

Young Lady 181

Chapter 181 – The Other Side Of The Coin That Was Invisible

“Sixth Younger Sister, help me!” As soon as Wei Yuewu entered the courtyard, Wei Qiuju, who was waiting for her in the porch, covered her face and ran out crying.

“Fifth Elder Sister, please sit inside!” Wei Yuewu smiled and said calmly.

Wei Qiuju also knew that she had acted with a bit of exaggeration in the porch. She followed Wei Yuewu into the room and the moment she was in the room, tears flew down her cheeks. “Sixth Younger Sister, there are rumors that I hung out with a lad servant outside. I was apparently at the banquet all the time, but everyone said they didn’t see me!”

In fact, Wei Qiuju had been watching the show as an onlooker since Wei Yuewu was falsely charged. She thought that it was impossible for her to be involved in this matter. In any case, this matter could not affect her. It was just a fight between Wei Yuewu and Wei Yuejiao, the two daughters of the first branch of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. She was seated beside the Madam Dowager at that time, so she did not believe that others would fail to see her.

However, what she did not expect was that this matter would actually end up with her being made the scapegoat. When she was informed of the news that Yueya had overheard, she was really scared out of her wits.

At this moment, women who attended the banquet began to return one after another. Of course, this rumor was also spread. When she thought that if she were to take the blame, her entire life would be over, how could Wei Qiuju calm down? She hurriedly brought her maid to see the Madam Dowager.

However, she didn’t go far before running into Nanny Hong, who had come with an order from the Madam Dowager that asked her to stay in her own courtyard and not run around.

The meaning behind these words was clear: she had been selected as the scapegoat. How could Wei Qiuju be willing to take the blame for others? After thinking about it in her room for a while, she secretly came to look for Wei Yuewu.

“Why didn’t Fifth Elder Sister go and explain it clearly to Grandmother? There must be someone who saw you seated by Grandmother’s side, right?” Wei Yuewu sat down and played with the handkerchief in her hand as she asked calmly.

“Right now, no one would admit seeing me. They only said that Sixth Younger Sister and I are sisters and that we look alike and are about the same age. They said that the servants must have mistaken me for you. I was by Grandmother’s side at that time and Grandmother knew about it. However, she still asked Nanny Hong to warn me.”

Wei Qiuju cried out in despair, a trace of hatred flashing through her eyes.

Why did everyone want her to take the blame for Wei Yuejiao? She was not an idiot. When she left the banquet in the beginning, everyone was talking about Wei Yuejiao hanging out with a lad servant. Grandmother even told Wei Yuejiao to quit the banquet early probably because she was afraid that everyone would say something unpleasant and the scene would be too embarrassing. When did she become that person who hung out with a lad servant?

She would in no case believe that Wei Yuejiao hadn’t played a trick in this matter.

“Previously, before Sixth Younger Sister showed up at the banquet, they had rumored that Sixth Younger Sister was hanging out with a servant. Later, they discovered that Third Elder Sister had disappeared as well. In the end, it was me. Sixth Younger Sister, someone was framing the two of us.” Wei Qiuju wiped away her tears, and her face was filled with righteous indignation.

Wei Yuewu smiled and cast a faint glance at Wei Qiuju. A trace of ridicule flashed through her eyes. She had also witnessed how this concubine-born elder sister stayed quiet for self-protection when she was falsely charged. At that time, this Wei Qiuju did not stand up to speak a word for her.

In fact, many things were double-sided, just like a coin. If Wei Qiuju had defended her loudly at that time, many people would have seen her.

But now, since her existence was too insignificant, even if people did see her at the banquet, they would still doubt if the person they saw at the banquet was really Wei Qiuju.

But now, did Wei Qiuju want to ally with her?

Coincidentally, she really needed a temporary ally at the moment!

“Who do you think is plotting this?” Wei Yuewu purposely asked with a confused expression, as if she didn’t understand the meaning of Wei Qiuju’s words.

Seeing that Wei Yuewu didn’t understand her overtone, Wei Qiuju hurriedly lowered her voice and said, “Sixth Younger Sister, you have been back to the mansion only for a short time. I’m afraid you didn’t know that the inner courtyard has always been managed by Second Aunt, but every time Concubine Dong comes back, she will help Second Aunt run the inner courtyard for a period of time. Therefore, only Second Aunt and Concubine Dong are able to command servants in the inner courtyard.”

“But Concubine Dong is not here now, right?” Wei Yuewu looked at Wei Qiuju and said.

“Concubine Dong is not here, but Third Elder Sister is here!” Wei Qiuju thought that Wei Yuewu didn’t understand her, and she stomped her foot anxiously.

“So, you meant Third Elder Sister wanted to harm me?” Wei Yuewu asked calmly.

Wei Qiuju couldn’t answer this question for a moment, but as she thought about her current situation, she gritted her teeth and said, “Yes, Third Elder Sister wanted to harm you, but she herself had an accident, so she became a victim of this matter. However, she was unwilling to bear the consequences, and therefore she spread rumors that it was me who hung out with a lad servant, and Grandmother was also helping her hide the truth.”

The more Wei Qiuju spoke, the more aggrieved she became. She couldn’t help but shed tears again. She held onto her handkerchief with a sad expression, looking extremely pitiful.

Jin Ling served two cups of tea on the table. Wei Yuewu pushed a cup of tea to the front of Wei Qiuju and picked up the other cup in front of her and took a sip calmly before saying, “Fifth Elder Sister, you think that Third Elder Sister can command the servants of the mansion, but will the madams and ladies outside also listen to Third Elder Sister?”

"There are others involved in this matter?" These words reminded Wei Qiuju. After thinking for a while, she asked uncertainly.

Wei Yuewu did not answer, and she only smiled lightly.

"Is it... Eldest Sister?" Wei Qiuju thought for a moment and asked anxiously.

She didn't mention Wei Qiufu because Wei Qiufu had also left the banquet early. Moreover, Wei Qiufu was still an unmarried young lady, and it was unlikely that she would spread such a rumor to others. Wei Fengyao, however, had both time and reason to spread such a rumor.

"Fifth Elder Sister, what do you think?" Wei Yuewu raised her long eyelids and asked.

"Why... why did she do this? I... I've never provoked her!" Wei Qiuju's face also turned green with anger, but she couldn't do anything about it. The difference in status between the two of them was so great that she couldn't do anything to Wei Fengyao right now. Of course, this was also an important reason why Wei Fengyao felt on the safe side to help Wei Yuejiao and make her the scapegoat.

"Concubine Dong's relationship with the Second Lady has always been good, right?" Wei Yuewu asked.

"Yes, Concubine Dong always brings a lot of things to Second Aunt every time she returns to the mansion. Second Aunt will also send gifts to Concubine Dong when she leaves. The relationship between the two of them has always been very good. Could it be because of this so that Eldest Sister helped Third Elder Sister frame me?" After being reminded by Wei Yuewu, Wei Qiuju immediately understood the relationship between the two branches, and her face turned green with anger.

"It might be. But I wonder if Eldest Sister has helped Third Elder Sister do it." Wei Yuewu held her handkerchief and said slowly.

"I'll go find Eldest Sister!" After thinking for a while, Wei Qiuju stood up and said angrily, "Sixth Younger Sister, I'm leaving now."

After saying those words, Wei Qiuju didn't say anything more to Wei Yuewu and directly turned around to leave with Yueya angrily.

"Miss, does Fifth Young Lady have the guts to confront Eldest Young Lady?" Looking at Wei Qiuju's back, Jin Ling asked doubtfully. From whichever perspective, Wei Qiuju didn't seem to have the courage to do so.

"Of course she isn't going to confront Wei Fengyao. She just wanted to ask for help from Wei Fengyao." Wei Yuewu smiled faintly and a hint of mockery appeared on her lips.

Wei Qiuju's thoughts weren't hard to guess. She felt that Wei Yuewu wasn't as useful to her as Wei Fengyao, so she decided to turn to Wei Fengyao for help. However, she was probably going to be disappointed this time. In fact, there was no third option for her in this matter.

It was either she or Wei Yuejiao, and now even the Madam Dowager had acknowledged that it was her. How could Wei Fengyao offend Concubine Dong and Wei Yuejiao for her? Besides, it was also the Madam Dowager's intention that Wei Qiuju be made a scapegoat.

"Miss, will Fifth Young Lady speak ill of you before Eldest Young Lady?" Jin Ling took away Wei Qiuju's teacup and asked worriedly.

"Yes! She will definitely do that." Wei Yuewu stood up and walked into the inner chamber, her eyes flashing with a trace of coldness.

With Wei Qiuju's temperament, it was certain that she would curry favor with Wei Fengyao. Wei Qiuju's previous cooperation with her was only out of consideration of self-interest. Wei Qiuju had no choice but to stand on her side and deal with Wei Yan and Wei Qiufu together with her. In each case, Wei Qiuju could not avoid from being involved.

Whether it was the drug incident or the incident related to Imperial Academician Xie, Wei Qiuju was involved. If she did not cooperate with her, she would only suffer even more.

Now that there was Wei Fengyao who had a higher status than her, Wei Qiuju would naturally turn to her and seek help as soon as she could. This time, Wei Qiuju had come here specifically to inquire about

the situation. Fortunately, she did not really treat Wei Qiuju as a confidante. Since there were some things in which this Wei Qiuju was adding fuel to the flame, she would not refuse to give her a helping hand...

However, what Wei Fengyao did was also very interesting. She took advantage of Wei Luowu's absence to go to his study. Of course, it was impossible for her to go there to see Wei Luowu. Then what was her purpose?

Wei Fengyao also invited her to a banquet. However, she had never heard of it before.

Suddenly, something flashed through her mind. Although a period of time had elapsed, in the current situation, perhaps she could still make use of it.

Previously, if it wasn't for Yan Huaijing, she would have died by falling off the high platform...

"Fifth Young Lady had really gone too far. She deliberately came to spy on Miss just now. She actually had meant to curry favor from Eldest Young Lady." By now, Jin Ling also understood why Wei Qiuju came here and said angrily.

"No worry. Since they all want to harm me, I would like to give them a chance to collude." Wei Yuewu walked to the window and pushed open the slightly closed window. A cold wind blew in. It was very cold, but it could help her remain sober.

"Jin Ling, go to the kitchen and tell Shufei and Huamo to come back. Tell them that I have been frightened and need someone to take care of me." Wei Yuewu turned around and sat down at the table, her eyes shining with cold light.

"Yes, I will go immediately." Jin Ling nodded and said happily, knowing that her Miss had made up her mind.

"After you tell them to come back, you yourself don't have to come back. Go to the Eldest Young Lady's courtyard and take a look. When the Fifth Young Lady comes out, follow her all the way. When she returns to her own courtyard, you can come back."

Wei Yuewu carefully instructed. Wei Fengyao was the wife of the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an, and she had many trivial matters to deal with in the backyard of Prince Nan'an Mansion. It was not easy for her to have a chance to come to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Moreover, judging from her actions today, she must bear a grudge against her because of what happened to Lady Li and Wei Yan. That was why Wei Fengyao was so ruthless and wanted to take her life.

Normally, she stayed in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, whereas Wei Fengyao in Prince Nan'an Mansion, so it was not easy for them to interact with each other. How could she not take action when Wei Qiuju volunteered to offer help? This was such a good opportunity to harm her...

"Miss, don't worry. I know what to do." Jin Ling answered knowingly.

Inside the room, Wei Yuewu took out the small box left behind by her mother. After opening it, she picked up the thin piece of paper and studied it carefully. Her eyelids flapped twice, and her clear eyes revealed some doubts. What had she overlooked? Why did she feel that something was missing that prevented her from having a complete picture?

Chapter 182 – An Imperative Visit To The Imperial Palace

It was still the same piece of paper. There were only two lines of neatly written characters on it, which respectively read Prince Bei'an Mansion and the Crown Prince Tianyao. Other than these characters, there were only the tears left behind by Mother, which seemed to suggest something. However, Wei Yuewu could not understand the implied meaning. Even though she had seen something in Wei Luowu's study today, she still did not understand!

Wei Yuewu's fingers moved back and forth between the two lines of characters. Prince Bei'an Mansion was clearly the Prince Bei'an Mansion she saw today in Wei Luowu's study, and another key point was a favored prince who had been locked up for life and was no longer mentioned by others.

But what did those have to do with the Crown Prince?

There was no doubt that the Crown Prince Wen Tianyao, emperor-to-be of the country, would succeed to the throne in the future. It was as if he was born to be the future of the country and a natural emperor.

There might be some other concubines favored by the emperor in the harem, but the empress' status was unshakable. Besides, the empress was from the powerful Tu Clan, and the emperor had always respected the empress.

Since the Crown Prince was both the eldest son of the emperor and was born by the empress, the other princes had no reason to rebel. It was said that although the current emperor was born by the legitimate wife, he was not the eldest among his brothers. Besides, the current Empress Dowager was not the first wife of the previous emperor. Wasn't this implying something?

However, Wei Yuewu could still keenly sense that Prince Bei'an and Crown Prince Wen Tianyao had one thing in common: they were both princes. Moreover, there must be some connection that she didn't know between the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang and the royal family. This connection came from Prince Bei'an, the Crown Prince, or even the mysterious Third Prince...

It seemed that the trip to the imperial palace was imperative!

"Eldest Sister, please save me. This matter really has nothing to do with me. I have just been to Sixth Younger Sister's courtyard. She also said that this matter had nothing to do with me. I was standing beside Grandmother at that time. She saw it." Wei Qiuju's face was filled with sadness. She covered her face with a handkerchief and sobbed while secretly checking Wei Fengyao's expression.

Wei Qiuju had a thin and frail shape. Now her tearful face was very charming and made people feel a bit pitiful towards her. However, in the eyes of Wei Fengyao, the legitimate wife of the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an, her expression was quite disgusting. The concubines who competed against her for the heir-apparent's attention and favor looked exactly the same each time they cried. It was really hard for Wei Qiuju to impress her by crying like this.

However, the mentioning of Wei Yuewu by Wei Qiuju aroused her interest.

"Sixth Younger Sister said she wanted to testify for you?" Wei Fengyao wiped her hands with a handkerchief and asked.

"That's right. Sixth Younger Sister also said that Eldest Sister must have interfered in this matter and she told me to be careful of Eldest Sister. But I think Eldest Sister has always treated me well. How would

you have malicious intentions towards me?” Wei Qiuju cried as she wiped away her tears and secretly peeked at Wei Fengyao’s face through the seam of her handkerchief.

“Of course I don’t have any ill intentions towards you, Fifth Younger Sister, but Sixth Younger Sister misunderstood me.” Wei Fengyao sighed, her face filled with anger. “This is my first time returning to the mansion, and I don’t know why Sixth Younger Sister said that. Fifth Younger Sister, why don’t we go to Grandmother to explain it clearly?”

After saying those words, Wei Fengyao gestured to get up, but how would Wei Qiuju let her really go to the Madam Dowager’s place to confront her. She hurriedly stood up and said, “Eldest Sister, don’t go. If you go, Sixth Younger Sister will definitely know that I said those words. How am I supposed to live in the future? I... I might as well die!”

As she spoke, she sobbed as if she was going to hit the pillar beside her.

The two maids by Wei Fengyao’s side had already pulled Wei Qiuju. Whether Wei Qiuju was putting on a play, they would in no case let her really bump into the pillar here.

Wei Fengyao said, “Fifth Younger Sister, don’t make such a farce here. I can actually help you, but you have to help me vent my anger.”

Wei Qiuju stopped crying. She nodded and said knowingly, “Eldest Sister, if there is anything I can do for you, I will definitely be at your service.”

Although she wasn’t very clear about the grudge between Wei Yuewu and the second branch, she knew that Wei Fengyao would definitely hate Wei Yuewu. Lady Li and Wei Yan had ended up like this mainly because of Wei Yuewu. As Lady Li’s daughter, Wei Fengyao would naturally not let Wei Yuewu off.

However, although Wei Fengyao’s status was noble, as the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan’an, it was inconvenient for her to return to her parents’ house, namely, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, to deal with Wei Yuewu. In other words, she needed helpers. Wei Qiuju felt that she could secretly help Wei Fengyao deal with Wei Yuewu.

Although she could not offend Wei Yuewu, it was clear that compared with this Wei Fengyao now in front of her, Wei Yuewu's weight was rather inferior. This was also the reason why Wei Qiuju abandoned Wei Yuewu and gave up herself to Wei Fengyao.

As for the fact that she helped Wei Yuewu deal with Wei Yan, Wei Qiuju thought that it was impossible for others to know. Wei Yuewu would not mention it, and of course she would not mention it either. Therefore, she and Wei Fengyao could continue to be sisters...

Shufei and Huamo returned very quickly. Lady Zhang had heard Concubine Huang mention what had happened in Wei Luowu's study. Of course, she didn't keep the two of them anymore. As soon as Jin Ling made the request, she immediately agreed to let Shufei and Huamo go back.

Previously in the study, the loud shout of the old maidservant who guarded the flower gate was heard by a lot of people. At that time, Concubine Huang happened to be arriving at the study. When she heard that something had happened, she didn't dare to enter the study. She hurriedly sneaked back. She knew that Wei Luowu was in a bad mood at that time and didn't dare to show up and enrage Wei Luowu.

But along with Shufei and Huamo, there was actually Nanny Hong.

"Sixth Young Lady, the Madam Dowager instructed me to bring some snacks to you and take a look at your situation by the way. I heard that Sixth Young Lady was frightened at Second Master's study and I wondered what happened?" Nanny Hong let the maid behind her give Huamo the food basket in her hand and said with a smile.

Well, although she could take the initiative to tell the Madam Dowager about what happened, it was a different thing for the Madam Dowager to send someone over and ask her. Wei Yuewu revealed a hesitation on her face. "Grandmother... has she asked Second Uncle and Eldest Sister?"

"Second Master is still entertaining the guests outside. Eldest Young Lady is now the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an Mansion. There are some things that the Madam Dowager cannot talk with her. Anyway, everything has happened and there are no serious consequences. The Madam Dowager feels that it is appropriate to ask Sixth Young Lady." Nanny Hong said smilingly.

This meant that the Madam Dowager didn't want to wait and ask the Second Master, whereas Wei Fengyao was now considered half an outsider, and domestic shame should not be made public to outsiders.

"It was just that... I was hit by an assassin in Second Uncle's study, who knocked me out and stabbed a dagger on the desk. The assassin also left a piece of paper that contained a few blood-red characters, but Second Uncle didn't let us see them." Wei Yuewu replied thoughtfully.

"There was also a note with some characters?" Nanny Hong asked in surprise. She had only received news that the Sixth Young Lady was knocked unconscious in the Second Master's study, and there was also a dagger, but there was not the slightest mentioning of the note.

"Yes, Nanny Hong. If you don't believe me, you can ask Eldest Sister. At that time, except Second Uncle and his servant, there were only Eldest Sister and my maid in the room." Wei Yuewu nodded and used Wei Fengyao as a shield.

"Why did the Eldest Young Lady go to Second Master's study?" Sure enough, Nanny Hong's attention was immediately diverted to this point.

"I didn't know either. I was waiting for Concubine Huang to come. But unexpectedly, the Eldest Sister who was supposed to be helping Grandmother entertain guests in the inner courtyard came at that time." Wei Yuewu's face was filled with confusion.

Actually, she was still puzzled now, but there was one thing she was sure of. Wei Fengyao definitely had something to do when she went to Wei Luowu's study. Since she wasn't looking for Wei Luowu, she must be looking for something.

"Since Sixth Young Lady is fine, I will leave and report to the Madam Dowager, so that the Madam Dowager can feel relieved." Nanny Hong was stunned at first, but she immediately seemed to think of something and she suddenly became nervous. She was in no mood to continue talking to Wei Yuewu. After announcing the conclusion of her visit, she left in a hurry.

Wei Yuewu looked at the shaking curtains of the door with a deep look in her eyes. It seemed that Wei Fengyao was really looking for something, and it was very likely that this item was in Wei Luowu's study. The Madam Dowager obviously knew about this as well.

However, she wondered if it had anything to do with her!

Unexpectedly, there were quite a few secrets in Wei Luowu's study. Not only were there secrets about Prince Bei'an Mansion that were forbidden to be mentioned by the previous emperor, there was also something that Wei Fengyao coveted, but the Madam Dowager did not want Wei Fengyao to see it!

Wei Fengyao probably didn't want the Madam Dowager to know about this, so she warned her repeatedly. However, how could she let Wei Fengyao's wish come true?

As the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an, Wei Fengyao did have a high status, but no matter what, Wei Fengyao was born in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang and was the Madam Dowager's granddaughter. If she kept trespassing the line drawn by the Madam Dowager, there would definitely be no good result for her...

"Miss, I was waiting in the kitchen just now. I didn't hear anyone say that there was food for Miss. But after learning that I was coming back, Nanny Hong personally came over to deliver food to Miss." Huamo opened the food basket and took out two plates of delicate pastry, one of which was made by Wei Yuejiao's pastry cook.

"The pastry cook made more pastry than could be consumed at the banquet. There is still a lot left in the kitchen." Seeing that Wei Yuewu's gaze fell on the pastry, Shufei explained with a smile.

After saying that, Huamo covered her mouth and smiled, "Miss, you know what? After seeing so much flower dew, that pastry cook used all of it without saying anything else. At first, the cook thought that there might not be enough pastry. Later on, she realized that she had made too much pastry. I suggested that each table be served two plates of pastry. But even so, there was still some pastry left."

Thinking back to the time when the nurse-in-charge in the kitchen was at a loss facing so much pastry, Huamo and Shufei felt very funny, and they admired Wei Yuewu more for her clever plan.

The Third Young Lady had wanted to use the lack of flower dew as an excuse to leave the banquet and set up Wei Yuewu. However, anyone who inquired and saw so much pastry on each table would know that she had lied.

Shufei suddenly remembered what Jin Ling had said before and restrained the smile on her face. Then, she asked, “Miss, I heard that the Fifth Young Lady just came and then went to the Eldest Young Lady’s courtyard. Will something bad happen?”

“Miss, did the Eldest Young Lady want to harm you and cause you to fall off the stage?” Huamo asked with concern.

Jin Ling had told them briefly about what happened before, and the two maids were extremely scared and worried. At this time, they were looking at Wei Yuewu, afraid that something was wrong with her.

“I’m fine.” Wei Yuewu smiled and shook her head. She picked up a piece of pastry and gently took a bite. She tasted it carefully. Sure enough, the taste of the pastry was different from the one she ate last time. She believed that the female guests at the banquet who were familiar with the flower dew they bought would definitely be able to find the difference as well.

However, Wei Fengyao had also misjudged her own weight. It was impossible for her to pick a fight without getting involved. With the Madam Dowager’s temperament, how could she allow Wei Fengyao to stir up trouble here in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, especially when it came to Wei Fengyao’s secret visit to Wei Luowu’s study.

Today, she went there in a hurry, but she did want to find out more secret items that were hidden in Wei Luowu’s study.

“Miss, I caught someone and brought her in!” Just as she was pondering, Jin Ling entered the room dragging someone like a dead dog!

Chapter 183 – Master Fenghe, A Refined Safety Talisman

“Yueya, why are you here?” Wei Yuewu looked at Yueya in front of her, and her eyes were slightly raised as she said indifferently.

Originally, Yueya was looking around outside and she was shocked when Jin Ling suddenly grabbed her. At this time, she had recovered and she hurriedly bowed to Wei Yuewu and explained, “Greetings, Sixth

Young Lady. Our Miss sent me over to see you because she heard that Sixth Young Lady was frightened before.”

“Your Miss asked you to come over. Why did you just walk around outside?” Jin Ling asked with an unfriendly expression.

“I... I was afraid that the Sixth Young Lady was having a rest, so... so I was wondering if I should come back later.” Yueya said anxiously.

Jin Ling still wanted to ask, but Wei Yuewu smiled and waved her hand, “Did Fifth Elder Sister just ask you to come and see if I was alright?”

“Not only that, there’s also this. Our Miss went to the temple to ask for it some time ago. She said that it was blessed and can bring good fortune. Our Miss asked me to deliver it to Sixth Young Lady. She said that you have been in a lot of trouble recently and this item might be good for your safety.” Yueya carefully took out a small and exquisite box from her pocket and handed it over.

Shufei took it over and handed it to Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu received the box and opened it. Seeing that there was an exquisite safety talisman inside, she couldn’t help but raise her eyebrows. Recently, she received quite a few “gifts” of kindness: Wei Yuejiao gave her a sachet, and now Wei Qiuju gave her a safety talisman.

“Is this safety talisman your Miss’?” She closed the box and placed it beside her, her watery eyes slightly shined as she quietly asked.

“Yes, our Miss went to the temple to ask for it last time. Originally, she wanted to send it to Fourth Young Lady, but Fourth Young Lady...” Yueya paused for a moment before skipping the topic. “Our Miss asked me to bring it over to you. She said that it might ensure your safety.”

Since Wei Qiufu had plotted against Wei Qiuju, the relationship between the two of them would naturally not be as harmonious as before. It was understandable that this safety talisman was not given to Wei Qiufu.

But the problem was that Wei Qiuju didn't send this talisman to her when she fell off the stage. But after she went to Wei Fengyao's courtyard, she immediately sent this to her!

Moreover, at this time, Wei Qiuju was hardly able to save herself, so how would she be in the mood to care about the safety of others. Wei Qiuju had never been such a person who wholeheartedly cared for others!

"In that case, thank your Miss for me." Wei Yuewu nodded and smiled.

After Yueya left, Wei Yuewu opened the box again and carefully examined it. The safety talisman was actually very ordinary. It was no different from ordinary safety talismans. The only difference was that there was a very small mark in its corner.

The red mark had two characters that read Fenghe.

"Miss, is there something wrong with this safety talisman?" Shufei couldn't help but ask when she saw that Wei Yuewu had been flipping through the safety talisman.

"This safety talisman has a mark on it. It is not something an ordinary person can ask for." A trace of coldness flashed in her eyes, but she smiled. It was indeed not an ordinary safety talisman.

"It is impossible for Wei Qiuju to obtain such a safety talisman!"

"Why is Fifth Young Lady unable to obtain it? Could it be that she was extremely pious so that she succeeded in obtaining a precious safety talisman?" Huamo asked in confusion.

"No matter how pious she was, she wouldn't succeed!" Wei Yuewu raised her eyebrows. Master Fenghe wasn't someone who would easily meet people. Even Yan Huaijing rarely had a chance to be received by him, let alone Wei Qiuju.

"Miss, I went to keep an eye on Fifth Young Lady. After staying in Eldest Young Lady's courtyard for a while, Fifth Young Lady left. She talked to Yueya on their way back and then she drove Yueya away

halfway. She went back to her courtyard by herself. When I returned, I saw Yueya wandering at the entrance of our courtyard and I pulled her in.”

Jin Ling gave a brief account of her findings.

“So, this box had been carried by Wei Qiuju, but she forgot it and only remembered it later?” Wei Yuewu laughed out of anger. Needless to say, this was Wei Fengyao’s trick. It was also a favor Wei Qiuju did for Wei Fengyao by “sending” the safety talisman to her. If it were sent in the name of Wei Fengyao, she would definitely not accept it, or she would not wear it even if she accepted it.

However, if it were sent by Wei Qiuju, who had a good relationship with her, the meaning would be different.

Wei Fengyao was indeed good at scheming. At the same time, she had also seen through Wei Qiuju’s selfish mentality of not caring about others’ life and death as long as she herself was fine.

“Miss, is Fifth Young Lady going to collude with someone again to harm you?” Jin Ling and Shufei looked at each other and asked.

The word “again” indicated the number of times Wei Qiuju had tried to harm Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu’s lips curled into a brilliant smile. “Jin Ling, tear this safety talisman slightly broken.”

Since Wei Qiuju wanted to cooperate with Wei Fengyao so much, she would definitely help her. As for Wei Fengyao’s intention of reaping fruit from both sides, well...

“Miss, you wanted me to tear it?” Jin Ling didn’t understand for a moment and she took the safety talisman in a daze.

“Tear a hole in it.” Wei Yuewu smiled.

“Yes!” Even though Jin Ling didn’t understand Wei Yuewu’s plan for the moment, she still managed to tear a hole in the safety talisman. Her strength was extremely great, and the safety talisman seemed to be torn apart by something, and a corner of it fell off.

“Miss, this is a safety talisman! Could this bring bad...” Huamo worriedly looked at the safety talisman that had been torn off half a corner.

Wei Yuewu blinked mischievously, “Yes, this is a safety talisman. Furthermore, it’s a safety talisman that Wei Qiuju just gave me. But now that you accidentally broke it, what should I do?”

“Miss!” Huamo was so scared that she shivered. Her face turned pale as she shouted anxiously.

“Jin Ling, tear the corner of Huamo’s skirt a little broken.” Wei Yuewu ordered.

At this time, Jin Ling seemed to have understood and did not hesitate. She gestured to give the broken safety talisman to Huamo. When Huamo reached out to take it, she pulled up a corner of her skirt. With another “hiss”, the corner of Huamo’s skirt was torn.

“Huamo, take this safety talisman and find Nurse Mei to think of a way.” Wei Yuewu smiled sweetly at the startled and dumbfounded Huamo.

Of course, Nurse Mei was also transferred out. She was the nurse-in-charge of Wei Yuewu’s courtyard, so she was busier than others now. No one knew where she was at the moment.

“Jin Ling, you go with Huamo. When you look for Nurse Mei, you can take a detour and walk around the Third Young Lady’s courtyard. Maybe Nurse Mei is over there.” Wei Yuewu said smilingly.

Huamo was actually not stupid, she was just a bit timid. She blinked her eyes and immediately understood. She tightened her grip on the safety talisman in her hand and hurriedly nodded, “Miss, don’t worry. I’ll go find Nurse Mei to think of a way. This is such an important thing, but I accidentally broke it. How could I have the mood to stay here and wait on Miss?”

Huamo even laughed at her own smart words.

After that, Shufei stayed behind, and Jin Ling and Huamo left the courtyard in a hurry.

Seeing the two maids leave, the smile on Wei Yuewu's face became brighter and brighter. Since Wei Qiuju was happily following Wei Fengyao's instructions, Wei Fengyao must have agreed to help her solve the problem. However, if Wei Qiuju succeeded in clearing her name, Wei Yuejiao would be in trouble. Therefore, gossips should be spread out in a while!

By then, it would be her turn to step on the stage...

Wei Yuejiao was angry in her own courtyard.

Of course, the target of her anger was Wei Yuewu. Thinking that Wei Yuewu had actually turned the table against her by not only clearing her own name but also making her a suspect and laughing joke, she couldn't help but grit her teeth in hatred. How dared Wei Yuewu, an abandoned cheap girl, actually make her fall into such an embarrassing situation!

She thought back to the time when she met the Fourth Prince and Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State. That handsome heir who looked like an exiled immortal actually didn't even look at her. It must be because he had heard rumors about her. Otherwise, with her talent and appearance, how could the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State not cast several looks at her?

Fortunately, Wei Fengyao offered a helping hand to her. Otherwise, she would really be defeated by that bitch.

"Miss, Miss!" Yuzhu rushed in and shouted.

"What is it?" Wei Yuejiao said impatiently. She was now full of anger.

"I just heard that the two maids of the Sixth Young Lady were looking for the nurse-in-charge of their courtyard. They were now heading for our courtyard." Seeing that Wei Yuejiao was unhappy, Yuzhu hurriedly replied.

"Just let them look for her. What does it have to do with me?" Wei Yuejiao was filled with displeasure.

“Miss, coincidentally, I was right behind them at that time. I heard them say that the Eldest Young Lady asked the Fifth Young Lady to deliver a safety talisman to the Sixth Young Lady. However, the safety talisman was broken by the maid named Huamo. That’s why the two maids were so anxious to find their nurse-in-charge to think of a way.” Yuzhu reported.

At that time, she even took a closer look and saw that the corner of Huamo’s skirt was torn. Therefore, what they said must be true. That Huamo was so scared that she didn’t even have time to change her skirt.

Hearing that Wei Fengyao was mentioned, Wei Yuejiao was stunned for a moment and asked anxiously, “The safety talisman was delivered by Wei Qiuju at the request of the Eldest Young Lady?”

“Yes, I heard the two of them say that. That maid named Huamo was so scared that she almost cried. That maid called Jin Ling was bold and she told Huamo not to worry. She said that they could find their nurse-in-charge to think of a way later.”

“She actually asked Wei Qiuju to send Wei Yuewu a safety talisman!” Wei Yuejiao was furious and slammed her hand heavily on the table.

Of course, what she cared about was not this safety talisman, but Wei Fengyao’s attitude. There was obviously an agreement between the two of them. How could Wei Fengyao get so close to Wei Qiuju and Wei Yuewu in such a short while? Could it be that Wei Fengyao wanted to step on two boats and curry favor on both sides?

“Let’s go find Eldest Sister.” How would Wei Yuejiao be the kind of person who was willing to become someone else’s stepping stone? She was immediately enraged. She stood up and walked out. She wanted to ask Wei Fengyao in person what was going on.

“Yes!” Yuzhu received the order and hurriedly followed behind Wei Yuejiao to Wei Fengyao’s courtyard. They had just reached the courtyard entrance when they met Jinzhu, who was running with sweat all over her head.

“Miss, bad news. There are now rumors about whether it was you or the Fifth Young Lady who hung out with the lad servant at that time. Everyone is saying that it must be you or the Fifth Young Lady. They

also said that because you lied at the banquet, it was more likely you.” Jinzhu wiped the sweat off her head and finished speaking in one breath.

Previously, she had been inquiring about the rumors outside. She had heard that most people had targeted Wei Qiuju as a suspect and she secretly felt happy for her Miss. However, who would have thought that things would actually change? As the rumors went on, people actually talked about her Miss. Furthermore, they vaguely indicated that both her Miss and the Fifth Young Lady might be the person.

Whoever got involved in this kind of dishonorable matter would be unlucky. Previously, the Fifth Young Lady had been the one to take the blame. But now, Jinzhu noticed that something was wrong. She hurriedly returned to report it to Wei Yuejiao for her to make up her mind.

Before hearing Jinzhu’s report, Wei Yuejiao couldn’t figure out the reason for a while. However, she got the whole picture and found the connection between different parts of it. Her face turned green with anger and her expression was ferocious. Needless to say, there must be an agreement between Wei Qiuju and Wei Fengyao. Wei Fengyao actually helped Wei Qiuju clear her name.

“Wei Fengyao, good for you!” Wei Yuejiao gritted her teeth tightly, her fingers trembling slightly as she sneered.

The matter at the banquet in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang was really full of dramatic developments.

In the beginning, rumors had it that Sixth Miss Wei did an indecent thing. When people saw Sixth Miss Wei appear in front of everyone, they guessed that it was Third Miss Wei. After that, someone confirmed that Third Miss Wei left the banquet for some justifiable reason, and the suspect became Fifth Miss Wei. It was said that this unknown Fifth Miss Wei was the person who hung around with a lad servant.

But in the end, when the guests were leaving, someone actually said it was Third Miss Wei and even cited the fact that she had lied as proof.

As rumors kept fermenting, people didn't know who was right and who was wrong. Some people thought it was Third Miss Wei, while others thought it was Fifth Miss Wei. Everyone at the banquet held their own opinion for a while, but they weren't deadly sure who it was.

However, there was one thing that was certain. One of the two young ladies had definitely behaved indecently. If any young man wanted to marry one of them, he had to think about it carefully.

In the Tranquility Courtyard.

The Madam Dowager glared at Wei Fengyao with a livid expression and slapped her hand heavily on the table. "Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an, right? Shall I bow to you and ask you to manage our mansion?"

Those words were too serious for Wei Fengyao to remain seated. She stood up and knelt on the ground with a plop. "Why did Grandmother say such words? Aren't you going to kill Fengyao? What did Fengyao do to make Grandmother so angry? Grandmother, tell me and I will absolutely correct my mistakes!"

Even though she was the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an, in front of the Madam Dowager, she was only her granddaughter. The principle of filial piety was enough to make her lower her head.

"Your Heiress-apparent, what are you saying? I really don't dare to let you do anything. You've messed up our mansion of Marquis Hua Yang since you came back. If you did anything else, I am afraid the reputations of your younger sisters would be completely ruined!"

The Madam Dowager snorted coldly.

Chapter 184 – It'S Not Good To Destroy Any One Of Them

"Grandmother, do you think I've interfered in the grudge between Third Younger Sister and Sixth Younger Sister?" Wei Fengyao hurriedly explained, "Grandmother, Third Younger Sister is Eldest Uncle's most beloved daughter. If it's really confirmed, her reputation must be stained. Eldest Uncle will surely feel very uncomfortable in his heart. And you, Grandmother, it'll also be hard for you to make a decision. I'm considering it for you, Grandmother."

Wei Fengyao was prepared that Madam Dowager might find out it was she who had plotted the thing. Her shrewd Grandmother was not her mother. Fortunately, she had prepared this speech earlier.

“Since that’s the case, why did you change your mind?” Madam Dowager asked with a gloomy face, but her aggressive expression softened a bit. Obviously, she was still willing to listen to Wei Fengyao’s explanation.

“Grandmother, although Third Younger Sister is Eldest Uncle’s most beloved daughter, if Fifth Younger Sister really were to get ruined because of this groundless matter, what will Third Uncle think? How could Third Uncle and Eldest Uncle get along as brothers again? I didn’t consider this either until after the matter happened. So I tried my best to save it. Now, at the very least, no one else knows clearly who it was. Since they don’t know, the reputation of the two younger sisters will only remain slightly flawed.”

Seeing Madam Dowager’s hesitation, Wei Fengyao immediately explained.

She had an agreement with Wei Yuejiao previously, so of course, she was determined to speak up for Wei Yuejiao and shift all the blame to Wei Qiuju. But after that, she had an agreement with Wei Qiuju as well, so she once again spread the news ambiguously, causing people to be confused as to it was Wei Yuejiao or Wei Qiuju.

It was equivalent to that she had made the two of them take the same blame. Both of their reputations were indeed damaged, but which was not as severe as they had imagined.

Wei Fengyao was trying to please both sides. Of course, she had also predicted Madam Dowager’s thoughts correctly, so she was able to handle it very well at this time.

Unexpectedly, Madam Dowager suddenly changed the topic and her expression also turned fierce, “Since you knew that your father was not in the study, why did you go to your father’s study?”

The question was so abrupt that Wei Fengyao couldn’t answer it for a moment. She opened her mouth, but she couldn’t say anything.

“I remember telling you when you got married that you would be a member of the royal family in the future. You shouldn’t go to your father’s study if there’s nothing you need. So why did you go there?”

Madam Dowager stared coldly and intently at Wei Fengyao.

"I... I just happened to pass by. I heard someone inside and thought it might be father, so I went in. I didn't expect it to be Sixth Younger Sister." Wei Fengyao paused for a moment before she immediately came up with an idea and put all the blame onto Wei Yuewu.

She had thought that Madam Dowager did not know about this matter, so she would not say anything. But she did not expect that Madam Dowager would be able to investigate it so clearly in a short while. Thus, she did not dare to conceal anything and secretly wiped away her cold sweat. Fortunately, she was there later than Wei Yuewu and could shift all the blame onto Wei Yuewu.

"Don't go to your father's study if you have nothing to do in the future. I remember that Prince Nan'an and your father have different political views. Even if you're trustworthy, can you guarantee the loyalty of your maid?" Madam Dowager looked at Wei Fengyao and said in a deep voice.

Such an excuse as "different political views" was enough to stop Wei Fengyao from entering Wei Luowu's study. As the saying goes, "a married daughter—split water." Even if Wei Fengyao was unwilling, she had no choice but to accept it. She thought to herself in secret that she was still not allowed to enter and leave her father's study. If her mother was here, there wouldn't be so much trouble.

Speaking of which, she had to get her mother to return to the mansion as soon as possible.

"Yes, I understand this. I won't dare to barge into father's study again."

"Rise!" She was after all the heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an, so Madam Dowager didn't want to hold a too high profile.

"Yes, Grandmother!" Wei Fengyao stood up and patted the corner of her dress with a smile. "Grandmother, Third Younger Sister and Sixth Younger Sister are both new to the capital. Could I invite them and other younger sisters to Prince Nan'an Mansion for a gathering the day after tomorrow? Coincidentally, my mother-in-law will also invite a few noble lady acquaintances over."

Wei Fengyao mentioned it casually. Madam Dowager understood what she meant and her expression softened a little as she nodded, "Nothing more will happen again, right?"

"Of course not! My younger sisters are all precious beauties like pearls and dew. When those madams see them, they will understand that the rumors are not true. They will naturally speak up for my younger sisters. Grandmother, please rest assured. Nothing bad will happen." Wei Fengyao patted her chest and promised.

Anyway, if something really were to happen to Wei Yuewu, considering Wei Yuejiao who was doted on by Eldest Uncle and herself who held a noble status, she didn't believe that Grandmother would really stand up for Wei Yuewu whose reputation had been ruined.

Wei Fengyao knew clearly that if Grandmother really valued Wei Yuewu so much, she wouldn't have left her alone in her granny's house for so many years.

However, there was one thing that Wei Fengyao couldn't understand. Since Grandmother's defense for Wei Yuewu wasn't genuine, she must have done it to show to others, but to whom?

"Eldest Sister really has such a good tongue. You spoke up for me, then spoke up for Fifth Younger Sister, and you didn't forget to send a gift to Sixth Younger Sister either. No wonder you've been so capable of dealing with all people on the position of heiress-apparent for Prince Nan'an, Eldest Sister!" A cold sneer came from the door as Wei Yuejiao lifted open the curtain and rushed in angrily.

Wei Fengyao did not expect that Wei Yuejiao would dare to come to Madam Dowager at this time. She panicked, but her face revealed a surprised expression. "Third Younger Sister, what are you saying?"

"Don't you understand what I'm saying, Eldest Sister? You and I had an agreement first, and you said you would help me resolve this matter. Then, you made another agreement with Fifth Younger Sister and shifted the blame to me. Eldest Sister, although you've been married into the Prince Nan'an Mansion, you can still do whatever you want in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. We younger sisters are still manipulated by you."

Wei Yuejiao also knew that she could not provoke Madam Dowager, so she calmed down a bit before angrily scolding Wei Fengyao.

“Yuejiao, what happened?” When Madam Dowager saw that Wei Yuejiao was making trouble again, a trace of irritation flashed across in her heart, and her expression became gloomier and gloomier.

Her second son’s banquet today didn’t save her any trouble. Bad things occurred in the inner yard repeatedly, which were all related to these unmarried ladies. This might cause people to question the family rules for the young ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

“Grandmother, Eldest Sister threatened me to think of a way to get Second Aunt to come back. She promised to help me solve my current problem. But I wonder what Fifth Younger Sister had promised Eldest Sister so that she could make Eldest Sister help her through getting me involved in the matter. Grandmother, what is Eldest Sister trying to do? She isn’t satisfied with ruining just one of us, so is she trying to ruin the two of us?”

Wei Yuejiao was not stupid. She gripped her handkerchief and cried from grievance. She also shifted all the blame to Wei Fengyao and even said that the deal between them was what she got forced by Wei Fengyao.

Madam Dowager’s face turned sullen. It was her idea to send Madam Li back to her mother’s house. Wei Fengyao was not convinced by her decision, so she caused so many things.

Thinking of this, Madam Dowager couldn’t help but turn to Wei Fengyao and coldly said, “Fengyao, do you think it’s my responsibility for your mother’s departure? But, your Third Younger Sister has nothing to do with that your mother won’t be able to come back. If you have something to say, just come and talk to me directly!”

“Grandmother, I don’t dare, I didn’t...” Wei Fengyao didn’t expect Wei Yuejiao to dare to accuse her openly. She hurriedly waved both hands and tried to explain.

“Eldest Sister, do you dare to say that you didn’t ask me to think of a way to get Second Aunt home?” Wei Yuejiao cried.

“I...” Wei Fengyao was speechless for a moment.

“Eldest Sister, since I have already promised you, I will definitely do my best to help you. But why did you make an agreement with Fifth Younger Sister again? You threatened me and Fifth Younger Sister like this, what do you want? Eldest Sister, although you are now the heiress-apparent of Prince Nan’an, you are also the daughter of our mansion of Marquis Hua Yang!”

Wei Yuejiao was also a glib one. She kept saying that Wei Fengyao forced her to agree. But thinking about the situation at that time, even if Wei Fengyao went a little too far when making a requirement, any unmarried young lady would agree. It was after all a matter of a young lady’s reputation!

“Grandmother, I... I didn’t. I just didn’t want my Third Younger Sister and Fifth Younger Sister to be destroyed. I... Fifth Younger Sister and I grew up together. How could I watch helplessly as she was really going to be destroyed?” Seeing Madam Dowager’s increasingly gloomy face, Wei Fengyao was also anxious and cried out for her innocence.

“Eldest Sister, you don’t want Fifth Younger Sister to be destroyed because you two grew up together. But I didn’t grow up with you, so you don’t have any sister friendship with me!” A soft sigh came from behind the curtain. A maid walked up to raise the curtain and there Wei Yuewu was standing with a calm and hurtful expression on her face.

Wei Yuejiao grew up at the border who returned to the mansion once a year. Wei Yuewu was about the same. She had always been raised in her granny’s house. So of course she could not be considered to have grown up together with Wei Fengyao since young. In short, Wei Fengyao had no sister friendship with Wei Yuejiao and Wei Yuewu.

Or perhaps if someone wanted to think about it further, it would be that Wei Fengyao didn’t like her sisters of a different mother.

This was the last thing Madam Dowager wanted to think of. So, as soon as Wei Yuewu said this, Madam Dowager immediately sneered at Wei Fengyao and said, “Fengyao, you’re their Eldest Sister, but you’ve disappointed me so much. The young ladies of the mansion are all your blood sisters, how can you actually distinguish them by whether they grew up with you or not?”

“Grandmother, that’s not what I meant. I just feel that Third Younger Sister and Fifth Younger Sister are actually the same. It’s not good to destroy any one of them. At the very least, everyone is only suspecting them now.” Wei Fengyao explained.

However, such an explanation was based on belittling Wei Yuejiao. Madam Dowager's gaze turned fierce, "Your Heiress-apparent, you should go back. There is no need for you to worry about the matters of our mansion of Marquis Hua Yang!"

She was giving an order for Wei Fengyao to leave.

"Grandmother!" Wei Fengyao was extremely aggrieved with her face turning extremely pale. She did not know why things had completely deviated from what she had thought.

Because of Wei Fengyao's undisguised view of her as a daughter of a concubine, Wei Yuejiao also got angry with her face turning gloomy. She no longer pretended to be crying. She took a deep breath to calm herself. And she knew that it was not appropriate to provoke Madam Dowager at this time.

Looking at the expressions of these two, Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart. Seeing that they were all holding back their anger and couldn't vent out was truly pleasant.

"What? Do you want me to personally send you out, Your Heiress-apparent?" Madam Dowager was still furious at this moment. A large part of this matter had to do with Wei Fengyao. How could Madam Dowager not be annoyed since Wei Fengyao had caused a good banquet to end like this?

"Yes... I... I will go back first and come to apologize to you and my younger sisters another day, Grandmother!" Wei Fengyao knew that if she stayed any longer, she would only make Madam Dowager even angrier. So she immediately covered her face with the handkerchief and cried.

Then she made a curtsy to Madam Dowager and wiped away her tears before walking out of the room.

Outside the door, the two maids saw the heiress-apparent coming out with tears and didn't dare to say anything else. They hurriedly followed her.

Not only did Wei Fengyao fall into disfavor with Madam Dowager, but she also got scolded seriously by Madam Dowager. She cried all the way back to the Prince Nan'an Mansion.

Inside the room, Madam Dowager fell her gaze on Wei Yuejiao. Her expression was still gloomy, and the atmosphere became strangely quiet...

Chapter 185 – Reproducing The Crime Scene In The Study

After a while, the Madam Dowager said coldly, “Yuejiao, go back and rest first. Yuewu, you stay for a while. I have something to say.”

“Grandmother, I also want to stay.” Seeing that Wei Yuewu alone was left behind, Wei Yuejiao hurriedly said.

The Madam Dowager said coldly with a long face, “What are you doing here? Your concubine mother is coming back soon. Tell her to properly restrain the people around her when she comes back. Don’t think that I am really ignorant of what people of the mansion have done.”

There was too much information in these words. For a time, Wei Yuejiao did not dare to be arrogant by taking advantage of the Madam Dowager’s fondness of her. She pinched her hands in her sleeves and said, “Yes, grandmother!”

Then, she looked back at Wei Yuewu and stomped her feet in hatred before leaving.

“Yuewu, sit down first!” The Madam Dowager’s expression softened as she sighed and said to Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu nodded and sat down on the chair beside her. A trace of deep serenity flashed across her eyes. She would like to see the Madam Dowager’s attitude now.

“Yuewu, you and Yuejiao are sisters, but you haven’t seen each other for many years. The two of you may be at odds with each other, but you are after all true sisters. If the two of you really confront each other, the saddest ones will be Grandmother and your father.” The Madam Dowager said earnestly, her expression looking even more benevolent.

Wei Yuewu pretended not to understand the meaning behind the Madam Dowager's words and blinked her dark eyes. "Grandmother, does Third Elder Sister dislike me?"

"Actually, it's not a big deal whether she likes you or not. You two share the same father, and you are always true sisters. When Concubine Dong returns to the capital, she will definitely restrain your Third Elder Sister. Your father's old injuries have recurred, so his return has been delayed. However, when he is back in the mansion, you will have a family reunion!"

The Madam Dowager comforted Wei Yuewu and quietly changed the topic.

"Are Father's injuries serious?" Of course, Wei Yuewu knew the Madam Dowager's thoughts. However, Wei Fengyao and Wei Yuejiao had just been reprimanded by the Madam Dowager, so it was not appropriate for her to be too aggressive in front of the Madam Dowager. She immediately kept up with the Madam Dowager and asked.

"Your father has been guarding the border and experienced many wars and battles over these years. Your mother passed away early. If Concubine Dong hadn't been waiting on him at the border, his health conditions might be even worse!" The Madam Dowager said gently, her face full of gratitude to Concubine Dong.

Therefore, Concubine Dong had worked hard and performed a valuable service, so it would be best if she could be elevated to the position of wife!

Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart. The Madam Dowager was really obsessed with helping Concubine ascend to the position of Marquise Hua Yang.

"When Concubine Dong returns, I will definitely express my thanks to Concubine Dong for taking care of my father for so many years!" Wei Yuewu replied gently, but she did not react to the hint of the Madam Dowager.

Nanny Hong stood at the side and wanted to say something, but she immediately lowered her head and remained silent.

Seeing that Wei Yuewu refused to echo with her, the Madam Dowager lost interest in the conversation and shook her hand slightly. "Alright, you can go down and rest now. You suffered such a shock today!"

"Yes, Grandmother. Excuse me for leaving now!" Wei Yuewu got up and said goodbye to the Madam Dowager.

"Madam Dowager, does Sixth Young Lady completely disagree with Concubine Dong's elevation?" After Wei Yuewu left, Nanny Hong walked to the back of the Madam Dowager. While pounding her back, she whispered, "How about you speaking to Lord Marquis yourself? Perhaps Lord Marquis will agree this time."

"Agreed to what? If he had no objection, he would have agreed many years ago. What's the point of waiting until now?" The Madam Dowager leaned back and closed her eyes.

"But Lord Marquis is really fond of the Third Young Lady. He gives everything good to the Third Young Lady and has always trusted Concubine Dong. He can entrust anything to Concubine Dong. Why can't he give her the final elevation?" Nanny Hong also sighed. It was really hard to guess what the Lord Marquis was thinking.

Since he was so kind to Concubine Dong and the Third Young Lady, why was he so stingy that he didn't give them a proper title? After all, Marquise Hua Yang had been gone for so many years.

"Well, I'll have to wait for his return to the capital. Perhaps as the last resort, I have to beg for a decree from Her Majesty. It can't go on like this. The mansion of Marquis of Hua Yang does need a mistress." The Madam Dowager rubbed her eyebrows. Ever since that incident, she had discovered that Marquis Hua Yang, her own son, had become more and more alienated from her.

This was also the reason why she disliked Wei Yuewu's birth mother more and more. She felt that it was all that woman's fault. If it weren't for her, many of the things that followed wouldn't have happened, thus preventing the current situation from occurring in the first place.

If she had known that things would go wrong because of that woman, she should have given her a heavy blow earlier.

Outside the courtyard, Wei Yuewu ran into Wei Yuejiao, who had been waiting there for a long time.

“Sixth Younger Sister, good for you! You actually made grandmother favor you!” Wei Yuejiao said angrily. The fact that Wei Yuewu stayed behind whereas she was driven out by the Madam Dowager made her feel extremely embarrassed. Therefore, she deliberately waited here to block up Wei Yuewu.

“Why did Third Elder Sister say so? However, you asked me to prepare flower dew, but where have you been? I found two old maidservants waiting to knock me out behind the gate of the courtyard. If I really fainted, I would be the person who was charged by the maid and the old maidservant, right?”

Wei Yuewu said with a calm expression on her face and undisguised mockery in her eyes.

“You... you...Fine! I hope you’re still so lucky the next time!” Wei Yuejiao was so stifled that she couldn’t even speak properly. For a moment, she was still speechless.

“Don’t worry, Third Elder Sister. At least I’m not the one whose reputation has been ruined! Everyone is talking about Third Elder Sister, right? I wonder if Father will be happy to hear of Third Elder Sister’s current reputation after he is back in the capital!” Wei Yuewu said indifferently, a trace of hostility flashing through her eyes. Without waiting for Wei Yuejiao to say anything, she quickly walked past her.

Was Wei Yuejiao so pissed off now? Then she would like to add some fuel to the fire! The angrier Wei Yuejiao was, the faster her previous plan would take effect...

When Wei Yuejiao thought that not only did she fail to harm Wei Yuewu, she had instead landed herself in such a situation, she was both angry and resentful. But she also knew that there was nothing she could do to harm Wei Yuewu at this time. She glared at Wei Yuewu’s back with hatred. Mother was about to return to the capital. She did not believe that she and Mother would fail to subdue this Wei Yuewu.

“How long will it take before mother arrives?” She asked coldly.

“It should be just a couple of days.” Yuzhu replied carefully.

“Ask my mother to come quickly. This bitch is going to turn the world around in the Marquis Mansion!” She couldn’t eat humble pies when she thought that she, who used to be doted on by the Madam Dowager, would one day be driven out because of Wei Yuewu.

“Yes, Miss. I will have someone send a message to concubine Dong in a while!” Yuzhu replied.

“Slap!” Wei Yuejiao fiercely hit Yuzhu in the face. “What concubine Dong? It’s lady!” Wei Yuejiao said hatefully.

“Yes... it was Lady Dong who asked me to address her like that. I completely followed Lady Dong’s order.” Yuzhu covered her face and hurriedly explained.

At the border, Concubine Dong was the only mistress in the mansion. Therefore, some servants started to address Concubine Dong as Lady Dong, and Lord Marquis did not say a word about it. As a result, all the servants at the border addressed Concubine Dong as Lady Dong.

But each time before coming to the capital, Concubine Dong would repeatedly warn her servants that they must address her as Concubine Dong in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang!

“Mansion of Marquis Hua Yang! Slut Wei Yuewu!” Wei Yuejiao gritted her teeth and said hatefully. If it weren’t for Wei Yuewu, the situation would be different. She would be a legitimate daughter, and Mother would be Marquise Hua Yang. How would she be looked down upon by Wei Fengyao, who placed her in the same position as the concubine-born daughter Wei Qiuju?

For Wei Yuejiao, who had always thought of herself as a legitimate daughter, it was more than a heavy blow to her heart.

“Move, let’s go back!” She suddenly remembered the screen in her room. Wasn’t that Wei Yuewu’s mother’s dowry? Didn’t Wei Yuewu cherish it very much? Unfortunately, this screen now belonged to her. She could do whatever she wanted with the screen. Mother had managed to put this screen in her room so that she could vent her anger freely.

Wei Yuewu didn’t expect that she would be stopped halfway down the road, and that the person who stopped her was the Fourth Prince...

"Sixth Miss Wei, please come over here and have a talk." Fourth Prince Wen Yi stood on the roadside with his hands behind his back, his expression cold. Behind him stood four guards, and beside him stood a steward from the mansion. It was obvious that he did not enter the inner courtyard without permission.

Wei Yuewu was shocked, but she still walked over and bowed to the Fourth Prince.

"Greetings, Your Highness!"

"I heard that Sixth Young Lady encountered an assassin before. May I know if you discovered anything unusual?" The Fourth Prince looked at the beautiful girl in front of him. A trace of deep look flashed in his eyes, but his expression immediately returned to normal.

Wei Yuewu raised her head in surprise. Wei Luowu had warned her repeatedly not to tell anyone about this matter. How could he disclose it himself in just a short while?

"Yuewu didn't see anything and was knocked unconscious. Second Uncle knows all about this matter." Wei Yuewu smiled and said softly.

Regardless of the circumstances under which Wei Luowu had disclosed this incident, she did not want to be involved. She knew that Yan Huaijing's actions at that time were not improvised. When she saw the words written on the paper he took out at that time, she knew that Yan Huaijing had another plan.

"Lord Minister did say that Sixth Young Lady did not see anything, but I still want to ask Sixth Young Lady in person if there was any other abnormality, or if you heard the sound of the window opening?"

Wen Yi said indifferently.

"No, I did not!" Wei Yuewu shook her head decisively...

“At that time, Sixth Young Miss was reading a book, right? I wonder what kind of book you were reading so attentively. How about going to Minister Wei’s study with me now?” Wen Yi invited, looking as if he was determined to make a thorough investigation before leaving.

These words sounded extremely polite, but looking at the posture of the guards standing behind Wen Yi and considering his status as a prince, Wei Yuewu knew that she had no choice but to go with him. She nodded her head and said, “Yes, as you ordered!”

As a result, the group of people walked out of the flower gate and arrived at Wei Luowu’s study. What Wei Yuewu did not expect was that not only Wei Luowu, but also Yan Huaijing and Lu Yeli were there.

The three of them were seated as host and guest in the study, but the atmosphere was not very good.

Yan Huaijing’s expression was still as leisurely as an exiled immortal. When his handsome gaze landed on anyone, it appeared very gentle.

Lu Yeli’s handsome face was as serious as ever, and he looked at anyone coldly.

Wei Luowu, who was sitting in the seat of honor, had a gloomy expression on his face. However, Wei Yuewu felt that Wei Luowu’s current performance was the most appropriate considering the fact that two high-ranking and powerful heirs-apparent who were clearly at odds were seated beside him.

“Yuewu, where were you seated when the incident occurred? Just sit there again. Besides, are these books the ones you read at that time?” Wei Luowu asked, pointing to where Wei Yuewu had been seated and the books that were piled up there.

Chapter 186 – Four Heirs-Apparent Encountered An Assassination Simultaneously

Wei Yuewu walked over as required and sat down. She picked up the book beside her hand and flipped through it. She then raised her watery eyes and nodded her head affirmatively. “Second Uncle, I was sitting here at that time and I was also flipping through these books casually.”

The seat she took was right opposite Wei Luowu's bookshelf, and when she looked at the shelf, the corner of her eyes involuntarily twitched twice. However, she immediately lowered her head in a natural manner. Her long eyelids concealed the shock in her eyes, and then she gradually calmed down.

"Isn't Sixth Miss Wei facing the window in this position at that time? Why didn't you notice it when someone entered?" Lu Yeli's gaze fell on Wei Yuewu coldly and he asked first.

Wei Yuewu's position was indeed at an angle to the window. If anyone entered, she could see them with a slight lift of her head.

"Yuewu didn't see anyone." Wei Yuewu shook her head naturally.

"Did you hear anything strange?" Lu Yeli continued to ask.

"No!" Wei Yuewu frowned and shook her head.

"Sixth Miss Wei was just reading some books now on the desk. How come you were so fascinated by them? As I see, they are just some ordinary books of history and ancient classics. Most young ladies don't like reading such books, let alone being fascinated by them." Lu Yeli walked over. He picked up a book that was placed on the desk, flipped through it, and asked suspiciously.

These were the most common books in Wei Luowu's study. There were no casual books or storybooks that ordinary women liked to read.

"Heir-apparent of Lu, what are you questioning? I don't know whether other young ladies like reading these books, but I do know that my granny taught me to read this kind of book since I was young. When I came to the capital, I brought some books with me, but I encountered an assassination halfway. Most of those books were gone. Now that I saw the books in Second Uncle's study, I was happy and read them. Does Your Heir-apparent feel there is something wrong? "

Wei Yuewu's face turned cold, and her watery eyes were filled with anger as she looked straight at Lu Yeli's face.

Lu Yeli was stunned for a moment. He really didn't expect the seemingly delicate and weak Sixth Miss Wei in front of him to be angry with him, and she even dared to speak bluntly and glared at him angrily.

"Sixth Young Lady, don't be angry. Heir-apparent of Lu just tried to be on the safe side! Well, Heir-apparent Lu, since you have asked all your questions, shall we leave now?" Yan Huaijing stood up leisurely. The corners of his thin lips curved into a beautiful arc and his handsome face revealed a bit of carelessness.

Yan Huaijing raised his wide robe as he said, "If there's nothing else, I'll leave first!" Wei Yuewu immediately noticed a trace of blood on the bottom of his sleeve. Her eyes narrowed. Yang Huaijing was injured?

There was indeed nothing else to ask. Lu Yeli cupped his hands to Wei Yuewu politely and said, "Sixth Young Lady, thank you for coming. Please go back now!"

"Sixth Young Lady, do you need me to escort you back? There are really many things going on in your mansion. There are assassins in both the inner and outer courtyards. They even specifically assassinated the several of us who were newcomers in the capital." Yan Huaijing's beautiful eyes gently landed on Wei Yuewu's face as he suggested. However, his gaze looked so enchanting that it did not match the expression on his face.

"..." Wei Yuewu was made speechless by Yan Huaijing's offer. Didn't he know that this was the inner courtyard of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang and she was a young lady living in this mansion? "Thank you, Your Heir-apparent. I do not dare to trouble you!"

"Well, considering our relationship, Sixth Young Lady, you are too polite." Yan Huaijing did not try to conceal the unique relationship between him and Wei Yuewu. His long and slanted eyes turned to look at Wei Luowu with deep meaning. "Minister Wei, see you!" Read the latest stories on [novelbin\(.\).com](http://novelbin.com)

"I will definitely investigate the matter of the two heirs-apparent getting injured!" Wei Luowu hurriedly said.

Yan Huaijing's handsome eyes glanced sideways at Wei Yuewu. With a flick of his sleeves, he left with his men, completely ignoring Wei Luowu's words.

Seeing that there was nothing else to do with her, Wei Yuewu also returned to the inner courtyard.

Lu Yeli looked at the small trace of bloodstain on the corner of his clothes, then he looked at the surroundings and snorted coldly at Wei Luowu, "Minister Wei, we are all here today to celebrate your birthday. I didn't expect that there would be someone waiting here to assassinate us. I hope that you and the Fourth Prince can thoroughly investigate this matter."

"Yes, Your Heir-apparent, please rest assured. I will definitely send someone to investigate this matter." Wei Luowu nodded repeatedly.

Hearing that this matter indeed became his responsibility, the Fourth Prince had a bitter expression on his face. However, he had no choice but to say, "Don't worry, Your Heir-apparent, this matter will definitely be investigated thoroughly. We will never allow such a thing to happen again."

"That's good!" After saying that, Lu Yeli also turned around and strode away.

After everyone left, the Fourth Prince took on a serious expression and said, "Minister Wei, the security measures of your mansion really need to be strengthened."

A moment ago, several servants actually sneaked into the outer courtyard, and they even successfully rushed to the front of the four heirs-apparent and injured all the four of them. It really made people wonder how this kind of thing could happen in front of so many people.

Fortunately, only the few of them and their attendants were present at that time. Therefore, news about the incident wasn't spread out. Otherwise, it would definitely cause panic.

The Heir-apparent of Duke of Chu and Heir-apparent of Duke of Qi returned immediately after the assassination, but Lu Yeli and Yan Huaijing stayed behind to see how the Fourth Prince would respond to this incident. In order to prove his innocence, Wei Luowu also mentioned that someone intended to assassinate him in the study. However, he was not in the study, and the assassin met Wei Yuewu in the study and knocked her unconscious.

That was why the Fourth Prince personally brought people to question Wei Yuewu.

"Your Highness, the incident happened quite unexpectedly. No one expected such a thing to happen. Fortunately, the heirs-apparent were only slightly injured." Wei Luowu wiped the sweat off his forehead. He knew very well that if something really happened to these people in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, even the Emperor would not be able to safeguard him.

That was why he told them about the incident in the study to prove that he had nothing to do with the assassination.

Fortunately, the guards of the heirs-apparent reacted quickly. The moment the assassins who were dressed as servants struck with the knives in their hands, the guards responded. As a result, only several people were slightly injured. As for Lu Yeli and Yan Huaijing, they were not even injured at all. The bloodstains on their clothes were splashed by the people around them.

"Is there anything particular in Minister Luo's study that was coveted by the assassin?" The Fourth Prince did not plan to leave like this. He turned his gaze from Wei Luowu's bookshelf to the compartment that was opposite him and filled with bookshelves. "I wonder if I can take a look as well?"

"Your Highness, it's my honor if you would like to take a look!" Wei Luowu stood up and generously pointed at the compartment the Fourth Prince was looking at.

The Fourth Prince had been observing Wei Luowu's reaction. Seeing that he stood up without hesitation, he smiled and waved his hand. "I'm joking. How will I suspect Minister Wei? Marquis Hua Yang is returning in a few days. I will come again when he is back. Now I have to go to the Palace to report this matter to Father Emperor and elder royal brother, so I won't disturb you."

As the Fourth Prince spoke, he cupped his hands at Wei Luowu and then left with his men.

The study immediately quieted down. The fear on Wei Luowu's face gradually subsided, and a trace of contemplation appeared. He still didn't understand why someone would suddenly barge into his study. Was the person looking for something in his study?

As for investigating the assassination of the four heirs-apparent, Wei Luowu felt that it was simply beyond his capabilities. This incident was either intended by the heirs-apparent as a means to confuse people or was carried out at the order of His Majesty. It wouldn't be good for him to interfere without careful consideration. Judging by the agility of those assassins who left with ease, he knew that it wasn't

something an ordinary person could do. It seemed that he and Mo Huating had to think about their plan carefully...

In the Lotus Courtyard, Wei Yuewu was seated on a chair. The scenes she saw before the so-called assassination flashed in her mind. There was clearly one thing that was completely different from what she had just seen. Wei Luowu took something away before Yan Huaijing and the others arrived at his study.

Were these things vital?

That bookshelf wasn't big and didn't look conspicuous, but because Wei Yuewu noticed the characters Prince Bei'an Mansion, she was attracted by that box and took the opportunity to look at the bookshelf a few more times.

Just now, she clearly saw that a few books were missing from the layer of bookcase that was under the box related to Prince Bei'an Mansion.

Previously, books in this layer of bookcase had been arranged neatly and tightly, but when Wei Yuewu saw them again, it was clear that the books were no longer tightly aligned. One of the books had even collapsed loosely.

There were fewer books there, and more than one book was missing! Of course, that box related to Prince Bei'an Mansion was no longer there!

The study of Wei Luowu was indeed a place full of secrets!

The banquet in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang was over. As the banquet came to an end, there were many rumors about Third Miss Wei and Fifth Miss Wei. Although the guests could not confirm who the servants were talking about at that time, it must be one of the two concubine-born daughters. Rumors spread like wildfire for a moment.

In particular, one of them was a daughter of Marquis Hua Yang. It had been said for a long time that Third Miss Wei was doted on by Marquis Hua Yang. There were a lot of people who wanted to get engaged to her. Every time Third Miss Wei returned to the capital in the past, people who wanted to

seek a marriage alliance came and went like an endless flow. But now, everyone felt that they had to think carefully. Could it be that Third Miss Wei really had a tainted reputation?

Others thought that even though this Third Miss Wei had a good reputation, she was only the daughter born by a concubine. The Sixth Miss Wei who dressed colorfully to please her grandmother at the banquet was the real legitimate daughter. Well, even if Marquis Hua Yang doted on Third Miss Wei, the fact that she was only a concubine-born daughter could never be denied.

As a result, more and more people gave up the idea of seeking a marriage alliance.

Wei Fengyao's invitation was delivered two days later. Before delivering the invitation, she kept sending gifts to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang every day. She sent gifts to not only the Madam Dowager but also all the four unmarried younger sisters. Such a hospitable act not only showed her modesty but also indicated how much importance she attached to her parents' family.

The Madam Dowager's anger slowly subsided. After all, Wei Fengyao had another identity: the title of Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an was enough to make the Madam Dowager think highly of Wei Fengyao. Besides, Wei Fengyao said that she would think of a way to make Princess Nan'an and a few noble ladies appreciate Wei Yuejiao and Wei Qiuju. In this way, rumors about the two of them would naturally dissipate.

Therefore, the Madam Dowager agreed to Wei Fengyao's request to let the four sisters go to Prince Nan'an Mansion together.

"Sixth Younger Sister, you're right. Eldest Sister won't stand on my side at all. I'm just a concubine-born daughter, and besides, I'm from the third branch. It's normal for me to be looked down upon by others." After meeting Wei Yuewu at the Madam Dowager's place, Wei Qiuju followed Wei Yuewu all the way, saying that she wanted to go to Lotus Courtyard and have a chat with Wei Yuewu.

But the more Wei Qiuju spoke, the more aggrieved she became, and she cried and started to wipe away her tears halfway.

Wei Yuewu had no choice but to stop and console her, "Since you and Third Elder Sister are both daughters of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, you are also a part of this family. There is no need to bother about being a concubine-born daughter."

Hearing these words, Wei Qiuju didn't stop her complaint at all, and she even shed more tears. "Sixth Younger Sister, I can only tell you the pain in my heart now. In the past, I thought that Fourth Elder Sister treated me sincerely, but now, I can't believe even her. She actually sent a writing brush to me the day before yesterday."

"What writing brush?" Wei Yuewu was stunned for a moment and asked.

"A man's writing brush that is thicker than those used by young ladies. It doesn't look like those writing brushes used by us. But Fourth Elder Sister actually sent it to me. She said that it was a gift from Imperial Academician Xie to me. What does that have to do with me? Grandmother said that Second Elder Sister was going to get married with Imperial Academician Xie. What does Fourth Elder Sister mean?"

Wei Qiuju said angrily, secretly observing Wei Yuewu's expression.

Wei Yuewu glanced sideways at Wei Qiuju. Her butterfly-like eyelids flashed and she smiled calmly and she took a seat in the corridor. Since Wei Qiuju chose to attack here, she would like to see what she was having in her sleeves.

"Fifth Elder Sister, since you are unable to make a decision, why don't you show the writing brush to Grandmother and let Grandmother talk with Fourth Elder Sister?" Wei Yuewu suggested.

Chapter 187 – Eldest Young Master Wei Ziyang

Of the "sisters" in the Wei family, Wei Qiufu was the most cautious. However, in the Plum Blossom Nunnery on the mountain, Wei Qiufu made a mistake due to her eagerness for quick success, which landed her in a disadvantageous situation. Therefore, Wei Yuewu did not believe that Wei Qiufu would ignore the lesson learnt and chose to attack the most inconspicuous Wei Qiuju at this time.

It was impossible for Wei Qiufu to be ignorant of the fact that she was confronting Wei Fengyao and Wei Yuejiao at this moment. This was the time for Wei Qiufu to watch in safety while the three of them were engaged in a fight. Therefore, it was impossible for Wei Qiufu to attack her at this time.

"Well...she is after all my Fourth Elder Sister. If Mother knew that I sent the writing brush Fourth Elder Sister gave me to Grandmother and provoked Grandmother to reprimand Fourth Elder Sister, Mother would definitely not spare me." Wei Qiuju also sat down in the corridor beside Wei Yuewu and explained while wiping away her tears.

Wei Qiuju's mother, Lady Zhang, was Wei Qiuju's legitimate mother. If she was really annoyed, it was extremely easy for her to deal with a poor powerless concubine-born daughter. Moreover, Wei Qiuju's birth mother had passed away long before, and she didn't have anyone to rely on. What she said did sound reasonable.

"Then... what do you want to do? Could it be that you want to accept the writing brush?" Wei Yuewu looked at her and asked with a smile.

"No... I can't accept it, I really can't accept it!" Wei Qiuju shook her hands wildly, and she looked quite terrified.

"You can neither keep it or accept it. If anyone finds out and tells Grandmother or Third Aunt, how do you explain it?" Wei Yuewu raised her eyebrows.

"Well... I... I wonder if I can ask Sixth Younger Sister to do me a favor?" Wei Qiuju's face was filled with apprehension, and her eyes were red as she looked at Wei Yuewu.

However, after seeing Wei Yuewu shaking her head slightly, she disappointedly lowered her head and started wiping tears off her face again.

"Could it be that Fifth Elder Sister wants me to keep the writing brush for you?" Wei Yuewu asked softly.

Wei Qiuju looked up eagerly at Wei Yuewu and said excitedly, "Sixth Younger Sister, it won't be long. I...After I explain it to Fourth Elder Sister and ask her to return the writing brush to Imperial Academician Xie, the issue will be settled. But you know what happened recently. Grandmother scolded me very seriously. I'm afraid that the writing brush will be discovered by others."

"Fifth Young Lady, you are afraid of being discovered by others to have a man's writing brush. But do you think it is OK for our Miss to do so?" Jin Ling couldn't help but ask at the side.

"Sixth Younger Sister is a legitimate daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Sixth Younger Sister, I think you have noticed that Grandmother thinks highly of anyone from the lineage of the Eldest Uncle. Although you are new in the mansion, Grandmother didn't neglect you at all. And Second Elder Sister was even..." Wei Qiuju's words sounded very self-resentful, as if she was lamenting that her background wasn't as good as Wei Yuewu's.

After saying those words, she started to wipe tears off her face again. Today, Wei Qiuju seemed to have endless tears at the corners of her eyes. After saying each sentence, she would wipe tears off her face and her eyes were both red.

"Why did you mention Second Elder Sister? Does Second Elder Sister have anything to do with the fact that Grandmother thinks highly of me?" Wei Yuewu raised her eyebrows and asked in surprise.

Wei Qiuju's behavior today was truly astonishing. Although she would usually pretend to be sad, she had never shed tears as much as she did today. A trace of coldness flashed in Wei Yuewu's eyes. She knew that Wei Qiuju was putting on a play, but of course, this play was not for her to watch.

But if she wasn't the intended audience of this play, who was the audience?

She looked at Jin Ling, and Jin Ling silently shook her head. There were no other suspicious people around, except for a few ordinary maids and old maidservants who passed by, and no one gave them a single glance.

"Sixth Younger Sister... I... I didn't mean that. I didn't think that Second Elder Sister's death had anything to do with you... But... but as soon as you came, Second Elder Sister was no longer favored by Grandmother, so she did a lot of unreasonable things. Although she herself was really the person to blame, people could see that in Grandmother's heart, Sixth Younger Sister's identity is different. It is also the same case with Third Elder Sister. She has always been the most favored among all the sisters, and even Second Elder Sister couldn't compete with her."

Wei Qiuju explained hurriedly, and she reached out to grab Wei Yuewu's hand with much intimacy.

Although she mentioned both Wei Yuejiao and Wei Yan, the implied meaning of her words was clear: Wei Yan's "death" was entirely due to Wei Yuewu. It was Wei Yuewu who had caused Wei Yan to end up by committing suicide. Such a fate was truly lamentable for a nice young noble lady.

Wei Yuewu's gaze fell on two maids who were walking along the path around the corridor.

The two maids wore ordinary clothes like other servants of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. There was nothing unusual with them. Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiuju had been sitting in the corridor. Previously, the two maids were picking something on the other side of the corridor. Now, they probably had finished their work and were about to return, but they took the path around the corridor.

Coincidentally, Wei Qiuju mentioned Wei Yan just as the two maids were passing by.

The only difference was that the clothes of the two maids were slightly new, as if they had just been made.

The servants of the mansion hadn't received new clothes for the upcoming new year, and they were still wearing the clothes of the previous year. It was impossible for them to wear such new clothes.

Unless they had just received their clothes, which meant that the two maids had just returned to the mansion.

Wei Yuewu noticed that when the two maids heard Wei Qiuju mentioning Wei Yan, their footsteps slowed down, but the two of them still whispered to each other without looking towards the place where she was seated.

It seemed that they were just two ordinary maids, but this did not dispel Wei Yuewu's doubts.

Wei Yuewu shook off Wei Qiuju's hand and stood up abruptly. Her expression darkened as she said sternly, "What did Fifth Elder Sister say? Second Elder Sister's death had nothing to do with me, but you and Imperial Academician Xie both played a part. If Fifth Elder Sister is unclear about something, let's go and make it clear in front of Grandmother, okay?"

Wei Qiuju did not expect that the smiling Wei Yuewu would turn hostile in an instant. She immediately stood up and hurriedly explained, "Sixth Younger Sister, that's not what I meant. I just said that in Grandmother's heart, Eldest Uncle's daughters were much more important than me. Even if something bad happened, Grandmother would not be too harsh with you for Eldest Uncle's sake."

"Take the incident at the banquet for instance. Third Elder Sister was apparently absent from the banquet that day. However, there were still people who suspected me in the end. If Third Elder Sister wasn't Eldest Uncle's daughter, how could such a thing happen?"

The more Wei Qiuju spoke, the more aggrieved she became, and tears immediately fell down her cheeks. She pulled the handkerchief with her hands and leaned on the pillar, sobbing with a drooped head.

Wei Yuewu's eyes turned colder and colder. Wei Qiuju suddenly burst into tears in this place. People who saw this must think that she had bullied Wei Qiuju, or suspected that she wanted Wei Qiuju to do something against her will so that Wei Qiuju cried out of control! Wei Yuewu did not believe that Wei Qiuju would not know what all these meant, not to mention that Wei Qiuju had repeatedly mentioned Wei Yan before.

"What are you two doing here?" A harsh voice came from the corner. Wei Yuewu's eyes narrowed slightly. Indeed, Wei Qiuju's performance here was designed to egg her on...

A tall young master with a bit of coldness slowly walked over from the corner.

The two maids outside the corridor hurriedly bowed. "Greetings, Eldest Young Master!"

Then, they walked around and stood behind him.

How could Wei Yuewu not know who this young man was at this time? He must be Wei Ziyang, the Eldest Young Master of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, the son born by Lady Li! The alarm immediately sounded in her heart. When did Wei Ziyang enter the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang? How come she did not know anything about it?

Her hands slowly clenched tightly under her sleeves and a trace of calm coldness flashed through the corners of her eyes, but in the next moment, she slowly relaxed.

“Greetings, Eldest Brother!” Wei Qiuju bowed. Wei Ziyang waved his hand as an indication for her not to curtsy him. However, his gaze fell on Wei Yuewu, his eyes deep and serene. After a while, he asked, “Sixth Younger Sister?”

“Greetings, Eldest Brother!” Wei Yuewu had already restored her usual calmness and bowed.

“Fifth Younger Sister and Sixth Younger Sister, why are you arguing here? Eldest Uncle is still on the way back home, but some people have already followed me back first. It’s really indecent of you two to argue here.” Wei Ziyang’s gaze was somewhat serious and masculine.

“Our Miss was...” Jin Ling wanted to speak up for Wei Yuewu, but Wei Yuewu pulled on her sleeve as an indication for her not to say anything.

“Yes, Eldest Brother. Fifth Elder Sister thought of something sad, so she cried out of control for a moment.” Wei Yuewu said indifferently, and her expression was both calm and generous.

By comparison, Wei Qiuju on the side appeared a little undignified.

Seeing that Wei Yuewu talked and behaved quite properly, Wei Ziyang’s expression calmed down and he waved his hand at them. “Well then, you two can go back and rest. Uncle’s things will be carried into the mansion by some servants.”

Since they had just returned from the border, they must have a lot of things to carry into the mansion. Therefore, the servants who carried the things must be men, and Wei Yuewu and other female members of the family had better avoid them.

Wei Yuewu bowed her goodbye. Then she turned around and walked towards the Lotus Courtyard. Jin Ling immediately followed.

Wei Qiuju didn't expect that she failed to egg on Wei Yuewu. Besides, Wei Yuewu even seemed to be angry with her. She shyly called, "Sixth Younger Sister!"

She actually followed behind Wei Yuewu.

Hearing Wei Qiuju calling from behind her, Wei Yuewu kept on walking, pretending not to hear her. She continued to walk forward, but this Wei Qiuju was really like a sticky candy, and she actually caught up with her.

Under the corridor, Wei Ziyang frowned and listened as the two maids reported to him what they had heard. These two maids were brought back from the border, and their loyalty was unquestionable. Right now, they were reporting on the conversation between Wei Qiuju and Wei Yuewu on Wei Yan.

Hearing that his proud sister had committed suicide, Wei Ziyang did not believe this news no matter what!

Thus, he found an excuse and took leave with his Eldest Uncle and returned to the capital first. He had just been to the backyard to pay his respects to the Madam Dowager. Meanwhile, the two maids were busy clearing out his courtyard and they had just been out to pick some plants Wei Ziyang liked in the garden.

The conversation between Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiuju was really a surprise to him. Was Wei Yan's death really related to that seemingly generous and delicate girl just now? She was Eldest Uncle's daughter!

But on second thought, it should be impossible. Hadn't she righteously required Fifth Younger Sister to go with her and see Grandmother? If she really was guilty, she wouldn't dare to react like that...

"Sixth Younger Sister, wait for me!" Wei Qiuju finally caught up with Wei Yuewu and gasped for breath while resting her hand on a tree.

"Is there anything else, Fifth Elder Sister? If it's about that writing brush, I'm afraid I can't help you." Wei Yuewu turned around and looked at the panting Wei Qiuju with an indifferent expression.

"I... I'm sorry, Sixth Younger Sister. I didn't know that Eldest Brother had been back. Just now... What I meant by those words was that in Grandmother's eyes, Third Elder Sister had more weight than me, not to mention that Sixth Younger Sister is also Eldest Uncle's legitimate daughter." Wei Qiuju explained while panting.

She didn't shed tears, but her eyes were red and she looked as if she would burst into tears the next moment.

"Fifth Elder Sister, I know you didn't mean it. You can go back now!" Wei Yuewu refused to reconcile.

Wei Qiuju did not expect that Wei Yuewu would actually have no interest in what she had said before. She was stunned for a moment. She had prepared a lot of words, but she was completely unable to say anything for a moment. She felt as if she had hit hard into the cotton without receiving any expected response. She opened her mouth and didn't know what to say next.

Wei Yuewu had shown such magnanimity that made her seem to be making a big fuss for no reason.

"Is there anything else, Fifth Elder Sister? If there's nothing else, I'll go back first. Some male servants are coming to the courtyard. It's not proper for us to stay here." Wei Yuewu said gently.

Chapter 188 – A Puppy That Was Inexplicably Sent As A Gift

"Alright then, I won't disturb Sixth Younger Sister anymore. I'll think of a way first. If I can't, I'll go find Fourth Elder Sister directly." Seeing that Wei Yuewu's expression did not change drastically, Wei Qiuju nodded and said cautiously.

"Go and find Fourth Elder Sister. Since Fourth Elder Sister has sent this writing brush over, there must be some deep meaning behind it. Perhaps she wanted Fifth Elder Sister to enter the mansion of Imperial Academician Xie. Although he isn't a high-ranking official yet, thanks to his talent, Fifth Elder Sister may have a good opinion of him. That's why Fourth Elder Sister specially sent a writing brush of his over to you." Wei Yuewu smiled and said.

These words were very meaningful. For a moment, Wei Qiuju's face alternated between green and pale and she was speechless.

Wei Yuewu took advantage of this opportunity to turn around and leave with Jin Ling. Read the latest stories on [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

“Miss, that writing brush...” Yueya said timidly behind Wei Qiuju.

“Move. Let’s return it to Eldest Sister and say that Sixth Younger Sister refused to accept it at all.” Wei Qiuju stamped her foot helplessly. Wei Fengyao sent someone to deliver this writing brush to her early this morning and asked her to think of a way to give it to Wei Yuewu. Wei Fengyao also told her that Wei Ziyang would be back today.

She told Wei Qiuju that when she saw the two maids of Wei Ziyang in the courtyard, she should talk about Wei Yan to imply that Wei Yan died entirely because of Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu had never seen Wei Ziyang’s two maids before. But Wei Qiuju knew them. So when she saw the two maids, she immediately shifted the subject of their talk to Wei Yan. She didn’t expect that Wei Yuewu would not admit that Wei Yan’s death was related to her even when there were only the two of them. Besides, Wei Qiuju herself didn’t dare to prove Wei Yuewu’s involvement in the matter.

After all, Wei Qiuju herself also played a part in Wei Yan’s affairs at that time.

Now, not only did she fail to let Wei Ziyang know that Wei Yuewu was responsible for Wei Yan’s death, she even failed to persuade Wei Yuewu to keep the writing brush for her. How could Wei Qiuju not be anxious?

Of course, this writing brush wasn’t from Imperial Academician Xie.

“Miss, you promised the people of Prince Nan’an Mansion that you would definitely try to send the writing brush over.” Yueya gently reminded.

Thinking that she would offend Wei Fengyao if she refused to complete the mission, Wei Qiuju hesitated. She still wanted Wei Fengyao to help her clean up her reputation, so she naturally did not dare to offend Wei Fengyao at this time.

"Then... what should we do?" Wei Qiuju stomped her feet anxiously.

In terms of status, Wei Yuewu was far more insignificant than Wei Fengyao. Therefore, she must deliver this writing brush to Wei Yuewu. However, the problem was that Wei Yuewu had become suspicious and would definitely not agree to accept the writing brush.

"Miss, have you forgotten about the Eldest Young Master who was mentioned by the heiress-apparent?" Yueya suddenly rolled her eyes and reminded Wei Qiuju.

"Yes!" Wei Qiuju's eyes lit up and she immediately thought of something. The gloominess on her face immediately faded and she nodded. She turned around and said, "Let's go find Eldest Brother!"

Eldest Brother had just returned to the mansion. He must have prepared quite a number of gifts. She could go and talk to him or even give him some advice...

"Miss, Fifth Young Lady went back!" Although Jin Ling was walking forward, she had been paying attention to her back. She was relieved to see that Wei Qiuju did not chase after them.

Wei Yuewu continued to walk unhurriedly, the corner of her lips curling into a faint cold smile. "Ask Shufei and Huamo if they are familiar with Fifth Young Lady's maid Yueya."

"Miss, you want to win Yueya over?" Jin Ling reacted quickly. Her eyes lit up and she clapped her hands. "That's a good idea. With Yueya by Fifth Young Lady's side, whatever Fifth Young Lady wants to do will be immediately known by you."

"Yueya will not betray Wei Qiuju." Wei Yuewu said lazily.

"Why? We can offer double payment to her. Isn't she happy with that?" Jin Ling was puzzled. In her opinion, Wei Qiuju was not good to Yueya. Why was Yueya so loyal to Wei Qiuju?

"Ask Shufei and Huamo to investigate Yueya and find out whose maid she is, or who gave her to Wei Qiuju." Wei Yuewu raised her eyes slightly. Every time she saw Wei Qiuju's maid Yueya, she felt that this maid was very special.

When Yueya looked at Wei Qiuju, even though she appeared timid, she did not have any sign of resentment. By comparison, although Wei Yan's maids were submissive to her, Wei Yuewu could always see hatred in their eyes. However, this maid of Wei Qiuju was different. It was really strange.

Wei Qiuju's birth mother passed away early. It was said that she wasn't very favored while she was alive. Therefore, Wei Qiuju didn't attract Wei Yuewu's attention, but now Wei Yuewu felt a little puzzled. If Wei Qiuju's birth mother was still alive, she might know about some things.

"Yes, I will inform Shufei and Huamo in a moment." Jin Ling nodded knowingly.

After returning to Lotus Courtyard, Jin Ling sent Shufei out. She sat down on a chair and took a sip of tea before hearing Huamo coming in to report.

"Miss, Prince Nan'an Mansion sent someone to say that there were invitations and gifts for the ladies. Madam Dowager asked someone to send the invitations and gifts to the ladies."

"There are also gifts?" Wei Yuewu picked up a plum blossom that had just been inserted into the wide-mouthed vase and gently twirled it. The flower was refracted by the sunlight and emitted a hazy luster.

Usually, when people sent invitations, they would not send gifts at the same time. Moreover, Wei Fengyao had sent gifts over every day over the past several days. It could be said that she had made a sincere apology by sending gifts to the mansion. There was no need for her to send gifts over again at this time.

"Yes, Miss, and that gift for you... seems to be a living creature!" Huamo said puzzledly. When she saw something moving in the basket that was held by the maid who came to deliver the gift, she was shocked. "The person sent by the heiress-apparent said that the heiress-apparent specially sent the gifts over to the young ladies in the mansion to have fun."

Silk cloth and jewelry had always been sent as gifts, but she had never heard of anyone sending a living creature as a gift. Therefore, Huamo could not guess what kind of gift Wei Fengyao had sent.

“Let them in!” Wei Yuewu carefully inserted the plum branch in her hand into the wide-mouthed bottle, her eyes slightly shining. She would like to see what trick Wei Fengyao was playing this time...

It was a very beautiful basket woven from bamboo and tied with a silk flower. After a layer of pink gauze scarf was lifted, people saw an extremely cute curly-haired puppy inside the basket. When it saw people looking at it, it rolled its big round eyes and stared at them with an extremely innocent and confused expression.

However, it was inexplicably pleasing.

“What a beautiful puppy!” Even Jin Ling couldn’t help but praise.

It had snow-white hair and a pair of pale green sparkling eyes, and no one could resist its cuteness.

“It is so cute and beautiful!” Shufei squatted down and touched the puppy’s head. The puppy obediently turned around and licked her palm twice. She giggled and turned to Wei Yuewu, who was still seated.
“Miss, this puppy is so cute!”

The old maidservant from the Prince Nan’an Mansion introduced with a smile, “Sixth Young Lady, this is something that our heiress-apparent sent to the young ladies to play with. Someone gave some puppies to our heiress-apparent. She saw that there were four puppies and therefore decided to send them to the four young ladies of the mansion.”

Wei Yuewu was also looking at this puppy. It was really a cute puppy. Even she was attracted and liked it very much. She believed that any young girl would like such a cute puppy when they saw it.

“Who gave this to your heiress-apparent?” Wei Yuewu smiled sweetly, her watery eyes under the long eyelashes brimming with joy. Obviously, she really liked it.

The old maidservant from the Prince Nan'an Mansion heaved a sigh of relief. Her heiress-apparent had repeatedly asked her to observe carefully if the Sixth Young Lady really liked the gift. Needless to say, she must be very happy to receive this puppy.

"Sixth Young Lady, the puppies seem to be a tribute gift from a vassal state. I don't know what kind of dogs they are. However, I heard that they came from a very far place. The heiress-apparent liked them at first glance. She thought that it would be best if the young ladies of the mansion could have fun by playing with the puppies. That's why she asked me to send the puppies here along with the invitations."

As the old maidservant said, she respectfully handed over the invitation.

The golden invitation had a bright red flower pattern that fitted in with Wei Fengyao's identity as the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an.

"Sixth Young Lady, besides the four young ladies of the mansion, our princess also wants to see several other close guests. The heiress-apparent asked me to deliver all the invitations at a time. So I'll take my leave now and send invitations to the other ladies!"

Looking at the puppy in the bamboo basket and then at the old maidservant who was all smiles, Wei Yuewu nodded and said, "Huamo, give her a reward!"

Huamo answered and smiled as she handed over a purse. The old maidservant accepted the purse and thanked Wei Yuewu in a natural and graceful manner before leaving happily.

Well, it seemed that the four young ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang did have different personalities.

Third Miss Wei was proud, Fourth Miss Wei was gentle, Fifth Miss Wei was a little acrimonious, and Sixth Miss Wei was magnanimous. On the whole, Fourth Miss Wei and Sixth Miss Wei were better than Third Miss Wei and Fifth Miss Wei. After all, the latter two were concubine-born daughters. Although Third Miss Wei was Marquis Hua Yang's favorite daughter, so what? She was still not comparable to Sixth Miss Wei.

The old maidservant decided to report it truthfully and let the princess make her own judgement!

“Miss, is there anything wrong with this puppy?” Jin Ling calmed down and asked as she looked at the puppy that was released by Shufei and circling around on the ground.

Wei Yuewu smiled and teased the puppy. “This old maidservant isn’t Eldest Sister’s servant.”

“Then whose servant is she?” Jin Ling was stunned for a moment and asked anxiously.

“She should be a servant of Princess Nan’an!” Wei Yuewu stood up leisurely and walked to the window. Outside the window, that old maidservant from Prince Nan’an Mansion was walking away with a smiling face. Her attitude was neither presumptuous nor timid, but it could be seen that no one knew her.

“Why is she a servant of Princess Nan’an but not the Eldest Young Lady?” Shufei also stopped teasing the dog and stood up to ask.

“If she is a servant of the Eldest Young Lady, there must be a few people in this courtyard who know her. Since the Eldest Young Lady was delivering gifts to her parents’ family, how could she not send her dowry maid here? For the past two days, the ones who came to deliver gifts were all old servants from the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.” Wei Yuewu smiled faintly and said thoughtfully.

So why did Princess Nan’an interfere and let someone send gifts to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang in the name of Wei Fengyao?

“This puppy... could it be from Princess Nan’an? Why is Princess Nan’an so kind to the young ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang?” Huamo asked in confusion.

Generally, a daughter-in-law must flatter the members of her mother-in-law’s parents’ family, but not the opposite. Besides, it was said that this Princess Nan’an had always been very overbearing.

Wei Yuewu smiled and shook her head. “The puppy should be a gift from the Eldest Young Lady, but this person who delivered the gift was chosen by Princess Nan’an.” She returned to her chair and sat down. Then, she received the tea from Huamo and after taking a sip, she put the cup aside and said with a light smile.

It seemed that the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law of Prince Nan'an Mansion each had their own plan!

Regardless of what Wei Fengyao had in mind, this Princess Nan'an had a different idea!

"Did the Eldest Young Lady have any aim by sending this puppy?" Jin Ling was worried about something else. The puppy looked really cute, but if it was really sent by the Eldest Young Lady, there must be something that deserved careful consideration.

"No matter what aim she had, bring the puppy along when we go to the Tranquility Courtyard this afternoon." Wei Yuewu said meaningfully.

Chapter 189 – Three Boxes

In fact, the Madam Dowager had already mentioned Wei Fengyao's invitation this morning. She also said that she agreed to let the four sisters go to Prince Nan'an Mansion together, but she warned them to obey the rules and not to do anything out of line, which would damage the reputation of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

She even told them to come over to her courtyard together in the afternoon. Then, she would tell them some things about Prince Nan'an Mansion so that they would not do something unknowingly that might offend Princess Nan'an.

The reason why the Madam Dowager said this was because Wei Yuejiao only returned to the mansion once a year and missed the previous banquets of many nobles. Wei Qiuju was a concubine-born daughter and had never been to many mansions. Wei Yuewu was raised in the countryside and had never seen much of the world. On the whole, the Madam Dowager felt that of all the young ladies of the mansion, Wei Qiufu was the only one who was presentable.

However, who would expect that Wei Qiufu did such a thing when she was on the mountain? There was no message from the Crown Prince Mansion yet, and apparently, there was no hope for Wei Qiufu to be selected as the Crown Princess.

Thinking of this, the Madam Dowager felt that she had been quite exhausted, so she could not help but sigh in her room.

Nanny Hong saw the Madam Dowager be worried and advised her from the side, “Madam Dowager, don’t worry. Third Young Lady and Sixth Young Lady are both outstanding. Although they haven’t seen much of the world, they just need to learn a little and then everything will be fine.”

The Madam Dowager sighed again. She closed her eyes and leaned against the chair. “What do you think about Qiufu’s chance?”

“Fourth Young Lady’s chance...of becoming the Crown Princess...” Nanny Hong knew what the Madam Dowager wanted to say. She hesitated for a moment. Although she was a favored servant of the Madam Dowager, she knew that there were some things that she should not talk about. This was also the reason why she had been favored by the Madam Dowager for so many years.

“Well, it is clear that there is no chance of Qiufu becoming the Crown Princess. It is even hard to say if she can become a secondary or junior concubine. She has been a docile and smart girl. Who would expect that she actually made such a mistake? No matter how outstanding Yuewu is, the Crown Prince will absolutely not marry her. However, Qiufu actually did so many crazy things just to compete with Yuewu. She really has no brain.”

The Madam Dowager coldly snorted in displeasure.

Nanny Hong said with a smile on her face, “Madam Dowager, the Fourth Young Lady didn’t know that before. If she had known that the Sixth Young Lady wouldn’t compete with her but would instead bring her good luck, she wouldn’t have done so. But in the current situation, I’m afraid the Empress wouldn’t like the Fourth Young Lady either.”

The Crown Prince definitely disliked Wei Qiufu. Even though he retained her lot, he didn’t show any subsequent interest in her. He didn’t even say what to do next. He clearly meant to give her a cold shoulder.

“Well, I will have a try with the Empress even if I have to brazen it out. If Qiufu enters the Crown Prince Mansion, then there may be hope for her to become the Crown Princess. Or...” The Madam Dowager

paused for a moment. Then she muttered to herself, "They surely will give face to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang for our contributions to the court over the years."

Nanny Hong didn't dare to echo with the Madam Dowager. Since she knew the inside story, she hurriedly lowered her head, pretending not to hear the Madam Dowager's words.

"But on second thought, I had better see if Qiufu is worthy of my endeavor first. If she was as blindfolded as Yan'er who couldn't see the situation clearly, then it's better for her not to enter the Crown Prince Mansion. Otherwise, she may end up dying like a fool. That Yan'er! She is a dignified legitimate daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, her father is a Minister, and her elder sister is an heiress-apparent. But who would expect that she was actually willing to debase herself to such an extent."

The Madam Dowager opened her eyes and said sternly. When she recollected what Wei Yan had done, she was so angry that she couldn't contain her anger.

Nanny Hong hurriedly poured out a cup of tea and handed it over, advising, "Madam Dowager, don't worry too much about the Second Young Lady. Didn't the Second Master say that in the future, when the situation improves, the Second Young Lady still has the chance of appearing in front of others again? Now, her death is just a pretext."

"Good for her father! What kind of pretext is it? Is it that easy for a dead person to come back to life? He has been an official for so many years, how could he think of such a plan!" The Madam Dowager took a sip of tea and put down the cup heavily. She continued discontentedly, "Fortunately, he is Yan'er's biological father. Otherwise, I would have suspected that he was trying to harm Yan'er."

"Madam Dowager, you're really worrying too much. Second Master has always loved Second Young Lady very much. How could he harm her? Second Master must have a plan, but it's not convenient for him to tell you about his plan for the time being." Nanny Hong explained with a smile.

"What plans could he have? He has always thought that the entire mansion of Marquis Hua Yang owed him something. However, he did not think about the situation at that time carefully. It was impossible for his father, the Old Master, to say no back then. Otherwise, the entire mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would be doomed." The Madam Dowager slapped her hands on the table twice angrily, disappointed with the Second Master for his failure to consider the overall interest of the mansion.

If the topic was continued, it would only anger the Madam Dowager. Nanny Hong immediately changed the topic. "Madam Dowager, the young ladies are coming in a while. Do you want to give those things to them?"

As expected, the Madam Dowager's attention was diverted when Nanny Hong mentioned the things she had prepared. Her expression relaxed a little. "Whether they were born by legitimate wives or concubines, daughters of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang are destined to be noble. Although those things are rare, they can prevent Princess Nan'an from looking down on the young ladies of our mansion."

"What about Sixth Young Lady?" Nanny Hong hesitated for a moment and asked.

There were only three such things, but there were four young ladies. Furthermore, it was obvious that the Madam Dowager had prepared them long before. At that time, the Sixth Young Lady had not returned to the mansion. Although the Second Young Lady had previously been counted, and the Fifth Young Lady was omitted, Nanny Hong, who knew the Madam Dowager's thoughts well, still omitted Wei Yuewu when talking about the allocation of the things.

"Give it to Yuewu first. Qiuju could wait!" The Madam Dowager frowned and then said after a quick thought.

"Well... Fifth Young Lady is actually quite pitiful." Nanny Hong said meaningfully.

The Madam Dowager touched her own forehead and sighed with a sense of loss, "She could only blame it on her status as a concubine-born daughter of the third branch."

"Madam Dowager, the Third Master was also your son!" Nanny Hong said cautiously.

The Madam Dowager's expression turned cold. "The Third Master doesn't know anything, and he won't have any complaint. The problem is with the Second Master. He knows something, but he doesn't know everything. Therefore, he thinks that I have always been biased towards the Eldest Master. In fact, it's not a matter of whether I want to be biased or not!"

Thinking of her second son's complaint in front of her, the Madam Dowager's heart grew heavier and heavier.

"Madam Dowager, why don't you explain the matter to the Second Master?" Nanny Hong asked cautiously.

"How can such a thing be discussed freely? People will get killed for discussing this kind of things. Although the Second Master is a high-ranking Minister, so what? The royal family can remove him from his position with a lift of their lips." The Madam Dowager shook her head exhaustively. She used her hand to support her forehead, and a harsh look flashed in her eyes. "But now that I have tried so hard to maintain the situation, the royal family will definitely repay me someday!"

"That's for sure, Madam Dowager. What you have done is worthy of the praise from both the Old Master and the royal family." Nanny Hong immediately nodded.

"Those things are just for decorative purposes. It's not a big deal. As long as they're happy, Qiuju won't have any problem with it. In the future, I will make it up by doing some additional favors to Ziyi and Zifeng from the third branch." The Madam Dowager said.

"That's right, Madam Dowager!" Nanny Hong knew that the Madam Dowager cared about her grandsons but didn't really care about Wei Qiuju, a concubine-born granddaughter. She immediately nodded and echoed her.

Three boxes were placed in a row in front of Wei Yuejiao, Wei Qiufu, and Wei Yuewu. Only Wei Qiuju had nothing in front of her.

"Grandmother, what's this? It's so beautiful!" Wei Yuejiao was the first to pick up the item in the box. She shook it and said happily.

"Grandmother, what is..." Seeing this unknown object, Wei Qiufu also became curious. She lowered her head and carefully observed it.

Wei Yuewu's gaze swept across the Madam Dowager and Nanny Hong's faces. She smiled and also looked down at the item in the box.

Wei Qiuju looked left and right, and her face turned pale. Her gaze swept across the other three sisters. She couldn't hide the jealousy in her eyes, but she immediately lowered her head.

"I heard that your eldest sister gave each of you a cute puppy. I remembered that when I was young, I also raised a dog. At that time, I even made three dog collars. Therefore, I let Nanny Hong take them out and give them to Yuejiao, Qiufu and Yuewu. Don't worry, Qiuju. I will let someone make another one for you."

The Madam Dowager said with a smile.

Hearing the Madam Dowager's words, everyone felt that the item in the box before them was indeed a collar-like item. It was a round and pure-gold collar with a small golden bell hanging on each corner. On top of it were a few red rubies the size of rice grains. It looked extremely beautiful.

With a slight shake of the collar, the sound of a bell could be heard.

"Grandmother, such a beautiful thing is actually a collar for a puppy!" Wei Qiufu exclaimed, picking it up and shaking it.

The bell sound was crisp, beautiful and pleasant to hear, and the collar was worth a lot of money!

If the Madam Dowager didn't say anything, people would believe at first glance that these items could be used as headwear for young ladies.

Nobody could imagine that such an exquisite item would actually be a collar for a puppy. They wondered how cute a snow-white curly-furred puppy would be if it wore such a collar to create a scene composed of the colors of gold, red, and white.

Wei Qiuju raised her head and stared at the box in front of Wei Yuewu. A burst of enthusiasm subconsciously flashed through her eyes and she thought to herself: That item should be hers, right? If Wei Yuewu hadn't returned to the mansion, then one of the three collars would be hers, but now there was this Wei Yuewu...

It was all because of Wei Yuewu that she didn't have this collar. How could such a beautiful and valuable collar be easily reproduced? Wei Qiuju knew clearly her position in the Madam Dowager's heart. It was impossible for the Madam Dowager to produce an identical collar for her with the same materials.

As she thought of this, a trace of sadness flashed through her eyes. She looked at Wei Yuewu hatefully, bit her lips, and lowered her head. If someone could tell that hers was a copy at a glance, she might as well not have it.

Wei Yuewu smiled coldly. She had been observing the expressions of everyone in the room. Of course, she had also noticed Wei Qiuju's expression. Wei Qiuju always looked like a lowly little white flower. She did not dare to confront other people, so she always took Wei Yuewu as her object of hatred.

When she received any unfair treatment, she felt that it was Wei Yuewu who had snatched her share! However, she never thought that even if Wei Yuewu hadn't come back, there was still Wei Yan. The Madam Dowager hadn't prepared anything for her at all in the first place.

Wei Qiuju was just this kind of person who appeared gentle and weak and made people feel pity for them. But in fact, they could spray venom at any time. There were completely ungrateful, just like Wei Qiuju who plotted against Wei Yuewu this time...

"Grandmother, how about giving mine to Fifth Elder Sister first?" Wei Yuewu smiled and pushed the box in front of her to Wei Qiuju.

Wei Qiuju was shocked and raised her head with a look of surprise.

"Sixth Younger Sister, are you telling us that you dislike Grandmother's gift?" Wei Yuejiao immediately put down the collar in her hand and sneered.

"How can I dislike such a beautiful collar? I can't thank Grandmother too much in my heart. It's just that Fifth Elder Sister is elder than me!" Wei Yuewu said calmly.

Indeed, in terms of age, Wei Yuewu was the youngest among all the sisters, and she was indeed the one that shouldn't have this collar.

Wei Qiuju's eyes started to be filled with desire. The corners of her eyes were filled with tears as she looked at the Madam Dowager with much expectation. Of course, the Madam Dowager was the one who had the most say here.

"Yuewu, although you are younger, you are a legitimate daughter. I have already asked Nanny Hong to make another one for Qiuju." The Madam Dowager glanced at Wei Qiuju and said indifferently.

Chapter 190 – A Writing Brush And A Puppy

To the Madam Dowager, even though Wei Qiuju was her own granddaughter, she was born by a concubine, and she was both envious and selfish. Such a granddaughter was really worthless in the eye of the Madam Dowager.

Wei Qiuju's face instantly turned pale after the Madam Dowager referred to her as a concubine-born daughter. She didn't dare to say anything else. She lowered her head, but she was unable to conceal the hatred in her heart.

Wei Yuejiao was also a concubine-born daughter. Why did Wei Yuejiao have it while she was neglected?

Wei Yuejiao had an awkward smile on her face. No matter what, she was still a concubine-born daughter. After glancing sideways at Wei Yuewu, she snorted coldly. She wouldn't be a concubine-born daughter for long. Mother said that when she entered the capital this time, she would definitely make her a legitimate daughter. She would definitely help her step on Wei Yuewu's head.

"Grandmother, will that custom-made collar be different from ours?" Wei Yuewu asked worriedly.

The Madam Dowager shook her hand. "How could it be different? It is made by the same master who made the other three collars."

The style was definitely the same, but the materials used would definitely be different. The Madam Dowager did not feel that she had to treat this concubine-born granddaughter as an equal to other legitimate daughters.

“Since Grandmother has already made a collar for Fifth Elder Sister, then I would keep it and thank Grandmother first. The collar that Grandmother gave me is so beautiful. I have never seen such a beautiful collar before.” Wei Yuewu also picked up the collar in the box. Her face was filled with joy. Anyone could tell that she really liked it.

There were four sisters, but there were only three collars. The Madam Dowager said that she customized them when she was young, and also said that she would customize another one that was exactly the same and made by the same craftsman for Wei Qiuju.

This meant that the Madam Dowager had lied: these collars weren’t customized by her when she was young at all. It should have been custom-made recently. Moreover, the collar in her hand was shining brightly, and it did not look like an old one. However, such exquisite craftsmanship also indicated that it could not be made in a day or two.

In other words, the Madam Dowager knew that three puppies would be sent into the mansion, so she customized three collars in advance. But now, there were clearly four puppies. Wei Fengyao should have promised to send three puppies to the mansion long before. As for the one extra puppy...

The meaning behind this was enough to make Wei Yuewu speculate. The corners of her lips curled into a sneer. It seemed that there was something special with the puppy that Wei Fengyao had given her...

The Madam Dowager asked Nanny Hong to explain the rules of the various mansions to the four sisters. She also specifically reminded them that Princess Nan’an had a special habit and asked them to take care not to do something that might offend Princess Nan’an when they were in the Prince Nan’an Mansion. She especially emphasized it once again to Wei Yuejiao and Wei Yuewu.

One of them only occasionally returned to the capital, and the other had been away from the capital for many years and both of them were unfamiliar with the rules in the capital. The Madam Dowager felt that it was necessary to remind them again and again, in case something really went wrong. The Eldest Master, Marquis Hua Yang, was about to return to the capital, so she couldn’t let anything happen to the two of them under her nose.

After Nanny Hong finished speaking, the Madam Dowager nodded her head as a signal.

Nanny Hong smiled as she entered the inner chamber. Not long after, she took out some gifts and piled them on the table in four portions. In addition, there were several pieces of brocade placed in the middle. The colors were very bright. It was clear at first glance that they were for the young ladies to choose.

“You girls, come take a look. These are the gifts your Eldest Brother brought you after he returned from the border. One portion for each person. This time, you all have the same gifts, except the color of the brocade. You can choose your favorite color by yourselves.” The Madam Dowager smiled and pointed at the brocade.

Wei Yuejiao let the maid pick up the gift in front of her. She glanced at Wei Yuewu and said coquettishly, “Eldest Brother is really polite. I’ve told him not to give me these gifts, but he still gave me one portion. Grandmother, I won’t take the brocade. Leave it to the other sisters!”

Although the brocade Wei Ziyang brought was gorgeous and beautiful, she had seen too much of them at the border. She might as well pretend to be generous and please the Madam Dowager. A moment ago, Wei Yuewu had hypocritically offered to give her collar to Wei Qiuju.

“Yuejiao is so sensible.” Although the Madam Dowager knew that Wei Yuejiao might not like the brocade, she still praised her for being generous.

Wei Yuewu smiled faintly as if she didn’t notice Wei Yuejiao’s provocative gaze. She stepped forward and picked the brocade.

“Sixth Younger Sister, can we exchange our gifts?” Suddenly, Wei Qiuju’s low voice sounded in her ears. Her watery eyes turned and landed on Wei Qiuju’s face...

“Fifth Elder Sister, what did you mean?” Wei Yuewu smiled and asked softly.

The two of them stood very close, leaning against each other and whispering softly. At this moment, everyone’s gaze fell on the brocade, so that no one noticed them.

"I... I want to exchange my gift with Sixth Younger Sister. I wonder if you..." Wei Qiuju blushed and stammered. It seemed she was about to say something, but she hesitated and her eyes were filled with tears. She looked extremely pitiful.

"Aren't they all the same?" Wei Yuewu asked in confusion.

The gifts were placed in front of each of them, and apparently, each of them had her own portion.

Their gifts did look exactly the same, except for a few items, and Wei Yuewu's gaze fell on a writing brush in Wei Qiuju's portion of gift.

It was a big and thick writing brush that seemed to require the person who used it to have powerful hands. Otherwise, it would be difficult to use this writing brush.

Normally, a writing brush given to an unmarried young lady could not be so thick. From whichever perspective, such a writing brush was intended for use by a man. However, if this writing brush was given by Wei Ziyang, it would be reasonable.

Wei Ziyang had been guarding the border with Marquis Hua Yang for so many years. People living at the border were tough and valiant, so it was nothing for a woman to use such a writing brush.

"Sixth Younger Sister, I like your ink stick. I don't have one. Can I give this writing brush to you in exchange for the ink stick?" Wei Qiuju gently wiped the corner of her eyes with her handkerchief and said pitifully, "Eldest Brother has always treated me well, but I never thought that I... was after all different from the three of you!"

This was a slender piece of ink stick. The top was made into a unique flower shape. It was obvious that it was intended for use by unmarried young ladies. Wei Yuejiao had one, Wei Qiufu had one, and Wei Yuewu also had one. Only Wei Qiuju did not have one. No wonder Wei Qiuju had such a sad expression.

Huamo suddenly moved as if she wanted to say something, but Wei Yuewu stopped her with a quick glimpse so that she stood still again.

Wei Yuewu looked at Wei Qiuju's sleeves and nodded calmly, "Fifth Elder Sister, let's just exchange our gifts!"

"Thank you, Sixth Younger Sister!" Wei Qiuju was overjoyed and excited as she hurriedly asked her maid Yueya to change the gifts in front of them.

Although the Madam Dowager saw clearly what happened, the two sisters were willing to do that, so she didn't say anything.

There were a total of twelve pieces of brocade. Originally, each of them had three pieces. Because Wei Yuejiao gave away her portion, each of the other three sisters had one extra piece. After they picked the brocade, the Madam Dowager let them go back to their own courtyard.

When the four of them left the courtyard together, Wei Yuejiao raised her head at Wei Yuewu. She only greeted Wei Qiufu before leaving with her maids.

Wei Qiufu looked increasingly calmer and she smiled at Wei Yuewu. "Sixth Younger Sister, I'm leaving first!"

"Fourth Elder Sister, take care!" Wei Yuewu smiled and nodded.

"Fifth Younger Sister, do you want to come with me?" Wei Qiufu invited Wei Qiuju. During this period of time, Wei Qiuju had been avoiding Wei Qiufu. How could Wei Qiufu not be aware of the estrangement between the two of them that had arisen because of Imperial Academician Xie?

The two of them both lived in the part of the mansion occupied by the third branch, so they definitely had to take the same way back.

"Sixth Younger Sister, then I'll go back with Fourth Elder Sister first!" Wei Qiuju had a helpless look on her face, as if she had no alternative but to follow Wei Qiufu.

"Fifth Elder Sister, take care!" Wei Yuewu was still having a light smile on her face.

Thus, Wei Qiufu and Wei Qiuju took another path and headed towards the third branch. Read the latest stories on [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

After they had both left, Wei Yuewu turned and walked towards her own Lotus Courtyard.

“Miss, I saw that piece of ink stick was hidden by Fifth Young Lady!” Seeing that there was no one else around, Huamo reported angrily. She had wanted to say it a moment ago, but was stopped by Wei Yuewu.

“She also put that writing brush in the gift!” Wei Yuewu turned her head to look in the direction where Wei Qiuju had left. Judging by the fact that Wei Qiuju hurriedly left and she even followed Wei Qiufu who was at odds with her, Wei Yuewu knew that something was going on.

A writing brush? Previously, Wei Qiuju had said that Wei Qiufu sent her a writing brush and told her that it was from Xie Qingzhao.

When Huamo was holding the gift from Wei Ziyang, Wei Yuewu specifically asked her to walk around in front of Wei Qiufu. She didn’t notice anything unusual about Wei Qiufu, who just glanced at the writing brush and then quietly looked away.

“Miss, did you mean that Fifth Young Lady took away her piece of ink stick, put a writing brush in her portion of gift and then asked to exchange it for your ink stick? What did she want?” Huamo asked in confusion.

“She wanted to give me the writing brush!” Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart and said indifferently.

That writing brush should be part of Wei Fengyao’s scheme!

“A writing brush? What did Fifth Young Lady want to do?” Huamo was stunned as she looked at the writing brush held in her hand. She immediately felt that the writing brush became much heavier.

“A writing brush and a puppy, maybe that’s where the problem is!” Wei Yuewu smiled faintly, her eyes glittering with a trace of serenity.

“Miss, is there also a problem with the puppy? But it looks so cute!” Huamo took a deep breath.

“Very cute stuff might also be poisonous!” Wei Yuewu said indifferently. “Has Shufei been out to investigate?”

She had sent Shufei to investigate the background of Yueya.

“Yes. Before we left, Shufei had gone out. She said that she had a bosom friend who was related to Yueya.” Huamo answered.

Shufei and Huamo were both bought by the mansion after Wei Yuewu returned. Both of them were intelligent and good-tempered, and they could easily get along with people. Therefore, Wei Yuewu asked Shufei to investigate the background of Yueya.

They returned to the Lotus Courtyard. Just after they put down the gifts, Shufei lifted the curtain and walked in.

“Miss, I got some information about Yueya.” Shufei reported to Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu was appreciating a pair of small earrings in her hand. She raised her eyebrows and said, “Speak!”

“I first heard from Nurse Mei that Fifth Young Lady’s birth mother was from an ordinary family. It was said that the Third Lady helped bring her into the mansion as the Third Master’s concubine. However, she died not long after giving birth to Fifth Young Lady. She was a stranger to almost the entire mansion.” Shufei sorted out the information she had collected and started her report with the information she got from Nurse Mei.

“This is something that all the older nurses in the mansion know. Nurse Mei was serving the Madam Dowager at that time, so she didn’t pay any attention to an insignificant concubine in the third branch.”

“But the information I got from Qingyan, Yueya’s distant cousin, is different. She said that Fifth Young Lady’s birth mother used to be a senior maidservant of an aristocratic clan. Later, something happened and she was released. At that time, Yueya’s mother was a junior maidservant who was released together with her.”