

Noble Wife 201

Chapter 201 Shadow in the Night

Half an hour later, Qu Moying left the inner room. Granny Yan was already waiting there.

Qu Moying already knew that Granny Yan had been to Furong House. Judging by how she looked now, things should go smoothly.

Learning the rules was very simple for Qu Moying. No matter what excuse Granny Yan gave, Qu Moying was calm and did not panic at all.

At first, Granny Yan was indeed planning to find trouble with Qu Moying. However, every time she saw that Qu Moying was able to push her limits and perform in a neat way despite her raising difficulties, even if Granny Yan wanted to make a fuss, she could not find any excuse. Then, Granny Yan's expression calmed down. After that, she did not try to make things difficult for Qu Moying anymore.

When the time came, she released Qu Moying as if she did not mind Qu Moying's rejection before this.

Granny Wu had already come over by now. Seeing that Qu Moying had stopped for a rest, she went up to greet her.

Qu Moying had long noticed that Granny Wu had come over, but it was inconvenient just now, so only now did she stop and ask, "What can I do for Grandmother?"

"The Old Lady invites you over for a while." Granny Wu smiled good-naturedly. With her status, she could have asked Qu Moying to stop for a while earlier just now.

"I'll come over after washing up." Qu Moying nodded.

"Okay, then I will go back now," Granny Wu said.

Qu Moying washed up again, changed her clothes, and brought Yu Dong with her to see the Old Lady.

Seeing Qu Moying come in, the Old Lady waved her hand. The group of maids and old maids left, leaving only the Old Lady and Granny Wu in the room.

“Grandmother!” Qu Moying stepped forward and bowed. The Old Lady held her to stop her formalities and looked at her face kindly. She saw that Qu Moying’s complexion was not bad and she even showed a little blush due to the walk just now, so the Old Lady felt relieved.

“Come on over and talk.”

Qu Moying obediently walked over and sat beside the Old Lady.

The Old Lady held Qu Moying’s hand and gently patted it. She said directly, “Just now, your Third Sister came over and said that you and Second Sister had a dispute by the lotus pond and happened to be seen by Lord Wei and Lord Jing who visited our mansion...”

The Old Lady frowned at this point. She paused for a moment and then said slowly, “Why did you quarrel with your Second Sister?”

“I didn’t quarrel with Second Sister,” Qu Moying said lightly.

“You didn’t? But it was said that you two had a pretty awful quarrel, so much so that your Second Sister almost pushed you into the lake, but fortunately, you reacted quickly, and only your maid fell?” The Old Lady asked in a low voice, looking very unhappy.

Among her granddaughters, the one she disliked the most was Qu Caiyue. She always felt that she was a little too petty and was a little too unpresentable. But no matter what, she was still her granddaughter. She did not want Qu Caiyue to be ruined. Something like this had just happened not long ago when she was so depressed as to throw herself into the lake, so at this time, the Old Lady could not allow any mistake to occur. Otherwise, Ying would be held accountable.

That was why the Old Lady called Qu Moying over to ask about it. Compared with Qu Qiuyan, the Old Lady trusted her youngest granddaughter more.

"No, it's just that Second Sister suddenly made a fuss about going to the palace and asked me to talk to you about it, saying she must go into the palace with me. I had no choice but to ask Granny Yan to persuade her. But after Granny Yan came back, she also asked me to talk to you and said that she would think of a way to deal with the subsequent things."

Qu Moying said calmly and slowly.

"Granny Yan also asked you to bring it up to me?" The Old Lady asked in surprise. She really did not know about this.

"Yes, it is Granny Yan. I rejected her. She looked very angry and then went out. I heard that she went to find Third Sister." Qu Moying told the truth without hiding anything.

The Old Lady was not an old fool. It was better not to beat around the bush.

Sure enough, when Qu Moying said this, the Old Lady's face became more and more gloomy. When Qu Qiuyan came over just now, she did not mention Granny Yan at all. She only said that it was not good that the two Lords saw the dispute between Qu Moying and Qu Caiyue because they could not let the two Lords think that the relationship between the two sisters was bad and that they were at odds with each other.

Qu Qiuyan also faintly said that if the relationship between Qu Mansion's sisters was not good, it would affect the relationship between Lord Jing and her. After thinking for a while, the Old Lady planned to let Qu Caiyue tag along to the palace. She also thought that since the three of them were going, Qu Xuexin might as well go with them.

Qu Mansion's East Mansion and West Mansion were not separated from each other. It was a good thing for the four sisters of the mansion to appear together harmoniously.

But now, there seemed to be something strange about this.

"Grandmother, why did the two Lords suddenly appear in the mansion? I was stopped by someone sent by Second Sister when I went back and was then brought there. There was no one else there. If not for

Yu Dong's quick reaction, the one who fell into the lake at that time would have been me or Second Sister."

Qu Moying smiled bitterly.

The Old Lady understood. She was so angry that her face turned pale. She slammed her hand on the table and sneered, "Yue is really good at scheming."

"Grandmother, it might really be an accident. After all, the matter of the two Lords is not something that anyone can predict," Qu Moying advised.

It was true that not anyone could expect it, but it was not like no one could expect it either. For example, Qu Qiuyan, who had always been in contact with Lord Jing, was in the know, whereas Qu Caiyue had always had a good relationship with Qu Qiuyan. It could even be said that wherever Qu Qiuyan was, Qu Caiyue would definitely follow her like a shadow. Qu Caiyue was more obedient to Qu Qiuyan than to the First Lady Qu Xuexin.

"It seems that Qiuyan wants Caiyue to enter the palace." Thinking through the cause and effect, the Old Lady sneered and was furious in her heart.

Yu was really a good-for-nothing. As expected, she did not teach her daughter well. How could anyone be allowed to enter the imperial palace so casually?

"Grandmother, did Second Sister plot to enter the palace?" Qu Moying looked up and asked.

"That should be what happened." The Old Lady nodded, and her face became more and more gloomy. Qu Moying's words were straightforward, but she also made things clear.

Previously, the Old Lady had promised Qu Qiuyan, but this had allowed Qu Caiyue to have her way, too.

"Grandmother, why not let her come with us? Since it is Second Sister's intention, she must be very confident. Even if you don't allow her to go, she will go secretly. In that case, something worse might happen. It is better to let her go into the palace with Third Sister." Qu Moying smiled indifferently.

These words made the Old Lady tremble all over, and her back was cold.

That was the royal palace, not Qu Mansion, where Qu Caiyue could kick up a fuss as she liked.

"It's better not to let her go," the Old Lady said coldly. She did not dare to take the risk.

"Grandmother, just let her go!" Qu Moying said softly. She reached out to shake the Old Lady's sleeve and reminded, "If you don't let her go, maybe something will happen again. Moreover, this matter should have been agreed upon by Granny Yan before. If you insist on not letting her go, Granny Yan would also have a way to let Second Sister enter the palace."

Qu Moying didn't say much, and her words were even a little vague. However, the Old Lady was covered in a cold sweat. There was not only the case of the arrival of Granny Yan, who was a female servant sent from the palace. There was also the case of Qu Caiyue jumping into the lake from before. If one thought about it carefully, the lake-jumping could have been premeditated, and the reason was that the two granddaughters of West Mansion were favored by the palace and were invited to enter the palace.

They were all Qu Family's members and Dowager Consort Qu's younger generation. West Mansion was the only mansion favored, but what about East Mansion?

Now, to think about it again, was this only Qu Caiyue's intention?

The Old Lady felt apprehensive in her heart, and her face was as gloomy as ink. She didn't speak for a long time.

Qu Moying did not rush her. She just waited quietly by the side. She lowered her head, picked up the tea, and drank a few mouthfuls. Then she picked up a piece of pastry on the side and used a handkerchief to catch the crumbs. She took a small bite of it.

When she was almost done eating, the Old Lady finally relaxed. "Okay, they can go together."

Compared with unknown dangers, the Old Lady felt that it was better to keep the situation under her nose. Moreover, there was Granny Yan. This female servant from the palace did not look simple. Her second son had also told her that Granny Yan used to serve in the Empress Dowager's palace but she later served Dowager Consort Qu.

It was hard to say whether someone helped her find a Master or if she really liked the Master.

The Old Lady's second son even said that Granny Yan's Master might not be just Dowager Consort Qu, but someone else.

The Old Lady could not guess who the person behind Granny Yan was. In fact, she did not believe that Granny Yan was really Dowager Consort Qu's confidant.

However, she could not tell this to her granddaughter, lest she frightened her.

After reminding Qu Moying a few more times and seeing that it was getting late, the Old Lady asked Qu Moying to stay to have dinner with her before sending Qu Moying back.

Although the sky was not very dark, lanterns had already been lit. A young maid was in front, holding a lantern to lead the way. Qu Moying followed behind with Yu Dong.

When they walked past a corner, Yu Dong suddenly shouted, "Who is it!"

Qu Moying stopped and looked in that direction. It was so dark that she could not see anything clearly.

"Yu Dong, what is it?"

"I saw a figure over there." Yu Dong frowned and said. She had good eyesight and indeed saw a figure dodging. The most important thing was that this figure was very tall. It was not like an ordinary old maid or young maid. It seemed there were no such tall young maids or old maids in the mansion.

The road they were walking on now was in the inner yard.

Although Qu Zhizhen was tall, he would not hide when seeing them. No matter how Yu Dong looked at it, the figure did not look like someone normal.

“My lady...” Yu Dong still wanted to say something, but she saw Qu Moying secretly shake her head at her. She immediately changed her tone, “My lady, maybe I saw it wrong. I checked again and don’t see anyone now.”

“It’s fine. Let’s go back first!” Qu Moying said calmly.

The young maid carrying the lantern was originally scared to the point that her feet trembled. At this time, she hurriedly held the lantern and looked around. Finding nothing, she heaved a sigh of relief. She didn’t dare to stay any longer, so she turned around and walked forward. She was scared witless. She had heard from a few Grannies previously that there was something freaking in that corner.

She wondered if Yu Dong had seen that thing just now.

As the young maid thought of this, her hands and feet became so weak that she almost fell down. Her face immediately turned pale. She hated herself for thinking too much, and she didn’t dare to think any further. Trembling with fear, she carried the lantern as she walked forward.

Qu Moying had noticed the young maid’s strange behavior, but she didn’t ask anything. She followed behind with Yu Dong, walking toward Qianyue House.

Meanwhile, a figure came out from the rockery behind them, secretly looked in the direction in which Qu Moying was leaving, and immediately turned to leave...

Chapter 202 Was Cousin Hanyue the Crown Princess at That Time?

The night was dark. Under the light, Qu Moying was not sleeping yet. She was wearing a thin outer garment and was half-lying in the front part of the bed. Her long black hair hung casually, and she was

flipping through a painting book. It was a painting book with excellent paintings. She was very energetic now after browsing through the book.

She had already sent Yu Chun to sleep. At this time, she was not sleepy. She got up from the bed and lit a candle to continue reading.

The sky was getting hot, and the window was not fully closed, leaving a small gap.

The candlelight on the table tilted to one side in the wind and then titled back. The window was opened wide, and Pei Yuanjun, who was dressed in a purple brocade robe, appeared in the room.

A few golden threads stood out from the pale purple iris flower, making the originally inconspicuous iris flower look noble and enchanting. The neckline was of a dark blue edge, matching the night sky.

“My lord.” After a moment of surprise, Qu Moying reacted and sat up slightly, about to get up.

Pei Yuanjun sat down at the edge of the bed and leaned back against the thick cushion, blocking Qu Moying’s path.

“My lord?”

“I heard that Pei Yusheng and Pei Qingmin came today.” Pei Yuanjun said lazily, his handsome eyes sweeping across Qu Moying’s face with a slight smile.

“Yes, Lord Jing and Lord Wei came to the mansion together today, but they left not long after. They came in a hurry and left in a hurry.” Qu Moying sat up straight with a serious face. Her slender body was straight.

“Do you know why they came?” Pei Yuanjun asked lazily.

Qu Moying shook her head. “I’m not very sure. Perhaps...”

Qu Moying paused at this point. Seeing Pei Yuanjun's beautiful eyes sweeping over, she slowly said, "I don't know if it's true, but I think it has something to do with Qu Qiuyan."

Qu Qiuyan's matter was related to the inner yard. No matter how big the matter was, it was not a big deal for Pei Yuanjun.

"What is it with Qu Qiuyan? Pei Yusheng is so concerned about her. Could it be that he wants to marry her as his Princess Consort?" Pei Yuanjun smiled. Under the candlelight, his pair of almond eyes smiled beautifully. Even though there was a hint of ridicule, it was as pleasing to the eyes as ever.

This Lord Yun seemed to be in a good mood today. His eyes were no longer ruthless and bloodthirsty. His beautiful eyes were burning.

"I-I'm not sure," Qu Moying said cautiously.

"Pei Yusheng wants to marry Liu Lanxin, and he has already sent a letter to Liu Xiangshan," Pei Yuanjun said lazily. His slender eyes were closed, revealing a bit of laziness.

Qu Moying's eyes fell on his hair. He was not wearing a crown, and his hair was casually scattered. He should have been lying on bed by now, but for some reason, he suddenly came to her home, Qu Mansion, on a whim.

It seemed that the appearance of Lord Jing and Lord Wei together today attracted the attention of Lord Yun.

Qu Moying thought in her heart. Her long eyelashes fluttered twice. Her eye veil was removed only at night. "Didn't he want to marry County Lady Jingyu?"

"The position of Crown Princess was taken before, but now the position is empty." Pei Yuanjun seemed to find her question interesting. The corners of his lips curled up slightly. Even with his eyes closed, he was still smiling beautifully.

Qu Moying's heart was struck by something. Her hands suddenly clenched tightly. She fixed her gaze on Pei Yuanjun's angelic handsome face. She somehow felt she could hear something heavily hitting somewhere in her chest. Suddenly, her heartbeat sounded very obvious.

The blood was clearly rushing up, and the pressure made her speechless for a moment. She only held the thing in her hand tightly and pinched it hard.

After a long while, she heard an elegant and calm voice with some doubt. "Has County Lady Jingyu long taken a fancy to the position of Crown Princess?"

This was her voice. It did not sound different from the past. Only she knew that her palms were tightly clenched, and there was cold sweat on her palms.

"Maybe, or maybe not." Pei Yuanjun's words sounded more like he had not said anything at all. Then, his eyes suddenly opened and met Qu Moying's slightly nervous eyes.

Qu Moying subconsciously wanted to avoid his eyes, but then she remained motionless, allowing their eyes to meet. She did not dodge, and her eyes were clear and full of desire as if they could speak.

"Was Cousin Hanyue the Crown Princess at that time?" Qu Moying forced herself to be calm.

"So what? Even the Empress can be replaced in this world. Why can't the Crown Princess be replaced?" Pei Yuanjun smiled, but the smile in his eyes was like a cold snake crawling, looking treacherous and cold. "Ji Yongming is a loyal person, and his loyalty may exceed the Crown Prince's imagination."

Qu Moying's hand trembled. After shaking violently a few times, her hand fell, and she pressed down on one side to borrow some strength. "So... the Crown Princess... did not actually die from illnesses?"

These words were very difficult to utter, so difficult that she almost said them word by word. It took a lot of effort.

In fact, although there were not many people in this world who knew the truth, she understood it most. Was there anyone who knew better than her how Ji Hanyue died?

When she plummeted from Eastern Palace's Linyuan Pavilion, she had placed a curse.

Perhaps the gods and Buddhas in the sky heard her curse and felt pity for the tragic deaths of her entire family, so they gave her a chance to be reborn. Carrying the life of Qu Moying, she lived as a hybrid of two persons, becoming a Qu Moying who wanted to avenge Ji Hanyue.

"It seems you are very concerned about the matter of the Crown Princess?" Pei Yuanjun seemed to find her reaction interesting. The corner of his handsome eyes twitched, and his gaze slowly moved down.

Qu Moying followed his gaze and looked down. She saw that on the purple brocade robe, there was a white and tender hand pressing down on it. The brocade robe on the other side was crumpled into a ball. There were clear marks of it being kneaded.

The hand suddenly retracted, as if it had been scalded by something. The wrist then felt something—Pei Yuanjun's soft yet firm muscles.

"The Crown Princess is my cousin and Earl Ling'an is my uncle. There was also Cousin Yanyue who died horribly... I must find out about this matter." Qu Moying said calmly, as if she was not the one who had just pressed down on Pei Yuanjun and was kneading his robe.

"Aren't you afraid of dying an ignominious death?" Pei Yuanjun raised his eyebrows and asked.

"No!" Qu Moying shook her head.

"The Crown Prince's methods are not something a young lady like you can resist," Pei Yuanjun kindly reminded her. But no matter how she looked at his expression, he only looked like he was waiting to watch a good show.

"I will slowly get to the bottom of this. The person in charge of Earl Ling'an's Mansion now is not the Ji Family's second branch." Qu Moying shook her head and did not hide the fact that she had intervened in the matter of the Ji Family taking an heir.

“What an honest child.” Pei Yuanjun reached out and touched Qu Moying’s hair. Her black hair was soft. Qu Moying had smooth black hair, which felt very good to the touch. Pei Yuanjun took the opportunity to touch it again. He narrowed his eyes and looked very relaxed.

His hand naturally rolled up a strand of her black hair, and he wrapped it around his slender fingers and then caressed her hair tip.

His action looked extremely abrupt, but it was very pleasing to the eye. He looked extremely elegant, and it did not make people feel the least inappropriate to see him treat such a young girl in such a manner.

Qu Moying looked at him expressionlessly as he twirled her hair. She did not move at all. Her pink lips were pursed. It was obvious that she was a little annoyed. With her hair being twirled in Pei Yuanjun’s hand, it made her look even more indecent.

“Nice hair.” Pei Yuanjun loosened his fingers, and the hair slipped from his fingers and fell onto Qu Moying’s snow-white cheeks, adding a bit of gentleness to her.

Pei Yuanjun raised his head and looked at Qu Moying’s annoyed face. He laughed. “This is not bad. It looks better.”

From his perspective, the elegant and beautiful Qu Moying looked a little cute. The feeling of caressing her hair was like caressing a cat, very soft and tender. Because she was a little annoyed, her eyes under her long eyelashes were a little misty. Compared with the eyes of ordinary women, hers were glassier and had more vitality.

She was like a cat with hair sticking up.

“Thank you, my Lord.” Qu Moying tilted her head back. She could no longer hold on to her original posture of sitting up straight, and her entire body leaned back, creating a distance.

The corner of Pei Yuanjun’s eyes narrowed, and he very naturally dropped his hand and landed on the corner of Qu Moying’s skirt. There was a ribbon hanging down from the collar, and he casually reached out to pull it.

The corners of Qu Moying's lips tightened even more. The originally steady corners of her cheeks were also a little bulging, and she looked like a fish spitting bubbles. There was a faint blush on her fair and tender cheeks, but it was not shyness. She was definitely angered by Pei Yuanjun's presumptuous actions.

"No need to thank me. Since you want to find trouble with the Crown Prince, probably I can offer the position as my Side Princess to you." Pei Yuanjun lazily pulled the ribbon again.

Qu Moying's eyes blinked a few times. She focused her attention on his face and said seriously, "My Lord, what do you mean?"

Previously, Pei Yuanjun had mentioned that Qu Moying could just take on a title, and it was not necessarily a success yet, but they were to wait and see how things developed later.

"Nothing much. It's just that I heard that you are going to enter the palace. I'm afraid that even the Empress will think that it is better for you to enter my mansion." Pei Yuanjun smiled evilly, with some presumptuous malice.

"The Empress?" Qu Moying was stunned. She raised her glassy eyes in surprise. She had long felt that Dowager Consort Qu's matter was too mysterious, and now, the Empress was actually also involved in it.

"Maybe, or maybe not." An enchanting smile appeared on Pei Yuanjun's handsome face, and his eyes flickered with uncertainty.

Qu Moying took a deep breath and said with a serious face, "What do you want, my Lord?"

She didn't ask herself what she wanted nor ask herself how she would be in the future. Instead, she asked about what Pei Yuanjun wanted. How ridiculous!

"What do you want?" Pei Yuanjun asked back as he raised his eyebrows.

"I'm fine with anything," Qu Moying said without hesitation.

“Why?” Pei Yuanjun’s gaze swept over those glassy eyes that were filled with the desire to speak, and he asked slowly.

“Because of family love!” Qu Moying’s curled-up eyelashes trembled twice. When she raised her head again, her soft eyes were piercingly cold. “The Crown Princess and Cousin Yanyue are my relatives. They are relatives that I respect and care about.”

In this life, there were not many people who could be called her relatives...

Chapter 203 Borrowing Flower Hairpins

“I am really impressed by your family love!” Pei Yuanjun smiled lightly and narrowed his eyes. He looked at the young girl in front of him calmly. “You are a grateful person. What a coincidence. I have shown you a lot of kindness. It should be a foregone conclusion that you will marry into my mansion. Well, be careful when you enter the palace.”

So, he came today to especially warn her about this?

Qu Moying’s eyes moved slightly, and she nodded calmly. “I will, my Lord.”

“The Empress has always wanted to send women to my mansion, but I have been rejecting her. Now that I have given in a little because of you, she’ll naturally think that there is a breakthrough.”

Pei Yuanjun said lazily, and a coldness flashed in his charming eyes.

“What do you want me to do, my Lord?” Qu Moying understood the meaning of his words, and she asked.

“You don’t have to do anything. Just be careful. I don’t like my people being schemed against by others.” Pei Yuanjun sat up, picked up the tea on the table on the bed, and took a sip. Then, he put it down with a calm expression and turned to look at Qu Moying’s stiff little face.

Qu Moying pursed her lips and looked back at Pei Yuanjun. He had already stood up and walked to the window. He looked back at her, saying meaningfully, “Take care of yourself!”

He propped his hands on the window sill and left.

Qu Moying silently watched him leave. She stood up and walked to the window. She closed the window and leaned her back against the window. Then, she slowly sat down.

Her eyes were slightly lowered, and her long eyelashes fluttered down like a pair of tired butterfly wings.

Some things became clear because of Pei Yuanjun’s words. Dowager Consort Qu from the palace probably wasn’t looking for her. It was because of Pei Yuanjun that someone in the palace reached out to Qu Mansion. That was why Dowager Consort Qu now wanted to meet the granddaughters of Qu Mansion. Therefore, the most important person was still Lord Yun.

There were faint sweat stains on her back. Facing the treacherous Lord Yun, no one would feel no pressure, especially when bearing the secrets related to her previous life. She could not tell this secret to him, nor could she let others know. She could only suppress it in her heart. However, some of her recent actions could be hidden from others but not from Pei Yuanjun.

She had to find a reason to explain herself.

Otherwise, why would she, a young lady of Qu Mansion, so actively interfere with the Ji Family’s matter and wholeheartedly investigate the Ji Family’s incidents?

She lowered her head and buried her head in her knees. In the silent night, she could clearly hear her own overly-intense heartbeat.

Pei Yuanjun's words were not just to remind her. There was also a faint sense of threat, or it could also be considered a reminder to her, so that she would not interfere too much with the matters of the Crown Prince's Mansion and Earl Ling'an's Mansion.

Fortunately, the most important thing for Earl Ling'an's Mansion now had been resolved. What she needed to do next was not directly interfere with the Ji Family's matter. All she needed to do was to join hands with Concubine Xiang and Ji Yuanhai. Ji Yuanhai that child seemed to be smart, and he had a lot of feelings for Ji Yanyue in the past, and this was enough.

She bit her lips, and the corners of her lips turned pale and painful. This also made her clearly realize that she was now Qu Moying, no longer the Crown Princess Ji Hanyue of her previous life.

Yes, she came back, stepping on the traces of her previous life, walking up from the sea of blood step by step.

This time, she was even weaker, and she needed to be more careful...

As for the matter of Lord Yun mentioning her marrying into his mansion, Qu Moying did not take it to heart. What would happen in this life was not decided yet. For someone who did not even have a future, talking about how the future was a fantasy.

Under the long eyelashes, her eyes were dark, and the hands on her knees did not move. It was as if she had been sitting there for a long time and was planning to sit there forever...

After a long time, the light from the window flickered, and it could be seen that she stood up again. Then, her figure moved forward. The light went out, and it became dark.

Behind the high eaves, four guards hid in the darkness, staring at the tall figure standing at the corner of the eaves. Their master had been standing there in the wind for a long time. Nobody knew what he was looking at. It was clear that he had just come out of that room.

He looked a little hesitant!

The guards were very confused about their Lord's behavior. When would Lord Yun do such a thing?

He didn't sleep in the middle of the night and he actually went into the bedroom of a young lady. If the Emperor knew about this, he would be very happy.

The Emperor was always anxious to see Lord Yun getting married. These guards who had been secretly guarding him couldn't know better.

Every time Lord Yun entered the palace, the Emperor would mention it to him, but his suggestion would be rejected by Lord Yun. So what did the current situation mean? Was Lord Yun really treating Fourth Lady Qu differently?

In the end, Qu Caiyue came over as expected. After Qu Moying rested for a bit in the afternoon, she got up and saw Yu Dong walking up to her. "My lady, Second Lady is here."

"Let her in!" Qu Moying said indifferently. She casually took a hairpin from the dressing table and handed it to Yu Chun who was behind her. Yu Chun took it and inserted it into Qu Moying's hair. She checked and felt that something was missing. Then, she started picking other jewelry in the jewelry box on the table.

The eye veil had already been tied up. Yu Chun only needed to pick some simple jewelry.

"Moying." Qu Caiyue walked in.

"Please take a seat." Qu Moying glanced at the obviously uneasy Qu Caiyue.

"Moying, I really didn't do it on purpose yesterday." Qu Caiyue didn't sit down. She looked at Qu Moying, and her expression became more and more uneasy. She seemed to be a little flustered.

"Second Sister, must you go to the palace?" Qu Moying looked up at her.

“Moying, this is my only chance. You... You may look down on me, but... but I have to do this.” Qu Caiyue’s eyes turned red, and she lowered her head.

“Second Sister, I don’t want to interfere in your affairs. I am only the fourth-ranked Fourth Lady. What you do with Eldest Sister is only between the two of you. Now that you are allowed to enter the palace, it is not due to my intention either. It is due to your own ability and charm. I can’t tell anything, and there is no need to talk to me.”

Qu Moying bluntly spoke her mind. Yu Dong inserted another hairpin for her. This one was very short and very simple. However, it looked good overall.

“I know.” Qu Caiyue lowered her head and pinched the handkerchief in her hand a few times. Then, she looked up again. “Moying, I came here to thank you. After all, Granny Yan is under you.”

“Second Sister, you are wrong. Granny Yan is sent from the palace. It was also her who asked Third Sister to go to Grandmother and talk about all this. If you want to thank someone, then thank Third Sister.”

Qu Moying said. Her burning gaze landed on Qu Caiyue’s face. Even though her eyes were bound by an eye veil, one could faintly feel her displeasure.

She was not willing to take credit for this matter!

“Moying, we are a family. No matter what, I am still grateful to you. If not for you, maybe Dowager Consort Qu would never have thought of us.” Qu Caiyue lowered her head and explained. The handkerchief in her hand was crumpled into a ball and was stretched. It could be seen that she was very troubled.

“Is there anything else that you’ve come here for, Second Sister?” Seeing that she kept going around this topic, Qu Moying stopped beating around the bush and stood up, “If you have nothing else to do, I’m going out to see Grandmother.”

This was an order for Qu Caiyue to leave.

“Moying, we are about to enter the palace. I-I don’t really have any accessories. Can you lend me a few flower hairpins?”

To noble ladies, flower hairpins were not worth much, but they were more exquisite. Moreover, Qu Moying did have a few flower hairpins with her.

These were the ones that Qu Qiuyan had given to her in Dabei Temple. Qu Moying specially used a box to store these flower hairpins.

“Second Sister, you want to borrow flower hairpins from me?” Qu Moying asked without changing her expression.

This was not a big deal to begin with. Qu Caiyue came to live in West Mansion because she had thrown herself into the river. At that time, it was impossible for her to bring any clothes and accessories. Now, she only wore an ordinary hairpin on her head. It was completely different from her previous appearance. It was fine to keep this appearance on normal days, but if she were to enter the palace looking like this, it would indeed be too plain.

“Yes, can you lend me a few flower hairpins? When we come back from the palace. I... I will return them to you immediately. I originally wanted to go back and get my own, but I’m afraid that Madam would not be happy.”

Qu Caiyue said, looking very wronged.

Her current situation was indeed not very good, so it was reasonable to do this.

“I went to Qiuyan to borrow an earring. I’d like to borrow a few flower hairpins from you too,” Qu Caiyue said.

“Yu Dong, go and get those flower hairpins.” Qu Moying nodded and ordered.

“Yes!” Yu Dong turned around and entered the inner room. A short while later, she took a box of flower hairpins from inside. Qu Moying pushed the flower hairpins in front of Qu Caiyue. “Second Sister, these

flower hairpins were given to me by Third Sister. In fact, it would be better for you to borrow some from Third Sister. She might have more styles with her.”

“Thank you. These are enough. Thank you, Moying.” Qu Caiyue bowed to Qu Moying and reached out to grab a flower hairpin, thanking her repeatedly.

“Moying, I won’t disturb you then.” With the item in hand, Qu Caiyue didn’t stay any longer. She restrained her previous cautiousness and revealed a smile.

Qu Moying didn’t ask her to stay. She nodded.

Watching Qu Caiyue leave, Yu Dong subconsciously looked out the window. “My lady, why did Second Lady borrow these flower hairpins?”

No matter how she looked at it, Second Lady did not seem to be pitiful to this extent where she needed to borrow jewelry to enter the palace. Even if she really did not have any, could she not just tell the Old Lady about it?

“She likes these flower hairpins.” Qu Moying said meaningfully, the corners of her lips silently curving.

The first step was to ask her to let her enter the palace.

The second step was to borrow a few problematic flower hairpins from her.

Within all this, Lord Jing and Lord Wei were also involved. The situation currently was becoming more and more mysterious. Fortunately, she was not worried that the matter would implicate her.

She had done the things that needed to be done. What would happen next would depend on how those people went about it. Right now, she seemed to be in an extremely dangerous situation herself. Pei Yuanjun had pushed all the thing onto her. He had practically treated her as a shield with the way he pushed her in front of the royal family.

At this time, no matter whether she avoided it or not, she could not escape. Thus, she might as well not avoid it. She would first follow Qu Caiyue's intention...

Chapter 204 Entering the Palace to Meet Dowager Consort Qu

In the next few days, Qu Moying continued to learn the palace rules and etiquette. However, the number of students increased from one to two, and in the end, four.

First, Qu Qiuyan joined in, then Qu Caiyue. Finally, Qu Xuexin also received the news and learned the rules and etiquette with the three others.

Although Granny Yan did not seem very happy, at least she did not drive them away, and she even helped correct all kinds of mistakes made by Qu Moying's three elder sisters.

Granny Yan taught seriously, and the four sisters learned diligently. A few days passed in the blink of an eye.

Early in the morning, the people in the mansion began to prepare. Today was the time for the Qu ladies to enter the palace, and Qu Mansion had been preparing for this day.

The clothes that the embroidery workshop sent over were more and more exquisite. Qu Moying picked a light blue set of outfit. It looked very elegant, but there was a faint embroidery on the hem of the dress. It was the embroidery of lotus flowers, and it made the wide eight-sided palace skirt layers look colorful and vivid.

A waistband of the same color made Qu Moying's waist even more slender. During this period of time, Qu Moying had grown quite fast. She was taller than when she had just arrived at Qu Mansion. As a young girl, her figure was delicate, and it made people feel that she was extremely beautiful just from her back.

However, the long eye veil made people sigh in their hearts that it was a pity that such a beautiful girl had such a flaw.

Qu Qiuyan's dress was relatively more splendid. Her appearance was very outstanding, and her gorgeous clothes made her even more charming. Among the sisters, apart from Qu Moying's long eye veil, she was the only one who could catch one's attention. Her appearance was worthy of being praised as beautiful as jade.

Compared with West Mansion's two sisters, East Mansion's two sisters looked a little inferior.

In terms of appearance, East Mansion's sisters could not compare with Qu Qiuyan. As for Qu Moying, of course, she was not the target of their comparison at all. So what if they won against a blind girl?

Qu Xuexin was as soft and dignified as ever. Her expression was gentle. When she looked at people, there was a hint of a smile on her face. She was born to make people feel that she wasn't threatening and was also the easiest one to make people feel good about her.

Qu Caiyue's dressing was just okay. The decorations on her dress weren't exquisite, but they revealed a bit of elegance. Her flower hairpins were very beautiful, bringing out the beauty of her face. She couldn't compare with Qu Qiuyan, but there was a bit of tenderness to her. It was unknown if it was because of what happened before, but her face was a bit pale, adding a bit of delicateness to her.

Seeing that her granddaughters each had their own merits and their own outstanding appearances, the Old Lady was very satisfied. After giving them a few more words of advice, she ordered them to leave.

There were four of them, so they used two carriages. It was the same old rule.

Qu Xuexin and Qu Caiyue shared one carriage, while Qu Qiuyan and Qu Moying shared the other one.

In the carriage, Qu Qiuyan and Qu Moying were very quiet. They both leaned to one side and closed their eyes to rest. They were so quiet that there was no sound. Only the sound of the carriage's wheels rolling outside could be heard.

After about an hour, the carriages stopped at the palace gate. Qu Mansion's ladies came down from the carriages one by one.

Standing there, Qu Moying looked up at the familiar palace gate. In her previous life, Ji Hanyue enjoyed endless favor and was free to enter and exit the palace gate from time to time, but this was the first time Qu Moying entered the palace.

She clenched her fists tightly and then slowly relaxed. She took a deep breath and suppressed the surging resentment in her heart.

The palace servant led the way, while Qu Mansion's four ladies walked into the palace together and followed behind her, and they dared not take a wrong step.

Among the four people, only Qu Qiuyan had been to the royal palace in the past. It was the first time for the others.

But regardless of whether they had been here or not, they were all very well-behaved. There was not the slightest mistake in their words and actions. Even Fourth Lady Qu, who was said to be ignorant of etiquette, looked generous and appropriate in her manner.

The palace servant, who was leading the way, was secretly observing while walking forward. Finally, she focused her attention on Third Lady Qu. In her opinion, Third Lady Qu was the most blessed one. Previously, Lord Jing had sent people to especially inform the people in Dowager Consort Qu's palace to take care of this Third Lady Qu.

The palace servant thought with envy. Third Lady Qu was really lucky. Lord Jing did not have a Princess Consort yet, but he was so deeply in love with Third Lady Qu. Even the matters of her entering the palace had been properly arranged by him.

Dowager Consort Qu lived rather far away. So they had to make more turns, and the route became longer. Finally, a palace appeared in front of everyone.

This was indeed something that Qu Moying had never seen before. It was a bit desolate. It should be in the northeast of the deep palace. The furthest one there was Cold Palace. When Ji Hanyue entered the palace back then, she had heard people talk about Cold Palace's direction, but she had only heard of it. At that time, it was impossible for her to have any contact with Cold Palace.

The current Dowager Consort Qu seemed to be in a very ordinary situation, and there were not many people attending outside the palace gate, and the place she lived in was just so-so.

However, no matter how desolate her palace was, she was still the Dowager Consort of the palace, and she was not someone that ordinary people could treat harshly.

As an imperial consort of the late Emperor who could stay in the palace even though she did not have any children, Dowager Consort Qu should also be considered a unique one. From this, it could be seen that Dowager Consort Qu was definitely not someone simple.

Seeing the few of them come over, the palace maids had already gone in to report. Soon, a eunuch came out to invite them in.

The few of them entered the main hall in order.

There was a large chair in the middle of the main hall. An old woman sat on the chair. She looked at the young girls with a kind expression. There was a smile in her eyes.

The four Qu ladies came in and bowed together.

"Please rise. Have a seat!" Dowager Consort Qu smiled kindly. Her voice was gentle. If one only heard her voice, one might not think that she was someone so old.

Qu Moying sat down on the farthest chair at the table. As the youngest one, she could not sit too close to the front.

"Fourth Lady Qu, please sit closer." A palace maid smiled and whispered to her.

Qu Moying was stunned for a moment. She subconsciously looked up and met the gentle gaze of Dowager Consort Qu, who waved to her warmly.

Qu Moying stood up and followed the palace maid to take the chair beside Dowager Consort Qu.

“Are you Qu Mansion’s Fourth Lady?” Dowager Consort Qu asked gently after sizing up Qu Moying.

“Yes, Dowager Consort.” Qu Moying lowered her head and said softly. Her voice was not loud, and it was very consistent with her identity and experience.

“Was it tiring to learn the rules?” Dowager Consort Qu asked softly.

“It’s alright. Thank you, Dowager Consort,” Qu Moying replied with a gentle expression. She did not say that she was not tired, nor did she say that she was tired. However, how could she not be tired after managing to learn so well in such a short period of time?

Dowager Consort Qu had originally thought that Fourth Lady Qu was the one who studied the etiquette for the shortest amount of time, so even if she learned well, she should still be lacking a bit. However, when she looked over just now, she saw that Fourth Lady Qu was extremely elegant and even carried an extremely natural noble aura. She was completely unlike what others had said about her, about how she had been raised in the village from a young age and was insensible and vulgar.

Sure enough, this girl was intelligent and was able to ensure suffering. She was different from the other ladies.

“I’m actually your Grandaunt. Just call me Grandaunt, alright?” Dowager Consort Qu smiled.

“Yes, Grandaunt!” Qu Moying narrowed her eyes and said gently.

If Dowager Consort Qu really intended to acknowledge her as a family, then even if they were distant relatives, she would indeed be considered Qu Moying’s “grandaunt.”

Of course, the chance of addressing her as her “grandaunt” was just an occasional one. Qu Moying couldn’t be so self-righteous just because she was being looked up to.

"Here, my girl. When I saw you, I thought of the time when I was young. At that time, I... also lost my mother early." Dowager Consort Qu took a jade green bracelet from her wrist and put it on Qu Moying's wrist.

"Grandaunt..." Qu Moying raised her head and looked at Dowager Consort Qu. She bit her lips lightly as if she didn't know how to deal with the situation.

"Don't be so polite. When I saw you, I just... liked you. I don't have any descendants, so how could I not like you when I saw you all at the age of youth? Maid, bring out the gifts I prepared for those ladies." Dowager Consort Qu smiled as she let go of Qu Moying's hand and looked at the other young ladies of Qu Mansion.

Among Qu Mansion's other three ladies, only Qu Qiuyan managed to make her take a few more glances. Her appearance was the most outstanding one among them, and Lord Jing had taken a fancy to her. It was hard to say what would happen in the future.

The palace maids took out four exquisite gift boxes from inside, placed them in front of the ladies one by one, and then opened them.

The objects in each gift box were similar, but each one was exquisite, and it was obvious that they were good things.

"These were all saved by me in the past and were bestowed by the late Emperor. Now I don't need them, but they are suitable for young girls like you."

Dowager Consort Qu said with a smile. Her gaze, with a hint of nostalgia, swept over the ornaments before falling on Qu Qiuyan, and she waved at her.

The palace maid hurriedly led Qu Qiuyan forward. The Old Lady also affectionately pulled Qu Qiuyan's hand and gave the other bracelet on her wrist to Qu Qiuyan.

Qu Moying's gaze swept over Qu Xuexin. Just now, she saw Qu Xuexin slightly raise her eyes to look at Qu Qiuyan. Her eyes did not look as gentle as before, but then Qu Xuexin seemed to notice Qu Moying's

gaze. When Qu Xuexin turned to look at Qu Moying, Qu Xuexin's smile was as warm as ever. Then, she lowered her head, back to being as elegant and gentle as ever.

However, was this true?

On one side of Dowager Consort Qu was Qu Qiuyan, and on the other was Qu Moying. However, she was not very intimate with the two sisters from East Mansion. She only asked questions casually when they were chatting. The focus was firstly on Qu Moying, and secondly on Qu Qiuyan.

Dowager Consort Qu asked the most about Qu Moying's life in the village. She asked about her eye condition and when she could remove her eye veil. These topics were all things that Qu Moying had experienced herself. She was not afraid of being asked about these things. Seeing that Dowager Consort Qu asked in detail, she also answered in detail.

There was not any slightest mistake.

Although she could hide some things well, the education she received in her past life was evident in her bones. Sometimes, even if she wanted to hide it, she failed. She could not even explain why her behavior was elegant. However, Granny Yan, whom Dowager Consort Qu sent over to educate her, solved her problem.

In the future, she could use Granny Yan as an excuse.

She had learned so quickly only because she was smart and attentive. But even so, some people would still be skeptical. One time, Qu Qiuyan and Yu found a couple to claim her as their child. It was also because of this suspicion that she could take advantage of the situation. At this time, she also responded in this way.

"Dowager Consort, Lord Jing and Lord Wei would like to see you." A eunuch hurriedly came in to report.

Chapter 205 The Weak Lord Wei and the Hard-to-Deal-with Lord Jing

Qu Moying's heart throbbed. She raised her watery eyes and looked at Qu Qiuyan who was sitting opposite her. She saw the slight curve of Qu Qiuyan's lips, and Qu Moying's eyes darkened.

"It's rare for the two Lords to come over. Invite them in." Dowager Consort Qu smiled in a good mood.

The eunuch exited, and soon two princes came in side by side.

Both of them were very handsome. Lord Jing looked a bit more heroic, and Lord Wei was a bit weak, but both were outstanding.

After the two came in and greeted Dowager Consort Qu, Dowager Consort Qu smiled and invited them to sit down.

The palace maid delivered tea and stood on the side shyly.

"Lord Jing and Lord Wei, why are you here today?" Dowager Consort Qu looked at the two princes with a smile.

"When I walked past with Qingmin, I thought I hadn't seen you for a while, Dowager Consort, so I specially came in to ask for a cup of tea," Lord Jing Pei Yusheng replied with a smile.

"We might have to trouble you, Dowager Consort. I am a little tired," Lord Wei Pei Qingmin said with some tiredness. It could be seen that he was a little low-spirited.

It should be that he was exhausted after walking for a while.

Lord Wei's health condition was not good. It was something that the entire royal palace knew about. In the past, when he was tired from walking, he would rest nearby. However, Lord Wei rarely walked a lot in the royal palace, and he would not walk too far. This time, Dowager Consort Qu was also very surprised to see them here.

However, as she swept her gaze over the young ladies in front of her, Dowager Consort Qu knew what was going on.

The person that Lord Jing was interested in was Third Lady Qu Qiuyan. She had also heard of it, but she thought it was just a rumor. She had not expected that Lord Jing would really care about her. Anyway, that was good. Although they were of the same surname, sometimes, the meaning of having the same surname did not simply mean benefits.

Dowager Consort Qu's smile became even gentler.

After being around in the palace for so long and still here at this time, Dowager Consort Qu naturally would not be someone as simple as she appeared to be.

If there was a chance, she naturally would not be willing to silently bury herself in this deep palace.

Coincidentally, after Lord Jing arrived, Qu Qiuyan and Qu Moying both retreated. Qu Xuexin and Qu Caiyue also retreated. These two were currently sitting in the first. The one sitting next to Lord Jing was Qu Qiuyan, and the one next to Lord Wei was Qu Moying.

"Someone, bring Lord Wei to take a rest," Dowager Consort Qu instructed.

Pei Qingmin stood up and bowed to Dowager Consort Qu to express his gratitude. After that, he looked at Qu Moying thoughtfully and then left with the palace maid.

"Dowager Consort, I have just sent someone to invite an Imperial Doctor over. Perhaps we will have to trouble you later. Third Brother will have to stay here for a little longer. I originally thought that everything was fine, but I didn't expect that Third Brother would be so weak. It was certainly my negligence. Father surely will punish me again later."

Pei Yusheng said in distress.

"No worries. Lord Wei is not in good health. Everyone in the palace knows this. You can't be blamed. If your father reprimands you, I will help you testify," Dowager Consort Qu teased with a smile.

"Thank you, Dowager Consort Qu." Pei Yusheng was overjoyed. He stood up and bowed to Dowager Consort Qu.

Dowager Consort Qu smiled and waved her hand, indicating for him to sit down. He pointed at Qu Mansion ladies who were sitting with their heads lowered. "Lord Jing, since you are here, those are the ladies from Qu Mansion. Let me introduce them to you."

As she spoke, she introduced them one by one.

Qu Xuexin and the others stood up and bowed to Pei Yusheng.

Pei Yusheng smiled and asked them to sit down. His gaze swept past the faces of the few ladies and finally landed on Qu Moying's face. "The rest of the ladies, I have not seen much. However, although Fourth Lady Qu has only just entered the capital, I have seen her several times."

"Where did you see her?" Dowager Consort Qu asked curiously.

"At the Crown Princess' funeral." Pei Yusheng smiled.

Qu Moying raised her eyes to look at Pei Yusheng. Her eyes were calm, and her lips were slightly pursed. She did not say anything but turned to look at Qu Qiuyan.

Qu Qiuyan did not understand what she meant for a moment. She suddenly remembered what had happened that day, and her expression became bad for a moment. In fact, something had happened to her that day, but she had suppressed the matter. However, this did not mean that others did not know, especially the people in front of her right now.

Seeing that Qu Qiuyan's face was red, Pei Yusheng also recalled that matter. He coughed in displeasure and looked at Qu Moying. "I heard that you and the Crown Princess were very close, Fourth Lady Qu."

"Yes. In the past, when I was in the village, only my cousin had been looking after me," Qu Moying said indifferently.

"I heard that the Crown Princess once sent a doctor to take a look at your eyes. Is that true?" Pei Yusheng asked warmly.

"Yes!" Qu Moying answered in surprise.

"Have your eyes recovered, Fourth Lady Qu?" Pei Yusheng's gaze fell on her. He noticed her hair that was as beautiful as silk, and the thick black hair made her clear skin stand out. This meeting seemed to be somewhat different from the previous ones. In the past, there was a hint of timidity that was inadvertently revealed. Now, she looked natural and graceful, and her behavior was much more appropriate.

The color of her lips was neither strong nor light, and it was a contrast against the charm and elegance of the eye veil.

"Almost," Qu Moying said vaguely.

"Well, then take down the eye veil. Dowager Consort Qu is your elder. It's not good to wear an eye veil when you meet her, is it? This is the main hall, and there is no strong light. If there is anything wrong, we can get the Imperial Doctor to take a look."

Pei Yusheng suggested.

Qu Moying gently pursed her lips and glanced at Qu Qiuyan. Needless to say, this excuse of "no strong light" was definitely something that Qu Qiuyan had told Pei Yusheng.

"Thank you, Lord Jing. It's just that I still have to wear the eye veil for a while. Recently, I have been using medicine on the eye veil to make my eyes heal faster," Qu Moying explained calmly. She refused Pei Yusheng's reason neither lightly nor heavily. No matter what Pei Yusheng's motive was, Qu Moying would never think that he was doing it for her good. "The doctor that Cousin Hanyue invited for me is very good."

Her expression was extremely calm, and she was not hiding anything at all. Even if Pei Yusheng wanted to find trouble with her, he couldn't find anything at all, especially when the Crown Princess was

mentioned. Everyone in the palace was very clear about how the Crown Princess died, and the Crown Princess was also respected by many people for her character.

Pei Yusheng was rejected, so his face was a bit gloomy.

"I am a little tired here. Lord Jing, I will trouble you to accompany them to have a walk outside, okay?" Dowager Consort Qu smiled and helped them out of embarrassment.

"Sure. I have to wait for the Imperial Doctor to come over anyway." Pei Yusheng did not refuse. He nodded and stood up.

Since he stood up, the ladies naturally stood up as well.

"I'll accompany you ladies for a walk and do my part as a host while the Dowager Consort takes a brief rest." Pei Yusheng said with a smile, but this was only said to Qu Qiuyan alone.

Qu Qiuyan nodded shyly and followed behind Pei Yusheng. Since she moved, the others looked at each other and followed behind her.

Qu Moying walked at the back and slowly walked out. When she came out of the main hall, she saw that Qu Qiuyan and Pei Yusheng had already gone down the stairs. Qu Xuexin followed closely behind. Although she looked slow, she was actually not slow. She still followed closely behind the two people in front of her.

Qu Xuexin seemed like someone who followed Qu Qiuyan and Pei Yusheng around, and the two people in front did not care either. They continued to talk with much interest.

"Moying." Qu Caiyue stood by the door. Seeing Qu Moying come out, she hesitated for a moment and said, "Moying, I think we don't have to follow them!".

Everyone could tell that the only person Lord Jing wanted to invite was Qu Qiuyan.

“Then let’s go to other places and take a look!” Qu Moying nodded and said indifferently.

Her gaze fell on the bottom of the stairs. They had just reached the last step. It was a little far away. Qu Xuexin seemed to have turned her head to look at them from a distance. Qu Moying could not see her expression clearly, but she was sure that she was smiling. She could not help but have a strange and familiar feeling surged up.

Her heart skipped a beat. Her eyes were filled with astonishment as she looked at the back of Qu Xuexin, who had followed Qu Qiuyan and Lord Jing far away.

It was actually not far, and she was following closely behind.

“Moying, Moying...” Seeing that Qu Moying was standing there and looking down thoughtfully without any movement, Qu Caiyue called out to her in a low voice.

Only then did Qu Moying come back to her senses. When she turned her head, her eyes were full of ridicule. The old saying was indeed correct. “What goes around comes around. It is only a question of time.”

“Let’s go!” Qu Moying said. After going down the steps, she did not walk out of the palace gate. They only walked around the palace and then turned in another direction. They did not follow behind Pei Yusheng and Qu Qiuyan.

They did not look like they wanted to bring them along for a stroll anyway.

When Dowager Consort Qu said she needed to rest, it was more like a reason to give Qu Qiuyan and Pei Yusheng a chance to have a walk together.

There were many side halls in this palace. The scenery was also not bad. It was the time of the crossover of spring and summer. Between the luxuriant leaves, there were faint flower buds poking out. It seemed to have an additional charm than the full bloom of flowers during spring.

Qu Moying once again sighed at Dowager Consort Qu's palace. Although it looked a bit desolate and remote, it was actually very good. It was even not much inferior to an ordinary main palace.

They were just casually walking around, and the palace servants did not follow them. Only the two maids they brought with them followed. Along the way, there were many places to admire. Unknowingly, they had already made half a circle of the place. The place was not small, and other than the few of them, there was no one else around.

"Moying, can we go there and rest for a while?" Qu Caiyue pointed to a place in front of them. The two of them had walked quite a lot along the way, and they were indeed a little tired. The scenery in front of them was not bad. Under a vine, there was a stone table and stone chairs. They were placed against a rockery, and there were several pots of blooming flowers in the gallery outside the rockery. One could faintly see them from the stone chair.

There was a kind of charm to this faintly discernible scenery.

"Sure!" Qu Moying nodded and walked over. Qu Caiyue followed closely behind.

A palace maid came over from the corridor. She held a tray in her hand. There were a teapot, teacups, and a few plates of snacks. She walked over and bowed to them. Then, she placed the teapot and teacups down quietly. After pouring two cups for them, she respectfully took a few steps back and left.

Qu Moying picked up the tea. The color of the tea was light green, and the faint fragrance of the tea overflowed. It seemed not bad.

Her lips gently moved forward. Qu Caiyue's gaze fell on Qu Moying's face, and her face was full of smiles...

Chapter 206 Where Did Qu Caiyue Go?

The tea stopped at the corner of Qu Moying's lips and then was slowly moved away. Qu Moying frowned and put down the teacup.

"It seems to be very hot." Qu Caiyue looked at the teacup in her hand and nodded. She pushed the teacup slightly to the side and leaned against the stone table in front of her with her elbows. "Moying, did you find that Lord Jing treated Qiuyan differently?"

The corners of Qu Caiyue's lips looked very pale. She loosened her hand weakly and the handkerchief in her hand fell to the ground. However, no one saw it as it happened under the stone table.

"I don't know." Qu Moying shook her head as she massaged her head.

"I heard from Father that Second Uncle wants Qiuyan to marry Lord Jing. Now it seems that it is really possible. You see, Lord Jing treats Qiuyan differently." Qu Caiyue smiled, looking very happy.

"I'm not sure." Qu Moying shook her head again and massaged her forehead a few times.

Yu Dong, who followed by her side, finally felt that something was wrong. She looked up at Qu Moying and asked with concern, "My lady, do you feel uncomfortable?"

"Maybe I'm tired." Qu Moying shook her head, and her brows furrowed even more. She seemed to be feeling very uncomfortable.

"Moying, if you are not feeling well, do you want to take a rest there?" Qu Caiyue also noticed that Qu Moying's expression was not quite right. She stood up, looked around, and pointed at a half-opened door in the corridor.

"No need. This is the palace. It's not very good to do that." Qu Moying shook her head and refused.

"It's fine. I'll go and take a look first. If there's nothing wrong, you can come in, okay?" Qu Caiyue said. She turned around and walked to the back of the rockery. After she only took a few steps, her body swayed. The maid, who was following beside her, hurriedly reached out to support her. She saw that her Lady was looking more and more unwell.

It had only been a while, and it had already taken effect.

Seeing Qu Caiyue walk away, Qu Moying had no choice but to stand up with Yu Dong's help.

The two of them turned around the rockery one after another and came to the door of the half-opened house. Qu Caiyue said to Qu Moying, who was following behind her, "Moying, I will go in now."

After saying that, she staggered in. The maid originally wanted to help her but was pushed away fiercely. She could only stay outside the door and lower her head.

Qu Caiyue's vision was already a little blurry. The medicine was indeed powerful. In just a short while, she was already unable to withstand it and almost fainted. As expected, there was a wide folding screen in front of her. Holding onto the folding screen, she turned inside. On the wide bed lay Lord Wei Pei Qingmin.

His face was pale, and he looked like he was resting. He did not look to be in a very good state. His eyes were tightly closed. When he heard movements, he subconsciously opened his eyes. He was stunned to see Qu Caiyue staggering in. Then, she staggered over and pressed on him.

Pei Qingmin was shocked and subconsciously wanted to get up. Unfortunately, his entire body was held down by Qu Caiyue. He was so weak that he couldn't get up. He wanted to push Qu Caiyue away forcefully, but his hand was hooked to something. With a tug, Qu Caiyue's clothes were pulled open, and the red undergarment inside could be seen.

Pei Qingmin was so anxious that his face turned red, but his hands and feet were powerless. When a faint fragrance came from Qu Caiyue's body, it made Pei Qingmin feel even more powerless. He thought of pushing Qu Caiyue away with his hands, but his hands were on her belt. It looked more like he was pulling open her belt.

If this was seen by someone with ill intentions, it would definitely make them think that he was molesting Qu Caiyue.

Pei Qingmin was just resting here. They had already invited the Imperial Doctor over, who would be here soon. If the Imperial Doctor and Dowager Consort Qu's servants saw such a scene, then Third Lady Qu would be related to him from now on.

Pei Qingmin's eyes flashed with a trace of anger. He forcefully pushed Qu Caiyue away, exhaled, and coldly said, "Someone, come!"

A secret guard silently descended from the roof.

"Pull her away for me." Pei Qingmin gasped for breath, his face flushed red.

The secret guard came over and pulled away the half-unconscious Qu Caiyue. She was smashed into the side of the folding screen without any mercy, causing a "bam" sound. It could be seen that the force used was not small.

"My lord..." The secret guard came over and helped up the heavily panting Pei Qingmin.

"Open the window... for fresh air." Pei Qingmin gritted his teeth. If not for Qu Moying's words from before, he would have really fallen into the trap of his good Second Brother this time.

This was a trap aiming at the fact that his body was weak and could not push this woman away!

The secret guard complied and opened the window, diluting the fragrance on Qu Caiyue's body.

"Who else is outside?" Pei Qingmin gritted his teeth and asked.

"Fourth Lady Qu." The secret guard had heard it clearly just now. He knew that there was not only Qu Mansion's Second Lady, but also the Fourth Lady.

He didn't dare to stop them without his Lord's command just now.

"Go and invite her in." Pei Qingmin sneered. Qu Moying saw that he had fallen into a trap, but she didn't stop it from happening. He didn't believe that Qu Moying didn't know anything.

The secret guard was about to leave when Pei Qingmin suddenly called out, "Where did Second Brother go?"

"He's already back. He's resting over there," the secret guard reported.

Lord Jing's goal seemed very clear. He was here to have a date with Third Lady Qu. Needless to say, he must have found a place to talk with her at this time.

Pei Qingmin was sick in the body, not in the brain. After thinking for a while, he understood the cause and effect of the matter. He sneered and said, "Take this woman away and bring her to Second Brother..." No wonder Second Brother had been very good to him these days. He even took him to Qu Mansion just to meet his beloved woman. It turned out that Second Brother was waiting for him to fall into the trap here.

When he came over just now, Pei Yusheng had asked someone to pass a message to him, saying that he was resting in the room down on the right and asking him to send someone to find him after the Imperial Doctor arrived.

Pei Qingmin instructed the secret guard in a low voice. The secret guard accepted the order, picked up Qu Caiyue, and left through the back window.

The few people waiting outside had been waiting for a long time, and they did not see Qu Caiyue come out, so Yu Dong suggested, "Why hasn't Second Lady come out yet? Should I go in to take a look?"

Qu Moying reached out and shook her hand to stop him. Just as she was about to speak, she suddenly saw someone coming from not far away. So she took Yu Dong and Qu Caiyue's maid to retreat to the side.

It was the Imperial Doctor from the palace. He followed behind a young eunuch, and there were two palace maids from Dowager Consort Qu's palace. Seeing Qu Moying standing there, Pei Qingmin's young eunuch panicked first. He took a few steps forward and looked at Qu Moying warily. Just now, he had seen Qu Moying in Dowager Consort Qu's palace.

"Fourth Lady Qu, what are you doing in my Lord's resting place?"

“This... is where Lord Wei is resting?” Qu Moying asked in surprise.

“It is. What’s the matter, Fourth Lady Qu?” The young eunuch became more and more alert. There had been many women who threw themselves at his Lord in the past.

“My Second Sister...” Qu Moying pointed inside.

“It’s the Second Lady. The Second Lady is inside. Fourth Lady, you were the one who asked the Second Lady to go in just now.” Qu Caiyue’s maid suddenly cried out in alarm. She reached out to push open the half-closed door and rushed in.

Lord Wei’s personal eunuch was frightened and he hurriedly followed in. The Imperial Doctor and the two palace maids from Dowager Consort Qu’s palace also followed in for fear that something would happen.

Qu Moying hesitated for a moment and also brought Yu Dong in.

They entered the room, turned around the folding screen, and saw Pei Qingmin lying on the bed. Everyone was stunned. The inner room was not big. With just a glance, it could be seen that there was no one else but only Lord Wei.

Hearing the voice, Pei Qingmin opened his eyes. His pale face revealed an angry expression. He sat up with his hand propped up. “What is it?”

“My Lord, I thought someone had broken in.” The young eunuch was shocked and said hurriedly.

“Who broke in?” Pei Qingmin asked coldly.

“I... I heard that it’s Qu Mansion’s Second Lady.” The young eunuch pointed at the group of people from Qu Mansion.

"Fourth Lady Qu?" Pei Qingmin looked at Qu Moying, Qu Mansion's only master at the scene.

"Greetings, Lord Wei!" Qu Moying turned around from behind Yu Dong and said gracefully, "Just now, I seemed to see Second Sister coming here. I thought that she accidentally barged in and that something happened."

"You seemed to see?" Pei Qingmin said coldly.

"I didn't see clearly. I was a little far away. I was resting in front and wasn't feeling well. So Second Sister said that she would come over to see if there was a place for resting. It seemed that Second Sister didn't come back after she got here, so I brought people over," Qu Moying said with a calm expression.

Qu Caiyue's maid opened her mouth and wanted to refute Qu Moying's words. However, after seeing Yu Dong's cold gaze, she shivered and lowered her head, not daring to say another word.

If she saw Second Lady here now, she would definitely follow and say what she was told previously. However, now that Second Lady was not here, if she insisted that Second Lady entered this room, it would be difficult to justify her words. It might even cause people to suspect that she lied. She was a small maid and could not afford to offend others.

After thinking about it, Qu Caiyue's maid chose to remain silent.

"Maybe she went to Second Brother? If Second Brother's rest was disturbed, you'll be responsible for it." Pei Qingmin stood up with the help of the young eunuch as he said coldly.

Qu Moying retreated to the side.

Pei Qingmin walked past her and headed outside, and everyone followed behind him.

Pei Yusheng had reserved a place to rest. He originally was going to take Qu Qiuyan and Qu Xuexin there with him. However, after walking halfway, he said that he wanted to visit Pei Qingmin, leaving Qu Qiuyan and Qu Xuexin behind. Then, he went to the resting room that he had reserved, quietly waiting for something to happen to Pei Qingmin.

After entering the room, he got bored. After sending the people around him out, he closed his eyes to rest in the room. Just as he was in a daze, a soft and delicate body suddenly fell on his body. He subconsciously sensed that it was a woman, so he did not care and held her in his arms. His nose was full of fragrance, hot and dry, making him feel powerless.

There was some tugging, and he continued to sleep in a daze.

It seemed that someone was saying something. He didn't care. He only felt a little more sleepy than usual. It was now almost summer, and he felt very weak.

"Ah!" A sharp voice pierced through Pei Yusheng's eardrums. He subconsciously stretched out his hand, and the person in his arms was pushed away. A woman's cry of pain was heard. Then, he opened his eyes with difficulty and saw a pale face with a sickly look. He blinked and looked at Pei Qingmin in confusion...

Chapter 207 Where Did You Get Your Flower Hairpin?

"What the hell is going on?" Dowager Consort Qu frowned tightly and looked at Qu Caiyue, whose clothes were in a mess. Dowager Consort Qu had been called over by the palace maid. When she heard about such a farce, her face had been sullen.

Pei Yusheng and Pei Qingmin were sitting on both sides of the hall. Similarly, their faces were gloomy. The other three Qu sisters stood together by the side. Qu Xuexin moved her eyes around. She lowered her head as she twisted her handkerchief, not daring to move.

Qu Moying's expression was calm as she stood behind Qu Xuexin. The thin Qu Moying was a little smaller than Qu Xuexin, and therefore, almost half of her body was blocked by Qu Xuexin.

Qu Qiuyan stood in the front. She glared at Qu Caiyue, who was kneeling on the ground, with a face full of hatred and anger.

“Grandaunt... I... I didn’t know... I didn’t know at that time... I just went in like that... After I went in, my eyes became dazzled, and I became dizzy. I didn’t know that there was someone inside, and... and I didn’t see anyone inside.” Qu Caiyue knelt on the ground and cried miserably.

Qu Moying glanced at her from behind Qu Xuexin. She pursed her thin lips slightly and did not say anything.

“You said that you don’t know anything?” Dowager Consort Qu’s face was as still as water.

“Yes, I... I was feeling dizzy at that time. After a cup of tea with Moying, she said that she was not feeling well, so I helped her find a room to rest. I saw that there was one door that was ajar, and Moying said that it might be possible to rest there, so I went to take a look. And then... I didn’t remember what happened next.”

Qu Caiyue was truly flustered. She had never expected things to escalate to this extent.

How did the person in the room become Lord Jing? Shouldn’t it have been Lord Wei?

Was the person she saw in a daze at that time Lord Jing? Why did she think it was Lord Wei? What should she do now? She wanted to marry into Lord Wei Mansion. But it would be even better if it was Lord Jing Mansion. But what about Qu Qiuyan? How should she explain it to Qu Qiuyan?

“Dowager Consort, Second Lady Qu was indeed drugged. I have checked it just now. There is some faint powder in the flower hairpin that Second Lady Qu is wearing. If people inhale it too much, they will feel dizzy and weak.” An Imperial Doctor stepped forward and reported to Dowager Consort Qu respectfully.

The situation just now was urgent. After Dowager Consort Qu received the news, she immediately asked an Imperial Doctor to check it out, and now he had come up with a conclusion.

“Flower hairpin? Second Sister, where did you get your flower hairpin?” Qu Qiuyan took a step forward and approached Qu Caiyue. Her eyes were spitting fire. If there had been no one else at this time, Qu Qiuyan would have slapped Qu Caiyue on the face. It was just a small matter, but she made such a mistake. Qu Caiyue was such a useless thing.

"Flower hairpin? Yes, the flower hairpin. It was Moying who lent me the flower hairpin." Qu Caiyue turned her head blankly and suddenly saw Qu Moying behind Qu Xuexin. She stretched out her finger and said loudly.

Seeing that she was called, Qu Moying calmly walked out from behind Qu Xuexin. After she walked out, she first bowed to Dowager Consort Qu, who was sitting in the top seat, and she appeared natural and graceful.

Dowager Consort Qu's expression became better. Compared with this Fourth Lady, the others were much inferior. At this time, she could still be so calm. Was this matter really unrelated to her?

Today, this matter happened in her palace, and it also involved two Lords. Dowager Consort Qu felt a headache. She was just an old Dowager Consort. Now that such a big thing happened, she would not be able to handle it according to her own will.

"Speak," Dowager Consort said slowly.

"Third Sister was the one who asked for Grandmother's permission for Second Sister to enter the palace. After that, Second Sister said that she had not worn any jewelry and came to borrow a flower hairpin from me. When she saw the flower hairpins on my table, she asked to borrow them. Those hairpins were not mine. They were given to me by Third Sister. It was just that I did not like them, so I never wore them. When I saw that Second Sister liked them, I gave them to her. As for the rest, I really don't know much."

Qu Moying said indifferently.

Since it was someone else who framed her, she would also do the same thing.

From this perspective, Qu Qiuyan was the most suspicious one.

"I did give you the flower hairpins, but it was a long time ago. And they were always with you, Moying. Now that something happened, you pushed it on me. Isn't it a bit too much?" Qu Qiuyan was already prepared, and she retorted with a sneer.

"This is the first time I came to Grand aunt's palace. I wouldn't know that Lord Jing would come here. It is impossible for me to do anything beforehand." Qu Moying looked at Qu Qiuyan calmly.

"Who knows if you actually did something else? Is the tea still there except for the flower hairpin?" Qu Qiuyan stared coldly at Qu Moying, her eyes filled with uncontrollable hatred and anger.

How could she not be angry? How come Lord Jing was implicated? How come Lord Jing and Qu Caiyue were seen together? Shouldn't it have been Lord Jing finding out that Lord Wei and Qu Caiyue were together?

"Investigate the matter right now," Dowager Consort Qu ordered.

"Dowager Consort, when we went over just now, we didn't see any teapot or teacups." The Imperial Doctor stepped forward. He had checked Second Lady Qu as soon as possible and immediately pulled the maid over to ask some questions. After hearing that the Qu ladies had drunk some tea, he immediately went to check. However, there was no tea on the stone table over there.

The teapot and teacups could not be seen.

"What?" Dowager Consort Qu could no longer hold her breath. Her breathing quickened. The teapot and teacups were gone. This meant that she was also a suspect.

After all, it was the first time that all those ladies from Qu Mansion had come to her palace. They would not have the ability to plot against anyone. However, she was different. She was the Master in the palace. It was an easy task to ask the palace maid to send a cup of tea with something in it.

"There are no longer teapot and teacups." The Imperial Doctor shook his head affirmatively.

"Go and find out which palace maid sent the tea!" Dowager Consort Qu said hatefully.

An old maid hurried over from behind and whispered to Dowager Consort Qu. Dowager Consort Qu nodded as she listened. The expression on her face relaxed a little. Her gaze fell on Qu Caiyue, who was

kneeling on the ground with tears on her face. Then, she turned to Lord Jing, who was sitting on the side without saying a word.

She calmed down and asked, "Lord Jing, what do you think about this?"

No matter what, she had to ask Lord Jing about this matter. After all, he was also the person involved. Now that someone had found out that he and Qu Mansion's second lady lying together in rags, he had to give Qu Mansion an explanation no matter what.

No matter what mistakes Qu Caiyue made, she was still the daughter of an official.

Just now, the Granny from the harem came over and told Dowager Consort Qu about something. She found out that the palace maid who sent the tea was related to a palace servant by Lord Jing's side. It was said that the palace maid, during this period of time, had a close relationship with Lord Jing's former chief steward in the palace. From this point of view, this matter should be related to Lord Jing, or it should be said that it was Lord Jing who had plotted the whole thing.

But why did Lord Jing plot against her? Dowager Consort Qu did not quite understand. Thinking of her identity, she simply pushed this matter directly to Pei Yusheng.

She was old and had no power to seize. Right now, she only wanted to enjoy a peaceful life. This kind of battle between the children of the royal family was not suitable for her. If she could, she would naturally seek benefits for herself. However, the current situation was a little subtle no matter how she looked at it. If she was not careful, she might be implicated in it.

Dowager Consort Qu felt that she should not investigate the matter first. It was said that "overly perceptive man keeps no friend". She should not hold such a skeptical attitude toward all people, and she was not optimistic about this.

Pei Yusheng finally raised his head. The teacup fell heavily on the table, making a heavy "bang" sound. Then, he stood up and glanced coldly at his brother. Then, he said to Dowager Consort Qu, "Dowager Consort, since this matter has something to do with me, I naturally should be responsible."

This meant that he had admitted to this matter and there was no need to investigate anymore.

“Your Highness...” Qu Qiuyan could not help but scream. Her lips trembled, and she could not say a word. Lord Jing wanted to take Qu Caiyue in. But what about her? What did it mean to take Qu Caiyue in? How could he accept such a lowly woman?

Pei Yusheng turned his gaze over, his eyes cold. Then, he flung his wide sleeves and turned to leave.

Now that things had gotten to this point, he felt embarrassed as well.

The idiot that Qu Qiuyan had found actually ruined their plan. If they continued to investigate, it would be impossible for him to obtain the results he had expected. In fact, the more they investigated, the more chaotic it would become. Pei Yusheng no longer wanted to continue the investigation. He would just treat it as having another mouth to feed in his mansion.

Now that things had gotten to this point, Pei Yusheng was even more convinced that this good younger brother of his had interfered.

He did not expect that he had really underestimated this sickly brat. He was actually not that easy to fool. However, he did not want to shed all pretenses with Pei Qingmin. It was not that he was afraid of Pei Qingmin. He was a sickly brat who was nothing. What was there to be afraid of? However, he still wanted to use this sickly brat to show off his brotherhood in front of others.

This sickly brat was a good prop. Compared with his other brothers, only this prop was the most reassuring to be used. After all, his mobility was not good.

However, he did not expect that this prop would also have a chance to counterattack. It caused him to make a mistake in his plan. Of course, Pei Yusheng was also full of resentment towards Qu Qiuyan. If not for Qu Qiuyan repeatedly saying that there would be no mistakes, he would not have helped her.

Looking at the current situation, Pei Yusheng only wanted to suppress the matter to the minimum and not let anyone know. Otherwise, if the Crown Prince knew about it, he would definitely laugh his head off. He would laugh at Pei Yusheng for being stupid and being led on by a woman.

Qu Caiyue raised her head in surprise and joy. She looked at Dowager Consort Qu in shock. Her face, which had been covered in tears just now, even had a smile on it now.

She had originally thought that things were going to be bad and that her plan was useless, but she had never thought that the tables would turn.

Lord Jing would let her marry into his mansion. Compared with Lord Wei, Lord Jing was naturally better. At the very least, not only was Lord Jing healthy, but there was hope for everything in the future. If she could give birth to a child before her third sister, everything in the future might fall into her hands. Thinking about it, it really was a windfall.

“Your Highness...” Her face was covered in tears and red marks from crying, but her smile became clear.

Qu Qiuyan was so angry that she was losing her mind. When she heard Pei Yusheng’s words, the last string in her mind broke. She rushed over and hit Qu Caiyue on the head. “You bitch!”

No one expected that she would make a move. Seeing her slap Qu Caiyue a few times, Dowager Consort Qu finally reacted and said anxiously, “Quick... stop them.”

A few palace servants came over and pulled the two apart...

Chapter 208 Should Both Sisters Marry Into the Same Mansion?

No one could stay any longer in such a mess. Dowager Consort Qu no longer had the initial mood. She asked someone to help Qu Caiyue and Qu Qiuyan go to the side to rest and sort things out. Then, Dowager Consort Qu also left with a gloomy face. Only Qu Xuexin and Qu Moying were left in the hall, along with Lord Wei, who was still sitting indifferently on the side.

Seeing that the hall was almost empty, Pei Qingmin finally raised his head. There was a smile on his pale face. His eyes fell on Qu Moying’s face. The long eye veil still covered most of her face. Her skin was like marble, and the corners of her lips were still. She was calm and indifferent.

"Fourth Lady Qu, can we talk for a while?" Pei Qingmin said gently.

It was completely different from Pei Yusheng's flustered and exasperated performance just now.

"Moying, I'm going to see Caiyue and Qiuyan," Qu Xuexin said softly.

Qu Moying nodded and looked at Lord Wei without fear.

Qu Xuexin left with her maid.

"Fourth Lady Qu, can you tell me what happened?" Pei Qingmin smiled and politely led her to the chair opposite him, indicating her to sit down and talk.

"I don't know either." Qu Moying smiled and shook her head. Since she didn't have much to say, she didn't have to take a seat. "The either day, when you two Lords came to our mansion, I heard that when you were strolling in the garden, you should have seen the dispute between me and Second Sister. In fact, I was stopped by Second Sister that day and was brought there, and I was very surprised. What was even more surprising was that you two Lords suddenly came."

"I didn't know what Second Sister meant at that time. Coincidentally, Your Highness, you came. In order to protect myself, I especially asked to meet you. I just wanted to remind Your Highness that this matter seemed more like to be a plot against you."

Qu Moying said slowly. She didn't hide anything at all. Those that she knew about it, she just said it.

"Second Sister asked me to bring her into the palace. I was afraid that something would happen, so I didn't promise her anything. Second Sister almost pushed me down the lotus pond at that time, but she might also fall in herself. If Your Highness looked over, wouldn't you feel that Second Sister was extremely pitiful? Like she was being bullied by me? If something happened to Second Sister, people's first thought would be that I wanted to harm Second Sister, right? Everyone would naturally feel pity for Second Sister."

“The flower hairpin was given to me by Third Sister, and she gave it to me way before this. Only Third Sister knows about this matter. Then, Second Sister specially came to borrow flower hairpins from me. When I went for a walk, Second Sister especially stayed to accompany me. I was the last one. When we walked to that place, it was also Second Sister who suggested that we should have a rest. As for the tea, I didn’t drink it, but the tea fragrance was too strong and it made me very dizzy...”

Qu Moying paused at this point and glanced at Yu Dong. Yu Dong took out a handkerchief from her pocket. It had a faint fragrance. “Your Highness can take a look at this handkerchief. This was thrown under the table by Second Sister when we were drinking tea. If Your Highness doesn’t believe me, please directly ask Second Sister about it.”

After saying this, Qu Moying bowed to Pei Qingmin and then left with Yu Dong. As for what happened next, it had nothing to do with her.

She had already made things clear and provided clues for investigating the case. The reason why this handkerchief did not disappear with the teapot and teacup was that Yu Dong had picked it up early.

The fragrant powder on the handkerchief was not the most important thing. The taste of the tea mixed with the fragrance was what made people dizzy and powerless.

Of course, the flower hairpin was smeared with two kinds of powder. It was just that the time was a little long, so the fragrance on the flower hairpin became faint. The effect was not very powerful. Except for Pei Qingmin who was weak, otherwise, it would not have much impact. This also proved that the person who had been targeted was Pei Qingmin.

Watching Qu Moying’s slender figure slowly leave, Pei Qingmin frowned tightly. He actually understood the cause and effect at that time.

Except for his Second Brother, no one else would have been able to calculate it so clearly at this time.

The last time he went to Qu Mansion and this time he came here were both because of Pei Yusheng.

Pei Yusheng said that there was a special variegated peony in this place that bloomed at this time, and because it was variegation, it caused Pei Qingmin to make this trip.

Now it seemed that it was indeed planned by Pei Yusheng. His goal should be to send Second Lady Qu into Pei Qingmin's mansion, and then push this matter onto Fourth Lady Qu, saying that this matter was planned by Fourth Lady Qu, and the victim was Second Lady Qu. Then, when Pei Qingmin remembered the pitiful look of Second Lady Qu when she was bullied that day, he might let Second Lady Qu marry into his mansion. What a good plan!

As for the teapot, it was naturally taken away at Pei Yusheng's order, because he did not want Dowager Consort Qu to investigate this further.

With a chuckle, Pei Qingmin's pale face revealed a trace of a smile. This time, what happened to his Second Brother could be considered as "go for wool and come home shorn".

It seemed that Third Lady Qu also had a part in this matter. Otherwise, she would not be so agitated and even hit Qu Caiyue.

"Let's go back." Shaking his head, Pei Qingmin stood up supported by the young eunuch's hand. What happened next had nothing to do with him. His health was not good and he could not afford it, especially this kind of thing. As for women, it was better for such a woman with ulterior motives to enter Second Brother's mansion. His body was weak, and he could not handle such a...

"Have they all left?" In the depths of the inner palace, Dowager Consort Qu was lying obliquely. She closed her eyes slightly and was resting. She looked completely different from the angry and annoyed person she had before. She looked as if nothing had happened.

"They have all left. When Lord Wei left, he asked someone to bring a wheelchair. He said he felt a little uncomfortable. The Imperial Doctor followed him." A palace maid reported from the shadows in the inner hall.

"Go and deal with that palace maid. There is no need for those who betray the master to live," Dowager Consort Qu said lazily.

"Yes, I know what to do," the palace maid answered. She knew that Dowager Consort was talking about the palace servant who sent the teapot and teacups. She clearly had a connection with Lord Jing. This was the kind of person that Master disliked the most.

In the past, this palace was considered bustling and lively. Recently, there were fewer and fewer people. It was not because there were no people assigned from the palace, but because the hearts of the people were all over the place...

The Qu Mansion's sisters returned to their mansion in a hurry. Seeing that they had returned so quickly, the Old Lady called them over. Knowing that something had happened to Qu Caiyue in the palace, the Old Lady was so angry that her hands and feet went cold. She almost fainted. Originally, she knew that Qu Caiyue had tried to enter the palace to curry favor with Dowager Consort Qu of the palace and then seek a marriage for herself.

She did not expect that such a thing would happen now.

After asking about the ins and outs, she asked about what the two Lords said. The Old Lady was so angry that her chest felt stuffy. She asked someone to ask Qu Caiyue alone to stay and asked her what happened in detail. Then, she sent Qu Caiyue back to East Mansion and ordered Luo to teach her well and to get a strict Discipline Granny to educate her.

No matter what, Qu Caiyue was now the woman Pei Yusheng recognized. In the future, she would be a member of Lord Jing Mansion. The Old Lady was annoyed when she thought about how her third granddaughter was also involved with Lord Jing. Two sisters entering Lord Jing Mansion together? How ridiculous was this?

When Qu Zhizhen was summoned, he didn't know what happened. When he heard the Old Lady's words, his face sank.

Pei Yusheng admitting Qu Caiyue as his woman almost indicated that he could not marry Qu Qiuyan as the main wife.

Although Qu Caiyue was a daughter of a concubine, she was a daughter of an official. Moreover, under the circumstances that Qu Qiuyan's position was still not clear, it was very disrespectful to recognize Qu Caiyue first.

"Zhizhen, does Qiuyan like Lord Jing so much?" Seeing that Qu Zhizhen was calm and did not speak, the Old Lady could not help but ask.

“Mother, Yan and Lord Jing are considered in love. Lord Jing mentioned Yan in front of me several times and said that Yan is an outstanding lady.” Qu Zhizhen frowned, his expression was very bad.

“Then what should we do now? Caiyue will definitely marry into Lord Jing Mansion. There must be news in the palace, and Qiuyan was not officially recognized yet.” The Old Lady felt a headache. “We can’t just let the younger sister enter Lord Jing Mansion with the elder sister, can we? How does this make people think of our family?”

Two sisters were going to marry into the same mansion, and both were only concubines. It was even possible that the younger sister had a higher status than the elder sister. No matter how one looked at it, it only made people despise them.

“I’ll go and ask Lord Jing.” Qu Zhizhen was also at his wit’s end. After turning around a few times, he said.

“So what if you go and ask? Back then, I already said that it is impossible for Lord Jing to marry Qiuyan. But she wholeheartedly wanted to be Princess Jing. Is it so easy to be a Princess? I heard that the Liu family is also weighing this matter. It’s obvious that the Liu family’s daughter is not to be trifled with. If she becomes the Princess, and Qiuyan only a Side Princess, Qiuyan’s future will not be easy.”

The Old Lady reminded.

These words made Qu Zhizhen fall silent. How could he not know about the matter of his immediate superior, Minister Liu? Not only was he powerful, but his father-in-law was also Duke Qi. His only daughter, County Lady Jingyu, was peerless in talent and was very extraordinary. Previously, he had heard that even the Crown Prince wanted to marry her and make her the Crown Princess.

If she really became Princess Jing, how could his daughter fight with her?

Qu Zhizhen also had a headache for a moment. He reached out and rubbed his head. “Mother, I’ll ask Qiuyan what she wants. If she doesn’t want to join Lord Jing Mansion that much, I... I’ll think of another way.”

“That is the only way.” The Old Lady waved her hand helplessly.

Qu Zhizhen turned around and left, heading straight for Qu Qiuyan’s courtyard. Halfway there, he met Qu Qiuyan.

“Father.” The rims of Qu Qiuyan’s eyes were swollen, and it could be seen that she had cried very badly.

“Why are you here?” Qu Zhizhen stopped in his tracks.

“Father, I... I was waiting for you here. I knew that Grandmother would definitely ask for you.” Qu Qiuyan looked extremely sad. She knelt down on the road and reached out to pull the hem of Qu Zhizhen’s robe. “Father, I beg you to help me.”

“Help you? How can I help you? So that you can plot against Moying? What kind of grudge does she have with you that you can’t tolerate her, and now you have become the chess piece of the two Lords?”

Looking at Qu Qiuyan kneeling in front of him with a grievance, Qu Zhizhen suddenly became furious and scolded harshly.

“Father... Father...” Qu Qiuyan panicked...

“You didn’t think that I don’t know anything so you want to defend yourself by saying that this has nothing to do with you, did you?” Qu Zhizhen raised his foot and gave Qu Qiuyan a kick, his face extremely gloomy.

At this moment, Qu Zhizhen’s reaction scared Qu Qiuyan. She had never seen her father treat her like this before. She was so scared that she fell to the ground and couldn’t stand up. She could only call out sorrowfully, “Father, father!”

“You sent Qu Caiyue onto Lord Wei’s bed, but you pushed the matter onto Ying. When did you have such an illusion that Qu Caiyue is closer to you than Qu Moying?” Qu Zhizhen scolded, wishing he could whip this useless daughter of his to death.

The chess formation that was originally planned was ruined by her, and now Qu Zhizhen even had the urge to strangle Qu Qiuyan to death.

Qu Qiuyan did not expect that Qu Zhizhen would be so angry. Her body involuntarily moved backward on the ground as she begged, “Father, father, I won’t dare to do it again. I won’t do it again.”

She did not dare to deny it. Just now, Qu Caiyue was left behind by the Old Lady. She knew that something was off, so she deliberately stayed and waited for Qu Zhizhen.

She originally thought that her father would stand on her side no matter what. She did not expect that her father would be so angry at her. Qu Qiuyan was really afraid. Looking at Qu Zhizhen’s twisted face, how could she dare to deny her doing?

“Father, what’s going on?” A gentle voice came from behind. Qu Zhizhen calmed himself down and restrained the anger on his face. He turned around and saw his son, Qu Mingcheng, slowly walking over with a book in his hand. His face was full of confusion.

“Why are you here?” Qu Zhizhen said with a slightly sullen face. As usual, Qu Mingcheng should be in East Mansion at this time. He did not want his son to get close to Yu, and therefore he was very unhappy that his son showed up here.

Qu Mingcheng shook the book in his hand. “I wanted to find this book, but Eldest Uncle doesn’t have it. He said that you have it here, so I came to take a look. What happened to Qiuyan?”

He glanced at Qu Qiuyan, his face full of surprise.

“She did something nasty!” Qu Zhizhen flung his sleeves and said angrily.

"Father, even if she really did something, don't be angry. If you hurt your body, it won't be good," Qu Mingcheng gently comforted Qu Zhizhen.

Then, he turned around and looked at Qu Qiuyan. He reprimanded her in a low voice, "Third Sister, what did you do to make father angry? Father loves you the most. You must have done something that made him angry. Hurry up and ask for forgiveness."

"Father, I was wrong. I was really wrong. Father, please forgive me." Qu Qiuyan hurriedly wiped away her tears. She looked up and cried as she sobbed, "Father, I really, really don't know why this happened. Second Sister... How... How could she change the plan at the last minute? She... she..."

Saying this, Qu Qiuyan wanted to scratch Qu Caiyue's face. This bitch must have taken a fancy to Lord Jing instead of Lord Wei, so she made such a scene.

"Hmph. You still can't figure it out. Get lost." Qu Zhizhen didn't want to see her anymore. Seeing Qu Qiuyan's face was like seeing Yu. In the past, he didn't think that the mother and daughter were so similar. But now, he felt that they were indeed mother and daughter, as they were equally stupid in the way they felt that they could control everything.

How could the children of the royal family be simple-minded? Was Lord Wei so easy to plot against?

It was obvious that Lord Jing had plotted against Lord Wei but was countered by Lord Wei. This kind of thing was not a big deal for these two princes. At most, there would be one more woman in the mansion. Moreover, it was a low-grade woman. It would not even hurt the relationship between the brothers.

But what about this kind of thing for Qu Mansion?

When he thought of the possible consequences, Qu Zhizhen was annoyed.

"Father, father..." Qu Qiuyan wanted to explain.

Qu Mingcheng came over and helped her up. "Sister, you should go back and rest first. This matter can be considered over. What happens next is the most important thing. You should think about it carefully. You can't mess up again."

Yes, now it was not just Qu Caiyue's matter, but also Lord Jing's. What was Lord Jing thinking? What should she do next? Qu Qiuyan was confused. After standing up, she still pulled Qu Mingcheng's sleeve as she said with grievance, "Brother..."

"Go back first!" Qu Mingcheng waved his hand and said.

Qu Qiuyan helplessly let go and looked at Qu Zhizhen with a bit of timidity. She did not dare to say anything. After bowing to Qu Zhizhen, she wiped her tears and went back.

"Father, don't be angry. This matter was also an accident. Eldest uncle also heard about it. And he wanted you to go over and discuss it."

Qu Mingcheng said to Qu Zhizhen. He had returned from East Mansion, and Luo was also furious, so he naturally knew about this matter.

"Your eldest uncle is looking for me?" Qu Zhizhen said in a low voice. His expression slowly recovered.

"Yes," Qu Mingcheng said.

"Then let's go!" Qu Zhizhen nodded.

"Father, I have to go see Mother. I will come over later," Qu Mingcheng said.

Qu Zhizhen was very reassured about this son of his. He only reminded him, "Come over quickly after you see her. It's better for you not to see your mother so often."

"Yes, Father. I know," Qu Mingcheng said obediently.

Qu Zhizhen no longer said anything. He turned around and hurried towards East Mansion. This matter really had to be discussed between the two brothers.

Watching Qu Zhizhen leave, Qu Mingcheng looked at him thoughtfully for a while and then left with his lad servant to go to Yu's yard.

Yu's yard was quiet and cheerless. There was an old maid guarding the door. Everyone in the mansion knew that this Second Ma'am was doomed. Now, she was locked up inside and could only wait for death.

But as long as Third Lady and Second Young Master were around, everyone still showed her respect.

When Second Young Master came over, the old maid, who was watching the door, did not dare to stop him. She retreated to the side and bowed respectfully. Then, she watched him take his lad servant in. How could she really stop him?

Qu Mingcheng did not stay at Yu's place for long. After sitting for a while, he came out and turned around in the direction of the courtyard, heading towards Qu Moying's humble residence.

Hearing that Qu Mingcheng was coming over, Qu Moying was stunned for a moment, but she still came out to greet him.

In the yard, Qu Mingcheng stood quietly. His gaze landed on Qu Moying's face. He watched her slowly walk over. He smiled and took the initiative to greet her, "Moying."

"Second Brother." Qu Moying bowed to the side.

"Can you accompany me for a walk?" Qu Mingcheng asked gently and politely. He was a handsome young man, and his attitude was still quite friendly. His attitude towards Qu Moying was neither too cold nor too passionate.

"Alright!" Qu Moying smiled and said softly.

The two of them found a small path and casually walked forward. Yu Dong followed closely behind Qu Moying.

"I heard that you were looking for some music scores. What do you think of this book?" Qu Mingcheng handed over the book he held in his hand.

Qu Moying took it and looked at the title on it. For a moment, her face showed a hint of surprise. "Where did you find this?"

She was indeed looking for this music book before. She heard from the Old Lady that it was in the mansion, but she could not find it. Of course, she did not ask about it in Qu Zhizhen's study.

"I found it in Father's study. I heard that you wanted it, so I brought it over," Qu Mingcheng replied gently. He was still young, yet he seemed to be quite calm.

"Thank you, Second Brother." Qu Moying folded her sleeves and bowed.

"We are siblings. There is no need to be polite." Qu Mingcheng said slowly, "I heard that something happened in the palace today, and it is related to Second Sister and you?"

"Yes, indeed." The smile on Qu Moying's face slowly faded away. The hand holding the book dropped to the side.

"This matter should also have something to do with you, right?" Qu Mingcheng asked with a smile.

"Probably!" Qu Moying answered calmly and looked up at this Second Brother, who was the only son of Qu Zhizhen and Yu.

Unlike her, who was a lowly sister raised in the village, they were a real family.

Everyone was clear about Qu Qiuyan's role in this matter. They would not think that it had nothing to do with her just because she was not involved at that time.

"Fourth Sister, I apologize to you on behalf of Third Sister. Please forgive her this time. I will definitely discipline her in the future." Qu Mingcheng stood still and bowed deeply to Qu Moying.

Qu Moying turned her body to avoid Qu Mingcheng's salute. Her glassy eyes fell on Qu Mingcheng's face through the thin eye veil, and then she smiled slightly. "Second Brother, whether I forgive you or not is a small matter. What's important is what happens next, don't you think so?"

"You are our younger sister and we have the same bloodline. Naturally, we are a family. There is no need to hide anything in a family. We will always be a family. No matter how many bad things there are, we are to help each other in the future." Qu Mingcheng smiled warmly.

Qu Moying looked at Qu Mingcheng thoughtfully. So, was he really here to apologize? But the meaning in his words was not so peaceful.

To help each other? Did he mean her and Qu Qiuyan?

"Second Brother, you are too polite. What happened in the palace today has already ended up like this. Now, it is no longer something that we, Qu Mansion, can decide. It depends on Lord Jing. Second Brother, I am tired. I have to go back and rest first. Thank you for finding this music score for me."

Qu Moying smiled. After that, she bowed sideways and turned to go back.

She left Qu Mingcheng standing there alone. This Second Brother of hers had come in time. When she was almost burned to death, she didn't see him. When she was framed by Yu and her daughter, she didn't see him either. But now, he showed up. He had come at the right time.

At this time, no matter what, with his attitude and temperament, he would definitely win the favor of Father and Grandmother.

This West Mansion's wife-born son wasn't simple. Even though he was the same age as Qu Qiuyan, people felt like he was several years older than Qu Qiuyan.

However, he showed up so strangely. Was he... finally unable to hold it in anymore? Wasn't everything that happened before unrelated to him?

Speaking of East Mansion and West Mansion, Qu Zhizhen did not like Qu Mingcheng staying with Yu. Therefore, Qu Zhizhen had grown up in East Mansion and was not close to Yu in the past. However, no matter how unfamiliar they were, she was still his biological mother, and Qu Qiuyan his biological sister. It was a different case with her, the Fourth Sister, who had appeared halfway.

If she could not see through such a person, then she should be even more careful. She should not judge a person wrongly again. The music score in Qu Moying's hand swayed, and the corner of her lips curved silently. This Second Brother was indeed a "considerate" person. He actually knew about such a small matter. She had only casually asked people to look for such a music score that day, and he actually knew about it.

Seeing that Qu Moying had left without a care, Qu Mingcheng was not angry. He looked at Qu Moying's back and was silent for a while. Then he turned around and ordered his lad servant, "Let's go and see Qiuyan."

Chapter 210 Uncle and Nephew's Trip to West Prison

Dowager Consort Qu invited Qu Mansion's four ladies into the palace, but the only concubine-born daughter climbed into Lord Jing's bed. It was said to be a misunderstanding. She said that she felt dizzy and went into Lord Jing's room to sleep. Lord Jing was also a little uncomfortable at that time and did not find out.

When someone found out, the two had been in bed together for a long time.

This news spread silently throughout the palace. Before night came, the entire palace already knew about it.

No one in the palace believed such a statement.

There were many palace maids who wanted to climb into the bed of Lord Jing. If it was so easy to get close to Lord Jing, why didn't anyone climb into Lord Jing's bed before this incident? Needless to say, it must have been deliberately done by this Second Lady Qu.

The irrelevant people took it as a joke. Previously, they only heard that Lord Jing had taken a fancy to Third Lady Qu. Now, her elder sister had climbed into Lord Jing's bed first. This was really something shameful. Perhaps she took advantage of her younger sister to climb into the bed.

The Empress had been unlucky with everything these days, and she was very annoyed. However, because of this news, she was so happy that her appetite had grown larger.

Some people were happy while others were worried. The atmosphere in Noble Consort He's palace was very tense. The palace maids and eunuchs who walked in and out were very careful. They were afraid that they would disturb their Master. The Noble Consort was furious. If not for that it was late at night, she would have definitely summoned Lord Jing to ask questions.

This kind of thing really did not seem like something that Lord Jing would do. It must be that Lord Jing had fallen into the trap of Qu Mansion's Third Lady.

It seemed that this woman had her own means and was willing to go all out.

The palace seemed calm on the surface, but it was secretly stirred because of this matter. No matter how small the matter of the royal family was, it was still a big matter. Moreover, Lord Jing was even more favored than the Crown Prince in the past.

Outside the palace, in Lord Jing Mansion, Lord Jing hurried out. After a few steps, a young eunuch hurriedly caught up from behind. "Your Highness, Third Lady Qu requests to see you."

"No." Pei Yusheng said coldly, his feet not stopping.

"This... This is a letter from Third Lady Qu." The young eunuch chased after him a few more steps, holding a letter in his hand.

This time, Pei Yusheng did not even speak. With a cold snort, he went straight out.

The young eunuch did not dare to chase after him. He stood in place and sighed helplessly. He turned around and went to the back door of Lord Jing Mansion.

Outside the back door, there was a small carriage. Qu Qiuyan was anxiously waiting there. A maid stood outside the carriage and was looking at the back door of Lord Jing Mansion. When she saw someone coming, she hurriedly went forward.

“How is it?”

“His Highness said no.” The young eunuch pushed the letter in his hand to the maid. “He won’t accept this letter. Please ask your Third Lady to go back first.”

“What... What...” Qing Ju trembled, and for a moment, she could only turn her head to look at Qu Qiuyan, who was lifting the curtain to look outside.

“Did His Highness... go out?” Qu Qiuyan gritted her teeth. Although she guessed that it might be the case, she was still very sad and wronged. This matter really had nothing to do with her. She also did not expect that things would become like this. It couldn’t be that she was willing to be in such a situation now, right?

“Yes, His Highness has gone out. Third Lady, please go back!” The young eunuch’s words were polite. In the past, Lord Jing had always been good to this Third Lady Qu. If there was anything good, he would send them to Qu Mansion. The young eunuch really did not dare to offend Third Lady Qu.

If not for Lord Jing’s attitude before, he would not have cared about Third Lady Qu now.

Qu Qiuyan looked at the dark and gloomy back door. She knew that even if she rushed to the front at this time, she could not do anything. At this time, it was better to go back first and discuss it later. She did not believe that Lord Jing would be so heartless and was really angry with her just because of the matter with Qu Caiyue. It seemed that Granny Qing was right. This was not the best time to see him.

“Back to the mansion!” She dropped the curtain and said in a low voice. Her eyes shone with hatred for Qu Caiyue and Qu Moying in the dark. No matter what happened in the end, she would not let them go.

Qing Ju hurriedly went into the carriage. The carriage turned around and left the back door of Lord Jing Mansion. Then, it slowly entered the big street and headed to Qu Mansion.

Pei Yusheng did have the intention to vent his anger on Qu Qiuyan, but now was not the time to discuss this matter. He was going to West Prison now.

He boarded the carriage at the door. Soon, the carriage left the mansion and went straight to West Prison.

At the entrance of West Prison in the dark, there were gusts of cold wind. In front of the spacious venue, no one could be seen. What was seen were only the wind lanterns in front of the Yamen. A few guards guarding the door had a fierce and gloomy look on their faces that creeped people out.

Not to mention at night, even in broad daylight, it was rare to see a few living people here.

Pei Yusheng hurriedly got off the carriage, and the guards guarding the door came forward to salute him.

“Is Uncle Yun here?” Pei Yusheng asked.

“He has just arrived. He is inside waiting for you,” the guard replied.

Pei Yusheng nodded. He wrapped himself in a large cloak and entered West Prison’s eerie entrance. There was another name among the people for this door—Gate of Hell.

They said that whoever entered this place was like they had entered the gate of hell. They came in vertically and were carried out horizontally. There was no way for them to survive. There were very few people who could come out of here alive.

As soon as Lord Jing entered West Prison's door, a mournful scream came from afar. It seeped into one's heart and made one feel apprehensive. It was so eerie that it made one feel like there were many ghosts in front. The surrounding was filled with a ghostly aura.

This kind of sound did not seem like it could be made by a human.

Pei Yusheng stopped his feet. After stabilizing his mind, he stepped forward and walked in. There was no trace of fear on his face, but he did not move as smoothly as he did before, and his hands under his sleeves were clenched.

Following the guard who led the way, he arrived at a large torture chamber. Rows of torture instruments were stained with blood, and there was a person still hanging there. All the flesh on his body was broken. The painful struggle he was making made one feel horrified. This was just like the underworld. How could there be such a scene, such a place in the world?

"Where is Uncle Yun?" Pei Yusheng stopped and did not go further. He glanced around and saw that there was no sign of Pei Yuanjun inside.

"Lord Yun just went out. Lord Jing, please follow me." A guard appeared out of nowhere and said to Pei Yusheng with a smile. At this time, such a scene and such a smile made it seem like it was the netherworld, and it caused a chill for no reason.

"Didn't the guard say that Uncle Yun was here just now?" Pei Yusheng said unhappily.

"Lord Yun was indeed there just now, but the skin peeled was not what he wanted. So he specially ordered to pick another person." The guard smiled more and more happily.

The smell of blood in the air seemed to be thicker than before.

Pei Yusheng pursed his lips and stopped asking questions. He strode out. The guard trotted forward and pointed to the road. This time, they headed to the hall in the middle.

The hall was brightly lit. Behind the spacious desk, Pei Yuanjun was leaning against it. He was dressed in a dark purple royal robe and had a purple crown on his head. He looked extremely lazy. He was leisurely leaning there with his elbows on the chair railing. His handsome eyes were slightly closed, and he seemed to be catching a rest.

There were a few guards standing behind him. Each of them had sharp eyes. With one look, one could tell that they were not ordinary people. Just this baleful aura alone could make people ignore their appearances.

“Uncle Yun.” Pei Yusheng composed himself and took two steps forward to greet and bow to Pei Yuanjun.

“Why did you come so late?” Pei Yuanjun opened his eyes and said lazily. His thin lips curved up with a bit of satisfaction. Under the light, he looked charming and evil.

“I came here right after receiving your message. I didn’t expect to come later than you,” Pei Yusheng said seriously.

“I heard you messed around with a woman today?” Pei Yuanjun raised his eyebrows and asked with a smile.

Pei Yusheng’s face turned red. It really didn’t matter if there was one more woman. What was important was that others would think that a woman had plotted against him and even succeeded. No matter how others looked at him, they would definitely think that he was useless and was actually tricked by a concubine-born daughter.

But he could not say that this matter was related to Pei Qingmin.

“Brotherhood” was much more important than a woman.

“Uncle Yun, it was just an accident.” Pei Yusheng gritted his teeth and explained with a serious face.

"Oh, so it was an accident. I thought that you really took a fancy to the daughter of a concubine," Pei Yuanjun said disapprovingly. Then, he sat upright elegantly, and a hint of a smile appeared on his delicate eyebrows. "Vice Minister Qu sure knows how to curry favor with people. He sends all his daughters out one by one like he's fishing, and any fish will do."

"Uncle Yun!" Pei Yusheng looked up at Pei Yuanjun, only to see that his handsome face was dark and gloomy. The royal robe on him gave him an indescribable air of nobility, but it also made one tremble in their heart. Now that he was sitting upright, Pei Yusheng saw a blood-stained book on the table in front of him.

The corners of his eyes suddenly twitched, and his eyes were nervous.

"We caught him, but he didn't say anything. If I really can't get any answers from him, I'll make him never speak again. As for this book, you can just take it back and give it to His Majesty," Pei Yujun said lazily. He waved his wide sleeve, and a bright patch of blood could be seen on his sleeve. It seemed to add a bloodthirsty and gloomy aura to him.

"He's caught?" Pei Yusheng tried hard to not look at Pei Yuanjun's bloody sleeve.

"I don't know if it's true or not. Let His Majesty judge for himself!" Pei Yuanjun stood up, and the corners of his lips curled up. His smile was a bit elegant, but it did not match the environment. He said lazily, "I am tired, so I will go back first. Lord Jing, deal with the matters here. Tidy up the torture room over. I still have to use it tomorrow. Or the criminals who come in tomorrow will faint right away from fear!"

Pei Yuanjun narrowed his eyes, flicked his sleeves, and walked out. His wide sleeves patted Pei Yusheng when he walked past. Immediately, there was a clear blood mark on Pei Yusheng's sleeves. The smell of blood filled his nose. "I have taken a fancy to Fourth Lady Qu. And you have taken a fancy to the other two, who are also from Qu Mansion. It seems that you want to be closer to me."

Qu Moying was the only woman Pei Yuanjun had promised to take in. Even the Emperor knew that. If she married into Lord Yun Mansion, she would at least get a status as a Side Princess. Moreover, she was Vice Minister's Mansion's wife-born daughter, so she and Qu Qiuyan were considered sisters.