

Noble Wife 31

Chapter 31 Lord Jing's Cousin

Qu Moying looked at Granny Miao and then at the senior housemaid. Nodding, she said, "I see. I'll go over immediately."

Yu acted really fast.

"I'll go back to report Second Madam." The senior housemaid turned around and left with a grinning face.

Qu Moying turned her head to look at Xu Lipeng and said, "Young Master Xu, please excuse me!"

Xu Lipeng knew it would be inappropriate for him to explain more to Qu Moying now. So, he could only nod with a sullen face. After that, he strode out, feeling quite annoyed. He felt so awkward being rejected by Qu Moying.

'She's just a blind girl. Does she really think she's so popular?' he thought.

Qu Moying walked out after him. Then Granny Miao came close to her to tell Qu Moying what she had found out.

"Young Master He? He's related to Lord Jing? So he's the eldest son of Noble Consort He's older brother?" As Qu Moying thought about the visitor's identity, a malicious look flashed in her eyes.

She had known that man in her previous life.

That was a total lecher and also a bully under Noble Consort He's protection. He had a lot of concubines, but most of them were already dead. It was said that his wife was a very fierce woman. She had killed the ones whom she thought were charming and only spared the lives of the girls who were obedient and looked not attractive.

There was a story about this He Dapang. A lady from a noble family was killed by He Dapang and his wife after she just arrived in the capital. He Dapang set the lady up and raped her. After that, his wife brought a group of people and ripped off the lady's clothes in public. At last, the lady jumped into the river and killed herself.

This was a humiliation for that noble family. Also, because of He Dapang's relationship with Lord Jing, the family then hid the truth and only claimed that the lady fell into the river by accident.

However, He Dapang was not a total fool. Though he really was a lascivious guy, he was not stupid. So Qu Moying could actually use him...

Noble Consort He's family was truly full of scumbags!

"Yes, that's what I have heard. It's said he is invited here because the Second Madam wants to know if Lord Jing will come on Old Lady Qu's birthday," Granny Miao said in a low voice.

Granny Miao never heard of this person before, but all Qu Moying wanted to know was whom Yu had invited to the mansion.

The order was very clear, so Granny Miao easily found it out.

A lot of people had come today. After Granny Miao sent someone to lead Xu Lipeng to Qianyue House, where Qu Moying was, she then went to Yu's place to get some information.

Today was a hustle for Granny Miao, but she also realized how important it was for Qu Moying to gain a foothold in the mansion.

Most of the servants in this mansion regarded Qu Moying as an outsider and treated Yu Qingmeng as their lady, which really pissed Granny Miao off.

"My lady, do you need me to get more details before you go?" Granny Miao said worriedly.

"No need," Qu Moying shook her head and said with a gentle smile, "Just follow me."

Qu Moying assumed that she would run into He Dapang before she saw Yu.

After all, if Yu hadn't figured out a way to get herself off the hook, she wouldn't dare to create the encounter of Qu Moying and He Dapang. But this was exactly what Qu Moying wanted, to make a scene in the mansion.

She irritated Yu Qingmeng just now, partially because things had already got ugly between them, but mainly for the next step of her plan.

It was unlikely for those who were in a rage to stay calm. Now Yu Qingmeng must want something miserable to happen to Qu Moying. Of course, it would be better if she could witness it with her own eyes...

"Okay, my lady. I prefer going with you as well!" Granny Miao nodded. She would be so worried if Qu Moying only had Chun Yu accompanying her there. She's glad that Qu Moying asked her to come.

Granny Miao had a lot of stuff with her. She could protect Qu Moying when there was danger.

The three of them headed to Yu's yard. Before they had gone far, a maid jumped out from the side of the road and gave her obeisance to Qu Moying with a smile, "Fourth Lady, Second Madam told you to wait in the yard over there. Lady Yu is still crying now. Second Madam was afraid that you two would get into a fight again if you meet each other."

The maid pointed to a yard not far away.

There was no one living in that yard, and the place had always been empty. The scenery was great, and there was a pavilion in the yard on which one could appreciate the view. On ordinary days, people from the Qu Family would rest here when they felt tired viewing the scenery.

However, located beside the garden, the yard wasn't a quiet place with many people coming and going. So no one lived here.

As Qu Moying looked up, she saw the curtain in the pavilion being lifted slightly by someone. Qu Moying squinted her eyes and saw a hand raise it up a bit more. Someone was there!

"Fine, I see!" With the corner of Qu Moying's lips lifted, she walked to the yard.

The maid backed off. As she saw Qu Moying getting in, there was a complacent look in her eyes. Then she turned around to report to Yu.

"She got in?" Hearing the maid's words, Yu smirked and asked in the room.

"Yes, I saw Fourth Lady walking in," The maid nodded.

"Aunt, will she set us up?" Yu Qingmeng was sitting aside. She had already got herself washed. However, she was still wearing the silk ribbon with a knot tied behind her head, which made her look like Qu Moying from a distance.

After she ran out, she came straight to Yu to tell Qu Moying off and was appeased by Yu.

"What is a blind girl capable of?" Yu curled up her lips disdainfully.

"Aunt, this blind girl is not the same as before." Yu Qingmeng shook her head, feeling quite insecure. She just had a fight with Qu Moying and found her not easy to be fooled.

As she thought of that, she felt so aggrieved. Xu Lipeng's words were still echoing in her head. She envied and hated Qu Moying so much. Then she said as she stood up,

"Aunt, I'll go check it."

She wanted to go not only because she wasn't assured the plan would work but also because she wanted to see Qu Moying being humiliated.

“Don’t. I already ordered someone to pretend to break in accidentally. Young Master Xu is here today. It’ll be the best if we can lead him over!” Yu shook her head.

“Aunt, I’ll feel worried if I stay here. I’ll watch them from afar and not get close, okay?” Yu Qingmeng shook Yu’s hand adorably. She had got so mad just now. Now that she knew Qu Moying would suffer, she just had to watch it herself. As she remembered how embarrassed she had been in front of Qu Moying, she got furious at once with her eyes turning red.

Young Master Xu, who used to be very nice to her, talked to her like that for a blind girl. She couldn’t stand it.

She wanted Young Master Xu to see Qu Moying and that playboy fooling around with her together.

She wanted Young Master Xu to know that she was his best choice.

“No, you can’t go,” Yu turned her down again. It would be best if she and Yu Qingmeng had nothing to do with this matter. She had already planned to let someone get rid of the maid who sent the message. No one would know the maid worked for her since she had only started serving in the Qu’s Mansion for a few days. By then, Yu only needed to deny that she had told Qu Moying to go to that yard.

She would claim that He Dapang acted on his own because he was captivated by Qu Moying. Even Old Lady Qu wouldn’t dare to offend Lord Jing’s cousin. This guy had done the same thing so many times before. Those ladies’ families all covered it up secretly in case the reputation of the other ladies in their families would be ruined. Any family would think of it as bad luck if something like this happened.

“Aunt, I’ll just have a look from afar. I won’t go over. There’s a rockery in that yard. I can see what is happening in the pavilion from there. Please, I’ll just watch them there. It’s far away from them, and no one would find out. Even if I am caught, I’ll say that I go there to appreciate the view,”

Yu Qingmeng shook Yu’s sleeve and begged.

Her words did make sense. Yu finally nodded resignedly. Having given Yu Qingmeng a few instructions, she then let her niece go.

Once Yu Qingmeng left Yu's yard, she walked ahead at a fast speed, followed closely by Ju Xiang. As she stood outside the empty yard, she found the place very quiet, as if nobody was there. She had assumed that He Dapang should have already got Qu Moying laid after such a long time.

Yu said that the two pageboys whom He Dapang had brought with him seemed pretty strong. It should be easy for them to deal with a senior housemaid and a young maid.

How come she didn't hear anything? It was so quiet!

Yu Qingmeng then walked forward.

"My lady, don't go," seeing that, Ju Xiang stopped Yu Qingmeng at once.

"I'll watch it by the door," Yu Qingmeng said. She wouldn't break in like a fool and only wanted to take a peek by the door.

The door was pushed open slightly. Though she already got very close, she still didn't hear anything, which seemed very strange. Yu Qingmeng stepped into the yard cautiously as Ju Xiang walked behind her. They both seemed very nervous.

After they entered the yard, Yu Qingmeng stopped to look at the pavilion. Before she could see anything clearly, something hit on the back of her head. Then she had a blackout and fainted.

Ju Xiang also fell to the ground. The person behind her was Yu Chun holding a bolt with a pale face.

She watched Ju Xiang falling down with her eyes wide open.

Compared to Yu Chun, Granny Miao was much calmer. After she put down the bolt in her hand, she carried Yu Qingmeng in her arms and walked into the pavilion.

On the bed inside, a fat young man was lying there with his face slightly red. He was a good-looking guy, but his eyebags showed clearly how dissipated he was.

Granny Miao threw Yu Qingmeng to him and then walked away to hide behind the windows. After she pulled up the curtain, she left in a hurry. She had just calculated the time and assumed that the fat man was about to wake up. The drug she put in his drink was not very strong.

After that, Granny Miao put Ju Xiang beside the two pageboys who fainted as well. Then she took Yu Chun, who was wearing a panicky look, to the rockery which seemed high enough. It was a coincidence that the rockery was the same one that Yu Qingmeng planned to hide behind.

Qu Moying had been waiting there for a long time. Once she stepped into the yard, she let Granny Miao put the two pageboys and He Dapang down with drugs. Then she left immediately.

As she walked to the garden, she happened to run into a few maids and senior housemaids. She even told them to bring her a jug of water and some snacks over. At last, she stopped at the gazebo beside the rockery.

Through the window opened by Granny Miao, Qu Moying saw that He Dapang was about to wake up. He moved a bit and held Yu Qingmeng in his arms, touching her. Then she looked to the place not far from here and saw Xu Lipeng was walking over after a complaisant maid. With the corner of her lips lifted silently, Qu Moying picked a piece of snack and took a bite.

Yu and Yu Qingmeng were so malicious that they wanted to ruin Qu Moying. Also, Yu Qingmeng, who had been pissed off by Qu Moying, must want to witness her suffering with her own eyes!

So Qu Moying bet that Yu Qingmeng would come. Coincidentally enough, Yu Qingmeng had even worn a white silk ribbon on her forehead to fake her sickness...

Chapter 32 Who is This Guy?

Yu Qingmeng woke up as she heard a scream. The moment she opened her eyes, she looked right into Xu Lipeng's murderous eyes, which freaked her out. Then she said with a sweet voice, "Young Master Xu!"

For the moment, she didn't know where she was. She moved her body and tried to stand up, but her hand and feet were trapped by something. Then she pushed the thing beside her subconsciously but failed to move it. As she turned around to have a look, she saw a pair of squinted eyes on a fat face. Then her brain just went blank.

She looked down, finding one of the fat man's hands on her waist and the other on her chest. The front of her dress was in a mess and even unbuttoned to her chest. Even the underwear on her upper body was exposed.

"Ah!" she let out a piercing, terrific scream. Yu Qingmeng slapped the fat man's face violently and pushed him away with all her strength. Then she rolled on the floor and stopped by Xu Lipeng's feet.

She held Xu Lipeng's legs at once and cried out, "Young Master, who... who is this guy? What... what is happening here? What... what happened...?"

Suddenly, something occurred to her blurred mind. A man who's fat like that?

Suddenly, two slaps fell on Yu Qingmeng's face. He Dapang sat up from the bed and hit Yu Qingmeng, "Bitch, didn't you say you adore me and want to be with me? Why did you just go back on your words?"

"I... I didn't. I don't even know you..." Yu Qingmeng cried loudly. The long veil on her head had fallen on her neck long ago. Now she looked very messy.

"You don't know me? That's not what you said when you threw yourself to me. Now that you saw another man, you change your target right away?" He Dapang said impatiently.

He came here today to discuss things about his cousin, Lord Jing. He knew what his cousin was thinking. Since the Qu Family intended to have a closer relationship with Lord Jing, He Dapang agreed to come. He didn't expect that Qu Mingcheng, who invited him over, had gone to Old Lady Qu's yard and told him to wait. Then he was brought here.

After that, a maid sneaked into the yard and told him that a lady in this family fell for him and asked if he was married.

Nothing like this had ever happened to He Dapang. He always forced girls to be with him and never met a lady who had a crush on him. The news got him very excited. He didn't have anything else to do now, and spending some time with a lady seemed a good choice. So he, being intrigued, said he hadn't got married and asked the lady to come over.

The maid nodded and said that their lady would come in a minute. She also told him that the lady liked to cover her eyes with a long white veil in case he would get the wrong person.

When Qu Moying walked into the yard, he was standing by the window of the pavilion and saw her long veil. At that time, he thought it was a new trick that the ladies came up with recently. With that veil covering her face, he wouldn't know what she looked like. The mysterious aura thrilled him!

However, before the lady came up, he fell asleep for no reason. He remembered a senior housemaid was coming up. But the memory was pretty blurred, so he didn't know if it was real or in his dream!

Anyway, he didn't care about that. Maybe getting him to sleep was also one of the lady's tricks! The prostitutes he had met also liked to play some games. It was not like he hadn't experienced this kind of thing before!

Though the ladies from noble families were different from the prostitutes, this one clearly loved to play.

When he woke up and saw the pretty girl in his arms, he then just did what a lecher would do.

Now seeing the long ribbon that fell from Yu Qingmeng's forehead, He Dapang believed firmly that she was the lady in the yard. He completely forgot that the lady he saw and this one didn't wear the same clothes.

No one would care about such details under that circumstance. He even didn't notice who followed the lady.

"You asked to meet me, and now you regret it? Do you have a thing for Young Master Xu?" He Dapang looked at Xu Lipeng with a faint smile. He had known this well-reputed Young Master since long ago. The

two of them never made any contacts before, but they knew each other and found each other quite repulsive.

Xu Lipeng thought He Dapang was a dirty and lecherous man.

He Dapang thought that Xu Lipeng was just a hypocrite who loved to put on airs, which repelled him a lot.

Now He Dapang saw Yu Qingmeng holding Xu Lipeng's legs tightly, and Xu Lipeng looked like he caught his lover cheating. He Dapang realized something and applauded while laughing loudly, "Young Master Xu, don't tell me this is your fiancée! I heard she is blind and ugly..."

Speaking of that, He Dapang stopped and walked around Yu Qingmeng and Xu Lipeng twice. Then he smacked her lips and said, "This one is pretty, and her eyes aren't blind. The rumors are false?"

His eyes fell on Yu Qingmeng's chest that was half exposed. Seeing that, Yu Qingmeng tucked her clothes while crying, curling up next to Xu Lipeng's feet.

"Young Master He, please watch your mouth!" He Dapang's words enraged Xu Lipeng at once. He had to take a deep breath to calm himself.

"Watch my mouth? I was just telling the truth. Maybe you should watch yours. What if your real fiancée sees you being so close with this girl who's not blind? What will she think?" He Dapang, who gained the upper hand, seemed to be enjoying this. He pulled his clothes that were unbuttoned on his chest and asked Xu Lipeng with a grin.

He was not stupid. The rumor said that Xu Lipeng's fiancée was Qu Zhizhen's fourth daughter, who was blind and ugly. The description clearly didn't suit the girl in front of him. He had also heard from Lord Jing that Xu Lipeng's fiancée did have weak eyes and lived in a village before.

So who was the girl in front of him?

He remembered that Lord Jing said that Xu Lipeng was close to Yu's niece, Third Lady Qu's cousin. Then he realized that this girl in the room must be the one.

Then everything just made sense to him. He had been invited by Yu's son today, so this Lady Yu must be one of the few people who knew about his arrival.

Lord Jing was interested in Qu Qiuyan, so he had inquired into some of the affairs of the Qu Family.

"You must be Lady Yu. They said that you are Young Master Xu's confidante. I thought it was just a rumor, but it turns out to be true." He Dapang was valued by Lord Jing because he was pretty clever at times. For the moment, he realized what had happened today could actually bring benefits to him right away. Then with the look on his face turning gentle, he said that, beaming.

Xu Lipeng's face turned even sullener. He kicked Yu Qingmeng away directly and said in a cold voice, "Young Master He, I don't know what you are talking about. This is the Qu's Mansion. Please mind your words."

"So what? Third Lady Qu is about to marry my cousin. We are going to be relatives then. If you want to marry Lady Yu, I can give you a hand," He Dapang smiled and said.

He Dapang narrowed his eyes, thinking, 'Marquis Yongning's family has always been neutral. If I can get something on Xu Lipeng this time and draw him to my cousin's side, my cousin will be very pleased.'

"Ah, what are you..." A woman's scream came through from outside. In the next second, Yu rushed in with a group of people. "What... what are you doing here? This is absurd," Yu cried out loudly.

After she came in, she stood behind Xu Lipeng and didn't notice the messy girl on the ground was Yu Qingmeng. As she saw the long ribbon on the ground, she turned to Madam Yongning behind her and attempted to push her out anxiously, "Madam, this is a bad time. Let's have a chat outside."

Madam Yongning pulled out a long face as she saw the white ribbon on the ground.

"That's Fourth Lady?"

"No, how could it be... Madam, let's leave now. That's just a vulgar maid." Yu showed a nervous look to make herself more suspicious.

"Which maid in your mansion dared to do this? I'd like to see it myself!" Madam Yongning pushed Yu away and took two steps forward. As she saw Yu Qingmeng, who was crouched there, she showed a disdainful look in her eyes. Just now, Old Lady Qu insisted on breaking off the engagement and implied that Xu Lipeng and Yu Qingmeng had an affair with each other. Madam Yongning, who tried to fix things up, even got heartache due to anger upon hearing those words.

After that, Yu came over and took Madam Yongning to tour the place in order to ease the tension.

However, now Madam Yongning believed that she caught Qu Moying cheating, so she planned to take the girl to Old Lady Qu to embarrass her.

As for the engagement, she decided to break it off. In her view, a shameless girl like Qu Moying only deserved to be her son's concubine.

"Someone, grab this bitch," Madam Yongning said in a cold voice. Then she explained to Yu, who was enjoying herself, "Second Madam Qu, we have to report this to Old Lady Qu. Since we are going back anyway, let's bring her with us."

Yu meant to let Madam Yongning get involved. Though being very glad inwardly, she still said with hesitation on her face, "I don't think that's a good idea!"

"Why isn't it a good idea? Old Lady Qu will know this sooner or later," Madam Yongning said nonchalantly. What had happened helped Madam Yongning gain the upper hand. She would like to hear what Old Lady Qu was going to say.

"Mother, just leave them alone!" Xu Lipeng had to come over and say that.

Standing aside, He Dapang kept silent and watched the scene with his arms crossed in front of his chest. What was happening now and the fact that he fainted for no reason suggested that something was wrong. Now he was not sure about the girl's identity again. However, either way, he wouldn't lose.

"I already saw this. How can I leave them alone?" Madam Yongning thought that her son pitied Qu Moying. Then she glared at her son and said coldly, "I need someone to take this girl away!"

Two senior housemaids rushed to Yu Qingmeng. The girl buried her head in her knees and kept struggling. However, she was still pulled up and showed herself in her untidy dress. Her underwear was shifted slightly, which made her fair skin exposed.

As Yu Qingmeng lowered her head in panic, her disheveled hair came down and covered half of her face.

"Mother!" Xu Lipeng had to stop her mother again. Seeing He Dapang staring at Yu Qingmeng's body, he explained with gritted teeth, "This is not Fourth Lady Qu. She's Lady Yu!"

The situation now was scandalous. Xu Lipeng already felt that he was betrayed. If Old Lady Qu was informed of this, things would only get more awkward for him. He didn't want everyone to know what had happened between him and Yu Qingmeng. Now that Yu Qingmeng was in a desperate situation, she might just speak out everything.

Thinking of that, Xu Lipeng got a headache. Now, he had no choice but to let his mother know who the girl was.

It would be best if Old Lady Qu knew nothing about this.

"What? Qingmeng?" Yu thought that she heard it wrong as her smile froze.

Madam Yongning was also stunned...

Chapter 33 Who Should Take the Responsibility?

"Aunt, I don't know why it ended up like this. I was knocked out when I was passing by. After I woke up, I was here."

Knowing that she couldn't hide the truth anymore, Yu Qingmeng cried and pushed the senior housemaids away. Then she rushed to Yu.

She planned to blame He Dapang for everything.

He Dapang was not easy to fool. He denied at once and said loudly, "Hey, what the hell are you talking about? What do you mean by you were knocked out? I'm the one who's drugged! I also fell asleep for no reason. When I woke up, I found you on my bed. Then I thought that your family did have a special way to treat your guest."

Hearing his flirty words, Yu, face turning red, felt both angry and resentful. She even found Yu Qingmeng unpleasant at this moment. She had told her not to come out, but the girl just wouldn't listen to her. Now even the reputation of the Qu's ladies, especially her daughter, was influenced. Qu Qiuyan wanted to marry Lord Jing, so there couldn't be any damage to her name.

"Someone, take Lady Yu away!" Yu said sharply.

"Aunt, I really was set up. It's... it's Qu Moying. It's her. It has to be her," Yu Qingmeng screamed.

"I was also framed. A woman just came out of nowhere, telling me how much she adored me," He Dapang said lazily, undermining Yu Qingmeng's credibility.

Although He Dapang was a randy man, it didn't mean that he was willing to be set up. After he had thought about cause and effect, he realized that he did have walked into a trap. However, there seemed to be an accident that caused the current situation.

That was great for him. One thing he could be sure of was that Yu must be involved.

"Young Master, Young Master, Young Master, help me. I'm innocent. There's nothing between him and me." Seeing that Yu didn't appear to be touched by her, Yu Qingmeng then turned to Xu Lipeng and held him tightly, wailing.

Xu Lipeng didn't see that coming and was hugged by Yu Qingmeng suddenly.

He Dapang laughed joyfully as he saw what was happening, saying, “Chicks all like good-looking guys. It’s a pity that I’m not as handsome as Young Master Xu!”

He was trying to suggest that Yu Qingmeng was a prostitute and Xu Lipeng was her client.

Xu Lipeng pushed Yu Qingmeng away at once. She took a few steps back and fell on the ground heavily.

Xu Lipeng patted his sleeves as if something dirty was on them. Then he left with a cold look in his eyes, without looking at Yu Qingmeng once, who was crying behind him.

“Young Master... Young Master...” Yu Qingmeng cried aggrievedly and was about to collapse.

“Take Lady Yu away!” Yu ordered in a cold voice.

Two senior housemaids of the Qu Family pulled Yu Qingmeng up. This time she didn’t struggle and left with them.

“Second Madam Qu, may I leave now? I’m telling you again, this lady got on my bed herself. You told me to take a break here, didn’t you?” He Dapang pointed to the place and laughed as if he had nothing to do with the scandal.

He regarded Yu Qingmeng as a temptress and would never take her back home because his wife would get furious. She’s not worth the effort.

Yu was enraged when hearing him passing the buck. Now, marrying He Dapang was the best choice for Yu Qingmeng. However, He Dapang seemed to despise Yu Qingmeng a lot. Also, Yu initially chose He Dapang only because he had a fierce wife. If Yu Qingmeng really married him, she would be killed by that woman without He Dapang’s protection.

Yu hesitated.

“Second Madam Qu, I came here today to discuss the affairs of my cousin. Since there’s nothing to talk about, I’ll leave now!” He Dapang warned Yu with a smile. He didn’t want to take Yu Qingmeng back, because he already noticed that something was going on between Yu Qingmeng and Xu Lipeng.

As Yu remembered her daughter’s crush on Lord Jing, she stopped hesitating. With a strained smile, she stepped back to make way for He Dapang, “Young Master He, please!”

If her niece became He Dapang’s concubine, her daughter might not be able to marry Lord Jing.

“Thanks for your hospitality, Second Madam Qu!” He Dapang walked past Yu breezily and adjusted his clothes, beaming.

After everyone left, Yu then looked at Madam Yongning. After pondering for a few seconds, she said, “Madam, Qingmeng and Young Master Xu...”

Yu knew what had happened between Yu Qingmeng and Xu Lipeng. Now that Yu Qingmeng couldn’t possibly marry He Dapang, she had to let Xu Lipeng take her in.

“Second Madam Qu, there’s no way we’ll accept Lady Yu. I just saw her seduce another man with my own eyes. How can I let my son marry her?”

Madam Yongning almost laughed out with anger. After she watched the whole thing, Yu still hoped her son would marry Yu Qingmeng. She must be daydreaming.

“Madam, Qingmeng and Young Master Xu... have been together for a long while. What had just happened is not Qingmeng’s fault. It had to be Young Master He... You know what kind of person he is!” Yu swallowed her pride with a smiling face, trying to blame He Dapang for everything. She couldn’t mention Qu Moying anymore, or she would be suspected.

“Second Madam Qu, you are so funny. Let me tell you this, Marquis Yongning’s family will never take in a slut like her!”

Madam Yongning got furious with her teeth gnashed, inwardly blaming his son for having an affair with Yu Qingmeng. Then she turned around and left.

Yu had to follow her right away as the group of people left with her together...

"My lady, why didn't we go over?" as Yu Chun saw people leaving through the window, she asked confusedly.

"If we get too close, we might draw fire against ourselves." Qu Moying touched the teacup in her hand with the corner of her lips lifted, "It'll be safer to watch them from afar."

"My lady, you are right. That's exactly what happened to Lady Yu." Yu Chun took a second thought and understood what Qu Moying had meant immediately.

"Lady Yu is such an evil-minded person. She knew that Second Madam wanted to hurt you, so she came over to watch for fun. It's all because she wanted to gloat over our lady's misery," Granny Miao snorted. She saw things more clearly than Yu Chun and knew what was on Yu Qingmeng's mind.

She came to humiliate Qu Moying after she fell into their trap. She hoped that Qu Moying would be too ashamed to live anymore. Then she could marry Young Master Xu smoothly.

Yu Qingmeng wanted to take Qu Moying's fiancé away from her. She even wanted to tarnish Qu Moying's reputation and make an attempt on her life. Yu and Yu Qingmeng were so venomous.

"My lady, what should we do now? Are you going back to meet Old Lady Qu?" Granny Miao asked.

"There's no hurry to go over." Qu Moying shook her head while gazing at the pavilion's window with a meaningful look. She noticed that after Yu Qingmeng left, Yu and Madam Yongning had talked for a short while. Though Qu Moying couldn't hear their conversation, she saw clearly that Madam Yongning left with anger. So something must have happened.

She frowned. Under such a circumstance, why did Madam Yongning still talk with Yu instead of leaving instantly? What did Yu propose that made Madam Yongning go off in a huff? Was it because...?

A sarcastic look showed up in Qu Moying's eyes. Xu Lipeng really was a hypocrite!

"Let's go back to Qianyue House. We should have a thorough check and make a record of the missing items," Qu Moying stood up and said slowly.

Her grandma must be having a headache now because she saw both Yu and Madam Yongning heading to her place. There were lots of servants seeing what had happened between Yu Qingmeng and He Dapang. Since Yu planned to humiliate Qu Moying, she must have brought Old Lady Qu's servants with her too.

Now Yu had a lot to explain to Old Lady Qu.

Old Lady Qu already learned what Qu Moying thought. It was clear that Yu Qingmeng and Xu Lipeng were having an affair. Even if Old Lady Qu didn't break off the engagement at the moment, she would not agree to keep everything the same as it was before.

After those women left Old Lady Qu's place, she would definitely call Qu Moying over. It's better not to join them right now.

Since she was not in a hurry, she took Granny Miao and Yu Chun back to Qianyue House.

The main room was in a mess. Yu Qingmeng only cared about taking away the things she liked without cleaning the place up. Because she believed that Qu Moying wouldn't dare to say a word about that.

Qu Moying wouldn't have a chance to mention trifle things like this when the big scandal spread out, so she had to seize the last bit of time today.

After they made an inventory, Qu Moying called the butler of Qianyue House over. Then she learned that a lot of things had been moved to the guest room.

As they were speaking, Granny Wu came in. After giving obeisance to Qu Moying, she said, "Fourth Lady, Old Lady wants you to come over."

"The people from Marquis Yongning's family already left?" Qu Moying stood up with a smile and asked gently.

"Yes," Granny Wu nodded.

"Granny Wu, Lady Yu took some staff away to the guest room because she likes them. What should I do now?"

Qu Moying pointed to the untidy room and asked.

"Fourth Lady, please send someone to carry those things back. Lady Yu won't live in the guest room anymore. She was so sick that she went home to recuperate!" Granny Wu was staying at Old Lady Qu's place before and knew how everything had happened. As she thought of Yu Qingmeng, she showed a sarcastic smile. She assumed Yu Qingmeng to be a decent lady before, but the girl turned out to be a slut.

Old Lady Qu had ordered Yu to send Yu Qingmeng back to the Yu's Mansion just now.

Anything that would happen to her had nothing to do with the Qu Family.

As Granny Wu saw the furniture in disorder, she realized that Lady Yu really had taken this place as her own mansion. It was so shameless of her to take those things away with her before Qu Moying moved back.

Then Granny Wu called the butler over and told her to bring back everything that had been moved away.

The butler didn't dare to say no since it was Granny Wu's order. So she led the group of people who moved those things away to carry them back. Though these items were not heavy, there was still a lot. The maids and senior housemaids who got exhausted all blamed Lady Yu for asking for too much.

Some clever servants already felt that the tide was going to change. Only until then did many of them remember that Lady Yu wasn't a lady of this family and that she had no right to live in the best yard.

And Fourth Lady was the real lady of this family!

As everyone in the yard was deep in their thoughts, Qu Moying followed Granny Wu to Old Lady Qu's yard after she did some finishing touches. However, she ran into Yu halfway...

Chapter 34 Who Came Back From the Village?

After Yu had been driven out by Old Lady Qu, she had wanted to go back to her yard because Yu Qingmeng was still there. Since Old Lady Qu had told Yu Qingmeng to go back home, Yu had to deal with it.

On the halfway back to her yard, she suddenly turned around and walked to Qianyue House in rage. When Madam Yongning had been here, she couldn't mention Qu Moying. Now that Madam Yongning had left, she had to get everything straight or she would be driven crazy.

She knew Qu Moying must have something to do with today's incident.

After a few turns, she saw Granny Wu leading Qu Moying over, and her heart just jolted. She couldn't believe Old Lady Qu valued Qu Moying so much that she had even sent her private servant to call Qu Moying over.

With her teeth gritted, she still walked toward them. Since she already ran into them, she had to ask what she wanted to ask.

"Second Madam!" Seeing Yu coming over with a sullen face, Qu Moying stopped and said with a tender voice.

Granny Wu also gave obeisance to Yu gently.

"Fourth Lady, I already sent someone to call you. Why haven't you left Qianyue House?" Yu stared at Qu Moying and said coldly.

It was easy to find if Qu Moying had left Qianyue House.

"I know you have called me just now, so I was already on my way with my servants. But I got tired on the road, so I took a break for a while." Qu Moying said with a calm look. She had known that Yu would want to get to the bottom of this.

"Where did you take a break?" Yu, heart missing a beat, held the handkerchief tightly.

"A gazebo by the rockery. The rockery is pretty high. I've never been to that place before. The view there is great, so I went there to take a rest. Then I heard something happen in the pavilion, and you were also there. I assumed that you wouldn't have time for me, so I just came back." Qu Moying smiled.

So Qu Moying had also witnessed the drama in the pavilion?

Yu, face turning red, felt both angry and resentful. She knew Qu Moying must have something to do with this, but she just couldn't prove it.

"Fourth Lady, do you know what happened?" Teeth gnashed, Yu still asked that, not willing to let her go.

"Second Madam, please don't ask Fourth Lady to tell you that nasty stuff in detail. I am farsighted since I'm getting old. So I could see faraway objects more clearly. If you want to know anything, just ask me."

Granny Miao stepped forward to give obeisance to Yu and said that.

Her words had shut Yu's mouth, because what had happened in the pavilion truly was nasty and it was inappropriate to ask a girl who hadn't got married about it.

"Second Madam, Old Lady is still waiting for Fourth Lady now." Granny Wu finally couldn't listen to any of Yu's words and reminded the latter.

"Since Old Lady is waiting for you, you should go now, Fourth Lady." Yu had to make a concession. When she saw Qu Moying walking past her, she got so furious and bitter that she turned around to leave immediately.

Yu Qingmeng had already changed her clothes. Right now she was crying at the table aggrievedly. Her maid was coaxing her in a low voice.

Seeing Yu coming in with a long face, Yu Qingmeng stood up right away and called her with tears in her eyes, "Aunt."

"Pack your things and go back home. Don't ever come to Qu's Mansion again." Having sat on the chair in the middle, Yu said with a cold face.

"Aunt, why?" Yu Qingmeng knelt on the ground at once and held Yu's legs, crying, "Aunt, I have nothing to do with that. Qu Moying, that bitch set me up."

"She had nothing to do with what happened to you. She was having a rest beside the rockery not far away from you at that time." Yu gritted her teeth. On her way here, she had asked a few people and got the same answer.

"Aunt, when I just went there, I was knocked out. After I woke up, I found myself lying on that bed with He Dapang. I didn't go there by myself. Aunt, you have to trust me. How... how could I do something like that? I would not throw myself to a man like that... unless I don't want to live anymore." Yu Qingmeng wailed.

"All right, just get up first. I know you were framed." Yu helped Yu Qingmeng up, feeling so confused. However, she still didn't figure out who to blame, He Dapang or Qu Moying. "I've asked Madam Yongning before. She said she would never take you in. Marrying into Marquis Yongning's family is the best choice for you and you don't need to be the madam at the very beginning. Madam Yongning doesn't want to break off the engagement. I don't know what she sees in that blind girl."

As Yu thought of that, she flew into a rage instantly. Marquis Yongning's family treasured a blind girl too much. Previously, they might have valued Qu Moying because the latter's cousin was the Crown

Princess. However, now everyone said that the Crown Princess was about to die of her illness and her family was declining. No one would support Qu Moying anymore.

Madam Yongning only did things that would benefit her, but now she just acted like a sentimental person who kept the promise she made to Qu Moying's biological mother. That was just impossible! Yu knew that there had to be something she didn't know. However, Madam Yongning just wouldn't tell her no matter how many times she had asked.

"Aunt, what should I do now? If... if I can't marry Young Master Xu, I have no choice but to die." Yu Qingmeng, being shocked, dragged Yu's sleeve and cried pitifully, "Aunt, I'm begging you. You have to help me. I never cheated on Young Master Xu."

"Get up. You have to talk with Young Master Xu about this. You and him... have a special relationship after all. As long as Young Master Xu is persuaded by you, it doesn't matter what Madam Yongning will say." Yu gave advice to Yu Qingmeng.

"But... but he's very angry. He's really angry..." Yu Qingmeng shivered as she remembered Xu Lipeng's furious face. She had never seen that kind of look on Xu Lipeng's face.

"Don't worry, I'll think about it." Yu felt her head aching. She rubbed her forehead which was throbbing.

How to let Xu Lipeng forgive Yu Qingmeng and take her in his family as his noble concubine?

Even if Yu Qingmeng could only be a concubine, she, a girl from the Yu's family, had to be a noble concubine which was superior to the other concubines so that she could eventually become the madam...

As Old Lady Qu saw Qu Moying coming in, the angry look on her face slowly disappeared. She held Qu Moying's small hand to let the latter sit beside her. After a long while, she sighed and said, "Ying, Young Master Xu doesn't deserve you. But they didn't agree to break off the engagement and claimed that that was just an accident."

"Accident. They are not going to accept Lady Yu? Will the Yu's family agree?" Qu Moying asked with a smile.

"The Yu family wouldn't disagree." Old Lady Qu snorted. Under the current situation, Yu Qingmeng could only marry into the He's family. However, Yu had just said that Yu Qingmeng wouldn't do that because the He's family had a bad reputation.

Since such kind of thing had happened to Yu Qingmeng, the Yu's family wouldn't ask Marquis Yongning's family to accept her.

What had happened today was more outrageous than anything that had happened before.

Yu Qingmeng could only marry Young Master Xu after being accepted by Marquis Yongning's family.

However, that was rather impossible, judging from the disdainful look on Madam Yongning's face.

Granny Wu told Old Lady Qu that Yu Qingmeng had moved a lot of objects to the guest room where she would live, which made Old Lady Qu even angrier. Then Granny Wu added that she had already sent someone to move those things back.

"Ying, the people from Marquis Yongning's family wouldn't give up. And actually Xu Lipeng never did anything immoral. So we can't break off the engagement for the moment." Old Lady Qu went back to the original topic.

Yu Qingmeng clearly had an affair with Xu Lipeng. But that couldn't be revealed.

Yu's family and the Qu's family were related anyway. More importantly, people from Marquis Yongning's family had been claiming that they wanted Qu Moying to marry into their family. Although Young Master Xu had never visited Qu Moying before, he at least acted like an affectionate guy. So now it was unreasonable for the Qu's family to break off the engagement.

Old Lady Qu frowned.

“Grandma, when I was taking a break by the rockery, I saw Lady Yu, Young Master Xu, Second Madam and the other madam were all there. What happened there? Second Madam stopped me just now and asked me what I saw. She looked angry.” Qu Moying changed the subject with a calm look.

“Something happened to Yu Qingmeng and another guy.” Old Lady Qu didn’t want such dirty thing to be heard by Qu Moying.

“Another guy? How did he get in?” Qu Moying asked surprisedly.

Although all the Qu’s people still lived together, the whole mansion was divided into two parts, the East Mansion and the West Mansion. The legal wife of the Qu’s family lived in the East Mansion and the concubine lived in the West Mansion. The West Mansion was more spacious and Second Master Qu was more competent than First Master Qu, so Old Lady Qu lived in the West Mansion. There was a side door between the two mansions, so the people from the two families always visited each other through the side door.

Qu Zhizhen was not at home now. Yu’s son also went out this morning. There was no man in the West Mansion, how did that guy get in?

Old Lady Qu had never invited anyone today, so she then realized that it was Yu who had invited He Dapang.

“Why did you leave Qianyue House?” With Old Lady Qu’s face turning much sullener, she suddenly asked.

“Second Madam asked me to go there. She also asked me in anger which road I took just now.” Qu Moying said with a confused look.

Old Lady Qu’s face darkened. She had witnessed so many tricks played by the women. As she remembered the cause and effect, she thought the whole thing through. She, simmered with rage, thumped the teacup on the table, and the tea even splashed on the table. She said, “Good for you, Yu! This is just great!”

She had felt strange that such kind of thing would happen to Yu Qingmeng in the Qu's mansion. Now she realized that Yu had wanted to set Qu Moying up but it turned out that Yu Qingmeng had run into that man by accident.

Thinking that the same thing might have happened to Qu Moying, Old Lady Qu felt resentful at once. Her voice sounded restrained like the calm before the storm.

"Old Lady, don't get mad. It's bad for your health." Granny Wu who also realized what had happened persuaded Old Lady Qu in a low voice. Old Lady Qu was a plump woman, but not in good health. Every time she got angry, she would get dizzy. "Ying, you can move into that place these days. Throw out the things you don't like. I'll get you other things."

Her second son didn't like Qu Moying, but she did.

"Yes, grandma!" Qu Moying said gently.

"A girl who came from the village you have stayed said that she was here to serve you. You should go to see her. If you find her capable, you can keep her. You are the Fourth Lady of the Qu's family. How can you have so few servants? I'll call the trader over tomorrow and pick a few new maids for you. You can tell the servants who used to work there to leave."

Old Lady Qu said patiently.

The servants in that yard might all take orders from Yu. Old Lady Qu didn't feel secure to let Qu Moying keep them.

"Yes, grandma!" Qu Moying said with a tender voice, feeling warm deep down. Even if Old Lady Qu didn't explain everything, she still knew that it was for her own good. Then she said with a sweet voice, "Grandma, you have to find me a trader who has a good reputation."

Meanwhile, Qu Moying rolled her eyes, thinking, 'Someone who served me in the village? Why didn't I know that?'

Chapter 35 This Is a Big Deal, Maybe a Child Is Needed

'I have another servant in the village?' Qu Moying thought that as she headed back, but she just couldn't remember anyone.

Granny Wu and Yu Chun also had no clue.

There was a doctor whom Ji Hanyue had invited for Qu Moying. However, that guy was always on the move and shouldn't be in the village right now. The old granny there was too old to travel over here. Qu Moying really didn't know who would come to meet her.

As the three of them walked into the room confusedly, they saw a pretty maid who was around fifteen. Then they were all stunned!

"My lady!" Her high-pitched voice sounded a bit different from the other maid's, but Qu Moying couldn't tell what the difference was.

"Who are you?" Qu Moying was sure she had never met this person before. As she waved her hand, Granny Miao stepped back to guard the door.

"It's an honor to meet you, Fourth Lady." The maid changed to a sharper voice.

This time, even Yu Chun could tell something was wrong, then the look on her face changed at once.

Qu Moying was familiar with that kind of voice. The way she gave obeisance to Qu Moying was not the same as the other maids too. Qu Moying gasped. That... that was an eunuch?

"Don't be nervous, my lady. Lord Yun sent me here to serve you. From now on, I'll be your maid!" The eunuch lowered his voice, which made him sound like a woman with a high-pitched voice. It was a great disguise, so it was hard for those who didn't know who he was to tell if he was a man or a woman.

So, Lord Yun had sent her an eunuch?

Qu Moying didn't know how to react. She had wonder what kind of people this lord would send to her, but she never expected an eunuch would come.

"Lord Yun said that you could get someone else if you are not satisfied with me. My name is Yu Dong and I used to work in the village with sister Yu Chun. My lady, you used to live in a remote village and you barely had visitors. You could tell everyone that I was saved by you just like Granny Miao. Then I just didn't want to leave. I haven't arrived at the village for long, so the people there didn't know me."

Yu Dong said that with a smile.

His speech did hold water. In order to let her 'recuperate' well, the Qu's people had built a yard in the village which was very remote. Qu Moying had brought some of her people there. She had had a lot of servants before. Later, most of them had begged Yu to let them leave. So, fewer and fewer people remained there.

At last, only Granny Gu who had been Qu Moying's wet nurse and Yu Chun stayed. After that, Granny Miao had come. Actually, Yu Chun was not a servant from the Qu's Mansion. Her father had died and her mother had left, leaving her alone in the village. Granny Gu had pitied her and kept her there. After Yu Chun had grown up, she had started to serve Qu Moying.

Yu Dong's explanation sounded very convincing. He had come up with such a flawless speech in such a short period of time, no one would be able to dig out anything.

"Yu Dong, since you are here, you can serve me from now on." Qu Moying didn't reject him and said smilingly. Since this eunuch had been sent here by Lord Yun, he would deliver the latter's message too.

"Yes, my lady. I'm at your service at any time." Yu Dong said with a smile, seeming to be satisfied with his position as a maid.

Qu Moying, speechless, took Yu Dong to the main room to meet Old Lady Qu. Then Qu Moying explained that Yu Dong used to serve her when she was in the village. Also, Yu Dong's name was similar to Yu Chun's. Old Lady Qu didn't raise any suspect and asked Granny Gu to register Yu Dong's name immediately. Then, Yu Dong became one of Qu Moying's two personal maids.

As for the other servants, Old Lady Qu told Qu Moying to select them by herself.

After Qu Moying had gone back to her room, she pondered for a while and then gave some instructions to Yu Chun and Yu Dong. After that, She went to Qianyue House with Granny Miao again.

It was not convenient for her to live in Old Lady Qu's yard. She had to move out.

Most of the objects in the room of Qianyue House didn't need to be replaced, so Qu Moying told the servants to leave them there. She had heard that Yu had decorated this room carefully with these objects, some of which were taken away from Qu Qiuyan.

It was said that Qu Qiuyan had been unhappy about that at that time.

Now all these things belonged to Qu Moying now. Yu must be furious about that. So Qu Moying decided to keep them.

After a busy day, Qu Moying moved into Qianyue House at night and became the master of that place.

What's more, it was a great thing that Yu Dong could show up before Yu Qingmeng left...

That night, Yu Qingmeng left sadly. When she walked out, her eyebrows knitted with tears in her eyes, looking very pitiful. She could only walk with the support of her maid and even had difficulty taking a step.

After she got into the carriage, the pitiful look on her face disappeared while her eyes were filled with depression. Now she could only marry into Marquis Yongning's family by 'getting pregnant'.

Her aunt had given her a lot of advice, but none was more useful than this one. This idea had occurred to her suddenly when she had overheard two maids' conversation.

When she was walking toward the door, she heard the voices of two maids behind the rockery. If she hadn't heard Young Master Yongning's name, she wouldn't have stopped.

Back in the old days, her aunt had always ordered someone to see her off every time she left. However, today, Yu didn't send anyone to go with her.

The two maids' words were quite offensive. If it were in the past, Yu Qingmeng would have punished them fiercely to throw her weight about. However, today, she had only stood there and listened to them quietly.

"Did you see Young Master Yongning today? He's so handsome! His children will be pretty and wealthy!"

"What nonsense are you talking about? Young Master Yongning doesn't have any kids. If he does, the mother of his child must be someone special. I heard that a minister's son has just taken in a girl as his noble concubine. I heard that woman was pregnant when she got married. But the minister's son was already engaged."

"That's so humiliating."

"What's so humiliating about that? The most important thing is to get into that family. I heard the girl's family was not powerful. As long as she could become a noble concubine, she will eventually become a madam after the first madam dies in the future."

"So, you mean, that's a good thing?"

"Of course that's a good idea. The child is the most valued one in a family, especially for the elders..."

Their voices grew fainter and fainter. Yu Qingmeng, face turning red and pale, started to move ahead after a long while.

After she had got on the carriage, she pondered for a long time. With a gloomy look on her face, she touched her belly. She didn't know if she was pregnant now. She shouldn't have been pregnant, but now she really wanted a child.

She wanted to marry into Marquis Yongning's family, not the He's family. Her reputation would be ruined if she went to the He's family and she might even die in the end. However, what if she went to Marquis Yongning's family?

It was not like she didn't stand a chance at all!

"Let's go! To Marquis Yongning's Mansion!" Yu Qingmeng, teeth gritted, said that. A long delay might cause trouble. She couldn't just give up now, because she believed that Xu Lipeng still had feelings for her.

For all these years, she had been waiting for him. She even let Xu Lipeng take her virginity. Now Xu Lipeng couldn't just abandon her like this.

"My lady, you can't go there. Young Master Xu won't meet you now." Ju Xiang said worriedly.

"If he doesn't meet me, I'll go to Madam Yongning." Yu Qingmeng said with her teeth gnashed. She had to meet Xu Lipeng today. She didn't believe that Xu Lipeng would be so cruel to her. They had already slept together. If he didn't want her, she would kill herself in front of him.

Thinking of that, she touched her belly as if there really was a baby inside.

The carriage moved on and at last stopped by the back door of Marquis Yongning's Mansion. Ju Xiang knocked on the door as she usually did. After the door was opened, the senior housemaid who guarded there saw Ju Xiang whom she was very familiar with. Then she let Yu Qingmeng in without reporting anyone.

After they got in, the senior housemaid peeked out the back door cautiously. It was already dark and there was no other one at the back door. Then the senior housemaid closed the door again.

Young Master Xu had told the senior housemaid to let Yu Qingmeng get in directly in case the latter would be found by others if she stayed outside for too long.

“Lady Yu, do you need me to take you there?” The senior housemaid said fawningly.

Yu Qingmeng shook her head. It was better that no one would know what she was about to say. This place was not far from Xu Lipeng’s study and she was familiar with the road.

She went to the study with Ju Xiang. It was getting dark, but luckily she could still see the road.

The door of the study was partly opened. Yu Qingmeng didn’t see anyone else except for Xu Lipeng and his pageboy there. She calmed herself down while listening to their conversation. Then she tried her best to pull herself together and walked in slowly.

The pageboy was reporting something to Xu Lipeng. Hearing the sound by the door, he turned around at once. He was stunned to see Yu Qingmeng and couldn’t believe his eyes.

The pageboy couldn’t believe Yu Qingmeng still dared to come after what had happened to her.

“Young Master!” Yu Qingmeng cried the moment she stepped in. After she walked to Xu Lipeng with a pitiful look, she knelt down slowly and held Xu Lipeng’s legs, “Young Master, help... I... I really was set up. How could I... I... fall in love with... someone like He Dapang. I... I am yours, Young Master. You can’t watch me being driven to death by someone else.”

The clever pageboy took a few steps back and walked out. Then he saw Ju Xiang who was sort of his old acquaintance. Having chuckled to her, he stepped back and stood still.

Ju Xiang also took a few steps back with her eyes falling on the door worriedly. Still, she didn’t dare to come any closer.

Xu Lipeng lowered his head to look at Yu Qingmeng with an obscure look. The expression on his face was quite sullen. He had planned to stay away from Yu Qingmeng forever and not care about if she ended up alive or dead.

Never did he realize that Yu Qingmeng would be so shameless to come to him. Before he could tell the senior housemaid by the back door to stop Yu Qingmeng from coming in, the woman just sneaked in by herself.

However, now it was difficult to handle this thing.

He did have a thing for Yu Qingmeng and had wanted to break off the engagement and married her. However, his mother had turned him down. Although Yu Qingmeng wouldn't help him in his career, he still liked her. So he had planned to marry Yu Qingmeng and made her his second wife. After all, he believed a girl like Qu Moying should feel honored that he was willing to marry her and that the Qu's family would agree to any condition he named.

However, things had changed too fast. He didn't want to break off the engagement, but the Qu's family did. Qu Moying was not interested in him? That really drove him mad.

He was always favored by women but that blind and ugly girl didn't like him. This time he truly felt angry. After that, his mother had said something to him. Then, he finally agreed to marry Qu Moying. She was just a decoration to him. If she could behave herself, he would let her stay for a few years longer. If she couldn't, he would destroy her and no one would criticize him.

As for Yu Qingmeng, since she couldn't be his wife, he could make her his noble concubine.

Chapter 36 Components, the Uncle and the Nephew

Right now, the look in Xu Lipeng's eyes was not as affectionate as before when he looked at Yu Qingmeng. What had happened today came to his mind. He felt himself being cheated in public.

"Young Master, please help me, for the sake of our child." Seeing Xu Lipeng keeping silent with a gloomy face, Yu Qingmeng held his legs while touching her belly gently, crying.

"What did you say?" That was too much to take in. Xu Lipeng, stunned with his eyes goggled, said sharply.

"A child. We have a child. I wanted to tell you yesterday, but you told me to go back. After that, I went to the doctor. Luckily, I was fine. Otherwise... the kid would be gone." Yu Qingmeng sobbed with her hand on her flat belly. Now she even made herself believe that she was pregnant.

"How... how could you get pregnant?" Xu Lipeng who had come back to his sense flew into a rage with his face turning green.

"Young Master, that's our child. It's true. It's our child." Yu Qingmeng stood up leaning on his legs and said tenderly. Then she put his hand on her belly and said, "Touch it, this is our child. Young Master, our kid will be filial to you and respect you."

Yu Qingmeng said tenderly.

Xu Lipeng's hand shivered and then went frozen. How could she get pregnant at this moment? Why is there suddenly a child?

"Young Master, don't worry. I won't fight Qu Moying for you. It's all for this kid. I only want this child to grow up in a decent family, that's the only thing I care about. You can still marry Qu Moying." Yu Qingmeng's voice turned gentler and her face just became more pathetic.

When she had talked about Xu Lipeng's engagement, she had always sounded reluctant and suggested Xu Lipeng break off the engagement and marry her.

However, now she kept making compromises for her kid and didn't ask Xu Lipeng to break off the engagement at all. The only thing she wanted was the birthright for her child.

Those words didn't sound like her at all. Seeing her being like this, Xu Lipeng couldn't help getting soft-hearted.

"Why did you go there today?" Xu Lipeng asked. That was a thorn in his side.

"It was Qu Moying. She told me to go and said that she wanted to talk about... talk about the things between you and her. So I went there. I didn't know she would do that, I didn't know!"

Yu Qingmeng covered her face and cried with her head lowered. Her tears were running down from her hands, making her look poorer.

“She’s so vicious!” Xu Lipeng said resentfully with his teeth gritted.

‘I never thought that blind girl will be so evil-minded!’ He thought.

“You... Young Master, don’t blame her. It’s all my fault. I shouldn’t have fallen in love with you. It’s my fault. I ignored that you have already been engaged. I made a mistake. If this is her punishment to me, I accept it. I’ll follow her orders from now on...” Yu Qingmeng cried aggrievedly.

With her tears falling down ceaselessly, she nearly choked to death by crying, looking extremely sorrowful.

With a look of pity and anger on Xu Lipeng’s face, he held Yu Qingmeng in his arms and said with a voice as gentle as usual, “All right, don’t cry. I won’t let you suffer. You’ll marry into my family as a high-grade concubine.”

A high-grade concubine? Yu Qingmeng’s face distorted when she was in Xu Lipeng’s arms. Even though Xu Lipeng was above her status, she might still have a chance to become Young Madam Yongning. However, now she couldn’t even be a noble concubine but just a high-grade concubine. Just a high-grade concubine?

She couldn’t help having resentment deep down!

However, now she had to accept it. She touched her belly. If she didn’t say she was pregnant, Xu Lipeng might not even let her be his high-grade concubine.

She would never believe this in the past, but now she had to.

“You already sent him there?” In the royal palace, Pei Yuanjun walked ahead slowly while asking lazily.

Today he was wearing a light purple royal robe embroidered with a few purple irises joined by golden threads. When he walked, the irises seemed to be blooming, looking extremely glamorous and also a bit wicked. His outfit didn't suit his graceful manner but people still found the whole scene gorgeous and harmonious for no reason!

While he was on the road, every imperial maid and eunuch who saw him all knelt down.

"Yes. She said thanks." Ji Hai, Lord Yun's private eunuch reported to him with a grinning face. Yu Dong was his handpicked maid who was very clever.

"That's all she said?" Pei Yuanjun raised his eyebrows and asked elegantly.

He felt the idea of sending her an eunuch marvelous and interesting. That girl didn't seem like an obedient person. But that was the only thing she said?

"My lord, you must be kidding me. What else could she say anyway? Also, Haizi is a good one and he's more capable than those maids." Ji Hai smiled, trying to play up to Lord Yun's evil humor.

As they were speaking, a few people showed up at the corner. The one who was surrounded by the eunuchs and bodyguards was Pei Luo'an, the Crown Prince. After Pei Yuanjun had come back to the capital, this was the first time he had met the Crown Prince who had been said to be assassinated before.

He stopped to look at Pei Luo'an who was walking over slowly.

"Uncle!" The Crown Prince also saw him. With a smile on Pei Luo'an's pale face, he took a few steps forward and bowed to Pei Yuanjun deeply and respectfully!

The people behind him also gave obeisance to Pei Yuanjun.

Everyone knew that the emperor trusted Lord Yun the most. Now only Lord Yun was favored by the emperor, he also held great power, including the military power. More than half of the soldiers in this country listened to him. Because of that, the Crown Prince didn't dare to look down upon his uncle.

"I heard you were injured on your wedding night and the Crown Princess was severely wounded for you. How's she doing now? Did you catch the assassin?" Pei Yuanjun asked in a flat tone and raised his hand to let the Crown Prince get up.

The Crown Prince told everyone that the Crown Princess was sick. However, the truth was, the Crown Princess's 'illness' resulted from the assassination.

"Uncle, I still haven't caught the assassin, and I don't know why. The Crown Princess..." Pei Luo'an couldn't continue when speaking of that. With a sad look on his face and his eyes turning red, he suddenly seemed spiritless. He turned his head to wipe the tears on the corner of his eyes. Then he turned around and said, "I failed to protect her, it's my fault that she..."

The Crown Prince had already got the word out since long ago that the Crown Princess was about to die. Also, the imperial doctors had already confirmed that she only had a few days to live.

"How's Earl Ling'an doing?" Pei Yuanjun wasn't touched by the Crown Prince's emotion and only asked that indifferently with a slight smile.

"My father-in-law is not in a good condition. Her two daughters both ran into accidents. No matter how... He just couldn't take it." Pei Luo'an said sadly, "On that day when I went to Earl Ling'an's Mansion, he was already preparing for his funeral. He has also reported to my father that he would pass his title to Second Master Ji."

"To Ji Yong'an, that useless loser?" Pei Yuanjun chuckled in a sarcastic tone, having no intention to show any respect to the father of the Crown Prince's imperial concubine. "The title is about to over. Old Earl Ling'an was such a hero, but his son is so unpromising."

Ji Yongming was Earl Ling'an eldest son and Ji Yong'an was the second son. Therefore, Ji Yongming had inherited the title first. Because he didn't have a son, so the title could only be passed on to Ji Yong'an. However, in Pei Yuanjun's view, Ji Yong'an was nothing but a loser who had no morals.

The Crown Prince blushed and went speechless for the moment. As he lowered his head, there was an angry look flashing in his eyes. He was the Crown Prince and the future emperor. But Pei Yuanjun didn't respect him at all. However, he had to report to Pei Yuanjun about this in order to let Ji Yong'an inherit the title.

'Why? I am the prince, the real ruler of this country.' The Crown Prince thought.

He clenched his fists secretly under his sleeves and at last put them down slowly, still looking weak.

"Oh, by the way, I heard that Ji Yong'an was your father-in-law now. So he's your guy." Pei Yuanjun joked. He didn't care that Pei Luo'an had been assassinated but seemed pretty interested in the fact that the latter had married Ji Yong'an's daughter. "The sisters are both beauties. You are a lucky man."

"Uncle, please watch your word. Crown Princess is not in a good condition now... I really feel miserable." The Crown Prince frowned and said with a sad voice.

Anyone who saw him would regard him as an affectionate man and assume that the other Ji's lady had been sent to the Crown Prince only to look after the Crown Princess. Thus people couldn't find any fault with Pei Luo'an.

The Crown Prince hid his hands on which the veins stood out under his sleeves so that no one would see them.

Pei Yuanjun fell his cold and vicious eyes on the Crown Prince as if he was observing the latter. The similar feeling of being licked by a viper made the Crown Prince very uncomfortable and angry. However, he didn't have the guts to go off on Pei Yuanjun. Those malicious eyes scared him a lot.

It seemed that the Crown Prince had been guarding against this uncle who was at his age since childhood.

After a long while, when the Crown Prince even had cold sweats on his back, he finally heard Pei Yuanjun's voice, "Your health matters the most. Don't care about anything else. As for the beauties, if you want, I could send two pretty sisters that I brought from the border area to you. How about that?"

The Crown Princess was about to die and the Crown Prince was in grief. How could he send beautiful girls to the Crown Prince?

The Crown Prince was enraged, but still had to express gratitude to him, "Thanks for your consideration, uncle. But I have no interest in that kind of thing and I only want to stay with the Crown Princess."

"You are such a caring man. I need to see the emperor now. Please excuse me." Pei Yuanjun said nonchalantly.

The Crown Prince moved aside to make way for Pei Yuanjun. Then the latter swaggered off, leaving the Crown Prince and his people standing there.

'Make way? Did I just make way for him?'

The Crown Prince had just made way for a lord. He felt both ashamed and angry. He looked at Pei Yuanjun's back with a resentful expression.

However, the next second, he put on a gentle smile again.

Because Pei Yuanjun looked back.

"The emperor is not in a good condition too. If you are free, you should come to the royal palace more often to stay with him." After saying that, Pei Yuanjun turned around and left.

Pei Luo'an's face twitched and it took him a while to control the expression on his face. He had just expressed how much he loved the Crown Princess, but now because of what Pei Yuanjun had said, he now sounded like an unfilial son who only cared about his wife.

'How dare you, Pei Yuanjun!' The Crown Prince thought that with his teeth gnashed.

Chapter 37 Human Trader Is a Marvelous Profession

Trader Mo had a good reputation in this industry and was one of the best traders in the capital.

Therefore, she had better and more servants than the other traders. A lot of noble families liked to buy servants from her.

Hearing that the Qu's family wanted to buy some servants, she brought one hundred maids and senior housemaids here at once.

Granny Wu brought her to Qianyue House.

Yu Dong put a large chair in the hall for Qu Moying to sit down. Then she started to pick the servants.

"Fourth Lady, I've brought these servants here as you required. There are fifty senior housemaids and fifty maids who all come from decent families."

Trader Mo said with a grinning face. She was a tactful woman.

She always did business with prestigious families and knew a lot of details about these families. She had heard a lot of things about this Fourth Lady Qu, but none of the words about the latter sounded nice. It was said that Qu Moying was an ugly and blind girl who had been abandoned in the village outside the capital since childhood and she was uneducated.

However, Trader Mo was suspicious of those rumors.

She had seen a lot of ladies from prestigious families. The ladies from the noble families all behaved themselves with a graceful manner. Like the Fourth Lady Qu who was in front of her, even when they were sitting on a large chair, they still straightened up and put their feet on the ground while talking elegantly.

Trader Mo was proud of her sharp eyes. That long veil covered half of Fourth Lady Qu's face, but she was still certain that this lady was a beautiful girl.

So, the rumors were all false?

As Trader Mo thought about the condition of the Qu's family, she understood everything. She had dealt with Vice Minister Qu's second wife a few times before. And she assumed that Yu who didn't like the daughter of her husband's ex-wife had spread the false rumors. Also, Trader Mo guessed that Qu Moying's eyes were also injured by Yu's neglect.

'What a vicious woman.' Trader Mo thought.

Trader Mo had bought a girl whose name was Qing He and her family. She had heard that Qing He's family had ended up like this because of Second Madam Qu. Thinking of that, Trader Mo suddenly got a bit panicky.

She had sent Qing He to the Crown Prince's Mansion because someone threatened her with her son. Now she wondered if that would cause her any trouble. Since she was here today, she felt it necessary to ask something about Qing He. If she really made a wrong decision by sending Qing He there, she might not be able to bear the consequence.

"Yu Dong, you can pick some servants for me." Qu Moying said.

"Yes, at your service, my lady." Yu Dong said with a grinning face and walked over.

"My lady, these are all capable ones who have never made any mistakes. Just feel assured to buy them." Trader Mo smiled. Then she rolled her eyes and turned to Yu Chun.

She felt that this maid was more honest than Yu Dong who looked too shrewd.

If it took the lady a long while to choose the servant, the trader would wait in the side room and came out to answer the question when she was asked.

As expected, next, Qu Moying said, "Trader Mo, please have tea in the side room."

“Thanks, thanks a lot, Fourth Lady.” Trader Mo grinned toothily and then said to Yu Chun, “Please take me there.”

Trader Mo knew that Yu Chun was Fourth Lady Qu’s private maid judging from the place where Yu Chun stood. It meant that Yu Chun was the best one to ask information from.

Qu Moying blinked her eyes under the veil and nodded. Granny Miao was not here today. It was because she had to avoid Trader Mo, but also because she had gone out to spread the word. Now there were only Yu Chun and Yu Dong staying here. Since Yu Dong went to pick the servants, Trader Mo could only go with Yu Chun.

After the business was finished today, Trader Mo who was unwilling to suffer losses would definitely tell others what had happened. Also, now that Granny Miao had already spread the word, Qu Moying’s plan would be successful!

With a secret smile on Qu Moying’s face, she showed a sophisticated look in her eyes.

Calling Trader Mo over would serve a double purpose. Human Trader truly was a ‘marvelous’ profession.

Among all the jobs, human trader was considered the menial one but was very useful. Especially a trader like Trader Mo...

In the side room, Yu Chun, having asked Trader Mo to sit down, poured a cup of tea for the latter and gave it to her with a smile.

“Thanks, thank you very much.” Trader Mo gave Yu Chun a small purse. Trader Mo always prepared some gifts for the private maids of the ladies or the senior female stewards. That was why she was one of the most successful human traders.

“You are welcome, Trader Mo.” Yu Chun didn’t refuse it and took it with a smile. Then she put it in her sleeve. Now Trader Mo felt more assured!

"Sis, please say some nice words for me later and advise Fourth Lady to pick more servants. Consider this a favor to me." Trader Mo glanced out of the window quickly and said in a low voice.

"Of course." Yu Chun who had taken the money became very friendly.

"Those servants are all from decent families, unlike the ones who were sold by their madams or ladies because of the mistakes they had made. Fourth Lady could feel assured to pick." Trader Mo led up to the topic in a super invisible way. "Speaking of the servants who were sold by their madams, did the madam in this family sell a whole family a while ago? That girl cried so hard. So pitiful."

Trader Mo wiped the tears on the corner of her eyes.

"Is the girl's name Qing He?" Yu Chun, eyebrows knitted, said with a displeased voice.

"Yes, that sounds like her name." Trader Mo stared at the look on Yu Chun's face, feeling a bit nervous. Although she had finished that deal, she had been feeling extremely nervous the whole time. After all, selling a whole family was not a small matter.

She had been forced to do this deal because she had been threatened to do so. Also, Qing He had been sold to the Crown Prince's Mansion, which even made her unable to sleep.

"That maid tried to hurt our lady. Old Lady Qu got furious and sold her whole family. Our lady said that she didn't want to hear anything about Qing He and her family. Don't mention them in front of our lady, she'll get angry." Yu Chun said while touching her sleeves with a gentle look.

"Fine, no problem, I won't say anything." Trader Mo grinned at Yu Chun.

Trader Mo's understanding was that although Qing He had tried to hurt her lady, her crime shouldn't be very serious, otherwise her punishment would be fiercer than getting her whole family sold. If a maid like her had made a terrible mistake in such a prestigious family, she might not even be able to live. That was in sync with Trader Mo's guess.

Offending her lady was nothing serious. After Qing He served in another family, she wouldn't dare to do it again because no one would back her up.

That was the Crown Prince's Mansion, not the Qu's Mansion. No one would want to hurt Fourth Lady Qu except for Second Madam Qu. So, the one who had threatened her to sell Qing He to the Crown Prince's Mansion should be Second Madam Qu's senior housemaid.

That senior housemaid had something on Trader Mo's son. So she had ordered Trader Mo to send Qing He to the Crown Prince's Mansion in order to keep her favorite maid alive. As Trader Mo made that assumption, she flashed an angry look in her eyes.

She couldn't say no to Second Madam Qu and had already sent Qing He to the Crown Prince's Mansion. However, she also didn't plan to let Second Madam Qu get away with this, in case the latter would ask for more from her.

If Second Madam Qu was a decent person, Trader Mo wouldn't be able to say anything. However, Second Madam Qu who did all those evil things still wanted a good reputation. It was said that the Crown Princess was Fourth Lady Qu's cousin...

Qu Moying picked a lot of servants quickly. At last, she selected two second-grade maids, eight third-grade maids, a few low-grade senior housemaids and the female porters.

They were all picked by Yu Dong. After Granny Wu saw those servants, she also said they were good ones. Since the job was finished, Trader Mo was invited over. After that, she left with Granny Wu.

Granny Wu and Trader Mo discussed all the details. The servants needed to be trained for a few days before they were sent to Qianyue House.

After Qu Moying went back to the main room, Yu Chun served the tea at once.

"How's it going?" Qu Moying took a sip of the tea and asked that when Yu Dong was also there.

Since Yu Dong had already been sent to her, he would take part in all the plans she made too.

"My lady, you've guessed it right. Trader Mo asked about Qing He as you expected. I responded to her with the words you had taught me." Yu Chun took out a small purse from her sleeve, saying, "This is given to me by Trader Mo."

"Since it was given to you, just take it!" Qu Moying raised her hand and said carelessly.

"My lady, why didn't you let me tell her more about Qing He? Even if I can't say too many things about Qing He, I could mention the affair between Third Lady and Second Madam Qu." Yu Chun said indignantly.

"Any additional thing would be overkill!" Qu Moying shook her head. An intelligent person like Trader Mo might figure out something if Yu Chun said too much.

Now that Yu Chun's speech had stopped at where it should, Trader Mo could make her own assumption with the hint.

Qing He was still useful. Qu Moying had something on her and controlled her family, so now Qing He was a spy whom Qu Moying had arranged in the Crown Prince's Mansion. Someday, Qing He might be of greater help. In the meantime, Qu Moying also didn't want to let Yu get away with what she had done.

"Now tidy it up, we need to go to my grandma's place to thank her." Qu Moying said gently. We haven't settled Yu Qingmeng's affair. Xu Lipeng would definitely come again soon."

It was Qu Moying who had told the two maids to hint Yu Qingmeng to fake her pregnancy. However, the fact that Yu Qingmeng had taken the hint quickly and used this method only proved one thing.

Xu Lipeng, the hypocrite, had already hooked up with Yu Qingmeng, but he still insisted on marrying Qu Moying. Now Qu Moying wanted to see how he was going to continue acting like an affectionate guy.

One thing Qu Moying could be sure of was that Xu Lipeng would surely visit Qu's Mansion again since Marquis Yongning's family didn't agree to break off the engagement and Yu Qingmeng's pregnancy couldn't be hidden for too long.

What Qu Moying was going to do was to report this to Old Lady Qu first so that the latter could be prepared for this.

When Qu Moying arrived at Old Lady Qu's place, Old Lady Qu happened to be waiting for Granny Wu to come back. Hearing that Qu Moying was coming, Old Lady Qu ordered someone to call her over in a hurry.

Qu Moying gave obeisance to Old Lady Qu first. The latter held Qu Moying's hand to let her sit down and said gently, "Are you satisfied with the servants?"

"Thanks, grandma. They are great. The trader is also very nice and has brought a lot of people here today." Qu Moying answered shyly. She knew how to deal with Trader Mo.

Old Lady Qu chuckled, "I'm glad you like them! This is great!"

Qu Moying had never liked to talk before. At that time, when she had had to answer a question, she had only uttered one or two words. Now she had changed, which made Old Lady Qu very glad.

"If there's anything you like or don't like, just tell me. I have your back." Old Lady Qu said with a smile.

"Thank you! Grandma, did anything happen to Lady Yu after she had gone back last night?" Qu Moying said tenderly.

"Who knows. We have nothing to do with the things that happened in Yu's Mansion." As Old Lady Qu remembered what had happened yesterday, she said grumpily.

"But... But..." Qu Moying lowered her head, seeming to have something to say. She twisted her handkerchief and looked very hesitant.

Chapter 38 As Your Wife Or Concubine?

“What happened?” Old Lady Qu’s heart jolted. She thought that Yu had plotted something evil again. Then her face turned sullen at once.

“Nothing, it’s just... Yesterday, I heard from a servant...” Qu Moying’s face suddenly turned red and she couldn’t continue the sentence.

“You do the talking!” Old Lady Qu looked up at Yu Dong who was standing behind Qu Moying and said that coldly.

“Old Lady, I... I did have... heard something. Lady... Lady Yu...” Yu Dong who had been called by Old Lady Qu knelt down in panic and faltered.

“Be more specific.” Old Lady Qu said in a harsh voice.

“Yes... Yes. I heard Lady Yu say... say that she was preg... pregnant... or... something... like... that. I don’t know whom the father is. I... I didn’t dare to get too close.” Yu Dong got more panicky as he heard Old Lady Qu talking so harshly. Luckily, he managed to finish the whole speech.

Granny Wu realized what he meant at once, then the look on her face changed instantly.

Old Lady Qu’s facial expression also changed and there was coldness flashing in her eyes. If what she thought was true, Young Master Yongning truly was not a decent guy.

This just broke Old Lady Qu’s last hope for Xu Lipeng!

“Grandma... Yu Dong didn’t hear the whole story. Maybe Lady Yu was talking about someone else.” Qu Moying tried to coax Old Lady Qu as she saw the latter wearing a glum face.

Old Lady Qu took a deep breath to suppress her anger. Then she said to Yu Dong coldly, “How could you tell your lady about that when you don’t have proof? Go kneel outside.”

“Yes!” Yu Dong didn’t dare to say anything and walked out. Then he knelt down on the porch outside.

“Grandma, Yu Dong only told me that for my own good.” Qu Moying stood up and wanted to kneel down too, trying to plead for Yu Dong.

Old Lady Qu stopped Qu Moying right away and scolded her, “A lady who hasn’t got married like you can never hear something like that!”

“But, if I didn’t hear it, I wouldn’t even know who is trying to hurt me!” Qu Moying said with her eyes turning red and she still knelt down perversely. “Grandma, such being the case... am I still going to marry him?”

Seeing her being so persistent, Old Lady Qu tried to pull her up with resignation. Granny Wu also gave a hand to help Qu Moying up. “All right, I see. I won’t let you suffer, but we have to make a thorough plan first.” Old Lady Qu said.

“I know. Thank you so much, grandma!” Qu Moying made a compromise and wiped the corner of her eyes with her handkerchief. She wore a gentle smile on her face as if she had only made the concession because of her grandma’s words.

Old Lady Qu’s heart softened as she saw her granddaughter trusting her words so much. As she thought about Qu Moying’s current situation and what had happened recently, Old Lady Qu just got angrier and angrier.

Yu was clearly an evil person. Old Lady Qu had made Yu a madam for the sake of the twins, Qu Qiuyan and Qu Mingcheng, and now she truly regretted it because of the trouble Yu had caused.

“Old Lady, Young Master Yongning wanted to see you!” A senior housemaid came in in a hurry to report.

Young Master Yongning had just left yesterday because the people of the two families all agreed not to disturb each other for a while. However, Old Lady Qu never expected that he would come back so soon. As she remembered what Yu Dong had said, her face turned glum at once.

It seemed that what Yu Dong had said was true, otherwise Xu Lipeng wouldn’t be so anxious.

“Grandma, I’ll go back then.” Qu Moying stood up. She would settle the things between her and Xu Lipeng sooner or later. However, she would still avoid meeting this Young Master Yongning whenever possible because he and the Crown Prince were so alike.

They both sought fame while committing adultery secretly. Xu Lipeng always reminded her of Pei Luo’an.

“Go!” Old Lady Qu didn’t want Qu Moying to hear any dirty things here either.

“Grandma, Yu Dong...” Qu Moying pleaded for Yu Dong.

“She could go with you. Tell her to be a good servant.” Old Lady Qu waved her hand and agreed to let Yu Dong go.

After Qu Moying said thanks to Old Lady Qu, she left Kangming House with Yu Chun and Yu Dong.

Qu Moying took a detour on purpose in order to avoid this self-righteous Young Master Yongning. She had to break off the engagement. Now that Old Lady Qu already suspected the relationship between Yu Qingmeng and Xu Lipeng. No matter what Xu Lipeng said, Old Lady Qu wouldn’t believe him.

“Old Lady Qu, it’s an honor to meet you.” In the main room of Kangming House, Xu Lipeng who had no idea that Qu Moying had already implied something to Old Lady Qu gave obeisance to Old Lady Qu and said gently.

His manner was still tender and graceful as before, which made him look kind.

In the past, Old Lady Qu had been glad to see him being like this. After all, Xu Lipeng always visited Old Lady Qu first every time he came.

For all these years, he had kept doing things this way.

However, now Old Lady Qu only found him quite a hypocrite when she saw Xu Lipeng's behavior.

"Save the courtesy. Please have a seat!" Old Lady Qu said nonchalantly.

After Xu Lipeng sat down, the maid served tea at once. Old Lady Qu took a sip of the tea and then put the teacup down. Still, she didn't utter a single word and only fell her eyes on Xu Lipeng, waiting for him to talk.

The air in the room was a bit somber.

"Old Lady, I'm here to discuss something about Lady Yu. Don't worry, no matter what happened to Fourth Lady Qu, our engagement wouldn't be affected. As for the accident caused by the horse, I've already explained to people of the Yu's family. They said they wouldn't mind about that."

Xu Lipeng finally spoke.

So he meant that they should all ignore the fact that he had hugged Yu Qingmeng on the street?

Old Lady Qu, eyebrows knitted, looked at Xu Lipeng with a sullen face but didn't say anything at first. After a long while, she asked, "What did the people of the Yu's family say?"

"They said I had a reason to do so and that it was not my fault. I saved her life on the street, so they wouldn't force me to marry Lady Yu. She would at most become my concubine."

Xu Lipeng said smilingly.

That was a nice speech. He had put himself in Qu Moying's shoes and talked with a composed look as if there really was nothing between him and Yu Qingmeng.

Old Lady Qu's heart jolted. If Yu Dong hadn't said these things just now, she might have already believed him. After all, Xu Lipeng looked quite trustworthy. Also, he seemed to have said that in consideration of

the Qu's people's feelings. If Yu Qingmeng didn't care about her indignity, she would at most be a concubine, which would make her despised by a lot of people.

What Xu Lipeng had said could dissolve the misunderstandings caused by the engagement between him and Qu Moying.

Now, Old Lady Qu already suspected him, she would think more when listening to him. To be a concubine at most? There was already a girl from the Yu's family who had become a concubine. Yu had married into the Qu's family as a concubine. If Yu hadn't been pregnant at that time, Old Lady Qu wouldn't have accepted her. Old Lady Qu blamed her unpromising son for having a crush on Yu and sleeping with the latter. But at last, Old Lady Qu could only let Yu marry her son for the sake of the kids.

Yu had only become a noble concubine because of her children. At that time, Old Lady Qu's second son had wanted to make Yu his wife. It hadn't happened only because Old Lady Qu hadn't let him.

Now, the Yu's family must be playing the same trick again!

Old Lady Qu, snorting inwardly, took a sip of the tea and thumped the cup on the table, saying, "Young Master Xu, you have to make it clear. The Yu's family wants her to be your wife or your concubine?"

After she pondered on Xu Lipeng's words, she found his speech full of loopholes. He must have prepared the whole speech in order to deal with Old Lady Qu!

"Old Lady Qu, that's not what I mean..." Xu Lipeng never expected Old Lady Qu to be so hard to handle. Then he explained anxiously.

Old Lady Qu interrupted him directly, "Young Master Xu, just tell me if the Yu's family wants her to be your wife or not. I'll be blunt first. I don't want you to marry her, no matter she'll be your wife or concubine. If you take her in, the engagement you have with Ying will be over."

"Old Lady, Fourth Lady is from a prestigious family. She should be dignified and sensible. I don't think she would mind if her husband wanted to have a concubine." Xu Lipeng was irritated by the absolute certainty in Old Lady Qu's voice and showed an angry look on his face. He had wanted to have a nice talk with Old Lady Qu, but never did he realize that the latter would have such a rude attitude. Qu Moying

was not only ugly but also blind. He wondered why the Qu's family was so confident that she deserved to be a madam.

He felt that the Qu's family should be honored that he was willing to marry Qu Moying.

If Madam Yongning hadn't repeatedly told him to persuade Old Lady Qu, he would have gone off in a huff.

In his view, Qu Moying was an ugly, blind and untalented girl who would never compare to Yu Qingmeng who was tender and even willing to be his concubine.

"Our ladies can only be dignified for good reasons. We won't allow you to marry Yu Qingmeng." Old Lady Qu said.

"Old Lady, a wife should regard her husband as her god. Fourth Lady is not the only one I'll marry anyway." The look on Xu Lipeng's face already turned a little glum.

"We'll talk about that in the future. At least for now, I didn't see your sincerity at all. Also, I heard that you always hung out with Lady Yu every time you came to the Qu's Mansion."

"I was engaged to Fourth Lady. I came here to visit the elders. Lady Yu was Second Madam's niece. When I met her here, I would surely have a chat with her. Most of the time, Third Lady was with us too. Old Lady, what are you suspecting?" Xu Lipeng's face turned red. There were certain things that couldn't go public. Some of the servants in this mansion did know the affair between him and Yu Qingmeng, but none of them dare to say anything to Old Lady Qu. Xu Lipeng didn't realize that Old Lady Qu would bring that up at this moment.

"Young Master Xu, I never asked too much about what had happened between you and Lady Yu. But I think we should break off the engagement!" Seeing Xu Lipeng being so guilty, Old Lady Qu got angry at once and said coldly.

"Old Lady Qu, such being the case, I got nothing to say. Excuse me for leaving." Old Lady Qu's unflinching attitude enraged Xu Lipeng, and the latter nearly snapped at her. Anyhow, he still knew that the woman was the Old Lady of the Qu family. So he stood up and said with a cold face.

"Suit yourself. Please ask Madam Yongning to come when she's free. The marriage between the two families should be discussed by the elders." Old Lady Qu said. She didn't think Xu Lipeng had a say on this matter, so she planned to argue with Madam Yongning. As for Xu Lipeng's affair with Yu Qingmeng, she would send someone to investigate and get some proofs first.

Xu Lipeng gave obeisance to Old Lady Qu with anger and strode away.

After he walked out of the yard, he calmed himself and turned to the direction of Qianyue House. He had always gone to that place before, but this time he wanted to go there to find Qu Moying. He heard that she had already moved into Qianyue House.

Since he couldn't convince Old Lady Qu, he preferred to make everything clear with Qu Moying...

Chapter 39 Both Have Ulterior Motives

As Qu Moying just sat down, she heard a maid reporting, "My lady, Young Master Xu wants to see you."

"Tell him to leave!" Qu Moying shook her head.

After a moment of hesitation, the maid said, "My lady, Young Master Xu insisted on meeting you. He said if you didn't agree to meet him, he would break in."

"Break in? You guys can't even stop a man?" Qu Moying said coldly with a sullen face.

The maid didn't dare to say another word and left. However, after a while, there was a loud noise coming through from the outside.

"My lady, Young Master Xu got in!" Yu Dong walked to the window and looked out with a sarcastic smile, "The maids and senior housemaids couldn't stop him, or they just pretended to stop him."

"My lady, I'll go." Yu Chun stood up.

"It's fine. Go invite him in!" Qu Moying said with a cold face. Did Xu Lipeng think that she was afraid of him?

The maids and senior housemaids in the yard used to work for Yu Qingmeng. Qu Moying needed to get rid of them fast.

Yu Dong understood what Qu Moying meant. Then he walked out and waved his hand to those servants, saying, "Move away, let Young Master Xu in."

The maids and senior housemaids who had pretended to stop Xu Lipeng looked at each other and made way for him at once. Xu Lipeng tidied his sleeves and strode into the room, followed by Yu Dong.

"Fourth Lady Qu, what do you mean by doing that?" Xu Lipeng got in with an angry look in his eyes.

As they finally met each other, Qu Moying seemed calm and composed, but Xu Lipeng who always stayed gentle in public looked a bit rattled.

"Young Master Xu, you and Lady Yu like each other. What do you want now? You don't want to be with her?" Qu Moying raised her head and looked to Xu Lipeng through the veil, asking slowly.

"There's nothing between me and Lady Yu. There was a good explanation for what I did on that street. Fourth Lady Qu, why can't you just let it go? You are not acting like a lady from a prestigious family." Xu Lipeng said sullenly.

He had thought that he would be able to solve the whole thing today. Little did he realize that things would end up like this. He assumed that Qu Moying must have said something to Old Lady Qu, otherwise the latter who was always nice to him wouldn't have treated him like that.

"Nothing? Young Master Xu, did you know what Lady Yu said to me in the carriage on that day?" Qu Moying lifted the corner of her lips and put on a cold smile.

"What did she say?" Xu Lipeng had a bad feeling for no reason.

“She said that you two loved each other and that I should be clever enough to break off the engagement, otherwise she would kill me after I marry you. Young Master Xu, I can still be alive if I don’t marry you. I’m afraid that I might lose my life if we got married. Do you still think I should marry you now?”

Qu Moying said slowly with a composed look.

The look on Xu Lipeng’s face was frozen. He never expected Yu Qingmeng would say something like that. ‘That’s impossible. Yu Qingmeng is gentle and willing to make compromises for me. She wouldn’t have said that.’

‘Qu Moying must have made that up. She has even set Qingmeng up in order to ruin Qingmeng’s reputation.’ Xu Lipeng thought.

“Fourth Lady Qu, do you know that jealousy is one of the seven great mistakes for women?” Xu Lipeng said grumpily.

“Seven great mistakes? Young Master Xu, you must have got it wrong. I won’t marry you. So the seven great mistakes for women have nothing to do with me.” Qu Moying gave a sarcastic smile.

Xu Lipeng who was irritated opened his mouth but couldn’t utter a single word. He flapped his sleeve in anger and then said, “Qu Moying, just you wait. It’s not up to you if you’ll marry into Marquis Yongning’s family or not.”

After saying that, he left furiously.

He hadn’t wanted to marry Qu Moying before. However, now he felt that he was eager to marry her. After they got married, he wanted to see how she would beg for his mercy.

“Young Master Xu, you can just leave. Next time please behave like a decent young master and don’t break into a lady’s yard. That’s not polite.”

Qu Moying didn't care about the angry look on Xu Lipeng's face. After she stood up, she smiled and said that.

Xu Lipeng was about to walk across the threshold. Hearing that, he nearly tripped. Then, being angry and ashamed, he strode away.

The servants on the road all saw this Young Master Yongning who was always very gentle and mild wearing a sullen face. They all made way for him, for fear that they would provoke him.

After he got on the carriage that parked outside the door, he told the coachman to go back to his mansion. 'This isn't over. Qu Moying, you should feel flattered that you could marry me. How dare you do this to me? Do you think there's any other guy who dares to marry you?!'

'Just keep making trouble, I won't give Yu Qingmeng up.' He thought.

"Young Master Xu, Young... Young Master Xu, please wait for a moment!" Before the carriage made a turn, he heard someone gasping in front of the carriage.

After Xu Lipeng's pageboy lifted the curtain, a senior housemaid of the Qu's family showed up.

"What?" His young master suffered wrong, the pageboy, though having no guts to say anything, was still pissed off. So he said that with an irritable voice.

"Our Second... Second Madam invited you over." The senior housemaid was out of breath. She had gone to Old Lady Qu's yard first and been told that Young Master Xu had just left for Qianyue House. Then she had rushed to Qianyue House at once and been informed that he had left again. After that, she had followed the carriage here.

"There's nothing for us to talk about. Please tell Second Madam now that things already turned ugly, I have to go back home to discuss with my mother." Xu Lipeng said bluntly.

"Let's go!" He leaned back and said that.

The coachman didn't dare to hesitate and turned the carriage. Then the carriage headed to the avenue.

The senior housemaid watched the carriage leaving with resignation. After she sighed, she went back to the Qu's Mansion and told Yu what had happened. Yu's face turned sullen instantly.

Yu Qingmeng had told her that Xu Lipeng would come today and asked her to help him. Little did she know that Xu Lipeng had left before she arrived there.

"Young Master Xu also said... he said now that things had turned ugly between the two families..." The senior housemaid said timidly.

Yu waved her hand and didn't want to hear anything. The senior housemaid let out a sigh of relief and left in a hurry.

"Madam, what should we do now?" A woman around thirty walked out from Yu's behind. She was from Yu's family and had come to this family when Yu had got married. She was Yu's henchman and had given a lot of advice to the latter. The other servants in the mansion all called her Auntie Hai.

"That old bitch." Yu rolled her eyes and cursed that in a low voice. She would love to see Yu Qingmeng marrying into Marquis Yongning's family. However, Yu Qingmeng had told her that it was never going to happen. "What's so good about that bitch? Why does the old lady treasure her so much?!"

As Yu remembered how aggrieved she had been over the past few days, she couldn't help flying into a rage.

"After what happened to Qingmeng yesterday, Madam Yongning wouldn't allow Xu Lipeng to marry Qingmeng even if he wants to. It's all that old bitch's fault. If she hasn't insisted on breaking off the engagement, Madam Yongning wouldn't have seen Qingmeng being with He Dapang."

Yu said with a glum voice, blaming what had happened yesterday on Old Lady Qu and Qu Moying.

"Qingmeng said that now we had to let Qu Moying marry Xu Lipeng. That ugly and blind girl is nothing after she leaves that old bitch."

Yu had thought a lot over the past few days and felt that Old Lady Qu was responsible for all the bad things which had happened to her. Qu Moying would be an ant that she could tramp at any time without Old Lady Qu's support.

Yu could decide if Qu Moying could live or die or just give a simple order to let someone wound or beat Qu Moying to death or just send the latter away.

However, now because of Old Lady Qu's protection to Qu Moying, there were a lot of things Yu couldn't do. Not only that, due to what Qing He had done, she didn't even dare to get too close to Qu Moying.

"Qing He was already sold?" Speaking of Qing He, Yu got angry again. She had ordered someone to keep an eye on Qing He, but the latter had still been sold.

"Trader Mo said that someone from a noble family happened to be there on that day. That person liked Qing He and brought her home. Trader Mo couldn't reveal that person's identity because it is kind of special." Auntie Hai lowered her head. Yu had assigned this task to her, but she had failed, so she was afraid that Yu might scold her.

Actually, when Auntie Hai had asked Trader Mo about that, she had claimed that it was Yu who wanted to know. However, Trader Mo assumed that Yu had asked her to sell Qing He secretly while still asking Qing He's situation in order to prove that she had nothing to do with everything. 'What a hypocrite! She's so disgusting.' Trader Mo thought.

Therefore, Trader Mo had said something to muddle through while thinking, 'You guys know everything, don't you?'

"Keep investigating. We have to find Qing He." Yu gnashed her teeth. She couldn't rest well if Qing He's still alive, because she felt that that girl was like a bomb that could explode at any time. "What about her family?"

"They were also sold. The trader has said a lot of things about that deal, but I heard that they were sold to a village already!" Auntie Hai gave the name of the village, which got Yu silent. The family which Qing He's family had been sold to did not get along well with the Qu's family. Yu felt ashamed to ask them to

give those servants back, plus she had no reason to do so. If the people from that family wanted to know why, she couldn't give an answer.

Now she had to let them go.

She pointed to the direction of Qianyue House and said disdainfully, "This girl really doesn't want to marry Young Master Xu, or she's just putting on airs? Who else will be willing to marry her except for Young Master Xu?"

Auntie Hai pressed the flower ornament on her hair and pondered for a while. Then she suggested in a low voice, "Madam, Second Master is about to come back. If he strongly supports this marriage, Old Lady Qu might have to consider his opinion. When Second Master wanted to marry you, Old Lady Qu also disagreed, but at last, you still got what you wished, didn't you?"

"We should ask for Second Master's help?" Yu thought for a while and the look on her face gradually turned calm.

Auntie Hai let out a sigh of relief seeing Yu being convinced by her and then said, "Second Master always listens to you. If you give the advice and act like you do consider for Fourth Lady Qu, Second Master would be impressed by your kindness. He would definitely agree! However, madam, if you don't want to do that, there are other ways. We could make the thing happened on the day when Young Master He came happen again. Old Lady Qu's birthday is about to come. There are going to be a lot of people coming to our mansion. If anything happens, you won't be blamed for it."

"Fine, let's wait Second Master to come back first. If it still doesn't work, we'll try out your way." Yu nodded and looked to the direction of Qianyue House. She couldn't just let go of it. No matter what Qu Zhizhen said, she would definitely destroy Qu Moying's reputation.

Being a concubine was too grievous for Yu Qingmeng.

Since Yu Qingmeng's reputation was ruined, Yu would dishonor Qu Moying too. Then, the two girls could both marry Xu Lipeng as his wives. It didn't matter to Yu that Xu Lipeng would be cheated...

While Yu was plotting at home, she didn't know that the word had already begun to spread...

Chapter 40 The Irresponsible Dad Is Back!

The old stories about the Qu's family had been dug out and spread in the capital, including the one that Qu Zhizhen had made his concubine a madam.

Yu had done a great job as a madam for all these years. People all regarded her as a qualified madam. However, rumor had it that she had treated the former madam's daughter badly and was even responsible for the latter's blindness. What's more, she had also directed her maid to frame this legal daughter of Vice Prime Minister Qu, trying to destroy Qu Moying's reputation. After her plan had failed, she had sold the maid right away and told the trader to find a good family for that maid.

It meant that she was supporting the maid who tried to hurt the lady.

There's another rumor about Vice Prime Minister Qu's ex-wife. It was said that she had been set up by Yu who had been a noble concubine. Yu had given birth to her children not long after she had married into that family, even earlier than the madam at that time. There must be something wrong. Someone also mentioned that the former madam had gone to the nunnery when she had still been pregnant and died of giving birth to that child there.

No one believed that Yu had nothing to do with it.

Why would a madam from a noble family leave her mansion when she was about to give birth to a child?

Now all the things had been exposed, including the ones which people hadn't known before and the ones which had just happened. People then started to have some unspeakable guesses.

Yu's good reputation was completely ruined.

Even Qu Qiuyan was implicated.

Someone heard that Qu Qiuyan's senior housemaid had tried to push Fourth Lady Qu into the pond under the command of this Third Lady Qu. It was said that the senior housemaid had already confessed.

While everyone was making all kinds of assumptions, Qu Zhizhen went back home.

It was already afternoon when Qu Moying got the news. She heard that he had come back this morning. Anyway, she never cared about this father.

Compared to Ji Hanyue's father, Qu Zhizhen was just a stranger who happened to be her father to her. To be more precise, her father was no better than a stranger.

Hearing that Qu Zhizhen was back, she sent someone to invite her supporter at once. Since Yu had her rescuer, so did she.

When Qu Moying arrived at Old Lady Qu's yard, she heard laughter from the room before she got in.

After the maid reported her arrival, she lifted the curtain and entered the room slowly. Then she saw Qu Zhizhen who sat beside Old Lady Qu. He was a good-looking guy around thirty. Right now, there was a smile in his eyes. Qu Qiuyan who was talking with a sweet voice suddenly stopped as she heard the sound coming through by the door. For the moment, people in the room all fell their eyes on Qu Moying.

Yu, Qu Qiuyan and Qu Zhizhen who had only shown up until now were all there.

Qu Qiuyan no longer wore the veil and her face was nearly recovered. She hadn't wanted to meet anyone, so she hadn't got involved in Yu Qingmeng's affair.

When Yu told her the whole story, she regretted it very much and said that if she had been there, she wouldn't let anything happen to Yu Qingmeng and would try her best to destroy Qu Moying's reputation.

Now as she saw Qu Moying, she said with a smile at once, "Fourth sister, you are here. Father has been waiting for you for a long time."

After saying that, she took a few steps forward and tried to hold Qu Moying's hand as if she and Qu Moying truly were beloved sisters.

However, her words seemed to be suggesting that Qu Moying had been late on purpose.

Old Lady Qu looked at the girls with a smile. She loved to see the sisters being close to each other. Although she didn't like Qu Qiuyan, the latter was still her granddaughter, unlike Yu who was not related to Old Lady Qu.

Qu Moying avoided Qu Qiuyan's hand silently and stepped forward to give obeisance to Old Lady Qu. After that, she bowed to Qu Zhizhen and Yu. At last, she walked to Old Lady Qu and stood beside her.

Old Lady Qu held Qu Moying's cold hand and said gently, "Don't be scared, this is your father. He truly cares about you."

Qu Zhizhen cast his eyes on Qu Moying's veil with a displeased look. A blind daughter would be of no help to him. In Qu Zhizhen's view, the only good thing about her was that she could marry into Marquis Yongning's family. Qu Zhizhen thought that Young Master Yongning truly was a great person.

He thought that Xu Lipeng was a guy with great character and capability.

Qu Zhizhen had been looking down upon Qu Moying and thought that Qu Moying should feel honored to be engaged with Xu Lipeng. Also, he didn't think a girl with that look would attract Xu Lipeng. So, he didn't understand why Qu Moying had a problem with Yu Qingmeng marrying Xu Lipeng as a concubine since Yu Qingmeng might be of help to her.

"I heard you were unsatisfied with your engagement with Young Master Xu?" Qu Zhizhen said straightly with a glum voice.

Yu had told him that story right after he had come back. Qu Zhizhen agreed to let Yu Qingmeng become Xu Lipeng's wife or noble concubine, because he thought his niece was more reliable than his daughter. In this way, his family and Marquis Yongying's family could also support each other in the future.

He couldn't rely on Qu Moying only!

"Yes!" Seeing that Yu was also there, Qu Moying already realized what had happened and answered calmly.

"How dare you! A girl could only follow her parents' orders and the matchmakers' suggestions. How could a lady like you say something like that?" Qu Zhizhen thumped the cup on the table and said with a cold voice.

Old Lady Qu frowned and compressed her lips into a thin line.

"Master, don't get mad. Fourth Lady is still too young and thoughtless. She has been living in the village after all. How could she understand that?"

Yu tried to coax Qu Zhizhen tenderly at once.

Qu Moying snorted inwardly. Yu and her daughter were so alike. Qu Qiuyan had just sowed discord between Qu Moying and her father and now Yu also suggested that Qu Moying was an untalented girl who had bad qualities.

"She's young? A fourteen-year-old girl is not young anymore. You should invite a granny over to teach her the disciplines, in case she would ruin this family's reputation after she marries into the Marquis Yongning's family."

Qu Zhizhen said angrily.

He was talking about inviting a Discipline Granny. Some of the old grannies who retired from the royal palace would become Discipline Grannies of the prestigious families.

The Discipline Grannies were all very strict. The girls who were taught by them would be favored by the prestigious families and wouldn't bring humiliation to their own families for sure.

“Ok, ok, I see, Master, don’t be so angry. Fourth Lady will behave herself from now on.” Yu said with a sign of remorse on her face, “It’s all my fault. When Fourth Lady was back, I felt that she was too weak and delicate. So I just let her do whatever she wanted. Little did I know that so many things would have happened.”

She talked as if she was just a loving mother. Loving mothers all had spoiled kids. So Yu was the loving mother and Qu Moying was the spoiled kid?

Qu Moying flashed a malicious look in her eyes. Yu and Qu Zhizhen truly were a great pair. The words came out of their mouth all sounded so disgusting.

“Father, Lady Yu said that she and Young Master Xu have been in love for a long time and advised me to break off the engagement!” Qu Moying ignored Yu’s gross voice and said that.

After she had been reborn, she had known that she would have to face Qu Zhizhen one day.

If Qu Zhizhen truly cared about her, he wouldn’t have neglected her for so many years. He had never invited anyone to teach her disciplines. Now he suddenly started to act like a strict father. This was just ridiculous.

“Even if Yu Qingmeng marries into that family, she’ll only be a noble concubine or at most Young Master Xu’s second wife. Just look at yourself. Even if you marry into Marquis Yongning’s family, Young Master Xu wouldn’t have eyes for you anyway. Why can’t you and Yu Qingmeng both marry Young Master Xu, so that she could help you? You could still be the madam. The words she said were all out of a girl’s jealousy. Don’t take them seriously.”

Qu Zhizhen waved his hands.

Qu Moying, angry as she was, even wanted to laugh. There was a sarcastic look in her eyes behind the veil. Qu Zhizhen must think that she was a girl who knew nothing. His words sounded too ridiculous.

Qu Moying wondered if Qu Zhizhen had already regarded Yu Qingmeng as his daughter.

Not only did he take the side of Yu Qingmeng, he even intended to trample Qu Moying's dignity. If Qu Moying was still that self-contemptuous and solitary girl she had used to be, maybe those words would have crushed her. No wonder why Qu Moying had felt that life was so meaningless before.

How could her father be so despicable?

Luckily, Qu Moying had already come up with the solution. Since Qu Zhizhen could speak out such shameless words, she would like to see what he would do next.

There was a thump all of a sudden. However, this time the sound was not made by Qu Zhizhen but Old Lady Qu who really couldn't bear it anymore.

"I insisted on breaking off the engagement. Since Yu Qingmeng is such a nice girl, just let her marry Young Master Xu. Why do you have to drag Ying into this?" Old Lady Qu looked at Qu Zhizhen with a sullen face. She had used to think that her second son was a good man. However, ever since he had got married with Yu, Old Lady Qu just found him so dumb.

"How stupid are you that you could speak out those words? And you just believe everything Yu has said?" Old Lady Qu thought.

If everything happened in a family could be explained like that, there wouldn't be any dispute.

"Mother, Marquis Yongning's family has kept the promise for years and never asked to break off the engagement. How could we propose to break it off first? What would the others think of me?" Seeing his mother's attitude, Qu Zhizhen explained reluctantly. Then he raised his head and looked at Qu Moying who was standing beside Old Lady Qu. "Just look at her, is there any other guy who'll be willing to marry her?"

Qu Moying gave him a gloomy feeling. Qu Zhizhen felt that she was nothing compared to Qu Qiuyan who always spoke in a sweet voice and looked so pretty. If he wasn't so sure of Yue's faithfulness to him, he might even think that Qu Moying wasn't his daughter.

Though he couldn't see Qu Moying's face clearly, he assumed that she was an ugly girl, at least uglier than Qu Qiuyan. He hadn't seen her for so many years. He wondered if she had just got uglier.

"Father, I won't marry into Marquis Yongning's family even if I have to stay single forever." Qu Moying raised her head and said nonchalantly while glancing at Yu Chun who was standing by the door. Yu Chun who had been lifting the curtain winked at Qu Moying at once.

'Time is ready! He's here!' That's what Yu Chun was trying to say.

Qu Zhizhen flew into a rage and thumped on the table. He stood up all of a sudden and pointed to Qu Moying, "Stay single? You want to rely on me forever?"

"If you don't want to support me, I'll leave this mansion on my own." Qu Moying didn't yield at all and said with force and nerve.

"How dare you, how dare you, how dare you retort me!" Qu Zhizhen burst into anger. After he strode over, he raised his hand to slap on Qu Moying's face.

Yu Dong reacted fast. He pulled Qu Moying back while stepping forward. Then the slap fell right on his face. He, feet getting weak, fell to the ground at once. Then he covered his face and said with a sharp voice, "Master, don't beat our lady. She's so fragile. She couldn't bear it!"

A senior housemaid was guiding the way for a handsome young man. As they arrived by the door, they heard the voice inside. With an angry look on the man's good-looking face, he pushed the senior housemaid away and walked in at once.