

Young Lady 291

Chapter 291 – Only She Wasn'T Disliked By The Heir-Apparent

"Third Princess, she is the only woman who has come into contact with the Heir-apparent of Yan and is not disliked by him!" Jing Wenyan smiled and said meaningfully. Her eyes fell on the woman who was held by Yan Huaijing in the courtyard downstairs. A trace of jealousy flashed in her eyes.

Even with her outstanding talent and beauty, she was not able to arouse Yan Huaijing's pity. What virtue and ability did this woman have to be able to make Yan Huaijing cherish and protect her like this? Moreover, he also clearly told others that she was his woman.

"But if..." The Third Princess wasn't silly. After thinking about it, she understood the meaning of Jing Wenyan's words. However, she was unwilling to accept the suggestion, especially when she recalled Wei Yuewu's extremely beautiful face. Although she was still young, people could easily imagine what a stunning beauty she would become in the future. With such a beauty by her side, she might have to face a powerful opponent in the future.

"Your Highness, you don't have to worry. If you really think Sixth Miss Wei is of use to you, you only need to use some medicine on her. As long as she has no children of her own, what kind of threat would she pose to you even if the heir-apparent dotes on her? However, if you don't choose a woman whom the heir-apparent likes, then the young lady down there will be exclusively doted on by the heir-apparent. By then, even if you get what you want, you probably will be left alone to lament in the cold palace!"

When Jing Wenyan saw the Third Princess' expression, she knew what she was worried about. With such a beauty like Wei Yuewu as the dowry maid, anyone would feel threatened. Therefore, she smiled and pointed out the key issue to consider for the Third Princess.

These words were exactly what the Third Princess wanted to hear. Looking at Yan Huaijing below, she gritted her teeth and nodded forcefully.

She wanted to marry Yan Huaijing. It was not only because Yan Huaijing was incomparably handsome, but also because the power of the State of Yan was increasing day by day. Her mother had told her that if she married Yan Huaijing and became his main wife, she had the prospect of becoming as powerful as the Empress, or even more powerful, in the future.

Thinking of this, the Third Princess nodded and accepted Jing Wenyan's suggestion. Whether it was before or after marriage, her status was unique and no one could pose a threat to her.

"However, her identity..." Wei Yuewu's status was not low. Even if the Third Princess wanted, it was not easy for her to make Wei Yuewu her dowry maid.

"Third Princess, don't worry. We will consider this matter carefully!" Jing Wenyan smiled and said meaningfully.

"Let's go back!" The Third Princess did not want to look at the scene downstairs anymore. She stood up and walked out.

"Yes, Your Highness!" Jing Wenyan stood up and glanced down to hide the jealousy in her eyes. Then, she followed the Third Princess downstairs and left.

In the courtyard downstairs, Wei Yuewu was still in Yan Huaijing's arms. She felt Yan Huaijing's hand gently brushing against her hair. She wanted to take his hand off directly. But just as she was about to reach out her hand, she was paralyzed by Yan Huaijing's words!

"Marquis Hua Yang..."

"What happened to Marquis Hua Yang?" After hearing Yan Huaijing inexplicably mention Marquis Hua Yang, Master Fenghe asked in a low voice.

"Nothing. I just met Marquis Hua Yang on the way and said a few words with him!" Yan Huaijing laughed. Wei Yuewu, however, knew he had said those words on purpose. She gritted her teeth in his arms.

"Heir-apparent of Yan really doesn't want to compete?" Lu Yeli looked at the woman in Yan Huaijing's arms and secretly guessed the identity of this mysterious woman.

Yan Huaijing's expression was rather cynical. With a quick drift of his handsome eyes, he said "I am quitting. You guys win. Let's wait and see what the princess thinks next!" His words did not have the slightest bit of sincerity and the other three heirs-apparent immediately had a long face.

Although they wanted to win, they didn't expect to win with Yan Huaijing giving up like this.

They were all powerful and proud heirs-apparent, and none of them was able to condescend to the others!

When Yan Huaijing said those words, the other three felt like they were punching cotton.

The purpose of their competition this time was to pick out the most outstanding women and present them to the two princesses so as to please them.

Speaking of which, they had been in the capital for some days, but the royal family did not have a clear attitude yet. They were still unclear whom the two princesses were interested in. However, everyone felt that Yan Huaijing was definitely one of the lucky guys. The only question was whether Yan Huaijing married the Third Princess or the Fourth Princess.

But the others had been unable to figure out whom the royal family would choose.

When Yan Huaijing proposed to pick a few beautiful women with excellent singing and dancing skills and send them into the Palace to please the princesses, since they had nothing to do, they readily agreed.

Who would have thought that Yan Huaijing actually gave up at the last moment? Qi Yunhao couldn't stand being fooled like this. He looked at Yan Huaijing with a gloomy face and said, "Heir-apparent of Yan, we all agreed on the competition that day, why are you going back on your word now? Maybe the two princesses are watching the competition not far away."

"So what?" Yan Huaijing replied unhurriedly. He picked up the teacup on the table with one hand and took a sip. He then said indifferently, "The status of this aristocratic young lady is incomparably noble. How can she be casually profaned! If you had brought aristocratic young ladies with you today, I might consider taking part in the competition!"

In short, he didn't let Wei Yuewu perform because the statuses of the women chosen by Qi Yunhao and the other two were too low, and they were not worthy of competing with Wei Yuewu!

"You... This is outrageous! Don't you have the royal family in your eyes?" Lu Yeli was so angry that he wanted to vomit blood. It was clearly Yan Huaijing's fault, but now he was blaming them!

They had come to the capital with the purpose of marrying the princess. Who would bring a beautiful aristocratic young lady with them?

In order to show their sincerity, they brought only a few maidservants with them. Even if there were a few junior concubines, they were all carefully disguised as maidservants, lest they would be found out by the royal family, consequently affecting their plan to marry the princess!

"Heir-apparent of Lu, you think I've gone too far? Then you can invite aristocratic young ladies from the State of Lu to come over and compete." Yan Huaijing's eyes darkened, and his expression turned sharp. He opened his thin lips and spoke with an extremely cold tone, "If the three of you feel that my deeds are disrespectful to the royal family, you can report to His Majesty. We will have a candid discussion!"

None of these heirs-apparent could afford to lose face by making a fuss out of a trivial matter and reporting it to the Emperor. Moreover, what Yan Huaijing said was somewhat reasonable. Besides, the Emperor was currently most concerned about the selection of his sons-in-law. No one wanted to make a fool of himself in the Emperor's eyes.

Lu Yeli's face alternated between green and red, and he was unable to mouth back.

No matter what he did, he would appear pretentious.

He was furious to the extreme. He clenched his fists tightly and glared at Yan Huaijing with a cold look in his eyes. However, he knew that he could not do anything to him. Chu Fangnan and Qi Yunhao also sat up straight, looking quite upset.

The atmosphere on the spot became inexplicably serious.

Although Wei Yuewu's head was on Yan Huaijing's chest, she could hear their words clearly. She secretly curled her lips. As expected, Yan Huaijing was really scheming and knew how to keep the other three heirs-apparent at bay. Since they had all come to the capital with the aim of marrying the princess, how could they make a fuss out of such a matter in front of the Emperor?

Moreover, this kind of thing was originally just a joke among the four of them, but if it was really reported to the Emperor, it would no longer be a small matter. If it went overboard, it would be taken as a dispute between the various dukedoms. Originally, the royal family had carefully maintained a balance between the dukedoms. If something really went out of control, chaos may ensue...

Therefore, no one dared to say anything. Even though they knew that Yan Huaijing was intentionally acting in a rude and unreasonable manner, they could not do anything to him. As for Wei Yuewu, she once again witnessed how shameless and unscrupulous Yan Huaijing could be!

Sure enough, despite his handsome face that made him look like a banished immortal, he was black-hearted and evil-minded...

"Your Heirs-apparent, please sit down." In this strange and tense atmosphere, Master Fenghe smiled and gently said, "It was just a joke among you. Don't take it seriously! Heir-apparent of Lu, please sit down. I have something to ask the four of you!"

His words eased the tense atmosphere. Lu Yeli's eyes flashed fiercely, but in the end, he clenched his fists and sat down. He knew how powerful the State of Yan was. Although the State of Lu was not weak, he did not dare to really provoke Yan Huaijing!

"Master, please go ahead!" Lu Yeli said to Master Fenghe stiffly who helped him out of the predicament.

"Actually, I have asked the four of you to come here today not because I was interested in the joke among you. You all know that the nation-wide selection of the Crown Princess is under way. I want to know if aristocratic young ladies of your states were sent to the capital to take part in the selection?" Master Fenghe smiled kindly.

It was a good thing for an aristocratic young lady to enter the Crown Prince Mansion and become the Crown Princess. However, the problem was that everyone knew the Crown Princess, or even a high-

ranking concubine couldn't be selected out of candidates from any of the vassal states. Therefore, no aristocratic families from the four dukedoms were willing to send their daughters to the capital.

Moreover, there was a possibility that after entering the Crown Prince Mansion, the aristocratic young lady might persuade her own family to swear allegiance to the Crown Prince. For the dukedom, this was equivalent to placing a sharp knife in its own heart, which was a situation no one wanted to see.

"I have to ask for my father's opinion about this!" Chu Fangnan looked at the people around him and said hesitantly. He had a blank expression as if he really didn't know what to do.

"Indeed, I can't make the decision on this matter. I will immediately write to my father after I return!" Qi Yunhao replied with a smile.

Of course, Master Fenghe knew that they would not agree so easily. Fortunately, he was not in a hurry. He knew the Emperor's goal was not the aristocratic young ladies from all over the country, so he turned to Lu Yeli and asked, "Your Heir-apparent, how about you?"

"I will come to a conclusion after reporting to my father!" Lu Yeli said coldly, his face still pale.

However, his expression had always been like this. No one cared about his expression. Moreover, all the heirs-apparent were on the same boat this time. If Lu Yeli agreed, the others would have to agree as well.

"Heir-apparent of Yan, what do you think?" Master Fenghe turned to look at Yan Huaijing, and the smile on his face became more and more peaceful. The target of the Emperor was actually Yan Huaijing. As long as Yan Huaijing agreed, the other three heirs-apparent would not be a problem.

Although the strengths of the other three dukedoms were not weak, they were much weaker than the State of Yan!

Master Fenghe sighed in his heart. If the royal family weren't weak, how would he, a monk, interfere in the mundane affairs of this mortal world? However, what else could he do if he didn't interfere...

The obsession in his heart was the hurdle that he could never cross. Even if he was cast to hell for this, he had no choice but to do so...

Chapter 292 – Whoever Got The Phoenix-Fate Woman Would Rule The Country

“Master, the State of Yan is far away from the capital. Even if I send for another aristocratic young lady, she will miss the nation-wide selection. By the time she arrives, the Crown Princess will have been selected, and the aristocratic young lady can only return!”

Yan Huaijing’s eyes slowly narrowed as he spoke casually.

The implication of Yan Huaijing’s words was clear: if the aristocratic young lady he sent for missed the nation-wide selection, the Crown Prince wouldn’t reserve a high position for her. Of course, the other noble daughters of the State of Yan could only be sent back as well.

“Your Heir-apparent, are there no other aristocratic young ladies who came with you?” Master Fenghe’s gaze fell on the tightly wrapped Wei Yuewu.

“Master, are you talking about her?” Yan Huaijing suddenly smiled, his handsome eyes sparkling as he spoke bluntly.

“This young lady...” Master Fenghe pondered for a moment and said slowly.

“Master, do I need to offer my woman to the Crown Prince?” The corners of Yan Huaijing’s lips curled up into a charming smile.

Throughout history, there were many cases in which rulers seized the women of their subjects. Such rulers were always despised by people. However, few victims dared to stand up and criticize the rulers.

Yan Huaijing’s voice was very soft, but there was a bone-piercing chill in it. It was like an extremely sharp and thin sword, which was magnificently pressed against the neck of a person. With just a little force, it would result in a bloody scene.

“Your Heir-apparent, you are mistaken. I just wanted to ask if there are other aristocratic young ladies who came with this young lady. Or in other words, is there any outstanding candidate among the maids that you brought this time?” Master Fenghe did not expect Yan Huaijing to be so difficult to deal with. He immediately let out a laugh and changed the subject.

Yan Huaijing’s expression relaxed. Looking at Master Fenghe’s kind face, he raised his eyebrows slightly and said, “Master, if the maids I brought are acceptable, you can just choose whoever meets the conditions!”

“What do you say?” Master Fenghe turned to the other three heirs-apparent.

The four of them were all heirs-apparent of the dukedoms in the country, so they naturally must be treated equally.

Qi Yunhao and Chu Fangnan looked at each other. Then, Chu Fangnan said, “As you command, Master!” Lu Yeli at the side also nodded with a cold face.

Yan Huaijing stood up lazily. He flung his wide sleeve and said with a smile, “Master, if there is nothing else, I will take my leave first!”

“Aren’t you going to play chess with me?” Master Fenghe smiled.

“Definitely next time!” Yan Huaijing suddenly smiled meaningfully.

“Since that’s the case, Your Heir-apparent, please!” Master Fenghe said politely.

Yan Huaijing turned around and walked out with Wei Yuewu in his arms.

The moment they were outside the courtyard, just as Wei Yuewu was about to speak, she suddenly heard a voice coming from the front. She raised her head and faintly recognized the Crown Prince Wen Tianyao. She hurriedly grabbed Yan Huaijing’s sleeve tightly with one hand, not daring to move much.

“Heir-apparent of Yan, are you going back?” Wen Tianyao glanced at Yan Huaijing with a twinkle in his eyes. His gaze fell on Wei Yuewu suspiciously. He had calculated the time before coming over, but he did not expect Yan Huaijing to leave. Besides, who was the woman in his arms? When he entered the Palace, he didn’t bring any woman with him.

Today, Yan Huaijing entered the Palace without carrying any woman with him. The palace guards reported that they saw someone entered the Crown Prince Mansion and disappeared. After that, this so-called woman from a noble family of the State of Yan appeared beside Yan Huaijing.

Judging from the figure, the person wasn’t tall. Although the person was wrapped up, the figure did look like that of a woman. But was it really a woman, and was it just a short guard? For a time, Wen Tianyao was confused.

Nevertheless, whether this person was a woman or not, one thing was certain: it was the person that his guards had been chasing before.

What was Yan Huaijing trying to do? Or was he trying to hide something? Could it be that he wanted to send someone to the Crown Prince Mansion to investigate something? At the thought of these questions, Wen Tianyao’s face became more and more serious.

“Your Highness, I am just about to go back and will visit you next time. I didn’t expect that our joke would make such a scene that alarmed Your Highness!” Yan Huaijing said calmly. He reached out and gently stroked Wei Yuewu’s hair as if he sensed her nervousness. This action made Wei Yuewu calm down inexplicably.

“Who is this...?” Wen Tianyao asked with a smile.

“This is an aristocratic young lady from the State of Yan. This time, she followed me to the capital without my knowledge. Now, I have to keep her beside me for the time being!” Yan Huaijing said leisurely.

His words contained both lies and truth. It was really difficult to tell which part of them could be taken seriously.

Unable to figure out what was going on, Wen Tianyao could only cast a suspicious look at Wei Yuewu, who was tightly wrapped. However, it was inappropriate for him to dig further, so he had to let Yan Huaijing go!

He gave a wink to a guard beside him, who understood and followed behind Yan Huaijing.

They were finally back. It was still the same room containing the same screen. Wei Yuewu removed the cloak and veil from her head and took a deep breath.

Wei Yuewu was inexplicably involved and got frightened. She could not help but bite her lips and ask, "Your Heir-apparent, what exactly are you doing?"

"Scared?" Yan Huaijing reached out his hand and placed a strand of her hair beside her white and tender ear.

"Your Heir-apparent, this matter has nothing to do with fear. If you were inexplicably wrapped up by someone and experienced an inexplicable scene, wouldn't you be angry?" Wei Yuewu couldn't take it anymore.

"So..." Yan Huaijing leisurely raised his eyebrows.

"So, I am very angry!" Wei Yuewu said, gritting her teeth.

Yan Huaijing seemed to find her anger interesting. He even raised his eyebrows and said with a faint smile, "Didn't I save you? Your life is mine, so why are you angry?"

"There is no need for Your Heir-apparent to remind me. I will remember your great kindness!" Wei Yuewu was so angry at his words that she almost threw her head back. Nevertheless, what Yan Huaijing said was beyond doubt!

Seeing that she was so angry that her face turned pale, Yan Huaijing felt that it was better to let her go. He changed his tone and asked with a smile, "Has he read your palm?"

“Palm reading? Master Fenghe? Why?” Wei Yuewu’s focus of attention was diverted and she asked in surprise. She really felt that it was strange. Why was there the need for palm reading? That day in the Empress Dowager’s palace, all the daughters of the aristocratic families who attended the meeting had their palms read by Master Fenghe.

It was really strange!

“It is said that there is a phoenix-fate woman who is destined to become the empress. Whoever obtains this woman will rule the country!” The corners of Yan Huaijing’s thin lips curled up, and a faint smile appeared on his face. His eyes were filled with a kind of charm that would enchant people.

At this moment, Wei Yuewu was not in the mood to pay attention to his expression, because the meaning of his words was enough to shock her and attract all her attention.

“A phoenix-fate woman? How... how is this possible?” Wei Yuewu looked extremely astonished.

“You think it’s impossible?” Yan Huaijing was very satisfied with her shock. Finally, the little fox stopped being angry with him. He turned around and sat down on a chair. Then, he looked up and asked with a smile, “Why is it impossible?”

“If there really is such a phoenix-fate woman in this country, then what is the use of soldiers?” Wei Yuewu asked in confusion.

“Good for you to say that. However, there are many people in this country who take it seriously!” Yan Huaijing was very satisfied with her answer and suddenly chuckled.

“So, Master Fenghe is trying to find the phoenix-fate woman for the Crown Prince?” Wei Yuewu suddenly understood. No wonder Master Fenghe was arranged to read the palms. His goal was to find this legendary phoenix-fate woman, who would then be taken by the Crown Prince as his wife to ensure the safety and prosperity of the country.

Wei Yuewu raised another question, “However, the country is so big and there are so many women. How can Master Fenghe read the palm of every woman? If he missed one woman, maybe she is the phoenix-fate woman!”

“Rumor has it that this woman is in the capital. Furthermore, she is a daughter of an aristocratic family!” Yan Huaijing raised his eyebrows slightly.

“So, Master Fenghe suspects that you have already found her. That’s why even the women in your mansions in the capital have to be investigated?” Wei Yuewu asked in surprise.

That was why Master Fenghe had asked for the opinions of the four heirs-apparent. Apparently, he was afraid that Yan Huaijing and the other heirs-apparent had already found the phoenix-fate woman, so he had to investigate all the maids in their mansions.

“You are right!” Yan Huaijing’s extremely long eyelashes cast a faint shadow under his eyes. “He who gets the phoenix-fate woman will rule the country. How can the nation-wide selection for the Crown Prince be taken lightly?”

“Then why didn’t you look for her?” Looking at his carefree appearance, Wei Yuewu had a new question. No matter how she looked at it, all the heirs-apparent should be looking for such a woman.

“I’m looking for her. The other three heirs-apparent are also looking for her. However, we are all acting behind closed doors. How can we compare with the Crown Prince, who was able to hold a nation-wide selection to get this woman?” Yan Huaijing stretched out his slender fingers and gently flicked them on the table.

“So, you are also looking for her?” Wei Yuewu asked in surprise. No matter how she looked at it, she couldn’t tell that this heir-apparent was anxious. She didn’t believe that Yan Huaijing had no ambition.

“I sent people out to find this woman from time to time! It’s just that I didn’t find her yet!” Yan Huaijing cast a sidelong glance at Wei Yuewu and narrowed his eyes.

“But you... don’t seem to be in a hurry, do you?” Wei Yuewu could not help but ask.

“On the contrary, I have been anxious all the time. So I sent people to the Crown Prince Mansion from time to time to have a look!” Although Yan Huaijing claimed to be anxious, he did not show any sign of anxiety at all.

“What is the use of me to you?” Wei Yuewu asked doubtfully.

“Previously, I asked Master Fenghe to read your palm. It means that I am also looking for the phoenix-fate woman. Now, there is an aristocratic young lady from the State of Yan by my side. From whichever perspective, it means that the State of Yan values the phoenix-fate woman!” Yan Huaijing said indifferently.

Suddenly, Wei Yuewu understood. After a moment of silence, she raised her head and asked, “So, you are using me to mystify them?” In fact, she knew she did not have any choice even if the answer was yes. Just as Yan Huaijing had said, he saved her life several times. She owed her life to him. No matter how much he asked her to do, there seemed to be no room for refusal.

For a moment, she felt inexplicably sad. She herself was also surrounded by many myths, which were extremely difficult for her to investigate. Although Yan Huaijing lent his guards to her, there were still some things that she could not find out. When would she be able to avenge her mother?

She couldn't let her mother died in vain...

“The State of Yan lacks an heiress-apparent. What do you think, Yuewu?”

Chapter 293 – A Trap, And The Man Betrothed With Empress Tu

Yan Huaijing's words were so abrupt that Wei Yuewu almost couldn't react. She looked at Yan Huaijing in shock.

“How about I taking you and the princess back to the State of Yan? Although you are not comparable to the princess in terms of status, I will help you!” Yan Huaijing didn't seem to notice the shock in Wei Yuewu's eyes and he continued to smile leisurely.

No matter how noble Wei Yuewu's status was, it was impossible for her to be comparable to a princess.

“Your Heir-apparent, I don’t dare. Don’t you want to marry the phoenix-fate woman?” Wei Yuewu lowered her eyes and took two steps back with her head drooped.

“Phoenix-fate woman? If I say that there is no such a thing in this world, what do you think?” Yan Huaijing’s voice was as gentle as water, but in Wei Yuewu’s heart, it was like a heavy blow. She raised her head in shock.

Her lips trembled twice before she managed to ask, “Is this fake?”

This news was even more shocking to her than what Yan Huaijing said to her just now.

“Didn’t you suspect it just now?” Yan Huaijing asked in reply.

“But... but...” For a moment, Wei Yuewu did not know how to describe her feeling. It was such a big lie. Of course, it was not something that could be spread so widely just by means of gossiping. There must be someone behind it. And Yan Huaijing was the most likely person.

It was not important whether she believed it or not, but it was clear that the Emperor believed it, and everyone else believed it, so everyone was looking for the so-called phoenix-fate woman.

It would be fine if they couldn’t find this phoenix-fate woman, but if such a person really appeared somewhere, wouldn’t the world get bogged down in a bloody storm?

No matter how determined Wei Yuewu was, she was still greatly shocked.

Sure enough, the State of Yan’s ambition was indeed incomparable and self-evident!

“That’s why I won’t marry the so-called phoenix-fate woman. Besides, the State of Yan does lack an heiress-apparent. Yuewu, why don’t you have a try!” Seeing that Wei Yuewu was so shocked that she could not even speak, Yan Huaijing had a happy expression on his face and seemed to be in a very good mood.

"I..." Wei Yuewu did not know what to say.

"Don't worry, Yuewu. When Marquis Hua Yang comes, I will mention this matter to him." Yan Huaijing's attitude was casual and friendly, but it made Wei Yuewu blush.

"I heard that the Crown Prince will also take some of the young ladies of aristocratic families as his concubines when he marries the phoenix-fate woman. He is especially interested in several noble young ladies from distinguished families. However, considering your status and that young lady in your mansion, it is unlikely for you to enter the Crown Prince Mansion. But the chance is high with regard to the other princes!"

Yan Huaijing analyzed for her with a smile. He spoke in a gentle voice as if he was really helping Wei Yuewu relieve her worries, but his words made Wei Yuewu's heart sink. She did not want to have any connection with the royal family!

"The current Empress disliked the late Marquise Hua Yang very much. Whichever prince you marry, I'm afraid it would not be a happy ending!"

Wei Yuewu felt like a fishbone getting stuck in the throat. She looked up at Yan Huaijing and asked seriously, "Why does the Empress dislike my mother?"

"Your mother robbed Empress Tu of the man betrothed to her. How could Empress Tu like your mother!" Yan Huaijing said with a light smile.

Her mother snatched the Empress' betrothed? Wei Yuewu immediately thought of that aristocratic young lady whose engagement with her father was canceled.

So, that aristocratic young lady was actually Empress Tu?

All the previous explanations she could think of immediately became reasonable because of this news that shocked Wei Yuewu. It turned out that... the young lady who was protected very well was Empress Tu!

Wei Yuewu did not want to ask how Yan Huaijing knew about this matter. Since he had said it, this matter was true. Only the identity of a daughter from the Tu Clan could be concealed so well.

That was why nobody knew about the engagement that had been annulled.

“Everyone thought that it was another daughter from the Tu Clan, and that young lady had indeed passed away long ago. However, they did not know that the person who was engaged to Marquis Hua Yang was actually another daughter. Later on, she was sent into the Palace and became the Empress. I’m afraid that very few people know about this episode now!” Yan Huaijing said indifferently.

If he hadn’t made strenuous efforts investigating this issue, he really wouldn’t find out that this Empress Tu and Wei Luowen were connected in such a way.

“The cause of my mother’s death...” Wei Yuewu asked with difficulty, her eyes filled with coldness.

“I don’t know much about the cause of your mother’s death either!” Yan Huaijing shook his head. His gentle gaze fell on her face. He looked at the pain in her clear and shining eyes.

Without the strong disguise she usually put on, she looked even more heartbreaking. Yan Huaijing inexplicably felt as if his heart had been hit by a heavy blow. Those words he had casually uttered to Wei Yuewu actually sounded a little gentle and sentimental.

For some reason, he did not press on her at this time, and his voice became softer and softer, “Actually, you can try. If there is no better option for you in the future, I will be your way out!”

His words were extremely gentle, almost fitting in with his usual gentle and refined image in front of others, but what was different from the past was that there was a sign of gentleness in his eyes.

Even he himself felt a little awkward after speaking those words. He coughed softly and restored his usual calm. He looked at Wei Yuewu with a faint smile, his handsome eyes glimmering. “Yuewu, how do you like my suggestion?”

“Thank you, Your Heir-apparent. I will let you know when the time comes!” Wei Yuewu bit her lips and said. Although she did not really believe Yan Huaijing’s words, she was still inexplicably touched. She bit her lips to suppress the sourness in her nose.

Ever since she entered the capital, no one had told her that they were her last way out!

Neither her father nor the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang was...

Even though this black-hearted was only speaking those words as lip service, Wei Yuewu was still moved. She felt as if her heart had been heavily struck by something.

“Alright, Yuewu, please remember what you have said!” Yan Huaijing smiled happily and suddenly felt that he was looking forward to having this little fox beside him.

How could his woman be plotted against by others? No matter how sharp the little fox’s claws were, there would be times when she would be injured...

After Yan Huaijing and his people left, Wei Yuewu and Jin Ling were also secretly sent back by the guard left behind by Yan Huaijing. As for Yan Huaijing’s entourage, there was naturally no sign of the tightly wrapped “aristocratic young lady from the State of Yan”.

But in terms of number, Yan Huaijing brought one less guard than he did when he entered the Palace. This was enough to make everyone in the Palace pay attention to his guards.

However, no one would expect that when Yan Huaijing left the room, there was actually someone else in the room!

After secretly returning to her room, Wei Yuewu sat in front of the window. She frowned slightly and was speechless. The Empress and her father were once engaged, and the two families had already started to prepare for the wedding. But all of a sudden, her father fell in love with her mother at first sight and insisted on marrying her mother.

In a sense, it was really because of her mother that Empress Tu had to suffer the humiliation of having her engagement broken. Therefore, Empress Tu must hate her mother. This inevitably made the cause of, or the inside story about her mother's death, even more complicated...

Jin Ling saw the tea that had been placed on the table had become cold. She brought a cup of hot tea and placed it in front of Wei Yuewu. "Miss, have some tea!"

Wei Yuewu reached out to take the tea and took a sip. Her eyes slowly darkened. "Jin Ling, is the Fourth Young Lady living next door?"

When they entered the room, Jin Ling said that she saw Ming Yan coming out from the side.

"Yes, the Fourth Young Lady does live next door. When I poured the water, I saw Ming Yan again and said a few words to her. She said the Fourth Young Lady just came back and asked me why we came back so late."

In the Crown Prince Mansion, Wei Yuewu was the first one to leave. However, Wei Yuewu met Yan Huaijing and was taken away by him. As a result, Wei QiuFu returned to Chu Xiu Palace before Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu nodded. She raised her watery eyes and asked, "What did you say?"

"I said that you were attracted by the scenery in the Palace and had a walk around, so we came back late!" Jin Ling explained with a smile.

There were many places in the Palace, and no one would notice where Wei Yuewu and her maidservant went. They were not important people like the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State, and the people in the Palace would not keep an eye on her.

Wei Yuewu was very satisfied with Jin Ling's answer. The corners of her lips curled into a smile. Wei QiuFu was actually living next door to her. It was really strange.

“Miss, Ming Yan also said the Fourth Young Lady would come to see you in a while.” Jin Ling suddenly remembered something and hurriedly said.

“She is coming over?” Wei Yuewu murmured. Then, she said indifferently, “She can come just as she pleases!”

Wei Qiufu was not a person who would do useless things. If she did not do anything in the Palace this time, it would be equivalent to failure. With Wei Qiufu’s wisdom, she would definitely make a move and attract the attention of the Crown Prince. Only then would she secure a high position before entering the Crown Prince Mansion.

Wei Qiufu would not let go of this last chance no matter what!

“Is the Sixth Young Lady here?” The sound of knocking suddenly came from the door.

Jin Ling was stunned before she smiled and said, “Miss, you see, speak of the devil and he will come. It’s the Fourth Young Lady’s maid, Ming Yan!”

Wei Yuewu smiled and motioned her to open the door.

Jin Ling walked out of the inner room and walked to the door. Sure enough, it was Ming Yan who served Wei Qiufu.

“Our young lady is inside. What’s the matter?” Jin Ling asked with a smile.

“The Fourth Young Lady said the Eldest Young Lady was coming in a while. Since there is nothing much to do in the Palace, she asked if the Sixth Young Lady wants to come over for a chat.” Ming Yan said politely.

“Eldest Young Lady is coming?” Jin Ling asked in surprise.

“That’s right. Eldest Young Lady’s maid came and said she was visiting the Empress Dowager. After that, she will come over to see the two young ladies. She is worried about the two young ladies because it is the first time they have ever entered the Palace!” Ming Yan said articulately.

Such enthusiastic “concern” made Jin Ling vigilant. She said hesitantly, “This... Our young lady isn’t feeling well now!”

“No worry. The weather is good today and the young ladies can take a walk. The room of the Sixth Young Lady is close to the coldest place. It’s easy to feel unwell if she stays in the room all the time!” Ming Yan’s expression remained unchanged as she continued with a smile.

“Alright! When the Eldest Sister comes, tell me. I will take a break first!” Wei Yuewu walked out of the screen and said indifferently.

Chapter 294 – Two Identical And Eye-Catching Hairpins

“Yes, that’s great. I will go and tell the Fourth Young Lady. Sixth Young Lady, please have a rest.” Seeing Wei Yuewu readily agreed, Ming Yan breathed a sigh of relief and hurriedly replied.

Wei Yuewu waved her hand.

“Miss, why must the Fourth Young Lady ask you out for a walk?” Seeing Ming Yan left happily, Jin Ling worriedly reminded Wei Yuewu.

“Of course it’s because she wants to make use of me!” Wei Yuewu smiled, and her lips curled into a cold smile. Apparently, Wei Qiufu was about to take action.

“Miss, don’t go. I’m afraid that I won’t be able to protect you!” Jin Ling said with a worried expression.

“Don’t worry. I happen to be going out for a walk as well!” Wei Yuewu said.

She indeed wanted to go out for a walk. There were many things that she did not understand, which all involved the imperial palace. It would be best if she had a chance to wander around the imperial palace.

Wei Qiufu was a very cautious person. This was only their first day in the Palace. Even if she had a plan, she would not really do anything!

“Miss...” Jin Ling still wanted to persuade Wei Yuewu, but was stopped by her.

“In a while, help me put on the hairpin I asked you to bring when we entered the Palace!” Wei Yuewu slowly walked back and sat in front of the dressing table. She gently picked up the tea on the table and took a sip. Then, she suddenly put it down, her eyes shining with cold light.

She was talking about the hairpin engraved with the characters that read “shan you mu”, meaning “there are trees in the mountain”. Right now, she wondered if this hairpin had anything to do with Empress Tu. She was determined to find out if her mother’s death was related only to Concubine Dong and Lady Li, or if Empress Tu also played a role. She must get to the bottom of this!

“The hairpin sent by Concubine Dong? I brought it!” Jin Ling noticed that something was wrong with Wei Yuewu’s expression. She hurriedly took out the delicate hairpin from under the dressing table that she had tidied up.

Previously, Wei Yuewu only thought that this hairpin was exquisite and elegant, but now in her eyes, it was quite suspicious. She did not believe that Concubine Dong was ignorant of the fact that Empress Tu had once been engaged to her father.

However, it was a myth to her how the Tu Mansion substituted another daughter for the daughter who was engaged with her father, and how the Tu Mansion managed to send this daughter to the Palace, who subsequently made her way up to the position of Empress.

The strength of the Tu Clan, or perhaps it could be said Grand Preceptor Tu, was actually so strong that he was even able to make a fool of the royal family!

Jin Ling handed the hairpin to Wei Yuewu and asked, “Miss, are you going to wear this hairpin?”

Wei Yuewu took it and carefully played with it. It was a simple but elegant hairpin. Her granny only said that it was a betrothal gift from her father to her mother, but this matter made Wei Yuewu more and more suspicious.

Judging from what she saw, her father was incomparably devoted to her mother. He should still cherish her mother in his heart, so it was impossible for this hairpin to appear in Concubine Dong's hands.

On that day, Concubine Dong sent this hairpin to her as an act of provocation. But if it were really a betrothal gift from her father to her mother, it definitely couldn't have fallen into the hands of Concubine Dong.

On the other hand, was it just a similar replica of the one sent by her father to her mother as a token of love and betrothal gift?

Since Wei Yuewu couldn't come to a conclusion, she simply brought this hairpin with her into the Palace. She thought that she could wait for the right opportunity to wear it. Maybe someone would know something about it. After all, it was such an exquisite hairpin that even the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang wouldn't have gotten it unless by chance.

But now that she thought about it, she felt that it was a bit strange!

"Up in the mountain, there is a big tree with overhanging branches. Alas! The gentleman doesn't know that I've lost my heart to him." As she recalled the lines, she couldn't help but wonder if her father, a general who didn't read much, could write stuff like this. As for the Madam Dowager, who disliked her mother, it would be even more impossible for her to prepare such a good hairpin. Therefore, the origin of this hairpin was really suspicious!

Or perhaps this hairpin was given by her granny to her mother...

"Help me wear this hairpin before going out!" Wei Yuewu nodded and her gaze fell on the hairpin. Such an exquisite hairpin was really not something an ordinary hairpin could compare to.

Even those hairpins that were embedded with gemstones would appear inferior for lack of elegance. Coupled with the exquisite carvings on the hairpin, whoever wore it would definitely attract the attention of others.

It was such an outstanding hairpin, Wei Qiufu must like it...

Well, if it appeared on Wei Qiufu's head, it would definitely be more eye-catching than on her head!

After Wei Yuewu freshened up and dressed up, Ming Yan knocked on the door again and said that Wei Fengyao was here.

Wei Yuewu went out of her room with Jin Ling.

Outside the door, Wei Fengyao and Wei Qiufu were waiting there. The two of them were chatting and laughing, and they looked very happy.

Wei Fengyao had a thick layer of makeup on her face. The makeup on her face was so thick that it made her face look pale. However, her attitude was very friendly. When she saw Wei Yuewu coming out, she even warmly came over and said with a smile, "Sixth Younger Sister, we have been waiting for you. Are you used to living in the Palace? Fourth Young Sister said that your room is facing the north and it is really cold in the winter. I'll ask someone to get another room for you in a while!"

"Thank you, Eldest Sister. I... Please don't bother!" Wei Yuewu refused with a smile.

"We are sisters, why are you being so polite!" Wei Fengyao had a smile on her face. In the eyes of outsiders, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang's daughters were indeed deeply attached to and cared about each other.

"Eldest Sister, I..." Wei Yuewu was about to refuse, but Wei Fengyao reached out to stop her. She said to a nurse-in-charge at the side, "Get another room for my Sixth Younger Sister later. This room is too cold. My Sixth Younger Sister is not in good health. I'm afraid she will soon be ill if she continues to live in the room!"

“Yes, Your Heiress-apparent!” The nurse-in-charge answered respectfully. They all knew the Empress Dowager liked the fat Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an the most. Therefore, she also treated Wei Fengyao, the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan’an, with reverence.

“Thank you, nurse. Since you are here, please change the room for my Fourth Younger Sister as well so that the two of them can live next door and take care of each other!” Wei Fengyao looked at the rooms and said to the nurse-in-charge with a smile.

“Alright!” There were plenty of empty rooms in Chu Xiu Palace right now, so changing rooms wasn’t a big issue for the nurse-in-charge.

However, in the next moment, the nurse-in-charge looked a little awkward.

Wei Fengyao pointed to the right and said, “Let them move to the rooms over there. I remember those rooms over there are the best rooms in Chu Xiu Palace. Just let my two younger sisters live there!”

Wei Yuewu followed her hand and looked over, but she couldn’t make out anything. There were several courtyards and she really didn’t know which direction Wei Fengyao was pointing to.

The nurse-in-charge, however, understood and frowned as she asked, “Your Heiress-apparent, are you referring to those rooms?”

“Yes, aren’t those rooms all empty now? They all face the south. It’s good for my two younger sisters to live there!” Wei Fengyao said smilingly.

“Well...” The nurse-in-charge was really put in a difficult position. Although those rooms were empty, not anybody could live there.

“If you can’t decide, I will ask the Empress Dowager later. I think the Empress Dowager will also agree with what I said!” Wei Fengyao said as she glanced at the nurse-in-charge with a hint of arrogance.

“Yes, I will arrange everything in a while. I am going right away!” Thinking of how the Empress Dowager doted on the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an, the nurse-in-charge did not dare to hesitate any longer. If Wei Fengyao really made a fuss in front of the Empress Dowager, she might be punished.

In any case, it would only be a dozen days, and it wouldn’t be a big problem.

“Thank you for taking the trouble, nurse!” Seeing that the nurse-in-charge had agreed, Wei Fengyao said in a pleased manner.

Then, the nurse-in-charge turned around and took people with her to prepare the rooms over there.

Ever since Wei Yuewu came out, Wei Qiufu’s gaze had been stealthily fixed on the hairpin on Wei Yuewu’s hair from time to time. She had never seen this kind of hairpin before. Most importantly, it looked uniquely ancient and elegant.

This was exactly what she lacked the most right now!

Young ladies from rich families, especially aristocratic young ladies like Wei Qiufu, didn’t lack expensive jewelry and ornaments. All of them had hairpins and headwear made of gold and silver, and it was very difficult to look eye-catching among a group of young ladies of aristocratic families.

Wei Qiufu was not beautiful enough. She could only be considered above the average among the young ladies of aristocratic families. If she wanted others to notice her, she would have to put in a lot of effort. However, if she had the hairpin on Wei Yuewu’s head, it would be different. Everyone would be attracted by this kind of hairpin with just one glance.

She really liked this hairpin...

After the nurse-in-charge left, Wei Qiufu immediately praised with a smile, “Sixth Younger Sister’s hairpin is so beautiful!”

“This hairpin is really beautiful!” Wei Fengyao also praised. “I have never seen Sixth Younger Sister wearing such a beautiful hairpin!”

"Eldest Sister must be joking. It's just an ordinary hairpin!" Wei Yuewu was flattered and covered her face with a handkerchief.

Although her eyes were burning with desire, Wei Qiufu was still able to put on an indifferent expression. She asked in a seemingly casual tone, "An ordinary hairpin? Where did you get this hairpin, Sixth Younger Sister?"

"It was sent to me by Concubine Dong after she came back to the mansion. She gave me a lot of gifts at that time. You knew about it, Fourth Elder Sister." Wei Yuewu's long eyelashes flickered twice.

Wei Yuewu received the most gifts when Concubine Dong came back. Concubine Dong sent so many gifts that all the people in the entire mansion said she was especially good to Wei Yuewu. However, some people also said Concubine Dong was deliberately trying to curry favor with Wei Yuewu. After all, Wei Yuewu was the real legitimate daughter of Marquis Hua Yang.

"Concubine Dong gave it to you?" Wei Qiufu hesitated for a moment. She did not completely believe in Concubine Dong's personality.

How come Concubine Dong gave such a unique hairpin to Wei Yuewu? It was really suspicious.

"Yes, it was said that there are two such hairpins, and the Third Elder Sister and I each have one!" Wei Yuewu smiled and explained softly.

Actually, Wei Yuewu didn't know whether Wei Yuejiao also had such a hairpin. However, Concubine Dong did say those words to her back then.

If Wei Yuejiao also had one, this meant that Concubine Dong was afraid of gossip, so she gave one to Wei Yuewu. Thinking of this, Wei Qiufu no longer had any suspicion.

Concubine Dong was a sophisticated person. Since Wei Yuejiao had such a good hairpin, if Wei Yuewu did not have one, people would definitely say that she was biased and cared more about her own daughter. As a concubine, she certainly did not dare to do this.

Since Wei Yuejiao also had one, Wei Qiufu felt that she could be completely at ease. Her eyes flashed, and she stretched out her hand as she asked, "Sixth Younger Sister, may I have a look at your hairpin?"

Chapter 295 – Did The So-Called Orchid Courtyard Have A Front Hall?

"Well..." Wei Yuewu had an embarrassed look on her face as she looked around. She was clearly not very willing to lend it out!

"Sixth Younger Sister, since Fourth Younger Sister likes it, just lend it to her for a few days. Anyway, she will return it to you. I also have a few hairpins. I originally wanted to give them to you and Qiufu. Now, I will give all of them to you alone!" Wei Fengyao saw that Wei Qiufu really liked the hairpin, so she naturally stood on Wei Qiufu's side and spoke for her.

These words were very polite. Moreover, Wei Qiufu only asked to borrow it, not to have it for her own. Since Wei Fengyao had also spoken for Wei Qiufu, Wei Yuewu couldn't refuse whatever reason she had.

"Well then... Alright! When do you want it, Fourth Elder Sister?" Wei Yuewu's face was full of unhappiness, but she had no other option.

"If it is convenient for you, lend it to me when we are back to our rooms later!" Wei Qiufu smiled and bowed to Wei Yuewu. "Thank you, Sixth Younger Sister!"

She behaved in an extremely reasonable manner. Not only did she express her gratitude to Wei Yuewu, but she also expressed her humility. No matter who saw it, they would think that Wei Qiufu was generous and polite.

"Fourth Elder Sister, you are welcome!" Wei Yuewu smiled and turned sideways to avoid her bow.

"Let's go. We will have a walk around the Palace. Although the two of you have also been to the Palace, there are too many people coming and going during the banquet time. There are some places that ordinary guests aren't allowed to enter." Wei Fengyao smiled and pointed at the road ahead. Then, she walked to the intersection first.

Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu followed behind with their maidservants!

They walked all the way out of Chu Xiu Palace.

Suddenly, Wei Fengyao, who was walking in front, smiled mysteriously and stopped. "Sisters, I'll take you to a good place!"

"Eldest Sister, this is the imperial palace. Let's just walk around!" Wei Qiufu also stopped and looked around awkwardly.

"Don't worry. I am not going to take you to the forbidden area. There are some palaces in the Palace that are inaccessible for outsiders. Although I am the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an, I don't dare to be reckless in the Palace!" Wei Fengyao said helplessly. She gently wiped her pale face with the handkerchief in her hand.

"Then... what do you think, Sixth Younger Sister?" Wei Qiufu turned to Wei Yuewu and asked gently.

Wei Yuewu had been quietly watching on the side. Apparently, Wei Qiufu and Wei Fengyao were putting on a play. However, she also wanted to see what they had up their sleeves. She smiled slightly and said, "I have only just returned to the capital and haven't been to the Palace many times. I will just follow Eldest Sister and Fourth Elder Sister!"

In any case, she was the youngest and had just returned to the capital. Naturally, everything would be decided by Wei Fengyao and Wei Qiufu.

After hearing Wei Yuewu's extremely sensible answer, Wei Qiufu's eyes flashed with a trace of caution. Fortunately, her goal this time was not Wei Yuewu. She only wanted to make use of Wei Yuewu as her stepping stone.

"Then I'll listen to Eldest Sister!" Wei Qiufu bit her lips and replied.

"Alright, let's go!" Seeing that both of them agreed, Wei Fengyao smiled and led the way. Not far away, they saw a courtyard.

There were two large words on the tall plaque at the entrance of the courtyard, which read Orchid Courtyard.

"Are there orchids planted here?" Wei Yuewu stopped and asked in surprise.

"Yes, a few orchids here are about to bloom. I heard that the orchids here are extremely beautiful. All species of orchids can be found here, and they have been nurtured very well!" Wei Fengyao pointed at the door with a smile and walked in first.

At the door, there were a few pots of orchids that looked very unique. Unlike the two rows on one side, they were placed at the foot of an artificial hill and formed a small orchid garden. In the shadow of the artificial hill, there were a few orchids that were about to bloom. Their buds were half open and half closed and were extremely attractive.

"So beautiful!" Wei Yuewu couldn't help but exclaim.

Usually, red plum blossoms were the most popular in the cold winter. Now that Wei Qiufu saw these orchids that had not been in full bloom, she felt that they were extremely graceful and elegant.

Wei Qiufu picked up the corner of her skirt, took two steps forward, squatted down, and looked at the orchid flowers carefully. She could not help but praise, "Eldest Sister, the orchids here are really good. The ones in our mansion have not bloomed yet!"

"How can the orchids in our mansion be compared with the ones in the Palace? Look at everything here. Although the overall scene is not much different from the courtyard outside, don't you feel there is something different?" Wei Fengyao said proudly.

"What's the difference?" Wei Qiufu could not answer for a moment, so she turned to Wei Yuewu and asked, "Sixth Younger Sister, did you see anything different?"

Wei Yuewu shook his head. "I didn't see either. Eldest Sister, please tell us about it."

Seeing that the two of them did not know the answer, Wei Fengyao became prouder. "Don't you feel that this place is warmer than the outside?"

"Yes, it seems to be warmer here!" Wei Yuewu hesitated for a moment before answering.

"It's warmer because there is a ground heating system here!" Wei Fengyao smiled.

"All the ground in such a big place is heated?" Wei Qiufu gestured with her hand in shock. The area in front of her didn't look big when they first entered the Orchid Courtyard. However, looking from where she stood towards the inside, the area was actually not small. If the ground was really all heated, it would really be an enormous project.

Even if the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang's strength was not small, it was impossible for the mansion to do this!

"The ground in other places of this garden is also heated. That's why the orchids here have already bloomed. How can our two mansions compare with this place!" Wei Fengyao raised her neck and said proudly.

These words sounded like self-deprecation, but which mansion could compare with the royal palace in terms of luxury?

"Who built the ground heating system here?" Wei Yuewu calmly looked at this large garden. Her watery eyes flashed with a hint of shock and envy. This was really a big project. Of course, not everyone could do it.

"I don't know. I heard that it was built at the order of an imperial consort favored by the late Emperor, but I don't know who she is exactly!" Wei Fengyao shook her head and pointed inside. "Let's go in and take a look. There are even more beautiful scenes inside."

The two of them followed her in. This Orchid Courtyard actually consisted of several gardens. Although each garden was not big, they were quite exquisite. From time to time, they could see orchids blooming in the corridors and artificial hills.

Thanks to these orchids that looked both enchanting and graceful, there was an aura of early spring, which added to the beauty of the richly ornamented corridors and buildings.

In the middle of winter, the three of them wore a lot of clothes. After walking for a while, they were already sweating slightly. In addition, this place was much warmer than the outside. It hadn't been long before they felt hot.

"Eldest Sister, let's go in and take a rest!" Wei Qiufu suggested. She pointed at the room on the side and wiped the sweat off her forehead with a handkerchief.

"This... I don't have the key this time. The next time we come here, I will ask someone to get the key from the palace servants." Wei Fengyao looked embarrassed. When they came over, Wei Fengyao didn't let any palace servant lead the way. She personally took the two of them and several maidservants followed them from a distance.

"Alright then!" Although Wei Qiufu felt very hot, she was particularly concerned about etiquette. She wiped her face with a handkerchief and answered gently.

The three of them then continued to walk towards the back of the courtyard, admiring the flowers all the way.

There were not many people on the road. Only a few palace maids were tending to the flowers and plants. When they saw Wei Fengyao and the other two young ladies, they respectfully and politely moved aside to make way and bow to the three of them.

Only after the three of them left did the palace maids once again work on the flowers.

Finally, they sat down in a corridor in a small courtyard. Behind the corridor was a small artificial hill with a pool of clear water. It was a quiet place.

What was more, this corridor was actually facing the sun with the wind blocked by a wall. The warm sunlight shone down, making them feel quite relaxed and cozy.

“Fourth Younger Sister, Sixth Younger Sister, this place is not far from Chu Xiu Palace. In the following days, if you have nothing to do, you can come and take a walk. You only need to accompany the Third Princess to pray in the morning. You can come here in the afternoon to admire the flowers.” Wei Fengyao smiled and pointed at the several pots of orchids in the corridor.

“Many thanks, Eldest Sister. Originally, I was worried that there are no other places to go when we don’t need to accompany the Third Princess. I didn’t expect that there would be an excellent place here.” Wei Qiufu smiled and turned to Wei Yuewu. “Sixth Younger Sister, what do you think?”

“Not bad!” Wei Yuewu nodded. This place was so beautiful and it was also close to Chu Xiu Palace. It was really a fortune for them to have such a good place when there was nothing to do.

But were there really no other imperial consorts coming to such a nice place?

This courtyard was tidied up so neatly, and it was warmer than the outside thanks to its enormous ground heating system. Orchids in blossom could be seen everywhere. However, Wei Yuewu noticed something strange. Although the Palace didn’t lack imperial consorts who loved flowers and plants and were idle, they actually didn’t meet anyone along the way.

Who wouldn’t feel like admiring such elegant orchids that bloomed in the cold winter?

However, the three of them didn’t meet anyone else along the way!

Wei Yuewu also noticed another strange thing. Although this place was close to Chu Xiu Palace, it should be even closer to the Crown Prince Mansion. After they entered the courtyard, she didn’t see any buildings such as the front hall and main hall, which were commonly seen in royal courtyards. Instead, she only saw gardens here, one garden after another...

This meant that the Orchid Courtyard was bigger than what she had seen, and there should be a main hall, which was the most correct way to enter the Orchid Courtyard.

“Alright, Sixth Younger Sister, let’s come here again when we have time!” Wei Qiufu proposed with a smile on her face.

“Yes, Fourth Elder Sister!” Wei Yuewu smiled and put away the suspicion in her eyes. She just needed to play the part of a younger sister who didn’t know anything.

“Then it’s settled. I’ve already spoken to the person in charge of the courtyard. When the two of you are free, you can come over and have a walk around here!” Wei Fengyao smiled as she made the decision. Her eyes met Wei Qiufu’s for a moment and both of them felt satisfied.

There were some things that were inappropriate for Wei Qiufu to do alone. But what if she had the company of Wei Yuewu? With Wei Yuewu by her side, it would seem quite natural for such things to happen “by chance”. If an accident occurred, Wei Yuewu might also be held responsible.

No matter how alert Wei Yuewu was, what could she do?

This was the imperial palace, not the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. For Wei Yuewu, getting the information she needed or doing anything wouldn’t be easy!

“Fourth Younger Sister, Sixth Younger Sister, it is getting late. I need to go back. Now let me take you to see the new rooms I picked for you!” Wei Fengyao had other plans in her heart. At this time, she put on an even more brilliant smile, which concealed the viciousness in her eyes. However, there was too much powder on her face. Since they sweated after walking in the warm gardens, some powder had fallen off her face. She looked really terrible...

Well, she did hear some rumors about that room...

Chapter 296 – Two Extremely Similar Rooms

By the time the two of them returned to Chu Xiu Palace, the rooms had already been selected for them!

There were a row of rooms facing the sun, and the two rooms for Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu were in the center of the others, which allowed them the best sunlight and fresh air. Behind the two rooms, there

was a small courtyard where a few purple bamboos were planted, making the two rooms look extremely elegant.

Jin Ling and Ming Yan followed the palace maid back to the original rooms to pack up things. Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu each went to their own room, and Wei Fengyao left.

After a while, Jin Ling returned to the room with the luggage they had brought into the Palace. While placing the things in the room for Wei Yuewu, she said, "Miss, I noticed that this place is extremely far from the previous room for you. Those young ladies were still living in the original place. Only you and the Fourth Young Lady were arranged to live here because of the Eldest Young Lady."

"Did you meet maidservants of the other young ladies?" Wei Yuewu smiled and removed the hairpin from her head.

"Yes. However, there were palace maids present, so those maidservants didn't dare to say anything. But I could see that those maidservants looked quite indignant." When Jin Ling left for the original room, Wei Yuewu asked her to pay special attention to the maidservants of the other young ladies.

They looked indignant? Wei Yuewu smiled slightly. In the Palace, one might easily become a target for all. Now that she and Wei Qiufu had moved to such a good place, they were suddenly more eye-catching than others and would definitely be envied by others.

It was actually very dangerous for people to become eye-catching and be envied by others when they did not have the strength to protect themselves!

Wei Yuewu already had an idea when Wei Fengyao asked them to change rooms. She smiled faintly and asked Jin Ling, "Did you say those words as I told you? What happened later?"

"I followed your instructions and pretended to fall when passing by a maidservant. As expected, the palace maid leading the way came to help me up politely. I asked her in a low voice whether you could live in the original room. I said you didn't care about the room conditions."

"That palace maid said in embarrassment that she couldn't interfere in this matter. She said this was ordered by her supervisor. She also said that since the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan'an had asked her

supervisor to change the room for you, there was no need for you to care about what the others thought!”

Naturally, all those words were overheard by the other young ladies’ maidservants!

Wei Yuewu casually picked up a hairpin and put it on. Then, she handed the hairpin she had worn to Jin Ling. “Send this hairpin to the Fourth Young Lady. Since she likes my hairpin and Eldest Sister has said those words, if I don’t lend this hairpin to her, then I will be too mean and heartless to be their sister!”

Although the so-called sisterhood did not really matter to anyone, since Wei Qiufu and Wei Fengyao acted like sisters on the surface, Wei Yuewu naturally would put on a similar show.

“Yes, Miss!” Jin Ling nodded, took the hairpin, and was about to turn around, but she was stopped by Wei Yuewu.

“Take a closer look at what the Fourth Young Lady is doing.”

Wei Qiufu’s purpose was very clear, but after returning to her room, she hadn’t come out. Wei Yuewu did not believe that she was really resting. She knew Wei Qiufu wasn’t a person who would rest when there was nothing to do!

“Yes!” Jin Ling understood what Wei Yuewu meant. She took the hairpin and walked out.

Wei Yuewu got up and walked to the window. She looked at the purple bamboos outside the window and was lost in thought. Even in the winter, these purple bamboos looked extraordinary. Although there were only a few of them, their existence, along with a small rock on the side, made the entire environment much more elegant.

Looking out of the window, she found the small courtyard was very clean. There were only a few fallen leaves on the ground. This meant that there were people cleaning the small courtyard every day.

However, it could be seen that this house had been empty for a long time. It was really strange that even the small courtyard was so clean and tidy!

This must be a place that was valued by someone, and since this place was also in Chu Xiu Palace, it was quite likely that this person was now powerful in the Palace and she must have lived here as a candidate before entering the Palace.

This should be the place where she used to live or the place she cherished so much that although she rarely visited this place, the nurse-in-charge dared not neglect this place for fear that she would occasionally come!

A royal consort with real power? This was something that Wei Yuewu could guess!

Moreover, this royal consort with real power must have a high status before she entered the Palace. Being able to be assigned such a good room meant her identity was different from the other candidates!

Wei Yuewu had a faint conclusion in her heart!

Since Wei Fengyao arranged this room for her, how could she have any good intention? Then, was Wei Fengyao going to do something to make others believe that she herself had asked to move in here?

Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart. Wei Fengyao had been busy helping Wei Qiufu gain a higher status so that she would have a stronger ally against her in the future. At the same time, Wei Fengyao couldn't help but personally make a move against her. Apparently, Wei Fengyao was sure that she was just an ignorant and blind person in the imperial palace...

"Miss, the layout of the room over there is very similar to this room. I almost thought that I entered the wrong room if you were not here!" Jin Ling pushed open the door and came in. "The Fourth Young Lady was selecting clothes in her room. Many clothes were spread on the table. She took much more clothes than you!"

When she entered Wei Qiufu's room just now, she saw the table was full of clothes. With a quick glance, she estimated that there were about twenty sets of clothes. By comparison, Wei Yuewu had brought too few clothes with her.

Wei Yuewu's focus was not on the clothes. After pondering for a moment, she turned around and asked, "The two rooms look similar?"

"Yes, the two rooms are almost exactly the same. Even the embroidery patterns on the two screens are similar. Without looking carefully, people really can't see any difference between the screens!"

Jin Ling smiled and walked to the big screen in the room. She pointed at the embroidery pattern that featured the Goddess Chang E's fly to the moon and said, "Miss, look, there is a Chang E flying to the moon on the screen. There is also one on the screen in that room. The only difference is that the two Chang Es wear different hair ornaments. One wears an osmanthus hairpin, and the other wears a pearl hairband!"

So, it was really hard to tell the difference!

The difference was so subtle that Wei Yuewu believed if Jin Ling did not tell her, she might not be able to find the difference either. Neither would anyone else be able to find the difference!

But what was so particular about the two rooms? Somehow, Wei Yuewu felt a little puzzled and was unsure about her previous guesses...

"Miss, when the Fourth Young Lady saw me, she asked me if I had prepared the dress for you. She said that you would be going to the Third Princess' place in a while and asked if you needed a hairpin!"

Wei Qiufu always acted like she was thinking for the sake of others, whereas in fact, she was always scheming against others!

"What did you say?" Wei Yuewu said indifferently as she took her chair again.

"I said you brought several hairpins with you. They were all given to you by the Madam Dowager. I asked her not to be worried about this because you have enough hairpins!"

Thinking about Wei Yuewu's current accessories, Jin Ling realized there really wasn't any particular hairpin except the one borrowed by Wei Qiufu. Jin Ling couldn't help but complain, "Miss, this is the

most outstanding hairpin you brought into the Palace. Now that the Fourth Young Lady has borrowed it, you don't have any other outstanding hairpin!"

"It doesn't matter. This is the imperial palace. I don't have to be eye-catching here!" Wei Yuewu smiled. She did not want to enter the Crown Prince Mansion. She was only here to accompany the Third Princess to pray.

While they were talking, a eunuch came over with two palace maids and brought lunch for Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu. Jin Ling went out and took Wei Yuewu's lunch inside.

The lunch was not bad, six dishes and a soup.

Wei Yuewu ate a little, leaving the rest to Jin Ling. The two palace maids waited outside the room. After Wei Yuewu finished eating, they left with the food box.

Wei Qiufu also finished her lunch very quickly. Knowing that the Third Princess' people would soon come over, the two of them returned to their rooms and freshened up again.

After Wei Yuewu was done and rested for a while, she heard someone asking outside the room, "Are Fourth Miss Wei and Sixth Miss Wei living here?"

Jin Ling answered and went out to open the door. She saw a eunuch with several palace maids standing not far away from the door. She hurriedly went out with a smile on her face. Ming Yan also went out of the other room.

"Are the two young ladies from the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang living here?" The eunuch sent by the Third Princess looked at the rooms in confusion and asked with a smile.

"Yes!" Jin Ling and Ming Yan replied respectfully.

"The soft sedans have been prepared outside. We are here to take the two young ladies and the other young ladies to see the Third Princess!" The eunuch became more and more polite.

The place where Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu lived now was a little further away from Chu Xiu Palace's gate. When they arrived at the gate, the other young ladies were already waiting there. When they saw Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu coming over, their expressions were no longer as friendly as before.

Zhao Ruo'e, who had been close to Wei Yuewu because of that piece of cloth, also looked much colder now.

The Eunuch stepped forward and said with a smile, "Young ladies, please board the sedan. The Third Princess is waiting for you!"

Everyone boarded the sedan one after another. Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu came the latest, so they naturally took the last two sedans. Wei Yuewu also deliberately slowed down by a few steps.

Wei Qiufu also slowed down and turned to look at Wei Yuewu with a warm and generous smile. "Sixth Younger Sister, take the sedan in the front!"

She acted in a really modest manner. Besides, she didn't wear the hairpin she had borrowed from Wei Yuewu. Instead, she just wore an ordinary gold hairpin. Although the gold hairpin wasn't eye-catching, it looked beautiful and matched her temperament well.

Wei Yuewu smiled faintly. "Fourth Elder Sister, you are my elder sister. Naturally, you should take the sedan chair in the front. I will take the sedan chair in the back!"

Well, since Wei Qiufu wanted to show their sisterhood, she would like to cooperate!

"Then... alright! If you are feeling unwell, just let me know." Wei Qiufu smiled even more warmly.

"Yes!" Wei Yuewu lowered her head and answered respectfully, as if she was completely obedient to Wei Qiufu.

The two of them got into their respective sedan and went all the way to Third Princess' palace.

The Third Princess lived quite a distance away from Chu Xiu Palace. It took them quite a bit of time on the way. Because she felt stuffy, Wei Yuewu gently pulled the curtain. Jin Ling, who was outside the sedan, immediately sensed it and helped her pull up the curtain.

Outside the window, one palace after another unfolded in front of Wei Yuewu like a grand painting.

Wei Yuewu watched carefully as the sedan moved on. When she saw a palace from afar, her expression suddenly changed...

Chapter 297 – The Missing Palace In Memory

That palace looked no different from the surrounding palaces. In such a place, every palace looked very ordinary. However, Wei Yuewu inexplicably thought of a palace in the depths of her memory upon seeing this palace. Could it be the palace that was missing in her memory?

“Jin Ling, go and ask whose palace is that?” Wei Yuewu spoke to Jin Ling in a low and hoarse voice. Her hand that was holding a handkerchief was ice-cold.

Although Jin Ling did not know why Wei Yuewu asked her to do this, she still obeyed.

She took a few steps forward and caught up with a palace maid in front of her. She pointed curiously at the palace and asked, “Sister, may I know which royal consort lives in that palace?”

“Which palace?” The palace maid turned around and asked politely.

“The palace over there!” Jin Ling pointed to the palace.

In fact, the palace in the distance was not very obvious. It was a distance away from the large palace road. However, seen from their current angle, that place wasn't blocked by any other building. They could see the palace clearly.

The palace maid followed Jin Ling's finger and saw the palace clearly. She smiled and said, "You mean the palace over there? There is no master or mistress living in it. It is just an ordinary palace!"

"This... is an empty palace?" Jin Ling was stunned for a moment. She was not an ordinary maid, so she knew some of the rules about the layout of imperial buildings. A palace not far from the main palace road should have been assigned to an imperial consort long before.

In addition to having easy access to the main road, that palace didn't look inferior to any of the surrounding palaces. From whichever perspective, it was impossible for such a palace to be empty.

"It has been empty for many years!" The palace maid said with a smile.

Jin Ling looked curious and walked a few steps to keep up with the palace maid. She lowered her voice and asked, "Why is it left empty? Could it be that no royal consort liked that palace?"

The palace maid hesitated for a moment. In the Palace, it was strictly forbidden to gossip about masters and mistresses.

However, she knew the mistress of this maidservant was the Sixth Miss Wei of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, and she also recalled the fact that before she came to fetch the Sixth Miss Wei, the senior palace maid of the Third Princess specially ordered her to be polite when dealing with the maidservant of the Sixth Miss Wei.

Moreover, this matter was not a secret to the people of the Palace.

The palace maid hesitated for a moment and looked around. Finding no one noticed them, she turned her head and said in a low voice, "I heard that palace was haunted by ghosts. In the past, some royal consorts lived there, but after living in that palace for only several days, they cried and begged His Majesty to let them move out. At first, nobody believed what they said, but all the subsequent royal consorts who moved in said the same thing!"

"It was... haunted?" Jin Ling never expected to hear such an answer and she was stunned for a moment.

"Yes. It was said that a lot of people saw a white shadow floating past them. Some people said once a person with a distinguished status died when living in that palace. Because that person was born with a

special horoscope, no other people could live in that palace peacefully unless they had an extremely lucky horoscope!" The palace maid became excited and explained in a low voice.

Jin Ling's eyes widened as she asked, "So a royal consort with a noble status died in that palace?"

"No!" The palace maid from the Third Princess' palace expressed her deep helplessness at Jin Ling for failing to understand her words immediately. She reached out and shook her hand in front of Jin Ling. "I'm not talking about a royal consort. Although it was not a royal consort, that person definitely had a distinguished status. But I'm not clear about the details. It was that this matter happened many years ago and the Palace forbids gossiping about it!"

"In the Palace, other than the royal consorts, who else has a distinguished status?" Jin Ling asked, looking extremely stupid.

Hearing such a silly question, the palace maid almost fainted!

Sure enough, maidservants outside of the Palace couldn't compare with palace maids. They were too stupid to work in the Palace!

She couldn't help wondering if this maidservant of the Sixth Miss Wei had a brain!

"There are many people with distinguished statuses in the Palace. Of course, royal consorts are noble, but some young ladies from aristocratic families also have distinguished statuses. Of course, there are also princesses and princes!" When the palace maid said this, her voice was so low that it could hardly be heard, but Jin Ling had sharp ears and immediately picked up every word she said.

The Palace was replete with fierce fights. There were many princesses and princes who died before they reached adulthood. This wasn't a rare thing in the Palace.

Almost every dynasty had princes whose death remained a myth. By comparison, fewer princesses died in this way! But if people really dug into the issue, they would find that no palace here was a clean place. There were plenty of cases in which princes, princesses, and royal consorts died of unknown reasons.

“Princes?” Jin Ling looked shocked, “But princes are the most distinguished members of the royal family. How could they...”

The palace maid looked at Jin Ling as if she was looking at a country bumpkin. She curled her lips and said, “Who said that princes would not die in the Palace? Haven’t there been many such cases?” But her expression immediately darkened. “Even princes, princesses, and royal consorts couldn’t hold their fates in their own hands, let alone servants like us!”

Indeed, lives were the cheapest in the imperial palace. Countless distinguished people such as princes and princesses had died tragic deaths, let alone these palace maids and eunuchs!

After the palace maid finished speaking, she fell silent. Jin Ling knew that she could not obtain anything useful at this time. She slowed down and took a few steps back. When Wei Yuewu’s sedan caught up with her, she continued to follow behind Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu didn’t speak to Jin Ling. She just closed her eyes to rest in the sedan.

They finally arrived at the Third Princess’ palace. Compared with the Empress’ palace, the Third Princess’ palace was much smaller. There were no high and imposing steps. In just a few steps, they reached the entrance of the palace.

The several young ladies entered in order.

The Third Princess had been waiting in the hall. When she saw them coming in, she had quite an amiable look on her face. After the several young ladies finished bowing, she waved her hand and said, “Sit down. We will meet frequently in the following days, and there is no need to stand on ceremonies. For the next period of time, I shall be glad to have your company during my praying ceremony!”

Everyone thanked the Third Princess and took a seat on the side.

Because Wei Yuewu came in the latest, she naturally went to the last chair.

Before she could sit down on the chair, the Third Princess on the seat of honor said with a smile, "Sixth Miss Wei, please come over. I have something to ask you!"

Having been named by the Third Princess, Wei Yuewu had no choice but to step forward. Wei Qiufu hesitated for a moment and also took two steps forward. She "happened to" sit on the chair next to Wei Yuewu. She looked at Wei Yuewu with concern, as if she was really worried about Wei Yuewu and therefore deliberately sat close to the Third Princess.

Although a few young ladies were unhappy, they knew that Wei Qiufu was bound to enter the Crown Prince Mansion. They could only bear with her and sat down.

Wei Yuewu sat down and asked softly, "May I know what Your Highness is going to ask about?"

"I heard that Marquis Hua Yang will be entering the Palace tomorrow. How are Marquis Hua Yang's injuries?" The Third Princess said with a friendly smile on her lips.

"My father's injuries are almost healed. Thank you for your concern, Your Highness!" Wei Yuewu replied in a low voice.

Palace maids served tea to each young lady. The Third Princess politely pushed a teacup to the front of Wei Yuewu. "This is a good tea I obtained from my royal brother. Sixth Young Lady, try it!"

"Thank you, Your Highness!" Wei Yuewu received the teacup and took a sip. Her eyes shined as she said, "This tea is really good!"

From whichever perspective, the Third Princess did not seem to be someone who would pay attention to Marquis Hua Yang. Moreover, she was overly intimate with her at this time, which had never happened in their previous encounters.

Could it be because of her father's...

"Sixth Young Lady, your birth mother passed away early. For so many years, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang has not had a mistress. Have you ever thought about what kind of mother you would like to have?"

Seeing Wei Yuewu put down the teacup, the Third Princess asked with a casual smile, but her eyes were fixed on Wei Yuewu.

So, the Third Princess was talking about her father's marriage? Sure enough, it seemed that her father's marriage also involved this Third Princess. Otherwise, the Third Princess would not be so eager. In fact, Wei Yuewu had no opinion about whom Wei Luowen would marry, as long as it wasn't Concubine Dong!

However, she couldn't answer the Third Princess in such a straightforward manner. She looked down and put on a bitter smile on her face. "Your Highness, this matter is not something that I should talk about. My grandmother also said that my father has remained single for so many years after my mother passed away, and that the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang needs a noble daughter from a distinguished family as its mistress to help my father deal with the matters of the backyard!"

Although her words were very generous, anyone could clearly see the bitterness on her face. It was understandable. Who was willing to call another woman mother? Anyone in her position would feel sad, despite those generous words.

However, although Wei Yuewu was sad, at least she did not express any objection. This made the Third Princess very satisfied. A noble daughter? Well, although her Ninth Aunt was not a direct descendant of the main branch of the Tu Family, she was now ranked in the lineage and could be considered a noble daughter from a distinguished family. If not for her poor fate, due to which she lost her father and mother in succession and had to observe a three-year mourning period for each of them, how would she remain single at the age of twenty!

Her mother, Zhaoyi Tu, asked her to inquire about Wei Yuewu's opinion. As a matter of fact, Wei Yuewu was just a little girl. What reason did she have to object to her father's marriage? Marquis Hua Yang was not someone who would be swayed by others. It was said that even the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang's Madam Dowager had to give way to her poker-faced son.

However, the Third Princess always listened to Zhaoyi Tu. Moreover, she also needed to show her goodwill to Wei Yuewu, so she happily accepted this mission.

Marquise Hua Yang? Wei Qiufu heard the Third Princess' words clearly and moved her lips as if she wanted to say something, but in the end, she held back her words.

If Marquis Hua Yang really married a noble lady, then the third branch would really have no status in the mansion. In that case, she, a daughter of the third branch, would cease to be of any significance despite being a legitimate daughter!

However, she still shut her mouth. Due to the previous incident, the Third Princess had already become unhappy with her. It was even more inappropriate to provoke the Third Princess at this time. Moreover, once her plan to get a higher status in the Crown Prince Mansion succeeded, she would become the strongest hope of her family, and it was impossible for the third branch to be suppressed no matter what!

With this thought in mind, Wei Qiufu calmed down. She picked up the teacup beside her hand and took a sip, listening attentively to the conversation between the Third Princess and Wei Yuewu.

“Sixth Young Lady, there is no need to be sad. His Majesty will definitely find a suitable noble daughter from a distinguished family for Marquis Hua Yang.” The Third Princess was quite satisfied with Wei Yuewu, and she became increasingly gentler to her. Since she wanted to be on good terms with Wei Yuewu, and this matter would also be declared the next day, the Third Princess decided to give Wei Yuewu some insider information.

“Sixth Young Lady, do you want to know which noble daughter His Majesty is going to grant to Marquis Hua Yang?”

Upon hearing her words, not only did Wei Yuewu raise her head, but the other young ladies also looked over. The mansion of Marquis Hua Yang had not had a mistress for so many years, and there were many who coveted the position of Marquise Hua Yang.

The two brothers, Wei Luowen and Wei Luowu, were both high-ranking officials. Besides, the late Emperor and the current Emperor both attached high importance to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Everyone understood what the position of Marquise Hua Yang represented...

Chapter 298 – Tu Mansion, A Daughter From The Tu Clan Again

“His Majesty wants to grant a marriage for my father?” Wei Yuewu lowered her head and asked.

“Yes, Father Emperor has already chosen a noble daughter from a distinguished family for Marquis Hua Yang. She is from my maternal grandfather’s clan... my Ninth Aunt!” The Third Princess paused at this point and suddenly remembered Zhaoyi Tu’s instructions. The Empress also had a plan for this marriage.

Although it was also a daughter from the Tu Clan, she was closer to Empress.

It was actually a daughter from the Tu Clan?

Wei Yuewu was stunned for a moment before she understood the meaning. The fact that her father was able to get engaged to Empress Tu indicated how much importance Grand Preceptor Tu attached to her father. Moreover, Empress Tu was still able to ascend to the throne after her engagement was canceled. On the one hand, this indicated that Empress Tu was really lucky. On the other hand, it also showed Empress Tu’s status in the Tu Clan.

Empress Tu was the real legitimate daughter of the main branch of the Tu Clan, the biological daughter of Grand Preceptor Tu.

By comparison, Zhaoyi Tu was actually the daughter of Grand Preceptor Tu’s brother. Later, she was adopted as Grand Preceptor Tu’s daughter and sent into the Palace along with Empress Tu.

In the Tu Clan, the most outstanding young girls would be taken as the legitimate daughters of the main branch, which was why the Tu Clan’s legitimate daughters were famous throughout the country.

Now, it was only right for Grand Preceptor Tu to choose a daughter of the Tu Clan for her father, Marquis Hua Yang.

“Is she Grand Preceptor Tu’s... daughter?” Wei Yuewu smiled and asked curiously.

This was also the question of all the other young ladies at the scene, who became more and more concentrated.

“No, she is a niece of my grandfather!” The Third Princess said with a smile. Her words were very vague because the Ninth Aunt to be recommended by her mother Zhaoyi Tu and the other daughter of the Tu Clan to be recommended by the Empress were both a niece of Grand Preceptor Tu.

The most outstanding legitimate daughters of the same generation as her Ninth Aunt were all married, whereas the next generation of legitimate daughters of the Tu Clan were still young. Therefore, Zhaoyi Tu and Empress Tu could only choose from daughters of the side branches of the Tu Clan, who were outstanding and had reached the marriageable age.

“Your Highness, everything is ready!” A palace maid came in and reported respectfully to the Third Princess.

“Then let’s go together!” The Third Princess stood up with a smile. She did not want to continue the topic. Before the matter was concluded, it was indeed not good for her to discuss it with others. She might be punished by her mother.

The Third Princess got up, and the rest of the young ladies followed her out. This time, no sedan chairs were prepared. Everyone followed the Third Princess on foot.

After walking for only a while, they arrived at a palace. The palace was filled with the smell of incense sticks that were burning, and there was also a kind-looking Bodhisattva enshrined in the center of the hall. There were more than ten round futons on the ground in front of the Bodhisattva!

“Everyone, come with me to offer incense to the Bodhisattva!” The Third Princess was the first to step forward and kneel on the futon. The other young ladies also knelt down.

Wei Yuewu chose a futon in the corner and knelt down.

The maidservants and palace maids all retreated outside the door. The side hall was very quiet and incense smoke waved in the air. Wei Yuewu lowered her head to calm her mind. In a trance, she heard the sound of sutra chanting.

As the chanting went on, Wei Yuewu's heart became more and more serene. In this situation, she could think about almost anything or simply stop thinking. However, she inexplicably recalled the palace she had seen.

Her heart skipped a beat. That palace was very much like the one in her childhood memory. That little sister should have died there!

Was she indeed a princess of the royal family? If not, why would she appear in the palace? But it was also possible that she was not a princess, because she, the daughter of Marquis Hua Yang, also appeared in that palace at that time.

But if that little sister was really a princess of the royal family and died at such a young age, it would be understandable that no one mentioned her after her death.

So even after asking around in secret for so long, she still failed to find out who "Qingyang" was. Was she Princess Qingyang? Whose daughter could she be?

If there was a chance, she must go to that palace to take a look. She had a feeling that there might be something that would make her recall something...

After kneeling in the Buddha Hall for a long time, Wei Yuewu felt as if her knees had become numb, and her head started to become muddled. Only then did she finally hear someone say, "Third Princess, please rise!"

When she opened her eyes, she saw a palace maid helping the Third Princess up. Then, the Third Princess bowed respectfully to a monk sitting on the seat of honor.

After the monk returned the salute, he retreated from the side door.

"Miss, let me help you up!" By this time, Jin Ling had come in. When she saw Wei Yuewu, she knew that she could not stand up. She reached out to support Wei Yuewu and carefully helped her up.

On the other side, the other young ladies were also helped up by their maidservants. They all had pale faces and looked quite exhausted.

After kneeling on the futon for such a long time, these delicate young ladies were almost about to collapse!

However, seeing that the Third Princess persisted without saying anything, they could only force themselves to hold on.

“Young ladies, thank you for accompanying me to pray!” The Third Princess turned around and said with a smile. Although her face was also pale, she seemed to be in a great spirit.

“It’s our please and honor, Your Highness!” The young ladies who had just stood up bowed with difficulty. At this time, their knees were so stiff that they could hardly bow properly.

“Today is the first day, and the praying ceremony is a little too long. It won’t be this long next time. Moreover, there will be a break in the middle of the ceremony.” The Third Princess waved her hand to motion them not to stand on ceremonies. Then, she continued, “Sedans have already been prepared outside. Those who feel tired can directly go back to rest. Those who are still able to hold on can walk around in the Palace.”

After hearing the Third Princess’ words, the young ladies immediately thanked the Third Princess for being so considerate to them.

After that, the Third Princess left the hall, and the young ladies followed behind.

Wei Yuewu was a little weaker than the other young ladies. As she stood there, she felt that she could not lift her legs to move a single step. She could only stand there to gather strength.

“Sixth Younger Sister, how are you feeling?” Wei Qiufu came over with a worried face and asked with concern.

“Nothing serious. I will be OK after standing for a little!” Wei Yuewu shook her head and said politely. “Fourth Elder Sister, you should follow the Third Princess out first. If the Third Princess has any instruction for us, you will know in time and can also keep me informed.”

“Then... alright! I am leaving now. If you need help, just let me know!” Seeing the other young ladies following behind the Third Princess out of the hall, Wei Qiufu was also anxious. Now that Wei Yuewu said this, she was in no mood to act the play of sisterhood. She hurriedly left Wei Yuewu and went out to catch up with the Third Princess.

“Help me sit over there!” Wei Yuewu really couldn’t walk. She glanced sideways and saw a small side hall whose door was open. Looking from afar, there were chairs inside. It should be the place mentioned by the Third Princess for them to have a rest during the break in the subsequent praying ceremonies.

Following Wei Yuewu’s gaze, Jin Ling also saw that small side hall. She used both her hands to support Wei Yuewu and helped her walk slowly to that side hall.

Sure enough, there were two rows of chairs. Wei Yuewu took the last seat in the back. Jin Ling squatted down and started to massage her in the calves.

Wei Yuewu felt her calves were numb, sore and painful. Jin Ling was almost heartbroken. As she gently massaged Wei Yuewu, she said, “Miss, if this happens every day, you won’t be able to withstand it!”

“It doesn’t matter. The first day was different. In the following days, we won’t have to kneel for so long!” Wei Yuewu smiled and shook her head. She looked at the chairs around her and her lips curled up slightly. If this happened again, even the Third Princess might not be able to hold on.

Although she had forced herself to walk out of the hall where they prayed, her legs were still stiff!

Moreover, the aristocratic families took it as an honor to have their daughters accompany the princess to pray. If these aristocratic young ladies were really hurt, the royal family would not be able to explain it to their families.

Convinced by Wei Yuewu, Jin Ling felt relieved. She looked around and asked curiously, “Miss, this is the imperial palace. Why is there a Buddhist temple?”

“Why not? There are royal consorts in the Palace who believe in Buddha. Moreover, there has always been a tradition of the princess praying for the prosperity of the country. Such grand ceremonies draw in a lot of people. Naturally, they couldn’t be held outside the Palace every time!” Wei Yuewu explained with a smile.

She moved her legs slightly and felt that they were not as stiff as before. Then, she stood up with the help of Jin Ling and walked a few steps.

Although it was still somewhat unnatural, she was at least able to walk.

“Miss, you had better go back in the sedan!” Jin Ling suggested on the side.

Wei Yuewu shook her head. “Let’s go take a look at that palace!”

“Miss, can you walk that long distance? How about going there after we obtained more detailed information about that palace? On our way here, the palace maid told me there was no one in the palace because it was haunted. She said that a distinguished person died there.” Jin Ling said in embarrassment. They were now quite a distance from that palace and she was afraid that Wei Yuewu couldn’t walk to that palace.

“Haunted?” Wei Yuewu turned to look at Jin Ling.

“Yes. It was said that because the status of the person who died at that time was extremely noble, those royal consorts who moved in had weak horoscopes and couldn’t resist the influence of the ghost. In the end, they were all scared and moved out, so there was no one living in that place!”

Jin Ling reported truthfully.

So, it was an abandoned palace and it was not far from the main road...

Wei Yuewu pondered for a moment before nodding. “Alright, I will take the sedan back first. Ask the sedan carriers to walk slowly!”

It was the first day she entered the Palace. If she was in such a hurry to visit that abandoned palace, it was very easy to arouse suspicion. At the moment, Wei Yuewu did not want to alarm anyone.

As expected, there was still a soft sedan outside the hall. Jin Ling helped Wei Yuewu into the sedan.

“Would you please walk a little slowly? Our young lady’s legs are numb. She will feel very uncomfortable if the sedan moves fast!” Jin Ling smiled at the two eunuchs who were carrying the sedan. Meanwhile, she took out two purses from her sleeve and handed them over.

The two eunuchs received the purses and said happily, “Don’t worry, we will definitely carry the sedan steadily and walk slowly!”

As expected, the speed of the sedan was much slower than before. Jin Ling lifted the curtains for Wei Yuewu. There were no other sedans now and they had nothing to do. There was no need to hurry.

“Could you please carry our young lady to the Third Princess’ place first? Perhaps some of those young ladies have been to the Third Princess’ place!” Jin Ling calmly smiled at the two eunuchs.

Because they took Jin Ling’s purses, the two eunuchs were very courteous. Moreover, the two of them were now assigned to serve Wei Yuewu. When they heard that Wei Yuewu wanted to go to the Third Princess’ place to take a look, they nodded repeatedly.

Thus, the sedan headed towards the Third Princess’ palace.

The Third Princess’ palace wasn’t far away, and it did not take long for them to see the Third Princess’ palace. There was no soft sedan at the entrance of Third Princess’ palace. It was obvious that the other young ladies had already returned to their rooms. However, there were a few guards standing at the entrance of the palace with cold faces, creating a cold and solemn atmosphere!

“Carriers, please wait!” Wei Yuewu rolled her eyes and spoke softly in the sedan.

Chapter 299 – Inquiry, Was That Thing True?

Looking at the guards, Wei Yuewu said indifferently, "Carriers, please wait a moment. I had better go back to my room first. I'm afraid there is a prince in the Third Princess' palace now!"

"Sixth Miss Wei, are we going to Chu Xiu Palace first?" The two eunuchs naturally saw the several guards and asked after a moment of hesitation. They had already recognized that they were the Fourth Prince's guards.

"Yes, send me to Chu Xiu Palace!" Wei Yuewu nodded. Of course, her goal was not to come here to see the Third Princess, but to find that palace along the original road.

After the two eunuchs heard what Wei Yuewu said, they turned around and carried Wei Yuewu towards Chu Xiu Palace.

Coincidentally, the Fourth Prince Wen Yi happened to come out at this time. Standing beside him was Marquis Jing Yuan, Mo Huating, whose gaze immediately fell on Jin Ling. He was a martial art expert, and his eyes were sharp. He had already recognized Jin Ling and knew she was Wei Yuewu's maid. For a moment, the corners of his eyes turned slightly cold.

"Why... why is there a soft sedan?" Wen Yi asked the Third Princess, who had come to see him off. "Haven't they already gone back?"

"It must be Sixth Miss Wei. Her body is the weakest. After kneeling for a long time, her feet were probably numb and therefore she could not move, so she went back later than the others!" After today's ceremony ended, the Third Princess counted the number of people, and she knew that Wei Yuewu stayed at the end, so she didn't care too much.

"The mansion of Marquis Hua Yang's Wei Yuewu?" Wen Yi pondered for a moment, "Third Younger Sister, did you kneel for a long time today? Actually, you don't need to kneel for that long. Only the last ceremony is a little longer!"

According to the schedule, the most important ceremony of the Third Princess praying for the prosperity of the country was slated on the last day. For the rest of the time, there was no special or formal arrangement. Wen Yi did not feel that there was the need to prove her piety by having the young ladies kneel for such a long time that they couldn't walk properly.

“Fourth Elder Brother, why do you care so much? It’s the first day they entered the Palace. It’s only right to let them know the dignity of the royal family!” The Third Princess covered her mouth with a handkerchief and chuckled. “Could it be that you have taken a fancy to Sixth Miss Wei, so that you couldn’t bear to see her suffer?”

“What nonsense are you spouting!” Wen Yi flicked his sleeves and chided unhappily. “I only casually said one sentence, but you have been complaining so much.”

The Third Princess said with a smile, “Yes, yes, my Fourth Elder Brother is the best disciplined. You will definitely wait for the Crown Princess to be selected for the eldest royal brother before considering your own marriage. Therefore, you won’t take a fancy to any beautiful young lady for the time being. Fourth Elder Brother, since that is the case, I won’t be polite with you! Nevertheless, when you have nothing to do, you should go to the eldest royal brother’s place more frequently. The eldest royal brother is busy choosing the Crown Princess, and maybe your suggestion can be of some help!”

Wen Yi’s heart skipped a beat. He suddenly had a bad premonition. But after a quick thought, he realized the Third Princess was just a girl who had not reached the marriageable age yet. Therefore, he did not care too much about her words.

“All right, all right, Huating, let’s go. If we stay any longer, she will keep educating me. Third Younger Sister, you are just a girl, why do you have to take care of so many things? Be a cute girl, please!”

“You want me to be as cute as the Fourth Younger Sister?” The Third Princess raised her eyebrows and asked.

Wen Yi hurriedly shook his head. The Fourth Princess Wen Cailuan was extremely unrestrained. She was determined to get whatever she wanted without caring for the others. Sometimes, she did not even care about the dignity that was expected of the royal princesses and did annoying things.

By comparison, the Third Princess, who was born by the same mother as him, was both gentle and generous. Moreover, she was also considerate of others. If she was really like the Fourth Princess Wen Cailuan, he really wouldn’t have any good feelings about her.

“Alright, alright, Third Younger Sister, just be yourself. That’s much better! I have something to do, so I am leaving now!” Wen Yi had come here today to learn about the praying ceremony of the Third Princess. Now that the Third Princess was fine, he wanted to go back and report to their mother Zhaoyi Tu.

“See you, Fourth Elder Brother!” The Third Princess smiled as she watched her elder brother run away before turning around.

When she turned around, her expression had already turned cold. She hadn’t expected that her Fourth Elder Brother was actually interested in Wei Yuewu. However, of all the young ladies she had seen, there was really no one who could compare with Wei Yuewu in terms of appearance. Except for Wei Yuewu, who else could attract Yan Huaijing’s attention?

In the future, when she fought for Yan Huaijing’s heart, Wei Yuewu would also be a powerful helper for her. Therefore, no matter what, she must make Wei Yuewu her dowry maid.

With her, when she competed with the woman in Yan Huaijing’s arms that day, she wouldn’t be at a serious disadvantage.

Fourth Elder Brother definitely wouldn’t blame her. It was only a woman. He had both power and status, and he could get whatever beautiful woman he wanted!

With this thought in mind, she made a cold and indifferent decision. No matter what Wen Yi thought, she must take Wei Yuewu away when she married Yan Huaijing!

However, Wei Yuewu’s status was a bit high, and it was not an easy thing for her to take her away as she wished!

Fortunately, this thing wasn’t completely impossible. She had heard that Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu changed their rooms today. That place was much better than the rooms for the other young ladies...

Outside the Third Princess’ palace, Mo Huating followed behind the Fourth Prince silently. The two of them walked out together, and a few guards followed them neither too far nor too close.

The two of them seemed to have something on their minds. After walking a few steps, the Fourth Prince turned around and smiled at Mo Huating. "Huating, I heard that you and Sixth Miss Wei were engaged for many years. Later, the two families canceled the engagement because of Second Miss Wei. What kind of person do you think Sixth Miss Wei is?"

Hearing the Fourth Prince mention this matter, the corners of Mo Huating's eyes twitched a little, but he did not avoid the question. He raised his head and said, "Your Highness, if not for Second Miss Wei, I wouldn't have ended up like this with Sixth Miss Wei!"

"Are you regretting it?" The Fourth Prince looked at the serious Mo Huating and teased him.

"Yes, I regret it! If I had known that Sixth Miss Wei was so smart, I wouldn't have agreed to cancel the engagement no matter what." Mo Huating nodded seriously.

That serious look made the Fourth Prince stunned for a moment. He reached out and patted Mo Huating in the arm, laughing loudly, "Back then, even Her Majesty had agreed to the cancellation of the engagement between the two of you. What else could you do? Well, speaking of which, that Second Miss Wei was really not a nice person. However, she is dead now!"

"Indeed, she is already dead. It is useless to say anything more!" Mo Huating shook his head in self-mockery.

"Say, have you never thought of renewing your relationship with Sixth Miss Wei?" Wen Yi suddenly asked curiously.

"Anyway, it was Her Majesty's decision. Although Marquis Hua Yang is favored by His Majesty, he has to consider Her Majesty's feeling. It is impossible for our two mansions to resume the engagement." Mo Huating decisively shook his head with a hint of regret on his face. Anyone who missed such an outstanding fiancée would feel regret!

Wen Yi was very satisfied with Mo Huating's reaction. Thinking about it, it made sense. No matter how the two mansions thought about the Empress' decree, it was impossible for them not to give face to the Empress. Of course, he did not know that Mo Huating was currently thinking about making a proposal again to Wei Luowen to marry Wei Yuewu.

As for the Empress, Mo Huating had already thought about the possibility. He believed that if Wei Luowen personally made the request, the Empress might agree.

However, he had not expected that his plan would still be ruined by Wei Yuewu in the end. A chill appeared in the corner of Mo Huating's eyes, and his gaze involuntarily fell in the direction in which Wei Yuewu had just left...

Wen Yi slowed down his pace and stopped teasing Mo Huating. He asked in a low voice, "Was that thing true?"

The guards became more vigilant, and they immediately slowed down, not daring to overhear the conversation.

"It should be true. You see, a nation-wide selection has been held for the Crown Prince. The gossip about the phoenix-fated woman must be true!" Mo Huating was very clear about what the Fourth Prince had said. After thinking for a while, he said in a low voice, "Your Highness, how was your meeting with Master Fenghe last time? Did Master refuse to say a word?"

"That old fox is really too cunning. He didn't even say a single word about the truth. I respected him a lot. When he was in the Plum Blossom Nunnery, I even paid several visits to him under the pretext of asking for safety talisman. However, he actually didn't say anything!" A hint of anger appeared on the Fourth Prince's face.

Recalling that safety talisman, the Fourth Prince could not help but think of Wei Yuewu. That safety talisman was really important to him and he did not want others to know that he had been to see Master Fenghe privately and therefore suspected him. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so anxious to such an extent that he promised Wei Yuewu that he would speak for her Fifth Elder Sister Wei Qiuju.

Later on, he heard that Princess Nan'an went to see the Empress. Although there was no decree yet, this matter should be decided soon!

Among the few young ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, the only one who was truly good was Wei Yuewu. The Fourth Prince couldn't help but wonder how the ladies of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang to be educated. It turned out that this smallest daughter who grew up in her maternal grandparents' family was the most knowledgeable in etiquette and was the most outstanding...

“Your Highness, there is no need to rush in this matter. Since the nation-wide selection is under way, we will naturally wait with patience before the Crown Princess is selected!” Mo Huating said after some thought.

“So, we won’t do anything?” The Fourth Prince was reminded by Mo Huating, and he asked rather helplessly, “Isn’t that...”

“Your Highness, although we don’t make a move now, it doesn’t mean that we won’t in the future. Who knows where the phoenix-fate woman is? Who knows what kind of person she is? Even if there is such a phoenix-fate woman, how can it be so easy to find her?” Mo Huating actually didn’t really believe in the gossips about the so-called phoenix-fate woman. However, he had no choice but to talk about this matter with the Fourth Prince.

“I heard that grandmother asked Master Fenghe to read the palms of all the daughters of the noble families who entered the Palace that day. In the end, no such a woman was found. There are quite a number of daughters from noble families in the capital. Despite the nation-wide selection, it was impossible to have the palms of all the daughters from noble families read! I heard that Yan Huaijing brought a daughter of a noble family from the State of Yan into the Palace!”

The Fourth Prince was also very well-informed. When he recalled the rumors in the Palace, he could not help but mock, “If the Crown Prince really has the ability, he should have the palm of the aristocratic young lady brought by Yan Huaijing read!”

Mo Huating couldn’t help but smile at these words. “Your Highness, we don’t need to do anything right now. As you can see, the Crown Prince is also facing a lot of difficulties. We still need to be patient!”

“Alright, I know. I was reckless back then!” The Fourth Prince nodded his head, a trace of gleam flashing in his eyes. He seemed to have no chance on the surface, but it was not necessarily so!

While he was secretly thinking about waiting for his opportunity, Wei Yuewu was creating an opportunity for herself. Looking at the Palace over there, Wei Yuewu reached out and tugged at the sleeve of Jin Ling who was outside the sedan...

Looking at the corner of that palace in the distance, Jin Ling staggered and suddenly stepped on air, falling to the ground with a plop.

“Jin Ling...” Wei Yuewu shouted anxiously from inside the sedan. “Carriers, please stop.”

The two eunuchs also saw Jin Ling fall and they immediately stopped. Wei Yuewu hurriedly came out of the sedan and asked, “Jin Ling, how are you feeling?”

“Miss, I... am fine!” Jin Ling stood up with her hands on her waist with difficulty. Everyone could see that her condition was not very good and one of her legs was a little lame.

“How could you be fine? Try taking a few steps!” Wei Yuewu had a worried expression.

Jin Ling limped two steps at Wei Yuewu’s order. Then, she crouched down, covering her foot with one hand.

“How are you feeling? Were you hurt?” Wei Yuewu became more and more anxious.

“Miss, I... I can’t move for a while!” Jin Ling raised her crying face.

“Does it hurt much?” Wei Yuewu asked anxiously.

“It’s not that... painful. It hurts for a while... I might have to take a break before I can walk!” Of course, Jin Ling could not really say that she had hurt her leg.

“Carriers, you can go back first. I will accompany Jin Ling to rest for a while. Then, we will go back by ourselves!” Of course, Wei Yuewu couldn’t leave Jin Ling alone here. She turned around and said to the eunuchs who didn’t know how to deal with the situation.

The two eunuchs looked at each other and one of them said, “There... there is still quite a distance to Chu Xiu Palace!”

"It's fine. When Jin Ling's foot recovers, we can go back by ourselves. It's still early now!" Wei Yuewu looked at the sky. In fact, it was almost dusk at this time, but she had to say so.

"Miss, you go back first. I will walk back slowly later!" Jin Ling refused with a touched face.

Wei Yuewu shook her head. This time, she had calmed down and ordered the two eunuchs, "No need. It's decided then. Carriers, thank you very much for taking the trouble!"

Seeing that Wei Yuewu had made up her mind, the two eunuchs no longer tried to persuade her. After bowing to Wei Yuewu, they carried the soft sedan and left.

After the two eunuchs left, Jin Ling stood up with the help of a tree trunk. She attentively turned her ankle and then walked to a small pavilion on the side with the help of Wei Yuewu and sat down.

Looking from afar, it was just a minor accident in which a maid twisted her foot. Worried about her maid, who was her most trusted servant, the mistress deliberately stayed to accompany her.

"Miss, is it this palace?" Jin Ling, who was sitting in the pavilion, blinked as she looked at a palace over there. From this angle, she could see more clearly.

A moment ago, only a corner of the palace was revealed. Now, more than half of it could be seen here.

It was actually quite a distance away from here. Although different palaces could not be so close to each other, it did not seem too far away from here when looked from this angle.

Wei Yuewu's gaze quietly fell on the palace. She knew that this was not the best time to go over and check. They were now in the imperial palace. If she acted recklessly, she would definitely attract others' attention.

So, for the time being, she could only bide her time.

She pressed her hand against a corner of the table and squeezed the hard and cold stone under her hand. Her heart beat wildly as if it would jump out of her body. Somehow, she had an illusion that there was something inside her heart, and she only needed to open it slightly to see the past. However, although the gauze that separated her heart was thin, it was very solid and difficult to lift.

Although she knew that palace was the place in her memory, she could not remember it for a while.

She bit her lips tightly. For some reason, she felt a sense of loss and fear. It was as if she had returned to the place where she used to be when she was still a little girl...

"Miss, what's wrong?" Jin Ling finally noticed that something was wrong with Wei Yuewu, who was sitting at the side. She hurriedly reached out and grabbed Wei Yuewu's hand.

"I... I'm fine!" Wei Yuewu said with difficulty.

At that moment, everything around her seemed to have completely disappeared. There was only the sound of her rapid breathing, her violent heartbeat, and her indescribable fear and panic. Did she experience the same feeling when she was a child?

"Miss... what is that place?" Jin Ling looked at the palace in the distance and asked in confusion.

She didn't understand why such a simple palace would cause such a great ripple in her wise young lady.

The hand that she was holding was stiff and cold.

"There... I went here when I was a child.... There was once a little elder sister who cared about me... and she was dead!" Wei Yuewu answered almost subconsciously. Her heart suddenly ached. The sharp pain made her hold her chest tightly. She could hardly breathe.

"Miss, Miss..." Seeing Wei Yuewu droop her head in pain, Jin Ling instinctively felt something was wrong with her. She anxiously held Wei Yuewu and called out in a low voice.

"I... I..." Wei Yuewu was in so much pain that she couldn't speak. One of her hands was tightly covering her chest and the other was tightly holding Jin Ling's hand. That kind of pain almost ran through her entire chest. Her face was as pale as snow and her entire body was convulsing.

"Miss, I will take you to see the imperial doctor!" At this time, Jin Ling could no longer pretend to be injured. She reached out and picked up Wei Yuewu, ready to run.

"Don't... don't go!" Wei Yuewu bit her lower lip tightly, and a faint trace of blood appeared at the corner of her lips. With that feeling of pain, she maintained her last bit of consciousness and said with great difficulty, "I... I'm feeling a little better now!"

It was true that the bone-piercing pain that gripped her was slowly fading away quickly. When she finished speaking, the pain had already receded like a tide, and it was even less noticeable than the pain at the corner of her lips.

Everything just now seemed to be an illusion...

"Jin Ling, I'm fine!" Although Wei Yuewu's face was pale, there was a determined look in her eyes.

"Miss, are... are you really alright?" Although Jin Ling saw that Wei Yuewu's expression had become natural, Jin Ling was still worried and asked. Meanwhile, she felt Wei Yuewu's hand which she was holding also became soft and warm.

"I'm fine!" Wei Yuewu withdrew her hand and wiped the blood from the corner of her lips with a handkerchief. In order to stay awake, she had bitten the corner of her lips so hard that it broke and bled.

Jin Ling could tell that it was because of that palace that Wei Yuewu had suffered such a huge fluctuation in her mind and she advised, "Miss, let's go back. You can't go over there now in your current conditions!"

"I will sit here a little longer!" Wei Yuewu nodded and said concisely, her eyes still fixed on the palace.

That should be the place that haunted her childhood memory. If she could remember the past, she might be able to know what happened at that time.

At that time, was her mother still alive?

Who was that little elder sister? She had a strong feeling that if she could find out about that little elder sister, she would definitely be able to find some secrets about herself and her mother.

Did something that was of extreme importance to her happen there?

“Miss, let me go over to check. You can sit here and rest!” Seeing that Wei Yuewu had slowly calmed down, Jin Ling suggested. “I am only a maid. Nobody would pay attention to me!”

“Don’t go over there. There should be a river or some other building over there. Otherwise, the two palaces would not be so close!” Wei Yuewu shook her head and looked at the palace that was closer to the previous palace they saw. From her angle, it seemed as if the two palaces were in the same place.

However, there was quite a distance between different palaces in the complex of palaces. It was impossible for two palaces to be so close.

“Jin Ling, let’s go!” After taking another look, Wei Yuewu decisively stood up. She had just entered the Palace. No matter what, she should not attract the attention of others at this time.

After all, the young ladies who had just entered the Palace were rarely seen walking around. Although everyone felt curious about the Palace, they were not familiar with it, so they would not walk around casually.

After a few days, the young ladies would become familiar with the Palace, and there would be more young ladies walking around.

As she walked back, she could remember this route. There were chances for her to come here later on...

“Alright, Miss. Are you really feeling well?” Looking at Wei Yuewu’s pale face and slightly broken lips, Jin Ling was worried and reached out to support her.

“Nothing much, just a little tired!” Wei Yuewu’s face was pale as she shook her head. Although her legs that became sore and numb due to the protracted kneeling in the Buddha Hall had recovered a little, she had just experienced a strong pain. Now, she felt that her legs were getting heavier and heavier. Her entire body was pretty feeble.

She felt as if the pain just now had drained most of her strength.

“Then, shall we rest for a while longer?” Looking at the gradually darkening sky, Jin Ling suggested.

“No need. Let’s go back!” Wei Yuewu shook her head firmly. It was already high time they should be back. Although they could use Jin Ling’s accident as an excuse, they could not go back too late.

Seeing that Wei Yuewu insisted, Jin Ling could only nod. She reached out to support Wei Yuewu and the two of them walked forward slowly.

The two of them supported each other while they walked. Seeing from the back, however, nobody could tell exactly who was supporting whom...

Because Jin Ling was worried about Wei Yuewu, her attention was completely focused on Wei Yuewu. She did not even notice that there was a person standing on the opposite side of the road. He had been quietly watching them for a long time. He saw Wei Yuewu clutching her chest in pain, and he also saw the wound on the corner of Wei Yuewu’s lips!

He frowned and stared at Wei Yuewu’s slender back.

“Your Highness...” A fat eunuch reminded him in a low voice.

“That... medicine... is there any remnant of that medicine?” The Third Prince said with difficulty.

The eunuch immediately understood. He was shocked and looked in the direction in which Wei Yuewu had left. "Your Highness, you mean that Sixth Miss Wei is also..."

The Third Prince seemed not to hear the eunuch at all. He retracted his gaze and furrowed his brows. "Is there any remnant of that medicine?"

"There should be none. It has been so many years. Even if there is still some of it, its effect may have..." The fat eunuch shook his head.

"Let's go to the Institute of Imperial Doctors!" The Third Prince turned around and said.

"Your Highness, it's... it's been so many years... I'm afraid it's not easy to find it out!" The fat eunuch took two steps forward and caught up with the Third Prince.

"It doesn't matter. Those recipes wouldn't be casually discarded!" The Third Prince shook his head and strode forward.

"But, it has been so many years..." The fat eunuch felt uncertain.

"We have to go there and take a look!" The Third Prince said in a determined voice. No matter what, he must go there and take a look. A wisp of bitterness suffused the corners of his curved lips!

Having witnessed one girl suffer like that, he couldn't afford to see another one...

He had thought that he could really turn a blind eye to it, but it seemed that he couldn't...