

Noble Wife 171

Chapter 171 Questioning, Where Was Cousin Yanyue Buried?

Lord Yun was going to look into this? Was this something that could be looked into? Just now, Old Lady Ji had already panicked because of Qu Moying's words. Hearing that Concubine Xiang still insisted on getting to the bottom of this, Old Lady Ji was suddenly enraged. She slammed the table and angrily rebuked, "Is this something that a concubine like you should meddle in? You keep talking about the matter of an heir. Who do you think you are?"

Concubine Xiang had already left her life and death out of consideration. Hearing Old Lady Ji reprimand her like this, she raised her head to look at the Old Lady and said, "Old Lady, this is not something I want. It's Earl Ling'an's last wish. Moreover, it will be reported to the Emperor."

The Old Lady's brows furrowed tightly. She wished she could have slapped Concubine Xiang. She was extremely annoyed. Picking up the teacup on the table, she took a sip and put the cup back down. Then, she calmed herself down. "What exactly is written in the letter?"

This time, Concubine Xiang did not speak. She looked at the elders at the side. She did not manage to read the letter just now. The ones who did were the elders.

One of the elders coughed softly. "Old Lady, Earl Ling'an wrote that he wanted an heir, so that the first branch's bloodline could be passed down. He didn't want that there would be no descendants left in the first branch after his death and that no one would pay their respects to the first branch in the future. In addition, he also mentioned Third Lady Ji."

"What about Yanyue?" The Old Lady was shocked. This was another matter that could not be mentioned.

"He mentioned that the dowry that his wife, Yue, gave to the mansion should be given to Third Lady Ji. When the Crown Princess married into Eastern Palace, half of Yue's dowry was left for Third Lady Ji," the elder said.

Third Lady Ji, Ji Yanyue. Right now, there was no such person as Ji Yanyue in the Ji Family.

"Yanyue, Yanyue..." Old Lady Ji stared into space as she muttered to herself.

"Old Lady, where exactly did Cousin Yanyue go? Since Uncle left half of Aunt's dowry for her, naturally, these are all hers. We should let Cousin Yanyue make the decision since she is Uncle's biological daughter. At this time, are you still unwilling to tell us where she is, Old Lady Ji?"

Qu Moying looked up at Old Lady Ji and asked.

"Yanyue is already dead. What's the use of talking about this?" Old Lady Ji pressed hard on the chair and shouted angrily.

"But I heard that Cousin Yanyue didn't die. It's just that she was no longer around here. And I heard people say that her reputation was damaged. But no matter what, Cousin Yanyue should come out at this time. Uncle is dead. If Cousin Yanyue is still alive, she will be Uncle's only kin," Qu Moying continued.

She wanted to see how Old Lady Ji would justify herself.

"Fourth Lady Qu, this is the internal affairs of our mansion. It has nothing to do with you." Old Lady Ji had disliked Qu Moying for a long time, and now she was so annoyed that she did not care about etiquette. She directly reprimanded Qu Moying.

"Old Lady Ji, I am just worried about Cousin Yanyue's safety. This matter should be looked into. Uncle was a high-rank official, but he didn't even know that something had happened to his own daughter. This is quite unacceptable! Please forgive me for being anxious, Old Lady."

Qu Moying held onto Yu Dong and stood up. She bowed deeply to Old Lady Ji and said again, "Please, clear Cousin Yanyue's name, Old Lady Ji!"

She lowered her head, and her eyes were cold and bloodthirsty. No matter what, she did not believe the vague meaning in those words that had been spread outside.

Her sister died so miserably, and after that, her sister's reputation was ruined. How could this Grandmother, who had frequently expressed her love for Ji Yanyue, be so calm as she vilified the latter's reputation?

Humans were inherently kind, but people in the Ji Family were cruel and malicious ones.

"Fourth Lady Qu, it's true that Yanyue died of a sudden disease." Old Lady Ji gritted her teeth hard to prevent herself from losing her composure. Qu Moying had talked and behaved appropriately, so at this time, Old Lady Ji could not find fault with her.

"Why didn't Uncle know that Cousin Yanyue died of a sudden disease? The letter he left behind indicated that nothing had happened to Cousin Yanyue." Qu Moying looked up, and her gaze slowly fell on Old Lady Ji's face.

"I'm afraid he would be worried about this matter, so I kept it a secret from him. Not only him but Crown Princess also did not know this." Old Lady Ji explained with a sulky face.

"Where is Cousin Yanyue buried?" Since Qu Moying had voiced out about this, she naturally would not let the Old Lady brush it off so easily. "I'd like to pay my respects to her," she said.

Since it was hinted that Yanyue had eloped with someone, there would naturally be no grave. This was also the cunningness of Pei Luo'an and the others. If there was nowhere to investigate, nothing would be found out. Those vague speculations would not only make people feel that Earl Ling'an's Mansion was cold-blooded but also pitiful.

In order to cover up the fact that one of their ladies had lost her chastity, they had done all they could to cover it. If this matter was really put to the table, it wouldn't be good for the entire Ji Family.

The few elders at the side couldn't watch on any longer. An elder sitting at the head of the table spoke, "This is a matter of our Ji Family. Fourth Lady Qu, I hope that you won't interfere."

"Third Lady Ji is my cousin. Shouldn't I go and pay my respects?" Qu Moying coldly looked at the elder. Her face was emotionless and ruthless, and her cherry lips tightly pursed. There was a bit of killing intent in her that made one's heart palpitate.

Although the elder could not see her eyes, he could sense that her eyes were coldly staring at him from behind her eye veil. For some reason, he was a little flustered. This Fourth Lady Qu's imposing manner was truly astonishing. It actually made him feel a bit guilty.

"Fourth Lady Qu, let's talk about this later. Let's first investigate Concubine Xiang's matter. I hope that you can take the dignity of the Ji Family into consideration."

Old Lady Ji was an experienced and sophisticated person. She coughed softly and pulled back the conversation.

The coldness on Qu Moying's face receded slightly. When she looked back, there was already a faint smile on her face. She glanced at Concubine Xiang and said, "Old Lady Ji, Concubine Xiang's matter is actually very easy to investigate. As long as we let Lord Yun carry out an investigation, he will definitely be able to find out the truth. Right now, Concubine Xiang thinks that the letter is real, while Second Madam Ji thinks it is fake. That is why there is a dispute. It is precisely because of this dispute that Lord Yun meddles in."

With a few words, she pointed out where Lord Yun would start his investigation.

If not for the fact that the Ji Family's people had a dispute, it would be inconvenient for Lord Yun to interfere even if he wanted to.

At present, Concubine Xiang was the key, but the cause for this matter was also the key. The difference in opinions was the reason for the divergence.

The member of Ji Youran and Xiao's family, namely the second branch, had not appeared until now. They must be dealing with the letters left by her father. They must be afraid that some bad news would spread out. This was why they did not have time to come over right now. They would only appear after they finished dealing with it. Now, Qu Moying had to make the Old Lady own up while they were not around.

She had specially asked Granny Zhou to leave a few letters meant for her mother. When her father was at the border, he had written a few letters to her mother, all of which had been kept there. Later, when her mother was gone, her father had collected these letters and put them in the drawer.

These few letters were meant to stall Xiao and Ji Youran. The previous words were all foreshadowing, and it was best to start with Old Lady Ji to get the truth out.

Ji Youran and Xiao would never have thought that Qu Moying had always been with Old Lady Ji, nor would they have thought that Old Lady Ji had already given up and decided to admit to this matter.

Otherwise, they would not be so reassured as to let Old Lady Ji handle these matters alone.

These words made Old Lady Ji snap back to her senses. Right now, what she was most afraid of was Lord Yun interfering in this matter. She had heard that as long as a living person entered the West Prison, which was under the command of Lord Yun, there would be nothing that couldn't be gotten out of that person. She had also heard that Lord Yun could even make those who were dead "speak". Even if it were broad daylight when one passed by outside West Prison's door, they would still feel waves of cold wind.

Old Lady Ji's breathing became heavy. She had an idea in her mind. Wasn't it just to find an heir for the first branch? If they insisted, then so be it. After all, the heir must be her own grandson, so it didn't matter which branch the grandson was from.

The title of Earl Ling'an would always belong to Ji Family anyway, and it was impossible for it to fall into another family's hands. There was no need to get Lord Yun, who was hard to deal with and would even bring trouble to them, involved just because of this matter.

"Fourth Lady Qu, the Ji Family's matter will be investigated by the Ji Family. Concubine Xiang married into us together with Yue. She wholeheartedly served Yue and also paid her respects in the temple hall after Yue passed away. She has been in the temple hall for so many years, and her mind is kind. So, what she said is naturally true."

Old Lady Ji coughed softly. She affirmed Concubine Xiang and confirmed that what Concubine Xiang said was true.

The elders watched on and nodded repeatedly. They also felt that it was a good idea. No one wanted to have anything to do with the malignant man, Lord Yun. Although it was Earl Ling'an's Mansion's matter, the Ji Family got involved, so the elders would also be implicated inevitably. If these few elders were brought to Lord Yun, they would not even be able to stand steadily.

They would rather not meet him!

Not only was Lord Yun notorious, but he was also favored by the Emperor. It was said that the Emperor listened to him. Even if Lord Yun grew dissatisfied and killed someone's whole family, the Emperor might not say anything.

The elders thought the situation through. When the elders heard Old Lady Ji's words, they all nodded as if they were granted amnesty.

"Old Lady, do you think that what Concubine Xiang said is credible?" Qu Moying frowned and asked.

"Of course it is credible." If this question had been asked by someone else, Old Lady Ji would not have answered so decisively.

"Old Lady Ji, are you really going to find an heir for Uncle?" Qu Moying raised her eyebrows. Even though one could not see her eyes, they could sense her surprise.

"Since it was Yongming's wish, I will naturally do as he wished. He was the dignified Suppressor General. Was he not worthy of having an heir?" The Old Lady snorted coldly. Seeing Qu Moying's surprise, she became even more displeased.

"Old Lady, you are indeed fair. I'd like to express my thanks." Qu Moying bowed, and then her gaze fell on Concubine Xiang. "Can I ask for a favor, Old Lady?"

"What is it?" Old Lady Ji asked cautiously. As long as it was said by Qu Moying, she did not like it. This time, Fourth Lady Qu had been very annoying. These were all the thoughts in Old Lady Ji's mind. She was willing to give in a little just to make Fourth Lady Qu leave sooner. This Fourth Lady Qu was really difficult to deal with.

"My mother left me some things back then, but I am a bit confused now. There are some things that Concubine Xiang knows better. Can I temporarily invite Concubine Xiang to Qu Mansion today and help me sort out which ones are my mother's dowry?" Qu Moying said with a shy expression. "Yue did not have many old acquaintances in the capital. Only Concubine Xiang might be able to help!"

Chapter 172 Crown Princess Had Poor Judgement!

The matter at Qu Mansion had caused quite a lot of trouble recently. Everyone knew that the Second Madam, the one who got appointed later on, was a bad person. Now, it seemed that she was also greedy for Second Madam Qu's dowry.

Come to think of it, this matter was normal. She had murdered her husband's ex-wife's daughter. How could she not covet the ex-wife's dowry? If the daughter died, wouldn't all the dowry fall into her hands instead?

"Old Lady Ji, we will just sort it out quickly. Concubine Xiang will come back soon." Qu Moying said with a smile.

Old Lady Ji went silent for a moment. She looked at Concubine Xiang, who was kneeling on the ground. This matter was considered to have come to an end here. It was actually no big deal whether Concubine Xiang stayed here or not.

As long as her entire family admitted that what Concubine Xiang said was true and what her eldest son wrote was true, Lord Yun could not interfere. Since Concubine Xiang was useless, it was fine to send her out. At least the annoying Fourth Lady Qu would finally leave, which was a good thing.

Next, the Old Lady would discuss this with her second son and his family. If Fourth Lady Qu were still around, it would be troublesome.

As Old Lady Ji thought of this, her expression became a bit kinder. She nodded and said, "Alright then. Hurry up and come back soon."

"Thank you, Old Lady!" Qu Moying replied quickly. She thanked Old Lady Ji with a smile, then stood up and said goodbye.

Seeing that she was finally leaving, Old Lady Ji casually said a few words of courtesy and asked the old maid to send them out.

Concubine Xiang followed Qu Moying out. After walking a few steps, she looked in the direction of where the first branch lived with tears in her eyes and stopped. "Fourth Lady Qu, I can't leave. Earl Ling'an had just passed. How can I leave at this time?"

She knew that Qu Moying was trying to save her, but she was really unwilling to leave at this time.

"If you don't leave at this time, are you waiting to be killed by Princess Ji and Second Madam Ji?" Qu Moying asked with a cold face.

"No, I am Earl Ling'an's concubine. Princess Ji and Second Madam won't do that to me." Concubine Xiang shook her head and said with tears, "Even if they beat me up, I wouldn't care. I just want to accompany Earl Ling'an. He is now all alone there. I..."

When Concubine Xiang said this, she choked and couldn't continue. Tears trickled down her cheeks.

"They will take your life," Qu Moying said with certainty.

"No, although Princess Ji and Second Madam are a little selfish, they won't do such a thing. In the past, Princess Ji and the Crown Princess were very close." Concubine Xiang shook her head.

"They will! Crown Princess had poor judgement." Qu Moying sneered and said with certainty.

She was mocking herself. In her last life, she was ignorant. Even the people around her mother felt that although Ji Youran was a little selfish, Ji Youran was good overall. Who would have thought that Ji Youran would collude with Pei Luo'an to kill Ji Hanyue's father, push Ji Hanyue down into the water from Linyuan Pavilion, and even cruelly chop Ji Hanyue to death?

Concubine Xiang was so shocked by the meaning of Qu Moying's words that her face turned pale. She yelled out, "Fourth Lady Qu!"

"Let's go. I will tell you in detail when we get back!" Qu Moying waved her hand and walked out.

Concubine Xiang wanted to say something more, but she saw Qu Moying's cold face. For some reason, Qu Moying looked somewhat like the Second Lady in the past. For a moment, Concubine Xiang did not dare to say anything more. Back then, Second Lady had an imposing manner. Even when it was Concubine Xiang who saw Second Lady, she would be well-behaved and did not dare to take a wrong step.

The carriage was waiting at the same place. After the two of them got on the carriage, Qu Mansion's carriage immediately headed out of the gate and left.

Not long after they left, a few lowly old maids chased out of the mansion. Hearing that Qu Mansion's carriage had already left, they helplessly returned.

"Mother, why did you let Fourth Lady Qu take Concubine Xiang away?" Hearing the servant report that Qu Mansion's carriage had already left, Xiao angrily stomped her feet.

"It's fine. Concubine Xiang will be sent back soon. Qu Mansion's matter is also very chaotic. That Fourth Lady Qu was so unruly. She just kept talking here and didn't even know she should leave to avoid arousing suspicion." Old Lady Ji rubbed the space between her eyebrows and said.

The elders of the Ji Family had already been invited by Ji Yong'an to have a talk in the yard beside. Only Xiao was here, and Ji Youran was not here because she had gone to talk to the Crown Prince.

"Mother, Concubine Xiang is very important. I'm afraid that you might not be able to find her when you look for her again." Xiao was furious. She regretted that she had come a little late. She thought that Concubine Xiang was only an ant in her palm and she could strangle Concubine Xiang to death however she wanted. She did not expect that Concubine Xiang would actually escape right under her nose.

She really had no idea that Fourth Lady Qu had come over here.

"What are you saying? What do you mean by not being able to find her? So what if we find her? Can we say that what she said is false? This matter is settled. Tomorrow, we will hold a ceremony in the ancestral hall to transfer Yuanhai to Yongming's first branch. He will be considered Yongming's wife-

born son and appointed as Yongming's heir. The title of Earl Ling'an will be given to Yuanhai. Anyway, he is your son. No matter who the title is given to, his relationship with you will not change."

Sensing the blame in Xiao's words, Old Lady Ji slammed the table in displeasure. After that, she ignored Xiao. She held an old maid's hand and walked inside, leaving Xiao alone, who was so enraged that she almost passed out.

How was it the same? That concubine-born son had nothing to do with her. It was not the same no matter what.

Her son had missed getting the title, and now, the son of a concubine had gotten the benefits instead. Xiao felt that she was going to be pissed to death by this brainless old woman.

However, it was not reasonable to transfer her son to the first branch to become the heir. After all, her son was the only wife-born son from the second branch. In this case, it was impossible to transfer him to the first branch.

The only candidate right now seemed to be Ji Yuanhai.

However, Xiao was dissatisfied. She had schemed for so long and so much, to the point of even risking getting herself beheaded. In the end, the title of Earl Ling'an fell into the hands of this little bastard Ji Yuanhai, while her son had to stand aside instead.

And now, Old Lady Ji was so brainless as to let Concubine Xiang be taken away by Fourth Lady Qu. It was useless for Xiao to talk anymore. After stomping hard, she turned back and went out to discuss things with her daughter. She had to find her daughter. Old Lady Ji, the selfish old woman, was so useless that she couldn't even detain a concubine.

Xiao hurriedly went to find Ji Youran. Meanwhile, Ji Youran was not in a good situation.

After she spilled everything, Pei Luo'an's originally calm face immediately showed anger. His cold gaze landed on her face, and he asked sternly, "How could there be such a thing? Didn't you say before that nothing would happen in the Ji Family?"

"I... I didn't know that Concubine Xiang would suddenly come out of the temple hall and even make such a scene." Ji Youran cried with tears.

While wiping away her tears with a handkerchief, she looked very aggrieved. She looked extremely delicate. "Also, I did not expect that Lord Yun Mansion's people would actually bump into her. Moreover, that eunuch called Ji Hai even took the initiative to follow her back."

"What exactly did he say?" Pei Luo'an asked coldly.

"He said that he would report to the governor to help investigate this matter. After all, this matter is related to Eldest Uncle. No one can be careless about it." Ji Youran sobbed sadly. "Your Highness, I wonder what Lord Yun is up to. Why does he have to intervene in this kind of thing? This is clearly not his business. He..."

Ji Youran said indignantly. The more she thought about it, the more she felt wronged. This matter had nothing to do with Lord Yun Mansion, so how could they get involved? Lord Yun was definitely meddling in others' business. No matter how powerful Lord Yun was, he was only an official. How could he dare to go against the Crown Prince?

"Shut up!" Pei Luo'an snapped, suppressing his anger. He did not want to hear anything about Pei Yuanjun. How could he not know what Pei Yuanjun was like? Pei Yuanjun had always displayed his attitude clearly. Pei Yuanjun was arrogant and did not take the Crown Prince seriously. But what could he do? He had not ascended to the throne yet.

The position of Crown Prince was not reliable enough.

In fact, in front of Father, he was not as honourable as Uncle Yun.

When this matter was mentioned, he felt aggrieved. He had never let out this kind of grievance when in front of others. The only one who he expressed it to was Ji Hanyue.

In front of Ji Hanyue, he could say it, and he said it very naturally. But in front of Ji Youran, he was not willing to mention it, which only made him embarrassed.

“What’s in those letters?”

“Just... just some letters that Eldest Uncle wrote to Aunt Luo. Letters from a long time ago when he was still at the border.” Seeing that Pei Luo’an had been pulling a long face, Ji Youran panicked and stammered. She felt that something was wrong with the atmosphere. In the past, if she showed such an expression, Crown Prince would definitely appease her. No matter how serious the matter was, it would be no big deal.

In the past, she was sure that the Crown Prince was sincere to her and that he was just pretending to love Ji Hanyue. It was just that Ji Hanyue had a good father. If Eldest Uncle were her father, the Crown Prince would definitely marry her instead, and thus she could become Crown Princess.

But now, some things seemed to be different from what she had imagined. This kind of difference started after Ji Hanyue died.

Crack! A heavy slap made Ji Youran take two steps back and bump into the antique shelf behind her. She staggered a few steps before stabilizing herself. She covered her face with her hands, and her eyes were full of tears that streamed down her fair, tender face. Ji Youran wailed very sadly, but she did not dare to make a sound.

Pei Luo’an’s eyes were cold, and his cold gaze fell on her face. “Is this what you meant when you said nothing would happen?”

“Your Highness, I... I really didn’t know it would turn out this way.” Ji Youran sobbed. Her breath was very delicate, and she looked extremely sad and aggrieved.

“Go back to the mansion!” Pei Luo’an turned around and strode outside. This matter was complicated, and he did not want to get involved. It was just a matter of the title of Earl Ling’an, so it was not a big deal. Of course, it was best to have this title, but it was really not bad either if otherwise. Ji Yong’an was obviously not someone capable. He would not do a good job at controlling Ji Yongming’s connections. Pei Luo’an needed to think of another way.

“Your Highness...” Ji Youran cried out sadly.

Pei Luo'an seemed to have thought of something. He stopped in his tracks, and his expression softened a little. He waved at her.

Overjoyed, Ji Youran hurriedly ran over and excitedly reached out to grab Pei Luo'an's outstretched hand. "Your Highness!"

"Let's go back first. We'll discuss this when we get back!" Pei Luo'an's expression had already calmed down. He held her hand and explained gently, "I was a little impatient just now. I'm sorry. I won't do it again!"

"Your Highness... I'm fine." Seeing Pei Luo'an explain to her with a gentle expression, Ji Youran was moved to tears again. The Crown Prince was indeed devoted to her.

"Princess Ji..." Xiao came in from the outside and saw the scene in front of her...

Chapter 173 The Box Left by Earl Ling'an

Xiao went here to look for Ji Youran, and she didn't expect that the Crown Prince was also here. Seeing the Crown Prince's cold gaze sweeping over, Xiao hurriedly lowered her head. "Greetings, Your Highness."

After Pei Luo'an glanced at her, he took Ji Youran and strode out.

Xiao raised her head and wanted to tell Ji Youran about Concubine Xiang. However, she saw Ji Youran turn around and shake her head silently. Xiao quickly shut her mouth and watched the Crown Prince leave with her daughter. She was at a loss for what to do.

The Crown Prince and Ji Hanyue had gotten engaged early, and he used to visit her often. He was respectful towards the Ji Family's elders. Every time he came, he would send gifts. And when he met someone, he would smile and greet them. He had never been so cold as he was now. That glance just now made Xiao's hands and feet turn cold.

She originally wanted to ask for help from her daughter, but now all she felt was helplessness.

After standing for a while, she stomped her feet and turned to discuss things with Ji Yong'an. Concubine Xiang should be found as soon as possible. In a while, she would send someone to pick up Concubine Xiang. Earl Ling'an's coffin was still placed in the mourning hall, and this was the best reason to get Concubine Xiang back. Xiao did not believe that Qu Moying would dare to protect Concubine Xiang by not letting her go back, which would be wrongdoing on this occasion.

"Someone come." Xiao stopped in her tracks. This matter could not be delayed any longer.

"Madam." One of the old maids behind her hurriedly stepped forward.

"Go to Vice Minister Qu's Mansion and ask to meet Mr. Vice Minister. Say that we would like Concubine Xiang to go back to our mansion and that we are waiting for her to guard the coffin," Xiao said coldly.

Xiao had always been someone who had a clear mind. Just now, she lost her composure because of the Crown Prince's attitude when he pulled Ji Youran away. Now, after she calmed down, she immediately snapped back to her senses. This matter might have hit a snag when Qu Moying showed up, but Vice Minister Qu should not be such a person who was oblivious of the severity of the situation. He would definitely be able to stop his daughter from acting inappropriately.

"Yes, Madam. I'll go immediately." The old maid left and went to Vice Minister Qu's Mansion.

Xiao stood there for a while, composed herself, and then went to find Ji Yong'an.

This matter had to be discussed in detail. No matter what, she would not agree to let that concubine-born son inherit the title of Earl Ling'an. She had a hunch that if she let go this time, this title would not have anything to do with her own son ever again.

Her son was a wife-born son, who was the noble son that everyone in the entire mansion had raised with all their hearts. On what grounds could a lowly concubine-born son hold onto the title?

However, she was wrong about Qu Moying. Qu Moying bringing Concubine Xiang back to Qu Mansion was indeed something that did not make sense. It was because Old Lady Ji got so annoyed with Qu Moying and only wanted Qu Moying to leave that she allowed Qu Moying to take Concubine Xiang away. Moreover, Concubine Xiang was useless to Old Lady Ji.

When Old Lady Ji returned to her senses, she would definitely realize her decision was extremely inappropriate.

Moreover, even if Old Lady Ji did not want to see Concubine Xiang, Xiao would not let Concubine Xiang go and would definitely ask for Concubine Xiang back. Thus, Qu Moying had no good reason to keep Concubine Xiang, but she had already thought of a countermeasure...

Qu Mansion's carriage left Earl Ling'an's Mansion and did not return to Qu Mansion. Instead, it went to the governor's office.

Qu Moying sat in the carriage. Opposite her were Granny Zhou and Concubine Xiang.

Granny Zhou had followed her into Earl Ling'an's Mansion. She had been in Earl Ling'an's Mansion for so many years, so she was naturally familiar with everything about Earl Ling'an's Mansion. She had secretly entered Earl Ling'an's old residence and secretly placed the letter that Qu Moying wrote in the spot designated by Qu Moying.

Today was the day of Earl Ling'an's burial. This was Earl Ling'an's old residence and since there was nothing here, naturally, no one would guard it. The people were busy in the front yard. Those who needed to leave had left. Granny Zhou entered the door smoothly and found the spot that Qu Moying had mentioned. She put down the letter and took away most of the other letters before quietly leaving.

After that, she hid in the carriage and waited for Qu Moying to return.

"My lady, these are all the letters in Earl Ling'an's drawer, but there was another thing inside. I took it with me as well." Granny Zhou took out a stack of letters. At the top of the letters was a heavy box with a lock.

Qu Moying took the box from Granny Zhou's hand, and her hand sank a little. The box was actually very heavy. It was as if this box was solid. Qu Moying was caught off guard and almost couldn't hold it steadily.

After holding it firmly, she carefully examined it. Finally, she concluded that she had never seen this box before. At first glance, it looked very simple, without a trace of patterns. But when she held it in her hand, she saw cloud patterns on each corner. On the other side, there was a tiger head. It was vague and hard to notice. The clouds and the tiger head were fused together as if indicating something.

Did her father possess such an item in his last life? Qu Moying didn't know. She had never seen it before.

In fact, Qu Moying had never seen the secret drawer that his father used to hide things before. It was not until the night before Ji Hanyue was going to marry into Eastern Palace that her father called her over and showed her the drawer that contained things. At that time, she was sure that there was no such box inside.

Her father looked very serious at that time. He seemed to know something and wanted to say something. However, she did not pay much attention to it at that time, so she didn't notice her father's abnormality. Her father sighed when he saw her attitude. After that, he didn't say anything and asked her to go back.

It was said that on that night, the light in her father's study was lit until very late. At that time, she thought that her father was reluctant to part with her, but unexpectedly, it was the last time she saw her father.

Qu Moying narrowed her eyes forcefully and turned all the pain into deep hatred. It slowly flowed from her hurt heart to her four limbs and then slowly flowed backward again.

"Yu Dong, put them all away!" Qu Moying ordered.

This box needed a key to open. She did not have the key. She was sure that if she forcefully opened it, it would shatter the thing inside.

Yu Dong silently took it and put it into his arms.

“Granny Zhou, didn’t you see any key?” Although she knew that there was unlikely to be a key, Qu Moying still asked.

“I can be sure that there was no key. The letters I left there were the oldest ones, and I felt them one by one. There was definitely no key.” Granny Zhou shook her head and answered with certainty.

Qu Moying nodded. Since her father had placed the item here, there must be a deeper meaning. It could be said that her father had only told Ji Hanyue about this because he hoped that if something happened, he could tell Ji Hanyue something with a deeper meaning through these things. However, he was also afraid that others would know about it.

If this spot was found out, there would only be a simple box there, and no one would be able to find out anything even if they wanted to know something.

However, what her father did not expect was that not only did he die, but even Ji Hanyue, the Crown Princess, died in Eastern Palace’s Linyuan Pavilion, and her younger sister, Ji Yanyue, was also murdered on that very same night.

That night, it seemed that Eastern Palace was very lively. The Crown Prince’s wedding was a prosperous celebration. Red banners were hung everywhere in the capital, with everyone wishing the Crown Prince a blessed wedding. Who would have thought that the blood of three people from Ji Family’s first branch would make up the sea of red as well?

A trace of hatred flashed through Qu Moying’s eyes, and a trace of blood seeped into them. The corners of her lips curled up into a blood-thirsty smile.

“Concubine Xiang, it’s up to you now.” Raising her eyes to look at Concubine Xiang, Qu Moying said slowly as she suppressed the rage in her heart.

“Fourth Lady Qu, did something really happen to Third Lady?” Concubine Xiang could not help but ask. She was not Granny Zhou; she had always been serving by Yue’s side.

“Concubine Xiang, what are you still suspicious of at such a time? Do you really think that Cousin Yanyue would really elope with someone?” Qu Moying asked coldly.

“Impossible. Third Lady wouldn’t...” Concubine Xiang shook her head, her eyes turning red.

“Although it is said that Cousin Yanyue died of a sudden illness on the day before Cousin Hanyue married into Crown Prince’s Mansion, the truth is that rumors had it among aristocratic families that she eloped with someone. But in fact, Cousin Yanyue might have been murdered,” Qu Moying said.

There were some things that she could not tell Concubine Xiang, but there were some other things that could be said.

For example, she could not directly investigate the cause of Ji Hanyue’s death right now, but she could investigate the cause of Ji Yanyue’s death. Did she really die of a sudden illness or did she really elope with someone?

If she had eloped with someone, who was it that she eloped with, when did she contact him, and where had she gone? With such a thing happening, it was impossible for Earl Ling’an’s Mansion to not investigate at all, and it was impossible for them to not investigate clearly. But if she had died, why would there be rumors of her eloping with someone? Were they trying to cover up something?

These things had to be done by someone, and the most suitable person now was Concubine Xiang.

On the one hand, Concubine Xiang could openly and straightforwardly expose this matter by bringing out this shocking matter from a trivial matter. Step by step, she would take revenge for Qu Moying’s past life.

On the other hand, it was also to protect Concubine Xiang. Xiao and Ji Youran would definitely not let Concubine Xiang go. As long as Concubine Xiang remained in the Ji Family, her ending would only be death. No matter what the excuse was, Xiao and Ji Youran would definitely not let Concubine Xiang live.

Previously, Qu Moying had not expected that Concubine Xiang would have such great destructive power, and that was why she had been careful in her plans. But now, it was different. If something really happened to Concubine Xiang, who could do anything to Xiao, the Second Madam Ji of Earl Ling’an’s

Mansion? No matter what, Concubine Xiang was only a concubine. Moreover, her father was already gone anyway, and Xiao was the biological mother of the Crown Prince's Princess Ji.

With just these two points, as long as Xiao insisted on killing Concubine Xiang, this matter would be left unsettled.

Concubine Xiang did not know that even Ji Hanyue and her father had died in their hands. Concubine Xiang still had some expectations for these people. She did not think that those people would really make a move.

Qu Moying was not Concubine Xiang. What Qu Moying saw was the most real and cruelest side of the situation.

Concubine Xiang's unrealistic delusions had to be broken down.

"They... they really... murdered Third Lady?" Concubine Xiang's lips trembled, and her face turned pale. "How could they dare? First Lady and Earl Ling'an will definitely... not let them go."

"But now, Cousin Hanyue and Uncle were both dead." Qu Moying looked at Concubine Xiang with red-rimmed eyes, and she stayed so calm that it was terrifying.

"But... but how could they dare!" Concubine Xiang was shocked and could only repeat these words.

"Concubine Xiang, Uncle and Cousin Hanyue are gone. Now that something has happened to Cousin Yanyue, no one will help her take revenge, except us." Qu Moying said without mercy again. Her gaze stopped on Concubine Xiang's face, mercilessly tearing apart the last trace of hope in Concubine Xiang's heart.

Chapter 174 Beating the Drum Outside the Governor's Door

Granny Zhou bit her lips. Her face was as pale as a sheet, and her body shook, but she forcefully restrained it.

The lady in front of her looked extremely weak. Granny Zhou's first memory of Qu Moying was that she was a little baby wrapped in a swaddling cloth. She was so soft and cute. Her entire hand was so tiny. In an instant, the baby grew so big. Not only was she so grown now, but she was also so calm and steady.

So much so that even with just her petite body, she stood out to avenge Ji Yanyue, her younger cousin sister.

A strange sorrow welled up in Granny Zhou's heart. If nothing had happened to the Second Madam, although Fourth Lady Qu was somewhat weak, she would definitely have a mother who truly loved her. She would definitely not have had such a difficult time. Her lady had not yet reached the marriageable age, but she was able to handle things so calmly.

If it had not been for her experiencing too many hardships, how come a lady was not gentle and delicate?

Even when the Crown Princess was at Fourth Lady's age, there was still some innocence to her. Her identity at that time represented the calm and noble life of the future, but she still revealed a trace of weakness from time to time.

"Concubine Xiang, Cousin Hanyue and Uncle are gone. If you were also gone, there would be no one in this world who can uphold justice for Cousin Yanyue. Those who killed Cousin Yanyue will only keep laughing when Cousin Yanyue becomes the one who died for nothing. As a daughter of a high-rank General and also the wife-born lady of Earl Ling'an's Mansion, not only did she die for an unknown reason but her reputation was also ruined. In this case, even though she has died, she will not have a good reincarnation."

Qu Moying said coldly.

Even though her eye veil had blocked everything, others could still feel the coldness in her eyes. Everyone in the carriage was shocked.

These words were extremely cruel. There was a bit of contempt and ridicule in them. There was even a bit of killing intent in them. Qu Moying's beautiful lips curved up slightly. Her smile slowly showed. It was very gentle, but it also made people palpitate. Even Yu Dong couldn't help but lose his usual cool.

At this moment, he felt that the Fourth Lady, who was in front of him, looked more like his powerful and cold Master.

This kind of smile looked very gentle, but it made people feel as if a sharp knife was cutting through their bones and making crisp sounds.

"I... I understand!" After a long time, Concubine Xiang finally came back to her senses and gritted her teeth.

She should be afraid, but she inexplicably felt at ease. In fact, she was not familiar with this Fourth Lady Qu in front of her. All she knew was that Fourth Lady Qu had always been in a bad situation in Qu Mansion in the past, and Madam could not do anything about it. After all, this lady was the wife-born lady of Qu Mansion. Madam could only secretly let people watch over her when she was young.

Madam had even helped her out of danger. However, later, Madam's health worsened, and after she fell ill, First Lady took over this matter. As a result, Concubine Xiang did not bother about it anymore. Now, she did not expect that she would meet Fourth Lady Qu again under such circumstances, and that Fourth Lady Qu would set up such an exquisite plan.

There was no one left in Ji Family's first branch now, and this sad reality made Concubine Xiang grieve. But, at least there was Fourth Lady Qu, right?

Fourth Lady Qu gave Concubine Xiang a very strange feeling. She looked very weak, and her voice was very gentle, but she could make arrangements so calmly. Because of this, Concubine Xiang felt that she should believe Fourth Lady Qu. She should not say something like "Princess Ji and Second Madam won't do that" again. She thought about it carefully. If Princess Ji and Second Madam had not done something, then where did Third Lady go?

"Fourth Lady Qu, I will go and seek injustice for Third Lady soon. Even if Third Lady is dead, I will make sure her name is cleared. And I will not let those who hurt Third Lady get away with it." Concubine Xiang lowered her voice and said firmly.

Her eyes no longer wandered, and she was no longer distracted. She looked at Qu Moying with burning eyes.

Qu Moying nodded and breathed a sigh of relief in her heart. She was afraid that Concubine Xiang would not believe that something had happened to her sister. If the person who filed a complaint did not even believe, how could others be expected to believe her?

Moreover, this involved Crown Prince's Mansion.

Qu Moying needed to draw out a shocking case from this matter bit by bit. She had never even thought about the future of this path, but even if she had to sacrifice her life for the sake of it, she would still continue walking this path.

No matter what, she had to let the truth be revealed to the world. Even if she would be smashed into pieces one day, she had nothing to fear.

The carriage stopped. Yu Dong lifted the curtain and looked at the tall governor's office outside. She said to Qu Moying, "My lady, we have arrived at the governor's office."

Qu Moying nodded.

"Fourth Lady Qu, I will get off now," Concubine Xiang said.

"Be careful. I will watch out for you," Qu Moying said.

Concubine Xiang no longer said anything. She turned around and decisively got out of the carriage. Then, she picked up the hem of her dress and walked up the high steps.

There was a big drum at the door of the governor's office. It was for people who came to sue to beat. However, there was a price to pay for this—the person who came up to beat the drum would be flogged ten strokes without being asked the reason, and it would definitely not be light strokes. After that, the governor would definitely accept this case.

Qu Moying's original intention was to let Concubine Xiang make a complaint to pass down the message. However, Concubine Xiang went straight to the drum. Since she was going to make a complaint, she

naturally would make a bigger scene out of this matter and let more people know about it. Only then would it be a better way to seek justice for Third Lady.

Through the curtain, Qu Moying saw Concubine Xiang walking towards the big drum. Tears flashed in her eyes. She pressed her hand against the curtain and did not go up to stop Concubine Xiang. This was indeed the best method. Compared to directly going to the governor to make a complaint, beating the drum would indeed alert more people. Earl Ling'an's Mansion's status was not ordinary at the moment, but with Concubine Xiang's method of reporting the case, it would attract even more attention.

She also knew clearly that even if she were to sue now, it would probably end up unsettled. However, she would still do it. As long as there was a complaint record, there would be a chance to overturn the case. This complaint was utterly critical.

The more people who knew, the better!

Concubine Xiang rushed straight to the big drum. The guards guarding the office originally wanted to come up to stop her and question her, but looking at her, they gave up. The office had ordered that people who wanted to beat the drum to make a complaint should not be stopped.

Concubine Xiang went to the front of the big drum, picked up the stick by the side, and used all her strength to beat it.

When the drum sounded, many people who walked past stopped and looked at Concubine Xiang, who was standing on top of the steps, in shock. Such a weak woman standing in front of the big drum and beating it with all her might—she would definitely not do this unless she was greatly wronged. What happened?

Which family's injustice was it that she even needed to beat the drum? Ten heavy strokes were not something ordinary people could bear, let alone a weak woman.

More and more people gathered at the door. Some people were in their carriages, and Qu Moying's carriage was among them. In this way, her carriage was inconspicuous.

The chief came out and brought Concubine Xiang inside, leaving only a group of people standing outside the door pointing and talking about who this person was. They had never heard of anyone suffering from such great injustice that they had to come complaining so desperately.

Qu Moying's eyes fell on the door of the governor's office on top of the steps. Her cherry lips were tightly pursed, and her hand slowly pressed against her chest. Her eyes were slightly closed, and she forcefully calmed her emotions, about to ask the carriage to turn back to the mansion. She could not interfere in what happened next, but she knew that Concubine Xiang would not be in danger for the time being.

She was the plaintiff now...

However, she heard someone outside ask, "Is this Fourth Lady Qu's carriage?"

Qu Moying abruptly opened her eyes and looked outside.

After receiving her signal, Yu Dong lifted the curtain slightly and saw that it was a clever-looking young servant outside. He immediately nodded. "It is."

"I work for Lord Wei. He just came out and saw Qu Mansion's carriage. He guessed that it might be Fourth Lady Qu, so he specially asked me to ask whether Fourth Lady Qu's injury in Crown Prince's Mansion last time was serious. Does she need Lord Wei to have someone send an Imperial Doctor to your mansion to have a look? He heard that she sprained her ankle, which is an injury that normally takes a hundred days to recover."

The young servant said with a smile. His words were very polite.

However, Qu Moying was speechless.

She had indeed been injured from the fall, and it had indeed happened in Crown Prince's Mansion, and she had indeed sprained her ankle. However, this had nothing to do with this Lord Wei. The person who had bumped into Lord Wei's young servant was Yu Dong. What did Lord Wei mean? Did he mean that she was the one who had bumped into his young servant?

Did he really not know anything, or was he doing it on purpose?

As expected, none of the men of the royal family were easy to deal with. Even Lord Wei, who was said to be sick and weak, had a myriad of thoughts that could not be guessed so easily. In his seemingly gentle words, the meaning was not quite friendly. It was even somewhat insulting. Was he afraid that he would be implicated with her?

"Help me thank Lord Wei. I bumped into the rockery myself. It has nothing to do with Lord Wei. Also, the person who bumped into Lord Wei's young servant was my maid. The maid is fit enough and she did not suffer from any injury. It's fine, really. I appreciate Lord Wei's good intentions."

Qu Moying said slowly. No matter what this Lord Wei's goal was, she had to make it clear. She could not hesitate.

"Fourth Lady Qu, you are injured so badly. Lord Wei feels really sorry about it. Why don't..." The young servant's smile became kinder as he continued to speak politely.

"It was I who bumped into Lord Wei's young servant. It has nothing to do with my lady." Yu Dong interrupted the young servant unhappily.

"No, what Lord Wei means is..."

"Thank Lord Wei for me. My maid is fine. It's just a small matter. Lord Wei really doesn't need to care about this," Qu Moying said coldly.

The commotion and the word "Lord" had already been noticed by people around them.

"Let's go!" Yu Dong glanced at the young servant and ignored him. He then ordered the carriage driver.

The carriage driver turned the carriage around in another direction. He carefully drove the carriage out of the crowd and then went to Qu Mansion. Qu Moying had no intention of staying to argue with Lord Wei's young servant.

After a moment of surprise, the young servant turned around and walked to an alley by the side door of the governor's office. There was a large carriage. The curtain of the carriage was slightly rolled up. Lord Wei, Pei Qingmin, leaned there weakly and coughed a few times in a low voice. Although his pale face was sickly, he looked beautiful and gentle.

"Your Highness, Fourth Lady Qu said that the one we bumped into was her maid. Fourth Lady Qu fell on her own and has nothing to do with you." The young servant took two steps forward, stood in front of the carriage, and bowed respectfully.

Pei Qingmin coughed a few more times and wiped the corner of his lips with a handkerchief. After he raised his eyes, he looked at the crowd outside, asking, "Was the person just now brought here by Fourth Lady Qu?"

He happened to come out from the side door of the governor's office and happened to see Qu Mansion's carriage stop. The moment it stopped, a woman came down, and sleeves were seen moving inside the carriage. When the carriage behind stopped, a wheelchair was vaguely seen. Only then did he guess that it was Qu Mansion's Fourth Lady Qu.

The wheelchair was very familiar. Pei Qingmin frowned unhappily. He did not like to be blackmailed. He did not think too much about it before. Now that he saw the wheelchair, it made him think a little more...

Chapter 175 Lord Wei Had a Misunderstanding

It was said that when Fourth Lady Qu returned to Qu Mansion that day, she had injured her ankle. Back then when she stayed a little longer at Crown Prince's Mansion, it was to let Imperial Doctor check on her injury.

She had even alarmed the Imperial Doctor. She was really making a big fuss over nothing.

Pei Qingmin clearly remembered that the person who had bumped into his young servant at that time was one of Fourth Lady Qu's maids. And the maid reacted quickly and immediately stood up. So, why was there a rumor that Fourth Lady Qu had been injured and even had the Imperial Doctor from Crown Prince's Mansion to check on her?

This statement was really unpleasant.

Originally, it was no big deal. How did it turn into such a statement? Moreover, it even caused a ruckus in the palace. The first thing Pei Qingmin felt was wondering what Fourth Lady Qu was up to.

Although he was weak, he was still a Prince. Thus, he was not entirely useless for those noble ladies who did not have high statuses and wanted to marry him.

Fourth Lady Qu was Vice Minister Qu's daughter, and she was also a daughter who was not favored. Even her original engagement had been called off. Perhaps she had some plans up her sleeves.

This made Lord Wei very unhappy.

Although he was sick, he had the pride of being a Prince. His mother was naturally not favored in the palace as much as the Imperial Noble Consort, but it was also not bad. At least, compared to the Empress, she could be considered to be favored.

If not for his body, he might have been able to fight for the throne.

But right now, there was no need for him...

"Is that a wheelchair?"

"I didn't see it, but it looks like it." The young servant replied.

"Let's go!" Pei Qingmin was just asking casually. He waved his hand and the curtain fell. The carriage driver turned around and slowly drove the carriage toward Lord Wei Mansion.

Lord Wei was not like the others. His poor health was widely known, and his movements should remain light and stable.

Other Masters would be fine even when they were slightly jolted, but Lord Wei could not afford even a bumpy ride.

Qu Moying had just returned to Qu Mansion when the old maid, who was waiting there, summoned her to Qu Zhizhen's study. After asking Granny Zhou to go back first, Qu Moying sat in the wheelchair. Then, Yu Dong pushed her to the study.

The reason why Qu Zhizhen looked for her at this time must be that the matter of the Ji Family had been reported to Qu Zhizhen. They must have wanted to use this so-called father of hers to suppress her and force her to let Concubine Xiang go back.

Originally, the reason why she brought Concubine Xiang over was unsolid, and in fact, it was just a loophole.

Qu Moying got off the carriage at the door of the study and held Yu Dong's hand to enter. After she entered, she bowed.

It was very quiet up there. After a long time, Qu Moying's body swayed, and Yu Dong hurriedly reached out to support her.

"There's no need. Sit down first!" Qu Zhizhen's cold voice sounded.

Qu Moying held Yu Dong's hand and sat down on a chair.

"Father, what did you call me over for?" Qu Moying looked up and asked calmly. Just now, this so-called father of hers was deliberately punishing her. He deliberately did not ask her to get up and only said something after seeing her stand unsteadily.

"I heard that you interfered with Earl Ling'an's Mansion's matter? You are really bold." Qu Zhizhen's face sank, and he reprimanded coldly.

"Father, all I did was ask about Cousin Yanyue. How does that make me bold?" Qu Moying calmly raised her head and composedly looked at Qu Zhizhen.

"Do you know the status of Earl Ling'an's Mansion?" Qu Zhizhen's gaze was as sharp as a knife.

"I do. They are the Crown Prince's in-laws. They were in the past, and they are now as well," Qu Moying answered calmly.

"It's good that you understand! Earl Ling'an's Mansion's identity is not something that we, Qu Mansion, can compare to. Are you qualified to meddle in Earl Ling'an's Mansion's affairs?" Qu Zhizhen narrowed his eyes, becoming more and more displeased.

"I just wanted to ask about whether Cousin Yanyue is dead or alive. They said that Cousin Yanyue is dead, but they also hinted that Cousin died a disgraceful death," Qu Moying said indifferently.

"Even so, it has nothing to do with you. Where did you get the courage to meddle in such a thing?" Qu Zhizhen said angrily. His gaze swept over Qu Moying's face, and then his expression became slightly cold. He lowered his voice and waved his hand. "Hurry up and return Earl Ling'an's Mansion's concubine to them. Earl Ling'an's coffin is still in the mansion. What is the meaning of his concubine following you here? Are you pushing me into the fire? This is outrageous!"

"Father, Concubine Xiang has already gone back. When she was halfway on the road, Concubine Xiang got off the carriage and said that she wanted to go back. I wanted to send her back, but she said no," Qu Moying said.

"She left?" This result was really unexpected for Qu Zhizhen. He turned to look at the old maid who had sent a message to Qu Moying just now, and the old maid nodded silently.

"Yes, she has left. She should have been back by now," Qu Moying said indifferently.

At this time, there was no need for Earl Ling'an's Mansion to look for Concubine Xiang. Concubine Xiang had entered the governor's mansion, and what happened next was not something that the Ji Family could control.

“Good to hear that she was sent back. Don’t meddle in such things in the future.” Qu Zhizhen breathed a sigh of relief. He did not care much about the difference between “she should be back” and “she was sent back”. He thought they were the same.

“Father, the Ji Family’s Third Lady is my younger cousin sister.” Qu Moying looked up and insisted.

“So what? The Crown Princess is even your elder cousin sister. You don’t have much contact with each other in the past. At this time, the Crown Princess is gone and the Ji Family’s first branch has fallen. You are just a little girl. Are you saying you want to investigate the Ji Family? Even if there is another cause of the death of Third Lady, it is not something a lady of the low-ranking Vice Minister can investigate,” Qu Zhizhen suddenly said earnestly.

“I, too, am powerless in this matter. Compared to Earl Ling’an’s Mansion, a Vice Minister is really too weak.”

“Father...” Qu Moying’s eyes moved a little, carrying a bit of surprise.

“Well, this matter is over. Since that concubine has left, Earl Ling’an’s Mansion’s matter has nothing to do with us. Don’t you go to Earl Ling’an’s Mansion in the future again. They were originally not close to us. It is only after you came back that we started to have contact with them.”

Qu Zhizhen waved his hand and interrupted Qu Moying.

“Go back and rest first. Your foot is injured, and it is inconvenient for you to walk.”

“Yes, Father!” Seeing him like this, Qu Moying knew that he would not listen to her explanations anymore, so she did not force him. She held Yu Dong’s hand and stood up. Then, she said goodbye to Qu Zhizhen and left the study in the wheelchair.

The whole process was completely different from what Yu Dong had imagined. On the way, Yu Dong wanted to say something but remained silent several times. In the end, he held back and did not ask any questions on the way.

After returning to Qianyue House, Qu Moying got off the wheelchair and sat down in the main room.

After Yu Chun fetched some water to freshen up Qu Moying, he then poured a cup of tea and came in.

“What is that?” Qu Moying’s eyes fell on the table full of brocades.

“These were sent by Master. He said they were just kept in his private warehouse. He hasn’t been using them, so he gave them to you, my lady. He said that you don’t have many clothes with you.” Yu Chun smiled happily.

Looking at it, there were at least a dozen pieces of brocades here, and the material looked very good. The colors and patterns were particularly suitable for ladies.

More than a dozen of them were of such patterns. It could be seen that they had been carefully selected. Moreover, they were sent by Qu Zhizhen. It was really surprising. Ever since Qu Moying returned to the mansion, this so-called father of hers had not shown much kindness to Qu Moying. This time, the kindness came too suddenly.

“My lady, did the Second Master feel guilty for you, so he suddenly became good to you?” Yu Dong had wanted to speak for a long time. When he saw the brocades on the table, he asked in confusion.

Qu Moying shook her head. “No!”

If he felt guilty, he would have felt guilty a long time ago. Why would he wait until now?

“Today, the matter of you taking Concubine Xiang away from Earl Ling’an’s Mansion has really attracted criticism. I thought that Second Master would definitely be furious, but he was only angry for a while in the beginning, and then he treated you very well, my lady.” Yu Dong said.

The behavior of the Second Master today was indeed very strange.

It was as if he truly loved his daughter. However, everyone knew that he did not have any affection not only for his first wife but also for the daughter of the first wife. Otherwise, after so many years, he would not have allowed such a young lady to live in the village all on her own.

"It's up to him!" Qu Moying sneered. She really did not care about Qu Zhizhen's performance. In her heart, there was only one father, Earl Ling'an. As for Qu Zhizhen, this so-called father of hers, she only maintained her respect for him on the surface.

Today, regardless of whether Qu Zhizhen interfered or not, the result was the same. She did not care about what kind of nasty attitude Qu Zhizhen showed.

"My lady, how do we deal with these?" Yu Chun pointed to the pile of brocade in front of her.

"Send these to Third Lady and let her select a few," Qu Moying said lightly. These brocades should have been taken out from Qu Zhizhen's own private warehouse, but she did not care. However, Qu Qiuyan was not a person who could swallow insults silently.

"Yes, I will send them over now." Although Yu Chun felt it was a pity, her lady had made an order, so she naturally agreed. She found a few old maids to carry these brocades and went to Qu Qiuyan's yard.

When she came back, she brought back six bolts of brocades.

Out of the twelve bolts of brocades, Qu Qiuyan had returned six of them. She said that she wanted to share them equally with Qu Moying. She did not pick more, nor did she pick less. She was also a daughter of Qu Zhizhen, so it seemed very reasonable for her to do this.

But in fact, for so many years, only Qu Qiuyan had always possessed things. Since when did Qu Moying have a share too?

After Yu Dong left, Qu Qiuyan's face immediately turned livid. She picked up a bolt of brocade from the table and smashed it on the ground. The maids stood on both sides in fear, not daring to interrupt.

“Clean it up.” After a long while, Qu Qiuyan said with a cold face. One maid quickly squatted down to clean up the mess. She did it softly, and she did not dare to make a sound.

Qu Qiuyan sat on the chair with a cold face. A malicious look flashed through her eyes. After a long time, she stood up and walked outside. Her maid, Qing Ju, hurriedly followed her. After walking for a while, she found that Qu Qiuyan was going to Second Master’s study. For a moment, Qing Ju was shocked. Her face was pale, and she wanted to go forward to stop Qu Qiuyan.

If Qu Qiuyan went to make a scene at the Second Master’s place at this time, Second Master would definitely get angry. At that time, as her maid, Qing Ju would definitely be punished.

However, Qu Qiuyan suddenly stopped and turned in another direction with a gloomy face. Looking in the direction of Qu Qiuyan’s line of sight, Qing Ju breathed a sigh of relief. As long as her lady did not go to Second Master, it was fine...

Chapter 176 The Story of the So-called Concubine-born Daughter Who Suddenly Became a Wife-born Daughter

In Qingyu Garden, Yu was lying on the bed. Her face was pale, and her body was weak. She really could not get up. Ever since she returned to the mansion that day, she got really sick and could not get up from the bed at all.

She had taken a lot of medication prescribed to her. The Imperial Doctor had been here before, but after using so many medications, it was still ineffective. Her health did not seem to improve at all.

Hearing a sound coming from the door, Yu turned to Hai Lan. Hai Lan understood and put down the medicine bowl in her hand. She was about to go out and ask, but she saw Qu Qiuyan rushing in angrily. Therefore, Hai Lan could only retreat to the side and say, “Greetings, Third Lady.”

Qu Qiuyan swung her sleeve and almost hit Hai Lan’s face. Qu Qiuyan walked over with a cold face and looked at Yu on the bed. Her eyes were filled with anger.

“Yan, what... happened?” Yu raised her head and looked at her daughter’s bright face with difficulty.

Her daughter was very beautiful—even more beautiful than when she was young. As long as her daughter grew up to be promising, everything could be turned around in the future.

“Mother, how great it is, huh. Didn’t you say that Father disliked that blind girl very much? But why did he send brocades to her but not me now? In the end, it was that cheap girl who shared half of Father’s brocades with me!” Qu Qiuyan said coldly to the weak Yu on the bed.

Whenever she thought of Qu Moying’s maid bringing the brocades over, her heart would burn with hatred. She did not care about the brocades. For so many years, she was the only lady in West Mansion, and she was the only one who got to have anything good. Other people, sometimes even Yu, could not have their share.

One day, not only did Qu Moying appear, but her father also regarded Qu Moying as his daughter for real. This time, he only sent gifts to Qu Moying but not her. How could Qu Qiuyan endure this? She wanted to vent her anger on her father. But halfway, she came to her senses and then turned to find Yu.

She didn’t dare to get angry at Qu Zhizhen, but she dared to come to Yu and vent her anger on Yu.

“Mother, you said before many times that you wanted to deal with this bitch. You said that it was very simple. You said that even if this bitch were to stay alive for the time being, when you wanted her life, it would be only a matter of an order. But now, is it just a matter of an order? Why does Father like her the most now? Did you actually lose when you fought for favor with Qu Moying’s mother?”

“Yan... Don’t be angry... I... I will deal with that bitch...” Yu didn’t know what had happened, but she still comforted her beloved daughter.

“Mother, please stop saying that.” She interrupted Yu directly, “Everything was fine, but you ruined them one by one. For so many years, you said that you wanted this bitch’s life, but you didn’t really kill her. She is still alive. This is where you fail, Mother.”

“I have my own way...” Yu tried to argue.

“What else can you do? Even the plan of recognizing her as another couple’s daughter ended up a failure. I heard that the fake couple caused a big ruckus. And after that, many people said that you were involved.” When Qu Qiuyan mentioned this matter, she was even angrier. After that incident, she was even reprimanded by her father.

The couple who claimed to be Qu Moying’s biological parents were pretending to be powerful outside, but later, the matter failed. Many people who saw that scene began to talk about it. They felt that there was someone in Qu Mansion who wanted to harm Fourth Lady Qu and deliberately sought for a couple to be her parents. Who else in the mansion was so ruthless? It went without saying that it was Yu again.

“This bitch is so lucky that she was spared,” Yu said helplessly.

“Lucky? Mother, you still believe that this is just luck? Well then, Lady Luck is really on her side. She is spared time and time again,” Qu Qiuyan mocked.

Yu’s face turned red from the ridicule.

“I have a backup plan.”

“Mother, stop saying the backup plan. After all these years, you still haven’t gotten rid of her, yet you still want me to listen to you in the future. Look at these things you are doing now. Which one of them can really make me listen to you? If I had listened to you at that time, wouldn’t I have been the same as you now?”

Qu Qiuyan said mercilessly.

“What nonsense are you talking about? I am just ill.” Hearing her daughter say this, Yu was utterly embarrassed.

“Just ill? This illness came at the right time, didn’t it!” Qu Qiuyan only felt ridiculous.

"You..." Yu wanted to say something, but she suppressed it. She didn't look good, and she started coughing hard. Hai Lan rushed forward and patted her a few times. Only then did Yu gradually recover. Her face was covered with sweat from coughing.

Qu Qiuyan just stood coldly in front of the bed as she looked at Yu's miserable appearance. Qu Qiuyan's eyes were still.

If Yu had been more capable, there would have been no Qu Moying now. And if Qu Moying had not returned to the mansion, Yu would not have gotten into such a mess.

Although it was Yu who got into trouble outside, it was not only Yu who was being talked about. Many people also recalled the past of Qu Mansion. In the past, Yu was just a concubine, while Qu Qiuyan was just a daughter of a favored concubine. As concubine-born daughters, it was normal for them to be ridiculed by wife-born noble ladies.

Although Qu Qiuyan had not gone out for the past few days, the mockery of "The concubine-born daughter who suddenly became a wife-born daughter" had reached her ears.

Thinking of how people might talk about her this way at the banquet, Qu Qiuyan hated Yu for being so shameless back then. Yu was clearly a wife-born daughter of a governor's family, but why was she willing to enter Qu Mansion with the identity of a concubine?

"In a few days, I will invite Second Lady Duan and your cousin sister over to the mansion." Yu's coughing finally stopped, and she said in a hoarse voice.

"Mother, don't make any more mistakes." Qu Qiuyan was not very interested in this matter. Her purpose in coming here was to urge Yu. Now that her goal had been achieved, she would let Yu play the next part. This way, even if something happened, Yu would be her shield.

After saying that, Qu Qiuyan turned and left.

"Yan, Yan..." Seeing that her daughter was about to leave, Yu said anxiously.

Although Qu Qiuyan's attitude was not good, she had not visited her mother for a long time. Yu missed her and wanted to keep her to talk for a while.

"Mother, I am in charge of the internal affairs of the mansion. I have to ask Aunt Luo about some internal affairs later, so I won't accompany you," said Qu Qiuyan impatiently.

"Why didn't your brother come?" Yu said helplessly.

"Brother has always been studying in East Mansion. It's Father and Grandmother's idea. They do not want you to have much interaction with him," Qu Qiuyan said coldly.

After saying that, she no longer cared about Yu and turned to leave.

After leaving the door, she raised her eyes to look in the direction of Qu Moying's Qianyue House. A trace of jealousy and hatred flashed in her eyes, but then she frowned again. She seemed to be worried about Yu's health. She called the two maids in the corridor over to ask them about Yu's health and told them to take good care of Yu before leaving.

"What? Concubine Xiang went to the governor's office to make a complaint?" In Earl Ling'an's Mansion, when Xiao received the news, her expression changed drastically. She pressed her hands on the table and almost stood up.

Ji Yong'an, who was sitting with Xiao to discuss the countermeasures, heard the news too, and even his lips were trembling, his face devoid of any color.

"That's what they say outside. It's said that it's Concubine Xiang from our mansion." The one who reported this was a manager.

"Impossible. Concubine Xiang went to Vice Minister Qu's Mansion. How could she be at the governor's office?" Xiao stood up, walked in circle two times, and ordered the manager, "Go to Qu Mansion again and ask if Concubine Xiang is there."

The servant sent to Qu Mansion had not returned, and Xiao was really worried.

"Second Madam, the person sent to Qu Mansion is back," an old maid reported from the corridor.

"Let her in, now." Xiao was overjoyed and said repeatedly.

An old maid hurriedly came in. She was the servant who was sent to Qu Mansion to complain to Qu Zhizhen. After coming in, the servant reported to Xiao, "Madam, Fourth Lady Qu said that Concubine Xiang left halfway to come back to Earl Ling'an's Mansion, so she should have returned by now. Please send someone to check this out."

She left halfway and said that she wanted to go back to Earl Ling'an's Mansion?

Xiao's face turned green before turning pale. What was there to be unclear about at this time? Who else could it be other than Concubine Xiang who went to the governor's office to make a complaint?

"Madam, Madam!" Seeing that the room suddenly became quiet and that both Xiao and Ji Yong'an looked like they had seen a ghost with their ghastly expressions, the old maid was taken aback.

"Useless servant!" Xiao picked up the teacup at hand and smashed it hard on the old maid's body.

Caught off guard, the old maid was hit in the chest. The hot tea seeped into her chest. It hurt so much that she screamed sharply. She covered her chest and took two steps back. Then, she fell heavily to the ground, and painful screams were heard.

"Get her out." Xiao shouted angrily.

Two old maids came from the door and immediately carried the screaming old maid away. For a moment, all the servants trembled with fear, fearing that they would be the punching bag for no reason.

"All of you get out first." Ji Yong'an came back to his senses and waved his hand impatiently.

The maids and old maids exited one by one and stood ten steps away from the door. They lowered their heads and stood quietly on both sides.

Inside the room, Ji Yong'an picked up the tea on the table and took a big sip. Almost immediately, he spat it out. The hot tea almost scalded his tongue and lips.

"What should we do now? Concubine Xiang actually went to file a complaint. The letter from before said that Eldest Brother wanted to have an heir. Concubine Xiang might be complaining about this matter. How about this? Appoint Yuanhai as Eldest Brother's heir and put this matter to an end." Ji Yong'an spat two mouthfuls of saliva. After calming down, he said to the gloomy Xiao.

"No!" Xiao's face was as dark as ink. She glared fiercely at Ji Yong'an. "Don't think that you can ask for this title on behalf of your concubine-born son. Don't you know how much Youran and I have done for this title? Now, a little bastard is to enjoy the benefits? How can there be such a thing in this world?"

This little bastard was nothing to Xiao, but to Ji Yong'an, Ji Yuanhai was still his son. Although he usually didn't like Ji Yuanhai too much, he was still very unhappy when he heard Xiao say this. "Xiao, don't forget that he is also my son. How can you, the first wife, say that about him!"

Chapter 177 Portraits of Noble Ladies That Were Trampled Beneath His Feet

"You feel sorry for him when you hear my words, don't you?" Xiao sneered.

"This matter has nothing to do with him. It's useless to blame him." Ji Yong'an's brow was tightly furrowed. "There's nothing I can do, is there? If there is a way, won't I want Yuanxing to inherit this title, or myself to take this title? But now that things have become like this, Lord Yun might intervene, so... no matter what we do, it's useless."

"I won't agree," Xiao said harshly. "I will not agree even if I die!"

"Then you might die for real!" It was rare for Ji Yong'an to have such an imposing tone. He slammed his hand hard on the table. "If the entire family is sentenced to death, what's the use of a title?"

Both he and Xiao knew about this matter in their hearts. They could not let it be investigated. They definitely could not allow anyone to investigate it. Once others investigated it, something might happen.

As for the truth behind this, when Ji Yong'an thought about it, he felt a knife hanging over his head, and he did not know when it would fall. Recently, he had been living with trepidation. He was afraid that someone might find out something if he were not careful. And if that happened, there might not be trouble upon Crown Prince, but he would definitely be doomed.

It was not easy to wait until the funeral. He originally thought that this matter was finally over and that there was no more evidence. He did not expect that Concubine Xiang would show up and make things this way.

He felt that he was seriously about to go crazy.

Compared to his elder brother, Ji Yong'an knew that he was much weaker. In the past, he did not have any objection to his elder brother inheriting the title. It could be said that for him to reach this stage, Xiao and her daughter's contributing force was not small. Almost all of this was thanks to Xiao and her daughter working hard behind the scenes, and that was why he came to this stage step by step.

At this time, he really regretted it. If he had not made a move at the beginning, had not delivered a message secretly, and had not listened to his daughter and Xiao, he would still be the Second Master in the Ji Family, who was safe and sound. With the reputation of his elder brother, even if he were a little foppish, others could not do anything to him, and they even had to respect him for the sake of his elder brother.

"Don't worry. Let me think about it." Seeing that Ji Yong'an looked like he was about to collapse, Xiao calmed down and said in a deep voice.

"What else can you think? What else do you want to think about? Hurry up and deal with this matter. If this goes on, no one will be able to live." Ji Yong'an's voice couldn't help but become louder.

"Alright, stop messing around. If you keep messing around, our lives will really be gone," Xiao shouted again.

This sentence scared Ji Yong'an so much that he lowered his head and thought about the consequences of this matter. The more he thought about it, the more panicked and scared he became. There was no color on his face at all. It seemed that he was about to faint.

Xiao glared at Ji Yong'an fiercely. It was not the first time she knew that he was useless. If she had known that the man she married would be such a useless man, she would never have married him.

"Go and deal with the funeral affairs of your elder brother. Have some people carry his coffin and bury it according to the original plan. It cannot be delayed any longer. No matter what happens, it cannot be delayed. And ask Yuanxing to follow you." Xiao composed herself and tried her best to clear up the current mess.

"Alright, I'll go now." Seeing that Xiao's reaction had returned to normal, Ji Yong'an seemed to have found a pillar of support. It was fine to make him do things, but it definitely would not work if he were to come up with a way. Since there was Xiao, he would let Xiao do the thinking, and he just had to do as Xiao said.

He turned around and strode outside. He went to find his son to deal with his elder brother's funeral. Previously, Xiao had repeatedly told him what to do. Although he was flustered at this time, he still had some idea in his heart.

Seeing that Ji Yong'an hurried out to carry out their plan, Xiao took a deep breath and turned into the inner room. She spread a piece of paper and wrote a letter, and then asked someone to send it to Crown Prince's Mansion.

There were some things that she didn't dare to ask people to pass on in the form of oral messages too clearly. It was safer to write a letter. She always felt that it was not safe to send an oral message and that people would know something from it.

At present, the only person she could discuss with was her daughter, but when Crown Prince went out just now, his expression was very strange. Thus, Xiao did not dare to stop Ji Youran and chat.

"Sir, are you going to intervene in this matter?" Ji Hai had already returned to Lord Yun Mansion. He found his carefree Master in a pavilion. Lord Yun was dressed in a light purple brocade robe, and the

corner of his robe had purple-colored iris flowers on it. However, the color of the flowers was a bit brighter than that of the robe, revealing a bit of enchanting charm.

In fact, it was stunning to have this kind of enchantment matched with Pei Yuanjun's face, but when combined with his imposing manner, it could even make people ignore his face.

His handsome face revealed a hint of viciousness. Even at such a leisurely time, the people around him did not dare to breathe loudly. Especially a eunuch from the palace, who had his head lowered. He wished that he were not the one coming here at this time.

He really did not want to come to Lord Yun Mansion.

However, he had no choice but to come. He was given an order by the Empress. He had brought over some portraits of noble ladies and their information. Right now, these portraits had been thrown on the edge of the table casually. A few of them had even fallen to the ground. Two of the ladies' beautiful faces were even imprinted with a footprint.

Lord Yun had trampled on the two portraits when he was casually strolling around.

One of these two was Minister Liu's daughter, County Lady Jingyu. She was one of the few beauties in the capital and was also a famous noble lady. She was dignified.

Although she was not a descendant of the royal family, her status was not ordinary. County Lady Jingyu was considered to have a high status among the noble ladies.

However, the portrait of County Lady Jingyu, a dignified and beautiful lady, was laid on the ground, being stepped on by Lord Yun. The eunuch even saw with his sharp eyes that Lord Yun even stepped on it with disdain.

The eunuch lowered his head even more, pretending he did not see anything.

"Why should I intervene?" Pei Yuanjun said lazily.

“Concubine Xiang came out of Fourth Lady Qu’s carriage. I heard that she originally wanted to return to Earl Ling’an’s Mansion, but then she went to the governor’s office alone. About this matter...” Ji Hai answered.

The eunuch from the palace wished he could close his ears and let this Lord Yun know that he really did not intend to hear anything. However, if Lord Yun did not give an order, he could not leave on his own.

Shouldn’t they avoid him when talking about this kind of private matter? Why did they say it in front of him? Weren’t they making things difficult for him?

When the Empress asked him later, he would not dare to not tell the truth. But if Lord Yun got angry because of this, it would not be enough even if he were to be beheaded ten times.

“What does Fourth Lady Qu have to do with me?” Pei Yuanjun raised his handsome eyes and looked at Ji Hai with an insincere smile.

“Yes, yes, Sir. I know that this matter has nothing to do with you, so I have sent Earl Ling’an’s letter found in Earl Ling’an’s Mansion to the governor’s office. Now, this matter is being managed by the governor, and it has nothing to do with you.” Ji Hai said with a smile.

Seeing that he was still sensible, Pei Yuanjun snorted with an unknown expression. Then, he lazily said to the eunuch in the palace, “I won’t look at these portraits for now. Let the Emperor pick for himself first. I am not in a hurry to get married. I should let Crown Prince get married first, right?”

Crown Prince was in mourning. No matter how soon he got married, it was impossible to be within a year. That was to say, Lord Yun did not intend to get married within a year.

“My Lord, the Empress said that this is Emperor’s idea. He asked you to pick one or two first. You are a member of the elder generation, so you can’t let the younger generation pick first,” Eunuch said carefully.

Lord Yun was indeed younger than Crown Prince, but Crown Prince had already married and was a member of the younger generation. At this time, no matter how one looked at it, Lord Yun should be the

one who picked first. The Empress did not hide anything and sent all the portraits of the ladies that she took a fancy to to Lord Yun Mansion, showing her selflessness.

“Thank the Empress for me. As for the matter of picking my Princess Consort, I am not in a hurry. Didn’t I choose one before? Let’s talk about it later. As for the already chosen one, I will still have to see how it goes. If she is not suitable, I won’t marry her, either.” Pei Yuanjun said impatiently.

“Yes, yes. I understand.” How could a eunuch dare to refute anything? The matter of Lord Yun being unwilling to marry was not a secret in the capital. Although now he was not so resolute as he had been before, it seemed that he was still dissatisfied with Fourth Lady Qu. He only kept her as backup and did not want the Empress to issue a decree.

After saying that, Pei Yuanjun narrowed his eyes and ignored the eunuch. However, Ji Hai walked over with a smile and said to the eunuch in a low voice. “Go back. Lord Yun is going to rest now!”

“Yes, yes. I will leave immediately!” As the eunuch spoke, he looked at the portraits on the ground. The Empress’ said that whether Lord Yun chose any of the ladies or not, the eunuch had to bring back the portraits. After all, she had to let the other Princes choose too, didn’t she?

“You want these portraits back?” Ji Hai was obviously a smart person, and he immediately understood what the eunuch wanted through his eyes.

The eunuch nodded excitedly. He wanted to leave, but he didn’t dare to leave without these portraits.

“Lord Yun, if you are tired, why don’t you go back and rest first?” Ji Hai smiled at Pei Yuanjun.

Pei Yuanjun’s eyes slightly lifted, but he didn’t mind. He actually stood up and strode away. Ji Hai hurriedly said to the eunuch, “Go pick them up and then go back!”

“Okay, thank you, Eunuch Ji Hai,” Eunuch said gratefully.

Those portraits were laid at Lord Yun's feet. Even if the eunuch had ten thousand guts, he would not dare to pick them up. The eunuchs and palace maids who came to deliver messages from the palace were not always lucky. They would not necessarily go back safely every time.

There were a lot of rules in Lord Yun Mansion. Some of them were comparable to regulations in the military camps. If they carelessly made just one mistake, they would be likely to be executed. Besides, even if they died, they would die in vain. Even the Empress was wary of Lord Yun, but she could not do anything about him.

It was said that Vice Minister Qu's Mansion's Fourth Lady had been fancied by Lord Yun. He was willing to accept her as his Princess. It seemed that Lord Yun was just saying it casually and he did not mean it at all. It might be an excuse to temporize in the face of the Emperor. Otherwise, he would not say something like "see how it goes".

It was said that Fourth Lady Qu's engagement had just been called off, and now, she met Lord Yun. She was really unlucky!

The eunuch was frightened when he was in Lord Yun Mansion. He unconsciously put himself in Fourth Lady Qu's shoes...

Chapter 178 Dowager Consort Qu in the Palace, a Member of the Qu Family

In the Empress' Pepper House Hall.

The eunuch knelt on the ground and explained everything that he had seen and heard today in Lord Yun Mansion in detail.

After he finished speaking, he stayed kneeling and did not dare to move.

After a long while, he heard the Empress' voice from above his head, "You may leave!"

“Yes!” The eunuch did not dare to say another word. He lowered his head, stood up, and walked backwards. When his eyes saw the door frame behind him, he turned and left in a hurry.

In the middle of the hall sat a woman with a dignified expression who looked to be in her forties. This was Empress Zhu, the birth mother of Crown Prince Pei Luo’an, the most distinguished person in the entire harem.

Although she was a little older, she had maintained her appearance well. It could be seen that when she was young, she was definitely a rare beauty. However, at this time, her brow was tightly furrowed.

Sitting next to her was a woman in her thirties. She was dressed glamorously. Seeing that the Empress was silent, she smiled and said, “Your Highness, it seems that Lord Yun is not satisfied with this Fourth Lady Qu!”

The one speaking was Consort Xiang, who was conferred by the Emperor. Although she was a consort, she was not a consort with a title. In the harem, she had no power. In the past, she had always been on the Empress’ side, and because she did not have any children, she was not a taboo to the Empress. They could be considered to be on good terms. Every time she came to send her regards to the Empress, she would stay to chat with the Empress.

Her personal relationship with the Empress was very good. The Empress also trusted her very much. Even the Empress’ nephew from the Empress’ mother’s family married Consort Xiang’s niece from Consort Xiang’s mother’s family. The two of them could be considered in-laws. The most important thing was that the interest between the two families was closely connected.

Everyone in the palace knew that shared interest was more reassuring than mere friendship.

There were some things that Consort Xiang could take action when it was not convenient for the Empress. Of course, when Consort Xiang had gone too far, the Empress could also protect her.

In short, the relationship between the two was not only close, but also tied together. As for the marriage between the two families, only very few people knew about it.

"Is he really dissatisfied, or does he have another plan?" The Empress' brows were still tightly knitted, and her words sounded more like she was talking to herself.

"Your Highness, don't think too much. What kind of person is Lord Yun? If he likes a lady, he could just tell the Emperor directly. The Emperor won't disagree with him, right? As long as he speaks, the Emperor will definitely send a decree. At that time, Fourth Lady Qu will directly marry into his mansion. Even if he really set his mind on something, others can't plot anything against him."

Consort Xiang said indifferently.

She really didn't think that Lord Yun would be such a tender person. For this Fourth Lady Qu to be "fancied" by him, it seemed to be more of a trouble than a blessing.

When the Empress heard Consort Xiang say this, her eyebrows slightly relaxed, and she nodded. "It seems that Fourth Lady Qu is just someone he casually used as an excuse."

That day when the Empress left the palace, it was in the name of Ji Hanyue and Lord Yun.

She talked about Crown Princess' burial first. Considering her past feelings for Crown Princess, the Empress especially suggested to the Emperor that she wanted to leave the palace to send Crown Princess off. She also said that she was grateful that Crown Princess had saved Crown Prince even though in the end she lost her own life. Although the Empress was an elder, she must attend Crown Princess' funeral to thank Crown Princess.

Then, she mentioned Lord Yun's marriage and said that this was a good opportunity.

She said that she wanted to meet a few ladies on behalf of Lord Yun. In the past, it was always inconvenient to meet them in the palace. Those ladies were always too restrained. It was really hard to see what kind of temper they had. Therefore, the Empress took advantage of the rare trip out of the palace to invite some ladies to Eastern Palace. She met them in a secluded place. This way, she could see them more clearly.

Of course, the most important thing was to ask Lord Yun to come over and take a look at the ladies for himself. She could not let these ladies know that it was the Empress who assisted Lord Yun. And if Lord Yun took a fancy to anyone, she would go back to the palace and discuss it with the Emperor.

Although the timing was not very suitable, considering that the Empress usually would not go out of the palace, and it was for the sake of Lord Yun's marriage, and this matter was kept secret, the Emperor later agreed. Pei Yuanjun's marriage was something that he was especially concerned about. Therefore, he went to inform Pei Yuanjun and told him that he must go to Crown Prince's Mansion.

The Empress dressed up and left the palace. Of course, her real purpose was not to find a Princess for Pei Yuanjun. The most important thing was to find a suitable Crown Princess for her own son.

However, what the Empress did not expect was that Pei Yuanjun did come to Crown Prince's Mansion, but he bumped into Fourth Lady Qu from Vice Minister Qu's Mansion. She also heard that he injured Fourth Lady Qu and then hurried back.

Pei Yuanjun did not manage to see her at all in Crown Prince's Mansion. Therefore, some things that she originally wanted to suggest to the Emperor through the matter of Pei Yuanjun could not be mentioned.

This Fourth Lady Qu from Vice Minister Qu's Mansion caught the Empress' attention.

The Empress had sent people for an investigation. This Fourth Lady Qu fell under the care of her stepmother Yu after her birth mother passed away. When she was young, because of Yu's "carelessness", Fourth Lady Qu's eyes were burned and she had an eye problem. After that, the Old Lady made the decision and sent her to the village. Since then, it had been many years that Fourth Lady Qu had been raised in the village.

It was said that her appearance was not outstanding and that she had not received much education. She could at most read a few words. Moreover, she had an eye problem. Would such a woman catch Pei Yuanjun's attention? The Empress was the first to not believe it.

After that, the Empress felt that Fourth Lady Qu's tricks were not bad. The Empress had heard that Fourth Lady Qu had bumped into Lord Wei Pei Qingmin before, and now, she had bumped into Lord Yun Pei Yuanjun.

If there was only one such incident, the Empress would think that it was really an accident or that Pei Yuanjun had other plans. However, Fourth Lady Qu had really bumped into Lord Wei before, and it was an accident according to Ji Youran. Two accidents were definitely not just accidents.

The Empress felt that Fourth Lady Qu was a scheming person. She must have known that she was having a hard time in Qu Mansion, so she deliberately planned such a thing. Her goal was obviously to climb up the ladder in the palace. Whether it was Lord Wei or Lord Yun, both of them had royal blood and were extremely noble.

If such a woman were sent to Lord Yun, it would be a good thing.

Since Lord Yun had casually used Fourth Lady Qu as an excuse, the Empress felt she could rope Fourth Lady Qu in. Perhaps Fourth Lady Qu would become a pawn of her to infiltrate into Lord Yun Mansion in the future.

From this point of view, the Empress felt that this was a good thing. After consideration about this, the corners of her eyes relaxed slightly, and she nodded. "Since Lord Yun mentioned Fourth Lady Qu, she would definitely marry into Lord Yun Mansion in the end."

This was the first time that Pei Yuanjun stopped being resolute in delaying his marriage. As long as she was a lady of a noble family, the Emperor would definitely approve it. She was not going to be the Princess Consort. She would just become a Princess. Having a Princess married into his mansion first would be an opening to Lord Yun's marriage, and the matter of Princess Consort could be discussed next time.

"Yes, Your Highness, you should befriend her." When Consort Xiang heard the Empress' words, she immediately understood what the Empress meant and smiled.

The Empress also smiled, and she looked at Consort Xiang. "It's not very convenient for me to do this now. How about you handle it?"

The Emperor, too, meant to listen to Pei Yuanjun's decision. They would wait and see first. Pei Yuanjun's Princess could be considered to have been decided, but whether Pei Yuanjun really wanted to marry her in the end was still unknown. In other words, Pei Yuanjun was the one who had the final say in Qu

Moying's status. If he really didn't like her, she would then just be a concubine left aside. At most, it was just like feeding one more person in the mansion.

However, nothing had been decided yet. The Empress had a distinguished status, so she naturally was not the one who could say anything or do anything in person.

"Your Highness, I know." Consort Xiang smiled slightly. She had a clear understanding in her heart, and a hint of a smile flashed in her eyes. Her status was a bit higher than that of Fourth Lady Qu, but there was a Qu Mansion's member in the palace. Although the kinship was a bit distant, she was still a member of the Qu Family.

"Those were sent from the palace?" Qu Moying looked at the gifts in front of her in surprise.

Another bunch of gifts were delivered to her. Each one of the gifts was extremely exquisite. It was obvious that they were not ordinary.

"Yes, the Old Lady said that Dowager Consort Qu from the palace sent them to us. She specifically mentioned you, Fourth Lady. Then the Old Lady asked me to send them over. I also brought over a Granny who serves Dowager Consort Qu," Granny Wu said with a smile.

"Dowager Consort Qu?" Qu Moying raised her watery eyes and said in surprise. In her memory, there was no such Dowager Consort Qu. Was there actually someone in the palace a member of the Qu Family?

"Yes, it is Dowager Consort Qu. Although Dowager Consort Qu does not have much of a relationship with our mansion and does not come from our branch, in fact, many years ago, she was our nominal relatives. In fact, Fourth Lady, you have to call Dowager Consort Qu 'Grandaunt'," Granny Wu explained.

Qu Moying pondered for a moment and finally understood the relationship between her and this person. It was a very distant kinship, so distant that they were not from the same branch. It was just that they had the same surname. Many years ago, they were considered relatives. Maybe they even descended from the same ancestor, but it should be a very long time ago, so maybe no one cared about it anymore.

For so many years, Qu Moying had never heard that this Dowager Consort Qu had interacted with Qu Mansion.

“Does Dowager Consort Qu go to Xinning Monastery?” Qu Moying asked.

The child-less concubines of the late Emperor went to Xinning Monastery to cultivate. This was not a secret in the capital.

“Dowager Consort Qu had a daughter in the past. When the late Emperor passed, the lady was still young, and she also passed away later. At that time, Empress Dowager pitied Dowager Consort Qu and let her stay in the palace,” Granny Wu said.

So that was how it was. No wonder there was a Dowager Consort Qu in the palace. Anyway, this Dowager Consort Qu should be a low-key person. In her last life, Qu Moying had never heard of her.

“Dowager Consort Qu said she would like to invite Third Lady and Fourth Lady into the palace in a few days. She said that she wanted to see the descendants of the Qu Family,” Granny Wu said with a smile.

Although Dowager Consort Qu did not have any real power in the palace, the fact that Qu Family had someone in the palace was also somewhat useful. It would only bring benefits but no harm to Qu Mansion.

Qu Moying’s engagement had just been called off. Currently, no one came to propose marriage. The Old Lady was so worried that she could not sleep at night. Now, Dowager Consort Qu’s invitation was good news. Maybe with Dowager Consort Qu’s identity, she could arrange a good marriage for Qu Moying. This was the reason why Granny Wu was so joyful.

The Old Lady could finally rest assured.

“Fourth Lady, these bolts of brocades are good. Old Lady wants the embroidery workshop to make a few sets of clothes for you first. You can wear them later.” Granny Wu smiled and pointed at a few bolts of silver brocade.

The sunlight from the window shone in. The brocade flashed with a silver light and stung her eyes...

Chapter 179 Delivering a Message Secretly

“Granny Wu, what kind of material are these brocades made of? They are so strange.” Qu Moying walked over and gently touched the brocades that Granny Wu mentioned. In a place without sunlight, the brocades had no reflection. The dark silver color revealed a light gray shade, but under the sunlight, it would flash with a bright and beautiful color.

There were dark lines in the silver-gray color, which was not the same color as it had shown before.

This color made it feel like the material would be harder, but in fact, it still felt very soft.

Those were tribute brocades, not the type of material found in the capital. It was said that there were not many tribute brocades imported each time. When Ji Hanyue was here, she would receive it as a reward from the palace every year, just like what Qu Moying had received in front of her right now.

However, at that time, Ji Hanyue was the future Crown Princess, so she had a bunch of tribute brocade for herself. Dowager Consort Qu clearly only had a title but no real power, but she was able to send out so many brocades.

“I am not sure. I heard that it is a tribute to the royal family. I have never seen such material before,” Granny Wu said with a smile. There were not many gifts sent from the palace to Qu Mansion, so if even the Old Lady had never seen it before, Granny Wu would certainly not know it. Moreover, these bolts of brocades were specially given to the Fourth Lady.

No one knew why this Dowager Consort Qu, who had never contacted Qu Mansion, would suddenly send her gifts.

“Thank you, Granny Wu. Please invite that Granny in!” Qu Moying said softly and returned to the chair.

Granny Wu nodded and left. A short while later, she brought in a woman in her fifties. After entering and bowing to Qu Moying, her gaze fell on Qu Moying. She carefully sized Qu Moying up. There was not much respect in her gaze.

“Granny, are you sent here by Dowager Consort Qu?” Qu Moying asked with a smile.

“I am Dowager Consort Qu’s private servant. My surname is Yan. Dowager Consort Qu sent me to educate you, Fourth Lady Qu.” Granny Yan looked up and her eyes fell on Qu Moying’s face, as if she was still evaluating Qu Moying.

The long eye veil covered Qu Moying’s face, but from the appearance of the exposed face, she should be outstanding-looking and not as regular as she was rumored to be unless Fourth Lady really had a pair of unsightly eyes, which would really ruin her very outstanding face.

This possibility should not be ruled out. After all, this lady did have an eye problem, and no one knew what her eyes under the eye veil looked like. If they really were not good-looking, it would be useless.

“Granny Yan, Dowager Consort Qu sent you to educate me?” Qu Moying frowned. All of this was a bit strange. Up until now, she still hadn’t figured out the ins and outs of the matter.

“Yes, Dowager Consort Qu likes you very much, Fourth Lady. In the future, she will also invite you into the palace from time to time. If you don’t learn some of the palace etiquettes, it will be troublesome when you offend the noble people in the palace.” Granny Yan said with a cold face. Her cold gaze fell on Qu Moying’s face, still examining the latter.

“Fourth Lady, just now, the Old Lady has agreed. She asked Granny Yan to educate you well.” Granny Wu nodded repeatedly. This matter brought only benefits for the Fourth Lady, and the Old Lady felt that Dowager Consort Qu’s idea was great.

Fourth Lady had been living in the village since she was a child. Although she had been educated in the past, she did not have such formal education. Originally, for the sake of the Fourth Lady’s marriage, the Old Lady wanted to invite a Granny from the palace to educate her. Now that Dowager Consort Qu had sent someone over, it was just right. This matter was something excellent. Just now, the Old Lady had expressed her gratitude over and over again.

Unlike the Old Lady, Qu Moying did not have a good impression of Granny Yan, who had appeared in the mansion with an unknown identity. Moreover, her gaze was obviously like examination. Her sizing Qu Moying up made Qu Moying rather displeased.

However, she knew that since the Old Lady had agreed, she had no reason to refuse. Immediately, she smiled at Granny Yan. "Thank you, Granny Yan. Yu Dong, take Granny Yan to rest first. I want to talk to Granny Wu."

Yu Dong knowingly took two steps forward and made a "please" gesture to Granny Yan. Granny Yan nodded to Granny Wu and turned to leave.

"Granny Wu, does Grandmother know that Granny Yan is Dowager Consort Qu's servant? Has Grandmother always known about it?" After Granny Yan left far away, Qu Moying asked calmly.

"Granny Yan said that after she got here. She came here together with the gifts from the palace. The other eunuchs and palace maids who came along with her have all gone back. Fourth Lady, you can rest assured." Granny Wu thought that Qu Moying was doubting Granny Yan's identity, so she explained with a smile.

"Granny Wu, Granny Yan's attitude is very proud. She doesn't seem like someone close to Dowager Consort Qu, don't you think so? Dowager Consort Qu has not appeared in public for so many years. The people around her will definitely keep a low profile too, right?" Qu Moying reminded her with a subtle hint.

Dowager Consort Qu was such a low-key person that Qu Moying never knew in her previous life that there was such a Dowager Consort in the palace. Thus, the people around her should also be more low-key. However, this Granny Yan obviously did not seem to be a low-key person. The way she looked at Qu Moying was with a bit of pride.

"Well... is it likely that she is sent by other Consort?" Granny Wu hesitated for a moment and was a little flustered.

"Granny Wu, go back and report to Grandmother that I have agreed on Granny Yan's stay. However, I am afraid that she is not Dowager Consort Qu's servant," Qu Moying said.

"Don't worry, Fourth Lady. I will report this to Old Lady." Granny Wu nodded repeatedly. She also sensed that this matter was not simple. As she spoke, she was about to leave. But when she walked to the door, she deliberately said, "Fourth Lady, the embroidery workshop's people will come over later to make a few sets of clothes for you. It's an order from the Old Lady."

"I know. Thank Grandmother for me," Qu Moying said.

Granny Wu turned around and left.

"My lady, I'll put these away!" Yu Chun stepped forward to pack up all the brocades in front of her.

"There's no rush. Just leave them there." Qu Moying shook her head to stop Yu Chun.

"My lady, it is a little messy here. It wouldn't be good if Granny Yan saw it, right?" Yu Chun said as she gazed at the pile of brocades.

This Granny Yan was obviously very strict. Just now, she was looking at Fourth Lady Qu with arrogance and rudeness.

"It's fine. Let her see it." Qu Moying curled her lips indifferently and said, "I was originally raised in the village. How much of the world have I seen? Seeing such a large pile of gifts, of course I like them a lot, and I have to spend some time appreciating them."

"Alright then!" Yu Chun said as if she understood.

The embroidery workshop's people came quite soon later. Three people came. One of them was a manager, and the other two were old maids.

The manager was a lady who was about thirty years old. She looked very clever. Previously, when something happened to the embroidery workshop, the original manager was replaced with the current one.

After going forward to greet Qu Moying, the manager personally went forward to take Qu Moying's measurements. While she did that, the other two old maids recorded the numbers down.

After measuring, the manager smiled and flattered Qu Moying with a few words before leaving with her assistants.

Halfway on the road, an old maid left the manager because she had something else to do. She found another path and left. After walking around a few circles on the path, she entered Qu Qiuyan's Furong House.

In the main room, Qu Qiuyan picked up the brocades in front of her with a smile on her face and appreciated them. They were very good brocades. The most important thing was that they were gifts from the palace. They were much more prestigious than the ones she herself bought outside.

She did not expect that there was a Dowager Consort from her family. She had never heard Grandmother or Father talk about it.

The messenger from the palace said that Dowager Consort Qu would invite them into the palace in a few days. This was something that had never happened before. The royal palace was not a place that Qu Qiuyan could go to as she wished. Now that she had the chance, her heart throbbed with excitement. She was in a very good mood.

After her maid, Qing Ju, came in and whispered a few words to her, Qu Qiuyan put down the brocades in her hand and nodded at Qing Ju. Then, she returned to her chair and sat down.

The embroidery workshop's old maid was brought in. She first bowed to Qu Qiuyan. Qu Qiuyan nodded in a good mood and asked gently, "What is the matter?"

The embroidery workshop's old maid looked up at the table in the middle. There were four bolts of brocades on the table. The first bolt was of high quality, but it couldn't be compared with the silver gray brocades that the Fourth Lady had. Moreover, there was a huge difference in quantity. The Fourth Lady's place was full of these brocades, while the Third Lady only had four bolts.

Without comparison, no one would get to know that the Old Lady was so partial towards the Fourth Lady.

“Third Lady, I just came from the Fourth Lady’s place. The Old Lady told me and the others to measure the Fourth Lady’s body, saying that she wanted to make a few sets of clothes for the Fourth Lady. The materials used were all rewarded by the palace...” The old maid paused here and looked at the four bolts of brocades on the table. She wanted to say something but hesitated. Then, she saw that Qu Qiuyan’s face had become cold, so she hurriedly said, “Fourth Lady’s table was carpeted with brocades.”

The old maid did not count exactly how many brocades there were, but she knew that it seemed to be way more than how much the Third Lady had.

“What do you mean?” Qu Qiuyan originally wanted to drink tea, but now she placed the teacup heavily on the table, and the tea inside spilled out.

“I feel that the Old Lady is too partial towards the Fourth Lady.” The old maid flattered as she acted as if she felt indignant for Qu Qiuyan. “Although I am just a servant, I know that the Old Lady should not be like this. Third Lady, you are also the Old Lady’s biological granddaughter. How can she be so partial?”

“Did Qu Moying get a lot of gifts?” Qu Qiuyan’s happiness disappeared without a trace.

“Yes, the Old Lady gave the Fourth Lady a lot of brocades and also some jewelry. She asked the embroidery workshop to make six sets of clothes for the Fourth Lady all at once with brocades bestowed by the palace. I can tell with just one glance that a few bolts are tributes to the royal family. I doubt if Fourth Lady has the fortune to enjoy it.”

The old maid said vaguely.

Previously, Third Lady had instructed the old maid to report to her if anything happened to Fourth Lady. That was why this old maid secretly came over to report to Qu Qiuyan.

“Tributes to the royal family?” Qu Qiuyan’s face was gloomy, but she was not angry. She only asked coldly.

“Yes, they are all tributes to the royal family. And she will get so many clothes at once, but not even a set for you.” The old maid nodded.

Qu Qiuyan fell silent. She was not ignorant. She knew that it was impossible for the Old Lady to give all the gifts from the palace to Qu Moying. Even if the Old Lady was partial towards Qu Moying, it was impossible for the Old Lady to do such a thing.

Her mind suddenly buzzed. It seemed that someone in the palace wanted to reward Qu Moying. Who could it be?

Chapter 180 Granny Yan, Who Was Insistent on Etiquette Education

Was it this Dowager Consort Qu who she had never heard of?

After thinking about it, Qu Qiuyan felt that this matter was still related to Dowager Consort Qu. For so many years, Dowager Consort Qu had never contacted her family. Therefore, Qi Qiuyan had never heard of such a person. Now, after Qu Moying returned to the mansion, she suddenly appeared.

Could it be that she appeared because of Qu Moying?

This was not a good thing for Qu Qiuyan. She frowned and waved her hand. “Go and find out more.”

“Yes, I will go now.” The old maid nodded.

Qing Ju sent the old maid off. When they reached the door, she took out a pouch from her sleeves, and the old maid took it. She smiled so widely that all her teeth could be seen. She then thanked Qing Ju repeatedly and left in a hurry.

Qing Ju turned around and saw that Qu Qiuyan was still deep in thought. She stood behind Qu Qiuyan and remained silent.

"When will my cousin sister come over?" Qu Qiuyan suddenly asked after pondering for a moment.

"The day after tomorrow," Qing Ju replied.

Qu Qiuyan nodded and asked, "Has Madam arranged everything?"

"Aunty Hai Lan said that there will definitely be no more mistakes this time." Qing Ju said.

"Every time she says this, she always makes mistakes. This time, we can't let them ruin things again. Qing Ju, you should arrange it according to my arrangements." Qu Qiuyan snorted coldly. She did not completely believe in Yu's arrangements.

She did not want Qu Moying to override her again. There was only one most-respected lady in Qu Mansion, and that was Qu Qiuyan. No one else could be the most-respected lady.

All of Qu Mansion's focus should only be on her...

In the evening, Granny Yan came to the door of Qu Moying's main room.

"I'd like to see the Fourth Lady." Standing outside the door, Granny Yan said with a solemn face. Her gaze was fixed on the door, and she coldly looked at Yu Dong, who carried the curtain and walked out.

She had been in the mansion for several hours and had observed everything about the yard. She found that everything about the yard was clean and in order. There were some differences from what she had imagined. The Fourth Lady Qu did not seem completely incapable.

It was just that this Fourth Lady did not have much enthusiasm for her.

Granny Yan waited for a long time. She could not wait any longer. Since she was not invited, she would come over herself.

"Granny Yan, please come in. My lady is waiting inside." Yu Dong walked out with a smile. He was not surprised at all that Granny Yan had come over by herself.

Granny Yan calmed herself down and restrained the arrogance on her face. She took a deep look at Yu Dong. She was quite surprised by Qu Moying. And the fact that Yu Dong was a maid who looked carefree but had no bad manners was also quite surprising to Granny Yan.

After entering the room, Granny Yan saw Qu Moying sitting in the middle. Her body was slightly tilted and she looked a little leisure. However, she looked a little lazy and not so well-behaved. After all, she grew up in the village. Even though she appeared decent before, it was just on the surface.

Granny Yan re-evaluated Qu Moying in her heart. Although she was better than Granny Yan had imagined, there were some things that Qu Moying did not do so well, such as sitting sluggishly now.

"What's the matter, Granny Yan?" Seeing Granny Yan come in, Qu Moying straightened her body slightly. She naturally changed her sitting posture and straightened herself up. If Granny Yan hadn't seen clearly just now, she would have thought that the Fourth Lady had always been putting on such a standard posture.

"Fourth Lady, when would you like to start learning the etiquette?" Granny Yan asked with a serious face.

"Let's wait for a few days. My ankle has been sprained. I can't learn well even though I want to," Qu Moying said casually.

"Fourth Lady, I learned some massaging skills. How about I help you massage it? Maybe you will recover faster." Granny Yan looked toward Qu Moying's ankle.

The long dress hung low and covered her feet. It was impossible to see if her ankle was really sprained or if she was just pretending.

"Then I'll have to trouble you, Granny Yan," Qu Moying said gracefully.

Yu Dong helped Qu Moying to the bed by the window so that she could lie down. Yu Dong used a cushion to support her back. Then, he placed one of her feet on a small soft pillow. He carefully held her ankle and lifted the corner of her dress. Then, he removed her sock and revealed her pale and tender skin. The red swelling on it was still visible.

Although the sprain was almost healed, the swelling did not completely disappear.

She indeed hurt her ankle?

Granny Yan was very surprised. Before, she thought it was fake, but she did not expect it to be true.

Fortunately, she was also prepared, and her massage skill was indeed good. She took a few steps forward, squatted down, and gently massaged Qu Moying. Her technique was good, and Qu Moying did not feel much pain. Instead, she had a slight burning feel in the pain. She got to know that this Granny Yan was not only good at playing tricks.

After a moment of rubbing, Qu Moying's ankle had already turned red. Granny Yan put down her hands. "Fourth Lady, you should rest for a few more days. Then it will probably heal. Dowager Consort Qu would like to invite you to the palace when your sprain is healed."

"Alright." Qu Moying said meekly and sat up with Yu Dong's help.

After Granny Yan washed her hands, Qu Moying smiled and invited her to sit. "Granny Yan, have you been serving Dowager Consort Qu? How has Dowager Consort Qu been all these years? I heard from Grandmother that Dowager Consort Qu did not send anyone over here in the past. Our mansion does not dare to ask about the matters in the palace, too."

"Dowager Consort Qu is doing very well." Granny Yan said with a serious face.

"Is Dowager Consort Qu in need of anything? The next time my lady enters the palace, she can bring some of it for Dowager Consort Qu." Yu Dong asked again, looking like he really wanted to curry favor with Dowager Consort Qu.

Granny Yan shook her head, "Dowager Consort Qu isn't in need of anything. She can find whatever she wants in the palace."

When she said this, they seemed to be unable to continue chatting.

"How is it possible that she doesn't need anything? Dowager Consort Qu is all alone in the palace, and there are no juniors serving her. Doesn't she want filial piety from the younger generation?" Yu Dong blinked and responded quickly.

Granny Yan was stunned by the question.

"What should I send to Dowager Consort Qu to make her happy?" Qu Moying asked lazily.

"How about something you personally make, Fourth Lady?" Granny Yan thought for a moment, and her gaze fell on Qu Moying's face. She suddenly said, "Fourth Lady, could you remove the eye veil and let me see your eyes?"

"Granny Yan, do you even know how to treat my eye problem?" Qu Moying asked with a smile.

"I do not know how to treat an eye problem, but I can check how serious your eye problem is." Granny Yan answered, not daring to tell a lie about treating the eye problem.

"Granny Yan, I'll have to disappoint you. I can't remove this eye veil for the time being. It will take some time before I can stop wearing it. Now is the critical moment. I can't miss it even a little bit." Qu Moying shook her head and refused Granny Yan's request.

Because Qu Moying's ankle sprain was right in front of her, Granny Yan did not suspect that Qu Moying was lying.

Seeing that Qu Moying was really unwilling to remove it, she could only nod helplessly. Anyway, it would only take a few days before this eye veil was removed. When the time came, she would know what this Fourth Lady Qu looked like.

Next, Granny Yan told Qu Moying about the upcoming training and its schedule. She found that Fourth Lady Qu was very easy-going. No matter what she said, Fourth Lady Qu would agree with a smile. Moreover, Fourth Lady Qu was very graceful. She was very calm and was not nervous at the fact that Granny Yan was sent by the palace to educate her.

She was much better than Granny Yan had imagined.

Granny Yan's face now looked better.

In the end, she did not make things difficult for Qu Moying anymore. She stood up and said goodbye. She heard that Fourth Lady Qu's body was not good, and she was indeed a little smaller in shape than the ordinary noble ladies. It was obvious that her body was not grown enough, and she needed to rest more.

After a night of silence, Qu Moying washed up after waking up the next day. After she had breakfast, Granny Yan came over. Although she did not directly teach Qu Moying the etiquette, she pointed out some shortcomings of Qu Moying. Qu Moying accepted them modestly, and she did a good job. Although she made a few mistakes, she did not make the same mistakes after that.

In just one day, the change in her was seen very soon. Granny Yan felt that Qu Moying was better than her previous students. Qu Moying could do very well with just a few pointers, as if she were one of the ladies of aristocratic families who had been educated for more than ten years.

Seeing that Qu Moying was tired, Granny Yan gave a few words of advice and left.

When Granny Yan was at the door, she suddenly saw a maid rushing over and almost bumped into her. Granny Yan disliked such an unruly thing the most. After standing still, she stopped the maid and asked coldly, "What is the matter?"

Everyone in Qianyu House now knew about this Granny Yan who looked strict and was sent by Dowager Consort Qu from the palace to educate the Fourth Lady, and no one dared to offend her.

The young maid hurriedly stood still and replied with trepidation, "Granny Yan, there is a letter for my lady."

“Since it is a letter, you should just deliver it properly. There is no need to panic and act like this,” Granny Yan scolded.

“It’s... it’s a letter from Marquis Yongning’s Mansion.” The maid said, lowering her head. Qu Moying also heard this from inside the room. The corners of her lips curved silently. Her smile was mocking and cold. Here it came. She originally thought that Qu Qiuyan was acting too calm. She had repeatedly provoked Qu Qiuyan, but there was no reaction yet.

It seemed that this letter was really important.

However, she did not want to see it. Since Granny Yan was here, she would give it to Granny Yan! She had never had any thoughts about Xu Lipeng. She also did not think that there was anything between her and Xu Lipeng. As for Xu Lipeng, it was even more impossible for him to write her a letter.

She didn’t know who in the palace sent Granny Yan here. It would be good to use the letter to find it out.

She was certain about one thing. The palace had sure gone through a lot of trouble to send her gifts and even sent someone to teach her etiquette. The goal of doing all these was definitely not for her. She was the daughter of a mere Vice Minister, so there was no need for the noble people in the palace to put in so much effort on her. And this Granny Yan would not want anything to happen to her at this time.

That was good then!

She’d like to see how Qu Qiuyan and Yu would cause trouble for themselves...