

## **Noble Wife 161**

### **Chapter 161 Who Was Behind the Screen?**

The yard was indeed right beside, but it looked a bit bigger than the guest yard where Qu Moying had just rested. As Qu Moying stood outside the yard entrance, her eyes became a bit colder.

This yard was actually also a guest yard for resting, but usually, women living here were not ordinary ones.

The women who could stay in this guest yard in Eastern Palace were all extraordinary. They were usually women like the Princesses and the mandated Old Ladies. The ordinary noble ladies basically could only stay and rest in the yard where she had been just now.

At present, Qu Moying felt that she was extraordinary. She rested in an ordinary guest yard, but she was going to have lunch in this extraordinary guest yard.

Yu Dong, who was holding Qu Moying's arms, clearly felt Qu Moying dawdling, so he subconsciously called out, "My lady!"

"Let's go!" Qu Moying shook her head gently and slowly walked in.

Since Ji Youran wanted to lure her over, Qu Moying would then come and take a look. No one would know about her rebirth, so as long as she was careful, she would not be in danger.

"Fourth Lady Qu, please." The maid leading the way pointed to a room in the middle and said.

Her expression was extremely respectful, and the smile on her face became even more gentle. Even her footsteps became a bit lighter.

Qu Moying took two steps forward and stood at the door, but she did not go in straightaway.

"Is there anyone else?" She asked with a frown.

"Fourth Lady Qu, there is no one else, only you." The maid replied in a low voice. Her hands were clasped in front of her stomach, and she appeared even more respectful than before. Her voice also softened.

"Will Princess Ji be here?" Qu Moying asked.

"Princess Ji is still busy at the front. I'm afraid she won't have time to accompany you. Fourth Lady Qu, if you'd like to see Princess Ji, I will report it to her a moment later."

The maid's answer was watertight.

The maid said she could report it, but it didn't mean Qu Moying could see Princess Ji. She was just delivering a message.

These words had a deep meaning.

"In your mansion... does Princess Ji hold the highest rank now?" Qu Moying suddenly became curious and she stopped in her tracks.

"I do not know. Fourth Lady Qu, please go in!" The maid did not dare to answer. She reached out her hand and hung her head even lower.

Qu Moying already knew something in her heart. The corners of her lips curved quietly. She no longer made things difficult for the maid. Then, she held Yu Dong's hand and slowly walked in.

There was a round table that was not too big in the room. On the table was a large food basket. The dishes had not been taken out of the basket yet. There was only a chair at the table and nothing else.

The room was actually quite big, but it was separated by a screen. The part behind the screen was connected to the inner room behind. At first glance, it looked very small for those who were unfamiliar with the place.

The broad, eight-panel screen blocked everything inside the room behind.

Yu Dong helped Qu Moying sit down at the table. The maid opened the food basket and took out the dishes inside.

There were five dishes and one kind of soup. It was not much but very exquisite. There was also a big bowl of rice. The amount was big.

Qu Moying sat down and her gaze stopped at the soup. The faint fragrance was somewhat familiar. As it was blended with the fragrance of dishes and rice, the fragrance was particularly faint that it was almost unnoticeable.

The soup was mushroom soup. Naturally, it gave off some fragrance. The fragrance was really faint.

Qu Moying swept her gaze over the food. She took over the bowl of rice that Yu Dong passed to her. After taking a few bites, she put it down and wiped her mouth with a handkerchief.

"Fourth Lady Qu, do you think it's not good? Would you like me to ask the kitchen to make a few more?" Thinking that Qu Moying did not like the taste of these dishes, the maid hurriedly said.

When Qu Moying was eating, she only picked a little, and she did not eat much rice.

"No. I just feel uncomfortable and don't have an appetite." Qu Moying shook her head, looking unwell. Others could tell that she was not in high spirits. She touched her forehead, and the smile on her lips appeared a little tired. "Today is Crown Princess' ... I am not in the mood!"

These words made it difficult for the maid to respond.

On the day of the Crown Princess' funeral, she should not have a belly-worship, right?

"Then Fourth Lady Qu, please sit for a while. I will bring you some fruits." The maid hesitated for a moment and responded quickly.

Qu Moying only sat down not long ago, and she was about to leave after a few mouthfuls.

"No need. I will go back first!" Qu Moying shook her head.

"Fourth Lady Qu, don't leave just yet. Princess Ji might come here to see you." The maid hurriedly said when she saw that Qu Moying was determined to leave.

Yu Dong saw that the maid was trying hard to persuade Qu Moying to stay, so he also explained, "My lady is already feeling unwell. I'm afraid she can't hold on any longer. So she'll leave and rest first."

As Qu Moying nodded, she looked paler. She held Yu Dong's hand and stood up. Then, she turned to walk out.

Seeing that she was about to leave, the maid became a little anxious. She took two steps forward and was about to speak when she saw Yu Dong glaring at her angrily. Only then did she stop going forward.

Yu Dong took the opportunity to help Qu Moying walk past the maid.

Stunned, the maid subconsciously turned to look behind the screen. She did not dare to breathe too loudly, and her eyes were nervous.

After turning to look at her, Qu Moying understood something, and she turned to leave with Yu Dong supporting her.

This was Eastern Palace. Of course, Ji Youran would not secretly come to see her. If Qu Moying had guessed correctly, it should be that person. However, Qu Moying did not expect that she would come out of the palace today.

In Qu Moying's last life, that person was very nice. Sometimes, she even disregarded her son's face for Qu Moying's sake. However, it turned out to be a show. Before Ji Hanyue's coffin was brought out of Eastern Palace's door, she was already choosing a new wife for her son.

On the reason for attending the funeral of the Crown Princess of Eastern Palace, she was actually doing such a thing. She was not even worried that her good name would be ruined and that others would gossip about her.

A thoughtful look flashed in Qu Moying's eyes. So, Pei Yuanjun came not because of Ji Hanyue but because of this person?

Qu Moying left with Yu Dong. The maid in the room fell on her knees, bowed her head, and bent her body into a ball, not daring to move.

Gradually, there was a sound behind the screen. Someone came over and pushed the screen to the side, and the maid became even more afraid to move.

The screen was pushed open. In the middle, there was a big cedar chair. On the chair sat a graceful and luxurious woman. Although her facial features were not the most outstanding, she had an extraordinary bearing. Looking at the maid with a cold face, she snorted coldly.

Ji Youran stood aside. Her hands fell down and she did not dare to move. She had been maintaining this posture for a long time. Even if her hands were sore, she did not dare to move.

With her head low, Ji Youran looked at the ground. She was as nervous as the maid.

She never thought that the Empress would come today. She originally thought that the person who came would be just a manager working by the Empress' side. She did not expect that the Empress would come in person. This made her panic.

The Empress was not the Crown Prince. The Empress had never been nice to Ji Youran. In the past, when Ji Youran followed Ji Hanyue into the palace, the Empress only liked Ji Hanyue but not her.

She was kind to Ji Hanyue but did not pay any attention to Ji Youran.

Today's matter was really just an accident for her. Originally, she was happy that there were many noble ladies who came today. There were even ladies like County Lady Jingyu who had a high status. Unexpectedly, they did not come to accompany her. The Empress' secret arrival had already made things clear.

But before this, Ji Youran did not know anything. She only thought that although she invited none of the noble ladies, they came to curry favor with her and wanted to serve as a foil to her. There were a few of these noble ladies whom she was not able to curry favor with in the past. Now, they came to curry favor with her, uninvited. How could Ji Youran not be happy?

It was only later that she understood that it was not for her. She did not even know anything until the Empress arrived at the mansion.

However, no matter how angry she was, she did not dare to make a single move.

This also made her realize for the first time that she was not the real female host of Eastern Palace. If the Crown Prince did not want to tell her about something, she would be a nobody.

Being only a Princess made Ji Youran aggrieved and angry. However, there was nothing she could do. Her drooped eyes revealed a trace of hatred. She had spent so much effort killing Ji Hanyue's entire family, all for the sake of the position of the Crown Princess.

Now that she was about to get the position, how could she be willing to see the position fall into someone else's hands?

"That was Fourth Lady Qu?" The Empress' gaze fell on the door. Qu Moying did not stay for a long time, so the Empress hadn't heard and seen much.

"Your Highness, it was indeed the Fourth Lady from Vice Minister Qu's Mansion just now. Her appearance wasn't elegant, and she didn't even have any talent. Besides, her eyesight wasn't good either. Although she could make out things, what she sees is blurry." Ji Youran answered carefully. When the Empress asked to see Qu Moying, she was shocked.

Although her words were euphemistic, when one thought about it carefully, one would only think that Qu Moying was someone useless.

“No talent, no beauty. Moreover, she has an eye disease. Is that why she bumped into Lord Yun?” The Empress said indifferently. Her gaze still did not fall on Ji Youran. The Empress had never cared about Ji Youran, the so-called Princess Ji. She had never thought of letting Ji Youran be her daughter-in-law. Of course, she would not care if Ji Youran was just a Princess. If her son liked her, let him.

However, the Empress would not let Ji Youran become the Crown Princess. She looked down on Ji Youran from the bottom of her heart and completely ignored the latter.

Suddenly, Ji Youran’s heart skipped a beat. She squeezed the handkerchief in her hand hard, and her hands were wet with sweat. As if having realized something, she did not dare to answer again and only lowered her head.

Fortunately, the Empress did not expect Ji Youran to answer this question. After asking, the Empress shifted her gaze on the door. If this was how it was going to be, it was actually not bad.

She was willing to do her best to facilitate this matter!

Helping Pei Yuanjun find a match was just an excuse for her arrival today. Her real purpose was to do it for her son. However, before Pei Yuanjun even entered the inner yard, he left in a hurry. It was said that he had bumped into this Fourth Lady Qu. Whether this was intentional on Fourth Lady Qu’s part or not, the Empress was willing to match them up.

Qu Zhizhen, an insignificant Vice Minister, was really not of much use!

If the Empress drew a blank after she left the palace today, she would have nothing to report to the Emperor, but now she had. Standing up, she did not look at Ji Youran, who was standing at the side. The Empress took a few palace servants and headed inside. She wanted to have a closer look at those noble ladies. It was indeed different to examine the ladies in the palace versus in Eastern Palace. At least, it would be much more convenient for her son...

Ji Hanyue's funeral had given her a reason to leave the palace...

## Chapter 162 The Dowry Shops of Yue Family

Qu Moying did not stay long in Eastern Palace. After lunch, she left. Ji Youran did not come over and only asked someone to send the soft sedan chair over.

Qu Moying got on the soft sedan chair and was brought all the way to the place where the carriage was parked at the gate of the mansion.

After getting off the soft sedan chair and getting on the carriage, the carriage turned a corner. It did not return directly to Qu Mansion but went to the main street.

The main street was the same as Crown Prince's Mansion. It was covered in snow-white banners waving in the air. The sound of crying could be heard from time to time. Although Ji Hanyue's coffin had left the city gate, there were still crying sounds.

However, when this cry fell into Qu Moying's ears, it sounded ironic.

People in Eastern Palace had already used the excuse of the Crown Princess' funeral to seek their own fun. However, these irrelevant people were still crying. It could be seen how the ways of the world were.

The carriage stopped in a teahouse. Qu Moying put on a veiled hat and got out of the carriage with Yu Dong's help.

She twisted her ankle. It was fine at this time. It was just that her foot was a little bit weak, and she did not dare to exert much strength. After using the ointment, she could still walk if she did not exert too much strength.

She did not go upstairs and only got a private room downstairs.



Today was the Crown Princess' funeral, so the business in the teahouse was not very good. Many of the private rooms that were very fully booked in the past were also empty. Qu Moying took Yu Dong to get a private room facing the street.

After serving tea, the waiter left.

Qu Moying sat down and her gaze fell on the shop across the street.

Coincidentally, this teahouse was in the middle of the two shops across the street.

Of these two shops, one was a gold jewelry shop and the other was a clothing shop. The two shops looked like they belonged to the same owner. The architectural style was similar and the height was similar. Even the eaves that were raised had an identical Heaven Swallowing Beast with two rolling pearls.

However, Qu Moying knew that these two shops did not belong to the same owner.

The gold jewelry shop in the east now belonged to Crown Prince's Mansion. To be more precise, it should have fallen into Ji Youran's hands and become Ji Youran's dowry. When Ji Youran first entered Eastern Palace, she was in such a hurry that there was not even a ceremony, let alone any dowry.

As for the clothing shop in the west, it should have fallen into Yu's hands. Yu was not so powerful in Qu Mansion as she used to be, but it did not mean that Yu had been deprived of all the things she had. They could be still in her hands. It was also possible that they were now in Qu Qiuyan's hands. It was even possible that Yu planned to use them as dowry for Qu Qiuyan in the future.

In the past, of these two shops, one was Yue's dowry and the other was Second Madam Qu's dowry. Now, both of them had fallen into the hands of others in an unfair way.

The ownership had changed, but the shops were still in good business.

"My lady, is there anything wrong with these two shops?" Yu Dong saw that she frequently glanced at the two shops across the street but did not say anything, and he could not help but ask.

“One is Cousin Hanyue’s dowry, and the other belongs to our mansion— it is Mother’s dowry,” Qu Moying said slowly. She did not say that it belonged to her.

Second Madam Qu’s dowry had never been given to her since she was driven to the village.

“No wonder!” Yu Dong immediately understood after thinking about it. No wonder the two shops looked like they belonged to the same family. Originally, they indeed belonged to the same family. It was the dowry that Yue Family gave to the two daughters when they got married. That was why the shops were next to each other. It was because they wanted the two sisters to be together and take care of each other.

However, things were different now. The two sisters were long gone, and now the two shops were not in the hands of the descendants as they should be. It was tragic.

“My lady, what should we do?” After figuring this out, Yu Dong immediately asked.

Qu Moying shook her head. “Wait a little longer!”

She didn’t have any evidence right now, and she couldn’t make a scene. If she made a scene at this time, it wouldn’t benefit her at all. She had to find a good opportunity.

Her watery eyes swept over the clothing shop in front of her. The shop was not small, and it was on such a lively street. There should be a lot of customers. In the past, when she came to visit the shops nearby, she would also take a look at this place. The business of this clothing shop was really good, but there was one thing—the shopkeeper was a relative of Yu.

She was still Ji Hanyue at that time, and she knew it by chance. However, the former Qu Moying didn’t say anything, and she was far away from the village. In this case, what could Ji Hanyue say?

A middle-aged man walked out with a cage in his hand. He had a fat head and big ears. She was very clear that this was the shopkeeper of the clothing shop, who was in charge of this shop. He was under the command of Yu. He was also surnamed Yu. He should be a member of Yu Family, but it was said to the outside that he was a relative of Yu.

"This person is a member of Yu Family. He is a relative of Yu. Get someone to check on him. Now, he is in charge of this clothing shop. He is the shopkeeper here." Qu Moying came here today to bring Yu Dong to see him.

"Got it." Yu Dong immediately understood what she meant. After taking a few more glances, he remembered the characteristics.

"I heard that this person is Yu's elder cousin brother. In the past, he was an idler and lived an ordinary life. After he took control of this shop, his days began to change." Qu Moying told him what she knew before.

"Don't worry, my lady. This must be the Second Madam's confidant. I understand." Yu Dong understood immediately and nodded repeatedly. Now, he knew what to investigate.

Qu Moying glanced at the gold jewelry shop next to her. This shop used to be run by her subordinates. Now, it must be under the watch of Ji Youran. If the owner had changed, naturally the confidant would be changed too. Even if the shopkeeper did not change for the time being, it would happen sooner or later. It was just because Ji Youran did not want to attract attention for now.

Things were closely related. She could not directly interfere with Ji Hanyue's affairs, but she could draw out the matter of Ji Hanyue based on Qu Mansion's matters.

However, this matter was of great importance. Right now, she was not capable enough, so she could only gather evidence step by step.

The door suddenly opened. Yu Dong immediately turned his head and stared at the door. He wanted to see who was so ignorant of the rules. However, when he found that the person standing at the door was the familiar, smiling Eunuch Ji Hai, he was stunned for a moment and subconsciously turned to look at Qu Moying.

Qu Moying also saw Ji Hai. Seeing him bow to her, Qu Moying asked, "Is Lord Yun here?"

Ji Hai smiled and nodded. He moved to the side. Pei Yuanjun appeared behind him with a cold face. He strode into the room and sat down on the chair opposite Qu Moying. Ji Hai glanced at Yu Dong. Yu Dong then looked at Qu Moying. Qu Moying nodded to him silently. Only then did Yu Dong and Ji Hai leave.

Qu Moying gracefully bowed to Pei Yuanjun and then raised her head, waiting for Pei Yuanjun to speak.

After Pei Yuanjun sat down, his fingers gently tapped on the table. Suddenly, he looked up at Qu Moying and chuckled, "I bumped into you today for a reason."

"Lord Yun, what do you want to say?" Qu Moying looked at Pei Yuanjun and asked in a neither servile nor overbearing manner. Her eyes were silent. She had thought that this matter would end here, but now it seemed that this was not the end.

Pei Yuanjun's slender fingers tapped on the table a few more times, and his voice carried a bit of coldness. "My mansion lacks a Princess, and it just so happens that your engagement has been called off. Why don't you come to my mansion and take charge of the internal affairs for me?"

Qu Moying's pupils contracted slightly, and her gaze fell on Pei Yuanjun. She suppressed the uneasiness in her heart. The imperial family was out of her league. She should respectfully refuse.

"Lord Yun, you need a Princess?" Taking a deep breath, she suppressed the uneasiness in her heart and calmly asked.

"Yes, I need a Princess," Pei Yuanjun said. His expression was lazy, but there was a bit of leisure in it. He casually said, but his eyes were tightly locked on Qu Moying. There was gloom in his eyes that Qu Moying could not understand.

"Lord Yun, even though you need a Princess, I am still young. I am still not of marriageable age," Qu Moying said indifferently. There was no shyness on her face. It was as if she was talking about other people's matters. There was no expectation or much rejection.

"I am not in a hurry. I just need to give you a title first, or maybe it is not even a title. It's an agreement for the time being." Pei Yuanjun tapped his fingers on the table a few more times before he put it down.

The corners of his lips slightly curved, diluting the fierce aura he had. His beautiful eyes suddenly looked a bit enchanting.

“The Emperor was urging me so hard. I happened to bump into you, so he thought that I took a fancy to you, so he made this an excuse!” Pei Yuanjun explained, which was rarely seen.

After a moment of silence, Qu Moying’s watery eyes silently fell on Pei Yuanjun’s face. She understood Pei Yuanjun’s words. He did not really want her to be his Princess. It was just an oral agreement. The Emperor would not issue a decree at this time. As long as Pei Yuanjun expressed determined opposition in the future, this oral agreement would not take effect.

If Pei Yuanjun married his own Princess Consort in the future and did not want Qu Moying anymore, he could also not mention this oral agreement.

The matter of being his Princess was just a shield for the time being. It was just a report to the Emperor.

To Pei Yuanjun, this was a matter of great profit and no harm. It would not affect him much. However, it was not the case for her. Even if it were just a report to the Emperor, there would definitely be others who would know. Just like the Empress just now. The person behind the screen must have been the Empress.

The Empress spent much effort coming here definitely because of Pei Yuanjun. Since the Empress already knew about it, there would be more people who would know about it in the future.

Even if there was no decree, no one would dare to come and ask to marry her in the future. If Pei Yuanjun did not marry her in the future, her life would also be ruined.

Fortunately, she had never thought of marrying anyone in this life. It was good that no one came to ask for marriage at this time. At least no one would hinder her revenge. At present, she had to rely on Qu Mansion to investigate things. She did not want to have an engagement with anyone.

She had long known how heartless the men in this world were!

Pei Luo'an was such an "affectionate" person, but today, he had followed Empress over. While mourning for Ji Hanyue, he used the excuse of finding a lady for Pei Yuanjun to select a new Crown Princess for himself.

"Very well!" Since she had thought it through, it was a good thing that no one wanted to marry her. Qu Moying no longer hesitated and nodded with a sweet smile.

Her cherry lips curved into a smile, and the smile on her pale face was vivid. There was no hint of reluctance.

"Aren't you afraid of having your reputation ruined? In that case, no one will ask to marry you in the future." Pei Yuanjun found her calmness and decisiveness interesting. The gloom in his eyes faded away, and he smiled lazily.

#### Chapter 163 Princess Jing or Crown Princess? A Dilemma!

"It's good not to marry!" Qu Moying smiled shyly, a hint of ridicule appearing on her lips. "I heard that when my mother got married, she was full of expectations. But in the end, she ended up like this. Not only did she fail to protect herself, but even her own child was chased out of the house."

The so-called title of Second Madam Qu had been taken by Yu ever since then.

Her mother's expectations had long become riddled with holes.

Moreover, if she dared to find the Crown Prince for revenge, she might end up with a horrible death. She didn't even know what could possibly happen in the future, so she had no intention of getting married.

"Maybe you will meet a good man one day." Pei Yuanjun curved his thin lips and pulled his wide sleeves gracefully.

“Someone like Young Master Yongning?” Qu Moying tossed the question back at him, sounding unconcerned.

Young Master Yongning, Xu Lipeng, had been keeping the secret for many years. At that time, everyone would say something good about him when he was mentioned in a conversation, but the truth was that he had already hooked up with Yu Qingmeng long ago.

If Qu Moying hadn’t found out the truth, she might have only known the truth after marrying him. She would have the same fate as her mother’s and end up in tragedy. In the end, Yu Qingmeng would take the position of the first wife, and after she died, she would have nothing left behind.

Xu Lipeng and Qu Zhizhen were similar cases.

Hearing that, Pei Yuanjun was in a good mood. “Don’t worry, I will marry you in the future.”

The corners of Qu Moying’s lips curled up. She then replied indifferently, “Lord Yun, you should ask your Princess Consort later. It’s too early to say that now.”

She heard that Lord Yun had always been unwilling to get married. Who knew when he would marry a Princess Consort?

Those words made Pei Yuanjun burst into laughter. He stood up and walked towards Qu Moying. Qu Moying wasn’t tall enough. Standing in front of him, she appeared shorter. She had to raise her head to look at his face.

Pei Yuanjun reached out and patted her head. Looking at her face in a good mood, he uttered, “If you need anything in the future, send Yu Dong to me.”

“Thank you, Lord Yun!” Qu Moying breathed a sigh of relief.

She had pondered over it before she answered decisively just now. In fact, she had no say in this matter at all. It was all up to Pei Yuanjun. Qu Moying knew clearly that as long as Pei Yuanjun agreed, the Emperor would issue a decree for their marriage immediately.

Since he had specifically informed her of it, she should express her attitude and leave a good impression on Pei Yuanjun.

Right now, the most powerful person she could rely on was Pei Yuanjun.

If Pei Luo'an ascended the throne, he would not accept Pei Yuanjun. In this case, she shared the same purpose with Pei Yuanjun. Even if she had to fight to death, she would still take revenge.

Pei Yuanjun smiled. His long lashes on his enchanting, beautiful eyes fluttered a few times. His smile reached his eyes, and he was increasingly interested in what this young lady had up her sleeves.

He could tell that she had a goal, and it was becoming more and more interesting. Giving her the title of a Princess didn't seem like a bad idea, and he could even let her go up higher.

Ji Hai glanced at the handsome face of Lord Yun, who walked past him. He breathed a sigh of relief in his heart. After bowing to Qu Moying, Ji Hai hurriedly followed Lord Yun out. There was also a hint of a smile in his eyes. He knew that Lord Yun treated Fourth Lady Qu differently. Otherwise, Lord Yun would not have come over to ask her personally.

It sounded like his Master could let Fourth Lady Qu make the decision, but Ji Hai knew his Master's character all too well. Usually, if it was beneficial to him, his Master would not care about how the other party would think and feel.

But this time, his Master had personally made a trip. When he was outside just now, the door was left ajar, so Ji Hai had been listening to their conversation with his ears pricked up.

Narrowing his eyes, Ji Hai followed behind his Master. The latter was in a good mood. To be frank, what was most important was that his Master was in high spirits!

There was a big-scale gold jewelry shop opposite them. Ji Hai took a step forward and smiled, "Sir, do you want to go and take a look?"



“What for?” Pei Yuanjun questioned indifferently.

“Fourth Lady Qu might like those,” Ji Hai hinted. His Master never had any other woman by his side. Even Lady Liu could not get close to him. Therefore, he must not know what women liked.

Pei Yuanjun raised his beautiful eyes and looked at the gold jewelry shop. However, he only glanced at it briefly. He then glanced sideways at Ji Hai, who was smiling from ear to ear, and snorted coldly, “What does it have to do with me?”

After he finished speaking, he sauntered towards the carriage that was parked at the side.

The huge carriage didn’t blend in at all. With a single glance, one could instantly tell that its owner was rich and powerful. The guards standing around were seething maliciously. The passers-by practically didn’t dare to approach the path they were on, and they all avoided it from a distance. When they saw Lord Yun coming over with his cold gaze sweeping over them, everyone felt cold sweat on their backs as they scurried far away.

Only those who were far away couldn’t sense the malicious aura surrounding the area. They thought that this Master was incomparably handsome, and there was a trace of dignity in his enchanting charm. He was truly the best candidate for a husband.

Far away, there was a pavilion, and on the pavilion, there was a table of fruits and snacks. Liu Jingyu was sitting on a chair by the window, watching the scene.

The lady sitting opposite Liu Jingyu had a charming appearance. She was Junior Prime Minister’s second daughter, Chen Hailan. Right now, she was of marriageable age.

Seeing County Lady Jingyu look up, she followed the former’s line of sight and turned to see the carriage in the distance. When she saw Pei Yuanjun’s handsome face, she couldn’t help but be stunned. As she watched him getting on the extremely luxurious carriage, she felt a surge of heat gushing through her body, and her face flushed a little. She couldn’t help it, and her heartbeat was thumping rapidly.

Which family was this young master from? He was as beautiful as pearl and jade. He was incredibly good-looking!

She had also seen many young masters of aristocratic families, but none of them had moved her so much like this man in front of her.

“Which... Which family is this young master from?” Chen Hailan asked subconsciously. Her gaze carried a hint of reluctance to part with him as she looked down at the carriage below. She had seen many young masters from aristocratic families in the capital, but she had never seen one as outstanding as him. Even the other Princes could not be compared with him in terms of appearance.

County Lady Jingyu withdrew her gaze and looked at Chen Hailan, who was sitting opposite her. Her face revealed a gentle smile, “It seems to be Lord Yun!”

She said uncertainly, “The guards by the carriage are not from ordinary families. They are royal guards.”

Was it Lord Yun? The blush on Chen Hailan’s face faded a little. Her gaze once again fell on the guards on both sides of the carriage. It was not that she was ignorant. It was just that she had been distracted by Pei Yuanjun just now. That was why she did not notice such details for a moment.

“Is it really Lord Yun?” Chen Hailan bit her lips and asked again.

Of course, she knew about Lord Yun’s bad reputation. She heard that he had killed countless people at the borders. Even the bed he slept on was built up by human skulls. Though he had such a fiendish reputation, he actually had a gorgeous appearance. He was as beautiful as jade, and there was no one in this world who outshone him!

“I’m not sure either. It should be!” County Lady Jingyu’s gaze also fell on the carriage below, but she was not as expectant as Chen Hailan.

She knew better than Chen Hailan what kind of person Lord Yun was. There were some things which she had not only heard of but also seen. No matter how beautiful a woman was, he would not feel any affection for her. She was self-aware of that. A man like him was not someone she could hope for. Moreover, she was more interested in Lord Jing.

As for Crown Prince, he also had great power. At least for now, that was how it was seen on the surface. When the Empress called her over that day, she attended as promised. She knew that the Empress was scouting the next Crown Princess, but the Empress was not favored in the palace, and her power wasn't strong. The Imperial Noble Consort had won the Emperor's heart, and the Emperor had doted on her for many years. It was rumored that the Emperor even wanted to promote the Imperial Noble Consort to the Empress.

This rumor was not groundless. It was also related to the earliest Empress Yuan. If the Empress was dethroned, the Crown Prince would also be likely to lose his position. In this case, when the Crown Prince lost his power, then the Crown Princess' position would be even more unreliable.

However, as of right now, the Empress was still the Empress, and the Crown Prince was still the Crown Prince. From this, it seemed that the Crown Prince still had power.

County Lady Jingyu had always wanted to marry Lord Jing. At that time, Crown Prince had Ji Hanyue, and it could be seen that the Crown Prince treated Ji Hanyue very well. She was treated differently from ordinary women. Even if County Lady Jingyu was married to him, she would only be a Princess. Moreover, she might not be able to compete with Ji Hanyue. Compared to others, Ji Hanyue made County Lady Jingyu more vigilant.

She was the type of woman who was arrogant but very capable. Her appearance was outstanding, her behavior was appropriate, and every word and action of hers was a model for the rest of the noble ladies. Even if they confronted each other, County Lady Jingyu might not stand a chance to win.

Compared to the Crown Prince at that time, County Lady Jingyu thought marrying Lord Jing was a better choice.

But now, she was hesitant. That day, the Empress held her hand, sounded so friendly, and showed a hint of satisfaction through words and actions, but County Lady Jingyu did not dare to answer too much.

At that time, the Empress did not only take a fancy to her. The Second Lady of Prime Minister Chen's Mansion in front of her now was also one of the candidates that Empress took a fancy to.

“How can Lord Yun look like... I have never heard how gorgeous Lord Yun looked.” Chen Hailan didn’t know that County Lady Jingyu had been thinking a lot just as she said these few words. She looked at the back of the carriage with eyes full of attachment. She still thought that this was not true.

“Who dares to talk about Lord Yun’s appearance?” County Lady Jingyu replied indifferently.

These words made Chen Hailan silent for a while. She lowered her head and the blush on her face faded a little. Everyone in the capital knew that he did not like women. The women sent by the palace were all rejected by him. When he was unhappy, he would even find an excuse to beat them up before sending them back.

When had those dainty palace maids ever suffered in this way? After they were caned without pity and thrown back half-dead, no one dared to approach Lord Yun anymore.

Because of that, Lord Yun’s notoriety was spread far and wide.

“I heard that this time, the Empress is choosing a lady for Lord Yun.” After a moment of silence, a slight blush appeared again on Chen Hailan’s face as she said with hope.

“The Empress didn’t say anything,” Jingyu reminded her in a neutral tone.

The Empress only called them over to meet once, but she didn’t mention anything else. Just now, she had sent them back early and didn’t even have them stay for lunch. They didn’t meet any men either, including Crown Prince and Lord Yun. According to the Empress’ previous words, someone would come over to their houses.

As for the details, County Lady Jingyu didn’t know, either. Her gaze fell outside the window again. There was a figure in white. Even though that figure was far away, County Lady Jingyu recognized who the lady was, and her eyes narrowed. She suddenly remembered what her mother said to her in private, and there was a trace of disgust in her eyes...

Feeling as if someone was watching, Qu Moying looked up into the distance subconsciously. By the window, County Lady Jingyu withdrew her gaze. She pulled up her sleeves, picked up the tea on the table, and took a sip gracefully before putting the teacup down.

“The Empress said that there will be a palace banquet in a few days. Are you going?” Chen Hailan had already recovered from her reverie, so she asked in a low voice. The two of them had always been close. That was why they were having tea leisurely as they were not in a hurry to return to the mansion.

Chen Hailan heard that the Imperial Noble Consort had taken a liking to County Lady Jingyu and seemed to want to betroth County Lady Jingyu to Lord Jing.

“We’ll see when the time comes!” County Lady Jingyu frowned.

“Why? Is there something wrong?” Chen Hailan inquired.

In response, County Lady Jingyu shook her head. The worry on her face faded slightly as she looked at Chen Hailan, asking, “What about you?”

“I don’t know either!” Chen Hailan shook her head. There was a slight contemplation in her eyes. She no longer looked like a young lady who was dreaming about love. In fact, it was not easy for a noble lady like her to lose her composure. The impression Pei Yuanjun gave her just now was too strong. It made her lose her mind for a moment, causing her to spit such improper words. “I’ll leave it to my father to make the decision!”

“Will Junior Prime Minister... agree?” County Lady Jingyu asked again in a hushed voice.

“I don’t know. What about you? Will your family agree?” Chen Hailan shook her head.

“No idea!” County Lady Jingyu shook her head helplessly. “We don’t have a say on this matter.”

"Let's wait and see, then!" Chen Hailan comforted her jokingly when seeing her bitter smile. "You have the best reputation among others in the capital, and with that look of yours, why are you afraid that no one will marry you?"

The two of them could be considered as close friends, which was why they were able to say such words to each other. Otherwise, it might sound like they were being disrespectful.

Hearing that, County Lady Jingyu blushed and reached out to pinch Chen Hailan. "What nonsense are you talking about? Aren't you beautiful as well? Why are you only talking about me?"

"I'm not as beautiful as you. Your mother is a famous beauty in the capital, and she can even be said to be the most beautiful one! She gave birth to you, a young lady as beautiful as a flower, and your mother's father treats you so well. He didn't ask for a title for his own son's daughter but instead gave you the title. Duke Qi truly loves you."

After saying that, Chen Hailan felt a sense of relief.

This kind of affection was not just on the surface. Some people even said that as long as one married County Lady Jingyu, he would receive support from the Minister of Works and Duke Qi, a founding member of the country. Duke Qi had saved the Emperor's life before, and he came from a powerful family as well. With Duke Qi supporting her from behind, it was impossible for County Lady Jingyu to marry into a lowly family.

"What nonsense are you talking about?" County Lady Jingyu's face turned scarlet red as she blushed like a blooming flower. She looked extremely lovable.

In this regard, County Lady Jingyu was indeed proud. Her grandfather had always been good to her as well as her mother. If there was something good in his sleeves, he would definitely share it with her. However, her grandmother was the one who treated them neutrally, and she did not know why.

But even so, her grandmother's love for her was still extremely deep.

Qu Moying did not know that County Lady Jingyu was watching her. She got into the carriage at the door and went straight back to Qu Mansion.

When she arrived at Qu Mansion, Yu Dong helped her get out of the carriage and asked the chief maid, to bring a soft sedan chair over. After Qu Moying sent someone to apologize to the Old Lady for her failure to greet the latter, she returned to Qianyue House.

It was indeed inconvenient for her to greet the Old Lady in her current state anyway.

When Granny Wu arrived, Qu Moying had just entered the room and sat down.

“Fourth Lady, have you seen a doctor?” After Granny Wu entered the door and bowed to Qu Moying, she glanced at Qu Moying’s face. Seeing that Qu Moying’s complexion was not bad, she heaved a sigh of relief.

When the Old Lady heard that Qu Moying had fallen in Crown Prince’s Mansion, she immediately sent Granny Wu over.

“I’m fine. I’ve had an Imperial Doctor check on me at Crown Prince’s Mansion. I’m fine.” Qu Moying shook her head and answered with a smile.

Granny Wu hesitated for a moment before asking, “Fourth Lady, why did you almost bump into someone? Are the servants in Crown Prince’s Mansion so unruly?”

“It’s not a servant in Crown Prince’s Mansion. It’s Lord Yun,” said Qu Moying after a moment of silence. The incident would eventually spread out, and the Old Lady was bound to know, so it was better to inform her first so that she could be prepared instead of getting shocked from the news.

The elderlies couldn’t afford to suffer from shock.

“You... you bumped into Lord Yun?” Granny Wu’s heart skipped a beat as she stuttered. Even though she had always been calm, she could no longer remain composed now.

It was Lord Yun, not just any other ordinary person.

"I didn't bump into him. I almost did, but I was the only one who fell. Lord Yun was fine and didn't slip," Qu Moying answered with a comforting smile, afraid that she would scare the Old Lady.

"That's it?" Granny Wu inquired again.

"What else could have happened? I just fell and sprained my ankle. Nothing else happened. Princess Ji from Crown Prince's Mansion has always been courteous, so she insisted that I should stay a little longer. I think it was better to return to the mansion to rest, so I came back," Qu Moying explained.

"That's right. You'll feel at ease to rest in your own mansion." Granny Wu nodded repeatedly and asked about some details before hurriedly returning to report to the Old Lady.

After Granny Wu left, Yu Chun served some tea and retreated to the side.

Soon, Granny Miao came in to report, "My lady, I've done the investigation. There is a new old maid by Third Lady's side. This old maid used to serve the Second Madam, but she was not a first-class chief maid. Not long after she served the Second Madam, she was sent to Third Lady's side. Third Lady values her very much these days."

Qu Moying had instructed Yu Dong to do it before, but after contemplating that it was an inner yard matter, she felt it was easier for Granny Miao to inquire about it.

Granny Miao had been in the mansion for a period of time now and was familiar with the people in the mansion. The matters in the yard were basically handled by Granny Zhou by now. Therefore, it was more convenient for her to obtain information.

"How long has she been here?" Qu Moying asked.

"It should be after you arrived at the mansion, my lady," Granny Miao reported after thinking for a while.



Qu Moying put down the teacup in her hand while looking at the light-green-colored flowers and asked, "Did it happen after the fire incident?"

"Yes. It was after the fire incident. I heard that it wasn't just because of that, but also Qing He's incident. Rumors said that Qing He was careless, so an old maid was sent here, and she was first trained by the Second Madam for a few days." Granny Miao's eyes lit up as she nodded repeatedly.

"Is there anything special about that old maid?" Qu Moying muttered.

"I didn't find anything unusual. Her surname is Qing, so everyone calls her Granny Qing. She now works for Third Lady, but she's not the most favored one. She's not the chief maid in Third Lady's yard, but only a second-class old maid. If not for..." Granny Miao paused.

Qu Moying's watery eyes rolled as she inquired softly, "Is there something different that you're suspicious of?"

She believed in Granny Miao. There must have been something that made Granny Miao suspicious.

"Yes, there is. From her appearance, she doesn't seem to be from Central Plains." Granny Miao hesitated for a moment before offering a vague reply.

Granny Miao herself was not from Central Plains. She had accidentally fainted in front of Qu Moying's village and had no relatives or friends there. She came there to search for a relative, but she wasn't able to find that person. She felt cold and hungry, and then she fainted. It was merely an accident that she met Qu Moying. She was going to return to her hometown if nothing else happened.

But she stayed because she was grateful to Qu Moying.

"What do you think, Granny Miao?" Qu Moying threw another question.

"I... actually am not too sure about it. I've sneaked a look, and I don't think she looks like someone from Central Plains, but if you want me to explain it in detail, I can't tell clearly. Or perhaps, she seems to be

someone from Great Zhou, who has lived in the North.” Granny Miao shook her head. She only felt that there was something slightly different.

“Granny Miao, when you are free, do pay more attention to her, but don’t let her find out that you are checking on her,” Qu Moying reminded.

“Don’t worry, my lady. I will be careful.” Granny Miao nodded. “My lady, I once met the people of Great Zhou, which was a long time ago.”

“When?” Qu Moying asked casually.

“About twenty years ago. I met such people from Great Zhou around that time. Their clothes were different from the North’s, but they were also different from what ordinary people from Great Zhou wore. They just looked a little strange.” Granny Miao thought for a moment and continued, “I even took a few more glances at them back then. Rumors had it that they were rebels of Great Zhou.”

Rebels of Great Zhou? Qu Moying pondered for a moment and realized what she was talking about. Thirty years ago, there was indeed a rebellion. It was said that it was started by several kings at that time. Rebellion of Three Kings was renowned among the public. When she was Ji Hanyue back then, she heard her father mention it many times.

The three kings who plotted the rebellion naturally died in the end. However, some from Pei Family escaped. It was rumored that the most powerful team escaped to the North. However, her father also mentioned that it was just a rumor. Almost every one of that era had died. Even if they had descendants, their descendants were not pure-bloods from Great Zhou anymore, and they no longer carried the blood of the royal family of Great Zhou.

Her father had repeatedly used this as an example and told her about Rebellion of Three Kings. In fact, there was one king who was extremely innocent at that time. However, the situation had already made a bad turn, so even though he did not want to rebel, he had no choice but to do it.

It was said that on the day when the three kings died, many of the aristocratic families in the capital also fell. Some of the aristocratic families who were implicated were killed or demoted. The downfall of many aristocratic families was caused because of this incident, and there were very few innocent people among them. Of course, there were also some who made up for their mistakes.

Some of the branches of the aristocratic families also lost their power because of this incident. The ones left weren't wife-born branches. Duke Qi Mansion was one of the most typical examples. The original Duke Qi was the current Duke Qi's elder brother, but since the former was also involved in the rebellion, the first branch of Duke Qi's Mansion was exterminated. Because the current Duke Qi was meritorious, Duke Qi Mansion was not demoted. Therefore, the title of Duke Qi was passed on to the second branch of Duke Qi's Mansion.

"My lady, Third Lady sent some maids to pass a message." An old maid stood outside the door and reported.

Behind her stood three young maids and two old maids. They were the servants from Qu Qiuyan's yard.

"What is it?" Yu Dong walked out and asked. When he saw the items in their hands, he was shocked!

#### Chapter 165 Grease Sent by Qingyun Temple?

"Third Lady heard that Fourth Lady sprained her ankle, so Third Lady asked me to bring a chair over. Third Lady said that it was better for Fourth Lady not to move now."

The leading maid came forward and said with a smile.

Behind her, two maids and two old maids were carrying a wheelchair.

The wheelchair was neither too big nor too small. It was also very delicate. It was obvious that it was carefully made. It seemed to be tailor-made for Qu Moying, but it was impossible.

How could a chair be made so soon right after she hurt her ankle?

"Put it there and come in!" Yu Dong looked at the chair with disinterest and said to the leading maid.

The leading maid nodded, turned around, and waved her hand, indicating for the maids behind her to put the chair down, and then followed Yu Dong into the room.

Seeing Qu Moying sitting above, she smiled and stepped forward to greet Qu Moying, "Greetings, Fourth Lady."

Qu Moying heard the words outside in the room just now. She looked up and asked, "Where did the chair come from?"

"Last year, Third Lady sprained her foot. Our mansion asked the people outside to make a chair for her. However, when it was sent in, Third Lady's foot was basically healed, so the chair became useless. When she heard that your foot has also been sprained, Third Lady remembered this and specially asked me to come here to deliver it to you, Fourth Lady."

The maid explained with a smile.

Qu Moying narrowed her eyes and looked at the maid's flattering face. She asked slowly, "I have just returned to the mansion. Third Sister is really well-informed."

"Third Lady sent someone to ask the Old Lady about something. That was how she heard that your ankle was sprained, Fourth Lady. Therefore, she asked me to find the chair out and send it over."

The maid explained how Qu Qiuyan got the news so quickly.

"Thank Third Sister for me." Qu Moying smiled and said.

"Fourth Lady, you are too polite. This is what our Third Lady should do. Third Lady is in charge of the matters in the mansion. If there is anything we do improperly, please tell us, and Third Lady will try her best to rectify it." The maid was very good at talking and said a few good words for Qu Qiuyan before leaving with other maids.

Yu Dong asked someone to carry the wheelchair into the room and placed it in the main room to check carefully.

After he finished checking, Yu Dong raised his head in confusion. "My lady, there... there is nothing wrong. The chair is good, but it hasn't been used for a long time. It needs to be smeared with grease somewhere, or it will not be convenient to turn the wheels. Other than that, there is nothing wrong with it."

The people around Qu Moying were all very alert about the things that Qu Qiuyan had sent over.

Qu Moying's gaze also fell on the wheelchair. The chair was neither too big nor too small. It fit her really well when she sat on it. Qu Mansion was not big, and there was no soft sedan chair for her to sit on when she travelled around. It was indeed not very convenient to move around. If she could sit on the wheelchair, it was indeed a good thing. At least she could go to the yard to take a look.

The Imperial Doctor also said that she had to be taken good care of in the next few days.

The most important thing was that Earl Ling'an's Mansion was also going to have a funeral. Originally, it should have been held today, but today was also the day of Crown Princess' funeral, so they delayed it.

Even though they were father and daughter by blood, the Crown Princess' status was higher. Earl Ling'an, the father, could only make way for her.

Qu Moying wanted to go to Earl Ling'an's Mansion. Concubine Xiang's matter had not been resolved. She had to go and take a look. However, it was inconvenient for her to walk. Now with the wheelchair in front of her, her urgent need could be met.

Originally, she had thought that she should have a good rest today and try to walk normally tomorrow, but now it seemed that there was no need.

However, this wheelchair was given to her by Qu Qiuyan, so she kept feeling that there was something wrong.

Her watery eyes swept over the wheelchair, and she held Yu Chun's hand to stand up.

“My lady, don’t move first. I will try to sit on it.” Yu Dong saw through her intentions and stopped her.

Qu Moying nodded and sat down again. Yu Dong walked to the wheelchair and sat down. After moving a few times, he stood up and frowned. “My lady, there’s really nothing strange, but I still feel that...”

“Then I’ll use it,” Qu Moying said decisively.

“My lady...”

“My lady...”

The two maids could not help but open their mouths to stop her. Ever since their lady entered the mansion, they knew clearly Second Madam and Third Lady’s ill intentions toward their lady. No matter how they looked at it, they felt Third Lady did not seem to be someone with good intentions, so how come she sincerely treated their lady well?

Qu Moying waved her hand, indicating that the two maids did not have to stop her. “It’s fine. I’ll use it for now!”

The wheelchair was sent by Qu Qiuyan openly. Moreover, it belonged to her own. If something really happened, Qu Qiuyan would not be able to shift the blame. Or rather, if something really happened to Qu Moying because of the wheelchair, it would be difficult for Qu Qiuyan to clear her name.

Therefore, even if something was wrong with the wheelchair, it would not be something like Qu Moying falling after sitting on it.

There must be another goal, but no matter what it was, she needed to use the wheelchair for now.

“Yu Dong, go to Third Lady’s place first and thank her. Granny Miao, go to Grandmother’s place and tell her about this. Ask her for her opinion.”

Qu Moying calmly arranged.

Yu Dong and Granny Miao answered and left. With the help of Yu Chun, Qu Moying sat in the wheelchair, and Yu Chun pushed it a few times from behind.

It was indeed very useful. Qu Moying was petite and did not have to squeeze on it. There was some space left, and it was very comfortable. However, it was a little inconvenient for Yu Chun to push it. She had to find some grease and make the wheel a little smoother so that it would be easier to use.

Yu Chun went outside to ask a maid to find some grease. A young maid followed the order and went out, but she came back very soon.

“The manager said there was no grease?” Qu Moying asked with a calm expression. This matter was not so simple. She knew it. It was just that she did not know what Qu Qiuyan had up her sleeves.

“Yes, she says there is no more. She needs to buy some.” The young maid nodded.

“When can we have it?” Qu Moying asked.

“She says that this kind of good grease will be a wait of a few days. In the past, they always used this kind of good grease,” the young maid reported.

“Is there any ordinary grease in the mansion? Can’t we use the grease used for carriages?” Yu Chun asked in confusion.

“I, too, asked the same question. The manager said that the smell was too strong. Our lady would feel uncomfortable if she sat on it,” the young maid then explained.

It was true that the grease was used on the wheels of the carriages and that there was indeed a faint smell. However, after people got on the carriage, they were a lot further away from the wheels and they were separated. They basically could not smell anything in the carriage, so they did not care if the smell was too strong. But the wheelchair was different. The person would be directly sitting on it. If the smell was too strong, it would indeed be uncomfortable.

Therefore, it made sense to use the better grease than that was used on the carriage wheels.

However, in the following few days, Qu Moying could not wait any longer. Earl Ling'an's funeral was right around the corner.

"Why does this kind of good grease need several days to arrive?" Qu Moying pondered for a moment and asked.

"I am not too sure about this. It seems that this kind of good grease can not be bought just because you want to buy it. The mansion has never bought it before, and there is no direct way to buy it. They have to search for it first." The young maid touched her head. She didn't quite understand these words and just repeated the original words.

"My lady, what should we do?" Yu Chun was dumbfounded. Just now, her lady had already said that she would like to go to Earl Ling'an's funeral, which would be held tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. After these few days, it really would be too late, and her lady's ankle would be almost healed. By that time, she would not need a wheelchair anymore.

"Let's search for it ourselves!" Qu Moying thought for a moment and said.

"My lady, I will go out of the mansion to find some now." Yu Chun nodded repeatedly. Since she needed to search for it, it was better to go out as soon as possible. Now that only she was here, it was best for her to go out.

"Let's go together." Qu Moying shook her head and said.

"My lady, it's inconvenient for you to walk. What are you going out for?" Hearing that Qu Moying wanted to go personally, Yu Chun became anxious and hurriedly advised. Given her lady's current situation, it was naturally better to rest.

"It's fine. I'll just sit in the carriage." Qu Moying shook her head.



“My lady, there is still a distance from here to the gate of the mansion. Your ankle has just been sprained, and you shouldn’t walk at this time. If you must go, I will carry you out.” Yu Chun was really worried about Qu Moying’s foot. The Imperial Doctor had said that she needed to be taken good care of. Although the sprain was not a big deal, it would not be a small matter if she were injured again.

Qu Moying did not speak. Her watery eyes flashed slightly. The lack of grease seemed to be the problem of the wheelchair sent by Qu Qiuyan. At present, it was indeed inconvenient for her to walk.

Although the mansion did not have this kind of grease, it could be found on the streets. If she sent someone to buy it, it would not take a few days. What was Qu Qiuyan planning?

“Alright, you go. If you encounter someone or something, just be careful...” Qu Moying stopped and turned to Yu Chun. “Remember to buy it at the market price. It is best to buy it directly from those kinds of shops. If they make you wait, choose another shop.”

“Yes, I know.” Yu Chun hurriedly nodded and turned to leave. Qu Moying then waved her hand for the young maid to leave.

The room quieted down. Qu Moying narrowed her eyes and a trace of coldness flashed through her eyes. The situation looked very confusing, but there were still clues to figure it out.

The period of her sitting in the room was not long. Among the few people, Yu Chun was the first to return.

“My lady, I found the grease.” Yu Chun smiled as soon as she came in. She wiped the sweat off her forehead and hurriedly reported.

She had left in a hurry just now and came back in a hurry.

“Who sent it?” Qu Moying’s expression did not change. She asked with a smile.

“How did you know that it was sent, my lady?” Yu Chun was stunned for a moment and asked in surprise.

"You should not have arrived at the gate of the mansion yet by now, but you already had it, so it shouldn't be a purchase." Qu Moying looked out the window. It had only been a short while, but the grease was already there. It could be considered unexpected, but it was also expected.

"Yes, yes, yes, I didn't buy it. Some grease was actually sent to the mansion from outside, and it happened to be the kind used on wheelchairs. When I went out just now, I met the manager who was in charge of this. He came to say this to you." Yu Chun nodded repeatedly.

"Which mansion sent it?" Qu Moying raised her eyebrows.

"It's not from a mansion. It's from a Taoist temple." Yu Chun shook her head.

"Which Taoist temple?" Qu Moying raised her eyebrows. She did not think there was a Taoist temple related to Qu Mansion.

Yu Chun said, "Qingyun Temple!"

Qu Moying was stunned. She had heard of Qingyun Temple, but she really did not expect that this Taoist temple would be involved in this matter...

## Chapter 166 The Last Chance

Qingyun Temple was actually not very big, but it had a good reputation, especially among the aristocratic families.

Qingyun Temple had only been built for a few decades. Originally, it was just a small Taoist temple, but then it suddenly expanded because of its previous executive, who was also an infant of the royal family.

Speaking of this infanta, in fact, it was not out of her own will to become a nun. Because of the rebellion 30 years ago, this infanta was forced to become a nun. Originally, she should have been sentenced to death, but Empress Dowager at that time protected her and said that she was extremely innocent and knew nothing, and that she had always been kept in the palace.

Therefore, this infanta, who was not yet of marriageable age, was forced to go to the temple to cultivate.

Empress Dowager was very good to her. She specially renovated this small temple again. Although it was small, there were all kinds of things inside. She even invited a well-known Taoist priest to Qingyun Temple.

However, this infanta did not live for many years in the end. It was said that she died of depression. Her parents, brothers, and sisters were all dead, and she had fallen to such a state, so she could not get over these things. Moreover, at that time, this infanta was still young, so she felt even more depressed.

After that, Qingyun Temple was passed to the next executive. It was said that this executive was also a noble lady. It seemed that she was also influenced by the rebellion. Therefore, she fled to Qingyun Temple. It was this infanta who saved her. After that, they depended on and lived with each other for a few years. Actually, the matter of Qingyun Temple had long been taken over and handled by this noble lady.

The noble lady came from a prestigious family. She used to be a very famous talented lady. After she became a Taoist nun, she relied on the infanta's reputation and became even more famous. It was said that even Empress Dowager at that time appreciated her very much. Many of her explanations regarding Taoism scriptures were even more professional than some famous scholars.

Qingyun Temple then became a popular place among Taoists.

There were also people who said that this executive even had the ability to deduce the secrets of heaven. There were imperial astronomers who went to discuss the secrets of heaven with her. It was said that after they returned, they endlessly praised the executive and repeatedly said that it was too bad that she was only a woman. Otherwise, they would definitely invite her to work as an imperial astronomer. It was said that her deduction ability was extremely strong.

It was also because of this that Qingyun Temple became even more prosperous.

Although the executive had a good reputation, it was not easy to see her. The aristocratic families often took pride in meeting the executive and exchanging ideas with her. Many people even traveled thousands of miles just to see the executive.

In addition to the executive, there were also several Taoist nuns in the temple. Sometimes, they would also have interactions with the aristocratic families, which made them relatively easy to contact.

When in Earl Ling'an's Mansion, Ji Hanyue had seen Qingyun Temple's Taoist nuns several times. However, they were invited here by Xiao. Ji Hanyue herself did not believe these things. She only looked at them with a seemingly believing attitude and had no communication with the executive of Qingyun Temple.

Qu Moying was not very clear about the situation in Qu Mansion. She had never heard the Old Lady mention it before. The Old Lady should believe in Buddhism more. Otherwise, she would not have taken Qu Moying and the others to Dabei Temple last time. She had never seen a Taoist in the mansion. So what did it mean this time? It was really too surprising for Qu Moying.

"Where are the people from the Qingyun Temple? Why did they send it here?" Qu Moying asked in surprise.

"It's said that they had already left. The reason why they sent the grease over was that the Second Madam asked for some. When the Second Madam went to Qingyun Temple, she had a good relationship with one of Qingyun Temple's Taoist nuns. The Taoist nun said that there was some grease in Qingyun Temple, which they did not use and were of high quality. It would be a waste if the grease were neglected for a long time. The Second Madam recalled Third Lady's wheelchair and said it had not been used for a long time. If the grease were not used on the wheelchair, the wheelchair would not be of use when needed in the future, so she asked for some."

Yu Chun reported.

"That's all?" Qu Moying raised her eyebrows. She was really surprised.

She had only heard how people donated things to the temple. Since when would anyone be able to get the Taoist nuns in the temple to send things out instead? It was very strange!

“There’s some more. In the past, the Second Madam said that... this wheelchair was going to be given to Qingyun Temple... But Fourth Lady, now that you are going to use it, the manager said they would wait a few more days. When you are done, he will send it to the temple.”

Yu Chun continued.

“When will they send it to the temple?” Qu Moying’s eyes narrowed slightly. After a pause, she asked lightly.

“The manager said one month later. He said that your sprain should heal in a month,” Yu Chun said. What he said was very reasonable. A sprain would only take a few days at most to heal. By that time, Qu Moying would not need the wheelchair anymore. She could even go to Earl Ling’an’s Mansion.

Yu Chun felt that the manager’s answer was very reasonable.

A month later? Qu Moying nodded. This matter was not urgent for the time being. What was urgent was another matter. She pondered for a moment and ordered, “Go to the kitchen and ask for some white radishes. Tell them that you want to eat fresh white radishes!”

Earl Ling’an’s Mansion’s funeral was indeed delayed by two days.

Qu Moying woke up early in the morning to go to Earl Ling’an’s Mansion. She attended as one of Earl Ling’an’s close relatives in the younger generation.

The wheelchair was placed in another carriage that followed behind her carriage into Earl Ling’an’s Mansion. There were not many people who came today, and they were all close relatives.

She brought Yu Dong and Granny Zhou with her. Yu Dong would stay by her side, and Granny Zhou would always act on her own accord.

When the carriage arrived at Earl Ling'an's Mansion, Qu Moying got off the carriage and saw an old maid, who was already waiting at the side, coming forward with a smile. "Fourth Lady Qu, Princess Ji invites you over."

"Princess Ji has returned to the mansion?" Qu Moying asked as she sat in the wheelchair. Yu Dong pushed her inside.

"Princess Ji has already been here for a while. Previously, she had me keep watch to invite you to see her, Fourth Lady Qu." The old maid said with a smile.

Qu Moying nodded and closed her eyes slightly. She leaned back and let Yu Dong carefully push her inside.

Ji Youran was very busy and her expression did not look very good. She seemed to be a little haggard. It seemed that she was more tired than at the Crown Princess' funeral. Two strands of hair were still hanging on the sides of her cheeks, covering a part of her face. The injury on her face was not completely healed.

Ji Youran did not keep Qu Moying to talk a lot. She was very busy now. She called Qu Moying over only to show that they had a good relationship. Naturally, it was a show for others to see.

That day, the Empress had told her to get along well with Fourth Lady Qu. The hidden meaning in the Empress' words made Ji Youran uneasy. It seemed to mean that the high-ranking Lord Yun had deliberately bumped into Fourth Lady Qu and injured her.

As for the reason?

A young man deliberately bumping into a young woman—the reason was actually very obvious.

But was this possible?

In any case, Ji Youran didn't really believe it. Lord Yun had never shown his care for women. He was indifferent to women. There were many women in this world, but she had never heard of anyone who could attract his attention.

As for making him take the initiative to bump into someone, there must be another reason.

But no matter what, Fourth Lady Qu had something to do with Lord Yun now. The Crown Prince had also repeatedly asked her to get along well with Qu Moying and not to make a mistake because of Qu Moying. With Lord Yun's power and status, even the Crown Prince had to be careful to cater to him.

Ji Youran was a little aggrieved. A lady born by Vice Minister was originally much lower in status than her, but now she had to deal with the former carefully and even show her goodwill to the former.

Seeing that Qu Moying was very indifferent, she lost interest and used the excuse that she was very busy to send Qu Moying away.

Yu Dong pushed Qu Moying towards the mourning hall.

The coffin was still placed in the mourning hall. There were a few maids standing guard. Concubine Xiang stood by the side, looking haggard. These days, she had been standing guard in the mourning hall. When she was tired, she lay on the ground and slept for a while. When she woke up, she got up and burned some paper money as she kept watch.

The wheelchair stopped below the steps. Yu Dong helped Qu Moying go up the steps. They walked to the front of the table and knelt in front of the coffin. Tears immediately fell down.

She knew that her father's corpse was not in the coffin, but she could not help but shed tears. Her heart ached, and tears kept falling down. She lowered her head and bent down to the ground. She cried so hard that she could not stop crying.

Her voice was very low, but it was like a young bird losing its parent. She was very sad. On the side, Concubine Xiang also sobbed.

Although Qu Moying sobbed in a low voice, this was the most harmful to the body. Her endless crying was low and sad. Those who heard her would also cry and feel sad.

"Fourth Lady Qu, don't cry. If Earl Ling'an knew it in the underworld, he would definitely thank you, Fourth Lady." Concubine Xiang said in a hoarse voice.

"Uncle, Aunt, Cousin Hanyue and Cousin Yanyue are all dead. My regret is that I had been in the village all the time and was unable to get close to them. Now, I can only watch helplessly as they are gone." Qu Moying raised her eyes. Her eye veil had long been wet. She said in a choked voice. She held Concubine Xiang's hand and asked, "Uncle does not have sons. How's the matter you mentioned the other day, Concubine Xiang?"

"That matter is still being discussed," Concubine Xiang said bitterly.

"Why? Are we just going to watch Uncle lose his lineage? Uncle is a great general, and he is so loyal and patriotic, and I heard that Cousin Hanyue... Now, all of his children have passed away. If Uncle knew it in the underworld, wouldn't he be too sad?" Qu Moying wiped her tears and said.

She pulled Concubine Xiang's hand and slipped a piece of paper into it. Concubine Xiang took the opportunity to take it. She married into the Ji Family with Yue. From a young age, she had been a private maid for Yue, so she knew some basic words.

"Fourth Lady Qu, I will try my best to make Earl Ling'an have a successor." Concubine Xiang cried as she unfolded the note and glanced at it. When she saw the words written on the note in her hand, her eyes suddenly froze. She looked up at Qu Moying in shock, her eyes unable to hide her terror.

She had long known that this Fourth Lady Qu was not simple. At that time, she just felt that Fourth Lady Qu was very kind to her family. In the past, when Second Lady had not married, she would send people to give gifts to Fourth Lady Qu, who moved into the village. This should be the reason why Fourth Lady Qu wanted to expose the unfair way Third Lady had been treated.

But what was this?



Concubine Xiang's fingers trembled. As she raised her eyes and looked at Qu Moying, Concubine Xiang's lips moved.

Qu Moying lowered her head and wiped the eye veil in the corner of her eye with a handkerchief. She whispered, "What's written is all true. It has been arranged, by Granny Zhou."

Her words were a little messy, but Concubine Xiang immediately understood.

If Fourth Lady Qu had been the only one involved in this matter, Concubine Xiang would still have some doubts, but if there were also Granny Zhou involved, Concubine Xiang would be more convinced. She looked up at Fourth Lady Qu in front of her, gritted her teeth, and whispered, "I understand."

She knew that this matter could not be delayed, but there was nothing she could do in the past few days. Even if she cried to death in the mourning hall, the Ji Family would not accept it. If this matter dragged on in the future, there might not be a chance. Now was indeed the last chance...

## Chapter 167 Ji Hai Is Here

Qu Moying did not leave the mourning hall. After Yu Dong changed the eye veil for her, she knelt on the side, picked up the paper money in front of the mourning hall, and put it into the fire basin.

Before the coffin was moved to the graveyard, there was no one else in the mourning hall except for Concubine Xiang. She did not even see the two brothers of the Ji Family that day. She did not know where they went.

Both of them were actually nowhere to be seen.

The reason why Ji Yuanxing was not here must be that Ji Youran was here. Maybe they were discussing something. This was the first time that Ji Youran had returned to the mansion in the past few days. Xiao would definitely discuss something at this time. The most important thing was finding an heir to her father. If they turned this proposal down at this time, there might be unforeseen events in the future. In the end, this matter would be dragged on and be left unsettled.

After all, her father was gone, and so was Ji Hanyue. How could Concubine Xiang defeat the others of the Ji Family alone?

The reason why Ji Yuanhai was not here should be that Ji Yuanxing was not here. Xiao definitely did not want Ji Yuanhai to become the heir. Her own son should be the one to inherit the title of Earl Ling'an in the future. How could she let a concubine-born son take advantage of this? At this critical moment, she would not allow Ji Yuanhai to approach Concubine Xiang.

Her gaze fell on the fire basin and she sneered in her heart. If Ji Yuanhai could not inherit the title of Earl Ling'an, she would rather destroy the title than let it fall into the hands of the Ji Family's second branch.

Everyone in the second branch had harmed her father, Ji Hanyue, and her sister. How could she let them go?

As the paper money fell, the flames surged fiercely. However, there was only coldness in her eyes, and her heart was empty. She could not feel any warmth, only sadness and despair.

The sound of footsteps came from the door. Qu Moying looked up and saw Xiao walking in with Ji Youran and Ji Yuanxing. Ji Yong'an also appeared. There were a few people from the Ji Family and some close relatives. Qu Moying knew many of them, who even sweet-talked her in the past. But now, they all surrounded Ji Youran.

A cold smile appeared as her cherry lips curled. If she had not been reborn, she would not have seen such a wonderful sight in front of her now.

A few servants came in to pick up the coffin. The coffin was moved, and just as they were about to walk forward, a manager hurriedly came in and reported to Ji Yong'an, "Second Master, Lord Yun Mansion's men are here."

"What?" Ji Yong'an was shocked, and hurriedly asked, "Who?"

"People from Lord Yun Mansion," The manager wiped his sweat and repeated.

"Invite them in, now." Ji Yong'an hurriedly said. He picked up a corner of his robe and walked out.

Qu Moying looked up at Ji Yong'an's anxious back. Her eyes were full of ridicule. Ji Yong'an did not even ask who it was before he went out directly. Ji Yong'an was really useless. Anyway, it was impossible for Pei Yuanjun to come here personally.

As expected, the one who followed Ji Yong'an in later was Ji Hai, Pei Yuanjun's personal eunuch, who brought a few young eunuchs with him. After entering, Ji Hai first stepped forward respectfully and lit a few sticks of incense. Then, he actually bowed respectfully, turned to Ji Yong'an, and said, "Lord Yun ordered me to add three more sticks of incense. He said that Earl Ling'an was a hero, and he admired Earl Ling'an very much."

"Yes, okay, okay!" Ji Yong'an nodded repeatedly with a smile on his face. He didn't even hear Ji Hai's words clearly before answering, "Yes, yes, that's how it should be."

Ji Hai went forward to offer three more sticks of incense, still extremely respectful.

Then, Ji Yong'an accompanied him to the side. Ji Youran had a livid face. If it were Lord Yun who came, it would be reasonable for Ji Yong'an to behave like this. After all, there were very few people who could keep their composure in front of Lord Yun. However, this person in front of him right now was only a eunuch. Even though he was Lord Yun's personal eunuch, he was still only a eunuch, a servant. Seeing Ji Yong'an lose his composure and act so reverent, Ji Youran really couldn't bring herself to like him.

No matter what, he was the father of Princess Ji.

Embarrassing Ji Yong'an was equivalent to embarrassing Ji Youran.

She coughed softly and wanted to speak, but her mother, Xiao, reached out and pulled her sleeve, indicating that she should not speak.

Ji Youran shut her mouth resentfully, her face as gloomy as ink.

“Sir, I beg Lord Yun to uphold justice for Earl Ling’an.” Concubine Xiang suddenly jumped out from the side and pounced on Ji Hai. Ji Hai was given a fright. The two eunuchs standing behind him hurriedly rushed forward to protect him.

Qu Moying was also shocked. Before this, she asked Concubine Xiang to find an opportunity when the coffin was being moved and rush to the front of the coffin to beg for an heir for her father. Concubine Xiang should make a big fuss step by step according to Qu Moying’s plan. In the end, she could present this matter to the Emperor. As long as the Emperor saw her father’s “will”, he would definitely agree to let her father have an heir.

But it was unexpected that Concubine Xiang would pounce on Ji Hai at this time. However, she had to agree with Concubine Xiang’s doing. This method was actually more useful than rushing to the front of the coffin. After all, Ji Hai was showing goodwill to her father on behalf of Lord Yun.

Compared to the others, it was obvious that Lord Yun was of higher importance. Although Ji Hai was a eunuch, he could still report the matter to Lord Yun. As long as Lord Yun intervened, it was highly likely that this matter would succeed.

Concubine Xiang obviously thought of this point and that was why she rushed out at this time. Qu Moying held Yu Dong’s hand and slowly stood up. Her fierce gaze passed through the eye veil and landed on Ji Hai.

After Ji Hai was given a fright, he then saw a woman dressed in mourning clothes rushing over. Knowing that it had something to do with Earl Ling’an, he immediately waved his hand, and the two eunuchs retreated. His gaze swept over Qu Moying, who slowly stood up, and landed on the woman in front of him. He asked gently, “Who are you? What do you want to say?”

“Someone! Come and drag Concubine Xiang away so that she won’t disturb our honored guest with her nonsense.” Xiao couldn’t hold back anymore and stood out to speak loudly.

Two rough-looking old maids came out from behind her and fiercely charged over, wanting to pull Concubine Xiang.

Xiao had already prepared some maids for fear that Concubine Xiang would not be willing to give up on this. Just now, she and Ji Youran had agreed that they must find an opportunity to pull Concubine Xiang down, lest she would cause another trouble.

In the past few days, Concubine Xiang had been guarding the mourning hall. She had been quiet and did not cause any trouble. Thus, even if they wanted to make a move on her, there was no reason.

Therefore, just as Concubine Xiang rushed out, Xiao hurriedly asked her maids to come forward.

The two rough-looking old maids had already grabbed Concubine Xiang's hand and were about to drag her away.

"Sir, please help me beg Lord Yun. Please help Earl Ling'an. He was a hero in his life. In the past, he respected Lord Yun the most. Now, he can only rely on Lord Yun. I hope that you can tell Lord Yun to help Earl Ling'an." Concubine Xiang cried loudly as she struggled.

The two old maids dragged her down with all their might. She couldn't resist and was dragged backwards.

She was about to be pulled out of the mourning hall.

Qu Moying looked at Ji Hai and pursed her lips. Just as she was about to step forward, she saw Ji Hai's face darken. "Wait!"

The two eunuchs who stayed behind him stepped forward. They walked up to the two rough-looking old maids and did not make a move. They only stared at the two old maids in a frightening way. The old maids had never seen such a situation before. They were so scared that they trembled. They loosened their hands and hurriedly turned to Xiao on the other side.

Concubine Xiang's hands were free. She hurried forward and wailed in front of Ji Hai. "Sir, I beg you to ask Lord Yun to help Earl Ling'an. He was loyal to the country, and our Second Lady... was..."

Concubine Xiang sobbed as she spoke.

Qu Moying's clenched hands relaxed, and her face relaxed. With Yu Dong's support, she stood still, quietly watching the development of the situation.

"Concubine Xiang, don't you talk nonsense." Hearing Concubine Xiang's words, Xiao became anxious. She took two steps forward and scolded. Then she said to Ji Hai with a smile. "Sir, she is a concubine of Earl Ling'an. Previously, because her mind was not clear, she had been locked up. This time, because Earl Ling'an was gone, she was released and was asked to guard the mourning hall for two days. Unexpectedly, she got confused again and offended you. It's all our fault. Someone, come to..."

Xiao was about to call for someone to pull Concubine Xiang away, but she saw Ji Hai shake his head and say lightly, "Second Madam Ji, please wait a moment. Since it is Earl Ling'an's last wish, it is better to listen."

"Eunuch Ji Hai, this is our family matter. Even if Lord Yun is here, he should not intervene in this kind of thing." Seeing that Ji Hai was really going to intervene, Ji Youran really could not bear it. She stepped forward and interrupted coldly.

"Greetings, Princess Ji." Ji Hai seemed to have just seen Ji Youran. He turned his head and bowed to her.

Ji Youran slowly walked over with a smile on her face. There was a sense of propriety in her words. "Eunuch Ji Hai, you are too polite. This is our family matter. The Crown Prince has come over just now, but he is not in good health, so he is resting somewhere else now."

"Princess Ji, has the Crown Prince been dealing with this matter?" Ji Hai raised his eyebrows and asked.

"This is originally the Crown Prince's business." Ji Youran raised her head slightly. Even though she was afraid of Lord Yun, she was not afraid of a eunuch.

"And what will the Crown Prince do?" Ji Hai thought for a moment and asked again.

"What the Crown Prince will do is naturally not something that can be casually asked." Ji Youran said with a cold smile.

"Since the Crown Prince will do something, I'll just go back and report it to Lord Yun." Ji Hai said with a smile. His words were very tactful.

The corners of Qu Moying's lips moved, and a trace of nervousness flashed through her eyes. She reached out and nudged Yu Dong, who was standing at the side. Yu Dong understood and helped her walk towards the coffin.

Did this mean that Lord Yun would no longer intervene in this matter? Concubine Xiang was anxious. Just now, she thought that Lord Yun would definitely be willing to help if she rushed out and revealed the matter since Lord Yun was so respectful to Earl Ling'an.

She did not expect that the moment Ji Youran appeared, this eunuch from Lord Yun Mansion would be rendered speechless.

There was no turning back. Looking at the two old maids behind Xiao who were about to come over again, Concubine Xiang gritted her teeth and said in a mournful voice, "Sir, I can't fulfill your last wish. They force me too much, and I am powerless. I am willing to accompany you in the underworld to redeem my sins. Originally, I wanted to fulfill your wish so that you would not be left with no descendants and have no one showing up at your anniversary in the future."

As Concubine Xiang spoke, under everyone's shocked gazes, she closed her eyes and rushed fiercely towards the coffin before her.

She rushed forward with all her might, and it could be seen that she was wholeheartedly courting death...

## Chapter 168 An Unusual Coffin

No one had expected that a concubine would be so determined. When everyone saw her fiercely rush towards the coffin, they knew that she would lose her life.

It seemed there would be blood at the funeral!

A figure flashed out from the side and quickly blocked in front of Concubine Xiang. Both of them retreated a few steps and heavily crashed into the coffin behind them. The coffin made a few heavy sounds, and both of them fell to the ground.

“Yu Dong!” Qu Moying exclaimed and took two steps forward. Unfortunately, it was inconvenient for her to walk. She did not know where to step on, and she missed her step and stumbled forward.

Ji Hai, who was standing at the side, reached out to pull her. Yu Dong, who fell to the ground, could not care about himself. He hurriedly held Qu Moying’s legs, so that she would not fall on the spot.

“Fourth Lady Qu, please be careful.” Ji Hai said in a low voice.

Qu Moying held the coffin and stood still. She pressed one hand on the coffin. Her heart was beating fiercely, but her hand was holding the coffin steadily. She raised her pale face and looked at Xiao and Ji Youran. The corners of her lips were pale after being bitten. “Princess Ji, Second Madam Xiao, why don’t you listen to what Concubine Xiang has to say? If my uncle really has any last wish, even if we have to report it to the Emperor, we should do it.”

“Fourth Lady Qu, this is Ji Family’s family matter.” Ji Youran had a livid face.

Xiao stared at Qu Moying, and a trace of anger flashed in her eyes. “What do you mean by this, Fourth Lady Qu? Do you really have to make a scene at the mourning hall in Earl Ling’an’s Mansion?”

“Princess Ji, Second Madam Ji, although my uncle’s surname is Ji, I am also related to his wife, Yue, and the Crown Princess by blood. Since this is my uncle’s last wish, it should naturally be announced to the public. As for whether this concubine is talking nonsense or not, I see that she is even not afraid of death, so how can it be false!”

Qu Moying said word by word.



Just now, when Ji Hai spoke, she knew that things were going to be bad. She immediately brought Yu Dong forward to prevent Concubine Xiang from committing suicide. Fortunately, she had stepped forward in advance. Otherwise, Concubine Xiang would have really crashed into the coffin just now, which would have taken her life.

Now, since it was the right time, she could naturally stand up to speak.

Her hand was pressing on her father's coffin. If she was still Ji Hanyue, she could hold onto the coffin as they walked from the mansion to the graveyard. But right now, she was Qu Moying.

The hand pressing on the coffin was holding it tightly. Her pale and tender fingers pressed on the upper board of the coffin, creating a dark mark. Her fingertips were holding it hard as if there was a great deal of pressure.

At this time, Concubine Xiang had also recovered, and she cried loudly, "I have the evidence left behind by Earl Ling'an. It is his last wish."

"You are talking nonsense. How could Earl Ling'an leave behind any last wish!" When Xiao saw that the situation was not good, she shouted anxiously and her forehead began to sweat.

"Why couldn't he leave behind any last wish? I am his concubine. I know that he once left me a letter." Concubine Xiang explained loudly.

"Where... where is the letter?" Xiao stuttered.

This time, not only was Xiao's face pale, even Ji Youran's hands were trembling. The two of them looked at each other and saw the horror in each other's eyes.

Ji Yongming left a letter? When did this happen? Why didn't they know anything about it? What did Ji Yongming write in the letter? How did it end up in Concubine Xiang's hands? At that time, Concubine Xiang was still in the temple hall. How could she have the chance to see Ji Yongming?

“Concubine Xiang, what nonsense are you talking about? You caused Aunt Luo to be unable to see Uncle for the last time. After that, you were locked up in the temple hall and were not released until now. How could you have the chance to see Uncle? And where did Uncle’s letter come from?”

Ji Youran could not help but retort.

The Ji Family’s elders looked at each other and did not speak for a while. This matter was too shocking. Could it be that there were really some hidden facts underlying this matter?

“Earl Ling’an did leave me a letter. If you do not believe it, you can directly investigate it.” Concubine Xiang cried, “I received a spoken message from Earl Ling’an before, which said that he wanted to have an heir. He also specially left me a letter. This letter is now at where he lived. If you do not believe it, you can go and search for it now.”

“Princess Ji, since there is a will from Earl Ling’an, it is better to go and have a look.” Ji Hai said at this time. As long as she did not directly mention the Crown Prince, there were some things he could say, even if the one opposite him was Princess Ji of Eastern Palace.

Several elders looked at each other and nodded. They really couldn’t tell if this matter was true or not. The best way was to see if the thing she mentioned was there.

Some of the Ji Family’s relatives also nodded. At this time, no matter what they said, it seemed inappropriate. The best way was to go along with Earl Ling’an’s intention.

Although Xiao and Ji Youran were unwilling, they had no choice but to agree at this time.

The group of people brought Concubine Xiang to the yard where Earl Ling’an used to live.

Only Qu Moying and Yu Dong were left at the mourning hall. She did not leave. She pressed her hand on the coffin, and her eyes under the eye veil were cold and ruthless. After a long time, she restrained the cold hatred in her heart and slowly relaxed her hands.

“My lady! Do you want to take a rest? I’ll bring the wheelchair over!” Yu Dong sensed Qu Moying’s strange behavior and asked carefully.

“I’m fine! I’m not too tired!” Qu Moying shook her head. Her hand was still pressed on the coffin and she did not let go. Her heart was full of grief. She was now Qu Moying, no longer the Ji Hanyue from before. She could not hold onto the coffin when it was being sent out. At this time, she was unwilling to leave, as if her father was really lying inside.

Although Yu Dong saw that she was acting strange, seeing that she was so persistent, he did not try to persuade her anymore. He just carefully waited on the side. If he found something wrong with his lady, he would immediately help her.

The mourning hall quieted down. After what happened just now, everyone followed Concubine Xiang and left. The servants who were going to lift the coffin were also taken out, leaving only the two people who did not seem to be the closest. It could be seen that the so-called family love in Earl Ling’an’s Mansion could not compare to his “will”!

“Yu Dong, give it a push and feel it.” After a long time, Qu Moying finally restrained the sadness in her heart and said to Yu Dong with a heavy expression.

“My lady, give it a push? Are we going to investigate something?” Yu Dong looked at the coffin in front of him and asked in surprise.

“Give it a push.” Qu Moying slowly let go of her hand and said to Yu Dong.

“Okay!” Seeing that she was so determined, Yu Dong went forward to take a look. He pushed hard at a corner of the coffin. The coffin was very big, but he could still push it this way.

After pushing it a little, he looked at Qu Moying. Qu Moying nodded at him again, and Yu Dong pushed it twice more.

Just now, the coffin was already askew because he and Concubine Xiang crashed into it. At this time, no one would notice it if it was a little more askew. Just now, these people’s attention was all on Concubine Xiang’s words. No one cared how much the coffin was askew.

"My lady, I... I feel that something is wrong. It seems that there is no one inside." Yu Dong hesitated for a moment. He looked around and saw that there was no one around. Then, he lowered his voice and said with a slightly pale face.

In fact, he had this feeling when he crashed into the coffin earlier. When his body crashed into the coffin heavily, it didn't feel like there was something inside. Or rather, it didn't feel like there was someone inside. It felt very empty.

If there were someone inside, some voices would be heard. But no matter whether it was just now or now, there seemed to be no voice at all. This kind of feeling was very strange.

Yu Dong originally didn't dare to say this, but since his lady had repeatedly expressed so, Yu Dong said this. After he finished speaking, he felt that it was absurd and hurriedly shook his head to deny it. "My lady, it's not. I have sensed it wrongly. It might be that the coffin is more tightly packed inside."

Now, when he said this, he was even more unsure.

Qu Moying looked at the coffin in front of her sadly. It seemed that her father was indeed not inside. Originally, there was still some hope in her heart. Although she knew that it was unlikely, she still had some hope.

"It's okay. Maybe you made a mistake!" Qu Moying shook her head lightly and said in a weak voice. She closed her eyes. When she opened them again, they were clear and as cold as ice water.

"Let's head out!"

Yu Dong hurriedly went forward to help Qu Moying. Ever since his lady went into the mourning hall, Yu Dong felt that she was somewhat different.

The wheelchair was still under the stairs. Qu Moying sat on it and Yu Dong pushed her out to Earl Ling'an's yard.

The matter was arranged by her. Granny Zhou was also sent by her. Even the place where her father kept private letters was also told to Granny Zhou by her. Naturally, the letter was also forged by her. Qu Moying had long learned to imitate her father's handwriting. Now, forging a letter was a piece of cake for her.

As for the seal, she had already carved her father's personal seal with a radish. Ji Hanyue had studied calligraphy very well. Even when she was young, she knew how to carve a seal. Her father's seal was carved by her. The seal that the young Ji Hanyue had carved was a bit stiff. There were some flaws in the corners, and it was very inconspicuous. However, people who were familiar with her knew this. Even if a professional copied this seal, it would still be discovered fake because of these small flaws.

She had only taken a few steps when she suddenly saw a eunuch rushing over. When the eunuch saw Qu Moying, he asked with a bit of arrogance, "Have you met Princess Ji?"

"I met her just now," Qu Moying said indifferently.

The eunuch looked her up and down a few times, but he did not recognize her. He thought that she was one of those Earl Ling'an's Mansion's relatives who had no high status. Thus, his expression became more and more arrogant. "Where is Princess Ji now?"

"Princess Ji should be resting." Qu Moying said vaguely. She already understood that the eunuch was sent by Pei Luo'an. It seemed that Ji Youran had already asked Pei Luo'an for help. However, it seemed that she did not describe it clearly. Pei Luo'an sent someone to inquire about it, but she did not want Pei Luo'an to appear at this time.

"Did you see which direction she went?" The eunuch asked unhappily.

"It should be that way." Qu Moying casually pointed at a direction. That direction was the deepest part of the inner yard, while Earl Ling'an's residence was at the place where the outer yard and the inner yard intersected.

The eunuch ignored her and left in a hurry. When she saw that the eunuch had gone far away, Qu Moying asked Yu Dong to slowly push her to Earl Ling'an's residence. At this time, they should have found the letter and announced the content. It was too late for Ji Youran to ask Pei Luo'an to stop this matter...

“Let’s go and see Old Lady Ji!”

## Chapter 169 Bearing A Hidden Loss

The crowd witnessed the letter being taken out from the place where Earl Ling’an kept his private letters.

In an inconspicuous spot below the desk, a small box popped out. Ji Youran almost fainted. There was a secret mechanism for letter collection, which she did not know about.

Not only did she not know, but even the Crown Prince had not found it. Would there be anything shocking inside? Ji Youran was flustered. Things had already come to this point. Even though she was the Crown Prince’s Princess Ji, she could not stop it. She could only glance at the door from time to time, waiting for the Crown Prince to appear.

She had asked a maid to secretly invite Crown Prince over, but he had not come yet. She wondered if he had been held up by something.

If it was delayed any further, it would be too late!

What she was most afraid of now was not the “will” that Concubine Xiang had mentioned. She was afraid that something unexpected would come out of it.

The handkerchief in her hand had been crumpled into a ball, and her eyes were fixed on the few letters inside.

“Princess Ji...” Xiao suddenly tugged at her sleeve and said in a low voice.

Startled, Ji Youran glared at Xiao fiercely. Xiao was frightened and quickly shut her mouth.

Concubine Xiang took out the letter on the topmost part and handed it to an elder at the front. On the letter was Concubine Xiang's name—Xiangyu. It was very clear that this was indeed a letter for her. Moreover, it was covered with a seal and it had not been opened before.

The elders looked at each other and then turned to Ji Hai, who was smiling as if he was watching the fun. The elder at the front then consciously took over the letter.

After opening it and glancing at it a few times, he then handed it to an elder next to him. After reading it, he passed it on. Every elder who saw the letter frowned tightly.

A eunuch, who was behind Ji Hai, stepped forward to take the letter from an elder and handed it to Ji Hai. Ji Hai took it and started to read it.

One of Ji Youran's maids had to take a step back. Just now, Ji Youran impatiently sent the maid to get the letter, but it was snatched by the eunuch behind Ji Hai.

The two eunuchs looked gloomy. For some reason, it made people feel cold. Not to mention ordinary maids, even the elders were spooked when seeing them. They subconsciously moved away from the eunuchs.

"It does read that Earl Ling'an wants to have an heir. Everyone, do you see the private seal on it? Is it Earl Ling'an's?" Ji Hai raised his hand and asked the elders.

"Yes, it is Earl Ling'an's personal seal."

"It is Earl Ling'an's personal seal, and the handwriting is also his. This letter was indeed written by him."

"Yes, exactly." The elders nodded repeatedly. When they were reading the letter just now, they had specially examined it and thus came to this conclusion.

"If you don't believe it, you can look at the other letters Earl Ling'an left." Concubine Xiang wiped her tears and pointed at the rest of the letters in the drawer.

"No need. Uncle's personal letters cannot be randomly touched. Since everyone thinks it is true, it must be true." Ji Youran's expression changed slightly. She hurriedly took two steps forward and walked to the drawer. She rejected the idea in a seemingly serious and impartial way.

The most important thing now was the other letters. If Uncle had really noticed something, he might leave some clues here. And if people found them out, a thousand times of executions would not be enough to punish her, a low-ranking Princess.

At a time like this, in order to prevent people from reading those letters and comparing the handwriting and seal, Ji Youran did not hesitate to agree with the others.

She had to bear this hidden loss. Compared to Uncle's secret, the matter of finding an heir for him was a trivial matter.

Xiao was stunned and anxious. She opened her mouth to stop Ji Youran. This was related to the future of her son. How could she accept it so casually? "Princess Ji..."

"Mother, since it is checked by the elders, it is naturally true. Don't worry, this letter will be shown to Grandmother later. If Grandmother feels that it is true, it is naturally true." Ji Youran was afraid that Xiao would ruin her plan, so she interrupted Xiao and comforted Xiao.

This meant that if Old Lady Ji didn't admit it, there was still room for negotiation. Moreover, the Crown Prince hadn't appeared yet!

This was a move to delay the matter as much as possible.

Xiao calmed down a little after being comforted, and she didn't say anything more.

"Since you all think this is truly his letter, then the words inside should not be taken lightly. It is Earl Ling'an's last wish. It seems that Concubine Xiang is not crazy. I wonder what your family will do next." Ji Hai knocked the letter twice in his hand but did not show it to others. He glanced at Ji Yong'an on the side and asked.



Ji Yong'an murmured a few times, and then looked at Xiao and his daughter. He was not a decisive person, especially at this time. His eyes were fleeting, and he felt inexplicably guilty.

"I... Well... Of course, I have to... show it to Mother." Seeing Xiao glare at him fiercely, Ji Yong'an hurriedly said as he rubbed his hands.

"But this letter is not just a personal letter of Earl Ling'an. It is related to the last wish of a loyal and honest man. How about this? Don't give this letter to the Old Lady of your mansion first. Ask the governor to come over and check it before finding out whether it is true or not," Ji Hai suggested.

Originally, he could ignore this matter, but because this matter also involved Fourth Lady Qu, Ji Hai felt that it was better for him to intervene. After all, his Master, Lord Yun, treated the Fourth Lady differently.

He had never seen a woman who could win his Master's attention. Ji Hai sensitively felt that this Fourth Lady Qu was different. At least when his Master saw this lady, he had vivid eyes instead of treating her as a lifeless object. No matter how beautiful a woman was, if she was treated as a lifeless object, how could she be attractive?

"This is a family matter in our mansion. If it is really Uncle's last wish, we will naturally grant his wish. He is now dead, so there is no need to escalate this matter and make his family and relatives even sadder." Ji Youran did not want to blow up this matter, so she thought for a while and said slowly with a serious expression.

"Okay, then I will leave this letter to you, Princess Ji." Ji Hai smiled and extended his hand, passing the letter to Ji Youran.

This decisive action of Ji Hai's stunned Ji Youran for a moment. She originally wanted to take a look at this letter but was afraid that Ji Hai would not be easy to deal with. Even though she was the Crown Prince's Princess Ji, she might not be able to challenge the people around Pei Yuanjun. However, she did not expect that it would be so easy to get her hands on the letter. Stretching out her hand, she was about to take the letter, but Ji Hai withdrew his hand and took the letter back.

“Princess Ji, this matter is of great importance. If this letter is given to you, then I shall send Concubine Xiang to see the governor. Since the matter happened here, and I have seen it clearly, I can’t let this concubine be harmed by others! After all, this is also my Master’s duty.”

Ji Hai said with a smile. These words almost implied that the Ji Family would murder Concubine Xiang.

Xiao was so angry that she wanted to speak, but as soon as she saw the two gloomy-looking eunuchs standing behind the beaming Ji Hai, her heart skipped a beat, and she immediately shut her mouth.

Lord Yun was not just Lord Yun. He was also in charge of the West Prison, which meant that he was in charge of things related to laws and justice. Therefore, it was normal for Lord Yun Mansion to intervene in this matter.

The governor could also be considered a department under the jurisdiction of Lord Yun.

Which was more important between Concubine Xiang and this letter? Or which one was easier to get some information out of? Ji Youran thought for a while and understood immediately.

The letter was a lifeless object, and the elders had already seen it. Even if she looked at it again, she would not be able to get anything new from it.

“Eunuch Ji Hai, Concubine Xiang is the concubine of our mansion. We’ll have to ask her first before investigating this matter.” Ji Youran had already sorted out the main issue in her heart. With a smile on her face, she gently said to Ji Hai.

If she kept Concubine Xiang here, something else might happen. For example, if Concubine Xiang lost her life, there would be no witness for this matter, and thus she could deal with what was going to happen later. As for now, she could not let Ji Hai take Concubine Xiang away. Once Concubine Xiang fell into Lord Yun’s hands, even the Crown Prince would not be able to bring her out.

After weighing the pros and cons, Ji Youran felt that Concubine Xiang was more important. Moreover, there were also those private letters. There was guilt in Ji Youran’s heart, and she was always worried that there would be some traces of her killing Ji Yongming’s family being left behind. If this matter was exposed, it would be a fatal disaster for her. Compared to this, the other things were much more trivial.

"I see. So, Princess Ji, you mean to temporarily keep Concubine Xiang here?" Ji Hai's smile remained unchanged as he continued to ask.

"Yes," Ji Youran had to admit.

"Well, I shall go to the governor with the letter and ask him to check it out before reporting it, right?" Ji Hai seemed to want Ji Youran to speak. Although the smile on his face did not change, in fact, he wanted Ji Youran to show a clear attitude.

Ji Youran was frustrated and hated Ji Hai, but she had to suppress the anger in her heart. Even though Ji Hai was a eunuch, he was Lord Yun's personal eunuch. He was no ordinary eunuch.

"Princess Ji, since you want me to do this, I will do as told." Ji Hai withdrew his hand and put the letter in his pocket. He bowed to Ji Youran and then left.

As for Concubine Xiang, he naturally had nothing to do with her. He only intervened in this matter for the sake of Fourth Lady Qu.

Ji Youran was so angry that her face turned pale. Ji Hai sounded like she was the one who asked him to send the letter while the truth was that he had forced her to choose between the two. But now was not the time to pursue this further. Ji Youran looked at the elders and her face sank. She was now the Crown Prince's Princess Ji, and she believed that these old people would not dare to offend her.

"My dear elders, what do you think?"

"Anything you wish, Princess Ji." The elders eyed each other. For a moment, they did not know what to say. Only after a long time did an elder stand up to speak.

"Well then, let Grandmother handle and investigate this matter!" The elders' words were exactly what Ji Youran was waiting for. As long as the elders did not intervene in this matter, this matter would only be the matter of the Ji Family. The decision would be in Old Lady Ji's hands, and Ji Youran knew very well what kind of person Old Lady Ji was.

At such a time, the Old Lady could only stand on her side. So what if Uncle was the Old Lady's biological son? Her father was, too.

When one of her sons was gone, she wouldn't be willing to have the other son executed, would she?

Since Ji Youran had said so, the elders did not dare to say anything. They all nodded and breathed a sigh of relief. This matter was too serious, and they were not to make the decision. Right now, going against the Ji Family's second branch would mean going against the Crown Prince, and they were not as bold as to go against the Crown Prince.

It would be best for the Ji Family to resolve this matter themselves.

"Elders, I'll have to trouble you to take Concubine Xiang to Grandmother's place first. I'll help Uncle clean up and come over immediately." After getting the elders' consent, Ji Youran said as she pointed at the opened drawer.

Was there the need to clean things up? No, but she was worried about the other letters in the drawer...

## Chapter 170 Intimidating Old Lady Ji

"Old Lady, I heard that Uncle wants to have an heir. I wonder if you have any recommendations." Qu Moying smiled and looked at Old Lady Ji in front of her. Her smile was a bit cold. Under her eye veil, she was now Qu Moying, but even so, she still felt a dull pain in her heart.

The Old Lady Ji in front of her looked not much different from before. The Grandmother, who sent her off to the bridal sedan chair that day, who repeatedly exhorted her, did not change that much. However, this, for Qu Moying, was a distance of life and death.

When they met again, things were different, and they were no longer the same as before.

The family affection between them had long been gone, and when they met again, their relationship was full of wounds and was broken.

"Fourth Lady Qu, this is a private matter of our mansion, so there is no need for you to worry about it." Old Lady Ji frowned unhappily, feeling that Fourth Lady Qu was getting more and more unlikable.

"Old Lady Ji, just now, Concubine Xiang has taken the eunuch from Lord Yun Mansion and some other people to Uncle's yard, saying that she has Uncle's will as proof. Do you not want Uncle to have an heir who would show up at his anniversary and worship him in the future?" Qu Moying was still smiling and her voice was soft.

The meaning behind her words shocked Old Lady Ji. She did not have time to scold Qu Moying for being rude, and she sat up straight, her eyes nervous.

"The eunuch from Lord Yun Mansion?"

"Yes, I heard that it was Lord Yun's personal eunuch. This matter should be reported to Lord Yun soon, and it is likely that Lord Yun will take it over. Uncle's status was not ordinary, and he had always been loyal to the Emperor. Since something like this happens, the Emperor will definitely get to the bottom of this matter and make decisions for Uncle."

Qu Moying was all smiles. There were thousands of thoughts in her eyes under the eye veil. However, what revealed on her face was only a faint smile rather than any of her thoughts in her deep eyes.

Old Lady Ji's face turned pale. She grabbed the chair railing and pursed her lips tightly. If it were anyone else, the Old Lady would not be so nervous, but this person was Lord Yun. She could not help but be fidgety.

Although the Crown Prince was going to be the Emperor in the future, at this time, his position was not yet stable. Lord Jing was uncertain, and the Emperor seemed to be hesitant. Meanwhile, Lord Yun was highly regarded by the Emperor and sometimes was even valued more than the Crown Prince. It was said that only Lord Yun dared to disobey the Emperor, and the Emperor would not blame him.

Just from this point alone, one could know that Lord Yun was deeply favored by the Emperor. Besides, he had the command of armies. He was powerful and had a high position. Thus, he was only inferior to the Emperor but superior to everyone else in the country. Compared with the Crown Prince, Lord Yun seemed to have a higher position.

When the Ji Family was faced with such a person, it went without saying that they could only avoid him. Even the Crown Prince had to do it as well.

“Why did Lord Yun Mansion’s people come today?” Old Lady Ji did not believe that her family would invite this Lord Yun today. On one hand, it was because the two families did not have a kinship, and on the other hand, it was because this Lord Yun had such a high position and huge power that the Ji Family could not afford to develop a connection with him.

If it were in the past when her eldest son was in charge of the mansion, they might have been able to gain some connections with him. However, at this moment, Old Lady Ji was very clear that they were way inferior to him.

I heard that Lord Yun is very respectful to Uncle and especially sent someone to send Uncle’s coffin off. Now, he should have already returned with the letter that Uncle left behind. Since this letter is in Lord Yun’s hands, it will definitely be sent to the Emperor. Perhaps the Emperor will send people to investigate Earl Ling’an’s Mansion. After all, all of Earl Ling’an’s Mansion’s glory is gained by Uncle himself.”

Qu Moying’s gaze fell on Old Lady Ji’s face, and her smile was as light as a lotus.

Although Earl Ling’an’s Mansion originally had a title, this title had already declined. If it weren’t for her father, the family would have long declined. It was impossible for it to be one of the large aristocratic families. The so-called title remained because of her father’s military achievements.

Originally, this generation would be the last one to inherit the title of Earl Ling’an. However, because of her father’s contribution, the Emperor issued a decree, allowing the title to be passed on to the next three generations, which began from her father’s next generation.

Old Lady Ji became nervous after hearing Qu Moying’s words, and her expression became flustered. She pressed her hand on the chair railing and moved it again. After repeating this several times, she looked at Qu Moying and said unhappily, “Everything of Earl Ling’an’s Mansion is naturally accumulated by the ancestors. How can it be the accomplishment of Yongming alone?”

Qu Moying ignored Old Lady Ji's defense and continued to say with a smile. "If Lord Yun were to investigate this matter, he would definitely investigate it very clearly. He would investigate every little detail in the past, and he might even ask to open Uncle's coffin and examine it. He would definitely get to the bottom of this."

Opening the coffin and examining it?

The Old Lady's heart fiercely jumped a few times. The corners of her mouth tilted, and she opened her mouth in shock. However, she found that she could not speak. Was this something that could be investigated? If those things were found out, the entire Ji Family would be wiped out. The Old Lady was very clear about this. This was also why she had no choice but to pretend that nothing had happened.

Her eldest son and the first branch were all dead. What could she do? Did she need to sacrifice the entire Earl Ling'an's Mansion for her eldest son?

No, the investigation must not start.

"Old Lady, I heard that Princess Ji has brothers. Can't they just give Uncle one? Even if he becomes Uncle's heir, he is still related to Princess Ji by blood. He is also your biological grandson. It is actually the same." Qu Moying looked like she was just chatting as she suggested with a smile.

Yes, yes, the second branch had two grandsons. It was not a big deal to offer one.

For the Old Lady, the grandson of the first branch was her grandson, and the grandson of the second branch was also her grandson. No matter what, it was not a loss, but it could avoid the disaster that would wipe out the whole family.

She could not let Lord Yun investigate this, let alone open the coffin, absolutely not.

There was some cold sweat on her back. She composed herself and looked at the smiling Qu Moying. As she narrowed her eyes, she found herself in no mood to pay attention to Qu Moying. Her face turned cold. "Fourth Lady Qu, send my thanks to your grandmother for her gifts to me."

Qu Moying came to see Old Lady Ji in the name of sending gifts on behalf of Old Lady Qu!

“Old Lady Ji, you are too polite. Grandmother said that the Ji Family and Qu Family are in-laws. Although my uncle’s family is gone now, we are still relatives. So she asked me to visit you more.” Qu Moying smiled and knew that it was the right time.

Ji Youran understood Old Lady Ji’s character, and she also understood it. In fact, she could see more clearly as an outsider.

Between Concubine Xiang and the letter, Ji Youran would definitely choose to keep Concubine Xiang. It was dangerous for Concubine Xiang to fall into Ji Youran’s hands.

Ji Hai was a smart person. It was impossible to take both of them away. It was already good enough to take away the letter. After all, Ji Youran was Princess Ji of Eastern Palace, and he was only Lord Yun Mansion’s servant.

Even though he was a favored servant, on the surface, he had to let Ji Youran choose first.

As for whether Ji Hai was willing to help or not, Qu Moying already knew that he would interfere when he was willing to follow Concubine Xiang over. It just so happened that way, and she could get away and come to Old Lady Ji’s place first.

There were some things that Xiao could not tolerate but were acceptable to Old Lady Ji. Having an heir in either of the two branches made no difference to her. The heir was her descendant anyway. Why would she provoke Lord Yun Mansion to interfere in this matter and ruin their plan?

In Old Lady Ji’s heart, Earl Ling’an’s Mansion’s matter was a big matter. For this reason, she could bear with the news of her son’s death and suppress it until now to say that her son was gone.

At this time, they didn’t share the interests; there were differences.

Old Lady Ji’s heart was in a mess. She leaned back and looked tired. Her eyes slowly closed. This meant that she wanted the guests out and that she was drained.



However, Qu Moying seemed to not understand it. She just sat at the side with a smile and did not speak to disturb Old Lady Ji. She had a leisure look on.

Old Lady Ji looked at Qu Moying from the corner of her eyes with annoyance. She really did not have a good impression of this Fourth Lady Qu. Her words just now were aggressive. She was merely the Fourth Lady abandoned by Qu Mansion since childhood, but she actually thought of her as somebody.

This girl actually was not sensible at all. She had already hinted that she was tired, but Fourth Lady Qu was still sitting there, without the slightest intention of leaving.

Old Lady Ji coughed softly and was about to drive Qu Moying away rudely when she suddenly heard Qu Moying say something.

“Yu Dong.”

“Yes, my lady!” Yu Dong hurriedly replied.

“When we were at Crown Prince’s Mansion, did you see... those things of Crown Princess’?” Qu Moying paused here, and Old Lady Ji’s ears pricked up, trying to listen to what they said.

“I didn’t see it, but someone seemed to have seen it.” Yu Dong continued the conversation with his lady with some meaningless words. He took the opportunity to look outside and calculated the time. Those people should be coming over soon. If they didn’t come over now, Old Lady Ji would really drive them off. The impatient attitude on her face was very obvious.

“Who is that?” Qu Moying turned her head to ask.

“I think she is Crown Princess’ maid!” Yu Dong answered casually, knowing that his lady was stalling for time.

“Can you recognize her?” Qu Moying asked casually.

“Well... I might have to study her face properly. If I see her, I might be able to recognize her.” Yu Dong’s words were meaningless. The only use was to wait for those people to come over.

Footsteps were already coming from outside. A series of hurried footsteps were heard. Yu Dong gave Qu Moying a look. His hearing was very good. He could hear from afar.

Qu Moying nodded with a smile, her smile as calm as ever.

An old maid ran into the room in a hurry. “Old Lady, a few elders have brought Concubine Xiang here. They say that they have something important to discuss with you.”

“Let them in!” Old Lady Ji shivered and quickly said. She couldn’t help but sit up straight. She no longer paid attention to Qu Moying and only looked at the door in a panic, afraid that something she couldn’t deal with would happen.

The old maid went out and soon brought a group of people in. The elders were in the front, followed by Concubine Xiang. Several relatives involved were also by the side.

After everyone came in and greeted, they sat down on the side. Some people saw Qu Moying and recognized that she was Fourth Lady Qu. Seeing her sitting next to Old Lady Ji, they thought that she was specially asked to stay by Old Lady Ji, so they did not say anything and only let Concubine Xiang come forward.

“Old Lady, Earl Ling’an left me a letter. It reads that he wants to have an heir. The letter has been sent to Lord Yun Mansion. After Lord Yun Mansion checks it, we will know if what I said is true.”

Kneeling in front of the Old Lady Ji, Concubine Xiang raised her head and said.