

## **Noble Wife 221**

### **Chapter 221 An Assassin Who Came Out of Nowhere**

Granny Miao subconsciously felt that something was wrong. "My lady, when Madam was sick, the imperial doctor came to see her. At that time, no one said that she was pregnant. And there were many doctors before, but no one talked about it."

"Could it be that she was too early in pregnancy at that time?" Qu Moying frowned slightly.

This sentence immediately made Granny Miao realize something. After thinking about it, she nodded. "This is also possible, but... but... if this is the case, this baby probably can't be in good conditions."

Qu Moying looked up, not understanding what Granny Miao meant. "What can't it be in good conditions?"

"Fourth Lady, Madam was very sick at that time and took a lot of medicine. Not only did the imperial doctor prescribe medicine for her, but there were also other doctors who prescribed medicine for her. At that time, she did not know that she was pregnant, so she must have drunk all kinds of medicine. Her illness was very dangerous, and the medicine she used was definitely very strong. Now, if she was really pregnant, with so much strong medicine, there might be a problem with the baby."

At that time, every doctor prescribed some medicine, and Yu's yard was filled with a strong smell of medicine. The last time she saw Yu, the latter was very thin and could not even get up. It could be seen that the medicine must be very strong. Even if there was a baby in her belly and it survived, the baby might have a big health issue.

"The child won't be healthy?" Qu Moying understood.

"Yes, it won't be healthy." Granny Miao nodded.

Qu Moying pursed her lips. Her eyes were cold...

It was time for them to attend the banquet of Duke Qi's Mansion. Early in the morning, Qu Moying washed up and went to the Old Lady's yard. Qu Xuexin and Qu Qiuyan were also there, waiting with her for the Old Lady to get up. Yesterday, Qu Qiuyan finished copying the Lessons for Women. She woke up early in the morning to greet the Old Lady with Qu Moying. Then, she apologized to Qu Moying.

She said that she was too anxious that day and lost her sense of propriety. As for what happened in the past, she repeatedly guaranteed that it had nothing to do with her, saying that she had always taken Qu Moying as her sister.

Qu Moying did not take these words seriously. She just listened to them. If she had taken Qu Qiuyan's words seriously, she would have been at a disadvantage. She only responded to Qu Qiuyan in a lukewarm manner, which could be considered a gesture of reconciliation.

The Old Lady looked at her indifferent appearance and knew that Qu Moying was not wrong about this matter. She only sighed softly and did not force the two sisters to be as intimate as before.

She was satisfied as long as they were safe and sound!

Today was the Old Lady brought them to Duke Qi's Mansion's banquet. Originally, Luo was also supposed to come, but because of the matter with Qu Caiyue, Luo was suddenly sick due to anger. At this time, she could not bring Qu Xuexin to the banquet, so she sent Qu Xuexin to West Mansion and asked the Old Lady to bring her along.

Qu Xuexin's marriage had not been settled yet, and she was getting older. Her marriage was like a heavy stone on not only Luo's, but also the Old Lady's mind.

The matter of Qu Caiyue had just happened, so Qu Xuexin's marriage was becoming more and more difficult to settle.

It was rare to have such a chance to go out for a walk, and maybe they could even arrange a good marriage for Qu Xuexin. The Old Lady naturally had to take Qu Xuexin out.

The carriages had already been waiting outside. The Old Lady was old and had more people to take care of her. Therefore, the Old Lady herself took up one carriage, and the three sisters shared two other carriages.

In the past, when the four sisters were together, two sisters would share one carriage. Today, one of the three sisters would have one carriage for her own.

“Moying, I will sit with you!” Qu Qiuyan said to Qu Moying after she helped the Old Lady get on the carriage in the front.

Qu Moying did not reply. She only smiled faintly and held onto Yu Dong’s hand to get into the carriage. After that, Yu Dong quickly got into the carriage, leaving Qu Qiuyan standing to the side awkwardly.

“Qiuyan, come sit with me!” Qu Xuexin looked at the somewhat embarrassed Qu Qiuyan and invited her.

Just now, at the Old Lady’s place, Qu Qiuyan and Qu Moying were indifferent to each other. With one look, Qu Xuexin knew that the relationship between the two was not good.

The matter of the two of them having a ruckus at the Old Lady’s place a few days ago had also reached Qu Xuexin’s ears. At this time, her invitation could also be considered as giving Qu Qiuyan a way out. From whichever perspective, it was not suitable for the two of them to stay in one carriage. Who knew if something would happen to the two of them in the carriage?

In the carriage ahead of them, the Old Lady nodded. Originally, she had wanted to arrange the seats like this. Just as she was about to let Granny Wu send a message, Qu Xuexin took the initiative to do so, saving her some trouble.

“Well then... I will have to trouble you, Eldest Sister. I originally wanted to sit with Fourth Sister.” A trace of an awkward smile appeared on Qu Qiuyan’s face.

Qu Moying turned a deaf ear to her proposal, which really made her feel awkward.

"We are sisters. There is no need to be so polite. Let's get into the carriage." Qu Xuexin said softly, indicating for Qu Qiuyan to board the carriage first.

This time, Qu Qiuyan readily accepted her proposal. She held the maid's hand and got into the carriage, followed by Qu Xuexin. Then, their two maids also got into the carriage.

After they all were seated, the carriages slowly moved and went out of the mansion.

Duke Qi's Mansion was a distance away from Vice Minister Qu's Mansion, but it was still early and they were not in a hurry. The Old Lady specially told the carriages to move a little slower. She was old and her three granddaughters were all delicate young ladies. It was better not to make haste.

The three carriages moved slowly. It was still early, but there were many people on the street. Suddenly, a figure rushed out. It looked like a drunkard. No, it was exactly a drunkard, who held a pot of wine in his hand and staggered toward the carriages.

The carriage drivers hurriedly pulled the reins of the horses to slow down.

The drunkard rushed to the front of the second carriage. Just as the carriage driver was about to berate him, he saw the drunkard fall in front of the carriage. The carriage driver had no choice but to stop the carriage and shout, "Get out of the way!"

As he spoke, he wanted to lash out with his whip and chase the drunkard away. The person in the carriage was the Fourth Lady. He would be in trouble if the Fourth Lady was disturbed.

The drunkard raised his head. He had a long beard that obscured his face. Only a pair of fierce eyes could be clearly seen. The carriage driver panicked, and he subconsciously held the whip still, not daring to hit the man with the whip. Such a pair of bloody and fierce eyes did not look like the eyes of an ordinary person.

After calming himself down, he was just about to reprimand the drunkard when he saw the drunkard actually held onto the shaft of the carriage. Then, the drunkard leaped up and jumped onto the shaft of the carriage. He used one hand to pull open the carriage curtain and reached the other hand into the

carriage. The carriage driver saw a cold light from the corner of his eyes. He was so scared that his hands and feet were trembling. He only had time to shout, "An assassin!"

Yu Dong was sitting in front of Qu Moying in the carriage. She did not care at first, but when she heard the strange noise, she immediately went on guard. Then, she saw the curtain of the carriage before her eyes was lifted, and a hand reached into the carriage holding a dagger, apparently determined to kill the passenger.

Yu Dong raised her foot and kicked out forcefully, hitting the man's wrist.

Her strength was too great. The drunkard only knew that there were two weak women in the carriage. Whether it was a lady or a maid, it was easy for him to kill them. As long as he killed the people inside and jumped out to run into the alley, there would be people to help them get away. From then on, his life would change. He would never have to come back to the capital again.

If the persons in the carriage were killed, the scene would inevitably be in chaos. By then, everyone would only be concerned about the life or death of the people in the carriage, and escaping was not a difficult problem. As a desperado, he had killed people before. In the past, he had been able to escape safely. This time, he was only dealing with two women, and killing them was easy as a pie.

Unexpectedly, there was such a strong maid in the carriage. He was kicked so badly that he took a step back and fell directly from the carriage. The dagger in his hand fell to the ground.

Yu Dong jumped out of the carriage and stepped on the hand of the man that was trying to reach the dagger. She shouted loudly, "Quick! Catch the assassin!"

Hearing her shout so hard, the surrounding people finally reacted to offer help. Some pressed the man's hands, and someone pressed on his feet, completely subduing the man.

The carriage driver used the whip to tie up the man's hands.

The Old Lady had already received the news in the carriage in front. She anxiously held Granny Wu's hand and came over. When she saw the man by Qu Moying's carriage, she was so scared that she almost fainted.

“Old Lady, our young lady is fine!” Yu Dong had sharp eyes and saw the Old Lady coming. She hurriedly rushed over to comfort her.

“What’s happened? Who... Who is this person? Where is Moying?” The Old Lady grabbed Yu Dong. Her face was as pale as snow and her voice trembled.

“Old Lady, it’s okay. My lady is still inside. I noticed this person first and when I saw him stabbing into the carriage with a dagger, I kicked him down. Fortunately, I used to work in the village and had a little strength. Otherwise, it would really be dangerous this time.”

Yu Dong patted her chest with lingering fear.

“Let... let Moying come with me to sit in the front carriage.” The Old Lady was still worried.

Yu Dong nodded. She turned around to lift the curtain and helped Qu Moying off the carriage. Qu Moying’s eyes fell on the man who was pressed to the ground. She was sure that she had never provoked such a person. Usually, she does not go out often and would not offend such a person. A trace of coldness flashed through her eyes.

Needless to say, this must have been specially prepared for her.

Otherwise, why would an insignificant daughter of an assistant minister attract such a desperado to assassinate her?

She just didn’t expect Qu Qiuyan to be so powerful. But was that all? No, she should have more tricks up her sleeves!

“Send him to the government!” Qu Moying looked at Yu Dong and ordered.

There was one thing that Qu Moying knew. Even if this man was sent to the government, they would not find anything. However, this process was inevitable and might be of some help, unless the mastermind really had no flaws and had made a perfect plan and carried it out with strong determination.

At least what she could guess was not the case!

Even if the mastermind had absolute confidence, it was better to make sure that no clue was left behind. So, the assassination case wouldn't end up just like this, right?

"Someone, come, where did the assassin come from? Take him away." Some people suddenly came from outside the crowd. The first one seemed to be the leader. He was leading a few court runners.

## Chapter 222 Have You Asked, or Are You Already Clear?

Seeing the people from Yamen coming over, the onlookers dispersed. Qu Moying also stopped in her tracks. The Old Lady gave Granny Wu a look. Granny Wu understood and went forward to deal with the matter.

Yu Dong followed her.

Several court runners came over to suppress them and prepared to take the assassin away.

"May I ask which Yamen you are from? Do you need these people to be witnesses? This person is trying to assassinate our young lady in broad daylight. I wonder why he did so?" Yu Dong was in front of Granny Wu. She bowed to the leader and asked.

"We aren't clear on this matter yet. We will only know after we investigate it." The leader was a middle-aged man in his thirties. He waved his hand impatiently.

"Sir, we are the family members of Vice Minister Qu's Mansion." Granny Wu stepped forward and said with a smile.

"Even if your Masters are the family members of Vice Minister's Mansion, they can't interfere with Yamen's affairs before the matter is thoroughly investigated," the middle-aged man said. He turned around and was about to leave with his men, not saying which Yamen he was from.

"Sir, which Yamen are you from? Why did you take the assassin away without asking a thing? Are you with the assassin?" Yu Dong stepped forward and stopped him. He acted like an ignorant young maid. He put his hand on his waist and glared at the court runner, refusing to let him pass.

Hearing her words, the people who were about to disperse immediately stopped.

"We are from the Ministry of Justice. This person is very suspicious. So we are taking him back for an investigation. If there is any progress, we will inform the Vice Minister," he said. The middle-aged man became more and more impatient. He was being blocked by a maid, and what the maid said was reasonable. Even if the maid didn't act properly, he could not reprimand her for the trouble she had caused.

"So it is the Ministry of Justice. Then, sir, please find out who is trying to assassinate our young lady. This is the first time that our young lady is going to attend a banquet. Who is the one so intolerable to our young lady as to hire an assassin to hurt her?" Yu Dong put down his hands and bowed respectfully.

He immediately changed his attitude to a respectful one.

"Naturally, we will find out." The man from the Ministry of Justice became more and more impatient. Who would be willing to talk to a maid?

"Then I'll have to trouble you, sir." Yu Dong moved aside and was overjoyed to see a carriage coming from the corner of his eyes!

The Ministry of Justice's men left with the assassin. After taking a few steps, they suddenly saw two guards coming from the opposite side. When they saw the cold and fierce eyes of the other party, the Ministry of Justice's men immediately stopped.

"Why is there such a ruckus in front? It disturbed Lord Yun." The first guard came over and looked at the petty official from the Ministry of Justice with a murderous look.



The petty official followed the eyes of the two guards and saw a wide carriage parked in the middle of the road. It was so wide that it almost took up half of the road. The curtain in front of the carriage was lifted and a lazy figure could be vaguely seen. The official was so scared that he immediately lowered his head and dared not look again.

That was Lord Yun. How could there be such a coincidence?

“Just now, there was an assassination.” The petty official hurriedly reported.

“Who was the target of the assassination?” The guard said coldly. His cold eyes fell on the petty official. Although the Ministry of Justice’s official was quite experienced, he was really nothing when confronting Lord Yun Mansion’s guards. He heard that each of the guards around Lord Yun had taken many lives. Although it was now broad daylight, he still felt gloomy when looking at them.

Moreover, this Lord Yun was also in charge of West Prison. He was a living Yama.

“I heard that it was a young lady. It might be a misunderstanding. After all, such a young lady would not provoke a bandit,” the petty official stuttered.

“Misunderstanding? Have you asked, or are already clear?” The guard asked coldly. Lord Yun Mansion’s guards were not so easy to deal with.

The petty official was so scared that he dropped to his knees and hurriedly explained, “I... I haven’t asked. It was just a guess.”

“Since it’s just a guess, why did you think it’s true? Our Lord will take the assassin away and send him to West Prison. He actually dared to assassinate a noble young lady. This is ridiculous. What’s next? The capital’s aristocratic families will be in a state of panic.” The guard waved his hand and another guard stepped forward. He walked behind the man who was pulled by the Ministry of Justice’s staff and heavily attacked the back of his neck.

The man who was still struggling fiercely immediately fainted and fell from the hands of the Ministry of Justice’s men.

The guard came over and pulled his collar backward like a dead dog.

The Ministry of Justice's petty official's hands and feet turned cold. He wanted to say something, but when he looked up and saw the cold eyes of the guard in front of him, he immediately lowered his head and felt a chill on his back.

Forget it, it was just a bandit. It was nothing. Even if he didn't take the assassin back, with Lord Yun's involvement, he could not escape.

He could not offend Lord Yun because of this matter!

That would be courting death. He would not dare to do that. Even if he was given more money, he would not dare. Originally, he had heard the news that there was a bandit. He had received the news and brought people here to catch the guy and do a deed of merit. Now that this bandit was taken away, he couldn't do anything about it either. The reward brushed past him just like that.

He would just go back and report it to his superiors.

Qu Moying saw the situation from afar. She was so far away that she couldn't tell what was going on. She only felt that the entire venue was very quiet. Some of the onlookers had left, and as for those who didn't leave in time, they all lowered their heads quietly. No one dared to speak carelessly. She looked at the familiar figure and was basically sure that it was Pei Yuanjun.

Only this Lord had such a strong murderous aura.

It was very unexpected!

However, when she saw him take the assassin away, her eyes turned slightly, and she turned around to help the Old Lady walk toward the carriage in front.

The Old Lady also saw Pei Yuanjun's carriage and asked Qu Mansion's carriages to wait by the side with the crowd. Lord Yun Mansion's carriage slowly came over.

She pulled Qu Moying's hand hard and pushed her back.

The carriage slowly came over. The originally crowded street immediately became wide and quiet. Qu Moying followed behind the Old Lady and lowered her head slightly, waiting for the carriage to go over.

This Lord Yun did have great pomp and circumstance.

"Old Lady Qu?" A lazy voice came from the carriage. Qu Moying raised her head and saw that carriage had stopped in front of them. Inside the carriage, Pei Yuanjun sat up lazily. There was a couch in the carriage. He had been half-lying before. Now, he sat up straight and was looking at Old Lady Qu.

"Greetings, Lord Yun." Old Lady Qu bowed, and Qu Moying who followed behind her also bowed sideways.

"Get up, Old Lady. You are too polite. I heard that someone tried to assassinate you just now. I wonder which lady of your family was the target?" Pei Yuanjun's long and narrow almond eyes curved up, and his gaze fell on Qu Moying.

"It's my youngest granddaughter." Old Lady Qu held Qu Moying's hand and stood up straight before answering with lingering fear.

"So the assassination target was Fourth Lady Qu. Very good!" Pei Yuanjun snorted coldly. His thin lips pursed slightly. He waved his hand and leaned back lazily. Then, the carriage moved forward. The wheels rolled past Qu Mansion's people.

He did not ask anything else.

The Old Lady watched as Pei Yuanjun's carriage disappeared into the distance. Her brows were tightly furrowed and she seemed to be deep in thought. These words did not sound like he actually meant that what happened was good. What exactly did Lord Yun mean?

"Grandmother, Moying, are you alright?" Qu Qiuyan's voice suddenly sounded. Hearing her voice, the Old Lady came back to her senses. Qu Qiuyan and Qu Xuexin were running over in a hurry. Their carriage was behind that of Qu Moying's. The two of them had not seen the scene just now. They had only heard of it.

"I'm fine. Grandmother, let's go inside the carriage first!" Qu Moying nodded lightly at Qu Xuexin and helped the Old Lady walk towards the carriage in front.

"Moying..." Qu Qiuyan wanted to say something but saw that Qu Moying had already walked far away. She stomped her feet in anger and helplessly turned back to her carriage with Qu Xuexin.

The carriage which was originally taken by Qu Moying was now empty. It slowly followed behind the other two carriages of Qu Mansion on their way towards Duke Qi's Mansion.

None of the Qu Mansion's members was injured in the accident just now, so it was considered a small matter. As for why someone had tried to assassinate Qu Moying, Qu Mansion's people all felt that the assassin might have made a mistake. It was impossible for someone to assassinate Qu Moying.

Anyway, now that the assassin had been caught, the whole thing would come to light soon.

In the other carriage, Qu Qiuyan's face had been a little pale and sullen ever since she got into the carriage. Qu Xuexin looked at her a few times and saw that she was still frowning and in a daze. She said, "Qiuyan, what's wrong? Are you scared? It's okay. This matter has already passed. The assassin has also been caught. Moreover, Moying hasn't been hurt at all."

"Who is that assassin? Why did he assassinate Fourth Sister? Why did Lord Yun get involved? What does this have to do with him?" Qu Qiuyan asked thoughtfully.

"Maybe he just happened to pass by. I heard that Lord Yun is also in charge of the prison system." Qu Xuexin comforted Qu Qiuyan softly, thinking that Qu Qiuyan was frightened by what happened just now.

Who wouldn't be afraid of this kind of thing? A noble lady was born to be meek and to stay in her boudoir. She would never see this kind of thing. Now that it happened in front of her, Qu Xuexin also

forced herself to look normal. At this time, she was also very scared, but she was an elder sister. Seeing that Qu Qiuyan was feeling ill at ease, Qu Xuexin suppressed her panic and tried to console her.

However, it seemed that the effect was not great. Qu Qiuyan was still in a bad mood and looked very flustered.

The journey was smooth sailing afterward. This time, there were no more accidents. The carriages steadily stopped in front of Duke Qi's Mansion. With Duke Qi's Mansion's old maid leading the carriages forward, they finally stopped at a yard where carriages were parked.

After the carriage stopped, Qu Moying helped the Old Lady get off the carriage. On the other carriage, Qu Qiuyan and Qu Xuexin also came down. The two of them seemed to be in a bad mood and their faces were a little pale. They should also be frightened. Thinking of Qu Moying who barely avoided an accident, the Old Lady became more and more distressed and reached out to hold Qu Moying's hand.

"Follow me close. Don't go anywhere," the Old Lady warned. Although Qu Moying had comforted the Old Lady in the carriage, the Old Lady was still uneasy. She was afraid that something unexpected would happen to Qu Moying again. When they were back home, she would ask her second son to look into this matter. Why would someone assassinate Ying? Was it really just an accident?

The Old Lady wouldn't believe it!

"Are you the Old Lady of Vice Minister Qu's Mansion? Our Madam invited you in!" A maid came over and bowed to Old Lady Qu with a smile.

Old Lady Qu was stunned for a moment. She had never had much contact with this distinguished Duchess Qi. This time, her second son had specially asked for the invitation. What was the meaning of sending someone to ask her over?

## Chapter 223 The Kind Duchess Qi

The Old Lady brought her three granddaughters and followed the old maid who led them into the reception hall.

Sitting on the top seat was Duchess Qi, who was about the same age as Old Lady Qu. She sat there with a straight back and looked imposing. Compared with Old Lady Qu, her figure was thinner, and there was a hint of seriousness in the corners of her eyes. She was a relatively domineering titled lady. Although she was old, she still looked young.

It was said that Duchess Qi was the daughter of a prominent general. Even though she was old now, she was different from the other ordinary madams. Ji Hanyue had seen her in her past life and deeply admired this madam. At that time, Duke Qi's position was held by the eldest brother of the current Duke Qi. The previous Duke Qi almost caused the entire Duke Qi's Mansion to be destroyed.

Fortunately, the current Duchess Qi, who was then the second lady of Duke Qi's Mansion, had a prominent background and her family offered great help. In addition, the current Duke Qi was loyal to the Emperor and had saved the Emperor before. That was why other people in Duke Qi's Mansion were able to survive the catastrophe. Only the original Duke Qi's family had to atone for their crimes. Thus, the current Duke Qi was very respectful to this Duchess Qi.

Duke Qi had a total of two sons and one daughter. Only one son was born from a concubine, and the other son and daughter were all born by Duchess Qi.

It was said that the concubine-born son was the child of Duke Qi and his bedroom maid, who had been serving him before his marriage. After Duchess Qi entered the house and gave birth to a son, the bedroom maid also gave birth to a son.

"Greetings, Duchess Qi." Old Lady Qu stepped forward and bowed.

"Old Lady Qu, right? Please take a seat!" After Duchess Qi looked at Old Lady Qu, she nodded and ordered someone to help Old Lady Qu sit down.

Although her attitude was not intimate, it was not too arrogant either. Seeing that Old Lady Qu was getting older, she specially asked someone to put a cushion on the chair.

After the Old Lady sat down, Duchess Qi looked at the three Qu Mansion ladies who followed suit to salute.

Vice Minister's Mansion was really nothing to Duke Qi's Mansion. In the past, Duke Qi's Mansion did not pay attention to the young ladies of Qu Mansion, but this time she specially looked at Qu Qiuyan and Qu Moying.

She had seen Qu Xuexin before, but she did not pay much attention to her. She only vaguely remembered that she was gentle and had pretty good looks. The Third Lady Qu in front of her was very beautiful. It was no wonder that she heard that Lord Jing was interested in her. Before this, her granddaughter had talked to her about this matter. At that time, she even comforted her granddaughter, because she was confident that her granddaughter's appearance was better than that of the Third Lady Qu.

Now it seemed that the two each had their own merits. She did not expect that this Third Lady Qu was so outstanding. No wonder people said that Lord Jing liked her.

If it had been in the past, Duchess Qi would definitely have said something to test Qu Qiuyan. But now, her granddaughter could not make up her mind. Duchess Qi also felt that she should wait and see. As for the last lady, Fourth Lady Qu, Duchess Qi was sure that she had never seen her before.

However, this Fourth Lady Qu was dressed very conspicuously. She wore a long eye veil, revealing only her fair forehead and pink lips. Most of her face was hidden behind the wide eye veil. This lady had an eye disease, and she was said to be neither talented nor good-looking. Thinking about it, it made sense. How much talent could she have cultivated growing up in the village?

As for her appearance, Duchess Qi felt that the rumors were indeed not credible. Judging by her experience, even if this lady was not the best, she was not plain-looking either. She must have a good appearance. This girl reminded her of the woman surnamed Yue, who married into the capital and had visited her once. Back then, Duchess Qi felt that Yue was very beautiful and she liked her upon first sight.

Yue family in the South and Duke Qi had a good relationship. Now, the head of Yue family and Duke Qi were good buddies. This was also why when two Yue ladies married into the capital, they both went to see Duchess Qi.

It was a pity that in the end, Yue died so young. Vice Minister Qu was not a good person. Why did Yue choose such a person as her husband at that time? This thought really made her sad.

"You are the Fourth Lady born by Yue?" Duchess Qi waved to Qu Moying.

Qu Moying took two steps forward and said softly, "Yes, madam!"

"Good child. It must have been hard on you!" Duchess Qi sighed. She held Qu Moying's hand and looked her up and down. "How is your eye disease? Can it be cured? Do you want to wear an eye veil like this forever?"

"It's almost healed. It's just that I still can't bear the strong light now. The veil can be removed after a while," Qu Moying said with a smile.

Yue family in the South was related to Duke Qi's Mansion. Ji Hanyue had heard her mother mention it. However, it was a brief account. Her mother had said that at that time., she did not like Duke Qi's daughter, who was Minister Liu's wife, and they became distant from each other later on. When she met Duchess Qi at a banquet, they would have a chat, but that was all.

"Good, good, good, good!" Duchess Qi patted Qu Moying's hand again. There was a bit of kindness in her eyes, causing her appearance to become gentle. "When I first met your mother, she was already married into the capital, but she didn't look much older than you now. Just looking at her made me feel she was a good person. She was so gentle. She spoke softly, and she was quite a congenial friend to me. It was just that..."

Duchess Qi sighed and pursed her lips with a handkerchief. Then, she raised her head and gently patted the back of Qu Moying's hand. "Since you are back now, you can come to see me more often in the future. I am old now, and I will always think of some old acquaintances. Your mother can be considered a junior that I adore."

This meant that she was going to back up Qu Moying. Old Lady Qu looked at Duchess Qi gratefully.

"Mother, why do you always like people from Qu Mansion? It was Mrs. Qu before, and now it is Fourth Lady Qu. Could it be that you are especially fated with Qu Mansion?" A gentle voice came from the side with a gentle smile. The voice was neither high nor low, making people feel comfortable.



Qu Moying turned her head and saw a beautiful face. She was about thirty years old, but she looked very young. She was Minister Liu's wife, the only daughter of Duchess Qi, who was also Liu Jingyu's birth mother.

Either identity meant that this madam had a noble status.

"Oh, you, you always like to say such things. When you saw Second Madam Qu, you said the same thing." Duchess Qi smiled and pointed at Mrs. Qi.

"Well, that's because you do like Qu Mansion. I'm not that good-looking, so you naturally dislike me..." Mrs. Qi smiled, looking as if she had been wronged. Her words made Duchess Qi laugh. Duchess Qi put down Qu Moying's hand and asked her to sit down. "Even if you were not good-looking, how could I, as a mother, dislike you?"

"Mother, you do dislike me. See, you just said that I'm ugly," Mrs. Qi spread out her hands and said.

The few madams sitting next to her also laughed. They gave all kinds of comments and were happily poking fun.

Qu Moying lowered her head and played with the handkerchief in her hand. The madams in front of her were either from prestigious noble families or high-ranking titled madams. It was not Qu Moying's turn to speak on this occasion.

She had seen Minister Liu's wife before. In her previous life when she was Ji Hanyue, she had seen this madam more than once. Every time she saw her, she felt that she was a gentle person. In terms of both personality and appearance, Liu Jingyu was very similar to her. However, she did not like Liu Jingyu and felt that she was very fake.

Therefore, she also felt that this Mrs. Qi was a little fake.

When her mother mentioned this Mrs. Qi in the past, she did not have a good impression of her either. However, she did not say anything specific about her. She only said that Mrs. Liu was actually not a very good person. Even if she saw her, she would only smile at her. Moreover, she was still young at that

time, and the two of them rarely interacted in the social circle. Therefore, they did not actually speak much.

Now, it seemed that this person spoke eloquently. With just a few words, she managed to make Duchess Qi happy. It was no wonder that Duke Qi wanted to put his credit under the name of his maternal granddaughter and not his paternal granddaughter. On one hand, it was because his paternal granddaughter was born by a concubine-born son. On the other hand, it was also because Duke Qi and his wife liked the wife-born daughter.

At this time, a few people came to the flower hall.

“Xiangyu, take these young ladies to the garden for a walk. We are old people, and there is no need for them to keep us company. Young people should walk outside and take a look around. Your cousin has already been here. Go and call her over as well,” Duchess Qi ordered.

Qu Moying looked over and saw Duke Qi’s Mansion’s only daughter, Qi Xiangyu, who was the daughter of the second branch’s concubine-born son, came out from behind. After bowing to the Old Lady, she invited the young ladies to go out with her.

Qu Moying stood up with everyone and followed behind her. There were at least a dozen young ladies in total.

Qu Moying did not want to fight for space with them, so she walked at the back. Beside her was Qu Xuexin. Qu Qiuyan had already started talking to familiar ladies, and Qu Xuexin ended up in the back.

“Eldest Sister, are there not any ladies you are familiar with?” Qu Moying asked in surprise when she saw that Qu Xuexin also lagged behind just like her.

Logically speaking, Qu Xuexin should know someone. Even if they were not familiar with each other, this Eldest Sister of hers was smart and kind, and she could easily find someone to talk to.

Qu Xuexin shook her head and lowered her head with a bitter smile. “Yes, there are.”

"Why don't you talk with them?" Qu Moying felt more and more puzzled. It was rare for them to meet each other, so naturally, they would start chatting if they knew each other.

Qu Xuexin shook his head again and sighed. "Forget about it. Maybe it's not a good idea. Maybe I'll be ridiculed."

"Why would they ridicule you, Eldest Sister?" Qu Moying asked in confusion. After she finished speaking, she immediately understood. "Is it because of what happened to Second Sister?"

It had been a few days since the incident in the palace. The identities of these ladies in front of them were all extraordinary. They must have heard what happened in the palace. Lord Jing Mansion had not responded and what happened could not be undone, so no matter how one looked at it, it was the daughter of Qu Mansion who had been embarrassed. Qu Xuexin and Qu Caiyue were both from East Mansion, and she would naturally be afraid of being implicated at this time.

"Eldest Sister, Third Sister has gone over." Qu Moying no longer asked about this question. She raised her chin and pointed at Qu Qiuyan, who was talking to a noble lady enthusiastically.

"Third Sister is different from me," Qu Xuexin said. She looked up at Qu Moying and said with a serious face, "Fourth Sister, when we were in front of the mansion, Third Sister wanted to take the same carriage with you. I saw her standing there awkwardly, so I asked her to come with me."

## Chapter 224 Who Would Pay So Much Attention to Her?

These words were very unexpected, but after they were said, they sounded quite reasonable to Qu Moying. Her watery eyes narrowed slightly. Sure enough, no one was stupid.

Although it was just a simple sentence, there was a different meaning in it.

"Moying, I am different from Qiuyan. I am East Mansion's young lady and your cousin. We are like passengers on the same boat. If you are suffering, what benefits will I get? What's more, Second Sister just encountered such a thing. I heard that she entered the palace because of Third Sister. It was Third

Sister who went to ask Grandmother for permission. After entering the palace, Second Sister, who has always been close with Third Sister, followed you instead of her.”

Qu Xuexin continued with a serious expression.

As they spoke, their footsteps became slower and slower, and they gradually lagged ten steps behind the crowd.

Qu Qiuyan turned around and glanced at the two of them. Seeing that they were talking intimately, she secretly smirked. At this time, she had already made up her mind, and there was no longer the panic she had before.

Her uncle had said before that even if the matter failed, she would not be involved, so she was relieved.

Anyway, when they were selecting carriages, she had asked to take the same carriage with Qu Moying. It was Qu Moying who rejected her. After that, something happened, and she wasn't to be blamed. She almost got on that carriage, and she barely avoided the risk of being assassinated.

She was sure about Qu Xuexin's personality and knew she would invite her to sit with her.

“Eldest Sister, you also think that the matter in the palace is suspicious?” Qu Moying curled her lips.

“Even if Second Sister saw Third Sister and Lord Jing together, she would automatically avoid them, and it is impossible for her to stay beside you.” Qu Xuexin did not directly answer Qu Moying's words and she just said slowly.

The four sisters were the ones clearest about the situation at that time.

When it happened, Qu Xuexin was also stunned. She felt that the one who should have had an accident at that time was Qu Moying, and it should not be Lord Jing. Even if someone wanted to scheme against one of the two princes, the target should be Lord Wei. The relationship between Lord Jing and Qu Qiuyan was almost clear to everyone in the mansion. It was just that Lord Jing did not officially announce his attitude.

So who would scheme against Lord Jing at a time like this?

If the scheme didn't work out, the person would be in a mess. If it did, the person wouldn't be sure of the results, and would end up in a similar situation just like Qu Caiyue. Considering Qu Qiuyan's relationship with Lord Jing, even if Qu Caiyue risked her life, her status wouldn't be high. Qu Qiuyan was wife-born, whereas Qu Caiyue was concubine-born, and the most important thing was that what Qu Caiyue did was equivalent to offering herself to a man in bed. Qu Xuexin felt that if Qu Caiyue was the one who schemed, her best result would be just a low-class concubine of Lord Jing.

Nevertheless, her father and Second Uncle discussed a lot in the study. Could this kind of thing even be discussed? Right now, the most important thing was Lord Jing's response.

"Eldest Sister, do you think Lord Jing will marry her?" Qu Moying smiled and glanced at Qu Qiuyan in front of her.

Qu Xuexin understood who she was talking about. She thought about it and shook his head hesitantly. "Probably not."

"I heard that Lord Jing is going to marry Minister Liu's daughter." Qu Moying looked at her indifferently and said straightforwardly.

"County Lady Jingyu?" Qu Xuexin was stunned for a moment. She suddenly raised her gaze and looked at the woman who was walking over. She was surrounded by a few maids protecting her. It was none other than County Lady Jingyu. "Isn't she... Crown... Crown Prince's Mansion..."

When Qu Xuexin said this, she immediately realized something and shut her mouth!

Compared with Duke Qi's Mansion's granddaughter, County Lady Jingyu's pomp was indeed eye-catching. Four maids followed behind her, holding her supplies. The setup was bigger than any of the noble ladies. She had never seen Liu Jingyu make such a big show in the past. This current setup was comparable to some imperial concubines in the palace.

Qu Moying's heart skipped a beat. Her gaze calmly swept over the few maids who were following Liu Jingyu. They looked a little familiar!

When she first arrived at Crown Prince's Mansion, in order to give others a dignified and respectable appearance, she, the future Crown Princess, had indeed brought four maids over.

Now, it seemed that the Crown Prince's Mansion had selected Liu Jingyu. Even her stance was different from before!

Considering Qu Xuexin's words, some speculations were actually about to come to light!

"Maybe the rumors are wrong," Qu Moying said indifferently. Seeing that the crowd had stopped, she also slowed down. Although she was still walking, she was very slow.

Liu Jingyu had already greeted the other noble ladies who were present, and they seemed to be very familiar with her. After a while, they were already smiling and talking to each other. It could be seen that County Lady Jingyu was the focus of this group of people.

Qu Qiuyan was already squeezed out of the crowd. She just stood on the side watching silently. In terms of status, Qu Qiuyan could not compare with Liu Jingyu.

"Fourth Lady Qu?" Liu Jingyu's gaze suddenly passed through the crowd and landed on Qu Moying. After a brief glance, she slowly walked over.

A large group of people followed behind her.

"Greetings, County Lady Jingyu!" Qu Xuexin and Qu Moying bowed together.

"Fourth Lady Qu, you are too polite," Liu Jingyu said with a smile. Her voice was gentle and full of smiles, which made people very fond of her. "I just heard that Fourth Lady Qu's birth mother is actually close to my maternal grandfather's family. In the future, we need to stay connected more!" Liu Jingyu smiled and said to Qu Moying. It was very easy for people to have a good impression of her.

"I also just found out," Qu Moying said.

"Since that's the case, our two families are friends for generations. Although I am a few years older than you, we are peers. If you have anything you don't understand, you can come and find me." Liu Jingyu smiled.

"Sure!" Qu Moying lowered her head slightly.

"Can we sit there for a while? It's too sunny here. Fourth Lady Qu's eyes are not good, so it will hurt her eyes!" Liu Jingyu pointed to the pavilion on the side and appeared to be quite considerate of Qu Moying.

Tea and pastries had already been prepared in the pavilion. The scenery on the side was also good. It was a good place to admire the scenery.

Qu Moying nodded.

Liu Jingyu brought the group of ladies into the pavilion. The pavilion was not small. After the few ladies sat down, it still seemed empty. After a few maids poured tea for their ladies, they all retreated to the outside of the pavilion and stood far away. There was a distance between them and the Masters. There were many noble ladies, so the maids naturally stayed far away to avoid disturbing the Masters.

Even the maids who were next to Duke Qi's Mansion's young lady moved far away. Who would be so insensible as to move closer instead?

However, Yu Dong was one who was "insensible". He also followed the group of maids out, but she turned around and stood behind Qu Moying at the fence. Although she was standing outside, she was still waiting on Qu Moying.

There were not many stone stools, and most of the ladies were willing to sit by the fence. Not only was the view there wide, but they could also relax without having to put on airs.

Liu Jingyu sat on the stone stool in front of Qu Moying. Two of the four maids who had been serving her went out. The other two were standing not far away. They stood by the fence ready to serve Liu Jingyu

anytime. There were actually quite close to Yu Dong, which ensured that they could respond to their Masters as soon as possible.

There were another two maids standing closely behind Liu Jingyu.

The fence that Qu Moying was sitting by was behind her.

“Fourth Lady, this pastry is not bad. It is made according to a recipe from the palace. Would you like to try it?” Liu Jingyu pointed at a plate of pastries on the table. The maid, who was standing behind her, immediately stepped forward and brought the plate of pastries in front of Qu Moying.

Qu Moying hesitated for a moment and slowly reached out to take a small piece. The maid then placed the plate back on the stone table.

After taking a bite, Qu Moying nodded. “It is indeed not bad.”

“This is actually based on a recipe from the palace. I heard that the recipes in the palace are not to be revealed.” One of the ladies said in surprise. She reached out to take a piece and took a bite. Her eyes immediately lit up. “It is indeed delicious.”

Hearing her say this, several other ladies immediately stretched out their hands. There were not many pastries, and the plate was empty in a few moments. Those ladies who did not get to taste them were extremely regrettable.

Although they had all eaten pastries granted by the palace, the pastries were all cold by the time they were delivered to their mansions. Naturally, the taste was not as good. When they were in the palace, even if the Masters in the palace gave them pastries, they could not eat them at will. Seeing that there were actually hot pastries coming from the palace and that they had been eaten by others, they felt even more envious.

“Is there more?” Liu Jingyu asked her cousin, Qi Xiangyu.



The two of them were of the same age, but Qi Xiangyu was born a few days earlier. However, because Qi Xiangyu was the daughter of Duke Qi's concubine-born son, her status in Duke Qi's Mansion was not comparable to that of Liu Jingyu, a maternal granddaughter.

Obviously, she was the only paternal granddaughter in Duke Qi's Mansion, but she could not compare with Liu Jingyu at all. Grandmother even gave the title of County Lady to Liu Jingyu. It would be strange if Qi Xiangyu was convinced.

But in front of others, Qi Xiangyu did not show it. Hearing Liu Jingyu's question, she only smiled and called the maid, who was taking care of her, to go to the kitchen to ask. Although the maid could not hear her Lady's voice from afar, she saw her Lady's gesture and immediately came over. After receiving the order, she turned and left.

Qu Moying finished the pastry in her hand and wiped her hands with a handkerchief, but she kept feeling that her fingers were greasy and sticky. She pinched her fingers and felt a little uncomfortable.

The pastry was indeed good, but her fingertips were really uncomfortable after touching the pastry.

She was not the only one who had this feeling. Several ladies had already asked, "Is there a place to wash hands? My fingers are too sticky."

"Indeed. It is very sticky."

"Miss Qi, can we have a place to wash our hands?"

Qi Xiangyu was the hostess. She wanted to ask the maid to take those ladies to wash their hands at the resting place, but she realized that her maid, who was taking care of her, had already left. On the other hand, Liu Jingyu brought four maids here. Two were outside the pavilion, and two were inside.

"Cousin, I'll borrow a maid of yours to take these ladies to freshen up," Qi Xiangyu said to Liu Jingyu with a smile.

“Cousin, you are welcome. These two are originally your mansion’s maids. It’s all Grandmother’s fault. She insisted that your mansion’s maids are good, so she asked them to follow me. Of course, you can ask them to bring the ladies over. They are originally from the mansion, and they are familiar with the road.”

Liu Jingyu pointed at the two maids standing outside and said with a smile.

Only then did everyone realize that these two maids were dressed differently from the other two.

“Thank you, cousin.” Qi Xiangyu smiled and gestured to the two maids standing outside. “Bring these ladies to the yard for women to rest.”

The two maids answered, “Yes!”

The ladies who wanted to wash up stood up one after another. Qu Moying was also one of them.

“Moying, I will come with you.” Qu Xuexin stood up and volunteered.

“No need, Eldest Sister. You can sit for a while. I’ll be back soon.” Qu Moying refused with a smile and shook her head. “There are so many ladies going too. Nothing will happen.”

“Alright, be careful.” Qu Xuexin looked a little worried. She warned in a low voice, hesitated for a moment, and said in a low voice, “Be careful, don’t let people you don’t know get close to you!”

It seemed that the carriage assassination scene from before had scared Qu Xuexin.

Qu Moying nodded and followed the other ladies out of the pavilion. When she arrived outside the pavilion, she frowned. She did not look back, but she felt that someone was looking at her. Who cared so much about her? She was not familiar with the others present.

Who would pay so much attention to her?

It was a very strange feeling...

## Chapter 225 Who Was Scheming Behind the Scenes?

The resting place of the womenfolk was not nearby. They walked around in a winding manner, and they could see that Duke Qi's Mansion was really big. It was much bigger than Qu Mansion. As expected of a family that had existed for hundreds of years and had not declined even after several lifetimes of experience. In terms of the scale of Duke Qi's Mansion, none of the ordinary residences was comparable.

The resting place of the womenfolk was not small either. There were three rows of wing rooms. Qu Moying was brought to the rightmost room of the first row. She pushed open the door and entered. The window was bright and clean, and it was very comfortable. Although there were not many decorations, it was very elegant. Just looking at it made one feel relaxed and refreshing.

The maids left. Yu Dong was there to help Qu Moying clean her hands. After she cleaned her hands, Qu Moying was not in a hurry to leave. She sat down on the couch in front of the window. The back window was open, and there was a breeze blowing in, making her feel quite comfortable.

Previously, they had walked in a hurry, and she felt a little stuffy. At this time, there was a cool breeze, and it was very pleasant.

"My lady, the scene by the back window looks even better!" Yu Dong looked out of the open back window and exclaimed.

Qu Moying stood up and walked to the back window. She looked out of the window. There was actually a yard outside. It looked not small, with bamboo plants. Outside the back window, there was a vat of water lotus that was in full bloom, making the water between the pavilions appear even clearer and more jade-green, and the bamboo plants looked more solid and pleasing to the eye. What was more surprising was that there seemed to be a qin beside the bamboo plants.

It was impossible to see clearly, because a corner of the qin was blocked by the rockery.

For people who loved musical instruments, this feeling was like having their eyes covered. It was very uncomfortable to hear only and not see.

Qu Moying was a little excited. She looked carefully and wanted to get a closer look at the qin. However, from this angle, even if she leaned against the window, she could not see it clearly.

A woman walked by. It seemed that she was a lady who had just come here. She had been walking in front of Qu Moying before and was wearing this dress.

“My lady, this is a place for womenfolk. We can definitely take a look. When we came in just now, I saw a few rows of female restrooms behind. Could it be that this lady was resting there?” Yu Dong suggested when he saw that Qu Moying really liked the place.

Qu Moying’s heart moved slightly. She thought for a moment and nodded.

“Alright, let’s go out and take a look.”

The two of them went out and found that the several ladies had already left. The yard was empty, and she did not see anyone else. So, they turned to the back of the house. However, they could not find a way out. They could only turn around a few more times and passed through a door. Finally, they found a small courtyard by following the direction that Yu Dong could sense.

The door of the yard was half open. It was a very simple small yard. It looked no different from usual. Qu Moying stopped.

“My lady, it is this yard,” Yu Dong said with certainty.

Qu Moying did not go in directly. She frowned slightly and looked at the yard in front of her.

“My lady...” Yu Dong looked at her in confusion.

Qu Moying slowly walked forward and gently pushed the slightly closed door. However, her footsteps had stopped.

The door suddenly opened without any warning. A maid was holding a basin of water in her hand. When she saw someone outside, she was shocked and the basin in her hands slid down.

Standing by Qu Moying's side, Yu Dong hurriedly reached out to pull Qu Moying back, but even so, her skirt was still splashed with water.

"My lady, are... are you alright?" The Duke Qi's Mansion's maid did not expect that there was someone outside. She was so scared that her face turned pale and she trembled.

Qu Moying lowered her head and looked at the corner of her skirt. There were not many wet spots. Luckily, Yu Dong reacted fast, but even so, it would be disgraceful to wear a drenched dress like this.

"Who... lives here?" Qu Moying asked.

"This is where our, our lady, came to sit when she was resting. It is not a place where anyone lives. There are many ladies who came to the mansion today. Our lady specially ordered us to clean up this place. She said that some ladies might come over and sit for a while. I... I was just cleaning it up... I didn't see you come to the door..."

The maid stuttered as she explained in panic.

"My lady, please come in and sit down first. I will go get your clothes. There are a few sets of clothes that our lady keeps here in case any lady dirtied their clothes today. That saves them the trouble of having to go and fetch their own clothes."

"Your Lady prepared clothes here?" Yu Dong thought about Qi Xiangyu's figure. Although she was a little taller than Qu Moying, the latter could still barely wear the former's clothes.

The distance from here to the parking place of their carriage was not short. Although the carriage had a set of clothes, he could not let his lady walk around in this dirty set of clothes today. It was better for her to change into clean clothes first.

“Our Lady has prepared some clothes. My lady, please come with me,” the maid said, ignoring the basin that was still on the ground. She moved aside to lead the way, opening the door.

Qu Moying stood at the door and looked at her feet, but she did not move. Her eyes turned to where she could see in the courtyard and then she decisively turned around.

“Lady...” The maid, who was leading the way, was a little anxious. She turned around and wanted to persuade Qu Moying. However, she saw Yu Dong glaring at her with a sinister gaze. The maid was startled. How could she dare to stop Qu Moying anymore?

At first glance, she knew that Yu Dong was not a maid who was easy to deal with.

Qu Moying turned around and left decisively with Yu Dong. When they turned a corner, they suddenly heard noisy voices coming from the front. She brought Yu Dong to the side to make way. Then, she saw several young masters from aristocratic families walking over with smiles. The first one looked familiar. It was the one they saw in the bookstore that day.

The few of them looked very lively. One of the men’s clothes was dirty. It was unknown whether he had fallen or crashed somewhere. He was in a sorry state and was pulled over by a few other people. His laughter was especially loud.

Qu Moying hid behind a tree and watched the young masters walk past followed by a large group of lad servants. Her expression became cold and her eyes darkened.

Yu Dong’s expression also changed greatly. If his lady had really gone to change her clothes just now, this large group of men would have bumped into her at this time, which would be a disaster for an unmarried young lady. Moreover, one of them was in such a state and must wash up. In that case, her lady would have been doomed.

If something happened to his lady, the Old Master would definitely kill him. After all, he was sent here to protect his lady.

“My lady, who is it that wants to harm you?” Looking at the group of people walking over, Yu Dong gritted his teeth and said hatefully. He was almost schemed against too.

Qu Moying shook her head, her eyes cold.

One thing was certain. This person must have something to do with Duke Qi’s Mansion’s people. Moreover, this person was also very familiar with them. It was just that she had only met with Duke Qi’s Mansion’s people. She had never been involved with them before, so she did not know who was so intolerable toward her. Or, rather, why would the person do this?

Qu Moying brought Yu Dong out again and made a turn to go back to the yard. She saw the maid who led the way for her looking around. She seemed to be looking for someone. When she saw Qu Moying and her maid, she hurriedly ran over. She wiped the sweat on her forehead and said, “Fourth Lady Qu, where did you go? Did you go to the front yard? You can’t go there. The Eldest Young Master invited many young masters here today.”

“The front yard?” Qu Moying stood still and a trace of coldness flashed in her eyes. The wing room of a woman’s resting place was nextdoor to a yard that was connected to the front yard. From whichever perspective, it was suspicious.

“Yes, it is the yard behind the front yard, but in fact, it cannot directly be passed through, and it is unlikely to meet the men unless you deliberately bypassed it. Where did you go, Fourth Lady Qu? I almost thought that you went to the front yard, so I went to report to our lady. She asked me to look for you again. If I still can’t find you, I have to go to the front yard.”

Said the maid.

“I was just here looking around. I didn’t go anywhere. Maybe we missed it. You stay here with me. Yu Dong will go and get the clothes,” Qu Moying said indifferently.

In her current state, there were still stains on her dress, and she could not meet anyone.

“Alright, I will be back soon. My lady, wait here first. Don’t go anywhere.” Yu Dong said, afraid that it would be dangerous for Qu Moying to go away, so he especially reminded her.

Qu Moying nodded.

Duke Qi’s Mansion’s maid led Qu Moying to a few of the rooms. Qu Moying looked at the wing room on the far right and found that the room had been locked. A lock was put up, and it seemed that no one was allowed to enter now. However, it just so happened that she had been led there before.

“How is it that we could go in there just a while ago, but now we can’t?” Qu Moying asked.

“Actually, that place is not a place for the womenfolk to rest. In the past, when County Lady Jingyu came over, she would specifically ask to rest in this place. The scenery outside the back window was pretty good. The place that County Lady Jingyu liked the most was that room. Everyone in the mansion knew that this room was not for the other ladies, but just now, I did not pay attention... and I led you to the wrong room.”

The maid said apologetically.

She had made a mistake, so all the mistakes Qu Moying made after that were her own fault. However, the maid who was on the other side did not say such a thing. Duke Qi’s Mansion’s people were very strange. They seemed to have goodwill as well as malicious intent towards her. They even hated her to the point that they did not hesitate to harm her.

Did that person really have such a huge grudge against her as to set up such a trap to deal with her?

Yu Dong came back quite quickly. Qu Moying had only sat down to rest for a while when he hurriedly brought the clothes over. After Qu Moying changed into them, Yu Dong folded the dirty clothes. He did not let Duke Qi’s Mansion’s maid help deliver them to the carriage. After folding them, he put them into the clothes bag and carried them in his hands.

The master and servant followed the maid of Duke Qi’s Mansion to the pavilion.



Before she approached the pavilion, Qu Qiuyan saw her from afar and stood up in surprise. "Moying, where did you go? What happened? Why... why did you change your clothes?"

Her voice was not low, causing all of the other ladies to turn around and look at Qu Moying in surprise.

Qu Moying calmly walked over, her gaze indifferently falling on Qu Qiuyan. "Nothing, I accidentally fell. So I rested at the women's yard for a while before returning."

"Is there really nothing wrong?" Qu Xuexin also stood up, sizing up Qu Moying from head to toe, asking worriedly.

"It's really nothing!" Qu Moying shook her head.

"Since it's nothing, let's go! Just now, an old maid said that Cousin Brother might bring people here to play. We've also been here for a long time. Why don't we change to another place?" Liu Jingyu asked gently. Her smile was faint, neither too much nor too little. It was the most suitable look for a lady.

## Chapter 226 The Maid Who Made a False Charge

"Alright!"

"Then let's go!"

"If not for waiting for Fourth Lady Qu, we would have left long ago."

The ladies stood up one after another, and a few of them glanced at Qu Moying. Their words didn't sound friendly.

Just now, they were about to leave, but Liu Jingyu asked them to stay and wait for Qu Moying. They didn't expect that they would wait so long. Seeing Qu Moying slowly walk over and there was nothing wrong with her, several ladies were very unhappy, but they didn't dare to blame Liu Jingyu. They just thought Qu Moying, who was only a vice minister's daughter, was really good at putting on airs, which was really annoying.

Qu Moying did not say anything and continued to follow behind them.

However, they were still a bit late. Just as they reached the intersection ahead, they met the group of young masters whom Qu Moying had seen just now. They seemed to have changed their clothes, and they all looked elegant and refined.

Although they were a bit surprised to see the ladies, they immediately cupped their hands in greeting courteously.

"Cousin, why are you here?" Liu Jingyu looked at Qi Xiuran, who was at the front, and said in surprise.

"I bring these young masters over for a walk." Qi Xiuran said with a smile. His eyes fell on Qu Moying because her gauze eye veil was too conspicuous. She was clearly the young lady that he wanted to find out. It seemed that she was the Fourth Young Lady of Vice Minister Qu's Mansion.

He had seen the list of people who came to the mansion today. The Guardian General's daughter, First Lady Qi, did not come. However, Vice Minister Qu's Fourth lady came. It was obvious that she was the one in front of him.

For some reason, he felt relieved. He thought Fourth Lady Qu should be more easy-going than the Guardian General's daughter. It was said that the Guardian General's daughter didn't even care about Lord Jing, let alone him, so she would definitely not give the music score he wanted to him.

"Cousin, do you know Fourth Lady Qu?" Liu Jingyu looked at Qi Xiuran with a smile. It was obvious that she saw Qi Xiuran sizing up Qu Moying.

"I almost bumped into Fourth Lady Qu in the book shop earlier. Please accept my apology." Qi Xiuran smiled apologetically.

Qu Moying gracefully bowed. “Young Master Qi, it’s nothing.”

“Fourth Lady Qu, did you get a qin music score that day? I wonder if you can give it to me. I will richly repay you.”

Qi Xiuran asked straightforwardly. He liked qin music scores very much. Although he knew it was a little impolite, he couldn’t help but ask.

“I did get a few qin music scores in the bookstore that day, but they are all my beloved things. I’m afraid I can’t...” Shaking her head with a smile, Qu Moying refused.

Qi Xiuran seemed to be a good person, but Qu Moying was wary of Duke Qi’s Mansion now. She didn’t know if he was really good or if he had other plans, so she had to be careful.

“Lady... Did... did you show up in the front yard just now? I... I am sorry.” A maid cut in in a timid voice.

Only then did Qu Moying see the maid walk out from behind Qi Xiuran. The maid was the one who had spilled water on Qu Moying’s clothes earlier. She was also the one who had said that it was Qi Xiangyu’s resting place, and there were no outsiders. Qu Moying had almost been tricked by her into changing her clothes there.

Qu Moying went to the outer yard and dirtied her clothes. The clothes she was wearing now were clearly not the same ones she had worn before. Could it be that she had really changed her clothes in the outer yard?

Hearing the maid’s words, the ladies remembered something. They exchanged glances and then looked at Qu Moying in surprise. There was quite a lot of information in the maid’s words. Was it really what they thought?

What was Qu Moying trying to do?

“Outer yard? Didn’t you say that was the place where Miss Qi rested?” Qu Moying said with a faint smile.

The maid fell to her knees with a thud and said, “I didn’t say that. I only said that it is where young masters and ladies rested, but I didn’t say that it is where our miss rested. Our miss sometimes does rest there if she goes to the outer yard.”

“The place where I rest?” Qi Xiangyu asked in confusion.

“Yes, the place where you occasionally rest.” The maid nodded repeatedly. She looked anxious and uneasy as if she was frightened.

“Is it the place where cousin brother rest? Why did Fourth Lady Qu go there?” Liu Jingyu looked at the two of them and softly asked in surprise.

It was indeed Qi Xiuran’s place, but it was not his main courtyard. It was a place he used for resting, but he rarely went there. If Qi Xiangyu was tired from walking to the outer yard, she would also rest there for a while. Therefore, it could also be said that it was where she rested.

Liu Jingyu naturally knew about the place.

“Fourth Lady Qu, although that place seems to be close to ladies’ yard, it is actually very far. Did you take a detour to get there?” Qi Xiangyu also realized something and looked at Qu Moying with displeasure.

As a guest, Qu Moying took a detour to the front yard, which was quite suspicious. Qi Xiangyu didn’t want any trouble to happen, or her Grandmother would blame her again after knowing what happened.

Her brother would be the future Duke Qi, so she couldn’t let anything happen to him.

“I didn’t see Fourth Lady Qu. Maybe she went there by mistake and left immediately after. After all, the two places are really close.” Said Qi Xiuran. His gaze fell on Qu Moying. He saw that she was standing there calmly. She pursed her lips, and she did not panic at all.

The group of young masters behind Qi Xiuran nodded. They indeed did not see Qu Moying.

“As for this maid, where did she come from? Why did she follow us here?” Qi Xiuran looked at the maid, who was kneeling on the ground, with a cold expression.

There were so many people just now that he didn’t notice that there was a maid in the crowd.

“Young Master, I... I have been following you just now!” The maid was shocked. She didn’t expect that the first one to get angry was actually her master Qi Xiuran. Her face changed greatly out of fear.

“You are just a house cleaning maid. Who asked you to come over?” Qi Xiuran had noticed that there was something fishy. He had found it weird just now when the maid stood out to testify against Qu Moying.

“Young Master, I...”

“Someone, take her away and give her to Grandmother. She doesn’t need to stay by my side anymore.” Qi Xiuran said coldly.

Although he was a little rude in the matter of the qin music score, it did not mean that he was not sensible.

A young servant came over and pulled the maid up.

The maid did not dare to struggle and retreated while crying.

Qi Xiuran cupped his hands and bowed deeply to Qu Moying. “Fourth Lady Qu, the maid lied. She almost tricked you. Sorry, I hope you don’t mind.”

Qi Xiuran’s simple remarks explained the matter and helped Qu Moying get out of the trouble.

He was quite nice and smart. With just a few words, the situation immediately reversed.

How could Qu Moying not understand Qi Xiuran's kindness? She turned and bowed. "First Young Master Qi, thank you. It was originally a misunderstanding. Perhaps your maid misunderstood something."

As for what the misunderstanding was, and whether it was convincing or not, everyone had their own view.

Since Qi Xiuran had taken the initiative to help her out, Qu Moying would not be so narrow-minded as to keep picking on him. As for other things, she just needed to know in her mind. Everything in Duke Qi's Mansion made her feel weird.

Whether it was goodwill or malice, it seemed to be just the tip of the iceberg. She felt that there was something going on, but she couldn't tell what it was and when it began.

"Fourth Lady Qu, it's very nice of you!" Said Qi Xiuran. He glanced at Qi Xiangyu and said, "Xiangyu, since you are enjoying the scenery here, we will not disturb you. I will bring the gentlemen to the Waterside Pavilion to admire the scenery."

He was hinting Qi Xiangyu not to bring these ladies there.

"Okay, brother." Qi Xiangyu got his meaning and nodded.

Qi Xiuran left with the young masters. After taking a few steps, he turned around because he still couldn't give up on the qin music score. He sincerely said to Qu Moying, "Fourth Lady Qu, if you don't like it so much in the future, can you lend it to me?"

He really wanted the music score.

"First Young Master Qi, since you like it so much, I can lend it to you first." Qu Moying agreed softly, for the sake of Qi Xiuran's good character.

Qi Xiuran was overjoyed. He folded his sleeves and bowed deeply again. "Thank you, Fourth Lady Qu."

He just wanted to try again, but he didn't expect that Qu Moying would agree. He was overjoyed. As expected, Qu Moying was easy-going, but the Guardian General's daughter was probably not.

Since he had already achieved his goal, Qi Xiuran did not dawdle and turned to leave.

After the men left, the young ladies returned to normal. Since it was a misunderstanding, and it was a misunderstanding deliberately caused by a maid, no one took it to heart. They just thought that this maid was so bold that she actually dared to mislead Qu Moying. No one knew what the maid was up to.

But Qu Moying was truly innocent.

Liu Jingyu looked at Qi Xiuran's back and then at Qu Moying, who was acting as if nothing had happened. She could not help but frown, feeling unhappy.

However, she did not show it on her face. She continued to take the young ladies to stroll around. Before they could finish their walk, Duchess Qi had already sent for them, saying that someone important had come over and asked them to greet the person together.

Who would come at this time? More importantly, who would want to see these young ladies?

The ladies were surprised. Then, they went to the nearby yard to freshen up and put on some makeup. No matter who the visitor was, they had to be careful.

After everyone freshened up, they went to the flower hall together. When they arrived outside the hall, they saw young and old maids standing in neat rows on both sides.

There were a few eunuchs and palace maids standing there.

The important person was actually from the palace?

The young ladies looked at each other and did not dare to be careless. A maid went in to report. Then, she came out to summon Liu Jingyu and Qi Xiangyu. They were hostesses here, so it was natural for the visitor to see them first.

Qu Moying waited outside the door with a group of young ladies. Her gaze fell on a eunuch standing outside the door, and she felt that he looked a little familiar...

## Chapter 227 The Crown Prince's Future Eldest Son

It was someone from the Crown Prince's Mansion.

In the main room, Duchess Qi was still sitting in the top seat. The guest was actually Ji Youran. She was wearing a formal but gorgeous palace dress, with a jade-colored belt around her waist and a jade pendant hanging on the belt. The jade pendant was obviously not ordinary. Duchess Qi looked at the jade pendant again and again, and her face darkened.

It was the Phoenix Jade Pendant, which used to belong to the empress when she was still the Crown Princess. But it was now in the hands of Princess Ji. Was the Crown Prince that fond of her? Did he like her so much because of the ex-Crown Princess?

Everyone knew that the Crown Prince was deeply in love with the ex-Crown Princess, Ji Hanyue. He was sick even now, and it was said that it was because he missed the ex-Crown Princess.

A maid came in to report. Liu Jingyu and Qi Xiangyu walked in. When they saw Ji Youran, they were stunned for a while before walking up to greet her.

Ji Youran was inferior to them in the past, but now she had a high rank and Liu Jingyu's rank was lower than hers. Unlike the real royal family who had titles, fiefdoms, and high ranks, Liu Jingyu was a just county princess without a fiefdom.



“Two ladies, don’t stand on ceremony. Please take a seat.” Ji Youran said with a smile. She raised her beautiful face and looked at them. Finally, she looked at Liu Jingyu, and her smile became gentler. “I heard that there is a happy event here. The Crown Prince was supposed to come, but he was not feeling well, so he specially asked me to come.”

In fact, there was a reason for today’s banquet in Duke Qi’s Mansion. Today was Duchess Qi’s birthday. However, the Crown Princess had just passed away not long before, and the birthday this time was not a significant one, so Duchess Qi had no intention of hosting it in an extravagant way. She only invited a few families and told others that it was just an ordinary banquet.

“I must thank the Crown Prince for his consideration. Actually, it’s not a big deal. I just invited some relatives.” Duchess Qi smiled politely and explained. Most of the people who came today were related to Duke Qi’s Mansion.

Although there was little interaction between Qu Mansion and Duke Qi’s Mansion, Yue’s two daughters used to visit Duke Qi’s Mansion when they married into the capital. Even though Earl Ling’an’s Mansion didn’t have much interaction with Duke Qi’s Mansion, they were old-time friends. After Qu Moying’s mother passed, she was sent back to the village. It was only natural for Qu Moying to get in touch with Duke Qi’s Mansion after so many years.

This was the reason why Qu Zhizhen was able to get Duke Qi’s Mansion’s invitation. Otherwise, it would be useless no matter how hard Qu Zhizhen tried.

“You are welcome, Duchess Qi. This is a gift that the Crown Prince asked me to specially prepare.” Ji Youran said with a smile. The four palace maids standing behind her stepped forward, opened the brocade box in their hands, and presented them to Duchess Qi.

Duchess Qi frowned and glanced at Ji Youran quietly. It had been a while since Ji Youran came here. The two of them had talked for a while, but Ji Youran didn’t present her gift until now. How could Duchess Qi not be suspicious?

Duchess Qi was very clear about her daughter’s thoughts. Previously, her daughter and Granddaughter had taken a fancy to Lord Jing. She had heard that they had even gotten in touch with Noble Consort He in the palace for this, and the thing was just temporarily unsettled. However, in the past few days, her daughter began to talk about the Crown Prince when she came to see her.

Since the Crown Princess was gone, someone had to take her place. Duchess Qi's daughter said that she thought being the Crown Princess was also a good choice, which made Duchess Qi a little unhappy. How could she explain it to Lord Jing and Noble Consort He? Moreover, it was the position of the Crown Princess, which could be considered the most coveted position for most women. However, Duchess Qi's daughter was determined, saying that it was no big deal.

And what did this Princess Ji mean?

She was wearing the jade pendant, which represented the Crown Princess' status. She dressed so gorgeously, and she specially sent a gift to Duchess Qi. Why did she send the gift to Duchess Qi only after Duchess Qi's granddaughters came in? Duchess Qi didn't think Princess Ji was behaving properly.

Princess Ji was clearly here to put on a show of her strength.

Although the Crown Princess had died, Princess Ji had been accompanying the Crown Prince when the Crown Princess was seriously ill. It was obvious that Princess Ji was important to the Crown Prince. The more the Crown Prince loved the ex-Crown Princess, the better he would treat Princess Ji. The future Crown Princess might not be able to suppress her.

Compared with the Crown Prince's Mansion, Duchess Qi felt that Lord Jing's Mansion was relatively a better choice. At least Lord Jing wasn't emotionally engaged with a woman of a noble status. As for the previous affairs, Duchess Qi felt that Lord Jing was just unlucky and had been schemed against.

The status of Qu Mansion's Second Lady would not be high, so she was not a threat.

As for Third Lady Qu, with the thing that happened to Second Lady Qu, even if she was valued by Lord Jing, her status could be lowered. If Liu Jingyu married Lord Jing, Third Lady Qu would not be a threat because her status was low. How could she be Liu Jingyu's opponent?

What's more, Duchess Qi had raised this granddaughter with much care, and she was even more satisfied with Liu Jingyu than with her mother.

For some unknown reason, Duchess Qi had always felt that she was not close to her daughter ever since her daughter was little. However, she was very close to her granddaughter, who had been smart and lovely since she was little.

The gift was quite exquisite, but there was nothing special about it. With the Crown Prince's Mansion's strength, they could send better ones.

"Thank you, Princess Ji." The smile on Duchess Qi's face faded.

"You are welcome, Duchess Qi. It's been a long time since I last saw County Lady Jingyu. She looks even more outstanding. I didn't recognize her just now. I was thinking about where this beautiful lady came from. It took me a few more glances to realize that it was County Lady Jingyu." Ji Youran smiled.

"Princess Ji, you are making her blush." Duchess Qi said politely.

Liu Jingyu stood up and bowed gracefully with a smile, but she didn't say anything. Since Duchess Qi was here, it was not Liu Jingyu's turn to speak.

"Last time when I saw County Lady Jingyu, the Crown Princess was still alive. At that time, the Crown Princess and the Crown Prince were an enviable couple. But now, the Crown Prince is left alone. Every time I see the Crown Prince, I... I feel sad. If the Crown Princess was still here, the Crown Prince would not be like this."

Ji Youran's eyes turned red as she spoke. She gently pressed the handkerchief on her eyes. Then, she turned her head and looked at Duchess Qi with embarrassment. "I'm really sorry. I just can't help when I think of Second Younger Sister. I am sorry to let you see me cry."

"Princess Ji, don't be sorry. the Crown Princess is truly a peerless beauty." Duchess Qi sighed. She really thought so.

She had seen Ji Hanyue before. Ji Hanyue was elegant, beautiful, and she always behaved properly. She deserved to be the Crown Princess. Of all the noble ladies Duchess Qi had ever seen, she thought Ji Hanyue, Earl Ling'an's Mansion's Second Lady, was the most suitable for the Crown Prince, whether in terms of temperament, appearance, or family background.

It was said that the Crown Prince also loved her, but it was a pity that her fate was poor.

“When the Crown Princess was alive, she was deeply in love with the Crown Prince. But now... such a thing happened. The Crown Prince couldn’t help feeling sad when he thought about her. I advise him to let it go since it has happened. But he said that he would never forget the Crown Princess. In the future... In the future...”

Ji Youran paused.

“In the future?” Liu Jingyu could not help but ask.

“He said that if he marries someone else as his Crown Princess in the future, he will have his first child adopted by the ex-Crown Princess. He must make sure that someone is there to offer sacrifices for her.” Ji Youran wiped her tears again, but Duchess Qi and Liu Jingyu’s faces changed.

Qi Xiangyu lowered her head and looked at the ground in front of her calmly. This had nothing to do with her.

“The child that the future Crown Princess gives birth to will be a wife-born son. How can the child be adopted by the previous Crown Princess? The... the future Crown Princess will not agree.”

Duchess Qi glanced at Liu Jingyu and said slowly.

Although the previous Crown Princess had a nobler status, the one who lived with the Crown Prince was the future Crown Princess. How could she let her eldest son become someone else’s son? Even if it was just in name, it would not work. If the future Crown Princess really gave her child to the previous Crown Princess, then the child would not be hers. But this child would most likely ascend to the throne. No woman would be willing to do so.

Moreover, the one who could become the Crown Princess must have a strong background. How could she let her child become someone else’s adopted child? Not even the deceased Crown Princess.

“Actually, it doesn’t have to be the future Crown Princess’ first son.” Ji Youran lowered her head, her face slightly red. “The Crown Prince just wants his eldest son to be adopted by the previous Crown Princess.”

As soon as Ji Youran said this, Liu Jingyu raised her head and looked coldly at Ji Youran. A trace of gloominess flashed through her eyes. What did Ji Youran mean by specially coming to Duke Qi’s Mansion to say this? Was Ji Youran warning her, or was she here to display her strength, or was she vaguely conveying the Crown Prince’s intention?

Did the Crown Prince want Ji Youran to give birth to a child first? Then the child would be adopted by Ji Hanyue and become the eldest wife-born son. Even if Liu Jingyu married the Crown Prince in the future and became the Crown Princess, her child would not be the eldest wife-born son.

“Alas. I can’t stop talking when it comes to the Crown Princess. This is because I used to follow the Crown Princess, and I feel close to you, Duchess Qi. I hope it doesn’t annoy you.” Ji Youran wiped her eyes again with a handkerchief and smiled shyly.

“Of course not, Princess Ji.” Duchess Qi said calmly. She looked up at Liu Jingyu, who didn’t look well, and frowned slightly. Was this granddaughter so eager to marry the Crown Prince?

Duchess Qi thought it was all her daughter’s idea.

In the past, Liu Jingyu had vaguely told her that she liked Lord Jing, but did she change now?

Duchess Qi was not happy about this change.

“Where is Cousin? I heard that she also came here. I wonder if I can meet her in private.” Ji Youran had already said what she wanted to say to Duchess Qi and Liu Jingyu. She raised her head to look around and asked with a smile.

Duchess Qi was stunned and did not immediately realize who she was talking about.

“Fourth Lady Qu is my Second Younger Sister’s cousin, so she is also my cousin. I wonder if you can let me see her? The Crown Prince wants to know how she is doing in Vice Minister Qu’s Mansion... so he specifically ordered me to ask.” Ji Youran explained with a smile.

“Fourth Lady Qu is outside the door.” Liu Jingyu had regained her composure. She stood up and said softly, “I will go and invite her in.”

“No need. I want to go out for a walk. I happen to have something to ask her in private. Duchess Qi, County Lady Jingyu, I hope you don’t mind.”

Ji Youran stood up.

Duchess Qi naturally would not stop Ji Youran. She watched Ji Youran slowly walk out with a few palace maids and then focused her eyes on Liu Jingyu.

Liu Jingyu sensed that Duchess Qi was looking at her. She smiled at Duchess Qi with a natural expression, which made Duchess Qi feel relieved. Duchess Qi felt perhaps she had worried too much. Liu Jingyu always listened to her mother. Duchess Qi believed that although her daughter made a mistake, Liu Jingyu would not. Duchess Qi always liked her granddaughter more than her daughter.

As for marrying into the Crown Prince’s Mansion, Duchess Qi didn’t think it was a good idea at all. It was obvious that Ji Youran was not easy to deal with. If the Crown Prince really valued her and wanted her to give birth to a child and have it adopted by the ex-Crown Princess, it would be even more tricky.

Qu Moying and several noble ladies were standing properly in the corridor. Hearing the sound at the door, everyone looked up and saw Ji Youran appear at the door with a few people.

Almost all of them were acquaintances, and they bowed to Ji Youran in unison.

“Young ladies, don’t stand on ceremony. I am here to look for my cousin.” Ji Youran said with a smile.

Nobody knew who her cousin was, and they all looked around.

"Cousin Qu, would you like to take a walk with me?" Ji Youran smiled and looked up at Qu Moying. Qu Moying nodded silently and followed behind Ji Youran.

After walking out of the garden, Ji Youran casually took a path and slowed down, waiting for Qu Moying to come forward.

Qu Moying knew Ji Youran had something to say, but she walked even slower. She was not in a hurry to go forward.

Seeing that Qu Moying was following her slowly, Ji Youran was a bit annoyed, but she soon calmed down and stopped, "Cousin, I have something to tell you."

"What is it?" Qu Moying stepped forward and asked.

"It's about Concubine Xiang." Ji Youran said seriously.

"What's the matter with Concubine Xiang? Why don't you talk to her directly? It has nothing to do with me, right?" Qu Moying looked up, her eyes under the eye veil were calm.

"Concubine Xiang is Eldest Uncle's concubine, but she is only a concubine. Now Second Brother is adopted by Aunt Luo, Eldest Uncle is gone, and Second Brother is growing up. It is quite inappropriate for Concubine Xiang to continue to live in the mansion. When Aunt Luo passed away, Concubine Xiang prayed earnestly and focused on worshipping the Buddha. Now that Eldest Uncle is gone, Concubine Xiang..."

Ji Youran hesitated for a moment as she said these words. She seemed to be a bit embarrassed, and her gaze towards Qu Moying seemed to be meaningful.

Of course, Qu Moying knew what she meant, but she still looked indifferent, "Princess Ji, is there anything wrong?"

“There is nothing wrong. It’s just that there are only Concubine Xiang and Second Brother in the first branch now. Second Brother is getting older, and he’s not adopted by Concubine Xiang. Moreover, it is not good to have a concubine whose status is higher than the Young Master. It will be difficult for Second Brother to get married in the future.” Ji Youran said more and more tactfully.

As for the other two concubines, Ji Youran did not even bother to mention them.

“Princess Ji, I still don’t understand.” Qu Moying shook her head in confusion.

Seeing Qu Moying’s confused look, Ji Youran almost burst out in anger. She tried hard to suppress her anger. The Crown Prince wanted her to refrain from offending Qu Moying and asked her to be on good terms with Qu Moying. If not for this, Ji Youran would have scolded and suppressed Qu Moying long before.

“It would be best for Concubine Xiang to cultivate in a nunnery. After all, she is only a concubine, and Eldest Uncle is gone, but she doesn’t have a son or a daughter of her own. Second Brother is still so young. When he grows up, he will get married. But a concubine mother will affect his marriage prospect. It is not suitable for her to stay in the mansion.”

Ji Youran said calmly, with a touch of coldness in her eyes. She wanted to see how Qu Moying would respond. If Qu Moying interfered in this matter, scolding her would only be reasonable.

“Princess Ji, you shouldn’t talk to me about this. This matter is related to Earl Ling’an’s Mansion.” Qu Moying said softly with a surprised look.

Ji Youran’s face brightened a bit because Qu Moying was quite sensible to not object. “Concubine Xiang seems to be particularly good to you. She took your carriage when she went to the Yamen to file a suit. I think she listens to you. Can I trouble you to persuade her?”

“You want me to persuade Concubine Xiang? Princess Ji, this is not appropriate.” Qu Moying refused as if she did not understand the meaning behind Ji Youran’s words.

Ji Youran had thought about different reactions of Qu Moying, but she did not expect her to refuse. According to her performance in the past, Qu Moying should agree to interfere. Ji Youran did not know



why Qu Moying cared so much about Ji Hanyue that she interfered with Earl Ling'an's Mansion's matter. Ji Youran calmed down and thought about the situation, but she couldn't figure it out.

Although Ji Hanyue was kind to Qu Moying, the two of them had only seen each other a few times. How could they have such a deep relationship? What was Qu Moying plotting?

Ji Youran first thought that Qu Moying's goal was the Crown Prince, Pei Luo'an. She suspected that Qu Moying wanted to get close to Pei Luo'an in the name of Ji Hanyue as she did, but later she felt that it did not seem to be the case.

"Cousin..." Ji Youran continued.

"Princess Ji, you don't have to address me like that! I have nothing to do with Earl Ling'an's Mansion. You don't have to tell me what you want to do. I am just a daughter of a Vice Minister. Although I was related to Earl Ling'an's Mansion before, now that my cousin sisters are gone, this so-called kinship no longer exists. Please don't call me cousin anymore. It's misleading."

Qu Moying said with a serious face. She did not want to do as Ji Youran wished. Since the two of them were destined to be enemies, it was better to draw the line as soon as possible!

Qu Moying took a step back and bowed to Ji Youran deeply. She said, "Princess Ji, Grandmother just sent someone to call me over. Since you are fine, I would like to see Grandmother first."

It was really a slap in the face. Ji Youran was annoyed, but she couldn't lose her temper. The main reason she came to Duke Qi's Mansion today was Liu Jingyu.

She had been in the Crown Prince's mansion for so long, so she naturally had her confidants. She had found that someone in Minister Liu's House was going to marry the Crown Prince, and Liu Jingyu was the one favored by the Empress.

Ji Youran was so angry that she almost vomited blood when she found out about this news. She had suffered a lot, but in the end, she was still a concubine. What was the meaning of her previous efforts?

Back then, she and the Crown Prince had deep affection, and the Crown Prince promised her that he would make her the Crown Princess. But why did Liu Jingyu suddenly appear? Wasn't she going to marry Lord Jing?

Did Liu Jingyu want to marry the Crown Prince because she saw the benefits of marrying the Crown Prince?

Ji Youran wouldn't let Liu Jingyu enjoy the yields of her scheme. That was why she came to celebrate Duchess Qi's birthday today.

Of course, the most important thing was to warn Duchess Qi and Liu Jingyu. She believed Liu Jingyu could read her message. If Liu Jingyu dared to marry into the Crown Prince's Mansion, Ji Youran would fight with her.

Even Ji Hanyue was no match for her, let alone Liu Jingyu.

Ji Youran came here to send gifts on the surface, but in fact, she came here to frighten them. Knowing that Qu Moying was also here, she decided to look for her.

She didn't expect that Qu Moying would reject her without hesitation. How could Ji Youran not be angry? She coldly watched Qu Moying leave and did not say anything for a long time.

She clenched her fists tightly. Since Ji Hanyue was dead, everything she left behind would belong to her, whether it was Ji Hanyue's status or everything in the Ji Family. If Liu Jingyu and Qu Moying wanted to take them from her, Ji Youran would spare no effort to fight with them.

As they turned around the corner, Yu Dong looked back and saw that Ji Youran was still standing where she had been. She leaned her head close to Qu Moying and said in a low voice, "Miss, Princess Ji is still looking at us with gloomy eyes. It is said that she is a good woman, and she got into the Eastern Palace because she took care of the ex-Crown Princess. But I think that maybe the ex-Crown Princess was angered to death or framed to death by her."

Qu Moying gave a sinister smile, but she didn't reply.

Who else in this world knew the truth better than her?

They didn't walk far just now. They were just in front of the courtyard. When Qu Moying returned to the courtyard, a maid had gone in to report Qu Moying's return. When Qu Moying came over, the maids lifted the curtain and invited her in.

Qu Moying went in and saw that the young ladies were all in the reception hall, talking in their seats. Grandmother was also there. Hearing Qu Moying enter the house, everyone turned to her. Those who ignored her before could not help but look at her now because she seemed to be close to Ji Youran.

It was only then that many people remembered that Qu Moying was not only the Vice Minister's daughter but also the ex-Crown Princess' cousin. It was said that the two ladies of the Yue Family were close when they married into the capital, but something happened to the younger one later, and she only had a daughter, Qu Moying, who survived her. Qu Moying was sent to the village, and the previous relationship faded, but it was said that the ex-Crown Princess took good care of her.

Did Princess Ji also value Qu Moying a lot?

The Crown Prince had a noble status. Even his concubine would have a bright prospect in the future. Moreover, it was rumored that Princess Ji was the one who made the decisions for the entire Crown Prince's Mansion.

That made it even more impossible for others to look down on Qu Moying.

Duchess Qi calmly sized up Qu Moying a few times. Seeing Qu Moying bow, she said, "Forget about formalities." Then, she asked, "Where is Princess Ji?"

"Duchess Qi, our lady said that she is not feeling well and has to go back first, so she won't come and say goodbye!" A maid hurried over to report.

It wasn't polite. Ji Youran was fine when she went out just now, but now she couldn't even come to say goodbye.

The madams sitting in their seats looked at each other and wondered whether it meant that the Crown Prince was dissatisfied with Duke Qi or something else.

Duchess Qi's face darkened. She thought Ji Youran was so presumptuous that she was actually so impolite in her mansion. Even the Empress was polite to Duchess Qi.

"Someone..." Duchess Qi could not suppress her anger. Although she could not do anything to Ji Youran, she could embarrass her.

"Grandmother, I will send Princess Ji off." Liu Jingyu stood up and said with a smile. She seized the right time.

Duchess Qi calmed down and finally nodded. Liu Jingyu gracefully turned around and walked out of the room with her maids. When she went out, she saw a figure in the shadow outside the courtyard, and she frowned.

Chapter 229 Broke Duke Qi's Brush Washer?

It was actually her Grandfather's servant.

If her Grandfather was looking for her Grandmother, why didn't this servant go in? Why was he sneaking around? There seemed to be something in his hands. Did her Grandfather ask him to show it to her Grandmother?

Although Liu Jingyu was surprised, she did not take it to heart. She had something more important to do, so she continued to move forward.

The servant, who was hiding in the shadows, shrank back and carefully avoided Liu Jingyu's gaze. He was still waiting. He had just come over, but he did not see the person he was waiting for.

Qu Moying sat quietly behind Madam Dowager. She lowered her head and played with the handkerchief in her hand, casually listening to the conversation of the madams in the reception hall.

"Moying, Moying." Qu Moying felt her sleeve was pulled by someone, and she looked up at Qu Xuexin.

Qu Xuexin leaned over and whispered to her, "Moying, could you accompany me to change the clothes?"

Qu Moying nodded.

Qu Xuexin said to Madam Dowager in a low voice. Madam Dowager nodded. Then Qu Xuexin and Qu Moying walked behind everyone and went out of the hall from the side. When they got out of the hall, they called a maid to lead the way and went out together. The servant in the shadow moved and followed them.

The maid led Qu Xuexin into a place while Qu Moying waited outside. Suddenly, a servant came from the side and seemed to be about to crash into Qu Moying. Yu Dong hurriedly stepped forward to block him. The servant also tried his best to stop. In the end, he did not bump into Qu Moying, but he fell heavily to the ground, and the thing in his hand shattered under Qu Moying's feet.

"Ah, the brush washer." The servant crouched down in panic and cried out with a panicked voice, "Duke Qi's brush washer."

Qu Moying lowered her head and took a closer look. It was really a brush washer. Even if it was broken, it could still be seen that it was a fine item.

"Miss, this... this is the brush washer of our Duke..." The servant cried and wiped his tears. He looked young.

Hearing his words, Yu Dong was annoyed, "You are not going to blackmail our miss, are you?"

"I dare not. Miss, I just want you to testify for me." The servant cried.

"Testify for what?" Qu Moying asked gently.

"I want you to testify for me in front of the Duke that I did not deliberately break the brush washer. It was broken because I almost bumped into you and fell because of imbalance." The servant cried and said, looking really pitiful.

It seemed that he was not going to shirk his responsibility.

"I am a woman. I'd better not go to the front yard." Qu Moying said gently.

"You don't need to go to the front yard. The Duke is in the pavilion, not far away. He has something to ask Madam, but he's not in a hurry. He is waiting in the pavilion in front." The servant hurriedly said. He stretched out his hand and pointed ahead. Qu Moying could really see a pavilion, and there was indeed someone in the pavilion.

"Miss, please help me. If the Duke thinks that I broke it on purpose, I will be punished." The servant cried so hard that his eyes turned red.

Qu Moying nodded.

The servant was overjoyed. He wiped his tears and led Qu Moying forward. He did not even bother to pick up the broken brush washer on the ground.

The pavilion seemed close, but they walked for a while to reach it. When Qu Moying arrived at the pavilion, she saw there was indeed a person sitting in it. It was an old man in his fifties or sixties. Although he was old, he looked energetic and dignified. He should be Duke Qi, and she had heard that he was an old general.

He was no longer in charge of military affairs now. Unlike civil officials, he still looked energetic. After all, he had been a general and had been on the battlefield before.

The servant asked Qu Moying to wait outside. He went to explain the situation to Duke Qi. Qu Moying did not know what he said, but Duke Qi turned his eyes to her and nodded slightly.

The servant continued to say something. He was far from Qu Moying, and he said in a low voice. Even Yu Dong did not hear their specific words. She only vaguely heard Duke Qi say, "OK" and "Alright."

After the servant finished speaking and got Duke Qi's permission, he turned around and trotted to Qu Moying with a big smile on his face, "Miss, Duke Qi invites you over."

Qu Moying nodded. Since she was here, she naturally had to come over to greet Duke Qi.

She followed the servant to the pavilion and bowed to the Duke. "Greetings, Duke Qi."

"You are the fourth miss of Vice Minister Qu's Mansion?" Duke Qi's gaze fell on Qu Moying. After examining her for a long time, he slowly said, "No need for formalities!"

"Yes!" Qu Moying stood up straight and looked at the ground in front of her.

Her appearance was too eye-catching. Her long eye veil covered most of her face. People could see her from afar. She was unique even in the capital. Anyone who had heard of her would be able to recognize her more easily.

"The servant said that he accidentally broke the brush washer, and he almost bumped into you. Is that true?" Duke Qi asked slowly. His voice was neither high nor low, but there was a hint of dignity in it.

"Yes!" Qu Moying nodded.

She could feel that Duke Qi was still looking at her up and down, and she just stood there quietly.

"He didn't bump into you, did he?" Duke Qi asked.

"No. I'm fine." Said Qu Moying. Duke Qi's gaze fell on her again. He looked at her again and again. The pavilion was quiet. After a long period of silence, Qu Moying frowned uncomfortably. The Duke made her feel a little weird.

In her previous life, when she was Ji Hanyue, she had never seen this Duke. It was said that he didn't care about anything now and liked to live in the village outside the city. He seldom stayed in his mansion in the capital. She didn't expect to see him the first time she came to his mansion.

Wasn't he seldom in the mansion?

"Your mother is from the Yue Family. I have a good relationship with your maternal grandfather. If you have any difficulties in the future, you can come here to seek help." Duke Qi finally spoke slowly.

"Thank you, Duke." Qu Moying bowed to him again.

Duke Qi nodded. He stood up and gave Qu Moying a deep look. Then, he slowly left with his hands behind his back, and the servant hurriedly followed him.

When the footsteps were far away, Qu Moying slowly raised her head and looked at the back of Duke Qi. She frowned slightly. She felt strange, but she couldn't tell why. Did Duke Qi specially come to see her?

This idea suddenly occurred to her, but she soon denied it. She was sure that this was the first time she saw Duke Qi in both her previous life and this life. There was no intersection between the two of them. Was it because of her father? Or her mother?

"Miss, why didn't the servant clean the brush washer up?" Yu Dong looked at Duke Qi's back and then looked in the direction they had come from. The servant didn't ask anyone to clean it up, but he followed Duke Qi to leave. It was really strange.

"Maybe someone will clean it up!" Qu Moying said with uncertainty as she slowly walked towards the place where the incident occurred.

As expected, when they walked back, the brush washer on the ground had already been clean up, but there were no maids around. It could be seen that they had long gone.

It wasn't a long time since Qu Moying went to the pavilion.



"Moying!" Hearing Qu Xuexin's voice, Qu Moying came back to her senses. Seeing Qu Xuexin standing beside her, Qu Moying smiled and nodded.

"Let's go!"

The two of them walked back together.

"Moying, why did Princess Ji look for you just now?" Qu Xuexin asked while walking.

"She asked something about cousin sister." Qu Moying answered vaguely.

"About the ex-Crown Princess? Why did she ask you things about the ex-Crown Princess?" Qu Xuexin asked in surprise. Immediately after that, she realized her rudeness and said apologetically, "Moying, I didn't mean to inquire about anything. I am just afraid that Princess Ji will harm you. I don't think she is really good to you."

"Sister, what did you find out?" Qu Moying turned to look at Qu Xuexin.

"I didn't find out anything, but..." Qu Xuexin hesitated for a moment but still answered, "It's just that she has the highest status in the Crown Prince's Mansion, and it should be the same in Earl Ling'an's Mansion, but she came to ask you, which made me feel strange."

"She asked me about the things when cousin sister came to see me." Qu Moying paused and replied.

Qu Xuexin took a deep breath and said, "That's good, that's good. I'm just afraid that Princess Ji doesn't like you. That would be troublesome."

As they spoke, they had already returned to the yard. After entering the door from the side, they walked and sat down behind Old Lady Qu and listened to the other madams' talk in the hall.

After a while, Liu Jingyu walked in. She seemed tender. When she looked at people, she had the same smile on her face as before. However, Qu Moying could tell that there were some differences. At least she could see a touch of gloominess in Liu Jingyu's eyes from time to time, which showed that Liu Jingyu was not in a good mood.

Ji Youran was obviously here to intimidate Liu Jingyu today. Liu Jingyu wanted to be the Crown Princess, so she was naturally unhappy.

It seemed that Liu Jingyu was a match for Ji Youran, which was good for Qu Moying. With Liu Jingyu confronting Ji Youran, Qu Moying could do her things boldly.

After a while, the banquet began in another large hall on the side. The hall was full of women. There weren't many people. Everyone gathered together, chatting and laughing happily.

There were not many young ladies, so they just sat at the same table. Qu Qiuyan was sitting with her besties but not with Qu Xuexin and Qu Moying. After entering Duke Qi's Mansion, Qu Qiuyan did not sit with them anymore, which showed that she disliked them very much.

Qu Moying sat down gracefully. Qu Xuexin sat on one side of Qu Moying, but no one sat on the other side of Qu Moying. The maids deliberately kept this seat. Soon, Liu Jingyu rushed over and happened to sit on this seat. She looked at Qu Moying, who was sitting next to her, and smiled. "Fourth Lady Qu."

"County Lady Jingyu." Qu Moying stood up and bowed.

"Please be seated, Fourth Lady Qu. I have something to ask you." Liu Jingyu smiled gently. Her attitude was kind and natural. It was as if everything Qu Moying had seen in the past was an illusion.

## Chapter 230 Who Is Your Second Brother?

"County Lady, please go ahead!" Qu Moying said lightly after pondering for a moment.

"I heard that you are the ex-Crown Princess' cousin, and she took good care of you in the past. But when the ex-Crown Princess was seriously ill, why didn't you go to the Crown Prince's Mansion to take care of her? And you made a scene at the ex-Crown Princess and Earl Ling'an's funerals. Is the rumor wrong? Is there something we don't know between you and the ex-Crown Princess?"

Liu Jingyu said in a gentle voice with a polite smile on her face. She even lowered her head and said, "If I said something wrong, please forgive me. Grandmother was kind to you out there just now, so I couldn't help asking."

What she meant was that everyone knew these things and was spreading rumors. She wanted to know the truth from Qu Moying.

A hint of gloominess flashed through Qu Moying's eyes. This time, she was sure that Liu Jingyu was really unkind to her, but she could not remember having offended Liu Jingyu so that the latter actually said these words to her.

Liu Jingyu's words were apparently provocative.

However, it was not the right time to think about it. Qu Moying looked at Liu Jingyu, and her eyes turned cold. "County Lady Jingyu, why do you ask so much about the ex-Crown Princess? Is it because you want to be the Crown Princess?"

No one expected Qu Moying to say such sharp words. Some of the people present knew something about the incidents they talked about, some were at a loss, but all of them shut their mouths at this moment.

The atmosphere suddenly became tense!

The ex-Crown Princess had just died. Even if the Crown Prince wanted to marry someone else, or even if some ladies wanted to marry the Crown Prince, they should hide their thoughts. After all, the Crown Prince's love for the ex-Crown Princess was well known and highly praised in the capital.

Liu Jingyu did not expect that her probing words would lead to such a sharp response from Qu Moying. The smile on her face froze.

"Fourth Lady Qu, how dare you! How dare you talk to our County Lady like this?" The maid behind Liu Jingyu stepped forward and scolded Qu Moying harshly.

Not to be outdone, Yu Dong stepped forward and glared at the maid, "Ladies are talking. You are just a maid. It's not your turn to speak here."

"You are also a maid." The maid beside Liu Jingyu said furiously.

"I'm scolding you! Even though our lady is nobody, she is still the ex-Crown Princess' cousin. It hasn't been long since the ex-Crown Princess died, but someone dares to bully her cousin now. I think everyone knows what that means!" Yu Dong said fearlessly.

Although Yu Dong was disguised as a maid, he was not really a maid. In the past, when he followed Pei Yuanjun, he used to frighten others. Even scolding Liu Jingyu was nothing, let alone a maid.

Although they didn't make much noise, the two maids still attracted others' attention. Seeing that the other madams were looking over, Liu Jingyu quickly controlled her expression and smiled apologetically to the madams at the front tables, "The two maids are not sensible. Sorry to bother you, madams."

Seeing that it was a quarrel between two maids, the madams went on to chat. After all, nothing serious could happen between maids.

Seeing Liu Jingyu stop her maid, Qu Moying also called Yu Dong back. Liu Jingyu sat down again.

"Fourth Lady Qu, I'm sorry. Just now, Princess Ji mentioned you...That's why I couldn't control my emotion for a moment. It's my fault. I am sorry to anger you."

Liu Jingyu said apologetically.

Qu Moying believed that if she hadn't said those words, and Yu Dong was not that tough, Liu Jingyu wouldn't have made a concession.

Liu Jingyu was not a simple woman. With only one sentence, she passed the buck to Ji Youran without turning a hair.

Liu Jingyu was clever, and she was obviously unfriendly to Qu Moying, so Qu Moying told herself to be more careful.

“I wonder what Princess Ji said to you that made you angry and even blame it on me.”

Qu Moying asked calmly.

“Actually, it’s nothing big. It’s because of my misunderstanding.” Liu Jingyu said vaguely.

“Are you not on good terms with Princess Ji?” Qu Moying seemed to not understand and blurted out.

Since Liu Jingyu started the war, Qu Moying wouldn’t let her off easily. Qu Moying didn’t care what Liu Jingyu meant before. Whether Liu Jingyu wanted to threaten her, test her, or vent her anger on her, Liu Jingyu had to bear the consequences.

As expected, as soon as Qu Moying finished her words, the other ladies at the same table stopped talking. What Liu Jingyu had said was indeed very surprising because she didn’t seem to be a person who would say something like that. But no matter what, Liu Jingyu did speak those words.

What did she mean?

A young lady dressed in light yellow and sitting on the other side of Liu Jingyu couldn’t stand it anymore. She snorted, “Fourth Lady Qu, it’s just a slip of the tongue by County Lady Jingyu. Why are you still picking on her?”

Qu Moying knew this lady. She was Yan Yujiao, the young miss of Marquis Fengyang’s Mansion. Qu Moying always saw her by Liu Jingyu’s side. It was said that she had a good relationship with Liu Jingyu.

"I am not picking on anyone. County Lady Jingyu just talked to me about that. Is there anything wrong?" Qu Moying smiled and said calmly.

Liu Jingyu turned around and instructed a maid in a low voice. As she spoke, the maid nodded repeatedly. It seemed that she was talking about something important so that she didn't notice the tension between the two people beside her.

Because Liu Jingyu turned aside to talk with her maid, Qu Moying and Yan Yujiao met each other's eyes. Yan Yujiao glared at Qu Moying.

"Fourth Lady Qu, what do you mean?"

"I mean what you mean." Qu Moying said indifferently. This was her first time attending an event in an aristocratic family. If she was suppressed again and again, what would people think of her in the future?

"You... You've really gone too far..." Yan Yujiao seemed to be a spoiled young lady. At this time, she could no longer suppress her anger. If the person who spoke up to her was a young lady with the same family background as her, she certainly would not be so angry. However, as long as she thought that Qu Moying was actually nothing but dared to contradict her, she got even angrier.

In fact, she was just bullying Qu Moying because no one would back Qu Moying up.

Qu Qiuyan sat at the side and watched the fun. She was secretly pleased. She knew Yan Yujiao and the two of them got along quite well. Back then, when Yan Yujiao's elder brother, Second Young Master Yan, went to Qu Mansion with Xu Lipeng, he sometimes brought his sister, Yan Yujiao, with him.

Qu Qiuyan had badmouthed Qu Moying in front of Yan Yujiao just now, and it seemed that her words worked.

"Yujiao, don't be angry! Fourth Lady Qu, I'm really sorry. Yujiao is from the Yan Family. She might have been angered by something. Her mood is a bit out of control today." Liu Jingyu turned around and seemed just to notice the tense atmosphere. She hurriedly reached out to pull Yan Yujiao while smiling at Qu Moying.

Qu Moying smiled but did not say anything.

Yan Yujiao really wanted to flare up, but when she saw that the madams had turned around again because of the commotion, she angrily shut her mouth. Liu Jingyu had stopped her before, but she just could not suppress her anger.

Qu Moying vented her anger on Yan Yujiao's brother because of Young Master Yongning. How could she do that?

Yan Yujiao knew her Second Brother was good for nothing, but others were not qualified to blame him, especially Qu Moying, who was neither talented nor beautiful and was even blinded. Could it be that she had taken a fancy to her Second Brother?

Marquis Fengyang's Mansion had a higher status than Marquis Yongning's Mansion!

"Alright, Yujiao, please stop being angry for my sake." Liu Jingyu pulled Yan Yujiao's sleeve again with a smile. Only then did Yan Yujiao's expression soften a bit. She still pulled a long face, but it seemed that she wouldn't continue the fight.

Qu Moying glanced at Yan Yujiao and then Liu Jingyu indifferently. She did not continue to speak.

The rest of the meal time was relatively peaceful. The ladies finished the fastest because they did not eat much.

After a few young ladies left, Qu Moying also stood up and excused herself to Qi Xiangyu. Then, she left with Yu Dong.

After all, Qi Xiangyu was the real hostess. Compared with Liu Jingyu, she was more qualified to receive guests. However, up until now, almost everyone present had ignored her. They all deliberately ignored Qi Xiangyu while talking to Liu Jingyu. When they mentioned the hostess, they all referred to Liu Jingyu.

But Qi Xiangyu kept smiling as if she didn't care at all.

When Qu Moying spoke to her, she only nodded with a smile and didn't say anything else. It was not until Qu Moying excused herself to Qi Xiangyu before leaving that everyone remembered Qi Xiangyu was the real hostess of the banquet today. When the next few young ladies left, although they still said goodbye to Liu Jingyu, they also said goodbye to Qi Xiangyu.

For a moment, the hostess and the guests were in harmony.

Qu Moying and Yu Dong slowly walked along the road while admiring the scenery. When she came out, she did not go with the other young ladies. She casually chose a direction to walk.

"Fourth Lady Qu, please wait!" After walking a few steps, Qu Moying heard a voice from behind.

Qu Moying turned around and saw that it was Yan Yujiao. She was not surprised. She just glanced at her casually and continued to walk forward. However, she slightly slowed down.

Seeing that Qu Moying did not stop, Yan Yujiao became angrier. She strode forward, walked to Qu Moying's side, and said angrily, "I know you are blinded. But are you deaf, too? Did you not hear me talking to you?"

"Miss Yan, what's the matter?" Qu Moying said calmly, narrowing her eyes slightly.

"Fourth Lady Qu, my Second Brother has nothing to do with Young Master Yongning's matter. Don't try to blame it on my Second Brother. Although my Second Brother is not the eldest son, he is still a wife-born son. He will never marry a woman whose engagement has been canceled." Yan Yujiao looked at Qu Moying arrogantly, her eyes full of contempt.

Qu Moying couldn't help but laugh. She raised her eyes under the eye veil and said, "Miss Yan, did you hear something? Or was someone trying to stir up trouble? I didn't even blame Young Master Yongning. Why would I blame your Second Brother? And who is your Second Brother? Does he have anything to do with me?"

Her words were quite aloof.



Yan Yujiao immediately blushed, and her face blanched and then became livid. She wanted to vent her anger, but Qu Moying's indifferent reaction made her feel like punching hard on a bag of cotton.