

Noble Wife 301

Chapter 301 Lord Yun Wanted to Reveal Their Relationship

Qu Moying knew that having it taken away by Lord Yun would be less conspicuous than taking it out of the palace by herself, but it would also let the people in Qu Mansion know that her relationship with Pei Yuanjun was unusual!

However, she had expected this. It was settled when she agreed to marry Lord Yun.

Since it was settled, she didn't have to hide it, in case Old Lady Qu continued to worry about her marriage.

"Thank you, Your Highness!" Qu Moying bit her lower lip and thought for a moment before nodding.

Pei Yuanjun's face softened as he saw her nod so quickly. He elegantly picked up the teacup at hand and took a sip. "Tell me, how are you going to deal with it?"

Qu Moying knew that he was asking about the matter of Third Young Master He and Qu Mingcheng, so she answered with a sweet smile, "Your Highness, I will do according to your instruction!"

Dowager Consort Qu was not the person to make a decision on this matter. Only Lord Yun could make the decision.

Pei Yuanjun asked with a faint smile, "I heard that you were on a blind date?"

Qu Moying answered directly with a faint smile, "It was my grandmother's idea. Moreover, it was not me who went on a blind date. It was my Eldest Sister."

No matter what Third Young Master He was like, she had never thought of being with him. It was just that she was in a helpless state at that time, and she could only do as her grandmother wished first.

"It seems that First Lady Qu really wants to get married!" Pei Yuanjun said meaningfully with a cold and murderous look in his eyes.

Qu Moying didn't know how to respond to his words, so she just smiled and asked, "Your Highness, do you know if my Eldest Sister has a good relationship with County Lady Jingyu?"

Pei Yuanjun answered, "I don't know. You can ask Ji Hai later!"

Hearing Pei Yuanjun mention him, Ji Hai hurriedly walked out from behind Pei Yuanjun and said with a smile, "Fourth Lady, I know. I will tell Yu Dong about this."

Then, he waved at Yu Dong.

Yu Dong looked at Qu Moying. Qu Moying nodded helplessly. How could she not let Yu Dong go over now?

Ji Hai was all smiles. He and Yu Dong walked over to the stairs to talk, leaving only Qu Moying and Pei Yuanjun in the room.

Pei Yuanjun said lazily, "Take a seat!"

Qu Moying sat down and looked up at Pei Yuanjun. "Your Highness, I'm afraid my father will come to you soon."

Qu Mingcheng was Qu Zhizhen's only son. Even if Qu Zhizhen was afraid of Pei Yuanjun, he would come to him in the end.

Pei Yuanjun snorted, "How dare a callow youth plot against my woman!"

Looking at Pei Yuanjun, Qu Moying was speechless. Perhaps in Pei Yuanjun's eyes, Qu Mingcheng was indeed a callow youth. What Qu Mingcheng had done was probably just a ridiculous trick in his eyes.

However, Qu Moying had to live in Qu Mansion. The ridiculous trick in his eyes might be fatal to her.

Pei Yuanjun asked lazily, "How about I let him join the army?"

"No..." Qu Moying shook her head. "My Second Brother is my father's only son. My father cherishes him very much."

Her words were vague, but Pei Yuanjun understood them. He raised his handsome eyes, looked at her a few times, and smiled mysteriously. "I will let Vice Minister Qu know your relationship with me through this incident."

Qu Moying's heart skipped a beat. What was the relationship between the two of them?

Qu Moying smiled and said casually, "Your Highness, since it's your idea, I will listen to you."

"If I tell Vice Minister Qu directly that I want you, what will he do?" Pei Yuanjun seemed to have thought of something funny and smiled.

Qu Moying glanced at him and was speechless at his idea.

He was known for being ferocious, but now he was smiling beautifully.

"Dowager Consort Qu is not closely connected to Qu Mansion. I heard that her family used to be Qu Mansion's relative, but that was more than five generations back. She lives in the palace alone. She doesn't have a child. She rarely goes out and socializes with people, but she could summon you into the palace at such a crucial time. His Majesty is quite respectful to her."

Pei Yuanjun said with a smile. It could be seen that he was in a good mood, but there was a meaningful look in his eyes.

Qu Moying's heart skipped a beat. She had thought about it, but she didn't think about it so deeply. She found it strange because a concubine like Dowager Consort Qu was usually not allowed to stay in the palace, but she stayed in the palace, and she acted like she was quite used to it.

Qu Moying thought about it and asked, "Is His Majesty indebted to Dowager Consort Qu?"

Pei Yuanjun looked at her and suddenly smiled. "Sort of!"

Since Pei Yuanjun reacted like this, she knew it might not be the right answer. She asked again, "Is someone close to His Majesty indebted to her?"

"The Empress Dowager owed a debt of gratitude to Dowager Consort Qu. It was said to happen when they were both young. The Empress Dowager was almost abolished. Fortunately, Dowager Consort Qu spoke up for her. Because of this, although the Empress Dowager has passed away, His Majesty is still grateful to her. Of course, there is more than one person who is indebted to Dowager Consort Qu!" Pei Yuanjun said lazily, with a hidden meaning in his words.

It turned out that there was such a story. It was no wonder that Dowager Consort Qu was still living in the palace. Moreover, it seemed that she could go out of the palace casually. It was just that she was extremely low-key.

In her previous life, she didn't hear of such a Dowager Consort in the harem.

Qu Moying bit her lips and asked bluntly, "Dowager Consort Qu sent a Discipline Granny to me. Will this affect you?"

Although Granny Yan being by her side could somewhat help her, she was afraid that this would ruin Pei Yuanjun's plan, so she asked him frankly.

There were some things that they both knew, but they didn't put them on the table yet.

Pei Yuanjun was very satisfied with Qu Moying's words and said casually, "It's fine. It's just a palace servant. It's not bad for her to stay by your side. At least, you can know Dowager Consort Qu's attitude."

“What is Dowager Consort Qu’s attitude?” Qu Moying was curious about this. Granny Yan should have returned to the palace long ago, but she kept staying in Qianyue House. Moreover, she didn’t interfere too much with Qu Moying’s affairs, and she even helped Qu Moying when necessary.

When Granny Yan entered the mansion, she even caused a ruckus with Qu Qiuyan about Qu Caiyue. Qu Moying would never forget that.

“Dowager Consort Qu wants to find the best one.” Pei Yuanjun said meaningfully as he elegantly reached out and grabbed Qu Moying’s hand. “Let’s go down and have a walk!”

“Wh... what?” Qu Moying was pulled up by him. Touching his cold palm, she subconsciously trembled.

Whether it was in her previous life or this life, her hand had never been held by a man like this. She looked up, only to see his handsome and almost demonic eyes.

“Since we meet each other today, we have to go and take a walk, lest the people in the palace make all kinds of guesses about us!” Pei Yuanjun said lazily. He held Qu Moying’s hand and walked out.

Seeing Qu Moying being pulled over by Pei Yuanjun, Ji Hai and Yu Dong hurriedly retreated to the side. Both of them were full of smiles.

Qu Moying was pulled down by Pei Yuanjun. When they were on the ground floor, Pei Yuanjun’s sleeve drooped, covering their hands.

After thinking for a while, Qu Moying slightly moved her hand and said, “Your Highness, I can grasp your sleeve.”

Although others couldn’t see it, she could still feel Pei Yuanjun’s hand tightly holding her fingers. It was so cold that she even felt a trace of palpitation.

“Since you’ve already accepted it, do you still want to fake it? Qu Moying, are you this timid and you still want to investigate the ex-Crown Princess’ matter?” Pei Yuanjun glanced at her from the corner of his eyes and loosened his grip, which meant that he was about to let go of her hand.

Gritting her teeth, Qu Moying grabbed his cold finger. She straightened her neck, and the blush on her face slowly faded away. “Where are you going to enjoy the view, Your Highness?”

Pei Yuanjun did not take his hand back, allowing Qu Moying’s tender fingers to hold his slender finger. He narrowed his eyes slightly and said with a bit of evilness, “Let’s go to the front to admire the flowers!”

This time, Qu Moying did not say anything. She couldn’t decide what to do, and she only needed to follow Pei Yuanjun.

The place to admire flowers was not far away, right next to a rockery. A flower tree was planted at the side of a rockery in front of them. It looked like a peach blossom tree from a distance, but it was not the time for peach blossoms to bloom.

When they got closer, Qu Moying found that it was not a peach blossom tree. It just looked similar.

She had never seen flowers blooming so beautifully at such a time. Standing under the tree, Qu Moying looked up and found that the flower was not small. Each flower was the size of four or five peach blossoms. It looked even more beautiful.

“What kind of flower is this?” Qu Moying could not help but ask. She had never seen this flower before.

“It’s not a famous flower. It’s just an ordinary one.” Pei Yuanjun’s eyes fell on the flower in front of him, and his lips curved silently with a bit of ridicule.

Qu Moying didn’t understand why he showed a sneer, and she didn’t know if he sneered at her words, so she stopped asking and focused on admiring the flowers in front of her.

The two of them stopped talking and quietly watched the flowers in front of them. Although Qu Moying was a bit thin and looked like a flower that could easily be broken, she still looked gentle and elegant. The scene was quite pleasing to the eye when she stood next to the handsome Pei Yuanjun. The only eyesore was the eye veil.

Although the fluttering eye veil looked alright in the wind, it was something used to bind the eyes.

Although the sleeve covered their hands, people could easily realize that they must be holding each other's hands. They looked like a perfect couple.

The emperor was now on a small path, staring blankly at the man and the lady under the tree. Li Quan asked carefully, "Your Majesty, do you want to summon Lord Yun over?"

Chapter 302 Stupid Mrs. He

"No need. I just want to take a walk!" The emperor shook his head but did not move. He still looked at the couple who were standing with their hands clasped. He remembered seeing such a scene before.

But it was so long ago that he couldn't recall the scene clearly, and neither would he dare to recall it.

Right in front of his eyes, there were also flowers, trees, and people standing under the tree who craved nothing but only enjoyed the moment. What he saw now was like a copy of his memory. But the fact was that things were different, and the one in his memory had passed away.

He couldn't help but wonder whether things would be different if he had been more resolute at that time. Would he still regret it for the rest of his life?

His heart ached, and tears welled up in his eyes.

Li Quan did not dare to speak. He just lowered his head and stole a glance at the emperor's expression from time to time. He had served the emperor for a long time, and he knew the emperor best. He knew

what the emperor was thinking now. He sighed in his heart. Even the paramount emperor had a regret in his heart.

And it was a regret that could not be made up for!

“Let’s go!” Under the tree, Pei Yuanjun loosened his grip and turned around to walk back.

Qu Moying moved her stiffened fingers. Only then did she feel that her fingers belonged to her again. She took a deep breath and suppressed the strange feelings in her heart. Then, she turned around and left with Pei Yuanjun.

She did not look around on her way because there were many people in the palace. Moreover, Pei Yuanjun brought her here. She believed that Pei Yuanjun brought her here not just to admire the flowers.

It was weird for Pei Yuanjun to admire the flowers. Since he was not such a romantic person, how could he want to admire the flowers?

But since Pei Yuanjun did not say anything, Qu Moying would not ask him.

After the two of them took a few steps, Pei Yuanjun turned around and waved at Qu Moying, lazily dismissing her. “You go back now!”

Qu Moying bowed sideways, turned around, and left with Yu Dong.

Looking at the receding figure of Qu Moying, Pei Yuanjun gradually restrained the laziness on his face. He lowered his unfathomable eyes, and his aura became a bit terrifying....

“What? He was taken away by Lord Yun’s people?” Looking at Mrs. He who was crying on the ground, Noble Consort He in the high seat frowned. She didn’t expect this. The governor of the capital should be in charge of this matter. She remembered her son talking about this when he entered the palace.

She had planned to discuss the issue after a period of time. She had to find a way to solve it. But to her surprise, He Dayu was put into West Prison, a terrible place.

“Your Grace, I beg you to save Dayu. He... is just too young and immature. Those maids took the initiative to seduce him. It is not only his fault. It is obvious that those people wanted to blackmail us. That’s why the thing turned out like this.” Mrs. He said angrily as she wiped her tears.

Noble Consort He snorted in displeasure. She didn’t like Mrs. He, who was her sister-in-law. She thought, “How could she still say such words now? Didn’t she know that she would make others angrier?”

She had thought that her nephew was a nice person, but now it seemed that she had misjudged him.

“Sister-in-law, I will let Lord Jing have a try.” Noble Consort He couldn’t promise her. She could only let Lord Jing have a try first. She was in the harem, so she could not go to Lord Yun herself. Moreover, she knew well that it would probably be useless even if she went to Lord Yun.

The emperor trusted Lord Yun very much, and he had said many times that Lord Yun was capable. He said that Lord Yun was good, and he would be relieved to let him take charge of the state affairs in the future.

The problem was that the more the emperor trusted Lord Yun, the more worried the people in the harem were.

“Your Grace, Dayu’s father has already gone to Lord Jing, but I’m afraid that Lord Jing will not be able to deal with Lord Yun. Lord Yun is Lord Jing’s Uncle, and he has the advantage of seniority.”

Mrs. He continued crying.

Noble Consort He was unhappy to hear this as if her son was useless. It was clearly Lord Yun’s fault for being too domineering.

However, she could not say this in front of Mrs. He, whom she thought was a useless person and became her sister-in-law only because her elder brother's ex-wife died.

If Mrs. He hadn't given birth to an outstanding son, she would not have become a legitimate wife.

Noble Consort He didn't want to talk to such a person who might drag her into the mire, so she waved her hand and said impatiently, "Since Lord Jing already knows, you should go back and wait for the news."

She had to summon her son in later. It would be better to let her son handle the affair.

Hearing Noble Consort He's words, Mrs. He did not dare to cry anymore. She hurriedly wiped her tears with a handkerchief and suddenly thought of Qu Moying. She hurriedly said, "Your Grace, when I entered the palace just now, I saw Fourth Lady Qu, whom Dayu has proposed to. When she saw me, she didn't even bow to me. She was so impolite."

Noble Consort He did not realize who it was and asked, "Who is she?"

Mrs. He answered indignantly, "She is the Fourth Lady of Vice Minister Qu's Mansion. She was on a blind date with Dayu before. It was almost settled but not yet announced. Now that Dayu has been sued, she must stand with him. No matter what happens to Dayu in the future, she should still be Dayu's wife."

Mrs. He was so worked up that she directly claimed Qu Moying was Third Young Master He's fiancée.

Noble Consort He's face darkened. "Who took the initiative to propose the marriage? Qu Mansion or your mansion?"

"It was Madam Li who suggested it. I thought that Dayu should marry a gentle woman, so I agreed. I asked Madam Li to propose it to Qu Mansion. After that, they even took a look at each other. They didn't have any objections, so it was originally settled, but Lord Jing said that it was not a good idea and wanted to marry First Lady Qu to Dayu."

Mrs. He explained.

It seemed that Mrs. He had long known He Dayu's evil behaviors, so she did not dare to let him marry a wife with a powerful background. Noble Consort He frowned even more, and her face darkened. Her son was at a critical moment, but her parents' family was dragging him down. Moreover, this matter seemed to have caused quite a scene in the capital.

Noble Consort He asked coldly, "Sister-in-law, since you know what Dayu has done, why didn't you stop him?"

Mrs. He choked and realized she had spilled the beans, so she hurriedly said, "Your Grace, you've really wronged me. How could I not stop him? But it's useless. He promised me repeatedly that he would never do such a thing again, but he still... I can't keep staring at what happened in his room. It was also his ex-wife's fault. Why didn't she tell me about it?"

Mrs. He felt wronged and pushed the blame onto her daughter-in-law who was already dead.

Noble Consort He couldn't help but feel annoyed because not only Mrs. He couldn't help, but she was also dragging Lord Jing down. But no matter what, He Mansion was her parents' family, and she couldn't ignore them.

Noble Consort He ordered, "Since the marriage between He Mansion and Qu Mansion has not been settled, forget it. Don't mention it again. Never."

Mrs. He was unconvinced. "Why... why? Why can't I mention it? It's almost settled. If something bad happens to Dayu, she will have to live in widowhood."

Noble Consort He's face darkened. "Don't talk about this again in the future."

Although Mrs. He was still angry, she had no choice but to agree. "Yes, Your Grace. I will listen to you."

Even if she couldn't say it in public, she could say it in private!

Although the marriage was not settled, she still thought she could talk about it.

Seeing the anger on Mrs. He's face, Noble Consort He sneered, "Sister-in-law, if you really want Dayu to die in West Prison, just gossip about it."

West Prison was under Pei Yuanjun's control.

Noble Consort He naturally knew some of the rumors from before, and even the empress had deliberately interfered.

Mrs. He asked in surprise, "Is... is West Prison under Vice Minister Qu's control?"

Noble Consort He didn't want to talk to her anymore. She pressed her forehead and waved her hand. A palace servant standing at the side walked up to Mrs. He with a smile and said, "Her Grace has known about your matter. She is tired. Madam, please go back and wait for news!"

"Okay! Thank you, Your Grace. Thank you, Your Grace!" Mrs. He was extremely excited. Since Noble Consort He had already agreed, she immediately felt relieved.

Following the palace servant, Mrs. He left Noble Consort He's palace. She got on the carriage again and headed towards the palace gate. When she reached the palace gate, she smiled at the two eunuchs guarding the harem gate and asked, "Has Fourth Lady Qu left?"

The private maid who followed her sensibly walked up to the two eunuchs and gave each of them a pouch.

The two eunuchs took the pouch and pinched it. Then, they smiled and put the pouch into their pockets. One of them pointed to the outside and said, "Fourth Lady Qu has just left. She's right in front."

They looked out and indeed saw a few people walking along the palace path, but it was difficult to distinguish who they were from afar.

Mrs. He said happily, "Thank you very much."

She hurried forward, and her maid hurriedly followed.

When they finally reached the outer palace gate, Qu Moying held Yu Dong's hand and was about to get on the carriage.

"Fourth Lady Qu!" Hearing someone calling her, Qu Moying looked up and saw Mrs. He was coming over. She could tell that Mrs. He was trying to catch up with her. Mrs. He was walking in a hurry. She was still a distance away from Qu Moying, but she was already calling her, which was completely out of place.

"Let's go!" Qu Moying got on the carriage with Yu Dong's help. Granny Yan got on the carriage next, and Yu Dong was the last to get on the carriage. After they all got on the carriage, the carriage driver skillfully turned the horse around, waved the horsewhip, and drove the carriage away.

Qu Moying knew Mrs. He must be up to no good. Moreover, they were in front of the palace gate. How could they make trouble here?

Mrs. He, who had just come over, had her face covered in dust that was raised by Qu Moying's carriage.

"She is indeed a blind woman. Who would marry such a blind woman?" Mrs. He cursed angrily, but there was nothing she could do. She could only get on her own carriage and return to her mansion.

If nothing happened to her son this time, she would let Qu Moying off the hook. But if something happened to her son, she must let this cheap girl suffer.

Mrs. He got on the carriage. As the carriage passed by a large mansion gate, Mrs. He, who was looking out of the window, suddenly asked the carriage driver to stop. She looked at the mansion outside and said, "Go to the Liu Family!"

Her carriage stopped opposite Minister Liu's House.

Mrs. He had been able to marry into He Mansion mostly because of Mrs. Liu. The two of them were distant relatives.

Chapter 303 Why Did Liu Jingyu Hate Her?

Mrs. He was puzzled, so she decided to meet Mrs. Liu, her smart and distant cousin sister.

However, Mrs. He did not see Mrs. Liu. An old maid said to Mrs. He with a sad face, "Mrs. He, our madam is not feeling well. She just took medicine and is resting now. Our master is watching over her. It's inconvenient for her to see you."

Mrs. He asked, "What's wrong with my cousin sister?"

The old maid replied, "I don't know. She could neither eat nor sleep. Mrs. He, if you have anything, please tell me first. I will report it to our madam when she wakes up."

"If she wakes up, please let her save my son. My son was arrested by West Prison's people." Thinking of her son, Mrs. He felt heartache and couldn't help but cry again.

The old maid hurriedly advised, "Third Young Master He was arrested by West Prison's people? Madam, why don't you go to Vice Minister Qu? I heard that Qu Mansion has already been engaged with your mansion, right?"

Mrs. He immediately looked up and asked, "Is Vice Minister Qu in charge of West Prison?"

She had asked Noble Consort He this question just now, but the latter did not answer her. Until now, Mrs. He did not understand the intention of Noble Consort He.

"Vice Minister Qu is not in charge of West Prison. West Prison is under Lord Yun's control, but Vice Minister Qu has a good relationship with Lord Yun. I heard that Lord Yun treats Vice Minister Qu very well. If he goes to Lord Yun to ask for mercy, it might help."

The old maid explained.

So, that was the case. Thinking of Noble Consort He's words, Mrs. He felt that she understood and nodded repeatedly, "Yes, we two families are in-laws. Now that my son is in trouble, his daughter will also have a bad time."

Mrs. He could no longer sit still and she immediately stood up. "After Mrs. Liu wakes up, tell her that I've been here."

Since Qu Mansion could help, she didn't want to lose a moment. She had to go back and discuss with Old Master He how to ask Vice Minister Qu to save her son.

"Yes, I get it." The old maid nodded with a smile and sent Mrs. He to the gate. After Mrs. He was out of sight, the old maid came back and went straight to a yard.

County Lady Jingyu was sitting in the room. Hearing a servant report to her that the old maid was back, she let the old maid in.

As soon as the old maid entered the room, Liu Jingyu asked her gently, "How is it?"

The old maid replied with a smile, "Mrs. He must have gone to Qu Mansion."

"Reward her!" Liu Jingyu waved her hand, and a senior maid came forward with a pouch. The old maid accepted the pouch and repeated her conversation with Mrs. He in detail.

Liu Jingyu was very satisfied. After letting the old maid leave, she sneered, "Qu Moying, I would like to see how you are going to get away with it this time!"

After coming back from the palace, Qu Moying went to the study to see Qu Zhizhen and told him Dowager Consort Qu's words. Qu Zhizhen frowned and let her leave after hearing her account.

It seemed that Dowager Consort Qu could not help. He had also thought expected this result. It was extremely difficult to deal with Pei Yuanjun. If there was no other way, he could only bite the bullet and go to beg Lord Yun for mercy. His son just went there at the wrong time, and he was not really involved in the case, so he should be able to save him.

With this thought in mind, Qu Zhizhen was not in the mood to talk to Qu Moying. While telling her to leave quickly, he had people prepare gifts for Lord Yun. He planned to go to Lord Yun Mansion.

Qu Moying respectfully left, but she did not expect to run into Qu Qiuyan after only a few steps.

Seeing Qu Moying, Qu Qiuyan stopped and asked anxiously, "Fourth Sister, what did Dowager Consort Qu say?"

It seemed that the entire mansion knew that she went to the palace to ask Dowager Consort Qu for help.

Qu Moying answered indifferently, "Dowager Consort Qu said that she can't handle this matter."

"Why not? She is a Dowager Consort!" Qu Qiuyan did not believe her and said with an unfriendly expression, "Fourth Sister, if you have any problem with me, I don't mind! But brother has always been good to you and told me not to quarrel with you. Could it be that you didn't beg Dowager Consort Qu at all?"

Qu Moying sneered and did not explain further. She left with her people in front of Qu Qiuyan. She and Qu Qiuyan were destined to be incompatible like fire and water and there was no need to explain everything to her.

Qu Mingcheng was clearly plotting against rather than getting justice for her. How could Qu Qiuyan not understand the situation? She just pretended not to understand.

She was forced by her father to go to the palace to ask for help. To be a good daughter, she did go. As for the result, how could she really guarantee anything?

Seeing that Qu Moying ignored her and left, Qu Qiuyan could no longer hold back and shouted angrily, "Qu Moying..."

Qu Moying stopped and looked coldly at Qu Qiuyan. "Third Sister, why do you stop me? Did I ask Second Brother to go to He Mansion? No one is stupid. People could tell. Are you going to cover everyone's eyes?"

She answered bluntly with clear mockery!

Qu Qiuyan was so angry that she trembled. She wanted to give Qu Moying two slaps. But when she thought of her brother's words and the current situation, she suppressed the urge and clasped her hands so tightly that they became sweaty.

Qu Moying glanced at her from the corner of her eyes. She turned around and continued walking forward.

Behind her, Qu Qiuyan stomped her feet and turned around to the study to inquire about the news.

In the study, Qu Zhizhen's heart was filled with frustration. He could not calm down at the thought of facing Lord Yun. He had no confidence at all. When he heard that Qu Qiuyan was here, he said irritably, "Let her go back. I don't have time right now."

The lad servant quickly shrunk his head and retreated. He walked outside and whispered to Qu Qiuyan.

How could Qu Qiuyan be willing to go back like this? She pushed the lad servant away and broke into the room. "Father, please save Second Brother. Second Brother is in West Prison right now. He might..."

As she spoke, her eyes turned red. The moment she saw Qu Zhizhen, her tears fell.

Qu Zhizhen looked at Qu Qiuyan coldly, his eyes fierce and furious. Qu Qiuyan did not dare to continue and could only cry.

Qu Zhizhen snapped, "Leave now!"

"Father, brother..." Qu Qiuyan still wanted to say something, but she was frightened by Qu Zhizhen's somewhat hostile eyes. She stepped back and bowed to Qu Zhizhen with tearful eyes, "Father!"

Qu Zhizhen waved his hand.

This time, Qu Qiuyan did not dare to say anything else. She just cried and left. She did not go far and just waited in a pavilion not far away to see when her father would leave.

At this time, she was completely at a loss. She regretted not stopping her brother when he told her about his plan.

She had thought that it would be a sure thing, but she didn't expect it to end up like this.

Qu Qiuyan was filled with regret, and she hated Qu Moying even more.

She thought it was all Qu Moying's fault. If it weren't for her, her brother wouldn't have been taken to the West Prison.

Qu Zhizhen left Qu Mansion in a hurry with the gifts he had prepared and headed for Lord Yun Mansion. When Qu Moying received the news, she just smiled.

What would happen next was up to Pei Yuanjun!

Right now, the person was in his hands, and he could do whatever he wanted.

"Lady, someone from He Mansion wanted to see Second Master, but Second Master is not home, so Third Lady received her." Granny Miao, who came to report Qu Zhizhen's leaving, also told Qu Moying another thing.

Qu Moying put down the qin music score and asked, "Is it Mrs. He?"

"Mrs. He and Old Master He both came here to visit Second Master. However, Second Master was away and Third Lady received them. Therefore, Old Master He went back, leaving only Mrs. He here. Now, they are heading to Third Lady's Furong House."

Qu Moying sneered. She knew that Mrs. He and Qu Qiuyan must have been plotting against her now. But she wondered why Mrs. He came to Qu Mansion instead of seeking help to save her son now.

Did she think that Qu Mansion could save her son?

Thinking of this, she raised her head. Could it be that someone had said something to Mrs. He or the others in He Mansion to make them feel that Qu Mansion had the ability to save He Dayu?

This matter was getting stranger!

"Granny Miao, keep an eye on them and see when Mrs. He will leave." Qu Moying ordered. She wanted to see how Qu Qiuyan and Mrs. He would deal with her.

"Yes, Lady!" Granny Miao nodded and left.

"Yu Dong, continue to tell me the news you heard." Qu Moying picked up the music score again and said casually. When Granny Miao came in just now, Yu Dong was about to report the news he heard from Ji Hai today.

Yu Dong said, "Lady, the relationship between County Lady Jingyu and First Lady is indeed not ordinary, but very few people know it. Even the First Madam and the Old Lady are not clear about their relationship. I don't know why First Lady didn't say it. Perhaps County Lady Jingyu didn't let her say it."

He had just asked Ji Hai about this matter at the door.

Qu Moying had long suspected that Qu Xuexin had something to do with County Lady Jingyu, and it turned out to be true.

“When did the two of them become friends?” Qu Moying’s eyelashes fluttered a few times, casting a shadow on her fair and tender face, making her look even more beautiful.

“It should be two or three years ago. At that time, you were still in the village. That day, when First Lady went out on a carriage, it suddenly rained, and the wheels of her carriage broke. Just as she was helpless, County Lady Jingyu’s carriage passed by. Someone in County Lady Jingyu’s carriage knew First Lady, so she asked County Lady Jingyu to stop the carriage, let First Lady get in the carriage, and get someone to repair First Lady’s carriage. After everything was done, First Lady went back to her own carriage.”

Yu Dong continued, “After that, when First Lady and County Lady Jingyu met each other, they would sometimes stand together and talk, but sometimes they acted as if they did not know each other. It was quite strange. Especially when Qu Mansion’s people were around them, County Lady Jingyu and First Lady Qu would act as if they did not know each other well!”

Liu Jingyu’s status was much higher than Qu Xuexin’s. Based on Qu Xuexin’s hankering for vanity, she would not have hidden their relationship. Then why did Liu Jingyu let her hide it like this? Was it possible that Liu Jingyu created the chance to meet Qu Xuexin in the first place?

Qu Moying thought, “Is Liu Jingyu targeting me?”

Although Qu Moying thought it was ridiculous, she thought it was the most possible reason after thinking for a while. After all, Liu Jingyu had an indescribable hostility towards her a long time ago, and it had grown even stronger now.

Qu Moying didn’t know what she had done to Liu Jingyu that the latter had been scheming against her since she was a child and wanted to kill her.

What happened between her and Liu Jingyu?

Chapter 304 The So-Called Elder

Liu Jingyu, Duke Qi's Mansion's wife-born daughter, harbored some secrets, and so did Qu Moying's mother. Qu Moying's mother had never attended a banquet before she got married. Was it because of her health, or was it because of other reasons? A bold guess suddenly appeared in Qu Moying's mind.

But then she ruled it out.

That was impossible!

If the root cause wasn't with her mother, it would be with her. However, her life as Qu Moying was simple, and she had not seen many people.

Qu Moying couldn't figure it out, so she just stopped thinking about it. Some people were destined to be enemies. Since Liu Jingyu was staring at her like a poisonous snake and was ready to spit venom at her at any time, she would not sit and do nothing.

Granny Miao hurried in to report, "Lady, Mrs. He is coming over with her maids!"

Qu Moying was slightly stunned, but she soon came to a realization. Since Qu Qiuyan pushed Mrs. He to her, Qu Moying would naturally make good use of her.

"When will she arrive?"

Granny Miao said angrily, "At any minute. Third Lady must have said something to Mrs. He, so she is coming over. Mrs. He seems to be aggressive. She is obviously here to start a quarrel."

"Let her come!" Qu Moying said indifferently as she sorted out the music scores beside her hand and instructed Yu Chun, "Bring that qin over for me."

"Yes, Lady." Yu Dong answered and retreated.

"Lady, are you going to play the qin?" Asked Granny Miao. After pondering for a moment, Granny Miao clapped her hands and said with a smile, "Lady, this is a good idea. When she comes, I will stop her outside. No matter how angry she is, I will not let her rush in."

Qu Moying said with a faint smile, "This might not work."

Mrs. He was every inch rude and unreasonable, and she had Noble Consort He as her backer. There were probably not many madams in the capital who could afford to offend her, let alone Qu Moying.

"Then, what should we do?" Granny Miao frowned. Thinking of the aggressive Mrs. He she had just seen, Granny Miao felt that what Qu Moying said was reasonable.

Qu Moying reached out her hand and patted the qin music score gently. With a mysterious smile, she said, "Granny, since you can't stop her, let someone who can do it stop her. In fact, there is no need to stop her immediately. Just let her calm down a bit so that she can be rational when she sees me!"

Mrs. He must have heard something from Qu Qiuyan, which was why she was coming here in a fit of anger. She would definitely do or say something awful to Qu Moying, but Qu Moying didn't want to mess around with her, or she would fall into Qu Qiuyan's trap, and Qu Qiuyan would reap the benefit in the end regardless of how she and Mrs. He handled today's incident.

No matter what Qu Qiuyan said to Mrs. He, the latter would not be so impulsive if she was stopped twice before seeing Qu Moying.

"I know who can stop her! Granny Yan can do it!" Granny Miao's eyes lit up.

Qu Moying smiled without saying anything.

Yu Dong took out her qin and removed its lid. Yu Chun had already prepared a clean towel and warm water. Qu Moying took them, carefully cleaned the qin with water, and wiped it with the towel. Then, she took a three-legged censer on the table and lit three incense sticks in it.

After everything was done, Qu Moying sat down in front of the qin. She gently plucked the strings and said to Granny Miao, "If she asks you later, tell her that I am playing the qin to mourn the ex-Crown Princess and wish that she could live well in another world."

"Yes, I get it." Granny Miao understood and went out to look for Granny Yan.

Mrs. He indeed came over aggressively. Thinking of what Qu Qiuyan had said just now, she couldn't help but get angrier. Qu Qiuyan asked her to endure it for the time being and not to argue with Qu Moying because Qu Moying grew up alone and was self-righteous.

Therefore, it would probably be useless to reason with Qu Moying.

However, Mrs. He couldn't endure it. She didn't let Qu Qiuyan send her off. After asking a maid where Qianyue House was, she came to Qu Moying with her maids.

Just as she arrived at Qianyue House's gate, a thin old maid walked towards her and stopped her with a smile, "Madam, what can I do for you?"

A maid behind Mrs. He stepped forward and said coldly to Granny Miao, "Our madam wants to see Fourth Lady Qu. Quickly report to her."

Granny Miao said awkwardly, "I'm afraid it is not the right time."

The maid said arrogantly, "Why not? Our madam is He Mansion's Mrs. He. She is Third Young Master He's mother. Third Young Master He and Fourth Lady Qu's marriage is under discussion, and our madam wants to talk to her about the marriage."

The maid thought, "If Third Young Master He wasn't interested in her, how could this Fourth Lady Qu have a chance to marry him? But now, she actually despised Third Young Master He and even added insult to injury. How infuriating!"

Granny Miao said with a smile, "Our lady is playing the qin. Listen, Mrs. He!"

Mrs. He tilted her head to listen. Only then did she hear the sound of the qin coming from the yard. She was so angry just now that she did not think that it was Qu Moying playing the qin although she heard the sound of the qin.

Although the sound of the qin was beautiful, Mrs. He didn't appreciate it. She was even angrier. She took two steps forward, forcing Granny Miao to step back. "Go and tell her that I'm here. She could play the qin at any time. Even if she is not well-educated, she should respect the elders!"

"Does she really think of herself as lady's elder?" Granny Miao sneered at Mrs. He in her heart, but she did not reveal the slightest bit. She still had a smile on her face. "Mrs. He, our lady is playing the qin to pray for the ex-Crown Princess. She has just taken a bath, changed her clothes, and lit the incense sticks. It is not the right time to interrupt her. Please wait a moment, Mrs. He. This piece is not long, and it will be finished in a while."

Mrs. He didn't expect that Qu Moying was praying for the ex-Crown Princess. Feeling annoyed, she stopped in her tracks. If Qu Moying was praying for someone else, she would rush in. But it was for the ex-Crown Princess, so she had to behave herself.

Therefore, she waited with a darkened face.

Granny Miao smiled and stood to the side.

However, the music continued after she had waited for quite a while, and she got more and more irritated. She had been waiting for a while, but Qu Moying still didn't show up. She thought Qu Moying did it on purpose, and she couldn't wait any longer but rush towards the yard.

Even if she made a scene, others couldn't say that she didn't respect the ex-Crown Princess. Moreover, the ex-Crown Princess was gone, and it was said that the Crown Prince's love for the ex-Crown Princess was fake. Even if she really made a scene, no one would spread it out.

Thinking of this, she was full of courage.

Granny Miao wanted to go up and stop her, but this time, she was stopped by a maid behind Mrs. He.

Seeing how aggressive Mrs. He was, the other servants in the yard didn't dare to stop her. They stood far away from her.

Mrs. He strode to the corridor outside Qu Moying's room. Just as she was about to rush in, she saw Granny Yan standing in the corridor. Granny Yan was looking at her coldly, which made her subconsciously stop.

She remembered Granny Miao, the palace servant who brought Qu Moying into the palace last time. She was said to be a Dowager Consort's palace servant, but why was she here with Qu Moying?

Could it be that she had followed Qu Moying out of the palace?

Last time outside the palace gate, Mrs. He paid all her attention to Qu Moying, and she didn't notice Granny Yan at all, so she didn't see Granny Yan get on the carriage together with Qu Moying.

Therefore, she was stunned now at the sight of Granny Yan.

Granny Yan slowly walked down and bowed to Mrs. He. Then, she stood still and said indifferently, "Mrs. He, please wait a moment!"

Unlike Granny Miao, Granny Yan was a ranking female official who served a Dowager Consort in the palace. Mrs. He had asked Noble Consort He before and knew that the Dowager Consort was related to Qu Mansion, but this Dowager Consort was like an invisible person in the palace. Even Noble Consort He had rarely heard of her, which could be seen that this Dowager Consort was not powerful.

However, Granny Yan was still a servant of the Dowager Consort, and the Dowager Consort was an elder of Noble Consort He. Therefore, Mrs. He couldn't neglect her.

However, even so, Mrs. He only forced a smile. She slightly raised her head as she thought, "Why isn't this granny serving the Dowager Consort in the palace? Why is she here in Qu Mansion? Does the Dowager Consort like Qu Moying so much that she even let her servant serve Qu Moying?"

The palace servant should serve the nobles in the palace. Qu Moying was only a Vice Minister's Mansion's lady. How could she have a palace servant serve her?

Mrs. He believed that the Dowager Consort knew the rule, and so did this palace servant, so she believed that this palace servant wouldn't dare to say that she was here to serve Qu Moying.

Even in the case of He Mansion, Noble Consort He would at most send a palace servant to send a message. She would not let a palace servant stay in He Mansion and serve He Mansion's masters.

Moreover, every time when Noble Consort He's servants came to He Mansion, He Mansion's people were respectful to them, not daring to make the slightest mistake.

As long as Granny Yan said that she was staying here just for the time being, she could not interfere in this matter and stop Mrs. He. Thinking of this, Mrs. He could not help but smile complacently. She looked at Granny Yan, whom she thought was merely a palace servant of an insignificant Dowager Consort, and waited for her to speak.

Except for the empress' people, Noble Consort He's people were the most powerful in the palace. Anyone smart enough would not offend Noble Consort He.

But in the next moment, Mrs. He's smile froze, and her face darkened because Granny Yan smiled at her with a bit of pride and said, "Mrs. He, the Dowager Consort did ask me to come over to teach Fourth Lady Qu. I am in charge of many things around Fourth Lady Qu."

Granny Yan was not here to serve Qu Moying, yet she could interfere with Qu Moying's affairs because she was a Discipline Granny. Moreover, she was sent here by Dowager Consort Qu.

Granny Yan dared to be so proud and confident because the empress also knew about this.

It was Consort Xiang who suggested this to Dowager Consort Qu, but how could Consort Xiang mention it for no reason? In the palace, Consort Xiang and the empress had the closest relationship.

Therefore, she was not worried that Mrs. He would make today's incident known to people in the palace.

Chapter 305 Don't You Realize It When You Saw Granny Yan?

Mrs. He did not expect Granny Yan to say so. Her face darkened, and she snorted, "Even so, you won't stop Fourth Lady Qu from seeing guests, right?"

Granny Yan said indifferently, "Of course not. However, you have to wait for a while. Fourth Lady Qu will finish playing soon, and we can't interrupt her at this time. Even if the ex-Crown Princess has passed away, we should still respect her."

Mrs. He took a deep breath. Once again, she had no choice but to suppress her anger. She didn't walk forward but waited restlessly.

Finally, the music stopped. Mrs. He glared at Granny Yan and walked up.

Granny Yan stepped aside and did not stop her.

"Mrs. He, our lady knows you are here and she invites you in!" Yu Dong walked out with a smile on his face and respectfully gave way to Mrs. He.

Granny Yan did not follow them in but went to the wing room aside.

Mrs. He snorted and followed Yu Dong inside.

When she entered the room, she saw Qu Moying sitting in the middle. There was a qin placed in front of the table, which should be the qin that Qu Moying had just played. The room was filled with the scent of incense, and three sticks of incense were still lit.

Seeing Mrs. He come in, Qu Moying stood up and gave Mrs. He a decent bow. Then, she stood up and gestured to the side. "Mrs. He, please sit!"

Mrs. He angrily sat down on a chair on the side. She looked at Qu Moying, who was still wearing an eye veil and looked extremely gentle.

After serving the tea, Yu Chun stepped aside.

"Fourth Lady Qu, I heard that you are not willing to marry into our mansion." Mrs. He snorted. She did not intend to drink tea. She had come here in anger, and she had decided to point at Qu Moying in the nose and scold her when she saw her, but she couldn't do it now.

However, she still spoke bluntly.

Qu Moying took a sip of tea and put down the teacup. She smiled and asked calmly, "Mrs. He, where did you hear that?"

Mrs. He said impatiently, "You don't need to know where I heard this. Just say yes or no."

Qu Moying smiled meaningfully and said, "Actually, what I think doesn't really matter."

"What do you mean?" Mrs. He's face darkened.

"Mrs. He, you came from Third Sister's place, right? Didn't Third Sister tell you that I have someone who serves the Dowager Consort here?" Qu Moying didn't answer her question but asked her a question instead.

This question made Mrs. He's heart skip a beat. She had been very unhappy when she waited outside just now. When she was at Qu Qiuyan's place just now, Qu Qiuyan did not mention anything about the Dowager Consort's palace servant, nor did she mention that the palace servant was now living at Qu Moying's place.

If she had known it at that time, she would have definitely thought it over and would not have come over so impulsively. But now, she was in an awkward situation.

She had calmed down a lot.

Qu Moying continued to ask with a smile, "She didn't tell you about Granny Yan, nor did she tell you about my marriage arrangement, right?"

She asked gently, but Mrs. He's face changed slightly as she heard her words.

Mrs. He's eyes widened, "Can't others propose a marriage to you casually?"

"Of course not. I didn't know about it when Grandmother asked me to take a look. But at that time, my Eldest Sister was the one who saw Third Young Master He, and also the one who bumped into him later. It has nothing to do with me. As for my marriage..."

Qu Moying raised her eyebrows and continued, "Since you have seen Granny Yan, don't you realize it yet?"

When she was with Pei Yuanjun in the palace, she knew that this matter would definitely be made public, so she didn't hide it at this time and said to Mrs. He pointedly.

The palace had sent a Discipline Granny over, and the Discipline Granny even lived in Qu Mansion. She even brought Qu Moying into the palace without reporting. Thinking of this and Noble Consort He's words and expression at that time, Mrs. He suddenly understood, and her face immediately turned pale and terrible.

Did this mean that Qu Moying was going to enter the palace or marry a prince? Otherwise, there would not be such a big scene!

Mrs. He's hands trembled on the table. She had never expected this because she thought Qu Moying's conditions were too poor to match even her son. However, she knew that if her son married someone

powerful, they might end up in a mess in the future. Therefore, she thought her son had better marry someone weak so that he could decide the other party's life and death.

"You... you..." Mrs. He's lips were dry, and she didn't know what to say for a moment. She recalled Noble Consort He's words and knew that Qu Moying's fiancée was clearly not an ordinary person.

"Mrs. He, the marriage was proposed by Madam Li. I objected to it at that time, but Grandmother still wanted me to have a look. She also felt it was not a good idea later, so she asked my Eldest Sister to take a look. After that, my Eldest Sister met Third Young Master He in private. Mrs. He, if you don't believe it, you can ask Grandmother to investigate it. I don't know why this matter involves me now."

Qu Moying said sincerely and calmly.

Although she looked fragile with the eye veil, she still made people feel that she was calm and fearless.

It seemed that the one who was on the blind date with her son was First Lady Qu but not Fourth Lady Qu because the latter had been engaged with someone in the palace whom she couldn't afford to offend. But why did her son tell her that the one he liked was Fourth Lady Qu and that he wanted to marry her?

Qu Qiuyan also told her that Qu Moying had taken a fancy to her son before, but after her son's matter was exposed, Qu Moying went to Vice Minister Qu to cry that she would not marry such a dandy because the marriage had not been settled and that the man would die a horrible death...

Hearing Qu Qiuyan's words, Mrs. He was so angry that she almost fainted. Then, she angrily came to pick a fight with Qu Moying with the decision that she must have Qu Moying be her "daughter-in-law"!

However, this matter had nothing to do with Qu Moying at all.

What did Madam Li mean? Did she not know that Qu Moying had been engaged with someone, or did she do it on purpose just to plot against He Mansion?

If Madam Li did it on purpose, she would not let her off.

Since Madam Li was so shrewd, she believed that she must have known something.

Mrs. He thought that Madam Li did it on purpose just to have a good laugh at He Mansion. Fortunately, it didn't go as Madam Li wished. Otherwise, He Mansion would not be able to get away with it.

Mrs. He knew that although she was from Noble Consort He's parents' family, there were very few talented or powerful people in the family. Her youngest son used to be the most promising one, but it didn't seem to be the case now. He didn't stand any chance when confronting the princes and the powerful lords.

At this time, her youngest son was put into West Prison. She couldn't afford to offend the royal family member whom Qu Moying was going to marry at such a time because he might have a close relationship with Lord Yun.

Since even Noble Consort He was somewhat afraid of Qu Moying's fiancée, he must have some power.

It seemed that Qu Qiuyan and Madam Li made her suffer all these.

Thinking of this, Mrs. He suddenly stood up. She couldn't stay any longer. She gritted her teeth and said, "Fourth Lady Qu, since you've made it clear, I won't waste your time."

"Farewell, Madam!" Qu Moying smiled and stood up. She politely sent Mrs. He to the door and bowed to her, which was perfectly in line with the etiquette.

If Qu Moying was to marry her son, Mrs. He would think that she was impolite no matter what she did. But now that she knew Qu Moying was to marry someone in the palace, she thought Qu Moying was really elegant and was totally different from what Qu Qiuyan had said about her.

At this point, Mrs. He naturally knew that she was made use of by Qu Qiuyan.

She now became angry with Qu Qiuyan.

After leaving Qianyue House, she stood outside the yard for a while before heading towards Qu Qiuyan's Furong House. Even if she couldn't do anything to retaliate Qu Qiuyan, she had to at least ask her clearly. She couldn't swallow her anger and return to He Mansion without questioning Qu Qiuyan.

As for Qu Moying's words that the one who took a fancy to He Dayu was First Lady Qu, Mrs. He did not take them to heart at all.

As soon as Mrs. He left, Granny Miao quickly followed her from afar to watch the fun. Of course, she also saw a young maid of Qu Qiuyan run away in a hurry.

The young maid ran so fast that she almost fell down and bumped into a tree beside her. She made such a loud noise that Mrs. He and her maids noticed her, which made her even more panicked that she dared not turn around but trotted away.

She ran in the same direction as Mrs. He was heading.

Mrs. He was so angry that her face turned livid. She thought Qu Qiuyan was indeed not a good person. After egging her on, Qu Qiuyan even sent her maid to watch the show. Needless to say, this maid was sent by Qu Qiuyan.

She decided to tell Noble Consort He that Qu Qiuyan was not a good person the next time she entered the palace, and she would also tell Lord Jing.

Sitting in the room, Qu Qiuyan was drinking tea and waiting for the maid she sent to come back and tell her about the fun. Mrs. He was hot-tempered, and she must be quarreling in Qianyue House now. Thinking of this, Qu Qiuyan couldn't help feeling complacent as she sneered.

She hoped this matter could be escalated. The more serious, the better. If Mrs. He insisted on letting Qu Moying marry into He Mansion, it would be the best. In that case, if He Dayu died, Qu Moying would have to be a widow in He Mansion. She would be really happy if that happened.

After getting rid of Qu Moying, her brother would not need to bother anymore. Her mother would be freed, and she would be the wife-born daughter of Qu Mansion. No one would mention that her mother was once a concubine.

Everything would be solved perfectly!

Thinking of this, she couldn't help but laugh.

The young maid hurriedly came in to report, "Lady, Mrs. He is coming to you!"

Qu Qiuyan was stunned. After a moment, she asked, "What?"

"Lady, Mrs. He is coming over. She didn't cause trouble in Fourth Lady's place. It seems that she is here to make trouble for you." The maid said. She saw Mrs. He heading towards Qu Qiuyan's yard with an angry face from afar, which was why she turned around and ran.

A flustered old maid came in to report, "Third Lady, Mrs. He is here again!"

Chapter 306 Who Do You Think Is Right?

Qu Qiuyan didn't expect Mrs. He to arrive so quickly. Her face darkened. She wanted to refuse to see Mrs. He with the excuse that she was not feeling well.

When she heard the noises outside, Mrs. He had already rushed in with her maids.

As soon as she entered the room and saw Qu Qiuyan, Mrs. He sneered. She pointed at Qu Qiuyan and scolded, "Third Lady Qu, you are really vicious!"

Qu Qiuyan composed herself, forced a smile, and asked in surprise, "Mrs. He, what are you saying? I don't understand what you mean. Why are you still in our mansion? Didn't you just say that you were going back?"

Since Mrs. He was Lord Jing's aunt, Qu Qiuyan did not dare to offend her.

"Qu Qiuyan, you are still pretending. Fortunately, Lord Jing does not intend to marry you. If he marries you, you will definitely make Lord Jing Mansion a mess!" Mrs. He had a bad temper, and she wanted to slap Qu Qiuyan, but for fear of offending Lord Jing, she held back.

If they were in He Mansion, she would have slapped Qu Qiuyan long ago.

"Mrs. He, I don't understand what you are talking about." At this time, Qu Qiuyan could only pretend that she knew nothing.

Mrs. He looked around and saw the maid who had just run away in panic. She walked over and gave the maid two hard slaps on the face. The maid was slapped so hard that she took two steps back and sat heavily on the ground. "This bitch is your maid, isn't she? She looks quite decent, but look what she did!"

Seeing her maid being slapped, Qu Qiuyan couldn't hold back. They were in her place. If she kept showing the white feather, she would appear to have a guilty conscience.

Her face darkened slightly, and her smile faded. "Mrs. He, I respect you just for the sake of your seniority. But you are going too far. She is my maid, and I sent her to look for Moying just now. Why did you speak like I did something bad?"

She knew that Mrs. He should have seen this maid just now, and she hated this maid for exposing herself.

But it was not the time to blame the maid now.

Mrs. He pointed at Qu Qiuyan and scolded, "Well, well... Qu Qiuyan, you changed your words, huh? Fine, I will talk to Her Grace and Lord Jing about this when I go back so that they can see through your vicious nature. Do you want to marry Lord Jing? Dream on!"

After saying that, she turned around and left. Because of Lord Jing, she could not beat Qu Qiuyan, but she would not let Qu Qiuyan have a good time. She had heard from her son that Qu Qiuyan would definitely enter Lord Jing Mansion, but her position was not settled yet, and that was related to everything in the future.

Mrs. He was so angry now that she decided not to let Qu Qiuyan have a good time in Lord Jing Mansion in the future.

Seeing that Mrs. He was about to leave, Qu Qiuyan ignored her curse and anxiously stood up to ask, "Mrs. He, wait a moment. Did Moying say something that made you misunderstand me?"

If it was in the past, she wouldn't care about what Mrs. He said. But recently, Lord Jing's attitude changed, and he was very indifferent to her. Moreover, her reputation had worsened, which was because of Yu and herself.

Recently, Qu Qiuyan had been in a panic, fearing that her marriage with Lord Jing would end up in vain.

"Don't you know what Fourth Lady Qu said? Don't you know that Fourth Lady Qu has a Discipline Granny from the palace? Don't you know the Discipline Granny is sent over by a Dowager Consort?" Asked Mrs. He coldly. She glanced at Qu Qiuyan and continued, "Do you have a Discipline Granny? It seems that you don't deserve one. Are you jealous? You look ugly when you are filled with jealousy. Lord Jing is right. You should feel gratified whatever position he gives you."

Mrs. He turned around and was about to leave.

She was filled with anger, but she couldn't flare up now, so she could only scold and belittle Qu Qiuyan.

Being scolded, Qu Qiuyan flushed with shame and anger. What Mrs. He said was like a slap on her face. She blurted out, "Mrs. He, don't go too far!"

"Who do you think you are? How dare you covet Lord Jing?" Mrs. He glanced at her, sneered, and strode away with her maids.

Qu Qiuyan shivered a few times, and she almost fainted. She had never been so despised by others like this. What Mrs. He meant was that Qu Qiuyan had no sense of shame and offered herself at the feet of Lord Jing.

If this were to spread out, Qu Qiuyan would be totally disgraced.

Qu Qiuyan had her own pride in front of other noble ladies. The thing she was most proud of was that Lord Jing fell in love with her. Although she could not compare with some noble ladies in terms of family background, she was complacent about Lord Jing taking a fancy to her. However, Mrs. He shattered her pride.

The most unbearable truth was revealed!

It had always been Qu Qiuyan who went after Lord Jing.

Qu Qiuyan was an unmarried lady, and she had never heard such humiliating words. She was so angry, but she had to hold back, and she almost had an internal injury.

Her fingers trembled as she pointed in the direction of Qian Yue House. She looked both sinister and resentful, and her beautiful face was completely distorted.

Mrs. He's attitude changed so greatly, and it must be because of Qu Moying. Qu Qiuyan felt the taste of blood in her throat, and she almost spat out a mouthful of blood. She held Qing Ju's hand, panted, and said in hatred, "Help me to my father's study. I will wait there."

She could not swallow her anger...

Qu Zhizhen didn't know what was going on in the mansion at the moment, but his fingers were also slightly trembling, and his body was numb. The teacup in his hand was warm, but he was still terrified.

He finally managed to control himself.

He had just been back from West Prison, and he saw some prisoners covered all over with blood there. Although he had composed himself now, he couldn't help but feel a lingering fear, and his scalp went numb.

He took a deep breath to get rid of the smell of blood, and he looked at Pei Yuanjun, who was sitting on a high seat.

Pei Yuanjun wore a black brocade robe with golden patterns. The clothes set off Pei Yuanjun's beautiful face. His black hair was tied up, and he looked over leisurely as if he had just been back from a flower-admiring trip. There was even a smile in his eyes, which was more frightening.

His narrowed eyes revealed a strange and bloodthirsty chill. Even though he was smiling, Qu Zhizhen felt like he was in a cold hell.

Qu Zhizhen thought he was quite bold. He had been mentally prepared before coming here. Moreover, he was Vice Minister of Works, which was not a low position. But at this time, he was still panicked.

He lowered his head, not daring to look at Pei Yuanjun's flawless face. Once again, he forcefully calmed himself down and forced a smile. "Your Highness, I'm here for my son. My son went to He Mansion to talk to Third Young Master He, but he doesn't have any dealings with Third Young Master He in the past."

"So, this was the only time?" Pei Yuanjun smiled and reached out to touch a jar of water lotus on the table with a gentle expression.

Qu Zhizhen carefully looked at the water lotus. It was beautiful, but his pupils shrank when he looked at it. He remembered that Pei Yuanjun pointed to a lotus pond in West Prison and said that there were bodies buried there, which was why the flowers were blooming beautifully.

This water lotus was also so beautiful and exquisite. Could it be that it was fertilized with the human body too?

The thought sent shivers down his spine!

He forced himself to calm down and looked away from the water lotus. He didn't dare to hide it and smiled bitterly. "In fact, our mansion was discussing a marriage proposal with He Mansion. The other party was Third Young Master He. My son got angry when he heard that Third Young Master He was making a fool of our mansion, so he went to He Mansion to seek justice. Then, he happened to be taken here by you, Your Highness."

"A marriage proposal? Who in your mansion was he going to marry? I heard that the Third Lady in Qu Mansion should be the next to get married. So, was Third Lady Qu going to be married with Third Young Master He?"

Pei Yuanjun said lazily with a gentle smile on his face.

However, Qu Zhizhen did not dare to say yes. He shook his head and explained, "It was... not her. It was..."

He wanted to tell Pei Yuanjun that it was Qu Moying, but Pei Yuanjun interrupted him, "Why wasn't it Third Lady Qu? Second Lady Qu has entered Lord Jing Mansion, so the next one should be Third Lady Qu. Is Third Lady Qu already engaged with someone?"

Was she engaged?

Qu Zhizhen could not give a firm answer. Although they had a tacit understanding with Lord Jing about the marriage, it had not turned into reality yet. Since Lord Jing didn't bring it to the public, he did not dare to let others know. Even if many people had known about it, he did not dare to speak nonsense.

He could only give a wry smile and said, "Your Highness, it's very humorous of you. Qiuyan hasn't been behaving herself recently, and she is reflecting herself at home, so this proposed marriage is not hers."

Qu Zhizhen could only say this. If he was facing someone else, he could suppress the other party by mentioning Lord Jing. However, Pei Yuanjun was Lord Jing's uncle, and he had the emperor's favor and trust. Even the Crown Prince had to be respectful to him, not to mention Lord Jing.

"She hasn't been behaving herself? Did she behave badly in your mansion or outside the mansion? I heard Lord Jing mention this before, but I just casually listened and didn't probe into it."

Pei Yuanjun's sleepy eyes widened with curiosity, as if he was really surprised.

Qu Zhizhen's face turned red. He just casually said so to shift the topic from Qu Qiuyan and put the blame onto Qu Moying, but he didn't expect Pei Yuanjun to further question him.

"It's no big deal. She argued with her sister... It's a joke to outsiders. It's my fault. I don't have a powerful wife to take good care of them." Qu Zhizhen could only blame himself. After all, he was an adult. It did not matter if he had a bad reputation. Moreover, he did not intend to marry again.

Pei Yuanjun raised his eyebrows and asked, "She argued with her sister? You mean she argued with Fourth Lady Qu. Vice Minister Qu, I wonder who do you think is right between the two of them?"

Qu Zhizhen was speechless. Pei Yuanjun was a powerful top-ranking official, so he should be concerned about national affairs. But why was he so interested in women's affairs like a gossip monger?

He did not dare to speak bluntly to Pei Yuanjun. He could only say vaguely, "My third daughter was brought up in the mansion, but my fourth daughter had been living in a village before, so she is not sensible enough."

These words were clearly biased towards Qu Qiuyan.

"Bang!" A loud noise shocked Qu Zhizhen. He looked up quickly, only to see Pei Yuanjun's sneer and gloomy eyes. He was frightened.

"Your... Your Highness..."

Chapter 307 Do You Want Me to Lend You a Few Sticks?

"Vice Minister Qu, was this marriage arranged for Fourth Lady Qu?" Pei Yuanjun sneered with a strange and bloodthirsty look in his eyes, which made Qu Zhizhen's heart tremble.

“Yes... It was indeed for her.” Qu Zhizhen tried his best to maintain his dignity as a Vice Minister and steady his breath.

“How could you still arrange a marriage for Fourth Lady Qu?” Pei Yuanjun sneered, which reminded Qu Zhizhen of the bloody scene he had just seen.

“Why... Why not?” Qu Zhizhen asked with a forced smile. He lowered his head, not daring to look at Pei Yuanjun’s extremely beautiful face.

Pei Yuanjun asked lazily, “Mr. Qu, didn’t you know that Dowager Consort Qu invited Fourth Lady Qu to her place and sent her a Discipline Granny?”

“I know.”

Pei Yuanjun sneered, “Fourth Lady Qu bumped into me in Eastern Palace. After that, Dowager Consort Qu summoned her into the palace and sent her a Discipline Granny. Mr. Qu, didn’t you think of anything?”

Qu Zhizhen clenched his fists under his sleeves and looked up at Pei Yuanjun in shock. “Your... Your Highness...”

Pei Yuanjun looked at Qu Zhizhen and asked with a smile, “You still don’t understand. Then why do you think Fourth Lady Qu was invited to the palace?”

Qu Zhizhen looked at Pei Yuanjun in disbelief. He opened his mouth but could not say a word.

Pei Yuanjun asked lazily, “Mr. Qu, do you think you can still arrange a marriage for Fourth Lady Qu?”

Qu Zhizhen asked tentatively, “Your Highness, do you mean...”

Pei Yuanjun waved his hand elegantly and said, "It's not my idea. It's the palace's idea. Mr. Qu, since you could be a Vice Minister, you should be somewhat clever and talented. Do you still need me to explain it clearly?"

Qu Zhizhen looked at Pei Yuanjun in bewilderment. Although Pei Yuanjun seemed to be casual, he didn't seem to be joking. Moreover, such a person would not joke with him on this.

Qu Zhizhen hurriedly said, "No... I... I get it."

"You finally get it. But it seemed that your son didn't get it. He might lose his life because of something like this in the future. An official has to have a pair of clear eyes. The wider his vision, the broader his future. If he only pays attention to the matters in the inner yard, it will be useless no matter how talented he is. I believe you don't need my further explanation on this, right?"

Pei Yuanjun narrowed his eyes.

Qu Zhizhen suddenly stood up, the hair on his back standing up. "Your Highness, my son is just young and ignorant."

"He is ignorant? Even your youngest daughter has a proposed marriage, yet he is still young and ignorant? Just when could he be sensible? How about I help you teach him a lesson?" Pei Yuanjun asked lazily, as if he was not going to deal with a person but a cat or a dog.

Qu Zhizhen hurriedly said, "Thank you, Your Highness. But there's no need to bother you. I will teach him a lesson when we return to our mansion."

Pei Yuanjun asked with interest, "Oh? How?"

"I will have him beaten according to the family rules." Qu Zhizhen said fiercely, gritting his teeth. If Pei Yuanjun was to deal with Qu Mingcheng, Qu Mingcheng would be seriously injured even if he didn't die. Since Pei Yuanjun said that, Qu Zhizhen knew this matter wouldn't be over so easily, and he couldn't help but get angry at his son.

How could he not know what his son was up to? Qu Mingcheng said that he went to He Mansion to seek justice for Qu Moying, but it was clear that he wanted to make the proposed marriage between Third Young Master He and Qu Moying known to the public to ruin Qu Moying's reputation. He might even want to tie Qu Moying to He Mansion and let her suffer with Third Young Master He.

If it was in the past, Qu Zhizhen would at most scold Qu Mingcheng. As for the rest, he would just let it go. Although he had more expectations for Qu Moying than before, she could not compare with his son.

But now, Qu Zhizhen no longer dared to look down on Qu Moying.

Nobody dared to be negligent when it came to matters related to Lord Yun.

"That's the best. But I heard that the sticks used for punishment in your mansion are not big enough. Do you want me to lend you a few of West Prison's sticks?" Pei Yuanjun asked with a smile. His tone sounded kind.

How could ordinary people undergo West Prison's sticks? Thinking of the blood-stained sticks he had just seen, Qu Zhizhen felt his scalp going numb. He hurriedly said, "Thank you for your kindness, Your Highness. I will definitely teach him a lesson when we go back. I will never let him do such a thing again."

"That will be the best. Guards, go and invite Second Young Master Qu over." Pei Yuanjun laughed, stood up, and pushed the water lotus in front of him. "Vice Minister Qu, I will have to trouble you to send this jar of water lotus to Fourth Lady Qu. It is not easy for me to plant such a beautiful flower in the prison. It needs a lot of nutrients!"

Pei Yuanjun sighed. His words were vague, but Qu Zhizhen looked over at the jar of water lotus in shock. What nourished it? Where else could it get its nutrients in West Prison?

Pei Yuanjun walked towards Qu Zhizhen, patted him on the shoulder, and left with a smile.

Qu Zhizhen stood there stiffly, feeling a faint chill on his shoulder as if a ghost had just touched him. It took him a long time to come to his senses. His back was covered in a cold sweat. He hoped that he would never need to come to West Prison to see Lord Yun. Even if nothing happened, he felt a terrible chill.

Another scream came from afar. It was so shrill that it didn't seem to be a human's voice, but after listening clearly, he found that it was clearly a human's voice. His hair stood on end. West Prison was indeed a living hell.

"Father!" A slightly trembling voice came from behind. Qu Zhizhen turned around and saw a guard standing in front of him with a person. It was Qu Mingcheng.

Qu Mingcheng's face was as pale as snow without any color. After seeing Qu Zhizhen and calling him, he felt like he finally came to life.

"Father..."

"Let's go!" Qu Zhizhen calmed down and went forward to pick up the jar of water lotus. With a cold face, he turned around and walked out. He could not stay here for a moment.

Qu Mingcheng's legs were a little weak. Although he also turned around, he couldn't catch up with Qu Zhizhen. He staggered and almost fell.

He wanted to call Qu Zhizhen again, but seeing Qu Zhizhen walk out without looking back, he did not dare to delay and hurriedly followed him.

When they came out of West Prison, Qu Zhizhen took a deep breath and calmed himself down. Looking at his son staggering behind him, he couldn't help but get angry. He raised his hand and slapped Qu Mingcheng hard in the face. It was so hard that Qu Mingcheng's face turned to the side.

Qu Mingcheng looked at Qu Zhizhen in disbelief. "Father..."

He had never been slapped in the face by his father.

"Let's go!" Qu Zhizhen snapped as he walked towards the carriage parked outside.

Qu Mingcheng covered his face and followed Qu Zhizhen aggrievedly. This slap woke him up a little, and he was no longer as weak and flustered as before.

The two of them got on the carriage and went back home.

Qu Zhizhen got off the carriage with the jar of water lotus in his hands. He gave his son a cold look and headed to the study. Qu Mingcheng followed behind him dejectedly.

Qu Qiuyan had been waiting at the door of the study for a long time. When she saw Qu Zhizhen and Qu Mingcheng coming from afar, she was overjoyed and hurried forward to bow, "Father..."

Qu Zhizhen flung his sleeve and almost threw it on her face. He snorted, ignored her, and went into the study.

"Brother..." Tears welled up in Qu Qiuyan's eyes. She looked at Qu Mingcheng, who was walking over. But Qu Mingcheng couldn't even protect himself now, so how could he bother to talk to her. He followed Qu Zhizhen into the study with a pale face.

Qu Qiuyan wanted to enter the study but was stopped by a lad servant outside the door. "Third Lady, Master and Second Young Master have something to talk about. Please don't go in now."

Thinking of Qu Zhizhen's expression just now, Qu Qiuyan did not dare to be rash. She could only grit her teeth and wait outside the door. When her father finished dealing with her brother's matter, she could complain to her father.

Inside the study, Qu Zhizhen placed the jar on the desk in front of him. He sat down behind the desk, looked at Qu Mingcheng, who followed him in, and snapped, "Monster, kneel down!"

"Father..." Qu Mingcheng did not understand why his father, who had always been gentle to him, suddenly became so serious.

"Kneel down!" Qu Zhizhen picked up the teacup at hand and smashed it down at Qu Mingcheng's feet. Qu Mingcheng was so scared that he fell to his knees with a "plop".

Thinking of what happened in West Prison just now, Qu Zhizhen felt humiliated. He pointed at Qu Mingcheng and scolded, "How dare you go to He Mansion to ask about Moying's marriage? Since when did you take charge of Moying's marriage? Do you think you are qualified?"

Qu Mingcheng was confused by the scolding, but he still argued, "Father... I... I was doing that out of good intentions. He Mansion lied to us. They have to give us an explanation."

"Explanation? For what? Who told you that He Mansion wanted to marry Moying but not your third younger sister?" Qu Zhizhen sneered. Qu Mingcheng still wanted to deceive him at this time. If this happened in the past, Qu Zhizhen would ignore it because he didn't care. But now, he could not ignore it anymore.

Qu Mingcheng looked up in surprise and said, "Father, Qiuyan will definitely be a member of the royal family in the future."

"Moying could also be! Speaking of which, Qiuyan is inferior to Moying in every aspect. Why do you think Moying couldn't compare with her?" Qu Zhizhen was about to be pissed off. Qu Mingcheng and Qu Qiuyan both thought that they were outstanding enough, but they never thought that Qu Moying was even more outstanding than them. Therefore, both Qu Mingcheng and Qu Qiuyan were conceited.

"Father... Father, I don't understand what you are talking about!" Qu Mingcheng looked up, his mind in a mess.

Qu Zhizhen snapped, "You don't need to understand. You just need to be punished. Guards, beat him!"

A guard came over with a big stick. Seeing this big stick, Qu Mingcheng was about to faint. He used to be beaten up when he was a child, but he had never been beaten with such a big stick. Was his father going to cripple him or beat him to death?

The problem was that he still did not know why things had come to this point.

"Father..."

“Guards, pull him down and beat him hard twenty times!” Qu Zhizhen gritted his teeth and said ruthlessly. He had to beat Qu Mingcheng because if Pei Yuanjun knew that he didn’t beat Qu Mingcheng, Qu Mingcheng would suffer much more than this!

Chapter 308 Mother and Son Flustered After Discussion

Qu Mingcheng was dragged directly to the yard of the study. He was pressed on a flat stool and the guards began to beat him.

Gritting his teeth, Qu Mingcheng tried to hold back his scream, but in the end, he failed. When the stick beat him again, he screamed continuously. His face was pale, and his forehead was sweating heavily.

Qu Mingcheng had never suffered any hardship since he was a child. He had always been the apple of his family’s eye, and he had never been beaten up like this. After being beaten ten times, he was already unable to hold on.

Qu Mingcheng stopped screaming. He was gasping for breath, but he could no longer make a sound.

Several people suddenly came into the yard, and one of them was the Old Lady. Seeing Qu Mingcheng being beaten, she rushed over and hugged him, her eyes turning red.

Qu Qiuyan was already crying. She squatted down and pulled Qu Mingcheng’s sleeve. She had just found out that the situation in the yard was not good, so she couldn’t bother to complain to Qu Zhizhen but hurriedly went to ask the Old Lady for help.

Hearing that there was such a fuss in Qu Zhizhen’s place, the Old Lady couldn’t sit still. In her heart, Qu Mingcheng was always the most sensible one. Although she didn’t like Yu and Qu Qiuyan, she did like Qu Mingcheng very much. Moreover, Qu Mingcheng was Qu Zhizhen’s only son, so she doted on him very much.

Seeing Qu Mingcheng being beaten like this, she was both angry and annoyed.

In fact, Qu Zhizhen had thought it was about time to stop the beating. Just as he was about to ask the guards to stop, his mother came, so he took advantage of such good timing. He pretended to be submissive and let the servants carry Qu Mingcheng to rest. Qu Qiuyan cried and followed them.

Qu Zhizhen invited the Old Lady to sit in the study. Looking at Qu Zhizhen's expression and thinking about the situation just now, the Old Lady knew that he had something to say.

With a wave of her hand, she left the maids and the old maids outside the door, only bringing Granny Wu inside.

After sitting down, the Old Lady's eyes fell on the jar of the water lotus on the desk. It was too eye-catching and beautiful on the desk.

It was impossible for the Old Lady not to pay attention to it.

After taking a glance at the water lotus, she reprimanded Qu Zhizhen, "What's going on today? You made such a big scene after coming home. Do you want to kill Mingcheng?"

Qu Zhizhen patted the table and said helplessly, "Mother, I don't want to do this, but I have to beat him. Otherwise, Lord Yun won't let him off. He offended Lord Yun."

"How did he offend Lord Yun? He has been studying in the mansion all the time. How did he cause so much trouble?" The Old Lady was ignorant of what happened outside these days. Both Qu Zhizhen and Qu Moying did not bother the Old Lady with Qu Mingcheng's matter, so the Old Lady did not know what had happened.

She only knew that Qu Moying had made a trip to the palace to visit Dowager Consort Qu. Qu Zhizhen left the mansion once, and he almost beat Qu Mingcheng to death after he returned. She also knew that Mrs. He had come to the mansion. When she knew that Mrs. He had caused a ruckus at Qu Qiuyan's place, she was angry, and she decided to tell Qu Zhizhen not to let people like Mrs. He come into the mansion in the future.

There was no madam in the inner yard who was in charge of family matters now, and there were only two unmarried young ladies. Even if they wanted to receive guests, it would be inconvenient.

According to the information that Granny Wu had gathered, Mrs. He clearly came to Qu Mansion with ill intentions. She first went to Qu Qiuyan's yard. Then, she went to Qu Moying's yard aggressively. Finally, she went back to Qu Qiuyan and made a fuss in the yard. It was said that she acted so rude that she didn't look like a noble lady at all.

However, before the Old Lady could go to Qu Qiuyan, Qu Qiuyan came to her for help. Qu Qiuyan asked her to save Qu Mingcheng. This was something that had never happened before.

"Mother, you knew that Dowager Consort Qu sent Granny Yan over to educate Moying. Previously, it was said that it might have something to do with Lord Yun, but there was no further news. You said that it might not be the case. But I met Lord Yun just now, and it is the case!"

Qu Zhizhen lowered his voice.

"Wh... what?" The Old Lady was so shocked that she almost stood up. She pressed her hand on the corner of the table and trembled slightly. "Did he say that?"

Qu Zhizhen nodded. "Yes, he said it!"

The Old Lady shook her head confusedly and frowned. "What... What should we do? With Moying's status and the fact that she had lost her mother and was raised in the village, she will definitely be looked down upon by others. Moreover, the other party is from the royal family. She definitely couldn't be his Princess Consort..."

Thinking that Qu Moying was going to be a concubine, the Old Lady felt depressed, her eyes turning red.

"Mother, it's not up to us. Lord Yun has the final say on it. He asked me to bring this back for Moying," Qu Zhizhen said, pointing at the water lotus on the side.

The Old Lady asked anxiously, "What... what does he mean?"

Qu Zhizhen shook his head. "I don't know either. When I went to look for Mingcheng just now, he even showed me around West Prison. Inside West Prison..."

Qu Zhizhen stopped at this point, afraid of scaring his mother.

However, even though he did not say anything, the Old Lady was still frightened when she heard him mention West Prison. She shivered, and her face immediately turned pale.

"West Prison? Why did you go to West Prison?"

"Mingcheng went to He Mansion and asked Third Young Master He about some things. Coincidentally, West Prison's people went to catch Third Young Master He, and they took Mingcheng away as well. I went to bring him out. When I happened to mention Moying's failed marriage, Lord Yun became angry. He said that he wanted to teach Mingcheng a lesson. I thought I'd better teach him myself, so I had Mingcheng beaten according to the family rules."

Qu Zhizhen explained, not telling the whole truth.

The Old Lady asked in a panic, "Is... Is he angry?"

Qu Zhizhen nodded. "He also said that the palace had already made the decision. He told us not to bother about Moying's marriage. He also said that the one He Mansion chose might not be Moying. I agreed with him immediately." Qu Zhizhen sighed. He did not hide anything from his mother on this issue.

At that time, he had no choice but to say so.

"So, our Moying could only be his concubine?" The Old Lady cried and wiped her eyes with a handkerchief.

Qu Zhizhen nodded. "Mother, let's not bother about Moying's marriage! Things have come to this, so we can only wait!"

They had no initiative. The initiative was in the palace, or rather, in the hands of Lord Yun. The Old Lady had been anxious to marry Qu Moying to someone because she was afraid that Qu Moying would have to be some royal member's concubine. She had thought the thing was over because there was no follow-up development, but it was not!

Moreover, they couldn't say anything before the matter was officially announced!

"I actually want Hanyuan to marry her." The Old Lady said bitterly, feeling extremely sad. Right now, all they could do was resign themselves to fate.

Qu Zhizhen comforted her, "Mother, there is no hurry. Fortunately, Moying is still young. Maybe this incident will be over after a period!"

His words were perfunctory. Not only was the Old Lady unconvinced, but Qu Zhizhen also doubted himself. He was sure that Qu Moying would enter Lord Yun Mansion in the future. Moreover, the palace had already known about it and had agreed to it. They were only waiting for a suitable opportunity. Or perhaps, Lord Yun still didn't want to get married yet.

After all, he had remained single for so many years.

"We... We can only let it be." The Old Lady wiped away her tears helplessly.

Qu Zhizhen said, "Mother, it's useless for us to worry about Qiuyan and Moying. You'd better care about big brother's family."

The Old Lady sensed something and looked up to ask, "Is there anything wrong?"

Qu Zhizhen said, "When Third Young Master He left that day, he met Xuexin. It was said that she accidentally bumped into him. The two of them talked for a while together. He asked for a doctor for her. I'm not too sure about the details. Mother, if you want to know, you can ask someone."

He had heard a little about this matter, but he did not care about it at that time. Now, he told the Old Lady about it. He was in West Mansion, whereas Qu Xuexin was in East Mansion. He didn't like Qu Xuexin. He was just her uncle, and he knew he'd better not talk to her directly about this.

The Old Lady understood what he meant and nodded. She thought for a moment and said, "Xiao Mansion told me that they wanted to marry someone in our mansion, and they hinted to me that it was Moying. They didn't make it clear. Now it seemed to be OK with Xuexin. At least it's also the marriage between the two mansions. But I still have to ponder over it."

The Old Lady felt that she still needed to think it over even if the other party was her grandnephew. There was no problem with his family background, but she had to know more about his personality!

Would he be able to get along with Xuexin?

Thinking about how Qu Xuexin had "accidentally" bumped into Third Young Master He, the Old Lady was displeased. Qu Xuexin had grown up. If she didn't get a good marriage as soon as possible, she would be filled with resentment.

When Qu Moying saw the water lotus jar on the table, she was stunned for a moment. She took a close look at the water lotus. It was really familiar. "Is this sent by my father?"

The lad servant explained with a smile, "Yes, Second Master asked me to send it over. He said it was from Lord Yun Mansion. He thought you would like it, so he asked me to bring it here."

Qu Moying pursed her lips. She already knew that it was Pei Yuanjun's idea.

Qu Moying shifted her gaze to look at the lad servant, "I heard that Second Brother is back. How is he?"

The servant said with a bitter face, "Second Young Master was beaten up by Second Master just now. If the Old Lady had not come over, something might have happened to Second Young Master!"

Qu Zhizhen told him to say so.

“Why did father beat Second Brother?” Qu Moying pretended to be ignorant. How could she not know since there was such a big commotion? Presumably, it must be Pei Yuanjun’s means to make Qu Zhizhen beat his beloved son. It was very interesting!

For some reason, she felt that she had vented her anger!

The lad servant shook his head. “I don’t know. I just saw that Second Master was very angry.”

As they were talking, a voice suddenly came from outside, “Moying, are you here?”

Qu Moying smiled thoughtfully, “What a coincidence. Qu Xuexin is here. East Mansion got the news as fast as West Mansion.”

Chapter 309 Qu Xuexin Became a Different Person

As soon as Qu Xuexin entered, she asked, “Moying, I heard that Mingcheng was beaten up. Did something happen?”

“Eldest Sister, how did you know that?” Qu Moying asked in reply.

East Mansion was not very near to West Mansion, but Qu Xuexin came so quickly.

Qu Xuexin said gently, “I happened to come here for something. I heard from an old maid here. I wanted to ask Grandmother, but I was afraid that she would be annoyed, so I came to ask you.”

Her eyes fell on the qin placed in front of the window. She couldn’t help but stand up and walk over. She asked in surprise, “Moying, where did you get this qin? It looks special.”

The qin was placed on the table by the window. It was not put into the qin cover yet. The qin cover was placed aside. Its color was light, but its peony embroidery was exquisite.

The phoenix and the peony in the embroidery set off each other.

Qu Moying said with a smile, "My mother left this qin for me. I've been playing it these days. I'll occasionally compose some qin scores."

Qu Xuexin's eyes fell on the qin, showing an expression of appreciation. Noble ladies more or less knew some musical scores, and most of them also knew how to play the qin. It was normal for them to be excited when they saw a nice qin. Qu Xuexin stepped forward and gently plucked the strings, which produced a pleasant sound.

She exclaimed, "Good qin!"

Qu Moying picked up the teacup at hand, took a sip, and put it down with a smile. "Thank you, Eldest Sister."

"This embroidery..." Qu Xuexin's eyes lit up when she saw the embroidery on the qin cover. She was proud of her embroidery skills. She had the best embroidery skills among the ladies in the mansion. However, she had never seen such good embroidery as the peony embroidery on the qin cover.

Even her former embroidery teacher couldn't do it.

After picking up the qin cover and looking carefully at it for a while, Qu Xuexin asked with embarrassment, "Moying, can you lend me the qin cover for a few days? I want to make a similar piece by imitating this embroidery."

Qu Moying shook her head and refused, "Eldest Sister, I'm sorry, but no."

"Why?" Qu Xuexin looked up at Qu Moying in surprise. She didn't expect that Qu Moying would refuse to do her such a small favour.

Qu Moying explained with a smile, "It was embroidered by my mother, so I must let it remain intact. Eldest Sister, if you do like it, you can come to my place to do the embroidery. But I can't let you take it away."

Qu Xuexin's face stiffened for a moment, but then a smile appeared on her face as she gently said, "Of course. Since it is left by Second Aunt, it is natural for you to cherish it. Then I may have to trouble you in the future."

"You are my sister. There is no trouble at all. Eldest Sister, please take a seat!" Qu Moying said with a smile, indifferently extending her hand towards a seat.

Qu Xuexin nodded. Just as she wanted to take a seat, she suddenly saw a jar of water lotus in front of the window. The jar was small, but it had exquisite carvings. If one took a close look at it, the swimming fish carvings on it could be seen. The water lotus in the jar was the most eye-catching. It looked both beautiful and unusual.

She couldn't help but stop in her tracks.

"Moying, this jar of water lotus is so beautiful. Where did you buy it? I also want to buy one." Qu Xuexin said with admiration in her eyes. She walked to the window to take a close look at the water lotus, and she couldn't help but pause there. The more she looked at the water lotus, the more she liked it.

Yu Dong secretly pursed his lips. Qu Xuexin was not here for Qu Mingcheng but for Qu Moying. She looked so petty. She liked everything in Qu Moying's room, which was clearly a hint to Qu Moying to send her something.

He didn't think of Qu Xuexin in this way before. But now, Qu Xuexin changed a lot. He didn't know if she had been pretending all this time or if she had changed recently.

Qu Moying explained indifferently, "This was sent by my father."

Qu Xuexin was rendered speechless by Qu Moying's words. She looked at the water lotus, and a trace of jealousy flashed through her eyes, but she quickly restrained it and showed her usual decency and gentleness.

Qu Xuexin turned around and sat down on a chair. Her eyes swept around the room, and she covered her mouth with a handkerchief and said with a smile, "I heard that Grandmother and Second Uncle gave all Second Aunt's dowry to you. You are now the richest among us!"

Qu Moying shook her head and said, "Actually, it is not that valuable. Some shops are still losing money."

"Losing money? How is your shop? Do you need my help? I'm free these days. If you need my help, just let me know. We are sisters and should help each other." Qu Xuexin sighed with a look of bitterness.

Qu Moying looked up in surprise. "Eldest Sister, you want to help me?"

Qu Xuexin explained, "If there's anything that I can help with, just tell me. The matter of the shop is in a mess. We have to solve it as soon as possible so as to stop others from gossiping about our mansion. No matter what they say, it will not be good for us!"

Her words made sense. It was not good for an unmarried lady to be the subject of people's gossip.

After all, people could say anything. They might speak ill of them. No lady would like to be discussed by others.

When people talked about a certain lady in Qu Mansion, they would naturally mention other ladies in the Qu Mansion. From this point of view, Qu Mansion's ladies were bound together for good or ill.

Qu Caiyue's previous incident had affected the reputation of the other ladies in Qu Mansion, and Qu Xuexin's marriage was therefore delayed. Everyone in Qu Mansion knew about this, so it was normal for Qu Xuexin to sigh like this.

Qu Xuexin was genuine when she spoke as if she really cared for Qu Moying. However, Qu Moying had been watching her all the time, and she did not miss the jealousy in the former's eyes despite her smiling face. What Qu Xuexin had done recently must be out of jealousy!

Of course, Liu Jingyu must have also played a part.

Qu Moying didn't have a thing to her name when she just entered the mansion, and Qu Xuexin was quite gentle to her. However, when Qu Qiuyan and Qu Caiyue plotted against Qu Moying, Qu Xuexin did not do anything but just watch. She remained to be the gentle First Lady Qu, staying out of trouble.

Now, Qu Caiyue had entered Lord Jing Mansion, and Qu Qiuyan did not seem to have much hope. On the contrary, Qu Moying was living well, and she got all her mother's dowry. Seeing this, Qu Xuexin could not sit still. She acted rashly and therefore looked different from how she was before.

Qu Xuexin must be a pawn that Liu Jingyu had arranged long ago. Otherwise, it couldn't explain why they knew each other and contacted in private but pretended to be unfamiliar with each other in front of Qu Mansion's people.

"Thank you, Eldest Sister." Qu Moying didn't say whether she needed Qu Xuexin's help or not but just thanked her.

"We are sisters. You don't have to thank me. It sounded too alienated. Moying, next time when you go out, call me. I want to go with you." Qu Xuexin took advantage of the situation and requested, waiting for Qu Moying to agree.

Qu Moying gave her a sidelong glance and gave a polite response, "When the shop is officially opened, I will invite you to take a look. Everything is ready now. We are waiting for the right time to start the business."

Her vague words made Qu Xuexin uncomfortable, but she could not say anything else. She could only nod with a smile, "Alright, I will wait for your message."

After that, she changed the topic and asked with concern, "Moying, why did Second Uncle beat Mingcheng? Did something happen? I heard that Mingcheng went to He Mansion and was put into West Prison. What happened?"

After beating around the bush for such a long time, Qu Xuexin finally cut to the chase. Qu Moying gently pursed her lips and replied, "I heard that Second Brother said something in Third Young Master He's place. Father was angry about that, so he beat him."

Qu Xuexin came to her, but she didn't ask about this matter until now. It could be seen that she had already received some news, which might not be all delivered from West Mansion.

Did Liu Jingyu get involved in this matter? It was weird that Mrs. He had come today. Qu Moying thought she should go and beg Lord Jing in this situation. However, she came to Qu Moying with great anger, apparently wanting to land her in dire trouble.

It seemed that someone was adding fuel to the fire.

Was it Liu Jingyu again? If it was the case, it could explain why Mrs. He came over today. Qu Moying's eyes were unfathomable. She thought there must be a deep grudge between her and Liu Jingyu because the latter had been scheming against her all the time.

Liu Jingyu schemed against her in the dark again and again.

Moreover, she had made Qu Xuexin a planted agent long ago.

"Even if Second Uncle is angry, he should not beat Mingcheng so hard. How could he do this to Mingcheng?" Qu Xuexin sighed.

Qu Moying did not speak. She only smiled and waited for Qu Xuexin to continue. She wanted to see what Qu Xuexin's true purpose was.

It seemed that Qu Xuexin didn't come here only for the shop.

"Moying, let's go and see Mingcheng. I heard that he is seriously injured. As his sisters, we should go to see him!" Qu Xuexin invited.

“Now?” Qu Moying raised an eyebrow.

Qu Xuexin said seriously, “Yes, let’s go now. At this time, Mingcheng’s wound must have been treated with ointment. Since we know, we have to go and see how his injury is. I heard that he went to He Mansion for you.”

Qu Moying sneered in her heart. Qu Mingcheng didn’t go to He Mansion for Qu Moying’s good, but he seemed to go there for Qu Moying’s sake on the surface. If Qu Moying did not go to see him, she might appear cold-blooded and heartless. Since this was Qu Xuexin’s purpose, Qu Moying would just satisfy her.

She held the corner of the table, stood up, and said, “Eldest Sister, please wait for me. I have to change my clothes first.”

Chapter 310 Qu Xuexin Put on a Show

Qu Moying soon came out in a light lotus color dress with a light green belt. The dress fluttered slightly in the breeze, making her look like a fairy. The eye veil even added a different charm to her.

Seeing how beautiful she was, Qu Xuexin felt uncomfortable. A trace of jealousy flashed in her eyes. She slowly lowered her head to regain her calm.

She was the most ordinary looking one among the other ladies in the mansion. Now, even a woman with an eye veil looked delicate and beautiful, and she felt really uncomfortable about it.

Fortunately, her emotions had always been stable. She soon calmed down and returned to normal.

They went to Qu Mingcheng’s yard together.

Qu Mingcheng had his own yard in West Mansion. Although he lived in East Mansion most of the time, his yard in West Mansion was also clean and tidy, and his study was also in West Mansion.

His yard was close to the flower gate but outside it.

After walking out of the flower gate, they turned a corner and arrived at Qu Mingcheng's yard. Seeing Qu Xuexin and Qu Moying, the lad servant at the door quickly went in to report.

In the inner room of the main chamber, Qu Mingcheng was lying on his stomach. His wound had been treated with medical ointment. Although it was still painful and he didn't have any strength, he could basically stand it.

Qu Qiuyan was talking with him about Mrs. He. She was in great anger when she heard the lad servant say that Qu Moying was here. She said angrily, "What is she coming for? Let her leave!"

The lad servant looked at Qu Mingcheng on the bed in a panic, not daring to say anything.

"What are you looking at? Leave now!" Qu Qiuyan said angrily. Her voice startled the lad servant.

Enduring the pain, Qu Mingcheng said to Qu Qiuyan, "Qiuyan, don't be so angry. Every comer is my guest. Since she is here to visit me, we should not chase her away. Father has been angry with me. I couldn't afford to make him angrier."

Qu Qiuyan said irrationally, "But I hate her. Why didn't she die? Now, even our mother has fallen into this situation, and it's all her fault!"

Her words sounded to be the reasonable, but they were actually bullshit. Her mother plotted against Qu Moying. Qu Moying only fought back, but they hated and blamed her.

Qu Qiuyan sounded both vicious and ridiculous.

Qu Mingcheng reminded Qu Qiuyan, "Alright, since she's here, let her in. We can't let father scold us again. Since our mother is already in such a situation, we should be more careful. Don't make father angry again."

After a moment of silence, Qu Qiuyan said with hatred, "Let them in. They must be up to no good for coming here!"

The lad servant walked out of the room, and soon Qu Xuexin and Qu Moying came in.

As soon as Qu Xuexin entered the room, she took two steps forward before Qu Moying and asked Qu Mingcheng with concern, "Mingcheng, how are you?"

The bed's curtain had been drawn down, and only Qu Mingcheng's head could be seen.

Seeing the two of them enter, Qu Mingcheng revealed a weak smile, "Eldest Sister, Moying, you're here. I'm fine."

"What is going on? How did you anger Second Uncle to this extent? Second Uncle has never beaten you like this for all these years!"

Her words made Qu Mingcheng upset. He still couldn't figure out why Qu Zhizhen beat him. Even if he went to He Mansion on his own, Qu Zhizhen shouldn't have been so angry. He knew that Qu Zhizhen did not care about Qu Moying.

If it was not because he went to He Mansion, it must be because he was put into West Prison. Lord Yun was definitely not easy to deal with. Qu Zhizhen must have suffered when interacting with Lord Yun, so Qu Zhizhen vented his anger on him. However, this still could not explain why he was so angry.

Qu Mingcheng thought for a moment and reluctantly explained, "Father got angry because he thought it was humiliating that I was put into West Prison."

Qu Qiuyan snorted from the side. She looked angrily at Qu Moying, who was standing behind Qu Xuexin, and said in a voice dripping with sarcasm, "No wonder Moying came to see you, brother."

Qu Moying had been standing quietly by the side. Hearing Qu Qiuyan mention her, she raised her eyes and glanced at Qu Qiuyan. "Third Sister, I don't understand what you mean. Do you think I shouldn't come to visit Second Brother?"

Qu Qiuyan was choked by this question. She glared at Qu Moying and asked, "Moying, what do you mean?"

"I didn't mean anything. I just came to see Second Brother. Now that Second Brother is fine, I am relieved. I will leave now so as not to make you unhappy." Qu Moying said and turned to leave.

Qu Xuexin hurriedly turned around and grabbed her hand. "Moying, since you have come, let's sit down and have a chat. We have just arrived. Don't leave so quickly."

After saying this, Qu Xuexin comforted Qu Qiuyan, "Qiuyan, calm down. You can't blame Moying for what happened to Mingcheng. Why are you angry?"

Qu Xuexin always played the role of peacemaker. She was kind and gentle. It seemed that she had the best character among the ladies of Qu Mansion.

"Qiuyan, apologize to Moying." Qu Mingcheng straightened his face and scolded Qu Qiuyan in a low voice.

"Brother!" Qu Qiuyan called out, her eyes turning red.

"Qiuyan, don't be willful!" Qu Mingcheng still kept a straight face as if he was impartial.

Qu Mingcheng actually took Qu Moying's side. Seeing Qu Moying looking at her with a faint smile, Qu Qiuyan could not endure it any longer. She stomped her feet hard, turned around, and ran out with grievance.

Qu Mingcheng sighed helplessly and said to Qu Moying, "Moying, don't be angry. Qiuyan is a little willful. She loves our mother very much, and she has some misunderstandings about you. When I get better, I will talk to her."

“How impartial and righteous he is!” Qu Moying sneered in her heart. Since he had done such a thing with the intention of landing her in a desperate situation, what did he mean by acting friendly now?

But since he had said so, she couldn’t be indifferent. She smiled and asked, “Second Brother, how are your injuries?”

“I might have to lie on the bed for a period of time to recover. When I went to He Mansion, I was afraid that you would stop me, so I went there without telling you. But I was afraid that you would misunderstand me, so I sent someone to give you a gift and explain it to you. I didn’t expect it to end up like this. It’s my fault.”

Qu Mingcheng said with a bitter smile. His words were very sincere. If Qu Moying didn’t have a firm mind, she would think that she had misunderstood him.

Qu Moying had lived for two lives. She looked fragile, but she was determined. How could she be fooled by his lousy lie?

Qu Moying smiled faintly and said indifferently, “Second Brother, since you are fine, I had better leave you in peace!” She narrowed her eyes, and her eyes were full of ridicule. “Do they really think I am an ignorant lady?”

Qu Mingcheng distorted the truth and tried to make her a fool, which was indeed ridiculous.

“Moying...” Qu Mingcheng still wanted to say something, but Qu Moying had already turned around and left, ignoring him. His face suddenly darkened.

Qu Xuexin reached out to grab Qu Moying’s clothes, but Qu Moying dodged. When she wanted to reach out again, Qu Moying had already walked to the door. She could only watch her leave.

Seeing Qu Mingcheng’s darkened face, Qu Xuexin comforted him like a peacemaker, “Mingcheng, don’t be angry. This is how Moying is. She grew up in the village, so she doesn’t have a close relationship with us.”

Qu Mingcheng glanced at her, and his expression softened. "Eldest Sister, how is Cousin Xiao?"

He actually stopped talking about Qu Moying.

He had always been in East Mansion, and his relationship with Qu Xuexin was almost the same as those who shared the same parents.

"He... might still prefer Moying!" Qu Xuexin lowered her head and said bitterly. Then, she raised her head and hid the grievance in her eyes, and said, "It's fine. Let it go. I can't forcefully make it happen. Besides, I'm an unmarried lady. I can't talk to him about this."

"If not for Second Sister, you wouldn't have come to this point. Although Cousin Xiao is not the best choice, he is better than the others. If you think it is improper for you to ask him, I will talk to him. I will tell him to ask Grandmother to grant the two of you a marriage." Qu Mingcheng propped his hand on the edge of the bed and wanted to sit up, but he felt a sharp pain, so he could only lower his body again.

Qu Xuexin shook her hand. "There's no need for this."

Qu Mingcheng became more and more sincere. "Eldest Sister, I will speak for you!"

"But there's still Moying... If Moying finds out about this in the future, how can I face her?" Qu Xuexin still shook her head, but not as firm as just now.

Seeing her expression, Qu Mingcheng knew that she was a little moved. He said, "Eldest Sister, not only what we think matters, but we also need to know how Cousin Xiao thinks. Don't worry, Eldest Sister. I know what to do."

In a while, Xiao Hanyuan would come over, and Qu Mingcheng could ask him.

"Moying is innocent. We can't let her... This is not a good reason." Qu Xuexin was still trying to refuse. She forced a smile and said, "She is my sister. If I do this, it will ruin our sisterhood. Even if Moying has done something wrong, she is the youngest lady in our mansion!"

Qu Mingcheng already had an idea in his heart and said meaningfully, "Don't worry, Eldest Sister. I will just casually ask him. I won't say anything else. If Cousin Xiao really has no intention, I won't mention it again!"

The two of them continued to chat for a while. Then, they heard someone outside reporting, "Mr. Xiao is here!"

Qu Xuexin stood up with a red face. "Mingcheng, I will go back first!"

Qu Mingcheng said, "Eldest Sister, please go first. Take a look at Qiuyan for me. If she doesn't change her personality, she will suffer a lot in the future!"

Qu Xuexin nodded and agreed. When she came out of the room, she met Xiao Hanyuan, who was coming over. She immediately stopped and bowed sideways shyly, "Cousin Brother!"

Seeing her come out, Xiao Hanyuan asked gently, "Cousin Sister, why don't you stay for a while longer?"

"No, I still have something to talk about with my two sisters." Qu Xuexin replied softly. She bowed to Xiao Hanyuan and left with a red face.

Behind her, Xiao Hanyuan looked at her with eyes full of affection...