

Noble Wife 321

Chapter 321 Liu Xiangshan Is a Restless Person

Qu Moying shook her hand indifferently and said, "I'm fine. Miss Yan is also injured. Eldest Sister, let's go back first!"

She reached out to press her forehead. It could be seen from her pale face that she didn't feel well.

Qu Xuexin nodded, stood up, and said with concern, "Moying, let's go back first and find a doctor for you in the mansion."

Her eyes were gentle, and her face was filled with concern. She appeared to be a caring sister.

However, Qu Moying could see through her hypocritical concern. Qu Xuexin didn't really care about her. When she slightly lowered her head just now, she saw a trace of complacency on Qu Xuexin's face.

Qu Xuexin was like Ji Youran. Qu Moying trusted Ji Youran very much in her previous life. Although Ji Youran was a little suspicious sometimes, Qu Moying would rationalize her behaviors. However, Ji Youran repaid her with nothing but the utmost malice in the end.

Qu Moying said indifferently, "Let's go!"

Yu Dong went downstairs to order carriages. Soon, a carriage stopped at the door of the tea house, but it was a small one.

Yu Dong said, "First Lady, please go back with Hong Mei first. Another carriage is coming, but it will take a while to arrive."

"Moying, you're injured. You should go back first!" Qu Xuexin shook her hand and said. She looked out of the window and saw the carriage, which was really small. She thought it could only seat two or three people, and it would be too crowded for four people. Moreover, it looked very bumpy and uncomfortable to sit in. She said, "Moying, please ask for a carriage to pick me up after you get to the mansion!"

This carriage was really small. In Qu Mansion, even the carriages for servants looked better than this one.

Qu Xuexin found it quite detestable.

Yu Dong explained, "First Lady, another carriage is coming over. You don't need to wait for a carriage from the mansion. But that carriage looks even smaller, and its wheels have just been fixed, so it comes a little later."

"That carriage is even worse? What kind of carriage is that?" Qu Xuexin couldn't imagine. From Yu Dong's words, it seemed that the other carriage was a broken one. In comparison, Qu Xuexin thought the carriage downstairs was better because it wasn't quite old.

Qu Moying looked out of the window and nodded. "Eldest Sister, you should go back first. I still feel a little dizzy and want to sit for a while!"

"Alright, then I'll go back first. If you don't want to take the next carriage, I'll order a carriage for you from the mansion. You can just wait here!"

Qu Xuexin agreed with Qu Moying this time.

She agreed very quickly. She wasn't as concerned about Qu Moying as she was just now. Actually, she didn't want to keep Qu Moying company at all.

Qu Moying sneered in her heart. Hearing that the next carriage was even worse and she might not get a carriage for her, Qu Xuexin immediately changed her attitude. Although she still said nice words, they were just a false display of affection.

Qu Moying smiled, "Thank you, Eldest Sister!"

Qu Xuexin stood up and left with Hong Mei. Qu Moying looked down from the window. When Qu Xuexin boarded the carriage, she seemed to be very dissatisfied. She held Hong Mei's hand and stood for a while before stepping up the carriage.

After both of them got on the carriage, the carriage curtain was closed, and the carriage slowly headed towards Qu Mansion.

As soon as the carriage left, another carriage stopped at the entrance of the tea house. It was bigger than ordinary carriages. Although it did not look luxurious, its simple but imposing dark gold embroidery curtain showed that the owner of the carriage was not an ordinary person.

It was not a curtain that whoever was rich could use.

Yu Dong helped Qu Moying downstairs. Just now, she told Qu Moying that there would be a big carriage coming over, and she deliberately picked a small carriage for Qu Xuexin.

Yu Dong hated Qu Xuexin's hypocritical acts. If he could find a worse carriage, he would definitely let Qu Xuexin take that one.

Holding Yu Dong's hand, Qu Moying got on the carriage and lifted the curtain. Just as she was about to walk in, someone grabbed her hand, causing her to throw herself into a strong embrace. It was such an abrupt and powerful embrace that Qu Moying felt her injured head was pressed hard, and she let out a painful groan.

"Are you injured?" The voice sounded familiar. It was Pei Yuanjun.

Qu Moying didn't find it strange to see this mysterious Lord suddenly appear around her.

Her body fell into his arms.

She reached out to push his chest and wanted to sit up straight, but unexpectedly, her body was tightly held by him. She could not move at all. In a strange fit of anger, she pushed him hard with great strength.

She pushed him harder than normal women could do. However, Pei Yuanjun held her hands tightly. He held her waist with one hand, and he reached out to her head with the other hand. He groped her head, touched a swollen part on her head, and pressed hard wickedly.

This time, it hurt so much that Qu Moying couldn't help but let out a low cry of pain, and her tears almost flowed out. She stopped struggling but snuggled in Pei Yuanjun's arms.

"You are badly hurt, but you still have the strength!" Pei Yuanjun's hand was still on the back of her head. He touched the swollen part on her head again, but this time, he did not use as much force as before. He just gently rubbed it. "Does it hurt?"

Qu Moying's face was buried in his arms. She could not see his expression, but she could feel that he was not in a good mood. His voice was somewhat ruthless. She wondered who had offended him.

She was really bold just now. She even wanted to slap him and push him away.

"It hurts!" Qu Moying said sincerely. Since she couldn't move, she closed her eyes. It was really painful. She had been enduring it before.

Even though it was painful, she could only endure it. However, at this moment, she felt inexplicably wronged. She didn't know if it was because the harsh pain or if it was something else that tears actually welled up in her eyes. She felt very uncomfortable. She closed her eyes and forcefully suppressed this inexplicable pain.

"Why didn't you fight back?" Pei Yuanjun asked, rubbing the back of Qu Moying's head with his hand. Hearing her painful cry, he still did not stop, "I don't think you are a soft-hearted person!"

The bump would recover soon if it was properly massaged!

"His words sounded like mockery. Is he mocking me for being useless? Or does he think I'm cruel and ruthless?"

“Whatever! I’ve never hidden it from him...”

“It’s not the time yet!” Qu Moying said gloomily. She felt that her head was hurting more and more. It was not so painful just now. Now that she was massaged like this, it made her whole body numb.

She reached out to push Pei Yuanjun’s hand, but Pei Yuanjun’s hand was still massaging her head steadily, not affected by her at all.

Pei Yuanjun asked lazily, “Do you need my help?”

“No!” Qu Moying wanted to shake her head, but her head was pressed by him, and she couldn’t move at all. She only said this one word. She had to rely on herself.

The carriage quieted down, and the vibe was strange. Yu Dong did not take the carriage, and the carriage slowly drove forward.

Pei Yuanjun suddenly smiled and said meaningfully, “After the Qixi Festival, I will go to the border.”

Qu Moying was stunned. “What happened at the border?”

“It’s nothing serious. It’s just that some people are restless.” Pei Yuanjun suddenly laughed quite loudly. Qu Moying felt that his voice was ringing in her ear.

She couldn’t see, but she felt that she was too close to him right now.

She couldn’t move even if she wanted to. Her whole body was controlled by Pei Yuanjun, and her head was pressed tightly on his chest, which made her feel that his body was hard and her nose was a little painful. It could be seen that he used much strength.

Being pressed in the head, she felt her head painful and dizzy. She reacted slower than before, and she blurted out before she realized.

“Restless people? Is it the Guardian General?”

When she finished her words, she realized that she had made a slip of the tongue. She hurriedly shut her mouth and regretted in her heart. “How could I say something like this!”

In her previous life, she knew that the Guardian General, Liu Xiangshan, was not a good person from her father. It seemed that the reason why her father had returned to the capital and his military power had been partly removed was related to Liu Xiangshan. In the past, her father had told her that Liu Xiangshan could not be trusted completely.

Her father said those words to her at that time because she would be the Crown Princess and she would inevitably come into contact with political affairs. Even if she didn’t have political ambitions, she had to be more careful.

But right now, she was just Qu Moying. Qu Zhizhen would not tell her such a thing. Even if he told her, he might not know the Guardian General’s background himself. After all, he was a civil official, whereas Liu Xiangshan was a military officer at the border. There was no chance for interaction between them.

Would she arouse his suspicion by saying this?

“Clever girl, you guessed correctly!” Pei Yuanjun smiled. His eyes flashed slightly. He leaned back against the soft couch behind him. Qu Moying also leaned over and curled into a ball on his chest. He held her tightly in his arms. She looked small.

She was so cute but also so pitiful!

Qu Moying breathed a sigh of relief. Fortunately, Pei Yuanjun thought it was her guess. Otherwise, she really couldn’t explain the meaning of what she had just said.

Pei Yuanjun said meaningfully, “Liu Xiangshan is a restless person.”

It was hard for Qu Moying to comment, so she closed her eyes and pretended not to hear him. She shrank back, hoping not to talk about this anymore.

This question was too far away from her, and it was not in accordance with her life.

“Not only Liu Xiangshan but also his daughter was restless!” Pei Yuanjun’s voice sounded very calm, but it gave Qu Moying a creepy feeling. She felt so strange that she could not help but ask, “Doesn’t Lady Liu have an eye disease?”

“She could be cured although she has an eye disease, right?” Pei Yuanjun lowered his head and looked at the little head in his arms. He exerted a little strength in his hand.

“Ah!” His sudden press made Qu Moying unable to help but scream. She tried to break free from him.

Pei Yuanjun lessened his strength and comforted the restless Qu Moying in his arms. “Alright, alright. You’ll be fine after the massage. Otherwise, you will feel dizzy for the next few days.”

It was so painful that tears fell from Qu Moying’s eyes. At this time, she could not come back to her senses. She only felt that the swollen part of her head was almost torn apart. For a moment, she could only breathe heavily with her eyes closed.

Pei Yuanjun’s hand slowed down a little, and there was a trace of imperceptible gentleness in his eyes...

Chapter 322 Xie Feng Cried for Justice

When the carriage stopped at Vice Minister Qu’s Mansion, Qu Moying was hit on the head slightly. She raised her head in confusion and met Pei Yuanjun’s narrowed eyes. Seeing his beautiful face, she felt a little giddy and didn’t know where she was.

She looked around and remembered that she got into Pei Yuanjun’s carriage before and then fell asleep in the carriage.

The back of her head had been harshly painful, but now the tingling disappeared and she felt much better.

“What? You don’t want to leave?” Pei Yuanjun raised his eyebrows and leaned against the cushion behind him. He narrowed his eyes. His nose was filled with Qu Moying’s light yet pleasing body fragrance.

“Are we there?” Qu Moying’s face inexplicably turned red, and she quickly straightened up. Her long hair immediately scattered down on her shoulders.

If she got out of the carriage like this, others would gossip about her.

“Yes, we are!” Pei Yuanjun reached out to take a veiled hat and put it on Qu Moying’s head. The hanging veil was long enough to cover her hair. “Don’t forget about the Qixi Festival!”

Qu Moying blinked, not knowing what he was talking about. She just looked at Pei Yuanjun blankly.

“What? Have you forgotten?” He laughed, sounding a bit enchanting and ambiguous. His laughter was somewhat flirty, especially in such a small place.

Qu Moying hurriedly shook her head. She vaguely remembered having a conversation with him just now, but she thought it was a dream for a moment.

“You may get down first!” Looking at her, Pei Yuanjun found it more and more interesting. He reached out and pressed on her hair, messing up her hair again.

Qu Moying hurriedly got up and lifted the curtain. Yu Dong was already waiting outside. He helped her out of the carriage. Then, the curtain of the carriage fell down and the carriage turned to leave.

After calming down, Qu Moying turned around and entered the mansion.

Granny Wu had been waiting at the door for a long time. Seeing Qu Moying coming down from the carriage, she hurriedly stepped forward and said, "Fourth Lady, you are finally back. Her Ladyship has been waiting for you for a long time. Are you alright? The doctor is also waiting for you."

Qu Moying asked in surprise, "Does Grandmother know?"

"First Lady came back and said that your carriage collided with another carriage. Her Ladyship was worried, and she asked me to wait at the door. But I didn't see you after a long wait, and I was just thinking of reporting to Her Ladyship." Granny Wu said. Looking at the veiled hat with a long hanging veil on Qu Moying's head, Granny Wu was a bit flustered, "Is she injured so badly that she has to put on a hat?"

"But First Lady said that she is alright!"

Qu Moying said softly, "I messed up my hair on the carriage just now. I can't go to see Grandmother like this. I'll go back to freshen up first before going to Grandmother's place. Granny Wu, please go to inform Grandmother for me."

"Okay, okay, I will go now. Her Ladyship must be anxious." Granny Wu said hurriedly. She turned around and hurried back to report.

Qu Moying went back to Qianyue House with Yu Dong. When Yu Chun combed her hair, Qu Moying knew that she had just fallen asleep in the carriage. She slept for a long time. In fact, the carriage had already arrived in front of Qu Mansion long ago, but it drove away and took a circle then.

That meant she came back two hours later than Qu Xuexin. No wonder the Old Lady was anxious.

Yu Chun looked at Qu Moying's head when she was combing Qu Moying's hair. She said that the swollen part had gone down a little. She tied up her hair carefully and put a simple hairpin on it.

Qu Moying went to the Old Lady's place with Yu Dong. As soon as she arrived, the Old Lady asked the doctor to check Qu Moying. Only after hearing the doctor say that Qu Moying was fine did the Old Lady breathe a sigh of relief.

After the doctor left, the Old Lady asked Qu Moying about what had happened. Knowing that it was exactly as Qu Xuexin had said and Earl Fengyang's Mansion's people were involved once again, she was so angry that she laughed instead, "Well, well, well. Madam Li is really going against us. I haven't asked her to explain what happened before yet!"

The Old Lady also had a temper. Even if Earl Fengyang's Mansion was one of the few most renowned aristocratic families in the capital, the Old Lady could not bear it.

Qu Moying comforted the Old Lady, "Grandmother, don't be angry. It seemed to be an accident. Miss Yan was also badly hurt. Her forehead was grazed, and she even bled."

The Old Lady didn't know that Yan Yujiao was injured. She was surprised to hear that, and she calmed down a bit. "Did she get hurt?"

Qu Moying nodded, "Yes, she was badly hurt. She went to the clinic just now."

The Old Lady was not an unreasonable person. Hearing Qu Moying's words, she knew that it might really be an accident and nobody was to blame. But thinking of what Madam Li had done before, she couldn't help but get angry.

Before Third Young Master He was exposed, Madam Li sometimes sent people over to inquire about the progress. But ever since Third Young Master He's matter was exposed, Madam Li had never sent people over again. That was why the Old Lady was so angry when she heard that the carriage accident was related to Earl Fengyang's Mansion's people.

"Where does the young master who saved you come from? Where does he live? I should ask your father to go and thank him." Hearing that Earl Fengyang's Mansion didn't do it on purpose, she stopped talking about it and turned to another topic. Qu Xuexin didn't give a clear account when she told her about the accident.

Qu Moying said with a smile, "He was just a passerby. I couldn't find out who he was in that situation. Grandmother, I will pay attention in the future. If I meet this young master again, I will ask my father to go and thank him."

“That’s right. Otherwise, people will say that we are ungrateful because we don’t even thank the person who saved you.” The Old Lady nodded repeatedly. It was Qu Moying and Yu Dong who encountered the situation. They did not ask who the young master was at that time, and now they could not find him. But if they met him in the future, they must thank him generously.

Qu Moying said softly, “Grandmother, I know.”

Looking at her feeble and pitiful look, the Old Lady couldn’t help but feel sorry for her again. She took her hand and pressed her to sit down on the side. Then, she asked questions like “Does it hurt?”, and Qu Moying answered her questions one by one. Seeing that Qu Moying was alright, the Old Lady heaved a sigh of relief. She was afraid that Qu Moying was scared out of her wit.

According to the carriage driver, one of the horse’s legs was chopped off. An ordinary noble lady had never seen this before. It was good enough that she did not faint.

Although Qu Moying looked extremely weak, she had a tough personality. The Old Lady felt satisfied in her heart, but she also felt extremely helpless at the same time.

According to Qu Zhizhen, Qu Moying would definitely enter Lord Yun Mansion. Lord Yun had given them an obvious hint. If Qu Moying was as weak as she looked, how could she live in Lord Yun Mansion? Fortunately, she had a strong personality despite her weak look.

The Old Lady thought Qu Moying was the most vulnerable and pitiful granddaughter among her four granddaughters. But now, she knew Qu Moying was not a useless and weak lady. This was good. At least after Qu Moying entered Lord Yun Mansion or the palace in the future, she would not be easily bullied.

The Old Lady thought to herself that she had to talk to Granny Yan. She had guessed something before, but she wanted to pretend that she didn’t know it. In the current situation, she could no longer pretend to be ignorant.

After talking with the Old Lady for a while, Qu Moying went back to rest. After all, it was not a light collision. Although the bruise on the back of her head had been better after the massage, she was still injured. After returning to her yard, she did not have lunch but fell asleep directly. She slept until evening...

“Your Highness, I... I... I...” Xie Feng cried pitifully as she crawled by Pei Luo’an’s feet. Her beautiful hair fell down messily, making her look extremely pitiful.

“What happened?” Pei Luo’an looked at Xie Feng, who was crying on the ground, and frowned unconsciously. He had a lot of things to deal with recently and was very annoyed.

At this time, he wasn’t pleased at the sight of Xie Feng.

Pei Yusheng thought it was Pei Luo’an’s people who exposed Third Young Master He, so he also caused a lot of trouble for Pei Luo’an. Some people even brought up the ex-Crown Princess’ matter again, saying that Crown Prince Mansion still kept a large part of the ex-Crown Princess’ dowry. Pei Luo’an had already urged Ji Youran to deal with the matter quickly.

He knew that Xie Feng went to the Ji Family to deal with something for Ji Youran.

In the early days after Ji Hanyue died, Pei Luo’an enjoyed a good reputation. But because of what had happened recently, some people in the capital began to doubt his feelings for Ji Hanyue.

This made him very annoyed.

“Your Highness, Fourth Lady Qu has gone too far. She... she actually beat me like this.” Xie Feng was still complaining. She pointed at her face. There was still a palm print on her face. Yu Dong’s slap was quite hard. It was already afternoon, and the swelling had not subsided yet.

“You can talk to Princess Ji about this.” Pei Luo’an was very impatient. He had just returned to the mansion and sat down before Xie Feng rushed over.

He was not in the mood to deal with such a trifle for a bedroom maid.

“Your Highness, Princess Ji said that you have to know about this matter, so I came to wait for you. Fourth Lady Qu is the ex-Crown Princess’ cousin sister. She acted arrogantly in the Ji Family. I just helped Princess Ji send the ex-Crown Princess’ dowry list to the Ji Family, and Fourth Lady Qu acted arrogantly as if she was the Crown Princess.”

Xie Feng was very good at complaining. She knew what the Crown Prince cared about, so she deliberately started her complaint by saying that Qu Moying interfered with his matter.

When she complained to Ji Youran, she simply said that Qu Moying slapped her but didn't say what exactly happened, nor did she say that the hairpins were the cause. She just said that she would complain to the Crown Prince. Ji Youran thought it was about the dowry list, and she felt guilty about that, so she ignored her and asked her to find Pei Luo'an. However, she didn't expect that she was sowing seeds of misfortune...

Ji Youran even encouraged Xie Feng and rewarded her, which made Xie Feng feel like she was on cloud nine.

If the Crown Prince helped her vent her anger this time, no one would dare to provoke her in Crown Prince's Mansion in the future.

This was also one of the important reasons why Xie Feng made a big deal out of the matter.

Pei Luo'an frowned and asked after thinking for a while, "Are you talking about the Fourth Lady of Vice Minister Qu's Mansion?"

"Yes... It's her. She is the ex-Crown Princess' cousin sister. I heard that she had also attended the ex-Crown Princess' funeral. But now, she looked down upon me. She said that I served two different masters and cursed me... She even pulled out the hairpins on my hair, which were given to me by the ex-Crown Princess. I thought of the ex-Crown Princess whenever I saw the pair of hairpins. But they were taken away now... How can I live without them?"

Chapter 323 Granny Yan Asked for an Audience with Qu Moying

Xie Feng sobbed so hard that she almost collapsed to the ground. She looked really sad!

Pei Luo'an frowned and looked at Xie Feng with a darkened face. After a while, he asked, "Why did she pull out your hairpins?"

"I don't know either. Maybe she is unhappy about me serving you, Your Highness." Xie Feng continued crying.

"How rude she is!" A trace of anger appeared on Pei Luo'an's face. He was angry that a mere Vice Minister's daughter dared to offend him like this.

"I have explained that I am now yours, and I did not serve two masters. But Fourth Lady Qu didn't listen to me and even let her maid slap me twice. All the servants in the Ji Family were watching at that time. I felt like I had disgraced you, and I wanted to kill myself by hitting the pillar. But I thought I had to come back to report to you, so I didn't kill myself on the spot."

She cried as she continued, "Your Highness, now that I have reported to you, I am willing to die to preserve your dignity." With those words, Xie Feng stood up, and she staggered as if she was about to hit the pillar with her head.

Pei Luo'an slapped his hand on the table and snapped, "Enough!"

Xie Feng was frightened and did not dare to make any more noise. She still knelt there and cried.

Pei Luo'an said coldly, "You can leave now!"

"Your Highness..." Xie Feng still wanted to say something, but she saw Pei Luo'an glare at her and hurriedly lowered her head. She did not dare to be impudent and could only say with grievance, "Your... Your Highness, I... I will leave first!"

Pei Luo'an waved his hand.

Xie Feng stood up, feeling wronged. She turned around, wiped away her tears, and was about to leave.

“Don’t talk nonsense after you get out. Otherwise...” Pei Luo’an said coldly. Someone was impeaching him with Ji Hanyue’s matter, which annoyed him.

“I know. Please rest assured, Your Highness.” Xie Feng immediately responded. After saying that, she carefully retreated to the door. Standing still, she wiped her tears and saw a maid sneering at her beside the door.

The maid used to be the Crown Prince’s bedroom maid, but her place was taken by Xie Feng now, so she disliked Xie Feng very much.

Seeing that Xie Feng had suffered a setback inside, she was very happy. She walked over with small steps. She stopped a few steps away from the Crown Prince’s study and sized up the battered and exhausted Xie Feng. “What’s wrong? Is His Highness going to avenge you? Is he going to deal with the ex-Crown Princess’ cousin sister for you?”

“Does it have anything to do with you?” Not to be outdone, Xie Feng said coldly. She also disliked this bedroom maid.

“Of course it has. I just heard a good show. You cried pitifully inside. But His Highness didn’t seem to have any pity for you. It seems you are doted on for only two days, and maybe you gained the favor only because of the ex-Crown Princess.” The maid waved her hand as if she was chasing away something dirty.

However, she was waving in Xie Feng’s direction.

Xie Feng was so angry that her entire body trembled. However, she was afraid because the maid was right. Did the Crown Prince really favor her? Others might not know, but Xie Feng was very clear about it.

But now, she was at the door of the Crown Prince’s study, so she did not dare to make a scene here. She glared at the maid and turned to leave, and the maid who served her followed closely behind her.

When she walked outside, she thought about it again and still felt unreconciled. She couldn’t tell what the Crown Prince’s attitude was, and she was not sure whether he would help her vent her anger or not.

The pair of hairpins was her most presentable collection, so it was really heartbreaking for her to lose them like that. After standing still and thinking for a while, Xie Feng went to Ji Youran with her maid.

She had told Ji Youran about the thing perfunctorily before, but this time, she went to Ji Youran for her support.

Of course, she would say that the Crown Prince asked her to tell Ji Youran about it and let Ji Youran handle it because he was too busy. Anyway, the Crown Prince had indeed said such words. Xie Feng did not think that there was anything wrong with her complaining to Ji Youran and asking her for help.

That was what the Crown Prince meant!

Ji Youran was also very annoyed. Originally, she wanted to use Xie Feng's matter to let the Crown Prince interfere with the issue concerning Earl Ling'an's Mansion. It would be best if the Crown Prince directly gave the final say on the problem of Ji Hanyue's dowry. As long as the Crown Prince gave the order, she believed that Madam Duan and Ji Yuanhai would not dare to say anything no matter how many dowry items she returned.

However, she did not expect Xie Feng would come back so quickly with a tearful face, which really annoyed her. She would not be merciful to women because she was not the Crown Prince. Actually, she had kept Xie Feng only because she was useful. But now, she was annoyed. She only said a few words to Xie Feng coldly and then sent her away.

Since Madam Duan didn't sign the dowry list, it meant that the dowry matter was not over yet. She still had to think of a way to make Madam Duan sign on it. The Crown Prince had already reprimanded her, so she had to hurry up with this matter.

When Xie Feng came to complain the first time, Ji Youran comforted her kindly and even rewarded her. But this time, Ji Youran asked her to leave before she could finish her words. Seeing the mocking faces of Ji Youran's maids, Xie Feng felt ashamed and angry, but she could only leave.

She angrily returned to her own residence, gnashing her teeth in anger. The one she hated the most was Qu Moying. She still wanted to find an opportunity to complain to the Crown Prince. She would not let this matter end like this!

Xie Feng was very angry, and she was eager to deal with Qu Moying. But Qu Moying knew her very well. She knew that Xie Feng would only tell half of the truth for her own good and would pretend to be innocent.

The truth would be distorted and concealed because Xie Feng covered up the real cause of the incident. Qu Moying didn't care about whether Pei Luo'an would get angry with her for a maid. She was a lady of Vice Minister's Mansion as well as Ji Hanyue's cousin sister, but Xie Feng was only a maid. Pei Luo'an had always fished for fame and honor, and he definitely would not do anything to her!

She had pulled out the pair of hairpins on purpose...

There was a bamboo gauze box in front of Qu Moying. It was the one she brought from Yue's Clothing Pavilion. After looking at it over and over again, she was sure that it was a fake. However, it was made very exquisitely, and it was exactly the same style as the real one. If the person who made this box had not seen the real one before, he would not be able to make it.

But how did a fake get to Yue's Clothing Pavilion?

Her long eyelashes fluttered, and her eyes fell on the bamboo gauze box in front of her. She was deep in thought. She had asked Aunt Yang today. Aunt Yang said she had asked many people who had worked in the shop, but all of them said they had never seen that shop assistant again. It was as if he had really disappeared. Or maybe, he had left the capital.

However, Qu Moying knew that it was not the case. She knew the shop assistant must be hiding in a place which she couldn't find. He was the key to finding out about the bamboo gauze box and the case that Yue's Clothing Pavilion had once sold tributes.

It would be no big deal if no one exposed it. However, if it was exposed, Yue's Clothing Pavilion would definitely have to be closed. Fortunately, the person in charge of the shop at that time was Yu. Even if this matter was investigated, she would not be implicated, but the shop would definitely be sealed.

Did Yu really dare to do such a thing?

No matter how greedy Yu was, she did not have the ability to get this kind of tribute. Moreover, the tributes were available for sale for several years.

Why did they stop selling them? How did they stop selling them? Why were the tributes placed in Qu Mansion's shop? Was it related to someone in Qu Mansion? Where were the missing account books? Who got them?

Qu Moying sighed softly. She pressed on the bamboo gauze box with her tender fingers, deep in thought. She felt like there was an invisible thread that connected her previous life with this life.

Even though things that happened in Qu Mansion were only inner yard's disputes, Qu Moying had sensed the smell of danger in them.

Was it Qu Mansion's people? Was it Dowager Consort Qu? Was it another concubine? Or was it another concubine's family?

She thought Dowager Consort Qu was the least possible one, but who was it?

Was it Qu Zhizhen?

She thought Qu Zhizhen was more suspicious than Yu, but she had no evidence.

She didn't have a close relationship with her father who didn't care about her, so even if she wanted to verify something, she couldn't just ask her father directly, which made it even more difficult for her to find out the truth.

Qu Moying finally retracted her finger from the bamboo gauze box, lightly tapped the table, and said, "Yu Chun, put it away!"

Yu Chun came over to take the bamboo gauze box and carefully put it away.

At this time, Yu Dong came back from outside and brought dinner. Qu Moying still felt dizzy and did not have much appetite. After eating a little, she asked the two maids to clear the table.

After Yu Dong finished cleaning up the room, he saw Granny Yan coming in from outside the courtyard with a serious face. He walked forward and bowed to her.

Granny Yan looked at the lights in the main room and asked, "Did lady have dinner?"

Yu Dong replied, "Lady has finished the dinner."

Granny Yan hesitated for a moment and said to Yu Dong, "Go and report to lady that I have something to report to her."

Yu Dong nodded, turned around, and went in. After a while, he walked outside and said to Granny Yan, "Granny Yan, lady invites you in!"

Yu Dong still had some respect for this palace maid. Granny Yan had at least helped Qu Moying once after she came to the mansion. Because of this, Yu Dong felt that Granny Yan was not bad.

Granny Yan nodded at Yu Dong and entered the room with a heavy expression.

In the room, Qu Moying did not wear the eye veil. Granny Yan was familiar with her current appearance now. Qu Moying knew that Granny Yan had seen her without the eye veil before, so she did not put the eye veil on at this time.

Qu Moying watched her coming into the room with her bright eyes open. Seeing her face, Granny Yan was stunned. Although she had secretly observed Qu Moying's face several times, she had never seen it directly in such a way.

Qu Moying had a pair of beautiful and bright eyes. Her pupils were darker than others. When she was serious, her eyes were like a pool of water, pure and clean. But when she smiled, they were charming. There was a touch of light red in the corner of her eyes, which made her exceedingly gorgeous and attractive.

Her facial features were extremely delicate. Even if she wore an eye veil, many people could sense that she was a stunning beauty. However, if they could see her without the eye veil, they would know that she was not only good-looking. She was drop-dead gorgeous, and she really was an incomparable beauty...

Granny Yan thought again and made up her mind. She met Qu Moying's smiling eyes and slowly knelt down...

Chapter 324 He Will Bring Fortune to the Emperor

"Granny Yan, what do you mean?" Qu Moying lowered her head to look at Granny Yan. She was not surprised at all, and her eyes were cold. She was so calm that she didn't look like a lady less than fifteen years old.

Even a palace concubine would panic if she was greeted by Granny Yan in such a grand and serious manner, who used to be the Empress Dowager's palace maid.

Granny Yan raised her head and said, "Fourth Lady, I'm willing to pledge my loyalty to you."

Her tone was very decisive. She had thought about it for a long time and hesitated for a long time. Now that she was saying it, she no longer hesitated.

It was Dowager Consort Qu's as well as her own idea to stay in Qu Mansion.

Qu Moying narrowed her eyes and tapped the qin music score on the table with her fingers. She asked, "Granny Yan, do you know what your words mean?"

Granny Yan looked up at Qu Moying and said word by word, "I know!"

Qu Moying asked slowly and sincerely, "I'm not sure what will happen to me in the future. Granny Yan, are you sure you want to follow me?"

"Yes. I know. My decision to follow you is not made on impulse but after careful and long consideration." After a moment of silence, Granny Yan said slowly, which showed that she had thought it through. "Fourth Lady, you will come into contact with the royal family in the future. I might know more about some matters regarding the royal family than you."

Compared with the others in the mansion, Granny Yan had the absolute advantage in this aspect.

Neither Granny Miao nor Yu Dong had ever been in touch with the things in the palace. Although Yu Dong had seen some things when he followed Pei Yuanjun, he just saw the superficial side, and he indeed knew less than Granny Yan, who had once lived in the palace. From this point of view, Qu Moying indeed needed Granny Yan to be by her side.

A smile appeared on Qu Moying's face. "Granny Yan, what do you think I should do?"

She didn't refuse Granny Yan, which meant she accepted her.

Granny Yan breathed a sigh of relief. She was afraid that Qu Moying would not accept her. It seemed that this was a good start.

"Fourth Lady, you don't need to do anything right now. Just take care of your own matters. As for what to do in the future, you will have to wait for Lord Yun to make a decision."

Granny Yan had just returned from the Old Lady's place. Although the Old Lady did not say it explicitly, Granny Yan understood the meaning behind her words. She came to Qu Mansion because of the same thing, but the thing had not been made clear at that time, and Qu Mansion did not seem to take it seriously.

Granny Yan naturally pretended not to be in the know.

But now it seemed that Lord Yun had sent a message that attracted the Old Lady's attention.

Since Lord Yun had already made clear his opinion, it was settled. Granny Yan had never doubted his decision. This was also the most important reason why she expressed her loyalty to Qu Moying.

She had been hesitating before!

“Not doing anything?” Qu Moying was deep in thought.

Granny Yan nodded and reiterated, “Yes, you just do nothing for the time being.”

Qu Moying said meaningfully, “But if I don’t do anything, others will do something, right?”

Granny Yan reached out to touch her temple and said with a smile, “Of course not. But in the current situation, there are many things you can’t do, so please wait before making a move.”

Qu Moying asked, “About the mansion?”

Granny Yan shook her head. “About the palace!”

“Is it the royal palace or Eastern Palace?” Qu Moying’s eyes slightly raised, revealing a bit of indifference, but in fact, she could not ask further, or she would cross the line.

Granny Yan lowered her head and said, “It’s up to you. I heard that the Crown Prince found Princess Ji quite annoying recently.”

She had seen everything that had happened recently. Qu Moying seemed to be at odds with Princess Ji.

In Granny Yan’s understanding, Qu Moying was defending Ji Hanyue and Earl Ling’an’s Mansion’s first branch. They were indeed quite pitiful.

As the ex-Crown Princess' cousin sister, what Qu Moying had done was not enough to deal with Princess Ji.

However, there was indeed something she could leverage.

Granny Yan's words were quite clear. It could be seen that although she had not interfered in anything during this period of time and had not deliberately spied on Qu Moying, she could still guess something.

But actually, Qu Moying let her know it on purpose.

However, there would not be many people who could guess it and be sure of it.

After all, Qu Moying's current identity was far inferior to Ji Youran. Even if she had a problem with Ji Youran because of Ji Hanyue, no one would think that she wanted to deal with Ji Youran.

It was too bold!

Apparently, Granny Yan had guessed it, and she even said it out calmly.

It satisfied Qu Moying very much.

Qu Moying gave Yu Dong a look. Yu Dong understood her meaning and went forward to help Granny Yan up with a smile.

Granny Yan stood up and bowed respectfully to Qu Moying.

Qu Moying said politely, "Granny Yan, I'll have to trouble you in the future. If there is anything in the palace, please help me keep an eye on it."

It meant that she had accepted Granny Yan as her trusted servant!

"I will do my best!" Granny Yan heaved a sigh of relief. Then, she looked up at Qu Moying and said seriously, "Dowager Consort Qu sent me to Qu Mansion because of Lord Yun. Lord Yun agreed to let you enter his mansion because of the matter between you and Eastern Palace."

Granny Yan no longer hid anything since she had recognized Qu Moying as her master.

"I knew this from Consort Xiang. Consort Xiang hinted at Dowager Consort Qu with some words, which was why Dowager Consort Qu made the subsequent arrangement for you."

"Consort Xiang has always been close to the Empress!"

After listening to Granny Yan's words, Qu Moying fell into silence. She had guessed something, and she had also known something, but only after hearing Granny Yan's words did she know about the entire situation clearly.

Sure enough, it was all because of Pei Yuanjun.

"Why does the Empress care so much about Lord Yun's marriage?" Although she knew something, she still asked this question she had been curious about.

Lord Yun was only a cousin of the Emperor. The Emperor did not even care about his own son, but why did he care so much about a cousin?

"Lord Yun is the most valued official of His Majesty. I heard that Lord Yun's birthdate characters are extremely auspicious. A fortune-teller said that Lord Yun will bring fortune to the Emperor when he was still a kid. His Majesty was excited when he heard that, and he took Lord Yun to the palace to raise him. So far, there is still a yard for Lord Yun in the palace. If Lord Yun has something urgent to do in the palace, he will stay there."

Granny Yan said.

She had been in the palace for thirty years and had seen and known many things.

“He could bring fortune to His Majesty?” This was the first time Qu Moying had heard such a thing. She was stunned for a moment.

Granny Yan said again, “Yes, he could bring fortune to His Majesty!”

Hearing this, Qu Moying somewhat understood the Emperor’s favor towards Pei Yuanjun. He regarded Pei Yuanjun as a mascot. Thinking of Pei Yuanjun’s gloomy look and the fact that the Emperor took him as a mascot, Qu Moying couldn’t help but smile. It was really interesting.

Pei Yuanjun didn’t look like a mascot. But since everyone said so, the Emperor believed it.

“Lord Yun has not been married for so many years, which makes His Majesty very anxious. The key was that Lord Yun had never agreed to be with anyone before. His Majesty asked the Empress to send palace maids to him. But even though these palace maids survived, they were thrown back into the inner yard, frightened. Some noble ladies’ pictures had also been sent to Lord Yun, but he had never given a response!”

Granny Yan explained.

Qu Moying rolled her eyes and finally understood why the Emperor would make such a big fuss as soon as Pei Yuanjun agreed to be with her. It seemed that it was because he had never agreed to be with anyone for so many years.

It made sense.

However, she felt that it was not that simple. Fortunately, she still had much time to find out about it.

After a few more words with Granny Yan, Qu Moying did not ask any more questions. She told Granny Yan to leave and rest first. In the future, Granny Yan would be responsible for the things related to the palace. Qu Moying also informed her trusted maids about this.

“What? Qu Moying deliberately bumped into your carriage?” Madam Li slapped the table and shouted. She was furious.

“Mother!” Yan Yujiao cried bitterly and threw herself into Li’s arms.

She had told Li what had happened. Hearing that her daughter’s carriage bumped into Qu Moying’s carriage and that Qu Moying was fine whereas her daughter was injured, Li was already furious.

“Let’s go and see her together. I will help you vent your anger.” Li suddenly stood up. She could not swallow her anger. She thought Qu Moying was just a Vice Minister’s daughter, and she was blind, but she plotted against Yan Yujiao because of the proposed marriage before.

Although she did know something about Third Young Master He before, she did not expect that things would turn out like this. Moreover, Qu Mansion agreed to take a look at him at that time. Although she was the one who introduced Third Young Master He to them, they didn’t have to agree. Now that something had happened, they put all the blame on her, and they even plotted against her daughter.

Since Qu Mansion did such a thing, she dared to expose the previous matter.

She was not afraid of them!

Seeing that Li was about to leave, Yan Yujiao grabbed her and said anxiously, “Mother, please wait a moment. I have not finished. Please listen first.”

“What else? How dared she bully us? She is just a daughter of a Vice Minister. Does she really want to marry a prince or a lord? It was already lucky for her that Third Young Master He was willing to marry her!” Li said contemptuously. “Let’s go. Don’t be afraid. I’ll help you vent your spleen.”

If she failed to vent her spleen, she would spread the news that Qu Mansion had discussed marriage with He Mansion before.

She had to make Qu Moying kneel down and apologize to her daughter in a formal manner.

“Mother...” Yan Yujiao still wanted to say something, but Li pulled her by the hand and walked out.

Li said confidently, “Yujiao, what are you afraid of? I am with you! I won’t let you suffer a loss. I will let Qu Moying kneel and apologize to you. Otherwise, I will ruin her reputation!”

“So, mother, you knew there was something wrong with Third Young Master He, but you still introduced him to Fourth Lady Qu?” An angry voice came from the door, and the door was pushed open!

Chapter 325 The Carriage Driver Escaped

Yan Yu stood at the door with burning anger in his eyes.

Li was shocked, but when she saw that it was her son, she became angry. “How could you say that? I am your mother!”

“I didn’t do anything because you are my mother.” Yan Yu said angrily. Then, he looked at his slightly trembling sister with disappointment, “I thought you were innocent, but now it seems you are just the same. What did Fourth Lady Qu do wrong? Why did the two of you scheme against her again and again?”

Yan Yujiao’s face turned red, and tears of grievance were about to fall. “Mother, look at Second Brother!”

“Yan Yu, you’re well-educated. How could you contradict your mother and your sister for a woman?” Li was furious.

“Mother!” Yan Yu suddenly calmed down with a layer of malice in his eyes. He solemnly cupped his hands towards Li and said, “Mother, I will say it again. There is nothing between Fourth Lady Qu and me. It was just your wild guess based on my words. You harmed a woman crazily out of your wild guess. If something really happened to Fourth Lady Qu, I will make you regret it.”

Then, without looking at Li’s livid face, Yan Yu strode away.

Li was shocked by her son, but then she was furious. Now that her son had already gone far away, she trembled in anger.

Seeing such a situation, Yan Yujiao quickly reached out to help her mother sit down on the chair. Then, she comforted her and said, "Mother, don't be angry. There really is something fishy about this!"

She was not sure before and did not dare to say it. Now seeing that her mother was so angry with Yan Yu, she was afraid that her mother would faint from anger, so she quickly changed the topic.

Li pointed outside and cursed, "What's fishy about it? It's obvious that Qu Moying has taken a fancy to your Second Brother. Look at your Second Brother, he hasn't married her yet, but he has spoken to me like that for her. If he really marries her, they will make a mess in the mansion!"

Yan Yujiao tugged at Li's sleeve and said, "Mother, there really is something fishy. There was something wrong with the carriage collision between me and Qu Moying. Someone seems to be plotted it behind the scenes."

Hearing that, Li got even angrier, "Someone plotted it? It must be Qu Moying. I didn't expect a blind like her to be so capable. She is even more capable than those who are not blind."

Yan Yujiao quickly spoke out her unfinished words, "Mother, no, Qu Moying nearly died this time. If no one cut off her horse's leg, she would have died."

Li was stunned for a moment before turning to look at her daughter in shock. "She almost died?"

"Yes, if no one cut off her horse's leg, she would have been badly injured even if she survived the accident." Yan Yujiao thought for a moment and then looked at Li and said hesitantly, "Mother, I think this matter has something to do with County Lady Jingyu."

"County Lady Jingyu?" Li asked in surprise. She calmed down slowly and listened carefully to her daughter's account of what had happened.

Yan Yujiao told her what she had investigated later in the bookshop. Although what she found out couldn't directly prove that there was something wrong with Liu Jingyu, it could show many things as well.

After Liu Jingyu left, Yan Yujiao also left the bookshop and got on the carriage. On her way back, her carriage inexplicably bumped into Qu Moying's carriage.

Li was naturally more experienced than Yan Yujiao. She quickly had a clue and ordered the old maid next to her, "Go and check on the carriage driver of the carriage the lady took today."

The old maid hurriedly went to look for the carriage driver of the carriage that Yan Yujiao took today. It was a servant in the mansion.

But not long after, the old maid returned to report to Li in a hurry, "Madam, that carriage driver is gone!"

"What? He is gone? Where did he go?" Yan Yujiao suddenly stood up straight. When she came back just now, he was still there. How did he disappear after just a while?

The old maid said, "I don't know where he went. I heard that he was afraid that you and madam would punish him because of the collision today, so he packed up after returning to the mansion and ran away."

Li snapped, "Is there anyone related to him in the mansion?"

The old maid said, "Madam, he had only been in our mansion for a month, and he was all alone. Madam, it was you who pitied him and let him work in the mansion."

Only then did Li remember that there was indeed such a thing. That day, she went out in her carriage. It happened to rain heavily, and the wheels of the carriage were stuck in the mud. The carriage driver couldn't handle it alone. Fortunately, a passer-by helped them push the carriage up and repair the wheels.

Li sent an old maid to thank him. The man said that there was no need to thank him. He said that he came to the capital to seek help from his relatives, but he didn't find them, and he was in a miserable situation. He hoped that Li could give him a chance to work.

Li asked him what he used to do. He said that he used to drive the carriage for an official in his hometown.

Li thought that there weren't many carriage drivers in her mansion, and it just so happened that one of the carriage drivers had returned to his hometown, so she let him take the place of that carriage driver.

This new carriage driver did quite a good job. Although he had only entered the mansion not long ago, he was nice and diligent. Every time someone needed a carriage driver, he would enthusiastically offer the service. But it turned out he was actually the carriage driver who was involved in this matter.

Li couldn't help but get angry, but there was nothing she could do.

This carriage driver was a new one. Although he was willing to sell himself as a slave to the mansion, the procedure was not completed yet. Li was busy these days and had long forgotten about this matter. It meant that the carriage driver was owned by the mansion yet. Now that he had left, she could not do anything to him.

"There must be someone plotting this, and that person knows something about our mansion." Li snorted and pulled Yan Yujiao to sit down with a frown.

After all, she was Earl Fengyang's wife. Now that she calmed down, she linked things together, including the matter of her going to Qu Mansion to propose marriage.

"I was angry about your Second Brother taking a fancy to Fourth Lady Qu before. I wanted to see her, but I didn't have the idea of being a matchmaker to set her up with someone else. However, a madam reminded me. She told me that if Fourth Lady Qu married someone, your Second Brother would give up on her. I listened to that madam and chose Third Young Master He."

Li slowly explained to Yan Yujiao.

"I had heard from your father before that there is something wrong with Third Young Master He. If that madam hadn't suggested me again and again, I wouldn't have been to Qu Mansion directly..."

This madam had a very good relationship with Mrs. Liu. It was said that the two of them were already close friends before they got married.

Yan Yujiao's face darkened. "Mother..."

"My dear daughter, you'd better stay away from County Lady Jingyu from now on. If she invites you to do anything again, you'd better not accept it." Li warned. She was afraid that her daughter would suffer a loss.

"Mother, if she really schemed against me, isn't she..." Yan Yujiao was tongue-tied. "Isn't she too powerful?"

Li sneered, "How would a person who wants to be Crown Princess not be powerful? However, I heard that Crown Prince's Mansion has a Side Princess who is doted on. Even if she marries into Eastern Palace, she might not end up well!"

She reached out to hold Yan Yujiao's slightly cold hands and reminded her again, "Stay away from her in the future."

"Mother, I get it." Yan Yujiao lowered her head obediently, but a trace of anger flashed through her eyes. She was also a noble lady. Even if she was not as noble as Liu Jingyu, she was still from an aristocratic family. Thinking that she was almost killed because of the scheme of Liu Jingyu, she was furious.

She couldn't stand it!

An old maid said to Liu Jingyu with a smile, "County Lady, everything is done!"

Liu Jingyu sat in a pavilion that was surrounded by rockeries and ponds. It was a pavilion in Duke Qi's Mansion with beautiful scenery. As the most favored maternal granddaughter of Duke Qi, Liu Jingyu came to this pavilion the most, and she almost occupied it for herself.

The servants in the mansion vaguely guessed that the relationship between their lady and County Lady Jingyu was ordinary because their lady never came over when County Lady Jingyu was here.

However, County Lady Jingyu always came to Duke Qi's Mansion, so their lady hardly came here.

"Let's wait and see!" Liu Jingyu stretched out her hand and plucked the strings in her hand. Among the four arts, she was best at playing the qin.

She should be the one who was best at playing the qin among the noble ladies in the capital after Ji Hanyue died.

Thinking of this, she felt great and plucked the strings again. She smiled beautifully in a good mood.

"Cousin sister!" Hearing the qin music, a man who passed by stopped and came to Liu Jingyu. He was Duke Qi's Mansion's Eldest Young Master, Qi Xiuran. He treated Liu Jingyu well, as if she was his own sister.

There was only a lady in Duke Qi's Mansion, and her father was born by a concubine, so it was not too much to have another lady.

"Cousin brother!" Seeing Qi Xiuran, Liu Jingyu stood up, bowed to him, and asked with a smile, "Cousin brother, why are you in such a hurry?"

Qi Xiuran said gently, "Have you finished reading the qin music score I lent you? I want to return it now."

When he was reading the qin music score before, Liu Jingyu saw it, and she also liked the qin music score, so she borrowed it from him.

“Cousin brother, please wait a moment. I’ll have it fetched now.” Liu Jingyu said softly as she sent a maid to fetch the qin music score.

After the two of them exchanged a few words, the maid brought the qin music score over. Liu Jingyu personally gave the qin music score to Qi Xiuran and said in a delicate voice, “Cousin brother, this qin music score is not bad. The handwriting is also nice.”

Qi Xiuran smiled and said nothing. He took the qin music score and stood up to say goodbye to Liu Jingyu.

As she watched Qi Xiuran leave coolly, the smile on her face slowly faded. Then, a trace of coldness appeared in her eyes as she cursed in a low voice, “Bitch!”

She didn’t seem to be a person who would curse others like that at all. No one had thought that this gentle and elegant lady would do things like this.

The maids and old maids all lowered their heads, not daring to move...

They were the only ones who knew that County Lady Jingyu was just pretending outside. The real face of her was terrifying...

Chapter 326 Got Crazy After the Sentence

After taking over Third Young Master He’s case, West Prison soon investigated the case thoroughly. It turned out that Third Young Master He did have something to do with his ex-wife’s death. As for the few young and beautiful maids in He Mansion, they were thrown into the mass grave after their deaths.

After the truth was found out, the case was transferred to the Ministry of Justice.

With the evidence that West Prison had gathered, the Ministry of Justice quickly decided to exile Third Young Master He to the border.

The few maids had sold themselves as slaves to He Mansion. Third Young Master He's ex-wife's family agreed to give in and would not make a further appeal. This matter stirred a storm in the beginning, but it ended in a low-key way.

However, this was already the best result. After all, Lord Jing and Noble Consort He were still around. If Third Young Master He was really sentenced to death, Lord Jing and Noble Consort He would be placed in an awkward situation. The current result was attributed to West Prison's interference. Everyone knew that West Prison was under Lord Yun's control.

He was a tough nut.

However, West Prison was just a place for interrogation, and the Ministry of Justice was responsible for making the verdict.

After the verdict, Lord Jing specially went to the Ministry of Justice to get Third Young Master He out and took him back to He Mansion for half a day. Third Young Master He would leave the capital and be exiled to the border the next day.

It was for Lord Jing's sake that the Ministry of Justice agreed to let Third Young Master He out for half a day, and Lord Jing had also made a promise before bringing Third Young Master He out.

It had only been two days since Mrs. He last saw Third Young Master He, but the latter had become extremely thin and was bloodstained. Seeing him like this, Mrs. He was so sad that she kept crying.

The maids and the old maids around supported Mrs. He and comforted her.

Third Young Master He had servants who helped him wash up. After he changed his clothes, he sat in a large chair with lad servants' help. Even though he had returned to the mansion, he still had a glazed look in his eyes. He looked blankly into others without his previous cleverness.

Mrs. He sobbed again.

Even Lord Jing felt inexplicably sad. He grew up with Third Young Master He, and they had a close relationship. Moreover, he had long decided that he would have Third Young Master He as his associate after Third Young Master He became an official, and they would work together as brothers.

But the current situation was caused by West Prison. Lord Jing freaked out once when he went to West Prison. He knew that it was good enough that Third Young Master He didn't die in West Prison.

He wasn't strong enough to complain about Pei Yuanjun. In fact, all the princes dared not complain about Pei Yuanjun. Otherwise, the Emperor would not be happy with them.

After a long while, Third Young Master He finally spoke in a hoarse voice, "Mother, don't cry. I'm still alive!"

"Son, when will you come back? How am I supposed to live?" Mrs. He continued crying.

Third Young Master He seemed to have come back to his senses at this time and slowly said with difficulty, "Mother, I will be fine. Don't worry!"

Lord Jing also comforted Mrs. He, "Aunt, don't worry. I have already written a letter to the Guardian General at the border and asked him to look after cousin."

After hearing what they said, Mrs. He cried less loudly, but she could not stop shedding tears. She wiped her tears with a handkerchief and muttered, "I wonder who you offended. How did you get into this kind of thing? You have suffered a great loss because of women. Don't do this again in the future!"

"Mother, don't worry. I will be careful." Third Young Master He said. A trace of malice flashed through his eyes. He looked around and found no outsiders around. His two elder brothers were not around. His case happened in the mansion. Someone must have volunteered to report on his doing. Otherwise, the investigation would not have been finished so quickly and clearly.

Needless to say, it was related to his two elder brothers.

“Let’s drop the marriage issue for now. I don’t want you to marry any lady in Qu Mansion. At first, it was Fourth Lady Qu. Later, it became First Lady Qu. Third Lady Qu is not a good lady. She knew that Fourth Lady Qu is going to marry someone of the royal family, yet she still provoked me to pick a quarrel with Fourth Lady Qu.”

Mrs. He muttered as she stole a glance at Lord Jing. She said so to make things difficult for Qu Qiuyan.

Pei Yusheng frowned. “Third Lady Qu?”

“That day, Third Lady Qu invited me over and said that it was Fourth Lady Qu who caused my son to be like this. I was so angry that I rushed to Fourth Lady Qu’s place. Only then did I know that Fourth Lady Qu has been engaged with someone in the palace. However, Third Lady Qu did not tell me about this and even deliberately egged on me to go to Fourth Lady Qu. My poor son! I am framed by Third Lady Qu for your sake!”

Mrs. He continued to complain.

Third Young Master He rolled his eyes blankly. “Fourth Lady Qu’s marriage has been arranged?”

“I don’t know. I heard that it’s not something anyone can ask. There is a palace maid in her yard. It should be real.”

Mrs. He wiped away her tears.

Third Young Master He turned to Pei Yusheng. “Cousin...”

Pei Yusheng thought about it and said vaguely, “This matter is indeed related to the palace. The Empress is in charge of this matter. I do not know the exact progress.”

It meant that others should not propose marriage to Qu Moying anymore.

Third Young Master He understood, and so did Mrs. He.

“Third Lady Qu told me that she didn’t know anything and cheated me into making trouble for Fourth Lady Qu.” Mrs. He cried again, feeling wronged.

Pei Yusheng was upset from the cry. He Mansion’s people all knew the matter between him and Qu Qiuyan.

He reached out and pressed his forehead. “Aunt, don’t worry. I will make her apologize to you in the future.”

“There’s no need for apology. I’m nobody, but she will be the future Side Princess. How could I let her apologize to me? It’s just that when I was in a state of panic and confusion, she didn’t help, and she... even made things worse... She interfered in Fourth Lady Qu’s things. If the Empress knew about it, she might think that it was Her Grace’s idea.”

Mrs. He smartly diverted the topic to Noble Consort He and Lord Jing.

Sure enough, Pei Yusheng’s face darkened, and he snorted, “Aunt, please rest assured. You can ask her to kneel to apologize in the future.”

It meant that he would not let Qu Qiuyan be his Side Princess. Otherwise, even if Mrs. He was an elder, she could not ask a prince’s Side Princess to kneel to her.

Mrs. He was overjoyed to hear that. She nodded repeatedly and wiped her tears with joy.

Third Young Master He suddenly said, “Mother, tell others that I proposed to First Lady Qu in the first place.”

“Wh... what?” Mrs. He stopped wiping her tears and asked blankly, not understanding the meaning of her son’s words.

A strange smile appeared on Third Young Master He's face as he slowly spoke, "With my current situation, I couldn't marry any good woman. I will marry First Lady Qu. Anyway, she wanted to marry me before. Let her wait for a few years. When I return from the border, I will marry her."

He was going to tie Qu Xuexin to him.

Pei Yusheng looked at the vicious look on Third Young Master He's face and did not say anything. He flicked the table in front of him twice as he weighed the consequences in his mind. Then, he found that it was not a big deal.

There were East Mansion and West Mansion in Qu Mansion, and East Mansion could not stir up any trouble.

He thought it was not bad for First Lady Qu to marry his cousin. Moreover, he heard that First Lady Qu looked ordinary, and her marriage had been delayed for a long time. She wanted to marry into a good family. Now that his cousin wanted to marry her, it was not a big deal to make it happen.

Mrs. He was still in a daze. "Should I go to Qu Mansion now?"

"Yes, mother. Go to Qu Mansion now and send betrothal gifts to First Lady Qu. Just say that First Lady Qu and I bumped into each other in the backyard of Qu Mansion, and we took fancy to each other. Now that I'm leaving the capital, I'm afraid she will marry someone else, so I will engage with her and get married with her later. I will appreciate it if she is willing to go to the border with me."

Third Young Master He said slowly.

He said he was afraid that Qu Xuexin would marry someone else, which meant that "something" had already happened between him and Qu Xuexin.

Even if Qu Xuexin did not want to marry him, her reputation would be completely ruined. None of the good aristocratic families in the capital would marry their sons with Qu Xuexin.

Mrs. He only wanted to quash the thing now. She somewhat quailed. She looked at Lord Jing and asked hesitantly, "Will Qu Mansion cause a ruckus?"

"Mother, just do it. If they want to break the contract, they can do it. It's nothing. There are many women better than First Lady Qu in the capital, but she just happened to bump into me."

Third Young Master He sneered. He had no place to vent his anger, so he could only vent it on First Lady Qu.

Pei Yusheng looked at him and knew that he was filled with hatred and was using this matter to vent his anger. After thinking for a while, he nodded. It was not a big deal. Third Young Master He would marry Qu Xuexin as his legitimate wife but not as a concubine. It was a good marriage on the surface.

Pei Yusheng said, "Go ahead!"

Hearing Lord Jing say so, Mrs. He immediately became excited. She didn't wait any longer. She brought a few maids and old maids to prepare betrothal presents. His son said that they only needed to prepare a few presents because the other party might refuse to accept them. There was no need to take it too seriously, and she only needed to send a matchmaker and a few servants over.

After Mrs. He left to make the arrangement, the room quieted down. Pei Yusheng looked at Third Young Master He and asked, "Cousin, what's your plan for the future?"

Third Young Master He gritted his teeth and said, "Cousin, it was my mistake this time. Someone plotted against me. Don't worry, cousin. Even if I go to the border, I will plan for you. I will have a chance to come back as long as I am alive!"

Pei Yusheng said, "It's best that you think this way. I have already arranged for people to take care of you at the border. When you go there, meet the Guardian General as frequently as you can. I want to marry the Guardian General's daughter. I heard that she also has an eye disease."

Third Young Master He nodded as he listened.

After Pei Yusheng finished speaking, a weird smile appeared on Third Young Master He's face. "This world has really changed. A woman with eye disease is actually more eligible than a woman with fine eyes."

His words carried a bit of ridicule. He mocked not only Qu Moying but also Miss Liu at the border, to whom Pei Yusheng had taken a fancy.

However, Pei Yusheng did not take it to heart. He nodded thoughtfully, but the face of Qu Moying wearing an eye veil flashed through his mind...

Chapter 327 He Mansion's Betrothal Gifts

"He Mansion has sent people here to deliver the betrothal gifts?" The Old Lady pressed her hand against the corner of the table and almost fainted.

Luo immediately answered without thinking, "Yes, they came to send the betrothal gifts to Xuexin. At that time, the one to whom they wanted to propose marriage was Moying. Why did it become Xuexin now? Mother, go and explain to He Mansion's people that the betrothal gifts should be sent to Moying. They are mistaken!"

Third Young Master He was now a disaster. No lady would be willing to marry him. He tortured not only his maids but also his newly married wife to death.

The Old Lady's face darkened, and she angrily scolded, "What nonsense are you talking about!"

"Mother, I am not talking nonsense. This marriage was for Moying back then, wasn't it?" Luo argued. She placed a great hope in her daughter, and she definitely would not be willing to let her daughter marry Third Young Master He, who even asked her daughter to go to the border with him. Her daughter might die there. She would never agree to it.

The Old Lady rudely interrupted Luo, "Dowager Consort Qu has made the decision on Moying's marriage."

Luo was stunned for a moment. She did not know this before and did not know how to respond for a moment.

Was it because Dowager Consort Qu was in charge of Qu Moying's marriage so that Third Young Master He, who proposed to Qu Moying before, decided to marry Qu Xuexin now?

If Third Young Master He's case hadn't been exposed, Luo might have agreed to the marriage. After all, Lord Jing was behind He Mansion. Even if Third Young Master He had married once, so what?

But right now, she would definitely disagree.

Luo was unconvinced, "Mother, even if Dowager Consort Qu is in charge of Moying's marriage, the proposed marriage with He Mansion is only related to Moying. It has nothing to do with Xuexin."

"Is it? I heard that the day when Third Young Master came to our mansion, Xuexin went to see him. She said she accidentally bumped into him. How could she bump into him when the others didn't?" The Old Lady said angrily. She found out about these things after an investigation.

"Mother, this... this must be an accident." Luo blushed, feeling both angry and ashamed.

The Old Lady said angrily, "Ask Xuexin yourself whether it was an accident or not. This proposed marriage had nothing to do with her at that time. Why did she make such a fuss? He Mansion's people don't dare to make trouble for Moying now, so they came to make trouble for her."

If Qu Xuexin was really innocent, the Old Lady could be tougher towards He Mansion's people. But anyone who heard about the situation at that time would think that Qu Xuexin and Third Young Master He had feelings for each other.

"Mother... But Xuexin couldn't marry him. Or she will be dead!" Luo had no point in arguing, and she began to cry again.

“Go to tell them that there was indeed a marriage proposal being discussed between Qu Mansion and He Mansion, but we didn’t come to an agreement. We will not marry Xuexin to He Mansion now. Ask He Mansion’s people to go back.”

The Old Lady said angrily.

Luo cried bitterly, “But Xuexin’s reputation will be...”

“Reputation is useless. We should put her safety in the first place. Moreover, we haven’t reached an agreement. He Mansion is just trying to use this matter to disgust us.” The Old Lady was very decisive. This matter couldn’t be delayed. The longer it was delayed, the worse it would be for Qu Xuexin. Although a woman’s reputation was indeed important, the Old Lady thought it could be sacrificed to some extent sometimes.

Qu Xuexin could marry some promising scholar from a humble family who could also have a bright future after taking the imperial examination.

Luo didn’t stop crying, “Mother, but Xuexin...”

The Old Lady ignored her and turned to Granny Wu. “Go to East Mansion and ask He Mansion’s people to go back. Tell them that we won’t marry Xuexin into their mansion. They only proposed to our mansion once. How could they say that Xuexin likes Third Young Master He?”

Since none of He Mansion’s masters came, the Old Lady thought there was no need for any master in Qu Mansion to go over either.

Sending Granny Wu to deliver the message was already enough.

Granny Wu nodded and brought a few maids and two old maids to East Mansion to deal with this matter.

Luo was worried. She wiped her tears and said goodbye to the Old Lady.

The Old Lady nodded.

When the news reached Qianyue House, Qu Moying was also stunned. She did not expect Third Young Master He to be so shameless that he still wanted to marry someone in Qu Mansion.

Of course, all of this was Qu Xuexin's own fault, and she could not blame anyone else.

Qu Xuexin must have played a part in the collision of Qu Moying's and Yan Yujiao's carriages, not to mention what happened back then. She deserved to suffer what happened to her now.

Yu Chun didn't quite understand. She asked curiously as she put down the teacup, "Lady, will First Lady really marry into He Mansion?"

Qu Moying put down the embroidery in her hand. She was now embroidering a simple qin cover, on which there was only a pair of butterflies. She did the embroidery not because the previous qin cover was not good but because she had nothing to embroider recently. She did not want to embroider butterflies on a dress or a handkerchief because that would be too eye-catching, so she decided to embroider butterflies on a qin cover.

After all, very few could see her qin cover.

Qu Moying smiled and shook her head. She took a sip of the tea and said slowly and indifferently, "No, Eldest Sister has always been in pursuit of wealth, glory, and fame."

Yu Dong gloated, "Even if First Lady does not marry Third Young Master He, she will not be able to marry a noble young master."

From the bottom of his heart, he did not like the sinister Qu Xuexin.

Yu Chun asked with her eyes wide open, "What... how should she live in the future?"

Yu Dong said meaningfully, "Who knows? Maybe someone important will help her think of a way!"

Qu Moying gently pursed her lips, deep in thought. The relationship between Qu Xuexin and Liu Jingyu was extraordinary. There were few people that Qu Xuexin could ask for help now. Qu Qiuyan could not even protect herself. In Qu Xuexin's eyes, Liu Jingyu was very noble and might be the future Crown Princess, so she was more reliable.

"Even if she has the help of someone important, so what? Her reputation has been ruined! Lady, I heard that First Lady and Third Young Master He had an affair long ago, which is why there is a marriage proposal. The two have met more than once in private. Now that something has happened to Third Young Master He, First Lady is not willing to marry him!"

Yu Chun had secretly been to East Mansion to watch the fun before and she only came back now.

"Did they fight?" Yu Dong's eyes lit up. He was very willing to watch the fun.

Yu Chun said, "They didn't fight, but He Mansion's betrothal presents were thrown out. I heard that there is broken brocade in the gifts. He Mansion didn't treat First Lady as a proper lady at all."

It was said that Third Young Master He would leave the capital tomorrow. This farce was designed to ruin Qu Xuexin's reputation. He Mansion would naturally not send anything good over. It was inevitable that Qu Mansion would turn He Mansion down and throw the betrothal gifts out.

However, He Mansion still did this. It could be seen that Third Young Master He had a deep grudge against Qu Mansion. Back then, Qu Moying took a glance at him from afar. Thinking of this, she frowned. She didn't see him clearly, but now she thought about it, she felt that he was not simple, and he must have an ulterior motive to marry her.

The biggest possibility was that he wanted to have a wife who was easy to bully or fool because she was blind.

But now, he changed his mind and said that he had intended to marry Qu Xuexin in the first place. He changed his mind so effortlessly that everyone believed it!

Qu Moying told herself to pay attention to such a tough opponent who could change his mind so quickly as to make Qu Mansion suffer a loss and obtain the consent of Pei Yusheng!

The matter developed. It was naturally impossible for Qu Xuexin to marry Third Young Master He. However, the gossip that First Lady Qu was supposed to marry Third Young Master He spread out with the latter's case.

When people in the capital were talking about Third Young Master He, they also talked about First Lady Qu.

There were different versions of stories.

Hearing that Qu Xuexin had fainted from crying in her own yard, Qu Moying only smiled slightly. She did not feel any sympathy for anyone who had maliciously framed her!

Qu Xuexin was not a good person, and she finally got what she deserved.

Third Young Master He left the capital the next morning. But even if he had already left the capital for the border, the rumors about him in the capital did not stop. On the contrary, because of his departure, the focus shifted to his proposed marriage with First Lady Qu.

Although Qu Mansion refused to acknowledge the marriage proposal and even threw out He Mansion's betrothal presents, others still thought that First Lady Qu had a tainted reputation.

Qu Moying went to Qu Xuexin's yard on the afternoon of the day Third Young Master left the capital. The Old Lady wanted her to comfort Qu Xuexin. Even if this matter was over, it was not a good time for Qu Xuexin to get married now. Her marriage had to be delayed again.

Hearing that Qu Moying had come over, Qu Xuexin had someone bring Qu Moying in. Qu Xuexin's eyes were red and swollen when Qu Moying saw her, but her face still looked calm. At least, she was much calmer than Luo. When Qu Moying saw Luo on the road just now, Luo looked terrible and she ignored Qu Moying's greeting.

It seemed that she blamed Qu Xuexin's matter on Qu Moying.

However, Luo could not tell others that the proposed marriage was intended for Qu Moying.

After sitting down, Qu Moying looked at Qu Xuexin's pale face and said slowly, "Eldest Sister, Grandmother said it's over."

"Thank you, Moying." Qu Xuexin lowered her head and twisted her handkerchief. Qu Moying could not see the hatred in Qu Xuexin's eyes from where she was seated. Qu Xuexin thought she was Qu Moying's scapegoat.

Qu Moying invited Qu Xuexin, "Eldest Sister, do you want to go out for a walk? It just so happens that I'm going to Yue's Clothing Pavilion again. It's opening tomorrow."

"I'm not going. Where can I go at this time?" Qu Xuexin shook her head bitterly, pursed her lips, and wiped the corner of her eyes with a handkerchief.

"Alright then!" Qu Moying nodded and stood up. "Eldest Sister, have a good rest these days. Grandmother said that you don't have to go over to greet her these few days. You could take a rest in your own yard."

Originally, East Mansion's two young ladies did not need to go and greet the Old Lady every day because of the relationship between East Mansion and West Mansion. But after Qu Caiyue entered Lord Jing Mansion, the relationship between Qu Xuexin and West Mansion suddenly became close. Nowadays, she almost went to greet the Old Lady every day in the same way as Qu Qiuyan and Qu Moying.

However, she did not go to greet the Old Lady for the past two days.

"Thank Grandmother for me." Qu Xuexin raised her head, her face full of gratitude. Then, she bit her lips, and her tears fell again. "Moying, please bring me out on the Qixi Festival. I've been so bored these past few days that I want to go out at night. The more I thought about it these past few days, the more I felt sad!"

She still had a chance...

Qu Moying's eyes swept over Qu Xuexin's aggrieved and sad face. She sneered in her heart. Even now, Qu Xuexin still hadn't given up on hurting her...

Chapter 328 Qu Minghui Escorted the Ladies

Qu Moying left after chatting with Qu Xuexin for a while.

Qu Xuexin's eyes became gloomy immediately after Qu Moying left, and she looked at the door resentfully.

Seeing that Qu Xuexin was in a daze, Hong Mei called out in a low voice, "Lady!"

Qu Xuexin gritted her teeth and almost tore the handkerchief in her hand. "Don't blame me. You made me do this!"

Qu Moying was the one who was supposed to marry Third Young Master He. But when He Mansion came to Qu Mansion and claimed to deliver betrothal gifts to Qu Xuexin, no one spoke up for her, and only her mother shed tears for her.

Rage bubbled in Qu Xuexin's mind, "Why should I sacrifice my reputation for Qu Moying?"

"I've suffered a lot to secure a marriage. After the previous engagement was canceled, I hadn't found a suitable person for a long time, and my marriage was therefore postponed. Mother picked up some candidates for me. Some of them liked me, but I didn't like them. Some were good in all aspects, but they didn't like me."

"I thought that Third Young Master He was really a good option and would have a promising future. He was better than anyone Mother had chosen for me. With Qu Moying's current appearance, she would be looked down upon and end up being abandoned even if she married to He Mansion. She would even cause Qu Mansion and He Mansion to have a grudge. It was bad for everyone!"

“I was willing to accept this marriage proposal for Qu Moying and for the entire Qu Mansion!”

“But why did it turn out like this?”

Bai Mei was naturally on Qu Xuexin’s side, and she said angrily, “Lady, Fourth Lady has gone too far. It was her business in the first place, but she didn’t apologize to you, and she still has the mood to go out and have fun. She deserves all the shit.”

Since Bai Mei said so, Hong Mei hurriedly pandered to Qu Xuexin, unwilling to be outdone by the former, “Yes, First Lady. Even if something happens to Fourth Lady, she deserves it. It has nothing to do with you!”

The comfort of the two maids worked. Qu Xuexin nodded, totally forgetting it was she who set up Qu Moying in the first place. When she was plotting against Qu Moying, He Mansion didn’t come to Qu Mansion to propose to her. There wasn’t such a big accident. She didn’t reflect that if she hadn’t seduced Third Young Master He on purpose, he would not have come to her.

The so-called accidental encounter was an ambiguous way that noble ladies used to express their feelings.

For example, when Qu Moying and Pei Yuanjun bumped into each other, others thought that Qu Moying deliberately bumped into him out of vanity. Others thought that Pei Yuanjun was tired of the pressure to get married from the Emperor, and he had to get a woman. Coincidentally, Qu Moying bumped into him, so he chose her.

Anyway, she was blind. She would not be the Princess Consort. It was already a blessing if she could be given the title of Side Princess.

Noble ladies and young masters always had maids and lad servants by their side, so how could normal people bump into them easily?

On the Qixi Festival, Qu Moying did not wake up early. She felt a little uncomfortable. Her body was too weak. That day when she was hit in the head in the carriage, she was a little dizzy and did not have much strength. Although she was better now, she was not in the best state.

The Old Lady specially told her that she did not need to greet her and that she should have a good rest.

While Qu Moying was still sleeping, her maids had already prepared the clothes for Qu Moying to wear at night. It was one set of clothes that the Yue Family in the South had sent over. It was made of five-color brocade, for which Yue's Clothing Pavilion had been vigorously advertising.

The five-color brocade got its name because it could only be dyed with five colors. These five colors were not gaudy but light. The five-color brocade was elegant and smooth. It would shine under the light, revealing a bit of hazy beauty. It looked like cloud brocade, but it was softer.

Qu Moying got up at lunchtime. After lunch, she listened to Granny Miao report on what had happened in Yue's Clothing Pavilion today and felt very satisfied. The opening event of Yue's Clothing Pavilion was going well. Many people went there yesterday. Some were watching, and some took part in it.

Yue's Clothing Pavilion and Yue's Gold Pavilion started their businesses at the same time. Both of them were topical. Now that they started the business at the same time, there would naturally be many topics. In the past, Yue's Clothing Pavilion and Yue's Gold Pavilion were not famous in the capital. But now, at least half of the people in the capital had heard about them, so many people went to watch the fun upon hearing that these two shops started business again.

Moreover, thanks to the well-built stage for the opening event, many people went up to join the fun. Hearing that the top prize would be given away today, many people who had come to the shop yesterday came again today.

After Granny Miao finished reporting what was going on in the shop, Qu Moying went to the Old Lady's place.

After leading Qu Moying to her seat, the Old Lady carefully examined her face. She saw nothing abnormal and asked with concern, "Moying, are you still dizzy?"

Qu Moying said softly with an elegant smile, "Grandmother, I'm alright. I got up very late today. It's good to go out for a walk and relax."

"It's best if you're alright. Be careful when you go out today. I have asked your Eldest Sister to take care of you. Don't go to places where there are too many people, lest people squeeze into you." The Old Lady warned, obviously not completely at ease.

Qu Moying replied, "Grandmother, I know. I will listen to Eldest Sister!"

Seeing that she was so obedient, the Old Lady breathed a sigh of relief and then frowned. "Qiuyan will also go with you tonight. She behaved well recently, and she promised that she will not cause trouble and will definitely listen to your Eldest Sister."

Qu Moying smiled and nodded slightly without any comment. How could Qu Qiuyan sit still on such a day? She would definitely go out.

According to the news Granny Miao had collected, Qu Qiuyan went out on this festival every year. It was said that she met Lord Jing outside last year on the same day, and the relationship between the two of them was built at that time.

Qu Qiuyan could go anywhere she wanted, and Qu Moying couldn't control her.

Seeing that Qu Moying did not say anything to oppose, the Old Lady breathed a sigh of relief. Although she knew Qu Moying and Qu Qiuyan were not on good terms, she didn't want them to be like fire and water. They should at least maintain harmony on the surface. Otherwise, it would be bad for the reputation of both of them.

After returning from the Old Lady's place, Qu Moying took a bath again and put on the prepared clothes. After she put the clothes on, the maids were amazed.

Although they already knew that Qu Moying was gorgeous, they found her even more stunning in such clothes.

While the long eye veil covered her watery and attractive eyes, it also made her delicate and beautiful.

The eye veil drooped like ribbon. It fluttered, and so did her hemline. She stood in the wind like a fairy.

She was like a walking advertisement for Yue's Clothing Pavilion!

With the previous day's momentum and today's top prize, and with Qu Moying as the walking advertisement, who would not be interested in five-color brocade?

Everyone finished their dinner earlier than usual today. Before the sky was completely darkened, everyone had been ready.

The carriages were waiting outside. This time, the Old Lady prepared three carriages for her three granddaughters, one for each of them, and they were spacious enough to seat their maids.

This festival was for young girls, so the Old Lady and Luo naturally would not go with them.

Qu Mingcheng couldn't go because he was still lying on the bed and recuperating. But the first branch's Eldest Young Master, Qu Minghui, would accompany them. Xiao Hanyuan, who had asked to be shown around on this day, was nowhere to be seen. Qu Moying felt strange about it, "Didn't he ask us to show him around on the Qixi Festival?"

When Qu Moying came out of the corridor, she saw that Qu Minghui was already there. Not only he but Qu Xuexin and Qu Qiuyan were also there.

Qu Xuexin and Qu Qiuyan were talking happily.

The color of Qu Qiuyan's clothes was very bright. From far away, one could see that she was wearing a light yellow eight-piece skirt that outlined her slender waist. Although she was young, her figure was not bad, and her eyes were beautiful. She was much more outstanding than Qu Xuexin beside her, making the latter pale in comparison.

Seeing Qu Moying come over, Qu Xuexin took two steps forward and said softly, "Moying, you're late."

Her expression looked normal, but the corner of her eye was still a little swollen. It was not obvious, and it made her look pitiful. However, when she was next to Qu Moying, Qu Moying seemed to be the more pitiful one. With the eye veil, Qu Moying appeared to be the most pitiful one among the three of them.

Qu Xuexin noticed this, and a trace of jealousy appeared in her eyes, but it was quickly suppressed.

Qu Moying turned her body slightly and bowed apologetically, "Grandmother gave me a few words of advice, so I was late."

"Grandmother is really good to you!" Qu Qiuyan couldn't help but say tartly, and she boarded the carriage in the middle without looking back.

Qu Xuexin said with an apologetic look on her face, "Moying, don't be angry. Qiuyan is just like this!"

"Eldest Sister, Eldest Brother, thank you for keeping me company this time!" Qu Moying did not answer her. She only smiled slightly and bowed deeply to Qu Minghui, who was walking over.

Qu Minghui said hurriedly, "Moying, you're too polite!"

Qu Minghui looked a lot taller. Although he was not as handsome as Qu Mingcheng, he appeared quite calm and honest.

Qu Moying knew that Qu Minghui had a good reputation, but now she was more willing to believe what she saw with her own eyes.

Qu Minghui was afraid that Qu Moying was unfamiliar with the festival in the capital, so he explained, "Moying, please get on the carriage first. It is the right time for us to go there. When we get there, we will all get down the carriages and walk on foot."

“Thank you, Eldest Brother!” Qu Moying bowed again. Then, she held Yu Dong’s hand and went to the last carriage.

Qu Xuexin got on the first carriage. Qu Minghui got on the horse and followed beside the three carriages to escort them. They all headed forward together.

It was not late at night, but the streets were already lit up with lights.

Along the way, there were numerous young ladies who were beautifully dressed up. Today, men and women wouldn’t deliberately keep a distance from each other as usual. There were women and men walking and chatting happily together. It was very lively.

Yu Dong lifted the curtain of the carriage and looked outside. It was his first time going out on such a festival. He used to be either at the border or in the mansion. Lord Yun was not willing to come out at such a time. Even if he happened to be in the capital, he never went out at this time.

But he would probably come out for a walk today.

Having been briefed by Eunuch Ji Hai, Yu Dong was full of anticipation for tonight’s festival.

There were more and more people on the street, and the carriages were slower than walking. Qu Minghui decided to stop the carriages. In an alley, the ladies of Qu Mansion tidied up their clothes before getting off the carriages with their maids.

The carriages were parked in the alley. The group of people from Qu Mansion turned out of the alley and walked amongst the wandering crowd.

Yu Dong had been keeping an eye on the surroundings. He sharply noticed a person who looked like a lad servant not far away. After glancing at them, the person immediately ran away...

Chapter 329 Meeting the “Savior” Again

They joined the crowd and walked ahead slowly in the crowd.

The shops on the streets tried all sorts of means to attract customers. There were many lanterns with different riddles hanging at the shops' doors for people to solve. These shops also prepared many low-cost but exquisite gifts, which were exactly the type of gifts ladies liked.

Upon seeing so many beautiful lanterns and exquisite small gifts, the ladies couldn't help but stop to take a look. At this time, those young masters who accompanied them would try to solve the riddles and win presents for the ladies to please them.

Qu Moying and the others walked from one street to another bigger street. On one side of this street were the shops that had been operating for decades. They were rich and had prepared better things, which attracted more people. On the other side, there was a river by the fence, which was a tributary of the moat and was not narrow.

There were boats sailing on the river. These boats were decorated more beautifully than usual and shined with many lights as if they came from the sky, which was so eye-catching.

Many people leaned against the fence on the shore, admiring the scenery while pointing at the boats.

At the same time, some people came out of the boats and admired the people and scenery on the shore.

There were beautiful scenes everywhere consisting of people, trees, and boats...

Qu Moying and the others were carried to a shore by the flow of people. She stood at the fence on the shore and admired the boats that passed by the river.

The big boats were luxurious, and the small boats were delicate. Some boats stopped from time to time because people on the boats saw their acquaintances on the shore, so they invited their acquaintances to have a chat on their boats. Some boats stopped, and the people on the boats came to the shore to take a walk. It was so lively.

Suddenly, a boat stopped in front of Qu Moying and the others. A handsome young master appeared in front of the boat. When he saw Qu Moying, he smiled and bowed gently.

“Moying, who is he?” Qu Xuexin tugged at Qu Moying’s sleeve and asked in a low voice. Everyone could see that this young master was bowing to Qu Moying.

Yu Dong was pleasantly surprised and hurriedly explained in Qu Moying’s stead, “He is the young master who saved our lady on the road.”

Qu Moying turned to the young master and bowed.

His boat was a big one, and there were many servants coming and going on the boat. It could be seen that his identity was not ordinary. He should be one of the few noble young masters in the capital.

It was unknown where Qu Minghui had been squeezed. There were now only the ladies here, and Qu Moying was the only one who knew the young master, so she could only walk forward to greet him.

Seeing that the ladies were pushed to the side, the young master invited, “Three ladies, please get on my boat. Let me take you for a brief ride. I heard that it is almost impossible to walk through here.”

Qu Moying hesitated, “Well...”

Qu Xuexin whispered into Qu Moying’s ear, “Moying, let’s get on the boat. Let’s get down when we reach the front. We can’t keep walking in the crowd together like this. Eldest Brother has been squeezed out.”

Qu Qiuyan curled her lips and did not speak. Apparently, she was waiting.

Qu Moying looked around. There were indeed a lot of people here. Many of them were squeezed out of the fence like her. If people kept swarming in, there might be an accident. Qu Moying and the others might not be able to get through for a while.

Seeing that Qu Moying was still hesitating, Qu Xuexin changed her words and said softly, "Moying, since he is your savior, he should not be a bad person. Moreover, I heard that you didn't ask who he was last time. You have to know who he is so that you can ask Second Uncle to thank him."

Qu Xuexin's words made sense. The Old Lady had also reminded Qu Moying to ask the young master who he was when she met him.

After thinking for a while, Qu Moying took a glance at Qu Xuexin, who looked concerned, and nodded.

Since they agreed, the boat put down the gangplank. Only Qu Moying knew this young master, so she was the first to walk on the gangplank.

The gangplank was not wide, and under the plank was the deep river, which looked a little scary.

Yu Dong glanced at the gangplank and jumped up on it. The gangplank shook a little.

Qu Moying stepped forward. Just as she stepped on the gangplank, it shook. The young master quickly reached out his hand, but Yu Dong was faster. He jumped up on the gangplank, held Qu Moying's hand, and led her forward carefully.

Although the gangplank was unstable, Qu Moying stood quite steadily on it. In her previous life, she was more vigorous than ordinary noble ladies. In this life, her body was weak, but she had a good psychological quality. She held Yu Dong's hand and walked forward step by step. Finally, she got on the boat.

She turned around and looked at the shore. Both Qu Qiuyan and Qu Xuexin had a gloomy look on their faces.

Since Qu Moying had walked over steadily, the two of them also had to go over. But judging from the way Qu Moying got on the boat, they knew that it was not an easy task for them.

Qu Xuexin's maid and Qu Qiuyan's maid walked over first. But even the two of them were so frightened that they screamed repeatedly. In the end, the young master ordered someone to put down one more gangplank. Only after that did Qu Qiuyan and Qu Xuexin get on the boat with others' help. When they got on the boat, their legs were so soft that they almost fell down. The two maids supporting them also felt their legs weak, and their faces were ashen.

Although they had maids to help them, the young master still reached out to support them.

Originally, the young master was only watching them from the side. It was not until Qu Moying asked the young master for help that the latter stepped forward and lent a helping hand to Qu Xuexin and Qu Qiuyan.

Fortunately, it was Qixi Festival today. The rules were not so strict. Otherwise, people would definitely gossip about such a scene.

They had made quite many noises, and many people had already looked over. Seeing that a young master invited three ladies to his board, they could not help but smile.

Today was Qixi Festival, which was a festival for ladies. Most ladies were accompanied by their families, and some ladies were accompanied by the people they liked. Everyone was more open-minded today because it was a festival. Seeing the scene in front of them, the passers-by thought that this young master must have taken a fancy to one of the three young ladies.

Most people guessed that the young master liked the second lady who got on the boat, or the third lady. Very few of them thought he liked the first lady.

After all, the first lady boarded the boat by herself. But the young master reached out to help the next two ladies to get on the boat although he just slightly helped them.

Hearing the discussions of the people on the shore, Qu Xuexin frowned. This was not what she wanted to hear. She originally thought that Qu Moying would not be able to get on the boat and would definitely need the help of the young master.

If Qu Moying received the young master's help, others could tell at a glance that her relationship with the young master was not ordinary since she was also the first one to get on the boat.

However, Qu Xuexin and Qu Qiuyan were also suspected to be the person the young master liked, and they seemed more likely to be the one than Qu Moying.

After getting on the boat, they entered the cabin. The cabin was decorated very elegantly. The curtain near the window was lifted, and there were tea tables and chairs. They sat down as host and guests.

The boat slowly sailed away from the shore and moved forward. They enjoyed the scenery while drinking tea. Compared with frantically squeezing in the crowd on the shore, it was naturally much more comfortable.

Qu Qiuyan put down the tea in her hand and asked with a smile, "Young Master, I heard that you saved Moying, did you?"

The young master nodded with a smile and said indifferently, "It was just a trifle."

Qu Qiuyan smiled and looked at the young master with her beautiful eyes. "How could it be a trifle? Since you have saved Moying, my father will definitely pay a visit to thank you. Moying was frightened and did not ask who you were back then. But we coincidentally met you today. Young Master, please tell us your name."

Her words were very appropriate.

The young master shook his head again. "It really wasn't a big deal. My surname is Wang, and I have just entered the capital for the imperial examination. Since I saw such a thing, I should definitely help. I don't deserve your praise."

"You entered the capital for the imperial examination?" Qu Xuexin was also interested. "My cousin brother has also entered the capital to take the imperial examination next spring. Are you going to take the same examination as him?"

Young Master Wang smiled and said, "Yes!"

The lad servant beside him said proudly, "Our young master got first place in the provincial examination in our hometown. He will definitely get an excellent result in the imperial examination."

Even the lad servant dressed well, which could show that Young Master Wang's family was quite rich.

He was young and promising, and his family background was very good. In addition, he saved Qu Moying's life. Even Qu Moying felt like she was expected to "like" him.

She picked up the teacup at hand, placed it to her lips, and took a sip. Then, she raised her watery eyes and looked at the people who were talking happily. Because Qu Xuexin joined the conversation, their talk became more pleasant.

Qu Moying's eyes fell on Young Master Wang.

He did have a good manner. It could be seen that he had been well-educated ever since his childhood. He looked every inch a perfect example of etiquette.

He looked really handsome in his clothes. He talked and behaved well. He was neither too close nor too indifferent to the guests, which was the most suitable attitude to have when talking to a woman.

Qu Moying curled her lips silently. "What a flawless young master! However, his accent is weird. Although it sounded like the accent of the capital, it was not the same. He must have been away from the capital for a while and was affected by the dialect elsewhere. He shouldn't have spoken in such an accent. After all, he came to the capital for the imperial examination. He should not have such a weird accent."

"He seemed to speak with an accent deliberately."

After thinking for a while, Qu Moying was certain that Young Master Wang had grown up in the capital and had been away for a period of time. His accent was different from people in the capital. It was not obvious, but he made it obvious. Needless to say, it proved what the lad servant said was true.

At this time, Young Master Wang already knew Qu Moying's identity. Seeing that Qu Moying kept smiling without saying anything, he looked at her and smiled slightly. He asked softly with a hint of intimacy which was not annoying at all, "Fourth Lady, why don't you eat some pastries? Don't you like eating them?"

Qu Moying said indifferently, "Thank you, Young Master Wang."

Of the three ladies in the cabin, Qu Xuexin and Qu Qiuyan seemed to be very compatible with Young Master Wang. They seemed more like the ones that Young Master Wang had saved.

"Fourth Lady, what do you like to eat? I'll get someone to make it." Young Master Wang continued to ask with concern as if he could do whatever Qu Moying said.

If he could get servants to cook anything easily in the cabin, it meant that he was not only rich but also had an extraordinary identity.

Qu Moying shook her head again.

Yu Dong stepped forward and answered in Qu Moying's stead, "Thank you, Young Master Wang. Our lady does not like to eat this kind of snack."

As they spoke, the boat had sailed a distance and arrived at another part of the river. There was a flower terrace in front of the boat. A lad servant came in to report, "Young Master, it's very lively outside. There's a flower terrace. Do you want to go down and take a look?"

Chapter 330 She Dropped the Stone on Her Own Feet

Young Master Wang did not answer directly. Instead, he turned around and asked Qu Moying and the others, "Ladies, what do you think?"

Although he was asking the three of them, his eyes only fell on Qu Moying. He looked really affectionate. However, Qu Moying had lived for two lives, and she had seen such affectionate gazes from Pei Luo'an many times in her previous life. If not so, adding up with the fact that Young Master Wang had saved her once, she would definitely have feelings for Young Master Wang.

But the current scene was more like a joke for Qu Moying.

She even made a comparison in her heart. Compared with Pei Luo'an, Young Master Wang was putting on too much of a show. He saved Qu Moying without asking for her reciprocation, which was really easy to win the favor of an unmarried lady like her. They probably think that Qu Moying, who had only seen a few men in so many years, would definitely fall in love with him now.

But Qu Moying had seen real noble young masters, and Young Master Wang was full of flaws in faking to be one.

Qu Moying lowered her head and did not answer.

Qu Xuexin was waiting for Qu Moying to answer. Seeing that Qu Moying only lowered her head and did not seem to notice that Young Master Wang was talking to her, Qu Xuexin could not help but remind her, "Moying, Young Master Wang is asking you."

Qu Moying raised her head and asked blankly, "What?"

Qu Xuexin explained with a smile, "Young Master Wang asked you if you want to stop the boat and go ashore to see the flower terrace? In the past, the flower terrace set here was the most famous. Many big shops are in this area, and they will build large flower terraces."

A flower terrace was set up near the water. Half of the flower terrace was built up. There was a fence to prevent people from falling into the water. But even so, people still fell from the flower terrace from time to time. It was common on the Qixi Festival.

Qu Moying thought to herself, "Are they trying to make me fall from the flower terrace?"

Qu Moying smiled and said noncommittally, "Eldest Sister, it's up to you."

Qu Xuexin leaned over to Qu Moying as if she was close to Qu Moying and said with a low voice, "Young Master Wang is specially asking you..."

However, seeing Qu Moying's cold face, she shut her mouth and looked a little embarrassed.

Qu Moying said flatly, "Eldest Sister, do as you please, but there are some things that you shouldn't say outside."

Although her words were not sharp, Qu Xuexin's face darkened. For a moment, she didn't know what to say.

She did intentionally remind Qu Moying that Young Master Wang was very fond of her, but both of them were still unmarried ladies, so she could not casually say such words.

In particular, Qu Xuexin had always been dignified and decent in the past, so she shouldn't say such words.

"Alright, Eldest Sister, if you want to go up, just go up. What are you dilly-dallying for?" Qu Qiuyan couldn't stand it anymore. She stood up, turned around, and walked out.

Seeing that the three ladies ignored him, Young Master Wang was a little embarrassed and annoyed, but then he coughed softly and ordered the lad servant who was still waiting for his reply, "Stop the boat!"

"Yes!" The lad servant complied and ran out.

A gangplank was laid down again and placed on a flower terrace nearby.

This flower terrace was very lively. There were many people on it, and it seemed that someone was performing. They were at the back of the flower terrace, and there were fewer people there compared with the front.

Another gangplank was laid down.

Qu Xuexin's face was pale. She was obviously still scared. She held her maid's hand tightly and could not lift her legs. "Moying, you should go first!"

Qu Qiuyan also stood still at the side, waiting for Qu Moying to walk on the gangplank first.

Looking at the two unstable gangplanks, Qu Moying frowned slightly. It seemed to be even more unstable than before. Although the lad servant walked past the gangplank quickly and safely, it did not mean that she could go over safe and sound.

Qu Moying lowered her eyes. She saw Qu Xuexin standing in front of a gangplank with a foot stepping on the gangplank.

"Moying, I'll step on it for you so it won't shake."

Qu Xuexin said.

Young Master Wang stepped on the gangplank and walked over steadily. It seemed that there was nothing wrong. Standing on the flower terrace, Young Master Wang waved to Qu Moying. "Fourth Lady Qu, come here. It's fine!"

He said quite loudly that some people on the shore heard him. They turned to look behind and saw that the few ladies were about to go ashore. Their attentions were drawn over.

Young Master Wang deliberately said this to Qu Moying alone, which showed others that his relationship with Qu Moying was not ordinary. The passers-by looked at them and smiled knowingly. On such a day, everyone was much more open-minded than usual. They thought Young Master Wang was quite handsome, and Qu Moying was delicate and lovely although she wore an eye veil.

They seemed to be a good match.

Qu Moying stepped on a gangplank. Yu Dong also quickly stepped on the gangplank, too. However, he didn't step on the right place. As soon as he laid down his foot, Qu Xuexin let out a painful cry and squatted down.

Yu Dong actually stepped on Qu Xuexin's foot. Qu Xuexin's foot slipped and fell under the gangplank, and Yu Dong happened to step on it. He stepped on Qu Xuexin's foot directly through the gangplank. The pain made Qu Xuexin's face turn pale.

Qu Moying scolded in a low voice, "Yu Dong, be careful."

"Lady, I am already very careful. I did not expect that First Lady would put her foot under the gangplank." Yu Dong felt wronged.

Qu Moying said, "Don't quibble! Go to see how First Lady is."

Yu Dong walked to Qu Xuexin and said, "First Lady, I didn't notice that your foot was under the gangplank. I'm sorry. Are you okay? Do you need a doctor?"

As he spoke, he was about to lift Qu Xuexin's dress to see how her injuries were.

But they were in public now. Qu Xuexin was furious. She reached out and pushed Yu Dong. "How dare you!"

Yu Dong fell heavily and happened to fall on a gangplank, which steadied the gangplank.

Yu Dong felt wronged and sat on the gangplank without getting up. "First Lady, why did you push me? I really want to apologize to you!"

They made quite a lot of noise, so Young Master Wang had to return to the boat.

Seeing Qu Xuexin sitting on the ground, he hurriedly asked, "What happened?"

Yu Dong complained with a face full of grievance, "I accidentally bumped into First Lady. First Lady pushed me, and I fell!"

His words seemed to mean that Qu Xuexin was unreasonable and pushed him on purpose. Qu Xuexin was so angry that she said angrily, "What nonsense are you spouting!"

"First Lady, I was wrong. I will not dare to do it again!" Yu Dong suddenly started crying. He reached out to wipe his tears, shivering.

Many people looked over because of the noise. Seeing such a scene, they thought that it was a story of a vicious master and a poor maid. They began to discuss on the flower terrace. Although they did not know what exactly happened, they thought the maid must have suffered a loss because she looked scared whereas the lady was in a rage.

Seeing and hearing the people pointing at her and gossiping, Qu Xuexin almost couldn't suppress her anger. She looked up at Qu Moying and said coldly, "Moying, discipline your maid, or I could teach her a lesson for you."

"Yu Dong, apologize to Eldest Sister. What nonsense are you spouting?" Hearing that Qu Moying's voice was a little far away, Qu Xuexin looked up and saw that Qu Moying had already gotten on the flower terrace and was talking to her on it. Qu Xuexin was stunned for a moment.

She looked back at Young Master Wang in shock, only to see that he was also stunned. Apparently, neither of them had expected that Qu Moying would get on the flower terrace so easily.

They planned to make Qu Moying fall into the water. After she fell into the water, Young Master Wang could save her like a hero.

Young Master Wang's perfect image had already been created. Such a noble young master saved Qu Moying more than once, and he was gentle to her. This whole thing went on smoothly. With all these factors, they believe that Qu Moying would go all out to marry Young Master Wang.

But he was a man of an unknown origin. Qu Zhizhen must first find out about him before making a decision.

Young Master Wang would secretly meet Qu Moying. He would say that he wanted to talk to her about the marriage. At that time, Qu Moying would definitely go out, and Young Master Wang would abduct her. As for where he would bring Qu Moying, Qu Xuexin did not care. But for sure, Qu Moying would end up in a brothel or something like that.

However, Qu Xuexin didn't care about whatever would happen to Qu Moying.

County Lady Jingyu promised her that as long as she made Qu Moying disappear, she would definitely find a good marriage for her in the future and let her mother be the matchmaker for Qu Xuexin.

Someone needed to send a message for Young Master Wang, and Xiao Hanyuan could be the one.

Xiao Hanyuan had long disliked Qu Moying, who he thought was frivolous. If Young Master Wang told Xiao Hanyuan that Qu Moying asked him out, Xiao Hanyuan would definitely believe. He would be happy to see Qu Moying make a fool of herself for the marriage. It was not difficult to find someone to send a message for Young Master Wang.

Even if this matter was exposed, Qu Xuexin would not be found out. After all, she played a part only in the beginning of the matter.

But now... nothing happened!

She deliberately put her foot on the gangplank because she wanted to step on it when Qu Moying walked on the gangplank so that Qu Moying would fall from the gangplank.

But what was going on now?

"First Lady, I really didn't step on you on purpose. Please forgive me. My lady is calling me. I will go up and serve her first." Hearing Qu Moying's voice from the flower terrace, Yu Dong immediately stood up

and bowed respectfully to Qu Xuexin. Then, he stepped on the gangplank and nimbly walked up to the flower terrace.

He walked extremely fast as if there was a dog chasing after him.

Qu Xuexin was so angry that she almost fainted. That hateful maid ran away before she said anything. Qu Xuexin looked at Qu Moying gloomily and thought to herself, "There is still a chance. I will seize the opportunity to push her off the flower terrace. There are always people falling from the flower terrace. Nobody will know who pushes her."

She held the maid's hand and stood up. Just as she was about to say something, she felt that the boat seemed to have been heavily hit by something. The gangplanks fell into the water, and she shook her hands wildly. She quickly grabbed her maid's hand, but in the next moment, the two of them rolled down the boat together.

The one who rolled down along with them was Young Master Wang, who was also standing on the bow of the boat...