

Young Lady 161

Chapter 161 – Return Of The Ostentatious Wei Yuejiao

Since they had come prepared, how could she be unprepared?

Wei Yuejiao's entrance into the mansion was indeed impressive. Even though Wei Yuewu had considered the fact that this Third Miss Wei was doted on by the Madam Dowager, she did not expect to see such a big scene.

Early in the morning, while Wei Yuejiao was still nowhere to be seen, a group of thirty-two servants carried gifts on their shoulders to the mansion.

Sixteen of them directly carried the gifts to the Madam Dowager's courtyard, while the other sixteen servants carried the gifts to the second branch and third branch respectively.

The Madam Dowager was so happy that she rewarded all the servants of the mansion.

All of a sudden, the entire mansion was filled with joy, and everyone praised this Third Young Lady and said that she was a blessed and generous person.

Wei Yuewu was still drawing pictures at the desk. Although she only cast a glance at the embroidery on that day, a few of the pictures had been deeply imprinted in her mind. At this time, she was painting from her memory carefully. Occasionally, she would hold the brush in her hand and paused for some time before adding a few more strokes.

Although her painting couldn't be exactly the same as the original, Wei Yuewu believed that at first glance, it must look somewhat similar.

"That was way too much." Shufei angrily walked in, but there was nothing in her hands. She had been to the kitchen to fetch Wei Yuewu's lunch.

"What's going on?" Jin Ling was afraid that she would distract Wei Yuewu from her painting, so she pulled Shufei aside and asked in a low voice.

"It's really too outrageous. It is already high time when the mansion had lunch, but when I went over to fetch lunch for our Miss, I got nothing. Everyone in the kitchen was busy preparing food for that Third Young Lady. Because she hasn't arrived yet, our miss can't eat either." Shufei's face turned pale with anger.

"They haven't prepared lunch for Miss yet?" Jin Ling asked in surprise. She looked at the sky. It was already much later than the usual lunch time.

"Not yet. Furthermore, they actually didn't prepare anything for Miss at all. They didn't realize it until I went in to ask. They said that Third Young Lady was about to enter the mansion and asked our Miss to wait for a while. They also said that after the Third Young Lady entered the mansion and lunch was served to her, they would be free to make lunch for our Miss. This is too much! Our Miss is the first daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang."

Shufei stomped her foot angrily as she said those words.

"Miss had stomach trouble. It's already past lunch time, but they haven't prepared lunch for Miss yet. This... if Miss..."

"Go get some pastries for Miss. I'll go to the kitchen and urge them." Jin Ling put down the things in her hand and said to Shufei. After that, she hurriedly left the courtyard and went to the kitchen.

Although they spoke with a low voice, Wei Yuewu still heard them. She put down the brush in her hand and sneered. Sure enough, Wei Yuejiao had tried to play rough to her before entering the mansion.

She didn't expect that although Concubine Dong was not in the capital, she could still have the mansion under her control.

She had been back in the mansion for some days. Ever since she returned from the mountain this time, she could clearly feel the reverence and fear of the servants in the mansion for her. Even the nurse-in-charge in Lady Li's courtyard did not dare to contradict her. However, who would expect that the maids and old maidservants in the kitchen did not prepare lunch for her today.

This could never happen without the interference of someone.

It seemed that the time had come for the inevitable showdown!

Fortunately, she wasn't completely unprepared. As she thought of this, the corners of her lips curled into a cold smile.

So it was Concubine Dong, right? She should be one of the reasons why mom died of an illness...

Wei Yuewu picked up the painting placed in front of the desk, spread it and looked at it. "Huamo, if you are free these few days, just embroider this picture."

"Yes, Miss." Huamo nodded.

"Miss, please eat some pastries first. Sister Jin Ling has gone to the kitchen to urge for your lunch." Shufei walked in with a box of pastries in her hands.

Wei Yuewu shook her hand. Her bright eyes blinked and she smiled, "No need!"

"Miss, you have stomach trouble. Eating late will hurt your stomach." Huamo also advised.

"Don't worry!" Wei Yuewu looked at the two maids' faces and smiled sweetly. "Since this good Third Elder Sister of mine deliberately delayed her arrival at the mansion, she should know when it is the best time for her to appear!"

Thirty-two servants had already carried huge amounts of gifts into the mansion on foot, but Wei Yuejiao, who was riding in the carriage, had not arrived yet!

Was this Wei Yuejiao trying to shock her or play rough to her?

Wei Yuejiao's carriage arrived about two hours after the normal lunch time of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. One hour ago, the Madam Dowager sent someone here to invite her over.

Upon her arrival, Wei Yuewu saw that Wei Qiuju and Wei Qiufu were both there. Well, it seemed that all the four unmarried young ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang were going to meet here today.

Wei Yuewu greeted the merry-looking Madam Dowager first, then she sat down on the other side of the Madam Dowager. Coincidentally, Wei Qiufu was seated right opposite her.

"Sixth Younger Sister, you don't look well. How are you feeling?" Wei Qiufu smiled without sign of ill feeling as if nothing unpleasant had happened between the two of them in the Plum Blossom Nunnery.

Seeing Wei Qiufu adjusted herself and restored her usual gentle appearance so quickly, Wei Yuewu secretly became vigilant.

"Thank you, Fourth Elder Sister, for your attention. The injuries I suffered earlier are not completely healed, so my face looks a little pale." Wei Yuewu bowed slightly and said softly.

The Madam Dowager moved her eyes and looked at her affectionately. "Yuewu, you haven't recovered yet. You can go back first."

"Thank you, grandmother. I'm fine." Wei Yuewu shook her head.

Her long eyelids flashed and she lowered her eyes. The Madam Dowager clearly knew that her health conditions were not good and that Wei Yuejiao was only a concubine-born daughter. It was against the rules to let a first daughter like her wait for a concubine-born daughter who was returning to the mansion.

However, the Madam Dowager still gave Wei Yuejiao such a big face. How hypocritical she had sounded when asking her to go back to rest!

The Madam Dowager said with a smile, "Alright. It's good that you're feeling well. It was such a happy thing to see you sisters be both back!"

A happy thing? Wei Yuewu still remembered that when she just returned to the mansion, the Madam Dowager posed quite a number of obstacles to her and repeatedly questioned her identity.

She raised her head and smiled. "Grandmother, you are right. It is really a pleasure to be close to the other sisters."

"Grandmother, we sisters really need to get closer so that we don't get estranged. We are all young ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. We always have to unite together. Even if there are some minor conflicts between sisters, it's not a big deal." Wei Qiufu smiled and turned to Wei Qiuju.

If Wei Qiufu said so in the old days, Wei Qiuju would definitely be the first to jump out to echo her words. But now, she just looked at Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu in return. Then, she lowered her head and pretended not to hear those words. She continued to play with the handkerchief in her hand with an uneasy expression.

Wei Qiufu's eyes flashed with anger, but she couldn't say anything. She looked at Wei Qiuju coldly, who lowered her head even lower.

The Madam Dowager was very satisfied with Wei Qiufu's words. She swept her gaze across the faces of the three sisters and said earnestly, "Qiufu is right. You are after all sisters of the same mansion. In the future, each of you will get married, but only the sisters of our mansion will remain the persons closest to you. If anything happens, as long as the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang exists, you will not lack strong support. This mansion is where you were born and grew up. Don't forget it!"

Wei Yuewu smiled and nodded, but she did not say anything. She knew that the Madam Dowager was definitely looking at her at this moment. Did the Madam Dowager say those words in order to reconcile her with Wei Qiufu?

Was it because Wei Qiufu still had the chance of entering the Crown Prince's Mansion?

Compared with the interests of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, her life and death were merely a trivial matter! Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart.

The Madam Dowager placed the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang above everything else, but Wei Yuewu did not have the slightest bit of attachment to it. She almost had the feeling that even the bricks within the high wall were scheming against others without mercy.

"Madam Dowager, she is coming, the Third Young Lady has arrived!" Nanny Hong happily ran in, her voice preceding her steps.

"She is coming!" The Madam Dowager stood up abruptly, but when she saw Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu's surprised expressions, she sat down again and instructed, "Quickly invite Yuejiao in."

"Grandmother, Yuejiao is back!" Before the Madam Dowager finished her words, the curtain was lifted and a beautiful girl wearing a green eight-gore skirt walked in.

"Grandmother, I miss you so much!" Ignoring the crowd at the side, Wei Yuejiao only had the Madam Dowager in her eyes and she pounced over excitedly.

Wei Yuewu's gaze, however, landed on the young lady behind her in surprise. This was a tall and thin-shouldered beauty having a bright smile, pink skin, and a stunning appearance as beautiful as spring dawn. No one would forget such a face once they saw her...

It was actually Jing Wenyan, the eldest daughter of the Duke of Jing State!

The Madam Dowager also noticed Jing Wenyan and asked hesitantly, "Who is this..."

Even though Jing Wenyan just stood there without saying a word, her outstanding face and elegant and calm temperament still outshined Wei Yuejiao in her gorgeous dresses.

For some people, even if they just stood there casually, they would still emit a dazzling light from their entire bodies. This was not something that luxurious and beautiful clothes could produce.

"Grandmother, this is the eldest young lady of the mansion of the Duke of Jing State." Wei Yuejiao turned around and introduced. When she swept her eyes across Wei Yuewu, she did not pause at all, as if there was no one around her.

It hadn't been long after the prisoner offering by the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State, and the heir-apparent was still in the capital. How could the Madam Dowager not know that the so-called Jing State had already become a part of the territory of the Yan State and existed only in name?

However, no matter what, there was no official edict from the Palace, so the title of Duke of Jing State was still preserved. She also heard that Duke of Jing State had been released and was living in his mansion in the capital.

Regardless of the size of their territory, all the dukes had mansions in the capital. Occasionally, when they entered the capital, they would have a place to live.

This eldest Young Lady Jing, the number one beauty in Jing State, usually lived in seclusion and was practically nowhere to be seen at any banquet.

However, at this moment, she suddenly appeared in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Furthermore, she had followed Wei Yuejiao into the mansion. This was truly surprising.

"Wenyan greets the Madam Dowager. Please forgive me for coming in such a hurry." Jing Wenyan walked forward generously and bowed, "I met the Third Miss Wei in front of the mansion, so I came in at her invitation."

This could be considered as the reason why she and Wei Yuejiao entered the mansion together.

The Madam Dowager smiled and stretched out her hand and gestured to support her. "Miss Jing, please sit down."

Wei Yuejiao also smiled and affectionately pulled Jing Wenyan to sit on the chair beside her. Coincidentally, that chair happened to be right beside Wei Yuwu. However, this Third Miss Wei's attention was obviously on Jing Wenyan, so she didn't even cast a single look at Wei Yuwu beside her.

"Sixth Miss Wei!" Jing Wenyan sat down and smiled at Wei Yuwu.

Wei Yuewu smiled and bowed. No matter what, Jing Wenyan was the daughter of a Duke with a territory, and her status was higher than her, the daughter of Marquis Hua Yang.

“Fourth Miss Wei, Fifth Miss Wei.” Jing Wenyan smiled at Wei Qiufu and Wei Qiuju. She did not look down on Wei Qiuju because she was the daughter of a concubine.

Jing Wenyan rarely went to the capital. Although many people knew that this young lady was the number one beauty of Jing State, and some even said that she was the number one beauty of the entire Zhongshan Kingdom, few people had ever seen her before.

Of course, Wei Qiufu had never seen her before. When Jing Wenyan greeted her politely, she also bowed. Seeing that both of them were so respectful towards Jing Wenyan, Wei Qiuju did not dare to neglect her. She also stood up and bowed.

The Madam Dowager asked with a smile, “May I know why Miss Jing has come here?”

“I’m here to see Sixth Miss Wei.” Jing Wenyan turned to Wei Yuewu and smiled gently.

Wei Yuewu stared at Jing Wenyan in surprise, not understanding in which way the two of them were linked.

The Madam Dowager looked at Wei Yuewu and Jing Wenyan for a while and asked with a smile on her face. “Miss Jing, Yuewu has just entered the capital. When did she get to know Miss Jing?”

Jing Wenyan said generously, “Actually, I don’t know Sixth Miss Wei. My visit here today is really a bit abrupt. But there’s really something that I want to talk to Sixth Miss Wei privately. Madam Dowager, I hope you can do me a favor.”

Chapter 162 – Filial Piety, Who Felt More Uncomfortable

Her words also showed that she and Wei Yuewu did not know each other, and she had come here to ask for help from Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu was indeed a little surprised by Jing Wenyan's explanation. No matter what, it was impossible for her to get involved with this eldest young lady of Jing State. At the Plum Blossom Nunnery that day, Wei Yuewu believed that this eldest young lady did not see her, so it would be strange for her to come looking for her at this time.

"Miss Jing, if you have anything, don't hesitate. Grandmother will definitely help you fulfil your wish." Wei Yuejiao said to Jing Wenyan's topic and smiled with a disdainful glance at Wei Yuewu.

Her mother had already told her that Wei Yuewu was a girl abandoned by her father. No one in the mansion would take her seriously. Check out *latest novels* on [novel/bin\(.\).com](http://novelbin.com)

The meaning behind those words was clear: regardless of Wei Yuewu's wishes, she had agreed on her behalf with contempt.

The Madam Dowager, however, didn't immediately give a positive answer. Her expression became somewhat solemn. Considering Jing Wenyan's high status, what she was asking for was definitely not a small favor. It was alright if her request was just related to the personal interests of young unmarried ladies. But if it was an affair related to the family or country, the Madam Dowager didn't feel that she could casually agree.

The Madam Dowager pondered for a moment and said with a smile on her face. "May I ask what it is?"

"Madam Dowager, it's not a big deal. In the past, there were rumors in the capital that Sixth Miss Wei had no talent or good look. But in reality, she was so elegant and beautiful. I have never seen such an outstanding aristocratic young lady in the capital. I also heard that Sixth Miss Wei was skilled in painting and calligraphy, so I came to ask for advice from her."

Jing Wenyan was already prepared. After hearing the Madam Dowager's question, she answered articulately without any hesitation.

The Madam Dowager looked slightly relaxed when she heard Jing Wenyan's words. However, Wei Yuewu frowned slightly. She did not think that this Miss Jing, who had just lost her family and territory, could be in such a calm state of mind as to study painting and calligraphy.

Moreover, ever since she had come to the capital, she did not discuss painting or calligraphy with anyone, so how could there be such rumors that she was skilled in painting and calligraphy?

Wei Yuejiao had always been accustomed to being flattered by others. Seeing that everyone's attention was being drawn over by Wei Yuewu at this time, she already felt unhappy. However, she also remembered Concubine Dong's instructions, and her face did not show any sign. She winked at the senior maid Jinzhu beside her.

Jinzhu immediately knew what was on her mind.

"Ah!" Wei Yuejiao covered her stomach with her hands and cried out in pain. She bent down and Jinzhu hurriedly reached out to support her. She anxiously asked, "Miss, how are you feeling? Is your stomach hurting? I advised you to eat some pastries just now, but you said that you must have lunch with the Madam Dowager."

The Madam Dowager's attention immediately fell on Wei Yuejiao. "What's going on, Yuejiao?"

"I... I'm fine. I just wanted to have lunch with grandmother, so I haven't eaten anything yet." Wei Yuejiao covered her stomach with one hand. There was a painful expression on her face, but she was still smiling with a pitiful expression on her face.

Well done! Finally, the play came as expected!

Wei Yuewu lowered her head. The corners of her lips curled up slightly, and her hand silently rested on her belly. Wei Yuejiao had intended to play tough with her upon their first encounter, and now she had started her play.

"Why are you so careless about your body? If you miss your lunch, you should eat some pastries first. Nanny Hong, quickly order them to serve the dishes." The Madam Dowager scolded, but anyone could hear her concern for Wei Yuejiao.

The Madam Dowager turned to Jing Wenyan. "Miss Jing, how about you going to the wing room and having a rest there? Yuewu hasn't eaten lunch yet. How about letting her accompany you to the Lotus Courtyard after she has eaten lunch?"

This suggestion was actually very impolite. However, Wei Yuewu knew the Madam Dowager did not want her to interact with Jing Wenyan. That was why she had said such words, which were actually a request for Jing Wenyan to leave.

“Alright, then I’ll wait in the wing room.” Jing Wenyan did not seem to understand the meaning behind the Madam Dowager’s words. She stood up and bowed to the Madam Dowager, ready to leave.

Under such circumstances, the Madam Dowager could not say anything, so she had to let an old maidservant lead her to the wing room to rest.

Here in the hall, maids and old maidservants had already been prepared and immediately delivered lunch dishes.

“Grandmother, I have always been in good health. Even father has always said that my health conditions are excellent. When I was at the border, I learned martial arts from father together with my eldest cousin. I didn’t expect that such a small matter as missing out on meals would cause my stomach to ache.” Wei Yuejiao took a seat by the Madam Dowager’s side with the help of Jinzhu and said with a bitter face.

The Madam Dowager patted her hand pitifully. “Poor girl, stomach is the most delicate. How can you hold on with an empty stomach just because you want to? You’ve only just arrived in the capital and now you’ve become a sickly beauty. Your father will probably be extremely upset and blame me.”

“How could I be a sickly beauty? Speaking of sickly beauty, I heard father said that Sixth Younger Sister is actually a sickly beauty. She has been sick since childhood, just like her mother.” Wei Yuejiao covered her lips with a handkerchief and smiled, without the slightest bit of intention to conceal the contempt and ridicule she had for Wei Yuewu’s birth mother.

A concubine-born daughter actually called her matriarch like this! However, the expressions on the faces of the Madam Dowager, Wei Qiufu and Wei Qiuju showed that they were accustomed to it. Apparently, Wei Yuejiao had been addressing mom like this for a long time, but no one had stepped forward to correct her.

"Yuewu, you're still injured. Are you also feeling uncomfortable from hunger?" Since Wei Yuejiao mentioned Wei Yuewu, the Madam Dowager also expressed her concern.

"I'm fine." Wei Yuewu still lowered her head and answered casually.

"How can you be fine? I'm also having stomach trouble despite my good health conditions. Sixth Younger Sister has always been a sick girl. I heard that you were injured recently. How can you be fine now?" Wei Yuejiao asked in surprise.

Wei Qiuju looked at Wei Yuejiao and then silently lowered her head.

Wei Qiufu didn't seem to have heard Wei Yuejiao's words, and she whispered something to Qiuyan beside her. She simply turned a blind eye to the turmoil over here.

"Yuewu, are you really alright?" The Madam Dowager's gaze fell on Wei Yuewu.

"I'm fine!" Wei Yuewu said in a low voice, but she still didn't raise her head.

"Grandmother, Sixth Younger Sister seems to be really fine. Could it be that she had already eaten some pastries before coming here? That's right, she has always been in the mansion. She can have meals with grandmother whenever she wants. It is impossible for her to understand how excited I have been at the thought of having meals with grandmother. I was so excited that I haven't eaten anything until now."

Wei Yuejiao smiled and said with pretended annoyance.

Wei Yuewu's eyes turned cold. Wei Yuejiao's words were not only domineering, but also provocative. In other words, if she did not show that her body was damaged today, she would definitely be guilty of eating pastries secretly. Otherwise, how could she, famous for being a valetudinarian, be fine when even Wei Yuejiao, who had always been in good health, suffered stomach trouble by missing the lunch?

Sure enough, Wei Yuejiao had deliberately delayed entering the mansion, and the Madam Dowager did not inform her to come over for lunch early.

Of course, they had done this to make her believe that the kitchen staff were busy preparing lunch for Wei Yuejiao and they didn't have time to prepare lunch for her. Under normal circumstances, she would naturally eat some pastries first.

In the eyes of the others, she was not only unfilial, but also disrespectful to the Madam Dowager if she ate pastries before coming here when she knew that she was going to eat lunch with the Madam Dowager.

The Madam Dowager's expression immediately darkened. She was just about to speak when Wei Yuewu raised her face, and she was so stunned that she could not speak...

Wei Yuewu raised her head. Despite the low temperature, her white forehead was covered in a thin layer of sweat. The corners of her bloodless lips had deep teeth marks, and her face was deathly pale. Anyone who looked at her would know that her condition was not very good.

"Yuewu, what's wrong with you?" The Madam Dowager swallowed the reprimanding words that had been on the tip of her tongue, and she immediately changed her voice.

"It hurts a little." Wei Yuewu said.

Only then did everyone notice that her hand was gently placed on her belly. She did not seem to be exerting as much force as Wei Yuejiao, but in the current situation, Wei Yuejiao's painful screams and lengthy speech seemed to be too unnatural and affected.

Wei Yuewu was now really in a situation that she was so painful that she couldn't even speak.

"Madam Dowager, Sixth Young Lady might be too hungry to feel well. How about serving some porridge to her first? She couldn't eat too greasy food right now." Nanny Hong said to the Madam Dowager.

The Madam Dowager nodded.

Porridge had already been prepared. The Madam Dowager was old and did not like eating cooked rice. Therefore, the kitchen prepared porridge for her in every meal.

As a result, the servants were in a great bustle again. Of course, the focus of their attention was on Wei Yuewu, and the Madam Dowager was also paying attention only to Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuejiao's expression kept changing. The handkerchief in her hand had already been twisted into a ball, and she felt that she had lost face.

After eating about half a bowl of porridge, Wei Yuewu's face looked slightly better. She wiped the corners of her lips with a handkerchief and looked at Wei Yuejiao, who had been staring at her at the side. She smiled faintly and then turned away leisurely as if she did not see Wei Yuejiao's pale face.

Wei Yuejiao felt that Wei Yuewu was provoking her with that kind of expression and gaze, as well as her total indifference to and negligence of her.

The anger that was forcefully suppressed immediately burst forth.

"Sixth Younger Sister's health condition is really bad. You suffered such a severe stomachache simply because of a little delay in lunch. Could it be that your congenital disease has not completely healed?"

Wei Yuejiao couldn't help but blurt out those cynical words.

Congenital disease? Wei Yuewu's eyes darkened immediately. This was the first time she had heard someone mention her innate deficiency in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Furthermore, such words were uttered from the mouth of Wei Yuejiao, whom she had seen for the first time since returning to the mansion. The meaning behind it was truly worth pondering.

She had only intended to anger Wei Yuejiao, and she didn't expect to hear such a piece of news. In that case, let's continue...

"Third Elder Sister, do you think my congenital illness hasn't been completely cured?" Wei Yuewu raised her eyes and smiled at Wei Yuejiao. "Does Third Elder Sister know what kind of congenital illness I have?"

Wei Yuejiao was stunned by the questions. She could not find a proper answer and her expression changed slightly.

"I didn't expect Third Elder Sister to care so much about me. I haven't seen you for so many years. But you asked about my innate deficiency immediately after our first meeting. Actually, I'm not very clear about it. Granny invited many famous doctors to treat me, but they only said that I was a little weak. They didn't say that I had a congenital disease. Third Elder Sister, please explain it to me and help me resolve my doubts."

Wei Yuewu put on an ignorant expression.

Wei Yuejiao, however, could not give any answer. Her eyes flickered twice as she thought that she had made a mistake that was hard to explain.

"Yuejiao, what nonsense are you talking about? Now quickly apologize to your sister! Your sister was just born a little weaker than others, she didn't have any congenital disease." The Madam Dowager's expression darkened as she scolded Wei Yuejiao.

After being reprimanded, Wei Yuejiao, who had always been doted on by the Madam Dowager, immediately had tears in her eyes. She felt that she had lost a big face because the Madam Dowager scolded her in front of so many people in favor of Wei Yuewu. She said with a sobbing voice, "Grandmother, I... I was misled by Sixth Younger Sister's response. It was rare to see a person suffer such a severe stomachache just because of a delayed lunch. Therefore, I thought that Sixth Younger Sister had a congenital disease."

So this was the reason she gave for her improper remarks a moment ago.

Wei Qiufu gave her a sidelong glance with a trace of contempt in her eyes. This explanation was really stupid. The people her grandmother favored were indeed idiots. Both Wei Yan and Wei Yuejiao landed themselves in a disadvantageous situation in their first encounter with Wei Yuewu. What a pity it was that she had such high expectations for Wei Yuejiao.

However, sometimes stupid people were also useful...

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Wei Yuewu was just about to cause trouble for Wei Yuejiao. Now that Wei Yuejiao had taken the initiative to provoke her, how could she let her go? She smiled coldly and said, "Third Elder Sister, did you mean that I had pretended to be in pain?"

"You've clearly exaggerated a bit just now." Wei Yuejiao was unwilling to be suppressed by Wei Yuewu whom she despised, and she choked back angrily.

"I have always been in bad health, and Third Elder Sister also said that I had a congenital disease. I was also injured on the mountain and hasn't recovered yet. If Third Elder Sister doesn't believe me, you can ask Grandmother. Third Elder Sister, you wouldn't have doubt about what Grandmother says, right?" Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart, but her expression remained unchanged as she said indifferently.

She wasn't here today to pretend to be good sisters with Wei Yuejiao.

"How dared you! I'm your Third Elder Sister." Wei Yuejiao's face turned pale with anger, and her lips trembled slightly. In the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, nobody had confronted her like this before.

"Grandmother asked you to apologize to me." Wei Yuewu smiled.

"You... you are just an exiled girl, how dare you talk to me like this?" Wei Yuejiao sneered.

Wei Yuewu's expression turned cold. She had been waiting for Wei Yuejiao to speak those words. "Exile? Is Third Elder Sister talking about me? So that's why you have been targeting me since you entered the mansion today. Is it because I am my father's legitimate daughter and you are just the daughter born by a concubine?"

The difference between legitimate daughters and concubine-born daughters had always been a knot in Wei Yuejiao's heart. Even though she had always lived as a legitimate daughter and the people around her had never treated her as a concubine-born daughter, this kind of concern for identity carved in the depth of her bones would not be dispelled by people's indifference to her identity.

Besides, Concubine Dong had kept telling her the difference between wife-born and concubine-born children all day long.

Wei Yuejiao was so angry that she couldn't even speak. She had always been domineering. In the mansion, she didn't even care about Wei Yan, the eldest legitimate daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. How could she care about Wei Yuewu? Her lungs almost exploded with anger. She reached out her hand, trying to slap Wei Yuewu in the face fiercely. She angrily scolded, "Your mother was already dead, and my mother is about to become the wife. I am the real legitimate daughter. You are just an abandoned girl. What right do you have to talk about wife-born and concubine-born daughters in front of me?"

However, before her hand touched Wei Yuewu's delicate face, she was grabbed by Jin Ling and swung so fiercely that she almost fell to the ground.

"Enough!" The Madam Dowager slapped heavily on the table, and her expression became even worse.

"Grandmother!" Wei Yuejiao had always been doted on by the Madam Dowager like the apple of the eye. She had never been repeatedly scolded by the Madam Dowager like this, and tears immediately fell down her cheeks.

Such an expression, coupled with her aggrieved appearance, truly made people feel pitiful for her!

"Grandmother, is Concubine Dong going to become my father's wife?" Wei Yuewu asked with a surprised look on her face. She frowned slightly and turned to Wei Yuejiao. "Third Elder Sister, whether Concubine Dong would be elevated to the position of wife, my mother was still my father's legitimate wife. Why did you keep addressing her as 'your mother'? Could it be that in your heart, only Concubine Dong is your mother, and my mother is not your mother?"

Whatever Wei Yuejiao said would be a mistake, and the more she said, the more mistakes she would make!

Wei Yuewu had been pressing on to achieve this result. She was destined to be an enemy of Concubine Dong and Wei Yuejiao, so there was no need for her to feign harmony with the two of them. She believed that Concubine Dong, whom she had not yet met, must be an expert in acting. Therefore, she had to eliminate the possibility of their acting from the roots.

The wife of a family was the mother of all the children, whether they were born by her or other concubines of her husband. By comparison, the sons and daughters born by a concubine addressed their own mother as concubine rather than mother. This was a rule that everyone had to abide by.

Wei Yuejiao had always lived at the border, and she always regarded herself as a legitimate daughter. She had always addressed Concubine Dong as mother. Every year when they came to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, the Madam Dowager did not say anything about that, nor did anyone else. Moreover, the Madam Dowager doted on Wei Yuejiao so much that even Wei Yan could not compete with her. Who would dare to say anything about Wei Yuejiao who disregarded the rule concerning the difference between wife-born and concubine-born children?

“Yuejiao, apologize to Yuewu.” A sharp light flashed in the Madam Dowager’s eyes. Concubine Dong was just a concubine, and Wei Yuejiao was the daughter of a concubine. This was something everyone knew. In terms of identity, Wei Yuewu was nobler than Wei Yuejiao. No one could deny it.

This was a fact that she much acknowledged, no matter how much dissatisfied she was with Wei Yuewu’s mother.

“Grandmother, why didn’t you love Yuejiao and protected that girl?” Wei Yuejiao stamped her feet, tears streaming down her face.

“She’s your younger sister, and she’s the only daughter born by your mother.” The Madam Dowager said word by word with a cold face. She had to say these words. Otherwise, rumors would be spread that the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang disregarded the rule concerning the difference between wife-born and concubine-born children, which would be enough to make all the other aristocratic families look down on the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

This could also be considered an acknowledgement of Wei Yuewu’s status in the mansion, but at the same time, it also pointed out Wei Yuejiao’s identity.

Wei Yuejiao had just entered the mansion today. She had mustered all her strength to play tough with Wei Yuewu on their first encounter. She didn’t expect that not only did she fail to achieve her aim, she also lost face. She was so angry that she almost vomited blood. But now, she remembered Concubine Dong’s instructions. She bit her lips and forced herself to eat the humble pie.

“Yes... grandmother!” She said in a wronged tone. She was surely much smarter than Wei Yan, and after being scolded by the Madam Dowager, she understood the situation well.

Although she was secretly so angry that she wanted to tear Wei Yuewu apart, she didn’t dare to reveal any sign of hatred on her face. Concubine Dong had said that she must please her grandmother after entering the capital this time so that she could become the legitimate Marquise Hua Yang. In that case, Wei Yuejiao would also become a legitimate daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

After that, she would teach this cheap girl a good lesson.

“Sixth Younger Sister, I... I’m sorry. I’ve been living at the border with father. I’m used to acting unrestrained. If I said anything wrong, please forgive me, Sixth Younger Sister.” As she spoke, there were two tears hanging at the corners of her eyes. She looked extremely weak, completely different from her arrogant appearance a moment ago.

Wei Yuewu smiled faintly as she observed Wei Yuejiao’s expression. As expected, Wei Yuejiao was different from Wei Yan who had always lived in the capital. She was adaptable to circumstances and knew when to concede. She did everything so naturally, but in reality, her previous behaviors clearly showed that she was a vicious and scheming person. If Wei Yuejiao was such a person, what about Concubine Dong...

It was said that Concubine Dong, who was originally going to enter the capital along with Wei Yuejiao, delayed her trip on the ground that she needed to accompany her father, Marquis Hua Yang. Well, Concubine Dong really knew how to behave properly like a noble lady!

“Third Elder Sister, as long as you respect my mother, I naturally won’t mind.” Wei Yuewu smiled and said meaningfully.

Wei Yuejiao’s expression changed slightly when she heard this, and the hatred in her eyes became even more intense...

Apparently, in terms of status, Wei Yuewu’s gain was Concubine Dong’s loss. How could Wei Yuejiao, who had always regarded herself as a legitimate daughter, swallow the insult?

However, with the less just learnt, Wei Yuejiao knew that if she continued to argue about this topic at this time, she would only suffer losses.

“Younger sisters, I brought some gifts to you. How about I sending them to you later?” Wei Yuejiao didn’t want to look at Wei Yuewu anymore. A stiff smile appeared on her face as she changed the topic in an unnatural manner.

Wei Qiuju smiled gently as she expressed her thanks. Wei Qiuju bowed hurriedly, whereas Wei Yuewu tilted her body sideways to make a salute. However, after the incident that had just happened, no one really thought that the two of them had no grudges against each other.

Moreover, Wei Yuewu’s words a moment ago clearly indicated that the reason why she was so angry was because Wei Yuejiao looked down on her mother.

Because of this reason, even the Madam Dowager could not force the two of them to shake hands and make peace. The current emperor was a strong advocate of benevolence and filial piety. Wei Yuejiao had indeed humiliated Wei Yuewu’s mother. If rumors about today’s incident were to spread, not only would Wei Yuejiao lose her reputation, but even the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would be considered indecent.

This was also the reason why the Madam Dowager had to stand by Wei Yuewu’s side.

Therefore, the lunch was concluded without the expected enthusiastic and joyful atmosphere.

Although Wei Yuejiao kept currying favor with the Madam Dowager, no one echoed her. Therefore, she was unable to continue her play alone. Wei Qiuju was still calm and indifferent as she had been. Wei Qiuju did not show any sign of enthusiasm as she used to do. As for Wei Yuewu, although she had a smile on her face, it was only for the sake of politeness.

Having witnessed the scene just now, everyone knew that the two sisters of the first branch couldn’t become reconciled.

Wei Yuewu was called to the side by the Madam Dowager after lunch, who said a few words about Jing Wenyan. She vaguely expressed the idea that there was no need to be too intimate with Miss Jing.

Wei Yuewu understood that the Madam Dowager was afraid of causing trouble and she nodded in agreement.

Afterwards, she brought Jing Wenyan with her to the Lotus Courtyard where she lived.

The maids served tea and retreated to the side.

"Is there anything I can do for Miss Jing?" Wei Yuewu drank the tea and put it aside. She came straight to the point with a bright smile.

The Madam Dowager might believe Jing Wenyan's excuse. However, Wei Yuewu would in no way buy it.

"There have been rumors that Sixth Miss Wei was neither talented nor good-looking. It turned out that rumors were really misleading." Jing Wenyan also put down the teacup in her hand and wiped the corners of her lips with a handkerchief.

"Rumors are not necessarily misleading. Miss Jing is indeed as beautiful as the rumors described." Wei Yuewu looked at Jing Wenyan and said with pretended annoyance.

Unlike her case, the people in the capital unanimously praised this eldest young lady of the Jing State.

"Sixth Miss Wei is indeed a wonderful person!" Jing Wenyan faintly clasped her hands and smiled. Then, she changed the subject. "Actually, I came to see Sixth Miss Wei because of the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State."

"On my way back to the capital, the Heir-apparent of Yan saved my life. However, there are etiquettes that men and women must observe in their interactions. I have planned to wait for my father's arrival at the capital before thanking His Heir-apparent with generous gifts." Wei Yuewu smiled lightly and quietly distanced herself from Yan Huaijing.

In the plum forest, she saw the two of Jing Wenyan and Yan Huaijing. This meant that Jing Wenyan knew Yan Huaijing. Therefore, she did not understand why this eldest young lady of Jing State visited her.

“Sixth Miss Wei, don’t you think the Heir-apparent of Yan is peerlessly handsome?” After hearing Wei Yuewu’s well-worded reply, Jing Wenyan knew she was a cautious and well-educated lady. She frowned and went straight to the point.

She did not believe that this Sixth Miss Wei, who was rumored to be close to Yan Huaijing, would remain indifferent.

“So what?” Wei Yuewu raised her eyebrows and asked with a smile.

Actually, these words really reflected Wei Yuewu’s current mood. She really didn’t think that Yan Huaijing’s handsome appearance had anything to do with her. This heir-apparent was a beautiful and cunning fox, and every time she was alone with him, she would be extremely cautious and frightened.

“I heard that Sixth Miss Wei and Heir-apparent of Yan have a close relationship, and the mothers of you two were also bosom friends. With the Heir-apparent of Yan’s appearance and status, even if a princess marries him, it is not too much of a compliment to him. Is Sixth Miss Wei really not anxious?” Jing Wenyan’s gaze swept across Wei Yuewu’s face and said calmly.

According to the intelligence she had, Yan Huaijing, who had never treated anyone with a friendly eye, had actually treated this Sixth Miss Wei with much concern in front of her. This was enough to make Jing Wenyan value this thin and weak little girl in front of her.

This was also an important reason why she had thought about it for a long time before paying a visit to Wei Yuewu. She had never seen any woman who was valued by Yan Huaijing...

“What does that have to do with me?” Wei Yuewu tilted her head, as if she did not understand the meaning behind Jing Wenyan’s words.

“When I was in the Palace, I heard from the senior palace maid serving Her Majesty that Her Majesty wanted to marry the Fourth Princess to the Heir-apparent of Yan. This is also an important marriage of alliance between the capital and the Yan State. Everyone can see the benefit of this marriage for both the capital and the Yan State.”

Chapter 164 – Touchstone, The Most Eye-Catching Sachet

Jing Wenyan had previously secretly investigated Wei Yuewu. At this time, she assumed that Wei Yuewu was trying to play cat and mouse with her. Thus, she replied calmly while carefully observing Wei Yuewu's reaction. However, as she observed Wei Yuewu, she couldn't help but frown slightly.

Everyone could clearly see the benefits of this marriage, so it was as sure as a gun. Jing Wenyan was in no hurry because she did not believe that Wei Yuewu really did not understand the meaning of it. She had to scare Wei Yuewu out of her wits so that she could offer to come up with a plan for Wei Yuewu.

However, Wei Yuewu's expression was truly out of her expectation. She hadn't seen the slightest bit of panic on Wei Yuewu's face until now. Was it because this Sixth Miss Wei really didn't have any thought about the marriage, or was it because she didn't understand those words, or was it because she was mistaken?

Jing Wenyan, who failed to see any sign of abnormal response by Wei Yuewu, was already mumbling in her heart.

"This marriage is indeed very good. Her Majesty is very far-sighted." Wei Yuewu sincerely praised the empress and nodded her head sincerely. A faint smile appeared on her face, and her exquisite complexion became even more beautiful.

There wasn't the slightest bit of reluctance in Wei Yuewu's tone as she uttered those words. That Heir-apparent of Yan looked like an exiled immortal on the surface, but in fact, he was both enchanting and black-hearted. Wei Yuewu felt that the farther away she was from him, the safer she would be.

"Her Majesty would not only betroth the Fourth Princess to the Heir-apparent of Yan, but also send a few young ladies of aristocratic families as dowry concubines. If the Third Princess chose one of the other heirs-apparent, the conditions would be the same. I heard that the Third Princess had taken a fancy to Sixth Miss Wei."

Jing Wenyan said slowly, observing Wei Yuewu at the same time. She did not believe that Wei Yuewu was still able to sit still after hearing this.

Sure enough, the smile on Wei Yuewu's face froze and her face stiffened for a moment. Jing Wenyan heaved a sigh of relief. She wasn't afraid that Wei Yuewu would panic. She would have a way to help her relax and restore calmness.

Wei Yuewu's slightly stiffened expression disappeared, and she calmed down again. The corner of her lips curled slightly as she said calmly, "Thank you, Miss Jing. Actually, you shouldn't tell me about these things. When my father comes back, he will accept any order from the Palace."

She still didn't take the bait? How could that be!

Jing Wenyan was now a little anxious. Of course, she had come here to make friends with Wei Yuewu. She didn't expect that this Sixth Miss Wei's mind was already so extraordinary despite of her young age. Anyone who heard the news would be anxious. Yet, this Sixth Miss Wei actually had the mood to sit there and chat with her.

And she sounded as if she wasn't talking about her own marriage.

"If this matter is settled in a few days... I'm afraid you would be married out before Marquis Hua Yang is back in the capital!" Jing Wenyan decided to give another heavy blow. She did not believe that this weak unmarried girl would still be able to keep calm. She couldn't help but have a self-assured smile on her face.

But in the next moment, Wei Yuewu's words caused her smile to freeze on her face.

"I am the daughter of an important official of this dynasty. My mother died early and I was raised in my maternal grandparents' house. I haven't seen my father yet after I entered the capital. The royal family would in no way deprive my father and me of the opportunity to see each other. After all, I am the only daughter of my father." Wei Yuewu's expression became even calmer as she stretched out her hand helplessly.

Well, Wei Yuewu had exactly hit the nail on the head. Considering her identity, it was impossible for her to be chosen as a dowry concubine of the princess unless there was some special reason. She was the daughter of an important official, and she was also the only daughter. Such an identity was enough for the empress to think twice before making a decision.

Jing Wenyan did not expect that Wei Yuewu had such an incisive view. For a moment, all the words she had prepared in her heart were useless. She opened her mouth but did not say anything. There was a hint of doubt in her eyes. Could it be that she was really mistaken? Did Wei Yuewu and Yan Huaijing really have nothing to do with each other? The room fell silent for a moment.

“Sixth Young Lady, the Third Young Lady sent someone to deliver gifts.” Shufei lifted the curtain and walked in to report.

Actually, the gifts had already been delivered, but she did not disturb Wei Yuewu. When she sensed the room quieted down, she immediately came in to report.

“Let them come in!” Wei Yuewu nodded.

There were actually not many things. Most of them were sachets used by girls. The sachets probably contained something inside. Before the maids delivering the gifts entered the room, a fragrant smell rushed into her.

Apparently, the fragrance inside the sachets wasn’t cheap.

“Sixth Young Lady, these are gifts from our mistress to you. Please accept them.” The maids who delivered the sachets followed a leading maid in.

The box was opened, and there were five or six sachets. The rest were small items that girls were interested in, such as headwear and perfume. They were very exquisite, and she could tell at a glance that they were of a different style from those in the capital.

“This one is well embroidered.” Jing Wenyan walked to Wei Yuewu’s side and looked at the gifts in the box with Wei Yuewu. She pointed at a pale green sachet and said.

This sachet was indeed well embroidered. It was more exquisite than the others. When she held it in her hand, she couldn’t even see the fine stitches in it. When she carefully smelled it, the fragrance in it was also faint. The smell was much lighter than the others. Everything fit in with Wei Yuewu’s taste.

Moreover, the embroidery pattern on it looked quite exotic, unlike the ordinary patterns of flowers and birds.

Hence, Wei Yuewu took a fancy to this sachet at a glance!

“Miss Jing has a keen vision. This sachet was embroidered by an embroideress in our mansion. It is said that the embroidery method she used had become completely extinct. It was only passed down in her family for several generations.” The leading maid replied with a smile.

“Sixth Miss Wei, can I have a look?” Jing Wenyan seemed to be interested and smiled at Wei Yuewu.

A dark light flashed in Wei Yuewu’s eyes. She smiled and quietly handed the sachet in her hand to Jing Wenyan. She wanted to see how this eldest lady of the State of Jing would make her choice. Would she become her ally without the slightest hesitation, or was she going to gang up with the seemingly powerful Wei Yuejiao to plot against her?

She clearly remembered that this Miss Jing entered the mansion with Wei Yuejiao...

This sachet was really a good touchstone!

“This sachet is so unique! Ask your Third Young Lady for me, did that embroideress come to the capital this time? If there is a chance, can she embroider a sachet for me?” Jing Wenyan flipped through the sachet in her hand and casually said to Wei Yuejiao’s maid.

“Report to Miss Jing: this embroideress did not enter the capital this time. However, after I return, I will inform our mistress about this matter and will definitely give Miss Jing a satisfactory answer.” Wei Yuejiao’s maid was well-trained. She not only behaved very appropriately in the face of an unexpected event, but also flattered Jing Wenyan for Wei Yuejiao with those words.

Judging from the fact that Wei Yuejiao brought Jing Wenyan with her into the mansion just now, she knew that Wei Yuejiao wanted to make friends with this famous Miss Jing.

Wei Yuejiao was her father's favorite daughter. Compared to Wei Yuewu, a daughter who had been abandoned for several years, wasn't Wei Yuejiao of much more value for Jing Wenyan?

Wei Yuewu sat down on the chair and smiled, waiting to see what would happen next.

Her plan had never been made overnight, but what did this Miss Jing want? Did she really just want to provoke her jealousy?

Actually, the relationship between Yan Huaijing and her only concerned interests, and there was not the slightest bit of intimacy between them.

What Jing Wenyan said before was meaningless to her. Jing Wenyan should have seen her indifference to this matter concerning the marriage between Yan Huaijing and the Fourth Princess!

Jing Wenyan didn't say anything at this moment. She just nodded and flipped through the sachet in her hand.

"Go back and thank your mistress for me." Wei Yuewu blinked her eyes and instructed with a smile.

"Yes, I will."

Since the gifts had been delivered, the maids naturally wouldn't stay any longer. They all retreated one by one in an orderly manner. It was obvious that Concubine Dong's methods of running the family were not bad. Such methods really didn't seem to be something a concubine with a maid's background could grasp.

When the leading maid left the house, she looked back at Jing Wenyan who was looking at the sachet. A trace of uneasiness unconsciously appeared in her eyes. Even though she immediately turned around, her movements were still observed by Wei Yuewu, who had been paying close attention to her. The corners of Wei Yuewu's lips revealed a clear smile.

Sure enough, Concubine Dong and Wei Yuejiao had indeed come with ill intentions.

It was only the first day that Wei Yuejiao was back in the mansion, and she had started to set her up by taking every chance.

Good, very good. Wei Yuewu's eyes flashed with a trace of hostility. With Wei Yuejiao's performance today, she could guess that her birth mother's death must have something to do with Concubine Dong.

"Sixth Young Lady, don't wear this sachet." Jing Wenyan put down the sachet in her hand. She looked into Wei Yuewu's eyes and said sincerely.

"Why? Didn't you just say that this sachet was unique and ask my Third Elder Sister's embroideress to make one for you as well?" Wei Yuewu blinked her eyes and asked innocently.

"Sixth Young Lady, I'm actually not too sure, but I always feel that the embroidery pattern on this sachet is a bit strange. It looks different from those that are normally worn by young unmarried ladies." Jing Wenyan frowned and pointed at the embroidery pattern on the sachet.

The embroidery pattern was not ordinary flowers or birds, but an eagle that hooked a cluster of bright red flowers and flew in the air, stretching its head and wings.

The eagle looked extremely robust.

Wei Yuejiao came from the border, and the folks there were relatively tough and valiant, so it was only natural for the sachet to have such an embroidery pattern.

"Third Elder Sister's embroideress should be from the border. The embroidery pattern is really different from ours. Perhaps this kind of sachets are more suitable for men to wear!" Wei Yuewu also looked at the embroidery pattern and smiled.

"Anywhere, it's not suitable to wear. Sixth Young Lady, if you like it, you had better just put it in the room for personal viewing." Jing Wenyan's eyes flashed with a hint of serenity, but she still nodded.

She was still doubtful about this Sixth Miss Wei. The reason she held her in high esteem was merely because of Yan Huaijing, a person of extreme importance to her. By making friends with Wei Yuewu, she was just preparing an additional umbrella that might of use some time in the future.

Whether this additional umbrella was really useful or not, Jing Wenyan wouldn't suffer any loss.

She was just trying to figure out the value of Wei Yuewu, and it was impossible for her to offend Wei Yuejiao for the sake of Wei Yuewu who was still an unknown to her.

Wei Yuewu smiled faintly as she observed Jing Wenyan's reactions. She already knew what Jing Wenyan had implied with those words. In Jing Wenyan's heart, she and Wei Yuejiao were indeed not on the same level. Wei Yuejiao, who was doted on by her father, naturally had more weight than her.

"Thank you, Miss Jing. I will find a suitable time to wear this sachet. I will definitely not casually bring it out. Anywhere, I should do something to appreciate Third Elder Sister's goodwill." Wei Yuewu raised the sachet on the table and said smilingly with pretended annoyance.

Chapter 165 – Which Miss Lived Here?

Jing Wenyan could not continue the conversation. Her eyes involuntarily fell on Wei Yuewu's face. This was an extremely delicate little face. Instead of using heavy makeup and splendid jewelry, Wei Yuewu simply tied up her dark hair with a plum hairpin. However, this made her look as refreshing and beautiful as an orchid that emitted gorgeous and unworldly charm upon close look.

Although she was still somewhat childish, a few years later, she would definitely grow into a peerlessly stunning beauty. It should be very easy for such a woman to obtain a man's heart!

However, if this person was Yan Huaijing, Jing Wenyan would feel that it was just a joke. The man who looked like a banished immortal from the sky always gave people a feeling of being aloof and detached from worldly affairs. Would such a man really fall into the mortal world for the sake of this girl in front of her?

Jing Wenyan had always been proud of her appearance. However, despite being in her prime as an unsurpassed beauty, she could not see a trace of fluctuation in Yan Huaijing's eyes. Was he hiding his emotion too well, or was he really not interested in her?

This thought made Jing Wenyan very uncomfortable. Now, she even looked at Wei Yuewu with jealousy. Wei Yuewu was not necessarily better than her. But why did the message she got indicated that Yan Huaijing treated her differently?

If it was because of Marquis Hua Yang, then that Third Miss Wei was obviously much more useful than this Sixth Miss Wei.

Today, she had specially bumped into Wei Yuejiao before entering the mansion. She also entered the mansion with Wei Yuejiao with the aim of better observing Wei Yuejiao and Wei Yuewu so as to decide which of them was of more value to her.

Until now, however, her keen eyes had not discovered anything worthy of Yan Huaijing's special attention in this Sixth Miss Wei in front of her.

"Sixth Miss Wei, that's all I have to say! Please think twice about what I said before. The marriage between you and Marquis Jing Yuan has been annulled. If you don't plan early, you will not only fail to marry the one you like, but also end up a concubine of another man. With your talent and appearance, you will definitely not accept such a fate!"

At this moment, Jing Wenyan had the intention to quit, so she stood up and uttered those words with smile on her face.

"Thank you, Miss Jing. I will carefully think about what you said to me. If in the future Miss Jing has anything for me to do, I will definitely offer my help as a return for your kindness to me today." Wei Yuewu stood up and smiled generously.

Jing Wenyan's eyes lit up as she landed her gaze on Wei Yuewu.

Her words weren't something an ordinary unmarried girl should have said. Upon hearing Jing Wenyan's words, an ordinary unmarried girl was supposed to blush and repeatedly deny the possibility of

considering such a thing. However, she didn't expect that this Sixth Miss Wei would actually dare to respond to her in such a generous manner. How could she not be surprised and think highly of Wei Yuewu?

Could it be that her judgements were wrong? It seemed that she still had to observe Wei Yuejiao and Wei Yuewu more!

Wei Yuewu naturally knew the impacts of her words on Jing Wenyan. Although she did not want to cooperate with Jing Wenyan, she did not want Jing Wenyan to gang up with Wei Yuejiao to deal with her either.

Wei Yuewu saw Jing Wenyan off at the entrance of the courtyard, where she let Shufei lead the way for Jing Wenyan. Then, she turned around and went back to her room.

Since Jing Wenyan had the intention to evaluate Wei Yuejiao and her, she naturally had to give Jing Wenyan a big gift. Wei Yuejiao, who had been suppressed by her today, must be extremely angry right now. It was simply the right time for Jing Wenyan to go over now...

Shufei led Jing Wenyan around several corridors on their way to the gate of the mansion.

"Which lady lives here?" After turning around a corner, Jing Wenyan suddenly stopped and pointed at the gate of a courtyard.

There was much luggage placed at the gate of the courtyard. It was obvious that someone had just returned from a long journey, and a group of maids and nurses were bustling about.

"It's our Third Young Lady's courtyard. Third Young Lady has just come back." Shufei, who had already understood Wei Yuewu's intention, replied with a smile.

"Your Third Young Lady brought so much luggage with her?" Jing Wenyan stopped curiously and pointed at the boxes on the ground. "I heard that your Third Young Lady comes back once a year. How could she have so much luggage after being away for just one year?"

"I don't know. I am new in this mansion." Seeing Jing Wenyan stop, Shufei naturally could not keep walking. She stopped and replied after having a look at the luggage.

"Were those maids and ladies also brought by Third Miss Wei?" Jing Wenyan asked with a beaming smile, as if she had really stopped to ask these questions out of curiosity.

"I don't know them either. They might be new here. Perhaps those maids and nurses were brought back from the border by the Third Young Lady!" Shufei said uncertainly.

"The things at the border are really different from those in the capital." Jing Wenyan's expression was filled with admiration. Her gaze fell on the boxes, as if she was watching very seriously. Under such a situation, Shufei naturally could not urge her to leave. She could only stand aside and wait for Jing Wenyan.

At this time, they were standing at a conspicuous place outside Wei Yuejiao's courtyard gate and Jing Wenyan gestured with her hand as she talked. As the two of them talked, a servant had already gone in to report to Wei Yuejiao.

Wei Yuejiao was venting her anger in the room. When she heard that Jing Wenyan was outside her courtyard, she immediately had her room cleaned up and brought someone to personally welcome Jing Wenyan!

Wei Yuejiao did value the identity and status of this eldest young lady of Jing State. Therefore, when she met Jing Wenyan at the gate of the mansion and learned that the eldest young lady of Jing State was paying a visit to the mansion, she brought her along without hesitation. She had hoped that Jing Wenyan would see Wei Yuewu being suppressed by her.

Thinking about it now, it was fortunate that grandmother had asked Jing Wenyan to have a rest elsewhere. Otherwise, Jing Wenyan would see her being humiliated by Wei Yuewu and this famous Miss Jing might look down on her. As long as she thought of this, her face would reveal some hatred.

So it was Wei Yuewu, right? It didn't matter. Her good days would soon be over! So what if she got the upper hand for the time being?

Mother had vowed to trample this cheap bitch beneath her feet this time.

"Since Miss Jing has stopped outside my courtyard, why not come in and have a chat?" Wei Yuejiao hid the hatred on her face and walked over to Jing Wenyan with a smile.

"Well..." Jing Wenyan looked at Shufei at the side hesitantly!

Shufei lowered her head and remained silent.

"You are Sixth Younger Sister's maid, right? You can go back first. Tell Sixth Younger Sister that Miss Jing wants to have a chat with me. I will send Miss Jing out later."

Wei Yuejiao glanced sideways at Shufei and bluntly instructed. How could she let go of such a good opportunity to make friends with Miss Jing, who was famous all over the country.

"Yes, Third Young Lady." Shufei helplessly nodded her head, turned around and left. When she turned over the corner, she cast a look at Wei Yuejiao and Jing Wenyan, who were walking towards the courtyard together. The corner of her lips curled into a trace of mockery.

Indeed, it was exactly as Miss had expected...

"Young miss, when we walked past Fengyi Courtyard, Miss Jing indeed stopped there. I talked with her there for some time and then the Third Young Lady came out to welcome Miss Jing and ordered me to go back first. She said she wanted to have a chat with Miss Jing." Shufei reported to Wei Yuewu in the room back in Lotus Courtyard.

Wei Yuewu and Huamo were embroidering the pattern she had painted before.

They had just started the embroidering work and only finished the outline. Wei Yuewu had been raised in her maternal grandparents' house over the years, so drawing and embroidery were the most common things for her. Besides, embroidery was also something that could only be done with a calm mind. Grandmother also asked her not to think too much because thinking too much would be harmful to her body. Therefore, she would do some needlework when she was free.

Her body was indeed somewhat innately weak. Fortunately, after so many years of recuperation, she was only slightly weaker than the average person.

Originally, she did not care about this, but today, hearing Wei Yuejiao's words, she realized that her innate deficiency was no small matter.

"There's no need to pay attention to them. I believe Miss Jing won't be staying there for long." Wei Yuewu replied without raising her head.

"Miss, will Miss Jing help the Third Young Lady and Concubine Dong..." Huamo didn't finish her sentence, but everyone in the room could understand her.

Before Concubine Dong arrived, she had already asked the Madam Dowager to pass on the message that she wanted to become Marquise Hua Yang. She was acting so aggressively and her target was naturally the position of Marquise Hua Yang.

The Third Young Lady was now only a concubine-born daughter, but she was already so rude and arrogant towards Wei Yuewu. If she really became the legitimate daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, how could there be a place for Wei Yuewu in the mansion?

The position of Marquise Hua Yang was not something that the Second Lady Li can match. Once becoming Marquise Hua Yang, Concubine Dong could righteously deal with Wei Yuewu and could even easily find trouble with her and punish her under the name of filial piety.

As for Marquis Hua Yang, none of the servants of Wei Yuewu had high hopes for him. Everyone chose to forget about this father.

"Concubine Dong will not become Marquise Hua Yang." Wei Yuewu put down the embroidery in her hand and said coldly.

She would find out everything that had happened back then. No matter who it was that killed her mother, she would not let them go! Back then, she was only an ignorant kid. But now, she would never allow others to step on her and climb up no matter what!

“Shufei, take this and hand it to Miss Jing. Go to the place where her carriage is parked and give it to her when she comes out.” Wei Yuewu stood up and walked to the desk. She had just found an interesting book.

She had brought books of this kind from her maternal grandparents’ house with her to the capital.

This book was also taken out of a box that she found when she brought Yan Huaijing’s guards back to the scene of assassination after surviving Mo Huating’s deadly chase.

At that time, the box was thrown to the ground probably because there was nothing valuable inside. The assassins of Mo Huating who appeared in the disguise of robbers casually overthrew the box on the ground.

Thus, the box of books remained.

She had collected these books in her maternal grandparents’ house. They were basically rare and extinct books. There were also some books on foreign anecdotes. In the past, when Wei Yuewu was free, she would occasionally flip through them. Therefore, she was very familiar with some of the things in these books.

When she glanced at the sachets Wei Yuejiao sent over, she immediately knew what she meant. After Jing Wenyan left, she searched and found the book.

“I will go immediately.” Shufei took the book from Wei Yuewu’s hand. Although she did not understand the meaning behind it, she didn’t have the slightest bit of doubt of Wei Yuewu’s orders due to her admiration for her Miss.

The book wasn’t thick. It actually contained only a few thin pages, and it was even an incomplete edition. However, Wei Yuewu believed that Jing Wenyan could understand it. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have said those words.

Wasn’t Jing Wenyan still hesitating? Although she couldn’t reveal all her trump cards, she wouldn’t let Jing Wenyan really become her opponent.

Or perhaps it could be said that this book was to intimidate this seemingly scheming Miss Jing!

Chapter 166 – Incomplete Copy Of An Extinct Book

If she had taken out this book and shown it to Jing Wenyan before she left to see Wei Yuejiao, it might not have had much effect. But now, Wei Yuewu believed that this shrewd Miss Jing's heart had started to tilt again!

In fact, the balance in the heart of Jing Wenyan who was now in Wei Yuejiao's room was indeed starting to shake...

The room was clean, almost spotless. However, the ground that was sprinkled with water couldn't be dried for a while. Jing Wenyan even saw a maid standing at the corner with her head lowered, and the left part of her face was swollen.

From her position, she could see a small piece of porcelain under Wei Yuejiao's chair.

All these meant that this Third Miss Wei had lost her temper in the room before going out to greet her.

Shortly after returning to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, Wei Yuejiao had lost her temper. It seemed that this Third Miss Wei was not only very bad-tempered, she was also very irritable. Compared to Sixth Miss Wei, who was younger but was quite calm and unfathomable, it seemed that this Third Miss Wei was not a good choice for her.

"Miss Jing, how about this tea?" Wei Yuejiao saw Jing Wenyan put down the tea in her hand and she asked with a smile.

"This tea is very fragrant, I wonder where Third Miss Wei got it?" Jing Wenyan asked calmly.

"This tea is from the border. I heard that it is rare. Father himself cherishes it very much. When he found that I liked it, he gave it all to me." Wei Yuejiao said proudly. She indeed had the capital to be proud.

With her status as a concubine-born daughter, she actually made everyone in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, including the Madam Dowager, treat her as a legitimate daughter.

“Marquis Hua Yang really dotes on Third Miss Wei!” Jing Wenyan smiled.

“Father loves me the most. He would give whatever good stuff he has to me. Miss Jing, did you see this screen?” Wei Yuejiao proudly pointed at the screen in the room.

She had suffered a setback from Wei Yuewu. She really wanted to find a chance to get back her sense of superiority over Wei Yuewu.

“Very beautiful, what is this...” Jing Wenyan smiled and asked.

“This is a screen embroidered by my mother. It’s her dowry. Grandmother heard that my room needed a screen, so she asked someone to bring this screen over to me. Perhaps even Sixth Younger Sister hasn’t seen this screen.” Wei Yuejiao also knew that she couldn’t refer to the deceased Marquise Hua Yang as “Wei Yuewu’s mother” in front of outsiders.

She knew she must address her as mother, so even though she was unhappy in her heart, she still called her mother. However, her own mother told her that she would soon be able to address her as mother.

“Did the Madam Dowager arrange this for you? Hasn’t even Sixth Miss Wei seen Marquise Hua Yang’s dowry?” Jing Wenyan pinched her handkerchief and asked in surprise.

Was it because this Madam Dowager was too ignorant of the rules, or because she took that Sixth Young Lady too lightly?

In any aristocratic family, such a deed would be a slap in the face to the legitimate wife and her direct descendants! But the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang did such a thing so openly! Did this mean that Concubine Dong was about to be elevated to the position of Marquise Hua Yang so that this screen was intentionally placed in Wei Yuejiao’s room to suppress Wei Yuewu?

“Of course. I just arrived today. Everything here has been arranged before my arrival. This place is close to grandmother. Grandmother loves me the most. Although Sixth Younger Sister’s courtyard is fine, it

had actually belonged to Second Elder Sister. I don't know how it ended up being allocated to Sixth Younger Sister." Wei Yuejiao curled her lips in disdain.

She had suffered a loss earlier, and she felt quite annoyed in her heart. Now that she had a chance to belittle Wei Yuewu, of course she wouldn't let it go.

Wei Yan?

After Wei Yan "died of illness", this name had slowly faded out of everyone's sight. Although the people in the mansion knew that Wei Yan committed suicide, they only said that Wei Yan had an urgent illness and died, which could be considered as giving the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang a decent excuse to save its face.

When Wei Yuejiao mentioned Wei Yan, Jing Wenyan was shocked.

This arrogant Second Miss Wei was once very famous amongst the daughters of aristocratic families in the capital, but after Wei Yuewu entered the capital, she actually ended up dying of illness.

Even the Second Lady Li, who was in charge of the backyard, went back to her parents' house to recover from her illness.

Was this really not related to that Sixth Miss Wei who had just arrived at the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang?

She heard that Lady Li and Wei Yan had always harbored malicious intentions towards this Sixth Miss Wei! But who would expect that they ended up like this! Did it really have nothing to do with this innocent Sixth Young Lady? The meaning behind this was enough to make people think carefully about it.

"Since it was Second Young Lady's courtyard, why was it given to Sixth Young Lady?" Jing Wenyan asked calmly.

"I don't know either. Perhaps it has something to do with Second Elder Sister's indiscreet behavior!" Wei Yuejiao said scornfully.

"This screen, will the Sixth Young Lady come to get it back?" Jing Wenyan's gaze fell on the screen and she smiled curiously.

"Since grandmother has given it to me, how could she get it back?" The corners of Wei Yuejiao's mouth revealed a hint of pride. Grandmother had always been a giver to her. When had grandmother reclaimed anything that had been given to her?

Everything in this mansion, as long as it was something that she liked, would immediately be delivered to her once she asked for it. When Wei Yan was alive, she used to compete with her, but in the end, Wei Yan would always obediently give way.

Even the eldest sister, who was the wife of the Heir-apparent of a prince, would not go against her!

"Third Young Lady, I suddenly remembered that I still have things to do. I have to leave now!" After thinking for a while, Jing Wenyan suddenly stood up and said smilingly.

"Aren't you going to stay for a while longer?" Wei Yuejiao also stood up.

"Thanks. I will come here next time when I am free." Jing Wenyan shook her head.

Seeing she was determined to leave, Wei Yuejiao could not say anything and she ordered her maid to see Jing Wenyan off.

Wei Yuejiao's maid led the way for Jing Wenyan and left only after they reached Jing Wenyan's carriage.

Jing Wenyan, however, did not get on the carriage immediately. She stood still and looked behind her, her eyes slightly solemn.

“Miss Jing, our Miss asked me to deliver this book to you.” Shufei appeared from behind the carriage and respectfully presented the book in her hand.

It was a very old book and was even incomplete. But its cover surprised Jing Wenyan. She also had this book. She originally thought that what she had was the only copy, and she didn’t expect that there was still an incomplete copy of this book.

She hurriedly reached out to take it, but when she took it, she felt as if her hand was burned. The book in her hand almost fell to the ground. Fortunately, the maid beside her reacted quickly and took it for her.

Wei Yuewu actually knew all about that sachet sent by Wei Yuejiao. However, she actually remained calm without the slightest look of surprise. Was this really the reaction a thirteen-year-old girl was supposed to have in that situation?

“Please convey my thanks to your Sixth Young Lady. I happen to have a complete copy of this book. I’ll have someone deliver it to your Sixth Young Lady later.” Jing Wenyan held the book firmly and smiled calmly.

“Miss Jing has this book? Then thank you very much. Our Miss has always lamented that this book was damaged and that she couldn’t get a complete copy. She didn’t expect that Miss Jing would send a complete copy to her. Thank you, Miss Jing!” Shufei excitedly thanked Jing Wenyan on behalf of Wei Yuewu.

“No problem!” Jing Wenyan smiled and got on the carriage with the help of her maid while Shufei retreated to the side.

Shufei didn’t leave until the carriage slowly drove out of sight. Instead of heading for the Lotus Courtyard, she headed for the back door of the mansion. She was going to intercept people!

And the person Shufei was trying to intercept was Jin Ling, who had just happened to leave the mansion.

This eldest young lady of State Jing really had a huge ambition!

Thus, Jing Wenyan's words and deeds in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang were faithfully reported to the handsome and unworldly heir-apparent.

And this heir-apparent was right now entertaining the Fourth Prince, Wen Yi, and the third prince, Wen Caidie.

While beautiful songs and dances were being performed, the Third Princess was very uneasy. Occasionally, she looked at Yan Huaijing, who seemed to be focused on the songs and dances. She saw him reclining on the couch. His slender phoenix eyes narrowed slightly, and he wore a white embroidered butterfly-patterned gorgeous robe. It was just perfect for showing his nobility and elegance that made people intoxicated.

An attendant whispered a few words in his ear. He only smiled faintly as gentle as water, without any change in his expression.

Yan Huaijing waved his hand and the attendant retreated.

At this time, the beautiful dancers had just finished their dance and were retreating one by one.

Taking advantage of this gap, the Third Princess looked at her brother Wen Yi and secretly winked. Wen Yi understood and coughed softly. He smiled and said to Yan Huaijing on the main seat, "Your Heir-apparent, is there something that needs to be handled?"

Yan Huaijing raised his eyes and swept his gaze over the Third Princess and the Fourth Prince with a gentle smile. He shook his head and said, "It's not a big deal. May I know how His Majesty and the Crown Prince are going to handle the matter of State Jing?"

State Jing was the last crucial point in this incident. The Emperor and Wen Tianyao had not expressed their attitude yet, but Yan Huaijing was not in a hurry. It seemed that nothing serious would happen. If the Emperor wanted to take actions against State Yan, there was no need to wait until now.

He just didn't expect Jing Wenyan to be so restless...

“Oh... Father Emperor and Eldest Brother didn’t say anything. Don’t worry, Your Heir-apparent. When Father Emperor and Eldest Brother mention this matter, I will definitely speak up for Your Heir-apparent.” The Fourth Prince hesitated for a moment before expressing his support for Yan Huaijing.

“Then I have to thank you, Your Highness. The eldest young lady of Jing State is the number one beauty. Has Your Highness seen her?” Yan Huaijing casually turned the cup in his hand and said to the Fourth Prince.

The Fourth Prince smiled and said, “I saw her once in Mother Empress’s palace. She was said to be the number one beauty, but in my opinion, it might be a bit of exaggerated. There are several young ladies in the capital who can rival her.”

“Oh, there are other young ladies who can rival Miss Jing?” Yan Huaijing seemed to be interested, and his long and narrow phoenix eyes turned around with a bit of interest.

How could other young ladies easily rival Jing Wenyan, who was widely known as an unsurpassed beauty? However, since the Fourth Prince had boasted like that, he had to make his statement consistent. “Your Heir-apparent has not been in the capital for long. In a few days, grandmother will meet you. At that time, there will definitely be a lot of young ladies from the noble families. You will see by then.”

The Empress Dowager’s reception wasn’t something that happened every day. This Empress Dowager’s health wasn’t very good. Normally, she only received people close to her, and not even the Empress was able to see her frequently. She only received some aristocratic ladies with official mandates and daughter of aristocratic families on some special days.

Even though Yan Huaijing was the Heir-apparent of the Yan State, he had never seen this Empress Dowager before.

“My thanks to the Empress Dowager for her kindness. I will definitely live up to her expectations.” Yan Huaijing smiled and said meaningfully.

The Fourth Prince and the Third Princess exchanged a glance and heaved a sigh of relief. Yan Huaijing’s words meant that he agreed on the marriage alliance with the royal family.

Since their goal had been achieved, the two of them couldn't stay longer. They bid Yan Huaijing farewell and then left.

The Fourth Prince did not get on his horse. Instead, he jumped into the carriage of the Third Princess.

The Third Princess inside the carriage was worried, "Fourth Brother, what should we do?"

Chapter 167 – The Third Princess Praying For The Country

"What should we do? If Yan Huaijing was not blind, he would definitely see that you are much better than Fourth Younger Sister. With Fourth Younger Sister's personality, even if there would be aristocratic young ladies as a part of her dowry, she wouldn't be able to pick some good ones. She is not as magnanimous and gentle as you. Besides, Eldest Royal Brother likes you the most, doesn't he?"

"But Fourth Younger Sister is Mother Empress's own daughter. Mother Empress will definitely make Fourth Younger Sister the bride," the Third Princess said worriedly.

"So what? Even though Mother Empress thinks that Fourth Younger Sister is perfect, grandfather may not agree. Why don't we go to grandfather first?" the Fourth Prince nodded and suggested.

The Crown Prince, the Fourth Prince, the Third Princess, and the Fourth Princess's grandfather were of the same family. While Empress Tu and Zhaoyi Tu were both from the Grand Master Tu's Mansion, and they were well-known ladies of the Tu family.

"Well... Alright then!" The Third Princess nodded and her eyes lit up.

Compared with the arrogant Fourth Princess, the Third Princess felt that her grandfather loved her more than the Fourth Princess. With the support of her grandfather, even the Empress would have to think twice before doing anything to her.

"What's going on with Jing Wenyan?" The Third Princess suddenly remembered Jing Wenyan, whom Yan Huaijing had just praised highly, and somehow she felt a little annoyed in her heart.

“She’s just a daughter of some fallen duke. No matter how good she looks, it’s of no use!” The Fourth Prince said nonchalantly, “If you can tolerate her, maybe we can let her stay by your side?”

“No!” The Third Princess categorically refused. Even if she wanted a more advantageous group of young ladies to be a part of her dowry, she would not accept Jing Wenyan.

“Okay, if you don’t want her, then I can keep her in my mansion.” The Fourth Prince knew that the Third Princess would answer like this, so he said the above to her with a smile.

“Fourth Elder Brother, Eldest Royal Brother might have taken a fancy to her as well,” the Third Princess reminded him.

This made the Fourth Prince hesitate and lower his head resentfully. “We’ll see. Even though grandmother likes Jing Wenyan, she may not have any intentions of letting her enter Eldest Royal Brother’s Crown Prince’s Mansion.”

These words were quite meaningful, and for a moment, it quieted down in the carriage. The two of them sat there, brewing their own thoughts.

The Fourth Prince suddenly said after a long while, “How is the matter about Fourth Miss Wei going?”

“Humph, how did a lowly girl like her actually dare to make use of me!” The Third Princess snorted coldly, revealing anger on her face. She was always the one who schemed against others. Who would have thought that one day she would be schemed against by others?

Thinking back to how she had been questioned about her reputation, which she had earned through great efforts, for punishing that servant girl, and the main reason for that was the Wei family’s sisters, the Third Princess felt that they were getting more and more annoying.

“That maid has been sent to Eldest Royal Brother’s mansion, but I heard that she died halfway through. But no matter what, it was done by Wei Qiufu. She can’t slip out of her responsibility in it. Eldest Royal Brother won’t allow such a sinister woman to have the chance to enter the Crown Prince’s Mansion.”

"I really couldn't tell that a usually gentle and broad-minded person like her would be so sinister. In order to become the Crown Prince's Consort, she really could do anything. I wonder under what name Eldest Royal Brother would cancel her title as the consort." The Fourth Prince clicked his tongue.

Even if someone testified, it was impossible for the Crown Prince to punish Wei Qiufu for a crime openly. He had to save some reputation for the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. After all, the Fourth Miss Wei was not the only unmarried young lady in the family.

"How is the preparation for your prayer ceremony going? Consort Mother hopes to settle the matter at the ceremony."

"There's more than a month left. Fourth Elder Brother, I'm not sure if I can..."

As they talked about this, the carriage headed straight for Grand Master Tu's Mansion!

In the mansion of the Duke of Yan, Yan Huaijing stood up and walked out of the guest reception room with his hands behind his back.

The servants all made their ways for him, watching the immortal-like heir-apparent walk into the bamboo forest elegantly at the side. There was a three-storey bamboo tower there, which was Yan Huaijing's favorite place to go.

In the depths of the bamboo forest, there seemed to be no one, but in fact, defences were set up everywhere.

"Make some trouble for Jing Wenyan. Don't let her come and pester me so often." His gentle and elegant voice was filled with ruthlessness and coldness.

Hearing that, the man who appeared from behind him was covered in cold sweat!

The beautiful and charming first beauty had truly provoked his heir-apparent. Looked like the Sixth Miss Wei truly occupied an extraordinary position in the heart of his heir-apparent.

He was really looking forward to the follow-up to this matter. From childhood until now, he had only seen others fall in love with his heir-apparent. He had never seen his heir-apparent fall in love with a girl before! Thinking of this, he felt as if his entire body was filled with excitement.

“Your Heir-apparent, she is the first beauty. Don’t you find it a pity to destroy the beauty by cruel means?” Suddenly, his head guard, Lin Fang, appeared from the forest.

“You like her?” Yan Huaijing was not surprised by his appearance at all. He glanced sideways at him and asked that with a smile.

“No... I don’t like her, I don’t dare!” Lin Fang waved his own hands hurriedly.

“Since you don’t like her, then why bother asking!” Yan Huaijing smiled.

“Yes, I understand!” Lin Fang said that while leaning over like an annoying gossip. He had grown up with Yan Huaijing since he was young, so he didn’t have much scruples on manners when talking with him. He winked at him and continued with a smile, “What would you do about the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang?”

“Has Marquis Hua Yang arrived at the capital?” Yan Huaijing asked without turning back.

“He’s on his way and should be arriving soon! However, his old injuries from before recurred, so it might take him some time along the journey.” Lin Fang became serious when it came to proper business and reported to Yan Huaijing according to the information he received.

“Don’t take action to Mo Huating for now. Let’s see what he wants to do. An unimportant young master of an aristocratic family like him wants to rebel? I didn’t expect such a person to be left here,” Yan Huaijing said while pacing a few steps with his hands behind his back.

“I really didn’t expect him to have such a powerful family background. And I really couldn’t tell that he was such a buried talent,” Lin Fang said smilingly. This was something that no one had expected, not even his heir-apparent had guessed.

If it weren't for the matter that the Sixth Miss Wei encountered the robbery and murder, and his heir-apparent asked him to investigate further, they would not discover the truth.

"Let them do the fight. We will only reach out to get what we need." Yan Huaijing's voice was cold and murderous.

"Yes, I understand." Lin Fang also restrained the playful smile on his face and nodded. Then, he hesitantly said, "Wei Luowu's birthday is coming. He is the Minister of Rites of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, but he is not planning to celebrate it in a high profile way. So he didn't invite many guests. Your Heir-apparent, are we going to send him a congratulatory gift?"

"Prepare some gifts. Of course, I have to attend the banquet by the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. I believe that I will not be the only one who go there without being invited. I've heard that the Lord Minister likes jade utensils," Yan Huaijing said in a flat tone. The corners of his good-looking lips curled into a charming smile, causing Lin Fang to be speechless. If his heir-apparent's current expression were to be seen by those young ladies from aristocratic families, they would all be intoxicated again.

However, his heir-apparent had always been cold-hearted and heartless. Even if Jing Wenyan, the first beauty, was in front of him, the beauty's tender and pitiful appearance would not touch him in the slightest.

He was really looking forward to the Sixth Miss Wei!

The Sixth Miss Wei, Wei Yuewu, whom he was looking forward to, was currently mixed in with the crowd. She was to receive the decree from the Empress with Madam Dowager.

The decree had only just arrived at the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Madam Dowager gathered all the unmarried young ladies to receive the decree with Wei Luowu. At this time, only Wei Yuejiao, who had just arrived at the mansion, wasn't present.

The eunuch who was sitting at the high seat was somewhat impatient, and his expression became even colder. He swept his gaze with displeasure towards Madam Dowager who was sitting at the side. He snorted coldly and was about to speak when he heard someone report at the door, "Third Miss is here!"

Everyone raised their heads together, and Wei Yuewu also raised her eyes. When she saw Wei Yuejiao clearly, she couldn't help but gasp in a cold breath...

The Empress suddenly sent a decree to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Everyone in the mansion had their own speculations. Whether it was Wei Qiufu or Wei Yuewu, they both immediately came over after receiving the news.

However, Wei Yuejiao had clearly freshened up again and dressed up. On her head were ornaments made with pearls and jade, and the peal tassels fell down, decorating her cheeks. In the scene where everyone else was with simple hairpins, she looked especially eye-catching.

In Madam Dowager's eyes flashed with displeasure.

Seeing that everyone had arrived, the eunuch stood up and read the empress' decree. Wei Yuewu and the other sisters knelt behind Madam Dowager and Second Master Wei Luowu and listened to the decree.

"By the empress' decree: Marquis Hua Yang's merits are outstanding, and the Wei family's young ladies are both virtuous and talented. I hereby decree that the four young ladies enter the palace and pray for the country together with the Third Princess..."

The eunuch read the empress' decree in a high pitch. After finishing that, he helped Madam Dowager up first, and then Wei Luowu and the others stood up.

Wei Yuewu keenly sensed a trace of envy and anger in Wei Luowu's eyes. So this should be the reason why Wei Luowu wanted to join Mo Huating in the rebellion?

As brothers of the same family, Wei Luowu and his brother were equally outstanding. The title of Minister was even the head of the civil officials. Moreover, her Second Uncle did not rely on the power of the family. He had completely relied on his own strength and gotten the first place in the imperial competitive examination. Step by step, he climbed to his current position. He had a lot of ambition and worked hard, but in the Empress' decree did not mention anything about him. Was it the Empress' negligence, or did the empress really not care about Wei Luowu?

“Congratulations, Madam Dowager. The four ladies are fortunate enough to pray for the country together with the Third Princess. Such a blessing has never been given to anyone before.”

The eunuch said to Madam Dowager smilingly.

Nanny Hong was perceptive and gave him a pouch of money immediately. The eunuch shook the pouch in his hand and felt its weight, with the joy blooming on his face.

“Well... They are all accustomed to being rude and ungracious. Can they really do that?” Madam Dowager hesitantly looked at the four young ladies behind her.

She had thought highly of Wei Qiufu, but as the news of what happened in the Plum Blossom Nunnery spread, Madam Dowager, who was involved in the competition among concubines for a long time, was sure that Wei Qiufu had definitely done something dirty. Wei Qiufu was supposed to be selected steadily, but now things had become uncertain. Praying for the country with the princess, the four young ladies all had to stay in the palace and fast for ten days before the prayer ceremony.

The so-called “praying for the country” was actually a coming-of-age ceremony held for a princess who had reached the age of sixteen. When the young ladies of aristocratic families had reached the age of sixteen, they would reach the marriageable age. When a princess of the royal family turned sixteen, she was expected to express her concern about and gratitude to the country. Therefore, the ceremony was called “praying for the country.”

For those princesses who were favored, the ceremony would be grand, and they would invite a few young ladies of aristocratic families to join them. And those who were not favored would just pray for fortune in their own palaces with the help of servants.

Considering how much the Third Princess was favored, the prayer ceremony for her would be held in a big way no matter what.

Chapter 168 – Third Young Lady’S Pastry Cook

Those aristocratic young ladies invited by the princess actually did not need to fast for ten days. Only the young ladies designated by the empress' decree had to enter the Palace ten days before the princess' prayer ceremony. It was a great honor for them to fast for ten days with the princess.

However, the problem was that all the four unmarried young ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would enter the Palace. How could the Madam Dowager not be worried?

"Madam Dowager, don't worry. All the young ladies in the mansion are as beautiful as bright pearls and crystal jade. When they enter the palace, they will definitely be favored by Her Majesty. In a few days, the Empress Dowager would receive all the old ladies with official mandates. Madam Dowager, please bring the young ladies with you. The Empress Dowager is old and likes to see young ladies."

The eunuch reminded the Madam Dowager with a smile.

Upon hearing these words, the Madam Dowager's eyes lit up. Her gaze fell on Wei Qiufu's face for a moment, then she turned to Wei Yuejiao and Wei Yewu. But she completely ignored Wei Qiuju.

Wei Qiuju lowered her head sadly with a bitter smile on her lips. In the Madam Dowager's eyes, she was good for nothing.

The eunuch left smilingly. Wei Luowu also went to the front yard. After that, the Madam Dowager asked all her four granddaughters to stay. She was really unsure which of them should be given the special honor of praying with the Third Princess in the end.

Sending all the four of them to the event would make the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang too eye-catching. So, it would be good to send only two of them to the event!

Needless to say, Wei Qiuju was ruled out. Wei Qiufu wanted to enter the Crown Prince's Mansion, of course she must attend the event. Then, the Madam Dowager had to choose between Wei Yewu and Wei Yuejiao, and she was unable to make a decision for the time being.

Apparently, Wei Yuejiao's status was lower than Wei Yewu's...

Everyone in the hall could see the Madam Dowager's hesitation. Wei Qiufu believed that she would definitely enter the Palace. However, she was also both happy and worried. Being able to pray for the country along with the Third Princess was of course a matter of great honor. After she entered the Crown Prince's Mansion in the future, her status and position would not be too low thanks to this event. This made her breathe a sigh of relief.

But now that something had come between her and the Third Princess, it was definitely impossible for them to maintain their intimate relationship as before. Thinking of the Third Princess' methods, Wei Qiufu's mind was weighed down with anxiety.

Therefore, she didn't have the mood to say anything.

"Grandmother, before I came, father said that the princess in the Palace was about to reach the age of praying for blessing. He said that I might have a chance to pray with the princess. I didn't expect that such a good thing would really happen when I came back. When father comes back, I will definitely tell him about this to make him happy."

Wei Yuejiao walked over, she held the Madam Dowager's hand and uttered those words in an intimate manner.

Wei Yuejiao wasn't stupid either. She glanced at Wei Yuewu beside her and a trace of jealousy flashed in her eyes. When Wei Yuewu wasn't back in the mansion, grandmother wouldn't have the slightest hesitation.

"Girls, go back first!" The Madam Dowager felt more and more difficult to make the decision. If her eldest son really loved this eldest daughter so much, why didn't he elevate Concubine Dong to the position of Marquise Hua Yang? She had hinted several times, but his attitude was always lukewarm. After so many years, she found that it was more and more difficult for her to understand her eldest son.

"Grandmother..." Wei Yuejiao still wanted to say something, but when she saw the Madam Dowager's closed eyes, she turned her head and glared at Wei Yuewu fiercely before turning around and leaving angrily.

Since her return to the mansion this time, she had suffered a number of setbacks in succession because of this Wei Yuewu.

Now that the Madam Dowager had already indicated that she wanted to rest, everyone stood up. Wei Qiufu's eyes flashed and she wanted to chase after Wei Yuejiao, but when she saw Wei Yuewu's calm eyes, her heart beat violently without control and she stopped.

"Young ladies, please wait a moment." Nanny Hong chased after and called out to Wei Qiufu, Wei Yuewu, and Wei Qiuju who had walked to the entrance of the courtyard.

Wei Yuejiao stopped outside the courtyard.

Nanny Hong had chased out to inform them of Wei Luowu's birthday banquet. "The day after tomorrow is the Second Master's birthday. The Madam Dowager said that the Second Master didn't intend to hold a grand celebration, so he just invited a few relatives of the family to come over and have fun. Some female guests might go to the yards of the young ladies and the Madam Dowager asked you to tell your servants to behave properly on that day."

Since Wei Luowu wanted to avoid extravagance, there weren't many things that needed to be prepared. However, Lady Li of the second branch was absent. If there were young unmarried ladies and madams among the guests, the four young ladies of the mansion would have to accompany them.

The Madam Dowager was afraid that they were all young and inexperienced, and therefore she asked Nanny Hong to remind them in advance.

The four of them said aye and returned to their own courtyard.

At this time, Wei Yuejiao had calmed down. After taking a few steps towards her own courtyard, she suddenly turned around.

"Miss, where are we going?" Her maid Jinzhu trotted a few steps to catch up with her and asked in puzzlement.

"I am going to have a chat with Fourth Younger Sister. I remembered that she was very enthusiastic about writing back to me before. I wanted to know why she didn't reply to my letter for so long." Wei Yuejiao said coldly.

“Could it be that Fourth Young Lady didn’t receive your letter? I heard that Fourth Young Lady had been in the Plum Blossom Nunnery and accompanied the two princesses to appreciate plum blossoms. Perhaps your letter was sent to the mansion and nobody delivered it to the Fourth Young Lady.” Jinzhu guessed.

What Jinzhu heard and collected was only ordinary news. There weren’t many people in the mansion who knew about the important matters that occurred in the Plum Blossom Nunnery. Besides, the Madam Dowager had also issued a ban on discussions of what happened on the mountain.

Needless to say, Wei Yuejiao was not satisfied with this speculation. Her letters would always be answered by Wei Qiufu at the first possible moment. In her heart, her own matters were naturally the most important.

As a result, Wei Yuejiao stopped Wei Qiufu on the road.

Wei Qiufu smiled calmly and pointed at the pavilion on the side. Then, she said to Wei Yuejiao who was full of anger, “Third Elder Sister, let’s talk in the pavilion over there.”

“Let’s go!” Wei Yuejiao angrily walked towards the pavilion. She wanted Wei Qiufu to give her a satisfactory explanation.

The pavilion was leaning against the rockery, and it was now at noon. Therefore, it wasn’t cold there.

“Fourth Younger Sister, didn’t you say you disliked Wei Yuewu?” As soon as she entered the pavilion, Wei Yuejiao asked straightforwardly.

“Neither have I said I like her yet.” Wei Qiufu smiled slightly. Compared with the impatient Wei Yuejiao, she was much calmer. “However, Sixth Younger Sister is after all the legitimate daughter of Eldest Uncle. This is a fact that no one can change. I guess grandmother will still choose her in the end. As long as she maintains her moral integrity, everyone will think that she is a right and proper choice.”

Wei Qiufu knew very well about Wei Yuejiao's weakness. Although she uttered those words with a smile, they sounded like two fierce slaps in the face of Wei Yuejiao, who was stunned and unable to speak.

"Third Elder Sister, I'm going back now. I have to accompany the princess in praying for blessings for the country. Although it is still more than a month ahead, there are some things that need to be prepared early. I'm much more anxious than you at the moment." Wei Qiufu didn't wait for Wei Yuejiao to say anything and she turned around and left smilingly.

Looking at Wei Qiufu's back, Wei Yuejiao stamped her feet in hatred, wishing that Wei Yuewu was right in front of her and torn into pieces by her.

Wei Yuewu wanted to steal the honor that belonged to her. That would only happen in her dream!

Moral integrity, huh? Alright, then let her lose her moral integrity! Mother had already made good preparations for her...

"Miss, Third Young Lady stopped Fourth Young Lady on the road. The two of them talked in the pavilion. Fourth Young Lady left first. Then, Third Young Lady left angrily. Not long after she returned to her courtyard, she asked people to prepare pastry for her. Later, it was said that she didn't like the pastry sent by the kitchen. She then asked a pastry cook of hers to go to the kitchen."

Jin Ling reported to Wei Yuewu in detail.

Pastry? Wei Yuewu put down the needle and thread in her hand and her eyes flickered twice. Did Wei Yuejiao still have the mood to let people spend so many efforts making pastry for her at this time?

Although Wei Yuejiao was impulsive, she was not as brainless as Wei Yan. She could never do something useless at this time, especially when she was just enraged by Wei Qiufu.

"Shufei, go to the kitchen and see if my medicine is ready." Wei Yuewu instructed. A trace of coldness flashed in her eyes. Although her injuries had been healed, it was said that the impact of the drug that was applied to her had not been removed, and she needed to continue taking medicine for a period of time before she would really be fine.

The kitchen was really a place that everyone had a reason to be there!

"Miss, bad news. Something happened to Miss Jing!" Before Shufei could leave, Huamo lifted the curtain and walked in with a panicked expression.

"What is it?" Wei Yuewu asked.

"I don't know. The maid from the mansion of Duke of Jing sent this book. She said that her eldest young lady fell when she was about to get off the carriage. It is even difficult for her to walk now. She might suffer a bone fracture." As Huamo said, she handed over a small parcel to Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu took the parcel and opened it. Seeing the familiar cover inside, she took a deep look.

"Miss, even if she fell off the carriage, she couldn't be hurt so seriously. How come Miss Jing's bones were broken all of a sudden? It looks like Miss Jing won't be able to show up for a while." Because Jing Wenyan had sent Wei Yuewu a book, Huamo's favorable impression of her had strengthened a lot.

Wei Yuewu's eyes flashed with a trace of serenity. Normally, she wouldn't hurt so badly. Moreover, Jing Wenyan wasn't a reckless person. How could she fall off the carriage? It seemed that the black-hearted heir-apparent didn't like Jing Wenyan's ambitions.

"It's alright. Miss Jing's maid said that as long as she lies in bed and heals for some days, it won't be a big problem!" Shufei, however, realized something and said indifferently. She pulled Huamo who was still puzzled and retreated.

The room quieted down. Wei Yuewu flipped through the complete copy with her hands. This book was truly an extinct copy!

There wasn't the slightest bit of damage to the book, and she turned to the page she wanted to read.

Here they are: a goshawk and dazzling flowers. Actually, what one should pay attention to was the cluster of bloody red flowers beneath the goshawk's claws. These flowers should be the theme of this

picture, and they were probably the totem of a tribe! She didn't expect Wei Yuejiao to come into contact with such a kind of things.

She closed the book, walked to the dressing table and took out the sachet that she had placed there. After careful comparison, she found that the pattern on the sachet was exactly the same as the picture in the book.

Originally, it was only viewed as ridiculous talk, but now it didn't look that simple. It was impossible for such a thing to fall into Wei Yuejiao's hands.

Even though her father was guarding the border over there, the border abutted the territories of the states of Yan and Lu, and this tribe was not located in the direction her father was guarding...

Looked like she needed to thoroughly investigate Concubine Dong!

Shufei returned carrying Wei Yuewu's medicine in her hands. She entered the room, poured out the medicine into a bowl and put it aside for the medicine to cool down.

"Miss, I've been to the kitchen. Everyone in the kitchen said that the pastry made by the cook brought by the Third Young Lady was really delicious. They even sent some pastry to the Madam Dowager. After eating the pastry, the Madam Dowager kept praising the cook and said she would like this cook to make pastry on Second Master's birthday banquet, and now she ordered this cook make more so that the young ladies of all the courtyards could have a taste of the pastry."

Shufei reported.

"The kitchen also sent some pastry to me?" Wei Yuewu raised her eyes and asked coldly.

Chapter 169 – Doctor Ming Was Captured Red-Handed

"Yes, when I reached the kitchen, the pastry was almost done. It looked very beautiful, like flowers. The kitchen was filled with a very fragrant smell. Many maids and old maidservants gathered there watching

the beautiful pastry!” Shufei nodded. When she was in the kitchen, she looked at the pastry a few more times. It indeed looked very nice.

Excellent pastry? Wei Yuewu frowned slightly and took a deep breath. Needless to say, Wei Yuejiao had put in so much effort to make the pastry to set her up.

“Miss, is there something wrong?” Sensing Wei Yuewu’s silence, Shufei asked cautiously.

Wei Yuewu raised her eyes and shook her head with a smile, “Not yet. We’ll talk about it later when the pastry is delivered from the kitchen.”

“Yes, I understand.” Shufei nodded in agreement.

The kitchen did deliver the pastry very quickly. When Wei Yuewu just finished taking the medicine, an old maidservant from the kitchen came over carrying a food box. There was a potful of pastry in the shape of flowers that looked like exquisite handicrafts. Before having a taste of the pastry, Wei Yuewu had already felt that the fragrance was overwhelming. The smell was really appetizing.

“Was this made by the cook brought by the Third Young Lady?” Wei Yuewu asked.

Shufei washed her hands, she used a clean handkerchief to pick up a piece of pastry and handed it to Wei Yuewu. Wei Yuewu took it and took a bite. The pastry was made and then distributed to various courtyards. Wei Yuejiao would not be so stupid as to put drug in it.

The pastry had a smooth and attractive taste, and while she was still chewing, she was already enjoying the aftertaste, and it also carried the fragrance of flowers.

“It’s nice!” Wei Yuewu also praised.

“It was made by Third Young Lady’s cook. According to that cook, the most important ingredient is a certain dew. Without this dew, the entire pastry will lose much of its taste.” The old maidservant from the kitchen smiled and replied.

"Is there still flower dew at this time?" Wei Yuewu glanced at her indifferently and put down the pastry in her hand.

Shufei hurriedly brought over a wet towel for Wei Yuewu to wipe her hands.

"This flower dew was previously collected by the Third Young Lady when she was in the mansion. It was all plum blossom dew. She had to pick fresh plum blossoms and steam them. Besides, she had to add some other ingredients to prevent the flower fragrance from disappearing. I am not quite clear about the detail. It is said that this flower dew was personally made by the Third Young Lady."

Hearing Wei Yuewu's question, the maidservant hurriedly explained.

"Sounds like it really takes a lot of work?" Wei Yuewu raised her eyes.

"Yes, I also think so. I'm afraid it's really not simple. Only someone as smart as the Third Young Lady would be able to do this. People like me who is neither smart nor skilled can only do menial work. I really can't do this kind of work." The maidservant was a clever talker.

"Give her money reward! If there's any news about the pastry, remember to report to me." Wei Yuewu smiled.

The maidservant was overjoyed. She took the purse from Shufei's hand and thanked repeatedly. She promised that she would report to Wei Yuewu as soon as she found out about the pastry. Then, she retreated.

"Although Second Uncle is not going to celebrate his birthday extravagantly, there will be at least some theatrical performance in the mansion. Go and find out which performers were invited this time and what they are going to perform." Wei Yuewu raised her head and said after a few orderly flicks of her tender fingers on the table.

Since guests were coming to the mansion, they had to set up a platform to have some fun. This was something that the various mansions in the capital often did.

Young people might not like this kind of activity, but some old madams who came must like it. It was inevitable to invite a theatrical troupe to perform, so there should be the most people watching the performance on the day of the birthday banquet.

News about this matter was actually very easy to obtain. Shufei returned not long after she left. The news she brought back was that the mansion had invited an extraordinary Seven Spin Troupe, which was famous because of their leading performer, the Drunken Peony, who was not only good-looking, but also extremely adept at the Seven Spin Dance. When she spun seven circles in the dance, her dress would flutter in such a way that all the audience couldn't help but admire her.

Wei Yuewu pondered for a moment before standing up. "Go and report to the Madam Dowager. Tell her that we will go out of the mansion to prepare some congratulatory gifts for Second Uncle."

Huamo went to the Madam Dowager's place and soon came back with the Madam Dowager's consent.

Wei Yuewu brought Jin Ling and Huamo with her to board a carriage of the mansion. The carriage circled the streets a few times. After Wei Yuewu visited a few shops, she finally went into the Brocade Clothing Shop.

When the shopkeeper heard that Wei Yuewu was here, he hurriedly came to the door to receive her and led her to his office upstairs. Then, he asked a shop assistant to serve some nice tea.

"Shopkeeper, do you have any dancing dress in the shop?" Wei Yuewu took a sip of tea and put down the teacup. She went straight to the point. Time was running out, and it was basically too late to make a dancing dress.

"Mistress Cousin, our shop mainly sells ready-made clothes for young ladies of aristocratic families. Normally, very few people would order dancing dresses here." The shopkeeper said awkwardly.

Indeed, dancing dresses were often made by the young ladies of aristocratic families in their own inner courtyards, because such clothes were worn close to the skin and the wearer's body must be precisely measured.

As for ordinary dancers, it was impossible for them to come to such a place selling high-quality clothes, so the shopkeeper was in a difficult situation for a moment.

“Shopkeeper, our shop has a set of dancing dress.” The shop assistant who brought the tea in was a smart person. Upon hearing their conversation, he suddenly thought of something. He pulled the shopkeeper’s sleeve and said, “There was a set of dancing dress in the warehouse. No one has ever come to take them after such a long time.”

This reminded the shopkeeper. He reached out and patted his own head and laughed loudly, “Mistress Cousin, I remembered it. The dancing dress was ordered by a female guest half a year ago. Originally, she said that she would take the dress away ten days later. I didn’t expect that half a year has gone by since she left. We didn’t know where to find her. Therefore, the dress has been kept in the warehouse all the time.”

“Go get it and let me take a look.” Wei Yuewu nodded. Actually, it didn’t matter if the dancing dress was of her size or not. She only needed to wear it.

After a while, the dancing dress was placed in front of Wei Yuewu. It was an extremely beautiful dress. The large eight-folded hem flew up easily with a slight movement of the wearer.

The dress was basically of the same size as Wei Yuewu, which made Wei Yuewu very satisfied. She nodded and asked for some information about her grandmother before leaving.

The three of them boarded the carriage again. Wei Yuewu instructed the coachman to drive slowly on the street. She asked the coachman, Old Li, to tell her when he saw a big jade shop. Since she had come out to pick a gift for Wei Luowu, she must pick a suitable gift.

Wei Luowu liked this kind of jade handicrafts very much.

The carriage stopped in front of a large jade shop. Wei Yuewu put on her veil. Jin Ling jumped out of the carriage first, and then Huamo got off. The two of them supported Wei Yuewu on each side.

When the three of them were all out of the carriage, the carriage turned around and waited in a nearby alley.

Coincidentally, a person in front of them hurriedly cut in from the side and happened to be walking in front of them towards the jade shop.

This person seemed to have something on his mind. He did not look sideways and therefore did not notice Wei Yuewu and the two maids at all. He placed his hands on his chest and walked to the door of the jade shop, hesitating.

After circling around twice, he gritted his teeth and was about to lift his leg and walk in. However, the moment he raised his leg, he became diffident again. He then circled around, as if something had happened and made him unable to make up his mind to go in.

Seeing this person, Wei Yuewu paused and stopped the two maids beside her. Her eyes under the veil were cold. Why did this person come here?

The three of them stood where they were and watched as the man hesitated over whether to get in. Because he was possessed with something on his mind, that person did not realize that Wei Yuewu and the two maids were standing at the side and had watched him for a long time.

In the end, he stamped his feet and made his final decision. Just as he was about to lift his leg and enter, someone patted him on the shoulder and a woman's voice sounded. He turned around, and his face immediately was pale with fear. He supported himself by holding the door frame and almost fell down. The hand on his chest brought out a small parcel, which fell to the ground and items in it scattered...

"Sixth...Miss...Miss Wei!"

"It's not the Sixth Young Lady, it's me!" Jin Ling looked innocently at Doctor Ming in front of her. Then she squatted on the ground and picked up the parcel that had fallen on the ground, but she did not return it to him.

"You are... the Sixth Young Lady's servant!" Doctor Ming was still in shock. He reached out trying to take back the parcel from Jin Ling, but failed.

“Doctor Ming, you have quite a few valuable things. This pair of jade bracelets are worth a lot of money. There are also a few jade hairpins!” Jin Ling unfolded the parcel in her hand and cried out in surprise. “I didn’t expect a doctor to be so rich and actually have so many valuable things. Only the masters of a mansion can possess jade of such quality.”

As their voices grew louder, some passers-by stopped. When they heard that the man in front of them was a doctor and saw the jade bracelets and hairpins in Jin Ling’s hand, they couldn’t help but widen their eyes.

Almost all of the people who came here were keen-eyed. They could tell at a glance that the jade articles in Doctor Ming’s hand were indeed of high quality. Was a doctor really able to afford such valuable things?

“No... these do not belong to your Miss, they are... mine!” When Doctor Ming saw the surrounding people gathering around him, he became very anxious. He quickly reached out and grabbed the small parcel in Jin Ling’s hand. He no longer remembered that he was going into the jade shop and ran away in a panic.

So, there really seemed to be a problem with Doctor Ming.

“Was it possible that the doctor stole something from some mansion when treating patients there?”

“It is highly likely. Otherwise, why did he run away in such a hurry before he finished his sentence?”

“These days, even doctors who treat patients and save lives can’t be trusted!”

Some shook their heads, some sighed, and some became suspicious. Even the clerk in the jade shop poked his head out to see what was happening. Some keen-eyed people even recognized Doctor Ming, who had a good reputation on East Street.

Wei Yuewu stayed in the corner, and her eyes looked quite cold.

This position was on Doctor Ming's left side. In his state of panic, Doctor Ming would definitely not see her, but she could carefully observe Doctor Ming.

She noticed Doctor Ming's frightened look upon seeing Jin Ling and his panic state when he snatched back his parcel. All these indicated that there was something wrong with the origin of the jade items, and they were even related to her.

"Jin Ling, go and find out what happened to Doctor Ming's family." Wei Yuewu said to Jin Ling, who was walking back. Doctor Ming had his own clinic and was quite well off. Furthermore, he had been hired by the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang as a chief doctor. Every time he came to the mansion, he would be generously rewarded. At this time, he came in with these jade articles, and it seemed that he was going to sell them. It must be because of some unexpected incident.

Chapter 170 – That Thing? It Was Lu Yeli'S

This doctor Ming was apparently a shrewd person. Wei Yuewu had been searching for his weakness in order to find the cause of her birth mother's death. Therefore, she could not alarm him.

Doctor Ming was definitely the key to finding out what happened back then.

Jin Ling nodded and left.

Wei Yuewu brought Huamo with her into the shop and picked gifts for Wei Luowu.

She had picked a jade paperweight that was in the shape of a tiger. This paperweight was very unique in terms of both style and carving skills, and the tiger was especially eye-catching and lifelike.

"I will take this one!" Wei Yuewu pointed at the jade paperweight in the cupboard and said smilingly.

"I will take this one, wrap it up for me!" Almost at the same time, another voice was heard.

Hearing this familiar voice, Wei Yuewu tilted her head and saw that the person beside her had also turned his head and his eyes flickered with surprise.

“Sixth Miss Wei?”

“Greetings, Your Heir-apparent!” Wei Yuewu bowed. She wore a veil and only revealed her eyes. But she didn’t expect this Heir-apparent of Duke of Lu to recognize her at a glance.

“Sixth Miss Wei also wants this paperweight?” Lu Yeli waved his hand as a signal for Wei Yuewu not to stand on ceremonies, and his gaze fell on Wei Yuewu’s eyes.

It was a pair of extremely beautiful eyes. A breeze blew into the shop and slightly raised the veil on her face, so that he saw the corners of her lips slightly pursed, revealing a charming and alluring aura that carried a mixture of elegance and childishness.

“Yes, my Second Uncle’s birthday is approaching. I want to buy this as a gift for him.” Wei Yuewu said generously.

“It seemed your uncle didn’t invite many guests. Isn’t him going to make his birthday a big show?” Lu Yeli leaned against the counter and the corners of his mouth hooked slightly. A faint smile actually appeared on his usually cold and handsome face.

The eunuch who followed him was stunned. He had never seen his master smiling so kindly towards a woman, although the smile was so faint that it could be taken as non-existent.

Furthermore, hadn’t the heir-apparent already been well-informed about this Second Master of the Wei Clan? He already knew that this Minister of Rites did not intend to make a big show, and he only invited some of his own relatives to his birthday banquet.

“Second Uncle has always been frugal. He doesn’t like to do things in an extravagant way. This time, he is going to celebrate his birthday in the same manner as in previous years.” Wei Yuewu explained softly. She leaned back and kept a proper distance from the Heir-apparent of Duke of Lu.

Wei Luowu's birthday celebration was indeed very frugal. Almost every year at this time, he would hold a low-profile birthday banquet. This was also the time when many officials returned to the capital to report on their work, and Wei Luowen was also returning to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang at this time.

"I'm afraid your Second Uncle won't be able to celebrate his birthday in the usual frugal manner!" Lu Yeli restrained the faint smile on his lips and said meaningfully.

"Excuse me..." The clerk at the counter held the jade paperweight in his hand and looked at the two of them and asked cautiously.

"Give it to Sixth Miss Wei!" Lu Yeli waved his hand.

The clerk heaved a sigh of relief and hurriedly went to the side to pack up the jade paperweight. Huamo followed him to make the payment.

"Thank you, Your Heir-apparent. I will go first then!" Wei Yuewu also stood up and was ready to leave. This heir-apparent was also a dangerous person. It could be said that none of the heirs-apparent of the four powerful dukes who had come to the capital this time was simple. Wei Yuewu did not want to get close to any of them.

She didn't like the feeling of being examined by others.

"Sixth Miss Wei, aren't you going to pick some other gifts?" Lu Yeli raised his eyebrows.

"No, thank you, Your Heir-apparent." Wei Yuewu refused. Then, she calmly bowed to Lu Yeli before turning around and heading towards Huamo.

Lu Yeli couldn't help but land his gaze on Wei Yuewu. A moment ago, her pair of shining eyes seemed gentle, but they carried a bit of alienation and coldness, which made him even more interested in this mysterious Sixth Miss Wei. He heard that she was abandoned by her own father, Marquis Hua Yang since she was a kid and was raised up in her maternal grandparents' house. This kind of bearing really didn't seem to be something that a young lady from an ordinary small aristocratic family could possess.

According to the popular rumor, the daughter of Marquis Hua Yang was neither talented nor good-looking, so that she was disliked by her father Wei Luowen. Twenty years ago, Wei Luowen gave up so much for that Marquise Hua Yang. Was he really so cold and heartless towards the daughter of his beloved woman?

“Your Heir-apparent, do you want me to investigate her?” A guard silently approached Lu Yeli and asked in a low voice.

Seeing that Lu Yeli’s eyes were glued to Wei Yuewu’s back, the guard felt that this was a great opportunity to please his master.

“No need!” Lu Yeli shook his head. Whether Wei Luowen liked this daughter or not, it had nothing to do with him. “What are Yan Huaijing doing these days?”

In Lu Yeli’s eyes, Yan Huaijing was his true opponent.

“The Third Princess and the Fourth Prince have been to the Duke of Yan’s Mansion before. The Heir-apparent of Yan went to the gathering place of notable scholars in the capital alone and won the praise of those notable scholars. There was nothing unusual that needs special attention.” The guard reported in a low voice.

“A gathering place of notable scholars? When did it happen?” When it came to business, Lu Yeli’s face sank.

“It happened yesterday, Your Heir-apparent...” Seeing Lu Yeli’s expression becoming serious, the guard hurriedly explained. “Heir-apparent of Yan just went to take a look and talked to those famous and arrogant scholars. No one expected that those famous scholars would actually identify with the Heir-apparent of Yan.”

“What did Master Fenghe say?” Lu Yeli’s voice became gloomy.

“Master said...he said...” The guard looked around and saw that no one noticed them, and he moved closer and lowered his voice. “Master said that the lady held the universe in her hand and her fate was noble beyond description!”

What kind of woman held the universe in her hand and was noble beyond description? If there was any woman in this country who deserved this comment, she would definitely be the empress, or in other words, she was destined to become the next empress.

There were many ambitious people in this world, but there was only one woman who was noble beyond description!

“Did Master Fenghe mention the exact location of that woman?” Lu Yeli frowned and said coldly.

“He didn’t, but I heard that the other heirs-apparent brought some women over to see Master Fenghe. However, I heard that they didn’t find the right person. Until now, nobody knows who that mysterious woman is!” The guard resisted the chill on his back and hurriedly explained.

“Do not investigate this now.” Lu Yeli snorted coldly. Actually, he did not believe this story. He believed that Yan Huaijing didn’t buy this story either. A woman born to become the next empress? If there was such a woman in this country, Master Fenghe would have to keep that title for the Crown Prince no matter what. Master Fenghe had royal blood flowing in his body.

However, the rumor that there was a woman born to become the next empress had been spread out. This was more like a trap, a trap that caused everyone to become excited and eager for action!

There were quite a few people who were secretly searching for this heavenly woman.

“What about that thing?” Actually, Lu Yeli’s focus was not on the so-called woman who was noble beyond description. He had discovered a secret matter related to Master Fenghe. However, Master Fenghe was a member of the royal family and he must not act rashly and blindly. No one could guarantee that Master Fenghe had no secret guards around him.

Lu Yeli got the message that Prince Huaijun’s Mansion was still kept, and Prince Huaijun had not been removed from the royal family’s Renunciation Certificate.

“I did not find any contact between Master Fenghe and the nuns of the Plum Blossom Nunnery. Normally, there was only a deaf and mute old nun who took care of his daily life. He also lived in the

courtyard of Plum Blossom Nunnery and never went out. When someone came looking for him, they also came directly to his courtyard, so that thing hasn't been found yet!"

"Keep an eye on him. If any other nuns of the Plum Blossom Nunnery come over, you must keep an eye on them. That thing is most likely in the Plum Blossom Nunnery." Lu Yeli said coldly, his eyes flashing with a trace of sharpness. No matter what, that thing was the key.

The guard's forehead was covered in cold sweat. He nodded and said, "Yes, I understand. I will send someone to keep an eye on him."

After saying that, he turned around and was about to leave.

"Don't get too close. Don't attract the attention of others." Lu Yeli instructed coldly.

"Yes, I understand!" The guard nodded and quietly retreated when he saw that he didn't attract the attention of the surrounding people.

Wei Yuewu did not notice Lu Yeli's movements. Her attention was currently focused on the jade paperweight in front of her, because jade paperweights existed in pairs.

A pair of similar jade paperweights could not attract her attention. She was attracted by the jade thumb ring hanging on another jade paperweight taken out by the clerk.

There was a jade thumb ring hanging on her chest, and this one in front of her actually looked somewhat similar to hers. How could she not be shocked...

"Miss, this pair of paperweights are actually a set. They were originally pawned here by someone. Previously, it was agreed that the owner would get them back in a month, but now, half a year has passed and no one has ever come. The boss took out one of them and put it in the counter. If there really is a guest who likes the paperweights, we will sell them!"

The clerk pushed the other paperweight to the front of Wei Yuewu.

This paperweight was also carved excellently and looked lifelike. One of the tiger's claws was slightly raised. There was also a thumb ring on the slightly raised claw. It was not big, and it just happened to clasp onto the tiger's claw. It was somewhat incongruous. However, because the thumb ring was carved from the entire piece of jade, it made people feel that it was not so discordant.

This thumb ring was very similar to the one hanging on Wei Yuewu's chest.

Although it looked a bit smaller, it was basically of the exact shape as the one hanging on her chest.

She usually looked at this thumb ring when she was free, but if she couldn't see that this thumb ring was exactly the same as her own.

"Will that person come again as ask for the jade paperweights?" Wei Yuewu asked with a smile.

The clerk shook his head affirmatively. "It's impossible. If he really wanted them back, he would have come much earlier. Besides, he was the one who broke his promise, so we have the right to sell them."

"I want this pair of paperweights. Wrap them up for me. However, if that person really comes to ask for them, you can ask him to come to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang to find me." Wei Yuewu said leisurely.

"Our Miss is the Sixth Young Lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang." Huamo added at the right time from the side.

"Yes, yes, yes, I know. If that person comes looking for the paperweights, we will tell him." Upon hearing that the girl in front of him was a young lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, the clerk became more and more flattering and kept nodding in agreement.

Wei Yuewu chose another jade pen holder and paid before leaving with Huamo.

"Uncle Li, let's go to a big powder shop." After getting into the carriage, Huamo instructed Old Li through the curtain for Wei Yuewu.

“Good!” Old Li replied. He raised the horse whip and drove the carriage to the largest powder shop on another street.