

Noble Wife 371

Chapter 371 They Wore the Same Accessory

Qu Moying didn't care about the prying eyes around. She sat calmly, shaking the fan in her hand gently and leisurely.

When she was Ji Hanyue, no matter where she went, she was always the center of others' attention. There would be many people looking at her. Therefore, she didn't care about the meaning of others' gaze, and she was very calm and composed.

It was the same right now!

Only a few ladies stared at her, and she did not feel uncomfortable in the slightest.

"Fourth Lady Qu, your fan looks good. Can I have a look?" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong suddenly asked with a smile as her gaze fell on the jade fan at Qu Moying's waist.

She had noticed this jade fan when Qu Moying entered the door because it was a good one. It was neither too simple nor too flamboyant.

Moreover, an old maid behind her reminded her of something about the jade fan. The old maid served Grand Princess Changyu in normal days and came to help today.

Qu Moying smiled and stood up. Yu Chun went forward to take off the jade fan for her. Qu Moying took it and handed it to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong. "Prefectural Princess, here you are."

The old maid behind Prefectural Princess Xiangrong stepped forward and took it from Qu Moying's hand. After carefully examining it, she nodded at Prefectural Princess Xiangrong and handed it to her.

After looking through the jade fan a few times, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong could not help but praise it, "The jade material is really good, and it is quite inventive to use the jade to make such a fan. Good, very good."

Qu Moying sat down with a smile and glanced at the old maid who had already stood behind Prefectural Princess Xiangrong again.

Although this old maid was also standing behind Prefectural Princess Xiangrong as the other maids and old maids did, she was obviously different from them. The other maids were a little further away from this old maid, and she seemed to be in the middle of the other maids. She was standing right behind Prefectural Princess Xiangrong. Was she Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's most trusted old maid?

"Fourth Lady Qu, where did you get this jade fan? Where was it made?" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was interested in the jade fan and asked after examining it a few more times.

Qu Moying shook her head. "This is passed down from the elders. I don't know where it was made. I happened to see it when I was looking for accessories. I liked it very much, so I put it on."

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong looked over it a few more times. Apparently, she really liked it. Seeing her reaction, a lady couldn't help but say, "Prefectural Princess, since you like it so much, you can buy it from Fourth Lady Qu. Fourth Lady Qu, you can offer a high price for it. Prefectural Princess will pay for it, and neither of you will suffer a loss."

A few other young ladies immediately echoed, "Yes, this is the best."

"Neither Prefectural Princess nor Fourth Lady Qu will suffer a loss."

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong seemed to be tempted and looked up at Qu Moying. "Fourth Lady Qu... is this okay?"

Qu Moying calmly refused, "Prefectural Princess, this is an item left behind by a deceased elder. I really do not dare to sell it. Otherwise, I will be unfilial. I hope that you will understand."

Although she was smiling, her smile seemed to be cold.

As she expected, this gathering was more than just for having fun. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong must be sounding her out, and so were the other ladies.

Fortunately, she had thought it over before she came here. She would not flinch in the face of such a dilemma. If she was stumped so quickly, others would not pity her but would look down on her.

No one expected that Qu Moying would refuse without hesitation. The reception hall quieted down again. They thought if Qu Moying wanted to refuse, she should say it tactfully, or she could give Prefectural Princess Xiangrong something else to make amends. They didn't expect that Qu Moying would say that it was unfilial to sell the jade fan. As the one who forced her to sell the jade fan, how embarrassed would Prefectural Princess Xiangrong be?

This was a gathering of young ladies, but it was also closely related to the imperial palace. What happened might affect their reputation, so it was important to them.

"Since you don't want to sell it, then forget it." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's face darkened. She placed the jade fan in her hand on the table and looked very unhappy.

Qu Moying stood up and bowed deeply to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong. "Prefectural Princess, I am truly sorry."

"It doesn't matter!" Although Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said so, she didn't look happy. After that, she did not even pay attention to Qu Moying and only spoke to the other young ladies.

Qu Moying hung up the jade fan again and sat down on the chair. Even if no one spoke to her, she still had a calm smile. Her eyes under the eye veil seemed to be paying attention to everyone present. She was very calm and composed.

Suddenly, a maid hurried in and said, "Your Highness, County Lady Jingyu has arrived at the mansion!"

"Here County Lady Jingyu comes. I heard that she is going to make her way. Let's go and welcome her together." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong raised her head and said jokingly. Then, she stood up.

Since she stood up, everyone else also stood up.

Everyone knew what Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's words meant. Liu Jingyu was only a County Lady whose title was several grades lower than Prefectural Princess at present, but if she got married to the Crown Prince, the ladies at present, including Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, would need to take the initiative to welcome her.

Of course, there was no need for that now. However, it did them no harm by welcoming Liu Jingyu although Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was just joking. In any case, it was a good chance to get along well with Liu Jingyu, and they didn't care whether they would condescend themselves if they went to welcome her this time.

If Liu Jingyu's status became higher in the future, they would have to welcome her.

Of course, there were some who were reluctant to welcome Liu Jingyu, but since Prefectural Princess Xiangrong had said so, they could not refuse. They could just follow her. Anyway, they could not show that they did not get along well with Liu Jingyu!

The few young ladies followed Prefectural Princess Xiangrong out. Qu Moying did not walk very fast. She walked behind the ladies, and she was not intended to walk in the front. She just went as a mere formality.

At the gate of the reception hall, Liu Jingyu appeared, followed by a few young ladies. Seeing Prefectural Princess Xiangrong coming over to welcome her, she was complacent, but she said, "Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, I dare not let you welcome me!" She hurriedly took two steps forward and bowed. "Greetings, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong."

"I heard that you are going to make your way soon, so I brought these young ladies to welcome you. Don't forget us in the future!" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong smiled and reached out to hold Liu Jingyu's hand.

The two of them had always been on good terms. In the past, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong saw Liu Jingyu as the future Princess Jing, but now she regarded her as the future Crown Princess.

The status of the Crown Princess was higher than that of Princess Jing.

“Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, you are so nice. But I am not going to be any different. I am still me.” Liu Jingyu’s face turned slightly red as the compliment referred to her marriage.

She looked really beautiful at the moment. She was born beautiful, and she was even more beautiful after dressing up.

A few young ladies looked at her with jealousy. She was really good-looking. No wonder the Empress liked her, and the Crown Prince chose her.

“You are still hiding it from us!” Prefectural Princess Xiangrong smiled and turned around. Just as she was about to walk in, she suddenly saw Qu Moying beside her. She pointed at Qu Moying as she said to Liu Jingyu with a smile, “You have seen all the other young ladies here, but I don’t know if you have seen Fourth Lady Qu. She is a young lady of Vice Minister Qu’s Mansion.”

In fact, Liu Jingyu had been looking for Qu Moying the moment she entered the door. However, Qu Moying was not tall and was behind the ladies, so she did not see her. Now that she saw Qu Moying, she found that Qu Moying actually dressed up so well. She could see that Qu Moying was beautiful even with an eye veil on. She thought of how she failed to scheme against Qu Moying, and her eyes turned cold.

She thought to herself, “How could a country bumpkin like Qu Moying dress up so well? How is this possible?”

But then she showed a smile on her face and went forward to Qu Moying enthusiastically. She stretched out her hand as if she was going to hold Qu Moying’s hand. “Of course I know Fourth Lady Qu. I talked to her in my grandfather’s mansion before, but Fourth Lady Qu left in a hurry, so we didn’t have a chance to get close to each other.”

Qu Moying took a step back and then bowed sideways. She happened to avoid Liu Jingyu’s hand. Her action was so natural as if she did not notice Liu Jingyu’s hand because she was bowing to her.

“Greetings, County Lady Jingyu.”

"Fourth Lady Qu, please save the formalities. How have you been recently? I thought it would be Third Lady Qu who would come. I didn't expect it to be you." Liu Jingyu felt it was embarrassing for her to be avoided by Qu Moying. She slowly lowered her hand, and a hint of sternness flashed in her eyes. She secretly cursed Qu Moying for not knowing how to appreciate favors.

However, there was a gentle smile on her face.

She looked kind and nice.

"Thank you, County Lady Jingyu. I'm fine. My Third Sister is not feeling well, so I came instead." Qu Moying replied in a soft voice. Her words were neither humble nor pushy, and there was no mistake in her manners.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong stood at the side with a smile on her face. She quietly watched the two of them speak, but she was deep in thought. She knew the future identities of the two of them the best.

"Although Qu Moying couldn't compare with Liu Jingyu, she will be the aunt of the Crown Prince in the future. Moreover, she will be Lord Yun's woman. Even only based on this, the people of Eastern Palace have to look up to her."

"Mother's old maid has just hinted to me that the jade fan should be from Lord Yun Mansion. It seems that my nominal uncle is not that negligent to his future Side Princess. At least he has never prepared any accessory for any woman before, and maybe he will not do such a thing in the future."

"However, I don't think he will truly care for Qu Moying. He does care for her, but not that much. She is just a plaything that he likes, and she is sometimes useful to him."

"He has never been easy to get along with."

"County Lady Jingyu, the jade fan you wear is similar to that of Fourth Lady Qu. Were they made in the same place? Just now, Fourth Lady Qu said that it was passed down from her ancestors!"

A young lady suddenly exclaimed in a low voice.

Liu Jingyu took the opportunity to look at Qu Moying. In fact, when she saw Qu Moying just now, she noticed her jade fan. Originally, Liu Jingyu was most satisfied with the jade fan in her dressing today. So, when she looked at the ladies, she couldn't help but look at the accessories they hung on their waists. When she saw that the accessory on Qu Moying's waist was actually a jade fan, the smile on her face froze, but she quickly hid it.

"County Lady Jingyu, Fourth Lady Qu, did you two agree on wearing the same accessory?" A young lady wearing a gold embroidered dress shook a round silk fan and smiled. It was hard to tell whether she meant well or badly.

But her words sounded to be meaningful at this time.

Qu Moying looked up at the young lady who spoke and found it was someone she knew. It was Junior Prime Minister's Mansion's Second Lady, Chen Hailan. Previously, she had wanted to marry the Crown Prince before.

Was she trying to stir up trouble or to offer Liu Jingyu a chance to show her prowess?

Chapter 372 Who Imitated Whom?

"Me and Fourth Lady Qu?" Liu Jingyu seemed to have heard something hilarious. She was stunned at first, but then she chuckled.

She was obviously asking. Although she did not point out anything clearly, it could be seen from her reaction that she thought what Chen Hailan said was a joke.

A young lady beside Liu Jingyu also chuckled. She was dressed in a pink satin dress, and there were many hanging ornaments on the corner of her clothes, which made her look gorgeous and extraordinary. Although she smiled later than Liu Jingyu, her laughter was quite loud. She raised her head and sneered, "How could County Lady Jingyu make such an agreement with Fourth Lady Qu? This is the funniest joke I have ever heard."

After she finished speaking, she looked at Qu Moying and gently covered her mouth with the round silk fan in her hand. "Fourth Lady Qu, I'm sorry. I'm not saying that you don't deserve to be friends with County Lady Jingyu. You won't blame me, will you?"

Her words were said pompously. After she finished speaking, she even deliberately bowed to Qu Moying. She was putting on an act.

Her words and actions were obviously provocative, and she was on purpose.

All of a sudden, everyone looked at Qu Moying with ridicule. Did Qu Moying know that Liu Jingyu was going to wear a jade fan, so she wore the same type of accessory as Liu Jingyu on purpose to lick the shoes of Liu Jingyu by imitating her?

Qu Moying's eyes fell on the young lady who just spoke. After looking her up and down, Qu Moying found that she really did not know who this young lady was, which was strange because she had basically seen every notable noble lady in the capital. Qu Moying thought she should have at least heard of this young lady, but she really could not recognize her.

However, Qu Moying did not panic. She had long known that today's gathering would be challenging, and she was well-prepared. Just as she was about to speak, another lady standing beside Prefectural Princess Xiangrong spoke up, "Fourth Lady He, you haven't been in the capital for long, but it seems that you have already been on good terms with County Lady Jingyu. However, you are wrong."

The lady who spoke wore a light green dress made of five-color brocade. Qu Moying smiled slightly. She knew this lady, who was the niece of Lord Wei's Mother Consort.

"What's wrong with me?" Fourth Lady He sneered and looked at Zhu Yanrui with a hostile gaze. "Miss Zhu, are you going to pick on me again? Am I an eyesore to you? Why do you keep picking on me?"

It seemed that the two of them had been at loggerheads for a long time.

Qu Moying pursed her lips slightly, looked at the two of them, and knew something.

There were always battles for the top position, which was why Liu Jingyu and Ji Hanyue barely met each other. It seemed that it was also the situation between Prefectural Princess Xiangrong and Liu Jingyu.

“Fourth Lady He, how dare I pick on you? I heard that you are the cousin sister that Lord Jing appreciates the most, so how dare I pick on you? I just don’t want to see someone bullying others. Fourth Lady Qu and County Lady Jingyu are not familiar with each other, so it’s natural that they didn’t often see each other. But why did you say it is a joke?”

Zhu Yanrui looked at Fourth Lady He and said mockingly.

“So, Fourth Lady He is Lord Jing’s cousin sister, and also Third Young Master He’s younger sister. No wonder she said those words when she saw me.”

Qu Moying had already figured out the situation.

Fourth Lady He was Noble Consort He’s relative, and Zhu Yanrui was Consort Zhu’s relative. Both of their families had a relationship with a prince. Although Lord Wei was inferior to Lord Jing and couldn’t possibly ascend to the throne due to his poor health, he had a good reputation among the commoners.

Moreover, Lord Wei wasn’t competitive, so whoever ascended to the throne in the future would not deal with him.

It was a pleasant surprise.

At this time, the Crown Prince treated Lord Wei even better. It was said that he sent gifts to Lord Wei Mansion from time to time. Lord Jing was also very good to Lord Wei and went to Lord Wei Mansion to visit him from time to time. In this case, Lord Wei was actually not as weak as he appeared to be!

“Zhu Yanrui, what do you mean? I didn’t say that! I just said that County Lady Jingyu and Fourth Lady Qu must not have agreed on the accessory. Why do you say I am bullying others? Besides, Fourth Lady Qu didn’t say anything. Don’t you think you have gone too far?”

Fourth Lady He sneered.

Then, she looked at Qu Moying. "Fourth Lady Qu, I was just stating the facts. You won't blame me, will you?"

She sounded polite, but there was a fierce and contemptuous look on her face. Her words were threatening, which made people feel uncomfortable.

It seemed that she was not going to stop making things difficult for Qu Moying.

The surrounding ladies did not speak, nor did Prefectural Princess Xiangrong. Liu Jingyu stood beside Fourth Lady He with a smile as if she did not realize that Fourth Lady He was threatening Qu Moying.

They were watching the show. Some were contemptuous, and some did not show any attitude, only waiting for Qu Moying to speak.

Although it wasn't sure if Liu Jingyu initiated the matter, it was obvious that Fourth Lady He was hostile to Qu Moying. It seemed that Fourth Lady He blamed Qu Moying for what happened to Third Young Master He.

Qu Moying sneered in her heart. "Only a person like her will act as soon as Liu Jingyu initiated the matter. If I am suppressed by Fourth Lady He today, I will be laughed at wherever I go. If I don't fight back after being bullied like this, others will not pity me, but they will think that I am useless."

Zhu Yanrui stood on Qu Moying's side and encouraged her, "Fourth Lady Qu, answer her! Don't be afraid of her!"

She was the only one at the scene who truly stood on Qu Moying's side.

No matter for whom or for what reason Zhu Yanrui was on her side, Qu Moying had a good impression of her and smiled at her. Then, she turned to Fourth Lady He calmly.

Everyone followed her gaze and waited to see the situation quietly.

Fourth Lady He was Noble Consort He's niece, and Zhu Yanrui was Consort Zhu's niece. They each had their own advantages, and their biggest advantage was that their aunts were in the palace, so ordinary people did not dare to offend the two of them.

Qu Moying couldn't afford to offend either of them. What's worse, she was involved in their argument, so she had to make a stand. If she made a stand, she would definitely offend one of them. But if she didn't make a stand, she would offend both of them. She was really unlucky!

It would be tricky no matter what she said.

Many people were gloating over Qu Moying's misfortune. If Qu Moying handled it improperly, she would offend the ladies and would become a joke.

Qu Moying had known that there would be ladies making things difficult for her today before coming here. Even if it was not Fourth Lady He, it would be other ladies. Even if there was no Liu Jingyu, these arrogant ladies might not accept her, not to mention that Liu Jingyu wanted to deal with her.

As the hostess, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong should have been kind to her, but she seemed to have forgotten it.

Qu Moying raised her eyes and looked at Fourth Lady He calmly. She then said with a gentle voice and a faint smile, "Two ladies, please stop arguing. It is actually a matter between County Lady Jingyu and me. Sorry to ruin you two ladies' mood. I have an idea. Why don't we take a look at County Lady Jingyu's jade fan and my jade fan? The one with the inferior jade fan deliberately imitated the one with the better jade fan. Is it okay?"

She said with a smile. She sounded to be joking, but her words also showed weakness.

Vice Minister Qu's Mansion was far inferior to Liu Jingyu's family in terms of wealth. There was barely anyone who believed that Qu Moying's jade fan would be better than Liu Jingyu's jade fan, so they thought Qu Moying was raising a white flag and that she was such a coward.

Many ladies shook their heads. They thought that the rumors about Qu Moying were not false. She was really a coward, so she deserved to be bullied.

Zhu Yanrui had already stood up for her, so it was really useless for her to shrink.

Someone couldn't help but let out a mocking laugh.

Liu Jingyu looked at Qu Moying with a smile. Her eyes were full of ridicule. She clearly knew the value of her jade fan. It was a costly item. It was from her mother's dowry and was Duke Qi's Mansion's treasure item. It was said to be the dowry of her maternal grandmother. How could the jade fan of Qu Moying, a mere Vice Minister's daughter, compare with it?

Almost everyone present thought that Qu Moying was showing weakness. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's gaze swept across Qu Moying's face. Only she knew where the fan hanging at Qu Moying's waist came from, and it really was not something that Liu Jingyu's jade fan could compare with.

Zhu Yanrui also thought that Qu Moying was showing weakness to curry favor with Liu Jingyu and Fourth Lady He. She stomped her feet in anger. "Fourth Lady Qu, what are you afraid of? I will stand on your side."

"Thank you, Miss Zhu. Can you help me take a look at my jade fan and County Lady Jingyu's jade fan?" Qu Moying calmly took off the jade fan and handed it over.

Others could not see Qu Moying's jade fan clearly because she hung it on her waist. It could be seen clearly only after one took a closer look at it.

At this time, Liu Jingyu also took off her jade fan with a smile and handed it to Zhu Yanrui, silently agreeing with Qu Moying's idea, or it could be said that she silently expressed contempt for Qu Moying.

Qu Moying said with a faint smile, "County Lady Jingyu, you seem to be confident."

Liu Jingyu's face froze and slightly darkened. Qu Moying's words meant that although Liu Jingyu didn't say anything, she initiated the matter together with Fourth Lady He. Did she instigate Fourth Lady He to make trouble? After all, Fourth Lady He came in with her just now.

Many ladies turned to look at Liu Jingyu, who had always been gentle, and a few of them began to doubt her.

If this was really the case, Liu Jingyu's personality was not good! In the past, Liu Jingyu always appeared to be gentle and decent, and her reputation among noble ladies was very good.

Did what happened now mean that she was just pretending in the past?

"I'm not confident. I just take it as a little game. Fourth Lady Qu, since you want to make a comparison, I naturally cooperate." Liu Jingyu smiled and looked indifferent. "It's no big deal if the price difference is big. Everyone could just laugh it off!"

Her words, manners, and expression all showed that she seemed to think she would be the victor and she had a generous mind. She did not even ask Qu Moying to apologize to her or anything.

But in fact, her vague attitude would give others the room to judge Qu Moying, making it impossible for Qu Moying to argue.

In fact, it was normal for Liu Jingyu to say so. Not only she but most of the ladies present thought that Qu Moying would undoubtedly lose...

Chapter 373 The Scapegoat Miss He

However, the result was beyond expectation.

Zhu Yanrui also thought like every lady else and she was both angry and annoyed, but when she saw the jade fans clearly, her eyes immediately widened, "This..."

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong finally asked, "What's wrong?"

After looking at the jade fans in disbelief for a few moments, Zhu Yanrui suddenly laughed out loud. She extended Qu Moying's jade fan forward, "Fourth Lady Qu's jade fan is better."

"What?" Liu Jingyu raised her head in shock and blurted out subconsciously. If Qu Moying's jade fan was better, Liu Jingyu would be embarrassed. What she said just now was too complacent, so much so that it made her look a little ignorant.

"Impossible." Fourth Lady He stepped forward and was about to snatch Qu Moying's jade fan over.

Zhu Yanrui drew her hand back and did not let her grab it. Instead, she handed Liu Jingyu's jade fan to her. "You can have a look at County Lady Jingyu's jade fan!"

After saying that, she handed Qu Moying's jade fan to another young lady beside her.

After looking at Qu Moying's jade fan, the lady nodded in appreciation. Then, she took a look at the jade fan in Fourth Lady He's hand and commented, "Fourth Lady Qu's jade fan is better."

Fourth Lady He said angrily, "I don't believe it! Zhu Yanrui, don't talk nonsense!"

Zhu Yanrui said disapprovingly, "I am not talking nonsense. There are so many ladies here who can prove it. Why don't you believe it? Is it because you haven't seen such a good thing? It's normal that you haven't seen a lot since you have just arrived in the capital."

Fourth Lady He's face was red from anger. She had only been in the capital for a few months and indeed hadn't seen much. However, she felt humiliated when it was bluntly exposed in front of so many people.

Qu Moying's jade fan was passed around for the ladies to take a look at it, and every lady nodded when they saw it.

Liu Jingyu did not go forward, but her eyes also fell on the jade fan. She also did not believe that Qu Moying's jade fan was better than hers, but since so many ladies had said so, she could only believe it.

If she went forward to take a look at Qu Moying's jade fan at this time, she would only be humiliating herself.

"Since Fourth Lady Qu's jade fan is better than mine, then it is my fault. I actually used the same type of accessory as Fourth Lady Qu. I thought mine would be unique."

She reacted quickly and immediately said with an indifferent smile, which showed that she did not care.

Her attitude was actually quite pleasing.

Qu Moying couldn't help but sigh in her heart, "Liu Jingyu really is good at acting. Her words meant that she admitted defeat, and she didn't want to continue arguing."

"What she said made her look magnanimous."

"With her status, others would think that she was magnanimous after hearing her say something like that. But if I say the same words, others will think that I am showing weakness."

Liu Jingyu took her jade fan handed over from Fourth Lady He and casually handed it to the maid behind her. The maid carefully put it away but did not hang it for Liu Jingyu again.

It seemed that Liu Jingyu was not going to wear it anymore, or perhaps she was telling Qu Moying that she didn't want to fuss about it anymore.

"County Lady Jingyu, thank you for your generosity. Just now, you took off the jade fan, and I thought you were going to argue with me. It turned out that I was wrong. Sorry, County Lady Jingyu." Qu Moying bowed sideways with a sincere expression. Even though the eye veil covered her eyes, her sincerity could be felt.

The young ladies around strangely quieted down.

Qu Moying's words reminded them of how Liu Jingyu had personally taken off her jade fan. If Liu Jingyu really was magnanimous and didn't care about it, how should she explain what she had done just now?

It seemed that Liu Jingyu was just pretending not to care after losing.

It turned out that she was not as calm and magnanimous as she appeared to be. The ladies didn't give much thought to it just now, but now they doubted Liu Jingyu more and more.

Seeing the complex expressions on the faces of the ladies around her, Liu Jingyu gritted her teeth in anger and clenched the fan in her hand to prevent herself from losing her composure on the spot.

"Alright, since County Lady Jingyu is no longer wearing the jade fan, what else is there to say? Ladies, come in and let's chat. Don't just stand here. It's a rare chance for us to see each other. We should be happy. No one shall cause trouble here. Otherwise, not to mention me, even my mother will be angry."

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong finally came out to smooth things over. She smiled and moved aside to make way for the ladies.

These words made Liu Jingyu feel even more aggrieved, "What did she mean by saying I am no longer wearing the jade fan? Her words sounded like I had admitted defeat. Did my words just now make me a laughingstock?"

Liu Jingyu could hardly keep a calm face. However, she was sophisticated and remembered her mother's previous scold, so her face just darkened for a short while and she quickly returned to normal. She pretended not to hear Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's full account but only heard her last two sentences. She followed Prefectural Princess Xiangrong inside as she said jokingly, "Of course I don't dare to make trouble. Who dares to make trouble here?"

As she spoke, she walked past Qu Moying and ignored her completely. With such a contemptuous manner, it was obvious that she didn't think Qu Moying was at the same level as her.

The ladies who followed Liu Jingyu also snorted and curled their lips with disdain while walking past Qu Moying.

Qu Moying did not mind. She took the jade fan handed over by a lady and let Yu Chun hang it for her again. Then, she turned around and walked behind the other ladies.

By the time she entered the hall, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong had already pulled Liu Jingyu to sit down next to her. Fourth Lady He turned her gaze and looked at the seat on the other side of Prefectural Princess Xiangrong. In her opinion, it was a perfect seat where she could talk to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong and County Lady Jingyu and it also showed that her status was extraordinary.

It just so happened that no one had taken that seat yet.

Fourth Lady He lifted her dress and was about to sit down.

A granny came from behind and reminded her in a low voice, "Fourth Lady He, please take another seat. This is Fourth Lady Qu's seat."

Fourth Lady He did not hear it clearly. "What?"

Zhu Yanrui said mockingly from the side, "Didn't you hear it? This is Fourth Lady Qu's seat. You should not steal her seat."

Ever since Fourth Lady He had entered the capital, she and Zhu Yanrui had been in a tit-for-tat situation. If there was no one to restrain them, they would easily argue when something happened. The ladies around were used to it.

They sat down on the chairs calmly.

At this time, Qu Moying also approached and looked at the two ladies standing in front of the chairs. Did the two of them quarrel wherever they went?

"I will sit here today. What can you do to me?" Fourth Lady He sneered and turned to look at Qu Moying with an aggressive gaze. "Fourth Lady Qu, can you let me take your seat for a while? I don't want Miss Zhu to pick on me again and again. When I return home, I will definitely prepare valuable gifts to thank you for your kindness."

She was forcing Qu Moying to give up the seat.

She did not believe that Qu Moying, the daughter of a Vice Minister, would dare to contradict her. This matter was different from what had happened just now. If Qu Moying gave up her seat, it was a true concession.

Qu Moying smiled. "This chair belongs to Grand Princess Changyu's mansion. Fourth Lady He, shouldn't you ask Prefectural Princess Xiangrong about it?"

Fourth Lady He knew the proper limits. She dared to be arrogant with Qu Moying, but she did not dare to be arrogant with Prefectural Princess Xiangrong.

"You..." Sure enough, Fourth Lady He was angry and annoyed.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said calmly, "Fourth Lady He, there are seats over there."

"Fourth Lady He, sit here next to me!" Liu Jingyu spoke with a smile. The two of them spoke simultaneously, and Fourth Lady He could not afford to offend either of them.

Since the two of them had spoken, Fourth Lady He had no choice but to give up. She snorted and turned around to walk over. When she was about to walk past Qu Moying, she raised her foot fiercely. It seemed that she was going to trample Qu Moying's foot.

She had attacked Qu Moying twice today, but she did not get any advantages at all. She felt very aggrieved.

Most importantly, Qu Moying was someone she despised.

Seeing Fourth Lady He rushing over angrily, Qu Moying was already prepared. She quickly moved her feet and dodged backwards.

Fourth Lady He thought that she would definitely step on Qu Moying, so she exerted a lot of strength and prepared to hurt Qu Moying. She did not expect Qu Moying to dodge so quickly. Her reaction was not as fast as Qu Moying's. When she saw that Qu Moying had already stepped aside, it was too late for her to stop. Her foot landed heavily, her body staggered, and she fell to the side.

Fortunately, her maid quickly reacted and pulled her. But even so, she still slammed into a table on the side. The teacup on the table immediately fell down. Even if she retreated quickly, her sleeves still got wet, making her look extremely miserable.

After being stunned for a moment, the ladies all laughed, and Zhu Yanrui laughed the loudest among them.

"See, evil people have to pay." Zhu Yanrui held her maid's hand and laughed happily. She and Fourth Lady He were really at odds. How could she not be happy to see Fourth Lady He make a fool of herself?

Fourth Lady He could no longer control herself. After she steadied herself, she glared at Qu Moying and asked, "Qu Moying... what do you mean?"

Qu Moying said with a surprised face, "Fourth Lady He, I mean nothing. I just avoided you when your foot was going to accidentally step on mine. Are you blaming me for not letting you step on my foot?"

Hearing Qu Moying's words, many ladies covered their mouths and chuckled.

Qu Moying's words were a strong refutation to Fourth Lady He, and she also exposed Fourth Lady He's evil intentions.

Fourth Lady He did not expect that she would suffer such a big loss. She was so angry that her face was livid.

“Alright, go and change your clothes first. Don’t make a fuss again.” Liu Jingyu stood up and smiled gently. She stretched out her hand and gently pulled Fourth Lady He by hand, looking like she was trying to patch up their quarrel.

Liu Jingyu’s attitude really made the ladies have a good impression of her and even lessened their doubts towards her. It seemed that Liu Jingyu was on good terms with Fourth Lady He, and she made a fuss with Qu Moying just now only for the sake of Fourth Lady He. However, she didn’t really care, and she was doing it to help Fourth Lady He out.

Unknowingly, Fourth Lady He became a scapegoat and took the blame for Liu Jingyu.

Looking at the gentle smile on Liu Jingyu’s face, Yan Yujiao, who was sitting next to Liu Jingyu, lowered her head and pressed her hands on her knees. She was afraid that she would lose control and slap Liu Jingyu in the face.

However, her mother said that she was no match for Liu Jingyu at all...

Chapter 374 A Maid Who Asked for Help

Fourth Lady He was unwilling to give in. She glared at Qu Moying and wanted to say something more, but Liu Jingyu had already softly ordered a maid to take her to change clothes. Since Liu Jingyu had ordered so, Fourth Lady He could only leave angrily.

Liu Jingyu sat down and apologized to Qu Moying softly, “Fourth Lady Qu, Fourth Lady He is not like this normally. I don’t know why she gets so angry after seeing you today. ”

“Is it because of Third Young Master He?” Hearing what she said, someone immediately remembered that there had been something between Qu Mansion and He Mansion before.

A lady asked, “Is it really First Lady Qu to whom Third Young Master He made a proposal?”

Another lady asked, “Isn’t it First Lady Qu?”

The questions came one after another and then stopped.

Qu Moying looked up at Liu Jingyu calmly. "County Lady, it has already become a past event. My grandmother said that it was an accident, and no one should be blamed."

She said peacefully, completely different from Fourth Lady He, who was full of hostility just now.

As a matter of fact, the matter between Qu Mansion and He Mansion was indeed an accident. Although Third Young Master He proposed to a young lady of Qu Mansion, it was not officially settled. In fact, it was not a big deal. It was more like a blind date, and many ladies had been on such a blind date before getting engaged, but such an accident had not happened to them.

As for the matter that He Mansion's people went to Qu Mansion to propose marriage, it was more like Third Young Master He had gone mad and deliberately did it to ruin Qu Xuexin's reputation. Anyone who was involved in this kind of thing would feel unlucky.

Qu Xuexin was now cultivating as a home-based nun in Qu Mansion, and no one knew how long she would cultivate, perhaps a lifetime. The matter that happened on Qixi Festival was the main cause that led to Qu Xuexin's current situation, but the matter about Third Young Master He was also a cause. It seemed that Qu Xuexin had really suffered a great grievance.

How unlucky Qu Mansion was!

Therefore, when Fourth Lady He came back and mocked Qu Moying again, she found that no one echoed her.

Although she had a lot to say, she couldn't continue and could only sulk aside.

Liu Jingyu deliberately started the topic, but she didn't expect Qu Moying to answer so flawlessly. However, Liu Jingyu reacted quickly. She froze only for a moment after Qu Moying finished speaking. Then, she stopped paying attention to Qu Moying and began to talk to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong. It was as if she did not care about what had just happened.

She seemed to be even more magnanimous.

Liu Jingyu asked, "Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, why hasn't Prefectural Princess Yiyu come yet? It's already so late!"

Prefectural Princess Yiyu was Grand Princess Mingzhu's daughter. She was on good terms with them and was in their circle.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong replied with a smile, "She's not feeling well, so she didn't come today."

Liu Jingyu asked with concern, "Is she sick? Is it serious?"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong answered, "She's alright. She was fine before, but today she said she was sick. She asked us not to take it to heart and said she would apologize to us in a few days."

Liu Jingyu suggested appropriately, "Then let's go to visit her later. We can't wait until she recovers!"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong thought about it and nodded. "Okay... let's go to visit her when the gathering is over. If she's fine, we will wait for her apology next time."

Liu Jingyu nodded, looked around the reception hall, and asked with a smile, "It's a good idea. So, is the gathering held here today?"

"Of course it is not here. There is nothing prepared here." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong stood up and said to the ladies with a smile, "Almost everyone is here. Ladies, come with me. Let's go to the waterside pavilion. It's cool there, and we can enjoy the scenery. If you want to draw, painting tools are also prepared there."

Liu Jingyu also stood up and asked with a smile, "Is it the waterside pavilion you like the most?"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong nodded. "Yes, that's it. I mentioned it to you before."

Liu Jingyu said with a smile, "That place is really good. Although every place here in Grand Princess Mansion has a good view, that place is the most beautiful and suitable for holding a gathering."

"I chose it after hearing what you said. After thinking about it, I thought that place was the best." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong walked in the front, and Liu Jingyu chatted and laughed with her and followed her out.

The young ladies stood up one after another and walked out together. Today's gathering was mainly for fun. Without the presence of the elders, everyone was relaxed. They walked forward in twos and threes. However, Qu Moying was still walking behind the others. She didn't know anyone here, so it was reasonable for her to walk slowly.

However, she did not expect that the person walking in front of her was actually Yan Yujiao. Moreover, Yan Yujiao seemed to have something to say to her because Yan Yujiao turned to look at her from time to time. She was so different from what she used to be that Qu Moying couldn't fail to notice her.

Yu Dong also saw Yan Yujiao's abnormality and reminded Qu Moying in a low voice, "Lady, please be careful of her."

Qu Moying shook her head and said, "It doesn't matter! I don't think she is going to make things difficult for me."

She had observed Yan Yujiao just now. If it were in the past, Yan Yujiao would have long echoed Liu Jingyu intensely to go against Qu Moying, but she didn't say anything just now, which was quite interesting.

It seemed that Yan Yujiao was not completely ignorant of everything.

"Then why is she looking at you from time to time?" Yu Dong asked in confusion. Yan Yujiao's action was too conspicuous, and she was in front of them. She kept turning back. It was impossible for him not to pay attention to her.

“Don’t worry about her. Let’s take our time.” Qu Moying shook her head and looked up at the front. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong and Liu Jingyu had already walked out of Qu Moying’s sight, and the other ladies were walking in twos and threes.

From afar, Qu Moying could already see the waterside pavilion. It should be built near the lake in the mansion.

There were willow trees and a lotus pond. It was really beautiful there.

As expected, although Yan Yujiao weirdly kept turning to look at Qu Moying, she didn’t do anything else. It seemed that she was not going to pick a fight.

They finally arrived at the waterside pavilion.

It was built near the lake, and it enjoyed great scenery. The lotuses were blooming on the lake.

The waterside pavilion had two floors. Some people liked to be close to the pond so that they could reach out from the window to touch the water in the pond. The water rippled and was beautiful.

One could gaze into the distance on the second floor. Although the second floor was far away from the water, it provided a better view.

On the other side of the waterside pavilion, there was an artificial hill. It was high, and the water flowed down from the top of it, making a pleasant sound. There were also tall banana trees planted there, and the water flowed down from the banana leaves, which made the scene even more pleasant.

Qu Moying was the last to arrive. She looked around and saw that the seats on the first floor were basically all taken, so she brought her two maids to the second floor.

There were only two young ladies on the second floor. When they saw Qu Moying, they only looked up at her briefly and continued to chat with each other. They did not intend to chat with Qu Moying.

Qu Moying sat by a window. She found that this window here was somewhat different from the window in her mansion. This window could be pulled open directly, and there was a balcony outside the window. One could go out on the balcony from this window and get a better view of the scenery.

The balcony outside the window was not small, and it would not be dangerous to view the scenery outside the window. Moreover, there was a small circle of railings at the outermost part of the balcony, which was very low, only to the ankle. It was only a little bit higher than the ground. Although the railing was a bit low, it provided an open view.

It was a very good place.

In comparison, the first floor was much more crowded than the second floor. Moreover, it did not provide such a good view. However, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong and Liu Jingyu were both there, so those ladies didn't choose to come upstairs. These two ladies were here only because the seats on the first floor were all taken.

The window next to Qu Moying was close to the artificial hill. The sound of flowing water outside was clear and pleasant, and there was no noise made by people. It was a nice and quiet place.

A maid walked up and saw the three ladies upstairs. She smiled and said, "Prefectural Princess Xiangrong sent me to ask if you three ladies need drawing tools or something like a qin?"

"No need. We have it ourselves." The two ladies waved their hands, indicating for the maids who followed them to come forward. A maid held a drawing board and some other drawing tools in her hands. It seemed that her master was going to draw a picture here. Another lady's maid walked forward, and she held similar things in her hands. The two ladies seemed familiar with each other, and they should have agreed on drawing together.

The maid from Grand Princess Mansion looked at Qu Moying. "Fourth Lady Qu, what do you need?"

Qu Moying shook her head and pointed at the qin in Yu Dong's arms and said, "Thank Prefectural Princess Xiangrong for her thoughtfulness. But I brought a qin myself. If I need anything else, I will ask for her help."

"Alright, then I will leave first." The maid smiled and went down.

After a while, a few more maids came up and placed pastries, fruits, and other things in front of the three of them. The two ladies over there did not care about Qu Moying at all.

A maid came up and wanted to carry a chair down, but she could not do it herself. She looked at Yu Dong who was not far from her and walked to him. Then, she anxiously pleaded in a low voice, "Sister, can you help me carry this chair down?"

Yu Dong looked at Qu Moying and said hesitantly, "I... I can't walk away now."

The maid pleaded in a low voice. "It will only take you a while. You can come up as soon as you help me carry it downstairs. It won't take long."

Seeing how pitiful she was, Yu Dong placed the qin in Yu Chun's hands, walked over to Qu Moying, and told her about the situation in a low voice. Qu Moying glanced at the maid and nodded slightly.

The maid was overjoyed and bowed to Qu Moying from afar. Yu Dong went over and moved the chair with her.

The chair was made of redwood, and it was so heavy that it was difficult for even the two maids to lift it. They couldn't exert their strength properly when moving it, and they only moved it for a short distance after quite a while.

Yu Dong couldn't help but look at Yu Chun, who was standing beside Qu Moying. "Yu Chun, come over and help me! Help us move it to the stairs. It won't take long."

Chapter 375 The Only Place to Go

Seeing this situation, Yu Chun could only put Qu Moying's qin set in her hands on an empty chair nearby temporarily.

It should not be a difficult task for the three maids to move the chair together. But even though the three of them worked together, there were still problems: they couldn't exert their strength in a proper manner or they moved in three different directions. They did not move it faster than before, and the three of them were so tired that they were sweating.

Qu Moying looked at these maids coldly, and the corners of her lips silently curved up. If she still couldn't see anything wrong until now, she was really too careless.

There were other maids here in addition to the two maids she brought with her, but both of her maids were now busy helping another maid!

She heard the sound from the stairs again and saw a maid coming up with three cups of tea.

The maid went to the other two ladies first.

"Why is tea served again?" One of the young ladies asked in surprise. Tea had just been served not long ago, and it was still quite warm.

The maid explained with a smile, "County Lady Jingyu brought some tea over and said that it is different from our Prefectural Princess' tea. She asks the ladies to try her tea to see if her tea is better or our Prefectural Princess' tea is better."

Hearing her words, the two ladies immediately understood. They nodded with a smile and moved aside a little. There were a lot of fruits and pastries on the table.

The maid gently put two cups of tea down and then turned to Qu Moying. She walked up to Qu Moying and bent her knees slightly. Then, she went forward and was about to put down the teacup in her hand.

Qu Moying's eyes fell on the cup of tea. The cup was not full, containing at most half a cup or even no more than half a cup of tea. She looked at the tea thoughtfully.

"Liu Jingyu asked her to serve the tea?"

The maid walked up with a smile, but she seemed to accidentally kick something that she staggered and almost lost hold of the teacup. Fortunately, the maid reacted quickly, hurriedly put down the teacup, and pressed her hands heavily on the table. She wanted to stabilize her body by holding the table.

The teacup in her hand heavily smashed onto a plate of pastries. The pastries flipped over, and the teacup also flipped over. The tea poured out, and the teacup rolled down and heavily fell to the ground, breaking into several pieces.

Things happened too fast. When everyone turned around, the maid had already fallen to the ground, the teacup and pastries were scattered on the ground, and the tea was splashed.

Yu Dong was the first to react. He threw down the chair, ran over, and asked anxiously, "Lady, are... are you alright?"

"I'm fine!" Qu Moying shook her hand and carefully looked at the maid who fell to the ground.

Yu Dong was still worried. "Lady, are you splashed by the tea?"

The water was hot. Even if Qu Moying was just splashed, it might be hurting.

Qu Moying stood up by holding Yu Dong's hand. Yu Chun also came over to check. Fortunately, Qu Moying reacted quickly and leaned back so she was not splashed by the tea.

Seeing that Qu Moying was fine, Yu Chun and Yu Dong heaved a sigh of relief. Yu Dong immediately looked at the maid from Grand Princess' Mansion with a hostile expression. "Why are you so careless?"

The maid who was carrying the chair also hurried over and apologized for the maid who had fallen to the ground, "Sorry, sorry."

The maid on the ground stood up with the help of the maid who had just been moving the chair. Except that her clothes were wet, the maid who had just fallen looked fine. After standing up, she knelt down in

a panic to Qu Moying. "Lady, it's... it's my fault. Please forgive me. I will clean it up right away... I will clean it up..."

She was trembling. It could be seen that what happened just now also frightened her.

Yu Dong said grumpily. "Look at this place. It's a mess. The tea almost splashed on our lady."

"I'm sorry. I... I will clean it up now." The maid said pitifully. She looked up, and she looked so scared that tears were about to roll down her face.

"Lady..." Yu Dong looked at Qu Moying and saw that she nodded noncommittally. Then, he snorted and said to the maid coldly, "Don't make any more trouble."

"It won't happen. I... I will be very careful." The maid said hurriedly. Then, she went to the side to look for cleaning tools.

The maid who had just carried the chair looked at Yu Dong and Yu Chun pitifully. "Sisters, can you help me carry the chair again? We're almost there."

Yu Dong said grumpily, "I'm not going. Something nearly happened to our lady."

The maid pointed at the chair and said, "It's almost done. After reaching the stairs, I will call the maids downstairs to help."

Just now, the three of them moved the chair together towards the stairs. If not for what happened just now, they would have reached the stairs by now.

It was only a short distance between the chair and the stairs.

Yu Chun looked at Qu Moying hesitantly, only to see Qu Moying nod at her. She could only helplessly pull Yu Dong's hand, indicating for Yu Dong to help together.

Yu Dong still looked reluctant, but Yu Chun tugged at his sleeve a few times. He looked at the distance between the stairs and the chair and found that the distance was really short, so he could only reluctantly go to offer help.

After Yu Dong and Yu Chun left, the maid who had just fallen to the ground came over with cleaning tools and bowed to Qu Moying. "Lady, can you please go to have a chat with the two young ladies over there temporarily? Let me clean up this place."

This place was indeed a mess. There were pastries, tea, and fragments of the teacup on the ground. It was not suitable for Qu Moying to stand here.

Qu Moying looked up at the two young ladies over there. The noise just now had alarmed the two young ladies over there, but now they had already withdrawn their attention as if they hadn't noticed what had happened just now. They were talking and whispering to each other from time to time, looking very intimate.

It was not convenient for Qu Moying to go down the stairs. If she did not join those two ladies, the best place to go was the balcony outside the window.

She was only two steps away from the balcony.

The balcony facing her was close to the artificial hill. She could enjoy not only the scenery of the lake on the opposite side but also the artificial hill and the water on the other side of the balcony. The balcony was a good place to enjoy the scenery. Water was flowing down from the artificial hill, and there was water splashing from time to time, but if she stood a little further, she would not be splashed.

There were light traces of water on the balcony.

There was also a trace of water near Qu Moying, but it was very faint and almost invisible. It just made the ground look damp. Perhaps it was the water splashed from the artificial hill. Since there were traces of water everywhere on the balcony, a small damp pit was not conspicuous and would not attract attention.

It seemed that Qu Moying could only go to the balcony to wait for the maid to finish the cleaning.

As a polite noble lady, Qu Moying knew that she'd better not disturb the other two noble ladies, who did not know her and seemingly did not want to talk to her.

Qu Moying nodded. She turned around and walked towards the balcony. Just as one of her feet stepped on the balcony, behind her, the maid, whose eyes were red just now, heaved a heavy sigh of relief in her heart and even unconsciously revealed a smile on her face.

But in the next moment, the smile froze on her face. She saw Qu Moying suddenly turn around and felt that Qu Moying's eyes under the eye veil seemed to fall on her face. There was a faint smile on Qu Moying's face.

She immediately felt a chill all over her body. She lowered her head and said in a panic, "Lady, I will immediately clean it up. You only need to stand for a while. After cleaning it up, I will go to the butler of the mansion to be punished."

It would be less serious if she took the initiative to ask for punishment from the butler than being dragged away.

The maid knew it, and so did Qu Moying.

But they considered things from different angles. The maid was from the angle of a servant, and Qu Moying was from the angle of a master, so sometimes their understanding of the same thing differed.

"The balcony is also a bit dirty. Go and clean it up." Qu Moying said indifferently. Her eyes under the eye veil were unfathomable and cold.

Yu Dong, who was carrying the chair, lost his temper for some reason. He put down the chair heavily and turned around to come over to Qu Moying, ignoring Yu Chun and the maid of the Grand Princess Mansion.

The maid carrying the chair was about to call Yu Dong for help again, but Yu Dong turned around and glared at her fiercely, which made her heart tremble. She opened her mouth, but she didn't dare to say anything.

“Isn’t she a maid? Why is she so fierce?”

The maid who was about to clean up the mess stuttered, “Lady, I will clean it up... after I finish sweeping here.”

“Clean up that place first!” Qu Moying said indifferently. Then, she withdrew her foot. She noticed a very light smell of oil, which was hard to detect for ordinary people, but Qu Moying was different from ordinary people.

Her eyesight was poor because she had eye disease since she was a child, so her other senses were more sensitive than ordinary people’s.

She had a good sense of smell, and she had been observing everything carefully just now. She didn’t know how they were going to plot against her. When the maid asked her to leave temporarily, she found that she could only go to the balcony. Then, she began to observe everything on the balcony carefully.

She could smell a faint smell of oil at first.

But when she stepped on the balcony, she was certain that there was oil. She looked out at the lake. Now she knew how those people plotted against her.

Or rather, there were not “those people”, but only Liu Jingyu alone plotted this.

After all, the matter just happened was caused by the tea Liu Jingyu brought over. As a guest, Liu Jingyu even specially brought her tea over. Did she really have such a good relationship with Prefectural Princess Xiangrong? Or did she have an ulterior motive? Qu Moying heard voices coming from downstairs. Perhaps the maid’s fall just now made a big noise that people on the first floor were alarmed, and they were probably coming up.

The chair was about to be moved to the stairs, and it would block the way. At this time, even if someone came up and found out that something had happened to Qu Moying, they couldn’t save her in time. After all, if someone wanted to come upstairs, they would have to move the chair away first.

The plan was very good. Even if something really happened, Liu Jingyu could get herself out of it.

Qu Moying pursed her lips into a thin line and then said coldly, "Yu Dong, let her go and clean the balcony first. It's so dirty. How can I go there?"

Chapter 376 Her Scheme Failed

Yu Dong had already been on full alert. What happened just now didn't seem to be a big deal, but it was abnormal to Yu Dong. However, Qu Moying didn't say anything, so he didn't act rashly.

Now that Qu Moying had ordered the maid to sweep the platform, Yu Dong definitely would not let the maid get away. He walked up to the maid, grabbed her by the collar, and pushed her to the platform as he said, "Sweep the platform first."

Although Yu Dong didn't look strong, he was stronger than an ordinary maid. He exerted strength on his hand, and the maid from Grand Princess Mansion was pushed to the platform by him.

Just as Yu Dong loosened his grip, the maid, who had just stepped on the platform, immediately lost her balance and slipped to the railings as she screamed.

She slipped forward because of inertia, and the low railings couldn't stop her. She slipped over the railings and fell from the platform with a scream.

She fell into the lake with a plop, and water splashed everywhere.

There were a few ladies talking happily on the first floor next to the lake. The water splashed on their faces and clothes.

Then, somebody screamed, "Someone fell into the water! Someone fell into the water! Save her!"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong suddenly stood up. She couldn't see what was happening through the window next to her, and the water didn't splash her, but she was also frightened. Looking at Liu Jingyu and the other young ladies who were also scared pale, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong reacted quickly. She urgently ordered an old maid beside her, "Quickly send someone to help."

No matter which young lady fell from above, it was not good to have such an accident in her mansion.

She had heard a loud noise upstairs just now, and she had sent someone upstairs to see what had happened. But the one she sent upstairs hadn't come down yet, and something happened upstairs.

Hearing Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's order, the old maid reacted quickly. She quickly turned around and went out to look for maids and old maids who could swim.

Since this accident happened in the inner yard, it was not a good idea to ask lad servants and people of the outer yard for help.

However, the outer yard was on the opposite side of the lake, and it was not far from the lake. It was said that there were male guests in the outer yard today. It would be worse if the male guests there saw what happened here.

"I'll go upstairs to have a look." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said with a frown after the old maid left.

"I will go upstairs with you." Liu Jingyu also stood up and said softly with concern.

Several other young ladies said that they would go upstairs as well.

At this time, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong could not care about the others. She brought a few maids to the second floor. Until now, she did not know which young lady fell into the water. She only hoped that it was not one of the ladies she thought of. Otherwise, it would really be a big deal.

At the stairway of the second floor, there was a large chair. It was placed casually, but it didn't block the way because it had not been moved to the stairs yet.

At this time, the maid from Grand Princess Mansion stood there trembling with a pale face.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong looked around and saw the other two young ladies standing there trembling. She then asked anxiously, "What happened?"

When she was downstairs just now, she noticed that Qu Moying was not on the first floor. It was easy to recognize Qu Moying because she wore a long eye veil. However, she did not see Qu Moying on the second floor now, either. She couldn't help but pinch her handkerchief, and her expression became serious.

If Qu Moying was just a lady of Vice Minister Qu's Mansion, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong definitely would not get nervous because of her. However, Qu Moying was said to be someone to whom Lord Yun took a fancy. If something really happened to Qu Moying, even Grand Princess Changyu might be implicated, not to mention her.

"She... fell down..." Hearing Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's question, a lady stammered. Her face was deathly pale, and she was obviously frightened.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong walked towards the platform anxiously and saw a maid standing on the platform with one hand grabbing the low railings around the platform.

Looking at the figure of the maid, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong found that the maid looked like Qu Moying's maid. She felt her head buzzing.

She did invite Qu Moying for other purposes this time, and she did want to test Qu Moying to see if she was the same as the rumors said, but when she saw the jade fan that Qu Moying wore, which was said to be from Lord Yun Mansion, she had already decided not to offend Qu Moying even if Qu Moying was useless.

She didn't think Lord Yun would fall in love with Qu Moying, who had an eye disease. However, Qu Moying would be Lord Yun's woman in the future, and she was the only woman Lord Yun had accepted. No matter what the reason was, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong felt that she shouldn't act rashly. Qu Moying could be useful to her.

Maybe Qu Moying really would be of some use to her.

Seeing that Qu Moying's maid stepped forward in a panic, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong also wanted to go to the platform. She held her maid's hand and was about to step onto the platform, but Liu Jingyu suddenly grabbed her by the sleeve. "Prefectural Princess, please wait a moment. There is water on the platform. I'm afraid it is very slippery.

Liu Jingyu pointed to the water on the platform. There was an artificial hill near the platform, and water flowed down from the artificial hill. There were indeed some traces of water on the platform, but they were on the outer part of the platform.

"It's okay. I will be careful." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said. She wanted to see the situation below. She wanted to know if the servants had saved the drowning person.

"Prefectural Princess, please take care." Liu Jingyu did not loosen her grip. She grabbed Prefectural Princess Xiangrong by the sleeve to stop her from stepping onto the platform, and she seemed to care about Prefectural Princess Xiangrong very much.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong brought many servants, and so did Liu Jingyu. Neither of them went up to the platform. They and their servants blocked the entrance to the platform, and no one walked onto the platform.

The platform looked dangerous, and no one dared to walk onto the platform at this time. Although there were no water traces on the platform entrance, someone with sharp eyes saw a long water trail from the platform to the railings. It should be left by the one who fell from the platform as soon as she went on the platform.

"What's wrong?" A voice suddenly came from behind everyone around the platform. Everyone looked back in shock. They saw Qu Moying come out from behind a curtain with a surprised look on her face.

There was no nice view or platform at the place where Qu Moying had been staying. There was only a window with a curtain. Therefore, no one paid attention to that place when they came upstairs, and they naturally did not notice that there was someone over there.

"Fourth Lady Qu?" Seeing that Qu Moying was safe and sound, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong unconsciously said with a somewhat high tone.

Liu Jingyu's hand that was holding Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's sleeve trembled. Her fingers slowly fell from Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's sleeve, and her eyes turned cold. She looked at Qu Moying in surprise and doubt. She had never expected that Qu Moying would be here now. She immediately panicked, and she glanced at the maid from Grand Princess Mansion, who was standing at the stairs, and her face became fierce.

That maid kept trembling and didn't dare to raise her head.

The one standing on the platform and grabbing the railings was Yu Dong. Hearing Qu Moying's voice, he quickly turned around, pointed below, and said to Qu Moying, "Lady, someone fell down."

"Fourth Lady Qu, what are you doing there? There was no beautiful scenery there, right?" Liu Jingyu said through clenched teeth.

"I rested there for a while." Qu Moying frowned and looked at Yan Yujiao, who was standing next to Liu Jingyu. Yan Yujiao was clenching the handkerchief in her hands, and she lowered her head slightly. She was not looking at anyone. But Qu Moying could see that Yan Yujiao kept a straight face and seemed very nervous.

Liu Jingyu said unhappily, "You rested for a while? Someone fell down from the platform just now and made such a big noise. How could you still rest?"

"So, County Lady Jingyu, do you mean that I have to care about it very much?"

The two young ladies standing aside looked at them vigilantly hand in hand but didn't say anything. Others didn't know what had happened just now, but the two of them had witnessed it. After the maid who swept the floor fell from the platform, Qu Moying turned around and walked to the curtain.

They were not foolish. They didn't pay special attention to the situation just now, but they now realized that the maid who fell down from the platform had ulterior motives, and the cause of the accident was related to Liu Jingyu's tea.

Now, Liu Jingyu was questioning Qu Moying. It seemed that something was really wrong with Liu Jingyu.

Liu Jingyu knew that she was a little anxious, and her words were a bit rash. Her face softened, and she explained with a smile, "Fourth Lady Qu, I just wonder why you were there, and I'm worried about you."

"Thank you for your concern, County Lady Jingyu. You have always been kind." Qu Moying bowed to Liu Jingyu but did not explain further.

However, the meaning behind Qu Moying's words made Prefectural Princess Xiangrong look at Liu Jingyu again.

Yan Yujiao pinched her handkerchief again. Thinking of the accident last time that almost killed her, she felt resentful.

However, she couldn't make trouble for Liu Jingyu. When she came to Grand Princess Changyu's mansion today, Liu Jingyu acted as usual and was very intimate with her. But Liu Jingyu kept mentioning Qu Moying to her. If Yan Yujiao didn't know the truth of the accident last time, she would have started making trouble for Qu Moying after being instigated by Liu Jingyu.

Even if she didn't directly challenge Qu Moying, she would have made things difficult for her.

Liu Jingyu had always appeared to be kind, decent, and gentle. She was never the troublemaker, and she was always the innocent one when something bad occurred.

Qu Moying's words hit Yan Yujiao's heart. Yan Yujiao originally hesitated, but she made up her mind after hearing Qu Moying's words, and a trace of hatred flashed in her eyes.

"Fourth Lady Qu, you are too polite. It's best that you are fine. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong and I thought it was you who fell from the platform. But who on earth fell down?" At this time, Liu Jingyu had already calmed down. She smiled and looked at the other two young ladies as if she had indeed asked Qu Moying out of concern just now.

The other two young ladies looked at each other and shook their heads hesitantly.

The braver one of the two young ladies said, "It's... It's a..."

Yu Dong suddenly pointed down and screamed, "Lady, the person in the water... that person hasn't been rescued yet. What should we do?"

He was the one who could see the situation below most clearly among the others on the second floor. Hearing his words, everyone looked over, and someone couldn't help but squeeze forward.

At this moment, a scream sounded, and a figure fell down...

Chapter 377 Fish in Troubled Water

Yu Dong, who was standing at the periphery, reacted quickly when he heard the scream. He hurriedly moved to the side and happened to avoid the people.

Two people slipped past him. One of them pulled the other, and the two people fell heavily from the platform into the water.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's hand was still reaching out, and her eyes were a little dull. Just now, Liu Jingyu and her maid slipped past her and then fell together into the water below.

"Someone, hurry and save them!" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong retracted her hand and did not dare to stay on the second floor any longer. She turned around and walked down.

There was nothing on the platform and she could not go over to take a look. When did the platform become so slippery?

It could be considered a coincidence if one person fell into the water, but what if two persons suffered the same?

What Prefectural Princess Xiangrong wanted to do now was to take everyone away so that no one else would fall down later.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong went down to command people to rescue the people in the water. The others did not dare to stay any longer on the second floor at this time. They walked downstairs one by one. Qu Moying was still walking at the end. When she reached the stairs, she looked at the maid of Grand Princess Mansion. Then, she held Yu Chun's hand and slowly walked down.

Previously, after the maid fell into the water, people were busy saving her. Right now, they were pulling the maid towards the bank. Who would have expected that two more persons fell from above. Hearing people calling out to County Lady Jingyu, even more maids and old maids jumped down.

In a short while, both of them were saved.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong had already asked someone to prepare a blanket and wrap it around Liu Jingyu.

Liu Jingyu was rescued immediately after she fell into the water. Compared with the maid who had been in the water for a long time and was still unconscious, she was in a much better state.

"County Lady Jingyu, how are you feeling?" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong hurried forward, still in shock.

"Who... pushed me just now?" Liu Jingyu said hatefully. Her beautiful face was a little ferocious. Her hair was wet and water kept falling onto the ground. Her face was livid.

"Did someone push you just now?" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong asked in surprise. She glanced at the few young ladies beside her. These young ladies were also around her and Liu Jingyu just now, right?

The situation was so chaotic that no one could remember who did it or if anyone really did it.

"Are you sure about it? There were too many people at that time. So, someone might have accidentally bumped into you," Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said again.

Liu Jingyu almost gnashed her teeth as she looked at the young ladies. She vaguely remembered that it was one of them who pushed her. Back then, she was just subconsciously looking at the screaming maid, but she suddenly felt a fierce push on her back. She couldn't help but be pushed out, and one of her feet stepped on the platform.

The maid Hai Tang beside Liu Jingyu reacted quickly and grabbed her. However, because Liu Jingyu was slipping out too quickly, the maid could not stop her momentum. Finally, the two fell into the lake together.

"Someone did it on purpose." Liu Jingyu said hatefully, and her eyes looked quite malicious as she examined the young ladies one by one.

Many people were shocked by her undisguised coldness. They looked at County Lady Jingyu, who was usually gentle and polite. Was this really the same County Lady they used to know?

"County Lady!" Hai Tang noticed the change in everyone's expression and hurriedly pulled at Liu Jingyu's sleeve.

Liu Jingyu took a deep breath and suppressed the anger in her heart. She knew that this was not the time to be angry.

"Prefectural Princess, is there a place to change clothes?"

"Yes, quickly change your clothes before coming back to investigate this matter." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong hurriedly said as he instructed an old maid who was behind her to bring Liu Jingyu to change her clothes.

As for the mansion's maid who fell into the water, she had also been treated and recovered by now.

However, after this maid recovered, she trembled continuously. For a moment, she could not give a useful account of what had happened. Therefore, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong also had someone bring the maid down to change her clothes.

"Prefectural Princess!" Qu Moying stepped forward and bowed to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong. "Can I talk with you for a while?"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong hesitated for a moment, but she still nodded. She led Qu Moying away from the crowd and sat down in a pavilion on the side.

"What is it, Fourth Lady Qu?"

"Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, is someone trying to harm me today?" Qu Moying looked at Prefectural Princess Xiangrong calmly.

"Someone is trying to harm you? What do you mean?" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said unhappily.

"Just now, when I was on the second floor, that maid smashed the teacup in front of me, causing the pastries and teacups in front of me to fall to the ground. Then, she asked me to go to the platform. If I did go to the platform at that time, the one who fell into the water at that time would definitely be me. I wonder why the platform of your mansion is so oily?"

Qu Moying said, "I deliberately hid to the side to see the reactions of everyone. I just wanted to see who framed me like this."

Her words were uttered in an extremely honest manner, and her expression was calm. Although her figure was a little thinner than that of an ordinary young lady, she was extremely graceful. She did not have the slightest intention of showing the white feather when facing Prefectural Princess Xiangrong.

"Who...did you suspect?" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong frowned. She also had some doubts just now. This was also the reason why she brought the ladies downstairs.

If there was really something up there, anyone who went to the platform might have an accident.

People fell one after another into the water, and it happened in the same place. There were probably many people who were suspicious now.

In this case, there was a strong reason for everyone to suspect the Grand Princess Mansion!

"I don't know. The cause of this matter is the teacup that was smashed. As for the rest, I can't connect the dots for a while. That's why I want to talk to Your Highness. Perhaps you will discover something unusual." Qu Moying answered indifferently.

Her voice was very low. It could even be said that there was not a trace of anger in her gentle tone. However, when Prefectural Princess Xiangrong heard those words, she felt like hearing a thunder. She looked at Qu Moying in a daze. Her heart thumped as she thought about the teacup incident.

Today, she was also very surprised when Liu Jingyu took out the tea leaves, but she did not take it to heart. Although it was a bit against the rules, the relationship between the two of them had always been good. Therefore, as long as it could make the young ladies present happy, she wouldn't mind. So, she asked the maids to make another cup of tea for everyone.

However, Liu Jingyu had never been such a competitive person eager to excel others.

Later, when they were upstairs, she could also feel that Liu Jingyu was intentionally picking on this Fourth Lady Qu. In the previous jade fan incident, although Prefectural Princess Xiangrong had doubts, Liu Jingyu made quite a convincing explanation, so Prefectural Princess Xiangrong did not care so much about her real intention.

But when they were upstairs, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong clearly felt that Liu Jingyu was a little out of control after hearing her harsh words against Qu Moying.

Therefore, she was now sure that Liu Jingyu really did not like Qu Moying. Liu Jingyu must be hating Qu Moying for a long time. Otherwise, she wouldn't have lost control of her temper in public, right?

If Liu Jingyu was the mastermind, some things could be easily explained.

Liu Jingyu had a pretty good relationship with her. In the past, the two of them would also interact with each other, and Liu Jingyu came to the Grand Princess Mansion quite often. Therefore, Liu Jingyu's maids were also familiar with the mansion's maids. If Liu Jingyu wanted to secretly play some tricks against Qu Moying, it was actually not that difficult, right?

After thinking this through, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was able to connect all the dots and she was keenly aware of what was unusual about Liu Jingyu today. When they took seats earlier, she had originally brought Liu Jingyu to sit at the table by the window from which that maid fell into the water. However, Liu Jingyu said that she wanted to talk to her, so she chose a relatively quiet place, which was a little far from the window. As a result, no water was splashed onto the two of them when the maid fell into the water. They were perfectly safe and unaffected.

After the two of them sat there, it was actually not quiet at all. The other young ladies gathered around them, chatting and laughing. The so-called quiet place was simply non-existent.

Today, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was the master, so it was impossible for her to really ignore the other guests and focus on Liu Jingyu alone. Liu Jingyu was well aware of the meaning of her request for a private talk in a private place.

Since it was impossible for them to be really have a private talk in a quiet place. Therefore, the reason Liu Jingyu gave was a lot more far-fetched, and it appeared more like an excuse to cover up her scheme.

“Prefectural Princess, you can interrogate the maids in your mansion. Just now, the maid at the stairs used the chair to draw away my maids. If something happened to me at that time, my maids would not be able to save me. That chair would block the entrance of the stairs. Even if someone heard the sound and came over, they would not be able to offer any help for a while.”

Qu Moying added.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was silent. She understood the meaning of Qu Moying’s words. The Grand Princess Mansion couldn’t stay out of today’s incident. After a long while, she nodded to Qu Moying, “Fourth Lady Qu, please wait a moment. I will be back soon.”

She had to ask about this matter clearly.

Qu Moying nodded with a smile. After Prefectural Princess Xiangrong left, she sat down by the fence.

"Miss, Miss Yan is here." Yu Dong looked outside the pavilion and saw that Yan Yujiao was walking towards them hesitantly. He hurriedly reminded Qu Moying.

"She won't come over." Qu Moying shook her head.

Yu Dong didn't believe it. When she saw Yan Yujiao approaching, he wanted to remind Qu Moying again, but when he saw that Miss Yan actually turned around and left before she was near the pavilion, he was very surprised.

"Miss, Miss Yan walked away!"

"At this time, it is inconvenient for her to say anything to me." Qu Moying glanced at Yan Yujiao's back and said slowly.

She had already become the focus of attention after this incident. If Yan Yujiao wanted to stay out of trouble, she should stay away from her. Thinking of Yan Yujiao's expression just now, Qu Moying curled the corners of her lips silently. Liu Jingyu probably never thought that she herself would be the one who fell into the water today.

"What happened?" Zhao Qingxuan asked the lad servant who ran over. The commotion over there was not small. When the first person fell into the water, he had been alerted. He had specially sent the lad servant over to take a look. Zhao Qingxuan knew that his younger sister was receiving guests there today.

However, just now, he saw another two persons fall into the water. At such a distance, he didn't know who they were, but it was not a good thing to have people fall into the water one after another in the mansion.

Zhao Qingxuan was really worried about his sister, so he specially sent someone to check what had happened.

"It was said that County Lady Jingyu fell into the lake." The lad servant ran back and forth in a hurry, and his forehead was covered with sweat. After wiping the sweat with his sleeve, he gasped for breath and reported.

Pei Luo'an, who was sitting there with a chess piece in his hand, paused for a moment. Then, he slowly placed it on the board in a composed manner and picked up another chess piece. This was an endgame that he had specially devised for Zhao Qingxuan.

"How did she fall into the water?" Zhao Qingxuan glanced at Pei Luo'an, his expression becoming serious. He knew the Crown Prince had heard their conversation.

"I am not sure about the details. It seemed that County Lady Jingyu wanted to go upstairs and see what happened after someone fell into the lake, but she herself accidentally slipped down. A maid tried to hold her back but failed, and the two of them fell into the lake together. Fortunately, some people were already busy saving the previous person. They immediately saved County Lady Jingyu. She was only slightly frightened. There was nothing else."

The lad servant was a clever person. When he asked about the incident, he heard that County Lady Jingyu fell into the lake. He knew that his master would definitely look into the matter, so he told the cause and effect of the matter. Of course, this reason was also given from the view of the Grand Princess Mansion, saying that County Lady Jingyu fell into the lake by accident.

Chapter 378 Fourth Lady He Went Mad

There were so many young ladies, and everyone else was fine. Only County Lady Jingyu fell into the water. Although the incident did not cause much harm, it still made people feel that County Lady Jingyu had become a laughingstock!

Pei Luo'an frowned slightly, feeling displeased in his heart.

As the future Crown Princess, even if Liu Jingyu could not compare with Ji Hanyue, at least she should always behave herself properly. How could she be so reckless? Without a reputation for being the paradigm of dignity and propriety, was Liu Jingyu really a suitable candidate for the position of the Crown Princess? Or would she be worthy of the position of the Empress in the future?

"Go ask the Prefectural Princess if she needs our help!" In the end, Zhao Qingxuan was still worried and said to the lad servant.

The lad servant complied and left to see Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's maids.

Zhao Qingxuan turned around and walked to take the seat below Pei Luo'an. He looked at Pei Luo'an's face and smiled, "I heard that County Lady Jingyu accidentally fell into the water. Fortunately, it was nothing serious! Perhaps it was because so many guests came today that my sister was too busy to take care of County Lady Jingyu. That's why such an incident happened."

By taking the blame for what had happened, he tactfully saved Liu Jingyu's face.

"Nothing serious, right?" Pei Luo'an asked indifferently. After thinking for a moment, he put down the chess piece in his hand without raising his head. He looked very casual.

"Nothing serious!" Zhao Qingxuan shook his head and asked tentatively, "Your Highness, do you need to send someone to ask about the incident?"

"No need!" Pei Luo'an shook his head. "Cousin is holding a banquet for young ladies. Why would I send someone to ask about it? Moreover, this kind of thing is not a glorious one."

Pei Luo'an flatly denied.

"Well... alright!" Zhao Qingxuan could tell that Pei Luo'an was truly unwilling to look into the matter. He also sensed the displeasure in Pei Luo'an's words, so he did not say anything else.

Fortunately, the matter was not serious. Moreover, there were only women in the inner yard today. Even if Liu Jingyu lost face to some extent, it wasn't a serious mistake. Otherwise, Pei Luo'an would feel ashamed to have a future Crown Princess who was the center of a scandal.

They thought that the matter was over. Although Pei Luo'an did not like it, this kind of thing was only a small matter.

But in fact, this matter was not over yet.

Liu Jingyu was so angry that she almost pinched her fingertips into her palms, but there was still a smile on her face. Her eyes fell on Qu Moying's face, and she still looked gentle.

Her hair had been washed again. Even though it was dried, there were still some tiny waterdrops. One of the two beautiful hairpins that she originally wore had to be removed at this time, so as not to make her look miserable.

"Fourth Lady Qu, did you really not see who pushed me just now? At that time, you were standing a little further away, so you should have the best view of what happened then!" Liu Jingyu asked again.

"I really didn't see what happened. At that time, my view was blocked by the people," Qu Moying said indifferently, and she even retorted, "County Lady Jingyu, since even you don't know who did it, how could I see what happened from my position at that time? Moreover, I am unfamiliar with most of these young ladies. Even if I looked at them carefully, I could not recognize the one who did it."

Liu Jingyu wished she could give Qu Moying a hard slap in the face.

Liu Jingyu was the clearest about the cause of this incident. She also knew who was supposed to be the one in trouble. Now, Qu Moying, who was supposed to be in trouble, was safe and sound, but she had suffered a disaster that came out of nowhere. She could not believe that this matter had nothing to do with Qu Moying, but she really could not find any evidence against Qu Moying.

After all, when she fell into the lake, Qu Moying was far away from her. It was impossible for Qu Moying to touch her. Not only Qu Moying, but even her maid, who was beside Qu Moying, was innocent. Although the maid kept shouting there, she did not have any bodily contact with her. Besides, this maid was extremely clever and dodged aside when she slipped off the platform.

Yes, the maid actually dodged away!

At the thought of this, Liu Jingyu was so angry that she wanted to vomit blood. Not only was Qu Moying a lowly person, but so was her maid. Like master, like servant. They were truly a perfect combination!

"Fourth Lady Qu, why did your maid suddenly let out a cry at that time?" After changing her expression slightly, Liu Jingyu continued to ask. She did not believe that she could not find any clue.

"County Lady Jingyu, when Yu Dong saw someone had fallen into the water, she shouted out of surprise. Was it a crime for her to do that?" Qu Moying raised her eyebrows and said indifferently.

She knew that Liu Jingyu wanted to find trouble with her at this time, but she was really not afraid of troublemakers.

"County Lady Jingyu, in fact, the cause of today's incident was your tea. If not for the cup of tea that was made later, things wouldn't have become like this. If you don't believe it, you can ask Prefectural Princess Xiangrong. Just now, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong seemed to have found something fishy and she took away the two suspicious maids.

Qu Moying said unhurriedly.

Hearing Qu Moying's words, Liu Jingyu panicked a little. As the mastermind of today's incident, she knew the two maids were a part of her scheme against Qu Moying. If Prefectural Princess Xiangrong found out that this matter was related to her, even if she did not shed all pretenses with her on the spot, she would definitely not have a good impression of her. Liu Jingyu couldn't let it happen because now was the critical time for her to marry into the Crown Prince's Mansion.

She looked at Hai Tang behind her, but the latter frowned and shook her head silently. Hai Tang had already sent people to find the two maids, but to no avail.

If what Qu Moying said was true, then it would be troublesome. Although she was confident that she could explain it clearly and she was very careful when doing things, she probably could not hide it from Grand Princess Changyu even if she succeeded in cheating Prefectural Princess Xiangrong.

"Where is Prefectural Princess Xiangrong?"

"She was here a moment ago. She should have gone to investigate the issue." Qu Moying said.

Liu Jingyu could not sit still. However, it was Grand Princess Changyu's mansion. She could not rashly go over. She glanced at Hai Tang who was beside her. This maid was not only clever but also loyal. Previously, it was Hai Tang who tried to pull her when she was pushed.

Hai Tang immediately understood. She hurriedly called a maid of the Grand Princess Mansion to come over. After asking the maid a few questions, she came to Liu Jingyu's side and whispered a few words. Liu Jingyu's expression was a little ugly. Apparently, Hai Tang didn't get any useful information.

Qu Moying was not surprised. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong had already become suspicious of Liu Jingyu. Now that she was investigating the incident, it was naturally inconvenient for her to ask Liu Jingyu to go over.

"Fourth Lady Qu, can you please inform me of more about what's going on?" Liu Jingyu's eyes flashed, and her attitude became gentle as she looked at Qu Moying.

The two of them were now sitting in a small pavilion. Previously, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong also talked to Qu Moying here.

However, it was different from the way Prefectural Princess Xiangrong talked to her. There were other young ladies on Liu Jingyu's side, making her appear to be a little bit aggressive, as if they were ganging up against Qu Moying. By comparison, Qu Moying had only two maids by her side.

"County Lady Jingyu, this matter...seems to have nothing to do with you. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong has already gone to investigate it." Qu Moying gave a polite yet equivocal response.

The words sounded very polite and tactful, but the meaning of rejection in her words was very obvious.

"Fourth Lady Qu, I just want to know what happened. Maybe this matter has something to do with what will happen to me next." Liu Jingyu said with a straight face.

There was a trace of anger in her eyes. She clenched her fingers and then relaxed. She tried to calm down. She did not believe that she could not find a clue from Qu Moying.

Originally, she wanted to see Qu Moying making a fool of herself. She did not expect to end up making a fool of herself now. Although the young ladies around her did not say anything and comforted her just now, and some people even believed that someone was trying to harm her after hearing her explanation, not all the people present today sympathized with her. Liu Jingyu was disgusted by the expressions of some people. Even if they did not say anything, Liu Jingyu could still sense the smell of ridicule.

Although she had a large group of confidants, not all the young ladies would choose to be on her side.

“County Lady Jingyu, if you are not at ease, you can ask Prefectural Princess Xiangrong about it later. There is no need to be anxious.” Qu Moying said, and the corners of her lips were slightly curved. She sounded to be somewhat emphasizing the word “anxious”.

“Fourth Lady Qu, I was pushed downstairs just now. I naturally want to find the person who did it. Why did you refuse to help me?” After being repeatedly rejected, Liu Jingyu felt embarrassed and her face turned cold again.

“Fourth Lady Qu, it’s just a question. Why did you refuse to help? Is it because this matter has something to do with you?” A sneer sounded from Liu Jingyu’s side. Fourth Lady He had long wanted to flare up, but Liu Jingyu had repeatedly warned her not to make trouble. Now, seeing that Liu Jingyu was angry, she immediately challenged Qu Moying.

Qu Moying looked up but did not look at Fourth Lady He at all. Instead, she turned to Yu Dong behind her and softly said something to the latter. She was apparently ignoring Fourth Lady He.

Fourth Lady He was so angry that her face turned green. She sneered again and again. “Fourth Lady Qu, how presumptuous you are!”

Qu Moying finally turned around and looked at her. She said in a neither servile nor overbearing manner, “Fourth Lady He, what are you trying to do now? Could it be that the matter between our two mansions has not been concluded yet? Why are you so hostile towards me? Are you doing it for yourself or at the instruction of your mansion?”

The meaning behind these words made Fourth Lady He’s sullen face blush. Her mother had repeatedly urged her not to offend Qu Moying, asking her to pretend that nothing had happened when she saw Qu

Moying again. However, Fourth Lady He just couldn't swallow the insult. It was clearly Qu Moying who was the intended target of her Third Brother's proposal, but in the end, after the accident happened, Third Brother and her mother went to find trouble with Qu Xuexin instead.

Although Qu Xuexin was indeed not a decent lady, in Fourth Lady He's eyes, He Mansion had never been humiliated like this. She was reluctant to let Qu Moying, the daughter of an insignificant assistant minister, off the hook. No, she would not accept it!

"Fourth Lady Qu, what do you mean? Do you want to stir up trouble?" Fourth Lady He raised her eyebrows, she stood up and shouted harshly.

Liu Jingyu lowered her head slightly as if she was thinking of something unhappily. For a moment, she did not notice the dispute between Fourth Lady He and Qu Moying. This way, even if anything happened between the two ladies, it had nothing to do with her.

Qu Moying sneered in her heart. No matter what time it was, this County Lady Jingyu was always the most innocent and kindest person. Blessed by her identity, basically no one would openly find trouble with her. Unfortunately, the situation today was different. It was such a good opportunity that someone would not let it go...

Well, it should be about time for that person to come...

Chapter 379 Rivals Met

A surprised voice came from behind the ladies. "Cousin Moying, what happened? Why are there so many people here?"

Everyone raised their heads, and they saw a few people. The one who stood in the center wore gorgeously like a fairy. It was none other than Ji Youran, the Side Princess of Eastern Palace.

Most of the people present knew Ji Youran. However, Ji Youran was now Princess Ji. Her status was much higher than theirs, and everyone had to bow to her when they saw her.

Qu Moying also stood up and bowed sideways.

Ji Youran took a step forward and enthusiastically reached out her hands, trying to hold Qu Moying's hands. "Cousin Moying, why is it so noisy here? Did someone bully you?"

She asked softly with concern in her eyes. There were two strands of long hair beside her cheeks. She was a good-looking woman, but such a hairstyle made her look dumb and even somewhat cheesy. She was not fit for this kind of hairstyle.

But she had to keep this hairstyle because of the scar on her cheek.

Qu Moying seemed to step back inadvertently, and she happened to avoid Ji Youran's hands. She shook her head and said, "Thank you for your concern, Princess Ji. I'm fine!"

Ji Youran let her hands drop and asked with concern, "How could you be fine? I heard it clearly from behind just now. Fourth Lady He, the lady next to County Lady Jingyu, seems to be making trouble for you all the time. Why..."

Fourth Lady He's face flushed red, but she did not dare to say anything. After all, Ji Youran was the Side Princess of Eastern Palace. Even if Fourth Lady He was Lord Jing's cousin sister, she did not dare to be presumptuous in front of Ji Youran.

With a decent smile, Qu Moying said, "County Lady Jingyu accidentally fell into the lake. She felt that someone pushed her, so she asked me if I saw who it was."

She didn't beat around the bush, and she pointed out that Fourth lady He was aggressive just now because of Liu Jingyu.

Everyone suddenly realized something, and they looked at Liu Jingyu with suspicion in their eyes. They had been so focused on Fourth Lady He just now that they neglected the most important thing, that was, Liu Jingyu was the one who contributed to the accident in the first place. However, they had not suspected her.

Was it really that Fourth Lady He was too stupid, or did she have ulterior motives?

“Even though you did so for the sake of County Lady Jingyu, you can’t bully Cousin Moying like this.” Ji Youran’s face darkened. She turned to Fourth Lady He and said angrily. It seemed that she was very protective of Qu Moying. “Fourth Lady He, are you questioning Cousin Moying as if she was a criminal? Even if Cousin Moying really didn’t see the person, so what?”

Fourth Lady He explained with a red face, “I... I just wanted to ask her. I didn’t mean anything else.”

She didn’t dare to be arrogant in front of Ji Youran. Even if she had just arrived in the capital, she had heard of Ji Youran.

Ji Youran said coldly, “You didn’t mean anything else? So why are there so many young ladies surrounding Cousin Moying? Didn’t other ladies see the suspect? Was it only Cousin Moying who saw the one?”

Her words hit the nail on the head. Although she did not directly blame Liu Jingyu, her meaning was that Liu Jingyu was bullying Qu Moying with so many noble ladies.

Qu Moying had always looked fragile. She was really thin, and the long eye veil on her face made her look even more fragile. It was as if she could be blown away by the wind. Moreover, Liu Jingyu had so many people on her side, so it seemed that Qu Moying was bullied.

Liu Jingyu could not continue to stay aloof. She raised her head to face Ji Youran. “Princess Ji, I’m afraid that you are mistaken. We were just asking Fourth Lady Qu about the whole matter. Everyone is very concerned about this matter, so we gathered around to talk about it.”

Even though she despised Ji Youran in her heart, she hadn’t become the Crown Princess yet, whereas Ji Youran was already the legitimate Side Princess of the Crown Prince.

“Am I mistaken? But I clearly heard it just now. Cousin Moying is the ex-Crown Princess’ cousin sister, so she is also my cousin sister. When the ex-Crown Princess was still alive, she cared about Cousin Moying

the most. I naturally have to help take care of her. Otherwise, I don't know how to face the ex-Crown Princess after I die!" Ji Youran said righteously as if she wanted to try her best to protect Qu Moying.

It was not a big deal if Liu Jingyu was a little indifferent to Ji Youran, who was only the Crown Prince's Side Princess, and no one would say anything. After all, if Liu Jingyu married the Crown Prince, she would be the Crown Princess, and she would have a dominant position over Ji Youran. However, Ji Youran mentioned Ji Hanyue, the ex-Crown Princess whose status Liu Jingyu would never be able to exceed.

Even if Liu Jingyu successfully married into Eastern Palace, she would only be the Crown Prince's second wife. Even if the Crown Prince became the Emperor, the position of Paramount Empress would still be reserved for Ji Hanyue. Ji Hanyue had an extraordinary status, and the Crown Prince was affectionate to her. In the future, only Ji Hanyue could be buried together with the Crown Prince.

Because of this, Liu Jingyu did not dare to take Ji Hanyue lightly. At least she did not dare to neglect Ji Hanyue in the slightest in front of others.

She had to appear respectful to Ji Hanyue all the time.

"Princess Ji, it is not that big of a deal. I asked her just for the facts." Liu Jingyu had to yield and explain again. She was filled with resentment. She was going to be the Crown Princess, but now she had to show weakness in front of a Side Princess.

As she spoke, she walked up to Qu Moying with a guilty expression. "Fourth Lady Qu, if I accidentally offended you, please forgive me."

Qu Moying turned sideways to avoid her. Although she smiled weakly, she still looked decent. Of course, only others thought she was weak, but Qu Moying herself never felt weak.

"County Lady Jingyu, I will say it again. I really did not notice who pushed you. At that time, the young ladies beside you should also be these few, right? Why do you have to make me tell you who it was?"

These words had a profound meaning. The young ladies standing next to Liu Jingyu immediately changed their expressions and looked at Liu Jingyu warily. Even though they were attached to Liu Jingyu,

it did not mean that they were willing to take the blame for her, especially when an outsider like Ji Youran was around.

Hearing Qu Moying's words, Ji Youran asked with a warm smile, "County Lady Jingyu, what exactly happened? Tell me, let me figure it out for you."

Liu Jingyu refused, "Please don't bother, Princess Ji!"

She was going to be the Crown Princess in the future. If she asked Ji Youran, a Side Princess, to help her solve the problem, how was she supposed to gain a foothold in Crown Prince's Mansion? The Crown Prince would definitely think that she was incompetent.

"County Lady Jingyu, it isn't bothering. Since this matter has involved Cousin Moying, I will dip my fingers into it for her." Ji Youran did not intend to give up. She came today just to embarrass Liu Jingyu.

Right now, she pretended not to know anything just to embarrass Liu Jingyu. She used Qu Moying as an excuse to intervene. Anyway, the Crown Prince wanted her to get closer to Qu Moying.

The most important thing was that before she came over here, she went to see Grand Princess Changyu first. She happened to see the Crown Prince, who was with Grand Princess Changyu. She had asked someone to come to these young ladies first and knew that Liu Jingyu was having a dispute with Qu Moying, so she led the Crown Prince over. Now, the Crown Prince was in a yard not far away.

She raised her eyes and quietly looked at the yard on the left side of the pavilion. The door of the yard was slightly ajar. She came here from the yard, but no one noticed her because they were making a scene. Now, the Crown Prince was standing behind the yard door. Ji Youran had tried it out just now, and she knew that the Crown Prince could clearly hear the quarrel here from where he was now.

"I don't dare to trouble you, Princess Ji!" Liu Jingyu couldn't bear it anymore, and her face darkened.

Ji Youran said kindly, "It's no trouble. I want to help Cousin Moying. She has just arrived in the capital, so she might be a little ignorant."

Liu Jingyu was furious. "Ji Youran really is hard to deal with. I couldn't get rid of her! She is really annoying!"

She took a deep breath and suppressed the anger in her heart. She fell into the lake today, which made her lose her usual composure and gave Ji Youran an opportunity to hold her down.

"Princess Ji, this matter is over. There is really no need to mention it again." Liu Jingyu's face darkened. She tried hard to suppress her anger and twisted the handkerchief in her hand into a ball. She wished she could twist Ji Youran's face like that. "How dare a mere Side Princess challenge me? I will definitely make her suffer after I enter Eastern Palace."

Ji Youran asked with a smile, "Does this matter have anything to do with Cousin Qu?"

"No!" Liu Jingyu was annoyed and didn't want to argue with Ji Youran anymore. She turned around and was about to leave.

"County Lady Jingyu." Qu Moying called out. She didn't want to let Liu Jingyu off the hook so easily. Others might not notice where Ji Youran came from, but Yu Dong had already reported it to Qu Moying in a low voice.

Ji Youran glanced at the yard from time to time, and Qu Moying also noticed it.

Liu Jingyu reluctantly turned her head, and she had to force a gentle smile. "What is it?"

Qu Moying reiterated. "County Lady Jingyu, I really didn't see who did it!"

"It's normal that you didn't see it. I misunderstood you." Liu Jingyu said with a fake smile. After that, she was about to leave. She didn't want to argue with Qu Moying here at all, and she had a bad premonition.

"County Lady Jingyu!" Ji Youran spoke up after Qu Moying to stop Liu Jingyu.

Liu Jingyu could hardly keep calm. "What is it?"

"Since there's nothing, it's the best! I always think that you are kind. You could even remain decent and reasonable in such a situation." Ji Youran said with a smile. It sounded like she was praising Liu Jingyu.

However, it made Liu Jingyu so angry that her hands and feet turned cold. If she had not been in such a sorry state, she would have been happy to hear such complimentary words. However, she fell into the lake. Although she had changed her clothes, anyone could see what she had been through and they witnessed her accusing Qu Moying.

She clearly failed to remain decent and reasonable in such a situation, so Ji Youran's words were quite sarcastic.

Liu Jingyu wanted to give Ji Youran two slaps, but she knew that she could not do so now. She was not qualified to do this. She was only a County Lady now, not the Crown Princess.

She took a deep breath. Her face finally became a little stiff. Even though she was sophisticated, she couldn't maintain a friendly smile now. She smiled coldly, "Thank you, Princess Ji. But why are you here today? Prefectural Princess Xiangrong didn't invite you, did she?"

She couldn't help but said these words that carried a bit of ridicule.

If it was in the past, and if Prefectural Princess Xiangrong were to invite a lady from Earl Ling'an's Mansion, it must be Ji Hanyue who was invited. After all, only Ji Hanyue was qualified to attend such a gathering. Earl Ling'an's Mansion's second branch couldn't compare with its first branch.

Now, it was even more impossible for Prefectural Princess Xiangrong to invite Ji Youran. All the noble ladies present were unmarried. Ji Youran had already entered Eastern Palace. Apparently, it was impossible for her to be invited here.

Since that was the case, had she come without an invitation?

Liu Jingyu had suffered setbacks again and again today, and now she couldn't suppress her anger any longer. After saying this, she looked at Ji Youran with a cold gaze.

Qu Moying secretly curved the corners of her lips. Sure enough, she had already expected such a scene when she asked Yu Dong to send a message to Earl Ling'an's Mansion.

Liu Jingyu was a ruthless person, and so was Ji Youran. What's more, they were rivals who had competed for the same thing...

Chapter 380 Where Is the Crown Prince?

"It was true that Prefectural Princess Xiangrong didn't invite me. I do come uninvited. I came here because I had something to tell Grand Princess Changyu. I heard that many ladies were here, and Grand Princess Changyu asked me to come over and have a look. She said maybe I could see some old friends here and chat with them. I didn't expect to see Cousin Moying. It was a pleasant surprise."

Ji Youran explained in a soft voice with a smile on her face, as if she didn't notice the sarcasm in Liu Jingyu's words.

She also explained the reason why she stood up for Qu Moying.

In fact, she was not familiar with most of the young ladies in front of her. They were basically not in the same circle. Ji Youran was like Ji Hanyue's attendant in the past. She had never got close to anyone Ji Hanyue disliked, and the noble ladies looked down upon her, who was just Ji Hanyue's attendant.

They respected Ji Hanyue because she had an extraordinary identity, but Ji Youran was nothing to them.

Liu Jingyu's face darkened. The more Ji Youran explained, the ruder Liu Jingyu would be. Liu Jingyu knew that she was indeed too harsh just now, and she knew she would give herself away if she kept speaking, so she decided not to say anything. Anyway, she could deal with Ji Youran however she wanted as long as she entered Eastern Palace.

But it was not the time to deal with Ji Youran now!

“Princess Ji, since you are here to meet with old friends, I won’t bother you. I originally had something to talk to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, but now I feel unwell, so I will take my leave first.” Liu Jingyu knew that she shouldn’t fight it out with Ji Youran now, so she said indifferently and left with her people.

She had no intention of getting close to Ji Youran.

Ji Youran smiled as she watched Liu Jingyu leave and then turned to Qu Moying. “Cousin Moying, are you alright?”

“Thank you, Princess Ji.” Qu Moying bowed respectfully and took a step back to distance herself from Ji Youran. “I was frightened just now, and I’m afraid I can’t keep you company when you meet your friends. Please allow me to leave first.”

Qu Moying said politely. She used an excuse similar to what Liu Jingyu just used. Since Liu Jingyu had used such an excuse, Qu Moying could also use it.

Ji Youran was happy to hear Liu Jingyu excuse herself because it meant that she had the upper hand in their confrontation. Moreover, the Crown Prince must have witnessed the scene. Such a situation was very beneficial to her.

However, when Qu Moying excused herself for a similar reason, Ji Youran felt aggrieved. She kept showing how close she was to Qu Moying, but from Qu Moying’s words, it seemed that Ji Youran was just throwing herself at Qu Moying. It even made people think that Ji Youran had deliberately made use of Qu Moying to deal with Liu Jingyu.

After all, most of the young ladies present had heard that the next Crown Princess of Eastern Palace would be Liu Jingyu!

Since everyone had heard about this matter and the matter of First Lady Qu that happened on Qixi Festival, there was no reason that Ji Youran did not know about it at all.

It could be seen that Qu Moying was not close to Ji Youran. Qu Moying politely addressed Ji Youran as "Princess Ji". When the two of them talked, Ji Youran appeared to be really close to Qu Moying, and she fought for justice for Qu Moying, but it seemed that Qu Moying was not close to Princess Ji at all.

Ji Hanyue, the ex-Crown Princess, was indeed Qu Moying's cousin sister, but Ji Youran wasn't! If it was in the past, everyone might think that Ji Youran was so intimate with Qu Moying because of Ji Hanyue. After all, Ji Youran followed Ji Hanyue's every word and always took care of her. She appeared to be someone who treated Ji Hanyue really well and was willing to do anything for Ji Hanyue.

Moreover, Ji Youran entered Eastern Palace to take care of Ji Hanyue who was seriously ill or injured. She directly became the Side Princess of Eastern Palace without any ceremony. It could be seen how deep the relationship between her and Ji Hanyue was.

However, after the ex-Crown Princess passed away, things that happened in Crown Prince's Mansion showed that Ji Youran was actually not simple. Ji Youran might have had an affair with the Crown Prince long ago. If that was the case, all she had done before was just for show. She had been plotting against Ji Hanyue.

She was not sincere to Ji Hanyue, so how could she be sincere to Ji Hanyue's cousin sister?

But Qu Moying might be of use to Ji Youran. Perhaps Ji Youran could deal with Liu Jingyu, the future Crown Princess, by utilizing Qu Moying.

"Cousin Moying..." Ji Youran obviously thought of this as well. She hurriedly reached out to hold Qu Moying's wrist, trying to show her intimacy with Qu Moying.

At this time, Qu Moying had already finished speaking. She turned around and happened to avoid Ji Youran's hand. It seemed that she didn't see Ji Youran's hand because she happened to turn around, so she wasn't being impolite at all. At the same time, she instructed Yu Dong beside her something. Ji Youran's voice was not loud, so it was understandable that Qu Moying did not hear her.

Ji Youran's hand froze, and she could only slowly retract her hand. When she saw that Qu Moying had finished giving instructions to the maid, she smiled and called out again, "Cousin Moying!"

“Princess Ji, I will take my leave first!” Qu Moying turned around and bowed to Ji Youran respectfully again. She was extremely respectful, and she kept a distance from Ji Youran, which showed that she was not close to Ji Youran. Moreover, the smile on Qu Moying’s face was both polite and alienated.

Ji Youran wanted to give Qu Moying a hard slap on the face, but she had to continue to put on a gentle smile, “Cousin Moying, since you are not feeling well, do you need me to find an Imperial Doctor to check on you?”

“Thank you, Princess Ji. I was just frightened. I will be fine after a short rest. There is no need to trouble an Imperial Doctor.” Qu Moying coughed softly. Her face was originally pale, and now she looked even paler.

At this point, Ji Youran could no longer keep Qu Moying. She could only nod with a smile. After comforting Qu Moying with a few more words, she watched Qu Moying leave. Her eyes were full of worry and concern, and she looked very sincere.

The young ladies looked at each other with different thoughts.

Qu Moying had left, but Ji Youran had better not leave so quickly. Although she was not familiar with the young ladies here, she knew most of them, so she began to chat with a few young ladies whom she had met several times before.

She was now the Side Princess of Eastern Palace. No one wanted to offend her. The Crown Prince was the heir to the throne, and he would become the future Emperor. These young ladies couldn’t afford to offend anyone from the inner yard of Eastern Palace. The future Empress would definitely have great power, but Ji Youran would also have a high position.

They all witnessed what happened just now, and Liu Jingyu seemed to be at a disadvantage. In the future, even if Liu Jingyu had a higher status, it might still be Ji Youran who was more favored.

Ji Youran was now a different existence from the one she used to be.

Therefore, Ji Youran chatted with the ladies really happily. The ladies were willing to flatter her, which satisfied her.

This was something she had never enjoyed in the past.

In the past, Ji Hanyue was always the one to be flattered, and Ji Youran was nothing. Now that Ji Hanyue was dead, it was her turn to enjoy others' flattery. She felt really good!

Of course, it would be even better if she could be the Crown Princess!

With this thought in mind, Ji Youran chatted more and more intimately with the ladies. At the same time, she got to know the whole story of what had happened just now. She spoke tactfully and secretly directed the spearhead to Liu Jingyu and also portrayed Qu Moying as a poor victim.

As for Liu Jingyu, she was probably bullying Qu Moying by leveraging her status.

Ji Youran led the ladies to this topic. A few young ladies who were close to Liu Jingyu faintly sensed something. They exchanged a look with each other and remained silent.

However, there were a few ladies who were not that close to Liu Jingyu, and some didn't get along with Liu Jingyu, so they said whatever they wanted to say. After all, they were not the one who started the topic. Ji Youran was favored by the Crown Prince, and they didn't dare to offend her.

They chatted for a while. Ji Youran stopped at a suitable time. After saying goodbye to the young ladies, she turned around and entered a yard not far away.

At this time, the young ladies realized that Ji Youran seemed to have come from there.

They wondered if there was someone else in the yard.

However, it was not a good idea for them to follow Ji Youran and take a look. They could only carefully avoid the yard.

Ji Youran opened the half-closed door with a smile and walked in. However, she didn't see Pei Luo'an behind the door. She was stunned for a moment. She thought that Pei Luo'an would stay and listen to their chats after seeing the scene just now. Unexpectedly, there was no one behind the door.

A palace servant closed the door behind her. Ji Youran thought for a moment and walked towards the back door. She came to this yard with Pei Luo'an from the back door just now.

The back door was indeed open, but there was no one.

Ji Youran's face darkened. She did not know when Pei Luo'an left and how much of the conversation he had heard. Had she said those words in vain?

However, there was no one from Eastern Palace beside her, so she could ask nobody.

Just as she was feeling annoyed, she suddenly saw a eunuch come over in a hurry. It was one of the eunuchs beside Pei Luo'an.

"Greetings, Princess Ji. His Highness wants you to go back first!" The eunuch bowed to Ji Youran and conveyed Pei Luo'an's words. Previously, Pei Luo'an had said that he would go back with Ji Youran.

Ji Youran restrained the anger on her face and asked with a smile, "Is His Highness still in the mansion?"

The eunuch replied, "Yes, His Highness still has some things to do!"

"When did His Highness leave this yard?" Ji Youran continued to ask gently, just like how she usually spoke to the people beside Pei Luo'an.

The eunuch answered, "It was a while ago. His Highness thought that you should be about to return to this yard, so he asked me to come over and tell you."

"Did he leave when... County Lady Jingyu left?" Ji Youran could hardly remain calm. She took a deep breath to keep the smile on her face.

“Almost at that time!” The eunuch answered after thinking for a moment. He remembered that the Crown Prince left not long after County Lady Jingyu left.

Ji Youran almost couldn't force a smile, and her eyes darkened because of jealousy. She cursed Liu Jingyu in her heart. “She is a noble lady with an extraordinary status. How dare she privately meet the Crown Prince before marrying him? The thing has not settled yet! She is shameless!”

She thought that Pei Luo'an left to meet Liu Jingyu, but in fact, when Liu Jingyu left, Qu Moying also left...