

Noble Wife 251

Chapter 251 What Did Her Ladyship See?

“Ying, this...” Old Lady Qu sighed and reached out to pat Qu Moying’s hand. Her smile was forced, and her eyes were filled with mixed emotion.

“Grandmother, it’s over. Don’t be sad.” Qu Moying comforted her softly.

Old Lady Qu’s eyes turned red when she heard Qu Moying’s comforting words. She thought Qu Moying was too sensible. But the more sensible Qu Moying was, the more Old Lady Qu felt sorry for her. Qu Moying lost her mother when she was a kid, and her father was unreliable, who treated her not even as well as he treated strangers.

Moreover, Qu Moying had eye disease since she was a child. Of course, her eye disease was definitely caused by Yu.

Old Lady Qu couldn’t help but pity Qu Moying.

But Qu Moying was so magnanimous. It was obvious that Qu Qiuyan was behind this matter, but now Qu Moying was advising Old Lady Qu to let it go.

“Ying, I... I’m sorry for your mother. I’m sorry for you!” Old Lady Qu suppressed the sadness in her heart and said sadly. If she had known what would happen, she would not have chosen Yue and made her end up with a miserable fate. Now, even Qu Moying was implicated.

“Grandmother, don’t be sad. I won’t blame you. My mother won’t blame you either. Grandmother, I find it strange. How would this old maid dare to do this? Could it be...” Qu Moying said after she was pulled to sit down beside Old Lady Qu.

Qu Moying paused for a moment as if pondering on what to say next.

Old Lady Qu also had doubts about the old maid, so she temporarily put down her pity for Qu Moying and asked after thinking for a while, "Do you think this old maid had reacted too much by committing suicide?"

"Yes, I think so too. It seemed that she did it not only for Third Sister." Qu Moying sounded confused.

These words reminded Old Lady Qu. She put down Qu Moying's hand, thought for a moment, and said with a stern look, "Could it be that someone is plotting against our mansion?"

"I don't know. I just find it very strange. Granny Qing had only been in the mansion for a short period of time. She first served Madam, and then she served Third Sister. But she was just an ordinary maid. How could she serve whoever she wanted? Moreover, Old Lady Ji said that she used some tricks. Where did she get those drugs that caused people to become unconscious?"

Qu Moying frowned in confusion after she offered her analysis.

Old Lady Qu's heart sank. She immediately thought of a possibility. Her face changed greatly as she said, "Ying, go back and rest first. I will tell your father about this, but I am afraid that Qiuyan..."

Old Lady Qu couldn't continue. Qu Moying was the one who suffered and was wronged every time. Old Lady Qu had made up her mind that even though she could not punish Qu Qiuyan openly, she would not stand on her side anymore.

"Grandmother, I know. Father will disagree." Qu Moying comforted Old Lady Qu.

Her words were so considerate that Old Lady Qu felt bitter. She thought Qu Moying was really sensible and much better than Qu Qiuyan. In her eyes, Qu Qiuyan's reputation was not as good as before and her behaviors were not like a noble lady at all.

She decided to punish Qu Qiuyan even if her son would get angry.

Qu Moying left Old Lady Qu's yard with two maids.

"Miss, someone is guarding outside Third Lady's courtyard." Yu Chun had sharp eyes and immediately saw an old maid at the gate of another courtyard.

"It's Her Ladyship's people." Yu Dong looked at the old maid and said.

After taking a look at the old maid in silence, Qu Moying turned around and went back to her own yard. It seemed that Qu Qiuyan was grounded by Old Lady Qu, which saved Qu Moying a lot of trouble.

Just as she returned to her yard and sat down, she saw Yu Dong bring an old maid and a young maid in. They were from Earl Ling'an's Mansion.

"Fourth Lady Qu, our lady wants to thank you. This is our lady's gift for you to express her gratitude." The old maid said with a smile, and the young maid behind her came forward with a gift box in her hands.

"Thank Her Ladyship, but this is not necessary." Qu Moying refused with a smile.

"Fourth Lady Qu, thank you for noticing our lady in time. Otherwise, something would have happened to our lady. Ever since the Eldest Master passed away, our lady had been in a bad mood, and she has been even hurt this time." The old maid said.

"Did Her Ladyship see anything before I arrived?" Qu Moying thought for a while and asked tentatively.

The old maid shivered as soon as she heard Qu Moying's question. She was also Old Lady Ji's confidant. She had heard some strange things from another old maid who followed Old Lady Ji. When she heard Qu Moying's question, she immediately felt nervous. "Fourth Lady Qu, when you entered the hall, did you see anything unusual?"

"I didn't. It was just that... I felt a little strange at that moment." Qu Moying furrowed her brows in confusion.

"What's so strange about it?" The old maid hurriedly asked, and her heart missed one beat.

"I can't tell. I decided to look for mother's eternal flame at that time, but I suddenly heard someone urge me to go and ask the masters in the temple. Then, I left... It was a strange feeling. I don't know if it had really happened or not."

Qu Moying shook her head as if she wanted to shake off the strange feeling. "Later, when I came back, I... I seemed to see a figure... in a light yellow dress, but it disappeared when I took a closer look."

"You... you saw a figure wearing light yellow clothes? And someone asked you to leave first?" The old maid stuttered, looking more and more nervous.

At that time, those scoundrels wanted to scheme against Qu Moying. If she didn't leave, something might have happened to her. Did the ex-Crown Princess appear to inform Qu Moying to leave?

"I don't know if I really saw or felt it. Anyway, I felt strange at that time. Her Ladyship can ask that master. He went with me at that time. I don't know if he saw anything." Qu Moying continued in a low voice. It seemed that she was not sure.

However, the old maid firmly believed Qu Moying's words because Qu Moying's version was similar to what she had heard. Even Old Lady Ji described a scene similar. Not everyone could wear light yellow clothes, except the Crown Prince and Crown Princess. The ex-Crown Princess wore a light yellow dress on her wedding day and entered Eastern Palace.

Sure enough, it was the ex-Crown Princess who showed up.

The old maid's teeth chattered as she spoke, "Fourth Lady Qu, you... you might be mistaken. Our lady said that you are welcome to our mansion when you are free."

After placing the gift on the desk, the old maid turned around and left, not daring to stay any longer. She had to report to Old Lady Ji as soon as possible.

Seeing that the old maid left in a panic, Qu Moying smiled slightly with cold eyes. It seemed that she was killing two birds with one stone...

Old Lady Ji had already gotten up, but she wrapped herself in a quilt. She felt cold all over her body and shivered from time to time. She looked around and always felt that someone was watching her. She asked Concubine Xiang to go out, leaving only an old maid she trusted, the one who had also fainted along with her at that time.

Hearing that the old maid who went to send gifts had come back, Old Lady Ji let her enter the room. Although Old Lady Ji had nothing to do with Qu Mansion's matter, she was fortunate that the scoundrels appeared as the scapegoat. Since Qu Moying had saved her, she had to express her gratitude to Qu Moying although she didn't like her.

If there were no scoundrels, Old Lady Ji could not explain why such a strange thing happened. She could not say that she fainted because she saw her dead granddaughter. She couldn't reveal a single word about what she saw. Since such a bunch of scoundrels were making trouble and it was related to Qu Mansion, Old Lady Ji blamed it on them.

Old Lady Ji was determined to keep the past events secret.

Therefore, she insisted that those scoundrels ganged up with others and accidentally injured the Ji Family's people, which led to such a strange thing.

"Your Ladyship, when I sent gifts to Fourth Lady Qu... Fourth Lady Qu said that she was looking for Second Madam Qu's eternal flame at that time, but... but she seemed to hear someone urging her to leave. The person who urged her seemed to know that someone was going to hurt her..." When the old maid said this, her teeth started chattering, and she looked nervous.

Old Lady Ji shivered. She was a bit uncertain just now, but she was now sure that her second granddaughter did appear.

Otherwise, Qu Moying must have ended up in an awful situation. Ji Hanyue had always taken care of Qu Moying when she was alive, so she would not remain indifferent if anything bad was going to happen to Qu Moying. This was why Qu Moying had left in a hurry, and the few scoundrels failed to harm Qu Moying.

Thinking of this, Old Lady Ji shivered again. She put her hands together and muttered to herself. She prayed to Ji Hanyue and Ji Yongming, muttering that she would definitely make the first branch

prosperous and would never let the first branch perish for lack of an heir. Everything would belong to the first branch. Even if Ji Yongming did not have an heir, she would have Ji Yong'an's son adopted by the first branch.

She hoped that Ji Hanyue and Ji Yongming would not turn into ghosts and look for her.

Ji Yongming had been brave since he was young, and Ji Hanyue was also not ordinary. If they both became ferocious ghosts, they would be the most powerful ghosts, and the entire Earl Ling'an's Mansion would be doomed.

Old Lady Ji got more and more panicked as she thought of these things. She was no longer hesitant. She repeatedly murmured that she would make Concubine Xiang a legitimate wife as soon as she went back to the mansion, and she would help Ji Yuanhai inherit the title as soon as possible.

Old Lady Ji didn't dare to bring up the matter of her younger granddaughter. She didn't dare to bring it up because she was afraid that there might be something else.

In fact, she heard most of the things about Ji Yongming and Ji Hanyue from Ji Yong'an and his wife and some from Ji Youran. Although their accounts were flawless, Old Lady Ji always felt that there was something strange. However, she did not dare to ask and interfere too much.

Ji Yong'an told her that they were all the Crown Prince's ideas, and he dared not ask too much because he was afraid of being killed.

When she knew that Ji Yongming and Ji Hanyue were dead, she was indeed sad. But she found that she could do nothing about it. She still had her second son and the second branch, so her mood was not so bad. Earl Ling'an's Mansion had not yet fallen. There were still Ji Yong'an and Ji Youran. Ji Youran might have a chance to become the Crown Princess in the future. The Crown Prince was deeply in love with Ji Hanyue, so he would definitely be good to her family and treat Earl Ling'an's Mansion differently.

Ji Youran had a promising future.

Thinking of this, Old Lady Ji was not so sad. As for the truth, she could do nothing because the Crown Prince was bound to rule the entire country in the future.

Chapter 252 May I See Your Face?

This time, Old Lady Ji made up her mind that no matter what her second son and second daughter-in-law said, she would handle Concubine Xiang's matter properly.

Yuanhai was not old enough to inherit the title now, but Concubine Xiang could immediately be promoted to a legitimate wife. Old Lady Ji was afraid that if she did nothing, Ji Hanyue would visit her in the dream again.

Thinking of this, Old Lady Ji became so afraid that her whole body shrank into the quilt.

The two old maids looked at each other and saw the fear in each other's eyes. They put their hands together and bowed their heads to pray silently.

Old Lady Ji was so scared that she eagerly wanted to do something to make up for Ji Hanyue, so she decided to handle Concubine Xiang's thing first. Even if Concubine Xiang became a legitimate wife, it didn't matter at all to Old Lady Ji. As for whether it would be a problem for the second branch...

Old Lady Ji didn't think she needed to consider this issue now.

She just hoped that Ji Hanyue would not come to her and take revenge on the Ji Family.

The Ji Family's people beat the few scoundrels up and handed them over to Qu Mansion. Old Lady Qu accepted them and also let the servants beat them up.

The few scoundrels pushed all the blame onto Qian Li, saying that he led them over and that he colluded with Granny Qing.

Old Lady Qu released all the scoundrels except Qian Li. She had someone keep him in custody and decided to bring him back to the mansion to be interrogated by Qu Zhizhen.

After hearing Qu Moying's words, she felt the thing was increasingly weirder. Granny Qing had only entered the mansion not long ago, but both Yu and Qu Qiuyan highly valued her. She thought Granny Qing was not ordinary, and maybe she was sent into Qu Mansion by Qu Zhizhen's enemy to attract his attention.

It was already three o'clock in the afternoon when the capital's gate opened, and Old Lady Qu knew about it even later. It was not the right time to go down the mountain. Moreover, Qu Zhizhen sent her a message, which made her feel much more relieved.

Something did happen to Qu Caiyue, but it was just that she accidentally fell into the lake in her panic. Someone immediately saved her, so it was not a big deal.

Qu Zhizhen's description of this matter was implicit. He only said that Qu Caiyue did not see the road clearly on her way to find Lord Jing and suddenly fell into the lake. However, at the thought that Qu Caiyue had just entered Lord Jing Mansion yesterday and she was so anxious to find Lord Jing, Old Lady Qu thought Qu Caiyue misbehaved and felt ashamed of her.

She thought it was better to ignore Qu Caiyue's matters from now on.

Qian Li was sent to Qu Mansion overnight, and Old Lady Qu also sent Qu Zhizhen a message, asking Qu Zhizhen to investigate him in detail. She also told Qu Zhizhen that Qu Qiuyan sent Granny Qing to set Qu Moying up. She said that she would definitely seek justice for Qu Moying after they returned to the mansion, and that she wouldn't let Qu Moying suffer again this time.

Old Lady Qu was harsh with her words this time. She scolded not only Qu Qiuyan but also Qu Zhizhen. She said that he was muddle-headed back then to marry Yu, who made such kind of trouble again and again.

At night, Qu Moying wore a pure black cloak and left her yard. She followed the people sent by Pei Yuanjun and silently went to another yard.

The size of this yard was similar to the two yards for Qu Mansion, but the interior layout of this yard was much more exquisite. It could be seen that many objects were brought over by the one who lived here, and even the cushions were carefully made.

When she entered the room, the maid, Chun Xiu, was already waiting there. She skillfully came over to help Qu Moying freshen up. After helping Qu Moying change her clothes, she helped her to sit in the inner room. The curtain outside the room was a thin layer of gauze with pink embroidery. One could vaguely see the figure inside, but the view wasn't clear.

Qu Moying took off her eye veil. She sat quietly on a large chair in the room without wearing the veiled hat.

Not long after she sat down, she heard a voice coming from outside. An old maid led Lord Jing, Pei Yusheng, in.

Pei Yusheng was wearing a simple green robe with a folding fan in his hand. He looked like an ordinary young master, and his expression was very calm.

As soon as Pei Yusheng entered the room, Qu Moying, who was behind the curtain, stood up and bowed deeply to Pei Yusheng. "Greetings, Your Highness."

"Please save the formalities, Lady Liu!" Pei Yusheng waved his hand and sat down on the large chair in front of him.

Qu Moying also sat down inside.

"Your Highness, why are you so anxious to see me?" Qu Moying asked.

She came to meet him because he repeatedly invited her.

"Lady Liu, I heard that you are going back to the border?" Pei Yusheng turned the fan in his hand and looked at the figure behind the curtain with a gentle smile.

"Yes, it has been a while since I arrived in the capital. My father has sent people to ask me when I will go back several times. I think it is about time to go back."

Qu Moying followed Chun Xiu's instructions and said.

Lady Liu was going to leave the capital, and there was nothing for her to do in the future. Qu Moying breathed a sigh of relief because Lady Liu would not return to the capital for the time being.

As for the future, Qu Moying didn't want to think about it now.

"Did General Liu say anything in his letter?" Pei Yusheng asked with a gentle smile on his handsome face, and he looked like a very good-tempered person.

However, if anyone knew that Pei Yusheng had just slapped Qu Caiyue, no one would think he was good-tempered.

"Nothing serious. My father just said..." Qu Moying paused as if she did not know what to say.

"What did the Guardian General say?" Pei Yusheng asked again.

"He asked me to thank you for taking care of me in the capital and also to thank Lord Yun." Qu Moying said slowly.

Lady Liu followed Pei Yuanjun into the capital. Lord Jing heard that she had her own purpose in coming to the capital. The Guardian General asked Pei Yuanjun to take care of her, so it was natural that he would thank Pei Yuanjun. But why would he thank Pei Yusheng?

As a matter of fact, Pei Yusheng and Lady Liu had only seen each other a few times, and Pei Yusheng had never seen Lady Liu's face because she always wore a veiled hat. Therefore, the Guardian General's words were meaningful.

Pei Yusheng thought for a while and said gently, "That's very kind of the Guardian General. Other than this, what else did he tell you?"

"There's nothing else. He just let me thank you sincerely." Qu Moying shook her head.

"Lady Liu, I don't know when we can meet again. It's such a pity." Pei Yusheng said in a different way, looking at the gauze curtain with a bit of affection.

"Maybe I won't come again." Qu Moying said.

"Lady Liu, you are beautiful and outstanding. Are you really going to stay at the border forever? Noble ladies who are not as good as you can live a comfortable and noble life, but you want to accompany the Guardian General to suffer at the border, which is really admirable." Pei Yusheng sighed and waved the folding fan in his hand.

"I naturally should follow my father." Qu Moying said flatly.

"If you get married in the capital, you can stay here forever. You don't have to live a hard life at the border." Pei Yusheng said with a smile. His words were very casual, but it was a bit rude to say them to a woman. Fortunately, no one else was there at this time.

The one behind the curtain did not respond. She lowered her head and seemed to be a little shy, making her slender figure look even more enchanting behind the curtain.

Was she shy?

Pei Yusheng was in a very good mood. He was determined to get Lady Liu.

He thought Qu Caiyue, who had just been sent over by Qu Mansion yesterday, was stupid and unbearable. She came over with a maid to find him just because he ignored her yesterday evening. On her way, she happened to meet the assassin, and she was so frightened that she fell into the lake. For a moment, Pei Yusheng even wanted her to die.

But later on, he still sent someone to save her.

Today, when Pei Yusheng was about to go out, Qu Caiyue came to him and complained about her grievances in a coquettish manner. He was annoyed by her sobbing, so he gave Qu Caiyue a slap on the spot and knocked her to the ground. Then, she cried no more.

Pei Yusheng had compared Lady Liu with Qu Caiyue, Qu Qiuyan, and Liu Jingyu, and he was sure that Lady Liu was the woman he wanted. Although he had never seen her face, he had heard that she was a rare beauty. She was hailed as the most beautiful woman at the border, so she must be extremely beautiful.

Besides, Lady Liu's background was even more powerful than that of the ex-Crown Princess, which would be a great help for him.

What Pei Yusheng cared about the most was military power.

Back then, the Crown Prince decided to marry Ji Hanyue also because of Earl Ling'an's military power. Unfortunately, after Earl Ling'an returned to the capital, his military power was greatly reduced, and his value to the Crown Prince decreased significantly.

"It is not hard to stay at the border." Her voice was not loud and sounded gentle.

"How can it not be hard? I think that a woman like you should live a life of luxury. All the beautiful things in the world should be delivered to you." Pei Yusheng said in more gently and affectionately.

However, Qu Moying felt bored.

What Lord Jing meant was obvious. He was clearly hinting that Lady Liu could marry him and that she might even be the future Empress and get the best things a woman could get.

The best of the best was naturally being the Empress.

"I... am not that good."

"No, you are the best woman in this world to me. All the women in the capital are shallow. They are far inferior to you." Pei Yusheng was still praising her. The more he said, the more he agreed with himself.

Compared with the others, Lady Liu was indeed different. Other women, including Liu Jingyu, were coy when they saw him. However, Lady Liu always kept her distance from him, just like now. She used a gauze curtain to keep him away.

Pei Yusheng felt excited because of the distance between him and Lady Liu. She was about to leave the capital soon, and he thought he should see her face.

With this thought in mind, he stood up and walked in front of the gauze curtain. "Lady Liu, I have not seen your beautiful face yet. Now that you are going to leave, may I see your face?"

Chapter 253 I Always Make a Good Impression on Others

Seeing Pei Yusheng act like this, Chun Xiu hurriedly stepped in front of the curtain. "Your Highness, our young miss has eye disease, so it is inconvenient for her to be seen by others."

"It doesn't matter. If Lady Liu wants, I will ask someone to treat Lady Liu's eyes. I heard that Vice Minister Qu's Mansion's Fourth Lady's eye disease is almost cured." Pei Yusheng couldn't force his way over because Chun Xiu blocked the way. He looked a bit displeased, and his gaze turned cold as he looked at Chun Xiu.

If Chun Xiu was just an ordinary maid, she would not dare to say anything else at this time.

"Your Highness." A young eunuch rushed in and whispered a few words in Pei Yusheng's ear. Pei Yusheng frowned and stepped forward after hesitating for a moment. Chun Xiu was just a maid, and she could not help but take a step back.

"Lady Liu, although I have talked to you these days, I have never seen your face. I may not recognize you when I meet you on the road in the future." Pei Yusheng said with a smile. "Lady Liu, could you please come out and meet me?"

The woman behind the curtain was not wearing the veiled hat. If she came out, he could see her face.

Pei Yusheng's words were polite, but his action was rude. He reached out to pull the curtain and was about to lift it up.

There was only Chun Xiu by the side of the curtain. Even though she was mentally prepared, she panicked at this time. Pei Yusheng was determined to see Lady Liu.

"Your Highness, I don't look well, so I'd better not meet you. When my eye disease recovers in the future, I will meet you." Qu Moying stood up behind the gauze curtain, which meant that if Pei Yusheng lifted the curtain, she would definitely refuse to be seen by him.

In that case, Lord Jing would appear to be rude and domineering.

Pei Yusheng's hand froze on the curtain. With just a lift, he would be able to see Lady Liu. However, it would definitely displease her and even the Guardian General.

He just wanted to express his feelings for her, not to annoy her.

After thinking for a while, Pei Yusheng finally put down his hand. After all, he wanted power more than beauty. Even if Liu Lanxin was not as beautiful as he wanted, so what? As long as she was the Guardian General's daughter, her status was not ordinary. There were many people who were eager to marry her.

Since that was the case, he didn't want to leave a bad impression on her.

Thinking of this, Pei Yusheng took a step back, smiled, and said gently, "Sorry for my rudeness. I thought we were familiar with each other after these days, but I didn't expect you to care so much about your eye disease. Eye disease is not a big deal. Fourth Lady Qu of Vice Minister Qu's Mansion also has an eye disease, but she always appears in front of people. You don't need to care about others' opinions."

This was the second time he mentioned Qu Moying. Sitting behind the curtain, Qu Moying was speechless. Pei Yusheng really liked to compare her with Lady Liu.

"Fourth Lady Qu's eye disease is different from mine. I am afraid my eye disease... is not easy to cure."
Qu Moying sighed.

"So what? Even if your eye disease couldn't be cured, you are still incomparable. Your manner is beyond the reach of other women."

Pei Yusheng smiled and cupped his hands towards Qu Moying who was behind the curtain. "I still have things to do, so I will leave first. If you need me for anything, please let me know!"

"Thank you, Your Highness." Qu Moying bowed sideways in return.

Pei Yusheng turned around and left in a hurry with his men. It seemed that something really happened.

After freshening up and changing into her own clothes, Qu Moying thought it was time to leave. But the door opened, and Pei Yuanjun walked in. He was dressed in a black cape embroidered with purple iris flowers, which was not showy in the night but beautiful and noble.

Although Pei Yusheng was very handsome, he was far inferior to Pei Yuanjun, who was absolutely the most good-looking man in the capital.

However, when Pei Yuanjun's face darkened, no one would dare to look at his extremely handsome face.

At this moment, Pei Yuanjun looked gloomy, revealing a chilling hostility. It seemed that someone had provoked him.

"Greetings, Your Highness!" Qu Moying stood up and bowed to him gracefully.

Pei Yuanjun snorted gloomily. People who had been bathed in blood on the battlefield like him would always reveal a killing intent when they got angry. Ji Hanyue could face her father's anger calmly in her past life, so she was not afraid at all when facing Pei Yuanjun's anger now.

“Reluctant to part?” Pei Yuanjun’s eyes fell on Qu Moying’s face. She had not completely dressed up and had not put on the eye veil yet. Her clean and clear eyes could be seen, which made her look even more beautiful and charming.

“Your Highness, you mean Lord Jing? It might be the case because he likes Lady Liu very much.” Qu Moying smiled and said.

No matter what Pei Yusheng said, it was because he had taken the person behind the curtain for Liu Lanxin.

Pei Yuanjun glanced at Qu Moying and reached out to take the eye veil. He looked at the wide eye veil and asked, “When can you take off the eye veil?”

He stopped asking about what happened just now.

Qu Moying did not know why he changed the topic, but she could sense that the atmosphere was not as tense as before. “When the time is ripe.”

“When is the ripe time?” Pei Yuanjun looked at her with a faint smile.

“There is no hurry. Any time will do. Perhaps I can be of some help to Your Highness.” Qu Moying said meaningfully.

“What do you mean?” Ji Hai came over to help Pei Yuanjun remove his cape. Pei Yuanjun sat down on a chair at the side and elegantly straightened his sleeves as he asked with a faint smile.

“Doesn’t Lady Liu need to see a doctor for her eye disease?” Qu Moying asked with a smile.

“Yes!” Pei Yuanjun said lazily, “I heard that the doctor who treated you was sent by the ex-Crown Princess. His medical skills are outstanding, but he is unwilling to work in Imperial Hospital in the palace. Right?”

"Yes, Doctor Ji was indeed invited by my cousin sister. He has treated me for many years, and he cured my eye disease." Qu Moying nodded. These things could not be hidden from Pei Yuanjun.

"Is he not in the village now?" Pei Yuanjun asked calmly, looking at Qu Moying with his deep eyes.

Qu Moying felt like she was being targeted by a powerful beast, but she did not understand why he was paying so much attention to her expression. She had never intended to hide it from him. She nodded calmly and said, "Doctor Ji is not in the village most of the time. He likes to travel around the country. He often leaves a few months' doses of medicine for me and comes back to treat me after being away for a period of time."

It was a coincidence for Ji Hanyue to invite Doctor Ji, Ji Luoxuan. She heard that he was skilled in medicine, so she personally went to invite him. Ji Luoxuan was different from ordinary doctors. He only treated people on whom he had a good impression, but he liked traveling and rarely stayed in a place and treated others.

Although he was a doctor, he hadn't seen many patients.

This was the reason why he was not famous even though he was a skilled doctor. When Ji Hanyue went to invite him, she did not have much hope. However, Doctor Ji agreed immediately after hearing that it was to treat the eye disease of Vice Minister Qu's Mansion's Fourth Lady. He immediately packed up and followed Ji Hanyue's people to Qu Moying's village.

The treatment lasted several years, during which time he carefully treated Qu Moying's eyes.

Qu Moying had always respected Doctor Ji.

Before Qu Moying returned to the capital this time, Doctor Ji had left the village. He said that he would return after traveling for a period of time, just as he always did, and Qu Moying was not worried.

"When he comes back, let me know." Pei Yuanjun shifted his gaze away from Qu Moying's face, his eyes dark.

“OK, I will tell you.” Qu Moying nodded. Pei Yuanjun was obviously interested in Lady Liu, so he might need Doctor Ji. Thinking of this, Qu Moying said, “Doctor Ji only treats people on whom he has a good impression. If he doesn’t like a person, I am afraid the person will be refused. Even if he doesn’t refuse, his treatment won’t be effective.”

She was reminding Pei Yuanjun so that he wouldn’t be disappointed because he was obviously not someone who could accept being turned down. It was better to remind him bluntly now.

“I always make a good impression on others.” Pei Yuanjun said indifferently.

Qu Moying was extremely speechless. If he really made a good impression on others, he would not be famous for being cruel. Everyone in the capital felt a chill in their hearts when they mentioned him.

Although he was extremely handsome, no one dared to look at him, which could indicate how ferocious he was in the eyes of others. It was not just a matter of first impression.

Of course, Qu Moying would not mention it at this time, so she changed the topic, “Why did Lord Jing leave in a hurry just now?”

If not for an important matter, Pei Yusheng would continue to pester her no matter what. Then, it would be difficult for her to deal with him.

“Your dear third sister is looking for him.” Pei Yuanjun said lazily. He picked up the teacup on the table, took a sip of the tea, and then put it down.

Qu Moying couldn’t help but look at the teacup. She suddenly widened her eyes because she found that it was the teacup she had just used, and she put it aside because Pei Yuanjun came in.

There was an inexplicable itch in her throat. She turned her head and coughed to conceal the slight blush on her face as she said, “What’s the matter with Qu Qiuyan? Grandmother has already grounded her. How did she know that Lord Jing came?”

In fact, even if Qu Qiuyan was not grounded, she could not find out about Lord Jing's whereabouts.

"I sent someone to inform her and also help her go out smoothly to find Pei Yusheng's people." Pei Yuanjun cast a sidelong glance at Qu Moying. When he saw the rare blush on her face, he smiled in a good mood. He raised his eyebrows, feeling interested.

Qu Moying suddenly widened her eyes and looked at Pei Yuanjun in shock. Then she understood. Her long eyelashes fluttered, casting shadows under her eyes. She looked like a confused young girl.

"So, Qu Qiuyan found Lord Jing?" She asked.

She guessed that Pei Yuanjun had done something, but she did not expect that he had done something to Qu Qiuyan. Qu Qiuyan was really unlucky because she actually provoked Pei Yuanjun.

Pei Yuanjun calmly looked at Qu Moying and smiled. Then, he stood up, shook his sleeves, and said, "Let's go. I'll take you to see something interesting!"

Chapter 254 Your Highness, What Position Will You Give Me?

Dabei Temple's light was not bright at night. Under the dim light, the obscure and yellow Buddha statue cast a shadow on the wall, looking weird.

This was the small Buddha hall that Qu Qiuyan had found. There was only a small Buddha statue inside, but she did not know which Buddha it was. Qu Qiuyan only felt that the Buddha statue was extremely ferocious. It was different from the other Buddha statues she had seen in the past. She stood beside the Buddha statue and looked at the door of the hall with expectation.

When she heard that Lord Jing was now in Dabei Temple, Qu Qiuyan used a method to escape the old maid who was guarding her.

She was determined to see Lord Jing. If she couldn't see him, she would rush over to see him. She would even risk her life to see him.

This was the message Qu Qiuyan asked Qing Ju to deliver to Lord Jing.

Although her words were resolute, she was nervous and wasn't really going to risk her life. She just wanted Lord Jing to stop avoiding her.

There was a sound coming from the door. Qu Qiuyan hid inside and only heaved a sigh of relief when she saw Qing Ju.

"Miss."

"I'm here!" Qu Qiuyan turned around from behind the Buddha statue and looked expectantly behind Qing Ju.

When she saw the handsome man appear behind Qing Ju, tears immediately welled up in her eyes. Grievances, uneasiness, and sadness came crowding into her mind. Tears streamed down her face. She called out, "Your Highness..."

She was already sobbing so hard that she could not continue to speak.

Pei Yusheng walked into the Buddha hall and looked behind. Qing Ju hurriedly retreated to the door and guarded for them. Although there were some guards hiding in the dark outside, Qing Ju was still worried and looked at the road from time to time. On their way here just now, she vaguely saw someone with a lantern on the other side of the road. She didn't know if the person would come over.

Walking into the Buddha hall, Pei Yusheng strode forward. As soon as he got close to Qu Qiuyan, she pounced on him. She grabbed his sleeve and called out in a low voice, "Your Highness... you... you don't want me anymore?"

Seeing a beauty like her crying so sadly, he could not help but pity her. Moreover, he did like her and was determined to get her. Even though he could not marry her in the future, he would make her his woman. It was just that she might not have a high position.

He sighed softly and reached out his sleeve to wipe her tears. He said gently, "What's wrong? Why are you crying like this? Who bullied you?"

"Your Highness, you... you can't marry me?" She blurted out. Tears streamed down her face. Her voice was full of timidity and sadness.

These were the words that she had been suppressing in her heart these past few days. The more she suppressed them, the more uncomfortable and wronged she felt.

"Don't be sad." Pei Yusheng had been thinking about how to organize his words. He had indeed hinted Qu Qiuyan earlier that he could marry her, but he had said that just to make Qu Qiuyan happy. After all, Qu Zhizhen was only a Vice Minister. It was hard for Pei Yusheng to marry Qu Qiuyan.

"Your Highness, do you think... this is the only way?" Qu Qiuyan reached out and held Pei Yusheng's sleeve tightly, crying.

"Qiuyan, none of these matters. You only need to know that you are the one I want to marry the most. Even if other women have higher positions than you, so what? You will surpass them anyway." Pei Yusheng comforted her.

He really wanted to get Qu Qiuyan, so he was patient enough.

Moreover, his anger caused by the mess that was created by Qu Caiyue reduced a lot after he slapped Qu Caiyue in the face.

This issue was actually caused by Qu Caiyue.

"Your Highness... Your Highness... you... you really can't marry me?" Qu Qiuyan's body went limp, and she almost fell down. She had gone through so many hardships just to obtain the position of Princess Consort. She had been arrogant in front of Qu Moying because she thought she would become the Princess Consort one day.

Was Pei Yusheng rejecting her now?

Pei Yusheng hurriedly reached out and held her in his arms. His voice became gentler, "Qiuyan, you are the only one I want. But my mother is not satisfied with you, and Father Emperor will not agree to our marriage either. I can't be unfilial, right? Don't worry. After everything is over, I will naturally promote you to a higher position."

He had already decided on Qu Qiuyan's position, so he was very gentle to her at this time.

"Your Highness... What position will you give me?" Qu Qiuyan's voice began to tremble. She could somewhat understand the meaning behind Pei Yusheng's words.

Today, Pei Yusheng was gentler than before, but it gave Qu Qiuyan a bad feeling. She said, "Your Highness, what happened back then has nothing to do with me. Second Sister did it herself. She betrayed me and did such a thing on purpose. I really didn't know anything."

Qu Moying might be one of the causes that led to the matter, but Qu Caiyue herself might be another cause. Perhaps she had made such a scene because she didn't want to marry the sickly Lord Wei.

There were great differences between being Lord Jing's concubine and being Lord Wei's concubine.

"I know you can't be blamed for this." Pei Yusheng comforted her.

"Your Highness..." Qu Qiuyan looked up in surprise. Although there were still tears on her face, she began to smile. Her smile had always been beautiful. When facing such a beautiful woman who smiled with tears in her eyes, how many men could resist the temptation? Pei Yusheng thought what he had said was all from the bottom of his heart.

If Qu Qiuyan could always be so sensible and obedient, it wouldn't be impossible for him to fulfill his promise after he achieved his goal. After all, he still didn't know what Liu Lanxin was like. Maybe her face was terrible because of her eyes.

After all, a pair of ugly eyes could ruin the face.

Perhaps Liu Lanxin's eye disease was more serious than Qu Moying's. Otherwise, why would she wear a veiled hat whereas Qu Moying only wore an eye veil?

"Don't worry, I mean what I say. Although I can't give you a high position right now, I will give you a high position in the future." Pei Yusheng comforted Qu Qiuyan.

"Your Highness... why... why not now?" Qu Qiuyan's voice trembled again, and her smile froze on her face. She thought that Pei Yusheng had forgiven her, and he would give her a high position though he couldn't take her as his Princess Consort. But his words sounded like she couldn't even be the Side Princess.

No matter what, she was still the daughter of the Vice Minister, a third-rank official. Even if it was difficult for her to be the Princess Consort, she could still be the Side Princess.

"Don't worry. I will try to make you my concubine." Pei Yusheng said bluntly.

"Your Highness, can't I even be the Side Princess?" No longer bothering to act shy, Qu Qiuyan looked up at Pei Yusheng and cried.

Pei Yusheng sighed. In fact, he could let Qu Qiuyan be the Side Princess. However, he remembered Pei Yuanjun's words, saying that Qu Qiuyan and Qu Moying were sisters, so he had to think more about it. He didn't want to investigate too much, and he didn't want his plan to be ruined, so he decided not to let Qu Qiuyan enter his mansion with a high position.

"Even if you are a concubine of mine, you are also a registered member of the Imperial Family. In fact, a concubine is also in a high position. Moreover, I favor you. How can you be the same as other women?" Pei Yusheng didn't quote Pei Yuanjun's words. It was better for Qu Qiuyan not to meddle in this kind of thing. Otherwise, if something happened, he would have to deal with the aftermath.

He did not have so much time and energy to deal with the aftermath for Qu Qiuyan.

Looking at the sky outside, Pei Yusheng pushed Qu Qiuyan's hand away. "It's about time. I have to go back now. I came here secretly."

"Your Highness, why did you come here in secret?" Qu Qiuyan took a step back and almost couldn't stand still. She had heard from Qing Ju that Pei Yusheng had been to a woman's yard.

It was said that a young woman lived in that yard.

"Don't ask about this kind of thing. It's something serious. Well, I'm leaving now. Don't make any more trouble. I always think you are tough. After this difficult period of time, we will be together."

Pei Yusheng said impatiently.

Liu Lanxin's matter had not been settled yet, so he naturally would not tell Qu Qiuyan about it.

If he wanted to discuss this kind of thing with someone, he would discuss it with the counselor but not a concubine.

"Your Highness..." Seeing that he was about to leave, Qu Qiuyan hurried forward and grabbed his sleeve. "Your Highness, do... do you really not blame me?"

"I don't blame you. I blame Qu Caiyue." Pei Yusheng said.

"Your Highness, since you don't blame me, why... why do you only give me the position of concubine..." Qu Qiuyan asked. She still struggled for her future because she was unwilling to be a concubine.

"I have no choice. Even if I don't care about your identity, what you have done brought shame to the young ladies of your family, so how can you be my Side Princess?" Pei Yusheng said. He felt a bit impatient because of Qu Qiuyan's continuous questions.

Looking at the sky outside, he knew he had to go back at this time. The situation in the capital was changing, and he had come here secretly. He really didn't dare to make any trouble at this time. If Father Emperor knew that he left his mansion to meet other women, he would definitely be reprimanded and even disappoint Father Emperor.

He wanted to step on the Crown Prince and rise to the top, so he could not leave a bad impression on his Father Emperor.

He reached out and pushed Qu Qiuyan's hand away. Then, he turned around to leave. He really couldn't stay here any longer.

Qing Ju's voice suddenly came from the door. "Your Highness, miss... someone... someone is coming."

"Who is it?" Pei Yusheng frowned and continued to walk out.

"I don't know, but I think they are pilgrims." Qing Ju said hurriedly. A few of Pei Yusheng's bodyguards stood beside her. They were dressed in black, which made them hard to be noticed at night. But at a closer distance, they could be seen clearly.

"Let's go!" Pei Yusheng said decisively and turned to leave.

"Your Highness, Your Highness..." Qu Qiuyan cried sorrowfully. Pei Yusheng left with the few guards in the night without turning back.

"Miss... Miss, what should we do? Someone is coming..." Qing Ju looked at Qu Qiuyan in a daze. It would not be good if people saw them in this remote place at this time of night. After all, there were men and women in Dabei Temple, and Qu Qiuyan was a young lady who had not yet married.

Chapter 255 Chanting Sutra in a Remote Buddha Hall

Watching Pei Yusheng disappearing out of sight, Qu Qiuyan was at a loss. She had never been in such a situation before. There was light coming from the road in front of her, and quite a few people were coming. Looking in the direction where Pei Yusheng disappeared, Qu Qiuyan subconsciously wanted to chase after him.

She took a few steps to the corner where Pei Yusheng disappeared and found that there was no road except some strange rocks, which were difficult to pass through in the dark night.

Qu Qiuyan did not expect this. Even if she wanted to chase after Pei Yusheng, she could not.

“Are you the Third Lady of Vice Minister Qu’s Mansion?” The person on the other side had already recognized Qu Qiuyan and asked coldly.

Qu Qiuyan looked over, and her face immediately paled from panic. It was Earl Ling’an’s Mansion’s Old Lady.

Old Lady Ji did not have a good impression of Qu Qiuyan at all. Or rather, she did not have a good impression of people from Vice Minister Qu’s Mansion. Qu Moying seemed to help her before, so she treated her well and especially sent her a gift to express her gratitude.

She looked Qu Qiuyan up and down and found that there were still tears in the corners of her eyes, and her face was full of panic. Then she looked at the dark passage. She did not know where it led to, but she knew that a noble lady should not come to such a place. A well-behaved young lady would not appear in such a remote place at this time.

An old maid whispered to Old Lady Ji, and Old Lady Ji’s eyes turned to look at the rocky passage. The old maid had sharp eyes. She actually told Old Lady Ji that she seemed to have seen someone walking through the passage.

Qu Qiuyan was secretly meeting a man!

“Greetings, Old Lady Ji.” At this time, there was no way for Qu Qiuyan to escape, so she could only compose herself and bow sideways.

Old Lady Ji snorted, “Third Lady Qu, why are you here at this time? Were you meeting someone, but you don’t want Old Lady Qu to know?”

Old Lady Ji was now certain Qu Qiuyan was secretly dating her lover, and she began to despise her even more.

She waved her hand and said impatiently, "Third Lady Qu, you don't have to explain to me. I am not the Old Lady of your mansion. Third Lady Qu, do as you please!"

She did not let Qu Qiuyan defend herself.

Qu Qiuyan was so ashamed that her face turned pale. Watching Old Lady Ji enter the Buddha hall, she bit her lips so hard that they were going to bleed.

"Third Lady Qu, I have something to tell you. It has nothing to do with me whoever you want to plot against in the future. After all, you are from Qu Mansion, and I am from Earl Ling'an's Mansion. But please don't accidentally hurt others. If this happens again, I will not save face for the Old Lady of your mansion."

Old Lady Ji suddenly stopped, turned around, and said coldly.

Hearing Old Lady Ji's words, Qu Qiuyan felt so ashamed that tears welled up in her eyes. She pinched Qing Ju's hand hard, trying to calm herself down. There was no benefit for her to fight with Old Lady Ji, so she could only endure at this time. She could not even explain.

She could do nothing. She was filled with anger and hatred. She thought Qu Moying had caused her to suffer all these.

Qu Qiuyan had never reflected on her own behavior. She thought it was natural for Qu Moying to be tricked by her, and Qu Moying had no right to resist.

"Miss, it hurts." Qing Ju finally could not hold it in any longer and pleaded in a low voice.

"Useless bitch." Qu Qiuyan pinched her hard a few more times before putting down her hand and turning to leave.

She had to go back immediately. If Old Lady Qu knew that she had sneaked out to meet Lord Jing, she would be in trouble again. In that case, even her father would not be able to protect her. Most

importantly, Lord Jing did not give her the position of Princess Consort that she had expected, which deprived her of her hope.

On the beam of the Buddha hall's door, Pei Yuanjun was lazily sitting there. Although Qu Moying's face was pale with fright, she tightly pulled his clothes and leaned against him without moving. She did not dare to move, afraid that she would fall down accidentally.

If she fell down now, she would not only be seriously injured but also screw the case.

Seeing Old Lady Ji enter the Buddha hall and respectfully kowtow to the Buddha statue, she lowered her voice and whispered into Pei Yuanjun's ear, "Why is Old Lady Ji here?"

She knew Old Lady Ji believed in Buddhism when she was still Ji Hanyue, but she didn't expect that Old Lady Ji would come to such a remote Buddha hall in the middle of the night to worship Buddha. From Old Lady Ji's previous reaction, she was almost frightened to death at that time. How dared she bring people at this time? Shouldn't she hide in her room?

"Take a look first." Pei Yuanjun whispered to her with a smile. He even evilly blew on her earlobe. Qu Moying was so shocked that she almost fell off the beam. She hugged Pei Yuanjun tightly to steady herself.

Pei Yuanjun leisurely sat there with his hands placed to the side, showing no intention of giving Qu Moying a hand. Seeing that Qu Moying had to hug him carefully, he smiled.

In the Buddha hall, Old Lady Ji murmured to the Buddha statue and kowtowed a few times.

The few old maids retreated to the door, leaving only Old Lady Ji in the dim hall.

Old Lady Ji's voice became a bit louder. Qu Moying tried hard to listen and only vaguely heard, "Buddha bless me, Buddha bless me... My son, please don't do ruthless things... Hanyue, be well in the heavens..."

Speechless, Qu Moying looked at Old Lady Ji, who was still murmuring to herself. She took out a Buddhist scripture and a small wooden fish and began to chant.

She was chanting Release Song, which was to release the souls of the ghosts and help them get to heaven.

Qu Moying smiled and narrowed her eyes. There was a trace of coldness in her eyes. She now knew why Old Lady Ji came out to chant the scripture. That was because she was afraid of being haunted by ghosts. Besides, she came to such a remote place because she didn't want to let others know.

There was a secret behind Ji Hanyue and Ji Yongming's death. Even though Old Lady Ji was not clear about it, she should be able to guess it. That was why she was so flustered and frightened by the "ghost" that was supposed to be Ji Hanyue.

Old Lady Ji stammered when she read. After she finished reading, she begged the Buddha statue for her own safety and Earl Ling'an's Mansion's safety. Only then did she get up. Hearing the sound inside the Buddha hall, the old maids waiting at the door walked in and helped Old Lady Ji to rest. Then, they left with the lanterns.

The dim hall was empty again. The smoke curled up from the censer, which could show that the person had just left.

Pei Yuanjun jumped down with Qu Moying in his arms. Qu Moying supported Pei Yuanjun to stand firm. Then, she slowly walked to the front of the Buddha statue. Looking at the somewhat ferocious Buddha statue, she closed her eyes and took a deep breath before saying, "Let's go!"

"Why are you unhappy?" Pei Yuanjun raised his eyebrows.

"I'm neither unhappy nor happy." Qu Moying said indifferently.

"It's a waste of my efforts." Pei Yuanjun said lazily.

"What do you mean?" Puzzled, Qu Moying turned to look at Pei Yuanjun.

"It's me who helped Old Lady Ji to find such a remote Buddha hall. It's also my idea to let Qu Qiuyan come here."

Pei Yuanjun said with a faint smile.

That was to say, the farce that Qu Moying saw just now was not a coincidence at all but something arranged by Pei Yuanjun. Thinking of this, Qu Moying could only bow sideways and say, "Thank you, Your Highness."

"Is that all? Are you so insincere?" Looking at her charming face under the light, Pei Yuanjun asked her lazily, "Do you want to see what Lord Jing is doing now?"

"No need. I don't care about Lord Jing." Qu Moying shook her head and said decisively.

Pei Yuanjun suddenly smiled and said meaningfully, "Don't you want to know what will happen between Lord Jing and Liu Lanxin?"

Qu Moying did not want to know about Lord Jing, but Liu Lanxin was closely related to her. She paused for a moment before asking, "Will Lady Liu come back?"

"Of course." Pei Yuanjun replied with a smile. His handsome eyes were a bit enchanting under the light, which made him look unparalleled.

There was a hidden meaning in his words. Qu Moying should not ask, but thinking that this matter might be related to her, she could not help but ask, "Will it take a long time?"

"No. I have arranged everything. How could it take long?" Pei Yuanjun raised his sleeves slightly and walked towards the door. His voice was mysterious and creepy.

Qu Moying suddenly didn't know what to say. She blinked her watery eyes and felt that these things were still very far away from her. What she could do now was to take one step at a time. She shouldn't and couldn't interfere with the affairs of the country. As for the future, she didn't think she had one.

Thinking of this, she suddenly raised her head. Just as she was about to speak, Pei Yuanjun suddenly turned his head and met her beautiful eyes. He raised his eyebrows slightly and asked, "What? Do you have anything to say?"

Qu Moying decisively shook her head and pursed her lips.

"Since you have nothing to say, follow me!" Pei Yuanjun pointed outside the door.

Qu Moying stopped in her tracks. "Your Highness, I had better not follow you. I'm afraid people will see me."

"You don't need an eye veil anymore?" Pei Yuanjun pointed at her face.

Qu Moying subconsciously touched her face. Only then did she realize that her eye veil was left in the yard. She said, "Yu Dong might still have one."

Every time she went out, her maids would each bring an extra eye veil in case it was needed.

"Come here. I have taken it for you." Pei Yuanjun said. He reached out and took out a piece of eye veil from his wide sleeves. It was the one that Qu Moying had dropped before.

She didn't know when he got it.

Then why did he let her go with him?

Qu Moying subconsciously looked at Pei Yuanjun and saw that Pei Yuanjun was also looking at her. He had a graceful and meaningful smile on his face.

Qu Moying smiled back, slowly walked towards Pei Yuanjun, and closed her eyes.

Under the light, the charming girl closed her eyes gently. Her facial features were beautiful. Her long eyelashes fluttered, which showed her uneasiness although her eyes were closed.

She stood there quietly. Although she was nervous and flustered, she did not hesitate to stand in front of him...

Chapter 256 Qu Qiuyan Was Slapped

Her face was as fair as jade, almost glowing under the light. Even if she didn't say anything, she was as beautiful as a picture. She appeared to be alert, flustered, and a little determined, but not shy, which young girls were supposed to be in this situation.

Pei Yuanjun smiled. If Qu Moying opened her eyes at this moment, she would find him to be gentler than the usual fierce and cold Lord Yun. He reached out and covered Qu Moying's eyes with the eye veil. His slender fingers slid across Qu Moying's little face, causing her to tense up even more.

Pei Yuanjun slowly walked behind her and tied a knot for her. Then, he patted her on the head and said, "You can go back now!"

Qu Moying opened her eyes. She could not see clearly, just like before, and it was even more difficult for her to see clearly under such light.

Yu Dong had already entered. Qu Moying bowed to Pei Yuanjun and then held Yu Dong's hand and left. When they reached the door, the guard gave Yu Dong a lantern. Yu Dong picked it up and led the way.

Watching Qu Moying leave, Pei Yuanjun smiled faintly. He held his hands on his back as if he could still feel her. Suddenly, he asked, "Ji Hai, what do you think?"

Ji Hai came out of nowhere and stood next to Pei Yuanjun. His face was full of smiles.

Hearing Pei Yuanjun's question, he hurriedly lowered his head and said, "Master, I think Fourth Lady Qu is a good girl."

"How is Liu Lanxin?" Pei Yuanjun glanced at Ji Hai with a faint smile, which made him tremble all over. Ji Hai hurriedly lowered his head and said, "I heard that Lady Liu's injuries are almost healed."

The real Lady Liu used her injuries to solicit Pei Yuanjun's attention. However, Pei Yuanjun did not care about her at all. He brought her maid to the capital. Of course, this maid had been locked up after entering the capital, and it was about time to release her now.

"Then, send her back first!" Pei Yuanjun chuckled and slowly walked out.

"Yes, I will do it now." Ji Hai said. He thought for a moment and asked, "What if Lord Jing comes to send her off?"

"Don't worry about him. He doesn't have time." Pei Yuanjun smiled slyly.

"Yes, I will arrange it." Ji Hai nodded.

The next day, Old Lady Qu got up and prepared to go back.

Qu Qiuyan came early to serve Old Lady Qu, but Old Lady Qu was not nice to her. After everything was packed up, Old Lady Qu brought her people to where the carriages were parked.

Coincidentally, she met Old Lady Ji in the parking lot.

Old Lady Ji was also anxious to get back home. She was frightened last night. Although she listened to her confidants' advice to worship Buddha and chant the Release Song, she was still restless. She just felt there was something in the air when she slept, and there seemed to be many ghosts flashing by.

As soon as the sky brightened, Old Lady Ji hurriedly washed up and prepared to leave, unwilling to stay any longer.

Seeing Old Lady Ji come over, Old Lady Qu hurriedly bowed to her.

Old Lady Ji glanced at Old Lady Qu indifferently and continued to walk, but she suddenly stopped after a few steps. "Old Lady Qu, last night, Third Lady Qu was still outside at night. I wonder who she was going to see. Old Lady Qu, you'd better check it out in case she should cause trouble to others again."

Qu Qiuyan's face immediately blushed with anger.

However, she did not dare to contradict Old Lady Ji. She could only lower her head in grievance and grit her teeth.

She secretly made up her mind that she must rise to a high position so that nobody could bully her and humiliate her like this.

Old Lady Qu was so angry that she almost fainted. She naturally understood the meaning of Old Lady Ji's words. She glared at Qu Qiuyan and smiled awkwardly at Old Lady Ji. "Thank you, Your Ladyship."

"You are welcome, Old Lady Qu. I'm just afraid that someone might accidentally get into trouble again." Old Lady Ji said indifferently. Then, she glanced at Qu Moying but said nothing in the end.

She boarded her carriage with her people. Then, her carriage left in front of Old Lady Qu.

"Grandmother..." Looking at Old Lady Qu's resentful eyes, Qu Qiuyan called out, wanting to explain.

"Let's go back first. We can talk about it when we are back home." Old Lady Qu suppressed her anger, turned around, and got on her carriage.

She didn't want to let others witness her family scandals.

Qu Moying also got on the carriage behind. Seeing that both Qu Moying and Old Lady Qu were leaving, Qu Qiuyan had no choice but to get on her own carriage.

After they all sat down in their carriages, the carriages headed down the mountain towards the capital.

Last night, the city gate was closed because of searching for the assassins. It was opened today, but the guards checked the travelers one by one seriously, which led to the long line outside the city gate. Even if someone wanted to cut the line, they would be stopped and could only stand in line.

Qu Mansion's carriages were also among the crowd. The line was advancing slowly, and there were many people entering the city. It took almost two hours for Qu Mansion's carriages to enter the city.

The city guards went up to lift the curtain of every carriage, including even Old Lady Qu's carriage. Only when they saw no strangers inside the carriage did they let it go.

This had never happened before, but Old Lady Qu did not dare to say anything.

The city guards also lifted the other two carriages' curtains before letting them pass.

The carriages moved slowly on the street because there were so many people gathering around the gate that it was hard to move.

"I heard that Side Princess Ji was stabbed."

"Really? I heard that a concubine of Lord Jing was stabbed as well, but in fact, she fell into the lake by accident."

"Of course, it's true. Crown Prince's Mansion is really unlucky to experience such a thing on the wedding of..."

Another person interrupted him. "Do you want to die? How dare you say those words?"

"I... I didn't say anything. I didn't say anything..." The man immediately came to his senses and hurriedly lowered his voice, adding some ambiguous words.

Qu Moying lowered her head and quietly listened to people talking outside her carriage. It was really unexpected that Ji Youran was hurt and even stabbed.

As for the case of Qu Caiyue falling into the lake, it made people believe she was really both stupid and useless.

Along the way, there were many people discussing this matter, but everyone was careful not to mention the ex-Crown Princess, let alone the problem of Eastern Palace.

Two women entered Eastern Palace one after another. One died of illness, and the other was injured. It was unknown whether the latter was alive or dead. No matter what, it was inauspicious.

Qu Moying lowered her eyes with a hint of gloom in them.

The carriages finally arrived at Qu Mansion. Qu Zhizhen happened to be in the mansion. Hearing that Old Lady Qu was back, he came to the door to greet her.

“Mother, what happened?” Qu Zhizhen glanced at Qu Qiuyan’s tearful eyes and asked Old Lady Qu.

Old Lady Qu snorted and walked straight in without saying anything.

After walking into Kangming House, Old Lady Qu sat down in the middle seat, and Qu Zhizhen sat in a seat below her. Qu Qiuyan and Qu Moying came over to bow first to Old Lady Qu and then to Qu Zhizhen.

“Ying, sit down first!” Old Lady Qu said coldly.

Qu Moying obediently took a seat on the side, lowered her head, and pinched the handkerchief in her hand without saying anything.

“Mother, what happened?” Qu Zhizhen asked again. The capital had been in a troubled time. He had just suffered a lot in Yamen, so he was quite depressed. After returning to the mansion, he sensed

something seemed to have happened, but he had no clue, so he was extremely annoyed and tried to suppress his anger.

“What happened? Your precious daughter is really...” Saying this, Old Lady Qu glanced at Qu Moying and held back her words. She looked at Qu Moying and said in a gentle voice, “Ying, you go back and rest first. You must be tired after the trip.”

“Yes, grandmother!” Qu Moying stood up and bowed respectfully before leaving with Yu Dong.

She knew that Old Lady Qu was going to discuss the matter of Qu Qiuyan with Qu Zhizhen. Qu Qiuyan made trouble again and again, and even Old Lady Ji witnessed once and ridiculed her. Originally, people like Old Lady Ji would not care about and cause trouble for an unmarried noble lady like Qu Qiuyan.

However, it could be seen that Old Lady Ji was really too angry to remain her usual bearing.

Old Lady Qu had yet to reprimand Qu Qiuyan for the matter that Old Lady Ji had brought up. Now, she was going to bring it up in front of Qu Zhizhen. Qu Qiuyan had a private meeting with a man. If this got out, not only would Qu Qiuyan’s reputation be ruined, but also all the women in Qu Family would be implicated. This was a big matter!

At this moment, it was indeed inappropriate for an unmarried woman like Qu Moying to listen to their talk.

Inside the room, Old Lady Qu told Qu Zhizhen about what happened. The more she talked, the angrier she got. In the end, she was so angry that she felt weak all over. She waved her hand and said, “Zhizhen, if you think I’m meddling in your business, you can take her away. I don’t want to care about her anymore. I just want to care about Ying.”

The more Qu Zhizhen listened, the angrier he got. When he heard that Qu Qiuyan was mocked by Old Lady Ji, he couldn’t help but stand up, walk up to Qu Qiuyan, and give her a hard slap.

It was indeed a hard slap. Qu Qiuyan did not expect that Qu Zhizhen, who had always doted on her, would slap her. She was slapped so hard that she took two steps back and fell to the ground. The corner

of her mouth was burning with pain. She reached out and covered her mouth. Immediately, there was a touch of blood on her hand.

"Father... Father." Qu Qiuyan was really scared. She had never seen her father being so angry at her. Her tears immediately fell, and she cried out.

"You useless thing. Who did you meet?" Qu Zhizhen snapped irritably.

"Father, I... I didn't. It was Lord Jing who wanted to see me. He asked me to meet him, but we didn't do anything." Qu Qiuyan cried.

"Didn't Lord Jing stay in the capital last night?" Qu Zhizhen asked.

"I... I don't know. Lord Jing left later." Qu Qiuyan cried.

"What did Lord Jing say?"

"No... nothing. He just... just asked how I was doing." Qu Qiuyan became more and more aggrieved. Her face was burning with pain. It must have been swollen.

"Copy the Buddhist scriptures that your grandmother brought from Dabei Temple a hundred times. You are not allowed to come out until you finish copying them. If you sneak out again, I will break your legs before your grandmother takes action."

Qu Zhizhen scolded Qu Qiuyan angrily. His cold eyes fell on Qu Qiuyan's face with some disappointment. Qu Qiuyan really disappointed him. He originally thought he could rely on Qu Qiuyan for a promising future. Now it seemed that she was too disappointing.

However, Yu had always been stupid. What good daughters could she have?

He regretted not keeping Yue's daughter by his side and cultivating her well because she might be of great use now.

Qu Qiuyan left, crying.

Looking at everything in front of her, Old Lady Qu was depressed. She didn't know what to say about her son. Even now, he only cared about the benefits of Qu Qiuyan marrying Lord Jing, which sent a chill to her heart.

"Zhizhen, it seems that you have already known how to deal with Yan. I don't want to say anything about it, but I must arrange a good marriage for Ying." Old Lady Qu said.

"Mother... Ying is extremely intelligent and beautiful..." Qu Zhizhen said reluctantly.

"Zhizhen, I have the final say on Ying's marriage." Old Lady Qu said impatiently. "You have never cared about her for so many years. You are just her father in name. Do you want to arrange her fate now? She has an eye disease. How many people in this world can truly accept her?"

"Mother, I will treat her well in the future." Qu Zhizhen said with a serious face.

However, this made Old Lady Qu even more disappointed. She watched his son grow up, but she could not see through him. She did not know whether he was sincere or not. She reached out and took out a divination stick from her pocket. The divination stick was picked by Granny Wu for her, and she got it by going to the temple with Qu Moying this time.

"Zhizhen, are you hiding something from me?"

She reached out her hand and handed the divination stick to him. When he saw the words "Garnet seeds hugging each other" on it, an embarrassed look appeared on his face.

"I don't hear any good news in the mansion and anything from Luo recently, but I heard from Granny Wu that Yu asked for a lot of things recently, and you allowed her to get them. I originally thought that you were just soft-hearted, but all these things came to my mind when I saw this divination stick."

Old Lady Qu said slowly, looking at Qu Zhizhen.

If she did not think about those things, she would not discover anything, but if she thought about them carefully, she would find many clues. Although Old Lady Qu didn't interfere with the management of the mansion now, Granny Wu beside her was assigned to help Qu Qiuyan with some affairs, so she could be considered Old Lady Qu's ears and eyes.

No doubt, Old Lady Qu knew that Yu was pregnant again.

"Mother, Yu is weak now. I don't dare to tell you because I'm afraid that you really want the child, but we might not be able to keep it in the end." Qu Zhizhen said awkwardly.

It was right not to announce the news in the early stage of pregnancy because there was a chance of miscarriage, so it would be better to release the news after a few months. However, Old Lady Qu was not an outsider, but Qu Zhizhen did not even tell her. It was inappropriate, and it seemed like he was worried that Old Lady Qu would deal with Yu.

Old Lady Qu was depressed because she could not know what was on Qu Zhizhen's mind, and he seemed to be on guard against her. It made her more determined to get the decision-making power concerning Qu Moying's marriage. Otherwise, Qu Zhizhen might trade Qu Moying's marriage for his own benefit.

Old Lady Qu was so disappointed with Qu Zhizhen that she didn't want to say anything more.

"Yu took so many strong medicines before. Do you think she can safely give birth to the child?" Old Lady Qu said coldly.

"Mother... Yu said that there should be no problem. She said that it was alright. As long as she takes care... it will be fine." Qu Zhizhen said hesitantly.

He was also worried before, but when he saw that Yu looked good and energetic, he was not that worried anymore. After hearing Old Lady Qu's question, he felt worried again.

"Mother, will something really happen?" Qu Zhizhen asked reluctantly. He had too few sons and really wanted one more.

"Even if she could give birth to the child, it would be mentally retarded. Do you really want to see that happen?" Old Lady Qu sighed. She was actually more eager for babies than Qu Zhizhen did. However, Yu had only given birth to a pair of twins all these years after entering Qu Mansion. One of Qu Zhizhen's concubines had been pregnant, but she had a miscarriage and failed to keep the child.

Thinking of this, Old Lady Qu had always suspected that it was Yu who did something to the concubine.

"Mother, what should we do?" Qu Zhizhen could not make up his mind. He looked at Old Lady Qu.

"Since this child can't be kept, you should make up your mind early. After discussing it with Yu, abort it." Old Lady Qu sighed again, feeling depressed.

If possible, she also wanted to keep this child. Even if this child was born by Yu, it was still her son's flesh and blood.

"Mother, I understand." Qu Zhizhen nodded.

Old Lady Qu was a little soft-hearted again and warned in a low voice, "Since she is pregnant, you should be euphemistic when you talk about this with her..."

Old Lady Qu only needed Yu to be obedient. As long as Yu didn't make trouble, she didn't mind letting Yu live a better life in detention.

"Mother, I know what to say." Since Qu Zhizhen had already made up his mind, he nodded, no longer hesitating. He had arranged for people to take good care of Yu more because he cared about this child. But now that he knew that the child was definitely to be aborted, he didn't take it seriously.

Right now, he should care about his two daughters.

“Mother, Yan is indeed not good. She is narrow-minded like her mother. However, she has a relationship with Lord Jing, so we can’t always lock her up. This time, we have taught her a lesson. How about letting her out after some days?” Qu Zhizhen pleaded for Qu Qiuyan.

“I can’t do anything about her. If I interfered too much, you guys might be annoyed. I’ll only take care of Ying. I’ve already had an idea on her marriage, so you don’t have to worry about it.” Old Lady Qu said unhappily.

“Mother, please don’t say that. With you taking care of them, I can rest assured. As for Ying, I heard that someone has taken a fancy to her...” Qu Zhizhen said hesitantly.

Old Lady Qu waved her hand unhappily. “Stop it. You are just an assistant minister. Are you going to marry both of your daughters to the royal family? What do you want? Aren’t you afraid that His Majesty will suspect you?”

Qu Zhizhen’s face darkened as soon as he heard this. Old Lady Qu’s words had a point.

He only had two daughters. Qu Qiuyan would definitely enter Lord Jing Mansion. What about Qu Moying? Moreover, he could not let her marry that person as he wished, and he was not sure whether that person really liked Qu Moying or not.

“Zhizhen, I only asked for the right to decide Ying’s marriage. Can’t you even leave that to me?” Seeing that he had been silent all this time, Old Lady Qu became unhappy.

“Mother, I don’t dare. Of course, you should be the one to decide.” Qu Zhizhen gave in.

“Alright, I’ll find a suitable family for Ying in a few days. As for Yan, if you don’t teach her well, I’m afraid that even if she enters Lord Jing Mansion in the future, she might end up in a miserable situation. Look at Yu, isn’t she just asking for it?” Old Lady Qu warned him.

Her words impressed Qu Zhizhen, and he found them reasonable.

After leaving Old Lady Qu's place, Qu Zhizhen went to East Mansion and met his son. He loved and valued his son more than his daughters.

Although Qu Mingcheng was born by Yu, he moved to East Mansion to study when he was young. His relationship with Yu was neither close nor detached, which made Qu Zhizhen feel relieved. Qu Zhizhen was proud of Qu Mingcheng, who was young and talented. He secretly arranged for a few people to stay by Qu Mingcheng's side to take care of him.

"He went to East Mansion?" Qu Moying raised an eyebrow.

"Yes, I saw Second Master going to East Mansion and he returned after about an hour." Granny Miao nodded.

Qu Moying had specially let her stay at the side door that connected the two mansions to pay attention to the matters between the two mansions. Granny Miao happened to see Qu Zhizhen going to East Mansion. Qu Zhizhen had never been to East Mansion in the past few days. However, he went to East Mansion after leaving Old Lady Qu's place today, which was strange.

After the matter between Qu Caiyue and Qu Qiuyan happened, Qu Zhizhen and his elder brother were not very happy. They had never been angry with each other for so many years. But these days, they had tried to avoid meeting each other in case they would quarrel with each other.

"Miss, I think that Second Master is not going to see the Eldest Master." Granny Miao said.

"Why do you think so?" Qu Moying asked with a smile.

"Old Lady Qu must have reprimanded Second Master for Third Lady's matter. Second Master was in a bad mood, and he went to East Mansion later. But he seemed to be in a much better mood when he came back. This matter had nothing to do with East Mansion's Eldest Master, and the Eldest Master was also in a bad mood. Second Master wouldn't feel good if the two of them had met each other."

Qu Moying narrowed her eyes and said, "So, it's very likely that the one he met... was Second Young Master?"

“Yes, it must be Second Young Master. The person Second Master likes the most in the mansion is Second Young Master.” Granny Miao said with certainty.

Qu Moying nodded thoughtfully. It seemed to be true. Why did Qu Zhizhen go to see Qu Mingcheng at this time?

What did Qu Mingcheng say that made him so happy? Or was Qu Mingcheng going to intervene?

She had never underestimated Qu Mingcheng.

“Granny Miao, go and keep watch. See if Second Young Master will come over later.” Qu Moying ordered. Granny Miao nodded and left.

If Qu Mingcheng came over, it meant that he was going to interfere with the matter, and she had to be vigilant.

When Granny Miao walked to the door, she met Granny Yan who came out of the wing room. They looked at each other, and Granny Miao smiled and bowed to Granny Yan.

Strictly speaking, even Qu Moying had to bow to Granny Yan. Granny Yan was still staying in Qianyue House. It seemed that she still had missions. Granny Miao did not know why she still stayed here, but she knew she couldn't ask her about it.

Granny Yan glanced at Granny Miao but did not say anything. She turned around and returned to her room as if she was not interested in anything.

Qu Moying woke up early in the morning and was tired at this time. She went into the inner room and slept for a while. Then she sent Granny Zhou out to inquire about the Ji Family.

Granny Zhou came back in the afternoon. She heard Old Lady Ji was going to promote Concubine Xiang to the position of a legitimate wife. She ignored her son's objection. She had already invited the clan elders to go to the Ji Family tomorrow to hold the ceremony for Concubine Xiang. As for the second

branch's Xiao, she might not have received any news. She had been taking care of Princess Ji in Crown Prince's Mansion.

It was said that Ji Youran was indeed injured!

Qu Moying had expected this result. At this time, Xiao was too busy. After thinking for a while, Qu Moying walked to the window, picked up a brush, and wrote a letter. She had to add fuel to the fire because Old Lady Ji might give up if others stepped in...

This was the most important part of the plan...

Chapter 258 Xiao Tried to Screw the Matter Up

The letter was sent to a family surnamed Ji, where there was the elder with the highest seniority of Ji Family. Even Old Lady Ji had to call this elder granduncle, and the other juniors would call him great patriarch.

Although he was the great patriarch of Ji Family, he was not in charge because he was too old. He would not interfere with the issues of Ji Family on open occasions.

Although he was not in charge, he was still in good health and sensible. If there was anything difficult to solve in Ji Family that needed him, he would solve it properly. He was very prestigious in Ji Family. He used to be a general when he was young, so he liked Ji Hanyue's father, Ji Yongming, very much.

Ji Yongming was his favorite junior.

It was said that the young Ji Yongming had once learned martial arts from him, and thanks to his guidance, Ji Yongming joined the army and subsequently became a general. Ji Hanyue was not clear about this because Ji Yongming had never mentioned these things in front of her. As a girl, she was not curious about these things either.

But Ji Hanyue knew that her father respected the great patriarch very much.

It was just that the great patriarch had not shown up for a long time, and no one mentioned him.

The letter was written in Ji Yongming's tone on a paper with a deep folding mark, and it read like it was written a long time ago. At the end of the letter, there was a seal.

Ji Hanyue had her father's private seal.

According to the date, the letter was written before Ji Hanyue was married. It was just an ordinary letter. In the letter, Ji Yongming told the great patriarch about his daily life and some of his wishes. He was sad that he did not have a son and worried that no one would worship him after he passed away, but then he added he was fortunate to have two daughters.

He said that his two daughters were both filial. His eldest daughter was the Crown Princess, and he did not have to worry about her in the future. His younger daughter was obedient. With these two daughters, he was not afraid of having no descendants.

But he said he was worried about Concubine Xiang. He said Concubine Xiang was loyal to him and his wife, so he wanted to make her a legitimate wife in the future. Since his two daughters both respected Concubine Xiang, they would definitely agree to Concubine Xiang's promotion if he mentioned it to them.

He did not mention Old Lady Ji, because such a promotion was not a big deal. If the two daughters did not object, Old Lady Ji would not have any objection either.

Qu Moying asked Yu Dong to send the letter. She told Yu Dong to tell others that the letter was picked up on the road and that the recipient was someone from the Ji Family, so Yu Dong spent some effort sending it to the right family.

After arranging everything, Qu Moying began to wait for the movements of the Ji Mansion.

Earl Ling'an's Mansion was indeed not peaceful. Xiao hurriedly left Ji Youran and returned to the mansion.

Ji Youran was injured, but it was not that serious. Actually, she got injured in a similar way to Qu Caiyue.

It was said that Ji Youran was injured when she went to see the Crown Prince.

However, unlike Qu Caiyue, who foolishly fell into the lake, Ji Youran was injured in the arm because the Crown Prince pulled her.

The attack was originally aimed at the Crown Prince, but she happened to be beside him. When the Crown Prince pulled her back, she retreated a little slower than the Crown Prince, and she was stiff all over because it was the first time she faced an assassination. How could she react? Therefore, the sword stabbed into her arm.

Ji Youran had long known that the so-called “assassination” in Eastern Palace back then was fake. Moreover, it did not happen in front of her, and she was not the one who got killed. It had nothing to do with her, and she just wanted Ji Hanyue to die. But this time, it was different because the sword almost stabbed her in the face.

At that moment, Ji Youran screamed in pain and fell to the ground unconscious.

If Ji Youran was still awake, she would have seen Pei Luo’an take a few steps back and loosen his grip. He did not care about her at all, and he did not even look at her when she passed out. He only paid attention to the few assassins in front of him.

Protected by a few guards, Pei Luo’an stepped back and left, not caring about Ji Youran at all.

After the assassins escaped, the guards found Ji Youran from the pile of corpses. Only then did they find that Ji Youran was still alive. She was alright except that her arm was injured.

Xiao hurriedly went to see Ji Youran when she got the news. Seeing that Ji Youran’s arm was injured, she cried sadly and said that she would stay in Crown Prince’s Mansion for some days to take good care of Ji Youran.

However, she did not expect to hear such news from Old Lady Ji after the latter returned to the mansion. She could no longer stay in Crown Prince's Mansion. After comforting Ji Youran with a few words, she returned to the mansion with her people.

She could not let Old Lady Ji do that.

It was not a big deal for Old Lady Ji to promote the first branch's Concubine Xiang to the position of a legitimate wife, but it was a big deal for Xiao. If Concubine Xiang became a legitimate wife, she would be Xiao's legitimate sister-in-law, which allowed her to surpass Xiao in name. Ever since Yue died, Xiao had been in charge of Ji Mansion, and she had the most power in the inner yard.

If not for this reason, the matter of the first branch would not have been quietly handled.

The carriage drove all the way to Earl Ling'an's Mansion. After getting off the carriage, Xiao went directly to Old Lady Ji's yard. But she was stopped by someone when she got to the yard.

The person who came up to stop Xiao was Old Lady Ji's trusted old maid. She said to Xiao with a smile, "Second Madam, Her Ladyship is chanting scriptures in the small Buddha Hall. No one is allowed to disturb her."

Why did Old Lady Ji chant scriptures now? It was clear that she did not want to see Xiao.

Xiao was furious. She thought to herself that she would definitely teach Old Lady Ji a lesson in the future, but right now, it was not the time to argue. She forcefully calmed herself down and said with a frown, "I am here to talk to Old Lady Ji about Youran."

"What's the matter with Princess Ji?" Hearing this, the old maid was a little flustered. Ji Mansion now largely relied on Ji Youran.

"It's a big deal. I met the Crown Prince in Eastern Palace and it was said..." Xiao stopped as if she was hesitating. "This matter is important, so I want to talk about it with Her Ladyship, but if she is unavailable, it will be tricky."

"Madam, wait a moment. I will go and see if Her Ladyship is done!" Hearing that it was related to Ji Youran, the old maid did not dare to stop Xiao and hurriedly said.

"Thank you, Granny." Xiao said politely.

The old maid nodded and went into the main room. Old Lady Ji was sitting there with a gloomy face. She was mumbling with a string of beads in her hand, and her eyes were closed. She was indeed chanting scriptures, and she was really reluctant to see Xiao at this time. She was very clear about the purpose of Xiao's visit. Ji Yong'an had tried several times to persuade her, but she bluntly refused to see him.

"Your Ladyship, madam is back." The old maid reported.

"Mmm!" Old Lady Qu replied indifferently without opening her eyes. She looked unhappy because she had already told the people around her that they did not need to report to her if Xiao returned. Why did the old maid still report to her? Were her words not as authoritative as Xiao's?

Did Xiao really think that she was in charge of Earl Ling'an's Mansion?

"Madam said that she has something important to tell you. It is about the Crown Prince and Princess Ji." The old maid carefully reported. She knew Old Lady Ji was displeased just by looking at her expression, so she had to make it clear.

"About the Crown Prince and Princess Ji?" Old Lady Ji suddenly opened her eyes.

"Yes, that's what she said. I don't know what the matter is, and I didn't dare to decide it myself, so I came to report to you." The old maid was very good at talking. Her words were pleasant to Old Lady Ji's ears. Old Lady Ji nodded and said, "Let her in!"

Since it was about her granddaughter, she really wanted to know.

The old maid left and soon brought Xiao over.

Xiao bowed and sat down at the side. A maid served her tea. Xiao suppressed the anxiety in her heart. She picked up the tea cup, took a sip, and put it down.

“What’s the matter with Princess Ji?” Old Lady Ji asked.

“The assassination of the Crown Prince this time was not simple. Not to mention Princess Ji, even the Crown Prince almost had an accident. Princess Ji was injured in order to save the Crown Prince. Fortunately, she was only injured in the arm, and it was not serious.” Xiao gave a brief account with a few words. It was Ji Youran’s idea to portray the matter as one in which she saved the Crown Prince.

“Is Princess Ji alright?” Old Lady Ji asked worriedly.

“It’s not a big deal. She just needs to rest for a while. It’s just that Princess Ji is very unhappy to hear that you intend to promote Concubine Xiang to the position of a legitimate wife.” Xiao said.

Old Lady Ji’s face darkened, and she looked coldly at Xiao. “Do you need to tell Princess Ji about this? It’s all her elders’ business. It’s not appropriate for a junior like her to say anything. Moreover, she is still injured. You are her mother, but why are you so ignorant? Why are you making things difficult for her with our mansion’s affairs? Didn’t you see that the Crown Prince was angry last time?”

It was said that the Crown Prince left unhappily last time.

“Mother, it’s not that I am thoughtless. It’s just that Princess Ji happened to be there at that time and heard it.” Xiao hurriedly explained, “Princess Ji said that a concubine is not qualified to be a legitimate wife. Why do you want to make Concubine Xiang a legitimate wife?”

“She would be qualified if I promote her. The first branch doesn’t even have an elder in charge. What should Yuanhai do in such a situation? Alright, this matter is settled. You must be tired. Go back and rest first!” Old Lady Ji waved her hand impatiently and closed her eyes again.

She was asking Xiao to leave.

She would not tell Xiao what had happened in Dabei Temple. On one hand, she was afraid that her powerful granddaughter, Ji Hanyue would come to her if she leaked the secret. Ji Hanyue was the Crown Princess when she was alive, and she was definitely not an ordinary person after she died. On the other hand, she was not willing to listen to Xiao's nonsense.

The old maid at the side stepped forward and said to Xiao with a wry smile, "Madam, this way please!"

Xiao was unwilling to give up. She still wanted to say something, but the old maid brought her out. Standing outside the courtyard and looking at the courtyard door behind her, Xiao gritted her teeth in hatred. She thought Old Lady Ji was not the one who had the final say in Ji Family. Even if Old Lady Ji had made the decision, she would ruin this matter.

Chapter 259 Yu Asked for the Prescription

The news that Earl Ling'an's Mansion promoted Concubine Xiang, the deceased Earl Ling'an's concubine, to be a legitimate wife was known to all, giving rise to much discussion.

Although similar things had happened before, it was still rare. It was especially rare in this kind of noble family because it related to titles, so it was almost impossible to happen.

But to many people's surprise, this matter actually succeeded in the end.

After all, the second branch had been in charge of Earl Ling'an's Mansion for a long time. The second branch's Xiao was the legitimate wife of the inner yard, and there was only Concubine Xiang and a legitimate heir in the first branch. Before Ji Yuanhai became the legitimate heir, he was just a concubine-born son dependent on Xiao.

Moreover, the second branch's daughter Ji Youran was now Eastern Palace's Princess Ji.

Although she was only a Side Princess, she was said to be very likely to become the Crown Princess because there was no Crown Princess in Eastern Palace now, and she was currently the only female master in Eastern Palace.

After all, she had entered Eastern Palace to serve the ex-Crown Princess. She had a close relationship with the ex-Crown Princess when the ex-Crown Princess was alive.

Even for the sake of the ex-Crown Princess, the Crown Prince would value Ji Youran. Moreover, Ji Youran was also from Earl Ling'an's Mansion, so it was not difficult for her to become the Crown Princess.

But the promotion of Concubine Xiang actually succeeded!

Many people were trying to find out what was going on. It turned out that Old Lady Ji pitied her eldest son, which was why she did this. It was rare for Old Lady Ji to be so stubborn. She wanted to support the first branch and insisted on promoting Concubine Xiang to be a legitimate wife. However, many of Ji Family's elders objected, and the two sides were in a deadlock.

In the end, the great patriarch of Ji Family showed up to support Old Lady Ji. He took out a letter that Earl Ling'an wrote to him, saying that this was also Earl Ling'an's intention.

Because of the letter and the presence of the great patriarch of Ji Family, this matter was finally done.

Concubine Xiang became the Ji Family's first branch's legitimate wife, and with the right to raise Young Master Ling'an, she could justifiably stay in the first branch. Those who had believed in the second branch's power were greatly surprised. They didn't expect that this thing could be done.

It was too inconceivable!

How could the second branch agree to it? How could Ji Youran, the future Crown Princess, agree to it? Didn't she have a biological elder brother who had the same parents as her?

Although people were confused, Concubine Xiang officially became the first branch's Ji Yongming's legitimate wife. The promotion gave her confidence, and she also regained her surname Duan. She was now Madam Duan.

On the second day after the promotion, Madam Duan took Ji Yuanhai to Yamen to ask about the progress of the previous matter.

Although Yamen did not have much progress on the matter, its staff said that they would investigate it. If Madam Duan was still Concubine Xiang, Yamen's people would simply ignore her. But now, they said that they had been investigating this matter and promised that if they found out anything, they would immediately inform Madam Duan and Young Master Ling'an.

After leaving Yamen, Madam Duan sent a letter to Qu Moying. She told Qu Moying about this matter and asked her what to do next. Madam Duan had been sorry for Third Lady, but she could do nothing before. Now that she had gained some power, she naturally wanted to bring this matter up to the agenda.

After reading the letter, Qu Moying wrote back to Madam Duan. She told Madam Duan not to worry, and all she needed to do was to send people to ask Yamen from time to time to let them know that someone was concerned about the matter.

She had already made a plan to find her younger sister, and now she just needed to slowly push it forward...

"Miss, Yu Qian has come." Yu Dong came in, carrying Qu Moying's food basket in his hand. When he came over from the big kitchen, he happened to see a sneaky figure. He even followed Yu Qian for a while and found that Yu Qian went to look for the previous old maid before returning.

"It should be about time." Qu Moying nodded. It had been quite a while since the matter had happened. She could draw the net that she had cast.

If Yu Qian hadn't found a suitable buyer after such a long time, he was indeed too useless.

"Miss, should we do as you said before?" Yu Dong put down the food basket and asked.

"Let's talk about it when the old maid comes later!" Qu Moying said.

Yu Dong nodded and took all the dishes out of the food basket. There were not many dishes, but they were all the dishes that Qu Moying liked to eat. Qu Qiuyan couldn't take care of the mansion's affairs these days, so most of the things were reported to Qu Moying, and only some big things were reported to Qu Qiuyan.

Although Qu Qiuyan was reprimanded, she did not give all her power to Qu Moying.

On the surface, Qu Moying was still an assistant to her!

However, Qu Moying did not care about this.

After lunch, Yu Dong came out and saw the old maid rushing over. When the old maid saw Yu Dong, she hurriedly smiled and said, "Miss Yu Dong, the thing is done."

"What is it?" Yu Dong said with a face full of surprise as if he had really forgotten about it.

"The thing you said before. It's about manager Yu." The old maid said flatteringly.

"Oh, how is he?" Yu Dong asked casually as he walked out carrying the food basket.

The old maid hurriedly followed Yu Dong and said, "He has found a buyer, and now he needs the deed of land and the deed of shop to finish the final procedures."

"Just let him bring the money here first. We won't run away." Yu Dong said as he walked. The old maid had to jog to keep up with him.

"What... what if something happens?" The old maid said uneasily. She knew that something was going to happen to Yu Qian, and she was afraid that she would be involved.

"What does it have to do with you? You are not the one who asked him to sell it. You are just a messenger. Auntie Hai Lan has instructed to do as Madam wished." Yu Dong said indifferently.

“Yes, yes, I understand.” The old maid breathed a sigh of relief. She was afraid that this matter would implicate her. Anyway, it was a big deal. “It was Auntie Hai Lan’s idea.”

The old maid understood and turned to look for Hai Lan. She had seen Hai Lan going to the big kitchen many times in the past few days, so she should be able to see Hai Lan on her way to the big kitchen at this time.

Sure enough, she met Hai Lan on the way. Hearing the old maid talk about Yu, Hai Lan impatiently asked her to leave. Hai Lan told the old maid to do as usual and that the old maid should not keep bothering her with this issue.

These words were said at the door of the big kitchen. The old maid left with a smile and went to deliver the message.

Hai Lan left with the food basket. Yu had been picky about food these days. Hai Lan had to go to the big kitchen several times a day. She was too busy, but there weren’t many people by Yu’s side now, and she had to be careful because it was the food Yu asked for.

As for what happened to Qu Qiuyan, Hai Lan did not pay much attention to it. She only heard that Qu Qiuyan and Qu Caiyue had fought before and knew that they had been punished. However, she did not know about the matter that happened in Dabei Temple this time. She only knew that Qu Qiuyan had been punished again, and it should be related to Qu Caiyue.

Hai Lan was speechless about these things. Why did Qu Caiyue and Qu Qiuyan end up in this situation? It was not good for them to argue so badly before entering Lord Jing Mansion.

After thinking for a while, Hai Lan took a turn and went to Qu Moying’s Qianyue House.

Yu had urged her several times. If she still didn’t go, Yu would be angry.

Seeing that Hai Lan had come, the old maid who was guarding the door hurriedly went into the room to report her visit. Soon, Yu Dong came out and led Hai Lan in.

"Aunty Hai Lan, is there anything Madam needs?" Qu Moying asked slowly after Hai Lan finished bowing to her.

Although Yu was now locked up, she was still Qu Zhizhen's legitimate wife on the surface.

"Fourth Lady, Madam wants to borrow something from you." Aunty Hai Lan said with a smile.

"What is it?" Qu Moying raised her eyebrows in surprise.

"I heard that you have a prescription that can relieve depression. Can you lend it to Madam? Recently, Madam has been in poor health and had no appetite." Hai Lan said.

The so-called prescription was given to Qu Moying by Old Lady Qu before. After Qu Moying came to Qu Mansion, Old Lady Qu gave the prescription of improving spleen and stomach to her because she thought that Qu Moying was too thin, and she was worried that Qu Moying's body was too weak.

"I have it, but it may not be suitable for Madam." Qu Moying said indifferently.

"It doesn't matter. I will make some for Madam to have a try. If it doesn't work, I will think of another way." Aunty Hai Lan smiled helplessly and pointed at the food basket in her hand. "Madam is eating less and less now. I don't know what I should do if this continues."

Hai Lan looked worried as she spoke.

"Yu Chun, go get the prescription for Aunty Hai Lan." Qu Moying ordered.

Yu Chun went in and soon took out a prescription from inside and handed it to Hai Lan. She smiled and said, "Aunty Hai Lan, see if this is what you need!"

Aunty Hai Lan took it and looked at it. She nodded repeatedly and said happily, "Yes, it is this one. Thank you, Fourth Lady."

"I don't know if it is useful or not. Grandmother gave it to me, but I have never used it." Qu Moying said indifferently.

Aunty Hai Lan was used to Qu Moying's indifference. She thanked Qu Moying a few more times before leaving with the prescription.

Yu Dong sent Hai Lan off to the gate of the courtyard and returned. He felt rather confused. "Miss, what does she want this prescription for?"

Qu Moying's eyes flashed. She curled the corners of her lips and said, "She wants to set me up."

"But this prescription was given by Her Ladyship." Yu Dong said in confusion.

"Yes, but it was with me at this time. Next, she will go to the big kitchen to cook something. Yu Dong, go and get some greasy soup. When she goes to the kitchen, bump into her."

Qu Moying said. Since Yu wanted to make a move, she would "help" her so that Yu could bring up more evidence.

Because of the matter with Qu Qiuyan, no matter what Yu did now, people would think that she did it on purpose. Qu Moying would make her appear to be overdoing, especially at such a time...

Yu Dong was the best at doing this kind of thing.

He immediately nodded. "I understand."

Qu Moying told him some other details and watched Yu Dong leave. Yu hadn't taken any action for the past few days. Qu Moying thought she was so calm this time, but now it seemed that she was going to make a move.

Although she did not know exactly what Yu would do, her people would definitely go to the big kitchen because it was the place where the food was cooked and where many people could witness the scene.

Granny Miao had reported to Qu Moying in the past few days that Qu Zhizhen had not been to Yu's yard for the past few days and had not even asked people to send anything to Yu. He must have had other thoughts. However, Qu Zhizhen probably did not take it to heart and forgot to tell Yu.

The investigation of the assassins was still going on. Although the Ministry of Works was not in charge of criminal cases, it had to help the Ministry of Justice with the investigation, so Qu Zhizhen was very busy these days.

Qu Mingcheng went to see Qu Qiuyan, but he didn't go to see Yu. He went to see Qu Qiuyan when she was back from Dabei Temple, but he did not go to see her after that.

Therefore, because no one informed her, Yu could not hold back anymore...

Chapter 260 A Farce in the Kitchen

As expected, Yu could not hold it in any longer. She touched her belly and was overjoyed to see the prescription presented by Hai Lan.

She had been thinking of a way to deal with Qu Moying before, but her daughter Qu Qiuyan was really disappointing her recently. Qu Qiuyan didn't even see Hai Lan. Because she was grounded, there were people guarding her door. Even if Yu wanted Hai Lan to go and see Qu Qiuyan, it would be inconvenient.

What annoyed Yu more was Qu Zhizhen's attitude. Qu Zhizhen had been looking forward to the birth of her baby. Even if he didn't come over, he would ask someone to send things over from time to time. However, in the past few days, he didn't send anything over.

Hai Lan said that Qu Zhizhen had been very busy these days. She said that he was still investigating the assassins. Every official was busy investigating the case. Therefore, Qu Zhizhen didn't ask people to send things to Yu these days.

Hai Lan's words made Yu feel better.

“Hai Lan, go to the kitchen and make some soup according to this prescription.” Yu touched her belly again with a cold and harsh expression on her face.

Hai Lan panicked. “Madam, do you really want to do this? What if...”

Although she had done many such things for Yu, the victims were all the inner yard’s concubines. She didn’t expect that she would do such a thing to deal with the child in Yu’s belly.

“I’ll be fine. Reduce the dose so that I will just have a stomachache. As long as I have this symptom, it will be fine.” Yu shook her head and said gloomily, “That bitch landed me in such a situation. If I don’t fight back, I won’t be able to get out of here for the rest of my life.”

“Madam... that... that is your baby.” Hai Lan was still afraid.

“It’s fine. I was fine back then. The children in my belly were all very lucky and blessed. Nothing will happen to this one.” Yu comforted herself.

“But, Madam...” Hai Lan was still panicking.

“There is no ‘but’. Go and do it.” Yu gritted her teeth and said, “Apply some of the medicinal powder you prepared before.”

“Yes, Madam!” Hai Lan had no choice but to obey her. After helping Yu eat some food, she cleaned up the dishes and sprinkled the powder she had prepared on the prescription carefully. She then shook the prescription hard. After shaking off some of the powder, the prescription looked almost the same as before.

However, there was a hint of fragrance. It was not strong, but it could be smelt if anyone took a closer look at it.

With the prescription in her arms, Hai Lan went to the kitchen with the food basket.

Just as she was about to reach the big kitchen, she touched the prescription in her pocket and began to sweat in her palm. It was not a simple prescription but a life.

After calming herself down, Hai Lan took two steps forward. Just as she was about to walk into the kitchen, she suddenly saw a person rushing over from the kitchen. The person carried something with both hands and directly crashed into Hai Lan, which made Hai Lan dizzy. She staggered back a few steps and fell heavily to the ground.

Her chest and abdomen felt something hot.

“Aunty Hai Lan, are you alright? Are you alright?” Yu Dong quickly pulled Aunty Hai Lan up and apologized continuously, “I’m sorry, I’m sorry, Aunty Hai Lan. I didn’t see you just now. Are you hurt? Should I call a doctor?”

The soup Yu Dong carried was not that hot. Just now, the soup bowl was too hot to take, so Yu Dong chatted with others and waited until it was not so hot. When it was not that hot later, Yu Dong put the soup into the food basket and kept chatting with others.

When he saw Aunty Hai Lan, Yu Dong suddenly remembered that the soup would get cold. He hurriedly picked up the food basket and left. He didn’t expect to bump into Aunty Hai Lan.

The soup did pour on Hai Lan, but she was not scalded because the soup was not that hot. Looking at Yu Dong, who bumped into her, Hai Lan tried hard to contain her anger.

If this happened some time ago, she would have slapped her.

But now, Qu Moying was much more powerful than Yu. Moreover, it was a critical moment, so she could not slap Yu Dong.

“I am fine. You can go!” Aunty Hai Lan said impatiently. Her shirt was stained with oil, which was unpresentable. She had to finish her business quickly and go back immediately.

Hai Lan took out the prescription from her pocket, and she saw a large stain on it. She was so angry that her face changed dramatically.

However, Yu Dong was not sensible. He kept chattering, "Your prescription is wet. What should we do? There are mushrooms that miss like to eat and other seasonings in this soup. Its taste is very strong. Now the prescription has a smell. What should we do? Miss like this prescription."

As Yu Dong spoke, he even wanted to reach out his hand. Aunty Hai Lan was so angry that her expression changed. She pushed Yu Dong away and said angrily. "Make way."

Yu Dong was stunned by the push. He blinked and looked at Hai Lan as if he did not understand why Hai Lan suddenly got angry.

"I'm fine. You can go now!" Hai Lan suppressed her anger again and waved her hand.

"How can you be alright like this? Aunty Hai Lan, I didn't mean to do that." Yu Dong said again. He wanted to reach out to help Hai Lan. Hai Lan was really annoyed by him. She pushed him again without thinking and said angrily, "Go away!"

After saying that, she went into the kitchen without looking back and handed the prescription to an old maid who was making desserts and said, "Make a pot of soup for Madam according to this prescription. Madam has a bad appetite. She can't eat her food."

"Okay, I'll do it right away." The old maid nodded. She had cooked dishes for Yu in the past few days. She could be considered one of Yu's people. She was promoted by Yu, and it was convenient to ask her to do something now.

"Wait a minute, this prescription is stained with soup." Hai Lan reached out to stop the old maid.

"Don't worry, Aunty Hai Lan. I can see it clearly." The old maid thought that Hai Lan was afraid that she could not see the formula clearly, so she said after looking at it carefully.

“Look carefully. Madam is not in good health. You can’t make any mistake.” Hai Lan originally wanted to remind the old maid that there was a smell on the prescription, but the faint smell on the prescription had disappeared because it was wet by the soup that had a strong smell. Even if someone sniffed the prescription closely, they could not detect the previous faint smell.

Fortunately, this was only the first step. Since the prescription was given to her by Qu Moying, she could go to Qu Moying if anything happened. Hai Lan did not say anything else because Yu Dong was looking at her nearby. Hai Lan couldn’t make it too clear, and the old maid could not understand her implied meaning.

“Aunty Hai Lan, go change your clothes first. I will stay here and watch the soup for you. Anyway, I have to make a new pot of soup.” Feeling guilty and terrified, Yu Dong reached out and tried to take the prescription from the old maid.

“I don’t need your help.” Hai Lan stopped Yu Dong from getting the prescription from the old maid and glared at him. After giving the old maid a few more instructions, she turned around to leave. She had to change her clothes because she couldn’t see anyone in such a state.

After watching Hai Lan leave, Yu Dong turned around and went into the big kitchen. After making another bowl of soup, he was about to leave.

When he turned to leave, Hai Lan had already returned. She stood beside the old maid who was cooking and asked carefully about what had happened after she left. She even looked at Yu Dong a few times until Yu Dong left.

After that, Hai Lan also left.

After drinking a little soup, Qu Moying took Yu Dong to Old Lady Qu’s yard. Old Lady Qu had lunch earlier than the others, so she had already taken a nap. She should have already woken up.

As expected, Old Lady Qu got up when Qu Moying arrived at her yard.

Hearing that Qu Moying had come over, Old Lady Qu hurriedly asked Granny Wu to bring her in.

“Why are you here at this time?” Old Lady Qu smiled at Qu Moying and gestured for her to sit next to her.

“I just drank some soup. I was too full to fall asleep, so I came to see you, grandmother.” Qu Moying said cutely and sat down beside Old Lady Qu.

“You came just in time. I do have something to tell you.” Old Lady Qu said with a smile. She had been busy picking a suitable husband for Qu Moying in the past few days. She did find a good one. He was the son of her nephew, and he could be considered her grandson. After discussing with Granny Wu, she felt that he was not bad.

He came from her parents’ family, so it wasn’t difficult for her to keep him under control. Moreover, her sister-in-law, who had a good personality, was still alive. She believed that her sister-in-law would treat Qu Moying well after Qu Moying married into her family.

“What is it, Grandmother?” Qu Moying asked with a smile. She didn’t expect that the Old Lady really had something to discuss with her.

“Since your marriage contract with Marquis Yongning has been canceled, don’t take it to heart.” As the Old Lady spoke, she observed Qu Moying’s expression. Seeing that Qu Moying looked alright, she felt relieved and continued, “You are not young anymore. You have to get married. I have picked a suitable person for you, and he will come over in a few days. When he comes over, you take a good look at him and see if you like him.”

Hearing that it was about her marriage, Qu Moying lowered her head and said softly, “Grandmother, it’s all up to you.”

“What do you mean by ‘it’s all up to me’? It’s your marriage. It’s your life. How can you completely rely on me? Anyway, you take a good look at him. If you don’t like him, I will find another suitable person for you. I will find someone who has a good character and good family.”

The Old Lady said earnestly.

Qu Moying knew that the Old Lady was sincerely thinking for her good. She thought about it and nodded. She couldn't explain Pei Yuanjun's matter clearly, so she decided to play it by ear. She couldn't tell the Old Lady about this now!

"Thank you, Grandmother!"

Seeing that Qu Moying was so obedient, the Old Lady felt more relieved. She also felt that her idea was good. Then, they talked with each other harmoniously.

As they were talking, they suddenly heard a loud voice from the outside. It seemed that someone was shouting and making trouble. The Old Lady looked at Granny Wu with displeasure. "Go and see what happened. It's improper to make such a big noise!"

Granny Wu said "yes" and left.

Looking outside, Qu Moying could guess what was going on. It seemed that Yu had already stirred up trouble. It happened so fast...