

Noble Wife 381

Chapter 381 Fourth Lady Qu, Please Wait!

"Fourth Lady Qu, please wait!"

Hearing the voice behind her, Qu Moying stopped and looked back. It was a eunuch. She narrowed her eyes and thought, "Grand Princess Changyu has eunuchs around her, but basically, no one else here will have a eunuch."

"So, it should be Grand Princess Changyu looking for me. But for what?"

"Fourth Lady Qu, please wait!" The eunuch came forward and bowed respectfully to Qu Moying.

"What is it?" Qu Moying asked indifferently. She looked at the eunuch in confusion. She really couldn't think of a reason for Grand Princess Changyu to meet her alone.

"Fourth Lady Qu, please wait a moment. Our Master has something to ask you." The eunuch smiled and pointed to a pavilion not far away. "Fourth Lady Qu, please rest in the pavilion for a while. Our Master will be here soon."

Hearing his words, Qu Moying immediately felt that his so-called Master was not Grand Princess Changyu. Otherwise, the eunuch just had to bring her to Grand Princess Changyu. Since she was here in Grand Princess Changyu's mansion, Grand Princess Changyu could talk to her in any place. She didn't have to choose a random pavilion to talk to Qu Moying.

It showed that this eunuch's master was not Grand Princess Changyu.

Qu Moying's face darkened. She almost subconsciously thought of a person. She had seen Ji Youran's pretentious manner just now.

She took a deep breath, and her pale face became colder. "I am going to see Prefectural Princess Xiangrong first. I am afraid I can't wait for your Master!"

Seeing that Qu Moying insisted on leaving, the eunuch became a little anxious. "Fourth Lady Qu, our Master will be here soon. Please wait for a little while!"

Seeing that Qu Moying was unwilling to stay, Yu Dong stepped forward to help. He said bluntly, "Who is your Master? Why do you want our lady to wait? Maybe Prefectural Princess Xiangrong is also waiting for our lady!"

"Our Master... Our Master..." The eunuch did not dare to casually say who his Master was. He was so anxious that his forehead was covered in sweat.

"Since your Master is unwilling to let me know who he is, why should I stay and wait for him?" Qu Moying sneered and turned to leave.

She did not want to see this Master at all!

Just as Qu Moying turned around, she suddenly heard the eunuch's surprised voice behind her, followed by a gentle voice. "Fourth Lady Qu, please wait!"

This voice was as gentle as ever, just like how he always acted in front of others. He had appeared to be a gentle and magnanimous Crown Prince, but was he really such a person?

In Qu Moying's previous life, she didn't realize what kind of person he actually was until she died.

Qu Moying glanced at Yu Chun, who was holding her qin Fengyu in her hand. She changed the cover of the qin box when she had nothing to do. The cover was embroidered with butterfly and flower patterns by her. So, did Pei Luo'an see it?

She did not expect that Pei Luo'an would come today, so she did not pay attention to the cover of the qin. What negligence!

She took a deep breath, suppressed the burning pain in her heart, and slowly turned around. Sure enough, she saw Pei Luo'an in a comfortable robe, standing opposite her with a smile.

“Greetings, Your Highness!” Qu Moying bowed.

“Fourth Lady Qu, it’s rude of me to stop you like this!” Pei Luo’an stepped forward with a faint smile and slightly lifted his hands, indicating for Qu Moying to save the formalities.

Qu Moying stood up straight and put on a faint smile. “Your Highness, I didn’t know that you wanted to see me. I am to blame!”

“Fourth Lady Qu, please don’t feel sorry. Actually, I want to ask you something.” Pei Luo’an said gently. His eyes fell on the qin cover in Yu Chun’s hand, which was embroidered with butterflies flying in the flowers. It looked elegant and beautiful.

In the past, what Pei Luo’an liked the most was the scene of butterflies flying.

Two butterflies flew in the flowers. They were colorful, and they set off the beauty of the flowers. The flying butterflies, the red flowers, and the green leaves were all embroidered perfectly.

“Please go on, Your Highness!” Qu Moying’s gaze swept over her qin cover, and her eyes became more and more relaxed. The eye veil concealed the mockery in her eyes. Pei Luo’an looked so sincere, and others would believe that he was really affectionate to Ji Hanyue if they saw him like this.

Who would have thought that it was this affectionate Crown Prince who sent Ji Hanyue to her death? He killed not only Ji Hanyue but also her family...

Pei Luo’an asked, “May I ask who embroidered your qin cover?”

Qu Moying answered calmly, “It was embroidered by an embroideress in our mansion.”

“An embroideress in your mansion?” Pei Luo’an asked in surprise. He had seen a familiar pattern on Qu Xuexin’s sachet before, and now he saw it on Qu Moying’s qin cover. Was it true that there was an embroideress in Qu Mansion who was proficient in this kind of embroidery? But he found such patterns really familiar.

Qu Moying said calmly, "Yes!"

Pei Luo'an fell silent. He was in mixed feelings. He looked up at Qu Moying and then turned to the qin in Yu Chun's hands, "Fourth Lady Qu, do you also like to play the qin?"

He remembered that he had heard Qu Moying play the qin before, and she played the music he was familiar with. His heart suddenly twitched, and he could sense its throb.

Qu Moying recalled something and answered naturally, "I quite like it. My cousin sister once sent me a music score!"

She did not hesitate for a single second.

Pei Luo'an kept looking at her and saw that she was calm. Although he could not see her eyes, he could imagine that her eyes were calm as well.

He didn't know how to express his feelings. He was a little disappointed. Things ought to be like this, but he was expecting something else.

After hesitating for a while, Pei Luo'an asked, "Fourth Lady Qu, could you please play a tune for me?"

"Your Highness, we are in Grand Princess Changyu's mansion, and there are no other young ladies around. I'm afraid it is not appropriate for me to do so!" Qu Moying bowed sideways, looking neither humble nor pushy.

Pei Luo'an was not the owner of this mansion. It was already a little out of line for the two of them to talk here. If Qu Moying performed for Pei Luo'an here, others might think that there was something between the two of them. They might think that Qu Moying wanted to offer herself at the feet of the Crown Prince.

Although Pei Luo'an requested Qu Moying to play a song, he realized that he was too rash as soon as he finished his words, and he was prepared to gloss it over.

It was indeed inappropriate to ask Qu Moying to play the qin for him now!

If Qu Moying was just an ordinary young lady, Pei Luo'an would not care about this. At most, he would give Qu Moying a position in his backyard, and it would not be a problem for him. He would have a Princess Consort and other concubines in the future. He didn't have so many women in the past just to please Ji Hanyue and Ji Yongming.

He did not need to care about it now. He showed his deep affection for Ji Hanyue in front of others. If he died, he would be buried with Ji Hanyue. He didn't care about the future Crown Princess or the other concubines. Even if he had many women in Eastern Palace, it would not harm his reputation in the slightest.

However, he could not take Qu Moying because she was Lord Yun's woman.

However, he would feel better withdrawing the request himself than being rejected by Qu Moying. Qu Moying rejected so calmly that there was no trace of shyness on her pale little face. She seemed to be preaching, and Pei Luo'an felt like he was preached by Ji Hanyue.

Whenever Ji Hanyue knew that he had done something wrong, she would definitely point it out.

Other than her, no one else dared to do so. Even his advisors would only advise him tactfully.

However, it was Qu Moying, the daughter of a mere Vice Minister, who preached him now. Thinking of this, Pei Luo'an was displeased. His face darkened, but then he revealed a gentle smile.

"I was rash just now. It is indeed inappropriate. I hope that I can hear you play the qin in the future." Pei Luo'an explained and then added, "I heard you playing the qin last time, and it sounded like Hanyue was performing. That's why I suddenly have such an idea. Ever since Hanyue passed away, every time I heard the qin music, I felt that it was Hanyue who was playing. Because of this, I haven't heard others play the qin for a long time!"

The smile on Pei Luo'an's face became bitter. He sighed softly and then waved his hand. "Fourth Lady Qu, you can leave!"

It could be seen that Pei Luo'an was not in the mood to speak after mentioning Ji Hanyue.

Qu Moying did not say anything. She bowed to Pei Luo'an and then turned to leave with the two maids. After turning around, she curled her lips in ridicule. "Pei Luo'an is really pretentious. No wonder it is said that he has a deep love for Ji Hanyue."

She really wanted to tear apart Pei Luo'an's hypocritical mask so that everyone could see his vicious nature under his gentle and affectionate face.

Pei Luo'an had created a good image for himself. However, Qu Moying would let others see his nature one day and move Ji Hanyue's memorial tablet away from Eastern Palace. She would not let Pei Luo'an taint Ji Hanyue's reputation, even if she had to die...

Qu Moying took a random path just now. At this time, she was not in a hurry to go back to find Prefectural Princess Xiangrong. If Prefectural Princess Xiangrong wanted to find her, she would easily find her. At this time, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was probably busy investigating things and had no time to meet her.

In fact, it was not difficult to investigate the matter. However, Qu Moying knew that Liu Jingyu definitely had a backup plan. Today's incident displeased Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, but it was not directly done by Liu Jingyu. It might be related to the confidants around Liu Jingyu, but so what? Liu Jingyu had many confidants around her, and she didn't mind if she were to sacrifice one or two of them.

Qu Moying was in Grand Princess Changyu's mansion, but she did not know where exactly she was. She walked for a while, stopped, and looked up at a tower not far away. Perhaps she had accidentally taken a shortcut that she had accidentally come to the outer yard. The tower not far away was actually the one built according to the design paper she had drawn before.

There was someone looking around in front of the tower. When the person saw Qu Moying, his eyes lit up, and he greeted Qu Moying with a smile. He was actually someone Qu Moying knew, and it was too late for Qu Moying to turn around now.

Qu Moying could only wait for him to walk forward, but actually, she did not want to see him at all...

Chapter 382 Aggrieved Prefectural Princess Xiangrong

The one who was walking over was actually Grand Princess Changyu's son, Marquis Jingyang's Mansion's Young Master, Zhao Qingxuan. "Are you Fourth Lady Qu?"

Qu Moying knew Zhao Qingxuan.

She was even familiar with Zhao Qingxuan. In her previous life, Zhao Qingxuan followed Pei Luo'an to Earl Ling'an's Mansion many times. At that time, Zhao Qingxuan kept asking Ji Yongming to teach him martial arts, saying that he wanted to be a general and go to the border to make great contributions to the country.

In order to learn martial arts, not only did he pester Ji Yongming, but he also pestered Ji Hanyue. He secretly climbed up the wall of Ji Hanyue's yard and was caught on the spot by Ji Yongming.

Later, Grand Princess Changyu took Zhao Qingxuan back to study, but she allowed him to study and learn martial arts at the same time.

"Yes, it's me!" Qu Moying said. This was the first time that she saw Zhao Qingxuan in this life, so she pretended that she didn't know him.

Zhao Qingxuan was quite a dandy. Qu Moying did not want to have any interaction with him. Moreover, he had a very good relationship with Pei Luo'an. Just because of this, Qu Moying would not like him.

"You really are Fourth Lady Qu." Zhao Qingxuan seemed to be in a good mood. He specially sized up Qu Moying a few times. Just now, he saw Qu Moying coming over with a long eye veil. She looked relaxed. The wind blew over her and made her look like a fairy. If not for the conspicuous eye veil, he would not dare to recognize her as Qu Moying.

She was not like what the rumor said at all!

Qu Moying acted as if she did not know him. "May I ask who you are?"

Zhao Qingxuan said with a smile, "I am Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's elder brother! Did you see my younger sister?"

"So, you are Young Master Jingyang!" Qu Moying bowed slightly and then straightened up. "Someone fell into the lake. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong went to investigate the accident."

Zhao Qingxuan frowned. "She went to inquire people?"

Qu Moying nodded. "Yes!"

"Fourth Lady Qu, did you see Princess Ji?" He was about to ask Prefectural Princess Xiangrong about this. Ever since he saw Ji Youran leave with Pei Luo'an, Zhao Qingxuan had been very uneasy and wanted to follow them to take a look. However, Pei Luo'an told him not to go over, saying that Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was also there.

However, Zhao Qingxuan was really worried, so he wandered around here. He wanted to tell his younger sister to be cautious. Liu Jingyu was here, and Ji Youran suddenly came. Moreover, she pulled Pei Luo'an away with her. Zhao Qingxuan could sense that there was something in the air. He wanted to remind his younger sister, but he was afraid that Pei Luo'an would notice him.

"I saw Princess Ji. She was talking to County Lady Jingyu just now." Qu Moying answered calmly, not knowing what Zhao Qingxuan was trying to do.

Hearing that Liu Jingyu and Ji Youran actually met each other, Zhao Qingxuan widened his eyes and asked anxiously, "Did they quarrel?"

Qu Moying shook her head. "No, they just exchanged a few words."

Zhao Qingxuan couldn't help but finally ask, "Then... did you see the Crown Prince?"

“Yes, I saw him!” Qu Moying directly answered. She did not know what Zhao Qingxuan was up to. Since he had a close relationship with Pei Luo’an, how could he not know where Pei Luo’an was?

“Was Princess Ji with the Crown Prince when she met County Lady Jingyu?” Zhao Qingxuan thought it was a disaster.

“No, I saw the Crown Prince just now. But when Princess Ji and County Lady Jingyu were talking, I didn’t see the Crown Prince.” Qu Moying didn’t tell Zhao Qingxuan everything.

But what she had said was all true.

“That’s great!” Zhao Qingxuan heaved a sigh of relief. It wasn’t that he didn’t want Ji Youran to quarrel with Liu Jingyu. In Zhao Qingxuan’s opinion, neither of these two women was easy to deal with. However, they were in his mansion. If something really happened, the Grand Princess Mansion would be held responsible.

If his mother knew that he played a part in this matter, his mother would definitely not spare him.

Zhao Qingxuan cupped his hands towards Qu Moying and sincerely thanked her. “Thank you, Fourth Lady Qu.”

Qu Moying smiled slightly and said goodbye to Zhao Qingxuan. She and her maids had taken this path when they first came here, and Yu Dong recognized the way. The three of them did not delay and walked back to the inner yard.

It had been quite a while. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong should have already found out something. Even if she did not get direct evidence, she must have known something...

Indeed, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong basically knew what was going on.

Two maids were kneeling in front of her. One was the maid who fell into the water, and the other was the one who provided services on the second floor.

Both of them were kneeling in panic and confusion, their faces pale and flustered.

The two of them had already told the whole story.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's face darkened. She looked coldly at the two maids and snorted, "How dare you!"

The maid who fell into the water seemed to be bolder. She kowtowed twice to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong and explained stutteringly, "Prefectural Princess, please spare our lives. She said that... she served County Lady Jingyu, and County Lady Jingyu is your good friend. We dare not disobey."

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said coldly, "You haven't seen her before. She said she served County Lady Jingyu, and then you believed her?"

"I... I... I saw her standing beside County Lady Jingyu before." The other maid stuttered, trembling in fear.

If they hadn't seen the old maid standing next to Liu Jingyu, the two of them wouldn't have believed the old maid so much. Because of this, they immediately believed the old maid when she said she was sent by County Lady Jingyu.

County Lady Jingyu had a close relationship with Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, so they didn't dare to offend County Lady Jingyu. As for Qu Moying, it was said that she was not favored by her parents. She had been disengaged before, and she must have offended County Jingyu, so County Jingyu wanted to make a fool of her.

The gathering today was held by the lake. In case an accident might occur, a few old maid and maids from Grand Princess Changyu's mansion were arranged to wait by the lake.

Moreover, it was summer now. It would not be a big deal even if someone really fell into the water in this kind of weather.

With so many conditions and the checks sent by the old maid, how could the two maids not agree? Even if something really happened, there would be Liu Jingyu. The two maids would be alright.

Moreover, the old maid repeatedly said that nothing would happen. Qu Moying was just the daughter of a Vice Minister. She was really nobody compared with other ladies who were present today. In the past, accidents happened to some other ladies, but these accidents were finally solved because no one died and no man was involved. The parties involved were willing to make concessions to avoid trouble.

However, the two maids did not expect something to really happen, and they could not find that old maid. They had asked the maids beside County Lady Jingyu, but they all said they had never seen this old maid. They said that County Lady Jingyu did not bring an old maid with her to Grand Princess Changyu's mansion today.

There were quite many ladies present today, and many old maids were brought over. Now that an old maid was missing, no one could tell who was her master.

It was impossible for Prefectural Princess Changyu to investigate it thoroughly. If the matter escalated, it would be even worse for Grand Princess Changyu's mansion. An old maid actually sneaked in and caused such a thing. How could people feel safe in Grand Princess Changyu's mansion?

Now that the old maid could not be found, these two maids from Grand Princess Changyu's mansion became the ones to be blamed.

Thinking of this, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was almost about to go mad.

"Pull these two despicable maids down and beat them ten times!" Said Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, gnashing her teeth. She couldn't find out anything else for now. The two maids said that an old maid ordered them to do so, and the old maid worked for County Lady Jingyu. However, County Lady Jingyu's maids said that they didn't bring any old maid here today.

Two lowly old maids came over and dragged the two maids away. After this matter, the two maids would definitely be sold. It was impossible for the mansion to keep such servants who betrayed their masters. Even if the two maids agreed to help because the old maid said that Liu Jingyu was Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's friend, Liu Jingyu was not Prefectural Princess Xiangrong after all. These two maids trusted the wrong person and landed Grand Princess Changyu's mansion in an awkward position.

A maid hurried over and whispered to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, "Your Highness, County Lady Jingyu wants to see you."

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's face darkened. She sneered, "I won't see her!"

The old maid sent by Grand Princess Changyu behind Prefectural Princess Xiangrong advised in a low voice, "Prefectural Princess, you'd better see her. After all, she appears to be innocent!"

"I don't believe she didn't play a part in it." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said grumpily. How could she believe that an old maid did this for no reason?

Although there were many guests today, there were only a few who were really familiar with each other. Moreover, Liu Jingyu happened to bring tea and wanted everyone to try it, which was really strange. Although Liu Jingyu and Prefectural Princess Xiangrong were quite familiar with each other, Liu Jingyu had always observed the rules. She had never done such a thing that was lacking in etiquette.

"Prefectural Princess, even if she is wrong, you have no evidence that proves her guilty. So, she is still the same County Lady Jingyu who follows etiquette." The old maid smiled and advised, "You had better act like before. It is not a good idea to alienate County Lady Jingyu for the daughter of a Vice Minister."

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong asked, "Is she just the daughter of a Vice Minister?"

The old maid continued to persuade her, "Even if she's more than that, you can only take her as nothing more than the daughter of a Vice Minister for the time being. You should treat County Lady Jingyu in the same way. Even if you find something, you can only pretend that you haven't found anything."

These words made Prefectural Princess Xiangrong silent. She understood what the old maid said, but she was unhappy in her heart. She was a Prefectural Princess, and Grand Princess Changyu had always doted on her. How could she let go of the matter of Liu Jingyu secretly plotting against her? If Liu Jingyu was just a County Lady, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong could directly reprimand her for this matter.

Even if there was no evidence, so what?

But now, she couldn't. Liu Jingyu was about to marry the Crown Prince, and Prefectural Princess Xiangrong could only give in because of this.

Thinking of this, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was angry and hateful, but she had to compromise. She gritted her teeth and suppressed her anger. "Go and invite County Lady Jingyu in!"

Chapter 383 Cunning Self-Defence

"Greetings, Prefectural Princess!" Liu Jingyu came in. She was as gentle as ever. With a smile on her beautiful face, she looked at Prefectural Princess Xiangrong and bowed sideways. She was perfectly in line with the etiquette.

"County Lady Jingyu, you came at the right time. I was just about to find you!" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong put on a fake smile and pointed to a chair, indicating for Liu Jingyu to sit down.

Liu Jingyu sat down smiling as if she did not see the suppressed anger on Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's face.

"Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, I heard that you called my maid and asked her something. Did she do anything wrong? If she really did something wrong, please don't hesitate to punish her because of me!" Liu Jingyu said with a gentle face. Her words were quite decent.

Hearing her words, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was so angry that she almost vomited blood. "She still said such words at this time. Does she really take me as a fool?"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said sarcastically, "I heard that someone around you wanted to plot against Fourth Lady Qu. When I saw you talking to Fourth Lady Qu just now, I thought you two were intimate."

She really couldn't help saying so.

"Prefectural Princess, what... what are you talking about?" Liu Jingyu suddenly stood up with her eyes wide open, looking frightened. She turned to look at the maids around her. "Prefectural Princess, please tell me, which maid are you talking about? I won't let her off easily."

Behind her were all her senior maids. All of them were extremely respectful. None of them was an old maid. The old maid had already left the mansion after finishing the task. Liu Jingyu was not afraid that Prefectural Princess Xiangrong would find out anything fishy.

Since the old maid was not here, who could doubt Liu Jingyu's words?

"It was an old maid. I heard that you brought her here and you let her ask two of my maids to plot against Fourth Lady Qu. Coincidentally, you actually wanted to have a tea competition with me, so I asked a maid to send your tea upstairs." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong tried hard to suppress her anger and calm down. She reminded herself that she had no evidence to prove Liu Jingyu guilty.

"Prefectural Princess, we used to have competitions of flowers, poems, and paintings. Having a tea competition is also an elegant act, but I didn't expect that someone would take advantage of this. It... is all my fault. I will go to Fourth Lady Qu to apologize later." Liu Jingyu had a face full of regret and self-blame. With her status, saying such words meant that she had given in.

Seeing her act like this, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong could not help but be puzzled. "Did I wrong her?"

They indeed had competitions of flowers and so on occasionally before. Although it was a little abrupt for Liu Jingyu to have a tea competition with her this time, it was not weird.

"Besides, please investigate every young lady who came here today, including me. Why did an old maid appear for no reason and then disappear? Who wants to sow discord between you and me and make Grand Princess Changyu's mansion have a dispute with Qu Mansion? Who will benefit from this?"

Liu Jingyu said with a serious frown.

Seeing her act like this, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong felt more and more convinced that she had guessed wrong. She did not look angry now. She frowned and carefully thought about who would benefit the most from this matter.

She wondered who plotted against her mansion.

“Who could it be?”

“Prefectural Princess, please send someone to investigate the people in the mansion secretly, but don’t let the ladies at the gathering know, lest they will cause panic and all kinds of rumors. Who on earth plotted against Fourth Lady Qu and me? I was indeed pushed into the water just now. If the two of us fell into the water, who would benefit from it?”

Liu Jingyu sat down again and helped Prefectural Princess Xiangrong sort out what had happened today, secretly portraying herself as a victim.

Hearing her words, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong became more and more uncertain. “Am I really wrong? Is Liu Jingyu also innocent? I was there when Liu Jingyu fell into the water, and it was indeed an accident. We just stood side by side. If it weren’t for that accident, Liu Jingyu wouldn’t have fallen into the water.”

“Even if there was oil on the platform, it was impossible for that accident to take place.”

“Everyone was fine except Liu Jingyu.”

Seeing that the anger on Prefectural Princess Xiangrong’s face faded and was replaced by a confused expression, Liu Jingyu felt relieved and knew that Prefectural Princess Xiangrong had believed her words.

“Prefectural Princess, this thing will do harm to the entire Grand Princess Changyu’s mansion. Even if we can’t find it out, we have to make those people who secretly plotted against us fearful and don’t dare to make a move again.” Liu Jingyu showed a bit of anger on her face. Her hair was still a little wet. Her reaction made people feel that she was truly angry.

“But... it’s really hard to find out the truth. The person who instigated the maids has disappeared.” Prefectural Princess Xiangrong finally spoke, which meant that she agreed with Liu Jingyu’s words.

“Even if she has disappeared, we still have to investigate it to intimidate those who plotted behind the scene!” Liu Jingyu said in a low voice. She didn’t look guilty at all, as if she was really analyzing the situation for Prefectural Princess Xiangrong. “How could people come and leave the Grand Princess Mansion as they wanted? What will they do in the future?”

Her words were meaningful. After pondering over her words, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong’s face changed.

Although Grand Princess Changyu was a respectful royal family member, she still had enemies. Moreover, when it came to the safety issue, it was of extreme importance to the royal family members. Grand Princess Changyu had to pay attention to it, and so did other royal family members. If something happened to the princes in Grand Princess Chang’s mansion, even Grand Princess Changyu would not be able to bear the responsibility.

At the thought of this, Prefectural Princess Changyu found that it was neither a small matter nor a private matter between the young ladies. This incident seemed to target Liu Jingyu.

After all, Liu Jingyu was the future Crown Princess. As for Qu Moying, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong knew that Lord Yun had chosen her. Although Qu Moying would not be as distinguished as the future Crown Princess, she mattered a lot because she was related to Lord Yun to a certain extent.

There were many noble ladies present today, and many of them were more distinguished than Qu Moying on the surface. But in fact, only Liu Jingyu and Qu Moying had the most unusual status.

However, both of them had been plotted against.

Qu Moying was lucky and escaped a disaster, but Liu Jingyu was not so lucky!

Thinking of this, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong panicked. “Someone wanted to deal with our mansion and frame us! I must let my mother know about this matter. I will not let the one behind the scene off the hook so easily.”

Since this matter was so serious, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong did not dare to deal with it alone. She ordered the old maid behind her, "Go and tell my mother about this matter and let her investigate who is behind this. Bring the two maids to my mother as well."

She had thought that it was just a matter between the unmarried ladies, but now she realized that it was a fatal issue.

The old maid complied and retreated. As she walked out, she secretly glanced at Liu Jingyu. "Is what County Lady Jingyu said true? Her words made sense, but I am somewhat puzzled. Anyway, this matter should be reported to the Grand Princess."

"County Lady Jingyu, who do you suspect?" After the old maid left, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong frowned and asked. She felt that this matter was very strange.

Everything had its cause, but she couldn't find the cause of this matter.

Now it was in a mess!

"Prefectural Princess, I have no clue either. I was on good terms with these young ladies. You also saw it at that time. There were many young ladies around us, and most of them were on good terms with us. Only Fourth Lady Qu was far away from us, but she could witness the thing most clearly because she was far away from us. However, she seemed to have some prejudice against me."

Liu Jingyu said with a bitter smile.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong could tell that Liu Jingyu's words were specially intended. "Why is she biased against you?"

"I don't know. Maybe it's because of First Lady Qu, but in fact... what happened to First Lady Qu really has nothing to do with me. It was Princess Ji who caused it."

Liu Jingyu sighed and said in distress.

She regretted questioning Qu Moying just now. Moreover, Ji Youran caught her on the spot, and it seemed that Ji Youran wanted to make an issue of it and argue with her.

Liu Jingyu had always been cautious. She did not think much of it when she talked with Ji Youran. However, the more she thought about it later, the weirder she felt. Ji Youran seemed to deliberately say those words for someone to hear.

Who was that person? Could it be the Crown Prince?

Thinking of this, Liu Jingyu was a little flustered. Regardless of whether the Crown Prince loved Ji Hanyue or not, at least the Crown Prince showed his special affection for Ji Hanyue on the surface, so she'd better not damage the Crown Prince's image to avoid arousing his disgust. As she thought of this, she felt that she had really gone too far when she questioned Qu Moying.

She even showed a hint of threat!

Liu Jingyu recalled what she had said to Ji Youran, and she knew that she had made a mistake. Even if the one who listened to her conversation with Ji Youran was not the Crown Prince, it must be someone important.

The reason why she said these words to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong now was to remedy the situation. She was acting extremely innocent, and she portrayed herself as a victim. It was understandable for her to say something wrong when she had lost her composure. She wanted others to understand her.

She tried to make up for her previous slip of the tongue.

"Princess Ji?" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong did not know that Ji Youran had come over. She had been asking the two maids here just now. "Princess Ji from Eastern Palace?"

"Yes. When I asked Fourth Lady Qu if she had seen the one who pushed me down, I might have been a little harsh with my words. Then, Princess Ji came over to reprimand me and said that Fourth Lady Qu was the ex-Crown Princess' cousin sister, so Fourth Lady Qu was also her cousin sister, and she also had the right to speak up for her..."

Liu Jingyu said with a bitter smile. She looked dejected, and she did not finish her words. It seemed that she had endless grievances.

Thinking about her difficult situation, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong looked at her with more kindness. She had been on good terms with Liu Jingyu. Seeing that Liu Jingyu had suffered a loss from Ji Youran, who they both disdained before, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong sympathized with her.

“Why are you bothering with her? When the ex-Crown Princess was alive, she was more like her attendant. Now that the ex-Crown Princess was gone, she kept mentioning the ex-Crown Princess whenever something happened. She spoke as if she hadn’t done it with the Crown Prince before...”

Speaking of this, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong suddenly paused. Even if she was talking about the Crown Prince behind his back, it was still a disrespectful act. She recalled her mother’s reminder and immediately shut her mouth. After thinking for a moment, she stood up. “Let’s go and see Princess Ji, and by the way, I will help you explain to Fourth Lady Qu!”

Hearing Prefectural Princess Xiangrong’s words, Liu Jingyu was secretly pleased. With the help of Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, she would definitely be the innocent one in this matter...

Chapter 384 County Lady Jingyu, Please Take a Seat Somewhere Else First

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong did not find Ji Youran. After asking the servants, she knew that Princess Ji had already gone back, and the Crown Prince was with her.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong had already known that the Crown Prince “happened to be” in the mansion today.

Therefore, she was even more careful not to go to his brother’s place, afraid that she would offend the Crown Prince. The Crown Prince was not officially married, and several young ladies present were actually suitable to be the Crown Princess. Even if Liu Jingyu was said to be the future Crown Princess, she hadn’t become the Crown Princess yet.

There were unlimited possibilities!

Accidents might happen. If anything happened, Grand Princess Changyu's mansion would not be able to bear the responsibility.

However, although Prefectural Princess Xiangrong took care to avoid her brother and the male guests, the Crown Prince actually came with Ji Youran. She heard that Ji Youran and Liu Jingyu had a dispute because of Qu Moying. They were both unhappy, and Liu Jingyu's behavior was suspicious.

But now the accident was over. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong asked someone to find the few young ladies who were strolling in the mansion and let them have a rest in another place.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong ruled out the previous gathering site because it was in a mess. Moreover, the traces that were not cleaned up on the second floor would remind the young ladies of the accident just now. She said that place was unsafe and let the maids bring the young ladies to another garden.

The servants of Grand Princess Changyu's mansion acted very quickly. Soon, they prepared another site for the gathering. Although it was prepared in a rush, its scenery was also very good. There were towers and pavilions around it, and a cool breeze constantly blew over. It was a good place to admire the scenery. The platform on the second floor was surrounded by high fences. Even if someone walked to the platform, accidents that happened in the waterside pavilion would not happen here again.

Moreover, the second floor was big enough.

A maid in Grand Princess Changyu's mansion found Qu Moying and led her to the new gathering place. When Qu Moying came over, she saw the young ladies chatting and laughing harmoniously.

Seeing Qu Moying come over, a maid immediately greeted her with a smile. It seemed that she had been waiting for Qu Moying here for a long time. "Fourth Lady Qu, our Prefectural Princess invites you to go upstairs."

Qu Moying went upstairs. On the spacious second floor, the young ladies were chatting and laughing in twos and threes. It seemed that everyone was in a good mood after the previous farce. There was no

uneasy expression on their faces. As for what they were actually thinking, Qu Moying couldn't tell at a glance.

Seated among the ladies, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong gently shook the round silk fan in her hand, looking quite at ease. Liu Jingyu, who was sitting next to her, also smiled elegantly. Her hair was almost dry, and she did not look as embarrassed as before. She was smiling as if nothing had happened.

Liu Jingyu was the first one to see Qu Moying come in. She waved at Qu Moying with a big smile and said softly, "Fourth Lady Qu, here you are. Come here!"

She called Qu Moying so intimately as if she really had a close relationship with Qu Moying.

Qu Moying sneered. Liu Jingyu was really good at acting. No wonder she had always been gentle and courteous in the eyes of other young ladies.

Qu Moying stepped forward and bowed to Liu Jingyu and Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, "Greetings, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, County Lady Jingyu!"

"Fourth Lady Qu, please save the formalities. Just now, Prefectural Princess and I have been sending people to look for you. I am afraid that something will happen to you again!" Liu Jingyu said softly. She stood up with a gentle and concerned expression. Then, she bowed to Qu Moying. "Just now, I wanted to find out who plotted against me. I was too anxious that I overreacted. If I offended you, please forgive me!"

Qu Moying dodged sideways to avoid Liu Jingyu's bow, and the expression on her face remained unchanged. She glanced at Liu Jingyu. This Liu Jingyu was indeed not easy to deal with. With just a few words, she had explained her previous mistakes. Moreover, she portrayed herself as a victim like Qu Moying.

Her words implied that it was impossible for either her or Qu Moying to be the mastermind because they were both the victims.

"County Lady, it's really polite of you. I really did not see who did that to you just now. Sorry to let you down." Since Liu Jingyu acted so well, Qu Moying naturally would not show the white feather. She

placed her hand to the side and also bowed sideways. "County Lady, don't worry. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong will take care of it."

Liu Jingyu spoke first before Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, the host, said anything. She was being impolite in whichever aspect.

Sure enough, a look of displeasure flashed across Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's face. Today's Liu Jingyu was indeed different from what she used to be. She was a little too sharp, which was very different from her past self!

Could it be that she really played a part in the incident?

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong glanced at Liu Jingyu subtly. At this time, Liu Jingyu also reacted. She hurriedly replied to Qu Moying with a smile. Her expression was extremely gentle, but she cursed Qu Moying in her heart. "This blind woman is really hard to deal with!"

She was trying to defend herself, but now she made Prefectural Princess Xiangrong suspect her, making her previous words completely useless.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong pointed to an empty chair beside her and said, "Fourth Lady Qu, please sit!"

Qu Moying thanked her, stepped forward, and sat down.

"Fourth Lady Qu, you were frightened just now. I apologize to you with this cup of tea as a toast." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong picked up the teacup at hand, raised the teacup to her lips, and took a sip with a smile.

Qu Moying quickly said, "I don't deserve this. Thank you very much." Her tea had not been served yet, so she could only stand up and lower her head to express her gratitude.

Then, she sat down again and asked, "Prefectural Princess, did you find anything?"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's face darkened. It seemed that the matter had been investigated clearly, but in fact, she had gained nothing. The two maids were from her own mansion. It seemed that this matter was only related to her own mansion.

Seeing Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's expression, Qu Moying smiled. "Prefectural Princess, are there many people who are familiar with the previous gathering place?"

She raised her head and looked around. The meaning in her words was very obvious. She was asking whether these ladies knew the previous gathering place or not. Besides, she seemed to know something that she wanted to talk to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong in detail.

"No!" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong shook her head and looked at the young ladies around her.

All these young ladies were clever. They immediately understood what Prefectural Princess Xiangrong meant. She had something to say to Qu Moying alone, so they all stood up and left.

They smiled and went somewhere else to talk.

Liu Jingyu did not want to leave. She was afraid that Qu Moying would say something to make Prefectural Princess Xiangrong suspicious of her. However, since everyone else had left, it would be too strange if she didn't leave.

Liu Jingyu thought for a while and had an idea. She did not beat around the bush and said to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong directly, "Prefectural Princess, can I stay and listen? After all, this matter has something to do with me."

Since she said so, it was inappropriate for Prefectural Princess Xiangrong to reject her directly. Moreover, this matter really had something to do with Liu Jingyu.

"Prefectural Princess, why don't you talk to County Lady Jingyu first? I'll go sit by the side first." Qu Moying stood up with a smile. It seemed that she wanted to let them talk first. Of course, it could also be said that she didn't want Liu Jingyu to sit here. After all, the two of them didn't seem to get along well with each other.

Even if Liu Jingyu had explained to her, she still minded.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong felt that Qu Moying was too narrow-minded. She just wanted to discuss today's matter with the two of them. Why did Qu Moying want to talk to her alone? But if Qu Moying insisted, she could only do as Qu Moying wished because it seemed that the one behind today's matter really targeted Qu Moying.

Most importantly, Qu Moying was someone that Lord Yun had taken a fancy to.

It was impossible for Prefectural Princess Xiangrong not to care about her.

"I have already talked to County Lady Jingyu. I want to hear your opinion now. Fourth Lady Qu, please sit!" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said casually and then looked at Liu Jingyu apologetically, "County Lady Jingyu, can you have a seat somewhere else? I'll talk to you after I finish talking with Fourth Lady Qu."

Liu Jingyu could hardly believe what she had heard.

She was actually asked to leave by Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, and it was because of Qu Moying, whom she looked down on the most. She felt extremely humiliated!

She never expected this. After hearing Qu Moying's words just now, she mocked Qu Moying for being too narrow-minded in her heart. She thought Qu Moying's words were in vain, and Prefectural Princess Xiangrong would not respond to her request. However, she didn't expect that Prefectural Princess Xiangrong not only granted Qu Moying's request but also let her sit elsewhere.

Liu Jingyu's face flushed with anger, but she tried her best to suppress her anger and stood up with a calm expression. "Alright, I'll go over there and wait for you, Prefectural Princess!"

She pointed to a place, but there was no one in that place now. There were only two seats over there. There was also Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's qin. Obviously, it was the place where Prefectural Princess Xiangrong usually played the qin. Since Prefectural Princess Xiangrong didn't sit over there, the other young ladies knew better than to sit over there.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said amiably, "Alright, you may wait for me over there!"

Liu Jingyu nodded at Qu Moying again and went to wait in the place she had just pointed. She still wore a smile. She looked gentle, decent, and dignified. However, her slightly blushed face showed that she was not as calm as she appeared to be.

She was probably about to die from anger!

Qu Moying watched Liu Jingyu leave with a smile. Liu Jingyu was showing off the relationship between her and Prefectural Princess Xiangrong. She was so close to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong that she did not need to care too much about the formalities. She was also trying to warn Qu Moying that no matter what Qu Moying said, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong would tell her in the end, so Qu Moying had better not talk nonsense.

Since Liu Jingyu could turn herself from the future Princess Jing to the future Crown Princess, she was obviously no ordinary person. Her shrewdness could be seen from the few simple words she had just said.

It was not surprising for such a person to become the future Crown Princess!

The reason why Liu Jingyu made a slip of the tongue before was that she fell into the water, which made her embarrassed in front of so many ladies. What's more, she was deliberately angered by Ji Youran. Now, she probably had regained her composure.

A clear-minded Liu Jingyu was even more difficult to deal with.

Liu Jingyu took her seat over there elegantly and smiled at them. She didn't seem to be forced to leave by Qu Moying at all.

Qu Moying really admired her for being so capable and thick-skinned...

Chapter 385 Three Maids Went Out

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said, "Fourth Lady Qu, please go on!"

Qu Moying retracted her gaze and asked with a serious face, "Prefectural Princess, can you tell me what you have found out?"

"I questioned the servants and knew that an old maid was behind this accident, but I can't find this old maid now." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was extremely angry. The old maid was the key to this matter, but the problem was that she was missing, so Grand Princess Changyu's mansion had to take full responsibility. Thinking that her mother would ask her about this matter again later, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong felt pretty bad.

She lowered her head slightly and looked terrible.

Seeing Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's expression, Qu Moying already had an idea in her heart. She continued to ask, "Prefectural Princess, have you sent someone to ask the guards? Did anyone see this old maid?"

"I have asked, but no one saw such an old maid go out." Prefectural Princess Xiangrong shook her head. She had already sent people to ask the guards at the gates, but they didn't see such an old maid enter the mansion. "The guards at the front and back gates have all been asked!"

Qu Moying looked around and said, "There are many ladies here today, and they each brought several maids and old maids with them. There should be some ladies who left in advance, right?"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong thought for a moment and said, "No!"

A maid behind Prefectural Princess Xiangrong slightly opened her mouth. She seemed to want to say something, but after thinking for a while, she did not say anything.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong could not see her reaction, but Qu Moying saw it and had a faint idea in her heart.

Qu Moying assumed, “No ladies left, but did any maid leave? Or have any maids temporarily left to fetch something for their ladies?”

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong couldn’t answer this question. She was sure that no lady had left, but she didn’t know if any maid had left. After all, many young ladies came today. Almost all the invited ladies were here. If some ladies forgot to take something, it was normal for them to ask their maids to get it for them.

She turned around and looked at the maid standing behind her. She had sent this maid to ask if anyone had left the mansion.

The maid stepped forward, bowed, and said, “Prefectural Princess, there were maids who left. They were the maids of three different ladies, but they all came back later.”

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong asked, “Which three ladies?”

“One of them is Fourth Lady He’s maid. The maid said that Fourth Lady He forgot to bring the chessboard, and Fourth Lady He wanted to play chess with County Lady Jingyu later. One of them is the maid of Earl Fengyang’s Mansion’s Miss Yan. Miss Yan forgot a set of paintbrushes and asked her maid to bring them over. The last one is County Lady Jingyu’s maid. County Lady Jingyu forgot to bring her round silk fan, so she asked her maid to fetch it for her.”

The maid thought for a while and reported.

Qu Moying asked with a smile, “Were they all maids?”

“They were maids...” The maid thought for a moment and tried to make it more specific. “They left in the maids’ clothes of each mansion, and they came back in each mansion’s maids’ clothes, too. The guards couldn’t remember their faces because they were not familiar with them. However, they were certain that three maids went out and then came back.”

There were a lot of young ladies coming today, and they all brought several maids with them. Some of the maids stayed by their ladies’ side, while some were waiting for orders in the carriages. That was to say, each young lady brought at least two maids.

So many people had entered the mansion, and some of them had come for the first time, so it was understandable that the lad servants at the gate of Grand Princess Changyu's mansion couldn't remember their faces.

"Could it be that the old maid changed into a maid's clothes..." Qu Moying said meaningfully, leading Prefectural Princess Xiangrong to think in this way.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong looked at her maid.

The maid thought for a moment and nodded with a bitter smile. "If the old maid is not that old, she could dress up as a maid."

Maids and old maids from each mansion wore different clothes. One could distinguish a maid from an old maid at a glance.

Generally speaking, an old maid had to be around forty years old to be called an old maid, while a maid was usually only in her teens.

Qu Moying asked, "Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, can you ask the two maids in your mansion if this so-called old maid looks young?"

This question made Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's face darken. If the old maid looked young, it was really possible for her to leave the mansion in maid's clothes. This old maid could just send a maid back when it was about time. Anyway, the guards at the gate could not accurately recognize who was from which mansion, and they couldn't tell whether the person who left was the person who came back.

Qu Moying continued, "Prefectural Princess, please ask the guards whose maid left with her head down so that her face couldn't be seen clearly."

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong nodded. Since she had begun to think this way, she naturally knew that if someone really left in the disguise of a maid, she would definitely not want to let people see her face, or at least not the entire face. After all, if her face was not seen clearly, she would not be easily exposed.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong instructed something to a maid, and the maid nodded and hurriedly left.

Liu Jingyu had been waiting not far away. When she saw that Prefectural Princess Xiangrong sent a maid away, she was shocked and paid more attention to the situation over there.

She clenched the round silk fan in her hand. "I couldn't let Qu Moying and Prefectural Princess Xiangrong continue to talk like this. I have to think of a way..."

"Prefectural Princess, this is one clue, and there is another clue. Do you have a good relationship with such a person who was familiar with the pavilion that was set up for the gathering just now and the guarding rules of your mansion? She should know how to let people come and leave without attracting others' attention. Otherwise, any mistake may affect the final result."

Qu Moying reminded Prefectural Princess Xiangrong again with a smile.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's face darkened. There were a few ladies who had a close relationship with her and were familiar with her mansion. She had thought about which one of the ladies it was before. Now that she had locked on three ladies, the answer was about to come out.

The three ladies who sent their maids away were all suspects, and among the three ladies, the one who had the best relationship with Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was County Lady Jingyu. There was a slight difference in their identities. It seemed that Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's title was higher, and she was a descendant of the royal family. However, the power of the forces behind County Lady Jingyu was actually greater.

Grand Princess Changyu had a noble title, but she did not have strong power. In this regard, Liu Jingyu's status was actually on par with that of Prefectural Princess Xiangrong.

Moreover, it seemed that Liu Jingyu's status could even get higher, and she might become the Empress in the future.

The two of them had similar statuses, so they got along well with each other.

Seeing that Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's expression darkened, Qu Moying knew that she had hit the nail on the head. She was just the daughter of a vice minister, and she didn't need to bother with what would happen next. She smiled and said, "Prefectural Princess, I don't know if I'm thinking right or wrong. If I said anything wrong, please forgive me. I'm just afraid that what happened today will cause lead to trouble in the future. Just now, Eastern Palace's Side Princess came."

She was implicitly reminded Prefectural Princess Xiangrong that Pei Luo'an was also in the mansion just now.

If Prefectural Princess Xiangrong heard these words separately before, she wouldn't feel anything strange. Actually, she had thought of some points that Qu Moying mentioned, but she didn't dig deep into them.

Now that the matter was analyzed in such detail, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong could almost lock on Liu Jingyu.

It was highly likely that this matter had something to do with Liu Jingyu. She had thought that Liu Jingyu was innocent before. As for Liu Jingyu's purpose, it might be because of Pei Luo'an.

Or the reason why Pei Luo'an came to his mansion today might have something to do with Liu Jingyu. Otherwise, why did Ji Youran suddenly come here?

As for the reason, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong couldn't figure it out for a while, so she might have to ask her mother to think about it. However, she was displeased that Eastern Palace's internal fight had reached her family, and she couldn't vent her anger. She looked up at Liu Jingyu, who was diagonally opposite her. Seeing Liu Jingyu smile gently at her, she became angrier.

"If this matter was really planned by Liu Jingyu, I must have appeared to be foolish in her eyes just now."

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong forced a smile at Liu Jingyu and then turned to continue talking to Qu Moying, "Fourth Lady Qu, do you have a close relationship with the ex-Crown Princess?"

“My cousin sister took good care of me. When I was in the village, she kept sending people to teach me. My eyes were cured by the doctor she sent over. Now I am still in the stage of recovery.” Qu Moying lowered her head. Her lips slightly lowered, and her pale face was a little sad.

What happened to Ji Hanyue was indeed pitiful. Thinking of how this ex-Crown Princess treated others before she died, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong had to admit that she deserved to be the Empress. Ji Hanyue was generous, fair, and straightforward. She was different from the ordinary noble ladies.

Ji Hanyue had a well-deserved reputation, but it seemed that Liu Jingyu’s reputation fell short of reality!

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong thought of Liu Jingyu again and felt more and more uncomfortable.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong had something on her mind, so she comforted Qu Moying absent-mindedly, “Since the ex-Crown Princess and Princess Ji used to have such a good relationship, Princess Ji will take care of you although the ex-Crown Princess has passed away!”

She heard that Ji Youran stood up for Qu Moying. She had thought that it was a blessing for Qu Moying to have Ji Youran take care of her. Now, she suddenly suspected that Princess Ji was just using Qu Moying as an excuse to quarrel with Liu Jingyu and that Qu Moying was just a tool for their fight!

Thinking of this, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong felt that what happened in her own mansion today might also be a part of Liu Jingyu and Ji Youran’s fight. She even thought that she and Qu Moying were both victims of the fight, and she found Qu Moying more and more pleasing to the eye.

Since they were both victims, there was no reason for her to resent Qu Moying.

“Princess Ji is Princess Ji. She is not my cousin sister, and I have never interacted with her before!” Qu Moying shook her head with a bitter smile and gently pursed her lips. She said in a low voice, and it sounded more like she was moping. However, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong heard her clearly and knew that Ji Youran was probably just pretending.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong thought to herself, “Ji Youran was acting, and Liu Jingyu was also acting. They took my mansion as their stage and put on a show in front of the Crown Prince. How boring! I see.

The two of them competed for the Crown Prince's favor, but they turned the Grand Princess Mansion into their battlefield."

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong felt that she was too unlucky, but she couldn't do anything. She felt aggrieved and angry. She was not familiar with Ji Youran, but she had a close relationship with Liu Jingyu. She thought Liu Jingyu had gone too far to plot against her like this. Thinking of how close she and Liu Jingyu were before, she felt disgusted and thought that Liu Jingyu was really hypocritical.

"Liu Jingyu is really a typical two-faced woman! In the future, I have to be more careful when I am with her. I can't be close to her as before..."

At this moment, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong had become wary of Liu Jingyu...

Chapter 386 First Lady of Duke Qi's Mansion

As Qu Moying and Prefectural Princess Xiangrong were talking, a young lady suddenly came to Qu Moying and asked, "Fourth Lady Qu, I saw that you brought your qin set. I wonder if I can listen to you play a tune?"

Although Qu Moying was talking to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, she had been paying attention to Liu Jingyu. She saw Liu Jingyu talk to a maid behind her, and the maid walked behind this young lady.

Qu Moying silently curved her lips. She was not surprised. Many ladies didn't expect her appearance today, and once they were instigated, there would definitely be someone challenging her. Qu Moying knew that there would be ladies challenging her even if Liu Jingyu didn't do anything. But the fact that Liu Jingyu made a move meant that she panicked.

Qu Moying stood up with a smile. "I can't play well. Can you play a tune first?"

Since the young lady dared to challenge Qu Moying, she was naturally very good at playing the qin. The gathering was held for ladies to show their talents, so the young lady would not flinch. "Okay!"

A maid brought over a qin. The young lady sat down nearby, and the maid placed the qin for her.

The young lady slowly began to play the qin. She indeed played the qin well. Even Qu Moying had to admit that this young lady was a superb qin player.

Everyone stopped talking and quietly listened to the young lady playing the qin. After she finished playing, everyone applauded.

The young lady looked at Qu Moying complacently and made a gesture of invitation. "Fourth Lady Qu, it's your turn!"

Qu Moying also walked to one side with a smile. Yu Chun had already set up the qin for her. After the qin cover was removed, the qin case was revealed. Seeing Qu Moying's qin case, one of the ladies frowned and involuntarily leaned forward, trying to see the qin case clearly.

This young lady's reaction was not weird. Several young ladies wanted to see Qu Moying's qin clearly. They heard that Qu Mansion wasn't very wealthy or powerful, so they wondered what kind of qin Qu Moying brought.

However, before they could see the qin case clearly, the qin in the qin case had already been taken out. Moreover, when most of them saw the qin case, they couldn't recognize what the qin was, so they didn't pay further attention to it.

But the lady who first paid attention to the qin case looked at the qin case that Yu Chun had placed behind her in shock. Although she only got a glimpse of the qin case just now, she saw it more clearly than others because she had been paying attention to it. She found the qin case really familiar, and she thought she had seen it in a picture in the past.

She gripped the handkerchief tightly and looked at Qu Moying with confusion. "If it really is that qin, why does it appear in the hands of Qu Moying?"

"I heard that that qin has disappeared!"

“It has disappeared for many years. Why is it owned by someone from Qu Mansion now? I remember that there was no Qu Mansion in the capital city when that qin disappeared.”

Melodious qin music came out. Qu Moying played an extremely ordinary tune, and many of the young ladies present could play it, but they knew it was hard to play it perfectly.

When Qu Moying was still Ji Hanyue, she played this tune, which amazed many people. After that, all the young ladies in the capital knew that in terms of playing the qin, this future Crown Princess at that time was second to none.

However, no one had expected that Qu Moying, Ji Hanyue’s cousin sister, could play the qin so well. She played so well that she reminded others of the ex-Crown Princess. The young ladies present knew that Qu Moying was the ex-Crown Princess’ cousin sister because Princess Ji mentioned it in front of them, which reminded them of the relationship between Ji Hanyue and Qu Moying.

Because of the relationship between Ji Hanyue and Qu Moying, the ladies didn’t overthink the similarity between Qu Moying’s music and Ji Hanyue’s music.

They thought that perhaps Ji Hanyue taught Qu Moying how to play the qin.

However, they heard that Qu Moying had a serious eye disease and couldn’t even see things clearly, but now she could play a tune so expertly, which was really surprising. Excellent playing skills required frequent practice. Although Qu Moying was abandoned in the village at a young age, she turned out to have good breeding.

Many young ladies looked at each other. They were really amazed. It seemed that the rumors were really misleading.

Since Qu Moying had brought a qin over, she certainly knew how to play the qin. But even if she could play the qin, she might not be able to play it well. However, after listening to her playing the qin, some ladies who originally wanted to find fault with her quieted down.

They were not qualified to find faults with Qu Moying because very few people could play the qin better than her.

Liu Jingyu's face darkened. She did not expect this result. She failed to embarrass Qu Moying but even offer her a chance to gain a reputation. After this, nobody would say that Qu Moying was not talented.

After Qu Moying finished playing a tune, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong applauded first. Liu Jingyu reacted quickly and applauded with a smile. Then, many young ladies applauded together with them.

Even Prefectural Princess Xiangrong and County Lady Jingyu applauded with appreciation, so how could the other ladies think that Qu Moying didn't play well?

Since two ladies had played the qin, many other ladies began to play the qin as well.

The atmosphere suddenly became lively.

Later, some ladies showed their paintings in twos and threes, and some ladies sat together to discuss poetry and calligraphy, leaving the previous accident to the back of their minds.

Seeing that it was about time, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong asked the servants to get the banquet ready. The banquet place was downstairs and very close.

The ladies packed up their things, asked their maids to take them, and went downstairs with Prefectural Princess Xiangrong.

The windows downstairs were all opened. The wind blew, and the ladies were even more excited. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong asked the maids to bring some fruit wine, which was said to be the sweetest but didn't taste like wine, so that people wouldn't get drunk even if they drank it.

The maids poured the fruit wine for their ladies one by one and then passed the wine pot to the next maid.

Qu Moying was pulled by Prefectural Princess Xiangrong by the hand as they were seated. Everyone could see that Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was very kind to Qu Moying now. Therefore, everyone

looked up to Qu Moying. The key was that Qu Moying was not untalented. A few young ladies had discussed poems with Qu Moying just now and felt that she was quite talented.

Qu Moying casually made a few poems just now, and one of the young ladies kept her poems in mind and kept praising her.

Yu Dong took the wine pot from the maid in Grand Princess Changyu's mansion and looked at Qu Moying, but he did not pour it for her.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong noticed Yu Dong's abnormality and asked with a smile, "Fourth Lady Qu, don't you like drinking?"

Qu Moying replied softly, "I have an eye disease, so I had better not drink."

Yu Dong passed the wine pot in his hand to the next maid.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong didn't mind Qu Moying's refusal. Instead, she was curious about Qu Moying's eyes. She looked up at Qu Moying. She thought that Qu Moying should be quite good-looking. "Haven't your eyes recovered yet? I heard that you recovered a long time ago, but you are just recuperating."

Even though the long eye veil covered Qu Moying's eyes, she still felt that Qu Moying's appearance was outstanding. Looking at Qu Moying at such a close distance, she felt that Qu Moying was definitely not a plain-looking person as the rumor said!

She thought that Young Master Yongning was quite blind!

Qu Moying explained, "I still need to recuperate for a period of time because it is good for my eyes, especially now that the sunlight outside is still so strong."

Although it was almost autumn, the sunlight outside was still very strong. Ordinary people would feel uncomfortable when facing such strong sunlight, let alone Qu Moying who had an eye disease.

Fourth Lady He suddenly said, "Fourth Lady Qu, I heard that you were neither beautiful nor talented before, but now I know that the rumors are all false. I wonder what you look like. It's rare to have such a chance today. Why don't you remove the eye veil and let us see your face?"

Her words didn't sound malicious, but her sarcastic look showed that she was provoking Qu Moying again.

The matter between Qu Mansion and He Mansion was known to almost everyone in the capital, so the ladies knew the reason why Fourth Lady He was picking on Qu Moying.

"Yes, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong and County Lady Jingyu are both here. Fourth Lady Qu, why don't you let us see your face?"

"We are in the room. It will be fine even if you take off your eye veil."

"Fourth Lady Qu, you normally take off the eye veil in your own room, right?" A few young ladies sitting next to Fourth Lady He echoed.

This time, even Prefectural Princess Xiangrong became curious.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong looked at the open windows on both sides and smiled. "Fourth Lady Qu, if you mind, I will ask someone to close the windows."

Qu Moying said apologetically, "Prefectural Princess, you must be joking. It is not that I can't remove it, but I am still having ointment on my eyes. It is not convenient to directly remove the eye veil now."

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said in surprise, "You are still applying ointment? I thought you had recovered, and you put on the eye veil just to protect your eyes from the strong light."

Qu Moying shook her head gently and answered softly, "I am still applying ointment. My eyes are not completely cured for the time being. I am sorry."

“Since that’s the case, then forget it!” Prefectural Princess Xiangrong waved her hand casually, causing the group of young ladies who still wanted to speak to shut their mouths.

Even Fourth Lady He, the one who initiated the matter, could not say anything. Since Prefectural Princess Xiangrong had already said “forget it”, how could they continue to let Qu Moying take off the eye veil?

Then, someone changed the topic and no longer paid attention to Qu Moying. Everyone chatted and laughed. They were very comfortable because there were no elders around, and with fruit wine adding to the fun, they became more and more excited.

“Fourth Lady Qu, can I ask you something?” A lady sitting next to Qu Moying asked. Only then did Qu Moying find that this lady was actually the first lady of Duke Qi’s Mansion, Qi Xiangyu. She hadn’t noticed Qi Xiangyu just now and didn’t know when Qi Xiangyu had sat next to her. She remembered that the one sitting next to her just now was not Qi Xiangyu.

“Miss Qi, please ask!” Qu Moying said with a smile. She put down the chopsticks in her hand and gently wiped her mouth with a handkerchief.

Qi Xiangyu asked with a kind smile, “Fourth Lady Qu, can you tell me whether your qin was left by your mother or bought in a shop?”

Qu Moying blinked and answered honestly, “It was left by my mother.”

Qi Xiangyu asked in surprise, “Your mother left it? Did she bring it over from the South?”

“It should be. I am not too sure. This was originally something from my mother’s dowry.” Qu Moying smiled and said calmly. Her eyes fell on Qi Xiangyu.

Although Qi Xiangyu was Duke Qi’s Mansion’s lady, she couldn’t compare with Liu Jingyu in Duke Qi’s eyes. How partial was Duke Qi? He treated Liu Jingyu, who was born by his daughter, so well but treated Qi Xiangyu, who was born by his son, just as if she didn’t matter a farthing. Was it because Qi Xiangyu’s father was just a concubine-born son?

Qu Moying wondered what Qi Xiangyu wanted to get from her. Was it like what she had guessed?

Chapter 387 Liu Jingyu Suffered Great Losses

Under the eye veil, Qu Moying's eyes slightly contracted. Then, she looked at Qi Xiangyu calmly as if she really did not know anything.

Qi Xiangyu was indeed more and more surprised. "It is an item from your mother's dowry?"

Qu Moying answered with a smile, "Yes. Is there anything wrong?"

Qi Xiangyu hurriedly waved her hand. "No, no. There is nothing wrong. I'm just interested in your qin. Can I take a closer look at it later?"

Qu Moying said without hesitation, "Okay!"

Qi Xiangyu was overjoyed and repeatedly thanked her.

Liu Jingyu looked over from the other side of Prefectural Princess Xiangrong and saw that Qu Moying and Qi Xiangyu talked happily, so she asked with a smile, "Cousin Sister, what are you talking with Fourth Lady Qu? You two seemed to be very happy."

"Nothing. I just ask Fourth Lady Qu what books she usually reads." Qi Xiangyu's smile faded slightly. Although she still smiled, her smile seemed alienated.

Liu Jingyu seemed to be curious as well, and she asked, "Then what books do you usually read, Fourth Lady Qu?"

Qu Moying shook her head. "I just read casually. I read whatever book at hand. There is nothing like a must-read book."

Hearing such words, Liu Jingyu had no clue to continue the topic, so she glanced at Qu Moying and continued to talk to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong.

The hostess and the guests all enjoyed the meal. After the banquet was over, everyone began to take their leave.

Qi Xiangyu followed Qu Moying upstairs to see the qin.

Yu Chun put down the qin on the table, took off the qin cover, and revealed the qin case.

Qi Xiangyu took two steps forward, held the qin case in her arms, and carefully examined every inch of it. She was so shocked and excited that she couldn't say anything for a moment. She just touched the carved patterns on the qin case with her trembling hands and slowly opened the qin case...

Yu Dong looked at Qu Moying in surprise. He did not understand why Qi Xiangyu was so excited. He thought even if Qi Xiangyu liked this qin, she had been overreacting to some extent.

However, Qu Moying was very calm. She looked at Qi Xiangyu, lost in thought. "Is this qin really related to Duke Qi's Mansion as I thought?"

After a long time, Qi Xiangyu raised her head and looked at Qu Moying. She asked again, "Is this really your mother's dowry?"

Qu Moying nodded. "Yes!"

Qi Xiangyu forced a smile. "That... That's too surprising!"

Qu Moying looked at Qi Xiangyu, whose face was still filled with excitement, and asked, "Miss Qi, can you tell me why you are so surprised?"

"I... I have heard of this qin. I heard that it was an excellent qin. Previously, I just caught a glimpse of it and couldn't help but want to see it clearly. Sorry to make you laugh." Qi Xiangyu said. She gently pressed the handkerchief on her face and suddenly smiled. "I might have been too excited. This is the first time I've ever seen this qin."

Qu Moying asked implicitly, "What is special about this qin? I don't know about its background."

"I accidentally read about this qin in a book. In fact, it might not have been recorded in other books. It has a good name. I knew that it was destroyed in the chaos of war, so I kept it in mind. It seems that it is another wrong rumor. It turned out that it was not destroyed, but your mother's maternal family got it."

After all, Qi Xiangyu was a young lady of Duke Qi's Mansion. At this time, she also knew that she had lost her composure just now. She explained calmly, and her expression slowly returned to normal.

Qi Xiangyu and Qu Moying talked about the qin for a while. Seeing that it was late, Qi Xiangyu invited Qu Moying to leave together.

At this time, some of the young ladies had already left. Qu Moying looked out of the window and found that it was indeed time to leave. She let Yu Chun and Yu Dong pack up the qin. Then, she went downstairs to say goodbye to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong with her two maids.

Seeing that Qi Xiangyu and Qu Moying insisted on leaving, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong didn't insist to keep them and invited them to come again next time.

"Fourth Lady Qu, it's your first time here, but I feel that we are very congenial. You were frightened just now, so I specially prepared a gift for you to express my apology."

After Prefectural Princess Xiangrong finished speaking, a maid behind her walked out with a small tray in her hands, on which there were two bolts of brocades and a pair of jade bracelets. One could easily tell that the pair of jade bracelets was not ordinary.

Qu Moying refused, "Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, you are too polite. I really don't dare to accept your gift!"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong walked up and held Qu Moying's hands intimately, "Fourth Lady Qu, are you reluctant to forgive me for my negligence?"

"Of course not!"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said, "Since that's the case, please accept it. Although it's not something particularly good, it's a token of my appreciation."

Since she had already said this, Qu Moying would appear too pretentious if she did not accept it. She had no choice but to let Yu Dong accept it and prepare to return a gift after she was back in Qu Mansion.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong turned to Qi Xiangyu, "Miss Qi, why don't you sit for a while longer? Just now, County Lady Jingyu said that we few close friends could sit for a while longer and talk."

Qi Xiangyu shook her head with a smile. "Prefectural Princess, I still have something to do, so I couldn't keep you company."

This was clearly a refusal.

Therefore, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong asked someone to lead them out. Looking at their backs, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong narrowed her eyes. She felt that the relationship between Qi Xiangyu and Qu Moying had suddenly improved.

Qi Xiangyu was not an approachable person in the past. Why did she get along well with Qu Moying so quickly this time?

It was quite unexpected...

However, this was just a trifle for Prefectural Princess Xiangrong now. The one she paid the most attention to was Liu Jingyu. Just now, a maid reported to Prefectural Princess Xiangrong that Liu Jingyu's maid lowered her head when she left and raised her head when she came back. As for whether the maid who came back was the one who had gone out before, the guard was not sure.

The guard said that he didn't see that maid clearly when she first left the mansion.

Grand Princess Changyu's mansion suffered a loss in vain on this matter. Only if the old maid was caught could Liu Jingyu be testified against.

This matter was a thorn in Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's heart. Now that Liu Jingyu was still here, she wanted to see Liu Jingyu would put on the next part of her show...

The young ladies who didn't leave were close to each other. Prefectural Princess Xiangrong talked with them for about two hours before seeing them off.

After the last young lady left Grand Princess Changyu's mansion, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's expression turned cold, and she led her people to the main yard behind.

It was Grand Princess Changyu's yard.

Hearing that her daughter had come, Grand Princess Changyu asked her in.

As soon as Prefectural Princess Xiangrong entered the door, she said angrily, "Mother, it must be Liu Jingyu. I didn't expect that her gentle appearance was actually fake. She is good at acting. She looks aloof and noble, but in fact, she is really..."

"Xiangrong, watch your words!" Grand Princess Changyu scolded Prefectural Princess Xiangrong in a low voice. Compared with her daughter, Grand Princess Changyu looked much calmer.

She had already known everything that had happened today. A part of the story was inquired by her, and the rest was explained to her by her daughter's maid.

She had figured out the cause and effect of the matter.

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong was unconvinced. "Mother, Liu Jingyu's is just a petty being. Why can't I talk about her?"

Grand Princess Changyu reminded Prefectural Princess Xiangrong, "She is not important now, but she will become the Crown Princess in the future."

Hearing her words, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong became angrier, "Mother, the ex-Crown Princess was really an impeccable person. Only because she was no longer around could Liu Jingyu..."

Grand Princess Changyu's face turned cold. "Xiangyu, did you forget what I have told you?"

Seeing that her mother was angry, Prefectural Princess Xiangrong did not dare to continue, but she was still very angry.

Grand Princess Changyu looked at her daughter, her expression slightly softening. She asked, "Do you feel very aggrieved?"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's face was red from anger. "Mother, how dared she?"

Grand Princess Changyu said meaningfully, "She dared to do so because she is going to become the future Crown Princess, and this is enough."

"But... but she is not yet, and it is not certain what will happen in the future. Moreover, these are all the Crown Prince's family affairs. Why did they stir up trouble in our mansion?" Prefectural Princess Xiangrong said angrily. She almost had to take on a big responsibility. She was annoyed at Liu Jingyu.

If she didn't have to save Liu Jingyu's face, she would have asked Liu Jingyu to leave on the spot.

"The Crown Prince..." Grand Princess Changyu sighed, "He made such a mess in the mourning hall that day, and now something related to him happened in our mansion. We'd better try our best not to be involved with things related to Crown Prince's Mansion in the future."

There were some things that Grand Princess Changyu could not say in front of her daughter. Originally, she felt that Pei Luo'an's position as the Crown Prince was stable, and Pei Luo'an was gentle and

affectionate. However, the more she saw, the more she found that the situation was not like what she had expected. When did the fight between Pei Luo'an's women come to this point?

She thought of the chaos in the mourning hall that day and the fight between Liu Jingyu and Ji Youran today. Moreover, now that she heard Prefectural Princess Xiangrong's words, she also thought that the matter that happened today was caused by the fight between Liu Jingyu and Ji Youran. She thought that both her family and Qu Moying were made use of by Ji Youran and Liu Jingyu.

No one would be willing to be exploited in such a thing. Was Pei Luo'an's position as the Crown Prince stable? He couldn't even control his inner yard, so how could he expand his power and manage the country...

It seemed that the Crown Prince was not good at dealing with women. Since ancient times, many emperors came to a miserable end for the sake of women. As the Crown Prince's elder, Grand Princess Changyu was a little worried.

Of course, she was also a little annoyed. No matter what the Crown Prince did in his own mansion, he shouldn't have allowed such trouble to take place in her mansion.

Grand Princess Changyu said earnestly, "From now on, you should keep a distance from County Lady Jingyu. Be careful not to be used by her again. Otherwise, you might be a blind donkey exploited by her to the last drop of your blood!"

Prefectural Princess Xiangrong nodded in agreement. "Mother, I understand. I will gradually stay away from her."

In the future, she would stay far away from Liu Jingyu. Even if Liu Jingyu entered Eastern Palace and became the Crown Princess, she might not have the last laugh. The Paramount Empress was the woman that the Emperor loved the most back then, but she was grounded in the Cold Palace and died there in the end.

Liu Jingyu did not know that her arrogant move had made Grand Princess Changyu doubt her and even alienate her. In the later disputes, Grand Princess Changyu's mansion no longer stood on her side and helped her...

At this time, Qu Moying had already left Grand Princess Changyu's mansion in her carriage, but she did not expect to be stopped halfway...

Chapter 388 A Weird Sick Lady

A maid stopped Qu Mansion's carriage. "Could you please take our lady to the clinic ahead? Our carriage is broken, and our lady is sick."

Yu Dong jumped off the carriage and saw a carriage parked on the opposite side of the road. There were two maids standing next to that carriage. They were taller than the average maids, but they were very thin.

Yu Dong asked, "Is your lady going to see a doctor?"

"Yes. The clinic is not far away, but I'm afraid our lady can't walk so far. Can you give her a ride?" The maid who stopped the carriage pleaded with Yu Dong with a helpless face. She pointed to the front and said, "It's not far ahead. It won't take long."

Yu Dong turned around to report to Qu Moying. After thinking for a moment, Qu Moying held Yu Chun's hand and came down from the carriage. She was not in a hurry to return to Qu Mansion. She happened to want to go to Yue's Clothing Pavilion. She could take a shortcut on foot there, which would not take long. But if she went there by carriage, the carriage would have to take a detour.

Yu Dong walked to the front of the maid and said, "Our lady happened to have something to do, so she can lend you the carriage for a while. Help your lady over. I will take you to find a doctor."

He would stay to take care of the carriage.

The maid gratefully bowed to Qu Moying, who was getting off the carriage, and went to help a young lady down from the carriage on the opposite side of the road.

Qu Moying looked over and saw a slender young lady. However, this lady's hairstyle differed from the ladies in the capital. Half of her hair was not combed up. She lowered her head. It seemed that she was very weak, and her face could not be seen.

Two maids helped her get on Qu Moying's carriage. Just as she was about to get on the carriage, she suddenly raised her head slightly and turned to look at Qu Moying.

The two of them looked at each other.

The young lady was very beautiful. Her facial features were exquisite, and her outline was clear, but her face was too pale, like that of Qu Moying.

After exchanging a glance with Qu Moying, the young lady slightly bowed sideways to Qu Moying to express her gratitude. Then, she held the maid's hand and got on the carriage with difficulty. It was indeed difficult for her to move.

She seemed to be in poor health.

However, Qu Moying frowned as she looked at the young lady's back, deep in thought.

Yu Chun noticed her abnormality and asked in a low voice, "Lady, what's wrong?"

Qu Moying shook her head in confusion. She withdrew her gaze from the carriage and said in a low voice, "Let's go!"

The maid was quite tall, but this young lady was even taller. Qu Moying had never seen such a tall young lady. Moreover, this young lady seemed to be very ill. This maid and this young lady were quite unusual.

The carriage had already moved forward. Qu Moying took a small path with Yu Chun. As they walked, the image of this young lady appeared in Qu Moying's mind.

A sick lady helplessly stopped a carriage on the road and asked for a ride. If there was any other way, how could she do such a thing that was against etiquette?

Qu Moying suddenly stopped in her tracks, and her eyes darkened.

Yu Chun followed behind her. Seeing that she stopped, Yu Chun also stopped, “Lady?”

“That lady wanted to take our carriage?” Qu Moying asked thoughtfully. This was the point that she was confused about.

“Yes, her maid said that she was sick and could not walk and that the clinic was not far away.” Yu Chun answered honestly after thinking for a while, although she did not understand what Qu Moying thought.

Qu Moying slowly continued to walk, “No one could tell whether the passengers in our carriage were men or women, right?”

“Definitely impossible.” This time, Yu Chun answered with certainty. The carriage driver drove the carriage, and the maids and the master were in the carriage, nobody could tell who was inside the carriage.

Qu Moying murmured in a low voice. “Then how can this young lady stop a carriage casually?”

After she finished speaking, she stopped for a moment before walking forward again. Men and women should keep a distance from each other. Even if this young lady was really unable to walk, she couldn’t randomly stop a carriage and ask for a ride. If Qu Moying didn’t happen to have something to do, or if the one in the carriage was a man, would this young lady still ask for a ride?

This didn’t make sense!

No lady should sit in the same carriage with a strange man.

Perhaps the man would get off the carriage and walk on foot because the one who asked for a ride was a woman. However, how could this young lady be so careless? Hadn't she ever thought that the one in the carriage could be a man? If this man had some ill intentions, her reputation would be tainted.

Did she not care? Or was there any other reason?

Qu Moying couldn't figure it out for a moment. She raised her eyes and walked out of the alley all the way to her shop.

She sorted out her thoughts and put this matter at the back of her mind for the time being. After all, this matter had little to do with her. Maybe the lady was seriously ill and couldn't wait any longer, so she randomly stopped a carriage.

"Is she too sick to wait any longer? Although she did walk with difficulty just now, her eyes were clear when she looked over at me. I don't think she was so sick that she couldn't wait any longer!"

The more Qu Moying thought about it, the more puzzled she became.

Shopkeeper Aunt Yang happened to go out. When she saw Qu Moying standing at the door, she hurriedly greeted her, "Greetings, lady!"

Qu Moying collected her thoughts and nodded to Aunt Yang with a smile. Then, she followed Aunt Yang into the shop.

There were many women in the store. It seemed that the business was good. Five-color brocade sold well in the capital. Previously, Aunt Yang said that she wanted to purchase a new stock of five-color brocades, and she asked Qu Moying for her opinion.

Qu Moying went upstairs, sat down in a private room, and asked, "How much five-color brocade is there in stock?"

Aunt Yang ordered a shop assistant to serve tea and replied, "Lady, I was just about to report to you that there isn't much brocade in stock in the warehouse. In the past few days, five-color brocade sold very well. Many young ladies came here for five-color brocade. I think we could purchase more."

Five-color brocade was light and beautiful, which was very different from the normal brocade in the capital. However, it was said that there isn't much five-color brocades even in the South.

Yue's Clothing Pavilion could purchase a large amount of five-color brocade back then because of the help of the Yue Family of the South. It was also for the purpose of reviving Yue's Clothing Pavilion.

Half of the income of Yue's Clothing Pavilion was earned by selling five-color brocade, which meant Yue's Clothing Pavilion's business would go down if there was no five-color brocade.

Aunt Yang had been worried for the past few days. She had repeatedly sent messages to Qu Mansion, wanting to let Qu Moying come over and make a decision.

Seeing that Qu Moying was silent, Aunt Yang hesitated for a moment and suggested, "Lady, why don't we ask the South for help again?"

Qu Moying gently shook her head in refusal.

Although the Yue Family of the South was her maternal grandparents' family, she had already troubled them a lot before, and it was really kind of them to help her. She couldn't keep troubling them. Although her mother had been gone for many years, she still had to maintain the relationship with the Yue Family of the South. She should not kill the goose that laid golden eggs.

Qu Moying asked after pondering for a moment, "Can't we buy the goods ourselves?"

"We can buy the goods, but we might not be able to get the particularly good ones. Moreover, the price might be higher." Aunt Yang had investigated before and knew that the other clothing shops were also selling five-color brocade, but their goods couldn't compare with that of Yue's Clothing Pavilion. Moreover, they sold at a higher price. Many guests who came to buy five-color brocade would talk about this.

Hearing what Aunt Yang said, Qu Moying already had a plan in her mind, "Let's raise the price to the same level as the other shops."

Aunt Yang said in surprise, "If the price is higher, wouldn't there be fewer guests?"

Qu Moying explained, "Although there will be fewer customers, those who continue to buy must have become our loyal customers. Moreover, our goods are not inferior to other shops, but our price is a little lower than theirs. It's not reasonable in the first place, and now we don't have much in stock."

Aunt Yang repeatedly nodded as she listened to Qu Moying's explanation. She had been a shopkeeper for many years, so how could she not understand what Qu Moying meant? It was just that she had been a little too eager to make quick profits before, so her methods might be lacking. After hearing Qu Moying's words, she immediately came to her senses. They aimed for the long-term profits and interests. Although the current situation of the business was good, it couldn't last long.

Since it couldn't last long, the strategy should be changed quickly.

Aunt Yang appreciated Qu Moying more and more. Although Qu Moying was weak, she had a long-term vision and great insight, which ordinary young ladies lack, and even many madams who had been in charge for many years could not reach her level.

After all, many people could only see the immediate benefit, and very few of them could give up on it.

Qu Moying continued to ask, "Can the goods made by the two embroideresses from the South be sold now?"

"Yes. They have embroidered some handkerchiefs, some accessories like sachets, and goods like table screens. Although they are all small goods, I have saved them according to your instructions." Aunt Yang nodded. Those two embroideresses were quite skillful, and their embroidery methods were different from the methods used in the capital. If their goods started to sell, it would attract a large number of guests.

However, the goods were still not enough. After all, there were only two embroideresses. Even if they kept embroidering day and night, they couldn't provide enough goods.

Qu Moying had made arrangements to solve this problem before. "What about those embroideresses who learned from them?"

Aunt Yang answered, "They learned quite well, but they couldn't compare with those two embroideresses."

"Send someone to contact the supplier that the Yue Family contacted for us last time. Get the goods ourselves. If the price is raised, we can adjust our buying price appropriately." Qu Moying thought for a moment. That supplier had been doing business in the South and the capital. If they appropriately offered a higher price to that supplier, they could still get the supply.

Although they did not have the help of the Yue Family of the South now, they could still enjoy a reasonable price.

"Okay, lady, I will do it later." Aunt Yang said excitedly. Her heart was set at ease. If the supply of the five-color brocade was cut off, it would be a big blow to the reborn Yue's Clothing Pavilion. But Qu Moying's arrangement was definitely able to solve the problem and let Yue's Clothing Pavilion get a strong foothold.

"What's wrong with Yue's Gold Pavilion? It seems that its business isn't good. I didn't see customers enter or come out of that shop." After settling her own shop's matters, Qu Moying finally had the leisure to care about other matters. She picked up the tea on the table, took a sip, and then put it down. Just now, when she entered her shop, she glanced at Yue's Gold Pavilion and found that its business was really not good!

Aunt Yang sighed. "Lady, something happened to Yue's Gold Pavilion!"

Chapter 389 Yue's Gold Pavilion Was Sued

Qu Moying was stunned for a moment. "What happened?"

“It is said that Yue’s Gold Pavilion broke a ruby that was intended to be used for custom-made items. This matter has been fermenting these days.”

Aunt Yang said.

She was quite familiar with the shopkeeper of Yue’s Gold Pavilion. The shopkeeper of Yue’s Gold Pavilion had been troubled by this matter these past few days. It could be seen that this matter was not easy to deal with.

When Qu Moying was still Ji Hanyue in her last life, she was in charge of Yue’s Gold Pavilion, and she immediately understood what Aunt Yang meant. “The ruby for customization was broken. Was the ruby provided by a guest?”

Qu Moying knew that Yue’s Gold Pavilion provided customized service, but people who had never run such shops might not know about it.

There were basically two types of customized services. One was customization according to the customer’s requirements, and the other was customization based on the materials brought by the customer.

For the former, the customer asked for customization because they saw gemstones they liked in the shop. For the latter, the customer brought their own materials, like jade, for customization.

Since the matter was so tricky, the materials were probably provided by the customer.

Aunt Yang said, “Yes. The ruby was provided by the customer. It’s said that the ruby was of the top grade, and it was evaluated at that time. But somehow it broke.”

“How did it break?” Qu Moying found this thing quite weird. Generally, the shop would keep a close watch on the materials brought by the customers, especially those top-grade materials that have been evaluated. How could it break? Such a thing had never happened. Only the shopkeeper and the shop owner had the key to the place where such items were stored.

"I don't know. I heard that the shopkeeper was called away for something when the ruby was taken out to be processed. When he returned, the ruby was broken. The shopkeeper didn't even know when it was broken. Anyway, when he saw the ruby, it was already broken into several pieces."

Aunt Yang smiled bitterly.

This matter was so weird that even the shopkeeper of Yue's Gold Pavilion couldn't figure it out, let alone Aunt Yang.

Qu Moying asked gently, "Did they compensate the customer?"

Aunt Yang answered, "Yes, but the customer didn't accept the offer. He said the ruby was passed down from his ancestors. He couldn't accept the fact that it was broken like this. It was valuable and couldn't be compensated with mere money."

Qu Moying glanced at Aunt Yang and continued to ask, "What does he want?"

"He wants the shop as compensation!" Aunt Yang sighed. "Why didn't he just take the money as compensation? He insisted on taking the shop. He said that only the shop could make up for his loss. This matter has been reported to the Yamen. Since there is such a tricky matter, how can Yue's Gold Pavilion's people focus on doing business? Even the shopkeeper and the shop owner were not in the mood to do business, not to mention the shop assistants."

Qu Moying frowned slightly and asked, "What did its shop owner say about this?"

"I heard that Madam Duan wants to sell the shop to get enough money to compensate the customer if there is no other way. I heard that the Yamen also said that this ruby is very valuable and definitely not an ordinary ruby."

Even though Madam Duan and Ji Yuanhai were from Earl Ling'an's Mansion, they had no powerful background or means, so it was hard for them to run a shop on this scale.

In fact, Qu Moying had already thought about it before, but she didn't think there was any reason for her to intervene in the matter of Earl Ling'an's Mansion now. Since Madam Duan had become the legitimate wife of the first branch and Ji Yuanhai had been adopted by the first branch, they should keep the shop to gain a foothold in Earl Ling'an's Mansion.

At the same time, Qu Moying hoped that Earl Ling'an's Mansion's remaining influence would intimidate those who had ulterior motives.

But now it seemed that the reality had proved otherwise. Even though she didn't know what the truth of the matter was, she immediately realized that someone had schemed to take the shop. Moreover, it seemed that the scheme worked.

The reason why the people dared to scheme against Yue's Gold Pavilion was that they thought Yue's Gold Pavilion had no backer.

Yue's Gold Pavilion used to belong to Ji Hanyue's dowry. All the people in the capital knew about the matter of Ji Hanyue's dowry. That matter also damaged Ji Youran's good reputation.

Before and after this incident, matters regarding Crown Prince's Mansion and Earl Ling'an's Mansion kept happening. Madam Duan was promoted to be Ji Yongming's legitimate wife, and Ji Yuanhai was adopted by the first branch. Therefore, the second branch of Earl Ling'an's Mansion that had originally been eligible to claim everything actually ended up with an empty hand, except that Ji Youran became the Side Princess of Crown Prince's Mansion.

Many people with discerning eyes knew that the second branch of Earl Ling'an's Mansion would not support the first branch, so Madam Duan and Ji Yuanhai were indeed left helpless and alone.

That was why there was such a scheme against Yue's Gold Pavilion!

However, Qu Moying had no reason to directly interfere now.

Qu Moying asked after pondering for a while, "Did Yue's Gold Pavilion's shopkeeper say that this shop was going to be sold?"

“He did say that. He said that Madam Duan was really disturbed. This matter caused a commotion outside, and she was reprimanded by Old Lady Ji. Young Master Ji is too young to handle this matter and do anything. Madam Duan asked the shopkeeper to sell the shop if there is any suitable buyer.”

Aunt Yang sighed again. She had a good relationship with the shopkeeper of Yue’s Gold Pavilion. They served the same master in the past, but now they were serving different masters.

After a moment of silence, Qu Moying said slowly, “Go and call the shopkeeper of Yue’s Gold Pavilion over!”

“Lady, are you going to interfere?” Aunt Yang’s eyes widened, and she hurriedly persuaded Qu Moying, “Lady, it’s not appropriate to do so. Yue’s Gold Pavilion belongs to the Ji Family now. You can’t directly interfere.”

She thought the thing would get worse if Qu Moying intervened without knowing the situation.

Qu Moying was an unmarried lady. Although she was the niece of Madam Yue, she had no say on such a thing.

Qu Moying shook her head, indicating Aunt Yang not to panic, “No worries, I just want to ask him about the selling price!”

“Lady, are you going to buy this shop?” Aunt Yang suddenly widened her eyes. Yue’s Gold Pavilion was not Yue’s Clothing Pavilion. It would cost a lot to buy Yue’s Gold Pavilion. Could Qu Moying afford it?

“I haven’t made up my mind yet!” Qu Moying smiled slightly. She really didn’t have so much money. Although her mother brought a lot of dowry items when she married into Qu Mansion, there were not many left for her, especially cash.

Qu Moying’s cash was not enough to buy even a small shop, let alone a big shop on the same scale as Yue’s Gold Pavilion. Although there was money in Yue’s Clothing Pavilion and other shops, the money was the working capital of the shops. If she used the money, these shops might be unable to run normally and have to be closed.

Seeing that Qu Moying was calm, Aunt Yang retreated with doubt and asked someone to invite Yue's Gold Pavilion's Shopkeeper Zhang over.

"Greetings, lady!" Shopkeeper Zhang was a thin middle-aged man. He bowed respectfully to Qu Moying after entering the door. Just now, Aunt Yang had already told him that Qu Moying wanted to see him.

He was not surprised to see Qu Moying now.

In fact, at the very beginning, he and Aunt Yang were both servants of the Yue Family of the South. Qu Moying was the daughter of the master he served before. Compared with Madam Duan and Ji Yuanhai, Qu Moying was the real owner of the shop owner in name.

Of course, only old servants like him thought so. Others did not agree with them. After all, the shop did not belong to Qu Moying in the first place.

Qu Moying asked Shopkeeper Zhang to save the formalities, and she came straight to the question, "What kind of person sent the ruby? Can you get hold of that person now?"

Shopkeeper Zhang immediately understood what Qu Moying meant. He praised her in his heart and told her everything in detail, "He didn't seem to be from the capital but somewhere else. He didn't sound like someone from the capital either. He went to the Yamen before. We couldn't find his residence, so we couldn't settle the matter with him in private."

"If he isn't someone from the capital, it means that he has no background in the capital. Didn't you negotiate with him when he came to the shop that day?" Qu Moying asked in surprise. If the person was not from the capital, he had no background. So even if he made a scene, no forces would be supporting him. But since he had no background, how could he, an outsider, dare to make a big fuss?

"When he came to the shop that day, we wanted to negotiate with him and ask him what he wanted. But when he asked for this shop, madam got angry and said that it was impossible. The man then left. In the afternoon, Yamen's people came to inform us that we were sued."

Shopkeeper Zhang said angrily. This matter happened too suddenly. Generally speaking, if something happened, they could sit down and talk it out. If they couldn't reach an agreement the first time, they

could discuss it the second time and even the third time. They would be able to find a solution in the end. How could this person directly go to the Yamen and sue them?

Qu Moying was silent for a moment, and her eyes under the eye veil became unfathomable. “What did Madam Duan say?”

“Madam Duan was really annoyed. When the Yamen’s people came to inform us about this, Old Lady Ji heard about it. She blamed Madam Duan and even grounded her. Madam Duan can’t even come out to manage this thing, and Young Master Ji is still too young...” Manager Zhang couldn’t continue. Although Ji Yuanhai was intelligent and sensible, he had never experienced such a big incident, so he didn’t know how to deal with it.

Moreover, Ji Yuanhai had almost no chance to go out recently because Old Lady Ji was going to check his studies.

Therefore, the first branch of Earl Ling’an’s Mansion was facing both internal and external problems. Hearing about Old Lady Ji’s doing, Qu Moying couldn’t help but sneer. Old Lady Ji was really easy to fool, and it seemed that the second branch played a part in this matter.

“Are Xiao and Ji Youran still unwilling to give up on the shop? Or are they jealous of Madam Duan and Ji Yuanhai that they added fuel to the fire?”

Knowing the cause and effect of the matter, Qu Moying had already made a decision in her heart. “Send a message to Madam Duan for me. Ask her if she can sell the shop to me. However, I don’t have enough money now. I’m afraid it will take a while before she can receive the money. But I can write an IOU note. Ask her if this is feasible.”

This shop used to be Qu Moying and her mother’s painstaking efforts. She would not watch it fall into the hands of Xiao and Ji Youran or be taken away by others.

She knew that taking over this shop now meant she had to deal with this troublesome matter...

On the high city wall of the border, Pei Yuanjun stood on it in purple. The wind blew over his black cloak, rustling continually.

His noble and handsome face was cold, and his eyes were as dark as ink. There was a hint of cruelty in his eyes. He seemed to be brewing a storm.

But his cruelty was extremely harmonious with this dark wall!

Here at the border, every soldier guarding here had a fierce expression on their face, making them look completely different from the guards in the capital.

Pei Yuanjun withdrew his gaze and asked indifferently, "He hasn't come yet?"

"Your Highness, he hasn't come yet!" Ji Hai, who was standing behind him, said in surprise. In his opinion, this was inevitable. He did not expect Pei Yuanjun to come here unscathed along the way, which was surprising.

"It seems that the North is really in a mess!" Pei Yuanjun said indifferently. He turned around and walked down the city wall. "Go call the Guardian General over. I want to ask him something."

At least half of the military power of Great Zhou at the border was in the hands of Pei Yuanjun. However, he delegated some of the authority to his younger brother. The other half of the military power was supposed to be in the hands of the Guardian General, Liu Xiangshan, and the Suppressor General, Ji Yongming. However, after Ji Yongming was called back, a small part of his military power fell into the hands of the Guardian General, which greatly increased the latter's military power.

Of course, this was only military power at the border. Although the total military power in the capital was not big, it was distributed separately from the border military power. Pei Yuanjun was not always in the capital, but he had the biggest military power.

As for the part of military power that he didn't possess, it was owned by the other generals.

Before leaving the capital this time, Pei Yuanjun had already told the Emperor that he wanted to return the military power in the capital. He wanted to give it to Lord Yan, Pei Yanxun, to let him gain experience. Moreover, Pei Yuanjun had heard that Pei Yanxun liked to practice martial arts and had a straightforward personality. Since he had volunteered to do so, the Guardian General should return the military power in his hands as well.

However, things went on almost as Pei Yuanjun had expected. Since the Guardian General had taken the power, it would not be easy to let him give it back.

“Yes, Your Highness. I will send someone to pass the message later.” Ji Hai said with a smile. He turned to leave but immediately stopped. His eyes fell on the two people under the city wall.

It was two women. The one in the front was a lady, and the one behind her was a maid. The lady in the front had her hair tied up. She was tall and slender. Her eyes were covered by gauze, revealing half of her beautiful and heroic face. It could be seen that she was beautiful, and she should be a rare beauty.

Just like Qu Moying, Lady Liu also had poor eyesight. However, Lady Liu’s eye veil was short and thin, which added a special charm to her, and it made others pay more attention to her appearance than to her eyes.

It made people want to remove her eye veil to see her beautiful face.

Most of her face was exposed. It was more attractive than showing the entire face. It was quite tempting.

Compared with Lady Liu, Qu Moying was quite simple-minded. The eye veil Qu Moying wore was wide and long, covering almost half of her face. Her hairstyle was also simple. She just used hair ribbons to tie her hair up. The ribbons fell down, which made her look like a fairy.

Ji Hai couldn’t help comparing the two young ladies with eye disease in his heart. Then, he collected his thoughts and followed Pei Yuanjun.

How could Lady Liu compare with Qu Moying? If Lord Yun had been interested in Lady Liu, he would have taken action long ago. He wouldn’t have forcefully taken the false Lady Liu away when she said she

was uncomfortable and wanted to rest in the carriage. He clearly knew that the one in the carriage was not Lady Liu but a maid.

In Ji Hai's opinion, Lady Liu just was playing hard to get. However, Pei Yuanjun was so insensible that he did not seem to know what Lady Liu meant. Or maybe, Pei Yuanjun did not care about women at all. Of course, Ji Hai was not certain about this. At least Pei Yuanjun had Qu Moying in his eyes now.

"Greetings, Your Highness!" Liu Lanxin took a step forward and bowed gracefully. She looked quite decent.

The guards at the gate were not surprised to see her. They looked at her with a bit of respect. It was said that Lady Liu's eyes were injured for saving Lord Yun.

Pei Yuanjun walked down with his hands behind his back and said indifferently, "Lady Liu, please save the formalities!"

Liu Lanxin looked up at Pei Yuanjun and said softly, "Your Highness, can I have a word with you?"

"I have invited the Guardian General over. I will talk to him later." Pei Yuanjun raised his delicate eyebrows, and there was a hint of laziness in his eyes.

"Your Highness, I just want to have a word with you. Can I borrow you for a moment?" Liu Lanxin said sincerely. Although her eyes could not be seen, her drooping lips showed her sadness and grievance.

How could a man resist such a charming woman looking at him like this?

Ji Hai stole a glance at Lady Liu, feeling that she was pretentious. If Lord Yun had feelings for her, he would not have waited until now.

"Come with your father later!" Pei Yuanjun cast a cold glance at Liu Lanxin. His eyes were so cold that Liu Lanxin almost couldn't maintain her gentle and sad expression.

She felt as if she had been seen through by his sharp eyes.

“Your Highness...”

“Lady Liu, I already have a Princess Consort. Please stay away from me. I don’t care whether your reputation will be tainted or not if someone misunderstands the relationship between you and me, but I don’t want my reputation to be tainted because of this!” Hearing Pei Yuanjun’s words, Liu Lanxin turned pale. Her lips trembled, and she could not say a word.

When Ji Hai walked past Lady Liu, he gave her a sympathetic look.

Ji Hai thought Lady Liu really outsmarted herself. If Lord Yun was interested in her, how could he treat her like this? He imprisoned the maid she sent out and let Qu Moying disguise herself as Lady Liu. Although Lord Yun did have other intentions before, Ji Hai thought things had long turned differently.

Liu Lanxin asked in disbelief from behind, “Your Highness... you... you... are married?”

“Soon!” Pei Yuanjun said lazily, leaving with Ji Hai and the guards without looking back.

Liu Lanxin almost tore apart the handkerchief in her hand. She couldn’t believe what she had heard. She didn’t think anyone else other than her deserved Lord Yun. Why would there be another woman who dared to marry him?

“Lady!” The maid behind Liu Lanxin called out. She looked at Lord Yun’s back with fear. Just seeing his back made her shiver. That day, Lady Liu asked the maid to hide in the carriage and disguise herself as her. The maid was told that if she was found not to be Lady Liu on the road, she should say that Lady Liu didn’t feel well but was afraid that she would slow down Lord Yun’s trip back to the capital, and that was why she was told to pretend to be Lady Liu and sit in the carriage.

Lady Liu wanted Lord Yun to find out the truth on the first day. Lady Liu thought Lord Yun would definitely turn back and pick her up and go to the capital together. It would, at most, waste him one day. It would not affect Lord Yun’s matter, but it could make Lord Yun know how she felt for him.

However, when Lord Yun found out what was going on, he imprisoned the maid in the carriage without saying a word. After entering the capital, he imprisoned the maid in a yard. The maid could not hear or see anything in the capital.

In the end, it was Lord Yun who sent the maid back.

All of Lady Liu's preparations were in vain!

The maid wanted to help Lady Liu before, but now she was truly afraid!

"Let's go to see my father!" Liu Lanxin gritted her teeth and said. Her father had the greatest military power besides Lord Yun. In the past, Ji Hanyue was also a lady who had a strong military background, but she passed away. In terms of military background, Liu Lanxin had a higher status than the ladies in the capital.

It could be seen from Lord Jing's frequent letters to her father and gifts to her. Lord Yun said that she was not there and only her maid was there, so he let a woman disguise herself as Lady Lou and it could make people believe she was in the capital.

In just a few days, Lord Jing had fallen in love with a fake Lady Liu. Liu Lanxin thought if she really went to the capital, Lord Jing could have been fascinated by her!

However, the person she wanted to marry the most was not Lord Jing but Lord Yun in front of her!

As for Lord Jing, she would not care about him for now.

When Qu Moying came out from Yue's Clothing Pavilion, Yu Dong was already waiting outside by the carriage.

Qu Moying held Yu Chun's hand and went up to the carriage. She sniffed and looked around but didn't find anything unusual.

The things in the carriage were as usual.

The maids also got on the carriage. They didn't say anything all the way. They went back to Qu Mansion. After getting off the carriage, Qu Moying let Yu Chun take the two junior maids back first. She went to greet the Old Lady with Yu Dong.

It was not early, so the Old Lady didn't keep her. She let Qu Moying go back to her yard, so Qu Moying returned to Qianyue House. After Qu Moying washed up, Granny Yan came over with worry.

"Lady, did any lady challenge you in Grand Princess Changyu's mansion today?" Granny Yan was really worried. Although she had confidence in Qu Moying, she was afraid that there was something unexpected.

"A lady competed with me on the qin playing. There was nothing else. Oh, County Lady Jingyu wanted to harm me, but she fell into the water." Qu Moying didn't intend to hide it from Granny Yan, so she told her what happened in the waterside pavilion in Grand Princess Changyu's mansion. After hearing what had happened, Granny Yan was angry.

"Lady, I don't know what's wrong with County Lady Jingyu. Please beware of her next time."

"Granny Yan, do you know why she wanted to deal with me?" Qu Moying asked calmly. Liu Jingyu's schemes were implemented secretly before, but this time, she implemented her scheme on an open occasion. Qu Moying wanted to know something from Granny Yan. Granny Yan was experienced and might give her some new tips.

Qu Moying couldn't figure out her relationship with Liu Jingyu for such a long time, so she had been observing. She was observing Qi Xiangyu's reaction when she let Qi Xiangyu see her qin.

Today, Qi Xiangyu's reaction was very strange. She must know this "Feng Yu" qin.

Granny Yan did not directly answer but asked, "Lady, when do you think she wanted to deal with you?"

Qu Moying pretended to think for a moment and then said with certainty, "Since I first met her, she has been hostile to me! Granny Yan, what do you think is the reason for this high and mighty County Lady Jingyu to deal with me like this?"

Taking advantage of this opportunity, she wanted Granny Yan to help her analyze the matter in detail. Although she had guessed something, it was only a guess. Maybe Granny Yan could help her uncover the truth of the matter...