

Noble Wife 331

Chapter 331 Whose Boat Hit Over?

Qu Qiuyan stood behind them. When she saw the interaction between Qu Xuexin and Qu Moying, she knew that there was something going on. Although she was the first to come to the gangplank, she stood a little further away from them.

The boat was hit hard. She grabbed the pillar next to her and stabilized herself. It was nothing serious, but she was so scared that her face turned pale, and she fell to the ground.

“Someone fell into the water!”

“Help!”

Seeing such a situation, people on the flower terrace shouted. Someone jumped into the water to save the three people who fell into the water.

As soon as Qu Xuexin fell into the water, she was so frightened that she screamed with her hands waving, but she immediately drank a few mouthfuls of water.

Someone came over to pull her by the hand. She subconsciously tightened her grip and hugged the person tightly. At this moment, she only wanted to live!

The three people were saved quickly. In fact, the man who jumped into the water only saved Hong Mei. Qu Xuexin was saved by Young Master Wang, who was next to her. They couldn't get on the flower terrace, so the man swam to the shore. Someone gave a helping hand on the shore and pulled up all the people in the water.

“Why did the boat at the back crash into this boat?”

“Who knows? Maybe the navigator was too careless!”

The surrounding people were talking. Qu Xuexin held her arms tightly, trembling in fear. Hong Mei was also saved. They held each other.

At this time, Qu Moying also came forward from the flower terrace. She had someone bring a blanket from the shop nearby. Yu Dong took it and handed it to Hong Mei. Hong Mei immediately wrapped Qu Xuexin with it tightly.

A person squeezed out from the crowd. When he saw the scene in front of him, he was stunned and asked anxiously, "Cousin sister, what... what happened?"

He took a few steps forward and almost bumped into Qu Moying. Yu Dong hurriedly pulled Qu Moying back to avoid him.

It was Xiao Hanyuan!

A trace of anger flashed through Qu Moying's eyes. She was standing on the shore just now. If Yu Dong hadn't pulled her, she would have been knocked into the river by Xiao Hanyuan.

Wrapped in a blanket, Qu Xuexin raised her head and saw Xiao Hanyuan. She burst into tears as if he was her family. "Cousin brother!"

"Eldest Cousin Sister, don't cry. I will definitely investigate this matter thoroughly and get justice for you. Even if grandaunt is in favor of the wrongdoer, I will not give in."

Xiao Hanyuan said aggressively. He turned around and glared at Qu Moying.

Qu Moying was almost amused by how he protected Qu Xuexin without knowing what was happening. He knew nothing and just made a judgment by what Qu Xuexin said and showed to him. Now, he was acting so righteous, which was really ridiculous.

At this time, Qu Qiuyan had already come ashore. She stood beside Qu Moying with a pale face. Seeing that Xiao Hanyuan wanted to uphold justice for Qu Xuexin, she took the opportunity to ask loudly, "Cousin brother, what do you mean? Is someone plotting against me?"

Just now, she also almost fell into the water. But when she saw the eunuchs on the big boat behind her, she immediately shut her mouth, not daring to talk about the big boat that hit over.

She was holding back her anger. But when she heard Xiao Hanyuan's words, she also asked.

"Third Cousin Sister, don't be in such a hurry to purge yourself of suspicion. This matter must be investigated properly. Everyone here is suspicious. Third Cousin Sister, Fourth Cousin Sister, you two are no exception!" At this time, Xiao Hanyuan found Qu Qiuyan as displeasing to the eyes as Qu Moying.

These three ladies came out together, but only Qu Xuexin fell into the water. Perhaps Qu Moying and Qu Qiuyan plotted against Qu Xuexin together. After all, they were both from West Mansion.

Qu Xuexin was always decent and gentle. Now that she was in such a sorry state, neither Qu Moying nor Qu Qiuyan came over to support her, and they just stood at the side. Xiao Hanyuan was really angry with them.

"Cousin Xiao, what do you mean? Eldest Sister was the one who wanted to board this boat. She accepted this man's invitation. Previously, she caused a ruckus at the bow of the boat, and she accidentally fell into the water because of the hit. Who do you think should be blamed for this? You wholeheartedly protect her. I think you won't listen to me. Since this is the case, please take Eldest Sister back and let Grandmother know what happened."

Qu Qiuyan was unhappy. She was not to be trifled with. Moreover, the one who provoked her was a "poor" relative whom she despised. She immediately flared up.

After saying that, she snorted and left with her maid.

Originally, she did not plan to go back with Qu Xuexin. She had an appointment with Lord Jing tonight. She would not let it be destroyed by Qu Xuexin.

Her words were quite meaningful. She almost pointed out that Qu Xuexin asked for it, and she also implied that Xiao Hanyuan was so anxious because there was an affair between him and Qu Xuexin.

She was angered by Xiao Hanyuan's annoying words.

Upon hearing Qu Qiuyan's words, Qu Xuexin was anxious. She couldn't bother to pretend to be weak but quickly pulled Xiao Hanyuan's sleeve and said, "Cousin brother, don't blame Qiuyan and Moying. It has nothing to do with them. I fell into the water by accident."

She did not dare to offend Qu Qiuyan.

Qu Moying sneered in her heart. "Qu Xuexin gave in as soon as Qu Qiuyan flared up, but she dared to scheme against me again and again because she thought I could be trifled with. She thought no one would stand up for me even if she hurt me."

"Cousin sister, can you still walk? I'll take you back!" Xiao Hanyuan turned around and wanted to help Qu Xuexin up, but he saw that Qu Xuexin had already stood up with Hong Mei's help.

Yu Dong asked, "First Lady, Young Master Wang saved you. Do you want to invite him back into our mansion?"

His words made Qu Xuexin's face flush red. Qu Xuexin clenched the blanket in her hand to suppress the hatred in her heart. She lowered her head, pretending not to hear Yu Dong's words, and walked past Qu Moying.

Young Master Wang was not a good person. She knew it because he was arranged for Qu Moying by County Lady Jingyu. She was actually saved by him after falling into the water! Thinking of this, Qu Xuexin felt sick. She didn't want to have anything to do with this kind of person.

Yu Dong continued, "First Lady..."

Xiao Hanyuan glared at Yu Dong and scolded, "You're just a maid! What are you shouting for? Come and support First Lady!"

Yu Dong was not afraid of him at all. He glared at Xiao Hanyuan coldly. "I still need to take care of my lady. First Lady will be fine with you around."

Yu Dong had disliked Xiao Hanyuan for a long time. Xiao Hanyuan disliked Qu Moying, but he was nice to Qu Xuexin, who had ulterior motives.

"Fourth Cousin Sister..." Being glared at by a maid, Xiao Hanyuan was also angry. He took a step forward and was about to speak to Qu Moying, but he saw that Qu Moying turned her head away with a cold face and ignored him.

Seeing that they wanted to leave, the crowd made way for them. However, they were indeed far away from where the carriages were stopped. Qu Xuexin could not get there with such a blanket.

Xiao Hanyuan did not know what to do. He turned around and saw the boat next to the flower terrace. He didn't hear everything before, but he knew that Qu Xuexin was on the boat at that time.

"Hong Mei, did the ladies come here by that boat?"

Hong Mei nodded. "Yes, Young Master Xiao!"

Xiao Hanyuan nodded and arranged for Qu Xuexin, "Let's take this boat back."

Qu Xuexin wanted to object. She did not want to have anything to do with Young Master Wang, but at this time, it seemed that she had to have something to do with him.

Qu Xuexin looked up at Qu Moying and pleaded, "Moying, can you... accompany me?"

At this time, Qu Qiuyan had already left without a trace. Right now, she could only rely on Qu Moying.

Since she had asked, Qu Moying couldn't refuse. But she didn't want to get on Young Master Wang's boat, either. She frowned slightly. She couldn't leave at this time.

“Young Lady who fell into the water, are you First Lady Qu?” Suddenly, a sharp voice came over. Qu Moying looked up and saw a large boat coming over. Young Master Wang’s boat couldn’t compare with this boat at all.

The one who spoke was a fair-skinned eunuch without a beard on the boat.

It could be easily told that the owner of the boat was definitely from the royal family.

Qu Xuexin did not know who was in the boat, but she could guess that the identity of the person was extraordinary. She hurriedly raised her head and said in a delicate voice, “Yes! I am.”

The eunuch said loudly, “Since you’re First Lady Qu, come on in with me. Our master happens to be free, and he is willing to give you guys a ride.”

Qu Xuexin was stunned at first and then overjoyed. She hurriedly lowered her head and said softly, “Yes!”

Xiao Hanyuan frowned. He had some doubts about this unknown boat. Just as he was about to ask, Qu Xuexin waved at him, indicating him not to object. He could only shut his mouth.

It had only been a short time since he had come to the capital. He did not know many things and people well. He did not know who the person in front of him was, and he thought Qu Xuexin knew the other party.

A wide gangplank was placed down from the boat. Qu Xuexin held Hong Mei’s hand and stepped on the gangplank, which was really stable.

Xiao Hanyuan hurriedly followed her. He was really worried about Qu Xuexin’s current situation. In his eyes, Qu Xuexin was the most pitiful one among the several ladies in Qu Mansion.

She was also the most decent and nicest one. Unfortunately, her sisters were not easy to deal with. None of them was nice to her.

This time, Qu Moying did not hesitate and also got on the boat.

The eunuch grinned at Qu Xuexin. "First Lady, please come with me. Our master happens to have clothes prepared here. Please go and change first!"

"Yes!" Qu Xuexin was overjoyed. She did not expect such a good thing to happen. She held Hong Mei's hand and followed the eunuch.

It was not appropriate for Xiao Hanyuan to follow them at this time. He just looked in the direction Qu Xuexin left in doubt, thinking she was too ready to believe others!

Why did she follow a stranger without any precaution?

Qu Moying stood at the bow of the boat, her eyes calm. She had already recognized the eunuch. He served Pei Yuanjun. Needless to say, this boat belonged to Pei Yuanjun.

However, this boat was the one that crashed into Young Master Wang's boat. Qu Xuexin didn't see it, but Qu Moying saw this boat coming straight at Young Master Wang's boat clearly.

This was also the reason why Yu Dong hurried to the flower terrace after finishing his words.

Qu Moying did not know what Pei Yuanjun meant!

The boat made a large turn in the lake, and the other boats quickly made way for it.

After the boat left, some people started discussing in low voices.

"Did this boat crash over just now?"

"Yes, it was this boat. It seems that the person on this boat is an old acquaintance of First Lady Qu."

“First Lady Qu? Which Qu Mansion is she from? The one that has been discussed a lot recently?”

“It must be. That lady must be First Lady Qu, the one who coveted the powerful He Family at first but then broke the proposed marriage later...”

Young Master Wang quietly walked towards his boat. He wanted to leave since no one was paying attention to him, but before he reached the boat, a person suddenly came from the side...

Chapter 332 The Sea of Lanterns

This person grabbed Young Master Wang’s hand and said intimately, “Man, your clothes are wet. Go change first. Let’s go. I’ll bring you over to change!”

As he spoke, he pulled Young Master Wang over.

Young Master Wang wanted to say something, but he felt something sharp pricking at his waist. He didn’t dare to struggle and obediently followed him.

Everyone’s attention was on the leaving boat. No one paid attention to the insignificant Young Master Wang, so they didn’t notice that he was missing.

At this time, Young Master Wang’s lad servant was still waiting for Young Master Wang on the boat. He didn’t notice that Young Master Wang, who planned to turn around the flower terrace, had disappeared!

Ji Hai walked out of the cabin with a smile and bowed deeply to Qu Moying. “Fourth Lady Qu, our master invites you in.”

Qu Moying nodded. She ignored Xiao Hanyuan, turned around, and followed Ji Hai inside.

Xiao Hanyuan glanced coldly at Qu Moying and snorted. "I've long known that Qu Moying is frivolous. She has just boarded the boat. But after hearing the man's invitation, she didn't hesitate to follow him. Does she know who she is going to meet?"

"Whatever, I will not stop her! I would like to see what will happen to her!"

"A frivolous woman will come to no good end!"

In the main cabin of the ship, Pei Yuanjun was leaning against a couch. He lazily picked up the teacup beside him and played with it. He was dressed in a light purple brocade robe embroidered with some enchanting iris flowers, and the patterns extended to the sleeves, making the robe look gorgeous.

He wore a light purple jade crown and a pair of light-colored earrings, which reflected the light outside the window.

Hearing the sound from the door, he raised his long and narrow eyes and waved at Qu Moying.

Ji Hai stood outside the door. Yu Dong looked at Qu Moying and wanted to follow her in. However, Qu Moying waved her hand and signaled him to stop. Ji Hai did not come in. It could be seen that Pei Yuanjun was not willing to let anyone in.

Therefore, Yu Dong also stopped and stood still.

Qu Moying slowly stepped forward and greeted Pei Yuanjun, who was on the couch, with a deep bow. "Greetings, Your Highness."

"Don't be so courteous. Sit down!" Pei Yuanjun pointed in front of him.

Qu Moying looked at the couch speechlessly. There was only one couch here, and Pei Yuanjun occupied more than half of it. The place he pointed at wasn't occupied, but he was stretching out his long legs.

Qu Moying thought for a moment and then walked to the farthest place from him and slowly sat down. Since she was here, she naturally had to sit. On her way back, she did not want to see Xiao Hanyuan's mocking face outside.

Pei Yuanjun raised his eyebrows and asked in a good mood, "What happened? Were you bullied?"

Qu Moying was speechless. She was sure that he must have seen the previous farce and deliberately hit Young Master Wang's boat. But now, he acted like he didn't know anything. She really didn't know what to say.

"Who schemed against you?" Seeing that Qu Moying was silent, Pei Yuanjun asked again. The lights in the cabin were very bright, and a trace of eerie coldness could be seen in his eyes.

Qu Moying thought about it and knew that she couldn't hide it from him, so she said it directly, "County Lady Jingyu and my Eldest Sister!"

"Doesn't Liu Jingyu want to be Crown Princess? Why did she deal with you, a mere nobody?" A hint of cruelty appeared in his dark eyes, which was unfathomable.

"I... I don't know..." Qu Moying shook her head. She didn't know why Liu Jingyu wanted to kill her.

"Why didn't you fight back?" Pei Yuanjun asked again, with no emotion in his words.

After being stunned for a moment, Qu Moying knew he meant that she didn't resist Qu Xuexin directly just now.

She smiled and shook her head as she said, "I will naturally fight back. Even if you didn't knock her into the water, she would definitely fall into the water in the end."

After rebirth, she would not blindly be kind anymore.

Now, she would fight back with an eye for an eye.

With Qu Xuexin's personality, she would definitely come up with another plan if her first plan failed. She would still do something to Qu Moying. Even though she pushed Qu Moying into the water, she might not be blamed because people crowded together, and it was hard to tell who made Qu Moying fall into the water. However, Qu Moying thought the same way. She could do the same thing to Qu Xuexin, and Qu Xuexin would be the one who fell into the water.

At least Qu Moying had Yu Dong with her.

Qu Moying stood up to formally express her thanks to Pei Yuanjun, "Thank you for your help, Your Highness."

"You don't have to thank me. This was what I should do." Pei Yuanjun said indifferently and waved at her. Qu Moying hesitated for a moment but still leaned over.

He parted his thin lips and said in a lazy but fierce voice, "Since you are my woman, I won't let others bully you. If someone bullies you again in the future, just fight back. I have made the matter between you and me clear to your father and grandmother."

He only needed the imperial edict now. But he did not want the emperor to issue the imperial edict too quickly.

Everyone knew there was something between him and Qu Moying now, but there was no official announcement. He thought this was the best state.

Qu Moying bit her lips. She knew she would be tied to Pei Yuanjun in the future, so she was not surprised by his words.

A person like him would never let his own woman be hurt by others.

Qu Moying believed that despite being his "woman", she was perhaps just given a position like that of Ji Hai in Pei Yuanjun's heart, or maybe not so important as Ji Hai. After all, Ji Hai was the one Pei Yuanjun trusted the most.

Her tender hand was held by his cold and big hand. He pulled her to sit down by the couch. Qu Moying looked up at Pei Yuanjun calmly.

She knew who she was.

“Let me take you to see the Sea of Lanterns.” Pei Yuanjun said lazily with a smile. He suddenly felt inexplicably pleased.

Qu Moying raised her eyes slightly. She was surprised that Pei Yuanjun wanted to take her to see the Sea of Lanterns. She grew up in the capital in her previous life, so she naturally knew what the Sea of Lanterns meant. But now she was going to see it with him.

She felt weird.

The most famous view in the capital on the Qixi Festival was the Sea of Lanterns. It was set in front of a big gate opposite the Chaoyang Gate. There would be many lanterns, and even the palace would send out a few of the most beautiful lanterns to hang over there. It was a magnificent scene in the capital.

Some shops would also hang their own special lanterns there. Although they were not as eye-catching and luxurious as the lanterns from the palace, they were also beautiful and well-designed.

However, the most eye-catching lanterns were the small ones. Those small lanterns were hung by the couples in the capital. It was said that as long as a couple hung a pair of lanterns over there, they would live happily ever after together.

Therefore, these lanterns were also called “Love Lanterns”!

Of course, it was just a kind of saying, and Qu Moying did not believe it.

In her previous life, Pei Luo'an had once told her about the Sea of Lanterns and asked her to hang small lanterns with him secretly.

However, Ji Hanyue did not believe in such a saying and just smiled, but Pei Luo'an felt regretful and said that if there was a chance, he would definitely want to hang a lantern with her.

He kept asking Ji Hanyue to do it with him. Ji Hanyue finally gave in and said that she would hang a lantern with him after she entered Eastern Palace.

However, the Sea of Lanterns was still there, but they had changed. Their words had gone like flowing water.

Pei Luo'an seemed to be affectionate, but he was just putting on a show. Even if Qu Moying had hung a lantern with Pei Luo'an back then, they would still have come to this point.

Pei Luo'an and Ji Youran killed her entire family. Whether she hung a lantern with Pei Luo'an or not wouldn't change this fact.

Qu Moying curled her thin lips in ridicule and sighed with a bit of coldness, "This world is full of crazy couples, and that's why there is such a Sea of Lanterns!"

Her words were emotional, not like what an inexperienced lady like her would say. Pei Yuanjun looked over at her with a bit of scrutiny.

His cold gaze made Qu Moying's heart skip a beat. She immediately suppressed her emotions and looked up at Pei Yuanjun calmly. "Your Highness, do you think I said something wrong?"

Pei Yuanjun laughed and said slowly, "Of course there is something wrong."

Qu Moying asked calmly, "What is wrong? Please enlighten me."

Pei Yuanjun laughed again, perhaps because he found her calmness and indifference interesting. He put down her soft fingers.

“Since you haven’t hung one, how do you know it is not credible?”

Qu Moying pondered over his words and suddenly smiled bitterly. It was indeed true. After all, she had not hung a Love Lantern with Pei Luo’an in her previous life.

“Your Highness, do you want to give it a try?” Putting aside her previous thoughts, Qu Moying looked up at Pei Yuanjun and asked curiously, “If you want to have a try, I will do it with you!”

She was indeed curious. She didn’t think Pei Yuanjun was someone who would do such a romantic thing. Was he going to show it to anyone again?

In that case, she just needed to cooperate!

“Alright, let’s give it a try!” Pei Yuanjun looked at Qu Moying and suddenly laughed. He reached out and grabbed her hand again. Under the light, his calm eyes carried a bit of rare tenderness, and his face looked even more gorgeous, but there was a hint of demonic charm that made Qu Moying uneasy.

Her heart skipped a beat and she lowered her head.

She was extremely calm even when he held her hand just now, but seeing his smile, she actually felt uneasy, as if something was growing in her heart.

She had never felt this way before.

Qu Moying wanted to withdraw her hand, but she felt that it was a little too pretentious. However, being held by his hand, she felt weird. Her cold hand began to get warm, and she felt very uneasy.

She did not like this feeling!

A loud noise suddenly came from outside the door. It seemed that there was a quarrel. Pei Yuanjun’s eyes turned cold, and he raised his eyes to look at the door.

Ji Hai knew what to do and ran out in a hurry, only to see that the guard outside had stopped Qu Xuexin.

The one who stood next to her was Xiao Hanyuan!

Neither of them was a good guy...

Chapter 333 Cousin Xiao as Plan B

Ji Hai stepped forward and asked coldly, "What's the matter?"

Qu Xuexin hurried forward and said in a delicate voice, "Sir, I want to thank your Master face to face!"

Hearing that Qu Moying had already entered the cabin, Qu Xuexin was a little anxious.

She originally thought that she wouldn't meet any good man, but she actually met one now, and it seemed that this Master was not under Lord Jing.

No matter which Lord this Master was, he was like a life-saving straw for Qu Xuexin.

She would rather become a concubine in a wealthy family than marry an ordinary person. If there were other choices, she would not choose Xiao Hanyuan.

How could she let go of such a good opportunity?

Xiao Hanyuan stood beside Qu Xuexin with a long face. He had already advised Qu Xuexin just now, but Qu Xuexin didn't listen to him. She behaved differently from the elegant, decent, and gentle lady in his memory.

Xiao Hanyuan was a little sad.

“Our Master doesn’t need your thanks. Please leave!” Ji Hai said lazily as he cast a cold glance at Qu Xuexin. He didn’t like her at all. Just now, he saw clearly on the boat that she was scheming against Qu Moying.

Ji Hai couldn’t bear it. He regarded Qu Moying as his own Master and he couldn’t bear to see that a mere Imperial Censor’s daughter dared to bully her!

Qu Xuexin was rejected, but she was not reconciled at all. She asked again, “How... How is my Fourth Sister?”

She had asked Xiao Hanyuan just now. He told her that Qu Moying had entered the cabin. She couldn’t accept that she was not allowed to enter the cabin whereas Qu Moying, a blind woman, had already entered.

Ji Hai sneered. “First Lady Qu, are you asking about Fourth Lady Qu?”

Qu Xuexin said hypocritically, “Yes, I am worried about her.”

Her reaction made Ji Hai look down on her even more. He had seen many young ladies before. Some of them were just like her. They looked dignified on the surface, but they harbored all kinds of motives. They wanted to gain all the benefits and also a good reputation. How could there be such a good thing in this world?

“Fourth Lady Qu is alright. First Lady Qu, please leave. We are about to reach the next intersection. Please get down the boat here.” Ji Hai said bluntly. Since he knew she had no good intentions, he did not want to waste his time on her.

He pointed forward.

Pei Yuanjun was now talking to Qu Moying, and he didn’t want to be disturbed.

Hearing Ji Hai's words, Xiao Hanyuan heaved a sigh of relief. He hurried forward and advised, "Yes, let's get off in the front. When we get ashore, I will go to find our mansion's carriages. Let's go back together."

Xiao Hanyuan didn't want to be squeezed by the crowd, and he had long wanted to return. He was supposed to come out with Qu Moying and the others, but he happened to be delayed by something. When he came out, the ladies had left the mansion. He could only catch up with them alone.

If he had not seen what happened to Qu Xuexin, he might have gone back after watching for a while.

In fact, there was nothing interesting. It was just that there were a lot of people, and many ladies gave him flirtatious glances along the way, which was too inappropriate in his eyes.

"Cousin brother, I still have to wait for Moying. I can't let Moying stay here alone. I'm worried." Qu Xuexin didn't want to leave at all. Hearing Xiao Hanyuan's advice, she felt disgusted, but she uttered those words genuinely as if she meant what she said.

Xiao Hanyuan thought that Qu Xuexin was genuinely concerned about Qu Moying, so he tried to persuade her again, "Cousin Sister, Fourth Cousin Sister is not worried about you at all. Why do you care about her?"

Ji Hai sneered, "First Lady Qu, please leave. If you don't leave, our Master will throw you into the lake."

Pei Yuanjun had never spent any effort on a woman except Qu Moying.

It seemed that Qu Xuexin really thought she was something!

As they spoke, the boat stopped. Ji Hai looked coldly at Qu Xuexin. His aura was not something an ordinary eunuch could have.

Qu Xuexin was so frightened that her legs went soft. She really wanted to say a few hard words, but she did not dare to say anything at this moment. However, she was not reconciled. She couldn't accept that

Qu Moying got such a good opportunity. Why was Qu Moying allowed to enter the cabin whereas she was blocked outside?

Although she couldn't compare with Qu Qiuyan, she thought she totally outdid Qu Moying.

She took a deep breath, suddenly pushed Ji Hai away, and was about to rush in.

Ji Hai didn't expect to be pushed by her, but he quickly retreated to the side and said with a sneer, "First Lady Qu, are you so eager to meet my Master? Do you want to attach yourself to our Master?"

Xiao Hanyuan's face darkened.

A long sword was pointed at Qu Xuexin, forcing her to retreat. "I... I just want to see Moying."

Qu Xuexin explained as she retreated. She had never expected that a sword would be placed on her neck. She could feel the chill from the sword as if her neck would be cut off if she moved a little bit forward.

Her lips turned pale, and her hands and feet were weak. How could she dare to think of anything else?

Ji Hai asked with a sneer, "First Lady Qu, do you want to go ashore on your own, or do you want me to get someone to throw you up?"

Qu Xuexin looked at the sword on her neck that forced her to step back and then looked at Ji Hai's cold face. She didn't dare to offend him again. She gritted her teeth and looked into the cabin. There was a curtain in front of the cabin, so she couldn't see who was inside.

But she knew there must be a prince or a lord.

The blind woman was luckier than her!

Qu Xuexin had no choice but to step back. Her eyes were filled with tears, and she looked fragile as if she would collapse as soon as the wind blew. She looked very pitiful. After taking a few steps, she turned back, hoping that Ji Hai would call her.

However, Ji Hai only looked at her coldly, without the slightest intention of calling her back. The curtain in front of the cabin was still the same. It seemed that no one wanted to lift it at all.

Tears finally fell from Qu Xuexin's eyes. She covered her face with a handkerchief and cried as she got off the boat. Xiao Hanyuan followed her, looking terrible.

What Qu Xuexin did just now made him feel very uncomfortable.

There were not many people on the shore. Most of the people had headed forward, so it was fairly quiet.

Qu Xuexin and Xiao Hanyuan were not conspicuous.

Seeing that Qu Xuexin was still wiping her tears and then looking at the big boat that was far away, Xiao Hanyuan advised, "Eldest Cousin Sister, let's go back!"

"I... I am worried about Moying. How can she be with a man alone? Moreover, it's a man of an unknown origin." Qu Xuexin became sadder. She looked in the direction where the big boat left as if she was really anxious for Qu Moying.

Xiao Hanyuan was shocked. "Cousin Sister, don't you know who is on the boat?"

"I... I don't know. That's why I'm worried. But I was not allowed to see Moying. Moying was engaged. If such a thing spreads out, I'm afraid that her reputation... will be ruined!" Qu Xuexin cried and wiped her tears sadly.

A trace of doubt flashed through Xiao Hanyuan's eyes. He raised his eyes to look at the big boat that was fading away. Just now, Qu Xuexin boarded the boat without asking anything. At that time, he thought that she knew the owner of the boat.

Xiao Hanyuan snorted. "Why are you worried about her? She didn't worry about you at all just now."

"But I am the eldest sister." Qu Xuexin's eyes were red, and she looked extremely pitiful.

Xiao Hanyuan said indifferently, "Even though you are the eldest one, you don't have to be responsible for her. She went into the cabin herself without hesitation. Since she is such a person, it's useless even if you care about her. If she is willing to be someone's concubine, let her be!"

He thought Qu Moying was a fickle woman. Now that Qu Moying was in the cabin, probably with a man alone, Xiao Hanyuan looked down on her even more.

His grandaunt had wanted to betroth Qu Moying to him. Now, even if he had to die, he would not marry her.

Qu Xuexin looked at Xiao Hanyuan and said in a sad voice, "Cousin Xiao, please do not tell my grandmother about what happened today. I don't want her to worry about me and Moying."

She didn't want to let anyone in the mansion know that she was saved by a man from the water. She didn't know where Young Master Wang came from, and she didn't want to be associated with such a person. Anyway, she still had Xiao Hanyuan as an option.

She wasn't afraid!

Xiao Hanyuan's heart softened as he saw her pitiful and fervent eyes. He suddenly understood why Qu Xuexin had acted that way just now. It was because she cared too much about her younger sisters, which led her to such an awkward position.

"Well, I see. But judging from your Fourth Sister's behavior, such a thing can't be hidden for too long." Xiao Hanyuan didn't want Qu Xuexin to cry. He nodded immediately with a pitiful look on his face. He felt very sorry for her.

"I will think about it when the time comes. Let's take one step at a time!" Qu Xuexin smiled bitterly and then said to Xiao Hanyuan, "Cousin Xiao, if you are bored, you may go back first. I'll go find my Eldest Brother. He came out with us just now, but he was now missing."

Xiao Hanyuan thought for a moment and said, "I'll accompany you! I can't be at ease if you are alone!"

Qu Xuexin did not want Xiao Hanyuan to accompany her at all. On one hand, she wanted to talk to County Lady Jingyu about this matter. On the other hand, she wanted to try her luck to see if she would meet some other noble young masters. Her current situation was not good. It was really difficult for her mother to choose another good marriage for her. She failed to complete the plan today, so County Lady Jingyu probably would not find a good marriage for her either. Therefore, she had to try harder.

Marrying Xiao Hanyuan was the last choice!

However, Xiao Hanyuan insisted on accompanying her. She tried to persuade him a few more times but failed. She could only let him follow her. They walked together.

There was another couple on the road. This couple didn't walk close to each other, but they would smile at each other after exchanging glances. They seemed to be a sweet couple.

If Qu Moying was here, she would definitely sneer at the sight and say, "What a perfect match! How ironic!"

But tonight was definitely not an ordinary night...

Chapter 334 Young Master Wang Screwed It Up

Lanterns were everywhere in the city. There were big lanterns with dragon and phoenix patterns on the top, and below them were numerous pairs of festival lanterns.

This was the liveliest place in the capital on Qixi Festival. The Sea of Lanterns could be seen from afar, and the sight was inexplicably beautiful.

Some fastidious people made the lanterns themselves. They drew some obscure patterns or wrote some verses on the lanterns. The couples would hang the lanterns up together and pray for a beautiful future.

Some people bought lanterns directly from stalls nearby. They were not expensive and there were various styles. Some shops made unique lanterns, and many women liked them.

Pei Luo'an stood with his hands behind his back, smiling as he spoke to a cloaked woman beside him.

This woman was far away from him just now, but now she was walking shoulder to shoulder with him. There were couples around. It was not a big deal for the two of them to walk together, but the passers-by couldn't help but take a few more glances at the cloaked woman.

Even though she could not be seen clearly, one could tell that she must be a beauty because the young master beside her was handsome and gentle.

"Your Highness, let's not go over!" Liu Jingyu stood still and looked into the distance. There were many people crowded there, which made her inexplicably uncomfortable.

Today was the first time she had made an appointment with Pei Luo'an to celebrate Qixi Festival together.

She spent the previous Qixi Festival with Pei Yusheng.

Pei Luo'an asked gently, "Don't you want to go and hang a Love Lantern?"

Liu Jingyu lowered her head shyly, her eyes swirling, "Your Highness... what if others see it?"

After all, the two of them had not made their relationship official yet.

Pei Luo'an laughed and said, "What's there to be afraid of? We have already decided on it. Even if others see us, so what? Mother Empress said what I need is waiting for a good day. If I meet someone suitable, I can get engaged first."

Hearing Pei Luo'an talking about their marriage, Liu Jingyu blushed even more. She shook the handkerchief in her hand and said, "Your Highness, but we have yet... Moreover, I heard that you have a deep affection for the ex-Crown Princess. It's inappropriate for us to do this at this time, isn't it?"

"I did love Hanyue deeply before. But after all, she has passed away. I have to look forward and cherish the one in front of me." Pei Luo'an sighed slightly and said softly. When he looked at Liu Jingyu, there was a touch of affection in his eyes, which was very enchanting.

However, he clenched his fists behind his back and then loosened.

He didn't like to mention Ji Hanyue at all. He even had a feeling that he would lose control at the mention of her. He couldn't explain why he felt this way, but he just subconsciously tried not to mention her, think about her, or ask about her.

"Your Highness, you really have an affectionate heart. No wonder others say that you treat the ex-Crown Princess... But you're right. It's all in the past!" Liu Jingyu said in a delicate voice. She raised her head slightly, revealing her face under the large cloak. Her face was delicately made up, and it was beautiful and charming. With the cloak covering half of her face, a trace of graceful and soft charm was added to her.

The lanterns in the distance shone brightly.

Liu Jingyu had to look up to Ji Hanyue in the past. Even though she was County Lady, others only flattered Ji Hanyue when Ji Hanyue was beside her. Liu Jingyu had always been the center of attention, and she was used to it. She couldn't help but feel uncomfortable if the limelight was not on her. However, whenever Ji Hanyue was around, she would cease to be the center of attention.

But now, Ji Hanyue had already died. A dead person was not honorable anymore!

Liu Jingyu curved up her lips silently. A trace of complacency flashed through her eyes, but she quickly put on her gentle face again.

“Let’s not talk about her. Why don’t we go over and hang two lanterns?” Pei Luo’an asked as he pointed at a few stalls that sold well. Many people were buying lanterns, and the lanterns in their hands looked good.

Those stalls provided brush and ink for the guests to write something on the lanterns. The guests could also ask someone to write verses on the lanterns for them, and they could even include their names in the verses.

Liu Jingyu despised this kind of lantern from the bottom of her heart, but of course, she would not say it out. She only smiled and said, “Your Highness, have you ever hung a lantern with the ex-Crown Princess?”

Pei Luo’an shook his head. “No!”

He did want to hang a lantern with Ji Hanyue, but he didn’t make it.

“How could it be? You two were engaged for so long that you must have spent a few Qixi Festivals together.” Liu Jingyu said in surprise, but she was overjoyed in her heart. “Sure enough, he only pretended to be affectionate to Ji Hanyue. If he really cherished her, he would not have brought Ji Youran into the mansion.”

“I didn’t like to do such things in the past, but now I want to have a try. Would you like to hang a pair of lanterns together with me?”

Pei Luo’an’s eyes turned cold as he heard Liu Jingyu repeatedly mention Ji Hanyue, but he hid it well and still looked gentle.

This time, Liu Jingyu did not refuse and said in a delicate voice, “Okay, Your Highness. But can you go over and buy two? There are too many people there.”

She pointed at the stalls. She looked gentle, but she was not happy in her heart.

She thought Pei Luo'an should have prepared Love Lanterns in advance on such a day. The meticulously crafted ones must be better than those casually bought from the stalls.

However, she knew that she shouldn't be insatiable. Pei Luo'an was the Crown Prince, so it was good enough that he accompanied her here. After all, Ji Hanyue had been with him for so many years, but they hadn't reached the same thing.

Pei Luo'an nodded and showed enough respect to Liu Jingyu. He brought a young eunuch who dressed like a lad servant with him and walked forward to choose lanterns.

A trace of a smile appeared on Liu Jingyu's face. She was somewhat satisfied. "Except me, who else could be so deeply loved by the Crown Prince?"

"There is no one. Not even Ji Hanyue, let alone Ji Youran. She is just the Side Princess. I didn't even bother to care about her."

"County Lady Jingyu!" Suddenly, she heard a low voice.

The smile on Liu Jingyu's face froze. She turned her head and saw the plain-dressed Qu Xuexin.

Qu Xuexin's clothes were from Pei Yuanjun's boat, which were prepared for maids and were just slightly better than ordinary maids' clothes.

Liu Jingyu asked unhappily, "What's the matter?"

Qu Xuexin cut to the chase. "I didn't make it!"

Liu Jingyu immediately understood what Qu Xuexin was talking about. Her heart skipped a beat, and her face darkened. She was afraid that the Crown Prince would come back at this time, so she could only say to her coldly, "I see. It's not a big deal. First Lady Qu, you can go back!"

She couldn't let Qu Xuexin stay here. If the Crown Prince saw Qu Xuexin, there might be trouble.

Qu Xuexin did not expect Liu Jingyu to be so indifferent. She looked at Liu Jingyu in shock, only to see Liu Jingyu wave at her, indicating for her to leave.

"What... what about my matter..." Qu Xuexin asked. She understood Liu Jingyu's gesture, but she was unwilling to leave like this.

Seeing that the Crown Prince was about to turn around, Liu Jingyu hurriedly said, "I know. I will ask my mother to keep an eye on it for you!"

Hearing Liu Jingyu's promise, Qu Xuexin was overjoyed. She hurriedly bowed to Liu Jingyu and then left. Just now, she had recognized that the person beside Liu Jingyu was the Crown Prince.

She felt both envious and self-abased. At the same time, she was more determined to marry a rich and powerful man. She couldn't just marry someone casually.

Seeing Qu Xuexin leave, Liu Jingyu breathed a sigh of relief. The Crown Prince was turning around. He had a handsome and gentle smile on his face. He was noble, and he was affectionate to her. He was indeed an ideal husband-to-be. Liu Jingyu felt lucky. It was good for her that Ji Hanyue had died, or such a good thing would only appear in her dream.

Before, she could at most marry Lord Jing and become Princess Jing.

She had thought that she could at most be Princess Jing, but her mother asked her to wait a little longer. As she expected, she had an even better option now.

Although Lord Jing also had a chance to be the future emperor, Liu Jingyu still thought that the Crown Prince had a bigger chance. With her help, it would not be a problem for the Crown Prince to ascend to the throne in the future. She was not Ji Hanyue. How could Ji Hanyue compare with her?

Pei Luo'an was coming over with two lanterns in his hands. The ink on the lanterns had not dried yet. He had just written poems on the lanterns. If the two lanterns were placed together, one could tell at a glance that the people who hung the lanterns were a couple.

Pei Luo'an smiled gently as he looked at Liu Jingyu. He slowly walked over. However, at this moment, something unexpected happened. Someone staggered towards Liu Jingyu from behind and was about to bump into her.

Pei Luo'an rolled his eyes and wanted to tell Liu Jingyu to be careful, but it was too late. The man had already bumped into Liu Jingyu.

Liu Jingyu's attention was on Pei Luo'an. Many people were coming and going around her, so she did not notice someone coming from behind her. She fell to the ground along with the person, who was still half pouncing on her.

"You maniac... Where do you come from? Get out of the way!" Seeing such a scene, Liu Jingyu's private maid shouted anxiously and hurried over to pull the person away.

It was a man. His clothes were still wet. At this time, he raised his head in panic. After seeing the maid's appearance clearly, he suddenly stood up, grabbed the maid, and said angrily, "What is the background of the young lady of Qu Mansion that you asked me to scheme against? Are you going to kill us?"

The maid was stunned for a moment. She took a closer look at the man under the light and immediately recognized him. He was one of the human traffickers she had come into contact with. She was shocked. She had heard what Qu Xuexin and Liu Jingyu had said just now. Qu Xuexin said that she didn't make it. Therefore, what was going on with this person?

"Tell me, what is the background of Fourth Lady Qu whom you and your Master wanted to plot against?" This man was Young Master Wang, who had been taken away before. Seeing the maid's livid face, he held the maid's hand and refused to let go.

The maid was frightened and almost screamed, "Who are you? I don't know you. Let me go.

Chapter 335 The Couples

“You don’t know me? Didn’t you say that your Master wanted to deal with Fourth Lady Qu? Now that I screwed it up, so you don’t admit it?” Young Master Wang had already been slapped a few times by someone just now. Then, he was dragged here. Just now, he staggered forward and bumped into Liu Jingyu because someone pushed him.

He didn’t expect to bump into the woman who had hired him before, and she turned out to be a maid.

At this time, Liu Jingyu stood up and said coldly, “What nonsense are you talking about? Someone, come and slap him!”

Two lowly old maids came out from the back of the crowd. One of them reached out and grabbed Young Master Wang’s hands while the other slapped him hard on the face. Immediately, the elegant-looking Young Master Wang was beaten to spit out blood, and his face swelled up. They slapped him really hard.

Liu Jingyu ordered coldly with a calm expression, “Take him to Yamen and inquire about what happened. If this matter really has something to do with her, bring her there as well.”

The commotion here had alerted the passers-by. However, they saw that Liu Jingyu had already dealt with the matter and was about to send the person to Yamen. She seemed to be fair. After a few glances, the passers-by left.

After all, they all came here in pairs, and they didn’t want to waste time on insignificant things.

However, some people were nearer to Liu Jingyu, and they witnessed the whole thing. They looked at Liu Jingyu with suspicion. But now that the matter had already been resolved, it was meaningless for them to say anything, so they all dispersed.

The two old maids quickly brought Young Master Wang away. One of the old maids even stuffed a handkerchief into Young Master Wang’s mouth. No matter how Young Master Wang struggled, he could not break free. He was pulled away just like that.

Seeing that Young Master Wang was pulled away, Liu Jingyu heaved a sigh of relief. She looked up and saw Pei Luo'an walking over. She was a little panicked. She didn't know how much he had heard, but when she saw the concerned look on his face, she felt relieved. She guessed that he hadn't heard anything. Otherwise, he would not have revealed such an expression.

Pei Luo'an walked up, grabbed Liu Jingyu's hand, and asked gently, "What happened? Did you get hurt? Where did that person go?"

"He seemed to be drunk. He kept talking nonsense and even mentioned the ladies of Qu Mansion. I asked the old maids to bring him to Yamen. I don't know if he is really drunk or if there is something else." Liu Jingyu explained, not telling the whole truth. She had a glib tongue. Even if Pei Luo'an heard something, her explanation still made sense.

"Are you alright?" Pei Luo'an did not seem to care about the person and only asked about Liu Jingyu's safety.

Liu Jingyu lowered her head shyly. "I'm fine. Don't worry, Your Highness!"

Pei Luo'an put a lantern in Liu Jingyu's hand and said guiltily, "That's good. It's my fault that I didn't arrange for someone to protect you."

"Your Highness, I have servants following me. My mother was worried about me, so she found two old maids to follow me. You don't have to worry." Liu Jingyu took the lantern and deliberately explained. Even if Pei Luo'an didn't hear what she said, he must have witnessed the event.

Pei Luo'an sighed. "This should be my responsibility, but I actually troubled Mrs. Liu."

The meaning in his words was clear, and Liu Jingyu's face became more and more pitiful.

The two of them went to find a place together and hung up their lanterns. Watching the pair of lanterns slowly hang up high by a lad servant, Liu Jingyu was delighted.

Pei Luo'an was also smiling, but his smile was a bit cold. Minister Liu was not the head of the Ministry of War. Although his wife was Duke Qi's legitimate daughter, she couldn't have experienced war. However, Pei Luo'an could tell that the two maids just now were not ordinary.

They moved nimbly. They beat the person and tied him up effortlessly. How could an ordinary servant complete such moves? They seemed to have been trained.

The Liu Family really was not ordinary!

Moreover, Pei Luo'an had roughly heard what the person said just now. Liu Jingyu had actually plotted against Fourth Lady Qu, his ex-wife's cousin sister. It seemed that Liu Jingyu only pretended to be gentle and decent. He couldn't help but feel unhappy. "Am I really going to take such a woman as my Crown Princess?"

If the Empress did not repeatedly persuade him, he did not have to marry her. When he looked at her beautiful face, he felt there was a trace of insidiousness and hypocrisy on it.

He was really unhappy!

Liu Jingyu did not know that the two old maids sent by her mother had made Pei Luo'an wary and unhappy with her. She stood beside Pei Luo'an, full of joy. She thought the accident just now was nothing more than an insignificant episode!

In a pavilion in front of the Sea of Lanterns, Qu Moying looked at the scene below in shock. She asked, "Was that man Young Master Wang?"

The accident happened to happen below them, and they saw it clearly.

Pei Yuanjun leisurely stood beside her and looked down together with her. The window was wide open. Although the room was lit, the light outside was brighter than in the room because there was a gauze around the lamp in the room, and there was the Sea of Lanterns outside, so they could see clearly when they looked outside.

“He is the swindler who rented the boat and brought you guys on it.” Pei Yuanjun laughed lightly in a pleasant but cold voice.

“The boat was rented?” Qu Moying looked down and asked. In fact, she was not too surprised.

Pei Yuanjun said indifferently, “He is a human trafficker. His group likes to kidnap young girls who are inexperienced. They will take them away and sell them to brothels.”

A trace of coldness flashed through his eyes.

Qu Moying gently pursed her lips and said, “County Lady Jingyu really spent a lot of effort!”

“How about I stop her from continuing her dream of becoming the Crown Princess?” Pei Yuanjun asked with a smile, his earrings flashing under the light.

Judging from the situation below, Qu Moying knew that Liu Jingyu was going to become the future Crown Princess. Otherwise, Pei Luo’an would not have taken her out so openly. Qu Moying curved her lips silently and shook her head. “Thank you, Your Highness, but there’s no need!”

It would not be a bad thing if Liu Jingyu entered Crown Prince’s Mansion. She could keep the ambitious Ji Youran company.

Ji Youran had spent so much effort just for the position of Crown Princess, but Liu Jingyu actually took away her dream position. How could she be reconciled?

Things were getting interesting...

Pei Yuanjun said lazily, “Since so, I will let the man go!”

Qu Moying nodded. She had planned to say this. The so-called Young Master Wang had set up such a big trap. In the end, not only did he fail, but he also almost had an accident. He would probably not let this thing go easily.

The noise was loud just now. Qu Moying vaguely heard something just now when the wind blew over. She also saw that the so-called Young Master Wang was roaring, but he was subdued by two old maids in the end, which showed that Liu Jingyu was not simple.

Liu Jingyu was like a viper hiding in the dark, wanting to devour her.

However, Qu Moying still could not figure out how she had offended Liu Jingyu. But she was sure that there must be a grudge between Liu Jingyu and her, and the grudge had been made long ago.

She suddenly thought of something. "Did I think in the wrong way? Was the grudge between my mother and someone in Liu Jingyu's family?"

"If that's the case, then the one who has a grudge against me is not Liu Jingyu, but Liu Jingyu's mother, the legitimate daughter of Duke Qi."

For the first time, this thought appeared in her mind. It was very strange, but it attracted Qu Moying's attention. She slowly frowned.

"Could it be that it really wasn't a grudge between Liu Jingyu and me but between our mothers?"

Seeing that she was silent, Pei Yuanjun lowered his eyes and asked gently, "What's wrong? Do you want to go down for a walk?"

Qu Moying raised her head and looked down. She suddenly smiled. "Let's stay here and watch!"

Below them, Pei Luo'an and Liu Jingyu had already left, and another couple appeared in front of them. They were Pei Yusheng and Qu Qiuyan.

When Qu Qiuyan left, Qu Moying knew that she must have an appointment with Lord Jing. She would not go back because of Qu Xuexin. She just took the chance of her anger at that time and turned around to leave quickly.

There was a distance between Pei Yusheng and Qu Qiuyan. It seemed that Qu Qiuyan wanted to get closer to Pei Yusheng, but a lad servant always separated her from Pei Yusheng. Qu Qiuyan couldn't just pull the lad servant away, so she could only follow them timidly on the side. She looked extremely pitiful. She was like a different person now compared with when she was facing Qu Xuexin and Xiao Hanyuan.

The relationship between Qu Qiuyan and Pei Yusheng was clear.

Qu Qiuyan couldn't be Lord Jing's Princess Consort, and she probably couldn't even be the Side Princess. It could be told from Lord Jing's actions that he didn't have much care for Qu Qiuyan.

In the end, Pei Yusheng and Qu Qiuyan took two lanterns and hung them together. Of course, Lord Jing hung a lantern first, and then Qu Qiuyan hung the other on the side with a wronged look.

In the end, the lad servant left. Qu Qiuyan came to Pei Yusheng's side. The two of them stood together and talked for a while. It seemed that Qu Qiuyan had been crying. She wiped her tears and looked pitiful. Pei Yusheng seemed to comfort her in a low voice and then left with her.

They spent less time together than Pei Luo'an and Liu Jingyu, and it seemed that they were even more unwilling to be seen.

The sky darkened. There were still many people in front of the Sea of Lanterns. There was not enough space for them to hang lanterns, so they placed their lanterns to the side. The lanterns were piled on the side, and they shone even more brightly. It was really a sea of lanterns. It was beautiful but also somewhat meaningless.

Qu Moying suddenly felt depressed. Although the lanterns in front of her were beautiful, they would not shine for too long. They would be extinguished after a while, and they would be ashes by tomorrow.

A guard hurriedly came up from downstairs and whispered a few words to Ji Hai. Then he gave a letter to Ji Hai. Ji Hai received it and nodded as he listened. Finally, he looked at the couple standing by the window and waved to the guard. The guard cautiously retreated.

Ji Hai put the letter into his sleeve. In fact, he had received a few of these letters for Pei Yuanjun, but the latter had never taken them to heart and had never read them. Perhaps the other party thought Pei Yuanjun liked her...

Chapter 336 The Lanterns Were Burned

Ji Hai knew what kind of person Pei Yuanjun was. If he hadn't spoken up for that woman at that time, she would have died in Pei Yuanjun's hands. Pei Yuanjun was not kind to her at all, yet she still acted like this, which was really ridiculous.

Pei Yuanjun was a heartless person. He would not pretend to ignore her if he did care about her.

If he really cared about her, why would he let her leave? Even if it was under that kind of situation, he would not have let her leave like that.

Ji Hai grew up with Pei Yuanjun. He was not a servant of Lord Yun Mansion, but he followed Pei Yuanjun out of the palace. He had been a very loyal confidant of Pei Yuanjun.

Because he knew Pei Yuanjun very well, he couldn't help but worry about him. Pei Yuanjun had never taken a fancy to or loved any woman. He was afraid that Pei Yuanjun would end up alone.

But the situation seemed to have changed.

Ji Hai was glad to see the change. He smiled silently with his eyes narrowed and waited quietly outside the door.

"My Master is really different from others. If he likes someone, he will not act passively. He will get her to approach him step by step and not give her any way back."

"He will not let the other party have the opportunity to shilly-shally."

“But does he know his feelings?”

“Let’s go down for a walk!” Pei Yuanjun turned and walked out. After a moment of silence, Qu Moying followed him.

When they reached the door, Yu Dong walked up to them with a long-veiled hat in his hands. The veiled hat was like the one that Miss Liu wore that day.

Qu Moying turned around in surprise. “Does he want me to disguise as Miss Liu? But I heard that she had already left the capital.”

Surprisingly, Pei Yuanjun gave an explanation, “Your eye veil is too conspicuous.”

Qu Moying nodded. Her eye veil was indeed a little eye-catching now. She wore the eye veil to keep a low profile in the past, but it didn’t seem to work now. On the contrary, it made it easier for others to recognize her.

It should be time to remove the eye veil.

After putting on the veiled hat, Qu Moying went downstairs with Pei Yuanjun. A young eunuch waiting downstairs sent two lanterns to them. The lanterns were not big, but they were gorgeous. The patterns on them were very beautiful. The pattern on one of the lanterns was a lady leaning against the window under the silver moon. The key point was that it was not only drawn but also embroidered.

The embroidery was excellent. At least Qu Moying was unable to embroider it herself.

The two lanterns were made of the same material, and there were figures on the pattern. However, Qu Moying’s lantern was embroidered with a woman, while Pei Yuanjun’s lantern was embroidered with a man in a purple robe.

Ji Hai stepped forward to explain, “Fourth Lady, our Master drew the lanterns himself, and he asked me to find someone to do the embroidery. It was done early, and he was waiting to hang them up with you.”

Qu Moying's hand that was holding the lantern sank. She bit her lips and slowly looked up at Pei Yuanjun.

He was also looking at her. His handsome face was half hidden in the dark, so his expression couldn't be seen clearly, but he still gave people a cold feeling.

Pei Yuanjun smiled lazily as if he saw her doubt. He waved the lantern in his hand and said, "My lanterns should be the best. They should be better than those of Crown Prince and Lord Jing."

Hearing his words, Qu Moying smiled and said, "Your lanterns are naturally the best!"

She slowly calmed down and followed Pei Yuanjun out. The shelves were almost filled with lanterns, except for the highest place. Qu Moying and Pei Yuanjun did not go forward. Ji Hai asked several lad servants to hang the lanterns up high. Even if people stood far away, they could still see the lanterns clearly.

Although the lanterns weren't big, they were very beautiful. The patterns on the lanterns were three-dimensional, almost flowing out. As soon as they were lit and hung, they attracted many people's attention.

Many people had never seen lanterns with fine embroidered patterns like these before.

Many people turn around in the lad servants' direction. They saw two people standing in the middle of many guards in the shadow of the light. They could only see a tall and straight figure and a petite and slender figure. Although the height gap between the two was huge, the tall one lowered his head slightly as if listening to the short one.

They were indeed a couple, a loving couple. Otherwise, they would not have carefully prepared such a pair of lanterns.

Qu Moying's gaze followed the two Love Lanterns. She looked at the patterns on them. The vivid patterns seemed to be real, making her think of the past for no reason. However, in an instant, she came to herself, and the look in her eyes slowly became chilly.

She was now Qu Moying, not Ji Hanyue of the past.

“You don’t like it?” Pei Yuanjun’s voice sounded a little cold.

Qu Moying couldn’t help but shiver. She looked up at Pei Yuanjun. His face was still half hidden in the shadow of the light. She could only vaguely see his handsome outline. It seemed that he was somewhat sinister.

He pursued perfection, especially in his own things. Qu Moying hurriedly said, “Of course I like it. It’s so beautiful. It is a pity to hang it here!”

These lanterns would basically all be burned by tomorrow. The lampposts were different from ordinary ones. The lanterns would burn after the candles inside burned out.

Qu Moying really felt that it was a pity. This was the first time she had seen such exquisite Love Lanterns.

“Since you like it, I will send you a better one next time.” Pei Yuanjun raised his head gracefully and looked at the two lanterns hanging high up there. He was also quite satisfied.

“Thank you, Your Highness!” Qu Moying hurriedly thanked him lest he thought that she ignored his lanterns.

“No need to be so polite. My things naturally have to be the best.” Pei Yuanjun’s bottomless eyes turned around. He looked at Qu Moying with an ambiguous smile. Then, he pointed to a place and said softly, “Look, there’s a fire over there!”

Following the direction he pointed, Qu Moying was surprised to find that the place where the lanterns of Pei Luo’an and Liu Jingyu were was on fire.

The fire was not big, and it was soon noticed and extinguished. However, many lanterns over there were broken into pieces and unfit to see.

Needless to say, Pei Yuanjun did it.

Qu Moying thought that if Pei Luo'an and Liu Jingyu saw the situation in front of them, they would definitely be pissed off into vomiting blood. Pei Luo'an probably did not expect that his uncle would deliberately destroy his lanterns.

Ji Hai ran over from afar with a smile. "Master, Crown Prince and County Lady Jingyu's Love Lanterns are broken. I have put them aside."

"Ah, what a pity!" Pei Yuanjun said noncommittally, raising his starry eyes, "I saw Crown Prince personally write something on the lanterns!"

"There are indeed words on the lanterns, taken from their names." Ji Hai was after all a servant. He didn't dare to say too bluntly. "I put them at the very edge because I saw that they were Crown Prince's lanterns."

Qu Moying's heart skipped a beat. She looked over. There were already quite a number of broken lanterns that had been taken off the shelves.

"You want to see what Crown Prince wrote?" Seeing that Qu Moying was looking at the lanterns, Pei Yuanjun narrowed his eyes, revealing a cold aura.

Qu Moying hurriedly smiled and shook her head. She decisively said, "No!"

Pei Yuanjun looked at her quietly and then reached out his hand to rub her hair. Qu Moying felt that the hairpin on her hair was about to fall off. She helplessly reached out and tried to pin it tight.

However, in the next moment, a large and slender hand fell on her hairpin and pinned it back on her hair. But her hair had been messed up by him. Her hair was not combed before the hairpin was pinned again, and she felt somewhat uncomfortable.

But he was Lord Yun. It was better for Qu Moying to be tactful and not say anything.

Qu Moying said, "Your Highness, I want to go and take a look at my shop. It opened yesterday!"

She really had something to do today. She had not seen how Yue's Clothing Pavilion's business was doing yet, and she couldn't rest assured.

"How about I go with you?" Pei Yuanjun said lazily. He lifted his wide sleeve and flicked it casually as he cast a sidelong glance at Qu Moying.

"There... there's no need for that. How dare I bother you, Your Highness!" Qu Moying hurriedly flattered him with a smile.

A trace of a smile appeared on Pei Yuanjun's beautiful face. He laughed softly, "Why? Why don't you show me your dowry?"

Qu Moying thought to herself, "I will only be his concubine. What is the point of a concubine having dowry?"

"There's no hurry. Besides, there are all women over there. It's too eye-catching for you to appear there." Qu Moying smiled respectfully.

Pei Yuanjun's eyes suddenly became cold as he looked at her, carrying a bit of the usual bloodthirsty aura. His handsome eyes immediately became evil and ruthless.

Being stared at by him like this, Qu Moying felt like she was being stared at by an evil wolf from hell. She felt as if all the darkness and negativity came toward her together, almost crushing her in an instant.

Qu Moying bit the corner of her lips hard, not letting herself avoid his eyes. She still looked at Pei Yuanjun calmly, but her back was already sweating.

She didn't know how she had offended this moody Lord Yun.

“Since you don’t want me to go with you, I won’t go there for now.” Pei Yuanjun snorted and became less aggressive. He squinted his handsome eyes with a bit of treacherous chill. “Little girl, I will set off tomorrow. When I return, remember to give me a present!”

After saying that, he turned around and left.

Qu Moying was left standing on the spot, stunned. “Why should I prepare him a gift? He is the one to be on a trip. Shouldn’t the person who left home bring a gift to his family?”

“No, I’m not his family!”

She was mystified...

He was not only temperamental but also unpredictable. His words were baffling. Fortunately, he left now. Qu Moying let out a long breath. She could withstand the strong momentum of Pei Yuanjun just now only because this was her second life. Otherwise, even if she was Ji Hanyue, she couldn’t withstand it.

So, why was he angry just now?

She couldn’t understand...

Chapter 337 Ji Youran Was Provoked

When Qu Moying turned around, there were not so many people on the road. Many people had already gone home. She was not far from Yue’s Clothing Pavilion. She only needed to pass two streets. When she reached the street where Yue’s Clothing Pavilion was located, she saw that it was livelier than elsewhere.

Many people were talking about Yue’s Clothing Pavilion’s embroidery as they walked. It was said that the embroidery was extremely beautiful. Although many people did not get it, they had heard of it and wanted to have a look.

A few young ladies walked by. They were talking about Yue's Clothing Pavilion's five-color brocade happily. They all praised it for its beauty and said that they wanted to buy a set of clothes made of it.

It was obvious that the opening ceremony this time was extremely successful.

Yue's Clothing Pavilion and Yue's Gold Pavilion set the stage together. It was late now, so it was not lively around the stage, but the business of the two shops was just right. Many customers were entering the shops.

Qu Moying walked into Yue's Clothing Pavilion with Yu Dong.

As soon as she entered, she saw a lot of women inside. There were also some men accompanying the women. The shop assistants brought customers to pay the bill from time to time. The business was very good.

Qu Moying was very satisfied with what she saw. She nodded and was about to walk around casually. She thought there was no need to inform Aunt Yang. But then, she saw a person coming over. Her eyes flashed slightly, and she stopped walking. She gave Yu Dong a look. Yu Dong understood and went to find Aunt Yang.

Standing in the corner of the shop, Qu Moying looked coldly at Ji Youran, who was surrounded by several maids. Ji Youran was walking over in a gorgeous dress. She dressed differently from the plain dress she used to wear when she was unmarried. There was embroidery of butterflies flying in beautiful bouquets on her dress.

She remembered that Ji Youran had liked plain dresses before. Ji Youran once said that she preferred the elegant bamboo to Love of Butterfly. What she said before and what she was wearing now made the thing really ironic.

The embroidery on Ji Youran's dress was Love of Butterfly. The hairpin on her hair was in the shape of a butterfly. The handkerchief in her hand also had butterflies and flowers embroidered on it. There were also butterflies embroidered on her hemline.

Qu Moying didn't know whether she really didn't like it or she didn't like it before but liked it now. Ji Youran didn't look like herself. She was in an awkward situation.

Ji Youran should be really anxious now...

Ji Youran did not look good. Standing outside the shop, she took a look at the shop and pressed her forehead hard with her hand.

Just now, she went to Yue's Gold Pavilion nearby. She planned to make some trouble for the shop in secret to make things difficult for it on its opening day. She did not expect that Madam Duan would change the time of the opening ceremony and the troupe she hired. Madam Duan even held the opening ceremony together with Yue's Clothing Pavilion. Both shops were popular now.

Aunt Yang walked over to Ji Youran with two shop assistants and said with a smile, "Madam, please sit inside."

Ji Youran nodded and followed Aunt Yang upstairs. Her status was noble, so she naturally could not squeeze with others.

There were private rooms upstairs. Ji Youran followed Aunt Yang into one of the rooms. After Ji Youran sat down, a shop assistant served her tea. Aunt Yang asked with a smile, "Madam, what do you need?"

Xie Feng took a step forward and asked arrogantly, "What do you have here?"

"Our store has brocade, ready-made clothes, and items with embroidery like handkerchiefs. What do you like, Madam? I will get someone to fetch some for you to choose." Aunt Yang said with a smile. She looked very friendly and had a glib tongue.

Xie Feng looked at Ji Youran's expression and knew that she wanted to have a look, so she said, "Bring a few of each item here. Pick good ones. If they are not good ones, our madam won't even cast a look at them."

“Yes, I’ll get someone to bring some items over now.” Aunt Yang was quite easy-going. She smiled and left with the two shop assistants.

In the private room, Ji Youran’s face darkened.

Xie Feng said fawningly, “Your Grace, you can pick some good ones back later. His Highness will finish his work soon. Maybe he can accompany you out for a walk!”

In the past few days, she seemed to have been out of favor again. The Crown Prince had not summoned her, which made her feel both terrified and anxious. She began to curry favor with Ji Youran even more.

Today, Ji Youran originally wanted Pei Luo’an to accompany her, but Pei Luo’an sent people to tell her that he had something to do and could not go out. He asked her to go out to play by herself.

Ji Youran could only come out without his company in frustration!

In the past years, Pei Luo’an had always been free to accompany Ji Hanyue. At that time, she was envious. She hoped that she could have Pei Luo’an’s company for herself. She didn’t want to follow him and Ji Hanyue and watch him being so attentive to Ji Hanyue from behind.

Last year, she was driven mad with jealousy. She had already had sex with Pei Luo’an, but he still accompanied Ji Hanyue but not her!

Now, Pei Luo’an still couldn’t accompany her because he had something to do. He could openly accompany her now, but he left her alone because he had something to do.

How could Ji Youran be happy?

“The Crown Prince was accompanying County Lady Jingyu?” A woman’s surprised voice suddenly came from the next room.

Her voice was not loud, but she was in the next room, and Ji Youran's room was quiet at this time, so Ji Youran immediately heard her clearly.

Not only Ji Youran, but even Xie Feng's eyes widened.

"Yes, the Crown Prince was with County Lady Jingyu. County Lady Jingyu was in a cloak. But just now, a person bumped into County Lady Jingyu. When County Lady Jingyu fell down, I saw clearly that the Crown Prince was very distressed. He hurriedly went to help her up. They should be getting married soon."

It was another woman's voice.

The first woman asked doubtfully, "It can't be. I heard that the Crown Prince was affectionate to the ex-Crown Princess... He has no intention of marrying again now!"

"The ex-Crown Princess has passed away, and the Crown Prince could do nothing about this. From the way the Crown Prince looked at County Lay Jingyu, I could tell he cared a lot about her. County Lady Jingyu has a noble status and a good family background. Moreover, the Crown Prince likes her. If she enters Eastern Palace in the future, all the other concubines and Side Princess will have to step aside."

The other woman said proudly. She seemed to be standing on County Lady Jingyu's side.

Ji Youran almost tore the handkerchief in her hand. Her eyes were burning with anger. No wonder the Crown Prince said that he had something to do today. It turned out that he went to accompany Liu Jingyu.

She had long set her eyes on the position of Crown Princess. In order to be the Crown Princess, she killed Ji Hanyuan. But what was going on now? Was Liu Jingyu going to take over the position?

How could she deserve it?

The women in the next room were still talking. The second woman said, "Don't doubt it. Did you see the Sea of Lanterns was on fire just now? The Love Lanterns that the Crown Prince and County Lady Jingyu

hung were also burned. After the fire was extinguished, their lanterns were placed aside. If you don't believe it, you could go and see!"

The first woman asked doubtfully, "Are there lanterns still there?"

"Of course they are. Love Lanterns could only place there to make a couple's love last long. Those women of Crown Prince's Mansion are miserable. After such a distinguished and noble lady who has won the Crown Prince's heart becomes the Crown Princess, their positions will be meaningless."

The second woman's words were full of sarcasm. She said those women's positions would be meaningless, which meant that whether it was Side Princess, a normal concubine, or a bedroom maid, they would not be doted on, so their positions would all be the same. They would all be the women who were out of favor, and they would have to rely on the future Crown Princess!

Hearing this, Ji Youran couldn't stand it anymore. She gritted her teeth and suddenly stood up.

"Your Grace!" Xie Feng was shocked.

"Let's go!" Ji Youran couldn't sit still for a moment. Her heart was burning with hatred. If Liu Jingyu really married into Eastern Palace, then she would be the Crown Princess and have a dominant position over her. Ji Youran couldn't bear it!

Back then, the Crown Prince had clearly hinted to her that the position of Crown Princess would belong to her in the future. Why did Liu Jingyu appear? Did the Crown Prince lie to her?

She wanted to see where Love Lanterns were. She wanted to confirm whether the Crown Prince and Liu Jingyu's Love Lanterns were there.

Xie Feng still wanted to say something, but seeing that Ji Youran was walking out, she could only follow her out. When she walked to the door, she saw Aunt Yang and two shop assistants with a lot of cloth and embroidery items in their hands. They almost bumped into each other. Aunt Yang hurriedly dodged to the side.

Without saying anything, Xie Feng pushed her and walked away.

Seeing Ji Youran leave, Aunt Yang quietly let the shop assistants put the things back where they were. She glanced at the private room on the side but did not go in. She turned around and left.

Just now, Yu Dong sent a message asking her to bring Princess Ji to this private room. As for what to do after Ji Youran entered the private room, Yu Dong told her to do whatever she liked. He told Aunt Yang that she didn't have to enter the other private room after that in case others saw her.

Aunt Yang went to work. She was indeed busy today, but she was also happy. Although she had been busy all the time, the business was so good that it was beyond her expectations. Aunt Yang felt that even if she was busy for another day, she would still be energetic. The matter with Princess Ji just now was only a small episode. Moreover, it was not her who took care of it. It was fine as long as Qu Moying was here.

"Lady, does Princess Ji believe what she heard so much?" In the private room, Yu Dong heard the footsteps disappearing in the next room. He listened carefully. When he heard that there was no sound from the next room, he asked Qu Moying cautiously. Just now, he played two roles himself. It was actually him talking to himself.

"Of course. Princess Ji is not stupid, but she did not dare to think too much about it." Qu Moying smiled coldly and lowered her head slightly. Her eyes under the eye veil were cold. Ji Youran would be crazy when she was about to win the fruit of victory, whereas someone else took it away from her...

Pei Luo'an wanted to marry Liu Jingyu. Even if there was no sign in Eastern Palace, he would not let Ji Youran be the Princess Consort. Ji Hanyue had passed away so long, but Pei Luo'an did not have the slightest intention of letting Ji Youran be the Princess Consort, which would naturally make Ji Youran feel unsure.

Moreover, Earl Ling'an's Mansion had been in trouble again and again, which was faintly dragging Ji Youran down, and Ji Youran must have realized it.

Qu Moying just lit the fuse for her. As for what would happen next and how serious things would be, Qu Moying could not control. It depended on how Ji Youran and Liu Jingyu were going to fight...

Suddenly, there was a light knock on the door, followed by a voice, "Is the person inside Fourth Lady Qu?"

Qu Moying and Yu Dong were stunned for a moment. Who saw the two of them? Qu Moying nodded at Yu Dong. Yu Dong walked to the door and opened the door...

Chapter 338 Was She Playing Hard to Get?

There was a lad servant at the door. He was lean and looked smart.

Seeing Yu Dong, he immediately asked with a smile, "Excuse me. Is the one inside the room Fourth Lady of Vice Minister Qu's Mansion?"

Yu Dong looked up and down at the lad servant but found nothing unusual, so he asked, "What's the matter?"

Qu Moying came here with a veiled hat just now. Who could recognize her so quickly? Was there someone keeping an eye on her?

Yu Dong was a little uneasy. He looked at the lad servant vigilantly and asked, "Who is your Master?"

The lad servant answered with a smile, "My master is Lord Wei. He is currently in a private room on the side. He just saw Fourth Lady Qu and wanted to ask her for help."

Hearing "Lord Wei", Qu Moying narrowed her eyes. She didn't think she was familiar with Lord Wei.

Qu Moying said, "Let him in."

Yu Dong moved aside, and the lad servant walked in and bowed to Qu Moying.

"What can I do for your Lord?" After the lad servant bowed, Qu Moying asked doubtfully. She had not seen Lord Wei many times, and the experience of meeting him each time was not pleasant. She didn't expect that he would ask her for help. She thought they were not that close.

The lad servant answered, "Our Lord thought the five-color brocade here is good. He wanted to pick a few pieces for Consort Jing, but he didn't know which color was appropriate for Her Grace. Coincidentally, he saw you here and wanted to ask you to help with the color. In addition to the cloth, he also wanted to ask you to choose some small items for Her Grace."

Was Pei Qingmin going to send his mother Consort Jing presents?

Qu Moying pondered for a moment and smiled. "Go back and report to your Lord. This shop is mine. I will pick a few pieces of cloth and send them to your Lord later, but I'd better not go over myself."

Although men and women didn't have to keep a strict distance from each other tonight, Qu Moying felt that it was better to be cautious so as to avoid unnecessary trouble.

The lad servant said hesitantly, "But our Lord said that it would be best for you to personally go over..."

Qu Moying smiled and said slowly, "Report to your Lord that it's inconvenient for me to go over because it's late at night. When I meet him in the future, I will apologize to him."

She spoke unhurriedly and clearly.

On such a festival and at such a time, a man and a woman were easy to be mistaken for a couple if they walked together. Qu Moying did not want people to misunderstand the relation between her and Pei Qingmin. Although there seemed to be no one now, and it was impossible for people to notice her, it was very easy for a royal family member like Pei Qingmin to be targeted.

Pei Qingmin was not Pei Yuanjun.

Thinking of this, she rejected it without hesitation.

Seeing that Qu Moying was so decisive, the lad servant knew that he could not force her. He nodded and left. Yu Dong also walked out of the room. After seeing the lad servant enter a private room, he went to look for Aunt Yang. Aunt Yang asked someone to send some cloth and small items over. Qu Moying picked a few out of them in her private room and asked someone to send them to the private room on the side.

Pei Qingmin sat inside a private room with a light robe that made him look elegant and gentle. But he looked a little sick and weak. After listening to the lad servant, he raised his eyes slightly and asked, "Did she really say that?"

Hearing Pei Qingmin's question, the lad servant hurriedly nodded. "Yes, Fourth Lady Qu said that she would ask someone to send over the stuff she picked."

Pei Qingmin tapped on the table and said indifferently, "Alright then. Pack up all the things she sends over later!"

Since this shop belonged to Qu Moying, it was normal for him to accept some small gifts from her.

When Pei Qingmin walked to Yue's Clothing Pavilion, he was blocked by the crowd, so he chose to enter the shop, walk upstairs, and sit in the private room to pick something that could be taken back. Unexpectedly, he saw Qu Moying come up, so he let his lad servant ask her.

Since everything was settled, Pei Qingmin did not stay any longer. It was too noisy here. He only sat for a while and felt dizzy. He thought it was better to go back home and have a rest.

Coming out of the private room, Pei Qingmin looked up at the decorations here and secretly nodded. Compared with ordinary shops, this shop was much more elegant, especially the private rooms upstairs.

The private rooms were next to the street. Customers could enjoy the view, pick goods, and also chat in the private rooms.

The tea was good, and the pastries were also good.

There were some display counters in the shop. They were not lined up in a row but placed randomly so that the goods could be seen from different angles. Customers could take a look and walk around casually. The shop assistants would accompany them and introduce the goods to them, which could also make the customers feel much respected.

Unlike the shop assistants on the first floor, the shop assistants upstairs were all women, who could know noble ladies' likings better and get to them easier.

He didn't expect Qu Moying to be quite clever. Judging from what he saw, she was not completely useless.

Pei Qingmin nodded secretly, went downstairs, and left.

Hearing that Pei Qingmin had left, Qu Moying heaved a sigh of relief. She was afraid that he would find trouble with her.

But Yu Dong was indignant. "Lady, Lord Wei is after all a prince. How could he be so petty? You sent the things to him, and he really accepted them without paying a single cent!"

"It's good that he accepted them and left. I'm afraid he is not so simple." Qu Moying smiled and shook her head. She sincerely thought it was good to send him away by giving something to him.

None of the princes were easy to deal with.

She had nothing to do with Lord Wei in her previous life and this life, and she didn't intend to have anything to do with him in the future. It was good to send him away at the cost of some cloth and small items.

A problem that could be solved with money was not a big problem.

Since Qu Moying didn't mind the loss, Yu Dong could do nothing about it although he was angry.

Seeing Qu Moying's pale and tired face, Yu Dong hurriedly restrained his emotions and asked, "Lady, are you tired?"

"I'm not very tired. I just feel uncomfortable." Qu Moying frowned and said, feeling a little dizzy.

"Lady, you have not fully recovered from the collision last time, and you must have felt tired on your way here." Yu Dong thought of this at this time.

Qu Moying nodded and said, "Let's go!" She did not feel anything when she was in high spirits just now. Now that she relaxed, she felt very uncomfortable. It was getting late, and she should go back.

Without saying goodbye to Aunt Yang, Qu Moying brought Yu Dong downstairs. Yu Dong looked outside and became a little worried. It would be a long distance to get back to Qu Mansion, and he was afraid that Qu Moying couldn't hold on any longer.

Yu Dong looked around and said, "Lady, I will go find a carriage."

Qu Moying shook her head and said, "There are many people here. It is unlikely that a carriage will come here. Let's walk first."

Yu Dong looked around and saw that there really wasn't a single carriage, so he had no choice but to agree and follow Qu Moying out.

This place was still a long distance away from Qu Mansion, and the place where the carriage had been parked was not close to here. Yu Dong was worried that Qu Moying would not be able to hold on, so he walked while seeing if there was a carriage coming. It would be good if others could give them a ride.

However, there really wasn't a single carriage along the way. There were quite a few people, but they were all walking. There were a lot of people coming out tonight, so it wasn't very convenient for a carriage to get on the streets.

Pei Qingmin did not walk very fast. His carriage was parked in the alley outside the street. He was not in good health, and with so many people around, he walked even slower.

After walking for a short while, he suddenly saw Qu Moying and Yu Dong walking from behind. They seemed to be chasing him. He couldn't help but curve up his thin lips. "Does she come to me because Uncle Yun doesn't want her?"

"As expected, she is playing hard to get with me. She pretended to be elegant just now, but she said those words just to get close to me."

He stood still and waited for Qu Moying to come over. Since she wanted to act and he was not busy, he didn't mind spending some time with her. He wanted to see her exposing her greedy and vain nature.

Qu Moying didn't wear the veiled hat because she was uncomfortable. Yu Dong didn't notice this because he was anxious.

Under the light of the street, Qu Moying's face was as pale as snow. What was even paler was her lips, which were completely different from her usual beautiful and moist lips. Pei Qingmin's gaze fell on her lips. He frowned and subconsciously reached out to stop Qu Moying when she came over.

Qu Moying only wanted to return to the mansion as soon as possible, but someone stopped her. She raised her head and looked at the one who was facing her. For a moment, she could not recognize him. She closed her eyes and opened them again to see that the person facing her was Pei Qingmin. She bowed sideways. "Greetings, Lord Wei."

"Why are you coming to me?" Pei Qingmin asked. His gaze was still fixed on Qu Moying's pale lips. He knew that such a pale color was a sign of her discomfort.

Pei Qingmin looked at Qu Moying with ridicule and coldness in his eyes. "She feels so uncomfortable, yet she still tried to catch up with me, just for my wealth and fame?"

"She could even risk her life for wealth."

"Your Highness, pardon me, what?" Qu Moying did not understand his words. She was not feeling well, and her reaction was not as fast as usual. She only felt dizzy and uncomfortable.

"Since I just accepted your gifts, I should naturally repay you. If you have time tomorrow, come to my mansion to get it." The corners of Pei Qingmin's lips curled up, and the irony in his words became even more obvious.

The lad servant behind him raised his head in surprise. He stole a glance at Pei Qingmin. He had never seen his master take the initiative to invite a young lady to his mansion. What did he mean?

Previously, Consort Jing had said that if Pei Qingmin had taken a fancy to someone, he could invite the lady to the mansion to have a chat. Consort Jing had been waiting for him to get married for a long time, but he always said that his health condition was not good and the marriage wouldn't last long because of his weak body. Therefore, Consort Jing slowly gave up.

Did he mean anything else by inviting her to his mansion? Or did he invite her because he liked her?

Qu Moying still did not understand his words, so she only replied according to the literal meaning of his words, "The gifts for you are nothing. I don't dare to ask for your return."

Chapter 339 Lord Yun Back Again

"You don't dare to accept it? What if I insist on giving it to you?" She looked so weak, yet she still acted as if she wanted nothing in return. Pei Qingmin thought she was extremely hypocritical, and his words became harsh, carrying some anger that even he himself didn't realize.

His lad servant took a step back, noticing that Pei Qingmin was in a bad mood.

He didn't know what had angered Pei Qingmin to such an extent that he became so angry for no reason. Pei Qingmin had always been calm and collected. After all, he was not in good health, so he should control his emotions and not be too angry or sad.

Pei Qingmin used to control himself well, but he was obviously out of control today.

Qu Moying said impatiently, "Your Highness, I don't know what you mean. I'm tired and want to leave first."

She just wanted to go back and lie down. She was very uncomfortable and her back began to sweat. She lost all her spirit and was unwilling to talk nonsense with Lord Wei here.

Qu Moying bowed sideways, wanting to bypass Pei Qingmin and leave.

Pei Qingmin took two steps forward and reached out to stop Qu Moying. Again, she failed to leave.

"Your Highness, what do you want to do?" Qu Moying raised her head and became a little angry.

Pei Qingmin looked at Qu Moying's pale face and said word by word coldly, "Didn't you always want to enter a prince's mansion? You don't have to sacrifice your own life for it. You can enter my mansion."

He made it very clear to Qu Moying. He told her not to exhaust all means to enter a prince's mansion. He could give her what she wanted.

Although he despised Qu Moying, he could let her be his Princess Consort, which was not worth much anyway.

Qu Moying was stunned by his words. She was stunned for a while before finally reacting. She took two steps back in shock and looked at Pei Qingmin. Behind her, Yu Dong was already glaring at Pei Qingmin.

Qu Moying composed herself and asked, "Lord Wei, did you make a mistake?"

Pei Qingmin looked at Qu Moying and said coldly, "I didn't, but you might have made a mistake."

Qu Moying was really confused. She looked around and found that she was still on the road outside Yue's Clothing Pavilion. There was nothing strange about the road, and she was clearly not dreaming, but she found it weird.

She was not familiar with Lord Wei at all.

Qu Moying said helplessly, "Please make way, Your Highness. I want to go back and rest."

Pei Qingmin said arrogantly, "I said you could enter my mansion, so you don't have to play hard to get with me. Since I have promised you, don't do this kind of thing anymore, or I will change my idea if you annoy me."

He put his hand behind his back slowly and lowered his head slightly to look at Qu Moying. It seemed that he thought he had done her a great favor, and she should be grateful to him.

If not for the fact that she was feeling unwell, Qu Moying would have laughed in anger. She really didn't understand what Pei Qingmin was thinking. How could he come to such a conclusion? Why did he think that she was playing hard to get?

She took a deep breath and closed her eyes. When she opened them again, her eyes were much clearer than before. "I don't understand what you said. I have nothing to do with you, neither now nor in the future. I hope you can agree with what I said."

Qu Moying said.

After she finished speaking, she turned around a little further away and left without paying any more attention to Pei Qingmin.

Pei Qingmin's face darkened. After pondering for a moment, he followed behind Qu Moying.

Qu Moying walked quite quickly, but Pei Qingmin walked much faster than before. Seeing that Pei Qingmin appeared to be struggling to maintain his speed, the lad servant wanted to stop him, but after receiving a cold look from Pei Qingmin, he hurriedly shut his mouth.

Qu Moying did not know that Pei Qingmin was following behind her. She just wanted to go back as soon as possible. She felt more and more uncomfortable. Yu Dong looked around anxiously. What they needed the most right now was a carriage.

Suddenly, he saw a few people coming over. After recognizing who they were, Yu Dong was overjoyed. It was Pei Yuanjun and his attendants.

“Lady, His Highness is here!” Yu Dong pulled on Qu Moying’s sleeve and said, without thinking about why Pei Yuanjun returned.

Qu Moying stood still, slightly panting. She found the scene in front of her spinning. She reached out to hold Yu Dong’s hand, but she did not know that Yu Dong had just turned around, and she failed to hold him. Her body tilted forward, and she actually fell over, but she saw Pei Yuanjun’s face in front of her. She suddenly felt relieved, and she no longer forced herself to hold on.

Pei Yuanjun took two steps forward, and she happened to fall into his arms.

Pei Yuanjun’s face darkened as he asked, “What happened?”

“Lady is not feeling well. It should be the after-effects of the collision. She is tired now.” Yu Dong made a long story short. He knew that Pei Yuanjun must know about this.

Pei Yuanjun immediately knew what was going on. He looked at Qu Moying who was pulling on his clothes and snorted, “Let’s go. My carriage is outside.”

As he spoke, he pulled Qu Moying’s hand and walked out. Qu Moying was almost half leaning on him. Fortunately, the lights were not bright, so not many people noticed them.

Pei Qingmin stood far away, his face livid. Looking at them leaving, he let out a heavy sneer.

It turned out that she created such a big scene to lure Pei Yuanjun!

“It made sense. Compared with a weak and useless prince like me, Uncle Yun is more powerful. Being pitied by Uncle Yun is indeed better than being pitied by me.”

“She is still a vain woman.”

“Many women acted like her, but she was not ordinary. She was able to get Uncle Yun to reach out and hold her. He even helped her walk forward and brought her to see a doctor. He had never done this before.”

“I thought she was aiming for me. It’s not a big deal. I can fulfill her wish. It turned out that she had never aimed for me. No wonder she rejected me so righteously just now.”

“I made a fool of myself.”

Thinking of this, he calmed down, but his gaze was still a bit cold.

“Your Highness, shall we go back?” The lad servant asked cautiously when he saw that the anger on Pei Qingmin’s face slowly receded and returned to normal.

“Let’s go!” Pei Qingmin nodded and slowly walked forward. He was a little tired after walking a bit faster.

Thinking of what he had done just now, he felt like he had really been possessed at that moment. He had actually followed Qu Moying all the way here, and he even insisted on giving her a promise.

It was really ridiculous...

Qu Moying did not know that Lord Wei thought she did everything out of vanity. She had got on Lord Yun’s Mansion’s carriage, which was parked on the road not far away. When she got on the carriage, she still insisted on holding Yu Dong’s hand and went up on her own.

After getting on the carriage, she couldn’t hold on any longer. Her body went weak, and her eyes became blurry...

In a daze, she felt as if someone was gently holding her. It made her feel warm. It reminded her of the feeling when her father hugged her when she was a child.

But it was too long ago.

After growing up, Ji Hanyue lived under the glory that she would be the future Crown Princess. She was asked to be dignified and decent in doing everything. She had never felt protected and cared for like this. As for living as Qu Moying, she didn't even have the feeling of being protected!

"What was wrong with Lord Wei?" Pei Yuanjun reached out and hugged Qu Moying, his handsome eyes cold.

Yu Dong didn't dare to hide anything. He quickly recounted what had happened in Yue's Clothing Pavilion and what Lord Wei had said after they came out. He was also extremely upset.

He originally thought that Qu Moying was just a little uncomfortable, but he didn't expect it to be so serious. As soon as she went up to the carriage, she fainted.

Hearing his words, Pei Yuanjun snorted and waved his hand. Yu Dong did not dare to stay any longer in the carriage and hurriedly got off.

The carriage went straight back to Lord Yun Mansion. After the carriage stopped, Pei Yuanjun carried Qu Moying down to a nearby yard.

An Imperial Doctor was already waiting in the room. After Pei Yuanjun held Qu Moying in, the Imperial Doctor followed them in to check Qu Moying's pulse. However, Pei Yuanjun was watching at the bedside, which made the Imperial Doctor very uneasy.

The Imperial Doctor checked Qu Moying's pulse twice before taking away his hand.

After the Imperial Doctor moved away his hand, Pei Yuanjun asked coldly, "How is it?"

“Your Highness, it’s not a big deal. She just needs to take a good rest for a period. It might be the after-effects of the previous collision, but it is not serious.” The Imperial Doctor said carefully. Before the carriage arrived, he had been briefed about Qu Moying’s situation.

Pei Yuanjun asked again, “It doesn’t matter?”

The Imperial Doctor hastily promised, “It doesn’t matter.”

Pei Yuanjun nodded. Ji Hai hurriedly led the trembling Imperial Doctor to a wing room to write a prescription and ordered people to prepare the medicine.

There were some common medicinal herbs in the mansion.

Before the medicine was ready, Qu Moying woke up. She was just a little dizzy because of a moment of weakness.

She met Pei Yuanjun’s sinister and cold eyes as soon as she opened her eyes, and she could not help but be stunned for a moment. Then, she closed her eyes again. She thought she was dreaming. Why was Pei Yuanjun here? He said that he was going to leave the capital, but she had actually met him now.

“What? You don’t want to see me?” His cold voice rang in her ears.

Qu Moying couldn’t help but shiver. She hurriedly opened her eyes. This time, she saw clearly that it was indeed Pei Yuanjun’s handsome face.

“Your Highness, it is you?”

Pei Yuanjun asked with a gloomy face, “If it is not me, who could it be?”

“I thought I should be in my mansion.” Qu Moying murmured. After she finished speaking, she suddenly sat up. However, because she was sitting up too fast, she felt dizzy and hurriedly reached out to hold the bed.

"What's the matter?" Pei Yuanjun's gloomy voice came into her ear. He reached out and grabbed Qu Moying's hand as if he were handcuffing her.

"It's getting late. I have to go back to my mansion." Qu Moying put her other hand on her head and said. At this time, she remembered what had happened just now.

Chapter 340 The Mansion Was in a Chaos

"If I hadn't returned, would you have fainted in front of Lord Wei? Well, I wonder if that sickly Lord Wei would have fainted along with you."

Pei Yuanjun said coldly, with his cold gaze landing on Qu Moying's face. He gave off a suffocating feeling as if he was from hell.

"What does this have to do with Lord Wei? It seems that I haven't recovered from the collision yet. I thought I had recovered." Qu Moying swallowed and felt a little nauseous. She subconsciously reached out to cover her chest.

She could sense that Pei Yuanjun was angry, but she was not in the mood to say anything else. She only felt more uncomfortable. She felt uncomfortable in not only her chest but also her wrist. She shook the hand that was held by him trying to break free but to no avail.

"Stay in your mansion for the next few days. If you have anything to do, get someone to do it. There are some after-effects." Pei Yuanjun's expression eased a little as he saw how uncomfortable she was. His gloominess slowly faded. He loosened his grip on her. He recalled how she had calmly walked away from Pei Qingmin just now.

"She shouldn't be on purpose. But what did Pei Qingmin want to do? He used to be peaceful!"

Qu Moying closed her eyes and wanted to nod, but she still felt a little dizzy. She said, "OK, I thought it was nothing."

She didn't understand what the look on Pei Yuanjun's face meant just now, but he sounded to be angry.

Pei Yuanjun's eyes fell on Qu Moying's face. Looking at her pale face, he could tell that she was enduring discomfort. Under her long eyelashes, her eyes seemed a little misty, and she looked even more delicate.

"You could go back!" Pei Yuanjun waved his hand and did not ask anything else. He simply let Qu Moying go.

Yu Dong hurried forward to hold Qu Moying's hand and was about to leave with her.

"Your Highness, do you want to say anything?" Qu Moying did not leave immediately. She thought Pei Yuanjun must have something to do since he suddenly returned.

Pei Yuanjun said impatiently, "It's nothing serious. Go back first. We can talk about it later."

Seeing that his handsome face was filled with anger and impatience, Qu Moying did not say anything else. She was really uncomfortable and did not have the mood to figure out what he was thinking.

Since it was not an important task for her, it might not be important.

It was really late. If she didn't go back now, the Old Lady would be worried.

Pei Yuanjun had his hands behind his back as he watched Qu Moying leave. His eyes were dark and ambiguous, and there was a cold aura around his body, which made Ji Hai involuntarily step back. Pei Yuanjun was apparently angry, and whoever offended him now would suffer.

Just now, Ji Hai was worried about Qu Moying, but now it seemed that he was worrying too much. Even if Pei Yuanjun was angry, he would not be angry with her.

Ji Hai felt great pressure standing next to the enraged Pei Yuanjun. He carried a bloody and baleful aura that condensed from battles, and it could suppress people to the point that they couldn't raise their heads. Even though Ji Hai had the experience of crawling over piles of corpses on the battlefield, he couldn't help but retreat at this moment.

Only Qu Moying dared to face Pei Yuanjun like that just now. No other women would dare to raise their heads in front of him. Thinking of this, Ji Hai couldn't help but admire and praise Qu Moying in his heart. He thought only Qu Moying could be the companion of a deadly threatening person like Pei Yuanjun.

Pei Yuanjun said after a long while, "Find out about Lord Wei!"

"We have investigated him before..." Ji Hai said cautiously. They were not completely ignorant of Lord Wei. Although Pei Yuanjun was not in the capital all the time, he still knew a lot about things in the capital.

Pei Yuanjun said coldly, "Leave those for now and check him out again. Is everything ready?"

Ji Hai understood and quickly answered, "Yes, Your Highness. Everything is ready."

"Then let's go!" Pei Yuanjun said and strode out.

Ji Hai trotted up. Pei Yuanjun was supposed to leave tomorrow, but he unexpectedly received a piece of news, which was why he suddenly returned. He wanted to tell Qu Moying, but he didn't expect to see Lord Wei and Qu Moying together, and he was furious...

A carriage was already waiting outside Lord Yun's Mansion. It was not the carriage Qu Moying took before. She got on the carriage by holding Yu Dong's hand. The cushions inside were thick and soft.

Qu Moying leaned against the innermost part of the carriage with a blanket under her. She didn't even feel the vibration of the carriage. The carriage went all the way to Qu Mansion.

When they arrived at Qu Mansion, Yu Dong helped Qu Moying down from the carriage and walked towards the gate. When they reached the door, they saw Granny Wu walking out from inside. Granny Wu's face changed drastically as she saw Yu Dong holding Qu Moying, "Fourth Lady, what happened?"

Granny Wu was really flustered. The people who went out today had caused a lot of trouble. The Old Lady had not slept yet, and she asked Granny Wu to wait here, afraid that there were some other bad things.

"I'm fine, just a little dizzy. Did something happen in the mansion?" Qu Moying asked softly. She could tell from Granny Wu's face that something had happened.

"Fourth Lady, please go in first. They are all at the Old Lady's place. Please follow me!" Granny Wu said. She looked at the carriage that was driving away. Lord Yun Mansion's logo was very obvious on the carriage, making her realize that Qu Moying was sent back by Lord Yun. It seemed that Lord Yun was not ignoring Qu Moying.

Qu Moying nodded and followed Granny Wu inside while asking, "Is everyone back?"

Granny Wu looked around and whispered, "Third Lady hasn't come back yet."

"It is quite late, isn't it?" Qu Moying was stunned for a moment. She thought that she was the last to come back. After all, she had been to Lord Yun Mansion, which took a lot of time.

"Yes, the Old Lady has already sent people to find her, but..." Granny Wu did not continue. She shook her head with a serious expression.

Qu Moying knew that there was something going on. She didn't ask any more questions and followed Granny Wu towards the Old Lady's yard.

As soon as she arrived at the gate of the yard, Qu Moying saw lights from the main room. Usually, the Old Lady had already fallen asleep at this time. There were sounds of berating coming out from time to time. It was not the Old Lady's voice but Qu Zhizhen's.

Thinking of what Granny Wu said before, she guessed that Qu Zhizhen should be here. She did not know who Qu Zhizhen was scolding and why he came to the Old Lady's place.

Granny Wu reported at the door. The room soon quieted down. Qu Moying followed Granny Wu in and found that there were really many people in the room.

But unexpectedly, Qu Zhizhen wasn't inside. It was the first branch's Qu Zhilin and Luo, as well as Qu Minghui, who was kneeling on the ground. Not long after they went out, Qu Minghui disappeared. It was said that he was squeezed out by the crowd. However, the ladies were not squeezed out. How could he be squeezed away? Qu Moying wouldn't buy it.

She was almost certain that Qu Minghui had left for something, but she didn't know what trouble he had caused, and the first branch even made a scene in front of the Old Lady.

The noise just now should be Qu Zhilin scolding his son.

Qu Moying went forward and bowed to the Old Lady. Then, she greeted Qu Zhilin and Luo.

Qu Zhilin's expression was terrible. Luo forced a smile to reply to Qu Moying's greetings.

At this time, the Old Lady had already heard from Granny Wu that Qu Moying was sent back by Lord Yun Mansion's carriage. She asked gently, "Moying, are you feeling unwell?"

Qu Moying nodded and said calmly, "I almost fainted on the road just now. Fortunately, I met Lord Yun. He asked someone to send me back."

Hearing her words, Qu Zhilin looked at Qu Moying in surprise. He was surprised because the matter between Qu Moying and Pei Yuanjun had not been announced yet, and the Old Lady and Qu Zhizhen did not mention it to the first branch.

He couldn't help but be surprised when he heard that Qu Moying came back in Lord Yun's Mansion's carriage. It was hard for him to imagine that the evil and sinister Lord Yun would help others.

But then he thought of Lord Jing. He thought that it might be because of Lord Jing that Lord Yun helped. After all, Qu Qiuyan would enter Lord Jing Mansion, and Qu Mansion was somehow related to Lord Jing now.

Luo did not notice what Qu Moying said. Her attention was on Qu Minghui. When she saw the big palm print on her son's face, she suddenly felt sad. She took a handkerchief and sobbed.

Qu Zhilin's face immediately darkened as soon as he saw Luo crying again.

The Old Lady knew that it was not suitable for Qu Moying to stay, so she waved her hand and said, "Moying, since you are fine, go back and rest early. I'll ask a doctor to check on you tomorrow to see if there is anything wrong with you."

"Yes!" Qu Moying replied softly. Then, she bowed to the Old Lady, Qu Zhilin, and Luo. After that, she held Yu Dong's hand and left. She was indeed very uncomfortable. She should go back and rest first. But it seemed that something did happen to the mansion.

However, she didn't know what had happened.

Servants of the mansion would find the carriage she parked outside and drove it back.

After returning to Qian Yue House, Qu Moying did not have the energy to say anything. She simply washed up and went to bed early.

After Yu Chun helped her make bed and sleep, she saw her frown and knew that she was very uncomfortable. She carefully extinguished the last lamp and retreated outside.

Yu Dong was waiting outside. Seeing her come out, he asked with concern, "How is the lady?"

"Not good!" Yu Chun shook her head.

Yu Dong said, "Maybe she will be fine after a rest. The Imperial Doctor said that it was not a big deal."

Yu Chun could only nod. Since the Imperial Doctor said so, Qu Moying should be alright. She felt a bit relieved.

“Is First Lady back?” Yu Dong asked again. When he entered the mansion just now, he only heard about Qu Qiuyan but not Qu Xuexin.

“Yes, but...” Yu Chun hesitated.

Yu Dong asked in a low voice, “What? Did something happen?”

Yu Chun looked at the inner room that was closed and pointed outside. Yu Dong understood and the two of them sneaked out. When they walked outside, Yu Chun looked behind her. Hearing that there was no sound from inside. She breathed a sigh of relief and said, “Something happened to First Lady!”