

Noble Wife 291

Chapter 291 She Didn't Deserve the Marriage

"Qiuyan, you can go out for a walk. Don't keep it all to yourself. If there's anything, talk it out with us."
Qu Xuexin was persuading Qu Qiuyan.

"Thank you, Eldest Sister." Qu Qiuyan lowered her head with a dejected face.

"You... You two... Alas..." Qu Xuexin looked at Qu Moying and then at Qu Qiuyan, as if she wanted to say something but hesitated.

Neither of them responded to Qu Xuexin's words. Qu Qiuyan still kept her head down, and Qu Moying looked at the embroidery on the handkerchief in her hand. Both of them were absent-minded.

The room quieted down. For a moment, no one said anything.

Suddenly, Qu Qiuyan raised her head and looked at Qu Moying angrily. "Qu Moying, tell me, did you cause my mother's miscarriage?"

Qu Moying raised her head and sneered. "Who said that?"

Qu Qiuyan glared at Qu Moying. "My mother said it."

Qu Moying raised her eyebrows and looked at Qu Qiuyan calmly. "Do you think it is credible? What exactly do you mean?"

Hearing this, Qu Qiuyan blushed from anger and said angrily, "My mother said you are here to plot against her. You've plotted against her once, and this is the second time."

Her words implicated a lot. She seemed to be angry, but her eyes were looking sideways. Obviously, she didn't dare to look at Qu Moying. Qu Moying understood what she meant. Qu Qiuyan was pushing all

the blame on Yu. She implied that she dealt with Qu Moying because of Yu's instigation, hence passing the buck on Yu.

"It's none of my business. Father and grandmother will have their judgment for madam." Qu Moying stood up and said coldly. She did not come here to reconcile with Qu Qiuyan, nor would she listen to Qu Qiuyan's vague explanation. "Eldest Sister, are you leaving? If you are not leaving, I will leave first!"

Qu Qiuyan bit her lips but did not say anything.

"Moying, you may go back first. I will stay and persuade Qiuyan. You two... are both the daughters of Second Uncle, and you are both wife-born daughters. There is no need to be like this!"

Qu Xuexin said softly. Her words were tactful, and it was very easy for her to get a favorable impression.

Qu Moying nodded at her casually and turned to leave. Behind her, Qu Qiuyan pressed her hand against the table, her eyes filled with hatred.

Seeing Qu Moying leave, Qu Xuexin comforted Qu Qiuyan again, "Qiuyan, don't be angry. That's how Moying is."

Qu Qiuyan slowly restrained her anger, and she forcefully pressed the table. She looked at Qu Xuexin and said impolitely, "Eldest Sister, you can also leave."

She had always looked down on Qu Xuexin. She only chatted happily with Qu Xuexin just now because Qu Moying was here, and she wanted to make Qu Moying feel lonely.

"Qiuyan, it was second younger brother who asked me to come over and persuade you today." Qu Xuexin said softly, as gentle and tolerant as ever.

"Why did my elder brother ask you to come?" Qu Qiuyan asked rudely. She recalled her elder brother's words. He asked her to make up with Qu Moying, but she did not really take all of his words to heart.

It was almost impossible for her to reconcile with Qu Moying.

Qu Xuexin continued, "Of course it is because he wants you to reconcile with Moying. He feels awkward to see you two like this. You are his younger sister, and so is Moying."

"What? She is not! I am his only younger sister. I share the same mother with him. No one is closer to him than me."

Qu Qiuyan said coldly, almost losing control of her temper. She thought Qu Moying was nothing, and if her mother had succeeded back then, Qu Moying wouldn't even have existed.

Qu Xuexin said with a smile, "The relationship between you and second younger brother is naturally the closest, but Moying is also Second Uncle's wife-born daughter. It is not good for the two of you to end up like this. Someone has proposed to Moying."

"Huh? Which family wants her?" Qu Qiuyan curled her lips in disdain. She didn't expect anyone to want to marry Qu Moying, who she thought was neither beautiful nor talented.

"The other party is He Mansion's third young master. He is Lord Jing's cousin." Qu Xuexin smiled warmly.

"He Mansion? Noble Consort He's family?" Qu Qiuyan was stunned for a moment. She didn't expect this. "How... How is this possible? How could Qu Moying marry into such a family?"

Qu Qiuyan naturally knew Third Young Master He. Lord Jing had mentioned him more than once. He repeatedly said that Third Young Master He was the most outstanding of all his cousins and that when Third Young Master He became an official, he would let him be his right-hand man. Why would such a person ask to marry Qu Moying?

"I heard that Madam Li is the matchmaker. She said that Third Young Master He thinks that Moying is good. The day before yesterday, he came to see her and seemed to be very satisfied."

Qu Xuexin continued, "If Moying really marries Third Young Master He, you two will be closely connected. So, you can't lose your temper with her now. Both of you should give in, just for the future."

“How could she marry Third Young Master He? Does she deserve that?” Qu Qiuyan sneered, but her heart skipped a beat. She was sure that if Qu Moying really married Third Young Master He, she might have to beg for Qu Moying’s forgiveness since Lord Jing valued Third Young Master He so much.

This was the thing that Qu Qiuyan could not accept the most. She could pass the buck to Yu in front of Qu Moying, but she was unwilling to take the initiative to make up with Qu Moying. She thought Qu Moying was neither good-looking nor talented, and she didn’t want to give in to such a person.

Qu Moying didn’t deserve it.

Qu Qiuyan didn’t want to let Qu Moying marry Third Young Master He. She rolled her eyes and said, “Eldest Sister, did you see Third Young Master He?”

Since Old Lady Qu loved Qu Moying dearly, she would definitely let Qu Moying go to take a look at Third Young Master He. The only person who could accompany Qu Moying was Qu Xuexin.

Although Qu Qiuyan looked down on Qu Xuexin because she always wore a bitter face and couldn’t even secure her engagement, Qu Qiuyan still thought that Qu Xuexin was better than Qu Moying.

For so many years, Qu Qiuyan had maintained a dominant position over Qu Xuexin.

“Yes. He is handsome, and he looks talented. He is gentle to others.” When Qu Xuexin mentioned Third Young Master He, she lowered her head shyly and blushed.

Looking at her infatuated look, Qu Qiuyan immediately understood. She sneered in her heart, thinking that Qu Xuexin was kind and gentle only on the surface and was not really kind because she clearly had feelings for her younger sister’s future husband.

“Eldest Sister, I think you are the only one in this mansion who is worthy of Third Young Master He.” With no outsiders around, Qu Qiuyan said frankly. Since she was able to win Lord Jing’s fancy, she was clearly not stupid.

Qu Xuexin's face turned even redder as she pouted, "Qiuyan, what are you talking about?"

"Eldest Sister, I really think so. If you marry into He Mansion, we can always have a chat. Moreover, with me around, you won't suffer a loss, and He Mansion won't dare to treat you unfairly. Even if uncle doesn't have a high official position, Third Young Master He wouldn't dare to mistreat you after he prospers."

Qu Qiuyan asked with a teasing smile, "Shall I write a letter to Lord Jing and ask him to help you?"

"Qiuyan." Qu Xuexin became more and more bashful, unable to lift her face.

"Eldest Sister, it's settled then. Since I already know about this matter, I won't let Qu Moying have her way. You are the one who deserves the most to marry into He Mansion, and you should be the one to marry into He Mansion. Grandmother and my father are partial to her. But if He Mansion changes the idea, father and grandmother have to agree."

Qu Qiuyan said with certainty. She was going to take over the thing.

To her, it really wasn't a big deal. Even if Qu Xuexin was mediocre, she was better than a blind like Qu Moying. No one would want to marry a blind. Marrying Qu Xuexin was clearly a better choice. Moreover, since she tried to make it happen, He Mansion would definitely take this into consideration.

"Qiuyan, let's stop here." Hearing Qu Qiuyan's words, Qu Xuexin was so shy that she couldn't stay any longer. She stood up and turned to leave bashfully.

Although she did not say a word, her meaning was very clear. She agreed to let Qu Qiuyan help her get the marriage.

As long as He Mansion agreed to take her, she would definitely agree.

Both of them had their own thoughts. They both felt that the bride of this marriage would change. Qu Qiuyan didn't want Qu Moying to end up well. She thought Third Young Master He was a good person, so she would try her best to mess the thing up and would rather speak up for Qu Xuexin.

Qu Qiuyan thought it was not difficult. After Qu Xuexin left, she asked her maids to prepare ink and brush for her to write a letter.

She had been writing letters to Lord Jing because of boredom. Now that she had something to do, she would definitely write more.

Qu Xuexin walked back with her maid. After walking for a while, a complacent smile appeared on her face.

The people in the mansion only knew West Mansion's two ladies, but they seemed to forget that she was the eldest wife-born daughter in Qu Mansion, the most respected wife-born daughter.

However, because her father's position was not as high as her Second Uncle's, East Mansion was inferior to West Mansion. As a result, she was not as respected as Qu Qiuyan, and now she was going to be outdone by Qu Moying, who had been abandoned since childhood.

How could she not be resentful?

Only after the eldest daughter got married could the younger daughters get engaged. However, things were different in her mansion, which made her a laughingstock. She was the eldest daughter, but before she was engaged, Qu Caiyue had already married, and Qu Qiuyan had been engaged to Lord Jing. As for Qu Moying, she could also have such a good marriage.

Qu Xuexin thought, "Why don't they make me a good match? Since they don't care about me, I will care about myself!"

Seeing her stand still, the maid also stood still. "Miss, should we go back now?"

"Let's go back first." Qu Xuexin looked behind her thoughtfully. Qu Qiuyan thought she was very smart, but Qu Xuexin was confident that she was not inferior to Qu Qiuyan.

She thought she killed two birds with one stone through this play. Not only had she completed the task that her second younger brother had instructed her to do, but she had also attained her own aim. She believed she was going to marry into He Mansion. Both Third Young Master He and Qu Qiuyan wanted her to marry into He Mansion, and this marriage is sure to be hers.

She felt relieved. Her smile was as gentle as usual. She met a few maids and old maids on her way, and they all whispered to each other when they saw her walking by. They said that she was the best among the young ladies in the mansion, and she was gentle to the servants.

Chapter 292 Lord Jing Cried for Help

“He Mansion’s third young master?” Pei Yuanjun raised his long and narrow eyes and looked at a small jar of water lotus on the table.

The jar was only as big as a normal flower pot, but it was very delicate. The water lotus inside the vat was also not big, but it was pretty. Its color graduated from blue to pink, which was very beautiful.

Although it was beautiful, it was eclipsed by Lord Yun.

Above its big leaves, the water lotus was swaying, looking extremely gorgeous.

“Yes. It was said that Third Young Master He went to Qu Mansion to look at Fourth Lady Qu personally. When he returned to his mansion, he was very satisfied and agreed to marry her. His family is already preparing betrothal presents.”

Ji Hai reported with a smile.

“What betrothal presents did they prepare?” Pei Yuanjun asked lazily as he flicked the water lotus jar with his slender fingers.

Ji Hai answered carefully, “I really don’t know, but I heard that they didn’t prepare many gifts. It seems that the others in He Mansion aren’t satisfied with Fourth Lady Qu.”

Pei Yuanjun stood up with his hands behind his back. He stood on the rockery and looked down at the scenery of his mansion. Suddenly, he burst out laughing.

Ji Hai stole a glance at Pei Yuanjun's handsome face and tried his best to stay away from him. The more Pei Yuanjun laughed and the more indifferent he looked, the angrier he was. Whoever annoyed him now was bound to suffer. Therefore, Ji Hai hurriedly added one thing to conclude his report.

"I heard that there was another dispute today. It was said that Lord Jing Mansion wanted Third Young Master He to marry First Lady Qu, but Third Young Master He refused."

Pei Yuanjun sneered, "How dare he be so choosy?"

Ji Hai still wanted to step back. He had already reached the corner of the pavilion, but if he was cautious enough, he could lean against the pillar at the back, which was the furthest away from Pei Yuanjun.

"Since Pei Yusheng has intervened, we should help him!" Pei Yuanjun continued, walking down the stairs of the rockery with his hands behind his back.

"In the matter of Third Young Master He?" Ji Hai was already prepared. He had been well prepared when he heard that Third Young Master He was going to be engaged with Qu Moying.

Others might not know about this matter, but how could Ji Hai not know about it? But it was not a big deal to Pei Yuanjun.

Pei Yuanjun said lazily without answering Ji Hai's question, "Prepare a carriage for me. I am going to the palace."

"My lord, I will prepare it immediately." Ji Hai hurriedly said. Although he lowered his head, he secretly smiled. He knew it would be like this. Although Pei Yuanjun looked like he didn't care about anything, it was not true. Ji Hai knew how much Pei Yuanjun cared about Qu Moying, but he could share this truth with nobody, which made him feel pity.

As for Third Young Master He, Ji Hai didn't give a damn to him. How could such a nobody compare with his master Lord Yu?

When Third Young Master He's deeds were revealed, people in the capital were shocked.

First, a family went to He Mansion to make trouble, saying that their daughter went to He Mansion to be a maid, but she had never returned home. They didn't know if she was alive or dead.

Following that, someone went to the governor of the capital to make a complaint. The person said that his daughter was He Mansion's maid. She would sometimes return home before, but she had not returned home recently. He went to He Mansion to look for his daughter, but he was told that his daughter had eloped with someone.

But when he asked whom exactly his daughter ran away with, the other party couldn't answer him but just told him that she had run away with a servant to an unknown place.

The rumors suddenly began to spread. It was said that Third Young Master He philandered beautiful women and tortured them to death every time. Whenever he killed a woman, he casually threw her into the mess grave. Even his ex-wife was a victim to his heinous deeds. Otherwise, she wouldn't have died in such a short period after marrying him.

It was said that his ex-wife had always been in good health before she married into He Mansion. After she married, her health deteriorated by the day. However, she was ashamed to tell her family. It was said that every time her family went to see her, she would always cry bitterly. Her body became weaker and weaker.

The cause of her death was said to be a serious cold. However, someone in He Mansion said that the medicine she took was not for curing cold.

These gossips were a mixture of truth and falsehood, and for a time, even the ex-Third Madam He's family was alarmed.

Since they could marry their daughter to Third Young Master He, the most promising one among the other young masters in He Mansion, it could be seen that the ex-Third Madam He's family was no ordinary. After they heard about this matter, they sued Third Young Master He in court.

The governor of the capital went to take the people in front of He Mansion away. Now, there were three cases in total, which all targeted Third Young Master He.

The entire capital was alarmed by such a case.

In front of the royal palace's imperial study, Pei Yusheng rapid walked over. When he reached the door, he calmed his breathing and looked at the palace attendant guarding outside the door.

"Is there anyone by Father's side?"

The young eunuch answered in a low voice, "Lord Yun is inside."

Pei Yusheng frowned. Why was Pei Yuanjun here at this time? It was no good for him, but he could not wait any longer. He wanted to ask something else, but he knew that it was inappropriate. How could he inquire too much about his father's thing? He could only say, "Go and report to His Majesty that I want to see him."

The young eunuch complied and went inside.

The imperial study was quiet. The emperor was reading reports inside, and Pei Yuanjun was reading a report that the emperor had just asked him to review.

Li Quan, who was standing behind the emperor, frowned when he saw the young eunuch coming over.

The young eunuch was so scared that he didn't dare to speak for a moment. However, he then saw Li Quan nod at him, and he knew he was allowed to speak, so he hurriedly knelt down and said, "Your Majesty, Lord Jing is here."

“What is he doing here?” The emperor muttered to himself, then nodded casually, “Let him in!”

The young eunuch walked out to invite Pei Yusheng in. Pei Yusheng tidied up his clothes and entered the imperial study. He respectfully bowed to the emperor, “Greetings, Father Emperor.”

“Save the formalities.” The emperor put down the report in his hand and asked indifferently, “Why did you come to see me?”

Seeing that Pei Yusheng was in a hurry and did not look well, he knew something big must have happened.

“Father Emperor, please save me.” Pei Yusheng fell to his knees with a thud, and his eyes were red.

“What happened?” The emperor’s face darkened. Lord Jing had never come to ask him for help. It could be seen that this was definitely a big deal.

“Father... Father... If... if you really can’t tolerate me, I am willing to guard the imperial mausoleum and stay in a remote place for the rest of my life.” Pei Yusheng said with tears in his eyes, looking extremely wronged.

Pei Yuanjun had already put down the report in his hand. He leaned to the side and rested his elbow on the chair. He lazily watched Lord Jing complain to the emperor. He looked quite pleased, as if he was watching a show. His beautiful lips curled up, and his eyes were glistening.

“What exactly happened? Who can’t tolerate you?” The emperor slapped his hand on the imperial desk and shouted angrily. Pei Yusheng was his son. Although he might not be his most beloved son, he was still his son. He wondered who dared to force Pei Yusheng to this point. Didn’t they even take him seriously?

Pei Yusheng stopped keeping the emperor in suspense and directly said, “Father Emperor, something happened to my uncle’s family.” He wiped his tears and continued, “Just now, many people went to He Mansion to make trouble. They suddenly accused He Dayu. Almost at the same time, some people went to governor of the capital to accuse him. How could there be such a coincidence? Even if He Dayu really did bad things, how could people come to him at the same time?”

He Dayu was Noble Consort He's nephew, and he was the most promising one in his family. The emperor had heard Noble Consort He talk about him more than once, so he naturally knew him. He had seen He Dayu before. He Dayu was good-looking and also quite talented. Many people said that he would definitely pass the Imperial Examination next spring.

The emperor also thought highly of him.

He didn't expect something to happen to He Dayu. According to what Pei Yusheng said, someone was behind this. Could it be that someone wanted to frame Pei Yusheng by framing Third Young Master He?

Thinking of this, the emperor could not calm down. If there was anyone who would frame Pei Yusheng, the emperor could think of no one but his eldest son.

"What did He Dayu do?" The emperor asked in a low voice. He leaned back and looked coldly at Pei Yusheng, trying to figure out this whole thing.

Even if someone set He Dayu up, there must be a reason.

"They said that He Dayu did something to his ex-wife. But the ex-Third Madam He died of a cold. However, her family insisted that she didn't die of a cold but because of He Dayu, and they even said..." Pei Yusheng paused for a moment because these things were not pleasant to hear, but now he had to say it, so he could only grit his teeth and continue, "They said that He Dayu did the same thing to another two maids."

It was all about women. Pei Yusheng's words were vague, but the emperor understood what he meant, and his face darkened. "Did He Dayu kill those women and even his ex-wife?"

"Father Emperor, how could he do such a thing? He Dayu is gentle and quiet. He barely does anything other than reading. How could he do such evil things? His ex-wife died because of her poor health. Things about his mansion's maids were even more suspicious. Maybe someone else was the murderer, or maybe the maids ran away with others."

Before Pei Yusheng entered the palace, He Mansion's people had come to him and told him the whole story. He thought he knew the matter clearly.

He thought someone was scheming against him, and the person first dealt with He Dayu, his right-hand man.

The emperor asked again, "Are you sure this has something to do with you?"

"Father Emperor, if it has nothing to do with me and Mother Consort, who would harm such a scholar who doesn't even have an official rank? How could there be so many people accusing him at the same time? There must be something behind this." Pei Yusheng said angrily. It could be seen from some clues that this thing was unreasonable. Pei Yusheng believed the emperor could also tell.

"Lord Jing, you think that someone wanted to deal with you by dealing with Third Young Master He. But did Third Young Master He really do all those things? Lord Jing, there's no smoke without fire."

A lazy voice came from the side. What Pei Yuanjun said hit the nail on the head...

Pei Yusheng's face froze.

Chapter 293 Brothers at Odds

"Lord Jing, did you come in a hurry after hearing the news?" Pei Yuanjun did not seem to notice Pei Yusheng's stiff expression as he continued, "If that's the case, you must have only heard He Mansion's one-sided statement, right?"

"He Dayu has always been kind. How could he do such a thing?" Pei Yusheng was still explaining.

"What you see might not be the truth. Lord Jing, even though you trust him, you have to send someone to investigate it first. You directly brought it up with His Majesty, which could be considered a false accusation."

Pei Yuanjun said lazily.

The two of them did not point out who was exactly guilty, but everyone present understood the meaning behind these words. Li Quan lowered his head, trying not to hear their words. He was not supposed to hear these words. It would be best if he did not hear them.

Now that he could not retreat, he could only stand quietly without looking sideways. He kept bending his waist and remained motionless, but his clothes were wet with his cold sweat.

Pei Yusheng was anxious by Pei Yuanjun's question and said quickly, "Uncle Yun, someone really wants to frame He Mansion and deal with me."

"Your Majesty, I said this because I was confused. If there is anything wrong, please enlighten me." Pei Yuanjun stood up and bowed deeply to the silent emperor.

The emperor looked at him deeply, and his attitude softened. "Sit down first. I have my judgment on this matter."

"Thank you, Your Majesty." Pei Yuanjun sat down again, leaning against the chair lazily, not caring about his image at all. He was the only one who dared to act like this in front of the emperor. Even the Crown Prince had to behave properly in front of the emperor, let alone Lord Jing.

Lord Jing was extremely aggrieved. He lowered his head. When he faced Pei Yuanjun, he was always at a disadvantage because of his father's partiality to Pei Yuanjun. The emperor was smart, but why did he spoil a mere subordinate so much?

Pei Yusheng made up his mind that no matter who would take the throne in the future, he had to get the military power as soon as possible. Otherwise, even if he became the emperor, he would be controlled by Pei Yuanjun. He thought the emperor was too muddle-headed to give most of the military power to Pei Yuanjun.

The emperor said, "We'll talk about it after the governor of the capital finishes the investigation. You can get up first!"

"Yes, Father." Pei Yusheng was extremely aggrieved. He had rushed over so quickly because he wanted to gain the initiative before the Crown Prince came. But he still didn't get a positive reply from the emperor, and it was all because of Pei Yuanjun. He thought Pei Yuanjun was too hateful, and he wondered if Pei Yuanjun was on the Crown Prince's side.

Thinking of this, Pei Yusheng was terrified. If Pei Yuanjun was on the Crown Prince's side, he would have no chance at all. Even if Liu Xiangshan stood on his side, it would be useless. After all, the military power in Liu Xiangshan's hands was completely inferior to that of Pei Yuanjun. Moreover, he heard that some of Liu Xiangshan's soldiers and generals were inherited from Ji Yongming's hands.

A young eunuch cautiously came in to report, "Your Majesty, the Crown Prince requests an audience."

Pei Yuanjun laughed and said, "Here he comes. They came one after another. Both of them are quick."

His voice was not loud, and he seemed to be talking to himself, but it made the emperor's and Lord Jing's faces darken.

The emperor said with a cold face, "Summon him in."

Pei Yusheng retreated to the side. The Crown Prince strode in and also respectfully bowed to the emperor, his face a little pale.

The emperor said indifferently, "Save the formalities."

The Crown Prince stood up straight and looked respectfully at the emperor. "Father, I heard that something happened to He Mansion, and it caused a huge commotion. Everyone in the capital was shocked, and many people threw rotten eggs and cabbage leaves at He Mansion. It affected the entire He Mansion, and no one dared to go out."

"What?" Pei Yusheng almost jumped up. He really didn't know about this matter. He Mansion's people who previously came to him didn't mention this matter. It could be seen that this matter happened only after he left.

Pei Luo'an said respectfully, "Father, this matter has blown up a lot. Just now, the governor of the capital came to my door and said that he might not be able to investigate this matter. He was afraid that the investigation would lead to something big. Because this matter involves the He Family, I have to come and ask for your opinion."

"My opinion? What do you think my opinion is?" The emperor sneered and slammed his hand on the table, furious.

Pei Luo'an did not dare to stand still and quickly knelt down.

Since he had knelt down, Pei Yusheng also knelt down.

Pei Yuanjun smiled and lazily looked at the pair of royal brothers in front of him. A trace of maliciousness flashed through his eyes, but then he smiled brightly. He lifted his long and narrow eyes, and there was a bit of evil charm in them. His face looked even more beautiful.

But he didn't move. He still sat there steadily as if he didn't see the Crown Prince kneeling not far away from him.

"After such a thing happened, the two of you rushed into the palace one after another. Do you think that I know nothing?" The emperor was furious. He pointed at his two sons, shifting from one to the other.

Li Quan calmly looked at the Crown Prince and Lord Jing. Then, he looked at Lord Yun, who was smiling brightly and seemed like he was watching a good show. Lord Yun behaved the most improperly. But the emperor ignored him. The emperor only saw his two sons, who were kneeling on the ground. Li Quan sighed in his heart.

Some things had actually been preordained long before!

No matter how the process went, there was only one result. It seemed that he could make a decision now...

“Father, I’m terrified.”

“Father, I am extremely terrified!” Pei Luo’an and Pei Yusheng panicked.

“Why are you terrified? What else don’t you dare to do? Tell me, do these things have anything to do with you two?”

The emperor said angrily and was very disappointed. He had thought highly of the two sons. Other than the Crown Prince, he valued Lord Jing the most. But they really disappointed him.

First, the officials submitted reports to criticize the Crown Prince. Now, it seemed that the same thing would happen to Lord Jing. It seemed that the two of them were fighting openly. They had no fraternal love for each other at all. This whole thing was like a slap to the royal family.

“The matter with Crown Prince’s Mansion is not over yet, and now there is He Mansion’s matter. No matter who is involved, I will have people investigate it clearly. You two had better not interfere. If I find out that this matter is related to you two, I will not spare you!”

The emperor warned.

“I won’t dare!”

“I won’t dare!”

The Crown Prince and Lord Jing hurriedly answered. At this time, they no longer had any thoughts of scheming against each other. They only thought about how to get away from this. The two of them could not take the emperor’s anger.

The emperor said impatiently, “You two can leave!”

Pei Luo'an and Pei Yusheng both stood up and carefully retreated backwards to the door. Then they turned around and left the imperial study.

When they came out of the imperial study, they wiped away the cold sweat on their forehead. The two of them were flustered as they irritated the emperor. This was completely different from what they had expected before entering the palace.

When they met each other's eyes, they still had to put on a smile. Fortunately, as royal family members, they were good at pretending. Although they wanted to kill each other, they could still pretend to be close brothers on the surface. Pei Luo'an even asked with concern, "Second younger brother, what is going on with He Mansion? Do you need my help?"

If Pei Luo'an did "help", the entire He Mansion would probably suffer. Lord Jing said with a forced smile, "Thank you, Your Highness. It's not a big deal. The truth will not be concealed. Even if someone behind this tried to make it true, it is still not true."

Pei Yusheng believed Pei Luo'an was the one behind this matter. He thought Pei Luo'an must be revenging him for the matter last time.

"This thing went on like this. I wonder if Third Young Master He is really innocent or not!" Pei Luo'an sighed as if he also felt that this thing was strange. But to Pei Yusheng, his words were full of ridicule. At this time, Pei Luo'an was still pretending that it had nothing to do with him.

He regretted that he didn't have much evidence and didn't react quicker last time. Otherwise, the Crown Prince would not get away with it so easily.

The two of them appeared to be very intimate on the surface, but they wanted to stab each other to death in their hearts. Suddenly, they heard a lazy voice from behind them, "Crown Prince, Lord Jing, have you two figured it out?"

They looked back together and saw Pei Yuanjun stepping out from the imperial study leisurely. Seeing him, they couldn't help but feel resentful. Pei Yuanjun was only a lord whose status was lower than theirs, yet he actually won their Father Emperor's favor even more than they did. How could they endure this?

Nevertheless, they had no choice but to endure it because Pei Yuanjun could win the emperor's trust.

Pei Luo'an first greeted him respectfully, "Uncle Yun."

"Uncle Yun!" Pei Yusheng also greeted him with a smile. Then, he continued with a worried look, "I don't know what's going on. I will go back and find out. If He Mansion is really to blame, I won't let them off the hook!"

Pei Luo'an nodded in agreement. "Second younger brother is right. Even if a Prince breaks the law, he shall be punished like commons."

"That's good. I'm now leaving the palace for West Prison. His Majesty wants West Prison to take over the matter if you can't find out the truth. Lord Jing, you haven't been to West Prison for a long time. If you have time, you can go and take a look." Pei Yuanjun said, locking his eyes on Pei Yusheng.

Pei Yusheng's expression changed slightly as he thought of West Prison. He hurriedly shook his hand and said, "I've been a little busy recently. I'll go there after this period of time. Uncle Yun, I have to trouble you during this period of time."

After saying that, he bowed to Pei Yuanjun and left the palace in a hurry.

Pei Luo'an said, "Uncle Yun, I will go first. I have to tell the governor of the capital to investigate the cases impartially."

"Farewell, Crown Prince!" Pei Yuanjun said politely, but he did not move at all. Pei Luo'an had to reply, "Uncle Yun, thank you!"

After both of them left, Pei Yuanjun walked out with his hands behind his back. His expression slowly turned cold, and his gaze was malicious. The young eunuchs on both sides lowered their heads like statues. They felt like even the air around Pei Yuanjun was cold, as if he had an evil spirit.

His aura was far stronger than that of the Crown Prince and Lord Jing...

Chapter 294 Flustered Qu Xuexin

“What? Something happened to He Mansion?” When Old Lady Qu got the news, she was so shocked that she could hardly stand still. Granny Wu hurriedly reached out to support her.

“Yes. It’s said that the ex-Third Madam He died from an unknown reason.” Granny Wu wiped the sweat on her forehead. She just got the news. After hearing this news, she knew something bad was going to happen and hurriedly came to report to the Old Lady.

The Old Lady didn’t get it and asked anxiously, “Was she killed? Who killed her?”

“I don’t know. There seemed to be some matters regarding beautiful maids.” Granny Wu blushed. She was too embarrassed to continue, so she faltered, “They were tortured to death. The things are still under investigation. I don’t know if they are true or not.”

This time, the Old Lady understood what she meant. She was stunned at first, and then she became furious. She pointed outside in exasperation. “Madam Li... How... How can you...”

Seeing that the Old Lady’s face flushed with anger, Granny Wu hurriedly comforted her, “Your Ladyship, please don’t worry. Fourth Lady is blessed by the heavens. She could even keep out of such a thing, which means she will definitely be blessed in the future. Please don’t worry!”

“This is too much. How... How dare she...” The Old Lady said angrily. She had thought that Madam Li made the match for Qu Moying out of kindness. She had even said to her son that it was not bad to marry Qu Moying into He Mansion. At least He Mansion was powerful enough to protect Qu Moying. She didn’t expect that Madam Li was up to no good.

Qu Xuexin walked over with a pastry in her hand and asked with a smile, “Grandmother, what’s wrong? Are you feeling unwell?”

She accompanied the Old Lady to walk in the garden. The Old Lady was tired from the walk, so she rested here, and Qu Xuexin personally went to the big kitchen to make a pastry. In the past few days, she had been accompanying the Old Lady in West Mansion. She was so devoted that the Old Lady pitied

her even more. The Old Lady kept saying that she would talk to Luo about Qu Xuexin's marriage after Qu Moying's marriage was settled.

She would definitely get Qu Xuexin a good marriage.

Unlike Qu Moying, Qu Xuexin's mother would take care of her affairs. For so many years, Luo had never asked the Old Lady to intervene in Qu Xuexin's matters. If the Old Lady intervened rashly, Luo would definitely be unhappy. However, the Old Lady couldn't bear to see her obedient and sensible eldest granddaughter not having a good marriage, so she couldn't help but vow to help Qu Xuexin.

Even if Luo would get unhappy, she had to intervene and get Qu Xuexin a good marriage.

Hearing Qu Xuexin's question, the Old Lady answered angrily, "Moying's proposed marriage is set to fail."

Qu Xuexin was overjoyed. She pursed her lips hard to suppress the excitement in her heart. As expected, with Qu Qiuyan's help and the fact that Third Young Master He had taken a fancy to her, she would be the one to marry Third Young Master He.

Seeing the Old Lady's angry look, she immediately showed a panicked expression. "Grandmother, why? Moying is so good. Did they have any complaints?"

There was a bit of anger in her panic, which precisely echoed the Old Lady's angry look.

Qu Moying couldn't help but sigh at the good show Qu Xuexin has put on. At this time, she was still pretending perfectly.

The Old Lady's eyes turned red as soon as she saw Qu Moying. She reached out to grab Qu Moying, who was about to bow to her, and said, "Ying, here you are. My poor child..."

She could no longer continue. She hugged Qu Moying and patted her on the back, already choking.

Qu Moying had a hard life, and the Old Lady nearly pushed her into a fire pit this time. Thinking of this proposed marriage that was almost settled, the Old Lady was angry and resentful.

He Mansion was the prime culprit, and her son was also to be blamed.

Qu Zhizhen didn't care about his daughter at all. The Old Lady asked him to investigate Third Young Master He. He came to tell her soon that Third Young Master He was good in all aspects and would definitely be valued by the emperor in the future, and that was all.

As Vice Minister of Works, Qu Zhizhen could definitely inquire about something else, but he knew nothing.

The Old Lady couldn't help but feel a mixture of hatred, anger, and grief in her heart.

"Grandmother, what's wrong? It's fine. Nothing will happen." Qu Moying comforted the Old Lady softly. She had already received the news and knew that Third Young Master He had been exposed. However, she did not expect that the scene would be bigger than she had imagined.

She secretly sent a message to the good-for-nothing First Young Master He. She thought he could at most expose a case with his ability. As for the rumors in the inner yard and the thing about the ex-Third Madam He, they must be spread by He Mansion's people. This must be done by First Young Master He.

With so many cases against him, Third Young Master He would not end up well, and even Lord Jing might also be implicated. It was an unexpected surprise.

Qu Xuexin comforted Qu Moying, "Moying, you should also comfort Grandmother. It's Third Young Master He's loss that he didn't take you. You deserve someone better."

Qu Moying helped the Old Lady sit down on a stone bench and looked at the polite and gentle Qu Xuexin. She was now sure that Qu Xuexin was not as kind as she looked. She had seen Qu Xuexin being with Liu Jingyu, and it seemed that she wasn't mistaken.

Qu Xuexin really hid her true self well. If not for the episode of the marriage this time, Qu Moying wouldn't have known her true personality. She had thought that Qu Xuexin was kind and gentle despite being bullied by Qu Qiuyan and what Qu Xuexin needed was luck.

Although Qu Xuexin was comforting Qu Moying, she could hardly conceal her joy, which was really ironic.

Qu Moying asked with a smile, "Eldest Sister, don't you know about it?"

Qu Xuexin was stunned by the question. "About what?"

Qu Moying said slowly, "Don't you know about He Mansion's proposed marriage?"

"I... I really don't know. Moying, what do you mean by this?" Qu Xuexin blushed and looked at the Old Lady with grievance. "Grandmother, I really don't know. I... I just knew that He Mansion broke off the engagement with Moying. I only saw Third Young Master He from afar with Moying once. I... I really don't know anything!"

Looking at Qu Moying, Qu Xuexin panicked. Did Qu Moying know something? She was not afraid of Qu Moying. Even if she poached Third Young Master He away from Qu Moying, so what? What could Qu Moying do to her? Qu Moying's mother had died, and her father did not care about her. Qu Xuexin didn't think she could compare with her.

However, she was afraid that Qu Moying would cry in front of the Old Lady and affect the Old Lady's decision. These days, she served the Old Lady attentively in order to make the Old Lady pity her, hoping that when He Mansion proposed to marry her, the Old Lady would agree.

Still looking at Qu Xuexin, Qu Moying asked, "Eldest Sister, you really don't know?"

Looking at the two of them, the Old Lady frowned in confusion.

"I really don't know. Grandmother, look, Moying is suspecting me." Tears fell down from Qu Xuexin's eyes, which made her look more pitiful.

"What... did you do?" The Old Lady asked uneasily. How could she not sense the weirdness in the conversation between her two granddaughters? She even found that Qu Xuexin looked a bit guilty.

Qu Xuexin was afraid that the Old Lady would be suspicious and said anxiously, "I didn't do anything. Grandmother, please believe me. I have nothing to do with He Mansion canceling the proposed marriage."

Since He Mansion was not going to propose to Qu Moying, Qu Xuexin thought she would be the one to marry into He Mansion. He Mansion would talk about her with the Old Lady later. She was afraid that the Old Lady would think that she did something to ruin Qu Moying's proposed marriage. If the Old Lady did not agree, she would probably have difficulty marrying into He Mansion.

Although her parents had the final say on her marriage, they would have to consider the Old Lady's opinion.

But no matter what, she would insist that she did not know anything. She did not know why He Mansion would propose to her. She did not know the reason why He Mansion would refuse to marry Qu Moying. She believed that the Old Lady would agree to her marrying Third Young Master He in the end. After all, it was a desirable proposed marriage, much better than her previous ones, and Third Young Master He had a promising future.

Qu Xuexin thought a lot and fancied a bright future for herself. She thought she could even witness how Qu Qiuyan was subservient to her after Third Young Master He prospered in his career. After all, Liu Jingyu had told her that Qu Qiuyan could not be Lord Jing's Princess Consort because there had been many incidents before, and Lord Jing did not make up his mind. It was hard to say what position Qu Qiuyan would have.

But Qu Xuexin was sure that she would be Third Young Master He's legitimate wife.

She got excited at the thought of this, but she showed more sadness and panic on the surface.

"Eldest Sister, surely I believe you. But why are you so nervous? It makes me feel a little confused." Qu Moying looked up at Qu Xuexin, who was pretending perfectly.

The Old Lady looked at the two of them thoughtfully. She knew clearly that Third Young Master He's case couldn't have anything to do with Qu Xuexin. However, the way Qu Xuexin acted and the words she said did make people doubt that she had played a part in it!

"Moying, I'm afraid that you don't believe me. I was anxious to explain just now because I was afraid that we would be alienated from each other." Qu Xuexin reacted quickly. She wiped the corner of her eyes with a handkerchief and said bitterly, "Ever since you entered the mansion, I have been congenial to you. If we are estranged from each other, what should I do?"

Qu Moying smiled and said, "Thank you, Eldest Sister."

Seeing that Qu Moying seemed to believe her, Qu Xuexin heaved a sigh of relief. She wanted to say a few more words, but the Old Lady held Qu Moying's hand and said, "Ying, the proposed marriage with He Mansion is not a good one. We can't accept it. Third Young Master He..."

The Old Lady paused for a moment. There were some things that she could not say in detail, especially since her two granddaughters had not married yet. She could only cough in a low voice and vaguely say, "Third Young Master He is not a good guy. He has done bad things to several maids in his mansion, and he is now under investigation."

Qu Moying nodded with a calm expression, "Grandmother, I will listen to you."

Qu Xuexin felt as if she had been struck by lightning. She stood there in a daze, her eyes wide open as she looked at the Old Lady. She opened her mouth, but she didn't know what to ask first. She only felt dizzy, and she staggered...

Chapter 295 Decided to Marry Qu Xuexin

Seeing Qu Xuexin's extremely pale face, the maid hurriedly reached out to support her.

"Xin, what's wrong?" A strange look flashed in the Old Lady's eyes as she looked at Qu Xuexin.

Qu Xuexin reacted quickly. She held the maid's hand and looked at the Old Lady apologetically, "Grandmother... I... I'm dizzy."

The maid helped her sit down on the stone bench.

Qu Xuexin gently wiped her face with a handkerchief. Qu Moying could see that Qu Xuexin's hand was trembling.

It seemed that this news was out of Qu Xuexin's expectations, which made her unable to control her expression and cover her face with a handkerchief.

Qu Xuexin calmed herself down and asked the Old Lady gently with a much more natural expression, "Grandmother, did you just say that Third Young Master He is not a good guy?"

But even so, Qu Moying could still feel that her tone was somewhat unnatural.

It was not obvious, but Qu Moying could feel it because she had been paying attention to Qu Xuexin. Compared with Qu Qiuyan, Qu Xuexin was obviously better at concealing herself.

Qu Xuexin's pretense was actually very perfect. She had suspected Qu Xuexin long ago from some small clues. Otherwise, she wouldn't have seen through her pretense.

As for this time, Qu Xuexin really wanted to marry into He Mansion, which was why she lost her composure and even took the initiative to ruin the proposed marriage, hence revealing more clues!

The Old Lady asked in surprise, "Don't you know? Your words just now made me feel like you've already known about it."

Qu Xuexin lowered her head, twisted the handkerchief in her hand, and vaguely explained, "Grandmother, I don't know... I thought He Mansion didn't want to marry Moying..."

Her heart skipped a beat. She still doubted what she had heard, and she could not help but raise her head and ask, "Did something happen to Third Young Master He?"

"He Mansion's people wanted to cheat Moying into getting married with Third Young Master He. Anyone who marries such a person will be unlucky!" The Old Lady snorted. Her heart palpitated with fear as she thought about how she almost made Qu Moying jump into the fire.

Qu Xuexin mumbled, "How could this be?"

"Miss, Third Young Master He is really not a good person. I heard that He Mansion's several maids and his ex-wife were all tortured to death by him."

Granny Wu said so because she also noticed that there was something strange about Qu Xuexin. Her words were straightforward, and everyone could understand.

"How... how can there be such a person in this world... This is really hateful." Qu Xuexin said. She wiped her face and stood up wobbly by holding her maid's hand. "Grandma, I feel dizzy. I can't accompany you anymore!"

"Since you are not feeling well, you should go back and have a rest!" The Old Lady nodded, feeling that her granddaughter was hiding something.

After bowing to the Old Lady, Qu Xuexin held her maid's hand and left.

Looking at Qu Xuexin's back, the Old Lady frowned. She had experienced a lot of things, so she could guess something when she saw Qu Xuexin acting so strange. Her face immediately darkened when she thought of the possibility.

She thought Qu Xuexin was good in the past, but what did she mean now?

Seeing the Old Lady's darkened face, Qu Moying gently comforted her, "Grandmother, I have been against marrying into He Mansion. Now that it turned out like this, you don't have to overthink. It's their retribution."

The Old Lady retracted her gaze. Seeing that Qu Moying was so considerate, she felt even sadder. "Ying, I will definitely find you a person whom I know well. This definitely won't happen again."

This time, the Old Lady felt that her grandnephew was a better option. At least she knew his background. Although his family was not as powerful as He Mansion, marrying him was still better because whoever married into He Mansion would die in humiliation.

She might be deceived if the marriage was proposed by matchmakers or someone else whom she didn't know well. The Old Lady had no choice. She blamed herself. Back then, when she knew the other party was Third Master He, she was quite satisfied. But now it seemed that he was really not as good as her grandnephew, who was studying in the mansion devotedly and waiting to participate in the Imperial Examination next spring.

The Old Lady asked directly, "Ying, what do you think of Cousin Xiao?"

Qu Moying was stunned and asked in surprise, "Cousin Xiao?"

The Old Lady nodded and said, "Yes. Although Xiao Mansion is not as powerful as Qu Mansion, it is still a noble family. In the future, your Cousin Xiao can become an official. I have asked your father to test him before, and he is quite knowledgeable."

Qu Moying lowered her head and gently refused, "Grandmother, I'm still young. There's no rush. Eldest Sister is not married yet!"

Qu Moying remembered seeing Xiao Hanyuan the day she and Qu Xuexin took a look at Third Young Master He. Xiao Hanyuan also looked weird.

Her matter was basically settled. It was impossible for her to be with Xiao Hanyuan. It was just a time of matter.

Of course, she believed that Qu Xuexin would definitely ruin the possibility of her marrying Cousin Xiao. That day, Qu Xuexin and Cousin Xiao looked a little strange. Qu Moying recalled what Granny Miao had said to her and curved up her lips. Qu Xuexin had probably planned about it long ago...

The Old Lady fell silent. Thinking of Qu Xuexin's reaction just now, she nodded. "Ying, after your Eldest Sister's marriage is settled, it will be your turn. You are not young anymore. It is better to be engaged at this age."

It was true that Qu Xuexin should get married as soon as possible. Moreover, Qu Xuexin seemed to be resentful in her heart because her reaction just now could show that she did care about the episode. Although the Old Lady didn't know what was going on, she could tell that Qu Xuexin was weird and must have done something.

Qu Xuexin was indeed not young. Although Luo was capable, she failed to choose a suitable husband for her daughter. It was also because they had too many requirements before. Considering the current situation, they had to make a choice now. Otherwise, the chance of finding a good husband for her daughter would be slimmer.

The Old Lady wanted to have a good talk with Luo, asking her not to be too picky, or else it would delay Qu Xuexin's marriage.

Hearing the news of Third Young Master He, Xiao Hanyuan put down the book in his hand and sneered. Then, he called a lad servant to bring some snacks over.

As soon as the lad servant came out of the room, he saw Qu Xuexin coming over. He hurriedly retreated to the side and bowed, "Greetings, First Lady Qu."

"Is your young master resting or reading?" Qu Xuexin asked with a smile. Her face was still a little pale, looking a bit sickly, but it added a bit of charm.

The lad servant replied with a smile, "Our young master is resting. First Lady Qu, he just asked about you. I didn't expect to meet you as soon as I came out."

Xiao Hanyuan also heard Qu Xuexin's voice. He walked out and bowed to her. "Cousin sister!"

Qu Xuexin asked with a smile. "Cousin brother, why aren't you reading? I heard that you are very absorbed in reading."

Xiao Hanyuan smiled and shook his head. He stretched out his hand and pointed at his room. "Cousin sister, it's rare for you to pass by. Come in and sit for a while!"

"Well..." Qu Xuexin hesitated.

Xiao Hanyuan said, "Cousin sister, you are my close relative. Besides, it is not just you and me. You don't have to be worried."

After thinking for a while, Qu Xuexin nodded and walked into Xiao Hanyuan's yard with her maid. The lad servant hurriedly made tea and then went to get some snacks from the kitchen.

Qu Xuexin took a sip of the tea and praised, "Cousin brother, your tea is very good. I wonder what kind of tea it is. It tastes much better than mine."

Xiao Hanyuan smiled and said, "Cousin sister, if you like it, I will get someone to pack some for you. I brought it from my family. It is not good tea, but it tastes okay."

Qu Xuexin put down the teacup in her hand and looked at Xiao Hanyuan. The smile on her face slowly faded. "Cousin Xiao, do you know about He Mansion's third young master?"

"Hmph, he's just a horrible prodigal." Xiao Hanyuan sneered, and he also put down his cup.

Qu Xuexin looked extremely worried. "How could there be such a person? How could there be such a thing? Moying... Moying is extremely pitiful!"

"Pitiful?" Xiao Hanyuan sneered and said indifferently, "With her appearance, it's already good for her that someone wants to marry her. How dare she be picky? She only deserves such a prodigal."

"Cousin Xiao, don't say that. If others tell Moying, she will definitely be angry." Qu Xuexin's body shivered, looking a bit weak.

“What? Doesn’t she allow others to talk about her? Marquis Yongning’s Mansion canceled the engagement with her because of her character. She soon wanted to get engaged again. She even wanted to marry into my mansion. After hearing that I didn’t care much about her, she immediately looked for another family. She brought this on herself.”

Xiao Hanyuan sneered.

He did say that he didn’t want to marry Qu Moying. But when the matter was still being discussed, he heard that Qu Moying would marry Third Young Master He right away. He didn’t believe it, so he went over to take a look that day, and it turned out to be true.

Although he did not like Qu Moying, what Qu Moying had done when the proposed marriage was still being discussed was like a slap in his face. It was equivalent to saying that he was not as good as Third Young Master He, so she changed her mind and turned to He Mansion.

She deserved to suffer such a thing before her engagement was settled.

Of course, she was also lucky. He thought she should marry into He Mansion and die in humiliation.

Qu Xuexin lowered her voice and advised in a panic, “Cousin Xiao, don’t say it. If grandmother knows that you said these words about Moying, she will be angry.”

“What is there to be afraid of? I’m not afraid. Since she did it, why can’t I say it?” Xiao Hanyuan’s eyes were filled with disgust.

Qu Xuexin stood up in a panic and said in a delicate voice, “Cousin Xiao, I’ll be leaving first. I just happened to pass by here and I wanted to see if you need anything.”

Looking at Qu Xuexin, Xiao Hanyuan felt pity for her. Qu Xuexin was the one he liked. She was gentle, dignified, and beautiful. If he became an official in the future, she could also help him handle the inner yard properly. She was the best choice for him.

He decided to make it clear to his family that he wanted to marry Qu Xuexin and let his family talk with his grandaunt about the marriage...

Chapter 296 Disgusting and Vicious Means

The maid Hong Mei had been following Qu Xuexin. After returning to East Mansion, she couldn't help but ask Qu Xuexin, "Lady, did you take a fancy to Young Master Xiao?"

Qu Xuexin's face was still gloomy. Hearing Hong Mei's words, she sneered. "It's not about fancy. He is an option. At the very least, he might have a bright future."

Xiao Hanyuan was not bad, but his family couldn't compare with those aristocratic families in the capital. He was not the best choice. If possible, Qu Xuexin still wanted a better option.

Luo kept telling Qu Xuexin that although she could not enter Lord Jing Mansion like Qu Qiuyan, she should at least marry into a big aristocratic family, or she couldn't hold her head up in front of Qu Qiuyan in the future.

Qu Xuexin had thought that marrying Third Young Master He was not bad, but it turned out that Third Young Master He was a monster. Thinking of this, she broke out in a cold sweat.

"Go and find out about He Mansion." Qu Xuexin instructed another maid, Bai Mei.

"Yes, Lady. I will go now!" Bai Mei answered and was about to leave.

"Wait a minute, go to the Liu Family..." Qu Xuexin suddenly shut her mouth, a hint of anger appearing on her face.

The two maids did not dare to speak and quietly waited at the side.

Qu Xuexin took a deep breath, waved her hand, and said irritably, "No, forget about it. Just go find out about He Mansion."

She was not sure about what happened in He Mansion, but County Lady Jingyu should have heard about it. Why didn't she warn her?

Did County Lady Jingyu really not know, or did she not remind her on purpose?

If it was the latter, Qu Xuexin thought she would have to be wary of County Lady Jingyu.

In Qianyue House, Yu Dong took out a golden hairpin from his sleeve and handed it to Qu Moying.
"Lady, Third Lady's new maid gave this to me."

Qu Moying didn't pay attention to the new maid just now. "A new maid?"

Yu Dong said, "Yes. I heard that it was Second Young Master who picked her for Third Lady. He picked her from East Mansion and specially sent her to Third Lady. The maid looked clever. But no matter how clever she is, she could not afford to buy such a golden hairpin."

"Is the maid trying to make friends with you?" Qu Moying asked as her gaze fell on the golden hairpin.

"Yes. She wants to make friends with me or bribe me. Her name is Qing Mei. She is quite interesting!"

Yu Dong had seen quite a few people, and he had received quite a number of gifts, so he could basically guess what the others were up to when they sent gifts to him.

"Since she wants to make friends with you and did not make any excessive demands, you should be kind to her. After all, you accepted her gift."

Qu Moying pushed the hairpin away, indicating for Yu Dong to have it himself. "Since she has given it to you, just keep it!"

Yu Dong smiled and said, "Thank you, Lady!"

Since he had shown the hairpin to Qu Moying, it belonged to Qu Moying. Now that Qu Moying asked him to keep it, it meant that she gave the hairpin to him.

Granny Zhou came in and reported, "Lady, Second Young Master sent a gift over."

"What?" Raising her head, Qu Moying looked a little surprised. Why did Qu Mingcheng give her a gift at this time? It was not a festival.

Granny Zhou said, "Second Young Master's lad servant said that Second Young Master saw a few nice brocades when he was outside, so he bought them for you and Third Lady and let his lad servant send it over. Third Lady also got the gift."

Qu Moying nodded thoughtfully and said, "Let the lad servant in!"

Yu Dong helped her tie up the eye veil again.

The lad servant walked in with a brocade box in his hand. After walking in, he presented the brocade box to Qu Moying. "Fourth Lady, I'm Second Young Master's lad servant. When Second Young Master went out today, he saw a few good new brocades in a shop, so he specially bought them for you and Third Lady. He bought two pieces of brocade for each of you."

Yu Dong stepped forward, took the brocade box, and placed it on the table. Then, he opened the brocade box. There were two pieces of brocade inside. One was red, and the other was pinkish-grey. When the two pieces of brocade were placed together, they set off each other's beauty.

Qu Moying glanced at it and smiled. "Thank Second Brother for me."

The lad servant smiled and said, "I will. I will report to our Young Master now. But..."

“What’s wrong? Is there anything else?” Qu Moying raised her eyebrows and looked at the lad servant, who clearly didn’t finish his words.

“It’s not a big deal. I shouldn’t have said anything!” The lad servant hurriedly answered, looking a little flustered, which made people feel that there must be something going on.

Qu Moying asked coldly, “What is it?”

The lad servant stuttered, “Second Young Master went to He Mansion.”

Hearing his words, Qu Moying asked, “Why did he go to He Mansion?”

“It’s not a big deal. He went there for Third Young Master He’s matter. He wanted to ask about it...”

Qu Moying suddenly stood up, and a hint of coldness flashed in her eyes, “Are you saying that Second Brother went to ask about the proposed marriage between me and Third Young Master He?”

The lad servant hurriedly explained, “Yes. Second Young Master said that since the proposed marriage is still under discussion, we should make it clear to them as soon as possible. We have to break off the marriage so as to avoid implicating you, Fourth Lady.”

Qu Moying slowly sat down and sneered, “Then I really have to thank Second Brother. What happened after he went to He Mansion?”

It seemed that Qu Mingcheng was helping her, but what he did would make the thing known to the public. If people knew that Third Young Master He had proposed to her, her reputation would be ruined beyond redemption.

A woman’s reputation was truly fragile. It was clearly not Qu Moying’s fault, but she would be blamed in the end. She could even imagine what others would gossip about her. They might even say that she was a jinx or something.

If Qu Mingcheng further escalated this thing, what happened to Yu and the dispute with He Mansion could become a weapon against her.

Qu Mingcheng could no longer wait, and as expected, he had also given himself away.

Although she did not have any expectations for marriage, she could not tolerate others plotting against her.

"I don't know what happened after Young Master entered He Mansion. I came back from outside. Second Young Master ordered me to send gifts to you and Third Lady. Fourth Lady, please rest assured. Second Young Master will definitely avenge you."

At this time, the lad servant stopped stuttering. He looked very clever. Needless to say, everything he had said before was taught by Qu Mingcheng.

Hearing the lad servant's words, Qu Moying sneered, "Thank him for me. Please also tell him to think twice. We are in the same mansion. If I suffer, he probably will not end up well. Maybe his future career as an official will be affected."

Since Qu Mingcheng wanted to plot against her, she would not be nice to him.

The lad servant didn't expect Qu Moying to reply so bluntly and relentlessly. Although he was clever, he did not know what to say for a moment. He forced a smile and said, "Yes. I will report to my young master now."

Anyway, since Qu Mingcheng had already entered He Mansion, a farce must have already broken out in He Mansion, and perhaps everyone in the capital had known about this thing!

Yu Dong was already impatient. He glared at the lad servant and shouted angrily, "Leave now!"

Since Qu Mingcheng wanted Qu Moying to suffer, Yu Dong naturally would not be polite to the lad servant. He picked up the brocade box on the table, closed it, and pushed it towards the lad servant.

“Thank your young master for his kindness. But our lady doesn’t like this color. Please bring it back to your young master. Our lady appreciates his kindness.”

Yu Dong only obeyed Qu Moying in Qu Mansion. As for the other masters, if they treated Qu Moying and him well, he would temporarily regard them as his masters, but if not, he would not bother to care about them.

As someone from Lord Yun Mansion, he did not need to worry so much!

Yu Dong’s behavior was extremely presumptuous. He refused the gift before Qu Moying said anything. What he did was like a slap on Qu Mingcheng’s face. The lad servant was so angry that his face turned red. Qu Mingcheng was the only young master in West Mansion, and he was Qu Mingcheng’s trusted lad servant. People always smiled at him when they saw him, but now a mere maid actually dared to be so rude to him.

“Fourth Lady...” The lad servant still wanted to say something, but Qu Moying turned around and walked straight in, totally ignoring him.

“Why aren’t you leaving? Our lady is tired!” Yu Dong said arrogantly. He put his hands on his hips and looked like a rude and unreasonable maid.

The lad servant was so angry, but he was nothing more than a lad servant now. He could only glare at Yu Dong, take the brocade box, and turn to leave. Anyway, Qu Mingcheng had gone to He Mansion, and Qu Moying’s reputation would soon be ruined.

He believed no one would dare to marry Qu Moying in the future. Even if the other party was from somewhere far away, he would definitely refuse to marry Qu Moying as soon as he found out about her.

Qu Moying could no longer be arrogant when the time came, and so were her maids. Thinking of this, the lad servant decided not to argue with them. He decided to report it to Qu Mingcheng and let the latter deal with it.

The lad servant left angrily.

Yu Dong ignored the lad servant. He turned around and entered the inner room. Seeing Qu Moying sitting in front of the dressing table with a gloomy face, he hurriedly said, "Lady, I will leave the mansion now to ask for help from my Lord."

"It's too late to go now!" Qu Moying shook her head with a gloomy face. At this time, the thing must have already been made public. She could only think about remedies now.

Since Qu Mingcheng targeted her and asked his lad servant to inform her with the excuse of sending the brocade box, it meant that he was sure that she could not stop him. She could only helplessly watch as the thing unfolded and her reputation was ruined. Moreover, he did it in the name of "good will". Therefore, she could not stop him. She was angry and depressed.

Even if Old Lady Qu asked Qu Mingcheng about it, he could say that he did it in order to avenge Qu Moying, and that he was too impulsive that he made such a mess!

He was indeed vicious!

Yu Dong shook his head and said with certainty, "Lady, it's not too late. We can deal with it. Don't worry."

Chapter 297 Both Ended up in West Prison

Seeing that Yu Dong was so sure, Qu Moying frowned and could only nod, "Then go and find out how far the matter has gone!"

No matter how serious the matter was, she had to be well-informed about the situation if she wanted to deal with it.

Qu Mingcheng was still young. Even if he thought he was clever and had planned everything, He Dayu would definitely not act as usual. He must be like a mad dog, biting whoever he saw, so it was hard to say what would happen.

Yu Dong complied with the order and hurriedly left. He was confident about this matter. Eunuch Ji Hai had instructed him that all he should do now was to protect Qu Moying from any harm, including personal safety and damage to her reputation.

Qu Moying's status was low, and if her reputation was further tainted, the situation would be trickier!

Yu Dong understood what Eunuch Ji Hai meant, and he had long regarded Qu Moying as his master.

Even if something really happened, no one would dare to talk nonsense if Lord Yun intervened.

Moreover, Lord Yun was resourceful. He must have already received the news at this time. How could Second Young Master Qu have the chance to ruin Qu Moying's reputation?

Thinking in this way, Yu Dong hurriedly went to Lord Yun Mansion to inquire about the matter.

Indeed, this news had already reached Lord Yun Mansion the moment Qu Mingcheng arrived in front of He Mansion's gate.

Pei Yuanjun asked with a gloomy face, "Did you say Qu Zhizhen's son went to He Mansion to seek justice from He Dayu?"

"Yes, he just went in and hasn't come out yet." Ji Hai answered. He had already realized that something was wrong.

Pei Yuanjun smiled grimly and ordered, "Go to He Mansion and bring all the criminals to West Prison!"

"Yes, I will go now." Ji Hai immediately understood what Pei Yuanjun meant. He heaved a sigh of relief, turned around, and hurriedly left with a few guards.

He knew Fourth Lady Qu's feelings for Pei Yuanjun best, and maybe even better than Pei Yuanjun.

Even if the governor of the capital had already taken over the case, West Prison could still bring the people involved away.

Pei Yuanjun raised his beautiful eyes, put down the chess piece in his hand, and sneered, "How dare he plot against my woman!"

Qu Mingcheng went to He Mansion to ask for an audience with He Dayu. He had seen He Dayu before and even talked to him. At that time, he felt that He Dayu was a gentleman. But he didn't expect that after only a few days, He Dayu had almost changed into another person, looking a little gloomy.

He had not been arrested yet because he had the support of Lord Jing and Noble Consort He. His case had not been investigated clearly, so he could still stay in his mansion.

Seeing Qu Mingcheng, He Dayu was not polite as before. He asked impatiently, "Why are you here?"

Qu Mingcheng coughed and said, "I came to ask about the marriage between your mansion and our mansion..."

Before he could finish his words, He Dayu interrupted him with a sneer, "What do you want to ask? You want to know if I still want to marry the lady in your mansion? Okay, I do. I can marry her! But I'm afraid your family will not agree to it!"

"Brother He, why do you say that? If this is the case, why did you propose to our mansion back then?" Qu Mingcheng asked angrily, patting the desk.

"I didn't mean it. Your mansion came to me. I heard that no one wanted to marry the Fourth Lady in your mansion, and I couldn't find a suitable wife. I don't mind marrying a blind woman. I knew she wanted to get married, but I didn't expect that the First Lady was even more eager to get married."

He Dayu sneered. He didn't bother to act kindly to Qu Mingcheng because he was in a bad mood.

Qu Mingcheng's face turned livid and pale after being mocked rudely. He said angrily, "Third Young Master He, please be careful with your words! Don't ruin my elder sister's reputation!"

“You don’t allow me to ruin First Lady Qu’s reputation, but you don’t mind me ruining Fourth Lady Qu’s reputation, right? Second Young Master Qu, people say that you are talented and nice, but it is not true. You are born by a concubine, but you claim to be a wife-born son, and you even scheme against the real wife-born daughter. How ridiculous!”

He Dayu laughed loudly. He laughed so hard that he slammed the table and bent double.

Qu Mingcheng’s face turned livid and pale. He could not sit still and stand up. “Third Young Master He, you... you’re going too far!”

“Did I go too far? You get even farther than me. You don’t want this wife-born daughter well, so you came to stir up trouble. You wanted me to get angry and expose to the public that I was prepared to marry her, right? What a clever idea! I heard that your mother gained her position by killing the original legitimate wife. It seems that you have inherited her skill!”

He Dayu was happy to see Qu Mingcheng’s reaction. Ever since the incident broke out, he had been suppressing his anger. He had long wanted to vent his anger on someone, and Qu Mingcheng just came at the right time.

Qu Mingcheng was from a noble family. He had become well-known for his talent since he was little, and he was the only son in Vice Minister Qu’s Mansion, so he had received the greatest attention. He was self-righteous. It seemed that he thought he had the right to decide everything, even in He Mansion. He was too naive.

“Do you want me to tell someone that you and I did those things together to the maids?” He Dayu asked with an evil smile. A hint of madness flashed through his eyes. He was ruined, and he didn’t mind ruining a few more people. “Since we are friends, I will naturally help you. What about getting your sisters involved?”

He Dayu said crazily.

“You... you... you...” Qu Mingcheng did not expect that things would turn out this way. He was furious but also panicked. If He Dayu really meant what he said, the entire Qu Mansion would be ruined. He

suddenly thought of something and quickly shouted, "My younger sister is going to marry Lord Jing. If you ruin her, the entire He Mansion will not be able to get away with it!"

"She is going to marry Lord Jing?" He Dayu laughed even more crazily, almost out of breath. "She is just a plaything for Lord Jing, yet she still dreams of marrying Lord Jing. How did she think so highly of herself?"

"I... I don't want to talk to a madman." Qu Mingcheng turned around and left. He couldn't continue talking with He Dayu.

"Then talk to me!" Someone snorted at the door. Ji Hai looked coldly at the people in the courtyard. A few guards behind him walked forward. Two of them grabbed He Dayu, and at the same time, the other two grabbed Qu Mingcheng.

"What... what are you doing?" Qu Mingcheng struggled hard. He did not know Ji Hai.

He Dayu had seen Ji Hai from afar once and knew that he worked for Lord Yun. Lord Yun was in charge of West Prison. Thinking of this, He Dayu was so scared that his legs went soft, and he sat heavily on the ground. He was no longer as arrogant and crazy as before. He was in a panic. "The governor of the capital has taken over my case. You... you can't arrest me."

If he was arrested by the governor of the capital, he could still have a chance to be pardoned because he was Lord Jing's cousin. But if he was put into West Prison, even Lord Jing could do nothing. Lord Jing had told He Dayu before that Pei Yuanjun was West Prison's devil. Although Lord Jing was also responsible for West Prison, he did not dare to go there.

West Prison was like hell. Anyone who was put into there would have their life reduced by several years.

"Third Young Master He, our Lord said that you should be put into West Prison, so there you go." Ji Hai sneered. His gloomy gaze shifted from He Dayu to Qu Mingcheng. His smile became more and more horrifying.

Hearing "West Prison", Qu Mingcheng was so scared that his legs went soft. Everyone in the capital was afraid of West Prison.

He quickly defended himself, "I... I am not from He Mansion. I just happened to come to Third Young Master He."

"Let's talk about it in West Prison. Our Lord said that we must not let anyone in Third Young Master He's mansion escape." Ji Hai laughed shrilly. He waved his hand, and the maids and old maids in the yard were driven to a corner. Then, the guards drove them out of the courtyard. The maids and old maids cried loudly, but they had to move obediently.

He Mansion's other people had already received the news. He Mansion's Old Lady came to the yard. She wanted to stop them, but He Mansion's Old Master held her back, not allowing her to go up. How could they intervene in Lord Yun's thing? If they went forward, they would also end up in West Prison.

"Quickly... quickly report to Her Grace and Lord Jing." Mrs. He shouted in a sharp voice.

When Ji Hai walked past her, he looked at her and smiled sinisterly, causing Old Master He to tremble all over and not dare to let go of her.

The group of people was driven out of the mansion. At this time, no one dared to say anything. As for Qu Mingcheng, he was ignored. He followed the group of maids and old maids and walked with panic. He looked so miserable that people unfamiliar with him would not realize that he was Qu Mansion's second young master.

"My lord, quickly go and beg Her Grace! Hurry up!" In front of He Mansion's door, Mrs. He knelt on the ground in tears, shaking Old Master He's hand.

Old Master He was almost pulled down to the ground. Fortunately, the few lad servants beside him were alert enough to support him. He panted heavily and turned around to instruct a lad servant, "Go to Lord Jing Mansion first and ask Lord Jing to speak for Dayu..."

At this time, Old Master He was also in a daze. It happened all of a sudden. He had originally thought that he could buy He Dayu a way out since the governor of the capital took over the case. Previously, Lord Jing had sent a message telling them to wait and see if there was any turning point. He did not expect Lord Yun's people would come. What exactly was going on?

Didn't they say that Lord Yun would not interfere for the time being?

Because of Pei Yuanjun's interference, He Mansion was in a mess. Qu Mansion was also in a mess. When Qu Mingcheng's lad servant headed to He Mansion, he happened to see Qu Mingcheng stumbling forward in a group of people. He heard that they were going to be put into West Prison. He did not dare to go forward, and he just called Qu Mingcheng a few times. But there were too many people, and Qu Mingcheng was too terrified, so Qu Mingcheng did not hear him.

The lad servant walked around for a while. Seeing the group of people walking away, he did not dare to delay. He quickly turned to run back to Qu Mansion to report to Qu Zhizhen...

Chapter 298 Granny Yan's Proposal

"What? Mingcheng was taken to West Prison?" Hearing this news, Qu Zhizhen slammed his hand on the table in the study, almost standing up. Qu Mingcheng was his only son, and a promising one, so he couldn't help but feel worried.

"Yes, he was taken away with He Mansion's people. Master, please save Second Young Master. He shall be reaching West Prison now."

The lad servant was so anxious that his forehead was covered in sweat.

Qu Zhizhen's face darkened. Everyone knew that West Prison was under Pei Yuanjun's control. Qu Zhizhen couldn't bail people out from West Prison easily.

Qu Zhizhen calmed down and asked, "How did you know they were taken to West Prison?"

"He Mansion's people told me. They are now going to ask Lord Jing for help."

“Why did Mingcheng go to He Mansion?” Qu Zhizhen asked with a frown as he keenly perceived something fishy. He had never heard that Qu Mingcheng had anything to do with Third Young Master He.

The lad servant knew that he’d better not say it, but he still braced himself and replied, “Second... Second Young Master went to question Third Young Master He.”

If Qu Mingcheng really caused trouble, he would at most be reprimanded by Qu Zhizhen, and that was all. But the lad servant was nothing more than a servant, and he did not dare to answer casually.

“What questions?” Qu Zhizhen’s face darkened.

“He wanted to ask... ask about the marriage between the two mansions... He wanted... wanted Third Young Master He to give... an explanation to Fourth Lady!” The lad servant stuttered, not daring to raise his head.

After pondering over the lad servant’s words, Qu Zhizhen suddenly slapped the table hard. “What explanation does he want?”

The two families hadn’t agreed on the marriage, so there was no need for an explanation.

“I... I don’t know. Second... Second Young Master said... he wanted... to seek justice for Fourth Lady.” The lad servant fell to his knees.

“How dare he intervene in this... Yu... Damn it!” Qu Zhizhen was annoyed. Qu Mingcheng was the son he was most proud of. He thought Qu Mingcheng was his successor. He had long forgotten about Yu, but at this time, he suddenly remembered that Yu was Qu Mingcheng’s mother, and he couldn’t help but blame it all on Yu.

After He Mansion’s scandals broke out, people kept themselves away from He Mansion. Even those who were close to He Mansion didn’t go to He Mansion now. However, Qu Mingcheng actually went to He Mansion. Just how immature was he?

He thought it was indeed a bad idea to let Yu raise Qu Mingcheng.

Although he asked Qu Mingcheng to stay away from Yu, Qu Mingcheng was still affected by Yu.

Qu Zhizhen stood up and paced, feeling angry and remorseful.

A lad servant came in and reported, "Second Master, Fourth Lady wants to see you."

Qu Zhizhen said impatiently, "I don't want to see anybody!"

The lad servant retreated. Just as he reached the door, Qu Zhizhen stopped him, asking him to let Qu Moying in.

He suddenly remembered that Qu Moying was not completely useless.

When Qu Moying entered the door, she saw a lad servant kneeling in front of Qu Zhizhen. She recognized that the lad servant was the one who had previously sent the brocade for Qu Mingcheng, and a trace of gloominess flashed in her eyes.

Yu Dong had already heard that Qu Mingcheng and He Dayu were both taken to West Prison.

Qu Moying stepped forward and bowed to Qu Zhizhen. "Greetings, father!"

"What's the matter?" Qu Zhizhen sat down behind the desk again and reached out to massage his forehead.

Qu Moying raised her head and said directly, "I heard from Second Brother's lad servant that Second Brother went to He Mansion and wanted an explanation for the matter between He Mansion and our mansion. I thought it was not a good idea. Since something has happened to He Mansion, He Mansion's people might vent their anger on anyone who comes to them. It is inappropriate for Second Brother to go there at this time."

Qu Zhizhen asked, "Do you know why he went there?"

Taking a glance at the lad servant who was still kneeling on the ground, Qu Moying smiled faintly and said calmly, "Yes, I know. Before Second Brother went there, he specially asked this lad servant to tell me."

Qu Zhizhen's expression changed. Then, he regained his composure. "Your Second Brother is just concerned about you, so he specially went there. But I didn't expect that he would be taken away."

Qu Mingcheng did not go to He Mansion out of concern for her, and Qu Moying believed Qu Zhizhen could tell. But Qu Moying did not care about Qu Zhizhen's attitude.

"I'm afraid his visit to He Mansion will ruin not only my reputation but also the reputation of other sisters. I heard that Eldest Sister bumped into Third Young Master He that day, and he sent for a doctor for her." Qu Moying said in a calm tone. Her meaning was clear. She was not the only victim of this farce.

Sure enough, Qu Zhizhen looked more and more impatient. He lifted his leg and kicked the lad servant hard. The lad servant was kicked back a few steps and heavily hit the pillar. His face was pale from the pain, but he did not dare to make a sound.

"Your Second Brother made a mistake in this matter. I will definitely let him apologize to you. He did a wrong thing out of good intentions. He is indeed too naive." Qu Zhizhen snorted, glossing the previous words over. Then, he looked at Qu Moying and said, "Dowager Consort Qu is good to you. She even sent her maid to you last time. Now you go to the palace and beg Dowager Consort to release your Second Brother."

As expected, Qu Zhizhen wanted to make use of her, but it didn't matter because she was here to let him "utilize" her.

Qu Moying shook her head and refused, "Dowager Consort is not in charge of things."

She would refuse first although she had come to let Qu Zhizhen "utilize" her.

“Even if she is not in charge of things, she could still offer a helping hand. Your Second Brother just happened to be there. He went to Third Young Master He for you. He couldn’t be implicated because of this.” Qu Zhizhen said with a serious face. It sounded like Qu Mingcheng was accidentally caught because of his concern for his younger sister. “Bring the palace maid with you and enter the palace to ask Dowager Consort for help. I will ask someone to prepare a carriage for you.”

With that, he waved his hand, not allowing Qu Moying to speak again.

He knew that Dowager Consort Qu had made it easy for Qu Moying to enter the palace during this period of time. Granny Yan had a token that allowed her to enter the palace directly.

Qu Moying glanced at him indifferently, bowed to him, and left.

Because of the urgency of the matter, Qu Moying did not report to the Old Lady and she directly brought Granny Yan and Yu Dong with her, heading to the palace in a carriage.

In the carriage, Granny Yan, who already knew the whole story, said to Qu Moying, “Lady, if you want to enter the palace to ask Dowager Consort for help, I’m afraid you will be disappointed!”

“I know!” Qu Moying nodded with a calm expression.

Granny Yan glanced at Qu Moying and asked, “Lady, then why do you have to enter the palace?”

“Father wants me to enter the palace, so I will do as he wishes.” Qu Moying said indifferently. She lifted the curtain and looked at the street outside leisurely.

“Lady, do you know why Second Young Master Qu went to He Mansion?” Granny Yan asked with a hint of dissatisfaction. She had heard something just now, and she felt that there was something fishy about it. It was easy to do something wrong when acting on an impulse.

“Yes. He went there for me.” Qu Moying smiled and said carelessly, her eyes still looking out of the window.

"No, it was not true." Granny Yan couldn't help but say with an unhappy look. She thought Qu Moying really didn't know about the situation and was going to explain it to her.

"So, what if it was not true? Granny Yan, do you think it is necessary for me to argue with my father?" Qu Moying withdrew her hand from the curtain and looked at Granny Yan with a smile.

Granny Yan understood the meaning behind Qu Moying's words. After thinking for a while, she raised her head and asked, "Lady, are you willing to bear with it?"

"What if I am unwilling? I'm Fourth Lady Qu, and he is my father. This is the case." Qu Moying said calmly. She had obtained a thorough perception of Qu Zhizhen's attitude after rebirth.

"If you are unwilling, you can leave. When you come back in the future, you will no longer be who you are today!" Granny Yan lifted her eyes and said sharply.

"Oh, what do you mean?" Qu Moying leaned against the seat and smiled sweetly. She was not surprised to hear Granny Yan's words.

This made Granny Yan think even more highly of Qu Moying. She had been living in Qianyue House during this period of time, and she could see that Qu Moying was special. Ordinary ladies could not compare with her. Granny Qing had never seen such an intelligent lady, not even in the palace.

Moreover, Qu Moying was gorgeous.

A woman like her should be kept by the royal family only. It might not be a good thing for a normal family to have her because they would probably fail to protect her.

Even though Qu Moying was still wearing an eye veil in front of others, Granny Yan knew that her eyes had been cured. Qu Moying still wore the eye veil because she wanted to keep a low profile. She was so beautiful that she would not be able to keep a low profile if she removed her eye veil.

It was best to act like this now. Qu Moying was smart. As for Young Master Yongning, who had come to Qu Mansion to cancel the engagement with Qu Moying, Granny Yan thought he was not worthy of Qu Moying at all.

The cancellation of the engagement was just a matter of time!

“Lady, have you ever thought of entering the royal family?” Granny Yan suggested.

“What if I enter the royal family?” Qu Moying coldly curled her lips and sneered in her heart. She had no expectations for the so-called royal family.

“If you have any interest, Dowager Consort will definitely help you. Dowager Consort has been in the palace for so many years. Although she has no child, she can still stay in the palace. You can rely on Dowager Consort. Things like today will not happen again!”

Granny Yan said.

The meaning behind these words was very obvious. Hearing that, Qu Moying only smiled. “Granny Yan, you know what has happened today, and so do I. My father also knows, but he still wants me to enter the palace to ask Dowager Consort for help. Why?”

Granny Yan puffed out her chest and said, “Lady, if you marry into the royal family, even Mr. Qu could not do anything to you, let alone Second Young Master Qu.”

“Marry into the royal family? With my status and reputation, is it possible for me to marry into the royal family?” Qu Moying sneered and ridiculed herself, apparently referring to the scandals about her engagement.

Granny Yan was shocked. Qu Moying was still somewhat childish, but she ridiculed herself emotionlessly. Her eyes were bound by the long eye veil, making her look weaker than others. She looked more pitiful than those who pretended to be pitiful.

However, what she said was so detached. What made such a young girl like her have such a clear-headed and pessimistic idea?

She seemed to have seen through the world!

But she was only a fourteen-year-old girl!

Chapter 299 An Encounter with Lord Wei

Qu Moying leaned against the carriage window with her eyes closed. The long eye veil covered her eyes, revealing only her pink cherry lips. She looked extremely young and fragile.

She looked so thin as if she would be broken if someone touched her, causing people to refrain from exerting strength even if they had to touch her.

Granny Yan didn't say anything else. She just quietly observed Qu Moying. The eye veil was very useful and covered most of her face. People could only vaguely tell that she was beautiful, but they didn't know how gorgeous she was without the eye veil.

Granny Yan couldn't see through Qu Moying although she had secretly observed her for so long.

Qu Moying looked so clean and innocent, but it was hard to see through her.

Granny Yan had been in the palace for many years. She was pretty good at judging others, but Qu Moying was an exception. She could not tell what Qu Moying wanted.

Yu Dong didn't say anything. He just watched Granny Yan vigilantly from the corner of his eyes and quietly played the role of a maid.

The carriage finally stopped at the palace gate. Granny Yan got off the carriage and saw another carriage parked outside the palace gate. A middle-aged woman on that carriage was wiping her tears with a

handkerchief and waiting to be summoned inside. She should have already asked for an audience but had not been summoned yet.

Granny Yan walked up to the guard at the gate and said something to him. Then, she took out the token. After taking a look at the token and Qu Moying, who came down from the carriage behind, the guard nodded and made way.

Seeing that they could actually enter, the madam waiting at the side hurriedly took two steps forward and reached out to pull Qu Moying, but Yu Dong hurriedly stepped forward to stop her.

“Excuse me, which family are you from?” The madam’s eyes were red and swollen. She must have cried desperately.

Qu Moying took another step back and pursed her lips slightly. She knew this madam. This madam was Third Young Master He’s mother and Noble Consort He’s sister-in-law. From her look, Qu Moying knew that she was here to ask Noble Consort He for help.

“Madam, our lady is in a hurry to enter the palace.” Yu Dong sensibly replied, and he did not tell the madam who Qu Moying was.

Mrs. He said anxiously, “Can you bring me in with you? I will go and see Her Grace after entering the palace. Her Grace will definitely thank you.”

She had been waiting at the palace gate anxiously for quite a while. Seeing that Qu Moying was allowed to enter the palace, she decided to enter the palace with her. She was afraid that her son would be killed at any moment.

Granny Yan turned around and looked at Mrs. He. She also recognized Mrs. He, and she said to her, “Mrs. He, I’m afraid I can’t bring you in. Dowager Consort is anxiously waiting for our lady.”

Mrs. He said anxiously, “I just need to enter the palace gate, please. Her Grace’s people should be on their way here.”

Granny Yan tactfully refused, "Since Her Grace's people are on their way here, you don't need to worry. Someone should come to pick you up soon. We can't keep Dowager Consort waiting."

Granny Yan had been staying in Qu Mansion, and she knew the thing between Qu Mansion and He Mansion, so she knew the reason why Third Young Master He was almost engaged with Qu Moying. But Granny Yan had expected that the engagement would fail. However, Third Young Master He's scandals surprised her.

Third Young Master He looked like a handsome gentleman, but it turned out that he was such a monster.

As a woman, Granny Yan also looked down on him.

She took a step back and bowed slightly to Mrs. He. Then, she led Qu Moying forward, leaving Mrs. He behind. Mrs. He was so angry that her face turned livid.

Mrs. He had entered the palace many times. Every time the palace maids and eunuchs saw her, they were very respectful to her. She had never been rejected like this.

She wondered which Dowager Consort they were going to meet that they dared to be so arrogant to ignore her, a close relative of Noble Consort He.

If not for the fact that she was still worried, she would not have let go of that palace maid and the lady behind her.

Suddenly, her expression changed as she saw the eye veil on Qu Moying's face was blown up by the wind.

Mrs. He took two steps forward and asked the guard at the gate, "Is that Fourth Lady Qu who was neither talented nor beautiful?"

“Yes. She is Vice Minister Qu’s Mansion’s Fourth Lady. Dowager Consort Qu summoned her into the palace.” Not daring to offend Mrs. He, the guard nodded and answered. Just now, Granny Yan told him that Dowager Consort Qu summoned them in, and that was why he directly let them in.

The guard recognized Granny Yan and examined her palace token, so there was no need to report her visit.

“It’s actually her! How presumptuous!”

Mrs. He snapped. At this time, Qu Moying had walked through the palace gate behind Granny Yan and was heading towards the middle passageway. She didn’t know if Qu Moying had heard her words.

Mrs. He was anxious and annoyed. She regretted having believed her son’s words and thought it was good to have Qu Moying as her daughter-in-law. She thought Qu Moying would at least respect her. After all, Qu Moying was blind. She had to obey her if she wanted to live in He Mansion.

Mrs. He didn’t expect to be ignored by a blind person.

She decided to tell Noble Consort He about it after she entered the palace. Since the two families had the intention to let the two young people be engaged, she would not let Qu Moying get away with it easily. Even if her son was sentenced to death, she would have Qu Moying live in widowhood for her son.

She thought it was already lucky for Qu Moying, a blind girl of a mere Vice Minister’s Mansion, to marry into her family.

Mrs. He was angry and anxious. Finally, she saw a eunuch coming from afar. It was Noble Consort He’s eunuch.

After saying a few words to the guard at the gate, the eunuch came out of the palace and walked to Mrs. He. He respectfully bowed to her, “Greetings, Mrs. He. Her Grace invites you in.”

“Alright, we’ll go in now.” At this time, Mrs. He had no time to think about anything else and quickly nodded. Her son had been put into West Prison, and she must ask Noble Consort He to help her. Otherwise, the situation would be even trickier. Her son had been chatting with her happily not long ago, but he was now jailed in West Prison, where prisoners would be severely tortured. Thinking of this, Mrs. He could not help but cry again.

But she was in the palace, so she couldn’t cry out loud. She could only cover her mouth with a handkerchief and choke as she followed the eunuch onto the palace sedan at the inner door. Then, the sedan headed to Noble Consort He’s place...

No doubt, Qu Moying heard Mrs. He’s vicious words. However, this matter had nothing to do with her. Since Third Young Master He had been cast into West Prison, she believed that Third Young Master He would be punished for his evil deeds. However, Mrs. He was still so arrogant until now. It could be seen that she had always been arrogant and domineering.

Only such a mother could have such a ruthless son!

Besides, what he had done was horrible!

She also got on a palace sedan at the inner door. The sedan followed behind Granny Yan and headed towards Dowager Consort Qu’s place.

Dowager Consort Qu lived far away, and it took a long time to get there. Qu Moying sat on the sedan chair and closed her eyes to rest. This time, she did not enter the palace really to ask Dowager Consort Qu for help.

Since Dowager Consort Qu did not have a child, she probably didn’t have an important position in the palace. Otherwise, why hadn’t Qu Moying heard of such a Dowager Consort?

Moreover, when it came to West Prison, even the empress had to think twice.

The harem was not allowed to interfere with politics, and this case could already be considered a political affair. Moreover, this matter had been taken over by Pei Yuanjun. Even if He Dayu did not die, he would suffer greatly. As for Qu Mingcheng, he would be alright.

However, Pei Yuanjun had the final say on when to release him.

Pei Yuanjun was a tough nut to crack. It was hard to say what would happen next. Qu Moying would wait and see what her father would do.

Previously, when Yu Dong went to inquire about the news, he received a message from Lord Yun, which was to let Qu Moying go to the palace under the pretext of meeting Dowager Consort Qu.

At this moment, Qu Zhizhen would readily agree to let her enter the palace to ask Dowager Consort Qu for help.

As for whether Qu Moying could make it or not, Qu Zhizhen could only give it a try.

Qu Moying knew that Qu Zhizhen would think of Dowager Consort Qu at the sight of her, so she went to Qu Zhizhen. Qu Mingcheng had just been arrested, and Qu Zhizhen was thinking of a way to get him out. That was why she went to Qu Zhizhen to let him “utilize” her so that she could enter the palace justifiably.

The sedan suddenly stopped.

Qu Moying was stunned and thought that she had arrived. Just as she was about to get out of the sedan, she suddenly heard Granny Yan’s voice from outside, “Greetings, Lord Wei!”

Pei Qingmin? Why was he here?

Thinking of this, she stood up, got off the sedan and bowed sideways, “Greetings, Lord Wei!”

“Fourth Lady Qu, please stand up!” Seeing Qu Moying’s iconic eye veil, Pei Qingmin smiled slightly. He was sitting in a large palace sedan. It must be his private sedan. It was very luxurious. The curtain of the carriage was lifted, revealing his face.

Qu Moying stood up respectfully and took a few steps back to make way for Lord Wei. She lowered her head, waiting for him to pass.

She behaved according to the royal etiquette perfectly.

Her manners were even better than that of Granny Yan.

Pei Qingmin originally wanted to leave, but after taking a few glances at Qu Moying, he asked, "Who summoned Fourth Lady Qu into the palace?"

Qu Moying was surprised by Lord Wei's question. He didn't care about anything before. Why did he bother to ask today?

She pursed her lips slightly. She didn't need to answer this question.

Sure enough, Granny Yan answered, "Dowager Consort Qu hasn't seen Fourth Lady for a long time. She missed her, so she ordered me to take Fourth Lady into the palace to have a chat."

"So, it is Dowager Consort Qu?" Pei Qingmin looked at Qu Moying's slightly pursed lips. Her pink lips made her fair face look softer. The eye veil was tied behind her hair and drooped down, making her look like a delicate fairy in a painting.

She looked pitiful, but she did not know it herself.

However, such a woman was also greedy for vanity, which made it hard for him to like her!

She was quite scheming and good at observing the etiquette!

Why did such a beauty choose to be a snob?

Granny Yan had answered before. Hearing Lord Wei ask again, Qu Moying knew that he was asking her, so she nodded gently. "Yes, Your Highness!"

Pei Qingmin smiled. With a low cough, he asked casually, "It's rare for you to enter the palace. Do you need me to show you around in the imperial garden?"

His words stunned not only Qu Moying but also Granny Yan. They couldn't believe that Lord Wei actually said that.

Chapter 300 A Gift from Lord Yun

After being stunned for a moment, Qu Moying quickly reacted and lowered her head respectfully, but there was also a hint of indifference in her tone. "Thank you, Your Highness. I dare not trouble you!"

"Uncle Yun happened to be in the palace." Pei Qingmin suddenly said something irrelevant, his handsome eyes still locked on Qu Moying.

Qu Moying really couldn't get Lord Wei's meaning. His words were confusing.

"Your Highness, Dowager Consort Qu is still waiting..." Qu Moying tentatively said. If she didn't understand his words, she wouldn't answer him, but she would like to see how this prince would continue the dialogue.

Seeing her like this, Pei Qingmin seemed to lose interest. He looked at her and said indifferently, "Move on!"

Qu Moying retreated to the side.

The carriage set off. Looking at the slender figure standing aside, Pei Qingmin smiled and tapped gently on the sedan railing with his finger.

Qu Moying looked not bad with the eye veil, at least much more pleasing to the eye than those showy ladies. Seeing that she retreated to the side, Pei Qingmin wondered if she deliberately kept a distance from him.

He had heard that Lord Yun took a fancy to her, but there was no further news. Could it be that Lord Yun didn't like her anymore, so he pretended nothing had happened between the two of them?

If that was the case, Qu Moying was quite pitiful. Her first engagement had been canceled by the other party. After that, she bumped into Lord Yun, and Lord Yun said that he would have her. However, the matter was shelved, and it seemed that he was not going to honor his word.

However, he thought Qu Moying deserved it because she was so greedy for vanity that she always tried to bump into a royal family member.

Pei Qingmin closed his eyes and curled his lips. If not for her personality, he would have been willing to marry her. Anyway, the emperor wouldn't care too much about whom he married.

As for his mother, she would not argue with him about the marriage because his prospect would not be affected no matter whom he married.

However, Qu Moying's temperament was really not pleasing!

He would not go against his mother's will for such a woman...

Qu Moying did not know that Lord Wei judged her like this. However, even if she knew it, she would not care. She didn't care about what Lord Wei thought of her because she didn't need him to like her.

Originally, she should have kept a distance from Lord Wei. She didn't think that Lord Wei was as weak as he appeared to be.

Hearing that Qu Moying had come, Dowager Consort Qu smiled and let her in.

After bowing to Dowager Consort Qu, Qu Moying pleaded for Qu Mingcheng as she had been instructed by Qu Zhizhen.

After quietly listening to Qu Moying's words, Dowager Consort Qu put down the teacup in her hand and looked at Qu Moying kindly. "I'm afraid that your Second Brother doesn't really take you as his sister, right?"

Dowager Consort Qu had seen all kinds of schemes in the palace, and she had seen a lot of such tricks. Hearing that Second Young Master Qu went to He Mansion to ask for an explanation, she knew that he wanted He Mansion to drag Qu Moying into the mire and ruin her reputation.

Qu Moying said bluntly, "Second Brother is madam's biological son. Madam has angered my father many times. Second Brother thought that it was me who sowed discord between my father and madam. However, if I could really influence my father, I would not have been abandoned in the village for so many years."

She couldn't hide these things from anyone. As for the estrangement between Qu Mingcheng and her, she did not want to hide it from Dowager Consort Qu.

She told everything without reserve.

"Why do you still want to save your Second Brother?" Dowager Consort Qu asked in surprise.

"My father asked me to do so, so I naturally have to come to ask you for help, Dowager Consort." Qu Moying lowered her head and pursed her lips with a bit of grievance and helplessness!

Dowager Consort Qu looked at Granny Yan, and Granny Yan nodded.

"Good girl, sit down first!" Dowager Consort Qu knew that what Qu Moying said was true. She held Qu Moying's tender hand and let her sit down beside her.

Then, she kindly said, "Go back and tell your father that I'm afraid I can't do anything about it. On the one hand, people in the harem are not allowed to intervene in political matters. On the other hand, I

have no power and influence in the palace now. All I rely on is the emperor's respect for the late emperor. I am unable to let Lord Yun release him. If your father is really worried, he could go and beg Lord Yun himself. After all, Qu Mansion has nothing to do with Third Young Master He's matter!"

After pondering for a moment, Qu Moying thanked her in a soft voice, "Thank you, Dowager Consort."

If Qu Moying said those words to Qu Zhizhen, Qu Zhizhen wouldn't buy her. Now that they were said by Dowager Consort Qu, Qu Zhizhen had to accept the result.

Although the words were the same, the effects were different.

She came here just because Qu Zhizhen had given her a mission, and she had expected the result.

"Good girl, you must be in a difficult situation!" Dowager Consort Qu sighed, "If you have time, you can come to see me more often. I'll leave her for you. You can say that I summoned you whenever you want to enter the palace."

Dowager Consort Qu pointed at Granny Yan.

With Granny Yan, it was indeed much more convenient for Qu Moying to enter the palace.

Qu Moying said gratefully, "Thank you, Dowager Consort!"

Dowager Consort Qu added, "I will talk to your grandmother about your marriage. How can you casually marry such a person? If He Mansion's incidents hadn't been exposed, you would have been ruined."

Qu Moying bit her lips. It was not easy for her to answer this. She could only lower her head and reveal a shy expression. She twisted the handkerchief in her hand and nodded.

Marriage was not within her consideration.

After asking Qu Moying about her life in Qu Mansion, Dowager Consort Qu felt a little tired, so she asked Qu Moying to take a walk while she would have a rest.

Granny Yan helped Dowager Consort Qu go and have a rest. Qu Moying and Yu Dong followed a palace maid out of the hall.

She looked around and didn't know where to go!

The palace maid pointed at a wide road and asked with a smile, "Fourth Lady Qu, the imperial garden is over there. Do you need me to lead the way?"

Qu Moying shook her head and said, "No need, thank you. I'll just walk around."

The palace maid retreated, and Qu Moying walked forward casually with Yu Dong.

Along the way, the scenery was very good, but it was a little hot. Yu Dong looked around and pointed at a pavilion in front of him. "Lady, let's go there. Wind will blow through it, and the sun will be blocked. It is a good place where you can rest!"

Qu Moying nodded and followed Yu Dong.

To reach the pavilion, they had to go up the stairs first. They walked up the wooden stairs and came to the pavilion. It was quiet inside. There was a gauze blocking the sunshine. When the wind blew over, they felt cool, much cooler than walking under the sun just now.

There were pastries and a pot of tea on the table. The pastries smelled good. They could detect the smell as soon as they walked up. It could be seen that these pastries had just been sent here, which was why they smelled so good.

Yu Dong helped Qu Moying sit down at the table, picked up the teapot, poured a cup of tea for her and then retreated to the side.

Qu Moying took a sip of the tea. The color of the tea was perfect, and the taste of the tea was also good. The tea in the palace was indeed different from the tea outside.

Leaning against the windowsill, Qu Moying looked at the scenery outside and quietly waited for someone to come over.

The scenery outside was beautiful, but what attracted her the most was a small jar of water lotus by the window. Although the lotus was small, it was exquisite, and even the jar looked very beautiful.

Qu Moying could not help but stand up. She carefully picked up the small jar of water lotus from the window railing and placed it on the table. Looking at the lotus leaves and the water lotus, she felt more and more attracted by it. She had never seen such a small and beautiful water lotus.

Just as she was looking at the water lotus carefully, she heard a teasing voice, "This is a water lotus from the North. It is said to have a different style. There are a few more jars. But I think it is normal, so I casually put it here. If you like it, I'll give it to you."

Although Qu Moying had not seen him but just heard his voice, her body froze for a moment. Then, she turned around and saw the handsome Lord Yun sitting lazily on the big chair behind her. She did not know when he came.

He wore a dark purple royal robe with iris flower patterns, and they were embroidered with golden threads. There weren't many of them, but they made the dark purple robe look luxurious.

It seemed that Lord Yun really liked iris flowers. Qu Moying saw that there were different iris flower patterns on his clothes. Some of them were embroidered on the collar, and some were embroidered on the lapel, giving off different feelings. The patterns were golden, which might be a sign that indicated his extraordinary identity.

He supported his head with his hand. His posture was very relaxed and lazy. He had a faint smile on his face, but his eyes were inexplicably gloomy, which made people not dare to look at him carefully and could only lower their heads.

Even when Lord Yun was not as cold and scary as before, few people dared to look straight at him!

Qu Moying sighed slightly in her heart. Even a woman would be jealous of his handsome face.

“Greetings, Your Highness!” Qu Moying turned around and bowed to Pei Yuanjun. Since she had come here, it was natural for her to see Pei Yuanjun. Moreover, Yu Dong served her the pastries freely just now. It could be seen that he knew that these pastries were prepared for her.

After sizing her up, Pei Yuanjun suddenly raised his eyebrows and smiled. “How is it? Do you like it?”

“It is indeed beautiful.” Qu Moying nodded and said directly. She turned to look at the water lotus. She had never seen such a lotus before.

Pei Yuanjun waved his hand and said slowly, “Since you like it, just take it!”

“I... I don’t think it is a good idea. If people see it, they might spread rumors that will affect you.” Qu Moying hesitated for a moment and refused. However, her eyes were still fixed on the jar of water lotus. It could be seen that she really liked the water lotus.

Since this jar of water lotus was a tribute from the North, there wouldn’t be many of it. If she took it out of the palace, others might gossip if they saw it. Qu Moying didn’t like to be high-profile, nor did she want to be so eye-catching.

“I took it here, so I will take it out. After you return to your mansion, someone will send it to you. You just need to receive it.”

Pei Yuanjun looked at her playfully and suddenly smiled. He was not as scary as before. His handsome eyes were glistening.