

Young Lady 251

Chapter 251 – Heir-Apparent Of Prince Nan'An "Caught In Adultery"

The door was pushed open. As was expected by Wei Fengyao, it was quiet in the outer room. Well, it was quite normal that Wei Yuewu would hide inside when she was scared by the male servant!

Moreover, she had specially given the order that if Wei Yuewu was still in the outer room when he came in, he should directly knock her out and then send her to the inner room. No matter what, she was determined to see her husband and Wei Yuewu lying on the same bed today.

Wei Yuewu was not Wei Qiuju. It was impossible for her to be a concubine. Without the interference of Princess Nan'an, Wei Yuewu could only seek to rescue her ruined reputation with death. She did not believe that her grandmother, who highly valued the reputation of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, would leave a way out for Wei Yuewu.

Her younger sister Wei Yan grew up in front of the Madam Dowager and was doted on by her. But in the end, she still ended up like that. Could it be that Wei Yuewu, who had been neglected by the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, could surpass her younger sister?

"Let's be seated and have a chat and enjoy the scenery!" Shui Morou, the Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing, said to her company with a smile.

The several people who came over with her were all young madams. They were all born in aristocratic families and were also married to legitimate sons of aristocratic families. They could be considered close friends with equal statuses. Because they had been married, their relations were different from those of the unmarried young ladies, and they gathered together to have a private conversation.

"Eh? Why are there men's clothes here?" When everyone had been seated, a sharp-eyed maid suddenly saw a dress at the door of the inner room and asked in surprise.

Immediately, everyone looked over.

"Take it here!" As the mistress, the Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing instructed the maid beside her.

A maid hurriedly ran over to pick up the dress and reported, "Your Heiress-apparent, it really is a man's dress."

"This... isn't this my husband's?" Wei Fengyao, who was sitting next to Shui Morou, suddenly stood up with a face full of panic.

These words caused the other young madams here to look at each other in consternation. How come the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an actually came to such a quiet place? Didn't people say that this heir-apparent liked to have fun the most?

"Fengyao, are you sure?" A lady asked.

"Sure. It really is his dress. Someone, look for His Heir-apparent and see if anything bad has happened!" Wei Fengyao stood up anxiously and instructed her maid. She herself also turned around and searched behind the curtains.

Seeing her in such a panic, the other young madams could no longer sit still. One by one, they stood up and joined her in the search. They were also afraid that something bad had really happened to this noble Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an!

"There is a room inside. Will he be there?" After walking around in the outer room and failing to find anything, a young madam suddenly pointed at the door of the inner room and asked.

"Let's go take a look!" Wei Fengyao had an anxious look on her face. Anyone who saw her like this would feel that she was really worried about the safety of her husband! As soon as she finished speaking, she went over with her maid.

Her maid was quicker and pushed open the slightly closed door. She immediately screamed.

"What happened? What happened to His Heir-apparent?" Wei Fengyao stumbled and almost fell.

"There... there is..." The face of the maid was red all over, and she could not even speak properly.

The two of them had made such a scene that it immediately attracted everyone over.

“Make way!” Wei Fengyao suddenly pushed away the maid in front of her. Immediately, the scene in the room appeared in front of everyone.

On the messy bed, the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an was lying on one side of the bed sound asleep.

However, there was also a person sleeping on the other side of the bed. A person whose face could not be clearly seen was being covered by a quilt, revealing only a head with long dark hair. This person was much thinner than the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an. Apparently, this should be a woman.

A woman was sleeping next to the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an...

“Your Heiress-apparent, it’s His Heir-apparent. There... there is a woman beside him!” The maid of Prince Nan’an Mansion was so shocked that she could not even speak properly.

“His Heir-apparent!” Wei Fengyao held the door frame with her hands and almost lost her balance. She looked at the scene in front of her in disbelief and muttered. Her panicked appearance was really pitiful.

“Where did this woman come from? How dare she do such a shameless thing!” A madam was indignant and said angrily in support of Wei Fengyao.

Another madam asked, “Morou, could this be a maid of your mansion?”

“It is unlikely. There are many guests in our mansion today and we are short of hands. Some of my maids are also helping outside.” The Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing explained anxiously.

Such a thing was really a shame to the mansion of Duke of Jing that hosted today’s banquet. If this maid was a servant of the mansion, this scandal might even become a source of discord between Prince Nan’an Mansion and the mansion of Duke of Jing. Therefore, it was understandable for the Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing to be so anxious and deny the possibility.

But if this wasn't a maid of the mansion of Duke of Jing, which mansion was she from? Or was it not a maid?

The several young madams hesitated. They looked at each other, not knowing what to do. Although they were already married, they were still young. They did not know how to deal with this situation.

Wei Fengyao was pleased with herself. There was a trace of joy in her eyes for the coming success. It seemed that Wei Yuewu had been knocked out and placed on the bed. Otherwise, she couldn't take the initiative to climb onto the bed. But this was even better than expected. Now that she was caught lying on the same bed with a man, she would not be able to explain it clearly no matter how hard she tried.

"Your Heiress-apparent, pull that slut out. Let's see who it was that seduced our heir-apparent." An old maidservant of Wei Fengyao said angrily.

"That's right. If this slut who seduced men wasn't punished, who knows what will happen in the future?" Another maid said indignantly. Then more people began to whisper to each other, saying that such a thing must not be tolerated and the woman must be punished without mercy.

"Go, pull that slut out!" Wei Fengyao's face was full of sadness. She stomped her feet and said hatefully, as if she had made up her mind.

Two old maidservants went over and reached out their hands, ready to pull the person off the bed.

With such a large group of people speaking excitedly in the room, however sleepy the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an was, he must have been woken up at this time. When he opened his eyes, he suddenly saw a wrinkled face in front of him. He was shocked and shouted as he sat up.

The old maidservant was caught off guard and was hit by Wen Ruoming's head in the chin. She screamed and fell out covering her chin with her hand. The people behind didn't see clearly what had happened and they thought that the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an had sat up to hit the old maidservant.

"Your Heir-apparent, you're going too far!"

“Your Heir-apparent, this is not Prince Nan’an Mansion.”

The statuses of those young madams were also extraordinary. Although not as noble as Prince Nan’an Mansion, their fathers, fathers-in-law, or husbands were high-ranking officials. At this time, they could not help but stand on Wei Fengyao’s side and speak for her.

“What? Who’s going too far?” Wen Ruoming propped himself up on the bed with a blank expression on his face. He looked at the large group of women gathering at the door. Finally, he landed his gaze on Wei Fengyao’s face and asked.

“Your Heir-apparent, whatever kind of women you liked, when did I say no? Even when you took a fancy to my Fifth Younger Sister before, I still went to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang to put in a good word for you and I was ready to get her for you. But... but look at you... You... what face do I have to live now!”

Wei Fengyao covered her face with a handkerchief and cried painfully, as if she had really lost control of herself.

Wen Ruoming was indeed guilty about his affair with Wei Qiuju. “You...what are you talking about?”

Hearing their conversation, the several young madams all seemed to understand something. Back then, Princess Nan’an forced Wei Fengyao to accept the affairs between Wen Ruoming and Wei Qiuju. Although those young masters who witnessed the scandal were good for nothing, they knew better than talk about it with outsiders. Otherwise, not only would they offend Prince Nan’an Mansion, but they might also provoke the Fourth Prince. Therefore, no other people knew about this scandal.

Now that these young madams heard Wei Fengyao mentioned this, some of them immediately understood. They widened their eyes in disbelief. None of these people here was stupid, and by thinking about what Wei Fengyao had said, they knew the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an had an affair with Fifth Miss Wei and asked Wei Fengyao to be his matchmaker.

This... this Fifth Miss Wei was really cheap. She actually had an affair with her brother-in-law, and she even shamelessly wanted to be his concubine!

“Don’t you understand what I am talking about, Your Heir-apparent? Ever since I married into Prince Nan’an Mansion, I have done everything according to the rules. I wholeheartedly serve Her Ladyship and deal with the internal affairs of the backyard. I have put Your Heir-apparent and Prince Nan’an Mansion at the center of my life, yet now...why have you kept treating me like this again and again?... You... you want me to...”

This was exactly what Wei Fengyao wanted. She became more and more self-righteous and cried on. She just wanted to make a scene and make this matter known to everyone so that it went beyond the control of Princess Nan’an. There was no way for Wei Qiuju to enter the mansion as a secondary concubine.

Moreover, after she brought to light his affairs with Wei Qiuju, if Wen Ruoming later had any suspicion about what happened today, he could not say anything. After all, he had a guilty conscience in both things.

Wen Ruoming was upset by her crying. Besides, being stared at by a group of women put him under great psychological pressure and he could not help but shout angrily, “Alright, alright, enough of it. This matter has been concluded. Mother also said she would make it up for you.”

These words almost confirmed that he and Wei Qiuju had an affair. Several madams immediately looked at him with disdain. They knew the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an was a playboy, but they did not expect that he would actually do such a thing. Looking at the scene in front of their eyes, they increasingly felt that Wei Fengyao was pitiful.

Before they married, they could be considered as bosom friends of Wei Fengyao. Seeing that Wei Fengyao ended up in such a situation despite her willingness to give in, they all stood up for Wei Fengyao.

“Your Heir-apparent, don’t you feel sorry for what you have done to Her Heiress-apparent?”

“I heard that the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang’s Fifth Young Lady was a concubine-born daughter. It turned out she really was illbred.”

“She actually wanted to enter Prince Nan’an Mansion. Well, no man would want her even as his bedroom maid!”

These madams kept ridiculing Wei Qiuju, and Wen Ruoming became more and more annoyed. Although he was good for nothing, he knew that if this matter was brought up, not only would he lose face, but even Prince Nan'an Mansion would be disgraced. However, he could not reprimand Wei Fengyao because he did have a guilty conscience regarding the issue.

At this moment, he was unable to vent his anger. When he saw that there was still an old maidservant standing by his bed who was about to reach her hand into the quilt, he became even more impatient. He kicked fiercely towards the old maidservant under the quilt, cursing angrily at her.

"Quiet! Didn't you see a couple arguing? Get out!"

The old maidservant was caught off guard and was kicked right in the belly. She covered her belly with her hands and cried out in pain. Then, she fell straight out, pulling the quilt off the bed as she fell...

Chapter 252 – His Heir-Apparent Had An Affair With A Man?

"Ah..." The young madams cried out in alarm one after another. Then, they came to their senses and rushed out with their maids and old maidservants blushing.

"Man...It's a man!"

"Who would expect that the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an actually slept with a man... and he did it in the mansion of Duke of Jing..."

"This is too improper! Well, it seemed that Prince Nan'an Mansion has really declined. It actually has such a..." The sounds of whispering accompanied by mocking voices gradually faded away.

They were all young madams, and it was a shameful thing for them to see two young men lying on the same bed.

"Miss, they have all come down. Should we go over and take a look?" Under a tall tree at the corner of the pavilion, Wei Yuwu watched the scene from afar with Jin Ling, her eyes filled with ridicule.

Wei Fengyao had planned to bring some young madams who were close to her to catch her in an embarrassing situation. Although these madams all had high statuses, they were still young. Seeing such a scene, they didn't even give the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an a chance to explain and directly ran away with their servants.

Thus, they firmly believed that they had witnessed the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an sleeping with a young man!

"No need to go over, they will come down in a moment! We just wait here..." Wei Yuewu smiled and moved slightly. Since Wei Fengyao had designed such a scene for her, she naturally would make good use of it.

After Jin Ling jumped off the pavilion carrying Wei Yuewu in her arms, Wei Yuewu waited quietly under the tree. First, she saw Wei Fengyao bringing a large group of people upstairs. Now, she saw those madams covering their faces with handkerchiefs and running away in shame and anger.

She narrowed her beautiful eyes and looked at the roof of the pavilion. Wei Fengyao wanted her life. Of course, this matter would not end like this!

"Will Eldest Miss Jing come over immediately?" Jin Ling looked at the road ahead and asked uneasily. She had just asked a maid to inform Eldest Miss Jing that something had happened to Wei Yuewu and that Wei Yuewu wanted her to come over.

However, the mansion of Duke of Jing was holding a banquet for this Eldest Miss Jing today. Did she really have time to come over?

"She will!" Wei Yuewu lowered her head and looked at her own delicate and white hands as she said with certainty.

Judging from what she had done, this Eldest Miss Jing wasn't a simple person. She was bold enough to ask for an audience with her in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Later on, even though she was injured, she still sent her a rare book as a gift. Today, Wei Yuewu believed she would be able to find out how "sincere" this Eldest Miss Jing was based on the amount of time it took her to arrive here, although she was certain Eldest Miss Jing wasn't absolutely...

Upstairs, after the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an kicked the old maidservant, he did not realize what was wrong immediately. When the madams looked at him as if they had seen a ghost and then hurriedly left much ashamed, he felt something was wrong.

He turned around and saw a man sitting up in a daze.

A man actually slept on his bed? Moreover, this was also seen by others. After returning home, he would probably be beaten to death by his mother! As Wen Ruoming thought about this, his expression immediately changed.

He abruptly got off the bed, grabbed the man by the hair, and pulled him to the ground, shouting, "Who are you? Why are you on my bed?"

"I... Hey, who the hell are you? How dare you hit me!" The man dressed as a servant had woken up only after the quilt was pulled off him. At this time, he was still in a daze and could not remember who this man was. Seeing that someone dragged him to the ground by pulling his hair, he was annoyed and punched Wen Ruoming in the chest.

Wen Ruoming didn't expect that the man actually dared to fight back. He staggered backward a few steps and fell to the ground, screaming in pain.

"Impudent! You... you actually dared to hit the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an!" Wei Fengyao also came back to her senses and shouted angrily. Several quick-witted old maidservants hurriedly went over to help Wen Ruoming up.

"Heir... Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an? I..." At this time, the man also came back to his senses. He was so scared that he stumbled two steps back and grabbed the edge of the bed to keep his feet.

"Of course this is the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an. Who do you think he is? How did you get into this room? Why did you sleep in this bed? And you even slept on the same bed with His Heir-apparent?" Wei Fengyao interrupted him with a stern voice. Light flashed in her eyes as she fired the questions one by one, which implicitly revealed the truth of the matter to the man.

The man was not stupid. He rolled his eyes and realized that something unexpected had happened and a remedy was needed right away. He immediately knelt down and kowtowed to Wen Ruoming.

“Your Heir-apparent, I am a servant of the mansion of Duke of Jing. Today, I was ordered to sweep the ground here with another colleague. Later, someone called the two of us away. After that, we came back and I worked alone for a while. When I came to this room, I saw that there was someone on the bed and thought it was my colleague. I thought that if he could slack off, so could I. Therefore, I climbed onto the bed to sleep for a while!”

Hearing that this person gave a flawless answer, Wei Fengyao secretly heaved a sigh of relief. However, she was afraid that Wen Ruoming didn’t understand the situation. Therefore, she went on to ask, “Did you mean that you didn’t know the person on the bed is our heir-apparent?”

“I definitely didn’t know it was His Heir-apparent! If I knew, I wouldn’t dare to offend him no matter what. I clearly saw my colleague lying on the bed... How come it became His Heir-apparent in just a short while?” That person was also good at acting. When he saw that someone believed him, he became more and more enthusiastic. He even had a bitter expression on his face as if he had been completely wronged for no reason.

In other words, what had happened was a misunderstanding.

“Why didn’t I see you when I came up?” Wen Ruoming said angrily, his face livid.

“Maybe my colleague and I happened to leave, so I didn’t see Your Heir-apparent. If I had seen you, I wouldn’t dare to sleep on the bed! Your Heir-apparent, I am truly wronged!” The man cried out loudly. Then, he rolled his eyes and added, “Your Heir-apparent, if you don’t believe me, you can call all the servants in the mansion over. You will know I didn’t lie once you ask.”

Under the current situation, Wen Ruoming could be said to have lost all of his face. How could he go on to make a big fuss? Today, the people who came were all from various aristocratic families. If he went on to pursue the case, everyone in the capital would know about it, and Prince Nan’an Mansion would be greatly humiliated. When he returned to the mansion, his mother would definitely not spare him.

At this time, Wen Ruoming still thought that only the several madams who were present knew about the scandal. Unexpectedly, before he left the pavilion, rumours had already been spread that he slept

with a man in the mansion of Duke of Jing. Some people even gossiped about the affair he had with Wei Qiuju.

“Scram!” Wen Ruoming kicked the man fiercely and shouted. Then, he pulled the outer garment that was placed aside by someone at some unknown time and hastily put it on before walking out with a livid face.

“Your Heir-apparent, wait for me!” Wei Fengyao also hurriedly followed.

The large group of maids and old maidservants hurriedly followed after their masters, leaving only the man in the room. Seeing that Wen Ruoming did not pursue the matter, the man was overjoyed. He looked around and knew that he could not stay here for long.

He was still at a loss how he was found lying on the bed in the inner room. But apparently, something had gone wrong. Therefore, he followed the crowd carefully and was ready to go downstairs.

“Eldest Sister, Your Heir-apparent!” Wei Yuewu and Jing Wenyan were waiting in an empty space below. Seeing Wen Ruoming and Wei Fengyao coming over, Wei Yuewu stepped forward and bowed.

“You... Who is this...” Wen Ruoming stopped and said in astonishment.

When Wei Fengyao saw Wei Yuewu, she was so scared that her face turned pale. She also stopped and looked around. Didn’t the maid tell her that Wei Yuewu had already gone upstairs? How come she was waiting here instead of being upstairs?

“Your Heir-apparent, I am sorry for the trouble you have suffered!” Jing Wenyan also gracefully bowed to Wen Ruoming.

“Eldest Miss Jing, what do you mean?” Wen Ruoming looked suspiciously at Jing Wenyan. The young lady in front of him was extremely charming. She was such a stunning beauty that even Wen Ruoming, who liked delicate and pretty women most, could not help but be amazed.

When he saw the maids and old maidservants beside her wearing uniforms of the mansion of Duke of Jing, he immediately guessed the identity of this beauty in front of him.

When he recalled that it was this Eldest Miss Jing who had invited him to come over, he was so angry that he spoke bluntly without caring about her face.

“Your Heir-apparent, do you think you’ve fallen into someone’s trap?” Jing Wenyan asked with a smile.

“Your Heir-apparent, could it be that someone lured you here?” Wei Yuewu smiled and asked with a surprised expression.

“What did you mean? Who lured me to this place?” Wen Ruoming asked anxiously when he realized the implication in her words.

“Your Heir-apparent, it’s all over. Forget it!” When Wei Fengyao saw that it was going out of control, she quickly pulled Wen Ruoming’s sleeve, motioning him to let go of this matter.

“Eldest Sister, could it be that you were also lured here by someone? Just now, Eldest Miss Jing and I met a few madams who said that something had happened to His Heir-apparent... I’m afraid that everyone in the front yard has known about what happened here!” Wei Yuewu said as she sneered in her heart. Well, it was apparent that Wei Fengyao didn’t want Wen Ruoming to investigate further. That was why she had asked Jing Wenyan to come here and investigate this matter in her capacity as the mistress of the mansion.

“Who did this?” When Wen Ruoming heard that there were rumors about him, he shook off Wei Fengyao’s hand and asked angrily.

“Your Heir-apparent...” When Wei Fengyao saw that Wen Ruoming was really angry, she was so anxious that her face turned pale. She took a step forward and wanted to stop him!

“Eldest Sister, what happened? Don’t you want His Heir-apparent to clear his name? There are even rumors outside that Fifth Elder Sister and His Heir-apparent are...” Wei Yuewu seemed to hesitate for a moment. She looked at Jing Wenyan at the side and omitted the other half of the sentence. “How did they know about this?”

How did those people know about this? Wasn't it Wei Fengyao who exposed this scandal in public?

Wei Yuewu's words reminded Wen Ruoming, who immediately put on a long face. What did Wei Fengyao mean? Was she trying to ruin his and Wei Qiuju's reputation by making use of the incident just now?

Besides, why didn't she want him to clear his name? Could it be that she wanted him to have a bad reputation? Could it be that Wei Fengyao wanted to vent all her anger on him and Wei Qiuju and take revenge on them because of her scratched face?

The more he thought about these possibilities, the more confident he was of his judgment. Today, he was lured by someone to the pavilion. Immediately after he was found to be lying on the same bed with someone, Wei Fengyao arrived with a group of young madams. She kept blaming him all the time and she even exposed his affair with Wei Qiuju. Could it be that all of this had been planned by Wei Fengyao?

Wen Ruoming suddenly remembered that the Heiress-apparent of the mansion of Duke of Jing was Wei Fengyao's bosom friend. Wei Fengyao once told him that they had a good relationship when they were still little girls!

The more he thought about it, the worse his expression became. He turned to look at Wei Fengyao and was about to speak when he heard Wei Yuewu saying with a faint smile, "Eldest Miss Jing, look!"

"Someone, arrest that guy!" Looking at the man who was sneaking downstairs, Jing Wenyan made a prompt decision and ordered.

Chapter 253 – Have You Seen Sixth Young Lady Before?

The man who wanted to sneak away by following the crowd downstairs was dragged over by several old maidservants.

A person who looked like the nurse-in-charge walked out and identified the man. Then, she reported to Jing Wenyan, "Eldest Young Lady, this person doesn't belong to our mansion."

He was actually not a servant of the mansion of Duke of Jing! At this time, Wen Ruoming also realized something unusual and he immediately asked angrily, "Who are you?"

"I... I..." The man thought that he had passed the test, but unexpectedly, he was caught red-handed downstairs. For a moment, he did not know how to explain.

"Did you sneak into the mansion of Duke of Jing to have a private meeting with someone?" Wei Fengyao said angrily, but she was actually hinting at something with these words.

Of course, this person was found by her people. He was a distant relative of her wet nurse. His name was Zhang Yuan. Originally, she just wanted to find a young man to force Wei Yuewu into the inner room. If he failed to do so, he should directly knock Wei Yuewu out and throw her into the inner room.

Since Wei Fengyao had made up her mind to do so, she must find someone she trusted. Thus, her wet nurse recommended Zhang Yuan. The wet nurse made arrangements for him to follow Prince Nan'an Mansion's people into the mansion of Duke of Jing. The Heiress-apparent of the Duke of Jing got a set of servant's clothes for him and brought him here.

"Yes... It was a young lady who invited me here." Hearing Wei Fengyao's hint, Zhang Yuan hurriedly nodded.

"Which lady are you looking for?" Wei Fengyao continued to hint at him.

"Which lady was I looking for?" Zhang Yuan thought about the question secretly. Well, he had been told to come here today and send this Sixth Miss Wei onto the bed of the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an in front of him.

"I... I came because I was invited by Sixth Miss Wei." Zhang Yuan learned to read and write for a few years, so he naturally had some tricks up his sleeves. At this moment, he immediately thought that if he said that he had an affair with Sixth Miss Wei, he would definitely be able to please this Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an.

Although his aunt didn't say who sent him here, he knew that his aunt's mistress was now the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an and she used to be the Eldest Young Lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang before getting married!

Just now, he secretly followed behind the group downstairs and heard the maids and old maidservants saying that the two in the front were the Heir-apparent and Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an. Now that the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an repeatedly gave him hints, it must be because of this reason.

Otherwise, who would help him?

Sure enough, the play had started. Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart and asked with a smile, "Sixth Miss Wei invited you over?"

When Zhang Yuan heard this soft and melodious voice, he could not help but look up. He immediately felt as if his soul had been lost.

These two young ladies were both extremely beautiful. The older one looked charming and her every frown and smile could hold people in a spell. The younger one, although not yet fully grown up, already had a peerlessly beautiful appearance not inferior to that of the taller beauty. Once she was truly mature, she would probably be able to cause the downfall of cities and countries with her charm. For a moment, Zhang Yuan could not help but be stunned!

"Are you here to look for Sixth Miss Wei?" Wei Yuewu frowned in disgust and asked again.

"Sixth Younger Sister, aren't you..." Wei Fengyao wanted to remind Zhang Yuan, but Wei Yuewu rudely interrupted her. "Eldest Sister, what do you mean? Are you trying to hint at something?"

Wei Yuewu's facial features were extremely exquisite. However, at this moment, she was looking at Wei Fengyao with a cold face. She had such a threatening aura that Wei Fengyao couldn't even speak for a moment. She glared at Zhang Yuan, hoping that he would hear her hint.

However, Zhang Yuan's attention was completely focused on Wei Yuewu's face. How could he hear what Wei Fengyao said?

Wei Yuewu glanced sideways at Jin Ling, who immediately understood her meaning. Jin Ling walked over and heavily slapped Zhang Yuan twice in the face. "How dare you! Where are your eyes looking? How dare you peep at our young lady? Now tell us which mansion does this Sixth Miss Wei you wanted to see come from? Have you seen her before?"

Jin Ling's heavy slaps immediately woke Zhang Yuan up, and his face immediately swelled up. Seeing everyone staring at him coldly, he immediately realized the dangerous situation and said anxiously, "Young ladies, I am really in love with the Sixth Young Lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. You should know Sixth Miss Wei, right?"

"Have you seen her before?" Wei Yuewu stared at him coldly, her expression even more severe.

"Of course I have. Although Sixth Miss Wei is not as beautiful as you two young ladies, she has been in love with me for a long time. But recently, Marquis Hua Yang came back. It is inconvenient for us to meet in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, so we thought of the mansion of Duke of Jing." Zhang Yuan thought that he had made a smart reply. Well, didn't people say that Sixth Miss Wei was untalented and plain-looking?

In addition, this time, the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an had wanted him to send that young lady onto the bed of her husband, the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an. It was probably because this Sixth Miss Wei was not plain-looking. Otherwise, which woman would be willing to find another beautiful woman for her husband?

Therefore, Zhang Yuan believed that neither of the two young ladies in front of him would be that Sixth Miss Wei. He believed that if Sixth Miss Wei really appeared later, the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an would definitely give him a hint.

He didn't expect Wei Fengyao had given him a hint. However, at that time, he was entranced by the two beauties and ignored Wei Fengyao's message.

As soon as Zhang Yuan uttered those words, Wei Fengyao felt that it was not going well. The handkerchief in her hand was crumpled by her into a ball and she repeatedly glared at Zhang Yuan to remind him. However, this Zhang Yuan only noticed Wei Yuewu and Jing Wenyan at this time. He did not understand Wei Fengyao's hint at all and was secretly happy for his smart reply.

“Are you sure you saw Sixth Miss Wei?” Wei Yuewu sneered and asked again.

In order to increase the credibility of his words, Zhang Yuan turned to Wei Fengyao. He pointed at her and said, “Of course. Sixth Miss Wei looks a bit similar to Her Heiress-apparent. This madam in front of me should be the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan’an, right?”

Did Wei Yuewu and Wei Fengyao look alike?

Wen Ruoming and Jing Wenyan couldn’t help but look at the two of them. Wei Fengyao was originally a beauty, but now that her face was scratched, there was not the slightest trace of beauty on her pale face. As she stood together with the beautiful Wei Yuewu, there wasn’t any resemblance between them at all.

It was impossible to find any similarity on their faces.

“Sixth Miss Wei and Her Heiress-apparent look alike?” Wen Ruoming asked coldly.

“Yes. Otherwise, how would I have recognized Her Heiress-apparent?” Zhang Yuan still didn’t realize what was wrong with his answer.

“Are you saying you figured out that this madam in front of you is Her Heiress-apparent based on Sixth Miss Wei’s appearance?” Jing Wenyan once again looked at Wei Fengyao and Wei Yuewu suspiciously. There really wasn’t the slightest similarity between their appearances.

“Yes, if I hadn’t seen Sixth Miss Wei, how could I have recognized Her Heiress-apparent! Everyone knows that Sixth Miss Wei and the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan’an were cousins, so how could they not look alike?” Zhang Yuan was quite pleased with his answer.

The corners of Wei Yuewu’s lips curled into a mocking smile, and she asked meaningfully, “You actually recognized the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan’an at a glance?”

Wei Fengyao's face turned pale, but because she had applied a lot of power to her face, no one could see anything unusual. Her hand holding the handkerchief trembled slightly as she opened her mouth and was about to give a hint again to Zhang Yuan.

"Do you know who I am?" Wei Yuewu asked with a cold smile.

Shocked by her aura, Zhang Yuan could not help but shiver, however lustful he was. He suddenly remembered that the eldest daughter of Duke of Jing was the number one beauty in the world. The older beauty should be her, and the younger beauty might be her younger sister. But no matter who she was, it was impossible for him to have seen her.

"I... I don't know!" Thinking of Duke of Jing's status, Zhang Yuan didn't dare to look at Wei Yuewu anymore and hurriedly lowered his head.

This was the mansion of Duke of Jing. If he really provoked someone of the mansion, he might not even be able to get out of here.

"You haven't seen me?"

"No!" How could Zhang Yuan dare to say yes!

"You haven't seen me, but you figured out who was the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an based on the appearance of Sixth Miss Wei whom you have seen. You are really smart!" Wei Yuewu looked up at Wen Ruoming and said with a smile, "Your Heir-apparent, I don't know what to ask next!"

Her words were really thought-provoking. Wen Ruoming's gaze shifted from Zhang Yuan to Wei Fengyao. His face was ashen, and he suddenly slapped Wei Fengyao fiercely in the face, who was sent flying and fell heavily to the ground.

"Your Heir-apparent!" Wei Fengyao never expected that Wen Ruoming would directly slap her in front of so many people and she screamed, "You... How could you do this..."

“Why can’t I do this? Well, well, Wei Fengyao, do you look very similar to the Sixth Young Lady? But if it wasn’t for the Sixth Young Lady, how would the guy know you? If he didn’t know you, how would he know that you are the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan’an!”

Wen Ruoming was so angry that his whole body trembled. When he thought that he had been made a cuckold by Wei Fengyao without knowing, he felt that he was going to explode.

Apparently, this man had come here to meet Wei Fengyao privately!

Wei Yuewu was so beautiful that no one who had seen her would forget her. Since this man failed to recognize Wei Yuewu, he must be lying. On the contrary, he was undeniably familiar with Wei Fengyao!

This guy claimed that the two cousins looked similar. However, Wei Yuewu and Wei Fengyao did not look similar at all.

This meant that the man in front of him was lying. Why was he lying? Wen Ruoming felt that he must be trying to protect another person, and this person was exactly Wei Fengyao, whom this man clearly knew although he had repeatedly pretended to have recognized Wei Fengyao based on Wei Yuewu’s appearance.

If this guy didn’t know Wei Fengyao, how could he figure out Wei Fengyao’s identity based on Wei Yuewu, whom he had never seen? Apparently, this man must have an affair with Wei Fengyao! Thinking of this point and today’s scandal, Wen Ruoming was unable to contain his anger.

Besides, when Wei Yuewu helplessly expressed that she did not know what to ask, it was evident that she was innocent. After all, Wei Yuewu was Wei Fengyao’s younger cousin, and there were some words she really couldn’t say.

At this time, Wen Ruoming was definitely sure that it was Wei Fengyao who brought a group of madams to catch him and the man in bed. The more he looked at Wei Fengyao, the more disgusted he felt. He couldn’t help wondering why he listened to his father and mother and married such a vicious and cheap woman!

“Someone, send him to the yamen!”

Wen Ruoming gritted his teeth as he said these words. He was secretly thinking to himself that sending the man to the yamen was just an excuse. Of course, he would not allow this guy to speak nonsense as he had done just now. As soon as this man was sent to the yamen, he would have someone see the Mayor of the capital city in the name of his father, Prince Nan'an, and ask the Mayor to take this person's life immediately.

Zhang Yuan did not expect that the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an would directly ask someone to send him to the yamen. He could not help but panic. He subconsciously looked at Wei Fengyao and shouted, "Your Heiress-apparent, save me!"

Chapter 254 – Nation-Wide Selection Of Beauties?

"Shut up!" Wen Ruoming was furious. He sneered at the old maidservants behind him and scolded, "What are you waiting for? Quickly block his mouth!"

With so many people present, how could Wen Ruoming allow Zhang Yuan to directly identify Wei Fengyao? How could Prince Nan'an Mansion afford to lose face like this?

Two old maidservants immediately went over and stuffed a handkerchief into Zhang Yuan's mouth and dragged him out.

"Your Heir-apparent... It's not me..." Wei Fengyao was so anxious that her forehead was covered in sweat. If she was dragged down in this situation, there would be nothing she could do to clear her name.

Although Wen Ruoming was a good-for-nothing playboy, he was nevertheless a member of the royal family. How could he not understand how to handle such a matter? His face sank as he spoke in a stern voice, "Someone, Her Heiress-apparent caught a cold and was speaking nonsense. Bring her back to the mansion!"

The several old maidservants who followed Wei Fengyao looked at each other, but in the end, two of them went up and gestured to pull Wei Fengyao, who suddenly shook them off and shouted, "You slaves, hands off me!"

At this time, Wei Fengyao was extremely anxious. She rushed to the front of Wen Ruoming, her eyes burning with anger as she roared, "Your Heir-apparent, how can you do this to me? I am your wife and the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an Mansion. I didn't say anything about your affair with Wei Qiuju, but you actually treated me like this!"

This was the handle that she had against Wen Ruoming. She had originally thought that even if there were some loopholes in her plot, with this handle in her hand, Wen Ruoming would feel guilty towards her and would not say anything.

However, she did not expect that the situation was different from her original plan to such an extent that she could not react in time and repeatedly made mistakes, causing her to be angered by Wen Ruoming's attitude. If she was brought home by Wen Ruoming like this today, she would not have the face to see anyone in the future.

As soon as she mentioned Wei Qiuju, Wen Ruoming felt a little guilty and frowned.

Wei Yuewu raised her head and glanced at Wei Fengyao. Then, she narrowed her eyes and asked softly, "Eldest Sister, today's event... what does it have to do with Fifth Elder Sister? Isn't she staying in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang safe and sound? How come she was connected with today's event? There are still many people here..."

Her words reminded Wen Ruoming, who immediately looked around. Although the maids and old maidservants of his mansion had their heads lowered and did not dare to say anything, the maids and old maidservants of the mansion of Duke of Jing had nothing to fear about, and many of them looked at him and Wei Fengyao curiously with their eyes wide open.

"Move!" Wen Ruoming felt embarrassed, and with a flick of his sleeve, he quickly walked away.

"Your Heir-apparent, where are you going?" After going downstairs, the expression on Wei Fengyao's face had kept changing. Seeing that Wen Ruoming was actually leaving without her, she couldn't help but scream.

"You can stay here if you like. I am going home!" Wen Ruoming sneered without turning his head.

If Wen Ruoming went back like this, how could Wei Fengyao continue to stay here? She turned around and looked at Wei Yuewu with hatred. She did not know why the situation had ended up like this. The maid had clearly said that she saw Wei Yuewu going upstairs, but in the end, Wei Yuewu appeared downstairs. Well, this Wei Yuewu had indeed played monkey tricks with her.

Of course, the Eldest Miss Jing standing beside her also had a share!

“Good, good for you! Just wait and see!” Wei Fengyao gritted her teeth and pointed at Wei Yuewu and Jing Wenyan as she sneered. Then, she turned around and chased after Wen Ruoming with a group of maids and old maidservants.

As soon as Wen Ruoming and Wei Fengyao left, it was quiet downstairs. Wei Yuewu turned to Jing Wenyan and bowed deeply. “Thank you for your help, Eldest Miss Jing!”

Jing Wenyan reached out to support her and smiled with courtesy. “Sixth Young Lady, you are too polite. Although the two of us only met a few times, I have a special affinity with you. Perhaps it is because neither of us grew up in the capital.”

Her voice was soft and gentle, but it was different from Third Princess’ seemingly sweet tone. It sounded more real and could leave a more favorable impression for people.

Wei Yuewu stood up with Jing Wenyan’s support, a dark light flashing across her eyes. “I’m afraid that Eldest Sister would hate you for what happened today.” had a young master and

Of course, Jing Wenyan understood the meaning of Wei Yuewu’s words. She answered with a smile, “It doesn’t matter. The Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan’an isn’t the only one who hates me. There is also my sister-in-law!”

Judging by Wei Fengyao’s attitude when she left, it was clear that she believed the two of them ganged up and she hated them to the bone. But thinking about today’s incident carefully, if Wei Fengyao had no one to help her, how could she set up such a big trap in the mansion of Duke of Jing? Of course, the one who could help Wei Fengyao was the Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing.

It was not a secret that the two of them were bosom friends before they were married.

Shui Morou, the Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing, did not grow up in the State of Jing. She was selected by the Emperor out of the daughters of famous aristocratic families and sent to the State of Jing.

Speaking of which, today's incident wasn't completely harmless to the mansion of Duke of Jing. Wen Ruoming was a guest to the mansion of Duke of Jing, but in the end, something happened to him. It was actually very likely that Prince Nan'an Mansion was annoyed and held the mansion of Duke of Jing responsible.

Although the Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing helped her bosom friend, she had caused trouble for the mansion of Duke of Jing. Jing Wenyan would definitely report this matter to her father, and there was no way for this Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing to get away with it!

In this case, the mansion of Duke of Jing had better investigate the matter clearly in case Princess Nan'an came to ask for an explanation.

Therefore, Wei Yuewu had in fact helped the mansion of Duke of Jing today.

"Then I'm going to be hated by the Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing as well!" Wei Yuewu said meaningfully, and the two of them couldn't help but laugh.

"Eldest Miss Jing, you are the focus of attention today. Please go back first. It is still early. I am going to have a walk around the garden!" Wei Yuewu suggested.

"This... Alright! I'll leave an old maidservant at your service. Wherever you want to go, let her bring you there!" Jing Wenyan nodded. The banquet today was held in her name. No matter what, it was impossible for her not to show up and welcome the guests. "After a while, I will ask her to bring you directly to my courtyard. Today, I specially invited a few intimate young ladies to my courtyard."

So, this was the reason why Eldest Miss Jing sent an extra invitation to her. As for her "safety on the road", she did not mention anything about it. In other words, Jing Wenyan knew nothing about the danger that Wei Yuewu had encountered on the road.

It was only intended for the sake of politeness!

This Eldest Miss Jing was indeed extremely clever. If she hadn't sent for her and forced her to take her stand, and if she wasn't sure that Wei Fengyao could no longer stir up any trouble, this Jing Wenyan would probably not stand on her side firmly.

Wei Yuewu bowed again. She rolled her eyes and said with a smile, "Thank you, Eldest Miss Jing!"

"Sixth Young Lady, you are too polite. I am leaving now!" At this time, Jing Wenyan had finished dealing with the matter. The maid who had been knocked out was also taken away by her.

"See you!" Wei Yuewu nodded.

Jing Wenyan took a few steps and suddenly she seemed to think of something. She waved her hand and the maids around her all retreated. She turned around and walked to Wei Yuewu. She glanced at Jin Ling behind Wei Yuewu and then whispered to Wei Yuewu, "Sixth Young Lady, have you heard about the selection of Crown Princess and imperial concubines for the Crown Prince?"

"The selection of Crown Princess and imperial concubines for the Crown Prince? Hasn't that already been under way? Could it be that the final list has been decided?" Wei Yuewu raised her head in shock. Of course, she knew what had occurred in the Plum Blossom Nunnery.

At that time, in order to get a bright red palace flower that indicated candidacy for the Crown Princess, Wei Qiufu even gave her a rose-red palace flower that was intended for a candidate imperial concubine.

Of course, Jing Wenyan wasn't merely talking about this now with such a serious face.

"I don't know yet, but... I heard that the Crown Prince might not choose his Crown Princess based on the family background this time!" Jing Wenyan's eyes remained fixed on Wei Yuewu's face as she uttered these words.

"Not based on the family background? This... Could there be other criteria?" Wei Yuewu looked at Jing Wenyan and asked with a puzzled look. "No matter what, the Crown Princess must not be too ordinary. Could it be that the daughter of a common family would become the Crown Princess?"

The Crown Prince was the future ruler of the country and the next Emperor! The Crown Princess was the future Empress, second only to the Emperor. Therefore, there were high requirements on the candidates for the Crown Princess. Only the daughters of aristocratic families, and especially big and powerful aristocratic families were eligible candidates.

Wei Qiufu had set her up because she was blocking her way.

At this moment, Wei Yuewu was truly puzzled.

“Well, I’m not too sure either... But according to the rumors, it seems that not only daughters of big aristocratic families are considered, but those from small aristocratic families are also eligible. This seems to be a nation-wide selection, but the candidates must be daughters of aristocratic families in the capital!” Jing Wenyan said, frowning.

“Nation-wide selection? Are they choosing palace maids?” Wei Yuewu curled her lips indifferently. Several years ago, a nation-wide selection of palace maids was also held.

Jing Wenyan had been carefully examining Wei Yuewu’s expression. Seeing that Wei Yuewu really did not know anything, she explained, “Not palace maids. Basically, all the unmarried young ladies of the aristocratic families will be considered.”

“Impossible!” Wei Yuewu was shocked. In the past, nation-wide selections were only held to select palace maids. As for the wives of princes and the Crown Prince, only the daughters from big aristocratic families were eligible candidates.

“Yes. Sixth Miss Wei, you are not engaged now, so you should also be a candidate!” Jing Wenyan’s burning gaze landed on Wei Yuewu’s face as she reminded her.

“Could it be that all those without a marriage contract will be considered? Didn’t they say that each mansion could have only one candidate for the position of Crown Princess?” Wei Yuewu’s eyes moved slightly, and her long eyelashes fluttered as if she was shocked.

“It was true before, but the rule seemed to have changed!” Jing Wenyan said.

“When did this happen?” Wei Yuewu asked with a frown. “Is the previous selection of candidates still effective?”

“Of course it is. The Fourth Young Lady in your mansion is expected to enter the Crown Prince Mansion. It was said that the Crown Prince personally selected her. Several other young ladies will also enter the Crown Prince Mansion. However, these people can’t compete for the position of Crown Princess.” Jing Wenyan’s face was solemn.

Looking at Wei Yuewu’s gentle and beautiful face, Jing Wenyan recalled the rumor that the Crown Prince had thought highly of Wei Yuewu. She smiled and asked as if casually, “Sixth Young Lady, are you willing to be the Crown Princess?” At the same time, she observed Wei Yuewu quietly.

This was the only girl she could not see through...

Chapter 255 – Pavilion In An Unoccupied Courtyard

“Eldest Miss Jing, you must be joking. It is not up to us to decide whether or not to be the Crown Princess.” Wei Yuewu smiled faintly. There was a faint indifference in her eyes. She really did not like Jing Wenyan looking at her with a scrutinizing gaze.

Seeing that Wei Yuewu did not want to talk about this matter, Jing Wenyan changed the topic and said with a smile, “Actually, I don’t know if it’s true or not. I feel we hit it off and therefore I talked about this with you in private. I am leaving now.”

“Eldest Miss Jing, please go ahead!” Wei Yuewu answered smilingly.

Seeing that she really couldn’t figure out Wei Yuewu’s thoughts, Jing Wenyan smiled and really left with her people, leaving only an old maidservant several steps in front of Wei Yuewu waiting for her instructions.

“Miss...” Jin Ling came over and wanted to say something, but she stopped when noticing the expression in Wei Yuewu’s eyes.

“Just take us for a walk in your mansion’s garden. Take some quiet paths.” Wei Yuewu instructed the old maidservant.

“Yes, Sixth Young Lady!” The Old maidservant accepted the order and led the way.

Sure enough, the scenery was good along the way, and there were very few pedestrians on the road. Because the old maidservant saw that Wei Yuewu liked quietness, she specially avoided places where there were many people.

“It seemed that there weren’t many people living here in the past, right?” Wei Yuewu looked at an empty courtyard and asked curiously. This was the third empty courtyard she saw along the way.

Apparently, the mansion of Duke of Jing had fewer people than the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

“Our Duke, Duchess, Heir-apparent, and young lady used to live in the State of Jing. They rarely come back here. Even if they come back, they only occupy a few main courtyards. The other courtyards are almost all unoccupied. But this time...” The Old maidservant paused for a moment. After all, the family of the Duke of Jing had lost its territory and could only live here now, which was a shameful thing to mention.

“Right now, there aren’t many masters and young ladies in the mansion, and only a few main courtyards are occupied.” The old maidservant added, still not answering Wei Yuewu’s question.

“What about the concubines and the other young ladies and young masters in the mansion?” Hearing that the old maidservant only mentioned the Heir-apparent of Duke of Jing and Eldest Young Lady, Wei Yuewu smiled and asked. She didn’t believe that Duke of Jing had no other children.

The old maidservant sighed and answered, “Our Duke had another son and a younger daughter before, but they were missing on their way back to the capital. Nobody knows where they are now. The Duke sent many people to look for them, but they haven’t been found yet. Several concubines have also disappeared!”

Therefore, only Jing Wenyan and the Heir-apparent of Duke of Jing were living in the mansion. Wei Yuewu had learned that the two of them were both born by the Duchess of Jing.

Wei Yuewu's watery eyes fell on a courtyard in front of her and she asked as if casually, "It has been so long. Is there still no news?"

"It has indeed been a long time, so even the Duke felt that the odds were against them. Most of the people sent out have also returned." The old maidservant replied.

"Has this courtyard been empty all the time?" Wei Yuewu suddenly stopped and pointed at the courtyard in front of her.

This courtyard was very large and it also had a tall building, which made it look different from other courtyards. Normally, this kind of tall building should appear in the main courtyard instead of such a remote courtyard. It was really strange. Moreover, this courtyard was obviously larger than the previous ones.

"This courtyard had always been empty. When they entered the capital, the Duke had also sent people to clean up the courtyard. Originally, he wanted the Eldest Young Lady to live here, but the Eldest Young Lady said that she wanted to live closer to the Duke, so this courtyard was closed and left unoccupied."

The old maidservant looked at the courtyard to which Wei Yuewu pointed and thought for a moment before answering.

"Can I... go in and take a look?" Wei Yuewu's expression remained unchanged as she looked at the half-closed gate of the courtyard and asked.

"Well..." The old maidservant hesitated for a moment. Although she was instructed to show this Sixth Miss Wei around the mansion, the Eldest Young Lady did not say whether she could bring Sixth Miss Wei to the courtyard.

"Then forget it. I'll ask Eldest Miss Jing when I see her later." Wei Yuewu didn't want to make things difficult for the old maidservant at all. She turned her body slightly and was about to go to another path.

"Sixth Young Lady, please wait a moment. There's no need to ask the Eldest Young Lady if you just want to have a brief walk in it." Seeing that Wei Yuewu really wanted to leave, the old maidservant hurriedly

went forward and said with a smile. Although the Eldest Young Lady did not explicitly allow her to take this Sixth Miss Wei to the courtyard, she didn't say no either. Anyway, it was just an abandoned courtyard. And the old maidservant really did not think there was anything that could not be seen by an outsider.

"Will Eldest Miss Jing blame you?" Wei Yuewu asked after pondering for a moment.

The old maidservant hurriedly said, "It's fine, Sixth Young Lady. Our Eldest Young Lady instructed me to properly entertain you. Wherever you want to go, I will bring you over."

Eldest Young Lady had repeatedly warned her not to offend this seemingly delicate and weak Sixth Miss Wei.

"Then... alright!" Wei Yuewu seemed to be in a dilemma.

"Sixth Young Lady, this way, please. I will lead the way for you!" The old maidservant said enthusiastically.

Seeing that the old maidservant was so enthusiastic, Wei Yuewu no longer said anything and slowly walked to the gate of the courtyard with Jin Ling.

Compared with the other courtyards she saw along the way, even the gate of this courtyard was also much bigger. Apparently, this courtyard was for the most important master of the mansion. In other words, there used to be a master who loved quietness in the mansion...

Wei Yuewu looked up at the big gate and asked, "It was said the mansion of Duke of Jing was bestowed by His Majesty. Is this true? The mansion is indeed extraordinary."

"This... I have always lived in the State of Jing before. I am not clear." The old maidservant shook her head awkwardly. Although she had heard of such rumors, she did not dare to speak carelessly.

The gate was opened, revealing the ground inside that was quite clean. It seemed that after Duke of Jing moved in, he had ordered people to clean up the entire mansion. Although this courtyard was unoccupied, it didn't look desolate.

Wei Yuewu looked over, and she found there were more than two layers. Located in the innermost area was the tall pavilion.

"Can I walk around freely?" Wei Yuewu asked politely.

"Sixth Young Lady, please feel free!" The old maidservant replied with a smile. In the old maidservant's mind, since they had already entered the courtyard, she might as well allow this Sixth Miss Wei to walk around freely. Moreover, the doors here were all closed. At most, she would just take a glance from the outside. In order to show her generosity, she even added, "Sixth Young Lady, I will wait for you near the gate. If you have any need, just let me know."

"Alright!" Wei Yuewu smiled and nodded at the old maidservant. She was very satisfied with the thoughtfulness of the old maidservant and turned around to walk in.

Jin Ling immediately stepped forward, took out a purse from her pocket, and handed it to the old maidservant.

The old maidservant took it and felt the weight inside. Her face immediately bloomed with joy and she kept thanking Wei Yuewu. As soon as Wei Yuewu entered the second layer of the courtyard, the old maidservant went to a small house near the gate to have a rest.

There were also many rooms in the second layer, but they were not what Wei Yuewu wanted to see. She wanted to see the pavilion. If she was not mistaken, there was someone in the pavilion.

It was a surprise to see someone on a pavilion in an unoccupied courtyard. What surprised Wei Yuewu the most was that when the face disappeared in an instant, she figured out it was probably the Third Prince.

The Third Prince was actually in an abandoned pavilion in the mansion of Duke of Jing. From whichever perspective, this matter was a bit mysterious. The other reason why Wei Yuewu came here in such a

hurry was that Wei Yuewu felt that this Third Prince should know something about her mother, but he just didn't want to tell her.

She really wanted to find out the relationship between her mother and the Crown Prince, Wen Tianyao. Maybe the Third Prince also knew something.

Moreover, if this place was really the former Prince Bei'an Mansion, Wei Yuewu felt that it would be easier to discover something useful in this kind of quiet and remote place!

Picking up the hemline of her dress, Wei Yuewu walked to the pavilion and looked up. This pavilion was not high or big. Compared to the other pavilions in the mansion, it was much smaller and less significant.

However, the other pavilions in the mansion all had independent courtyards, whereas this pavilion was included in this courtyard.

"Miss..." Jin Ling said worriedly as she caught up from behind.

Wei Yuewu shook her hand, indicating that she did not have to worry. "Let's go up and take a look."

"Miss, the rooms here are all locked. There is no way to go up!" Jin Ling had observed a few rooms before, and each one was tightly locked. Therefore, she reminded Wei Yuewu.

"Yes, we can. I saw someone up there in the pavilion!" Wei Yuewu shook her head with certainty. At this time, she was looking up from below. She could not see anything, nor did she see the Third Prince. However, she believed that what happened just now was not her illusion. The Third Prince should be there.

Since the Third Prince could go up, she could naturally go up as well.

"There's someone up there!" After following Wei Yuewu for a few steps, Jin Ling was suddenly shocked. She hurriedly took two steps forward and stood in front of Wei Yuewu. She said in a low voice, "Miss, there are people up there. Are you still going up?"

She didn't discover that there was someone up there. On the one hand, this indicated that there was no one up there a moment ago, and on the other hand, this indicated that the person above was so powerful that she actually did not notice the person. In the case of the first explanation, it would not be a big deal, but in the case of the second explanation, Jin Ling did not think that it was a good thing for Wei Yuewu to go up!

"It's fine. This is the mansion of Duke of Jing. Nothing will happen!" Wei Yuewu shook her head. Although she did not know what the Third Prince meant, she was certain that the Third Prince had no ill intentions toward her.

"Miss!" Jin Ling was still worried. After all, this was the mansion of Duke of Jing and they were now in a desolate place. If something happened that she could not handle, Wei Yuewu would be in danger!

Wei Yuewu shook her head. Her gaze fell on the fence on the second floor and she deliberately raised her voice to probe, "It's fine. Many guests came here today. The mansion will definitely ensure the safety of the guests. Moreover, I heard the mansion of Duke of Jing used to be Prince Bei'an Mansion. I would like to feel the imposing manner of the prince mansion."

Seeing that Wei Yuewu was determined to go up, Jin Ling knew that she could not stop her. She could only move aside and let Wei Yuewu go over. She followed closely behind Wei Yuewu and looked around vigilantly.

On the second floor, a young man stood there with his hands behind his back. His gaze fell on Wei Yuewu with a myriad of complicated feelings. He had already started to move to avoid Wei Yuewu, but he suddenly stopped when he heard Wei Yuewu mentioning "Prince Bei'an Mansion." He thought for a moment before directly turning around and walking to the stairs.

"Your Highness..." A guard stepped forward and tried to say something but was stopped by him.

The sound of a woman's soft footsteps came from the stairs...

Chapter 256 – Prince Bei'an Mansion

Although no one lived there, the stairs were also cleaned up with great care. Wei Yuewu lifted the hemline of her skirt and carefully walked up. When she saw the handsome face of the Third Prince, she revealed a smile without the slightest trace of surprise.

“What a coincidence it is to actually see Your Highness here. Greetings, Your Highness!” She lightly bowed and smiled.

When Jin Ling saw that it was the Third Prince upstairs, her heart trembled and she hurriedly bowed along with Wei Yuewu.

The Third Prince fixed his gaze on Wei Yuewu’s face. After a while, he slowly said, “It is not a coincidence, I have been here for some time!”

Wei Yuewu was not surprised that the Third Prince had been here. Since the Third Prince was willing to see her, it meant that he did not intend to hide the fact that he had been here for a long time.

“Why are you here?” The Third Prince turned around and walked towards the inside with his hands behind his back.

Wei Yuewu followed him. Jin Ling carefully looked at the guard who was standing by the side and staring at her vigilantly. After thinking for a while, she did not follow Wei Yuewu and only kept an eye on the guard.

The Third Prince walked to the fence on the second floor and stopped. There was glazed glass on the fence, and there was also a half-closed curtain on the side. It was not easy for people to find someone standing behind the fence from the outside, but people standing behind the fence could have a clear view of the outside.

In other words, Wei Yuewu had discovered the Third Prince only by chance. However, the Third Prince had been able to observe Wei Yuewu all the time. Wei Yuewu went forward and looked down. She could even see the old maidservant walking out of the room and looking around. After confirming Wei Yuewu and Jin Ling were still in the backyard, the old maidservant continued to rest in the room.

“Who told you this is Prince Bei’an Mansion?” The Third Prince asked coldly.

“Isn’t it?” Wei Yuewu smiled slightly and asked. Since the Third Prince went straight to the point, she was not afraid to let him know that she was interested in Prince Bei’an Mansion.

Besides the Third Prince, she really couldn't find anyone else to ask about a prince mansion that had declined!

"Why are you looking for Prince Bei'an Mansion?" The Third Prince neither said yes or no. He did not even turn his head, but Wei Yuewu could hear a trace of trembling in his voice.

"It's not me who wanted to find Prince Bei'an Mansion, it's my mother!" Wei Yuewu said honestly.

"Marquise Hua Yang?" The Third Prince suddenly turned around and looked at Wei Yuewu sternly.

"Yes, my mother!" Wei Yuewu's expression did not change. She looked at the Third Prince without any fear. Her clear eyes were filled with a trace of pain. "My mother left me a note asking me to find out about Prince Bei'an Mansion."

She had never told anyone about this matter, but she somehow felt that it was the best time to talk about it. After she finished speaking, her watery eyes were no longer calm.

"Did Marquise Hua Yang know what she was doing?" The third prince suddenly became annoyed.

"Your Highness, what do you mean?" Hearing the Third Prince mentioned her mother like this, Wei Yuewu had a long face and became angry. Her snow-white face slightly flushed.

The Third Prince seemed to have realized that he had lost his composure, and his expression relaxed. He looked at Wei Yuewu with a complicated expression and slowly said, "Sixth Miss Wei, do you know that no one is allowed to mention Prince Bei'an Mansion? Aren't you afraid?"

"So what? I can't defy mother's orders!" Wei Yuewu straightened her back with a fearless face.

These words stunned the Third Prince, but then his eyes became more and more unfathomable. He glanced at Wei Yuewu and said slowly after a while, "Your mother was wrong!"

“My mother was wrong?” Wei Yuewu repeated in confusion.

“Yes, your mother was wrong! She was wrong. This was not important at all!” The Third Prince turned his head again, a bitter smile appearing on his lips. “This is meaningless to her!”

“What about to Your Highness?” Wei Yuewu asked.

These words seemed to have stabbed the Third Prince. The Third Prince could hardly suppress the pain on his face. His hand gently touched the window lattice of the pavilion and his fist clenched tightly. After a long time, he finally relaxed. “Do you know who was the earliest owner of this place?”

He directly switched to another topic and looked at the glazed glass window with gentle eyes. “She was not in good health and could not go out when she was a little girl. She would easily catch cold and get sick, so this building was specially built for her. The windows here were installed with glazed glasses for her to see the scenery outside when she was upstairs.”

“Although her body was weak and she couldn’t walk around freely, she liked seeing beautiful flowers. Therefore, flowers that could bloom in all seasons were planted downstairs...”

Wei Yuewu followed the Third Prince’s gaze and looked at a place. There was indeed a garden in that direction, but it seemed to have been abandoned. Although there were still traces of the garden, there were basically no flowers left.

“Your Highness, are you talking about that little sister who was in poor health?” Wei Yuewu asked cautiously. She remembered what the Third Prince had told her before. Was the little sister who was very close to her really the one the Third Prince was talking about?

The Third Prince did not speak. His gaze was fixed on the ground below. After a while, he turned to Wei Yuewu. His expression was calm and indifferent, exactly as was described by the rumors outside. “Sixth Young Lady, you’d better not investigate Prince Bei’an Mansion. This matter has nothing to do with you!”

Without waiting for Wei Yuewu to reply, he turned around and went downstairs with his guard.

Seeing that the Third Prince had left, Jin Ling hurried over.

“Let’s go too!” Wei Yuewu said softly as she looked at the back of the Third Prince.

Although the Third Prince did not say anything, she still found a part of the answer to the question in her heart. This was definitely the former Prince Bei’an Mansion, but she did not expect the little sister in her memory was also related to Prince Bei’an Mansion! Could she be the daughter of Prince Bei’an?

But didn’t the Third Prince say that it was his younger sister? Could it be his cousin?

After making so tremendous effort, she felt that she had solved only one question, but there were now even more questions, especially when the Third Prince repeatedly said that Prince Bei’an Mansion had nothing to do with her. However, when she thought of the note left by her mother, she did not believe that it really had nothing to do with her!

The Third Prince must know something, but it was obvious that he would not tell her.

“Sixth Young Lady, it’s getting late. How about we going to Eldest Young Lady’s courtyard? Maybe she is already anxious to see you!”

The old maidservant who waited at the gate had looked around several times. When she saw Wei Yuewu coming out, she hurriedly went forward with a smile.

“Alright!” Wei Yuewu nodded with a smile. It was indeed getting late. The banquet should be starting soon.

Of course, she would not go to the banquet hall in the front yard. Jing Wenyan had asked her to go to her own courtyard, where she had specially arranged a banquet for several young ladies who were close to her.

Seeing that Wei Yuewu agreed without any intention of making things difficult for her, the old maidservant led the way with a smile.

At this time, they took the shortcut to Jing Wenyan's courtyard. Not long after, they arrived at the gate of Jing Wenyan's courtyard.

The maids at the gate of the courtyard saw them coming from afar and hurriedly went in to report to Jing Wenyan, who came out to greet them at the gate.

There were a total of four young ladies who followed Jing Wenyan out. Wei Yuewu was surprised to find that these people were really familiar.

There were Li Yue'er, Lady Li's niece; Yang Yuyan, the Eldest Lady Yang who framed her in the Plum Blossom Nunnery; Wang Yachun, the eldest daughter of General Ming Yuan whom she had met at the first palace banquet; and the last one was Zhao Ruo'e, who had a conflict with her because of the palace flower.

Well, they were really acquaintances to her. Except for Wang Yachun, the other three all had some kind of friction with her.

Seeing Wei Yuewu in a daze, Jing Wenyan covered her mouth with a handkerchief and laughed, "Sixth Miss Wei, do you think that they look familiar? I have only just arrived in the capital. Actually, I don't know many young ladies. However, I feel there is special chemistry between me and the five of you. That's why I specially invited you to my courtyard. You won't mind, right?"

Of course, no one would mind. Although the mansion of Duke of Jing had declined, Jing Wenyan, who had the title of the number one beauty, was not affected. Instead, the young masters of the aristocratic families in the capital were burning with eagerness for her.

"Eldest Miss Jing, you must be joking. I have indeed met these ladies before!" Wei Yuewu smiled and swept her gaze across everyone's face.

She didn't know if there was special chemistry between these ladies and Jing Wenyan, but she did know one thing: these people did have "special" chemistry with her.

Wang Yachun actually had another identity: the Fourth Princess' study companion. Zhao Ruo'e was the Third Princess' study companion. Although the two princesses were absent, their "representatives" had both come!

As for Li Yue'er and Yang Yuyan, neither of them had a friendly relationship with her!

Was Jing Wenyan choosing bosom friends for herself, or was she picking opponents for her?

Among the group of ladies, Wang Yachun was the most kind. She first came to greet Wei Yuewu, "I didn't expect the last person to be Sixth Miss Wei. When I asked Eldest Miss Jing just now, she refused to tell me and only said to give us a surprise!"

Wei Yuewu also bowed back. "Miss Wang, you are too polite. If I had known that you ladies were waiting here, I would have come earlier."

"Actually, it's not too late now. I just came back. However, I kept the four of them waiting here!" Jing Wenyan came over with a smile, holding the hands of Wei Yuewu and Wang Yachun and walking towards the inside with them.

The other three looked at each other and did not say anything, but they also followed in.

"Sixth Miss Wei..." After entering the courtyard, Yang Yuyan first opened her mouth, but for a moment, she didn't know what to say. She only bowed slightly as a sign of greeting.

Wei Yuewu had said that what happened in the Plum Blossom Nunnery might have been a misunderstanding. Since Wei Yuewu had said that she would not pursue the matter, the others naturally would not hold Yang Yuyan responsible.

However, many young aristocratic ladies witnessed what happened at that time, and they deeply despised Yang Yuyan. Because of this, Yang Yuyan rarely appeared in front of everyone. Today, it should be the first time that Yang Yuyan appeared in public after that incident. However, she appeared at Jing Wenyan's private banquet at the same time as her. Thinking of this, Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart.

What happened between them was not a misunderstanding at all!

Today, Jing Wenyan arranged such a special meeting for the two of them on her birthday banquet. Considering her status as the Eldest Young Lady of the mansion of Duke of Jing, was she trying to make people believe that what happened in the Plum Blossom Nunnery was really a misunderstanding, and that Yang Yuyan really mistook her for someone else?

This Eldest Miss Jing really knew how to be a good person! She asked for her face and then gave it as a favor to others! Well, it seemed today's banquet was really a good show!

"I want to ask Sixth Miss Wei a question..." Sure enough, it was Li Yue'er who was the first to make trouble!

Chapter 257 – Each Had Her Own Axe To Grind

"What is it, Miss Li? Please speak." Wei Yuewu smiled and asked gracefully.

"Sixth Young Lady, you caused my cousin to die of anger. Do you really not feel guilty at all?" Li Yue'er said with an unfriendly expression.

"Miss Li, don't talk nonsense. Didn't Second Miss Wei die of illness?" Wang Yachun asked in confusion.

The other young ladies all had different expressions on their faces as they looked suspiciously at Wei Yuewu. Apparently, they all believed in Li Yue'er.

Wei Yuewu looked at Li Yue'er quietly and smiled. "Grandmother and Second Uncle have their own conclusions regarding Second Elder Sister's matter. I remember that at that time, I was admiring the plum blossoms in the Plum Blossom Nunnery with the two princesses. How come I caused Second Elder Sister to die of anger?"

Li Yue'er looked at Wei Yuewu with disdain. Just as she was about to speak, Wei Yuewu interrupted her. "Miss Li, if you don't believe me, just follow me to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang and ask my grandmother and Second Uncle. Could it be that the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang lied to your mansion in order to avoid trouble by making a concession?"

Hearing these words, Li Yue'er immediately became furious and she pointed at Wei Yuewu, saying, "You... I..."

Wei Yuewu glared at her without any trace of fear on her face. Lady Li had been sent back to the Li Mansion. It was understandable that people in the Li Mansion disliked her, but so what? She was a legitimate daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Any action against her would be regarded as a gesture of defiance directed at the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

Therefore, Wei Yuewu had deliberately provoked Li Yue'er, a legitimate daughter of Li Mansion who sought to avenge her cousin Wei Yan.

Since they were destined to be enemies, Wei Yuewu would not tolerate her. She remembered that Li Yue'er and Wei Yan had ganged up against her more than once.

Well, Jing Wenyan had expressed that she was on her side, and she even showed her goodwill by helping her foil Wei Fengyao's scheme. After today's incident, Wei Fengyao would no longer be able to rise again in Prince Nan'an Mansion.

That day in Prince Nan'an Mansion, she also witnessed how bossy Princess Nan'an was. She would do anything to protect the reputation of Prince Nan'an Mansion. Today, Wei Fengyao caused the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an to lose face and spread the rumours that he slept with a man. How could Princess Nan'an spare her?

Besides, the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an now extremely loathed her. Wei Fengyao's life in Prince Nan'an Mansion would definitely not be easy and it was inevitable that she would be cold-shouldered.

A smart person like Jing Wenyan should have guessed Wei Fengyao's situation long before, and this was why she showed goodwill towards her.

Wei Yuewu believed that it was impossible for Jing Wenyan to know the plot by Wei Fengyao in advance.

However, this scene in front of her eyes must have been set up before she came here! The meaning behind this was enough for people to reflect on it a few times in their hearts.

"Sixth Miss Wei, our young lady is the niece of the Second Lady of your mansion, and she is still living in our mansion!" Seeing her young lady being rendered speechless by Wei Yuewu, the maid standing behind Li Yue'er could not help but stand out and shout battle cries in support of Li Yue'er.

She deliberately emphasized the words "Second Lady" and said in a mocking tone.

"Well, well, our Second Lady is now in your mansion. I really have to thank you. I wonder when she will be sent back. Anywhere, she is a lady of our mansion, but she has been living in your mansion. People in the know would say the Second Lady went back to her parents' mansion to recuperate, but those not in the know might think the Second Lady was sent back by her husband to her parents' mansion!"

Receiving Wei Yuewu's hint, Jin Ling took a step forward and uttered those words with a smile.

After hearing Jin Ling's words, Li Yue'er and her maid's faces turned green and white! Others might not know what was going on with Lady Li, but how could they not know? Lady Li had purportedly been back to her parents' mansion to recuperate. In fact, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang had already said that if nobody was sent to get Lady Li back, she would stay there forever.

This was a divorce in disguise.

Li Yue'er's maid gritted her teeth and pointed at Jin Ling. "You... How dare you speak like that?"

"Why wouldn't I dare to speak to you like that? You are a maid, and I am also a maid. Could it be that the maids in your mansion are superior to the maids of our mansion of Marquis Hua Yang?" Jin Ling stretched out her hand and said indifferently. "You are nothing but a maid, and you dared to scold our Miss. Why can't I speak to you like this?"

Li Yue'er's maid blushed after hearing Jin Ling's ridicule, but she could not say a word. However bold she was, she knew that there were some things that could not be said.

"Sixth Miss Wei, you do have a good servant!" Li Yue'er sneered.

"Same to you!" Wei Yuewu smiled slightly, her eyes slightly raised. No matter what plans Jing Wenyan had, or what the Third Princess and Fourth Princess wanted to do, she did not intend to be a stepping stone for them.

Seeing that Wei Yuewu slightly raised her beautiful little face and looked like she didn't care about her at all, Li Yue'er became even angrier. Her pretty face was somehow distorted due to her anger, but she couldn't do anything to Wei Yuewu.

The mansion of Marquis Hua Yang had always been more powerful than the Li Mansion. One could even say that Li Mansion owed its current glory to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Otherwise, how could Li Mansion say nothing after Lady Li was sent back to "recuperate" there without a specific time of return?

Li Yue'er had took the initiative to provoke her, so Wei Yuewu naturally wouldn't give in.

Wang Yachun and Zhao Ruo'e exchanged a glance and saw the surprise in each other's eyes. Didn't people say this Sixth Miss Wei had a gentle temperament and was very kind to people? When had she ever spoken such tough words?

Even though they had seen the discord between Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu at the banquet in Plum Blossom Nunnery, no one could swallow the insult and humiliation silently as Wei Yuewu did when they thought about what Wei Qiufu had done to her back then. But in the end, this Sixth Miss Wei was even worried about Fourth Miss Wei to such an extent that she did not have the mood to perform in front of the Crown Prince and left the banquet in a hurry.

At that time, they all believed this Sixth Miss Wei was very gentle, and even if she was bullied by others, she would not put up a desperate fight.

However, the situation in front of them made them reconsider their judgment of this seemingly docile Sixth Miss Wei.

"Alright, my two dear sisters, please sit down first. I got someone make a hot pot for us. It's just nice to eat hot pot on such a cold day. After eating hot pot, I'll take you to admire the flowers. The greenhouse in our mansion is quite big. Some flowers have already bloomed and are very beautiful." As the hostess, Jing Wenyan naturally stepped forward to smooth things over and pulled Wei Yuewu and Li Yue'er to sit down.

The others also sat down.

“Sixth Young Lady, I heard that you encountered a dangerous situation early in the morning, and it was the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State who sent you back?” Wang Yachun asked softly.

Wei Yuewu was not surprised by Wang Yachun’s words. The Third Princess and the Fourth Princess both expressed great interest in Yan Huaijing. At this time, many people had witnessed the close relationship she had with Yan Huaijing. Moreover, Yan Huaijing also spoke those words to her at the gate of the mansion of Duke of Jing. Therefore, it was impossible not to attract the attention of the two princesses.

“Did Sixth Young Lady encounter any danger?” Jing Wenyan was surprised. She waved her hand and the servants began to serve the dishes.

They were all young ladies and the banquet was specially held in Jing Wenyan’s courtyard so that everyone could feel at ease and chat without any restraint.

“A giant pile of snow collapsed and crushed my carriage. I was almost killed!” Wei Yuewu said indifferently. “Fortunately, the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State passed by and used his carriage to send me back to see my father. I owe His Heir-apparent a favor again!”

Wei Yuewu’s words were quite tactful and well-organized, and they also had a deep meaning. While expressing her gratitude to Yan Huaijing who had saved her more than once, she also made it clear that there was nothing special going on between her and Yan Huaijing. It was her father who would personally thank Yan Huaijing. Meanwhile, she did not mention anything about her carriage being secretly sabotaged.

There were some things that could not be said in public. It was useless for outsiders to know about them. Speaking about them would only make people think that she was too talkative and did not care about the reputation of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

“Sixth Young Lady, do be careful when you go out next time. I still remembered asking you to take care on your way here. I didn’t expect that something really happened. Fortunately, you are safe and sound.” Jing Wenyan patted her chest as if she was shocked after hearing the accident Wei Yuewu had encountered. “If something really happened, how could I set my mind at rest!”

This was a sign that she was not shirking responsibility, as well as a sign that she really was just reminding Wei Yuewu casually rather than knowing the inside story.

Wei Yuewu already knew how sophisticated Jing Wenyan was when she dealt with Wei Fengyao. Her cherry lips curved slightly and she revealed an elegant and beautiful smile. "Thank you for reminding me, Miss Jing!"

"Sixth Young Lady, I heard the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan asked you to pay attention to the Third Princess, the Fourth Princess, and Eldest Miss Jing at the gate of the mansion. May we know why?" Zhao Ruo'e asked with a smile.

Having learned a lesson from the palace flower incident, Zhao Ruo'e felt that she could not underestimate Wei Yuewu. She had long abandoned the imposing manner she had when she first saw Wei Yuewu, and she actually became as gentle and polite as Wang Yachun when speaking to Wei Yuewu.

"Perhaps His Heir-apparent thought he was familiar with me. Anyway, I owe His Heir-apparent a huge debt for saving my life several times. Therefore, I naturally have to accept His Heir-apparent's instructions." Wei Yuewu tilted her head slightly and smiled softly. "Eldest Miss Jing, why is His Heir-apparent paying so much attention to you? Could it be..."

As she uttered those words, she appeared extremely naughty as if she was teasing a bosom friend. Therefore, although these words were a bit too impudent, they didn't make people feel annoyed.

However, Jing Wenyan's expression changed slightly. Of course, her goal today was to sit on the side and watch the other young ladies fighting. Whether they were the associates of the Third Princess or the Fourth Princess, she wouldn't mind seeing them fighting in her place. Ever since she returned to the capital, she had heard rumors that several heirs-apparent had all entered the capital with the aim of marrying the two princesses. As a result, she had seldom appeared in front of others.

This time, if it wasn't for her father, she wouldn't have held a banquet with such fanfare. She didn't want to get involved in the dispute between the two princesses. There were many women who wanted to marry the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State, and she was also secretly looking forward to marrying him. However, this time, the destruction of the State of Jing allowed her to see Yan Huaijing's ruthlessness and indifference.

How could such a man condescend to please her? In this world, how could there be a woman who could move such an extremely handsome but cold-hearted man?

Jing Wenyan felt that if she couldn't do it, there would be no one else in this world that could.

Therefore, although she still liked Yan Huaijing, she would never let others know and would not dare to show her feeling. She only secretly tried her best to maneuver the development of the situation. Since this heir-apparent expressed a special interest in this Sixth Miss Wei, even if it was because of Marquis Hua Yang, she felt that she must win over this Sixth Miss Wei.

She had kept such a low profile that she believed she wouldn't attract the attention of the two princesses. But now, Wei Yuewu's words got her involved again. Besides, she was vaguely putting her in the same position as the two princesses. The meaning of this made Jing Wenyan's face change slightly!

She did not want to get involved in the conflict between the two princesses, who fought each other both overtly and covertly.

"Younger sister, it turned out you are here. I've been looking for you for a long time. I didn't expect there are so many young ladies with you!" Just as Jing Wenyan was thinking about how to respond, she suddenly heard a slight movement of the curtain, and a woman's pretty voice came in.

Chapter 258 – Crown Prince's Secret

The door curtain was raised, and a woman whom Wei Yuewu had seen downstairs walked in. She looked like a young madam, and needless to say, she must be the heiress-apparent of the mansion of Duke of Jing.

"Elder Sister-in-law!" Jing Wenyan stood up and greeted her with a smile. She held the heiress-apparent's hand affectionately as if she had completely forgotten she had vowed to report to Duke of Jing when Wei Yuewu informed her about this heiress-apparent's scheme.

"Your Heiress-apparent!" The other young ladies all stood up to pay their respects.

"Elder Sister-in-law, how is the situation in the front yard?" Jing Wenyan suddenly asked shyly in a low voice.

"It's fine. Don't worry, our mother will take care of everything." The heiress-apparent looked at Jing Wenyan and patted her hand. She looked around and said, "Younger sister, you have a lot of friends here, but I have never seen this young lady before. I wonder which mansion she is from. She is actually so beautiful."

By coincidence, she was talking about Wei Yuewu. The mansion of Duke of Jing's people hadn't attended any banquet before and kept a low profile, whereas Wei Yuewu rarely appeared in front of others. Therefore, even though this heiress-apparent had helped Wei Fengyao to set up Wei Yuewu, she actually did not know Wei Yuewu.

"This is Sixth Miss Wei, daughter of Marquis Hua Yang." Only then did Jing Wenyan remember that she had not introduced the heiress-apparent to the young ladies in her room. "This is the eldest young lady of Li Mansion, daughter of the tutor of the Crown Prince; this is Miss Wang, the eldest young lady of General Ming Yuan; and this is Miss Zhao from the mansion of Marquis Huaiqin."

"Sixth Miss Wei?" The heiress-apparent was shocked. She looked at Wei Yuewu in disbelief and the handkerchief in her hand trembled.

"Yes, Yuewu greets Your Heiress-apparent!" Wei Yuewu gracefully bowed again as if she did not notice the shocked expression on her face.

"You..." The Crown Princess furrowed her brows and carefully sized up Wei Yuewu. She increasingly felt that it was inconceivable. Of course, she was on Wei Fengyao's side regarding what happened today. She had heard that this Sixth Miss Wei had a vicious nature and forced her cousin to death. That was why she offered a helping hand to Wei Fengyao disregarding the potential damage to the mansion of Duke of Jing's reputation.

But in the end, she made the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an lose face. She also heard that the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an left angrily with Wei Fengyao. As for that Sixth Miss Wei mentioned by Wei Fengyao, this heiress-apparent of the mansion of Duke of Jing had never seen her before.

How could she not be shocked to see Wei Yuewu in Jing Wenyan's courtyard!

She knew well about Jing Wenyan, her younger sister-in-law. Since this Sixth Miss Wei was treated by Jing Wenyan with special consideration, she must not be underestimated.

"Your eldest sister...How is your eldest sister?" She couldn't help but blurt out.

"Your Heiress-apparent, are you talking about the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an?" Wei Yuewu looked up and her cold eyes fell on the face of this Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing, who was so shocked that she could not control her emotions. "If Your Heiress-apparent is talking about the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an, then both Eldest Miss Jing and I have seen her. A moment ago, the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an left angrily with her."

"You... you both saw her?" The Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing almost bit her tongue and she hurriedly turned back to look at Jing Wenyan.

"Yes, it was a coincidence. Eldest Miss Jing and I were having a walk around there. We happened to see what was happening. By the way, I feel Your Heiress-apparent looks a little familiar. Could it be that Your Heiress-apparent was also there at that time?" As Wei Yuewu said these, there was a smile on her lips and her eyes were as clear as water.

However, her piercing gaze made the Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing involuntarily lower her head. Her heart suddenly started to beat violently as she pondered over what Wei Yuewu had said. Did this mean that Jing Wenyan had also seen her? Being a smart person, she might even be able to figure out what had happened.

She remembered that she had disregarded the mansion of Duke of Jing's reputation to help Wei Fengyao plot against this Sixth Miss Wei. If her husband, father-in-law, and mother-in-law knew about this, they would definitely not forgive her.

The Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing could not help but feel regret. If she had known that this would happen, she would not have helped Wei Fengyao no matter what. Now, not only did Wei Fengyao shoot herself in the foot, but she would probably land herself in serious trouble.

“What... what a coincidence!” The smile on the Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing’s face stiffened. Anyone could see she was struggling to maintain her composure. “Wenyan, I have got the information about the matter that is of interest to you. Shall we go in and talk?”

At this time, she must hurry up and curry favor with Jing Wenyan to stop her from say anything about today’s incident to her father-in-law and mother-in-law.

“Elder Sister-in-law, come with me.” Jing Wenyan pointed at the window with a trace of shyness, motioning the heiress-apparent to move aside to talk.

Wei Yuewu’s heart skipped a beat. What was Jing Wenyan trying to do? Even if there was really something that they needed to talk about in private, why didn’t they go inside? The window wasn’t big, and there were many maids and old maidservants in the room. Even if the young ladies couldn’t hear their talk, the maids standing in the back row could probably hear them. Was she intentionally trying to be overheard by them?

The heiress-apparent nodded and followed Jing Wenyan to the window. The two of them leaned against the window and spoke in a low voice.

The room quieted down. The young ladies seemed to be concentrated on eating, but all of them stretched their ears and listened carefully to the conversation over there. However, the voices of the two were really too low. Wei Yuewu only vaguely heard they were talking about “selecting”, “husband”, “young masters of aristocratic families”, “choose carefully”...

The meaning of these words put together was enough to make people ponder. Since Jing Wenyan held a grand banquet today and many young masters of aristocratic families were invited, was the mansion of Duke of Jing trying to choose a husband for Jing Wenyan?

Once this message was revealed, the expressions on Wang Yachun and Zhao Ruo’e’s faces relaxed.

No one was willing to marry into the same mansion as this Eldest Miss Jing, the number one beauty in the State of Jing that no longer existed.

Wei Yuewu's gaze swept past the backs of the heiress-apparent and Eldest Miss Jing. She did not believe that there was such a coincidence. How come the moment she mentioned the words of Yan Huaijing at the gate that placed her in the same position as the two princesses, this Eldest Miss Jing immediately revealed the plan of the mansion to choose a husband for her?

Moreover, this message was delivered by the Heiress-apparent of the Duke of Jing. No matter how one looked at it, it was too much of a coincidence.

It seemed that the words that Yan Huaijing said to her at the gate of the mansion had long since reached Eldest Miss Jing's ears...

Well, the speed of reaction by the mansion of Duke of Jing, or rather, the speed of reaction by this Eldest Miss Jing was really fast!

Since that was the case, the hostility of the two princesses towards Jing Wenyan would naturally be reduced. As for whether the plan succeeded or not, it was another story.

The Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing said a few more words to Jing Wenyan in a low voice before saying goodbye to everyone with a smile. However, she landed her eyes on Wei Yuewu's face for quite a while before leaving.

Jing Wenyan returned to her seat with a flushed face. She seemed to still feel shy about the topic just now. For a moment, she actually did not speak.

Well, anyone in her place would have this kind of reaction. After all, any young lady would feel embarrassed when talking about their own marriage.

After a while, the blush on Jing Wenyan's face faded, and she asked everyone with a smile, "Sisters, have you heard about the nation-wide selection?"

"I just learned about it. It should have been decided only recently." Wang Yachun put down the chopsticks in her hand and smiled. Obviously, she was also very interested in this topic.

"I also heard it from the Third Princess that a decree would be announced soon." Zhao Ruó'e also got excited and added.

Yang Yuyan must be really ignorant of what they were talking about. The presence of Wei Yuewu was putting a lot of pressure on her. However, she still couldn't help but ask, "For... for what?"

"To choose a Crown Princess for the Crown Prince!" Wang Yachun said with a smile.

"Is the Crown Princess going to be chosen like this? How about her status and family background?" Yang Yuyan was shocked. She also aimed to enter the Crown Prince Mansion. This was definitely not good news for her.

"Except for the Crown Princess, side concubines, secondary concubines, and other junior concubines might also be selected. It wouldn't be a big deal if a few women with lower statuses were selected." Zhao Ruó'e said nonchalantly.

"How can ignorant women who grew up in the countryside enter the Crown Prince Mansion!" Li Yue'er said disdainfully, landing a provocative gaze directly on Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu looked up and smiled silently. "Well, among ignorant women who grew up in the countryside, someone may also stand out like a pearl. How could Miss Li completely negate women with low statuses? I heard that the late emperor had a concubine from the countryside. Could it be that Miss Li looks down on her?"

"I'm just stating facts!" Li Yue'er flew into a rage. How was she supposed to answer Wei Yuewu's question? It was she who took the initiative to provoke Wei Yuewu by mocking her for being ignorant.

"Miss Li, you are overreacting. I am just stating the truth!" A smile appeared on Wei Yuewu's face as she spoke gently.

Seeing Wei Yuewu's calm face, Li Yue'er was so angry that her face turned red. She could not help but stand up and shout angrily, "You... Could it be that you are coveting the Crown Prince?"

“Miss Li, you must be joking. Is it up to you to decide who can enter the Crown Prince Mansion?” Wei Yuewu looked up and asked casually with a smile, “Could it be that Her Majesty must ask for Miss Li’s opinion before making her choices?”

Li Yue’er’s face changed dramatically, but she could not say a single word to refute. She gritted her teeth hatefully. “You...”

“What does Miss Li want to say?” Today, Wei Yuewu was determined not to let Li Yue’er have an easy time. Neither did she plan to exercise restraint. She raised her watery eyes that were filled with chilly coldness. “Miss Li, if you have any suggestion regarding this matter, you can actually go and tell the Crown Prince directly. I heard that your father, tutor of the Crown Prince, was much appreciated by His Highness.”

Tutor of the Crown Prince was an important 第二百五十七章 第二百五十七章 official directly subordinate to the Crown Prince Mansion. The reason why Lady Li’s elder brother could obtain such an important position was naturally because of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. However, when Wei Yuewu mentioned the importance of the position, she sounded as if reminding Li Yue’er of whom her family relied on to obtain this position.

“Sixth Miss Wei, what Miss Li said has nothing to do with us. However, I am really curious about the nation-wide selection. How come the Crown Princess shall be chosen in a nation-wide selection? Isn’t status or family background an important factor to be considered when selecting the Crown Princess?” Jing Wenyan jumped out in time to be a peacemaker. She smiled and poured a cup of tea for Wei Yuewu and Li Yue’er. Then, she turned around and filled the cups for Yang Yuyan, Wang Yachun, and Zhao Ruo’e. “Today, we are having a private talk here. Anyway, it is just a casual conversation and must not be taken seriously. I believe you two both have your sources of information. However, I don’t know which one of you is better informed. Sixth Miss Wei or Miss Li?”

She didn’t mention Wang Yachun or Zhao Ruo’e, and the two of them were eager to show off. Zhao Ruo’e was the first to cut in, “Miss Jing, this is actually related to a secret, a very important secret. I heard...”

Zhao Ruo’e hesitated for a moment and looked at the servants in the room.

Jing Wenyan understood and clapped her hands at the servants in the room with a smile. The maids and old maidservants of the mansion of Duke of Jing all left.

“Sisters...” Jing Wenyan looked at everyone.

Everyone understood what Jing Wenyan meant. They each asked their maids to go out. Wei Yuewu’s eyes flashed and she nodded at Jin Ling, motioning her to go out as well. She would like to hear what Zhao Ruo’e was going to say at the instigation of Eldest Miss Jing, who had taken great efforts to design such a plot...

Chapter 259

Seeing all the maids in the room had left, Zhao Ruo’e lowered her voice and said, “I heard that the Crown Prince is looking for a woman!”

“What kind of woman could impress the Crown Prince so much that he would try to find her through a nation-wide selection?” Jing Wenyan frowned and asked in surprise.

“I don’t know what is so special about this woman, but it seems that the Crown Prince liked her at first sight! Now, both the Empress and the Emperor had been persuaded by the Crown Prince and they agreed to hold a nation-wide selection for this woman. They also said that no matter what her identity was, she would definitely enter the Crown Prince Mansion.” Wang Yachun could not help but interrupt.

“Wow... this woman is really awesome...” Yang Yuyan sucked in a breath of cold air and said.

“It was only said that the woman would enter the Crown Prince Mansion. She might not definitely become the Crown Princess.” Jing Wenyan, however, understood the meaning behind those words of Wang Yachun and reminded everyone with a smile.

The eyes of the several young ladies lit up when they heard Jing Wenyan’s words. Although the Crown Prince had taken a fancy to the woman, if that woman’s status didn’t meet the requirements, she would at most enter the Crown Prince Mansion as an ordinary concubine. It was impossible for her to pose a threat to other aristocratic young ladies who were also selected to enter the Crown Prince Mansion.

They were all legitimate daughters born in big aristocratic families. They had been taught to be virtuous wives and mothers and to tolerate the existence of concubines in their future marriages. They even had to take good care of the children born by the concubines of their husbands. As a result, they didn't care much about a woman who was favored but had a low status.

"The Crown Prince rarely leaves his mansion. How did he meet that woman?" Li Yue'er suddenly asked.

"This... is a myth to everyone!" Wang Yachun paused slightly as she spoke.

"Alright, no matter why the Crown Prince wanted a nation-wide selection, that woman can't be any of us. However, I remember that none of you has been engaged, right? This time, all of you are eligible for this selection!" Jing Wenyan covered her mouth with a handkerchief and teased.

After she said these words, the other young ladies started to look at Wei Yuewu with some hostility. From whichever perspective, this Sixth Miss Wei was too outstanding!

Wei Yuewu smiled slightly as if she did not notice the hostility in the eyes of the people in front of her. She raised her watery eyes and asked, "How about you, Eldest Miss Jing?"

"I... I...don't know yet. Today, my father and mother are trying to find me a..." Jing Wenyan covered her face with a handkerchief and spoke hesitantly. Considering the conversation she had with the Heiress-apparent of Duke of Jing, it was easy for the other young ladies to realize that if she was engaged, she would have nothing to do with the nation-wide selection.

But was she really not interested in the nation-wide selection at all? A faint trace of coldness rose in Wei Yuewu's heart. This Eldest Miss Jing had done everything she could to curry favor with everyone. If she was really just going to choose an extremely ordinary husband, what need was there for her to take so much trouble?

Apparently, she had an axe to grind!

However, it was unclear whether her target was the Crown Prince, the heirs-apparent, or those princes. The Crown Princess had not been officially chosen, and none of the princes had a wife yet.

Wang Yachun smiled implicitly. She raised the teacup in her hand and said meaningfully, "Congratulations, Eldest Miss Jing!"

"This... hasn't been decided yet. I hope Miss Wang doesn't tell anyone." Jing Wenyan smiled and said gently.

"I won't. Don't worry!" Wang Yachun guaranteed.

After this topic was concluded, everyone continued to chat as they enjoyed the dishes. They didn't care much about the digression. When Jing Wenyan saw that the guests had almost finished eating, she asked people to clean up the table and serve tea again. Then, she asked them to stay here to talk whereas she was going to the front to receive the other guests.

Wang Yachun and the others said that they would like to have a walk in the garden. It was rare for them to visit the mansion of Duke of Jing, so they must seize the opportunity to admire the beautiful scenery here, especially the greenhouse that Eldest Miss Jing had just mentioned, where they could see the blooming flowers over there.

Well, if the hostess was away, how could the guests continue to stay here?

Hearing that they had made up their minds, Jing Wenyan did not try to keep them stay any longer. She let an old maidservant take them to the greenhouse, whereas she herself went to the front yard to receive the guests.

Li Yue'er did not like Wei Yuewu, so she naturally walked in the front. Zhao Ruo'e and Wang Yachun seemed to be familiar with Li Yue'er. Therefore, the three of them chatted and laughed in the front. Yang Yuyan looked at Wei Yuewu who was walking at the back and she slowed down. However, when she saw the look in Wei Yuewu's eyes, she immediately quickened her step and chased after the other three young ladies.

In the end, only Wei Yuewu and Jin Ling were left behind walking slowly.

"Miss, I just saw someone!" Jin Ling took a step forward and whispered behind Wei Yuewu.

“Who is it?” Wei Yuewu was stunned, but her expression remained unchanged.

“I don’t know if I was wrong, but it seems to be the Fourth Young Lady.” Jin Ling hesitated for a moment, but she still answered. When she came over just now, she saw a person from afar. Judging from the outline, it was clearly Wei Qiufu, the Fourth Young Lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. If it wasn’t for her good eyesight, she wouldn’t have been able to find her from so a distance.

But when they left the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, they were clearly told that Wei Yuewu was the only young lady of the mansion that was coming to the mansion of Duke of Jing today.

“Was the Fourth Young Lady alone?” Wei Yuewu pondered for a moment before asking.

Jin Ling looked around. After seeing that no one noticed them, she replied, “No, there was another man next to her. The two of them seemed to be talking about something. That man’s back was facing me, so I couldn’t see clearly. Moreover, the two of them didn’t talk much before that man left with his hands behind his back!”

“Miss, how about asking Eldest Miss Jing whether the Fourth Young Lady is here or not?” Jin Ling suggested.

“No need!” Wei Yuewu shook her head. Jing Wenyan was tactful and clever, and Wei Qiufu was not an ordinary person either. Even if there was anything unusual, it would not be easily discovered. x

If she asked Jing Wenyan and it turned out that there was really nothing unusual, Jing Wenyan would feel that she was making a fuss. After all, Wei Qiufu had been in the capital for many years, so it was normal for her to have some good old friends and appear on today’s occasion. The reason she hadn’t come in the first place was that the Madam Dowager had forbidden her to go out. But if the Madam Dowager changed her mind, what could she say if Wei Qiufu showed up here? Asking about Wei Qiufu’s presence here would only make people feel that she was too narrow-minded and intolerant.

“Will the Fourth Young Lady set you up again?” Jin Ling asked worriedly. She still felt it was too strange for Wei Qiufu to appear here.

“Don’t worry, she won’t do anything to me at this time!” Wei Yuewu gently shook her head, and a cold smile appeared on her lips.

Concubine Dong and Wei Yuejiao were fighting with her right now. Wei Qiufu would definitely not make a move against her at this time. Even if she did try to set her up, she wouldn’t let others find out.

After all, she was unfamiliar with the mansion of Duke of Jing.

“Did you send the note?” Wei Yuewu raised her chin towards Yang Yuyan’s back.

“Miss, don’t worry. Miss Yang should have received the note by now. I just gave it to her maid.” Jin Ling said in a low voice.

Wei Yuewu’s lips curled into a smile. She had heard that the Crown Prince had also come today. What a coincidence...

The greenhouse was now in sight, and Li Yue’er and the others had already entered the greenhouse. Wei Yuewu also followed them in. The moment she lifted the curtain, warm air hit her in the face accompanied by a fragrant smell.

Li Yue’er and the others stood at the door but did not go in. Wei Yuewu looked at them in surprise. Then, she stepped forward and looked inside. She immediately found out why they did not go in: there were already people in the greenhouse.

The Crown Prince Wen Tianyao and the four heirs-apparent were leisurely walking inside to admire the flowers. The corners of the greenhouse were filled with guards. For a moment, Li Yue’er and the others were caught in a dilemma and could neither enter nor leave. They could only stand at the door awkwardly.

A eunuch saw a few noble ladies blocking the door. He hurriedly took a few steps forward and whispered a few words into Wen Tianyao’s ear. Wen Tianyao’s handsome eyes turned around. His gaze swept across the faces of Li Yue’er and the others. He slightly nodded his head and continued walking.

The eunuch understood and hurriedly walked over to Li Yue'er who was at the front with a smile.
"Young ladies, His Highness has invited you to come in and admire the flowers!"

As he spoke, he extended his hand as a gesture of welcome, showing great politeness.

Li Yue'er and the others looked at each other. Finally, they looked at the Crown Prince Wen Tianyao and the immortal-like Yan Huaijing who was standing beside him. All of them blushed and walked in.

Wei Yuewu did not stop. She followed the crowd inside. Although she did not want to see the Crown Prince and Yan Huaijing, it was too late for her to leave without being noticed at this time.

"Sisters..." As soon as they started to move, they heard Jing Wenyan's voice outside the greenhouse.

Wei Yuewu's long beautiful eyelashes flickered twice. She looked around and saw that everyone had stopped and was looking at the door! Well, this Jing Wenyan had really come at the right time to catch the limelight!

It seemed that the ideal husband of Eldest Miss Jing should be one of the young masters in the greenhouse!

Sure enough, Jing Wenyan, who was dressed up again, stood at the door with a smile. She was as beautiful as jade, and her elegant eight-folded long dresses made her look more slender and graceful. It was impossible not to pay attention to such a stunning beauty standing at the door. However, it seemed that she did not expect there were so many people in this greenhouse, and she was stunned for a moment.

"Is this Eldest Miss Jing of the mansion of Duke of Jing? She is indeed beautiful!" Chu Fangnan could not help but praise.

"I have long heard that this Eldest Miss Jing is the number one beauty but felt unconvinced. I didn't expect it to be true!" Qi Yunhao nodded repeatedly. The two of them had only heard of Eldest Miss Jing before, but they had never truly seen her. Now that they saw Jing Wenyan standing at the door, they couldn't help but feel stunned.

Lu Yeli's gaze swept across Jing Wenyan's face and then fell on Wei Yuewu, who stood behind Jing Wenyan to make way for her and revealed only half of her face. This Sixth Miss Wei had not grown up yet and therefore lacked the dazzling beauty of Eldest Miss Jing. However, at such a young age and standing on Jing Wenyan's side, she wasn't overshadowed at all. One could guess how beautiful she would be in the future.

Compared with this ostentatious Eldest Miss Jing, Lu Yeli admired Wei Yuewu more.

The Crown Prince had seen Jing Wenyan before. He looked at Jing Wenyan with a smile and teased Yan Huaijing, "I heard that Your Heir-apparent and Eldest Miss Jing were once almost engaged. I wondered why the beauty remained alone in the end?"

"Your Highness, this was totally up to my parents. I have never heard of the so-called engagement before. I wonder where you learned it? It doesn't matter to me, but Eldest Miss Jing's reputation might be tainted!" Yan Huaijing gracefully glanced at Jing Wenyan. His thin lips curled up as he glanced at Wen Tianyao with a faint smile. "Your Highness, I'm afraid that this young lady's real interest is not what it appears to be!"

His words sounded earnest and sincere, and he also responded to the Crown Prince in the same teasing tone. Wen Tianyao understood what Yan Huaijing meant, and he laughed and turned to look at Chu Fangnan and Qi Yunhao. "If the two of you are interested, I can ask Father Emperor to issue a decree..."

"Your Highness, however beautiful the beauty may look, our hearts are firm and shall not change!"

"Yes... yes... yes, we know what we want. How can we change our minds merely due to a beauty? Thank you for your kindness, Your Highness."

Realizing the implication of Wen Tianyao's words, the two of them hurriedly denied it. Although they were also amazed by Eldest Miss Jing's beauty, their goal in entering the capital was to marry a princess. As heirs-apparent of powerful states, neither of them was simple-minded!

Duke of Jing had already fallen and even lost his territory. What he had now was just a seemingly eminent title.

At this time, Jing Wenyan also seemed to have realized the situation. Her initial shock had turned into calmness. She adjusted the corner of her skirt a little and slowly walked over. Then, she bowed to the Crown Prince and said, "Greetings, Your Highness!"

Chapter 260 – Beauty Flower, A Rarity In State Of Jing

"Eldest Miss Jing, there is no need to stand on ceremony!" The Crown Prince smiled and said.

Jing Wenyan stood up elegantly with a gentle and dignified smile on her face. She pointed at the young ladies who were still at the door. "I really didn't know that Your Highness was here. Otherwise, I wouldn't have let them disturb Your Highness."

"It doesn't matter, Eldest Young Lady. Since you have come here, please show us around and introduce the flowers to us here!" The Crown Prince smiled.

"Yes, Your Highness!" After Wen Tianyao spoke, Jing Wenyan elegantly stood at the side and said to Wang Yachun and the others, "Sisters, come over here."

Wei Yuewu blinked. She looked up at Jing Wenyan and followed the crowd.

Originally, the Crown Prince did not intend to ask the young ladies to follow behind him, and they could just walk around casually. The mansion of Duke of Jing's greenhouse was so big that they could easily keep a distance from the Crown Prince and the four heirs-apparent.

But now, it was impossible for them to stay away. They could only follow behind the Crown Prince and walked in together.

Now that the situation was unclear, Wei Yuewu did not want to catch the attention of others, so she continued to walk slowly and lag behind all the other young ladies.

However, Eldest Miss Jing obviously had her plan. She actually stopped and waved at Wei Yuewu, saying with a smile, "Sixth Young Lady, come and take a look at this flower. Is it beautiful?"

Wei Yuewu had no choice but to step forward. With a smile on her face, she leisurely walked to the front of the flower that was blooming and said, "It is indeed extremely beautiful!"

Although she was young, the crystal eyes behind her long eyelashes shined brilliantly. She was wearing a light blue dress embroidered with a red plum blossom. With the flowers on the side as a background, she looked even more beautiful than flowers.

Although Jing Wenyan was an imposing beauty in the prime of her age, Wei Yuewu was not outshined by her at all.

Lu Yeli couldn't help fall into deep thought. Although Jing Wenyan was indeed a stunning beauty, he admired Wei Yuewu even more. Yan Huaijing glared at him from the side. His handsome lips curved up, seemingly carrying a bit of a smile. However, this smile was a bit too bright.

"Sisters, come and take a look at the flowers. Are they beautiful?" Jing Wenyan waved to the other young ladies, who came over shyly and timidly. They were now surrounded by so many handsome young masters that they blushed heavily. They just nodded at Jing Wenyan, unable to speak a single word.

"Sixth Miss Wei, how is Marquis Hua Yang's injury?" Wen Tianyao said to Wei Yuewu as he walked forward leisurely.

"My father is feeling better. He is about to go and have an audience with His Majesty." Wei Yuewu took a few quick steps forward and answered.

Wei Luowen's old injuries had relapsed, and the Emperor allowed him to rest at home for a few days. Therefore, he did not immediately enter the Palace after returning to the capital.

As the Crown Prince, it was only right for Wen Tianyao to ask about the injuries of an important official to express his concern. However, his next sentence made Wei Yuewu's heart skip a beat.

"Marquise Hua Yang had passed away for so many years, but Marquis Hua Yang still had no legitimate wife. It isn't a good thing. Father Emperor wants to choose a noble lady from a prestigious family for

Marquis Hua Yang.” Wen Tianyao smiled as if he didn’t realize he had switched to this subject too abruptly.

A noble lady from a prestigious family? Although Wei Yuewu had already guessed this, she still felt a little sad when she heard Wen Tianyao’s words. However, there was no change in the expression on her face as she said softly, “Everything is up to His Majesty!”

If there was a person who would inevitably become Marquise Hua Yang, Wei Yuewu felt that she could be anyone but Concubine Dong!

But had Concubine Dong really not thought about this? Wei Yuewu suddenly thought of something. She did not believe that being such a scheming person, Concubine Dong hadn’t thought that the Emperor might grant a marriage. Nevertheless, she still acted as if she would definitely become Marquise Hua Yang. Could it be that Concubine Dong had a secret plan?

Besides, the determined look on Wei Yuejiao’s face also showed that Concubine Dong had long been prepared. But, with Concubine Dong’s family background, there was no way she could be considered a noble lady from a prestigious family, right?

She was only one of Madam Dowager’s maids. Could there be another secret behind this?

“I heard that Sixth Young Lady was startled this morning?” The Crown Prince suddenly changed the topic and asked.

“Yes!” Wei Yuewu lowered her head even more.

“Has the person who drugged you been found?” Before Wei Yuewu answered his previous question, Wen Tianyao asked about the matter of Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiuju being drugged with infertility medicine.

“Not yet.” Wei Yuewu smiled bitterly and shook her head.

“Do you need me to send someone to your mansion to investigate the case for you?” Wen Tianyao frowned and said unhappily.

“This... I don’t dare to trouble Your Highness. Grandmother said that she would definitely investigate thoroughly.” Wei Yuewu hurriedly refused. She raised her head and looked at the Crown Prince in shock. She did not understand what the Crown Prince meant. Although he was the Crown Prince, there was no reason for him to investigate the family scandal of an official. Moreover, it was a scandal that involved women living in the backyard.

Moreover, if the Crown Prince really helped her investigate the issue, there would be some things that she could not explain to the others. Although she was trying to find out the relationship between the Crown Prince and her mother, there was no need for her to be involved with this Crown Prince who was at the center of the storm.

Even though she did the Crown Prince a favor by blocking the sword for him, she could not let the Crown Prince do this for her. It was too eye-catching.

The nation-wide selection was underway, and many people were keeping an eye on the Crown Prince Mansion!

“Sixth Miss Wei, I knew that you were familiar with the Heir-apparent of Yan, but I didn’t expect you were also familiar with His Highness.” Jing Wenyan’s voice was gentle and soft and was pleasant to the ear, but the meaning of her words made Wei Yuewu frown slightly.

What was Jing Wenyan trying to say? Besides, it was difficult to answer her.

“Eldest Miss Jing, is this flower a specialty of the State of Jing? Last time I went to your mansion, I seemed to have seen it.” There was a beautiful smile on Yan Huaijing’s face. His handsome eyes fell on Jing Wenyan’s face as he said gently.

Seeing his burning gaze falling on her, Jing Wenyan felt her heart skipped a beat, and she subconsciously lowered her head slightly. “It is indeed a flower unique to the State of Jing. I didn’t expect Your Heir-apparent to still remember it.”

“How could I not remember such a unique flower? Previously, Duke of Jing even specially sent a few pots of the flowers to me, and now they are in my courtyard.” Yan Huaijing said lazily.

Jing Wenyan’s face suddenly blushed. She bit her lips, feeling both ashamed and angry. She became more and more vigilant of Yan Huaijing in her heart. Did Yan Huaijing really have feelings for Wei Yuewu, or was he trying to please the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang?

Being such a cold and ruthless person, would Yan Huaijing be tempted by a woman? Jing Wenyan believed there was no such a possibility. It seemed that the State of Yan really had some special thoughts about Marquis Hua Yang.

She landed her gaze on Wen Tianyao. This Crown Prince seemed to be very interested in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Did this mean that Marquis Hua Yang was very important? She was dissatisfied with her current situation. If she had another way out, could she act against the will of her father?

She had heard that Marquis Hua Yang planned to stay in the capital this time. She wondered who would be guarding the border after Marquis Hua Yang?

Yan Huaijing did not seem to notice Jing Wenyan’s embarrassment. His thin lips turned into a beautiful arc, making him look even more handsome and dazzling. “I haven’t asked Eldest Miss Jing what kind of flower this is.”

“This is Beauty Flower.” Jing Wenyan forced a smile and said. “It is a unique flower in the State of Jing...”

For a while, Jing Wenyan could not continue. The former State of Jing had already become a part of the territory of Yan. There would be no State of Jing in the future. She suddenly remembered that the Empress pulled her up and said this to her after listening to her tearful complaint. Her eyes sank...

“Beauty Flower, why the name?” Yan Huaijing smiled gently.

“In fact, I didn’t know the origin of the name. People said that this flower was first planted by an extremely beautiful lady when she was a child and was therefore called Beauty Flower.” Jing Wenyan replied with a smile.

Yan Wenjing was extremely intelligent. If she revealed anything unusual, she would arouse his suspicions.

Seeing that they were talking so enthusiastically, everyone could not help but focus their attention on the two of them. Wei Yuewu immediately felt much relieved and she gently breathed out to relax. Finding that the Crown Prince's attention was shifted to Yan Huaijing, she retreated a little and walked behind Li Yue'er and the other young ladies.

Such a position was the most inconspicuous.

She needed to observe Jing Wenyan's target without being disturbed. She always felt that Jing Wenyan's target was related to her and that Jing Wenyan seemed to be spying on her. This made Wei Yuewu very uncomfortable.

The greenhouse was very big and there were various kinds of Beauty Flowers everywhere. Perhaps the mansion of Duke of Jing had used some special method to make these Beauty Flowers in full bloom. As the Crown Prince and the others moved along, they could see all kinds of Beauty Flowers, which looked both enchanting and beautiful.

The other flowers would occasionally bloom, but they had few flower petals. By comparison, this Beauty Flower of the State of Jing not only existed in different colors but also had various shapes. It was truly a remarkable scene. Some people could not help but stop to admire the Beauty Flowers.

As they walked, the crowd dispersed. As the hostess, Jing Wenyan naturally accompanied the Crown Prince and the other heirs-apparent. Li Yue'er and the others, however, all stopped. It was good to follow the Crown Prince and Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State, but the psychological pressure was too heavy. Thinking about their statuses, they all slowed down.

Gradually, these young ladies fell far behind the group of noble young masters.

Wei Yuewu walked at the back of the crowd again. She looked around for an exit. The atmosphere here was too strange. She was not willing to play tricks with Eldest Miss Jing here. Men were born to play with power and fight for the world, but she was not willing to get involved.

There was a small door on the side, which was much smaller than the one they had entered before. But judging from its size and the sturdy path around it, there should be people coming in and out through this door.

“Jin Ling, let’s go that way!” Wei Yuewu looked up and said in a low voice.

Jin Ling also saw this side door and nodded.

The two of them looked at each other and smiled. They knowingly walked towards the side road leading to the side door. At this time, everyone was admiring the flowers and nobody noticed her. It was indeed a good opportunity to get away.

The side road was not long. They arrived at the side door after two turns. There were rows of flowers and trees here. Everyone was admiring the flowers, and it was impossible to find one person was missing. Besides, the Crown Prince and the four heirs-apparent would naturally leave first. Wei Yuewu was not worried they would find out that she was missing.

“Sixth Miss Wei, are you looking for this flower?” Wei Yuewu’s hand holding the corner of her skirt suddenly froze. She felt her forehead jumping, and her body stiffened as she involuntarily bit her white teeth...