

Young Lady 231

Chapter 231 – A Warning Note Folded Into An Exquisite Flower

Wei Yuewu hesitated for a moment, but she still pushed open the window resolutely and nimbly. It was dark outside, and she couldn't see anything clearly. The surroundings were very quiet. Only when she pushed the window was there a faint sound, which seemed a little too abrupt in the night!

There was no one outside. Thanks to the faint starlight, Wei Yuewu suddenly saw a folded piece of paper on the desk beside the window. She reached out to pick it up and closed the window again.

She walked to the bed and lit up the lamp on the table. Then, she looked at the paper that was folded into a flower in her hand.

It was an exquisite method of paper folding. Wei Yuewu had never seen such a method before! The folded flower was also exceptionally beautiful. Moreover, this paper was not an ordinary piece of white paper, but was pink. Perhaps a young lady from a noble family had dyed it with flower petals when she had nothing to do in her boudoir. With this kind of folding method, it was as lifelike as a real flower!

It was very unique and original, and it had never been seen elsewhere before!

After carefully examining the folded flower, she found a corner and slowly opened it. Only then did she see the handwriting on it. The calligraphy was very beautiful. It looked like a woman's handwriting.

"United, sisters are fearless of no difficulty! Divided, they are sure to be taken advantage by others!"

Apart from these words, there was nothing else on the paper. There was no signature or anything special about it.

Needless to say, the so-called sisters here definitely referred to her and Wei Yuejiao. Under the light of the lamp, a trace of sharpness flashed in Wei Yuewu's eyes. She didn't expect that the clash between Wei Yuejiao and her would alert others to such an extent that this person specially sent her a note.

On the one hand, the person was advising her to compromise, but on the other hand, the person was warning her!

Moreover, judging by the looks of the note, it should be from the same person who delivered the jade thumb ring to her hand!

If that person could send a thumb ring or a note freely, did that mean the person could take her life with ease?

The so-called united sisters should refer to her dispute with Wei Yuejiao at the city gate. Or perhaps, the person saw Wei Yuejiao wearing a gorgeous dress and pushing her out of the carriage. That was why the person asked her to bear with it and make peace with Wei Yuejiao as sisters!

As a legitimate daughter, she had been “bullied” by a concubine-born daughter to such an extent, but this person who spied on her in the darkness repeatedly warned her and asked her to endure it. As she thought about the meaning behind it, Wei Yuewu’s face was covered with a layer of ice-cold hostility.

Did that mean her mother, Marquise Hua Yang who was murdered by Concubine Dong and Lady Li, must also bear with it, and if she couldn’t endure it, death was the right thing that she deserved?

She squeezed the note into a ball, stood up, walked to the dressing table, pulled out a drawer, and threw the paper ball inside.

She had endured all these in her maternal grandparents’ mansion for several years. But in the end, she was greeted with an assassination on a snowy night. In this life, she would no longer simply believe that tolerance would bring her peace. Moreover, there was also her mother’s blood feud. Even if she had to suffer the harshest punishments in hell, she would not let those people get away!

“What? Yan Huaijing is choosing beauties and sending them as birthday gifts for that minister of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang?” Chu Fangnan, the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Chu State, woke up from the performance of the actresses below the stage. His expression went cold as he turned to Qi Yunhao, the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Qi State. “What does he mean? Wei Luowu’s birthday has already been celebrated. Why is he sending gifts now?”

Qi Yunhao furrowed his brows and he was also puzzled, “Why didn’t he send gifts back then? Why is he sending gifts after Marquis Hua Yang entered the capital? Furthermore, he isn’t sending gifts to Marquis Hua Yang. Why?”

“Could it be that Yan Huaijing has some sort of conspiracy?” Chu Fangnan thought for a moment and asked seriously.

“I don’t know, but I think it’s very likely!” Qi Yunhao clapped his hands on the table. He stood up and began to walk with his hands folded behind his back.

Of course, the two of them would not think that Yan Huaijing had really forgotten to send birthday gifts to Wei Luowu. Given Yan Huaijing’s character and the boldness of the State of Yan, it was impossible for these mistakes to occur. Moreover, wasn’t Yan Huaijing trying to win over Marquis Hua Yang?

Although Wei Luowu was also an important official in the court, Wei Luowen was the most important one to the State of Yan. He was guarding the gateway to the State of Yan and the State of Lu.

“Well, I’ll also pick two beauties and send them over!” Qi Yunhao was baffled. After walking two rounds, he made up his mind to follow Yan Huaijing’s example.

“Then... should I also follow suit?” Chu Fangnan asked hesitantly.

“Yes, of course! We’ll both send gifts. No matter what Yan Huaijing plans to do, we’ll send our gifts to the mansion as well. In this way, the beauties he sends won’t be able to achieve anything in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang!” Qi Yunhao nodded forcefully.

Chu Fangnan also stood up. He knocked his palm twice with the folding fan and asked, “Then...for what reasons are we sending the gifts?”

“We just say that the dukes of the four major dukedoms have to be consistent in their actions.” Qi Yunhao sneered as he looked out of the window. How could Yan Huaijing do something without special purposes?

“Should we send beauties to Wei Luowen?” Chu Fangnan suggested. “No matter what, I feel that sending beauties to Wei Luowen is more reasonable and more appropriate. After all, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang doesn’t have a marquise yet! If Marquis Hua Yang doted on the beauties we send...”

He stopped in the middle of his sentence, but Qi Yunhao immediately understood his meaning. He waved his hand and the actresses singing and dancing on both sides silently retreated.

Qi Yunhao thought of something and he immediately made up his mind. “We aren’t going to do that. Wei Luowen has made great contributions. This time, his old wounds recurred. The Emperor has to show his concern, such as by granting a beauty to him or entering into a marriage alliance with him. The Emperor hasn’t said anything yet. What’s the point of us sending beauties to Wei Luowen?”

Chu Fangnan nodded. Just as he was about to give the order, he suddenly thought of something and asked, “Should we also go pick some virgin beauties from brothels?”

“We don’t need to do the same as him in this regard. We will choose beauties from our own mansions and send them over. We must act faster than Yan Huaijing. When his beauties are ready, our beauties have already been sent to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Even if he wants to do something, he will be a step behind us!” Qi Yunhao suddenly laughed proudly.

The four of them were heirs-apparent of the four major dukes, and they entered the capital at the same time. Of course, they had the same goal: to marry the two princesses who were about to reach the marriageable age of fifteen. Therefore, they were competitors in every respect. Moreover, the State of Yan seemed to have become more influential recently, and the State of Lu also started to be unruly. As a result, the State of Chu and the State of Qi were under enormous pressure.

These two heirs-apparent each had received orders from their fathers. Even if they couldn’t marry the princesses this time, they must prevent the marriage alliance between Yan Huaijing and the royal family. No matter what, they couldn’t let the State of Yan gain any benefit.

Earlier, the State of Yan seized the territories of a few small dukes with lightning speed. This was quite a surprise to them. As a result, after entering the capital, they were at a disadvantage everywhere. They always felt that their aura was much weaker, and the two princesses’ gazes were also focused on Yan Huaijing. This time, they could not fall behind him.

The two heirs-apparent both felt a lot of pressure, so the two of them, who were relatively weak, had no choice but to join hands to fight against Yan Huaijing!

“Alright! It’s settled!” Chu Fangnan clapped his hands and said. Indeed, if they acted ahead of Yan Huaijing, they could achieve twice the results with half the efforts.

Thus, four small sedans carried four beauties to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang as gifts to Minister Wei, whose birthday had just been celebrated.

Lu Yeli, the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Lu State, also received news. After thinking for a while alone in his study, he decided to follow suit. He also picked two beauties from his mansion and sent them to Minister Wei. As for the beauties from Yan Huaijing, although they were the first to be picked, they were the last to arrive.

Outside Wei Luowu’s study in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, four pairs of beauties knelt on the ground. They were all beautiful and charming. Of course, the two beauties sent by Yan Huaijing were the most seductive.

Inside the study, Wei Luowu had already circled around several times with his hands behind his back. His eyebrows were tightly furrowed, and he was extremely irritated. He did not know what was wrong with these heirs-apparent, who suddenly sent him beauties as supplementary gifts for his birthday.

Besides, each mansion sent two beauties, neither more or less than the norm!

An old maidservant hurriedly came over. Seeing the beauties in the courtyard, she was shocked. She hurriedly entered the room and bowed to Wei Luowu before asking respectfully, “Second Master, the Madam Dowager asked for your opinion on this matter.”

The Madam Dowager had already been alarmed since so many beautiful women were sent to the mansion as gifts. However, this matter was related to the four major dukes. The Madam Dowager did not dare to make any decision on her own. She felt that it was best to ask for her son’s opinion first.

“Accept, accept all of them!” Wei Luowu gritted his teeth. His voice seemed to have come from between his teeth. He couldn’t afford to offend any of them. Therefore, he had no option but to accept the gifts from all the four heirs-apparent.

“The Madam Dowager... Madam Dowager also thinks so. How about letting all of them live in the same courtyard? They came from different places, so they could just keep an eye on each other!” The old maidservant echoed Wei Luowu by conveying the Madam Dowager’s opinion. Of course, the so-called “keep an eye” meant these women would monitor each other.

“Alright, just do as the Madam Dowager said!” Wei Luowu also felt that this was the best way to solve the problem. It would be difficult for these women to cause trouble if the eight of them lived in the same courtyard and monitored each other.

Accepting these beauties was one thing. But Wei Luowu was clear that he dared not touch them!

The Emperor would probably be annoyed if he really got his hands on these beauties from the four heirs-apparent. When the Emperor talked to him about these heirs-apparent, his expression did not seem to be calm at all...

“Yes, Second Master. I will report to the Madam Dowager in a while. But the Madam Dowager also said that if you can’t decide, you can ask Lord Marquis. He will find a way.” The old maidservant added.

Wei Luowu’s face immediately turned pale, and his eyes were involuntarily filled with anger. But he still gritted his teeth and said, “Alright, I know!”

“Then I will take my leave!” The old maidservant did not notice that Wei Luowu could not suppress the anger on his face after hearing her words. She bowed respectfully and left to report to the Madam Dowager in the inner courtyard.

Wei Luowu clenched his hand and smashed heavily on the table. He lowered his voice and said hatefully. “It’s Wei Luowen again!”

“Second Master, the Lord Marquis is here!” A lad servant suddenly ran to the door and reported.

Wei Luowu raised his head with a gloomy expression. What was Wei Luowen doing here at this time? To have a good laugh at him?

“Invite the Lord Marquis in!” Suppressing the hatred in his heart, Wei Luowu slowly relaxed. There was no longer any coldness in his expression, which he failed to control a moment ago. Now, he only looked a little irritated.

Chapter 232 – Suspicion, Whom To Believe?

Wei Luowen held a painting in his hand, his expression as cold as ever. After sitting down, he put the painting aside and asked, “Second Brother, are these beauties in the courtyard sent over by the heirs-apparent?”

“Yes, Elder Brother, what do you think?” Wei Luowu had a troubled expression on his face, as if he was asking for advice with an open heart.

“What did Mother say?” Wei Luowen asked after thinking for a while.

“Mother asked me to put them all in the same courtyard and accept them for the time being!” Wei Luowu lowered his head and looked helpless.

“Then just do as Mother said!” Wei Luowen said decisively.

“Alright, I will do as Elder Brother and Mother said.” Wei Luowu nodded and let out a long sigh. He turned around and instructed the lad servant beside him, “Take them to Concubine Huang and let Concubine Huang find a courtyard for them.”

The lad servant received the order and led the eight beauties away. Quietness was restored outside the house.

“Second Brother, the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State also sent a painting.” Only then did Wei Luowen mention the reason why he had come over and unfold the painting.

The person in the picture looked full of life and vitality.

“This... isn’t this Yuewu?” After seeing the girl in the picture clearly, Wei Luowu stood up and asked in shock. “What did the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State mean by sending this picture?”

Anyone who knew Wei Yuewu would immediately recognize that the person in the painting was none else than Wei Yuewu. She was standing under a willow tree. However, the mansion in the background was not the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, nor was it casually drawn. There was a character on the plaque that read “Yan”.

“Elder Brother, is this the mansion of the Duke of Yan?” Wei Luowu’s expression also became nervous. This Yan Huaijing sent him two beauties. Now, he sent over a drawing of Wei Yuewu. However, the background was the mansion of the Duke of Yan. From whichever perspective, this matter was not simple.

“Second Brother, I want to know if His Majesty has the intention to marry a princess to the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State?” Wei Luowen looked at Wei Luowu coldly. “I haven’t been in the court for a long time. Although I’m back now, His Majesty has ordered me to have an audience with him after resting for some time. I know little about these heirs-apparent.”

This was also the reason why he came to see Wei Luowu. This Second Brother had always been in the court. He must be well-informed about the four heirs-apparent who entered the capital. As for the Emperor’s attitude, he believed that Wei Luowu could not be totally ignorant.

“Elder Brother, His Majesty didn’t make it clear. However, I think he has the idea of marrying a princess to one of the heirs-apparent. The Duke of Yan State has annexed several small dukedoms. His Majesty is furious, but he can’t do anything to the Duke of Yan State. The Yan State has been fully-fledged. Right now, a marriage alliance is the best option.”

Wei Luowu thought for a moment and said with a serious expression. He did not conceal anything from Wei Luowen.

“Right now, the most important thing is which princess shall be selected. His Majesty may not have made up his mind.”

Of course, it was impossible for the Emperor to say those words to him. However, he was the Minister of Rites, and he could naturally understand the Emperor's intentions.

Wei Luowen seemed to have thought of something and his expression changed. He slapped heavily on the table and said sternly, "Could it be that Yan Huaijing wanted Yuewu to be a part of the princess' dowry?"

On the surface, it was a marriage alliance. But the four major dukes were all powerful, and the marriage was to some extent a condescending way of the Emperor to make peace and cement relations with the duke. In this case, it was a custom for the princess to have young ladies from aristocratic families as part of her dowry.

"This... shouldn't be the case! Yuewu's status isn't low!" Wei Luowu frowned. He wasn't too sure. Considering the Emperor's fear of Yan State, if Yan Huaijing insisted, it wasn't impossible for the Emperor to agree.

"Hmph, Yuewu is my daughter, how can she be someone's concubine!" Wei Luowen was furious.

"Elder Brother, this matter hasn't been decided yet. Just wait and see. Perhaps this Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State has other intentions. I heard that he saved Yuewu's life." Wei Luowu advised.

"When did it happen?" Wei Luowen was unclear about the details of the assassination of Wei Yuewu on her way to the capital.

"It should happen when Yuewu was back to the capital. I heard that the Heir-apparent of Yan happened to pass by when Yuewu encountered robbers and he saved Yuewu. After that, Yuewu insisted that Marquis Jing Yuan who went to pick her up had plotted to kill her. Elder Brother, you saw with your own eyes that Yuewu had a deep-seated hatred for Marquis Jing Yuan. She also said that the concubine of Marquis Jing Yuan was Wei Yan's maid. My poor daughter. She is now dead and cannot defend herself!"

Wei Luowu sighed and skillfully switched the subject before finally mentioning Wei Yan, knowing that Wei Luowen felt pity for this young and beautiful niece who had died of illness in the prime of her youth.

“Forget it. Since Yuewu is really unwilling to marry Marquis Jing Yuan and the engagement was cancelled by Her Majesty, no harm was done to her reputation. However, you should be careful with the eight beauties who were sent over this time.” Wei Luowen stood up.

“Don’t worry, Elder Brother, I know what to do. And you too. Don’t be anxious about Yuewu’s marriage. Yan Huaijing sent the drawing to you on purpose. We need to be cautious!” Wei Luowu saw Wei Luowen off at the door and said with concern.

Wei Luowen patted Wei Luowu on the shoulder and nodded. Then, he turned around and left.

As Wei Luowen walked away, Wei Luowu’s expression slowly turned cold, and a faint gloomy expression appeared on his face...

Wei Luowen headed towards his own courtyard. He didn’t walk far before he stopped. After thinking for a while, he turned around and walked towards Lotus Courtyard where Wei Yuewu lived. He wanted to ask what had happened back then. Perhaps his Second Brother failed to give a detailed account because he didn’t know much about that assassination.

In Lotus Courtyard, Wei Yuewu heard that Wei Luowen was coming and she brought a few maids with her to wait respectfully at the gate.

Wei Luowen went inside and took the seat of honor. Jin Ling served tea and stood by the side respectfully.

Wei Luowen put the painting aside but did not open it. He took a sip of tea and pondered for a moment before raising his head to ask, “Yuewu, what happened when you encountered robbers on your way to the capital? Why are you so sure that Marquis Jing Yuan did it? I heard that you were saved by the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State. He was also passing by at that time, right?”

Wei Yuewu was seated below. Hearing Wei Luowen’s question, she suddenly smiled and said, “Father, the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State saved my life. At that time, I said that after you returned to the capital, I would ask you to pay him a visit and express your thanks to him. But, since Father is asking about the assassination, are you suspicious that it was done by the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State?”

Wei Luowen didn't expect Wei Yuewu to be so straightforward. He hesitated for a moment and said, "How could there be such a coincidence?"

Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart. It seemed that someone had intentionally said something to this father of hers to make him suspicious of Yan Huaijing.

"Yes, it was quite a coincidence that was almost hard to believe. The route I traveled was decided by the people sent by my Second Aunt. Originally, I wanted to stop in an inn and have a rest early that day because it was snowing. But the people sent by my Second Aunt said that there was a better place to rest not far ahead. So, we kept moving in the night despite the snow. As a result, we encountered robbers. All the people except me were killed. What was even more coincidental was that when Mo Huating's mask fell, my maid recognized him."

Wei Yuewu smiled, but her smile was cold as she stared fixedly at Wei Luowen.

"Afterwards, I found Mo Huating was accompanied by Shuiyun, the personal maid of my Second Elder Sister. At that time, she was dressed as a man and was disguised as one of Mo Huating's guards. If father still thinks that Mo Huating is wronged, I have nothing to say."

Hearing a tragic thing being uttered so calmly by such a girl who still looked a little childish, Wei Luowen felt his heart ached for a moment. Then, he burst into rage, "Mo Huating actually dared to murder my daughter! I..."

"Father, I didn't conceal anything in front of you. But if you ask whether I have any evidence, my answer is no!" Wei Yuewu gently interrupted Wei Luowen. She uttered those words with a determined and affirmative tone. "You can trust me, you can trust someone else. I have told the truth!"

She was such an exquisite-looking girl with such an innocent look on her face. But when she said these words, there was not even the slightest bit of expectation in her tone, as if she didn't care whether Wei Luowen believed it or not.

Feeling a heavy blow to his heart, Wei Luowen subconsciously touched the scroll of painting beside him and he instantly calmed down. He took a deep look at Wei Yuewu before answering, "I... Of course I believe in you!"

Wei Yuewu said she had no evidence. Only Wei Yuewu and her maid saw what had happened. But now that the maid was dead, Wei Yuewu was the only witness, and what she said was even less convincing as evidence. It was even possible that Wei Yuewu's words were all fabricated!

"I haven't seen Father for so many years. I didn't expect Father would believe in my one-sided words!" Wei Yuewu's eyes flashed with a hint of a smile, and her expression was very naive.

"You are my daughter, of course I believe you!" Wei Luowen looked at Wei Yuewu and unconsciously lowered his voice.

In other words, he would believe whatever she said because she was his daughter. What about Wei Yuejiao? Fortunately, she had been prepared beforehand. Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to get her mother's screen back from Wei Yuejiao no matter what.

Wei Yuewu stood up and bowed deeply to Wei Luowen. "Thank you, Father, for trusting me. I hope you can go to the mansion of the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State when you are free and convey my gratitude to him for saving my life!"

Looking at this daughter who bowed respectfully and thanked him, Wei Luowen suddenly felt his heart aching. "You... don't have to do this. You're my... daughter. This is what I should do!"

"Father, have you seen my mother?" Wei Yuewu suddenly changed the topic and asked with a smile.

Wei Luowen thought she was asking about the eternal lantern in the Plum Blossom Nunnery. He forced a smile and answered, "Every time I am back to the capital, I will go to see your mother. But this time, because of my old injuries, I haven't had time to go to the Plum Blossom Nunnery yet. The day after tomorrow, I will bring you to offer some incense to your mother."

"Father, you don't have to go to the Plum Blossom Nunnery to see my mother. The eternal lantern in the Plum Blossom Nunnery is kept very well. I've already been there twice." Wei Yuewu blinked her eyes, her long eyelids flickering with a deep thought. Indeed, her mother's eternal lantern was one of the few that were taken the best care of in the Plum Blossom Nunnery.

Could this have something to do with the fact that her father went to the Plum Blossom Nunnery every time he returned to the capital?

Wei Luowen did not understand what Wei Yuewu meant. After pausing for a moment, he asked, "Where else can I see your mother if I don't go to the Plum Blossom Nunnery?"

"Father, do you still remember the courtyard where my mother used to live?" Wei Yuewu stared coldly at Wei Luowen, her eyes deep and serene...

Chapter 233 – Wrath And Screen

"That place... has long been deserted. There is nothing special about it that is worth seeing!" Wei Luowen said with a faint gaze, his expression cold and indifferent.

"Father, you are wrong. I think that courtyard is the best place to hold a memorial ceremony for my mother. No matter how well the eternal lantern is taken care of in the Plum Blossom Nunnery, my mother has never lived there before. Visiting the courtyard where my mother used to live when she was alive is a much better way to remember my mother." Wei Yuewu said softly, her long butterfly-like eyelids flashing, her eyes slightly red.

Although she had thought of these words in advance, her words did sound reasonable.

Seeing Wei Yuewu's sad appearance, Wei Luowen felt a little sad and he hesitated for a moment before saying, "But..."

"Father, you can take me to the Plum Blossom Nunnery after you feel better. However, I do hope to frequently visit the place where my mother used to live. If Father doesn't want me to go there, then I will forget it." Wei Yuewu lowered her head and her lips curled up in bitterness, but she was still trying to find an excuse for Wei Luowen. "Perhaps Father doesn't want to disturb my mother!"

Seeing his daughter was so sensible and obedient, Wei Luowen felt sad no matter how well he could keep his self-control. He made up his mind and nodded. "Alright, I'll go there with you!"

“Father, are you really willing to take me there?” Wei Yuewu raised her head in surprise, perfectly expressing her joy and excitement. “I knew Father would agree. I even specially asked Nanny Hong for the key and took a few maids with me to clean up the courtyard. It took us an entire day to do the cleaning.”

Wei Luowen suddenly recognized the meaning behind these words. His face darkened and he asked, “Didn’t anyone clean your mother’s yard?” He couldn’t help but get angry, his face looking harsh and ferocious.

He had been to Concubine Dong’s courtyard. The courtyard was quite clean, and it looked as if there had always been people living in it. There was not the slightest sign of desolation. He could tell at a glance that someone had been taking care of the courtyard.

Although he seldom went to see Rui’er’s courtyard, he had always instructed people to take care of it. Although Rui’er was no longer around, he hoped that one day, when he was no longer obsessed with the past, he would be able to see the courtyard in exactly the same shape as it looked like when Rui’er was still alive.

“Mother’s courtyard might have been left unattended for a long time. The dust in the house was very thick. Fortunately, there is no major damage. Mother has passed away for so many years, and her courtyard is still kept in such good conditions. It can be seen that the mansion has attached much importance to my mother.” Wei Yuewu’s face was filled with gratitude.

However, when this gratitude fell into Wei Luowen’s eyes, it was nothing but dense mockery.

Concubine Dong only came back to the mansion once a year, but her courtyard was still tidied up as if it was occupied. As for Rui’er’s courtyard, despite his instructions to keep it clean and tidy, it had fallen to such conditions that Yuewu had to personally clean it. This drastic difference made him feel a little annoyed at Concubine Dong while he was unhappy with the Madam Dowager at the same time.

She was merely a little concubine. Who gave her the right to step on Rui’er?

“Let’s go take a look!” Without hesitation, he stood up and strode out.

For so many years, he had indeed not been to Rui'er's courtyard. On the one hand, he was afraid of the painful memories of the past once he saw the courtyard, and on the other hand, there was much inconvenience... But this could not be the reason why the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang abandoned Rui'er's courtyard!

Wei Yuewu stretched out her hand and pulled at Wei Luowen's sleeve. Then, she asked uneasily, "Father, should we ask my grandmother first?"

"No need!" Seeing Wei Yuewu's expression, Wei Luowen became even angrier.

"But, Father, I don't have the key. It is kept by Nanny Hong." Wei Yuewu bit her lips in embarrassment.

"I'll send someone to get it!" Wei Luowen turned around and signaled Wei Yuewu to follow him. Meanwhile, he instructed a lad servant to ask Nanny Hong for the key.

The lad servant received the order and hurried away.

"Father, how about waiting here for a while longer. Grandmother's courtyard is a distance away from my courtyard. Why don't we sit here for a while longer and wait for the key to arrive before we go?" Wei Yuewu suggested as she instructed Huamo to make a new cup of tea for Wei Luowen.

Thinking about the time it would take the lad servant to run back and forth between the Madam Dowager's Tranquility Courtyard and Lotus Courtyard, Wei Luowen nodded and sat down again.

"Miss, I will immediately serve tea to Lord Marquis." Hearing Wei Yuewu's instructions, Huamo came out of the inner room and bowed respectfully to Wei Luowen. After that, she retreated. Not long after, she brought in a cup of fresh tea and placed it in front of Wei Luowen. Jin Ling put away the other cup of tea that was served to Wei Luowen earlier.

"Father, try the tea made by Huamo. It tastes good!" Wei Yuewu looked at Wei Luowen expectantly and smiled.

“Alright, I’ll try it!” Seeing her daughter’s expectant gaze, Wei Luowen took the tea that was still hot. He took a sip and tasted it. He praised, “Not bad, Yuewu’s maid makes good tea!”

“Thank you, Lord Marquis!” Huamo immediately bowed respectfully to Wei Luowen.

“When I was in my maternal grandparents’ mansion, I liked drinking tea. The tea Qin Ruo made at that time was also good... But... on the way to the capital, Qin Ruo sacrificed her life to save me...” Wei Yuewu choked slightly.

Her words reminded Wei Luowen that she had left home since childhood and had been raised in her maternal grandparents’ mansion. The maid called Qin Ruo should have served her since childhood and have an extraordinary relationship with her. Otherwise, the maid would not die for Wei Yuewu. When she thought of this maid now, she would naturally feel sad.

Wei Luowen changed the subject. He pointed at Huamo and said with a smile, “This maid of yours is also not bad, she is quite competent!”

“She is really not bad. Not only can she make tea, but she is also good at making embroidery. A few days ago, I saw a screen in Third Elder Sister’s courtyard and thought it looked good. When I came back, I drew a picture of the screen and asked Huamo to embroider it. When Father came here, she did not come out immediately because she was embroidering the screen.”

Wei Yuewu touched the corner of her eyes with her handkerchief and said with a smile.

“Screen?” Seeing that Wei Yuewu was no longer sad, Wei Luowen carried on the topic and asked as he put the tea on the table.

“Huamo, go and show your embroidery to my father.” Seeing that her goal had been achieved, Wei Yuewu turned around and smiled at Huamo.

Of course, Huamo was prepared. She turned around and entered the inner room. Soon, she took out an embroidered drawing whose outline could be roughly seen and presented it to Wei Yuewu. Then, Wei Yuewu unfolded it in front of Wei Luowen.

"Father, look at this picture. How do you like Huamo's embroidery? I also applied a few needles myself, but it took a long time to embroider only a small piece. Huamo embroidered day and night, and even her eyes hurt. That is how she has been able to embroider such a picture."

Actually, this picture had not been completed yet. It was only just beginning to take shape. Many details still required a lot of effort. It would at least take several times more effort to complete the whole embroidery.

Wei Luowen was actually not interested in this, but when he saw Wei Yuewu's eager and wishful gaze, he unconsciously turned his gaze to the embroidered picture, and his expression immediately changed.

"Did you see this screen in Yuejiao's courtyard?" Wei Luowen's face darkened.

"That's right. Before Third Elder Sister came back, this screen was already there. Grandmother told me to go check it with Fifth Elder Sister. We both thought it was very beautiful, so I deliberately drew a picture of it." Wei Yuewu sighed. "I wondered where Concubine Dong and Third Elder Sister found such a beautiful screen. Who knows how long it would take to embroider such an exquisite screen?"

"Miss, I roughly estimated. Even if I could obtain extra help, it would take me at least two years to embroider that screen." Huamo replied with a smile at the side.

"Two years? That's a long time!" Wei Yuewu exclaimed.

"Yes, Miss. There are several scenes on the screen." Huamo replied.

Wei Luowen abruptly stood up and said, "Yuewu, I suddenly remembered that there's something else I have to do. I also need to order the kitchen to make some snacks that your mother liked and take them to worship your mother. Wait here. After I finish my work and the snacks are ready, I'll take you to your mother's courtyard."

"Yes, Father!" Wei Yuewu nodded as if she really didn't see the harsh look in Wei Luowen's eyes. She respectfully saw Wei Luowen off at the gate of the courtyard. However, she didn't immediately turn around. As she coldly watched Wei Luowen leaving, she fell into a deep thought. Well, it seemed that her father remembered her mother's screen...

"Miss, is Lord Marquis really going to Third Young Lady's courtyard?" Jin Ling and Huamo both came out with Wei Yuewu. At this time, Jin Ling looked in the direction for which Wei Luowen headed and asked uneasily.

"Yes, of course he is going there! He must go and see if I'm telling the truth. After all, she is his beloved daughter!" Wei Yuewu sneered. Well, he had said that he would listen to his daughter's words, hadn't he?

"Will the Third Young Lady deny having anything to do with the screen?" Huamo blinked and asked.

"Yes, she will!" Wei Yuewu sneered and turned around to walk into the courtyard. Of course, Wei Yuejiao would say this screen had nothing to do with her or Concubine Dong.

Huamo got anxious. She stamped her feet and turned around to catch up with Wei Yuewu and asked anxiously, "Then what should we do? Lord Marquis will definitely listen to the Third Young Lady."

"Of course he will listen to the Third Young Lady, but facts speak louder than words." Wei Yuewu said meaningfully. She had already thought of this point. Wei Yuejiao had grown up beside Wei Luowen and was doted by him. How could Wei Luowen easily believe her, a daughter who had been separated from him for years?

Therefore, her words were of course supported by a fact, and it was also a fact that Wei Yuejiao could not refute. No matter what Wei Yuejiao said, it would be in vain.

Of course, this evidence was also in Wei Yuejiao's courtyard. Wei Luowen would understand everything at a glance, and there was no need for her to speak anything. Anyone with eyes would know the truth at a glance.

When Concubine Dong returned this time, she was determined to become the new Marquise Hua Yang. Well then, she would let her father see clearly what kind of a person Concubine Dong was! Concubine Dong was definitely not innocent regarding the screen...

Huamo didn't understand at once, but seeing Wei Yuewu's confident appearance, she felt that it wasn't appropriate to ask further questions. She then looked at Jin Ling, who only gave her a meaningful smile before unhurriedly following Wei Yuewu into the room.

"What? Why is my father coming to my courtyard?" Wei Yuejiao really didn't expect Wei Luowen to come at this time. She hurriedly went to welcome him at the door of the house. Before she could speak, a maid had already lifted the curtain and Wei Luowen walked in angrily with a cold face.

Without speaking anything, he landed his gaze on the screen that was placed by Wei Yuejiao on the side. His expression first turned cold, and then his entire face darkened. The veins on his forehead started to beat fiercely...

Chapter 234 – Punishment, A Room Of Maids

The exquisite eight-folded screen with gorgeously embroidered patterns was left there casually. Such a screen would look decent wherever it was placed.

But now, it could be seen that it was half-closed and casually put aside. How could Wei Luowen not recognize the eight-folded screen? This was once his wife's most beloved item, and he had even joked that he would leave it to their daughter as her dowry in the future.

But now, it was given to Wei Yuejiao, not to Wei Yuewu. The meaning behind this was enough to make Wei Luowen furious.

Without taking a seat, he directly asked, "Where did this screen come from?"

"Fath... father, thi... this was prepared a long time ago. I didn't know anything about it. It was here when I moved in." Wei Yuejiao also noticed that something was wrong. She rolled her eyes and hastily denied.

Of course, she would not say that she knew this screen belonged to Wei Yuewu's mother, and that she once saw it and asked for it from Concubine Dong because she liked the screen. Wei Yuewu's mother had been dead for so many years. Why did Father still remember a screen in her room? Think of this, she felt indignant and a trace of hatred flashed in her eyes.

Wei Yuewu's mother blocked her mother's path and had long deserved to die. Now she had been dead for so many years, but Father still constantly kept her in mind. Although her mother, Concubine Dong, had served him for so many years, he still didn't elevate her to the position of Marquise Hua Yang. This was all because of Wei Yuewu and her mother.

"Why didn't I see it before?" Although Wei Luowen rarely came to Wei Yuejiao's bedroom, he would occasionally visit her.

"I don't know. The screen was already here when I moved in today. Was there something wrong with the screen, Father?" Wei Yuejiao looked perplexed.

"Someone, take the screen away! Send it to the Sixth Young Lady's courtyard!" Seeing Wei Yuejiao's innocent expression, Wei Luowen suppressed the fire in his heart and instructed the lad servant beside him.

Of course, the owner of this screen was Yuewu. This screen was intended by Rui'er as a gift to Yuewu back then. It was also a screen that Rui'er had personally embroidered. The maid of Yuewu also said that embroidering such a large piece would take her a long time. Thinking about this, he felt extremely sad in his heart.

Although Rui'er was dead, he would not allow anyone to blaspheme her!

Seeing that Wei Luowen was actually returning this screen to Wei Yuewu, Wei Yuejiao secretly gritted her teeth in hatred. This was such a shame to her!

Originally, she had intended to use this screen to humiliate Wei Yuewu, but now she was actually ordered to return it to her. However, she had no reason to reject and she dared not disobey Wei Luowen. So, she could only retreat to the side and clench her teeth.

"Yes!" The lad servant answered. He went out and found two old menial maidservants to help move the screen out. The screen was half closed. Now that it was to be moved away, it should be completely closed. The two old maidservants first carefully extended it a little. After that, they planned to close it again.

As they extended the screen, Wei Luowen suddenly saw broken parts of the screen that were previously hidden when the screen was half closed. He immediately shouted, "Stop!"

The two old maidservants retreated, not knowing what was wrong. Wei Luowen hurriedly stepped forward and pulled open the half-closed screen. He immediately saw a few small holes in the screen. It was clear that someone had deliberately stabbed the screen with something sharp. Although the holes weren't very big, the screen was completely destroyed.

"Now tell me! What happened to the screen?" Wei Luowen turned his head, and even the wound on his face looked bloody.

Unprepared, Wei Yuejiao was so frightened that her feet went limp and she almost fell.

"Fath... father..." She didn't expect that Wei Luowen would notice this detail, but she was so scared by him that she almost couldn't say anything.

"Who made these holes?" Wei Luowen asked sternly, unable to conceal his anger.

"Fath...father, I... I don't know who did it. It was placed here... and it broke just like that... may... maybe the maids accidentally broke it!" Wei Yuejiao hurriedly explained and looked at the maids beside her.

"Did I blame you wrongly?" Wei Luowen's tone was cold and oppressive like a storm.

Wei Yuejiao's eyes reddened. She wiped away her tears and sobbed, "Father, didn't you always say that we should be lenient?" I thought that it was just a screen, and it wasn't a big deal if it was broken. Therefore, I didn't ask to find out who did it. "

How could she dare to say that she had purposely broken the screen to make Wei Yuewu feel uncomfortable?

"Someone, bring down all the maids in this room and find out who did it." Wei Luowen ignored Wei Yuejiao's cries and the wound on his face looked more and more ferocious. He ordered the lad servant

with a hostile tone. Everyone could sense the killing intent in his words clearly. This was not just a simple inquiry.

“Lord Marquis, please spare our lives!” The maids in the room, including Wei Yuejiao’s two trusted maids, Jinzhu and Yuzhu, couldn’t stand any longer and immediately knelt on the ground.

“Father... Father!” Wei Yuejiao was shocked and almost lost control of her expression. She did not expect Wei Luowen to do this for a Wei Yuewu. She hurriedly pulled Wei Luowen’s sleeve and said, “Father... they didn’t do it on purpose.”

Whether it was done intentionally or not, Wei Luowen had already seen it clearly. Someone had done it intentionally by stabbing the screen with a sharp item and scratching it. The goal was to destroy the screen. He looked at Wei Yuejiao with a sullen face. This daughter whom he had always cherished so much turned out to have such a temperament!

“Someone!” Shaking off Wei Yuejiao’s sleeves, Wei Luowen turned around and was about to leave. Since the maids in this room did not properly advise their mistress, there was no need for them to be alive.

“Father, please spare their lives. This screen...this screen was accidentally scratched by me.” Seeing Wei Luowen’s ruthless and determined expression, Wei Yuejiao knew that it was not good. Needless to say, those maids would definitely confess after receiving a few strokes, especially Jinzhu and Yuzhu, who knew a lot about what she and her mother did. She mustn’t let her father beat them up.

She clearly knew that it was a better option to confess out of her own rather than let these maids tell the truth. She was familiar with her father’s temperament and knew that he appreciated people who took the initiative to admit their mistakes.

“You did it?” Sure enough, after hearing Wei Yuejiao’s words, Wei Luowen stopped and asked coldly.

Wei Yuejiao knelt down and cried as she explained, “Father, I really accidentally broke it. When I entered the door that day, I was a little dizzy and happened to hit the screen. The hairpin on my hair hooked onto the embroidered screen. The maids were eager to remove the hairpin for me and accidentally broke the screen.”

As she finished speaking, she covered her face with a handkerchief and cried.

“Then what about the other scratches?” After all, Wei Yuejiao was his beloved daughter. Moreover, she had also volunteered to admit her mistake instead of shirking her responsibility. Wei Luowen’s expression eased up a bit.

“That... that’s because after I saw the scratch made by my hairpin, I was afraid that Grandmother would punish me. Therefore...I randomly stabbed a few more holes and planned to take the screen away.” Wei Yuejiao knew that her crying had worked, and her expression became even more frightened. “Father, I have been living with you and I am not familiar with Grandmother’s temperament and was afraid of being punished by her.”

“If you were afraid of being punished by your grandmother, why did you stab a few more holes in the screen?” Wei Luowen was still furious.

“Because... because if it was found out, I could... say that it was done by the maids. According to the custom, when many people make the same mistake together, no one will be punished. I thought maybe the maids would not be punished!” Wei Yuejiao stuttered, but this reason did soften Wei Luowen’s grim expression.

But that doesn’t completely dispel Wei Luowen’s anger at seeing the damage to his beloved wife’s old possession.

“Get up!” Wei Luowen said.

“Yes, Father!” Wei Yuejiao thought that she had passed the test smoothly and was overjoyed. She was secretly happy, but when she heard Wei Luowen’s next sentence, her body stiffened.

“Someone, take all these maids down and give each of them ten heavy strokes as a punishment for not preventing the young lady from damaging the screen when she came up with such an idea. Besides, move the screen away and send it to my study first.”

If Yuewu saw her mother’s screen being treated like this, how sad would she be? It was better to have it sent to his study first.

"Father..." Wei Yuejiao cried out as she collapsed on the ground. However, Wei Luowen only gave her an indifferent look before turning around and leaving with his servants.

Seeing Wei Luowen leave so resolutely, Wei Yuejiao's eyes were almost filled with venom. Wei Yuewu, it was Wei Yuewu again, she would definitely not let Wei Yuewu off!

"Miss, it is a pity that you didn't see it. The Third Young Lady's courtyard was full of cries, and some people said that they heard the Third Young Lady crying too! The two maids called Jinzhu and Yuzhu were also beaten. Everybody was scared. It was such a scene! There were many people peeking from outside. Everyone was saying that as soon as you returned, the Third Young Lady fell out of Lord Marquis' favor. After all, you are the Lord Marquis' favorite daughter, and the Third Young Lady can't compare with you at all!"

Jin Ling proudly described the scene she had just seen to Wei Yuewu, feeling especially happy.

It was clear that the Third Young Lady was not comparable to the Sixth Young Lady in terms of status and identity. However, the entire mansion treated the Third Young Lady extremely well as if she was a legitimate daughter. The maids of Wei Yuewu had long felt unconvinced.

"Where's the screen?" Wei Yuewu put down the teacup in her hand. Her eyes looked ice-cold. Her mother's screen had been deliberately scratched by Wei Yuejiao. Moreover, she had scratched it more than once to vent her anger. How could she not be angry?

Mother personally embroidered it stitch by stitch. As long as she remembered that Mother had embroidered this screen with joy but it was destroyed by Wei Yuejiao, she would not be able to conceal her anger. Was Wei Yuejiao crying now? This was only the beginning...

"The screen was carried to Lord Marquis' study!" Jin Ling thought for a moment and answered.

"Huamo, can you fix it?" Wei Yuewu raised her eyes to look at Huamo.

"I... I am not sure. I have to take a look at the damage caused by the Third Young Lady to decide whether the screen can be fixed." Although Huamo was skilled in embroidery, she did not dare to guarantee.

However, this screen was not here right now, and Huamo was unable to assess how serious the damage was.

“Miss, will Concubine Dong be informed and plead with Lord Marquis?” Shufei suddenly thought of something and reminded Wei Yuewu.

“Yes, of course! Then, I am going to my father’s courtyard and take a look at this screen.” Wei Yuewu stood up. She straightened her back, and a cold mockery appeared on her face. “Concubine Dong should have received the message by now. I will see her in my father’s study! What a coincidence!”

How could she allow Wei Yuejiao to get away so easily? She had already anticipated their reactions when she was planning this...

Chapter 235 – Nowhere To Run

Concubine Dong’s goal was to become Marquise Hua Yang. As she was back in the capital this time, she was determined to achieve her goal. But now, her precious daughter Wei Yuejiao kept running into trouble and making things difficult for her. Of course, she had to make a gesture in front of Wei Luowen. Well, Wei Yuewu did need for her to make a gesture!

Within Marquis Hua Yang’s study, Concubine Dong knelt on the ground and wiped away her tears while crying, “Lord Marquis, it was all because of the lax discipline of me that Yuejiao was so indulgent. She actually came up with such a method to protect her maids. She is really... really too disappointing!”

These words sounded as if she was criticizing Wei Yuejiao, but in fact, they were intended as a compliment to Wei Yuejiao for being kind to her maids and protecting them.

As soon as something happened to Wei Yuejiao, Concubine Dong was informed about it. However, she didn’t dare to show up immediately. She knew that if her reaction was too fast, it would definitely make Wei Luowen suspicious.

After the situation escalated, probably everyone in the mansion knew about this matter, so she came over in a hurry to apologize to Wei Luowen. In this way, there wouldn’t be any doubt about her action.

“Lord Marquis, I am willing to receive punishments together with Yuejiao, so as to prevent her from making such a mistake again in the future. I have told her time and again that she is a dignified young lady, so she is naturally different from Lord Marquis in her way of doing things, but... Yuejiao... didn’t understand!” Concubine Dong cried sadly and uttered those words helplessly.

Concubine Dong’s words actually alluded to something. When they were at the border, a soldier made a mistake. His immediate superior, an assistant general, not only took the initiative to shoulder the blame for him, but he was also beaten up because of this. However, Wei Luowen appreciated him very much. Later, he promoted the assistant general and made him a trusted aide.

Of course, when Concubine Dong mentioned this, she was using this matter to highlight the kindness and righteousness of Wei Yuejiao as she tried to protect her maids. Concubine Dong was confident that if the Lord Marquis would definitely believe her and would not reprimand Yuejiao.

She took a handkerchief and wiped her tears while secretly observing Wei Luowen’s expression. Sure enough, she discovered that although his expression was still gloomy, it wasn’t fierce. It was obvious that his anger had gradually subsided. She felt proud in her heart. As long as she tried harder, this matter could be resolved, and she could even take this chance to slander Wei Yuewu.

“Father! Concubine Dong...” A sweet and bright voice came from the door.

Wei Luowen raised his head and saw his younger daughter standing at the door. She looked at Concubine Dong in a dumbfounded manner. Apparently, she was surprised.

Realizing that his daughter saw him reprimanding Concubine Dong, Wei Luowen was quite embarrassed. He waved his hand and signaled for Concubine Dong to get up.

Although Concubine Dong hated Wei Yuewu for her “timely” arrival, she knew that this was not the time for her to continue with her explanation. She wiped away her tears and stood up beside Wei Luowen. She would like to see what this little bitch wanted to do!

She had been informed that Lord Marquis first came out from the courtyard of that little bitch and then went straight to find trouble with Yuejiao. She knew at a glance that it was this little bitch who had taken the initiative to cause trouble.

She didn't expect this little bitch to be so cunning. She had just returned to the mansion, and bad things occurred one after another, which were all related to this little bitch. She must take more care.

"Yuewu, why are you here at this time?" Wei Luowen calmed down and slowly asked.

"Father, I want to ask if you've got the key? It's been a long time since Father left and nobody was sent to my courtyard. I was a little anxious, so I came to take a look myself." Wei Yuewu looked blankly at Concubine Dong, whose eyes were still red as if she really didn't know what had happened.

"Haven't you heard anything about what happened?" Wei Luowen asked. His gaze landed sharply on Wei Yuewu. Lotus Courtyard's location was excellent. If something big happened in Wei Yuejiao's courtyard, it was impossible for Wei Yuewu not to be informed!

"Father, nobody informed me about anything. My Lotus Courtyard is very quiet. Normally, it's rare for someone to come over, and I and my maids would do some embroidering in the house!" Wei Yuewu smiled and said softly, looking at Wei Luowen straight in the eyes.

Her courtyard was in the center of the mansion, yet it was such a quiet place. It was clear that Wei Yuewu had nobody to help her in the mansion. Even if something big happened, no one would take the trouble to tell her.

By comparison, Concubine Dong's reaction was really quick, especially considering the fact that she was just a concubine who lived in a remote courtyard and hadn't been back for a year...

For the first time, Wei Luowen felt that Concubine Dong had stretched her hands out a little too far! After all, this was the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, not the mansion where they lived at the border.

Hearing Wei Yuewu's words, Concubine Dong gripped her handkerchief and cried out in her heart, her eyes flashing with hatred, and her heart couldn't help but beat wildly twice.

"Lord Marquis... I was worried that Yuejiao would easily run into trouble because she grew up at the border and was too straightforward. Therefore, I assigned a loyal old maidservant to serve her!" Concubine Dong hurriedly explained.

She was saying that she was not sensitive to everything that happened in the mansion, but she was worried about Wei Yuejiao so that she assigned a confidant to serve Wei Yuejiao.

“Father, this... why is this screen like this?” Wei Yuewu’s gaze paused. She landed directly in front of the screen and immediately cried out in alarm. She quickly walked forward and reached out to touch the scratches on the screen. Her heart ached endlessly.

“Father, what’s going on? Who purposely scratched such an exquisitely embroidered screen?” Wei Yuewu asked in confusion.

“Your Third Elder Sister... her maids accidentally scratched the screen. I have had these maids severely punished.” Wei Luowen found it difficult to answer Wei Yuewu’s blunt question as he looked at the pair of clear and familiar eyes.

Wei Yuewu seemed to be extremely fond of the screen. She touched the scratch with her hand and muttered to herself, “The maids in Third Elder Sister’s room are really careless. They actually scratched such a good screen. The embroidery material is excellent, and there are patterns embroidered on the screen. Now the threads and the material have been broken together. I wonder how much force and hatred it would take to scratch this screen like this?”

She uttered these words in a low voice, but when they landed in Wei Luowen’s ears, they were like a heavy blow to him. He hurriedly walked up and carefully examined the scratches on the screen. Then, he slowly reached out and touched the edges of the scratches, and his face immediately became fierce.

The screen was made of extremely fine material. Even after so many years, it was still incomparably strong. There wasn’t the slightest bit of slack in its edges. Besides, there were embroidery threads on the screen. Even if he wanted to break the screen, he would have to use a lot of strength. How could it be casually scratched by maids?

When Concubine Dong saw Wei Luowen’s expression, she knew that something was wrong.

“Yuewu, if you like this screen, you can take it away first. However, the scratches...” Wei Luowen looked at Wei Yuewu whose face was full of pity and said softly. However, he could not tell her that it was embroidered by her own mother.

“Father, I like it. I’ll think of a way to repair the scratches on it. I wonder if it can be repaired successfully. Such a beautiful screen must have taken a lot of effort to make. How could it be damaged so casually?” Wei Yuewu gently touched the scratch and couldn’t let go of it.

Looking at Wei Yuewu’s pitiful gaze, Wei Luowen felt guilty. He lowered his voice subconsciously and said gently, “Alright, you go back first. After the key is ready, I’ll send for you. Don’t worry.”

“Thank you, Father!” Wei Yuewu thanked him and left obediently. Wei Luowen sent someone else to carry the screen to Lotus Courtyard for her.

After Wei Yuewu left, Wei Luowen snorted coldly.

Concubine Dong hurriedly came out from behind and knelt down in front of Wei Luowen again. She hurriedly explained, “Lord Marquis, please punish me. It was all because of my lax discipline that Yuejiao only focused on learning from men and forgot that she was actually a girl!”

At this time, Concubine Dong could do nothing but continue her previous strategy. By offering to take the blame, she hoped to calm down Wei Luowen and avoid a disastrous result.

“Someone, bring Concubine Dong to the Third Young Lady’s courtyard and let her take the Third Young Lady to observe the punishment!” Wei Luowen slapped his hand heavily on the table and said sternly.

“Lord Marquis...” Concubine Dong didn’t expect Wei Luowen to give her a slap in the face like this and she immediately cried out in alarm.

“What? Do you still want to say that your good daughter wanted to protect her maids? She just lied to protect herself! She clearly hated Yuewu. She deliberately found the Madame’s screen and intentionally scratched it. I just wonder who dared to move the Madame’s items out!”

The more Wei Luowen spoke, the angrier he became, and he slapped his hand heavily on the table again. “I remember telling you that you would never be able to surpass the Madame!”

“Lord Marquis, I don’t dare. I never dare to think of surpassing the Madame, nor do I dare to be disrespectful to the Sixth Young Lady. But I don’t know who did this. Someone deliberately sent that screen to Yuejiao, or perhaps Yuejiao was instigated by others so that she was angered. Lord Marquis, heaven knows that I have always been loyal to you!”

Concubine Dong cried as she affirmed her loyalty, her expression filled with grievances. In the past, Wei Luowen would always calm down once she put on such an expression. But now, as long as Wei Luowen thought of the screen that his wife had cherished when she was alive was seriously scratched, he couldn’t suppress his anger at all.

“You are wise to behave yourself. Now quickly go and discipline your daughter and let her understand that there’s a difference between a legitimate daughter and a concubine-born daughter. She will never be able to compare with Yuewu!” Wei Luowen berated loudly.

“Yes, yes... I will go right now, I will go immediately!” Concubine Dong cried as she stood up, knowing that staying here at this time would only anger Wei Luowen even more. It was all because of the little bitch Wei Yuewu. If it wasn’t for her, Lord Marquis would never become suspicious of her and Yuejiao.

Besides, Lord Marquis would never say that her precious daughter Yuejiao could never compare to the daughter born by that bitch!

This little bitch was indeed difficult to deal with. Before she could take actions, she had suffered repeatedly! Thinking about the cause and effect of today’s incident, she couldn’t help but feel even more hateful. She walked to the porch and wiped away her tears. She looked at Wei Yuewu’s back that just disappeared, and it seemed poison was about to flow out of her eyes.

“Concubine?” Nanny Dong whispered. She secretly pointed towards the study and anxiously said, “Could it be that the Marquis does not want to make you his official wife?”

“This matter is not up to the Lord Marquis!” Concubine Dong’s beautiful face was ferocious. After all her years of scheming, how could she allow her plan to be ruined by a little bitch! “Urge the Second Lady and tell her that if she doesn’t have a good way to deal with this little bitch, she probably won’t be able to return to the mansion for the rest of her life!”

"You meant the matter that was mentioned by the Second Lady last time?" Nanny Dong was Concubine Dong's most trusted servant. She immediately understood what Concubine Dong meant and was shocked.

"Yes. If she still wants to go back to the mansion, ask her to act quickly!" Concubine Dong smiled gloomily, her eyes flashing with a hint of viciousness.

Concubine Dong's goal was to become Marquise Hua Yang. As she was back in the capital this time, she was determined to achieve her goal. But now, her precious daughter Wei Yuejiao kept running into trouble and making things difficult for her. Of course, she had to make a gesture in front of Wei Luowen. Well, Wei Yuewu did need for her to make a gesture!

Within Marquis Hua Yang's study, Concubine Dong knelt on the ground and wiped away her tears while crying, "Lord Marquis, it was all because of the lax discipline of me that Yuejiao was so indulgent. She actually came up with such a method to protect her maids. She is really... really too disappointing!"

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After the situation escalated, probably everyone in the mansion knew about this matter, so she came over in a hurry to apologize to Wei Luowen. In this way, there wouldn't be any doubt about her action.

"Lord Marquis, I am willing to receive punishments together with Yuejiao, so as to prevent her from making such a mistake again in the future. I have told her time and again that she is a dignified young lady, so she is naturally different from Lord Marquis in her way of doing things, but... Yuejiao... didn't understand!" Concubine Dong cried sadly and uttered those words helplessly.

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Realizing that his daughter saw him reprimanding Concubine Dong, Wei Luowen was quite embarrassed. He waved his hand and signaled for Concubine Dong to get up.

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"Haven't you heard anything about what happened?" Wei Luowen asked. His gaze landed sharply on Wei Yuewu. Lotus Courtyard's location was excellent. If something big happened in Wei Yuejiao's courtyard, it was impossible for Wei Yuewu not to be informed!

"Father, nobody informed me about anything. My Lotus Courtyard is very quiet. Normally, it's rare for someone to come over, and I and my maids would do some embroidering in the house!" Wei Yuewu smiled and said softly, looking at Wei Luowen straight in the eyes.

Her courtyard was in the center of the mansion, yet it was such a quiet place. It was clear that Wei Yuewu had nobody to help her in the mansion. Even if something big happened, no one would take the trouble to tell her.

By comparison, Concubine Dong's reaction was really quick, especially considering the fact that she was just a concubine who lived in a remote courtyard and hadn't been back for a year...

For the first time, Wei Luowen felt that Concubine Dong had stretched her hands out a little too far! After all, this was the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, not the mansion where they lived at the border.

Hearing Wei Yuewu's words, Concubine Dong gripped her handkerchief and cried out in her heart, her eyes flashing with hatred, and her heart couldn't help but beat wildly twice.

"Lord Marquis... I was worried that Yuejiao would easily run into trouble because she grew up at the border and was too straightforward. Therefore, I assigned a loyal old maidservant to serve her!" Concubine Dong hurriedly explained.

She was saying that she was not sensitive to everything that happened in the mansion, but she was worried about Wei Yuejiao so that she assigned a confidant to serve Wei Yuejiao.

"Father, this... why is this screen like this?" Wei Yuewu's gaze paused. She landed directly in front of the screen and immediately cried out in alarm. She quickly walked forward and reached out to touch the scratches on the screen. Her heart ached endlessly.

“Father, what’s going on? Who purposely scratched such an exquisitely embroidered screen?” Wei Yuewu asked in confusion.

“Your Third Elder Sister... her maids accidentally scratched the screen. I have had these maids severely punished.” Wei Luowen found it difficult to answer Wei Yuewu’s blunt question as he looked at the pair of clear and familiar eyes.

Wei Yuewu seemed to be extremely fond of the screen. She touched the scratch with her hand and muttered to herself, “The maids in Third Elder Sister’s room are really careless. They actually scratched such a good screen. The embroidery material is excellent, and there are patterns embroidered on the screen. Now the threads and the material have been broken together. I wonder how much force and hatred it would take to scratch this screen like this?”

She uttered these words in a low voice, but when they landed in Wei Luowen’s ears, they were like a heavy blow to him. He hurriedly walked up and carefully examined the scratches on the screen. Then, he slowly reached out and touched the edges of the scratches, and his face immediately became fierce.

The screen was made of extremely fine material. Even after so many years, it was still incomparably strong. There wasn’t the slightest bit of slack in its edges. Besides, there were embroidery threads on the screen. Even if he wanted to break the screen, he would have to use a lot of strength. How could it be casually scratched by maids?

When Concubine Dong saw Wei Luowen’s expression, she knew that something was wrong.

“Yuewu, if you like this screen, you can take it away first. However, the scratches...” Wei Luowen looked at Wei Yuewu whose face was full of pity and said softly. However, he could not tell her that it was embroidered by her own mother.

“Father, I like it. I’ll think of a way to repair the scratches on it. I wonder if it can be repaired successfully. Such a beautiful screen must have taken a lot of effort to make. How could it be damaged so casually?” Wei Yuewu gently touched the scratch and couldn’t let go of it.

Looking at Wei Yuewu’s pitiful gaze, Wei Luowen felt guilty. He lowered his voice subconsciously and said gently, “Alright, you go back first. After the key is ready, I’ll send for you. Don’t worry.”

"Thank you, Father!" Wei Yuewu thanked him and left obediently. Wei Luowen sent someone else to carry the screen to Lotus Courtyard for her.

After Wei Yuewu left, Wei Luowen snorted coldly.

Concubine Dong hurriedly came out from behind and knelt down in front of Wei Luowen again. She hurriedly explained, "Lord Marquis, please punish me. It was all because of my lax discipline that Yuejiao only focused on learning from men and forgot that she was actually a girl!"

At this time, Concubine Dong could do nothing but continue her previous strategy. By offering to take the blame, she hoped to calm down Wei Luowen and avoid a disastrous result.

"Someone, bring Concubine Dong to the Third Young Lady's courtyard and let her take the Third Young Lady to observe the punishment!" Wei Luowen slapped his hand heavily on the table and said sternly.

"Lord Marquis..." Concubine Dong didn't expect Wei Luowen to give her a slap in the face like this and she immediately cried out in alarm.

"What? Do you still want to say that your good daughter wanted to protect her maids? She just lied to protect herself! She clearly hated Yuewu. She deliberately found the Madame's screen and intentionally scratched it. I just wonder who dared to move the Madame's items out!"

The more Wei Luowen spoke, the angrier he became, and he slapped his hand heavily on the table again. "I remember telling you that you would never be able to surpass the Madame!"

"Lord Marquis, I don't dare. I never dare to think of surpassing the Madame, nor do I dare to be disrespectful to the Sixth Young Lady. But I don't know who did this. Someone deliberately sent that screen to Yuejiao, or perhaps Yuejiao was instigated by others so that she was angered. Lord Marquis, heaven knows that I have always been loyal to you!"

Concubine Dong cried as she affirmed her loyalty, her expression filled with grievances. In the past, Wei Luowen would always calm down once she put on such an expression. But now, as long as Wei Luowen thought of the screen that his wife had cherished when she was alive was seriously scratched, he couldn't suppress his anger at all.

“You are wise to behave yourself. Now quickly go and discipline your daughter and let her understand that there’s a difference between a legitimate daughter and a concubine-born daughter. She will never be able to compare with Yuewu!” Wei Luowen berated loudly.

“Yes, yes... I will go right now, I will go immediately!” Concubine Dong cried as she stood up, knowing that staying here at this time would only anger Wei Luowen even more. It was all because of the little bitch Wei Yuewu. If it wasn’t for her, Lord Marquis would never become suspicious of her and Yuejiao.

Besides, Lord Marquis would never say that her precious daughter Yuejiao could never compare to the daughter born by that bitch!

This little bitch was indeed difficult to deal with. Before she could take actions, she had suffered repeatedly! Thinking about the cause and effect of today’s incident, she couldn’t help but feel even more hateful. She walked to the porch and wiped away her tears. She looked at Wei Yuewu’s back that just disappeared, and it seemed poison was about to flow out of her eyes.

“Concubine?” Nanny Dong whispered. She secretly pointed towards the study and anxiously said, “Could it be that the Marquis does not want to make you his official wife?”

“This matter is not up to the Lord Marquis!” Concubine Dong’s beautiful face was ferocious. After all her years of scheming, how could she allow her plan to be ruined by a little bitch! “Urge the Second Lady and tell her that if she doesn’t have a good way to deal with this little bitch, she probably won’t be able to return to the mansion for the rest of her life!”

“You meant the matter that was mentioned by the Second Lady last time?” Nanny Dong was Concubine Dong’s most trusted servant. She immediately understood what Concubine Dong meant and was shocked.

“Yes. If she still wants to go back to the mansion, ask her to act quickly!” Concubine Dong smiled gloomily, her eyes flashing with a hint of viciousness.

Chapter 236 – Suspicious Death Of The Marquise

"Yes, then madam, do you want to write a letter first?" Nanny Dong nodded and asked in a low voice.

"I will immediately write a letter after I get back. You must personally deliver it to the Second Lady and reiterate my point to her. Besides, don't forget, this is the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. You must call me concubine, not madam!" Concubine Dong nodded and coldly glanced at Nanny Dong as she warned her.

"Con... concubine, yes, I remembered. Just now, Nanny Hong sent a message saying that Lord Marquis is going to visit Marquise Hua Yang's old courtyard and she asked us if there is anything unsightly in the courtyard?" Nanny Dong awkwardly responded and switched the topic to report on the messages she had just received from the maid.

"There's nothing unsightly there. I sent people to clean it up several times back then." Concubine Dong shook her head, but then she stopped and asked, "Why did Lord Marquis suddenly want to visit that courtyard?"

"I don't know either. It should be proposed by the Sixth Young Lady. Nanny Hong said that the Sixth Young Lady had personally brought people to clean up the courtyard before as if she knew that Lord Marquis would go and visit the courtyard." Nanny Dong said hesitantly. "Nanny Hong actually doesn't know what's going on. She just said that Lord Marquis would go over to take a look."

"Let it be. After so many years, how can there be any clue left behind?" Concubine Dong sneered.

"Concubine, aren't you going to take a look?" Nanny Dong reminded.

"Yes, I will, but not now!" Concubine Dong said meaningfully. That courtyard had always been the place she longed for the most. Of course she would go there, and she would enter the courtyard as its new owner.

As long as that little bitch was subdued by her, who else would remember that bitch Qin Xinrui in the future!

“Miss, shall we go to Madam’s courtyard now?” Wei Yuewu did not immediately return to her own Lotus Courtyard. Instead, she turned around and headed in the direction of the courtyard of Marquise Hua Yang.

“Jin Ling, you go to the backyard and watch. If Concubine Dong’s people leave through the back door, follow them.” Wei Yuewu glanced at Jin Ling who followed closely behind her and instructed.

Ever since Concubine Dong entered the mansion, she had suffered setbacks repeatedly, so she was definitely reluctant to eat humble pies.

“Yes, Miss. I have asked Yan Feng and Yan Yang to wait outside the mansion recently. When I see Concubine Dong’s people leave the mansion, I will ask them to follow.” Jin Ling received the order and retreated. Ever since the news came that Concubine Dong was returning to the mansion, Yan Feng and Yan Yang had become much busier than usual.

Wei Yuewu walked towards the back of the mansion followed by Shufei. They walked all the way to the courtyard whose door was closely shut. Only then did Wei Yuewu stand still. Her gaze fell on a large tree that emerged above the wall of the courtyard. The tree trunk in winter was bare, without a single green leaf. It looked like the entire courtyard, giving off a feeling of silence and lifelessness!

“Miss, it’s still early!” Shufei stood behind her and gently reminded her.

“I know!” Wei Yuewu nodded, the look in her eyes becoming sad.

“Miss, shall we go over there and take a seat? We can wait for Lord Marquis to come and enter the courtyard together.” Shufei turned around and pointed to a pavilion on the side.

The pavilion was by a small artificial hill and didn’t look conspicuous, and the courtyard could be seen from that position.

“Alright!” Wei Yuewu nodded. She picked up the corner of her skirt, turned around and walked to the inconspicuous pavilion.

The location of that pavilion was really quite obscure. Besides an artificial hill, there were also some flowers and trees. It could be imagined that in spring and autumn, flowers must be blooming here, and the slightly raised eaves would coincidentally be concealed by the flowers and trees.

It was now in winter and all the leaves had fallen down. Therefore, people could see the pavilion.

Not long after she sat down on the stone bench in the pavilion, she saw Wei Luowen walking along the way with only one lad servant with him. Wei Yuewu stood up and brought Shufei with her to welcome him.

Seeing Wei Yuewu appeared near the entrance of the courtyard, Wei Luowen was stunned. He felt quite surprised and then he asked in a gentle tone, "You are already here? You must have been waiting for a long time. I even sent someone to inform you!"

"Not quite long. I was eager to see my mother, so I walked over here a little early!" Wei Yuewu shook her head and said with a faint expression, but it was hard to conceal her sadness.

"I asked Nanny Hong to assign a few menial maids and old maidservants. You can come and see your mother whenever you want." Wei Luowen comforted her softly.

This meant that there would be some old maidservants guarding the door in the future. As a daughter, Wei Yuewu could come to the courtyard at any time. There was no need to ask Nanny Hong for the key anymore. The servants would open the door for her.

Wei Yuewu nodded silently. The lad servant quickly ran out from behind Wei Luowen and unlocked the door.

The door opened. The weeds growing in the small paths were cleaned up last time. However, after just a few days, a few more leaves had fallen to the ground. Although there weren't many, the leaves created an inexplicably lonely atmosphere for the courtyard, which was once the liveliest courtyard in the mansion.

Wei Luowen slowly raised his foot. He just felt that his foot was too heavy to lift. The gentle woman in his mind was always looking at him with her bright and beautiful eyes. Even when his face was disfigured, she didn't have any bit of dislike for him at all.

But later on...

That pair of eyes slowly carried vigilance and distrust. This kind of gaze almost made him want to run away in confusion! Did she ever give him a chance? But he... how could he drag her into that pile of mud too, which finally ended up with her death?

Was he really wrong?

"Father, how did mother die?" Standing under the tree, Wei Yuewu raised her head and looked at Wei Luowen.

Seeing his daughter's sad gaze, Wei Luowen couldn't help but dodge for a moment. "Your mother had a difficult time giving birth to you. After a few years, her health deteriorated so seriously that she couldn't hold on any longer..."

Wei Yuewu had anticipated this answer, and she stared fixedly at Wei Luowen as she asked, "After that, why did you send me to my maternal grandparents' mansion?"

Everyone said that she was disliked by her father, and that was why she was sent away. However, after a short day of interaction with him, she discovered that there seemed to be something that he wished to hide. Now that there was no one else aside, she went straight to the point and asked the question.

This was Mother's courtyard. It was the place where Mother used to live. If her father really loved Mother, he would definitely not deceive her at this time. She needed to know the truth.

Wei Luowen was unable to face his daughter's sad and childish eyes. His gaze flashed slightly and he hesitated for a moment, but he still slowly replied, "I went to guard the border and I was worried about leaving you alone in the mansion. Therefore, I sent you to your maternal grandparents' mansion. Yuewu, I have been waiting for you to come back."

"Father has been waiting for me?" Wei Yuewu was stunned.

"Yes, I've been waiting for you!" Wei Luowen nodded. Although this daughter was still young, her beautiful eyes were exceptionally firm. He couldn't help but tell her what had been hiding in the depth of his heart. He extended his hand to touch his daughter's head with affection. He looked like an extremely doting father. "Don't worry about what others say, you will always be my beloved daughter!"

That kind of expression and that kind of cautious gaze were really not something a great general like him should show. However, at this moment, he was clearly looking at Wei Yuewu. The eyes of this general and marquis who had killed countless people were even slightly red, and he couldn't help but feel excited in his heart.

How could he not cherish the daughter born by the woman whom he loved the most? If he had any other better option, how would he allow her to be ignored like this!

"Father, did my mother really die of illness?" Wei Yuewu's eyes couldn't help but contain two sparkling tears. It wasn't that she didn't long for this fatherly love. Having been told the same story by everyone for so many years, she already ruthlessly abandoned her last bit of hope for the love from this father.

"Yes, your mother's health had been poor ever since she gave birth to you!" Wei Luowen nodded, a trace of pain flashing through his eyes. Of course, there was also another cause that had taken root in her heart long before, which she couldn't get over even on her deathbed!

However, he didn't want her to know about these things back then, so how could he let their childish daughter know about them now?

Seeing that she couldn't obtain anything useful, Wei Yuewu changed the topic and asked, "Father, when I was a kid, did I have an elder sister who was very close to me?"

"Elder sister?" Wei Luowen was surprised.

"When I was young, I played with a girl who was a little older than me. She was not in good health and sometimes even spat blood!" Wei Yuewu asked cautiously as she observed Wei Luowen's expression.

Sure enough, Wei Luowen's expression instantly changed. He waved his sleeve and his face darkened. "Yuewu, something is wrong with your memory. Father doesn't remember there was such an elder sister."

"But I... sometimes I felt that there was a scene in the Imperial Palace... there seemed to be such an elder..." Wei Yuewu said uneasily.

"No! Yuewu, your memory did go wrong! You were just a little kid at that time and your memory about the past was very blurry. That's why there was something wrong with your memory. Let's go in and take a look at your mother's house." Wei Luowen decisively shook his head and strode towards main apartment.

"Yes!" A trace of deep meaning flashed through Wei Yuewu's eyes. It seemed that this father was really close-mouthed. This meant that there was really a problem. However, since he didn't say anything, it was not appropriate for her to ask further. Thus, she nodded and followed Wei Luowen's footsteps into the room.

After pushing open the main apartment's door, he saw a vase of plum blossoms on the table. The red plum blossoms were like a set of fire, and the twigs pointed towards the sky, creating a mixed sense of beauty and sharpness. For a moment, Wei Luowen felt as if he saw that gentle woman sitting by the flower table and smiling at him.

"Rui'er!" Wei Luowen subconsciously whispered.

Wei Yuewu also walked in. She looked at the vase of plum blossoms and said with a smile, "Father, I picked the plum blossoms and placed them here the last time I came in. I didn't expect that they still look so nice!"

"You picked them the last time you came here?" Wei Luowen muttered to himself as he stared at the vase of plum blossoms.

"Yes, Father. How do you like them?" Wei Yuewu said smilingly.

"They look pretty!" Seeing his younger daughter's expectant gaze, Wei Luowen forced a smile. After a brief pause, he slowly walked into the room.

The room was quite clean, and there was not even a trace of dust on the feet of the table. It could be seen that the person who wiped the dust off the table was very attentive.

"Father, would you like to sit down?" Wei Yuewu asked softly as she looked at Wei Luowen, who could not hide the sadness on his face.

Wei Luowen shook his head and walked into the inner room. Shufei hurriedly stepped forward and lifted the curtain for him.

The curtain moved and immediately attracted Wei Luowen's gaze. The curtain was already very old. Although there was no dust on it now, one could still see that the curtain had not been changed for many years, and its color had already faded.

Wei Luowen did not enter the inner room. Instead, he stood in front of the curtain and reached out to hold the once beautiful curtain. All of a sudden, his expression turned ashen.

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Chapter 237 – Collusion Between Concubine Dong And Second Lady

“What’s going on?” Wei Luowen suddenly said sternly. It was obvious that he was extremely furious.

“This... the curtain is very old. Perhaps it hasn’t been changed since mother died. Mother has been forgotten by the people in the mansion for so many years!” Wei Yuewu looked up at the curtain and reached out to touch it. She said sadly, “I’m afraid the servants in the mansion have long forgotten that my mother was Marquise Hua Yang!”

Such words were almost like daggers stabbing Wei Luowen in the heart. He remembered how he had treated her with caution, but after her death, she was ignored like this. The curtain in her room had already turned white and yellow after so many years. However, no one thought of changing it. How could he not be angry!

Previously, he only felt that the house was very clean, but when he observed the artifacts in the house, he found they all bore traces of time. Although those moldy corners of the quilts were cleaned carefully, with a close look, he could still see signs indicating how old and shabby they were.

He looked out of the window through one of its corners. The winding path had also been cleaned up. However, the traces of cleaning were also very obvious. The path must have been cleaned in the past few days. At a corner of the wall, there were piles of grass. Judging by the long roots, the grass must have grown for quite a while.

“Were there weeds everywhere when you came to your mother’s courtyard last time?” Wei Luowen asked coldly.

“Yes, I brought people with me and it took us a whole day’s work to make the courtyard look a little better.” Wei Yuewu nodded.

Wei Luowen was speechless for a while. He suddenly turned around and strode away. After walking for a few steps, he turned around and said to Wei Yuewu, “Yuewu, you go back to your courtyard first. I’ll have someone replace these old window shields and curtains in a while.”

After saying that, he turned around and left.

“Yes, Father!” Wei Yuewu nodded and watched Wei Luowen leaving without saying a word for a long time.

“Miss, let’s go back as well!” Seeing that her goal had already been achieved, Shufei couldn’t help but admire her mistress. At this moment, she smiled and reminded Wei Yuewu who was in a daze

Wei Yuewu brought Shufei back to her own courtyard and quietly waited for the news.

It was an eventful day for the first branch of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang that had been silent for a long time. First, the Third Young Lady who had always been spoiled was reprimanded by Lord Marquis, and the maids in her courtyard were beaten up in turn.

Crying and screaming scared the servants of other courtyards who passed by to the point that they didn’t dare to stop and peep. Lord Marquis was indeed an iron blood general, and he didn’t show mercy when he punished people.

There was also the news that Concubine Dong, who was about to become the new Marquise Hua Yang, had also been scolded and sent to Third Young Lady’s courtyard by Lord Marquis to observe the punishment of the servants. Needless to say, this was intended as a punishment to her.

Could it be that Concubine Dong would not be elevated to the position of Marquise Hua Yang? Before long, this news had been secretly spread. Many servants who had originally believed that Concubine Dong would definitely become Marquise Hua Yang began to waver. Among them was Nanny Hong serving the Madam Dowager.

Afterwards, there was news that Lord Marquis went to the Madam Dowager’s Tranquility Courtyard and vented his anger there. Several old maidservants-in-charge also got beaten up, reportedly for daring to leave Marquise Hua Yang’s courtyard unattended.

Marquise Hua Yang? Didn’t she die many years ago? Didn’t Lord Marquis rarely go to that courtyard of Marquise Hua Yang? Hadn’t Lord Marquis forgotten about Marquise Hua Yang long before? Wasn’t he going to elevate Concubine Dong to the position of Marquise Hua Yang? Was none of these true?

Along with the renovation of Marquise Hua Yang's courtyard, everyone in the mansion muttered in their hearts. Some of the people who had said that Concubine Dong would definitely become Marquise Hua Yang began to waver.

It was at this moment that Nanny Dong silently walked out of the back door of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang and headed straight for Lady Li's parents' home, namely, the mansion of Li Ying, tutor of the Crown Prince.

Of course, she also went to the back door of the Li Mansion. After she knocked on the door, the old maidservant guarding the back door walked out. She was the one who spoke to Xie Qingzhao that night.

After announcing her identity, Nanny Dong was brought before Lady Li.

"Second Lady, this is the letter our concubine asked me to deliver to you!" Nanny Dong took the letter out of her pocket and respectfully handed it to Lady Li.

Meanwhile, she secretly observed Lady Li. At this time last year, Lady Li was still in charge of the internal affairs of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. She clearly remembered how vigorous and high-spirited this Second Lady looked when she returned to the capital with Concubine Dong. But now, Lady Li seemed to have aged by ten years. Not only was she skinny, but she also gave off a gloomy feeling.

To some extent, she gave people the same feeling as the Second Master.

Lady Li received the envelope with a cold face. She took out the letter, and after reading it, she looked up. "What does your concubine mean?"

"Our concubine feels that it is awful not to have you in the mansion. She wants to know when you will return to the mansion. Even if you are recovering from illness, it is more appropriate for you to come back and you will recover faster and get better back in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Besides, Lord Marquis appreciates the Eldest Young Master very much. It was said that he wanted the Eldest Young Master to inherit his title. However, some people said that the Eldest Young Master was not registered under Lord Marquis' name."

Nanny Dong smiled.

"What do you mean?" When Nanny Dong mentioned her son whom she cared about the most, Lady Li's gloomy face showed some concern.

"Someone suggested... that Lord Marquis should adopt a son to inherit his title." Nanny Dong smiled and hurriedly explained.

"Could it be that Concubine Dong wanted to go back on her word?" Hearing the title that had always been regarded as a sure thing for his son was likely to fall into someone else's hands, Lady Li was furious. She slapped heavily on the table and shouted sternly.

"Second Lady, calm down. Of course our concubine was reluctant, so she repeatedly tried to persuade Lord Marquis and spoke in favor of the Eldest Young Master. Lord Marquis also felt that proposal wasn't appropriate. Therefore, the issue hasn't been settled yet. Second Lady, if you don't return to the mansion in this situation, it will have some impact on the Eldest Young Master!"

Nanny Dong hurriedly followed Concubine Dong's instructions and said tactfully.

"Your concubine wants me to go back to the mansion?" Lady Li wasn't stupid either. She sneered, "Tell your concubine to show some proof of sincerity and stop saying nonsense intended to get me into a dog fight with that little bitch!"

"Second Lady, you really wronged our concubine. Once our concubine returned to the mansion, she asked the Third Young Lady to speak in favor of you before Lord Marquis. She originally thought that the Third Young Lady was doted on by Lord Marquis. Even if Lord Marquis did not like to hear what she said, she would not be punished. She did not expect that Sixth Young Lady deliberately made Lord Marquis so angry with the Third Young Lady that he even punished our concubine as well." Nanny Dong cried out defending Concubine Dong while blaming Lady Li for the punishment of Concubine Dong and Wei Yuejiao.

"Alright. Tell Concubine Dong I'll be right back. That bitch won't thrive for too long. However, when Concubine Dong is free, she shall speak up for me. Otherwise, if things are difficult for me, I won't make it easy for her either!" Lady Li warned sternly.

"Yes... yes, I will definitely tell Concubine Dong after I return." Nanny Dong kept nodding.

Lady Li nodded her head and waved her hand. The maid next to her understood and led Nanny Dong down.

After Nanny Dong left, Lady Li frowned and pondered for a long while before saying, "Someone, go and see if my elder brother has returned to the mansion."

"Yes, madam!" A maid accepted the order and left.

"Madam..." An old maidservant hesitated.

"Are you trying to say that Concubine Dong is taking advantage of me?" Lady Li cast a sidelong glance at the old maidservant, her eyes shining brightly.

"Exactly! Madam, don't you think the person sent by Concubine Dong was trying to instigate you? Could it be that Concubine Dong wants to see you quarreling with Sixth Young Lady so that she can take advantage from the side?" The old maidservant hurriedly answered.

"She will be doomed if she dares to take advantage of me!" Lady Li snorted coldly and said mockingly. She was not afraid of Concubine Dong going back on her word. She had evidence that Concubine Dong framed Qin Xinrui back then. With this in her hand, no matter how powerful Concubine Dong was, she couldn't get out of her control.

However, she also knew that her son was able to inherit the title of Marquis Hua Yang only if Concubine Dong was elevated to the position of Marquise Hua Yang.

Back in the Lotus Courtyard, Wei Yuewu was listening to Jin Ling's report.

"Miss, Yan Yang said that Concubine Dong sent an old maidservant to the Li Mansion where Lady Li's parents lived. When the old maidservant who was guarding the door heard the visitor was from the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, she immediately brought her in. After a long time, the old maidservant sent by Concubine Dong returned to the mansion, and she looked very pleased.

“Could it be that Concubine Dong and the Second Lady are ganging up against Miss?” Huamo said anxiously.

“Definitely. I didn’t expect that Concubine Dong would know what happened to the Second Lady soon after arriving in the capital. Furthermore, she even sent people to conspire with the Second Lady.” Shufei turned around and said to Wei Yuewu, “Miss, what are we going to do now?”

Concubine Dong alone was already difficult to deal with. Once she colluded with Lady Li, the situation would be more difficult.

“Miss, even if Concubine Dong colluded with the Second Lady, shouldn’t she send more people to discuss their plan in detail? Why did the Second Lady agree to Concubine Dong’s proposal so easily?” Jin Ling used to be a dark guard and was more thoughtful.

“Does that mean Concubine Dong and the Second Lady have a close relationship?” Shufei was shocked and said subconsciously.

Wei Yuewu stood up and walked to the window. She looked at the corner of the sky outside the window and her eyes turned cold. “Concubine Dong and Lady Li have cooperated more than once. Of course, they know what to do and there is no need to send people to discuss in detail. All they need to do is to inform each other.”

“If the two of them ganged up, who was their target?” Huamo almost blurted out these words without thinking. After she finished speaking, she realized that something was wrong and hurriedly covered her mouth.

With a second thought, it was clear there was only one person in the mansion who was worthy of the collaboration between Concubine Dong and Lady Li, and that person was Marquise Hua Yang, Wei Yuewu’s mother who had passed away early! Judging from what happened when she was alive, this was the only answer.

Huamo immediately realized the answer would make her young miss extremely sad. However, it was too late to take back what she had said. After being glared at by Shufei fiercely, she covered her mouth and didn’t dare to speak anything.

Wei Yuewu lowered her eyes to conceal the pain in her eyes. Whether it was Concubine Dong or Lady Li, she would not let go of them. Blood for blood. How could she let go of these two enemies who killed her mother?

Concubine Dong had suffered losses in the mansion, so she egged Lady Li on. While Lady Li attacked her, she could sit idle and reap the benefits. Wasn't there an opportunity right now? She was sure Lady Li won't let it go.

Quietly brushing her long sleeve past the windowsill, she asked with a faint look in her eyes, "Which of the two invitations arrived first?"

Chapter 238 – Two Invitations From The Same Mansion

"Miss, the one sent in the name of Eldest Miss Jing arrived later than the one in the name of the mansion of Duke of Jing!" Hearing Wei Yuewu's question, Shufei went to Wei Yuewu's dressing table and took up the two invitations that were placed on it.

The two similar invitations were actually sent from the same mansion. One was sent in the name of the mansion of Duke of Jing, while the other was a private invitation from Jing Wenyan, the eldest young lady of the mansion of Duke of Jing.

"Miss, isn't it Eldest Miss Jing's birthday party? Not many people will be invited, right?" Jin Ling asked in surprise.

Normally, when an unmarried young lady from an aristocratic family held a birthday party, only her bosom friends would be invited. No grand banquet would be held. But this time, the banquet in the mansion of Duke of Jing was different from usual. Almost all the aristocratic families had received invitations from the mansion of Duke of Jing.

"It seems that the mansion of Duke of Jing which lost its territory wants to use this opportunity to do something big!" Wei Yuewu narrowed her eyes that looked both cold and sharp.

The Duke of Jing was the gorgeously dressed fat man whom Wei Yuewu saw at the entrance to the Plum Blossom Nunnery. He had recently been released because the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State let go of him.

However, facing the dramatic change from a duke with a fief to a duke with only a title, he probably wouldn't be so willing to accept his fate!

However, although it was OK for Duke of Jing to think so, what was going on with this eldest young lady of the mansion of Duke of Jing, who seemed to be very smart? What was the use of sending another invitation to her? It was really unnecessary for her to do so.

Nurse Mei walked in to report with a smile, "Young miss, I inquired about it. The mansion of Duke of Jing also invited the Second Lady, Third Lady, and the other young ladies of our mansion. However, they only received one invitation delivered in the name of the mansion of Duke of Jing."

Nurse Mei had been sent out to inquire about the news before.

"Nurse Mei, has such a thing happened before?" Wei Yuewu smiled and asked thoughtfully.

"No!" Nurse Mei thought for a while and said with certainty, "This kind of thing can't happen. There should be only one invitation from the same mansion. Moreover, even if there was a mistake, the two invitations should be identical. It was impossible to send two different invitations to the same person."

One invitation was delivered in the name of the Duke of Jing and the other in the name of Jing Wenyan, who didn't seem to be someone likely to make such a mistake. That Eldest Miss Jing had always given her a feeling of shrewdness and competence. Last time, she decisively sent that rare copy of book to her. Judging from this, Wei Yuewu could tell that she was a person with a firm heart and clear goals.

"What did the messenger of Eldest Miss Jing say?" Wei Yuewu withdrew her gaze from the invitation and asked softly.

"She didn't say anything except reminding Miss to be careful on the way!" Nurse Mei thought for a moment and said. When the invitation arrived, Wei Yuewu was away, so Nurse Mei received it.

Be careful on the way? This sounded really meaningful. Wei Yuewu's expression remained unchanged as she asked, "Who else in our mansion will go to the banquet of the mansion of Duke of Jing?"

"The Second Lady is not here, so she can't go. The Third Lady has a lot of things to do recently, so she can't go either. The Third Young Lady said that she had made Lord Marquis angry, so she wasn't going. The Fourth Young Lady said that she was being grounded, whereas the Fifth Young Lady was also instructed by the Madam Dowager to reflect on her mistakes..." Nurse Mei paused.

"So I'm the only one going to the banquet?" Wei Yuewu said leisurely.

"Oh, the Eldest Young Master, the Second Young Master, and the Third Young Master will be going." Nurse Mei replied.

"Why is Eldest Brother going? Hasn't the mansion of Duke of Jing invited only female guests?" Wei Yuewu was really surprised. It had never happened before for a young lady who hadn't been married yet to hold such a grand birthday banquet.

"I don't know. I heard that the mansion of Duke of Jing specially sent invitations to them." Nurse Mei thought for a moment and suddenly seemed to have thought of something. She looked at Wei Yuewu and wanted to say something but hesitated.

"Did you find something unusual?" Wei Yuewu raised her eyebrows and asked.

"Are they... selecting a husband for Eldest Miss Jing?" Hearing Wei Yuewu's question, Nurse Mei answered hesitantly.

"Quite likely!" These words reminded the maids, and Shufei hurriedly nodded in agreement.

"Miss, Eldest Miss Jing is coming of age. It's time for her to get married!" When Jin Ling was still in Duke of Yan's mansion, she had heard of the number one beauty in the State of Jing. She peeked at Wei Yuewu and said, "At that time, the State of Yan and State of Jing were considering a marriage alliance!"

She didn't know if she should say this to her young miss, but she couldn't help but say it.

“Why was it cancelled in the end?” Wei Yuewu asked curiously. If Yan Huaijing and Jing Wenyan married, they would really make a nice couple!

From whichever perspective, it was a perfect match for the number one young master and the number one beauty to tie the knot.

“I don’t know what exactly happened. It was said that the two states had been discussing the marriage alliance, and the mansion of the Duke of Yan even started preparing betrothal gifts. However, something happened afterwards, and no one mentioned this matter again.” Jin Ling thought for a moment and said.

The marriage alliance between two states was an extremely important issue. How could there not be any news leaked out? But in the end, it was inexplicably cancelled. It really made the people of the State of Yan suspicious and wonder secretly. Of course, most of them felt that their elegant and gentle heir-apparent was too good for the eldest young lady of the State of Jing.

Wei Yuewu pondered for a moment and instructed, “Nurse Mei, prepare a gift for me. Tomorrow, I will go to the mansion of Duke of Jing to celebrate Eldest Miss Jing’s birthday.”

“Yes, Miss!” Nurse Mei accepted the order and left.

“Jin Ling, let Yan Feng and Yan Yang secretly escort me tomorrow.” Wei Yuewu said unhurriedly.

Jin Ling nodded and retreated.

“Shufei, go and see if something happened to the carriage?” Wei Yuewu said coldly.

“Miss, do you think there’s something wrong with the carriage?” Shufei was shocked. They usually used Old Li’s carriage when they were out on a trip. When the last incident occurred, Wei Yuewu did not pursue the matter. Instead, she saved Old Li’s family. Since then, Old Li had become even more loyal to Wei Yuewu.

"I think so!" Wei Yuewu's gaze landed on Jing Wenyan's invitation again and said coldly. This time, she was the only female guest from the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang who would go to the mansion of Duke of Jing. Although Wei Ziyang and the other brothers were also going, it was impossible for them to take a carriage like her.

Apparently, Concubine Dong had repeatedly corresponded with Lady Li with the aim of letting Lady Li deal with her...

"Yes, I will immediately go and check out." Realizing the meaning behind it, Shufei was shocked and had cold sweat all over. She didn't dare to hesitate any longer and hastily retreated.

"Miss, shall... shall we tell Lord Marquis?" An ominous feeling suddenly surged in Huamo's heart.

Wei Yuewu shook her head. Her eyes looked cold and indifferent. Concubine Dong and Wei Yuejiao had been living with her father over the years. Without any concrete evidence, what could she say?

Besides, Concubine Dong and Wei Yuejiao seem to have nothing to do with the birthday banquet.

"Then... Miss, will everything be alright?" Huamo said nervously.

"No worry!" Wei Yuewu smiled indifferently. Her watery eyes landed on the screen and a trace of coldness flashed in her eyes. "Huamo, is there really no way to repair it?"

This screen was embroidered by her mother. How could she let Wei Yuejiao destroy it? But at that time, this screen was placed in Wei Yuejiao's room. No matter how reluctant she was, there was no way to protect it.

"I... I really can't. However, I heard that some people are quite skilled in embroidery, and the embroidery fixed by them looks almost the same as the original one. Even if people examine it carefully, they wouldn't be able to see any difference." Huamo thought for a moment and said.

"The embroidery workshops in the capital?" Wei Yuewu's eyes lit up.

"I think that there might be such an expert in the embroidery workshop in the capital. Perhaps he can repair this screen for Miss. Do you want to go out and take a look?" Huamo nodded repeatedly.

"Wait a moment, wait a moment before we take the carriage!" Wei Yuewu nodded and said thoughtfully.

"Carriage? I will go and tell Old Li to prepare the carriage for Miss!" Huamo suggested.

"Wait until Shufei returns!" Wei Yuewu nodded her head, her eyes flashing with a trace of serenity. Since she had to take the carriage tomorrow, it would be better for her to use it today...

Shufei came back fairly quickly. As soon as she entered the room, she told Wei Yuewu, "Miss, when Old Li heard that Miss was going to use the carriage, he hurriedly went to make preparations. I asked him to inspect the carriage carefully and he found that one of the wheels was broken. If he drove a little faster, an accident might happen. Now he had driven the carriage outside the mansion for repairs."

"How come it was broken at this time?" Huamo was stunned for a moment and asked. "Which carriage is our Miss going to use in a while?"

"I don't know either, but a warmhearted coachman told me that Miss could use his carriage. The coachman is a newcomer, and his carriage is also new. People said that this carriage was specially prepared by the mansion after learning Concubine Dong and the Third Young Lady were returning to the capital. Because none of them is going out, this carriage is left idle."

So, it turned out Concubine Dong and Wei Yuejiao had a newly built carriage for their exclusive use, whereas she, the legitimate daughter, didn't have her own carriage and had to share an old carriage with others. The difference here was supposedly enough to make her angry about the unfair treatment and vie for control of this carriage...

That was also human nature, wasn't it? Therefore, someone was expecting to see her using this carriage tomorrow!

"Come, let's go out in this carriage and find out if there's anyone who can repair the screen embroidered by my mother." Wei Yuewu stood up.

“Miss, are you going out now?” Shufei didn’t expect that Wei Yuewu would actually leave immediately. She was stunned for a moment and asked anxiously. “But I didn’t know you were going out and didn’t instruct that coachman to prepare the carriage.”

“Isn’t it just perfect?” Wei Yuewu smiled coldly and said mockingly. She just wanted to spoil their plan. She was now 100% sure that Old Li’s carriage would definitely not be ready for use tomorrow.

Since this was a carriage specially “prepared” for her, she naturally had to enjoy it.

Wei Yuewu sent someone to Tranquility Courtyard to report to the Madam Dowager and then went out with Shufei. As for the screen, it would not really be taken along with her, in case it would be accidentally damaged.

By using the carriage one day earlier than they had originally expected, she caught them off guard. She would like to see what kind of conspiracy they had!

“Shufei, find two old maidservants to move the screen out!”

Chapter 239 – Moved The Screen To Alert The Enemy

“Shufei, find two old maidservants and move the screen out!” Wei Yuewu turned her head to look out of the window. The sky had just turned dark and gloomy, as if it was going to snow. The weather was also extremely cold. This kind of weather was really not fit for travel. However, she had to make this trip.

“Miss, there’s no need to move out the screen now. We can go and ask around if someone can repair it. It won’t be too late to send it out after that!” Huamo stepped forward and suggested. They hadn’t found a suitable expert yet. It was really inconvenient to move such a big screen around.

“We move it out first, and we’ll move it back later!” Wei Yuewu said naturally.

“Have someone move it back later?” Huamo felt more and more puzzled. “Is that what you mean, Miss?”

“That’s right, we will move it back later. When the maidservants move the screen, tell them to be careful. It has already been damaged and must be moved carefully.” Wei Yuewu picked up the corner of her skirt and walked out as she said indifferently.

Of course, she would leave some time for them to send a message. When the screen was moved around, someone would definitely report to Concubine Dong! It was best if Concubine Dong took action. Once she acted, she would be inexplicably implicated. Even though Concubine Dong played no part in the previous plot, she could not say that she was completely innocent afterwards...

Well, Jin Ling was probably coming back!

Nurse Mei lifted the curtain and came in. She happened to hear Wei Yuewu’s words and advised, “Miss, the weather may break. You should wait for a while before going out!”

“Will it rain?” Wei Yuewu looked up at the sky and asked with narrowed eyes.

“It will snow, and there may be heavy snow. There should be snowstorms in the next few days. There used to be a few days with heavy snow at this time of the year in the past.” Nurse Mei looked at the sky and replied.

Wei Yuewu’s heart skipped a beat. “Snowstorm?”

“Miss, you have been living in the south and therefore you may not know that the snow in the capital has always been very heavy, and sometimes heavy snow will cause some landslides. That’s why it is called snowstorm.” Nurse Mei explained.

Wei Yuewu had been living in the south. She really didn’t know what kind of accident this so-called landslide was. She asked softly. “Landslide?”

“That’s right, landslides may occur on some small hills outside the capital. People going out on a snowy day might be buried in the snow.” Hearing Wei Yuewu’s question, Nurse Mei answered more carefully. “Miss, you had better not go out. It looks like there will be a snowstorm in a while. Large snowflakes will drift down. Not long from now, the roads will even be congested.”

“But no accidents occurred when it snowed previously, right?” Wei Yuewu asked in surprise.

“Previously, there wasn’t a snowstorm. There was just a small amount of rain and snow, so snow couldn’t pile up. But if it was a snowstorm, snow would fall very quickly. It really isn’t a good time to travel. It would be safest to wait until the shoveled snow has almost melted.”

Safe? Snowstorm? Shoveled snow? A trace of coldness flashed through Wei Yuewu’s eyes as she said indifferently, “Nurse Mei, don’t worry. After hearing what you said, I really have to go out now.”

“What? Wei Yuewu is going out at this time?” Concubine Dong frowned.

“Yes, I saw it just now. Two old maidservants were carrying that... screen. They carefully lifted it and walked out. I heard the Sixth Young Lady especially warned them to be careful.” The maid looked timidly at the angry Wei Yuejiao.

This screen had been carried away from the Third Young Lady’s courtyard. Previously, she had seen the Third Young Lady hatefully stabbing the screen with her hairpin.

This maid was not Wei Yuejiao’s personal maid. All the personal maids who had served in Wei Yuejiao’s room were beaten up, and there was no one in the room to serve Wei Yuejiao. Therefore, this maid was assigned to serve Wei Yuejiao.

“Mother, what does that little bitch mean? Why did she take out that screen? Is she afraid that other people don’t know that I was punished by my father?” As soon as the screen was mentioned, Wei Yuejiao was extremely angry. She threw down the writing brush in her hand and said hatefully.

She had lost all her face today. First, she was grounded by the Madam Dowager. Then, her father had all her trusted maids beaten up. He even ordered her mother to come to watch the maids being beaten. As long as she thought that Wei Yuewu had caused these, Wei Yuejiao couldn’t help but grit her teeth in hatred.

Father was actually so biased! That woman had already died, why did he have to keep her screen?

He must have been egged on by that bitch Wei Yuewu!

Concubine Dong, however, had other things on her mind. After pondering for a moment, she instructed Nanny Dong beside her. "Go talk to the Second Lady's people. Tell them that the Sixth Young Lady is leaving the mansion in a carriage."

"Will... the Second Lady know about this?" Nanny Dong asked uneasily.

Although Concubine Dong knew which people in the mansion were the confidants of the Second Lady, she did not interact with them because she was afraid of attracting the Second Lady's attention.

"You just pretend that you accidentally discover it and pass a message over." Concubine Dong thought for a moment and said. She knew Lady Li had her plan. Lady Li had her own confidants in the mansion, and so did she. Moreover, Lady Li was not in the mansion right now. It was inconvenient for her to deploy her people. Concubine Dong had noticed some of Lady Li's actions, but she just pretended to be ignorant.

She also forbade her own confidants from interacting with Lady Li's confidants.

But now that things had happened so suddenly, she could only let her most trusted servant pass on a message to Lady Li's confidants.

Nanny Dong was indeed Concubine Dong's most trusted servant. She immediately understood what Concubine Dong meant and said, "Yes, I understand!" She nodded and retreated.

As soon as Wei Yuejiao heard Wei Yuewu was mentioned, she couldn't help but become furious. She walked over and sat in front of Concubine Dong, cursing angrily, "Mother, you must not let this little bitch off. You must trample her and her bitch mother under your feet! I can tell at a glance that little bitch is not kind-hearted. She is plotting against not only me but also you."

"That's enough. Stop calling her a little bitch. She's your younger sister, and she's also a legitimate daughter of this mansion. How can you casually scold her like that?" Concubine Dong scolded Wei Yuejiao in a low voice.

Not only did Wei Yuejiao fail to get any comfort from her mother, but she was also berated by her mother. Wei Yuejiao was so angry that tears were about to fall from her eyes. "Mother, even you scolded me like that. What's wrong with me being a concubine-born daughter? Father said that he would promote you to the position of Marquise. In the future, I will also become a legitimate daughter. How come I have to be inferior to Wei Yuewu?"

Seeing her daughter's tearful and aggrieved appearance and thinking about how she had been suppressed by a dead person for so many years, Concubine Dong also felt an evil fire surging in her heart. Her eyes were filled with ruthlessness as she sneered, "Don't worry, I won't let you be suppressed for too long. You are my precious daughter and you are destined to become a legitimate daughter!"

"Then how much longer do I have to wait?" Wei Yuejiao impatiently pulled on Concubine Dong's hem and shook it. "Mother, when the time comes, I must break that little bitch's legs for daring to compete with me. Besides, I must send her to a brothel to give vent to my anger!"

She had begun to think about how to torture Wei Yuewu and make her life worse than death.

"It won't be a long time!" Concubine Dong replied.

Because the two old maidservants moved the screen with much care, it took them quite a while. Therefore, Wei Yuewu did not come out immediately. Only when the old maidservants were about to carry the screen to the place where the carriage was parked did Wei Yuewu walk out with Jin Ling unhurriedly.

"Sixth Young Lady, do you want me to put this screen on the carriage?" A young coachman walked up to Wei Yuewu and bowed respectfully. His eyes rolled around and people knew at a glance that he was a smart guy.

Jin Ling narrowed her eyes. She looked at the sky and advised. "Miss, the weather isn't very good. It might rain. If you took this screen out, it might get wet. Maybe it is better to leave it at home."

It was getting darker and darker. It seemed that it was really going to rain. However, once it rained in this kind of weather, it shouldn't be long before the snow fell.

People said that there would be snowstorms in the next few days. Yesterday, there was even some rain and snow, but snow didn't accumulate. At this time, there were some small puddles on the ground.

"Alright then!" Wei Yuewu nodded and agreed, but the two old maidservants who were exhausted and panting were stunned.

"Sixth Young Lady, the screen...shall we put it on the carriage?" An old maidservant asked cautiously.

She had to be careful. She heard that because of this Sixth Young Lady, both Concubine Dong and the Third Young Lady had been punished.

"No need, you can move it back!" Wei Yuewu nodded and said. With the support of Jin Ling's hands, she stepped on the stool and got into the carriage. After that, Jin Ling also jumped onto the carriage.

The young coachman smiled and climbed onto his seat. With a wave of his whip, he drove the carriage out of the gate of the mansion.

"Miss, isn't it a little too hasty to go out at this time?" After sitting next to Wei Yuewu, Jin Ling asked worriedly. She had informed Yan Feng and Yan Yang that Wei Yuewu was going out tomorrow. She didn't expect that when they returned to the mansion, Wei Yuewu would take her out directly.

"This is the right time!" Wei Yuewu shook her head. She looked at the sky outside and said meaningfully.

There should be rain soon. Judging from the sky, there would be a heavy snowstorm in the capital today. Normally, once the snowstorm started, the capital would have heavy snow for a few days on end, leaving the ground covered with thick snow. In fact, Wei Yuewu, who had been growing up in the south, was not familiar with this situation.

However, for those who had always lived in the capital, it was not difficult to understand. Fortunately, Nurse Mei had always lived in the capital.

"Tell the coachman to drive to the mansion of Duke of Jing in a while!" Wei Yuewu said indifferently.

“Miss, Eldest Miss Jing’s birthday banquet is on tomorrow. Why are we going there now?” Jin Ling asked with widened eyes.

“We’re not going in. We just drive around the mansion of Duke of Jing to get familiar with the route.” Wei Yuewu smiled calmly as she hooked her handkerchief with her fingers and leaned back lazily.

If this carriage was meant to be used against her, there would definitely be some unforeseen incidents. The longer she used the carriage today, the easier it would be for her to find out something. All she did was intended to play for time...

“Get familiar with the route?” Jin Ling’s expression became puzzled. The coachman knew the way to the mansion of Duke of Jing. What was the point of them getting familiar with the route?

“Shouldn’t we get familiar with the route? If the carriage takes a detour tomorrow, it will be troublesome!” Wei Yuewu said slowly. she raised the curtain and looked out of the window. It really seemed like it was going to rain soon. The weather was gloomy and the wind was cold.

As she lifted the curtain, a wave of coldness rushed in. Indeed, the weather in the capital was exceptionally cold...

The carriage suddenly thumped something and rushed forward. After that, it stopped heavily. Wei Yuewu was stunned. They had just left the mansion. Could it be that they had already been on the street?

“Hey, which mansion are you from? You can’t even drive a carriage. You hit our master. Now quickly come down and apologize to our master!” An extremely arrogant rebuke came from outside the carriage!

Chapter 240 – Another Encounter

“Sorry, sorry. This carriage is from the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Our Sixth Young Lady is going out in this carriage!” The coachman was awed by the aura of the other party and he kept apologizing.

“The Sixth Young Lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang?” Wen Tianyao put his slender fingers on the curtain of his carriage. He didn’t expect to meet Wei Yuewu at this time. He couldn’t help but knit his handsome brows tightly.

“Ask the Sixth Young Lady where she is going?” He ordered in a deep voice.

“Sixth Miss Wei, our master asked to know where you are going?” The guard received the order and spoke towards Wei Yuewu’s carriage.

Wei Yuewu was also lifting the curtain and looking out of her carriage. However, she could not see anyone except a hand that was lifting the curtain slightly. She knew the other person must also be looking at her.

This carriage looked quite ordinary and had no markings. Apart from being a bit wider, it was really inconspicuous. Nevertheless, the two guards standing outside the carriage looked really tough. There was also that coachman, who appeared arrogant but was actually quite cautious, which made people very suspicious.

The moment the crash occurred, the two guards and the coachman had assumed a defensive formation around the carriage. It could be seen that the identity of the person in the carriage was extraordinary.

She had things to do and didn’t want to get involved in any trouble, so she nodded at Jin Ling slightly. Jin Ling understood and said aloud to the outside of the carriage, “Our young lady’s embroidered screen was broken. She wants to find a skilled embroideress to repair it!”

The guard whispered to the person in the carriage, and then Wei Yuewu saw the guard came forward and cupped his hands to her carriage. “Sixth Miss Wei, our master said he knows an embroidery store whose embroideresses’ skills are pretty good. He would like to take you there!”

Well, this person met her on the way, and he expressed his willingness to help her and even said that he wanted to take her to the embroidery store. The meaning behind this was enough for Wei Yuewu to ponder. However, when she saw the guard standing firmly outside the carriage, she realized that she had to accept the offer of help. Wei Yuewu pondered for a moment and said softly to the outside, “Please extend my thanks to your master!”

It seemed that the master on the carriage had something to talk to her. Since that was the case, she would like to see who this person was!

The two carriages set off again. The other party's carriage led the way in the front, followed by Wei Yuewu's carriage. Just like that, the two carriages moved along without alerting the passers-by.

The carriages turned two corners on the streets and finally stopped in front of an embroidery store. This was a rather big embroidery store located in the busy market. Apparently, this was not an ordinary embroidery store.

Seeing that the carriage in front of her stopped but no one got off from above, Wei Yuewu thought for a moment and let Jin Ling get out first. Then, she placed her hand on Jin Ling's shoulder and got off the carriage. After that, she instructed the coachman to park the carriage on the side and walked towards the store with Jin Ling.

"Miss, that person..." Jin Ling tugged at the corner of her clothes worriedly and secretly pointed at the parked carriage. Unexpectedly, there was no movement, as if there was no master inside.

"Let's go. Since he is looking for me, he will naturally come in." Wei Yuewu shook her head and walked past the carriage. As her eyes swept across the carriage, she unconsciously frowned.

This was an extremely ordinary carriage without any special mark. However, the person dared to stop her with a majestic but not arrogant aura. Even after learning she was a young lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, the aura remained the same. This meant that the person's status was not low. Besides, the attitude of the guards and the coachman was also impressive, which inexplicably reminded Wei Yuewu of the scenes she encountered when she entered the capital city.

Back then, her carriage was also hit. But at that time, she did not see the person in the carriage, and she only guessed that the person should be from the royal family.

Although the carriage in front of her was different, it gave off a similar feeling. Could it be a prince in this carriage?

The embroidery store was very big, and there were all kinds of embroidery works in it, including small items such as sachets and handkerchiefs, as well as big ones such as screens and curtains. However, there weren't many customers. She only saw a few shop assistants shuttling through the counters, picking out some items and sending them upstairs.

She looked over from the door, and there seemed to be private rooms upstairs, like those in a teahouse. Coincidentally, a lady brought two maids downstairs. The two maids each held a few embroidery items in their hands, and a shop assistant behind them smiled and respectfully sent them down.

"Miss, there are private rooms upstairs for people to choose embroidery works." Jin Ling pointed upstairs and whispered.

Private room? That was why he brought her here! Wei Yuewu's heart skipped a beat, but her face didn't show any sign as she walked towards the stairs.

The shop assistant who was seeing customers off saw a young lady coming and hurriedly led Wei Yuewu to a private room upstairs. He served her some tea and then respectfully asked, "Young lady, what kind of embroidery works do you want? We have all kinds of embroidery works here. Whatever you want to see, I will bring it over for you."

"Do you have any skilled embroideress here?" Jin Ling asked for Wei Yuewu.

"You have come to the right place, young lady. Our embroideresses are all very skilled. We have a lot of regular customers who are satisfied with our embroidery skills. They say that the embroidery items we have here are not inferior to those sent exclusively to the royal palace." The shop assistant was eloquent and answered with a quick smile.

"Can they repair embroidered screens?" Jin Ling went straight to the point.

"Well... they need to see the item. We used to have embroideresses who repaired damaged items. The items repaired by them looked almost flawless. Nobody can tell that they were broken before." The shop assistant hesitated for a moment, but he still replied with a smile.

“Can you let a skilled embroideress follow us to have a look?” Jin Ling asked. They didn’t bring the screen this time, so it was impossible for them to show it to the people from the embroidery store.

“This... I’m afraid it’s not possible. Our embroideresses won’t go to the customers’ houses, especially those skilled embroideresses... Young lady, you’d better bring your screen over and let our embroideresses have a look.” The shop assistant had an awkward look on his face.

“Why can’t your embroideresses go to the customers’ houses? I’ve heard that many embroideresses in the embroidery stores can go to the various mansions according to the customers’ needs.” Wei Yuewu’s cherry lips curved slightly as she said softly with a smile.

The capital had many aristocratic families. Many customers were of extremely high statuses and there were many customers who requested onsite service. Many stores were actually providing this kind of service. Only those small stores that were short of hands would refuse. She didn’t expect that such a large embroidery store would actually refuse to provide onsite service. This was truly too surprising for Wei Yuewu.

The shop assistant didn’t know the reason, so he had to answer with a smile. “Please forgive me, young lady. This is an order of our boss.”

Since the shop assistant repeatedly said the embroideresses here couldn’t go out, Wei Yuewu said gently, “Alright, go get some exquisite handkerchiefs and sachets. I’ll take a look first. Then, invite your skilled embroideresses over. I have something to ask them.”

“Yes, wait a minute!” The shop assistant hurriedly said. Then, he gently retreated.

“Miss, what do you need a handkerchief or a sachet for?” Jin Ling was rather puzzled. Wei Yuewu’s handkerchiefs and sachets were either embroidered by herself or by her maids. Of course, most of them were embroidered by Huamo. There was no need for her to buy them outside.

“Perhaps they will be of use sometime!” Wei Yuewu smiled and said meaningfully.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. Jin Ling subconsciously shouted, “Come in!”

As the door opened, Wen Tianyao appeared elegantly at the door. Except for a eunuch dressed as a lad servant beside him, there was no one else.

“His Highness the Crown Prince!” Jin Ling’s eyes widened.

However, Wei Yuewu stood up calmly and bowed respectfully to Wen Tianyao. There was no sign of fear or being stunned on her face.

Wen Tianyao walked in followed by the eunuch, and the door closed behind him silently.

“Sixth Miss Wei, there is no need to stand on ceremony.” Wen Tianyao smiled as he walked in.

Wei Yuewu got up and stepped aside to make way for him.

“How did Sixth Miss Wei know it was me?” After sitting in his seat, Wen Tianyao’s gaze landed on Wei Yuewu again.

“Your Highness has a majestic look even in plain clothes!” Wei Yuewu cautiously looked at Wen Tianyao with a trace of deep meaning in her eyes. This Crown Prince was actually someone she couldn’t get over in her heart. As long as she saw him, she would remember the note left behind by her mother.

“You’re welcome, Sixth Miss Wei. Please take a seat!” Wen Tianyao laughed and pointed at the seat opposite him.

Wei Yuewu didn’t stand on ceremony either. She sat down again, but she lowered her head and didn’t say anything. Since the Crown Prince wanted to see her privately, it meant that he had something to say to her. And before she had any clue to what was going on, Wei Yuewu felt that it was better for her to be a quiet listener.

“Has Sixth Miss Wei ever heard of me?” Wen Tianyao asked slowly as he looked at the gentle and beautiful girl in front of him.

This question was very abrupt and almost puzzling. For all the people in the country, as long as they knew about the Emperor, they would know about the Crown Prince. Who wouldn't know about the current Crown Prince?

However, Wei Yuewu understood. Her butterfly-like eyelids flashed. Although she was nervous, she raised her eyes and looked at Wen Tianyao calmly. "Your Highness, Yuewu has been in the countryside for a long time. No one has ever mentioned Your Highness to me before."

It wasn't that she didn't know him, it was just that no one had purposely mentioned him to her!

She did not know what the Crown Prince wanted to verify, but she herself was indeed trying to verify something. Since the Crown Prince also had the same idea, she felt that it was necessary to verify it with the Crown Prince.

Wen Tianyao was slightly surprised by Wei Yuewu's reaction, and his eyes revealed a trace of admiration. "Sixth Young Lady, you grew up in the capital, but I didn't even have any impression of you. It was really strange. I couldn't help but ask. I hope Sixth Young Lady doesn't mind my asking!"

"Your Highness worried too much!" Wei Yuewu bowed slightly.

She had numerous guesses about the Crown Prince's intentions, but she was not sure why he had stopped her. What made her even more puzzled was that although she was still young when she left the capital, the Crown Prince must not be young at that time. Why didn't he have any impression of her?

Her mother was Marquise Hua Yang, and her father was highly valued by the Emperor. Therefore, her mother must be a frequent visitor to the imperial palace. She was still a kid at that time, so it was normal for her mother to bring her along. How could this Crown Prince not have seen her when she was a kid?

That scene flashed through her mind. The girl who was spitting out large mouthfuls of blood was dying, but she was still looking at her with a smile and concern. All of a sudden, she felt a sharp pain in her heart...