the ladies and asked curiously in a low voice.

"Yes, my lady is the Fourth Lady from Vice Minister Qu's family." Yu Dong hugged Qu Moying and replied.

Pei Yanxun sized up Qu Moying a few times and suddenly said, "It seems that the Fourth Lady is not useless. What a pity, what a pity!"

After saying that, he shook his head and turned around to follow the crowd.

Everyone was surprised at him mentioning "pity". They did not understand what this Prince was feeling regretful about. Was it a pity because of her eye illness or something else?

Or was there some other hidden meaning?

Chapter 155 Crown Prince's Mansion's Maid

In the end, Crown Prince did not send Crown Princess' coffin to the outside of the city. Just as he arrived at the entrance of the mansion, he fainted and was sent back inside. Following him was the sick and weak Lord Wei.

Lord Jing and Lord Yan were the two people in charge of sending the Crown Princess' coffin to the grave today. The two of them followed behind the funeral queue and slowly walked out of the city.

Along the way, the entire street was filled with cries and white banners. The people on both sides knelt on the ground and welcomed Crown Princess' coffin from a distance.

The snow-colored pieces of paper danced all over the sky, displaying a different kind of sorrow in the breeze.

From the mansions in the capital that were qualified to attend this funeral, people lined up on both sides to the city gate, and when the coffin came, the crying shook the city.

After Crown Princess' wedding, it was her funeral. It had to be said that the Crown Princess was the epitome of a beautiful girl having an unfortunate life.

Everyone thought that she would rise to the top, that she would inevitably be the palace's Empress once the Crown Prince ascended the throne, and that from then on, she would kindly treat the nation and its people as if they were her own children, but no one expected that her life would be so short.

Everyone couldn't help but sigh in their hearts.

This kind of fate didn't count as auspiciousness but great calamity, right? A beauty with a short life was nothing more than this...

Qu Moying was sent to rest. After Imperial Doctors diagnosed her, they didn't find any illness. They just said that she was physically and mentally exhausted, and that she would be fine after resting for a while.

Lying on the high and soft bed, Qu Moying had already "slowly" woken up and was looking at Ji Youran, who was sitting on the chair next to her with a dark face.

Ji Youran's face did not look good. How could she not understand when Pei Luo'an stared at her angrily just now?

"Princess Ji." Qu Moying opened her eyes and looked at Ji Youran. Then, she supported herself up. Meanwhile, Yu Dong had already taken two steps forward and reached out to support her.

"Cousin, you are awake?" Ji Youran restrained the anger on her face, and her expression immediately calmed down.

It was as if her anger just now was others' illusion.

Qu Moying mocked in her heart. No wonder she had the wrong judgments in her previous life. What Ji Youran wanted to show Qu Moying was what she had after she changed her expression. In vain, Qu Moying had wholeheartedly regarded her as a good sister. However, Qu Moying did not expect that this good sister not only wanted her position but also the lives of her entire family.

She used the blood of Qu Moying's family to dye her red carpet on the road to the throne.

"Yes. I was disrespectful just now. Please forgive me, Princess Ji."

In fact, Qu Moying's face had never looked well. Although she looked as white as cream, she was always a little pale. Her thin and sharp chin showed that she was thinner than ordinary people.

"Why do you say you were disrespectful? It was an accident. I know that you and Crown Princess are close sisters... Since you are not in good health, why didn't you mention it early? I could have arranged for you to rest."

Ji Youran paused for a moment, but she still finished the latter half of her sentence. Her eyes were fixed on Qu Moying's face as she paid close attention to the change in Qu Moying's expression.

She originally wanted to act up in front of Ji Hanyue's coffin to show their sisterhood. She wanted to use the reason why she entered the mansion and her current behavior to draw the scene of a perfect sisterly relationship. However, she didn't expect that Qu Moying would ruin her plan. So, how could she not suspect that this Fourth Lady Qu in front of her was also plotting something?

What she used the sisterhood to plot for couldn't be Crown Prince, could it?

Ji Youran was the one who snatched Pei Luo'an, and now it was a critical time. How could she let anyone else covet him?

Although Qu Moying was not as close to Pei Luo'an as she was to him, who knew that Qu Moying would cry and faint at this occasion, so how could Ji Youran not be worried?

"My body was not good... I have been recuperating in the village. Now that my cousin and uncle are both gone, and now even the younger cousin is gone, I... I am deeply heartbroken. I wanted to cry again before her grave, but I didn't expect my body to be so useless, and I actually fainted."

The corners of Qu Moying's lips curled up into a bitter smile, and she lowered her head with a sad expression.

So, the fainting just now was just an accident, and Qu Moying did not covet the Crown Prince?

"Please do not interfere with Cousin's matter." Ji Youran was relieved. On the other hand, she was worried. Her mother had already sent someone to tell her the matter of Qu Moying staying in the Ji Family. Even Crown Prince blamed her because of this matter. The news that the late Earl Ling'an was going to recognize an heir had spread, and it was not good for both Ji Youran and the Crown Prince.

This involved a lot of things.

But these words could not be said directly and she had to be tactful about it.

"Princess Ji, could it be that there is another reason behind Cousin Hanyue's matter?" Qu Moying raised her head and asked. Her lips were slightly pursed. It could be seen that she was a little nervous.

"Cousin, this matter is Ji's clan's matter. It has nothing to do with me, a married woman, and it has nothing to do with you. The reputation of Ji's clan's daughter can't be ruined just because of Cousin Hanyue's matter alone," Ji Youran said.

Qu Moying was silent for a while. She didn't agree, nor did she disagree. She just hung her head low.

"Alright, Cousin, that's all I have to say. You are now Fourth Lady Qu, and I heard that there are many things going on in Qu Mansion, and that the Second Madam is quite unkind to you. If you need me in the future, I will definitely back you up." Ji Youran stood up, and her voice became soft.

These words sounded like Ji Youran wanted to support Qu Moying with all her strength. But in fact, Ji Youran was implying that Qu Moying herself was not even able to deal with the matter of Qu Mansion, so how could she have the ability to deal with the affairs of another mansion? Moreover, Earl Ling'an's Mansion was not like Qu Mansion. It ranked much higher than the latter.

How could she, a weak girl whose birth mother had died young, be able to deal with it?

After Ji Youran finished speaking, she saw that Qu Moying lowered her head and did not speak. Then, Ji Youran's eyes revealed a proud sneer, and she turned to leave. As long as Qu Moying was smart, she would know what to do at this time.

How Ji Yanyue was doing was not important anymore. As long as no one made a fuss, everyone would ignore it regardless of whether Ji Yanyue was to die of illness or to elope. There was no powerful people now in the Ji Family's first branch. How stupid would one be to go against the second branch for the sake of the first branch?

Of course, there was one more difficult person to deal with right now—Yue Wenhan. He reported the matter of Earl Ling'an wanting to recognize an heir to the Emperor, and Ji Youran was extremely furious about it.

For this reason, the Crown Prince reprimanded her family for being useless, saying not only her father, but also her brothers, were both useless. He even repeatedly said that Ji Hanyue had not caused all this trouble back then.

But this matter had to be done slowly. She planned to start with Qu Moying first, scare her away, and then use all strength on Yue Wenhan...

Walking to the corridor, Ji Youran looked back at a maid standing outside the wing room. The maid lowered her head and nodded. Only then did Ji Youran leave with her maids.

Inside the room, Yu Dong poured a cup of tea for Qu Moying. Qu Moying took it and took two sips. She asked Yu Dong, "Has my cousin's coffin left the mansion?"

"Yes. My lady, you have been unconscious for a long time," said Yu Dong. "My lady, please rest for a while. You haven't been resting well for the past few days."

"I'm not tired!" Qu Moying handed the teacup to Yu Dong. Yu Dong took it and placed it aside. Then, he helped Qu Moying lie down.

“My lady, you should take a break first. If you can’t hold on any longer and faint later, we will have to trouble Princess Ji again,” Yu Dong said.

Hearing her words, Qu Moying no longer said anything and closed her eyes.

The room quieted down. Yu Dong stood quietly by the bed and waited.

Suddenly, the curtain at the door was lifted. A maid of Eastern Palace walked in with a tray in her hand. There was a plate of snacks on it. When she saw Qu Moying resting with her eyes closed on the bed, she immediately lightened her steps. After putting down the snacks, she waved to Yu Dong.

Yu Dong looked at her and pointed to himself. He asked silently.

The maid nodded and pointed outside, indicating Yu Dong to go outside to talk. Then, she walked out. After a few steps, she turned back and waved to Yu Dong.

Yu Dong looked at Qu Moying, who was lying on the bed with her eyes closed. He lightened his steps and followed the maid outside. Then, he lowered his voice and asked the maid standing outside, “What is it?”

“Just now, Princess Ji asked if Fourth Lady would like to change a place to rest.” The maid said in a low voice.

“What’s wrong? Is this place not good?” Yu Dong asked in confusion.

“This isn’t a place for the womenfolk to rest. We were out of time when Fourth Lady Qu fainted, so she was arranged in the nearest one, but in fact...” The maid hesitated to speak, looking like she wanted to say something but couldn’t say it.

“What exactly is wrong? This is the place your Princess Ji asked us to stay in. Even if there is anything wrong, it is your Princess Ji’s arrangement.” Yu Dong was a little impatient and said anxiously with his eyes wide open.

Everyone knew that one could not be sloppy with the matters of the royal family. It was best not to be careless. Who knew what kind of great disaster would be caused by a small negligence?

“Don’t get anxious. It is not that serious. The main problem is that generally no female guests will be entertained here, and it is located in the outer yard, which isn’t very good. Why don’t we let Fourth Lady Qu move to another room where the womenfolk rest? That place is in the inner yard, and it is unlikely to bump into a male outsider.”

The maid laughed in a low voice and explained to Yu Dong.

“Well, well, I will go get my lady now,” Yu Dong answered and turned to leave.

“Wait a minute.” The maid tugged at his sleeve.

“What?” Yu Dong had no choice but to stop. His sleeves were pulled, and he couldn’t leave even if he wanted to!

“Fourth Lady Qu is not in good health. She just fell asleep. Is it a good idea to wake her up now?” The maid was worried.

“It doesn’t matter. She has a good temper. She won’t say anything even if I wake her up now,” Yu Dong explained.

“Well... alright then!” The maid still looked hesitant. She did not let go of Yu Dong’s hand and was looking around. Seeing that the two maids standing next to her had their heads lowered and were not paying attention to their conversation, she moved closer to Yu Dong and asked, “Some masters look gentle and kind, but in fact, they are not easy to deal with. Is Fourth Lady Qu also such a person?”

“My lady is not such a person.” Yu Dong pulled back his sleeves unhappily and said with a displeased expression.

“Alright, you go and wake her up now. I will take you there.” The maid did not get angry and nodded.

In displeasure, Yu Dong turned around and walked into the room. As he entered the room, he straightened his sleeves. The Crown Prince's Mansion's maid was so skilled! If he was an ordinary servant, he would not have noticed that the jewelry box in his sleeve had been changed when his sleeve was being tugged at just now.

How agile!

Fortunately, Fourth Lady Qu had already reminded him in advance. Therefore, when it happened, Yu Dong remained quiet and only watched the Eastern Palace's maid's movements...

Chapter 156 The Bracelets Finally Made a Pair?

"My lady, wake up." Looking at the shadow at the door curtain, Yu Dong went forward to wake Qu Moying up.

"What's wrong?" Qu Moying opened her eyes.

"We are in the outer yard. Eastern Palace's maid advised you to move to the yard where the womenfolk rest," Yu Dong explained while supporting Qu Moying up.

"Sure!" Qu Moying replied.

After Qu Moying sat up and tidied up a little, Yu Dong took the opportunity to show Qu Moying the jewelry box in his sleeve, hinting that the jewelry box had already been switched.

The jewelry box looked fine, exactly the same as before, but in fact, Yu Dong knew very well that this jewelry box was no longer the same one as before. It had already been switched.

Speaking of which, Yu Dong felt that Princess Ji was such a shameless person. The dignified Princess Ji of Crown Prince's Mansion actually took a fancy to his lady's bracelet and even used such a method to get it. It was really embarrassing for her to do this.

No matter how valuable this bracelet was, it was only a bracelet. This Princess Ji was too petty. From this, it could be seen that Princess Ji's character was indeed not good.

Yu Dong did not believe at all what Princess Ji said about taking care of the Crown Princess as the reason why she entered the Eastern Palace.

In this matter, Yu Dong actually misunderstood Ji Youran. If not for the extraordinary significance of this bracelet, Ji Youran would not have used this method to switch out Qu Moying's bracelet.

It was not that she was petty, but that this pair of bracelets was very important to her.

Qu Moying narrowed her eyes and then nodded. She picked up the jewelry box and gently shook it a few times. There was the sound of broken pieces. It did not sound like a whole piece of item. Then, she put it in her sleeve and held Yu Dong's hand as she walked out.

Outside the room, the maid was waiting. When she saw them coming out, she first bowed to Qu Moying and then led the way in the front.

Qu Moying slowly followed behind the maid, and a trace of coldness flashed through her eyes. This route was indeed toward the inner yard, but it was not the most direct way to get to it. In fact, the maid could have chosen another route that connected directly to the Floral-pendant Gate of the inner yard. However, the maid did not hesitate to take her to this route even though she clearly saw another route just now.

It could be seen that Ji Youran had planned for this long ago.

She was now sure that the bracelet that Ji Hanyue wore at that time must have been broken or shattered. Of course, even so, there could still be a few intact pieces left.

In front of them was an intersection. The maid waved to them. Yu Dong helped Qu Moying to walk forward. Before they turned around, a person suddenly came into them. Yu Dong was shocked and hurriedly pulled Qu Moying back. As he took two steps forward, he bumped into that person.

It was a young servant. After crashing heavily, he and Yu Dong both took two steps back and fell to the ground.

Fortunately, Qu Moying had been pushed away by Yu Dong, but even so, she almost fell down. Only by supporting herself on the rockery did she stand steadily.

“What’s going on?” A man’s voice came from behind the young servant. Then, Qu Moying saw a group of people behind the young servant. Looking at the sick and weak man surrounded by the crowd, Qu Moying immediately knew that the person who was plotted against at the same time was Lord Wei, Pei Qingmin.

None of the people present today were so easy to scheme against. However, in comparison, this man was weaker.

“What’s going on?” Looking at the maid and the young servant who had fallen to the ground, Lord Wei asked with a cough.

“Greetings, Lord Wei.” The Eastern Palace’s maid hurried forward to apologize. “I accompanied Fourth Lady Qu here. I didn’t expect that Fourth Lady Qu’s maid would walk so fast as to bump into you, Lord Wei. Please forgive us, Lord Wei.”

Qu Moying also came out from the corner of the rockery and bowed to Pei Qingmin. “Greetings, Lord Wei.”

Just now at the mourning hall, Pei Qingmin had seen Qu Moying. Qu Moying had a different appearance from the others. Just the eye veil was a very recognizable symbol of her. Moreover, she fainted in the mourning hall, so Lord Wei stole a few more glances at her.

He immediately recognized the person in front of him was Fourth Lady Qu.

After sizing her up, he asked gently, “There is no need to be so polite. Do you feel better, Fourth Lady Qu?”

“Thank you, Your Highness. I... I feel much better.” Qu Moying answered with a pale face. However, no matter how one looked at her face, it did not look like she was better.

Lord Wei himself was not in good health. He took a few more glances at Qu Moying, who was also in ill health. Recently, there were many rumors about this Fourth Lady Qu, and she seemed to have the intention of overthrowing the previous rumors. The Fourth Lady was not tall, and she looked underweight. In addition, her appearance seemed to have a bit of timidity. It seemed true that her health was not very good.

Her hair was black and was simply tied up with a hairpin. Her face was pale, and her lips were light-colored. Even though the shape of her lips looked charming, the color was a little too pale, revealing a kind of light color that made people pity her. If such a face was paired with a pair of bright eyes, Pei Qingmin felt that she would be a beautiful young girl.

His health was not good, but he was quite knowledgeable about calligraphy and painting. He understood very well how Qu Moying would look with a pair of bright eyes. Words of such a young girl being ugly were clearly not true. Needless to say, it must have been spread around by the jealous step-wife of Qu Zhizhen.

This step-wife even dared to lay a hand on the daughter born of the first wife at the Crown Princess’s funeral, so what was there for her to be afraid of?

It was also said that this Fourth Lady Qu was rejected by Young Master Yongning, Xu Lipeng, in terms of marriage, and it seemed that there were other causes and effects. Anyhow, she was indeed extremely pitiful.

Meanwhile, the young servant and Yu Dong had already stood up, and after glaring at each other, they still did not dare to say anything.

“Fourth Lady Qu, if you need anything, just tell Princess Ji.” Pei Qingmin said gently. After that, he led the people forward, and Qu Moying retreated to the side.

After Lord Wei left, Qu Moying held Yu Dong’s hand again and followed behind Eastern Palace’s maid.

No one would think that there were many accidents in this small episode. After all, it was just a maid bumping into a young servant. For the two Masters, this was nothing serious.

The maid led Qu Moying to a yard. It was indeed the place where the womenfolk rested. After she led them in and arranged for someone to serve Qu Moying, the maid left.

As soon as the maid got out of the yard, she hurried to another yard in the inner yard. This was the yard where Ji Youran lived, which was close to the yard of Crown Princess, Ji Hanyue.

When she entered the main room to report, Ji Youran was sitting in the middle.

The maid came forward to salute, holding a jewelry box in her hand. It was the one that Qu Moying had before. "Princess Ji, the jewelry box has been exchanged."

Ji Youran nodded. Her private maid, Shui Ning, stepped forward and took the box. She then placed it on the table in front of Ji Youran and gently opened it. Inside was a blood jade bracelet.

Ji Youran picked it up and inspected it carefully. From the color to the flower pattern and then to the subtle grain on it, they were all the same. She could not help but smile.

The other maid, Xie Feng, went into the room and took out another jewelry box. Compared with this jewelry box, the other one was more beautiful. After it was opened, there was also a bracelet in it.

Ji Youran took it out. When the two bracelets were placed side by side, everyone could tell that they were a pair.

The color and appearance were exactly the same.

The smile on Ji Youran's face became complacent. She first put one bracelet on her wrist and then wore the other one. Checking out the two bracelets, she grew even more satisfied.

Finally, the bracelets made a pair! Every time she saw only one of the bracelets, she would think of many bad things and would feel displeased. Now, she finally owned a pair of them.

As she swayed the blood bracelet on her wrist, she grew all the more satisfied the more she looked at them. When Ji Hanyue wore the bracelet in front of her, Ji Youran just wanted to have a look. But Ji Hanyue said Ji Youran had to be careful as this belonged to her Grandmother, so she could only let Ji Youran have a look and not wear it.

Now that Ji Hanyue's bracelet was on Ji Youran's wrist, everything belonged to her.

Satisfied, Ji Youran looked up at her surroundings. In the past, she had envied Ji Hanyue countless times in her heart. Now, the owner of this place was her. Ji Hanyue was already dead. Everything that was Ji Hanyue's now fell into Ji Youran's hands.

Including Ji Hanyue's dowry.

"My lady, will Fourth Lady Qu start a fight?" Shui Ning asked worriedly. She was Ji Youran's dowry maid. When Ji Youran entered the Eastern Palace, she was in a hurry, so it was impossible for her to bring many people in. Thus, she only brought one of her most trusted maids.

"How could she dare? She has been very timid. Crown Princess once told her before to not be afraid and to make trouble if something happened and that Crown Princess would support her. If she did not say anything, Crown Princess could not interfere either. However, she has always lived in the village and it looks like she wants to be a village girl forever."

Xie Feng curled her lips and replied disapprovingly. She was Ji Hanyue's maid before, and now she was Ji Youran's maid. It just so happened that she made up for the lack of Ji Youran's personal maids. Normally, she would be eager to talk to Ji Youran, showing that she now stood on Ji Youran's side wholeheartedly. As for her original Master, she had completely forgotten about her.

"But, Madam once sent a message that Fourth Lady Qu could not be underestimated." Shui Ning felt still a little uneasy. She looked worriedly at Ji Youran, whose gaze had never left the bracelet in her hands.

In the message that Qu Mansion sent over, it was said that this Fourth Lady Qu could not be trifled with and that Princess Ji should be careful.

“Shui Ning, what are you worried about? The mansion only told Princess Ji to be careful, and they did not say that the Fourth Lady was powerful. She was really not powerful, though. She usually does not speak to others and has her head low when others speak. Although it was better now, it would not be much better. What she said in the Ji Family must have been taught by someone. How could she know all these? How could she dare!”

Xie Feng became more and more disdainful. She had really seen Fourth Lady Qu. One time, when she was sent by Ji Hanyue to deliver things to the village, she met Fourth Lady Qu. Therefore, she really could not understand what Shui Ning was afraid of right now.

Ji Youran finally finished appreciating the bracelets. She put the blood jade bracelet into the beautiful jewelry box, then closed the lid and said slowly, “It’s fine. It’s not my business even if she starts a fight. The person she bumped into was Lord Wei. What does it have to do with me? If she wants to debate, she should go to Lord Wei!”

In this matter, Ji Youran was really not afraid of Qu Moying making a fuss, especially at this time. Crown Prince was in a bad mood. No matter who made a fuss, Crown Prince would know it, and it would not be good.

“Princess Ji, His Highness wants you to go over.” While they were in conversation, an old maid came running in a panic to report a message. For a moment, the room quieted down, and the faces of several people turned dark...

Chapter 157 Who Bumped Into Who?

“What? Fourth Lady Qu was injured from the fall?” Ji Youran was dumbfounded as she listened to the ridiculous conclusion.

It was a maid who was knocked down. What did it have to do with Qu Moying? It was said that the maid reacted quickly and immediately pushed Qu Moying away from danger. Qu Moying managed to stabilize herself with the help of the rockery. But now, she was injured from a fall. How fake could this be?

This was Crown Prince's Mansion. This Qu Moying seemed to be a good person, but she was clearly hypocritical and lowly. She actually had the nerves to make a scene in front of the Crown Prince!

"Your Highness, is the lady of Vice Minister Qu's family low in intelligence?" Ji Youran couldn't help but mock.

She had really never seen such a noble lady. No matter how stupid a noble lady was, she would never do such a thing and wouldn't say such words. Did Qu Moying really think that she was Ji Hanyue's own cousin sister? Did she think that Ji Hanyue was in charge of this mansion?

Ji Hanyue was already dead. So what did Qu Moying want?

Ji Youran was so angry that her face changed drastically.

"You... what do you mean?" Pei Luo'an's face sank. His eyes were as cold as ice. He stared at Ji Youran gloomily. Even though his face looked pale as ever, Ji Youran was shocked when she met his bone-chilling gaze. She immediately snapped back to her senses and quickly wiped the corner of her eyes with a handkerchief as she explained, "The one who fell just now was Fourth Lady Qu's maid. It was clear that it was not Fourth Lady Qu. What was her intention?"

"A maid was knocked down?" Pei Luo'an's face became darker and darker, and he looked at Ji Youran gloomily.

"Your Highness, a servant came to report that Lord Wei and Fourth Lady Qu bumped into each other. I don't know how Fourth Lady Qu bumped into Lord Wei. Lord Wei only came to visit for a while, and he went to rest because he was unwell. Unexpectedly, he almost bumped into Fourth Lady Qu on the way. Fortunately, the maid and young servant were in the front, and they fell after knocking each other down. Nothing else happened."

Ji Youran composed herself and reported reverently in a low voice. For some reason, she felt that something was wrong. Her heart panicked, and her actions became more and more cautious.

"Is Lord Wei okay?" Pei Luo'an asked lightly. Toward this harmless younger brother, Pei Luo'an was a good elder brother.

"Lord Wei is fine. He was just frightened," Ji Youran answered with a face full of worry. Then, with a face full of anger, she said, "I have sent people to visit him. It is said that Lord Wei is fine. So I wonder what Fourth Lady Qu is up to when even Lord Wei is fine? She was clearly fine at that time, and the one who fell was not her."

No matter what Qu Moying was planning, Ji Youran would not give her a chance to get close to Crown Prince. It was best to use Lord Wei as an excuse now.

She wanted to let Crown Prince understand that Qu Moying was a fickle woman. Not only did she want to seduce Crown Prince but also Lord Wei.

"You... seem to have a prejudice against Fourth Lady Qu?" Pei Luo'an did not continue what she was talking about. He sized her up a few times and asked slowly.

In the past, regardless of whether she was in front of others or behind others, Ji Youran always looked protective of Qu Moying. In front of the Crown Prince, she repeatedly showed sympathy to Qu Moying. Now that the Crown Princess was gone, she said she would definitely wholeheartedly treat Qu Moying as her own cousin.

After hearing Ji Youran repeatedly saying so, Pei Luo'an felt that Ji Youran was sincere to Fourth Lady Qu. The more Ji Youran showed kindness to the people who were close to Ji Hanyue in the past, the better it would be for the entire Crown Prince's Mansion, and the fewer people would doubt Ji Hanyue's death.

This was also what Pei Luo'an was most willing to see.

Pei Luo'an was very satisfied with this. Ji Youran was indeed good-natured and devoted to him. Moreover, her ability was not bad, and she was a good help to him.

However, Ji Youran lost her composure just now, and he heard another intention behind her words. Pei Luo'an had never paid much attention to Fourth Lady Qu, even much less than to Third Lady Qu.

Naturally, he would not have any improper thoughts. What he wanted was for Ji Youran to show goodwill to Qu Moying—the kind of goodwill she had because of Ji Hanyue.

Only in this way would he be able to keep what had happened in the past a secret.

However, right now, Ji Youran was showing a different attitude. She was actually jealous of a woman with bad eyes? Moreover, she was so jealous that she lost her usual calm and even said evil words. And all this was shown in front of him. What if it were in front of someone else? Would they notice something?

This made Pei Luo'an very unhappy!

Thinking about it carefully, how could Lord Wei encounter Qu Moying so coincidentally and almost bump into her? The Fourth Lady Qu could not know the matters in the Eastern Palace, and Eastern Palace's servants could not be so rash.

So, could it be that this so-called bumping was actually plotted by Ji Youran? Did she think there were not enough troubles going on in her own mansion and want to cause trouble again?

"I... I have no prejudice against Fourth Lady Qu. I just think that Fourth Lady Qu has gone a little too far. It was clearly her maid who fell down. How did it become her now?" Ji Youran lowered her head when she saw Pei Luo'an's cold gaze. She bit her lips and carefully explained.

Pei Luo'an did not say anything and continued to lock his gaze on her coldly. Ji Youran's palms were sweaty, and she did not dare to move.

"Do you think that you can just bump into anyone in my Eastern Palace? With Fourth Lady Qu's identity, could she bump into Lord Wei so randomly? Doesn't that mean that it is easy-peasy to bump into Lord Wei? If someone tries to assassinate Lord Wei in my Eastern Palace, it will be a very simple matter then?" Pei Luo'an stared at Ji Youran and asked.

These words were serious and meaningful. There was even the implication of Ji Youran deliberately harming the Eastern Palace in those words. Although Lord Wei had a sickly body, no matter how weak

his body was, he had to be alive and well. If something happened to him in the Eastern Palace, the Emperor and the officials would not let Pei Luo'an go.

Feeling a chill on her back, Ji Youran suddenly fell to her knees. She raised her head and wailed with tears, "Your Highness, I really do not know about this matter. Your Highness, you know how I am to you. How could I dare to frame you in this kind of thing? It's just that... just that I deliberately let Fourth Lady Qu bump into Lord Wei in... in a moment of anger."

Ji Youran did not dare to deny it now. This kind of thing was difficult for others to investigate. But if Pei Luo'an sent people to investigate, they would still be able to find out how she sent someone to invite Lord Wei over and lead Lord Wei and Qu Moying onto the same route. In this Eastern Palace, only she, the only inner yard Master, could do such a thing.

Originally, Ji Youran thought that Pei Luo'an would not ask anything about such a small matter, but now that he had suspected it, Ji Youran did not dare to hide it anymore and could only use the excuse of her own fit of rage.

"In a moment of... anger? Why were you angry?" Pei Luo'an frowned, his expression still very ugly.

Ji Youran cried weakly. Tears welled up in her eyes, and she could not even breathe. She looked up at Pei Luo'an, and her face was already full of tears. "Your Highness, when Fourth Lady Qu talked to me about you... I... I was very sad. So I... I got angry..."

She had no choice but to continue making up excuses.

"What did she say?" Pei Luo'an continued to ask.

"She... said that you are a well-behaved gentleman, Your Highness, and that you are deeply in love with the Crown Princess, and she even said that she was envious of the Crown Princess... Your Highness, how could this be something that a cousin of the Crown Princess should say? How... How could she say such words? I was so angry that I thought of a way to make... make her meet Lord Wei. "

Ji Youran looked at Pei Luo'an with tears in her eyes, and all the grievances were blamed on Qu Moying.

This was indeed not something that a cousin should say. The Crown Prince frowned, and he grew a little unhappy with Fourth Lady Qu. If it were really like what Ji Youran said, this Fourth Lady Qu was indeed not a good person.

Her cousin's remains were scarcely cold yet, yet she dared to think of such a thing.

"You want to match her up with Lord Wei?" Pei Luo'an understood Ji Youran's intention.

"Yes, since she wants to enter the imperial palace, then... then Lord Wei would be more suitable." Ji Youran lowered her voice and looked at Pei Luo'an timidly.

This kind of gaze that carried a bit of affection and a bit of gentleness was what Pei Luo'an liked the most in the past, but now, he inexplicably felt annoyed.

"Ji Youran, you should know your identity, right?" Pei Luo'an said coldly.

"Your Highness, I know my identity. I should not be angry, not be bothered, and I shouldn't have done this in a fit of anger. But this is also because Fourth Lady Qu went a bit too far..." Ji Youran cried and argued.

"Even if it's too far, you have to endure it!" Pei Luo'an glared and scolded harshly, "You said before that you wouldn't be jealous of Hanyue, nor would you be jealous of any woman by my side. What are you doing now? Could it be that you want people to suspect that your purpose in coming to Eastern Palace is not for taking care of Hanyue but for me?"

"Yes, Your Highness, I was wrong. No matter how much I explain, I can't cover up my mistake. Your Highness, I won't do it in the future. No matter how far Fourth Lady Qu goes in the future, I will treat her as my cousin, just because she is the Crown Princess' cousin."

Ji Youran hurriedly lowered her head and cried out in grievance. Her hands rested on Pei Luo'an's knees. Her eyes were filled with love as tears flowed. Just looking at her made one feel pity for her.

There was only a flash of hatred in her eyes. She originally thought that everything would be over if Ji Hanyue died. She did not expect that even though Ji Hanyue died, the latter still did not rest easy and even brought in a cousin to ruin her life. If there was a chance, she would definitely make sure that Qu Moying could not stay. Of course, she would not carry out any plan in the Eastern Palace again.

For some reason, she felt that Qu Moying was as annoying as Ji Hanyue. There was a dull pain in the injured part of her face. The injury was because of Ji Hanyue, and after Ji Youran recovered, the injury was affected by Qu Moying. There was still a faint mark left. The Imperial Doctor said that it was difficult to heal perfectly. This was all because Qu Moying had used the sleeve stained with medicine to wipe her tears.

The Imperial Doctor also said that if this spot of her face was injured again in the future, the scar would definitely not be insignificant.

"If there is any similar case in the future, I will not forgive you. Ji Youran, you have to remember, you are a concubine, and not a legitimate one," Pei Luo'an warned.

"Yes, Your Highness, I know." Suppressing the hatred in her heart, Ji Youran had to admit defeat.

"Get up first. Deal with the matter of Fourth Lady Qu. She fell just now at the rockery. I heard that she fell accidentally and even bumped into Uncle Yun." Pei Luo'an reached out and rubbed the space between his eyebrows that were throbbing with a dull pain. He really did not want to care about such a thing, but it happened in his own mansion.

Pei Yuanjun? What was he doing here today? Why did he bump into Fourth Lady Qu? Was it really like what Ji Youran hinted? That Fourth Lady Qu was indeed up to no good?

Pei Yuanjun was not Lord Wei, Pei Qingmin...

Chapter 158 What... What Was He Up To?

"How did Fourth Lady Qu bump into Lord Yun?" Seeing that he was so annoyed, Ji Youran did not dare to have any other thoughts and asked carefully.

This was the first thought that one came up with. No one would think that Qu Moying could bump into Pei Yuanjun with her ability. Even if Qu Moying had other intentions, she could not win Pei Yuanjun's heart, unless Pei Yuanjun had improper thoughts.

"I don't know either. It is said that Fourth Lady Qu bumped into Uncle Yun. She lost her balance and then fell to the ground." Pei Luo'an walked around in circles in frustration. Then, he covered his head and sat down. He felt dizzy and uncomfortable. These past few days, in order to express his deep feelings, he had indeed endured a lot. His face was sickly and pale.

Ji Youran hurriedly got up and diligently went behind him to gently massage the acupoint on his forehead. "Your Highness, please tell me what happened. I will deal with it immediately."

These words made Pei Luo'an satisfied. He nodded. Right now, he was in a lot of trouble, but he couldn't ignore this kind of thing. Pei Yuanjun's matter was trivial, but Pei Luo'an couldn't ignore it. He felt a throbbing pain in his forehead and closed his eyes forcefully. A figure appeared in his mind for no reason. His heart seemed to be stabbed by something.

For the first time, he truly felt a dull pain. Things ended up like this even though he did not want to. It was all caused by Ji Yongming. It was not his fault.

It was not just Ji Yongming. There was also Ji Hanyue. If he had not made the first move, he would have been the one in trouble. He was not wrong!

A trace of dark red flashed in his eyes...

Qu Moying leaned against the couch, and the gauze curtain fell. She reached out and placed her hand on the medical pillow outside. An Imperial Doctor carefully treated her.

Yu Dong waited nervously by her side.

When the Imperial Doctor withdrew his hand from Qu Moying's wrist, Yu Dong hurriedly asked, "Imperial Doctor, how is it?"

"Fourth Lady Qu was originally not well, and now she is even weaker. She needs to be taken good care of... As for the rest, it's nothing. Her ankle is sprained. She must not get out of bed and walk for the next few days." Imperial Doctor stood up and answered.

"She only sprained her ankle? Is there anything else?" Yu Dong was still worried.

"Yes, she only sprained her ankle, but Fourth Lady Qu's body is not very good. She needs to rest more. Otherwise, she will have difficulty in conception." Imperial Doctor thought for a moment and repeated the words again.

In fact, spraining her ankle was not a big deal. At least, in Imperial Doctor's eyes, Fourth Lady Qu's body was much worse. She also had a weak womb. It was not too serious, but it would become a big problem for a woman. If she was not taken good care of, she would be unable to conceive.

"Is my lady in very poor health?" Yu Dong understood and his face changed greatly.

"Yes, she's in very poor health. She needs to be carefully treated." The Imperial Doctor nodded.

"How long will it take before she is completely cured?" Yu Dong asked.

"Well, it all depends. It will take at least a year." The Imperial Doctor replied reservedly.

"Imperial Doctor, although my lady is weak, she was fine in the past. How can her body be so bad now? Is there a reason?" Yu Dong asked.

Although some women were born weak, Yu Dong was cautious, and he asked one more question.

"Fourth Lady Qu may have suffered from a great cold, or fallen into the water. Maybe there were other reasons. Anyway, it happened more than once." The Imperial Doctor thought for a moment and finally answered. This matter was related to Lord Yun, and he had to offer a thorough analysis.

When they heard that Fourth Lady Qu had bumped into Lord Yun, the first thought of everyone who heard it was that it was impossible. And next, they wondered what Lord Yun was up to. No one would think that Fourth Lady Qu really had the chance of bumping into Lord Yun and thus falling!

Or even if a lady really bumped into Lord Yun, as long as she didn't actually knock herself into him, he would only shake his sleeves and leave without a care. It was impossible for him to take the initiative to send someone to help this lady up and ask an Imperial Doctor to treat her. When did Lord Yun be so gentle to a woman?

Because of this, the Imperial Doctor didn't dare to look down on this lady of the Vice Minister's Mansion.

He was very respectful and his attitude was excellent. He answered whatever Yu Dong asked.

On the couch, Qu Moying's eyes moved slightly. She remembered something. When she was young, she accidentally fell into the water. At that time, it was winter. Back then, the wet nurse took her to see the snow, but the wet nurse was suddenly called away, and then she was pushed into the water. Fortunately, a villager passed by and saved her.

At that time, she was still young and thought that she had accidentally fallen into the river. Now as she thought about it, she realized it must have been Yu who sent people to murder her.

Then, there was another time when she returned to the mansion for a short stay during the Spring Festival. Because she angered Qu Zhizhen, she was punished to kneel in the snow. Later on, the Old Lady received the news and rushed over, but it was actually too late. That time, she almost froze. Her entire body was almost stiff as she was carried back by the Old Lady.

It went without saying that it was also Yu's doing that the truth was kept from the Old Lady for such a long time.

Later on, when she gradually grew up, after returning to the mansion, there were still some sporadic accidents. The days she came back were basically during the Spring Festival. Because of this, she suffered several times. Every time, it was Yu's doing. It could be said that Qu Moying was really lucky as she was still alive now.

With Yu's temperament, she probably wouldn't accept Qu Moying for a single day. Even if she couldn't take Qu Moying's life, she wanted to destroy the latter!

The corners of Qu Moying's lips curved up silently, and her eyes seemed to freeze with thousands of frost, becoming a bit colder.

"Thank you, Imperial Doctor. My lady has been in danger several times in the past. It is not easy for her to live until now. Please help treat her and give us a few prescriptions to improve her health," Yu Dong said with red eyes.

Imperial Doctor nodded silently. The incidents of Qu Mansion had been wide spread recently. He had also heard that the second woman Vice Minister Qu married was not a kind one. Not only was she vicious, but she was also daring. She even dared to frame Fourth Lady Qu in the Crown Princess' mourning hall.

A maid led the Imperial Doctor out. Yu Dong lifted the gauze curtain for Qu Moying and lowered his head when he saw Qu Moying sitting silently on the couch.

"What was he up to?" Qu Moying pursed her lips and asked.

"Well... I don't know either." Yu Dong answered carefully. He still didn't know why his Master, Lord Yun, suddenly walked over from the intersection, and why his Master even took a few steps forward when they were going to collide. It was these steps that made his lady lose her balance and fall to the ground.

If the two were to meet at the intersection, even if there was a rockery blocking their sight, it would be impossible for them to really bump into each other. In the past, when he followed his Master, Lord Yun, this kind of thing would not happen.

No matter who was coming towards them, his Master, Lord Yun, would always quickly retreat. It was impossible for him to not retreat but to take steps forward, which forced his lady, who was not walking fast, to fall.

Qu Moying and Yu Dong looked at each other in confusion. Was this really an accident?

"Is Fourth Lady Qu inside?" The voice of a maid came from outside. Yu Dong glanced at Qu Moying, and Qu Moying nodded.

Yu Dong walked to the door and lifted the curtain.

The person outside the curtain was Ji Youran. She brought a few of Eastern Palace's maids and old maids. When she saw Yu Dong, Ji Youran asked with a gentle expression, "How is your lady?"

"Princess Ji, my lady twisted her ankle, and the Imperial Doctor found that she was in poor health. She needs a period of rest and recuperation." Yu Dong hurriedly stepped forward and greeted.

Another maid came forward and lifted the curtain.

Ji Youran nodded and led the people into the room. In the room, Qu Moying had already stood up, holding the couch. When she saw Ji Youran come in, she bowed with difficulty.

"Cousin, you don't have to be so courteous. How's your injury?" Ji Youran hurried forward with a gentle and concerned expression.

Yu Dong stepped forward and supported Qu Moying.

"Thank you, Princess Ji. I'm fine," Qu Moying said softly.

"What did the Imperial Doctor say?" Ji Youran asked, pulling Qu Moying to sit down.

Qu Moying tilted her body slightly, dodged Ji Youran's hand, and then sat down. Seeing that Qu Moying did not want to be close to her, Ji Youran was very unhappy, but she restrained her displeasure. Crown Prince's words just now were still in her ears. Before she figured out what Pei Yuanjun was up to, she could no longer treat Qu Moying like before.

If this matter only involved a lady of the Vice Minister's Mansion, it would be easy to deal with. Even if Ji Youran wanted to use Qu Moying to show that she and the Crown Princess had a deep sisterhood, it was

only on the surface. In private, everything was all up to her, Princess Ji. She could use whatever attitude she wanted. At least, there was no need to be so polite.

It was the same as when she was angry and warned Qu Moying.

But now that Lord Yun had intervened, the Crown Prince had warned Ji Youran. Even though Ji Youran was aggrieved, she could only endure it, as if she had not argued with Qu Moying before.

"He just said that I twisted my ankle. It's no big deal," Qu Moying said indifferently. Her actions were not intimate, nor were they overly cold.

She was originally very indifferent towards Ji Youran, and her current attitude was the same as before. It would not arouse suspicion.

"Are you really fine? Do you want to call another Imperial Doctor to have a check on you?" Ji Youran said.

Qu Moying shook her head. "Thank you, Princess Ji. I really don't need it. An Imperial Doctor has already checked on me just now. But I have to trouble you to have someone send me out. I'm afraid I won't be able to walk on my way out."

"Cousin, are you leaving now?" Ji Youran asked in surprise.

"There's no need for me to stay here when I'm like this, so I should go back first. Coincidentally, you are here, Princess Ji. I originally wanted to send someone to invite you over." No matter what Pei Yuanjun was up to, at this time, Qu Moying felt that she should go back first.

"Well... I'm afraid you have to ask Lord Yun first." Ji Youran smiled bitterly and shook her head.

"This matter has little to do with Lord Yun. I just accidentally bumped into him, and I fell down myself." Qu Moying shook her head and refused.

"No matter what, it was because of Lord Yun that you fell. The Crown Prince wanted you to stay. You can't just go back like this. Cousin, how about this? You stay first. If you feel good in the afternoon, I will ask someone to send you back. What do you think?" Ji Youran said after thinking for a while.

Just now, the Crown Prince wanted to keep Qu Moying for a while to see how the situation went.

This matter was very mysterious. Previously, there was news from the palace that they were going to choose a concubine for Lord Yun. Now, this matter sounded interesting. Moreover, when Lord Yun left, he specially sent someone to tell the Crown Prince about this matter. No matter what, the Crown Prince must pay attention to it...

Chapter 159 The Emperor Who Tried to Use Pei Yuanjun's Sympathy

The imperial study was in peace. Only the ambergris at the window was burning. The scent contained a faint fragrance that was very calming and refreshing.

"Your Majesty, Lord Yun is here." A eunuch bowed his head and came in to report.

"Summon him!" The Emperor put down the report in his hand. A trace of a smile revealed on his pale face. He turned his head and coughed a few times before his gaze fell on Pei Yuanjun, who was pacing over.

"Greetings, Your Majesty!" Pei Yuanjun strode forward and bowed to the Emperor.

"Take a seat!" With a wave of his hand, the Emperor ordered him with a friendly expression.

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Pei Yuanjun obeyed his instructions and took a seat. He looked up at Emperor Jingde and inquired, "Your Majesty, is there a reason for me to be summoned?"

"I heard that you bumped into a noble lady in Eastern Palace and even injured her. How is she now? Is her injury serious? Do you want me to send a few Imperial Doctors to have a check on her? I hope that

delicate lady is fine. If she is seriously injured, it will be difficult for me to explain it to the officials. I can only ask you to take the blame and marry her.”

Emperor Jingde said with a smile. There was a hint of exhaustion in his expression, but there was a serene look on his face.

Standing beside him, the head eunuch, Li Quan, also looked at Pei Yuanjun with a smile. Ever since the Emperor heard about the news, he immediately sent someone to summon Lord Yun over. Others might not understand the intention of such actions, but Li Quan knew it clearly. The Emperor was desperate for Fourth Lady Qu to be a delicate lady. This way, he would have a chance to push the “blame” onto Lord Yun.

Compared to the other princes, the Emperor was more concerned about Lord Yun’s marriage.

If he could make Lord Yun relent on the matter of marriage, the Emperor wouldn’t mind having another lady in the palace.

“It really was just an accident, Your Majesty!” Pei Yuanjun explained with a cold expression. His beautiful eyes revealed a hint of displeasure. “I don’t even know how she bumped into me.”

“Just an accident?” Emperor Jingde raised his eyebrows. He didn’t believe Pei Yuanjun’s words. Seeing that Pei Yuanjun’s face was getting colder, Emperor Jingde said helplessly, “Even if it was just an accident, we can’t let such a good lady bear such a bad reputation, right?”

“Your Majesty, the two of us didn’t actually knock into each other. What kind of bad reputation does she have to bear?” Pei Yuanjun frowned and retorted impatiently.

“You know you didn’t knock into each other, but if it is spread to the public, you should know how unpleasant it will sound. Ladies value their reputation. If this kind of unpleasant words spread out, how can the lady marry someone?” Emperor Jingde smiled as if he wanted to blame the matter on Pei Yuanjun.

“Your Majesty, it was really just an accident. Moreover, it happened in Eastern Palace, so the Crown Prince will definitely punish his subordinates,” Pei Yuanjun explained, not willing to give in.

“But today is different from the past. Many people went to the Crown Prince’s Mansion today. The Crown Prince was focused on the Crown Princess, so he was not as clear-headed as he used to be. Besides me, even the public know about this incident by now. Do you want her to be single all her life, unable to marry?”

The Emperor insisted stubbornly.

“Your Majesty...” Pei Yuanjun raised his eyebrows and grew impatient. “Are you forcing me to return to the borders now?”

“Even if you have to return to the border, you will have to bring that lady along.” It was rare for such a thing to happen, so the Emperor didn’t intend to let Pei Yuanjun go just like that.

No matter how he thought about it, the Emperor felt that there was something odd about it. If Pei Yuanjun had no feelings for that lady, it was impossible for him to order someone to help her up and send a message to the Crown Prince, asking for an Imperial Doctor to treat her. This was the first time that Emperor Jingde had heard that Pei Yuanjun treated a lady differently.

Since that was the case, Emperor Jingde would not let Pei Yuanjun go just like that.

It was rare to hear about a lady who was treated differently by Pei Yuanjun. Emperor Jingde searched for so many years but didn’t manage to find one. He had always wanted to arrange a marriage for Pei Yuanjun, but the latter was not willing to. Emperor Jingde grew anxious, but he was helpless as he couldn’t force Pei Yuanjun.

“Your Majesty, if you think that she should cultivate at a convent, it is also fine. She’s just the daughter of an insignificant Vice Minister,” Pei Yuanjun answered indifferently as he leaned back. His handsome face carried a look of disgruntlement, laziness, and coldness.

Now, Pei Yuanjun behaved like how he would do in the past. Could it be that he had no further intentions at all to the lady?

Emperor Jingde looked at Pei Yuanjun hesitantly, wanting to confirm what he meant, but the latter's face had already recovered its former indifference.

"Lord Yun, you're not young anymore. When Uncle Yun left the capital that day, he wanted me to look for a fair lady for you. Why haven't you met anyone you like yet? I don't believe that there's no one you're interested in among so many noble ladies in the capital!"

Emperor Jingde huffed helplessly and frowned.

"Your Majesty, what my father said was just a formality," Pei Yuanjun replied indifferently.

"It can't be. Look at you. There are no women in your mansion now. This is even worse than the Crown Prince's situation. Although Crown Prince has a deep affection for the Crown Princess, he has still taken in a few palace maids with him, even though they are not given any status," Emperor Jingde persuaded earnestly.

"This is a small matter, Your Majesty. I have something to report to you." Pei Yuanjun was not interested in the Emperor's words. He waved his hand and said indifferently. Fishing out a report from his robe, he stood up and presented it to the Emperor.

Hearing that it was a serious matter, Li Quan hurriedly took it, carefully presented it in front of Emperor Jingde, opened it for him and then retreated to the side.

After taking a look at it, Emperor Jingde turned serious. "Turmoil in the North?"

"Yes, someone in the North has rebelled. These few days, they have marched to the North's Imperial City. Lord of the North asked us for help." Pei Yuanjun nodded.

"Should we help him?" Emperor asked after reading all the information at one glance. He asked after a moment of silence. It was not a real letter from Lord of the North, but a message from the spy.

"The North has always been a big problem for us, and Lord of the North has never been very respectful to us. Even after many defeats, he continues to provoke us again and again. Sometimes, he even

deliberately says that it is the work of bandits. I think that we should wait it out right now. What do you think, Your Majesty?"

Pei Yuanjun answered calmly.

Emperor Jingde thought for a moment, nodded, and handed the report in his hand forward. "You shall handle this matter. If there is any report from the North, take a look at it first before reporting to me."

"Order accepted, Your Majesty, but if the report from the North isn't sent through proper ways, I might not necessarily be able to receive it." Pei Yuanjun nodded. He had fought with the North before, so he had a better grasp of the North.

He was actually more willing to see the North turn chaotic, so as to prevent the North from pairing up with various clans to attack them. The North's people had always been unreasonable. Although they were small countries that were united, the people there were good at fighting. They had always been a hidden danger for Great Zhou.

Moreover, those people in the past had also escaped to the North, which created an even bigger problem for them...

"I... I know." Emperor Jingde nodded heavily. He knew what Pei Yuanjun meant. If it was sent through proper ways, it would then be considered a national letter. However, if it was a private letter asking for help, he had to investigate it thoroughly. The issue about the North seemed to be just happening in the North, but who knew when it would become Great Zhou's issue.

The officials of Great Zhou had never had a good impression of the North. No matter who it was that helped the North deliver the letter secretly, Emperor Jingde wouldn't have a good impression of him.

"Your Majesty, it might not have been sent over directly. It might also have been an accident," Pei Yuanjun reminded Emperor Jingde implicitly.

"I understand. I'll leave this matter to you!" Emperor Jingde's expression turned cold and a trace of anger appeared on his face. This so-called "accident" was certainly not an accident. This meant that

there were people in his country who had a good relationship with the North. Or, it could be said that the North had someone in Great Zhou and had connections here.

This was the last possibility that Emperor Jingde wanted to see.

“Yes, I’ll take my leave!” Pei Yuanjun responded as he bowed to Emperor Jingde.

“Wait a minute. How are you going to solve your problem?” Emperor Jingde hurriedly stopped him and asked with a straight face, not letting him get away with it.

“Your Majesty...”

Pei Yuanjun frowned helplessly. A look of displeasure and reluctance painted across his handsome face.

“Yuanjun, I don’t want to scold you, but this lady is also very pitiful. She lost her mother when she was a child, and I heard that Vice Minister Qu doesn’t care about her either. She even hurt her eyes. She can’t live a good life in the mansion and even her engagement has been called off. She’s such a pitiful lady. Can you really bear to see such a nice lady being sent to the convent?”

Emperor Jingde started trying to use Pei Yuanjun’s sympathy. The sad look on his face was as if he was pitying Qu Moying. He also stole a glance at Pei Yuanjun. Seeing that Pei Yuanjun stopped in his tracks and there was a trace of hesitation in his eyes, Emperor Jingde continued earnestly, “How about you throw a hint at Qu Mansion that you would marry her? When you officially wed a Princess Consort later, she will be given the title of a Princess. How about this?”

Since she was a lady from Vice Minister’s Mansion and had an eye problem, she couldn’t be the Princess Consort of Lord Yun. However, she could still be given the title of a Princess. It wasn’t easy for Pei Yuanjun to give in, so how could Emperor Jingde let it go? If Pei Yuanjun agreed to take her as his Princess, it would be soon before he married a Princess Consort.

As long as Pei Yuanjun agreed, everything in the future could be further discussed. Emperor Jingde was afraid that Pei Yuanjun would insist that he didn’t have a woman of interest, which would delay the marriage again and again for God knew how long. It was a great opportunity now. Emperor Jingde could

not let such an opportunity slip away! This was why when Emperor Jingde heard about the incident, he immediately sent someone to summon Pei Yuanjun over.

“Your Majesty, we can talk about this later. But in the future... I hope that there won’t be such incidents again!” Pei Yuanjun huffed with a cold expression on his handsome face.

He wouldn’t even come over if it weren’t for the Emperor’s order!

This matter was an accident, and it was not merely an accident!

“Alright. We’ll talk about it in the future. There’s no rush. I heard that Miss Qu is quite young herself.” The Emperor laughed heartily as he agreed without hesitation. Deep down, he was truly satisfied. Sure enough, Miss Qu from Qu Mansion was different from others. At the very least, Pei Yuanjun didn’t reject her instantly. His answer was equivalent to acknowledging that he agreed on this matter.

This was something that had never happened before, so the Emperor was extremely gratified.

With a dark expression, Pei Yuanjun turned around and strode away. Watching him scurrying off, Emperor Jingde smiled wider as he felt happy. He then coughed loudly, causing his pale face to turn red. Seeing that, Li Quan hurriedly served some tea before standing behind Emperor Jingde and patting his back.

“Don’t worry, Your Majesty. Lord Yun will live a better life!” Li Quan comforted Emperor Jingde in a low voice.

After stopping his cough with great difficulty, Emperor Jingde looked at the door of the imperial study and sighed. A trace of sadness flashed in his eyes. “I let him down!”

Chapter 160 A More Distinguished Person in Eastern Palace?

In the end, Qu Moying was persuaded by Ji Youran to stay!

Realizing that she couldn't refuse, Qu Moying could only agree. After she exchanged a few words with Ji Youran indifferently, the latter left.

Once the others were sent out of the room, Qu Moying took out the jewelry box in her sleeve. It was the same jewelry box that Ji Youran had given to her before. Although it looked exquisite, it was considered way too ordinary in the Crown Prince's Mansion.

After opening the box, she saw a broken blood jade bracelet. As her gaze fell on one of the small pieces, her hands trembled slightly. Qu Moying had worn this bracelet for years, so even if it was just a small part of it, she could still recognize it. She was certain that it was a part of the blood bracelet that she had once worn on her wrist.

Moreover, this was the only small piece that was real. Ji Youran had indeed gone to Linyuan Pavilion to fish for it, but she didn't obtain much. This was the only piece that was real.

It was a broken piece of her bracelet. Other than this small piece, the rest weren't from her bracelet. The color was different. Although it looked blood-red, it was actually not the same blood jade bracelet. Ji Youran wanted to use this broken bracelet to fool and convince Qu Moying that she had broken the bracelet.

The bracelet was carried by Yu Dong at that time. Qu Moying managed to take advantage of the situation and snatched it back. After that, Yu Dong fell and collided with a young servant, who was Lord Wei's young servant! Ji Youran must think that even if Qu Moying found that the bracelet on Yu Dong was broken, Qu Moying wouldn't dare to say anything. After all, she was going to deal with Lord Wei, Pei Qingmin, at that time.

Ji Youran believed in the end, Qu Moying could only admit that she was unlucky, whereas Ji Youran could swap her blood jade bracelet without batting an eyelid.

The corner of her lips curved silently, and her smile was bone-chilling. She had long known that when Ji Youran saw her bracelet, the latter would definitely make a move. It was not because of the high value of the bracelet, but because Ji Youran had an indescribable sense of liking and care for this pair of blood jade bracelets. It was obvious when Ji Youran had snatched her younger sister's bracelet and wore it.

Picking up the small piece of the blood jade bracelet, Qu Moying forcefully pursed her lips. Her slender fingers trembled as she caressed that piece. It was a tiny and delicate piece, which was the size of the tip of her little finger. The broken part wasn't smooth either, and there was a gap in the bracelet. It was broken badly, and her eyes were filled with a bloodthirsty chill.

It seemed that even if she died, they didn't let her go.

After she was pushed into the lake and died that day, Pei Luo'an must have sent some people to salvage her body. This small piece of the blood jade bracelet should have been retrieved at that time.

The blood jade bracelet was very tiny, and it was even more difficult to find after breaking into several pieces. It was lucky to be able to find such a small piece.

Although this piece was small, there was a small flower bud with five petals on it. The original green gem on it was no longer there, and there were another three green gems about the same size in the corner. This was the tactic that Ji Youran used to confuse her.

Unfortunately, Qu Moying could tell at a glance that these green gems were not hers.

Ji Youran took it for granted that as long as Qu Moying saw that the bracelet was broken, the latter wouldn't further check it. After all, the jewelry box was the exact one as before, and it couldn't be wrong.

Unfortunately, Ji Youran was wrong. Her identity wasn't only Qu Moying, but also Ji Hanyue.

There was suddenly a sharp pain in her fingers, which was caused by accidentally gripping the broken part of the bracelet. Blood immediately gushed out of her pale finger.

"My lady!" Yu Dong cried out in shock.

Qu Moying shook her hand, indicating Yu Dong that there was no need to panic. She put down the blood bracelet that was stained with her own blood as the feeling of pain surged like a tide in her heart.

Looking at the blood bracelet, Qu Moying felt pity for her younger sister. Her younger sister was killed at such a young age, and even her arm was chopped off. All for this bracelet?

Today, this bracelet was in Ji Youran's hand. For the sake of having a matching pair of them, Ji Youran even plotted a scheme to get the one in Qu Moying's hand.

"My lady..." Yu Dong called her in a low voice again.

Qu Moying looked depressed. At this time, she even didn't care about her injured hand. Yu Dong instantly felt a heavy and solemn atmosphere.

"Put it away!" Qu Moying put the bracelet away and closed the lid.

"My lady, why did Princess Ji want to switch your bracelet?" Yu Dong took it and asked carefully. He was still quite confused about this matter.

"Yue also has this pair of bracelets. She gave it to the Crown Princess." Qu Moying covered her finger with a handkerchief and answered in a hushed tone. Her head hung low, so no one could see the expression on her face.

"So does this piece of the bracelet belong to the Crown Princess?" Yu Dong thought for a moment before his expression changed greatly.

Although the small piece of the blood jade bracelet looked the same as the others, it was still different when looked at carefully. There was also a flower bud below, which was very similar to the flower bud on the blood jade bracelet of Qu Moying's.

Did that mean that there was another reason behind the Crown Princess' death? Thinking of that, Yu Dong no longer remained calm. He turned to look at Qu Moying in panic, only to see that Qu Moying's side profile was as calm as still water. Only then did he let out a sigh of relief. It was definitely not what he had thought. His lady was the Crown Princess' cousin, so she might know something else.

"It should be. Put it away." Qu Moying nodded. She had brought over the blood jade bracelet today just for this small piece.

In fact, it might not really be there, but she would still do it even if she was just trying out her luck.

She didn't expect to be lucky enough to obtain it. This small piece of the blood jade bracelet didn't seem to be useful at the moment, but if she used it as evidence in the future, it would be a trump card. At the most critical moment, it could make a comeback. Moreover, there was a clear flower bud on this small piece.

This would be enough!

As for the bracelet that was sent to Ji Youran, it was just a bait...

"Yes, I'll put it away!" Yu Dong didn't dare to ask further and carefully hid it in his sleeve.

"How did your investigation go just now?" Qu Moying was silent for a while. When she calmed herself down, she inquired Yu Dong softly. Just now, she had asked Yu Dong to find out what had happened previously.

Bumping into Pei Yuanjun was something she had never expected. What was even more surprising was that Pei Yuanjun didn't stop in his tracks but took a few steps forward instead. She subconsciously took a step back and stepped on a piece of gravel. She lost her balance and she fell to the ground. At that time, Pei Yuanjun had a strange expression on his face.

It was indescribable!

It felt strange. Qu Moying had an intuition that there was something going on.

"Yes, I went to ask around. They said that it was surprising that Lord Yun came to Eastern Palace. Today is Crown Princess' funeral. Lord Yun is an elder, and his status isn't ordinary. Before this, he said that he wouldn't come, but he did come eventually for some reason. Moreover, he did not go to see the Crown Prince directly but came to the backyard instead."

Yu Dong reported. This was all of the information he could gather. As for the rest, it wasn't something that a little maid of Vice Minister's Mansion could find out.

In fact, Yu Dong was more willing to ask Eunuch Ji Hai about it directly, but this wasn't a convenient timing to see Eunuch Ji Hai given the fact that he was now in Eastern Palace.

He thought that it was a strange matter. Lord Yun's behavior was really a little out of the norm.

"Lord Yun did not go and see Crown Prince but directly went into the inner yard?" Qu Moying paused and was somewhat puzzled. She casually pinched her fingertips, and she felt a dull pain.

"Yes, that's what I heard." Yu Dong nodded. No matter how much he tried as he beat around the bush, it was useless. He couldn't find out about anything else.

"Were there other people in the Crown Prince's Mansion's backyard today?" Qu Moying frowned and asked a new question.

"Yes. I heard that County Lady Jingyu was also here. There were also a few other ladies." Yu Dong had inquired about the news in detail. Even though he felt that it was useless, he asked about it as well. Now that Qu Moying asked, he could answer her swiftly.

"Today is the day of Crown Princess' funeral. Why are there so many ladies coming over?" Qu Moying pondered for a moment and inquired. She had seen County Lady Jingyu earlier, who turned around and left upon seeing Qu Moying. County Lady Jingyu's gaze, which was filled with disgust and annoyance, swept across Qu Moying. It could be seen that County Lady Jingyu was truly unwilling to see her.

Although she didn't know how she had offended County Lady Jingyu, the latter's appearance itself was already surprising.

When they were delivering Crown Princess' coffin out earlier, she didn't see any other ladies nor County Lady Jingyu. By reason, since they were in Crown Prince's Mansion, they had to join the procession no matter what. After all, it was the Crown Princess' funeral. Her status was noble. Even if they weren't close relatives, they had to send her off as a sign of respect.

"I couldn't get any news about this." Yu Dong lowered his head and responded.

Qu Moying had a thoughtful gaze. There was something going on in Crown Prince's Mansion today, and that was the reason why County Lady Jingyu and the other ladies had visited. But on such a day, what else was more important than the Crown Princess' funeral?

"The Crown Princess' procession is a huge event. What other matters could be more important than that?" Qu Moying was puzzled and mumbled to herself. Although she no longer felt reluctant to part with her original body, namely Crown Princess', she understood the importance of this identity.

It made no sense!

This kind of thing shouldn't have happened!

"Could there be someone else with an even more noble status?" Yu Dong muttered from the side. After he finished speaking, the master-and-servant duo suddenly raised their heads and looked at each other in shock.

Yu Dong's lips trembled a little, but in the end, he did not say a word.

As for Qu Moying, she exhaled deeply. The corners of her lips curved up silently into a sardonic smirk. She finally understood what was going on. How impatient were they that they couldn't wait any longer for such a thing to happen?

"My lady..." After a long while, Yu Dong finally came to his senses and called out to Qu Moying.

Qu Moying shook her hand, indicating that he did not need to say anything. Her eyes were filled with ridicule. They presented themselves with the most honorable status, but they lacked the least bit of dignity. How ironic.

"My lady..." Yu Dong wanted to say something more but suddenly heard a low voice coming from outside, "Fourth Lady Qu."

After the master-and-servant duo looked at each other, Yu Dong walked to the door and asked, "What is it?"

"I'm here to escort Fourth Lady Qu to lunch," the maid outside the door responded respectfully.

"Can't you bring it over? It's inconvenient for my lady to walk around," Yu Dong replied unhappily. He walked out of the door and saw a maid from Crown Prince's Mansion standing in the corridor.

"It's in the courtyard next door, and it's just a short walk from here. Princess Ji has already asked to prepare it," the maid continued with a smile.

"Wait here. I will ask my lady." Yu Dong raised his head and looked like a proud maid who relied on someone powerful.

"Okay, I shall wait outside," the maid from Eastern Palace responded politely.