

## **Noble Wife 181**

### **Chapter 181 Second Lady Duan who Snatched Other's Engagement**

In Imperial Banquet Minister's Mansion, Second Lady Duan Jinxiang was not in a good mood.

A few days ago, she was in good spirits. To be able to get engaged with the reputable Young Master Yongning and become his future wife was great news.

Duan Jinxiang had always heard of Young Master Yongning. She heard that he was a very good person. Even though his fiancée had no talent and no beauty, he did not mind. Instead, he insisted on this engagement that was said to be a prenatal betrothal. Moreover, there were no rumors of him engaging in lustful pre-marriage activities.

In the past, she could only feel sentimental. And when she finally saw Young Master Yongning, she decided on him.

The two families did not have much entanglement before deciding on the new engagement. After the engagement between Young Master Yongning and the blind Fourth Lady Qu had been called off, Duan Jinxiang felt very proud.

With her talent and beauty, Duan Jinxiang felt that she was the woman who was worthy of Young Master Yongning.

However, what happened next made Duan Jinxiang unhappy. It was said that Young Master Yongning wanted to marry a concubine first, and the concubine-to-be was the same as herself, so Duan Jinxiang felt quite helpless. It was said that Young Master Yongning saved Miss Yu on the streets, and Miss Yu was willing to be a concubine because Young Master Yongning was still engaged at that moment.

The engagement was decided way earlier before Young Master Yongning saved her.

How was this going to make others think of her? Both of them were saved by Young Master Yongning. After Yu Qingmeng was saved, she was grateful and volunteered to be a concubine. However, Duan Jinxiang threatened Young Master Yongning, forcing him to call off the previous engagement. In the end, the "poor" Fourth Lady Qu could not marry him while Duan Jinxiang engaged to Young Master Yongning.

This was clearly an ungrateful act.

Whenever Duan Jinxiang had been out recently, she had been judged by others. She did not care at first, but ever since hearing several ladies who were close to her in the past talk about her behind her back, she had been down in the dumps.

Behind her, those ladies said that she was fierce and ugly and that she would definitely be abandoned in the future. They said that those who snatched others' engagement would not have a good ending. They also said that Yu Qingmeng was extremely beautiful and was a good match with Young Master Yongning. It was also said that Yu Qingmeng was a gentle and considerate person, who was a lot better than Duan Jinxiang. They also said that Yu Qingmeng and Young Master Yongning were now in love with each other, so it would be impossible for Duan Jinxiang to have a place in the Marquis Yongning's Mansion in the future.

Some things said were even harsher. Duan Jinxiang was so angry that she wanted to rush forward to argue with these ladies. But when she wanted to say something, the crowd would disperse.

No one actually paid attention to her. Slowly, there were more and more rumors. And the Young Master Yongning that she fell in love with at first sight had never come again after coming here once.

Duan Jinxiang was burning with anxiety in her heart. Even after her mansion invited Young Master Yongning over, he did not come. The reason was that he had been busy making preparations for his official career recently. When he was free, he would come over to discuss the marriage between the two families. It was obvious that he did not care too much about this marriage. Thus, Duan Jinxiang was so furious that she grew more and more bad-tempered, and she even had no appetite these days.

"Second Lady, someone from Qu Mansion is here, asking to see you." A maid hurriedly ran into her room and reported.

"No." For a while, Duan Jinxiang did not figure out which Qu Mansion it was. She just replied impatiently. Her mind was full of Young Master Yongning. She only wanted to see Young Master Yongning, even just once. She did not want to see anyone else.

"My lady, please ask her in. She said that it's something related to you and that you should decide for yourself." The maid said vaguely.

"Bring her in!" It seemed that it really had something to do with her. Duan Jinxiang waved her hand and commanded impatiently.

The maid left and soon entered with an old maid.

"Greetings, Second Lady Duan." The old maid smiled and went forward to salute.

"Who sent you?" Duan Jinxiang asked reluctantly. She glanced at the old maid a few times. She had never seen the old maid before!

"Second Lady Duan, I work for Vice Minister Qu's Mansion's Second Madam. She would like to invite you to the mansion to have a chat and to meet Miss Yu," said the old maid.

"Which Miss Yu?" Duan Jinxiang hadn't realized who the old maid was referring to.

"Miss Yu is the lady who has already married into Marquis Yongning's Mansion. She was our madam's niece." The old maid explained.

When the old maid mentioned this, Duan Jinxiang's face immediately sank. "Yu Qingmeng?"

"Yes, she is Yu Qingmeng." The old maid said with a smile.

"She's just a concubine, and you call her 'lady'? Qu Mansion's ladies are really... lowly!"

Duan Jinxiang sneered. She had long been full of anger in her heart. Most of it was because of Yu Qingmeng. In her opinion, Young Master Yongning must have been bewitched by Yu Qingmeng. That was why he was ignoring her.

"Our Fourth Lady said that even if Miss Yu is a concubine, we can't... In our mansion, we are still used to calling her Miss Yu." The old maid explained.

"Your Fourth Lady is really generous." Duan Jinxiang jeered. "But I am different from her. This matter has nothing to do with her."

Duan Jinxiang looked down on Qu Moying the most. The fact that Young Master Yongning had given up on her and engaged with Duan Jinxiang instead had explained the problem—it would be a great loss for Young Master Yongning to marry Qu Moying. How could a blind, uneducated Fourth Lady Qu match the handsome Young Master Yongning?

This engagement should have been called off long ago. If Qu Moying had known that she was not worthy of Young Master Yongning long ago and had called off the engagement early, Duan Jinxiang would not have been criticized so much now.

"Indeed, our Fourth Lady has nothing to do with this matter now, but in the past, she... she did... have a little." The old maid seemed to have remembered something.

"A little, in the past? How?" Duan Jinxiang seemed to be looking for trouble. She questioned snappily.

"It's... it's not just the past. She still has something to do with this matter now." Qu Mansion's old maid seemed to be a little panicked, and she lowered her head in panic. The more she was being looked at, the more flustered she felt.

Duan Jinxiang was just saying it casually, but now seeing the old maid's reaction, she suddenly reached out to slam the table. "Didn't they cancel the engagement? Are they still in contact?"

"No, they're not. It's just that Young Master Yongning gave her some things before. It didn't matter. He just felt that our Fourth Lady was pitiful." Qu Mansion's old maid shook her hands and said hurriedly.

"He actually gave her some things? This is ridiculous. Her engagement was annulled, yet she actually dared to still be in contact with her ex-fiance. What a disgrace." Duan Jinxiang was so irritated that her nose was out of joint. She suddenly stood up and went up to the old maid, shouting, "Tell me, what did he give her?"

She had already been jealous of Yu Qingmeng. Now, there was actually Qu Moying. Thinking that Qu Moying might still be pestering Young Master Yongning even now, and that could be the reason why he did not want to see her, Duan Jinxiang was so angry that her lungs were about to explode. She only felt that she was unable to stomach this insult.

Did the Vice Minister Qu's Mansion's Fourth Lady have such low self-respect that she was even willing to be a concubine so as to stay by Young Master Yongning's side?

Duan Jinxiang would never agree to it!

"No... nothing. It's just that our Fourth Lady fell before, and Young Master Yongning heard that the wheelchair Fourth Lady was using could not move smoothly, so he specially went to Qingyun Temple to find some grease to make it more convenient to move the wheelchair. There is really nothing else." Qu Mansion's old maid panicked and spilled everything.

"What a bitch!" Duan Jinxiang was so angry that her face turned green. She pulled the flowers from the vase next to her, crushed the petals, and threw them on the ground.

She wished that she could go to Qu Mansion to disfigure Qu Moying right now and tear off her eye veil so that her ugly eyes would be exposed in broad daylight. Duan Jinxiang would like to see if Qu Moying would still seduce Young Master Yongning by then.

"Second Lady, calm down first." An old maid stood out from behind Duan Jinxiang and softly comforted Duan Jinxiang. She was sent by Duan Jinxiang's birth mother to serve Duan Jinxiang, and she was a relatively steady person.

Duan Jinxiang listened to her advice and coldly glared at the old maid. She then returned to her chair and sat down.

"Your Second Madam invited my lady to see Concubine Yu?" After the old maid comforted Duan Jinxiang, she asked Qu Mansion's old maid with a fake smile.

When mentioning Yu Qingmeng, she directly used the word "concubine" to address her.

"Our Second Madam thinks that the two families will have to have contact in the future, so she would like Miss Yu and Second Lady Duan to meet first, saying that we can't let a trifling matter affect our harmonious relations. We should be kind to each other in the future. Young Master Yongning may come over too." Qu Mansion's old maid hurriedly replied with a smile.

Her words were very polite, but they angered Duan Jinxiang even more.

Her family had invited Young Master Yongning over several times, but he kept saying that he was busy. However, he might appear now just because of the matter of a concubine.

"Alright. We will go to see Second Madam Qu tomorrow." The old maid agreed on behalf of Duan Jinxiang.

"There is another thing I have to trouble you with, Second Lady Duan." Qu Mansion's old maid said again.

"What is it?" Duan Jinxiang asked coldly.

"Our Second Madam has been recuperating recently. When you come over, please say that you are visiting because you heard she was ill." Qu Mansion's old maid exhorted carefully.

"She is sick yet she is so worried about a mere concubine. How kind," Duan Jinxiang sneered.

Right now, the one being talked about the most in the capital was this Second Madam Qu. They all said that she was not a good person and that she was vicious. She was cruel to her husband's ex-wife's daughter, but unexpectedly, she would be so concerned about a concubine.

The ironic meaning of Duan Jinxiang's words was too obvious. Qu Mansion's old maid did not dare to answer, so she could only laugh dryly.

"Please report to your Second Madam that our Second Lady will come to visit tomorrow." Duan Mansion's old maid said.

Seeing that the matter had been settled, Qu Mansion's old maid said goodbye to Duan Jinxiang. Duan Jinxiang waved her hand impatiently, indicating for the old maid to leave.

After Qu Mansion's people left, Duan Jinxiang said to her old maid unhappily, "Why should I go and visit her? She is not anyone to me. Why don't you think about what the people outside say about her? On what ground can she ask me to visit her?"

Duan Jinxiang had heard about Second Madam Qu.

"Second Lady, don't you want to see Young Master Yongning?" Her old maid asked with a smile.

"He might not come. She is just a relative of his concubine, not a close relative of his!" Duan Jinxiang was not convinced. As long as she thought that Yu was Yu Qingmeng's aunt, she was not willing to go visit Yu.

"Second Lady, Second Madam Qu is not only a relative of his concubine but also Fourth Lady Qu's nominal mother. Young Master Yongning was engaged to Fourth Lady Qu before, and then it was proven that Second Madam Qu had the intention to frame Fourth Lady Qu. If the engagement annulment is because of Second Madam Qu, then it has nothing to do with you."

The old maid reminded.

## Chapter 182 Visitors Coming One by One

These words made Duan Jinxiang calm down. Although her face was gloomy, she nodded. Because of this engagement, she had been denounced by others. Many people even thought that she had plotted against Young Master Yongning and caused Young Master Yongning to call off the previous engagement and thus he had no choice but to marry her. In fact, Duan Jinxiang felt that she had been wronged.

She had indeed accidentally fallen into the water. And it was indeed Young Master Yongning who saved her. Although her mansion had indeed pressured the Marquis Yongning's Mansion and they had indeed

finally agreed on this engagement, in which her father had helped a lot, she actually did not plot against Young Master Yongning since the start, so she was innocent.

However, others did not believe her innocence. Now, it seemed like a good idea if she were to let Second Madam Qu bear this responsibility!

"It won't be that easy," Duan Jinxiang said.

"If not Second Madam Qu, there are other scapegoats, like Fourth Lady Qu, or that Concubine Yu. My lady, you can just act according to the situation." The old maid hinted.

Immediately, Duan Jinxiang understood...

"What? Madam Duan brought Second Lady Duan here to visit Second Madam for her illness?" When Qu Moying received this news, she raised her eyes, slightly surprised. This excuse of visiting was really far-fetched.

"Yes, I heard that Madam Duan has gone to Second Madam's place now. Third Lady is accompanying Second Lady Duan to come and see you. They should be here by now," Granny Miao said.

Granny Miao had just received the news, and she rushed back to report to her lady.

"See my lady? For what?" Yu Dong sneered. Although his lady had taken the initiative to call off the engagement and Young Master Yongning was not worthy of his lady, Yu Dong felt that Second Lady Duan was not a good person. Otherwise, she would not have insisted that Young Master Yongning married her after he saved her. She even had him cancel the previous engagement.

"My lady, I am going to stop her." Yu Dong volunteered.

Qu Moying nodded and smiled. "Just say that I am sick and I haven't gotten up yet, so it is inconvenient for me to meet guests."



"Yes, I know." Yu Dong excitedly walked out, planning to go outside the yard to stop them.

"My lady, since they're here, it's not good to not see them." Granny Miao said, feeling that Yu Dong was not reliable this time.

"It's fine. If she can come in, just let her in." Qu Moying said indifferently. It was obvious that Second Lady Duan had come here with ill intentions, for the first place in the mansion she visited was Qu Moying's yard.

Qu Moying did not mind meeting Second Lady Duan. She guessed that the reason why Second Lady Duan was here today was related to Yu. However, she did not mind letting Second Lady Duan know that she was not a pushover.

"Yu Chun, help me wash up," Qu Moying said.

Seeing Qu Moying's appearance, Granny Miao knew that Qu Moying already had a card up her sleeve, so she did not say anything more. She helped Yu Chun freshen up Qu Moying again and then helped her sit down.

Outside the yard, Duan Jinxiang and Qu Qiuyan came over together. They chatted and laughed. The atmosphere looked very good. When they saw Qianyue House from afar, Qu Qiuyan said something, and it caused Duan Jinxiang to smile sweetly. They looked harmonious as if they were actually best friends.

"Yu Dong, is your lady inside? Second Lady Duan has come to visit." When they reached the entrance of the yard, Yu Dong came out from inside. Qu Qiuyan asked him warmly.

"Greetings, Third Lady." Yu Dong went forward and bowed.

Qu Qiuyan waved her hand, indicating for him to forego the formalities.

"Third Lady, my lady is not feeling well and is still resting. It may be inconvenient for her to meet guests." Yu Dong straightened his body and said respectfully to Qu Qiuyan.

"Moying is feeling unwell? Did you guys call a doctor?" Qu Qiuyan asked with concern.

"It's not that bad. She just feels a little under the weather and might not be able to meet guests," Yu Dong reiterated. His gaze swept over Duan Jinxiang, who was at the side, without much respect.

Duan Jinxiang's face darkened, and her smile immediately faded from her face. What did Qu Moying mean? Qu Moying did not want to see her? But she insisted on seeing Qu Moying today.

"Second Lady Duan, what do you think?" Qu Qiuyan turned to look at her awkwardly.

"I just need to see her for a bit. If Fourth Lady Qu is really seriously ill, you need to call a doctor. It's all my... I feel bad for Fourth Lady Qu. I'm here to apologize today." Seeing Qu Qiuyan look at her, Duan Jinxiang immediately smiled again and said with a guilty face.

Everyone present understood her words.

"Well..." Qu Qiuyan was in a dilemma.

"Third Lady Qu, I only need to say a few words to Fourth Lady Qu before I leave. Please make an exception. I have let Fourth Lady Qu down and caused her to be like this... I feel really sorry. I must take this opportunity to meet her and tell her how I feel. The matter at that time had evolved to that stage. I... I did not mean to..."

Duan Jinxiang said with a hypocritical expression. Her words were extremely soft and she seemed to be apologetic.

"Alright then... Let's go in and take a look." Qu Qiuyan was in a pickle. She turned to say to Yu Dong, "You go and tell your lady that Second Lady Duan came from afar and deliberately came to see her. Just one look, and we'll leave."

"Yes, Third Lady." Yu Dong reluctantly agreed and turned back to go in, but soon he came out again.

"Third Lady, Fourth Lady says that she is not familiar with you guys, and it is even more inconvenient for

her to see you at this time. As for what Second Lady Duan said, my lady says that it has been so long since the incident, so there is no need to be concerned about it.”

Hearing a maid say this so casually, Duan Jinxiang became stiff, and the smile on her face faded. The corners of her mouth slightly twitched.

“Moying really doesn’t want to see us?” Qu Qiuyan also frowned helplessly. She looked at Duan Jinxiang and said, “Second Lady Duan, well... Since Moying has said so, you don’t have to take the matter to heart. It’s all in the past.”

“I’m already here. I have to go and see Fourth Lady Qu.” Duan Jinxiang pushed Yu Dong away, picked up the corner of her skirt, and rushed in.

No one expected that she would actually lay her hands on someone. Yu Dong staggered and almost fell. He quickly steadied himself and shouted, “Second Lady Duan...”

Duan Jinxiang walked fast. She had already entered the yard and went straight to the room in the middle.

“Yu Dong, don’t stop her. It won’t be good if she gets anxious and falls. After all, she is a guest in the mansion now.” Qu Qiuyan gave Qing Ju a look, and Qing Ju held Yu Dong back by pretending to support him.

“Third Lady, my lady is resting now.” Yu Dong grew anxious. He struggled to get up, but Qing Ju held him tightly and refused to let go. He couldn’t break free and could only watch Duan Jinxiang enter the main room.

Although the servants in the yard saw Duan Jinxiang coming over, no one dared to stop her. They all retreated to the side.

Duan Jinxiang aggressively entered. Her maid, who was staying beside her, lifted the curtain. Suddenly, an old maid rushed out from inside and crashed into Duan Jinxiang’s maid. The young maid staggered backward two steps and fell heavily to the ground. She cried out in pain.

The one who came out was Granny Miao. She glanced at the maid coldly and ignored the maid. Then, she walked to the curtain and lifted the curtain. She looked at the stunned Duan Jinxiang and pulled out a fake smile. "Second Lady Duan, since you are here to see my lady, please come in! My lady has long been waiting for you."

After saying this, Granny Miao calmly bowed with a natural expression.

Duan Jinxiang had imagined countless times the scenarios of when Qu Moying saw her. She imagined that Qu Moying would feel guilty, afraid, would not dare to raise her head, or feel inferior. However, Qu Moying did not show any of these, and she seemed to have prepared for this meeting. Inexplicably, Duan Jinxiang felt weak, and her imposing manner immediately went down a tone.

The curtain had been lifted, and she could see Qu Moying sitting in the chair in the main room. She just sat there, quietly waiting for Duan Jinxiang to go in. Her expression was composed and without the slightest panic. Her eye veil covered her eyes and also her countenance. Only her cherry lips were light, revealing a hint of calmness.

After composing herself, Duan Jinxiang could only go in at this time. Moreover, she was originally going to go in.

She glared fiercely at her maid, who had just gotten up from the fall. It was all because of this useless maid that her imposing manner lessened a bit as soon as she met Qu Moying.

Qu Qiuyan gave Qing Ju a look. Qing Ju quickly let go of Yu Dong's hand and then gave a look to the maid who was following behind her. This young maid had been following behind Qu Qiuyan and Qing Ju, and when she saw Qing Ju give her a look, the young maid hurriedly turned around and ran away.

Under the corridor, Granny Miao looked at the figure of the young maid who left in a hurry. The corner of her lips curved silently. Seeing Yu Dong come over, she let go of the curtain in her hand. After her eyes and Yu Dong's eyes met, Yu Dong entered the room, whereas Granny Miao went outside. Just now, her lady had asked her to keep watch outside.

Duan Jinxiang was here, so there must be someone else coming next.

Her lady said that if someone came later, she should lead them outside. Her lady's yard was situated in Qian Yue House. Her lady did not want anyone to taint her place.

When Qu Qiuyan and Qing Ju crossed paths with Granny Miao, they did not notice her, an old maid.

They were far away and didn't have a clear look just now. Now, they only felt that Duan Jinxiang seemed to appear much weaker.

"Is there something you want to talk to me about, Second Lady Duan?" Inside the room, Qu Moying stared at Duan Jinxiang coldly. The corners of her lips curved up slightly, and she said it with a faint smile. She was not courteous.

"Fourth Lady Qu, I do have something to talk to you about..." Duan Jinxiang composed herself and raised her head arrogantly.

"Please wait a moment, Second Lady Duan." Qu Moying stood up. When Yu Chun went forward to help her sit in front of the wheelchair, Yu Dong happened to come in. The two of them pushed Qu Moying out together.

Duan Jinxiang had no choice but to step aside. "What's the matter, Fourth Lady Qu?"

"Grandmother told me to go over now. If you have nothing else to do, should we go out together?" Qu Moying asked.

"Alright!" Duan Jinxiang was only looking for Qu Moying to denounce her. Duan Jinxiang really didn't care where to do it. She watched the two maids carefully pushing Qu Moying out of the door and down the cloister.

"Third Sister, you are here too?" Once Qu Moying arrived outside, she saw Qu Qiuyan. Qu Moying's smile became even colder.

"I accompanied Second Lady Duan here. Second Lady Duan insisted on coming over to chat with you and see how you are doing." When Qu Qiuyan saw Qu Moying come out, she was also stunned for a moment. She asked in surprise, "Moying, where are you going? You're feeling unwell, aren't you?"

"Yes, I feel unwell inside. Originally, I didn't want to see anyone, but it just so happened that Grandmother sent someone here to ask me to go over. If Second Lady Duan wants to talk to me, let's talk on the way!" Qu Moying said.

The so-called "feeling unwell" referred to feeling uncomfortable inside. What it meant was that she didn't want to see Duan Jinxiang.

Such obvious words were as if slapping Duan Jinxiang in the face.

Not long after they left, someone else reached the door of Qianyue House again...

#### Chapter 183 Who Did It Back Then?

"Young Master Xu, my lady's injuries are fine. Thanks for your concern." Granny Miao went forward, bowed to Xu Lipeng, and then answered with a smile.

The person who had come was Xu Lipeng. It was also expected by her lady. Granny Miao's gaze swept over the two old maids who were following behind Xu Lipeng.

The two old maids were both holding a gift box in their hands.

"This is a token of appreciation from my mother. She asked me to ask about the Fourth Lady's injuries again," Xu Lipeng said gently. Having been stopped by Granny Miao, who was a servant, he was not unhappy. His expression was as gentle as ever. This was also one of the reasons why he had a good reputation for so long.

“Young Master, I thank you for your kindness on behalf of my lady. But given the situation now... my lady does not dare to accept it.” Granny Miao appeared to be in a dilemma. She pinched the handkerchief in her hand and tactfully refused.

The two families were in such a mess. They had even called off the engagement that had been made so many years ago. Why should they keep in contact with each other now?

“Try to ask what Fourth Lady thinks. My mother feels very sorry about this matter. No matter what, Fourth Lady is the daughter of my mother’s good friend. Now, she has fallen to such a state. It is really our Marquis Yongning’s Mansion’s fault. My mother feels very guilty towards the Fourth Lady.” Xu Lipeng was as gentle as ever.

When he said this, it was not something that a servant like Granny Miao could decide.

“Well... I will go in and ask,” Granny Miao said helplessly. “Young Master Xu, please wait a moment.”

After saying that, she turned around and entered the yard. Then, she went to the main room. Xu Lipeng stood quietly outside the door. He raised his head with his hands behind his back and observed the familiar yard in front of him. He was in a trance.

It was still the same yard. In the past, he had come here to look for Qu Moying. Every time he came over, Qu Moying would always excitedly invite him in. But now, he no longer had the same treatment. Was it because the other part was another person now?

He pursed his lips slightly, and his eyes were deep.

Granny Miao hurried in and then came out very soon. With an apologetic face, she went forward to bow to Xu Lipeng, “Young Master Xu, I just came back from outside, so I didn’t know that the Fourth Lady was not in the yard.”

“Where did she go?” Xu Lipeng’s heart skipped a beat.

“It’s said that she went out for a walk to relax,” Granny Miao replied.

"Wasn't it said that the Fourth Lady's foot was injured, and she couldn't walk?" Xu Lipeng asked in surprise.

"Yes, it was inconvenient for her to walk at first, but after Third Lady gave her a wheelchair, it became much more convenient." Granny Miao smiled and replied.

Xu Lipeng was silent for a moment. He turned his body and pointed to the two old maids behind him. "Since I can't meet the Fourth Lady today, let's leave the gifts behind."

The two old maids obeyed and were about to step forward. Granny Miao hurriedly stopped them. "Young Master Xu, our Fourth Lady is not here. I dare not accept your gifts."

"The engagement between our two mansions has been called off, but does it mean the friendship between my mother and the Fourth Lady's birth mother is gone as well?" Xu Lipeng's expression turned cold.

"I dare not think so!" Granny Miao hurriedly lowered her head, but she did not step back.

Xu Lipeng sending the gift over so directly had breached etiquette in the first place. Even if the Marquis Yongning's Mansion felt guilty towards Qu Moying, the gifts should not be directly sent to Qu Moying. They should be sent to the Old Lady first and then should be distributed after the Old Lady took a look at it, especially when the gift sender was Xu Lipeng.

He was Qu Moying's ex-fiance, so he should avoid having direct contact with her.

Given the situation now, Xu Lipeng did not have a reason to directly give gifts to Qu Moying.

Seeing that Granny Miao was so persistent, Xu Lipeng could not hold back the smile on his face. The smile on his face had already disappeared. He snorted coldly and turned to leave. The two old maids glanced at him and hurriedly followed.



Seeing Xu Lipeng leave with his servants, Granny Miao raised her head and looked at their backs with cold eyes. This Young Master Xu's character was really not good. It even made her believe that he was deliberately ruining her lady's reputation.

Marquis Yongning's Mansion had no direct relationship with Qu Mansion now. If Young Master Xu had a bit of self-knowledge, he should stay far away from her lady, instead of stirring up this kind of suspicious and ambiguous situation. This kind of thing might not be a big deal for men, but for women, it was possible to destroy their reputation.

What was this Young Master Xu up to? Did he want her lady to be his concubine?

Didn't he look in the mirror what kind of person he was? In the past, her lady did not like him, and now it was even more impossible for her to fall for him.

Whether or not the letter of apology was written by him, it made people feel that they were deceiving themselves. It was extremely ridiculous!

After calling over one of the maids, Granny Miao gave a few instructions. Then, the maid understood and turned to leave. Granny Miao returned to the yard, but she did not go to the main room. Instead, she went to the wing room. Granny Yan, who came from the palace and taught her lady etiquette, lived there...

"Moying, let's take a walk in the yard. I will send someone to report to Grandmother." As soon as they left the yard, Qu Qiuyan went forward and suggested gently.

She said it in order to give Duan Jinxiang the chance to have a talk. If they really went to the Old Lady's place, Duan Jinxiang would not have the time to talk to Qu Moying.

"Grandmother is waiting for me." Qu Moying glanced at Qu Qiuyan indifferently.

"Grandmother must not know that Second Lady Duan came to you. If she knows, she will definitely ask you to treat your guest well." Qu Qiuyan said with a smile.

Hearing her say this, Qu Moying pondered for a moment and nodded, no longer insisting.

The few of them turned their direction and headed towards an empty pavilion. Women guests would sometimes be entertained there.

The pavilion was not tall. There were a few green bamboos growing outside the window and a few peony trees, and they were in full bloom. It was very beautiful. When Qu Qiuyan walked past, she deliberately stopped and admired them before following the crowd to the pavilion.

The place to entertain guests was upstairs. Qu Moying held Yu Dong's hand and walked at the last. Upstairs was the actual space to entertain guests.

When they finally reached the top, Qu Qiuyan had already asked Duan Jinxiang to sit down. Then she also sat down. The only chair left was close to the back window. There was a lotus pond. Although it was not the time for the lotus flowers to bloom, the leaves were full of dense green. There was a kind of elegance in the midst of the blue water.

As the wind blew, the lotus leaves swayed. It was extremely beautiful. Even if there were no lotus flowers, it was still a beautiful scenery.

Because this was the place to admire the scenery, the windows were several times larger than ordinary ones. A small part of the chair placed there was exposed outside. When one sat on the chair, many landscapes could be seen. It was a good spot to admire the pond and the scenery.

If one stood up, at least half of his or her body would be exposed in mid-air. When the window was open, there was a breeze blowing in.

Yu Dong held Qu Moying's hand tightly, and Qu Moying's hand gently patted Yu Dong's hand. She slowly sat down on the seat that was specially reserved for her.

"Fourth Lady Qu, are you unwilling to see me?" As soon as she sat down, Duan Jinxiang began to make things difficult for Qu Moying. Although she still had a smile on her face, the smile looked extremely contemptuous.

The apologetic words she said to Qu Moying before were just an excuse.

“Must I see you, Second Lady Duan?” Qu Moying smiled and said coldly.

Duan Jinxiang was here to pick a fight, so Qu Moying didn’t need to be nice to her.

Hearing such a direct retort, Duan Jinxiang was a little embarrassed. “What do you mean?”

“I mean what you mean,” Qu Moying said indifferently.

Duan Jinxiang was here today to show Qu Moying her dominance. She had found out a lot of information while talking to Qu Qiuyan. She even found out that Young Master Yongning still longed for Qu Moying in his heart. Now, seeing Qu Moying’s attitude, Duan Jinxiang became angrier.

“Fourth Lady Qu, you are no longer Young Master Yongning’s fiancée! Please pay attention to your behavior.” Duan Jinxiang’s face sank.

“Please tell me, Second Lady Duan, when have I not paid attention to my behavior?” Qu Moying said calmly.

“You have already called off the engagement with Young Master Xu. Why do you still flirt with him at this time...” Duan Jinxiang shouted harshly, her face red with anger. She pressed her hand on the table and was about to stand up.

“Second Lady Duan, I heard from First Lady Duan that on that day, you followed her over?” Qu Moying asked calmly and directly interrupted Duan Jinxiang.

“What do you mean?” Duan Jinxiang was stunned.

“Second Lady Duan, don’t you think something is very strange? I have sent people later to investigate and found out that the fence there had already been damaged. It’d break with just a touch.” Qu Moying

looked up at Duan Jinxiang. As long as Duan Jinxiang was not hopelessly stupid, she would definitely understand the meaning of this sentence.

Qu Qiuyan's hand stopped, and she frowned. Yu was the one in charge of this matter. After that Qu Qiuyan did not interfere, so she did not expect that there would be such a thing.

If she had known earlier, she would have asked someone to destroy this evidence. Yu was really incompetent and had done nothing helpful. Having such a mother, Qu Qiuyan felt she was extremely unlucky.

"Did someone cut a hole in the fence?" Duan Jinxiang was stunned. She opened her mouth and subconsciously said, "It was not me. It was my first time coming to your mansion that day. It could not be me. I was just following my elder sister..."

As she said this, Duan Jinxiang stopped, and her expression changed drastically.

If someone were really plotting something and if it were not against her, then it must be against someone else. Someone was plotting against her elder sister, Duan Yuxiang. If the person who had fallen into the water at that time had been Duan Yuxiang, then would the person engaged to Young Master Yongning be Duan Yuxiang now?

"Is it done by the bitch, Duan Yuxiang?" Duan Jinxiang stomped her foot. The person who should have originally benefited from this matter wasn't her, but her elder sister.

"First Lady Duan came to our mansion before?" Qu Moying said coldly. She did not have a good impression of Duan Jinxiang, and she showed her disdain even more now.

Duan Yuxiang had been to Qu Mansion? That was impossible. If it hadn't been Duan Yuxiang, then who was plotting against another person? Duan Jinxiang could not figure it out for a moment. Her brow furrowed tightly.

"Moying, it has been so long. It is meaningless to talk about this again. Even if we really find out something, it won't matter. After all, Second Lady Duan and Young Master Yongning have already

engaged.” Qu Qiuyan advised, as if she wanted to ease the tension, but when she said this, Duan Jinxiang immediately frowned and glared at Qu Moying coldly.

She looked as if she was afraid that Qu Moying would mention this matter. No matter what, this engagement was made. Even if it happened by an odd coincidence, she would not let go of it. Now, Qu Moying deliberately mentioned this. What did she mean by misleading people this way?

“My lady, are those coming over Young Master Yongning and Concubine Yu?” Yu Chun, who was standing by the window in front of them, pointed outside and reported.

With this sentence, the expressions of everyone in the room immediately changed.

#### Chapter 184 Miscarriage?

On the path outside the window, it was indeed Xu Lipeng and Yu Qingmeng. In fact, Xu Lipeng should have been at Qu Moying’s Qian Yue House at this time, and Yu Qingmeng had come out alone to take a walk.

Unexpectedly, she was caught up by Xu Lipeng after taking only a few steps.

“Young Master, is the Fourth Lady not here?” Yu Qingmeng said softly. She reached out and touched her waist. Her clothes were loose, but she still looked slender and charming.

“She went to the yard for a walk,” Xu Lipeng said indifferently.

Yu Qingmeng carefully looked at his face, took a few steps closer, and reached out to pull his sleeve. “Then let’s go take a walk too. Maybe we can meet Fourth Lady Qu there. I’d like to apologize to her in person. It’s all my fault... It’s all because of me that she is like this now.”

“You are pregnant now. It’s better not to go over. I will pass on the message if there is anything.” Xu Lipeng’s voice softened. He shook his head and casually walked forward. Yu Qingmeng followed closely behind.

"It's my fault anyhow, for being young, frivolous, and not sensible enough. I just can't help it when love has arrived." Yu Qingmeng lowered her head and smiled bitterly. "I am an official family's lady, but look at me now... I have ruined your reputation. It's all my fault."

Seeing how pitiful she was and how she was thinking about him, Xu Lipeng felt a little relieved and shook his head, "After all, she is not a good match for me. You can't be blamed for this matter."

For Xu Lipeng, he had never taken Qu Moying seriously. She was just a woman. At most, he would just keep her in the mansion so that he could keep his good reputation. Xu Lipeng did not feel that it was wrong. Anyway, Qu Moying was not living well in Qu Mansion. When she came to his mansion, he would make his servants treat her well.

Things had become like this. It was not good for him, so how could it be good for Qu Moying?

In terms of personality, Xu Lipeng felt that Qu Moying was a little too stubborn. Women should be gentle and kind. Even if he and Yu Qingmeng had done something wrong, Yu Qingmeng was a concubine. Did Qu Moying think that after he married her, he could not take in concubines? Yu Qingmeng was willing to be with him. Moreover, she was willing to be a concubine. What was there for Qu Moying to be dissatisfied about?

"Anyway, it is my fault. When I see her later, if she is willing to beat me up or scold me, I will accept it." Yu Qingmeng raised her eyes. The tears at the corners of her eyes were about to fall. She looked extremely aggrieved and gentle. Her eyes were focused on Xu Lipeng, making Xu Lipeng's heart soften.

These days, he had been in a hard time. The position that had originally been agreed on was intercepted halfway due to the matter of his engagement annulment with Qu Mansion, which was said to have harmed his reputation. This made Xu Lipeng extremely aggrieved. Also, it had not been peaceful in his mansion. His mother had always disliked Yu Qingmeng. If not for the child in Yu Qingmeng's belly, it would be impossible for his mother to let Yu Qingmeng enter the mansion.

Now, although she had entered, his mother would still find excuses to reprimand Yu Qingmeng. Even in front of all the servants, she showed no mercy. Every time Yu Qingmeng looked at Xu Lipeng, she would always be full of tears.

At first, he felt pity, but it angered his mother even more. Later, Xu Lipeng grew annoyed and impatient too. Sometimes, he would sleep directly in the study and did not return to the inner yard just so that he could have quiet, alone time.

“You have a child in your belly. You should be careful. There is no need to be like this. Although Fourth Lady Qu is a little stubborn, she is always gentle and considerate. She will not make a fuss about this with you.” Xu Lipeng comforted Yu Qingmeng.

Yu Qingmeng reached out and touched her belly, which was not a baby bump yet at all. She smiled bitterly and said, “I owe her. No matter what she does, I really don’t mind.”

They were close together. Although they did not hold hands, they were still very close. Xu Lipeng even slowed down from time to time and waited for Yu Qingmeng to catch up. The atmosphere around them looked calm and peaceful. Duan Jinxiang, who was in the pavilion, was so furious that she almost exploded. Her temper had always been bad, and she had always acted on impulse.

When she argued with Qu Moying just now, she almost wanted to hit Qu Moying. Later, her thoughts were disrupted by Qu Moying’s words, and she only cared about figuring out whether someone was scheming about this matter and forgot to vent her anger. Now that she saw this scene, how could she bear it? She was Young Master Xu’s wife. Who the hell was Yu Qingmeng?

She was so pissed that she couldn’t bear it anymore and turned to go downstairs.

When Duan Jinxiang rushed to the window sill in front of her, Qu Qiuyan knew that it was not a good idea. Seeing that Duan Jinxiang was so jealous that she wanted to rush downstairs, Qu Qiuyan knew that something bad was going to happen. She hurriedly pulled Duan Jinxiang’s sleeve and said, “Second Lady Duan, don’t be angry. Young Master Xu is here. Why not talk it out properly?”

Why did her elder cousin sister and Young Master Yongning come over? And they were even so intimate with each other. It was improper. Qu Qiuyan was also very upset.

“It’s actually Young Master Xu. They really are a perfect match.” Qu Moying held Yu Dong’s hand and walked over. When she saw the scene below, she muttered to herself, “No wonder Young Master is in love with Concubine Yu. She is indeed as beautiful as a flower. Even I pity her when I see her. Now I understand why our engagement has been annulled. I’m indeed inferior to her.”

These words were like adding oil to the fire in Duan Jinxiang's heart. If Qu Moying understood why her engagement was annulled and admitted she was inferior to Yu Qingmeng, then what about Duan Jinxiang? Did it mean that Duan Jinxiang would never marry into Young Master Yongning's Mansion?

She was not a useless blind person like Qu Moying, and she would not suffer such a loss.

With this thought in mind, she forcefully pulled Qu Qiuyan's hand away and rushed downstairs. She would not let this slut have a good time. Yu Qingmeng was just a concubine, yet she actually thought of herself as the wife.

Seeing that the situation was not good, Qu Qiuyan hurriedly chased after her. This had originally been prepared to tackle Qu Moying. It seemed that the situation was about to go wrong again. If only she had known earlier that it would have been completely pointless for Yu to call this idiot Duan Jinxiang over. She was not helpful at all and only caused more trouble.

Qu Moying stood still in front of the window. Yu Dong moved a chair over. Qu Moying sat down. The window was wide, and half of her body was leaning against the window. She watched what was happening outside the window. The view happened to be good—she could see them very clearly.

"Slut! You lowly slut!" When Duan Jinxiang went downstairs, she threw herself in front of Yu Qingmeng. Her hand was ready, and she slapped Yu Qingmeng hard.

Yu Qingmeng was gazing upon Xu Lipeng with her tender and delicate expression. All her focus was on Xu Lipeng. She did not expect that someone would rush out suddenly and give her a slap without saying anything.

She staggered two steps backward and sat heavily on the ground. Her hand pressed against the corner of her dress, and her face immediately turned pale. Her lips were pale.

"Ah! Blood... blood." The maid, who was following Yu Qingmeng, cried out in alarm. She pointed at the corner of Yu Qingmeng's dress. There was blood seeping out and slowly dyeing the corner of Yu Qingmeng's dress red. Yu Qingmeng's face was as pale as snow, without a trace of blood. She looked at the corner of her dress in horror. She opened her mouth, but no words came out. Instead, tears rolled down her cheeks.



Xu Lipeng was the first to react. He stepped forward and pushed Duan Jinxiang away. He hurriedly picked up Yu Qingmeng and shouted, "Go get a doctor."

The maid, who was beside Yu Qingmeng, ran off while wiping her tears.

Qu Qiuyan arrived at this time. She could not care about anything else and only followed behind Xu Lipeng. Her face was full of anxiety, but when she left, she subconsciously glanced at the pavilion. Her eyes became anxious, panicked, and there was a trace of anger.

Yes, she was indeed angry. When Qu Moying saw Qu Qiuyan grit her teeth and rush down, Qu Moying's eyes became cold. Qu Qiuyan's gaze was very strange.

Anxiety and panic could be explained, but where did the trace of anger when looking at Qu Moying come from?

"Let's go down to take a look." After pondering for a moment, Qu Moying instructed. This incident had happened too suddenly. Even though she had clearly seen everything from where she was, she had not expected it to happen so quickly.

Everything seemed to have been prepared, waiting for a conflict.

She still had some questions that she wanted to verify.

Two maids helped Qu Moying down and helped her to sit in the wheelchair. Yu Dong then pushed her over. When they reached the scene, Duan Jinxiang had already been helped up by a maid. Her entire body was trembling, and she stood on the side of the road in a daze. When she saw Qu Moying come over, she seemed to have woken up. Her face was pale as she raised her eyes to look at Qu Moying and muttered, "I didn't mean it. I... I really didn't mean it."

It happened so suddenly that Duan Jinxiang also panicked, especially when Xu Lipeng glared at her fiercely just now. His eyes were callous and terrifying. Duan Jinxiang originally wanted to explain herself but was pushed away mercilessly. When she fell to the ground, Duan Jinxiang looked at Xu Lipeng with pleading eyes. However, Xu Lipeng didn't even look at her. He picked up Yu Qingmeng and left.

The blood was still there on the road, with a pool of blood on the ground. The thick smell of blood was pungent.

Qu Moying frowned and looked at the pool of blood carefully. There was a trace of doubt in the corner of her eyes. In her last life, when she was with the Ji Family, she once saw an old maid serving Xiao crash into a concubine from the second branch. That concubine was newly found by Second Uncle Ji Yong'an. It was said that she was pregnant, and something happened after she was knocked down. Coincidentally, Ji Hanyue happened to be in the yard at that time.

At that time, they hurriedly got someone to get a doctor and then helped the concubine to the side. The concubine was clutching her stomach, her face pale from the pain. However, there was not so much blood under her body back then. It was not like the big pool of blood in front of her now. It seemed that too much blood flowed out all of a sudden just now.

"Second Lady Duan, do you want to see Concubine Yu?" Qu Moying looked up and asked slowly.

"I really didn't mean it. I didn't do it on purpose." At this time, Duan Jinxiang was no longer as arrogant as before. She was so scared that she kept muttering to herself.

"Second Lady Duan," Qu Moying asked again, "don't you want to go and see what's going on? Otherwise, if something really happens, I'm afraid you won't be able to defend yourself in the future."

There were too many meanings in her words. Duan Jinxiang finally looked straight at Qu Moying. Her hand that was holding maid trembled. "Fourth Lady Qu, do you think she will be okay?" she asked.

"I don't know, but Concubine Yu's luck is really bad. If she hadn't walked through here, something like this wouldn't have happened."

Qu Moying said lightly.

"Yes, why did she come? She did it on purpose. She must have done it on purpose." These words seemed to remind Duan Jinxiang. Her eyes became spirited, and she said indignantly. In the end, even she believed her own words. "Yes, she came here on purpose. She just wanted Young Master Xu to get

tired of me, so she deliberately got so close to him as if she was the wife. It was clear that she deliberately provoked me.”

The corners of Qu Moying’s lips twitched. She sneered at Duan Jinxiang’s words. She realized Yu Qingmeng was even more scheming than the scheming Duan Jinxiang. All the extremely selfish and cold ladies had entered the Marquis Yongning’s Mansion...

## Chapter 185 Real or Fake? It Mainly Depends on the Doctor

Outside the room, Xu Lipeng’s face was ashen as he paced around in circles. Qu Qiuyan was also helpless. Coincidentally, a doctor came over to Yu’s place. Moreover, he brought a female doctor with him. At this time, they were checking on Concubine Yu inside.

When Qu Moying and Duan Jinxiang came over, Xu Lipeng’s gaze first fell on Qu Moying’s face. Then, it turned to Duan Jinxiang’s face, and his expression immediately became a bit cold. The gaze he fixed upon Duan Jinxiang was so cold and gloomy that Duan Jinxiang immediately lowered her head in fright. She involuntarily slowed down, and she hid behind Qu Moying’s wheelchair.

At this time, she did not have the mood to find fault with Qu Moying, nor did she dare to look directly into Xu Lipeng’s eyes. She was trying her best to hide herself.

“How is Concubine Yu?” Qu Moying asked gracefully.

“I don’t know yet. It seems...” Xu Lipeng had a headache. His brows furrowed even more tightly, and he was extremely vexed. If Yu Qingmeng hadn’t insisted on coming to Qu Mansion today, saying that she wanted to apologize to Qu Moying, Xu Lipeng wouldn’t have come over today. Thinking of this, he immediately became a little angry at Qu Moying.

He shot Qu Moying an unfriendly gaze.

Qu Moying met his gaze emotionlessly. She did not dodge it. The corners of her lips curved up silently. She said politely, “Young Master Xu, please sit by in the wing room and wait for the results first.”

This kind of thing should not have been handled by her and Qu Qiuyan. Just now, she had sent someone to report to the Old Lady. After all, they were both unmarried ladies. This kind of thing was not suitable for them to handle.

The only one who could make decisions on this matter in Qu Mansion's backyard now was the Old Lady.

"Thank you, Fourth Lady Qu. I am worried and anxious. If you want to rest, go and rest!" Xu Lipeng said in a bad mood.

After Qu Moying glanced at him, she no longer paid attention to him. She turned around and entered the wing room. Qu Qiuyan hesitated for a moment and followed her in.

Seeing the two sisters go in, how could Duan Jinxiang dare to face Xu Lipeng directly? She hurriedly followed behind Qu Moying and went in.

The Old Lady's people came very soon. After entering the yard, they asked Qu Moying and Qu Qiuyan to go back first. Since the Old Lady was here, the two sisters left.

Following the Old Lady was Duan Jinxiang's birth mother, Imperial Banquet Minister's wife. When she saw her mother, Duan Jinxiang immediately rushed over and cried loudly with aggrievance. Her family finally came at such a time, and Duan Jinxiang was full of grievances.

"Alright, don't cry, don't cry. This matter can't be blamed on you. I heard that it was just a concubine. You bumped into her, and so be it. She can't do anything to you, can she?" This madam was the step-wife of Imperial Banquet Minister. She was usually arrogant in the mansion. While comforting Duan Jinxiang, she glared at Xu Lipeng.

It was obvious that Duan Jinxiang inherited her mother's personality. Both were extremely unreasonable and selfish.

Xu Lipeng almost got angry from being glared at. Since the incident happened, he had not been feeling good in his heart. After all, this was his first child!

Although Yu Qingmeng entering the Marquis Yongning's Mansion was not his original intention, considering the child in Yu Qingmeng's belly and Yu Qingmeng's desire to please him, he slowly compromised.

The mansion had already prepared everything and was waiting for this child to be born. He hadn't expected that such an incident would happen when he visited Qu Mansion.

Hearing Imperial Banquet Minister's wife's words, he felt even more aggrieved.

Qu Moying left when Imperial Banquet Minister's wife said such words that implied something else. When she reached the outside, she instructed Yu Dong to leave and only kept Yu Chun to push her back inside.

They took it slow. When she returned to the yard, Yu Dong had finished running errands and returned.

"My lady, I heard that this doctor came this morning, but because the Second Madam was not satisfied with some of the medicine, she has been discussing it with the doctor, so he has not left." Yu Dong left to inquire about this news. At this time, he had already known the ins and outs clearly.

"Where did this doctor come from?" Qu Moying asked gently.

"I heard that he had a clinic in the city, and he has a good reputation. But unlike the doctors in the past, this is the first time he came to our mansion," Yu Dong said.

At first, Yu's doctors had been changed several times. Even the Imperial Doctor from the palace had come to see her. After that, there were not many differences between the diagnosis of normal doctors and the Imperial Doctor, so she did not bother the Imperial Doctor anymore. She invited a doctor with a good reputation. After that, Yu had been seeing the same doctor. And every time he came, he had never brought a female doctor with him.

Yu's illness had been directly diagnosed. In the past, people who were sick in the mansion would also be directly checked on by the doctor. Yu was not an unmarried lady, so she was not bound by strict rules.

Naturally, there was no need for a female doctor.

This time, not only was the doctor waiting in the mansion, but he also brought a female doctor with him. It was as if he had been waiting here for a long time. Combined with the previous arrangements, Qu Moying was now certain that Yu Qingmeng had entered Qu Mansion this time for her “belly”. Her goal was to accidentally bump her “belly” which could cause a miscarriage.

Given the situation back then, the reason why Yu Qingmeng insisted on marrying into Marquis Yongning’s Mansion must be that she had been pregnant. Since Qu Moying could think of this, Yu Qingmeng could do it too, and it seemed that she had already used this tactic. However, when she was pregnant, her belly would show a baby bump sooner or later. A period of time had passed, and Yu Qingmeng was almost unable to hide it now.

This was why she had planned this today.

It was most likely that she was scheming against Qu Moying. That was why she did the previous series of actions, like writing letters and sending gifts to her. Today, as long as Yu Qingmeng met Qu Moying, Qu Moying believed that Yu Qingmeng would have the ability to blame this matter onto her. Granny Miao had also said just now that Young Master Xu, who was protecting Yu Qingmeng, had come to look for her.

Qu Moying thought about it carefully. If Xu Lipeng came to look for her, she would have more grounds to look for Yu Qingmeng. Out of jealousy, Qu Moying might blame the engagement annulment on a concubine and ruthlessly push the concubine, which would cause a miscarriage. If this were spread out, Qu Moying would be said to be vicious.

Of course, it was also likely that she might have a conflict with Duan Jinxiang. By that time, Qu Moying would be said to be having an affair with Xu Lipeng.

The corner of Qu Moying’s lips curved silently, and her smile was chilly. It was not just one person who schemed against her. This was considered a matter that was carried out layer by layer, and there was some pushing effect between the layers.

Whether it was her having an affair with Xu Lipeng, or her pushing Yu Qingmeng and causing the latter to have a miscarriage, it was all because she was Xu Lipeng's ex-fiancee, and it was also related to the affair between her and Xu Lipeng.

However, unexpectedly, Duan Jinxiang found out that Xu Lipeng had accompanied Yu Qingmeng for a walk, and Duan Jinxiang had not really gotten angry with Qu Moying yet or had a falling out with her yet. Judging from the Imperial Banquet Minister's wife's personality, Qu Moying knew that Duan Jinxiang was not a reasonable person.

Qu Moying also recalled her seat just now. If this Second Lady Duan got angry and pushed her down from the window, causing her to fall into the lotus pond below, it would only be said that she deserved it because she did not have self-respect. She was in a messy relationship with Xu Lipeng even after their engagement had been called off.

And there must be some evidence to prove the messy relationship between Xu Lipeng and her.

Qu Moying couldn't figure out this key point for a moment.

But one thing was certain. If Duan Jinxiang had pushed her into the water from the pavilion, with two maids around her, her life would not be in danger, but this matter would have blown up. Then Yu Qingmeng having an accident would be blamed on Qu Moying. Maybe Yu Qingmeng would come to visit her, or maybe her maid, rather than herself, would meet Yu Qingmeng.

The arrangement was very detailed, and almost every step was set against her.

"Granny Miao, you go and tell Young Master Xu about the doctor. Ask him to investigate this doctor," Qu Moying ordered. She had already made up her mind.

"My lady, I will go now." Granny Miao nodded and left.

Qu Moying closed her eyes and leaned backward. Yu Chun came over and gently massaged the acupoints on her forehead to relieve her fatigue.

"My lady, did the Second Madam and Third Lady plot this against you?" Yu Dong stood aside and said after thinking about it carefully.

Qu Moying nodded silently.

"My lady, are we going to let them go just like that?" Yu Dong said indignantly.

"I'm not letting them go, but someone else will help me do it." The corners of Qu Moying's lips curled up slightly. Duan Jinxiang might be a nobody, but her mother was obviously powerful.

"Later, go outside and write 'investigate the doctor' and throw it to the place where the madam will see on her way out," Qu Moying said. This matter had to be done by Yu Dong. Only then could it not be discovered. The other maids were not as nimble as Yu Dong.

She let Yu Dong write it and let Yu Dong throw it. In this case, even if someone investigated, they would not be able to find out that it was Qu Moying's doing. With Yu Dong's ability, writing a few words that others could not read whose handwriting they were was just a piece of cake.

Yu Dong immediately understood what Qu Moying meant. He grinned wide and nodded repeatedly, "My lady, I will do it now."

"There's no hurry. They won't leave so soon." Qu Moying shook her head and did not open her eyes.

This matter had gotten to this point. Even though Grandmother was dealing with it, it would not end so easily. Yu Qingmeng would not let it go, and Imperial Banquet Minister's Mansion would not admit this matter.

They would definitely make a fuss. Fortunately, this matter had nothing to do with Qu Moying. No matter how they made a fuss, it was fine.

Both Yu Qingmeng and Duan Jinxiang came here with ill intentions. Now that these two were facing each other, Qu Moying was only setting up a small trap. What would happen next would depend on the Marquis Yongning's Mansion.



“Yu Dong, go and investigate the matter of the Taoist nun sending us the wheelchair grease,” Qu Moying said. But then she shook her head again. “Wait, forget about it. Don’t investigate.”

“My lady, why not?” Yu Dong asked curiously. Since his lady felt that there was something wrong, he would just investigate.

“We have to wait.” Qu Moying shook her head.

“My lady, what are we waiting for?” This time, even Yu Chun grew curious.

Qu Moying no longer explained. She paused for a moment and said, “Let’s stop here for now. Keep using the wheelchair. This grease is most likely related to Marquis Yongning’s Mansion. Even if we investigate, we won’t find much. It will only implicate Young Master Yongning.”

This was what she suddenly realized just now. This was a trap—a trap that lured her or someone else into investigating. It was too obvious, and it was also too convenient for people to tamper with it. The person who sent grease here didn’t need to say who she was. She could just say that she was from Qingyun Temple. For people who were not familiar with her, they wouldn’t be able to tell who she really was!

Since that was the case, she would pretend that she did not know for the time being.

However, what Qu Moying did not expect was that Imperial Banquet Minister’s wife had actually angrily rushed to Qianyue House, looking as if she were to denounce someone for his crime...

Fortunately, although this was an accident, Qu Moying had already prepared for it long ago...

Chapter 186 Retreated Due to Fright! A Key Note Thrown Out!

"Madam, why are you looking for my lady?" Granny Yan stopped the aggressive Madam Duan at the door.

"I am looking for your Fourth Lady. Ask your Fourth Lady to come out." Madam Duan said bluntly. She was followed by Duan Jinxiang, who was crying with red eyes.

"Madam, if you have something to say, just say it here!" Granny Yan raised her head and looked at Madam Duan up and down. She said disdainfully.

"A mere servant dares to block me like this?" Madam Duan was angry. At this time, she became even angrier and scolded loudly.

"Madam, although I am only a servant, I am a servant from the palace, and my rank is the fourth grade," Granny Yan said unhurriedly.

Some of the palace maids and eunuchs had ranks, and they, too, received their salaries.

Madam Duan was stunned for a moment. She immediately restrained the anger on her face. Her expression became cautious. To be able to have a high-ranking palace servant guard her, who on earth was this Fourth Lady?

"May I ask which palace are you from?" Madam Duan smiled.

Imperial Banquet Minister's official rank was the accessory fourth grade. In terms of rank, he was inferior to Granny Yan. Moreover, Granny Yan was someone from the palace, but Madam Duan did not know which palace she was from. How could Madam Duan dare to offend her? In her heart, she already had the intention to retreat. She no longer had the aggressive appearance she had put on when coming to find trouble with Qu Moying just now.

Originally, she wanted to push this matter onto Fourth Lady Qu, who had no backing, to ease her daughter's worries about her reputation. Madam Duan hoped she could even make Xu Lipeng resent Qu Moying instead of her daughter.

“Madam, does this have anything to do with you? Do you want to pry into the matters in the palace?” Granny Yan said coldly.

This was such a serious charge that Madam Duan couldn’t bear it.

“No, no, it’s a misunderstanding. I... I just came to see Fourth Lady Qu. I wanted to ask Fourth Lady Qu about what happened. Third Lady Qu wholeheartedly protected Concubine Yu and pushed the matter to my daughter. I really had no choice but to beg Fourth Lady Qu,” Second Madam Duan said humbly.

At this time, how could she dare to argue with Granny Yan? Although she was arrogant, she was not stupid.

There was actually someone sent by the palace to protect Fourth Lady Qu. Moreover, she had a rank. This palace servant seemed to be fearless. It could be seen that the strength of the Master behind her was astonishing. Madam Duan, the wife of Imperial Banquet Minister, was way inferior. She didn’t dare to make trouble with this palace servant.

“Fourth Lady is not in good health. Moreover, this kind of thing is not something that Fourth Lady, an unmarried lady, can settle. Madam, please leave.” Granny Yan bluntly ordered the guest to leave.

“Since Fourth Lady is not feeling well, then we will go back first. We will not disturb her rest,” Madam Duan said with a smile. She reached out and grabbed Duan Jinxiang’s hand, who wanted to go forward, and pulled Duan Jinxiang back forcefully.

Granny Yan gave the mother and daughter a cold look and turned back to the yard.

In the main room, Qu Moying held onto the edge of the table and stood in front of the window. Her gaze fell on Madam Duan’s face. Madam Duan looked delicate, but she looked a bit mean. Looking at the way Madam Duan rushed over just now, Qu Moying could tell that she had come with ill intentions. It was obvious that she was here to bully Qu Moying. She wanted to push the blame on Qu Moying.

Qu Moying gently pursed her cherry lips, and a murderous look flashed in her eyes. Sure enough, if she were too weak, she would be bullied. Even Madam Duan, who had never seen her before, wanted to bully her like she was a pushover.

In fact, for today's matter, Qu Moying was not the only person with whom Duan Jinxiang could find fault. However, Duan Jinxiang did not dare to make things difficult for Qu Qiuyan, so she went to find Qu Moying. Now that she could not cause trouble for Qu Moying, there was one last option. Duan Jinxiang had no choice but to do it regardless of whether she was willing or not.

Even though they hadn't thought of this option, Qu Moying would lend them a hand.

Granny Yan entered the yard and looked over. She met Qu Moying's gaze and silently bowed to the side. Then, she walked towards the wing room and did not come over to disturb Qu Moying's rest.

Granny Yan was really tactful. She did not seem to be as annoying as Qu Moying had imagined. Moreover, she was helpful at the right time. Qu Moying looked thoughtfully at Granny Yan's back.

She was not afraid of being educated. She just wanted to see if this educator had any malicious intentions.

If it were just a kind offer to educate her speech and etiquette, it would be a good thing for Qu Moying. At least, it could allow others to openly acknowledge her different behavior from the past. After all, she had been educated by a palace servant. There would naturally not be many mistakes in her words and actions now.

But who did Granny Yan work for?

"Mother, why did you stop me? I wanted to go in to argue with Qu Moying. She was the one who provoked me at that time. If she hadn't provoked me, I wouldn't have rushed out to hit that bitch Yu Qingmeng. That bitch now lost her child and blamed it on me. Mother, they can't blame me for this!"

After walking a short distance from Qianyue House, Duan Jinxiang struggled to get rid of Madam Duan's grip. She stood still and swung her sleeves angrily. "Mother, didn't you say that you would bring me here and push all the blame onto Qu Moying? After all, aside from Qu Moying, there was only Qu Qiuyan present during the incident. Just now, Qu Qiuyan also said that she would help us. Why did you retreat when you were there?"

In the wing room just now, the meaning of Qu Qiuyan's words was that she didn't get along well with Qu Moying. The two ladies of Qu Mansion were born by two different mothers. Recently, rumor had it that Third Lady Qu's mother, Yu, had framed Qu Moying. In the end, even the Emperor heard about this news, and Yu was almost divorced.

If not for the timely arrival of Yu's illness, even if she were not divorced at this time, she would have been demoted to a concubine.

With such a thing in the bag, Qu Mansion's two ladies must be on bad terms with each other. If the incident were blamed on Qu Moying, Qu Qiuyan would not say anything and could even prove that Duan Jinxiang's words were right. Then, everything would turn out as Qu Moying's scheme.

And it had nothing to do with Duan Jinxiang at all.

Marquis Yongning's Mansion could not blame Duan Jinxiang. When Young Master Yongning saw Duan Jinxiang, although he did not say anything, his face was full of anger, and there was even some disgust in his eyes.

Just because of this, Duan Jinxiang panicked. She really did not want Xu Lipeng to be angry whenever he saw her. When Madam Duan mentioned it, she immediately felt that it was a good idea.

"Not now." Madam Duan stepped forward and waved her hand, her expression calming down.

"Why not, Mother? Don't tell me that for the sake of Qu Moying, you would rather let your own daughter suffer. Mother, the way Young Master Yongning looked at me just now was like looking at an enemy. What should I do if I marry him in the future? That bitch Yu Qingmeng will definitely push all the blame onto me."

Duan Jinxiang's voice unconsciously rose high, and she screamed.

Madam Duan hurriedly stepped forward to cover her daughter's mouth and pleaded in a low voice, "My dear, this is Vice Minister Qu's Mansion, not our own mansion. Speak softly."

“What’s the use of speaking softly? Young Master Xu has already seen me like this. Mother, I don’t want to live anymore. I would rather die. I don’t want that bitch to take advantage of this and fight against me in the future. I am the wife. Why do you all make it seem like I am just a concubine? The wife has not yet married into the family, but the concubine is already pregnant. This is totally wrong.”

Duan Jinxiang fiercely pulled away Madam Duan’s hand, struggling while crying.

“Alright, alright, my dear. I am trying to think of a way for you!” Madam Duan was so anxious that her forehead was covered in sweat. Not only was Qu Mansion not their own mansion, but there was also Young Master Yongning and even someone from the palace by Fourth Lady Qu’s side. Madam Duan did not dare to be impudent.

“Mother, what do you think we should do? If we don’t let Qu Moying take the blame for me, then who should take the blame? What should I do?” Duan Jinxiang burst into tears.

“There is one more person. There is another person who can take the blame.” Afraid that her daughter would make a scene, Madam Duan came up with an idea. “Yes, there is another person. That Yu Qingmeng can take the blame.”

“Mother, what are you talking about? Yu Qingmeng lost her child. Now, everyone blames it on me. I was really annoyed by Fourth Lady Qu at that time, so I rushed down. I only touched Yu Qingmeng lightly. Who would have thought that she couldn’t stand still and would fall? Am I to blame for this?”

Duan Jinxiang was so angry that she wanted to tear Yu Qingmeng apart.

“Mother, why can a concubine be pregnant before the wife marries into the family? This is totally against the rule. Didn’t you say in the past that there would be no such thing? Even though this bitch married into Marquis Yongning’s Mansion first, she shouldn’t have a son earlier than me.”

“Yes, that’s it!” Madam Duan gritted her teeth and said in a deep voice.

Duan Jinxiang was just throwing a tantrum. Seeing that her mother was actually deep in thought, she immediately stopped and wiped her tears. “Mother, if this bitch can take the blame herself, that would

be the best. Qu Moying taking the blame is indeed relieving, but having that bitch Yu Qingmeng take the blame is even better.”

Duan Jinxiang had originally come to find Qu Moying to condemn her, but the person Duan Jinxiang hated the most now was not Qu Moying but Yu Qingmeng.

If Yu Qingmeng had not gotten into this incident and had really given birth to a son, then the title of the eldest son would be snatched by this bitch.

If she had known that Yu Qingmeng was pregnant, she would have made a move. However, she would not have made a move like this time. She had to think about it clearly and set up a trap to push the matter onto someone else before making a move. Of course, it would be best for Qu Moying to take the blame. In this case, she would be fine and could even pretend to be ignorant and kind.

“Wait, let me think about it!” Madam Duan shook her hand and motioned for her daughter not to make a fuss. She pulled Duan Jinxiang slowly forward and pondered. If they were to take this matter seriously, even Marquis Yongning’s Mansion had to give them an explanation. Before this, Marchioness Yongning only said that the concubine had been engaged with Xu Lipeng long ago, but she did not say that the concubine was pregnant.

In this regard, Marquis Yongning’s Mansion was in the wrong.

Or was this bitch surnamed Yu deliberately hiding it? Thinking about it, she felt it was really possible. Marchioness Yongning should not have let this bitch get pregnant as soon as she married into their mansion, right?

At the corner, a piece of crumpled paper was silently thrown over. It happened to be thrown in front of the mother and daughter. Madam Duan was stunned for a moment, and she winked at the old maid beside her.

The old maid took two steps forward and walked through the Yuedong Gate after the turn. She did not see anyone. Then, she turned back and shook her head at Madam Duan.

The other old maid picked up the scrunched paper on the ground and opened it up in front of Madam Duan. Madam Duan looked at it, and her eyes widened...

## Chapter 187 What Does My Lady Come For?

Xu Lipeng stood outside the yard with a gloomy face. The news of Yu Qingmeng losing her child had been confirmed. Qu Mansion's Old Lady had already left, and Duan Mansion's mother and daughter had also left. He had the doctor and the female doctor in the yard tidy up and wanted to take Yu Qingmeng away.

This was Qu Mansion, and Yu Qingmeng was only a concubine. The biggest connection between her and Qu Mansion was Yu. Now that Yu was ill like this, it was not suitable for Yu Qingmeng to stay.

"Greetings, Young Master Xu." Granny Miao came in and saluted.

"What is it?" Xu Lipeng turned around and said coldly.

"The doctor who came to the mansion today to treat our Second Madam was here for the first time. Originally, he was going to leave after checking on her, but because he was discussing medicine with the Second Madam, he delayed for about two hours and happened to encounter Concubine Yu's matter. In the past, when the doctors came to the mansion to treat the Second Madam, they never brought a female doctor along."

Granny Miao raised her head and said respectfully.

Xu Lipeng was shocked and his face suddenly darkened. He said sternly, "What does your lady want to say?"

"Young Master Xu, my lady does not want to say anything. She just does not want Qu Mansion to be used by others," Granny Miao said calmly.

Xu Lipeng's eyes were tightly locked on Granny Miao. His eyes were sinister. "It's not your lady?"



“Young Master Xu, what do you think does my lady come for?” Granny Miao’s smile carried a trace of ridicule.

What did she come for? Was it for him, Young Master Yongning? Back then, Qu Mansion’s meaning was very obvious. They wanted to break off the engagement with him due to the matter between him and Yu Qingmeng. Others only felt that he had dumped Fourth Lady Qu, and that was why he had an engagement with Duan Mansion. Using the excuse of saving Second Lady Duan, he openly called off his engagement with Fourth Lady Qu.

Only Xu Lipeng himself knew that he absolutely had no intention of marrying Second Lady Duan. Back then, he had only plotted to marry the First Lady of Duan Mansion. First Lady Duan, who had no one to rely on, had the same use as Qu Moying. Xu Lipeng would never feel it a loss to marry her and then only keep her at his mansion. After all, this could earn him a good reputation for the rest of his life.

Whether it was Qu Moying or Duan Mansion’s First Lady, it didn’t matter to him. As long as she obediently married into his mansion, he would generously accept her as his wife. It was good enough for Yu Qingmeng to be his concubine. As long as he doted on Yu Qingmeng enough, she would live a good life in the mansion. In the future, he would even let her son inherit his position.

Therefore, his engagement with Qu Mansion had been going on for so many years. When he heard that this Fourth Lady Qu had no talent or beauty, he did not care, which made others think that he was benevolent and righteous. Marquis Yongning’s Mansion had already declined. He urgently needed a chance to step back into the upper class. For this reason, he endured the ridicule of others and upheld his image of an elegant young master who guarded his chastity.

However, things did not go in the direction he had expected back then, and all the changes were due to Fourth Lady Qu’s return to the mansion this time.

A surge of anger rushed into his heart, and Xu Lipeng’s face darkened. “Doesn’t your Fourth Lady dislike Qingmeng? Wasn’t it because of Qingmeng that she called off the engagement with me? What is she up to now? Did she regret it? Didn’t she make this up to frame innocent people? She even didn’t let an unborn child go.”

His words were extremely sharp, and he practically pinned all the charges on Qu Moying. His reaction was so great that it was beyond Granny Miao’s expectations.

Granny Miao took a step back, and her gaze swept across Xu Lipeng's livid face. Her expression also became cold. "Young Master Xu, that was all I had to say. Whether you believe it or not, it is fine. My lady just does not want Qu Mansion to become a chess piece. Young Master Xu, I believe you are unwilling to be kept in the dark, right?"

After saying that, she bowed to Xu Lipeng and turned to leave.

Granny Miao was very indifferent to Xu Lipeng's response. Before she followed Qu Moying, she had seen many things outside. Although Young Master Yongning's behavior was strange, after thinking about it carefully, she understood.

Was he regretting it?

Unfortunately, regret was of no help.

When her lady was alone and cheerless in the village, this Young Master Xu and Yu's niece were flirting with each other in Qu Mansion. It was obvious that he planned to marry her lady and then ignore her. Only when there was a need would he think of her. She would be asked to serve Marchioness Yongning and fulfill filial duty for him while he would enjoy his sweet time with Yu Qingmeng.

Granny Miao had seen many of this kind of man during her long journey before.

Now that her lady had forcefully broken off the engagement, Xu Lipeng had no choice but to agree, and using this excuse, he brought Yu Qingmeng into his mansion. Now, the "child" in Yu Qingmeng's belly was gone, and it was caused by his wife who had yet to marry into the mansion. He had no place to vent his anger, so he blamed it all on her lady.

This person was truly a scum!

Seeing that Granny Miao had left without looking back, Xu Lipeng stood quietly under the tree. His face became gloomier. The young servant, who was standing behind him, lowered his head, not daring to move. He acted like a wooden stake.

After a long while, he heard his Young Master say, "You stay at Qu Mansion's door. Wait for the doctor to come out and investigate everything about him."

The young servant hurriedly replied, "Yes!"

Xu Lipeng strode out. The young servant anxiously chased after him a few steps. "Young Master, what about Concubine Yu?"

"Get her to pack up and leave immediately," Xu Lipeng said coldly.

The young servant did not dare to continue following him. The young servant helplessly turned around and went back. Young Master was angry. Originally, Young Master was waiting here to wait for Concubine Yu to pack up inside. If what Qu Mansion's old maid said just now was true, Concubine Yu could be considered to have lost favor and would not be pitied by Young Master in the future.

It seemed that Young Master believed what Qu Mansion's old maid said. In the past, the young servant only felt that Young Master had no feelings for Fourth Lady Qu. Now, it seemed that it was not so.

Given the current situation, the young servant could only say that it was a coincidence...

The young servant turned around and went in to send a message.

"What? Young Master Xu left?" Yu Qingmeng looked up with a pale face on the bed.

"Concubine Yu, Young Master asked you to pack up. The carriage is already waiting outside." The young servant lowered his head and spoke.

Yu Qingmeng's face alternated between being livid and red. Now that something like this had happened, Xu Lipeng, who was supposed to be by her side, was actually not here. This was enough to show that something was wrong. She could not help but grow panicked.

She had been preparing to feign innocence, but now she was no longer in the mood. She asked the young servant to wait outside and sent the doctor away. She hurriedly got up, held the maid's hand, and slowly walked out.

The carriage was already ready, waiting for Yu Qingmeng to get on.

"Where is Young Master?" Seeing the empty carriage, Yu Qingmeng became more and more panicked and turned to ask the young servant.

"I don't know either. Young Master just told me to ask you to hurry up." The young servant was also unsure. He looked around blankly.

"Concubine Yu, Young Master has something to do and went back first. He asked me to take you back to the mansion to rest," the carriage driver answered.

"What is he going to do?" Yu Qingmeng's heart was in a mess.

"I don't know either." The carriage driver shook his head. Young Master had sent someone to deliver the message to him. He didn't even see Young Master. Therefore, of course, he didn't know where Young Master went.

"Let's hurry back to the mansion." Yu Qingmeng said anxiously, feeling more and more uncertain. She had a feeling that things were not going in the direction she had imagined.

Originally, she had listened to Cousin Qiuyan and planned to scheme against Qu Moying no matter what. When she came over today, she had already prepared a blood bag in her clothes.

As long as she fell slightly to the ground, the blood bag would break.

In order to find a suitable reason, she even asked Xu Lipeng to send gifts to Qu Moying, causing the relationship between the two of them to be ambiguous. So, if something happened to her, the blame would naturally fall on Qu Moying. Even if Qu Moying did not do anything herself, it could still be done by the maids or the old maids serving Qu Moying.

Qu Moying's ankle was hurt, so it was not easy to trick her out, but it was very easy to ask her maids or old maids out.

However, she did not expect that Xu Lipeng did not manage to meet Qu Moying. When he came to accompany her for a walk, they actually bumped into Duan Jinxiang.

Duan Jinxiang's visit to the mansion today was arranged by her aunt.

The goal was to let Duan Jinxiang and Qu Moying have a dispute. Duan Jinxiang had a domineering personality and was a shrewish and violent person. Once provoked, she would attack Qu Moying and cause a big scene between herself and Qu Moying. In addition to Yu Qingmeng's incident, how could Qu Moying have any good reputation? She would definitely be sent out immediately and be locked up in the village for the rest of her life until her death.

However, Duan Jinxiang did not quarrel with Qu Moying but hit Yu Qingmeng. She could not stand still and fell down. The blood bag was then broken. In this case, she could only pretend to be pregnant and blame the "miscarriage" on Duan Jinxiang.

She was never pregnant. At that time, she had to come up with this idea because she wanted to marry into Marquis Yongning's Mansion. But these days, she could not pretend anymore. If her baby bump was not shown in half a month, the shrewd Marchioness Yongning would definitely find out. At that time, she would not be able to offer a reasonable explanation for herself.

The fake child in the belly must be disposed of. She could no longer hide it.

She felt it a pity that she couldn't set Qu Moying up for this, but fortunately, there was Duan Jinxiang. There would eventually be times when she and Duan Jinxiang would have conflict. At this time, if Yu Qingmeng could embarrass Duan Jinxiang and make Duan Jinxiang owe her, it would be beneficial to her.

But what was going on now? Wasn't Xu Lipeng supposed to protect her at this time? Why did he suddenly abandon her and leave? Was there really something going on? Or was there some other accident?

Yu Qingmeng returned to the mansion with a perturbed heart. She even did not inform Qu Qiuyan, nor did she report to Yu...

"My lady, Concubine Yu left." Granny Miao only reported to Qu Moying after Yu Qingmeng left.

"How is it?" Qu Moying asked with a smile. Granny Miao had returned a little late.

"My lady, just now, Young Master Xu reprimanded me and asked what you were up to." Granny Miao thought for a moment and said frankly, reminding her lady of something.

"It's fine!" Qu Moying said calmly.

She was not surprised by Xu Lipeng's reaction. Xu Lipeng was very arrogant. In his opinion, her reminder seemed to be mocking him.

"My lady, will he go against you in the future?" Granny Miao was a little worried. She looked at Qu Moying and wanted to speak further. There were some things that she wanted to say more clearly, but she felt it was a little inconvenient. Her lady was still a girl who had not married. There were some things that she should not say to her lady.

## Chapter 188 Lord Yun Mansion Sending Gifts

"Granny, let's talk about the future later," Qu Moying said indifferently.

Her biggest opponents were Crown Prince and Ji Youran. To her, Xu Lipeng was just a small obstacle in her path. She would not take him seriously.

Qu Moying casually picked up a book on the table and flipped through it.

It was a book that the embroidery workshop had sent over. It was something that the embroidery workshop had sorted out. They asked her to pick out the embroidery patterns on her sleeves and collar by herself.

Her watery eyes scanned across the embroidery patterns on the book. Qu Moying casually picked a few butterfly patterns, put the book down, and asked Granny Miao to tell the embroidery workshop.

She indeed needed clothes. Since she was going to enter the palace, her current clothes were indeed not suitable. She also did not know what Dowager Consort Qu in the palace was planning. Dowager Consort Qu had never expressed her favor to Qu Mansion. The so-called relationship between her and Qu Mansion was at most just the same surname.

They had not been in contact for so many years, but now they suddenly had a connection. No matter what, it did not seem like she really wanted to contact Qu Mansion. Moreover, she was only contacting Qu Moying, showing her kindness and love to the latter.

Qu Moying actually had a wild guess in her heart. Was this matter related to Pei Yuanjun?

"Fourth Lady, Lord Yun Mansion sent some people over." Just as she was thinking, a familiar voice came from outside. It was Granny Wu again.

"Invite Granny Wu in," Qu Moying instructed Yu Chun.

Yu Chun hurriedly lifted the curtain and left, bringing Granny Wu in shortly after.

"Greetings, Fourth Lady." After Granny Wu came in, she looked a little uneasy. She first bowed respectfully and then said, "Fourth Lady, Lord Yun Mansion sent some people over."

"What?" Qu Moying did not understand for a moment. Her watery eyes blinked, and she was surprised. She did not think that Qu Mansion had anything to do with the high and mighty Lord Yun.

"It's Lord Yun Mansion. They said that Lord Yun had bumped into you before. He felt sorry and specially asked his servants to send gifts to you," Granny Wu said uneasily.

This was out of their wildest expectations. Not only was she surprised, but even the Old Lady was also very surprised. The Old Lady was very anxious as she saw Lord Yun Mansion's men just now.

Maybe none of the noble ladies in the capital would not panic when receiving Lord Yun's gifts.

Lord Yun was the Fiend in the capital. He had never been a kind person. Besides, he was in charge of the darkest and most bloodthirsty place, West Prison.

"Old Lady asked me to bring these people over. They are outside the door." Seeing that Qu Moying was silent, Granny Wu thought that Qu Moying was also shocked. Granny Wu hurriedly reminded her that she could not let Lord Yun Mansion's people wait outside for too long.

"Invite them in first!" Qu Moying nodded.

Yu Dong went out and soon came in with a eunuch. There were two maids behind the eunuch, each holding an exquisite gift box.

As soon as they entered, the eunuch first smiled and bowed to Qu Moying. Then he said, "Fourth Lady Qu, Lord Yun is very sorry for hurting you. He asked me to send some gifts and apologize to you."

After saying that, he turned around and opened the two gift boxes. The dim room suddenly became brighter.

The two boxes were full of jewelry and accessories, each of which was exquisite and extraordinary.

Granny Wu's eyes couldn't help but shrink, and her heart became more and more panicked. What was this Lord Yun trying to do?

"Thank Lord Yun for me." Qu Moying frowned slightly, but she still responded appropriately, "However, my injury is a small matter. I don't deserve so many gifts from Lord Yun."



"Fourth Lady Qu, you are too polite. Lord Yun said that these jewels would be just sitting in the mansion anyway. They are not of much use. It is just right to send them to you as compensation. He hopes that you will not frown upon them," the eunuch said with a smile. No matter how one looked at it, he looked sincere.

However, Granny Wu felt her hair stand on end when she heard this. Was this something that the powerful Lord Yun should say?

She had only heard that Lord Yun was arrogant and lascivious. He was also cold-blooded. She had never heard that he looked highly upon any lady from any family. When he was in a good mood, he would send back those beauties sent from the palace to him. But when he was in a bad mood, he would directly chop them down. Even so, no one dared to say anything.

How could such a person say such modest words?

"Is there anything else Lord Yun says?" Qu Moying thought for a moment and asked tentatively.

"Nothing else. He just feels sorry for you, Fourth Lady Qu. He hopes that you will forgive him for his rashness." The eunuch was getting even politer.

These words sounded like a few words of courtesy, but when had this Lord Yun ever given face to any lady of any family and said such polite words?

Granny Wu became more and more nervous. She came over because she wanted to see what was going on. Later, the Old Lady would ask her about the specific situation.

Everything in front of her really made Granny Wu sweat nervously.

How strange!

Did the infamous Lord Yun change into a new person? Hearing what this eunuch said, she wondered whether he was talking about the same Lord Yun who could make children cry and had a fiendish reputation.

“Lord Yun is too polite, but I really don’t dare to accept these gifts.” Qu Moying gently refused.

“Fourth Lady Qu, you are too polite. I am just a gift-sender. Now that the gifts have been delivered, I will take my leave.” The eunuch waved his hand, and the two maids placed the gift boxes on the table. Then, they bowed to Qu Moying together with the eunuch and left together.

Unexpectedly, they did not care whether Qu Moying accepted the gifts or not. They just left her these gifts forcefully.

Granny Wu looked at the surprised Qu Moying and could only chase after the guests to see them off. Qu Mansion could not afford to offend even Lord Yun Mansion’s eunuch.

When Granny Wu politely sent the guests off to the entrance of the mansion, she stood there for a while before calming down the fear in her heart. She turned around and returned to the yard to report to the Old Lady.

This was strange. At this time, the Old Lady also grew very cautious as if she was facing an enemy.

“Were these words said by the people sent by Lord Yun Mansion?” After listening to Granny Wu’s words, the Old Lady frowned tightly, extremely uneasy.

“Old Lady, could it be that Lord Yun has taken a fancy to our Fourth Lady?” Granny Wu thought for a moment and carefully reminded her.

“Impossible!” The Old Lady denied without even thinking.

“Why...? I feel that it is possible. After all, Fourth Lady is so beautiful. Even in the capital, there are few ladies who can outshine her.” Granny Wu hesitated for a moment and then retorted in a low voice.

There were only Granny Wu and the Old Lady in the room, and Granny Wu had been the Old Lady’s servant for so many years. At this time, Granny Wu dared to say some things.

“Lord Yun is not a person who is greedy for beauty. Many years ago... wasn’t that person also outstanding in appearance? But in the end...” The Old Lady sighed, and her heart became heavier. The Old Lady would never believe that Lord Yun had taken a fancy to her granddaughter.

What kind of person was Lord Yun? What kind of beautiful women did he not have around him? She had never heard that there was a woman he liked. Even the Emperor was worried about his marriage. However, this Lord Yun kept delaying the marriage. He had no intention of getting married. None of the beauties sent to his mansion could catch his eyes.

At this time, he suddenly showed goodwill to her granddaughter. The Old Lady was very worried. In addition, Dowager Consort Qu suddenly sent a Discipline Granny over and also cozied up to Qu Moying by sending her gifts. The Old Lady felt that something must have happened, which she did not know yet.

“Go and see if the Second Master is back.” The Old Lady felt uneasy. She stood up and sat down again. Then she instructed. This matter was very important. The Old Lady felt that she had no way to deal with it. It was better to let her second son analyze it.

“I will wait for the Second Master now.” Granny Wu looked at the Old Lady, who was in a daze. She knew that the Old Lady was worried, and she nodded.

Qu Zhizhen was also very busy these days. He basically did not stay long in the mansion. He had already returned to the court and had many things to do in the government office.

Just as the Old Lady was in a state of confusion and anxiety, Qu Zhizhen had actually returned to the mansion, and he was back earlier than usual. He hurried towards Yu’s yard after getting off the carriage. It was Yu who had sent him a message and asked him to return.

When he entered Yu’s room, he glanced at the emaciated Yu lying on the bed. Qu Zhizhen sat far away on a chair, his expression turning cold.

“What is it?”

“Something happened to Qingmeng in the mansion today. I heard that it was related to the Fourth Lady... I didn’t dare to deal with it on my own, so I specially invited you back...” Yu coughed a few times and said weakly.

“What happened?” Qu Zhizhen asked unhappily.

“It was a miscarriage, and there was a commotion. I heard that it was the Fourth Lady who picked up the fight. She provoked Second Lady of Duan Mansion, who then got angry and pushed Qingmeng.”

Yu coughed again and reached out to cover her chest weakly. “Second Master, when Young Master Yongning left... he was so angry that he had a livid face. Second Madam Duan also went to find the Fourth Lady to make a fuss. With my condition, I don’t know what they are doing now...”

Yu gasped for breath again.

Although Duan Jinxiang was the one who slapped Yu Qingmeng, Yu had already hinted to Second Madam Duan that if Second Madam Duan insisted that it was Qu Moying who provoked Duan Jinxiang to attack Yu Qingmeng, she would definitely stand on Second Madam Duan’s side and let Qu Qiuyan testify for Duan Jinxiang to prove that Qu Moying had said something provoking.

As soon as Second Madam Duan left, Yu sent someone to ask Qu Zhizhen to come back.

After that, Second Madam Duan was scared away by Granny Yan at Qu Moying’s place and was in a hurry to investigate the doctor. She did not say goodbye to Yu and directly left. Until now, Yu did not know that Second Madam Duan had already gone back.

Qu Qiuyan did not interfere with Yu’s matter. She was afraid of being implicated, so she did not pay attention to Yu. What she wanted to do now was to stay away from this incident as if it was unrelated to her. Of course, she would not care about what Yu did now.

Yu had lost her power in the mansion. There were fewer people around her, and she was not so well-informed. At this time, she was still talking about such things, and she looked very concerned. When those words reached the ears of Qu Zhizhen, who had inquired a little about the incident after returning to the mansion, they became more and more ear-piercingly ridiculous.

All of these things were caused by “visiting the sick Yu”!

“Mother is in charge of the affairs in the mansion. You should just rest and recuperate. You don’t have to see guests from now on,” Qu Zhizhen said coldly and stood up.

“Second Master... Second Master...” When Yu saw Qu Zhizhen’s expression, she immediately knew that something was wrong. She charged up to the bedside and looked at Qu Zhizhen pitifully.

“You are sick now. For the sake of the two children, you should take care of yourself. From now on, everything in the mansion has nothing to do with you. You just need to take care of yourself.” Qu Zhizhen sneered, turned around, and strode away.

“Second Master... Second Master...” Yu anxiously wanted to get up, but she had a blackout. She only cried out twice before fainting. Hai Lan hurriedly went forward and patted her back, calling her anxiously.

When she looked back, Qu Zhizhen had already left...

## Chapter 189 The Suggestion that Two Sisters Handle the Family Affairs Together

After a long time, Yu woke up. She reached out to hold Hai Lan’s hand. There was a faint trace of blood on the corner of her lips. She looked toward the door with hatred. “How... How can he do this... How can he do this to me... I gave birth to children for him, but in his heart, I still can’t compare to that woman...”

Hai Lan understood what Yu was talking about. Her expression changed greatly. She reached out to cover Yu’s mouth and said with a trembling voice, “Madam, Madam, please don’t say that. Please.”

“Don’t say that? What are you talking about? He is about to take my life... Could it be that without me, he... would marry that woman...? That woman...” Yu was extremely excited as she struggled. She forcefully pushed Hai Lan away. Her smile was extremely miserable, and blood flowed down from the

corner of her lips. "I thought I won. Actually, neither of us won. In his heart... In his heart there is always..."

"Madam, even if you don't care about yourself, you have to consider the Third Lady and the Second Young Master." Hai Lan was so scared that her face turned pale. She trembled and begged in a low voice.

This sentence successfully made Yu calm down. Her head drooped down powerlessly. Her eyes were slightly closed, and she seemed to be lifeless.

Hai Lan gently wiped the corner of Yu's mouth with a handkerchief and wiped the blood from the corner of Yu's mouth. She lowered her voice and said, "Madam, you still have the Third Lady and the Second Young Master. They are both promising. Second Master has always paid attention to them. Everything will get better in the future. Just relax and wait."

Yu did not say anything. Her eyes were still closed. She looked as if she had lost her breath. Only her chest heaved slightly. And only by that could Hai Lan tell she had been awake the entire time.

After a long while, she opened her eyes and looked up with empty eyes. "I have been fighting in my entire life. I always thought that I was the one who won. But what is the truth? The one who won was never me. His heart never belonged to me, but I thought that... I thought that I had won against those two women."

"Madam, things will get better. Those are just your guesses. They are not accurate." Hai Lan could not bear to hear such words, so she hurriedly lowered her voice to persuade Yu.

Yu did not speak again. Her eyes stared straight into midair. She didn't move, looking a little scary. Hai Lan did not dare to speak again. After a long time, she heard Yu's calm voice. "Go and find out if something that I do not know about has happened."

"Yes, I will go now." Seeing that she had calmed down, Hai Lan breathed a sigh of relief and called a maid over, who was waiting at the door, to carefully serve Yu.

However, Hai Lan returned not long after she left.

“What’s wrong?” Hearing her footsteps, Yu turned to look at her.

“Madam...” Hai Lan wanted to say something but stopped.

“We can’t get out?” Yu suddenly smiled. She reached out to grab the corner of her quilt and knead it in her palm. There was a vague speculation in her heart.

“Yes, when Second Master went out just now, he asked the old maid to come over and guard the yard. He said that he wanted you to have a good rest and recuperate. So in the future, no unauthorized person can come in and out of this yard.” Hai Lan said in a low voice as she stole a glance at Yu’s emotions. “Maybe something went wrong today, and the Second Master got angry after finding it out. When the Third Lady comes, let’s ask her about it and see how it goes, okay?”

This time, Yu was actually very calm. Her gaze swept past the door, and the corners of her lips curled up. There was a hint of ridicule in her voice. “He is now eager for me to not go out and is afraid that I will ruin his plans again. But the little bitch Qu Moying is actually so scheming. Even in this situation, she actually makes him believe her so much.”

Qu Zhizhen had come to her yard just after he returned to the mansion. It meant that something must have happened to Qu Moying that Qu Zhizhen has known so that he did not believe Yu’s words at all and even locked her up.

The so-called recuperation and the unauthorized people were just his excuses.

Fortunately, she still had a pair of children. Otherwise, at this time, Yu did not know if she could still keep her head. This man’s heart had always been ruthless.

Just like how he treated Yue back then. Was it her turn now?

But she was not Yue. She had never been Yue. Yu, who faintly felt that there were hidden dangers, was not unprepared. Yue died because of this, but she wouldn’t.

It was not the time now for a life-and-death struggle. She had children and her future...

"I'll recuperate for now!" Yu ordered weakly. "There's no need to think about the Third Lady."

Yu understood her daughter's personality. At this time, Yan would not be willing to come over and spare some glances at Yu because she was afraid of provoking her father Qu Zhizhen.

"But what about Miss Yu?" Hai Lan said uneasily.

"She has to rely on her own!" Yu closed her eyes. Right now, she couldn't even care about herself. Why would she pay attention to her niece? No matter how good her niece was, her niece was not her daughter. Why would she care so much...

When Qu Zhizhen came out from Yu's place, he met the people Old Lady had sent over. Then, he turned a corner and went to Kangming House, comforted the Old Lady and then left. After taking a few steps towards the outer yard, Qu Zhizhen stopped. After standing in place for a while, he immediately turned around and walked towards Qianyue House.

Qu Moying was watching Yu Chun doing embroidery. When she heard that Qu Zhizhen had come over, she was also stunned for a moment. She hurriedly held Yu Dong's hand and stood up to welcome him.

Qu Zhizhen stood in the yard with his hands behind his back. When he heard the voice behind him and saw Qu Moying come out to greet him, his cold expression eased a little.

Qu Moying stepped forward and bowed.

Qu Zhizhen waved his hand. "Let's go in and talk." After that, he walked into the house first.

Qu Moying held Yu Dong's hand and followed him in.

Qu Zhizhen sat down on the chair in the middle. Qu Moying sat down on the chair on the side. The maid then served them tea. Qu Zhizhen picked it up and took a sip. He frowned. "Where was this tea from?"



"It was originally here. Father, do you feel that something is wrong?" Qu Moying said softly.

"It's old tea. The new tea is already served. It's not good for you to use the old one. I'll get someone to send you some new tea later," Qu Zhizhen said softly.

"Thank you, Father." Qu Moying stood up with Yu Dong's help and bowed.

"Sit down first. Your foot is injured. You have to take care of it. Don't go out if there's nothing important," Qu Zhizhen said gently.

"My foot is much better. Thank you for your concern, Father." Qu Moying sat down again and smiled gently.

"What happened today? It's Yu's niece again. Does this have anything to do with you?" Qu Zhizhen picked up the tea and took another sip. His gaze fell on Qu Moying, and he glanced at her a few more times.

There were too many meanings in these words. Qu Moying could not find any other meanings from Qu Zhizhen's words for a second. So, she lowered her head and shook her head. "The wife of Imperial Banquet Minister and Second Lady Duan came to the mansion to visit the Second Madam. Second Lady Duan got agitated when she saw Concubine Yu. She pushed Concubine Yu, and something happened to Concubine Yu. Coincidentally, the doctor and the female doctor that the Second Madam invited were also in the mansion."

These words were impartial and did not have many personal opinions. Qu Moying was only narrating one case. Grandmother would definitely tell this matter to this so-called father of hers, so she did not need to say much.

But these words had hidden meanings. The presence of the doctor and the female doctor was Yu's biggest mistake.

If they investigated carefully, they would definitely find out some things.

"I already know about this matter. Yu will take good care of her illness in the future. Her niece is just a concubine. In the future, she will have nothing to do with our mansion. As for Marquis Yongning's Mansion, they can be considered treacherous. I naturally do not like them. There is no need to keep in contact with them in the future." Qu Zhizhen thought about it and said with a hint of appeasement.

"Thank you, Father!" Qu Moying understood that Qu Zhizhen was trying to be nice to her. She nodded gently and did not pursue the matter further.

She could only sneer in her heart. It seemed that this so-called father of hers treated Yu quite well. Even at this point, Yu was only grounded. No wonder Qu Moying's Mother would leave home to the convent when she was pregnant. With Yu around, she must have no choice but to leave.

Otherwise, why would she die with her baby when she was giving birth to it?

However, in the end, Qu Moying's Mother was still unable to scheme against Yu. Qu Moying was certain that at that time, Yu definitely did not want to see Mother smoothly give birth. If she gave birth to a son, then he would be the wife-born son. At that time, Yu was just a concubine, so how could she be willing to let Mother give birth to a child?

With Yu's temperament, it was inevitable for her to make a move, but it was unknown what role this so-called father played in this.

"Take good care of your injuries. In the future, if there is anything, just find me directly. Your Grandmother is old. Sometimes she is unable to do what she hopes to do." Qu Zhizhen stood up and gently instructed. The gaze which he looked at Qu Moying was kind and soft.

Qu Moying also stood up and lowered her head, coincidentally avoiding Qu Zhizhen's gentle and caring gaze. "Yes, Father."

She looked very obedient.

This time, Qu Zhizhen did not speak. He nodded and walked out with his hands behind his back. When he reached the door, he suddenly stopped and turned to look at Qu Moying. "If your foot injury is

better, you can handle the family affairs with Yan. Right now, only the two of you can handle things in the mansion. Although it will be difficult for you, in the future, you two... have to handle these things. If there is anything you don't understand, you can ask Grandmother and Aunt Luo."

"Yes," Qu Moying replied with a natural expression.

She did not doubt Qu Zhizhen's words.

Qu Zhizhen was very satisfied with Qu Moying's gentleness and obedience. He nodded and really left this time.

After he left the yard, Yu Dong helped Qu Moying sit down and said, "My lady, why is Second Master so good to you this time?"

Just now, when he came over to ask about the matter, he did not blame his lady at all. He even faintly expressed his concern that he had never shown before. It was really surprising.

Abnormal, too abnormal!

Qu Moying shook her head. She did not know much, but she still had some faint guesses in her heart. She was afraid that this matter was related to Pei Yuanjun. Maybe her so-called father believed that the opportunity had come, didn't he?

"My lady, it will be easier to deal with the shop that Madam left behind now that you can handle the family affairs," Granny Zhou said happily.

Just now, she was also in the room. When she saw Qu Zhizhen come in, she had been standing behind Qu Moying with her head lowered. She was afraid that Qu Zhizhen would see her. Now that Qu Zhizhen had left, she interjected.

She was also relieved in her heart. She was sure that Qu Zhizhen had seen her, but he did not say a word. It was equivalent to tacitly acknowledging her existence. In the future, she no longer had to hide.

## Chapter 190 A Farce: Second Madam Duan Making a Scene at the Door

“Let’s wait a little longer,” Qu Moying said indifferently.

“My lady, why should we wait a little longer? Since you are already handling the family affairs, can’t we send someone to investigate Madam’s dowry?” Granny Zhou asked in confusion.

“There’s no hurry.” Qu Moying shook her head, already having an idea in her heart.

Yu was grounded. No matter what Qu Zhizhen’s goal was, there was at least one thing that she was sure of—Yu’s power will not extend too far for now.

The affairs in the mansion had fallen into Qu Qiuyan’s hands before. This time, Qu Qiuyan must have also interfered in this matter. At this time, Qu Moying could be considered to have gained half of Qu Qiuyan’s power to handle the family affairs. Qu Qiuyan was not going to be happy about this.

After scheming against her again and again, no matter how much Qu Qiuyan could endure, Qu Moying was afraid that Qu Qiuyan would not be able to endure it now. Qu Moying kept feeling that someone around Qu Qiuyan was not so simple.

Some things were looming and too strange. When the situation was unclear, she would wait and see.

Qu Zhizhen’s idea was good for her, but for Qu Qiuyan, it was not good news...

The news of Imperial Banquet Minister’s Second Lady pushing Young Master Yongning’s concubine in Qu Mansion and causing her miscarriage had spread. The way in which the news was spread was out of everyone’s expectation.

No one expected that the wife of Imperial Banquet Minister would bring people to make a scene at the door herself.

The victim did not say anything, but instead, the one who got physical and caused a miscarriage actually made a scene at the door. This was something that no one had ever seen before.

For a time, the commotion was very sensational. Many people went to the front of Marquis Yongning's Mansion to watch the show. They heard that the troublemaker Madam Duan was at Marquis Yongning's Mansion's door and did not intend to enter.

The huge crowd surrounding Marquis Yongning's Mansion's entrance were all inquiring about what was going on.

It did not seem like Duan Mansion was being rude, but rather like complaining about being a victim.

The people who came earlier had already heard the gist of what had happened. It was said that the concubine was restless and deliberately pretended to be pregnant to frame Second Lady Duan, the wife who had not married into the mansion. Only then did the "miscarriage" occur.

All of this was actually schemed and played out by that concubine surnamed Yu.

This time, Madam Duan also invited an Imperial Doctor to see if this concubine had really had a miscarriage.

Second Madam Duan felt that it was justified to not go in because she did not want to settle it privately. She wanted Marquis Yongning's Mansion to bring this concubine surnamed Yu out and let the Imperial Doctor verify it on the spot.

When Xu Lipeng heard that Madam Duan had come to the door, he hurriedly came out and wanted to invite Madam Duan in to talk. It was very embarrassing for him to have such a thing happen.

The matter of Yu Qingmeng was not difficult to investigate. The doctor was only intimidated a little and immediately spilled everything.

Concubine Yu had asked this doctor to go to Qu Mansion to treat Second Madam Qu, Yu. The doctor purposely stayed there. After the incident, it was also this doctor who claimed that Yu Qingmeng had a miscarriage. It could be said that all of this was scripted and acted out by Yu Qingmeng herself alone.

After investigating this matter, Xu Lipeng did not step into Yu Qingmeng's yard again.

Unexpectedly, this matter had not been settled yet, and now Madam Duan was actually at the door, making a scene.

"Madam Duan, if you have a grudge, shall we go in first and have a talk? It's bad for both of us to make a fuss like this." Marchioness Yongning also went to the door and personally came to persuade Madam Duan.

"Marchioness Yongning, when that concubine wanted to marry into your mansion, it's said that she had been recognized way before and you had agreed to let her marry into the mansion first, so we didn't care much. Originally, it was also your son who saved my daughter. My daughter was willing to take such a small loss. It was nothing to let Young Master Xu marry a concubine, but why was the eldest son born of a concubine? Moreover, it was said that this matter was fake and it was that concubine who wanted to use this matter to frame my daughter. Marquis Yongning's Mansion is a place with rules. I'd like to ask, Marchioness Yongning, what are you going to do now?"

Madam Duan said confidently.

She was the second wife, not born a noble lady. She was just a daughter of a rich businessman who had donated some money to get a low-rank official. Others may be too embarrassed to say some things, but she dared to say those things directly.

Marchioness Yongning was angry and annoyed. She really wanted to turn back inside in a fit of anger, but her sleeves were still being pulled by Madam Duan. She could not leave even though she wanted to.

She could only hold back her anger and say, "We have to find out the truth first. We will definitely give your mansion an explanation."

“Marchioness Yongning, did you know that Concubine Yu was pregnant?” Madam Duan refused to give up just like that. Now that Xu Lipeng found out the truth, so did she.

After hearing that her daughter was plotted against, Madam Duan did not intend to let Yu Qingmeng go. No matter what, she could not keep such a licentious concubine.

Moreover, this concubine was a lady of an official, so it was even more inappropriate to keep her.

Back then, Yu, namely the current Second Madam Qu, had entered the mansion in this way. In the end, she had even replaced the position of the first wife and had treated the daughter of the first wife so badly.

It was probably not convenient for Yu to kill her directly, otherwise, this Fourth Lady Qu would not have lived to this moment.

“I... I really did not know about this.” Marchioness Yongning could only grit her teeth and shake her head.

Having the eldest son born of a concubine was indeed disgraceful. In the beginning, they had planned to see how it went after Concubine Yu gave birth. Anyway, the marriage between Xu Lipeng and Duan Jinxiang was caused by Xu Lipeng saving Duan Jinxiang. In this matter, Marquis Yongning’s Mansion was the party to be praised, and Duan Mansion was the suspicious one. It was possible for Marquis Yongning’s Mansion to keep pressing Duan Mansion until the latter recognized the eldest son born of a concubine.

“Does that mean that Concubine Yu is really faking it? Marchioness Yongning, I brought an Imperial Doctor this time. The Imperial Doctor will know if it is true or false after checking on her.” Second Madam Duan pointed to an Imperial Doctor behind her and said.

She seemed to be very arrogant and confident. At this time, how could Marchioness Yongning not understand? No wonder after Yu Qingmeng had the miscarriage, her son was not sad but angry. And after that, her son had not entered Yu Qingmeng’s yard again.

It turned out that there was such a truth.

Marchioness Yongning was so angry that she felt dizzy. She wanted to call Yu Qingmeng over and slap her hard. The marriage with Qu Mansion was ruined by Yu Qingmeng. Now, she caused another trouble again.

“Mother...” Xu Lipeng came out and saw this scene. He saw Madam Duan holding his mother’s sleeve tightly. His mother was in an awkward state and embarrassed. Instantly, he got angry. He walked over to Madam Duan and bowed. “Greetings, Second Madam Duan.”

When Madam Duan saw Xu Lipeng come out, she could not go too far. She hurriedly let go of her hand and returned a bow, saying, “Young Master Xu.”

“Madam Duan, our mansion will give you an explanation for this matter. Please come into the mansion to talk about it. If you’re making a scene here, it will embarrass everyone.” Xu Lipeng looked up and said, his face slightly cold.

He had never taken a fancy to Duan Jinxiang, and now he was even more disgusted. He detested not only Duan Jinxiang, but also Duan Jinxiang’s birth mother, who grew up in a marketplace.

He was from a noble family. Even though his family had declined, he had always paid attention to etiquette and manners since he was a child. He had never seen such a woman before. She was actually like a shrew. She actually made a scene at his door, and even caused a crowd to gather to watch the show, making his mother so embarrassed.

Marchioness Yongning took the opportunity to retreat to the side and angrily straightened her sleeves.

“Let’s go in and discuss the matter of Concubine Yu. But you, Marquis Yongning’s Mansion, can’t shield this vicious woman.” To be honest, Madam Duan did not want the relationship between the two families to be strained. Seeing that Xu Lipeng had already come out, she stopped and nodded, raising her voice.

The truth of the matter was spread out. In the future, no one would believe that this concubine if she made trouble again saying that Madam Duan’s daughter had bumped into her stomach.



Xu Lipeng suppressed his anger and invited Madam Duan and her daughter inside. Marchioness Yongning had already entered the mansion before them.

After he asked them in, he ordered the servants to close the door tightly before turning around and walking in.

“Young Master.” A delicate voice came from the side of the road.

Xu Lipeng coldly raised his eyes to look at Duan Jinxiang, who was waiting for him by the side of the road. He said indifferently, “What is it?”

Madam Duan had followed Marchioness Yongning and was up in front. Only Duan Jinxiang and her maid were waiting for Xu Lipeng to come over. It was clear that the two madams deliberately left Duan Jinxiang behind.

“Concubine Yu schemed against me like this. Mother is especially angry now that she found out. I hope that you will forgive me.” Duan Jinxiang pretended to wipe the corners of her eyes with a handkerchief and said in a delicate voice.

However, her appearance was ordinary, and she looked very much like her mother who had just made a scene. Xu Lipeng only felt disgusted when he saw her.

“It’s fine. Let’s go!” Xu Lipeng strode past her.

“Young Master, I’ll show you the way. Just now, Marchioness Yongning took Mother there.” Duan Jinxiang pointed in a direction and said politely.

However, she saw that Xu Lipeng had already gone there first. And he walked fast with big strides, so she could not catch up for a while. She could only stamp her feet with great anger.

Duan Mansion’s people left not long after. When they left, Yu Qingmeng was tied to a soft sedan chair and left Marquis Yongning’s Mansion from the back door. This was one of Madam Duan’s requirements. Concubine Yu could not be allowed to stay. Otherwise, they would even report this matter to Yamen.

Although this kind of thing was a small matter, it was great damage to the reputation of Marquis Yongning's Mansion. Marchioness Yongning agreed to the request to kick out Yu Qingmeng.

But in fact, it was not really that bad. Yu Qingmeng was not an ordinary concubine. A small sedan was used to send her back to Yu Mansion, and Yu Mansion would deal with the rest of the matter themselves. They should not go to Marquis Yongning's Mansion again in the future. They had nothing to do with Marquis Yongning's Mansion anymore. Moreover, she could not appear in front of others. Otherwise, she would be dealt with as a runaway concubine.

It was not long after Yu Qingmeng married into Marquis Yongning's Mansion. She was very proud when she first went in. Now, she was in an awkward state and lost her reputation. Moreover, she had to hide and could not appear in front of others.

This case was not small. At that time, Madam Duan really wanted to spread this matter as far as possible to make Marquis Yongning's Mansion kick out the evil Concubine Yu. Because of this, the entire capital knew about it. When it came to this matter, everyone thought that Marquis Yongning's Mansion was a joke. There were some things that could not be hidden. The hearsay about Young Master Yongning and Yu Qingmeng flirting with each other when they were in Qu Mansion had also spread out.

All kinds of mocking and sneering voices made Xu Lipeng unable to leave the house for a while. What made him even more annoyed was that the official position he had been scheming for was taken away again. It was said that it was related to Duke Qi. Xu Lipeng was enraged and hateful, but he did not know when he had offended Duke Qi.

While Marquis Yongning's Mansion was in a mess, Qu Mansion was peaceful.

The matter of Yu Qingmeng implicated Qu Mansion's Yu, but at this time, Yu had already been locked up, so she couldn't do anything. However, one matter attracted Qu Moying's attention. She received Duke Qi's Mansion's invitation...