

## **Noble Wife 21**

### Chapter 21 The Three Walking Together

“Lady Yu!” Xu Lipeng stopped and said gently.

“Where are you going, Young Master?” Yu Qingmeng, with her eyes becoming more affectionate, took a few steps forward and stood between Qu Moying and Xu Lipeng, as if she didn’t see Qu Moying at all.

“Fourth Lady and I have something to attend to together.” Xu Lipeng said.

“You are going out with Qu... Fourth Lady?” Yu Qingmeng, surprised as she was, took a step back and looked to Qu Moying who was standing behind her for the first time. “Fourth Lady, I’m on my way to go shopping too. How about we go together?”

“It’s up to you, Lady Yu!” Qu Moying said indifferently.

“Then let’s go together!” Yu Qingmeng seemed very excited with her smiling eyes. A girl like that should be very tender.

Yu Chun who stood there already got furious. Even a maid like her already knew what Lady Yu was thinking. The latter obviously coveted to Young Master Xu and pretended that she had met them by accident. Yu Chun thought Lady Yu was so barefaced.

Qu Moying’s eyes skipped Yu Qingmeng directly and fell on Xu Lipeng standing opposite her. She wanted him to settle this.

“Lady Yu, it’s up to Young Master Xu whether we’ll go together, since he offered to take me out.”

No matter what Xu Lipeng was planning, he should make the final call since he had started the whole thing anyway. Qu Moying had no intention to be used as a shield, not to mention the fact that she still didn’t figure out Xu Lipeng’s hidden agenda.

Maybe Yu Qingmeng could help her with that.

Xu Lipeng had a twitch on his forehead upon hearing that. Then with his eyebrows knitted, he looked at Yu Qingmeng, "Lady Yu, my mom told me to bring Fourth Lady to buy some clothes."

It meant rejection of course.

"That's great. I want to buy some new clothes too. Old Lady Qu's birthday is coming, and I don't have any fine clothes to wear."

Yu Qingmeng said with an adorable and happy tone as if she didn't understand Xu Lipeng's refusal.

Since Yu Qingmeng had already said that, Xu Lipeng couldn't reject her anymore because that would embarrass her. Having pondered for a moment, he then nodded and agreed.

A trip for two now became a trip for three. Moreover, now Qu Moying looked more like the one who had squeezed in the team.

Xu Lipeng was walking ahead. Yu Qingmeng took a few quick steps and then walked side by side with him. When they were chatting with each other, their voices both sounded quite gentle and soft. If Qu Moying was not Xu Lipeng's fiancée, even she felt that they were a great couple.

A talented man and a beautiful woman are undoubtedly a wonderful match!

Qu Moying lifted the corner of her lips secretly and walked behind them slowly.

The carriage had been waiting there for a long while. Qu Moying got into the carriage first. Meanwhile, Yu Qingmeng, having parted with Xu Lipeng reluctantly, also sat on the carriage. After that, Xu Lipeng got on his horse and the carriage slowly headed out.

"Fourth Lady, why did Young Master Xu have time to go shopping with you today? Did Old Lady Qu order him to do that?" As they just got into the carriage, Yu Qingmeng asked curiously at once.

Qu Moying raised her head to look at Yu Qingmeng with an indifferent look without saying anything.

"Fourth Lady, this is the capital where noble ladies and madams are everywhere. What you did was so impolite. Others might find you utterly undisciplined and you may even ruin the Qu family's reputation." Yu Qingmeng said with a tender voice but her words were rather sarcastic.

Yu Chun's face was covered with anger, she took a glance at Qu Moying, but the latter ignored her. Then Yu Chun pursed her lips in frustration, thinking that Lady Yu was so shameless, as she tried to seduce Young Master Xu while sneering at Qu Moying. How could Yu be so barefaced!

"Fourth Lady..." Seeing that Qu Moying was still remaining silent, Yu Qingmeng tidied her sleeves and continued. However, she was interrupted by Qu Moying at once.

"Noisy!"

Yu Qingmeng didn't hear Qu Moying's words clearly at first. With her hands still on her sleeves, she raised up her head in shock and said crossly, "Fourth Lady, what did you just say? Did you just scold me?"

She was Yu's niece and had spent most of the time living in the Qu's mansion. Therefore she never took Qu Moying who had been left in the remote estate seriously.

There wasn't anyone else in the carriage, so Yu Qingmeng didn't compromise at all and just said whatever she wanted. When she had seen Young Master Xu and Qu Moying walking together, she had felt so jealous that nothing good could come out of her mouth.

"Lady Yu, are you deaf? Why couldn't you hear it clearly?" Qu Moying leaned back and said coldly.

"You... how dare you say that..." Yu Qingmeng froze for a moment. She had just arrived at Qu's mansion today and hadn't met Yu and Qu Qiuyan yet, so she didn't know what had happened last night. Now as she heard Qu Moying who had always swallowed all kinds of insults retorting her, her face even turned pale with anger.

"Lady Yu, don't flatter yourself too much. You are just a woman who covets another woman's fiancé. Or do you want to be Young Master Xu's concubine?" Qu Moying gave a sarcastic smile.

Since there were no other people in this carriage, Qu Moying could say whatever she wanted just like Yu Qingmeng.

Yu Qingmeng's face turned red and green. With her eyes turning red, she pointed to Qu Moying with a handkerchief in her hand, saying,

"How... how could you say that?"

"So Lady Yu, you don't want to hear me saying something you did?" Qu Moying said casually with the corner of her lips lifted behind the veil. Then she said with an ironic tone, "Do you want to be a concubine first and then find a chance to replace the madam just like your aunt did?"

When Yu had married into the Qu family, she had been a concubine too.

"You... Qu Moying, how dare you talk about my aunt like that? I'll tell her." Yu Qingmeng, abashed and angry, couldn't help speaking louder in a broken voice.

Her voice did sound very pitiful.

"Lady Yu, you are so funny. It's you and your aunt who have gone too far, and now you blame the one who spoke it out. Do you think you can decide everything in this world?" Qu Moying's words got more and more sarcastic as the corner of her mouth raised up.

"However, you don't have the luck that your aunt has. Young Master Xu treats you like dirt. I don't think he'll take you as his concubine!"

Young Master Xu wouldn't take her as his concubine?

Those words stroke at Yu Qingmeng's heart. For the moment, she even shed tears.

Then she suddenly said loudly, "Stop, stop!"

As the carriage stopped, Xu Lipeng's soft voice came through, "What happened?"

After the curtain was lifted, Yu Qingmeng jumped down with the support of her maid. Her eyes were red and her face was glazed with tears. The moment she saw Xu Lipeng, she said in a broken voice, "Young Master Xu..."

"What's wrong?" Xu Lipeng frowned.

"Fourth Lady Qu... She... she humiliated me..., Since she doesn't like me, then, then I... I... I'll go by myself!" Yu Qingmeng rubbed her eyes with her handkerchief and cried in an injured tone.

"She humiliated you?" Xu Lipeng raised his head to look at the carriage. Back then, he would never believe that because Qu Moying seemed to be the one who would get bullied. However, after he had seen what had happened on the boat, he wasn't that sure anymore. Then he tapped the carriage gently and asked in a tender voice, "Fourth Lady, what has happened?"

"It's what you think it is." Qu Moying's voice came through from the carriage, sounding quite calm but also cold!

The carriage happened to stop at a crossroad. Since it was in the way, many people would take a look at it and then at Yu Qingmeng and Xu Lipeng who seemed like a couple. For a minute, the passengers all glanced at the carriage to guess what had happened.

Some nosy people even stopped to watch the fun.

Xu Lipeng had a twitch on his forehead at once. He didn't want others to watch him as if he was a monkey.

"Lady Yu, please get into the carriage. We'll talk about what happened later." Xu Lipeng said that. It wouldn't look good if he just dumped Yu Qingmeng on the street anyway, so he had to ask her to get onto the carriage.

"Young Master, I... Since Fourth Lady Qu hates me so much, I should go. I... I don't want to disturb you guys." Though Yu Qingmeng said she wanted to go, she didn't move a bit with her affectionate eyes falling on Xu Lipeng. The affection in her eyes was so obvious.

"Please get in the carriage first!" Xu Lipeng already got impatient as he heard people's gossips.

The sensitive people could all tell that Yu Qingmeng was fond of Xu Lipeng. When they heard her words, they couldn't help guessing whom the girl sitting in the carriage was. Also, they found this Yu Qingmeng was not a decent lady either.

They even started to gossip about Xu Lipeng.

"Young Master..."

Yu Qingmeng didn't realize the situation and still said that with a sweet voice. In the old days, when she had talked to Xu Lipeng like this, the latter would always comfort her with a tender look.

She wanted Qu Moying to know that she was the one whom Xu Lipeng loved, not his ugly and blind fiancée and that this engagement would definitely be doomed.

"Get in!" Seeing that Yu Qingmeng still didn't get the hint, Xu Lipeng, with his face turning sullen, said with a cold voice.

Seeing the angry look on Xu Lipeng's face, Yu Qingmeng finally realized what kind of situation she was in. Then she blushed at once and got into the carriage again with the help of her maid.

After she sat tight, she wiped the tears on the corner of her eyes right away. With the injured look on her face disappearing, she sneered at Qu Moying coldly, "Fourth Lady, you are just an ugly and blind girl. Do you really think Young Master Xu would have feelings for you? You should figure out a way to break

off this engagement by yourself, otherwise you would feel so ashamed to be in this family after you are rejected by Young Master Xu!”

Qu Moying knew Yu Qingmeng had only said that to feel superior, so she ignored the latter directly. Since Yu Qingmeng dared to come today, Qu Moying wouldn’t go easy on her!

Qu Moying lifted the curtain to look out of the window.

The carriage started to move slowly again. Seeing that there was nothing to watch, the surrounding crowd all left.

Suddenly, a group of people on horses rushed over from the crossroad ahead. The leading four riders looked thunderous. The passengers all jumped aside, but the carriage had just begun to move and didn’t have time to avoid those horses. As the four horses were about to hit the carriage, the coachman let out a cry of horror and kept cracking the whip.

Xu Lipeng tried to save the girls in the carriage, but it was too late. Then the look on his face changed at once.

As the two groups of people bumped into each other, the horses roared in shock and nearly stepped on the face of the person on the other side. After that, something cold flashed in the air and there was blood splattering. Everyone started to scream...

## Chapter 22 I’m Waiting For You to Repay the Favor of Saving Your Life

The carriage suddenly stopped and the people inside lost their balance and rolled out.

Qu Moying reacted quickly. She wrapped one of her wrists with the curtain and held Yu Chun with another hand.

Then they both rolled out of the carriage. The curtain helped them slow down a bit as it dropped and unwrapped itself. At last, the curtain couldn’t bear their weight and ripped off.

The moment Qu Moying let go of her hand, Yu Chun fell on the ground first. Then Qu Moying who had withstood the greatest weight, drawing long curtain, was flung off at once.

She seemed to see a figure standing in front of her. Then she closed her eyes subconsciously. The curtain in her hand was useless now, so she tried to throw it away to get counterforce.

Actually, all happened very fast, so it was impossible for anyone to catch her. Luckily, the curtain had borne some weight, thus with the counterforce, she could at least survive but would still get hurt.

As she prepared to endure the pain, something seemed to be pulling the curtain in her hand. Then she landed on the ground and staggered. At last, she finally stood still with the help of the curtain.

Only until then did she feel the cold sweat on her back with her hands and feet getting weak. She felt something beside her, then she leaned on it feebly with her heart beating drastically. Her mind completely went blank.

There was a sudden silence in the air. Everyone looked at the delicate girl who was leaning on the tall black horse, dumbfounded. There were two heads of the horses which pulled the carriage in a pool of blood at her feet.

It took a long while for Qu Moying to calm down. As she looked up subconsciously, she saw a pair of deep eyes. The young man on the high horse looked extremely gorgeous under the sunlight. The purple brocade robe showed his noble status. Right now, his obscure eyes were falling on Qu Moying and it was hard to detect what he was thinking.

Qu Moying slowly looked down with her gaze falling on the blue irises patterns on the hem of the purple robe which were covered with blood.

As she looked at the small clump of blue irises, she clenched her fist hard.

Was that Pei Yuanjun, Lord Yun?



It was said that Lord Yun loved to wear clothes of dark colors. Also, the patterns on his clothes were irises of all colors instead of pythons which symbolized the nobles.

Qu Moying's heart couldn't help beating fast again as her face blushed red with excitement. Pei Yuanjun was the most powerful lord in this country, the uncle of the Crown Prince whom the latter didn't dare to offend.

Even though the Crown Prince was the heir to the throne, he still had to make concessions to Lord Yun when they had disagreements. After all, the latter held the military power, and the Emperor also trusted him a lot.

However, when did he come back to the capital?

"Can you let go of me now?" A gloomy and cold voice came through from her behind. Qu Moying was dazed for a moment and then turned around at once. She found herself clutching at his sleeve tightly. Then she let go of her hand slowly and took a deep breath to suppress her astonishment. After she took a few steps back on the ground covered with blood, she made obeisance to the man on the horse.

"Thank you for saving my life, my lord!"

"I didn't save you. You just clutched my sleeve!" Pei Yuanjun said with an icy voice. The girl who looked as fragile as the lotus was stepping on the blood now. It was hard to tell if she didn't find it or just didn't care about it. Still, he found her surprisingly pretty when she was standing in the pool of blood. Then he lifted the corner of his thin lips secretly.

"Even if you didn't reach out your hand to me, I still survived because of you!" Qu Moying said.

"I nearly crashed into your carriage and have just chopped the head of your horse." Pei Yuanjun said that as his deep eyes darkened, falling onto the beautiful girl standing in the pool of blood beside the carriage.

His words were quite blunt.

Actually, he should be blamed for the accident, so it was ridiculous to call him her lifesaver.

The girl could remain calm under such a circumstance and even calmed herself down so quickly.

There was not a sign of panic on her face when she stood on the blood. 'Qu Zhizhen does have an extraordinary daughter,' Pei Yuanjun thought.

"No matter what, you indeed saved my life!" Having paused for a moment, Qu Moying said firmly.

Pei Yuanjun rolled his black eyes with a meaningful look on his face, looking less gloomy and more graceful now. After he took a look at Qu Moying, he turned his head to a bookstore by the road and gave some profound words, "Since I saved your life, I'll wait for you to repay the favor!"

After saying that, he waved his hand, rode around the carriage of the Qu family with a group of people, and left.

"My lady!" Yu Chun rushed over and said hurriedly. She had fallen to the ground just now and rolled several times. Luckily, she wasn't badly injured.

Yu Qingmeng had also been thrown out. She didn't react as fast as Qu Moying and flew out directly. However, lucky for her, she happened to fly toward Xu Lipeng, and the latter reached out his hand to catch her. Having staggered back for a few steps, he finally stood still with the help of the people in the crowd.

Too bad for Yu Qingmeng's maid, she had fallen onto the ground straightly. After rolling several times on the ground, she might have already been dead.

Deep in thought, Qu Moying looked at Pei Yuanjun's back and then at the bookstore across the road. After that, she bit her lips lightly.

It hurt.

That was the famous Lord Yun.

In her previous life, she had never met him, but she had heard her father and the Crown Prince mentioning him.

However, the two men had completely different attitudes toward Lord Yun. And she could tell from the difference that the Crown Prince hated this powerful lord a lot.

Lord Yun held the military power as hundreds of thousands of soldiers on the border all took orders from him. So compared to Qu Moying's father, Lord Yun was the one whom the Crown Prince truly feared but still had to play up to.

A lot of people said that Lord Yun was an ambitious man and would definitely plot treason in the future.

However, the Emperor, who often got sick, trusted him a lot and had even sent imperial edicts to the border area to call him back to the capital from time to time. Nevertheless, every time Lord Yun came back, he would leave right after a few days' stay.

And Lord Yun's Mansion in the capital was always empty.

Even so, people in the capital would look nervous and fearful when mentioning Lord Yun. It was said that this murderous man had killed tens of thousands of enemies in a crater where the blood hadn't got drained for months. Also, the earth there had turned crimson red since then, looking like hell.

He had not only killed his enemies on the border but also his political opponents in the capital. Many people had been executed or even got their families killed for accusing him.

Even if he stayed in the border area, he was still able to manage the situation in the capital.

He was, no exaggeration, at the apex of power. Qu Moying wondered if he was saying what she thought he was saying.

Anyhow, she had to give it a try. As her eyes fell on the bookstore again, she was immersed in thought.

"My lady, my lady!" Seeing that Qu Moying was in a daze, Yu Chun thought the latter was freaking out. Then she ignored the blood on the ground and walked over in a hurry to support Qu Moying.

"I'm fine." Qu Moying came back to herself and shook her head. Then she finally saw her own situation.

The two horses, together with the carriage, had all been overturned, which looked very scary. The heads of the two horses, which had just been chopped off, were right beside her dress in the blood. She felt her feet warm. Then she found that her embroidered shoes were soaked with blood.

In a short distance, Yu Qingmeng was leaning on Xu Lipeng feebly. Xu Lipeng seemed to want to go over but was stopped by her.

As Xu Lipeng saw Qu Moying looking over calmly, the look on his face just turned more impatient. He couldn't push Yu Qingmeng away, so he had no choice but to take the latter to Qu Moying.

Qu Moying lifted her feet to walk out of the pool of blood.

"Fourth Lady, how are you? Did you get hurt?" Xu Lipeng asked in a hurry.

His face seemed a bit pale with an anxious look on it. As he saw the bloodstain under Qu Moying's feet, he didn't get too close to her at last.

"Young Master Xu, Lady Yu doesn't seem well now. Please send her back to the Yu's Mansion." Qu Moying looked at the delicate girl and said gently.

They couldn't go to the Huayi Store now.

"I'll send you back first," Xu Lipeng said.

"There's no need to, Young Master Xu. I think Lady Yu can't stay away from you now. Please just go back with her. She only came out because of you anyway. You can't just leave her here."

Qu Moying gave a smile, showing an indifferent look behind the veil.

From her angle, she could see that although Yu Qingmeng's face was pale, she didn't look glassy-eyed and even seemed a little complacent.

Qu Moying was willing to give them what they wanted. A fiancé with an ulterior motive was not the one she wanted.

"Fourth Lady..." Qu Moying's words embarrassed Xu Lipeng, but he couldn't say anything now. After what had happened, he assumed that Qu Moying must be terrified now. As her fiancé, anything that came out of his mouth would be wrong.

After that, Qu Moying turned around without saying anything to Xu Lipeng. After she called a carriage by the road, she got in with Yu Chun's help.

Xu Lipeng wanted to go with her, but Yu Qingmeng followed him while holding his arms. At last, Xu Lipeng could only watch Qu Moying leaving.

"Lady Yu is so shameless!" Yu Chun said in anger. She saw Yu Qingmeng holding Xu Lipeng's hand clearly.

In Yu Chun's view, a well-educated woman would never hold the hand of a man who had already been engaged.

"It's not Yu Qingmeng's fault," Qu Moying said slowly with a smile on her face.

"Then whose fault is it? My lady, didn't you see that Young Master Xu didn't want her to hold his arms, but she still insisted on doing that?" Yu Chun stamped her feet angrily.

"If Young Master Xu really didn't want that, why did he still allow her to do so instead of pushing her away?" Qu Moying still smiled composedly.

"My lady, you mean, there's been an affair... between Young Master Xu and Lady Yu... long ago?" After Yu Chun finally understood Qu Moying's words, the look on her face changed.

"Otherwise, why do you think Young Master Xu didn't push her away? Was it because he was not strong enough?" Qu Moying said breezily.

That couple was both good at acting. Qu Moying actually wanted to help Yu Qingmeng. She had been thinking what to say to Old Lady Qu, and now she got a great chance.

"This is outrageous. No wonder Young Master Xu only chatted with Lady Yu and totally ignored you last time, my lady!" Yu Chun got more and more indignant.

"There's no need to get angry. Marquis Yongning Mansion never took me seriously for all these years. He must have wanted to break off the engagement long ago. I didn't blame him for doing that. After all, every man wants to find a gentle and pretty wife!" Qu Moying gave out a sarcastic smile. Not only Xu Lipeng but the Crown Prince also thought the same way.

Qu Moying wanted to know how Ji Youran was doing in the Crown Prince's palace now. In fact, Qu Moying knew a secret in that place that nobody knew.

"My lady, you are such a great person. How could they..." Yu Chun said indignantly.

"It doesn't matter. When we get home, you should tell people about what happened between Yu Qingmeng and Xu Lipeng." A trace of coldness showed up in her eyes. She had determined to break off the engagement long ago. Previously, she had wanted to work that out slowly, but never did she know that the solution just came to her itself...

Chapter 23 She Already Took the First Step

“Young Master Xu sent Lady Yu back home?” With a sullen face, Old Lady Qu looked at Qu Moying, who had just got changed.

When Qu Moying had entered the room with blood all over her clothes, Old Lady Qu nearly passed out in shock. Though she seemed better now, her face was still utterly pale.

“Grandma, don’t be mad. Maybe it’s because Young Master Xu is more familiar with Lady Yu. I don’t mind. But about what had happened...” Qu Moying paused a bit as she spoke of that. Then she looked at Old Lady Qu with a pale face.

Her ivory skin lacked redness because of the shock, and her lips were also pale. The long veil covered more than half of her face, making her look more pitiful. Old Lady Qu felt both worried and furious.

In the past, Old Lady Qu had thought that Xu Lipeng was a good man, and now she suddenly realized that maybe she had got it wrong.

After his fiancée encountered such a huge accident, Xu Lipeng hadn’t comforted Qu Moying and sent her home. Instead, he stayed with another girl and sent her home. This could lead to misunderstanding of other people. What’s more, Yu Qingmeng was Yu’s spoiled niece. Old Lady Qu really didn’t like her.

“What has happened?” Old Lady Qu, with her heart missing a beat, suddenly had a bad feeling.

“Old Lady, when the carriage crashed, Young Master Xu caught Lady Yu right away. They... Many people saw them together. What should we do? Before our lady was heading back, Lady Yu was still holding Young Master Xu’s hand. They walked over to our lady almost arm in arm.”

As Yu Chun saw Qu Moying being hesitant and embarrassed when telling the story, she said it quickly.

“What? Did that really happen?” Old Lady Qu’s face even turned paler with anger.

“Grandma, a lot of people saw that.” Qu Moying lowered her head while squeezing her handkerchief. Old Lady Qu couldn’t see the look on her face, but she assumed that Qu Moying must feel quite aggrieved now.

It was a fact that Qu Moying's fiancé had held another woman's hand in front of her face, even though he might have a reason to do so.

"Someone, call Yu over!" Old Lady Qu flew into a rage. She never realized that Xu Lipeng was that kind of person and that she had been wrong about him the whole time.

"Grandma, don't call Second Madam over. It's not her fault." Qu Moying stopped Old Lady Qu at once. Her plan would work better if Yu Qingmeng could tell Yu the whole thing by herself.

"Fine, I won't blame her for this now." Old Lady Qu snorted, "But Marquis Yongning's family has to give us an explanation, or I won't let it go."

"Grandma, they also owe Yu's family an explanation. So many people have seen them. Marquis Yongning's family may have to offer the Yu family a face-saving way out of this," Qu Moying said gently in a composed tone.

"The Yu Family is nothing. You think Young Master Xu will really marry that girl?" Qu Moying's words irritated Old Lady Qu at once. The latter couldn't help thumping on the table.

Yu's brother, who was also Yu Qingmeng's father, worked in the Ministry of Works as an official, and his rank was much lower than Qu Zhizhen's.

"Grandma, Lady Yu is also from an official's family!" Qu Moying rolled her eyes and then reminded Old Lady Qu, "Even if she couldn't be his wife, she could still..."

"How dare they!" Old Lady Qu snorted.

Old Lady Qu, who always thought highly of Xu Lipeng, totally fumed. She allowed her second son to marry Yu because she believed that Yu was a girl from a decent family. Little did she know that her second son had been having an affair with Yu long ago. Although Yu gave birth to a set of twins who were a boy and a girl, Old Lady Qu still didn't like her.



After that, the daughter-in-law whom Old Lady Qu liked passed away, and that woman's daughter was nearly destroyed. Yu was to blame for all of that.

Old Lady Qu would never let the same tragedy happen again.

"Grandma, Lady Yu is Second Madam's niece... Father might be happy to see her being with Young Master Xu. If... if that's what they want..." Qu Moying sighed slightly. When she talked about her engagement, she wasn't very blunt, but she surely wasn't like a shy girl who looked forward to get married.

Being heartbroken, Old Lady Qu held Qu Moying's hand and spoke to her in a tender voice, "Ying, don't worry. If Marquis Yongning does have betrayed you, we will break off the engagement. I just feel sorry for you. You two have been engaged for so many years but still couldn't come to a good end. Your mom's hope will be failed!"

Speaking of that, Old Lady Qu suddenly remembered Yue, Qu Moying's mother, and she felt sad right away. Then she took out her handkerchief to wipe her tears in the corner of her eyes.

She really liked Yue, but her son failed that woman. Every time Old Lady Qu thought of that, she would get so angry. She hated her son for being unable to tell the good from the bad. Not only had he hurt his wife for Yu, but he had also left his wife's daughter to her own fate.

"Grandma, if Young Master Xu truly loves Lady Yu, my mom would agree to break off the engagement too!" Qu Moying said that. Now was the best time to propose to break it off.

Of course, she knew that this matter wouldn't be solved easily right away. Clearly, Xu Lipeng was hard to deal with.

As she expected, after she talked with Old Lady Qu for a while, a senior housemaid walked in to report Young Master Xu's arrival. Old Lady Qu, who was still in anger, let go of Qu Moying's hand and sat up, saying in a cold voice, "Go invite him in. I'd like to hear what he's going to say!"

Before today, Old Lady Qu was satisfied with their engagement. However, after the conversation she just had with Qu Moying, she suddenly didn't want Qu Moying to marry Young Master Yongning.

Obviously, the memory about Yu, Qu Zhizhen, and Qu Moying's mother hit a sore spot in Old Lady Qu's heart.

That was probably the saddest thing in Old Lady Qu's life.

As Qu Moying raised her head, she saw Xu Lipeng, who had changed into a navy-blue brocade robe, but there was only an indifferent look in her eyes.

Xu Lipeng made obeisance to Old Lady Qu first. Then he turned to Qu Moying at once with an anxious look, saying,

"Fourth Lady, how are you feeling now? Did you get hurt? You must be freaking out. I've invited an Imperial Doctor for you. Do you need him to check on you?"

Qu Moying snorted inwardly. This Young Master Xu really was good at acting. When she left before, he hadn't seemed so nervous. And now he just pretended to be so concerned about her in front of Old Lady Qu.

Old Lady Qu was surprised to hear that. She took a look at Qu Moying first and then at Xu Lipeng with confusion. Then, she decided to remain silent for the moment.

"Young Master Xu, did Lady Yu go back her yard?" Qu Moying raised her head and asked with a nonchalant look, having no intention to respond to his former words.

"She went back on her own, so I'm not clear about that." Xu Lipeng said.

"Hasn't Lady Yu been holding your hands just now? Why did she go back alone?" Qu Moying said gently in a surprised tone.

"When our lady left, Lady Yu was still hanging onto Young Master Xu." Yu Chun seized the chance to murmur that.

Her voice was low, as if she was muttering to herself. However, she happened to speak after Qu Moying stopped talking. So everyone in the room heard it clearly.

Old Lady Qu's face turned sullen.

Xu Lipeng had known that Qu Moying would be unhappy, but he assumed that she wouldn't say anything. After all, as a noble lady, she couldn't blame him for saving a person's life at that time.

But he didn't expect that it was not Qu Moying but her maid who had spoken it out in front of Old Lady Qu. Then with an angry look on his face, he thought, 'The housemaid is truly so impolite. Her lady must be the same as her. If it were not for my reputation, I would never do this.'

Xu Lipeng didn't think of himself as a shallow man who only loved good-looking women. Although he was more fond of Yu Qingmeng's pretty face, he had never thought about breaking off the engagement. However, he still hoped that Qu Moying could break it off on her own.

Now he found Qu Moying not only ugly and blind but also short of vision. So he just liked her even less.

"Young Master Xu, why did you do that today?" Old Lady Qu asked with a long face.

"Old Lady Qu, that was just an accident. It all happened so suddenly. Before I came back to my senses, Lady Yu just flew to me. If I didn't help her, she would fall to the ground for sure and might even get herself killed!" Xu Lipeng suppressed his impatience and explained with a gentle voice.

The Yu Family and the Qu Family were related, so he believed that Old Lady Qu would understand him.

He did guess it right. Even if Old Lady Qu didn't like Yu Qingmeng, she still wouldn't tell Xu Lipeng to leave her alone. However, after her conversation with Qu Moying, she remembered what had happened between Qu Moying's biological mother and Yu. Therefore, Old Lady Qu, with simmering rage, scolded him directly, "Young Master Xu, if you want to marry Lady Yu, we'll break off the engagement. You don't need to find any other excuses. Please go back now. I'll discuss this with your mother."

“Old Lady...” Xu Lipeng never realized that Old Lady Qu would say that. He changed the expression on his face and said anxiously, “It was just an accident. No one expected it to happen.”

He didn’t want the engagement indeed, but he couldn’t be the one to be blamed.

Old Lady Qu snorted and then stood up with the help of Granny Wu, not giving a glance at Xu Lipeng. After that, she turned around to go back to her room and left Xu Lipeng alone outside.

Xu Lipeng felt super embarrassed. Back in the old days, Old Lady Qu always greeted him with a smiling face, and never had he been treated like this. After he calmed himself, he turned to Qu Moying because he knew that she was the only one who could help him.

“Fourth Lady, you are well aware of what has happened at that time. You knew I had no choice. Please explain to Old Lady Qu for me.”

“Young Master Xu, please go back. My grandma just saw me coming back with blood all over my clothes. She was just too concerned about me. This is not the best time to explain.” Qu Moying didn’t say what Xu Lipeng wanted to hear. With her beautiful eyes gazing at him, she said that to Xu Lipeng calmly.

Since she already began the plan of breaking off the engagement, she also had a clear picture of what she was going to do next.

Marquis Yongning’s Mansion had never mentioned breaking off the engagement for all these years, nor had he shown any concern for her. For all this time, he only enjoyed his great reputation in the capital. There must be a special reason for this. She would like to see what would happen next. After what had happened, the whole thing was not up to Xu Lipeng anymore.

She was afraid that this matter was not that simple. Luckily, the accident today gave her the opportunity to carry out her plan and propose to break off the engagement.

She would soon know what Marquis Yongning’s Mansion was planning. Since she already accomplished the first step of her plan, she still needed to deal with another thing.

Lord Yun had dropped her a hint before...

After she told Old Lady Qu the thing about Qing He, she still needed to go out again...

## Chapter 24 A Trip to the Western Prison

"My lady, are you looking for a famous painting?" The owner of the bookstore saw a lady standing in front of a painting for so long, so he finally couldn't help but ask.

That painting had been there in the very corner of the store and was covered with dust.

On the one hand, it wasn't from a famous painter, and the name on the seal was not familiar to people. On the other hand, the painter didn't draw the scholars' favorite flowers or landscapes, which could show his artistic perception. Instead, this painting was actually rather terrifying.

Under the crimson red and gloomy background, a man was walking above the sea of blood, leaving footprints behind him. His most distant footprints were slowly turning into blooming irises which were also red. The flowers made the red sea look more gruesome, as if it was the Sura Sea in the legend.

It was hard to see that man's face, but the look on his face seemed very breezy, as if he didn't know he was walking on a sea of blood. To put it another way, he was like the king of the blood sea, so he could walk ahead easily and didn't need to care about the high waves behind him.

Qu Moying found this painting the most suspicious in this store. At last, she chose to stop in front of it and take her time to appreciate it.

As a result, the owner went over to her.

"Lord Yun saved my life. I'm here to repay the favor." Qu Moying didn't look back with her eyes still falling on the painting. The edges of her long veil drooped on her shoulder, making her look very elegant.

But her words were rather straightforward!

“You want to see Lord Yun?” The owner’s tone turned serious at once. Then he took a step back subconsciously with a reverent look.

This store was owned by Lord Yun, but very few people knew that. That was to say, people who knew it all had connections with Lord Yun.

The owner of the store knew who Qu Moying was because he had been there when that accident happened. It was mainly because Qu Moying’s veil was too conspicuous, and there was no other one who looked like that.

It was hard for anyone to forget Qu Moying’s appearance.

“I’m here to repay his favor of saving my life.” Qu Moying turned around slowly and repeated that with a clam look.

“Well... you might have to wait for a moment. I need to report to the lord first.” The owner didn’t dare to call the shot.

Qu Moying understood that it’s still up to the lord if he wanted to see her or not since the owner was only in charge of a small bookstore and couldn’t make decisions for him.

He asked someone to take Qu Moying to the private room upstairs. Having served tea for her, the owner left in a hurry and sent someone to Lord Yun’s mansion to report her arrival.

The messenger went back quickly and brought back a carriage which was pulled up at the back door.

The green carriage was one of the most common ones on the street. Qu Moying didn’t ask too much and got in with Yu Chun. After that, the carriage slowly marched on.

Qu Moying lifted the curtain to check the direction they were heading in, but she found the destination was not Lord Yun's mansion.

"My lady..." Yu Chun got a little scared. Everyone in the capital had heard of Lord Yun's name, even if he seldom stayed in the capital.

"It doesn't matter!" Qu Moying put down the curtain and stopped looking. Then she lowered her eyes while gripping her handkerchief. With the hesitation disappearing in her eyes, she finally made up her mind.

She couldn't hesitate for a single moment since she had already started her plan.

It was too easy for Lord Yun to kill her. Actually, no one would dare to say a word even if he wanted to kill Qu Zhizhen. Therefore, it was pointless to panic.

After a few turns, the carriage stopped at one place.

Yu Chun helped Qu Moying get down. As Qu Moying stood in front of a huge gate and saw the big words carved on top 'Western Prison,' she couldn't help showing a nervous look.

This was the 'Western Prison' where all the felons convicted by the Ministry of Justice or Dali Temple were locked up.

It was said that even the tiles at the gate had been soaked in blood. When it rained, the water on the ground would look reddish.

People all got jittery at the mention of this place.

It felt gruesome and creepy to walk by, even during the daytime.

Why did Lord Yun choose to meet her at this place?

Narrowing her eyes, Qu Moying calmed herself down. At this moment, she had to walk ahead because there was no way back.

"My... My lady..." Yu Chun stammered in shock while pulling the hem of Qu Moying's clothes. There was no doubt that she had heard of the Western Prison too.

Yu Chun's feet already felt weak.

"Don't be afraid!" Qu Moying comforted her in a gentle voice. After she looked at the board above her head, she continued, "Since it is destined to happen, we don't need to think about running away from it. Among all the unknown things, the inevitable ones should be the least scary."

"B-But I'm still scared..." Yu Chun was still trembling.

Her trembling, clenching hand also made Qu Moying's dress shiver. Qu Moying looked at her clothes being shaken with the corner of her lips turned up, thinking, 'What a timid and kind maid!' In Qu Moying's previous life, she also had a maid like Yu Chun. Now she was wondering how that girl had ended up!

When the accident had happened in the bridal chamber, her maid Wei Yu had disappeared, and only Xie Feng had been with her. After that, Xie Feng had taken her away from the bridal chamber, but only to set her up.

Xie Feng had betrayed her long ago!

"Yu Chun, what are you afraid of?" As Qu Moying remembered her former servant, she suddenly got soft-hearted.

"I... I heard that... this place is full of ghosts... Even during the daytime... during the daytime, there are shadows of the ghosts... Anyone... anyone who walks by, even the strong ones, will... get really sick," Yu Chun faltered.



“Did you kill those guys?” Qu Moying said, showing a cold smile behind the veil. She set her mouth in a grim line, looking ruthless.

“M-My lady... I don’t even know th-them!” Yu Chun felt so aggrieved. As she looked around, she still felt horrified. There was no one by the door. She wondered if it was because the ghosts were on guard.

As she thought of that, she just got more scared and got closer to Qu Moying subconsciously.

Yu Chun was taller than Qu Moying. Though she was not fat, she still looked bigger than Qu Moying, who was very slim. However, now she just hung onto Qu Moying, which looked very funny.

“Since you don’t know them or didn’t hurt them, why would they come to you?” Qu Moying looked at Yu Chun while saying in a gentle voice, “The most dangerous thing in this world is not the ghost but the human mind.”

As speaking of that, Qu Moying paused and raised her head to look in the direction of the Crown Prince’s palace with a sarcastic look. She had only ended up like this because she couldn’t see that man through.

Ghosts? They were not a big deal at all. Actually, she should be considered a ghost too!

She had never wanted to hurt anyone, but she would let those people who hurt her get what they deserved.

Since she had been reborn, she had to revenge even if she had to turn the hell or the sea of blood upside down. To find the truth about her death, she was willing to sacrifice her life, everything she had.

If there was no justice in this world, she would create justice for herself.

Yu Chun slowly loosened her grip. She looked at Qu Moying, who seemed like a loner but actually was very kindhearted, and then bit her lips. Suddenly, she remembered Qu Moying’s behaviors over the last few days. Then with her face covered with sadness and anger, she thought,

‘That’s right! The human mind is the hardest to see through and is scarier than all the ghosts. Evil people like Second Madam and Third Lady have set Fourth Lady up so many times, but they could still enjoy a wealthy life in the Qu family while Fourth Lady had to live in the estate for years. No one in this family except for First Lady Ji and Old Lady Qu had ever gifted anything to Fourth Lady during all the festivals.’

Qu Moying had used to be a loner. She always seemed too gloomy at her age. Sometimes she would just sit there for a whole day without uttering a word. Even her maids sympathized with her as they saw her hopeless look. She was like that only because she had been hurt so bad!

But now, Qu Moying had changed and seemingly became a different person. Even though she was still thin and weak, now she even made others feel dangerous, which made Yu Chun rest assured.

Yu Chun felt that her lady could now protect her and also herself.

With the thought of that, Yu Chun put on a calm look while biting her lips hard. Having stood straight, she followed Qu Moying. As Qu Moying’s personal maid, she couldn’t be a coward anymore since her lady had already changed. No matter how weak she was, she would stand by her lady’s side.

Since her lady didn’t flinch, how could she run away?

Seeing the changes on Yu Chun’s face, Qu Moying showed a smile in her eyes. She did need a loyal and brave helper. The road ahead would be tough and full of danger. She didn’t want a devoted servant like Yu Chun to be sacrificed. If Yu Chun couldn’t be tough, Qu Moying would send her away.

She hoped that Yu Chun could stay with her as a strong maid. Fortunately, now she was happy to see the changes in Yu Chun.

Then they started to walk. When they arrived by the door, they saw a few imperial bodyguards standing at the corner. In fact, they had been there long ago, but the two girls hadn’t noticed since the soldiers all stood in the shadow, and it was the first time they came.

“Who are you?” A bodyguard stepped forward with his hand on his sword. He was surprised to see two fragile girls here. Still, he snapped, “This is the Western Prison, not someplace for you to hang out. Now leave!”

Qu Moying stopped with her eyebrows knitted. She didn't know what to say. Should she claim that Lord Yun asked her to come, or she was here to find Lord Yun?

The two explanations both sounded inappropriate.

At the moment, a pageboy who looked quite bright ran out. After he sized Qu Moying and Yu Chun up, he walked to the bodyguard and whispered. The bodyguard kept nodding. After that, he told other bodyguards to make way for them and said with a smile.

"My lady, please!" He even bowed to Qu Moying with a fawning look.

The pageboy led the way, beaming.

Qu Moying nodded and walked into the intimidating Western Prison...

On an attic in front of the gate of the Western Prison, Pei Yuanjun (Lord Yun) turned around slowly to look at the weird lady and her maid. Then he sat down on a large chair in the middle.

The maid seemed timid, but the lady was very brave.

To put it another way, she was seriously bold. Anyone who got into the Western Prison for the first time, including all those officials, would change the looks on their faces. But Qu Moying didn't.

Pei Yuanjun lifted the corner of his pretty lips, thinking, 'She's a perfect fit for it...'

Chapter 25 You Will Give Me Whatever I Need?

"Fourth Lady Qu, please. Lord Yun is upstairs!" The pageboy pointed to the stairs and stopped with a smile. Qu Moying looked at the stairs and then at the bodyguards and the pageboy. Then she nodded.

“Yu Chun, stay here!” Qu Moying said.

“My lady, I...” Yu Chun was worried about Qu Moying and wanted to follow her, but the latter shook her head silently. As a result, Yu Chun just stayed there.

Qu Moying lifted her dress and walked upstairs slowly.

There were so many people down the stairs, but none of them had uttered a sound. Every step she took seemed to have shaken her heart, sending a cold shiver down her spine.

Especially since this was the Western Prison.

Even strong-willed people might be nervous in this place. After all, no one could stay calm when their footsteps could be heard clearly, and their minds were disturbed.

Pei Yuanjun leaned back in the large wooden chair by the window while staring at the delicate girl with a stern look on his face.

He looked very unapproachable while having a vague air of atrocity, which made people dare not to look straight at his handsome face.

Qu Moying took a few steps toward him and then gave obeisance, saying, “Lord Yun, it’s an honor to meet you!”

The look on her face was too calm and nonchalant as if she didn’t know the man in front of her was Lord Yun, the one whom all the officials were afraid of.

“Rise!” Pei Yuanjun raised up his head and curled up the corner of his mouth.

He was very good-looking with delicate features and a pair of cold eyes. He looked at people in a way as if they were not alive. There was no expression in his black eyes, so no one knew what he was thinking. It was like he was always cloaked in cruel darkness.

When people were facing him, they felt as if they were looking at endless loneliness and coldness.

At first sight, people might find him a very ferocious person. Then they would find him extremely graceful. The two kinds of traits made him exceedingly charming. What's more, the small earring on one of his ears made him look kind of evil. A person like him could never be seen through.

You would never know if he would be an elegant noble lord, a bloodthirsty demon, or an evil hunter in the next second.

"I heard you are here to return my favor?" Pei Yuanjun said lazily with an obscure look in his eyes, "I wonder what you'll offer. I literally have everything already."

What he meant was that not only should Qu Moying return the favor, she also had to make him satisfied. Otherwise, he couldn't guarantee what she would be confronted with!

"What do you need, my lord?" Qu Moying, the thin and delicate girl, stood straight and asked slowly. Her voice sounded very composed.

"You'll give me whatever I need?" Pei Yuanjun tapped on the table gently and suddenly smiled. However, even his smile seemed cold.

"I can't." Qu Moying shook her head.

"Then, are you here to amuse me?" Pei Yuanjun put on an icy look with the smile in his eyes disappearing, not hiding the murderous intention in his voice.

"I dare not!" Qu Moying lowered her head with a clam look. Then she gave her obeisance to him again, "After you saved my life today, you gave me a hint. There has to be something you want from me, my lord. Please tell me directly."

She did have said that she would return his favor. But he was the one who had given a hint.

This might be an opportunity but also a danger for her, but she had to come.

Qu's family was too weak, compared to the Crown Prince.

"I can ask for anything?" Pei Yuanjun, looking less frightening, said with a contemptuous tone. Clearly, he was playing with her.

"I am willing to die for you to return your favor of saving me today, my lord!" Qu Moying took a deep breath and said firmly.

Pei Yuanjun must have seen something in her, and she would like to get his protection by proving her value.

With his long fingers tapping on the table, Pei Yuanjun gave a cold chuckle and said, "Can you act as a daughter from a general's family?"

"What?" Qu Moying raised her head surprisedly.

The shocked look on her snow-white face was visible through the thin and large veil. This was the first time she looked surprised after she had entered the room.

"A blind girl from a general's family." Pei Yuanjun suddenly got interested for no reason.

"A blind girl from a general's family?" Heart missing a beat, Qu Moying pursed her lips and asked.

"With your eyes' condition, you can be considered a half-blind girl. If you act as a blind girl, no one will get suspicious, right?" Pei Yuanjun lifted the corner of his lips and asked in a lazy tone.

But the way he talked showed that he wouldn't allow any objection.

“Anything you want, my lord.” With her fists clenched under her sleeve, she lowered her head and nodded.

“If you are found out, you’ll be considered deceiving the emperor. Aren’t you afraid of that?” Pei Yuanjun asked that because her face seemed too calm, as if she agreed to something very simple.

This crime would bring a death sentence to her entire family!

No one would be able to bear it.

Qu Moying tried hard to calm herself and then said slowly, “My lord, since you asked me to act as a general’s daughter, you must already have a thorough plan. The only thing I need to do is obeying your order and trying my best to act normally!”

She had known a few generals’ daughters in her previous life, but none of them were blind.

But she did have heard of a blind girl who suited the description.

That was a blind girl who had grown up at the border area. Her heart couldn’t help beating fast. If it really was that girl, that would be great for her!

She had to seize this chance!

As Pei Yuanjun heard Qu Moying saying that she would act normally, he chuckled.

His voice still sounded indifferent, but this time at least, not completely cold.

‘Does it mean I did it right?’ Qu Moying cheered herself up secretly. Although Ji Hanyue had also been born and raised in the capital and looked delicate, she was still more gutsy and braver than other girls. Even when she was in a desperate situation that day, she still tried to hold Ji Youran and jump off the Linyuan Pavilion together with her. Because she’s not willing to accept the fate pushed on her.

Also, to imitate such kind of a girl, the most important thing was to act normally.

“You are willing to sacrifice that much only in order to return my favor?” Pei Yuanjun asked with an obscure look.

“Please help me survive in the Qu family!” Qu Moying lowered her head and said. What had happened in her previous life was such a mystery, so she couldn’t tell anyone.

This was the only reason she could give to ask for his help.

“Which one in the Qu family will be able to hurt you? I think you can totally handle them by yourself!” Pei Yuanjun said lazily.

“My father.” Qu Moying looked at a tile under her feet and said in a flat tone.

Seeing her saying that without any hesitation, Pei Yuanjun showed a slight smile on his face. As he fell his eyes on her again, he had to admit that the rumors couldn’t be trusted.

Her face was covered by the veil, and only her pink lips were exposed. The girl was very slim, probably because she hadn’t eaten well in the village. Even her figure was more petite than girls at her age.

However, this fragile and tiny girl was more interesting than she looked.

“Now that I have a stepmother, my father doesn’t care about me anymore. If he forces me to marry Young Master Yongning, I cannot resist.”

She didn’t feel aggrieved because of her stubborn father or sad about the absence of her father’s love. Instead, she was simply stating a fact that was so obvious.

Even a sophisticated guy would feel angry and upset for her.



Pei Yuanjun didn't say anything and only tilted his head to size Qu Moying up. She looked just like a weak girl to him no matter how many times he looked at her. Now she seemed so fragile standing here, but the words coming out of her mouth didn't match her appearance at all.

"Xu Lipeng, Young Master Yongning, has a great reputation!" Pei Yuanjun commended Xu Lipeng with a meaningful look.

"But he has had an affair with another girl since long ago!" Qu Moying set her mouth in a grim line and tore off Xu Lipeng's disguise.

"Aren't you afraid that I would disagree?"

"My lord, since you have already asked me to come, you would surely agree to such a small matter." Qu Moying answered with a calm look. As her gaze fell on the ground in front of her, the look on her face turned quite cold.

Nothing really mattered when compared to deceiving the emperor.

"You are pretty honest." Pei Yuanjun suddenly smiled, looking very breezy. As the mysterious expression finally disappeared, he now looked very graceful, like an ordinary noble lord. "Fine. Since I gave you this chance, I won't let you marry a man you dislike. I promise you, Qu Zhizhen and Marquis Yongning won't force you to do anything! This is the freedom I give you!"

"Thank you, my lord!" Qu Moying let out a sigh of relief and gave obeisance to him again.

Now that Pei Yuanjun had promised her, Qu Zhizhen and Xu Lipeng wouldn't force her to get married then. As for her other problems, she believed she could handle them by herself.

She just wanted to find protection for herself, which was also the first step of taking revenge on the Crown Prince.

No one could be a better opponent to the Crown Prince except for Lord Yun.

She had thought about Pei Yusheng, Lord Jing. However, it was obvious that the man in front of her was the more powerful one whom the Crown Prince was more terrified of. So Pei Yuanjun was the perfect fit.

“Don’t be grateful soon. I have my conditions.” Pei Yuanjun raised his pretty eyebrow as he gazed at her. But even the lazy look couldn’t hide the ruthlessness in his eyes. “If you are caught when you’re on your mission, I won’t save you.”

He was trying to say that he wouldn’t clean up the mess for her if her identity was exposed.

So, he planned to let this girl, who seemed completely innocent, take all the risks.

“Don’t worry, my lord.” Qu Moying agreed without any hesitation in a flat tone. Since she was already walking on the edge of a cliff, it didn’t matter how high it was.

“Good, I like those who are clear of their situations and positions.” Pei Yuanjun raised his pretty eyebrow and gave out a gentle smile as if the gloomy look on his face was merely a delusion.

A moody, bloodthirsty, and unpredictable man – that was Qu Moying’s impression of Pei Yuanjun.

“You can go back now. I’ll inform you when I need you!” Pei Yuanjun waved his hand and said casually.

Qu Moying nodded. She made obeisance to him and then stepped back to the door. But she felt that his eyes were still on her. Then she controlled her movement with care and walked downstairs slowly, feeling her back extremely cold and wet.

“My lady!” as Yu Chun saw her coming down, she stepped forward in a hurry and exclaimed.

“I’m fine. Let’s go back!” Qu Moying shook her head with a faint smile, showing a bit of weakness that she had tried to hide on her pale face. “Let’s go!”

No one could really stay calm when facing the powerful and ferocious Lord Yun...

The road ahead of her was full of blood. But since she had already been reborn, she wouldn't look back...

## Chapter 26 Yu Qingmeng and Xu Lipeng, Hand in Glove

Pei Yuanjun looked back on his desk and rubbed his forehead. After that, he picked up a file on the desk to read. If Qu Moying were there, she would find that the file was about her.

It was the information about her since she was born, even including the few times when Yu sent someone to frame her.

"A gloomy, silent, and ugly girl who was sent to the countryside and ignored by her families," Pei Yuanjun rubbed his forehead and suddenly said.

"Yes, my lord, that's what's said in the file," someone answered, but no one could see where he was.

"Don't you think she's not the same person described in the file?" Pei Yuanjun raised his eyebrow with a breezy look in his eyes.

"My lord, but it truly is her information," the hidden guard said firmly.

No doubt it was the same person. The hidden guard was also surprised why the information seemed so unreal.

If he hadn't sent someone to investigate by himself, he would assume that those were two different girls.

Pei Yuanjun leaned back on the large wooden chair lazily with a smile while muttering to himself, "Very interesting!"

Actually, the moment he saw Qu Moying kicking that woman, he had known that she was the right person. The weak, helpless, abandoned daughter of an ex-wife? That was totally not her.

The hidden guard didn't dare to respond to that, and the room fell in silence.

After a long while, Pei Yuanjun said slowly, "Send someone to her so I could contact her at any time!"

"Yes, my lord!" The hidden guard said, "What about the Crown Prince's mansion?"

Others might assume that the fire in the Crown Prince's mansion was an accident, but everyone in Lord Yun's mansion knew that it was designed by their lord.

The fire would lead to a bigger plan...

"Aunt... Aunt..." Yu Qingmeng fell to Yu's arms with her tears falling down, looking quite pitiful.

Yu liked her niece a lot, and the latter had nearly been raised by her. As she saw Yu Qingmeng so sad, she asked anxiously, "What happened? Meng, did someone bully you?"

"Aunt... I... I..." Yu Qingmeng, angry and ashamed, lowered her head and wiped her tears.

"What on earth has happened?" Seeing that Yu Qingmeng couldn't make herself clear, Yu turned around to scold Ju Xiang, Yu Qingmeng's maid. The other maid of Yu Qingmeng, who went out with her, was still unable to get up.

"Madam, it's Fourth Lady... It's all her fault. She brought our lady out, but after the accident, she just dumped our lady and left. There were so many people seeing Young Master Xu holding our lady," Ju Xiang took a step forward and said angrily.

Yu Qingmeng had told her to say those words long ago.

She had come here only to frame Qu Moying in front of Yu.

“What? How dare she!” Hearing that it was about Qu Moying again, Yu, face turning pale, thumped on the table and said with hatred.

Qu Qiuyan had got better after taking medicine, but she still hadn’t fully recovered. So Yu felt that Qu Moying must have something to do with that.

But Yu just couldn’t find any clue.

As she heard that the accident happening to Yu Qingmeng was also relevant to Qu Moying, she finally couldn’t hold it anymore. She held Yu Qingmeng’s hand and said, “Let’s go. I’ll get justice for you.”

“Aunt, where... where are you taking me to?” Yu Qingmeng said in a hurry and even forgot to wipe her tears.

“To Old Lady Qu’s place. Qu Moying has gone too far. I don’t think the Old Lady would believe her this time!” Yu flew into a rage. She felt that this time she had the reason to argue.

However, Yu Qingmeng felt very guilty because she knew that Ju Xiang made up most of the story. Therefore, she didn’t dare to confront Old Lady Qu.

“Aunt, slow down. Please listen to me first.” Yu Qingmeng held Yu’s hand with a sad look. The tears on her face made her look very pitiful.

“My girl, look what she has done to you. How can I not tell Old Lady Qu? Do you want her to bully you with impunity?” Yu tapped on Yu Qingmeng’s forehead, trying to enlighten the latter.

“Aunt, now is not the time to talk about that. Young Master Xu... Young Master Xu and I... So many people have seen us... What should I do?” Yu Qingmeng cried again while pulling Yu’s sleeve, “Aunt, what could I do? My reputation is ruined. There... there won’t be any guy who’s willing to marry me. If so... I... I should just die...”

The more she said, the more aggrieved she got. Then she lowered her head, sobbing.

“What else could you do? You have to marry Young Master Xu. He’s always been good to you. It’s a great thing for him if he could marry you instead of that blind girl,” Yu said breezily.

When Xu Lipeng had visited Qu’s mansion before, Yu Qingmeng had always kept him company. Yu assumed that they had feelings for each other and weren’t a couple only because Qu Moying was Xu Lipeng’s fiancée. However, after what had happened today, Yu felt that Marquis Yongning had to give her niece an explanation.

Yu felt that it would be perfect if Xu Lipeng could break off the engagement with Qu Moying and marry Yu Qingmeng.

“Aunt... Qu Moying is Young Master Xu’s fiancée... She... she won’t agree to that.” Yu Qingmeng cried even harder, “Aunt, if Young Master Xu is not willing to be responsible for me, I... I have no choice but to die.”

She had wanted to marry the Young Master Xu for a long time. The girls at her age had all got engaged long ago, but she still hadn’t even though she had turned sixteen. It was all because of Xu Lipeng.

However, although she and Xu Lipeng got a thing for each other, the latter never said he would marry her and only claimed that she had to wait. However, she didn’t want to wait anymore. She got so jealous at the thought of Qu Moying being Xu Lipeng’s fiancée.

She just couldn’t tolerate a blind girl having such a great fiancé.

Also, she considered herself a beautiful and tender girl and believed that she was much better than Qu Moying.

Qu Moying had been betrothed to Xu Lipeng when she was still in her mother’s womb. At that time, Xu Lipeng was already born. Yu Qingmeng believed that the engagement had happened only because of Qu Moying’s mother, but she was the one who truly understood Xu Lipeng.

Now was a great chance for her.

"Meng, don't worry. Tomorrow I'll ask Madam Yongning to break off the engagement Young Master Xu has with Qu Moying. Then her son will marry you." Yu nodded.

"But... but... Old Lady Qu might disagree." Yu Qingmeng covered her face and cried, "Young Master Xu has a great reputation. If someone knows that he is the cause for that, he will surely be upset."

"Then what should we do?" Yu frowned and asked, "Don't tell me you want to be Xu Lipeng's concubine. No, I won't let you do so."

"Aunt, that's not what I want. He won't do this to me... But... But Qu Moying..." Yu Qingmeng glimpsed at Yu while crying. As she saw Yu's face turned red in anger, she knew that it was about time to say that. "Aunt, when we were in the carriage, Qu Moying also cursed you. She said... said that you were shameless and that you were just a concubine who... who was so bold to replace the madam, and that didn't change the fact that you were just a concubine."

Yu Qingmeng exaggerated.

"This is outrageous!" Yu thumped on the table in rage.

"Aunt, even if the engagement will be broken off, you still can't let that bitch get away. I have to teach her a lesson for you!" Yu Qingmeng said. She rolled her eyes and continued, "Aunt, is there a way that we can dishonor her and make her break the engagement at the same time? Since she has the guts to curse you, we can't let her get away from this easily."

"She's just a blind girl. Does she really think that Young Master Xu would marry her? Since she called me a concubine, I'll make her a concubine." Yu snorted.

The time when she had been a concubine was the most shameful memory she had. No one in the Qu's mansion dared to mention that.

As she heard that Qu Moying brought that up, she felt her heart stabbed and wished she would tear Qu Moying apart.

“Be a concubine? Whose concubine? Aunt, she’s my uncle’s true-born daughter. She won’t agree to be a concubine. Also, she has Old Lady Qu’s support.” Yu Qingmeng looked down to cover the complacent look in her eyes. Now that she got her aunt involved, she believed that Young Master Xu would be pleased.

‘Now, Young Master Xu could still have a good reputation and break off the engagement. Also, Qu Moying will be another man’s concubine, that’s perfect,’ Yu Qingmeng thought.

She thought that Young Master Xu would definitely call her a clever girl.

Young Master Xu had never liked the engagement, but he felt it was inappropriate for him to bring it up. Yu Qingmeng had known his difficulties. However, she was too old to wait any longer.

“She has to. No one would marry a blind girl with a bad reputation.” Yu snorted. Her husband was about to come back home. If her plan went well, she only needed to give him some pillow talk, then everything would be settled. By then, it didn’t matter if Old Lady Qu disagreed!

“Lord Jing has a cousin. I heard that although that man has got married, he’s still very dissolute. Also, his wife is a shrew. Tomorrow we can invite him over.” Yu seemed to be suggesting something.

Yu also had a backup plan because she thought that would be safer. She knew that Qu Moying was a different girl from before.

He Dapang, whose nickname was Fat He, was Lord Jing’s cousin. Because of that, everyone in the capital didn’t dare to offend him. Noble Consort He was second to the empress but very favored by the emperor. Even though Lord Jing was just a regular royalty now, he was a man with incredible potential. It was said that the emperor had scolded the Crown Prince more than once.

Then what about Lord Jing, who was adored by the emperor?

Therefore, no one dared to despise He Dapang because of Noble Consort He and Lord Jing.



So even if he was a playboy, there were still many people playing up to him. Some people even sent him a lot of beauties in order to make him put in a good word for them in front of Lord Jing.

However, Zhao, who was He Dapang's wife, was a total shrew. He Dapang had had a mistress once. Zhao directly stripped that mistress and paraded her through the streets. The mistress felt so ashamed and jumped into a river after the punishment.

"All right, Aunt. I see!" Yu Qingmeng knew what Yu meant and kept nodding. Then she got closer to Yu to hear the latter's instruction...

On that night, Qu Moying received two pots of peony. This was the first time Yu presented her something.

## Chapter 27 Seize the Chance to Drive Them Away

"Young Master Yongning sent those flowers to Third Lady and Lady Yu. These two extra pots were supposed to be sent to Second Madam, but she wanted you to have them. So she sent me over," the senior housemaid explained with a grinning face.

"For me?" With a doubtful look, Qu Moying asked.

"Yes, Second Madam said that Fourth Lady is still young and must love flowers. Even if you can't see the flowers, it's still delightful to smell them. Such beautiful flowers are always pleasing to look at. If they were just ordinary kinds, Second Madam wouldn't let me come." The senior housemaid that Yu had sent here indeed knew how to say pretty words.

Her glib talk sounded as sweet as a song.

However, the things she tried to imply truly were provoking.

What did she mean by saying Qu Moying could still smell them? What was she trying to imply by mentioning the beautiful flowers and the ordinary kinds?

Yu Chun's face turned red in anger. If Qu Moying hadn't told her to stay calm, she couldn't bear it any longer. The senior housemaid was trying to say that Qu Moying was just a blind and ordinary girl.

It had been a long time since Qu Moying had come back to Qu's mansion, and only until now did Yu Chun realize that every servant here felt that Fourth Lady was both ugly and blind. Yu Chun felt so indignant because she knew how pretty her lady was. Now Second Madam even tried to mock at Fourth Lady with that. That was just outrageous!

"Please thank Second Madam for me, but you have to take the flowers back." Qu Moying smiled as if she didn't understand what the senior housemaid had been implying.

"Fourth Lady, Second Madam is one of the elders for you in the family. You can't give back the flowers she sent to you." The senior housemaid who had been smiling suddenly put on a long face.

"I can't?" Qu Moying asked in a flat tone.

"One should never return an elder's gift. Second Madam was just being kind to send you the flowers. How can you disgrace her like that?" The senior housemaid spoke louder indignantly.

Their loud conversation had been heard by the maids and senior housemaids outside the room. So they all approached to listen to what had happened.

"Yu Chun, slap her," Qu Moying said lightly.

Yu Chun took a few steps forwards and slapped the senior housemaid hard, making the latter's head tilt to one side.

As she turned her head back, she was already steamed up. Then she said with a sharp voice, "Fourth Lady..."

"Tell Second Madam that I have no place to keep the flowers here and that she could put them in the house that I'll move in. Grandma is getting old; I can't live here forever. I was told that it would take two or three days to clean it up. Now it should be ready!"

Qu Moying ignored the senior housemaid's twisted face and said with a calm look.

When she came back, Yu had said that the yard prepared for her still needed cleaning and sent her to a small one far from the main house. After the fire, Qu Moying had to live in Old Lady Qu's place. Yu probably had already forgotten about the house she promised her, which was the one that Yu Qingmeng stayed in every time she came.

Yu had known that Qu Qiuyan sent Qing He to set Qu Moying up and didn't expect that Qu Moying would survive. Therefore, the house she mentioned became an empty promise.

However, now that Yu offered her a chance, she would take the yard then.

"No... no..." The senior housemaid didn't know what to say. Never did she realize that things would become like this. What Yu had taught her to say was completely useless.

"Now go back to report to Second Madam. I'll move to that house tomorrow. Second Madam promised me a few days ago. I can't stay here and disturb grandma forever."

Qu Moying put down the embroidery frame in her hand with her cold gaze falling on the senior housemaid.

Now it looked like the senior housemaid had stirred up things deliberately by saying those things.

However, the senior housemaid was well aware that if she went back with that message, Second Madam would be furious.

Yu Qingmeng lived in Qu's mansion tonight. Tomorrow morning, Qu Moying wanted to move into that house. That was impossible. However, the slaps that she had taken made her realize that the Fourth lady was no longer the girl who would swallow hard all the time.

The most important thing was that Fourth Lady was reasonable.

“What? You can’t decide by yourself?” Qu Moying leaned back and said smilingly, “Do you need me to invite Granny Wu over?”

“No... there’s no need. I’ll go to report to Second Madam now.” If Granny Wu was here, Old Lady Qu would know about this too. The senior housemaid began to sweat. Everyone in this mansion knew that Old Lady Qu didn’t like Second Madam.

The senior housemaid had wanted to make trouble for Qu Moying. However, not only had she failed, now even Old Lady Qu might be informed. She really didn’t dare to say anything now. Then she told someone to carry the flowerpots and left at once.

Seeing the senior housemaid leaving without saying a word, Yu Chun applauded gleefully, feeling a lot better now.

“My lady, why did Second Madam send you flowers at this moment?” After Yu Chun closed the door, she asked curiously.

Qu Moying stood up and sat in front of the drawer. She still couldn’t overuse her eyes. Doing embroidery under the light was merely for killing some time. Now it was time for her to rest. “Yu Qingmeng wants to be with Xu Lipeng, so they would figure out a way to break off the engagement. But Xu Lipeng wants me to bring it up first. Because in this way, only my reputation will be ruined, not his.”

Yu Chun walked over to take off the veil for Qu Moying.

The girl in the mirror had delicate features. She closed her eyes tightly with her long eyelashes lowered, looking like a tired butterfly, quiet, peaceful, and gorgeous. The light pink color on her eyelids made her look very enchanting. And her long curly eyelashes added more to her charm.

However, the cold look and her lips that were pressed together weakened the tenderness on her face.

Yu Chun was amazed by Qu Moying’s pretty face every time, especially the last few days. Back in the old days, Qu Moying looked beautiful like a doll but had no energy at all with a dull look every day. The

expression in her eyes made her look like an old woman who had been through a lot of things and lost hope for this world.

There had been no liveliness in those eyes. In the past, it's like Qu Moying had been shrouded in darkness with her eyes being dull the whole time. Yu Chun felt happy for Qu Moying's change. Even if her eyes were closed, Yu Chun could still feel that she was lively, unlike the spiritless and inanimate girl whom she had used to be. Back in the old days, there had been a few times that Yu Chun had had a feeling that Qu Moying might kill herself at any moment. 'My lady is awesome now!' Yu Chun thought. "My lady, are you sure you are going to break off the engagement?" Yu Chun put down Qu Moying's hairpin and asked after a short hesitation. She had to know her lady's real thoughts.

"The engagement has to be broken off. Since Xu Lipeng wants it to happen without ruining his own reputation, he'll try to blacken my name, let alone with Yu Qingmeng's help." As Qu Moying said that, she slowly opened her eyes to look at herself in the mirror while smiling coldly.

"Yu Qingmeng and Xu Lipeng truly love each other a lot. Since then, I'll give them what they want."

Xu Lipeng never said he would break off the engagement but had been intimate with Yu Qingmeng for a long time. Meanwhile, he also pretended to care about Qu Moying. All these things already showed his personality.

In her previous life, she had also been fooled by Xu Lipeng's act and thought that he was a good person. She had even recommended him to the Crown Prince. Pei Luoan, the crown prince, said that he would keep an eye on Xu Lipeng. Later, he said that Xu Lipeng was a promising man. Maybe now the Crown Prince had already drawn Xu Lipeng to his side, and it was only a matter of time the latter became an official.

To think it deeply, maybe Young Master Xu had asked to break off the engagement because of Ji Hanyue, the girl whom she had used to be in her previous life. After all, she had always given some gifts to Qu Moying, and as the Crown Princess at that time, Ji Hanyue had had fine prospects.

However, things were different now. Ji Hanyue had already died. Although this information had been covered up, there were also rumors going around that the Crown Princess had lost her power. Since Ji Hanyue was no longer powerful, there was no need for Xu Lipeng to keep the engagement with Qu Moying.

So, if anything happened to Qu Moying, Marquis Yongning's family would definitely seize that chance...

Yu and Yu Qingmeng were about to do something. But Qu Moying happened to want to make a move too. After they all did as they planned, Qu Moying would know if Xu Lipeng was on Pei Luoan's side.

"They are so shameless!" Yu Chun cursed that indignantly. She had felt sorry for Qu Moying that the latter lost a good fiancé. However, after she was reminded by Qu Moying, Yu Chun realized that Xu Lipeng was just a scumbag. As she thought about it, she got worried and said, "My lady, will Lady Yu give the yard to you tomorrow? She has been living there for too long, after all. It's like she's the lady in this family."

The real lady could only live in a small, shabby yard, and the madam's niece could stay in the best house in this mansion. That really pissed Yu Chun off.

"No."

Qu Moying said firmly.

"Then, what should we do?" Yu Chun goggled in anger, "My lady, let's drive her away tomorrow. Do you need Granny Miao and me to bring some people there?"

"No!" Qu Moying shook her head. The girl in the mirror let down her black hair with her eyebrows slightly raised, looking very calm.

"They will take action themselves!"

That was what Qu Moying wanted. If they didn't, she would make them...

They had to move out tomorrow...

"What? She'll move in tomorrow?" Yu Qingmeng's face turned red in anger. Then she turned to Yu with tears in her eyes, "Aunt, is she trying to drive me away? You have prepared this place for me, and I have

been living here for a long time. You told me that I could come whenever I want to. What... What did she mean?"

She wanted to provoke Qu Moying but never expected her scheme backfired on her.

Yu was also outraged. However, she was still calmer than Yu Qingmeng and only pressed on the latter's hand, saying, "You should get ill tomorrow."

"Aunt, you want me to pretend to be ill?" Yu Qingmeng felt even more aggrieved, "Why should I pretend? I can't pretend forever."

"Not too long. As long as the engagement is broken off and Qu Moying becomes someone's concubine, that disgraced girl will be too ashamed to live in the best yard in this mansion! I'll tell your uncle to send her to her future husband's mansion in a small sedan," Yu said with a malicious voice while looking in the direction of Old Lady Qu's yard.

## Chapter 28 Who Rules the Qu Family?

"Sick?" Old Lady Qu, with a cold look, glanced at Yu, who came early to make obeisance to her.

Yesterday, the senior housemaid whom Yu had sent here had made a great disturbance, so Old Lady Qu had already known about everything. As she looked at Qu Moying, who was sitting there quietly and then at Yu, who was wiping her swollen eyes, she just couldn't help getting angry.

Old Lady Qu didn't believe there would be such a coincidence!

"I heard that Qingmeng had run into an accident on the busy street yesterday. If it were not for Young Master Xu... She might... She might not be able to come back. She's a vulnerable girl. After she was frightened, she kept having nightmares last night. That's why she's sick." Yu wiped her eyes again.

"Ying was also frightened, but she was fine last night. Today she even came here to visit me early in the morning. Originally I worried about Ying the most because her body is the weakest."

Old Lady Qu scolded with a sullen face.

Though Yu Qingmeng also looked thin and weak, her body was actually strong. Qu Moying was slimmer than her with a more petite figure. When the two of them stood together, Qu Moying was obviously the more delicate one.

Now Qu Moying was still sitting there, but Yu Qingmeng had been scared out of her wits.

Yu's heart jolted as she heard of that. Then she said in a hurry, "Old Lady, Qingmeng is very timid and always thinks too much. That's why she got sick."

"Think too much? What makes her think too much? Yu, the yard she lives in was prepared for Ying. Now that Ying's back, just let Lady Yu move to the guest's yard," Old Lady Qu said straightly.

"Mother, Qingmeng is still ill now." Yu didn't realize that Old Lady Qu would be so blunt and could only say that with an embarrassing look.

Meanwhile, she just secretly hated Old Lady Qu even more.

"Even so, she could still move to the guest yard. She's the guest. How could she stay in the lady's yard the whole time? Or, do you want your niece to marry into our family?" Old Lady Qu snorted.

Yu had given birth to a boy and a girl. Qu Mingcheng and Qu Qiuyan were twins. That was why Yu could get a foothold in the Qu family even though Old Lady Qu didn't like her.

Qu Mingcheng was the apple of Yu's eyes.

"Mother, what are you talking about? Mingcheng is younger than Qingmeng. Now he's preparing for the imperial examination. How could he think of that kind of thing?" Yu got anxious right away.

Her son was much more important to her than her niece.



“Since you don’t want Lady Yu to marry into this family, then don’t send the wrong messages to others by keeping a yard for her in this mansion. I know my words are harsh, but your niece is a grown woman and still hasn’t got engaged. Maybe others really assume that you want her to marry your son.” Old Lady Qu warned Yu coldly.

Yu twisted the handkerchief in her hand. She had no idea that Old Lady Qu would say that.

She was clear why Yu Qingmeng hadn’t got engaged. Actually, she had made a great effort to let Yu Qingmeng marry into Marquis Yongning’s family.

Of course, she didn’t dare to tell Old Lady Qu that. Now, as she heard Old Lady Qu’s words, her face just turned redder and redder.

“Mother, even if Qingmeng has to move to the guest yard, her stuff is hard to clear up for the moment.” Yu had to swallow hard.

“When I came back home, you said that you were cleaning that place up and only had some finishing touches. Why are there still too many things in the yard now?” Qu Moying raised her head to look at Yu while asking.

“I thought there weren’t many at that time, but I was wrong.” Yu had to explain.

Yu had said that she was cleaning up the place only to muddle through. To make those words more reasonable, during those days, Yu Qingmeng still came to Qu’s mansion during day time and would return to Yu’s mansion at night.

However, yesterday, after what had happened to Yu Qingmeng, Yu completely forgot that as she saw Yu Qingmeng’s pitiful face and told Yu Qingmeng to stay. Last night, the message which the senior housemaid had brought to Yu made her and Yu Qingmeng even angrier. They only wanted to occupy the yard, and little did Yu know that Qu Moying would mention the words she had said.

“Mother, Qingmeng is our guest. We can’t let others say that we are bad to our guests and drive a sick guest away,” Yu turned to Old Lady Qu and said with a sincere look. After all, only Old Lady Qu could make the call.

Old Lady Qu valued her family reputation a lot and would never kick a guest out.

In ordinary times, although Old Lady Qu didn't like Yu Qingmeng, she never made it obvious and could at least be polite to Yu's relatives.

After all, Yu's family was related to the Qu family now. Embarrassing Yu was no different from embarrassing her own.

So now Yu wanted Old Lady Qu to say some nice words to settle this.

As long as Old Lady Qu gave the order, Qu Moying couldn't change anything no matter what she said.

Yu only needed to persuade Old Lady Qu.

If Qu Moying hadn't mentioned what Yu Qingmeng had done in front of Old Lady Qu yesterday, the latter might really be persuaded because she didn't want it to get ugly. However, last night she saw Qu Moying coming back with blood all over her clothes and heard that Xu Lipeng had sent Yu Qingmeng home. She got suspicious and asked Granny Wu to ask for information.

She rarely meddled in family affairs.

Xu Lipeng would come on every festival day to send gifts and sometimes visit Old Lady Qu. He was pretty close to this family. So back in the old days, she had thought that Xu Lipeng was a great man and supported this engagement.

However, after hearing what Granny Xu told her, she directly flew into a rage.

So Yu had let Yu Qingmeng stay with Xu Lipeng alone more than once. What did she want?

It turned out every time Xu Lipeng was here, Yu Qingmeng was the one keeping him company. Old lady Qu now understood everything. Now she even wanted to kick Yu Qingmeng out of this mansion instead of the yard.

The Qu family had always regarded Yu Qingmeng as a decent girl, but Yu had taken advantage of that and tried to steal the fiancée of the Qu's lady.

It was like biting the hand that fed her. Yu was so despicable!

"Is Lady Yu a lady or a madam of our family?" Thinking of that, Old Lady Qu just said with a harsh voice.

"Second Madam, the stuff in the yard should be the furniture prepared for me. Did Lady Yu bring anything from Yu's mansion?" Qu Moying said slowly.

Their words got Yu speechless.

Qianyue House was where Yu Qingmeng stayed now and also the best one in the mansion. It was as large as Qu Qiuyan's Furong House with graceful surroundings. When Yu Qingmeng moved in, everything had been set up. And all the stuff there belonged to the Qu family, not Yu Qingmeng.

"Mother, I'll tell Qingmeng to move now." Under Old Lady Qu's cold stare, Yu had to concede with her teeth gritted.

"That'll be perfect. So do it now!" Old Lady Qu ordered Yu to leave with a cold voice.

Yu was so angry that she gnashed her teeth hard, but she still had to get busy moving Yu Qingmeng out.

Seeing Yu leaving, Qu Moying lifted the corner of her lips silently. This was not enough. Yu Qingmeng stayed in this mansion as a lady and drove Qu Moying, the real lady, away from her home. Not only that, but she had also seduced Xu Lipeng, who had been engaged with Qu Moying. What she had done was way more disgusting.

At this moment, Yu Qingmeng still stayed in Qu's mansion. Now she had to move even if she got 'sick.' This was a great humiliation for her. She wouldn't be willing to let it go.

"Grandma, do we need to invite Madam Yongning over to have a discussion?" Qu Moying said with a gentle voice.

Xu Lipeng had to be here when Yu Qingmeng suffered a great grievance.

"Ying, tell me, do you really want to give up on this engagement?" Old Lady Qu looked at Qu Moying with a serious look and confirmed.

"Grandma, no matter how good a man Young Master Xu is, the one he loves is someone else. As for me... I'm afraid that he'll either snub me or replace me with the girl he likes. My mother... my mother... she..." As saying that, Qu Moying lowered her head with her voice turning hoarse. Although she wasn't very straightforward, Old Lady Qu still understood what she meant and felt heartbroken for the delicate girl.

It was hard to say if Xu Lipeng would become the next Qu Zhizhen, or might even do something worse than him. He and Yu Qingmeng seemed pretty close, which made people wonder what kind of relationship they had.

It was not that Old Lady Qu had a prejudice against Yu Qingmeng. After all, Yu had done the same thing before. By then, Yu Qingmeng would be another Yu, and Qu Moying would walk down the same path as her mother.

"Fine, let's break off your engagement with him. I'll invite Madam Yongning later." Old Lady Qu nodded without any hesitation.

Qu Moying looked up with a tender smile, saying, "Thanks, grandma!"

She really felt grateful for Old Lady Qu because the old woman gave her a feeling of home. As for her father, she could pretend that he didn't exist.

At least she still had a grandma who was willing to protect her. That was enough.

Her grandma brought some warmth to her broken heart.

“Thank you, grandma!”

“Go back to have some sleep. You don’t need to visit me so early,” Old Lady Qu said gently.

“Grandma, I’m fine. I want to go to the Qianyue House first. I overheard from the servant that it was a beautiful place.”

Qu Moying rejected Old Lady Qu with a smile. She couldn’t take a rest in a moment like this.

She lifted the corner of her pale mouth and gave her grandmother a joyful smile like a child. Seeing that, Old Lady Qu only felt more sorry for her. As a lady in this family, Qu Moying had never stepped into the yard prepared for her. But Yu Qingmeng had lived there first with a good cause. Old Lady Qu only found Yu and Yu Qingmeng very barefaced now.

“Go, have a look at it. If there’s anything you don’t like, just tell someone to replace it. It’ll be your yard from now on.” Old Lady Qu suppressed her sympathy for Qu Moying and gave her a kind smile, “Tell Granny Wu if you need anything. She could get things from my storeroom.”

“There’s no need, grandma. I heard that the place was decorated like Third Sister’s, so I won’t need anything else. You don’t have to give me anything.”

Qu Moying said smilingly.

She wouldn’t let Yu take anything away from the yard. Now she was going to supervise Yu.

Of course, she was not in a hurry. She had to wait for the people from Marquis Yongning’s family to come first. After what had happened yesterday, people from Marquis Yongning’s family would definitely arrive soon, not to mention Old Lady Qu had already sent the invitation.

Since Yu Qingmeng pretended to be ill and weak, Qu Moying would lend her a hand to make her look more pathetic. Xu Lipeng should come with Madam Yongning, and that would be great...

## Chapter 29 Expose the Dirty Truth

"What? Aunt, you want me to move now?" Yu Qingmeng looked at Yu with disbelief.

She didn't expect that Yu not only hadn't brought back any good news but even asked her to leave after she came back from Old Lady Qu's place.

Under Yu Qingmeng's gaze, Yu felt ashamed and angry because she had overshot the mark before. Having twisted the handkerchief in her hands, she said in a low voice, "I'll ask someone to help you move to the guest room. Just live there for a few days. After these days, she'll be too ashamed to live there. Then I'll send her away in a sedan."

Yu Qingmeng had believed that before, but now she couldn't help doubting, "Aunt, is your plan going to work? What if something goes wrong again?"

"It will work. I already got in touch with Lord Jing's cousin." Yu put on a long face as she was questioned by her niece. Then with a cold look, she said, "Don't overthink. You can't act tough now, or we'll be suspected after something happens to her. Now that you are busy moving out and I'm also occupied, we won't be blamed for what's about to happen."

Yu Qingmeng nodded uncertainly and then sat up to get washed. In the meantime, she picked the things that she liked and planned to take them away with her.

She had lived in Qianyue House for a long while. The decorations here were all selected by her from Yu's place and suited her taste well. Although she believed that she wouldn't be away for too long, she still wanted to have some things she preferred. So she asked the maids to carry some of the stuff over.

For example, the drawer, the washing basin, and the delicately-carved redwood tables and chairs...

Those objects were not so big and would need at most two people to carry. Some lowly maids and senior housemaids already started to move the smaller stuff.

Yu Qingmeng didn't want to use the ordinary objects in the guest room, and she assumed that Qu Moying would only live in this yard for a short while and that no one would know if she took away anything.

The few articles on the antique shelf were also Yu Qingmeng's favorite. She was afraid of losing them and planned to take them with her. She could bring them back when she came back.

Meanwhile, Yu went to prepare for the arrival of He Dapang. She couldn't do this in her own name. But Qu Zhizhen was not at home, so she sent the invitation on her son's behalf.

The invitation had been sent to him yesterday, and now she only needed to wait for He Dapang to come.

"My lady, Fourth Lady is here!" A maid came in hurriedly to report.

"What is she doing here?" Yu Qingmeng was startled and then rubbed her head. There was a long ribbon around her head that looked like the veil Qu Moying always wore. Yu had told someone to wrap it around her head when she had pretended to be sick.

She never wore it before, and now she wasn't used to it and had to press it from time to time in case it would fall off.

"She said she was here to visit you," the maid said.

"Just tell her that I don't feel well and can't meet her!" Yu Qingmeng said crossly. She knew she would get angry if she saw Qu Moying. As a proud girl, she really couldn't accept the fact that she was forced to move by an ugly and blind girl. This really drove her crazy.

The maid then walked out and said to Qu Moying, who was standing in the yard, "Fourth Lady, our lady really doesn't feel well. She can't meet you right now."

“Your lady? Are you a maid of the Yu Family?” Qu Moying sized the maid up. As she saw the maid’s clothes, she said coldly.

The maid blushed at once. The maids and senior housemaids who worked in Qianyue House had been assigned to Yu Qingmeng by Yu. So they had got used to calling Yu Qingmeng ‘our lady’ and also regarded the latter as their master.

However, the truth was their lady never was Yu Qingmeng.

“Fourth Lady... I serve... in this mansion.” The maid lowered her head.

“This is the Qu’s Mansion, and Forth Lady is your real master. Move away!” Yu Chun scolded.

The maid, face turning red, peeked at Fourth Lady, who stood behind Yu Chun. At last, she gave up stopping them and stood aside.

Qu Moying walked into the room slowly with Yu Chun.

Yu Qingmeng was still sulking in front of the drawer. As she saw Qu Moying getting in, she flew into a rage immediately. Since there were no other people in the room, she felt there was no need to pretend to be soft like she always did. Then she looked arrogantly at Qu Moying, who was walking over slowly, “Qu Moying, what are you doing here?”

She was older and also taller than Qu Moying, who looked very slim. So right now, Yu Qingmeng looked pretty aggressive.

“I’m here to see if you have moved out.” Qu Moying stood still with the corner of her lips lifted. As she saw the white silk ribbon on Yu Qingmeng’s head, she said that gently.

“What do you mean?” Yu Qingmeng said with her teeth gritted.



“Nothing. I’m just afraid that you might take something with you when you leave. Everything here belongs to the Qu Family. You have no right to take away any of them,”

Qu Moying said in a flat tone.

As she glanced at the antique shelf, she saw a few obvious marks that seemed new! However, the articles which were supposed to be there were gone. Some of the tables and chairs also disappeared. However, the little boxes on the drawer were placed neatly there. It was clear to see that there were lots of jewels inside.

Seeing Qu Moying turn to the drawer, Yu Qingmeng put her hand on the jewel cases and said, “These are all mine!”

“You brought them here from the Yu’s Mansion?” Qu Moying asked.

Qu Moying had already checked with Granny Miao. Everything Yu Qingmeng had here belonged to the Qu Family, including the jewels presented to her by Yu.

Compared to Qu Moying, Yu Qingmeng seemed more like the lady in this family.

Those words made Yu Qingmeng blush with shame again. Then her face turned pale. With her hand pressing the table firmly, she only wished she could slap Qu Moying.

‘You blind girl! How dare you!’ she thought.

Qu Moying seemed to be suggesting that Yu Qingmeng had stolen the things from the Qu’s Mansion. Yu Qingmeng always felt that everything here belonged to her. As she heard Qu Moying’s words, she just fumed, “You blind girl, what the hell are you talking about?!”

Her words were very insulting.

Yu Chun’s face turned red with anger.

Qu Moying looked at Yu Qingmeng with coldness in her eyes, "Lady Yu, did I say something wrong? Why do you look so guilty?"

"I've been living here for years. Everything here belongs to me. What does that have to do with you if I take away a few things? You are just a blind girl who was abandoned by the Qu Family. How dare you take my things away from me? Don't you find yourself extremely shameless?"

Yu Qingmeng blurted.

When she and Qu Qiuyan stayed together, they often mocked Qu Moying and never took the latter seriously. They even thought that Qu Moying was inferior to the maids in the Qu's Mansion. However, Yu Qingmeng, now sneered by the person she despised the most, couldn't hold back her anger anymore.

Qu Moying gave a sarcastic smile with her eyes falling on Yu Qingmeng's arrogant and furious face.

Yu Qingmeng kept all these things to herself and regarded herself as the lady here. Meanwhile, she even treated Qu Moying, the real lady in this family, as an outsider who wanted to take everything from her. That really was absurd logic.

"Lady Yu, don't you find yourself shameless?" Qu Moying said nonchalantly.

"You... you ugly blind bitch. How dare you talk to me like that!" Yu Qingmeng shouted abuse.

Qu Moying took a step forward slowly and raised her head to look at Yu Qingmeng with a sarcastic smile on her face, "Ugly and blind? Lady Yu, you are a guest here, and you cursed the lady in this family and flirted with my fiancé. Do you want everyone in the Qu Family to know that?"

"Today, Madam Yongning will come. If the engagement is broken off, the affair between you and Young Master Xu will be exposed. I wonder if Young Master Xu will still be willing to get engaged with you or even marry you if that happens. If the reputation he has been maintaining for years is ruined because of you, do you think he'll treat you the same as always?"

Qu Moying's words struck Yu Qingmeng's heart, making the latter's face red like blood. Suddenly, with the look on her face changed and her feet getting weak, she couldn't help taking a few steps back.

She had been expecting the engagement to be broken off and even tried her best to push it. However, Xu Lipeng had only told her to wait and claimed that he had the best idea.

He had said that his reputation couldn't be ruined because it would affect his career as an official.

However, she had been waiting for too long and was not young anymore. Knowing about Xu Lipeng's scruples, she also knew that if she ruined his plan, Xu Lipeng might not marry her. This truly got her panicky.

Before, she just wanted to threaten Qu Moying by showing how great a couple she and Young Master Yongning was.

"What... what the hell are you talking about?" After a long while, Yu Qingmeng said, "At that time... it all happened so suddenly... Young Master Xu just wanted to save me."

"Save you? He abandoned his fiancée and saved an outsider and even sent that outsider back home?" Qu Moying said coldly, "Lady Yu, did you just say that there was nothing between you and Young Master Xu? But when we were in the carriage, you said that you and Young Master Xu had a thing for each other. Why are you afraid to admit that now?"

Qu Moying showed an ironic smile on her face at first and then wiped it off, saying, "Or could it be that Young Master Xu never wanted to marry you and would only take you in as his concubine?"

Yu Qingmeng was cut to the heart as she heard those words because that was exactly what she was scared of. She took a few steps back and put her hands on the table, breathing heavily.

She did have thought of that but had been denying it the whole time. Now that Qu Moying had revealed the ugly truth, she felt her dark thought was exposed in public as if she was criticized by all the people she once looked down on.

Then she, trembling, pressed the table even harder. With a crazy look in her eyes, she only wanted to humiliate Qu Moying and trampled her underfoot.

Then she shouted, "I'm the one whom Young Master Xu loves. He promised me that he will marry me. You mean nothing to him, you blind and ugly bitch. He'll never fall for you. Even if you marry him, only Young Master Xu and I can decide if you'll live or die. Do you really think you are a lady of the Qu Family?!"

"What the hell are you talking about?" The door was kicked open.

The two women both looked back in surprise...

### Chapter 30 A Great Show Performed by the Young Master Yongning

Xu Lipeng was standing by the door with his handsome face turning red with anger while glaring at Yu Qingmeng furiously.

Seeing the two women both looking at him, Xu Lipeng calmed himself and walked in slowly. Standing beside Qu Moying, he talked to Yu Qingmeng harshly, "Lady Yu, I don't know what you are talking about. At that time, the former Second Madam betrothed Fourth Lady to me. The two families have had a great relationship with each other for a long time. I'm very satisfied with my fiancée, and I won't break the engagement off."

"As for what has happened yesterday, I already explained. I didn't mean to make it misleading. If I knew you had this kind of thought about me, I would never do that. I should just let it happen to you, which would be better than being slandered by you right now."

Xu Lipeng said bluntly with coldness and anger in his eyes.

Yu Qingmeng took a few steps back. With her legs getting weak, she almost fell to the ground. Then Ju Xiang, her maid, supported her at once.

“Xu... Young Master Xu... how... how could you talk like that?” Yu Qingmeng, heartbroken, forgot Qu Moying was there. She couldn’t believe Xu Lipeng, who was always gentle to her, had just said that he shouldn’t have saved her.

At that time, she almost lost her life there.

Before, Xu Lipeng would get nervous even if her hand was just scratched. But now, he acted like a totally different person.

“Lady Yu, I don’t know why you would think like that. You are Second Madam Qu’s niece. I have been polite to you for the sake of Fourth Lady. If I gave you the wrong impression, I apologize to you now. But I will never break the engagement off. I never disdained Fourth Lady Qu, and she’s the only fiancée I recognize,”

Xu Lipeng said with a serious expression.

But that look only made Qu Moying snort inwardly.

This situation was so familiar!

Pei Luo’an, the Crown Prince, had also distanced himself from Ji Youran before in her past life. On that day, she got furious after seeing him holding Ji Youran’s hand behind the rockery. However, Pei Luo’an repeatedly said that he and Ji Youran weren’t having an affair and that he was holding Ji Youran’s hand because she was about to fall.

Pei Luo’an even said that he only did it for the sake of Ji Hanyue.

And that he wouldn’t have reached out his hand if it were not Ji Youran who was falling.

At that time, Ji Hanyue still doubted his words. Then Ji Youran came over to explain, even gave them her best wishes, and then left. Her attitude was very genuine.

So Ji Hanyue thought that she was just overthinking!

However, the fact was that they trampled her underfoot and killed all her families. That kind of pain still choked her and made her unable to sleep at night!

With Qu Moying's eyes squinted, she felt hatred flowing in her body. Xu Lipeng and Yu Qingmeng were just like Pei Luo'an and Ji Youran to her now.

She felt hate and pain in every breath of her...

"Young Master Xu... I... I..." Yu Qingmeng also felt her heart aching. She covered her chest, looking just like a pitiful and pretty girl again.

Xu Lipeng liked this look of hers in ordinary times. However, he had just heard her screaming outside the door, and now he only felt very impatient for no reason.

"Lady Yu, please forget what happened yesterday. I don't expect you to be grateful for me, but I hope you don't ruin my marriage."

Xu Lipeng interrupted Yu Qingmeng directly and looked to Ju Xiang, "Your lady doesn't feel well and keeps speaking nonsense. You should take her to rest and invite a doctor over for her. Her obsession might get her in trouble."

Ju Xiang didn't say anything and could only support Yu Qingmeng to walk out, who seemed very miserable.

This yard already belonged to Qu Moying. Ju Xiang knew that it was inappropriate for Yu Qingmeng to stay here anymore. Then she led her lady to the guest room.

Seeing Yu Qingmeng's eyes full of tears, Xu Lipeng put on a softer look on his face. After all, he still had a feeling for her. He had only uttered those harsh words in order to clear up Qu Moying's doubts.

"Why are you heading out now? Take her to the inner room," Xu Lipeng flapped his sleeve and said.

Ju Xiang stopped to look at Xu Lipeng and then at Qu Moying, who hadn't uttered a single word after Xu Lipeng came in, feeling at a loss.

Then she said in a low voice, "My lady!"

"Help... help me get in!" With a trace of glee flashing in Yu Qingmeng's eyes, she said that and turned around to get back in the room.

"Lady Yu, this is my yard. Grandma told you to move out early this morning. Do you think you can get this place back because of the words Young Master Xu just said?" Qu Moying said indifferently.

This was the Qu's Mansion, and the masters could only be the Qus, especially Old Lady Qu. Even if Xu Lipeng was engaged with Qu Moying, he still couldn't interfere with the affairs of the Qu Family.

Xu Lipeng could read the sarcasm in her words. Then the look on his face changed slightly.

He didn't know about the decision that Old Lady Qu had made. Now it seemed that he had tried to help Yu Qingmeng just now. He didn't want Qu Moying to get suspicious now. Yesterday, after he got home, he discussed with his mother for a long time, and they had both agreed that it was better not to break the engagement off.

Now was not the best time to do it. Also, the Yu Family was not powerful enough, so Yu Qingmeng didn't deserve to be his wife.

"Fourth Lady, sorry I don't know about that," Xu Lipeng bowed to Qu Moying while apologizing seriously.

"Don't mind about it, Young Master Xu!" Qu Moying gave obeisance to him and said with a flat tone.

Seeing the two of them being gentle to each other, Yu Qingmeng got very jealous. Finally, she couldn't bear it anymore. She cried out loud as she pushed away Ju Xiang's hand and then ran out.

Ju Xiang went after her in a hurry.

The room fell into a dead silence.

Xu Lipeng's gaze fell on Qu Moying. There was a pearl hairpin inserted into her black and beautiful long hair. On her green dress were embroidered two butterflies spreading their wings. Her simple outfit made her look graceful. Although her eyes were covered, he could still see her ivory skin.

Her pink lips made her face look delicately pale.

Even so, he still felt that her face covered by the veil wouldn't be ugly. In his view, she was at least a cute girl.

There weren't so many rumors about her. Still, Xu Lipeng could always hear someone calling her ugly and blind. As he thought of her stepmother, he understood everything.

Actually, he could still accept her as his wife since she was a good-looking girl. He wasn't determined to break the engagement off anyway. Because he believed that in Qu Moying's situation, she would never stop him from having concubines.

Maybe he could take Yu Qingmeng in as a noble concubine later.

After all, he kept the promise made by their parents and didn't look down upon her. It should be great news to the Qu Family that he was willing to marry her.

Although Old Lady Qu was in a rage right now and might have found about the affair between Xu Lipeng and Yu Qingmeng, Xu Lipeng still didn't think it was a big deal. He believed that he only needed to convince Qu Moying. Because in his view, she was only a girl who was ignorant and had never left her boudoir.



Right now, his mother was persuading Old Lady Qu. So he came to look for Qu Moying. He thought that this girl was easier to deal with than Old Lady Qu. There were lots of girls throwing themselves to him, including some noble ladies. So, Xu Lipeng was very confident about himself.

All he needed to do was to coax her into trusting him.

At the thought of that, he put on a tender look on his face and said, "Fourth Lady, there's nothing between Lady Yu and me. I don't know why she would think like that. There truly is nothing going on."

"Young Master Xu, you owe the Yu Family an explanation. Lots of people saw you two together yesterday!" Qu Moying raised her head to look at Xu Lipeng and said in a nonchalant voice.

Her eyes were icy cold.

Xu Lipeng and Pei Luo'an were so much alike. They both seemed very gentle, as if they always abided by the principles. However, they were actually dark and distorted inside and never stopped scheming!

After being reborn, she would never be a victim again who sacrificed her life to help them get what they want!

"About what happened to Lady Yu... I'll go to the Yu's Mansion to explain. The situation was very urgent at that time, and Lady Yu's life was in danger after all," Xu Lipeng explained sincerely.

"So she wants to return your favor by giving herself to you," Qu Moying said with a smile.

"Anyway, I won't break off the engagement for Lady Yu. Fourth Lady, don't worry. We have been engaged for years. Such a tiny thing shouldn't affect our relationship. Let's not be influenced by how Lady Yu or the Yu Family thinks."

Xu Lipeng said that with a tender voice.

From his perspective, Qu Moying said that because she was worried and jealous, and he only needed to assure her.

“I don’t care what had happened between you and Lady Yu. But I still think we should break off the engagement in case Lady Yu and I would quarrel again next time and embarrass ourselves.” Having said that calmly, Qu Moying turned around and walked out.

She told someone to call Xu Lipeng over because she wanted him to see the quarrel between her and Yu Qingmeng.

Xu Lipeng couldn’t explain the words Yu Qingmeng said when she lost control, and that gave Qu Moying a reason to break off the engagement.

Also, that would get Yu Qingmeng more furious, and maybe she would expose more things herself...

Qu Moying frowned. She felt that there had to be a reason why Xu Lipeng insisted on keeping the engagement which she didn’t know.

There must be something she had that made Xu Lipeng determined to marry her.

A man from a well-known noble family like Xu Lipeng shouldn’t make concessions again and again to Qu Moying since her father was just the Vice Minister of Works. Qu Moying thought about what had happened during the past few years. Although no one from Marquis Yongning’s family had visited her, they had never said that they wanted to break off the engagement either. She wondered if there was any secret behind it.

The engagement was not as easy to break off as she thought...

“Fourth Lady, there really is nothing between Lady Yu and me. Yesterday I only wanted to invite you out, but Lady Yu insisted on going with us. What had happened after that was just an accident. Fourth Lady, you can’t force me to marry Lady Yu because I saved her.”

Xu Lipeng followed Qu Moying and explained again. He didn't realize that Qu Moying would be so hard to persuade, which made him a bit angry. There was nothing about Qu Moying that could attract a man. Even though he didn't care about a woman's appearance that much, he still considered himself very generous by agreeing to marry her.

"Fourth Lady, Second Madam heard the argument between you and Lady Yu and asked you to go over." A senior housemaid walked in hurriedly. After she saw Qu Moying, she gave obeisance to the latter and said that.

Not far from the yard door, Granny Miao was heading over in a hurry, but she didn't come close and stopped outside.