

## Young Lady 391

### Chapter 391

The carriage quickly arrived at the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. After Wei Yuewu and Jin Ling returned to Lotus Courtyard, Wei Yuewu sat down in the courtyard and asked Huamo to get her needles and threads. She sewed it with a string and hung it on her neck.

From what Wei Yuewu observed, she felt that the small box was meant to be strung and worn on the neck. There was a small hole on the side of the box where a string could be worn through. Then, she could use it as a necklace. The small box looked just like a delicate little pendant due to its small size.

"Miss, I think the pattern on the surface of the box is a bit familiar," After helping Wei Yuewu clean up, Huamo exclaimed with some surprise.

"Familiar? Have you seen it before?" Wei Yuewu looked at her and laughed.

She had lost the box before she entered the capital, so it was impossible for Huamo to see the box at all.

"It's true. I seem to have seen it before, but..." Huamo frowned and tried hard to think. Upon the mention of it, Shufei also felt that it looked somewhat familiar.

Jin Ling was the first to react. "Miss, do you still remember that pair of jade paperweights?"

"Jade thumb ring, jade paperweight?" Wei Yuewu's expression changed. She suddenly remembered the ring hanging on her neck. Before she entered the palace, she took the jade thumb ring off and kept it together with the jade paperweight. She hadn't thought of it when she was putting on the small box.

"Yes, the jade paperweight," Huamo muttered anxiously as she thought of it too.

"Go, bring them over!" Wei Yuewu nodded. At this time, she also felt that the patterns on the outside of the box were somewhat familiar.

Soon after, a pair of jade paperweights was placed in front of Wei Yuewu. They were carved into a pair of fierce tigers. The strangest thing was the jade thumb ring on the tiger's paws. Originally, only one of the tigers had the jade thumb ring, but now, the other tiger also had the ring. It seemed as if both the jade tigers were wearing the same jade thumb rings.

In fact, it was as if the jade thumb rings were originally there.

There were some faint patterns on the jade tiger's body. If one did not look carefully, one would not be able to notice it.

Wei Yuewu placed the box next to the paperweights. There were also some patterns on the outside of the box, but it was hard to notice due to its small size. Had it not been for Huamo, no one would have noticed this. Moreover, there were three words below, but she didn't know what they were, so she didn't care about them.

One was a wooden box, and the others were jade artifacts. They were made by different craftsmen. Why would they have the same patterns?

Could it be that these two items were owned by the same owner?!

Her mother left the box for her; she saw the jade paperweights in the store by chance, and she found the jade thumb ring by her window. However, these three items seemed to come from the same place or the same person. It was such an astonishing revelation that Wei Yuewu was dumbstruck. It was too much of a coincidence.

It was almost impossible to have such a coincidence...

But there was one thing that Wei Yuewu was sure of. It was definitely not her mother's doing because this involved too much effort. At that time, her mother stayed in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, and her movements were restricted. How could she have so much effort and ability to do this?

Yet, if it was not her mother's doing, who would give this box to her mother, not to mention how much her mother cherished the box, so much so that she asked her to keep it by her side at all times?

Her heart skipped a beat. Her father's expression earlier was indeed a little strange and inexplicable. Did he give the box to her mother? How else could she explain her father's complicated expression?

But where did her father get these things from? In fact, he was extremely shocked as if he didn't know that her mother had kept the box all along. He did not look particularly pleased, and there was a bit of sadness.

The box must have an extraordinary origin for her father to remember such a small box. It would be more suspicious if she placed the box together with the jade thumb ring.

"Put these away first!" Wei Yuewu hung the small box back around her neck and instructed a few maids to keep the jade thumb ring and jade paperweights where they belonged. At this moment, she didn't want to focus on these items which she had no clues about. The ones she had the clues about were the connections between the Crown Prince Wen Tianyao, the Third Prince, and the Prince Bei'an Mansion that had disappeared.

The past could be considered as being wiped clean. She had just arrived in the capital, so she couldn't find out anything even if she investigated the matter. However, she was convinced that as long as the people involved were still around, the clues must be lurking around them, not to mention that the Crown Prince and the Third Prince were her peers.

It was more convenient to trace them than the intangible Prince Bei'an Mansion and the jade thumb ring.

"Do you get anything from the jade ware store?" Wei Yuewu narrowed her eyes and asked.

"No one has come yet. It seems that the person has completely disappeared out of thin air because we can't find him!" Jin Ling went to check it again later but she couldn't find anything as if the jade had been in the store all along.

"Give the shopkeeper some money and ask him to inform us if he has any news," Wei Yuewu nodded and ordered.

"Yes, I know!" Jin Ling nodded. What Miss meant was that she should be on friendly terms with the shopkeeper of the jade store regardless of whether there was any news or not. In this way, the shopkeeper would immediately inform them as soon as he heard any news.

"How is the situation in the kitchen?" Wei Yuewu turned to Shufei, whom she asked to keep an eye on the kitchen.

"Miss, the ink has been prepared outside the corridor now, and Concubine Dong's medicine and Madam Dowager's medicine are decocted in the corridor. The difference is that Concubine Dong's medicine was prepared by her own maid, while Madam Dowager's medicine was prepared by the staff in the kitchen."

"Have you asked why they moved the ink preparation stove outside the corridor?" Wei Yuewu asked lightly.

"Yes, I went to ask according to your instruction, and indeed, the nurse-in-charge said that it was Concubine Dong who made the arrangements and agreed to move the location to the outside of the corridor," Shufei answered proudly and admired her Miss for being so smart. This was Sixth Young Lady's idea at first, but now, everyone thought that it was Concubine Dong's idea.

They even thought that it was Concubine Dong who took the initiative to change the location to the outside.

"It should not be too far away, right?" Wei Yuewu asked in detail.

"No, it's not. The pot where the ink is made is very large, and they need to add water when mixing it. If they move it too far away, it's inconvenient to add water later." Shufei nodded.

"Go to the kitchen more often in the next few days. Just tell them that I don't have an appetite after entering the palace and want to eat something light, and you have to be there to supervise them in case they do not do a good job. Also, check the time and observe when they start mixing the ink and when Concubine Dong's medicine is prepared,"

Wei Yuewu instructed with a smile, a cold light flashing in her eyes.

“Miss, will it be too obvious?” Jin Ling asked worriedly.

“No. Fourth Elder Sister is now being selected to enter the Crown Prince Mansion as a concubine, so Madam Dowager will take good care of her and order the kitchen to prepare something nice for her. The third branch has been silent for too long. Now, they finally have the chance to feel proud and elated!” Wei Yuewu smiled faintly and leaned back.

No matter what Wei Qiufu thought, the people around her might not necessarily share the same thoughts as her. The third branch was too weak in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, so the servants in the mansion even looked down at the third branch’s Masters. Now that Wei Qiufu was a formal imperial concubine in the name, the table had turned although she had not officially entered the Crown Prince Mansion yet.

Compared with her and the second branch’s sisters, Wei Qiufu was now more prestigious and adored in the family. If she was lucky, she might become the empress in the future. With this kind of possibility, she would gain a lot of respect, and even Madam Dowager would not dare to ill-treat her. It meant that this was the moment the third branch could be high-profile.

Although Lady Zhang had replaced Lady Li to be in charge of the backyard, she heard that most of the power was still in Concubine Dong’s hands, not to mention that Concubine Dong had Wei Yuejiao too, who was learning how to manage the households. Lady Zhang was now completely at a disadvantage...

In order to emphasize Wei Qiufu’s uniqueness and importance, the third branch would certainly make things difficult for the kitchen!

“Huamo, keep an eye on Concubine Yang. Check if the geomancer meets up with Concubine Yang every time he enters the mansion. If you see them exchanging things, tell Jin Ling, and she will think of a way to get the things.”

After she finished arranging the tasks for her three maids, Wei Yuewu suddenly realized that she did not have enough manpower to execute her tasks. She couldn’t assign Nurse Mei to do anything for the time being due to her injury. She lacked manpower, but even if she hired someone now, she had to observe them for some time, or she would not entrust them to do anything important.

“I know!” Huamo nodded.

The next few days were peaceful, but this peace was relative. Unfortunately, the kitchen was in chaos recently. Madam Dowager had ordered the kitchen to add on more dishes for Fourth Young Lady and to give the novel and delicious dishes to her first. The kitchen's nurses-in-charge had no choice but to obey the orders.

No matter what, Fourth Young Lady was going to become the Crown Prince's concubine soon, so they could understand Madam Dowager's intention to spoil her more. Besides, Fourth Young Lady had always been kind, treated everyone well, and respected them. At first, the servants thought that this was an easy task. After all, back when Fourth Young Lady was not favored, the servants would be rewarded when they went to her courtyard to deliver messages or food.

Now, they would send all the rare and delicious food to Fourth Young Lady. The reward must be even more lucrative than before. Hence, they fought to obtain the task.

However, the reality was harsher than they had expected. Before the nurse-in-charge in the kitchen could send her people over, Fourth Young Lady had sent her maids over to inquire. She was even more picky and unreasonable than Second Young Lady, whom they had verified to be the most horrible person in the mansion. If she found anything she didn't like, she would return the food and order the chef to do it again. In fact, her maids were cocky too. They treated the staff in the kitchen as if they were better than any of them, and even commented on the food harshly and said that their Miss deserved the best.

The emotions of the kitchen's nurse-in-charge had turned from the initial joy to indifference. They had to remake dishes for Fourth Young Lady over and over again, causing the delay in the other young ladies' meals. Fortunately, Third Young Lady was grounded, and the maids in her yard were not as cocky as before, or the kitchen staff would be in big trouble.

As for Sixth Young Lady, due to her poor health, she had sent her maid to urge from time to time and check to see if they made the food properly. Shufei from the Lotus Courtyard would not ask the chef to remake the food, but she would stare at them when they cooked and chimed in from time to time regarding what to do to suit Sixth Young Lady's appetite.

There was nothing special about the others. In short, Fourth Young Lady was the most troublesome, so much so that the staff in the kitchen were very busy and frustrated, and complaints resonated across the kitchen.

As for Marquise Hua Yang's courtyard, the geomancer still came every day and looked very busy with his work. However, the situation in Lotus Courtyard was calm and peaceful. This made Concubine Dong, who went to check the location every day, feel suspicious. Was that bitch just going to sit by and watch as she sealed up her mother's courtyard?

During lunchtime, a maid hurriedly entered Concubine Yang's room.

"What?! T-There is a letter?" Concubine Yang looked at her maid in shock, pinched her handkerchief nervously, and suddenly stood up.

### Chapter 392 Evidence of the Affair

"Concubine, t-there's a letter for you!" The maid was quite nervous. She took out a letter from her pocket with trembling hands and handed it over.

In the past, they would only convey a short message or "coincidentally" bump into each other sometimes. It wasn't a big deal. But now that she got a physical message, Concubine Yang was jittery. She squeezed the handkerchief tightly and did not dare to take the letter.

"Concubine, please take it and read it. He is waiting for your reply!" The maid stuffed the letter into Concubine Yang's hand frightfully.

The letter was as heavy as an anchor, but Concubine Yang subconsciously opened it and read it.

It was actually a short message, and the person who wrote the letter asked her if she was willing to elope with him. "Him", in this context, was, of course, the geomancer. He claimed that his wife had passed away years ago, but he hadn't remarried for years because of his deep feelings toward his deceased wife. However, when he saw Concubine Yang, he fell head over heels in love with her, and asked her if she shared the same feelings.

After reading this letter, Concubine Yang trembled in horror and dropped the letter.

"Concubine!" The nervous maid cried out in shock.

"I..." Surprised, Concubine Yang hurriedly picked up the letter. Her expression was both happy and worried.

Although the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang looked very majestic and prominent, to Concubine Yang, it was just a pretty cage that suffocated her. She would definitely want to leave given a chance.

"Uh... What else did he say?" Concubine Yang gritted her teeth and asked.

"He didn't dare to say much either. He said that if you are willing to leave with his master, his master will not let you down." The maid was an orphan and did not have any close relatives or friends in the mansion. Previously, Concubine Yang had promised to take her away if she left the mansion. Because of this, the maid was determined to take Concubine Yang's side.

"Concubine, what do you think..." The young maid couldn't make the decision, of course. However, she would always be the most insignificant maid in the mansion if her Master remained anonymous. Even the maids in the kitchen looked down on her. There were so many maids in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, and she was at the bottom of the social pyramid.

Therefore, she did not have any attachment to the mansion!

"Let's go!" Concubine Yang gritted her teeth. No matter what, this should be an opportunity. She might never be able to leave if she missed this chance.

"Do you want to give him a reply?" The maid asked.

"N-No, there's no need to..." Actually, Concubine Yang was timid. She didn't want to leave any evidence behind in case someone found it, and she would be doomed.

"Actually, the lad servant said that it would be best for you to write a letter so that he can be assured and get ready," the maid said timidly.

"Alright!" Since it was to reassure him, Concubine Yang thought about it and decided to write a reply.

After writing a few words, she gave the letter to the maid, which was then silently sent out.

The lad servant, who received the letter, hurried out. However, he did not return to his own Master. Instead, he went to another courtyard. The young lady in this courtyard informed him that he must send any letters he received from the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang's backyard to her first.

Of course, he would get a reward for doing so.

The lad servant was not very loyal to his Master. Rumors had it that the previous lad servant was killed because he knew too much. At this moment, all the lad servant wanted to do was save as much money as he could so that he could go far away and never return here.

"Leave the letter and tell your Master that the matter is done." A maid walked out from the courtyard and handed him a bulging pouch. The lad servant hurriedly took it and nodded with a smile on his face.

"Okay, I will go back and inform my Master!"

Anyway, he would leave after this matter was over. The geomancer could do whatever he pleased then. How dare he took a fancy to the concubine in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang? He must have a death wish.

He had known that the geomancer was a womanizer, but he only constantly flirted with the women from ordinary families. This time, he dared to flirt with one of the concubines in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. He was obviously looking for trouble.

Just like that, the two letters from the geomancer and Concubine Yang silently appeared in Wei Yuewu's and Wei Qiufu's rooms...

Wei Luowen had yet to recover from his old injuries. Doctor Ming would come to the mansion every few days to check on Wei Luowen. There was nothing serious, and the doctor only came to provide a routine checkup.

Today was the day when Doctor Ming came to the mansion to check on Wei Luowen...

Madam Dowager would take her medicine after breakfast, but it was a little later than usual today. After all, the general kitchen was too far away from her courtyard, and they needed some time to deliver it to her. The small kitchen in her courtyard was still under repair and could not be used for the time being.

When Wei Yuewu came over, Wei Qiufu and Wei Qiuju were both in Madam Dowager's room. Their chatters and laughter echoed across the courtyard, and it was very lively. Even Concubine Dong was also here serving Madam Dowager breakfast.

Since Wei Yuejiao was grounded, Concubine Dong came to Madam Dowager's courtyard every day. She would be here to keep Madam Dowager company even if there was nothing for her to do here.

"Sixth Young Lady is here!" Seeing Wei Yuewu coming over, Nanny Hong asked someone to lift the curtain.

Wei Yuewu entered the door and bowed respectfully to Madam Dowager, but Madam Dowager simply gave her a cold snort. Madam Dowager was still up in arms about the ignorant Wei Yuewu who refused to remove some of the items from the list of Qin Xinrui's dowry. Therefore, she looked askance at Wei Yuewu and ignored her directly.

Wei Yuewu couldn't be bothered. Madam Dowager was very selfish and materialistic. She would not bat an eye to those who couldn't bring her any benefits, including her own granddaughters.

Family and kinship meant nothing to her. She divided the people around her into the groups of usefulness and uselessness.

At this time, the maid brought over the steaming-hot medicine and presented it to Madam Dowager.

Madam Dowager sniffed at it and felt that the smell was a little strong. She didn't have much appetite for the time being and pushed the bowl away.

"Madam Dowager, it's bitter, but it's good for you. Please drink some," Nanny Hong quickly persuaded, thinking that Madam Dowager did not want to drink it.

"This medicine has a strong smell!" Madam Dowager shook her head. The smell was indeed a bit strong. The others in the room also smelled it and felt that the smell was quite pungent.

"Grandmother, the smell is indeed unpleasant, but the medicine is good for you. You should drink it. Do you know how scared I was when you fainted the other day?" Wei Qiufu persuaded gently.

"Madam Dowager, your health is the most important over everything else. Please take the medicine. The Lord Marquis will be worried about you again. He didn't sleep well for a few nights after you fainted the other day, and he urged me to come and visit you!" Concubine Dong expressed in such a loving and passionate way. She even indicated that it was because of Wei Luowen's instruction that she had been coming here for the past few days.

This made Madam Dowager's expression relax a bit. She reached out to take the bowl of medicine. Just as she was about to drink it, she suddenly stopped and looked at Wei Yuewu, whose face suddenly turned pale and was grasping her chest with her hands.

"Yuewu, what's wrong with you?" Despite her disdain, Madam Dowager had to put on her disguise in public. After all, Wei Luowen still favored Wei Yuewu very much.

"I... I..." Wei Yuewu clutched her chest and looked as if she was about to collapse at any moment. Before she collapsed, she pointed at the bowl of medicine and couldn't even speak.

"What's going on?" Madam Dowager put down the bowl in her hand and asked sternly.

"Grandmother... I-I feel awful!" Wei Yuewu clutched her chest and muttered with difficulty. With one look, they could tell that something went wrong. After that, Wei Yuewu rolled her eyes and fainted.

"Miss, Miss! Wake up!" Jin Ling shouted anxiously.

Witnessing this, Madam Dowager hurriedly stood up and sent someone to invite Doctor Ming over. Later, she went over to check on Wei Yuewu. It happened so abruptly that Wei Qiufu was bewildered. She didn't expect Wei Yuewu would be so weak that she fainted for no reason.

Startled at first, Concubine Dong was delighted. She had known that the bitch Wei Yuewu was born with a deficiency, but she didn't expect her to collapse so soon! It seemed that that bitch was already so weak without her doing anything. She bet that no one would suspect anything even if she did something to worsen Wei Yuewu's condition later.

"Madam Dowager, why did Sixth Young Lady faint? She looks pretty healthy!" Concubine Dong stepped forward and held Madam Dowager's arm, feigning a worried and concerned look.

"She's not as healthy as you think!" Madam Dowager, who knew Wei Yuewu's condition better, grunted.

"What? She's not? No wonder. I can't even tell! I've always thought that she is healthy," Concubine Dong gasped in surprise.

She deliberately spoke loudly because she wanted everyone to presume that Wei Yuewu was frail and sick in the first place. If Wei Yuewu suddenly died one day, no one would suspect that she died because of the poison in the talisman on the wall of her mother's courtyard. They would just assume that she died because of her illness.

"Fortunately, Doctor Ming is here!" Nanny Hong beamed as she ordered the maids to carry Wei Yuewu to the couch aside.

The entire courtyard was in chaos. Madam Dowager couldn't be bothered with her medicine now. She was worried that something bad would happen to Wei Yuewu in her courtyard while ordering Wei Qiufu and Wei Qiuju to go back. Wei Qiufu's status was noble now, so Madam Dowager couldn't afford her to be infected with the disease and fall ill.

Doctor Ming came very quickly. He arrived alongside Wei Luowen when Wei Qiufu and Wei Qiuju had just left. Wei Luowen heard that Wei Yuewu had fainted in Madam Dowager's courtyard, so he asked Doctor Ming, who was here to check on him, to go to see Wei Yuewu with him.

As soon as he entered the room, Doctor Ming sniffed around, and his expression changed slightly.

“Why did Yuewu faint?” Wei Luowen took two steps forward and came to the couch. He asked anxiously while looking at Wei Yuewu.

“I don’t know. J-J-Just now, when Madam Dowager wanted to drink the medicine, Miss felt unwell and fainted!” Jin Ling looked around in panic as if she couldn’t find the source of Wei Yuewu’s pain. Then, she pointed to the bowl of medicine that was still steaming.

Because Doctor Ming came quickly, the medicine was still steaming slightly, and there was a strong smell of medicine.

“What does Madam Dowager’s medicine have to do with Yuewu?” Wei Luowen snapped in irritation. He did not believe Jin Ling’s words at all because he presumed that the maid blurted an excuse to get away with it.

On the other hand, Doctor Ming walked over with a frown and looked at the bowl of medicine in front of him. It was as if for him, the medicine was more important than Wei Yuewu’s illness.

“Doctor Ming...” Wei Luowen called out impatiently, but suddenly, Doctor Ming picked up the bowl of medicine and smashed it on the ground...

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As the bowl of medicine was smashed to the ground, the bowl shattered into pieces, and the liquid medicine splashed on the ground. Due to its hot temperature, the medicine evaporated a little and the smell became stronger and stronger.

The smell of the medicine was completely different from that of ordinary medicine. It carried a pungent smell that was almost like a stench. Even the medicinal ingredients that had a strong smell could not suppress the stench. The smell was even stronger now that the medicine splashed on the floor.

Even though Wei Luowen knew little about medicine, he could sense the oddity in it, and his expression also changed slightly at this time. “What is it?”

“It is the smell of Five Drums Grass!” Doctor Ming turned to look at Madam Dowager grimly. “Madam Dowager, someone put Five Drums Grass in your medicine!”

“W-What? What is Five Drums Grass?” Madam Dowager held Nanny Hong’s hand in shock and asked while feigning calmness.

“It means you can’t live to see the next sunrise once you drink the medicine! Madam Dowager, someone in the mansion is trying to kill you!” Doctor Ming affirmed.

“What?! That’s impossible!” She couldn’t live to see the next sunrise? Madam Dowager was so shocked that she nearly fell down. She trembled all over, sat up straight due to rage, and slammed the table hard while ordering through gritting teeth, “Go and check who did this!”

She didn’t expect that someone in the mansion was attempting to kill her!

Nanny Hong nodded and led a few maids to the general kitchen. Since the medicine was made and sent from the general kitchen, of course, she had to start the investigation from the source.

Seeing that Nanny Hong had brought her people to the general kitchen, Concubine Dong secretly cursed. Then, she hurriedly tugged Wei Luowen’s sleeve and whispered, “Lord Marquis, I will also go and take a look!”

“What are you going to do?” Wei Luowen frowned and snapped unhappily.

“Uh... M-My maids prepare my medicine there too. W-What should I do if my medicine was contaminated too?” Concubine Dong looked very sullen now. Of course, she knew about Five Drums Grass!

“What? Your medicine is also prepared there?” Wei Luowen furrowed his eyebrows even tighter now. “Now that Mother is investigating the matter, you should stay still. Ask them to bring your medicine pot over and show it to Doctor Ming.”

“O-Okay. I understand!” Concubine Dong secretly heaved a sigh of relief, but she looked flustered still. She turned to Nanny Dong and instructed in a low voice, “Go and bring my medicine pot over. Let Doctor Ming check it out as well.”

Fortunately, she had already made preparations earlier, or she would have fallen for the wretched Wei Yuewu’s trap. After what had happened, Concubine Dong was almost certain that Wei Yuewu must have known something. Luckily, she had prepared for the worst-case scenario.

She would be getting herself out of trouble now that Lord Marquis had asked her to bring the medicine pot over!

While waiting for the result of the investigation, Doctor Ming checked on Wei Yuewu. He said that Wei Yuewu was weak in the first place, so her reaction to Five Drums Grass was a little stronger, and she fainted because she couldn’t bear the scent. There was nothing serious, and she would only need a good rest.

Wei Luowen was a little worried when he looked at the room that had been cleaned and said to Wei Yuewu, “Yuewu, go back to your room and rest first.”

“Father, I am fine now. I want to stay and see who is so bold as to murder Grandmother. What good will it do for them to murder Grandmother?” After Wei Yuewu woke up, she looked much better although she was weak. She leaned on Jin Ling’s shoulder and grumbled.

Upon hearing this, Madam Dowager widened her eyes and glared around the people in her room. Finally, she stopped and stared at Concubine Dong.

Concubine Dong’s heart skipped a beat. The smile on her face stiffened under Madam Dowager’s stare.

“Concubine Dong, what have you been up to lately?” Madam Dowager asked solemnly. Just now, she had thought about it and figured that there was no one else but Concubine Dong who would want to harm her. It was possible that Concubine Dong had the intention to hurt her, although she hadn’t figured out the reason yet.

In the past, she had always promised to help Concubine Dong ascend to the position of Marquise Hua Yang. Madam Dowager even promised that she would realize this once they returned to the mansion. However, due to various reasons, not only had she failed to help Concubine Dong become Marquise, but she also faintly expressed the intention to let Lord Marquis marry another lady from a prestigious family. It was possible for Concubine Dong to hate her!

Moreover, the more Madam Dowager thought about this, the more likely it was.

“Madam Dowager, I have been dealing with the matters in that courtyard. I went out every day, for fear that the workers would slack off!” Concubine Dong answered gingerly with an aggrieved expression. “In order to catch up with the progress, I pass much of my duty to Nanny Dong. Sometimes, I even drink my medicine there!”

Concubine Dong looked very frightened and much wronged, but she also sounded a little flattery. This was one of the reasons why Madam Dowager took a fancy to Concubine Dong and wanted to promote her to the position of Marquise.

What Madam Dowager needed was a submissive Concubine Dong. She didn’t want to repeat the history of the rebel Qin Xinrui, who was so stubborn that she did things against Madam Dowager’s will, and even Wei Luowen seemed to be out of control.

“That courtyard? What do you mean? What are you doing there? Is someone else coming to the mansion? Is that why you are busy tidying up the courtyard to accommodate the guest?” Wei Yuewu looked puzzled and asked curiously.

Hearing this question, not only Concubine Dong could not answer it, but Madam Dowager was a little dumbfounded too. After all, Qin Xinrui was Wei Yuewu’s biological mother.

“Yuewu, let’s talk about this later!” Wei Luowen looked at Madam Dowager and sighed softly.

“But why? Why can’t we talk about it now? Father, do you know something which is awkward to disclose?” Wei Yuewu did not intend to let them off the hook. “Is there something that you can’t tell me?”

"Yuewu, these are all adults' business. You're just a kid! You don't understand, so stay out of it!" Madam Dowager chided in dismay. A large part of the reason why she wanted to seal Qin Xinrui's courtyard was for her own safety. A small part of it was for her selfish sake. Out of sight, out of mind.

She had wanted to get rid of that courtyard for so many years because she always felt very upset and irritated every time she saw it.

In this mansion, Qin Xinrui was her pet peeve, and she didn't want to talk about her at all. She would rather pretend that Qin Xinrui had never entered the mansion and never met her.

"Grandmother, why can't we talk about it? Is it because Concubine Dong is busy sealing up my mother's courtyard? I heard that she did so because my mother was inauspicious and had ruined the entire mansion's luck, am I right?" Wei Yuewu blurted out frankly. She was here to pick a fight anyway, and she decided to put her mother's matter on the table.

It was to prevent her deceased mother's name from being caught in the middle of chaos again.

"Impudent!" Madam Dowager was furious when Wei Yuewu talked back to her. She grabbed the teacup on the table and threw it toward Wei Yuewu. Jin Ling was about to pull Wei Yuewu when Wei Luowen had already pulled Wei Yuewu to the side. The teacup flew straight and hit the door.

"Sixth Young Lady, how can you talk to Madam Dowager like that?! She is your grandmother! Don't say such disgraceful words again! Do you see how angry Madam Dowager is?!" Concubine Dong rushed forward and patted Madam Dowager's chest while reprimanding Wei Yuewu hypocritically.

She intended to label Wei Yuewu as unfilial.

However, Wei Yuewu wanted to make this matter clear today, so she had come prepared. She glared at Concubine Dong coldly and hissed directly, "Concubine Dong, do you want my mother's courtyard to be sealed quickly? Is that why you supervise the work progress every day in case the workers slack off? I wonder what my mother had done to you when she was alive that you hated her so much. It's been years, and my mother is dead for so long, yet you still seem to resent her very much!"

She cut to the chase and stated her points frankly regardless of Concubine Dong's feelings. Her remarks even hinted that Concubine Dong was hypocritical when she treated her or her mother in the past. Concubine Dong clearly hated both of them, yet she put on a play that made people think she adored them.

Upon hearing this, Wei Luowen was puzzled too and looked at Concubine Dong skeptically.

Indeed, Madam Dowager brought up the matter of Qin Xinrui's courtyard. He had argued his point with Madam Dowager back then, but his hands were tied since Madam Dowager talked about the safety of the entire mansion. He figured that sealing it up was better than burning it down, so he turned a blind eye to this matter.

This matter seemed to have nothing to do with Concubine Dong, so he had never doubted her. But now that Wei Yuewu mentioned it, he found that Concubine Dong seemed to be too enthusiastic about this matter. Did she really have a personal vendetta against Qin Xinrui?

He recalled the facts that Concubine Dong had mentioned more than once how good her relationship was with Rui'er, and that Rui'er intended to entrust Yuewu to Concubine Dong. From the looks of it now, he figured that the situation was not that simple...

Concubine Dong suddenly coughed loudly and then covered her eyes with a handkerchief. She cried sorrowfully, "Sixth Young Lady, how can you say something like that? I have always been very respectful to Marquise, but this matter concerns the entire mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. If we don't deal with it as soon as possible, something bad will happen again! No matter how concerned I am about Marquise, I can't put the fortune and safety of the entire mansion at risk."

Sensing Wei Luowen's scrutinizing gaze, Concubine Dong panicked.

She secretly cursed Wei Yuewu for being so cunning and easily making Madam Dowager and Lord Marquis suspect her with just a few words. Therefore, she hurriedly feigned her innocence and expressed that she was doing it for everyone's sake.

"Alright, Yuewu, you don't have to worry about this matter. It's not something you can control either!" Madam Dowager hissed in a stern voice, waving her hand in annoyance.

“Grandmother, if I can’t even ask about my own mother’s matter, what else do you think I should ask?” Unlike other young ladies in the mansion, Wei Yuewu refused to back down even after Madam Dowager berated her. She had made up her mind to expose this matter today.

As a daughter, she would be unfilial if she wasn’t concerned about her own mother’s matters. Madam Dowager couldn’t do anything about it even though she was so furious that she wanted to give Wei Yuewu a slap. She knew what Wei Yuewu said was well-founded.

Madam Dowager did not feel any kind of connection or affection for Wei Yuewu. Last time, she pretended not to understand her meaning, and this time, she had the nerve to talk back to her. If she had known earlier, she wouldn’t have brought her back to the mansion. She should have let her rot in that place, or maybe married her off to somewhere like the mansion of Marquis Jing Yuan. None of these would have happened!

At this time, Madam Dowager was secretly resentful and sneered, “Do you think that I did something wrong?”

“No, it’s not your problem, but it’s the person that you picked!” Wei Yuewu smiled faintly and said. Of course, she would not directly say that Madam Dowager was at the fault.

“But the geomancer is very famous!” Concubine Dong could not help but grunt.

“Oh? You had been at the border for so long, but you actually knew about such a thing!” Wei Yuewu turned to look at Concubine Dong and smiled faintly. Concubine Dong gasped in shock and mumbled sheepishly, “I-I heard it from the maids in the mansion!”

“Oh no! Madam Dowager, bad news!” At this time, Nanny Hong stepped into the room, and her face was a little pale...

## Chapter 394

“What is it?” Madam Dowager asked in surprise. She was most concerned about her own matters, so she could not be bothered to question Wei Yuewu.

“Not only your medicine pot, but there is also a problem with Concubine Dong’s medicine pot!” Nanny Dong, who had a medicine pot in her hands, followed behind Nanny Hong and said anxiously.

“What? Mine too?!” Concubine Dong pretended as if she had just heard the news and staggered back in shock. She was about to trip and fall when a maid by the side supported her and grabbed her.

“W-Who did I and Madam Dowager offend? Why did that person want to kill both of us?!” Concubine Dong shrieked in horror and looked at Wei Yuewu with obvious suspicion.

After the dispute just now and hearing Concubine Dong’s words, Madam Dowager also turned and looked at Wei Yuewu, feeling that Wei Yuewu was indeed very suspicious.

However, Wei Yuewu smiled coldly. Sure enough, Concubine Dong had already prepared for the scenario. The original procedure was that Concubine Dong would pour the Five Drums Grass into her own medicine pot and then add it into the ink. For today’s plot, Wei Yuewu poured Concubine Dong’s medicine into Madam Dowager’s pot.

The two medicine pots were placed very close together, and the general kitchen was chaotic, so no one would notice that Shufei had done something to these two medicine pots.

Therefore, Concubine Dong would never have thought that someone poured her medicine into Madam Dowager’s medicine pot!

“Did you see anyone do it?” Madam Dowager asked sternly.

“Madam Dowager, the general kitchen has been in a mess recently. Fourth Young Lady keeps sending her maids to order food. Sometimes, she doesn’t like the food, so she will ask us to prepare a few more portions and send over the best one to her. Everyone in the general kitchen is so busy that no one actually pays attention to the medicine pots.”

Nanny Hong reported with a wry smile. Originally, the general kitchen was in a very orderly manner. However, since Madam Dowager ordered them to serve Fourth Young Lady and send the best food to her, they had been very busy. From time to time, the maids and old maidservants would come to the kitchen to make various requests.

To make matters worse, they were very arrogant and bossy when they ordered the staff in the kitchen around. Because of this, the kitchen staff was in a mess, and no one would notice what was going on in the corridor.

Even the two maids who were in charge of decocting the medicine would sometimes be ordered to do some things.

Wei Qiufu? Madam Dowager thought for a while and dismissed Wei Qiufu's suspicion. Wei Qiufu was selected to enter Crown Prince Mansion. She must rely on the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang in order to stand out in the Crown Prince Mansion. If something happened to her, and the third branch was separated from the mansion, it would only do harm to her.

Therefore, Wei Qiufu wouldn't put herself in such a difficult situation.

"Bring it over and let me have a look!" Doctor Ming said to Nanny Dong who was holding the medicine pot. Nanny Dong complied with the order and brought the medicine pot to Doctor Ming, who took the pot, sniffed it, and nodded. "Yes, there is indeed the smell of Five Drums Grass in it. Moreover, the smell is stronger than that of Madam Dowager's."

Although Concubine Dong pretended to be wronged, she was secretly smug. Of course, the smell was stronger. Originally, the other medicinal ingredients were used to match the Five Drums Grass. When it was boiled to a certain time, she would pour it into the ink pot and mix it without anyone noticing. After all, some people thought the smell of the ink was fragrant, but others felt it was smelly.

The servants in the kitchen were illiterate, so they couldn't tell what was wrong with the ink or the stench.

"W-What? My pot has more Five Drums Grass than that of Madam Dowager's?" Concubine Dong gasped in horror, and tears began to flow down her cheeks. She muffled her mouth with her handkerchief and cried, "Lord Marquis, I have never offended anyone, but why is there someone who hates me so much? So much so that they want me dead!"

“In the past, everything was fine when I returned to the mansion. But this year, a series of unfortunate events have happened, and someone actually drugged mine and Madam Dowager’s medicine. H-How can someone do such a horrible thing? That person must have hated us to the core!”

Concubine Dong cried as she spoke, but she was obviously directing the criticism toward Wei Yuewu.

Nothing happened in previous years, but something happened this year. The only difference between the previous years and this year was Wei Yuewu’s arrival in the capital. Although Wei Luowen did not believe that Wei Yuewu would do such a thing, he couldn’t help but look at Wei Yuewu skeptically.

Madam Dowager glared at Wei Yuewu with her sharp gaze and slammed the table hard, her expression as cold as ice. “Yuewu, what exactly is going on?”

Wei Yuewu was already prepared for Madam Dowager’s rebuke. She calmly raised her head, and her eyes turned slightly. “Grandmother, do you think I have something to do with this?”

It was such a blatant question that even the enraged Madam Dowager didn’t know what to say.

“Grandmother, can you please check where the medicine came from? I don’t think the medicine will appear in the mansion out of thin air, right? Can you please ask the staff in the kitchen if they have smelled the scent before? The stench is so strong, I’m sure that someone in the kitchen must have smelled it before.”

It dawned upon Wei Luowen. He turned and ordered the lad servant behind him, “You, go to the kitchen and bring some of the staff over.”

The lad servant ran out quickly and soon brought two old maidservants and two maids.

They were all the servants who worked in the kitchen as general staff.

This was out of Concubine Dong’s expectations. She couldn’t help but grip the handkerchief in her hands tightly. The expression on her face was a bit stiff. She originally thought that Wei Yuewu would directly

investigate who bought the medicine, and she had already been prepared. It was not her who sent her people to buy the medicine, so she wasn't worried about the investigation.

When the medicine pot was opened, the stench rushed out.

"I've smelled it for several days, not just today."

"She's right. I also think it has been several days, not only today!"

"It must have been several days, I'm sure. I-It is the smell of the ink."

"Yes! It is the smell of the ink. It has this particular smell!"

The maids and old maidservants continued one after another, and they explained the entire matter clearly without interrogation.

"Grandmother, I was still in the palace a few days ago, right?" Wei Yuewu muttered indifferently. Her watery eyes looked up and landed on Madam Dowager's face, and she smiled slightly.

There was no malice in her faint smile. Her only intention was to explain herself after she was scolded. However, Madam Dowager felt a little angry from embarrassment, and her face inexplicably turned red.

Since it had happened several days ago, of course, it had nothing to do with Wei Yuewu. Moreover, she was in the palace at that time, and she was not capable enough to drug their medicine in the mansion.

"Ink? What ink?" Madam Dowager did not want to pursue this topic anymore, so she directly changed the topic.

"Madam Dowager, it is the ink that the geomancer uses to draw the talisman," an old maidservant, who seemed to be the maids' leader, took the initiative to report.

Upon the mention of the ink, Concubine Dong was secretly anxious. In her opinion, the matter seemed strange because they had diverted the topic from the medicine to the ink.

“Go, bring some ink over as well!” Wei Luowen ordered a lad servant behind him with a gloomy face again, but after thinking for a while, he stopped the lad servant and added, “Bring the geomancer over as well.”

The lad servant nodded and quickly ran out.

Upon hearing about the ink and the talisman, Madam Dowager suddenly remembered what the geomancer had told her. Building walls around Qin Xinrui’s courtyard was not enough. They must apply charms and talismans to suppress the evil soul.

However, after she had instructed Concubine Dong to deal with this matter, she had forgotten about it.

“Nonsense! How can there be this stench in the ink? It should be the smell of ink, right?” Concubine Dong was about to speak, but Wei Yuewu interjected.

At this point, there was nothing Concubine Dong could say. She was dismayed, but she felt that it was not a big deal. Nothing would happen as long as the geomancer did not admit to any of it. She didn’t believe that Wei Yuewu would force a confession out of the geomancer’s mouth.

“Sixth Young Lady, the smell of the ink is particularly strong, just like this medicine. At that time, Concubine Dong’s medicine was decocted on the side. We thought that it smelled a little strange because the stench of the ink mixed with the medicine,” the old maidservant answered.

“When was Concubine Dong’s medicine decocted?” Wei Yuewu continued to ask.

“Oh, I know. It was on the same day as the ink. I remembered that we cleared up two pieces of land in the corridor. The larger piece of land was for the ink, while the smaller one was for Concubine Dong’s medicine. She instructed me to put them in the corridor.” A maid tilted her head to think for a moment before answering respectfully.

“Yes! It was also Concubine Dong’s idea to put Madam Dowager’s medicine pot and hers in the corridor!” Another old maidservant added.

“I’m afraid that all the smell of medicine and ink have mixed together!” Despite her panic, Concubine Dong answered calmly. She believed that the geomancer would not sell her out, and this matter would not circle back to her no matter what.

Anyway, her medicine had been drugged by Five Drums Grass, which could prove her innocence.

Therefore, she wasn’t afraid of what Wei Yuewu would do...

Thinking of this, Concubine Dong pretended to be angry and glared at Nanny Dong. “Nanny Dong, you are in charge of my medicine! How can you let something like this happen? How can you not even know that someone drugged my medicine?”

Nanny Dong understood her meaning and immediately whined, “Concubine, I did my best to manage the medicine. The smell of the medicine and ink is very strong, so I ordered the maids to move them to the corridor so that no one would be choked by the smell, but I didn’t expect something like this would happen.” Indeed, she was in charge of this matter in the first place.

“Nanny Dong, why didn’t you pay more attention to it at that time?” Concubine Dong looked angry as if she believed it was all Nanny Dong’s carelessness that someone had the opportunity to spike her medicine.

“Concubine, I did take my job seriously, but I have never expected that someone would be so capable and powerful to execute such a perfect plan,” Nanny Dong lamented while diverting people’s attention back to Wei Yuewu. In this mansion, only the Masters could have the capability and power to do such a thing.

From the looks of it, Wei Yuewu was the only one who had the most conflict with Concubine Dong.

At this time, the door opened, and a few people suddenly came in...

## Chapter 395

The first person was the geomancer, who was carried in by Wei Luowen's bodyguards.

Another bodyguard came in with a pot of ink.

"Lord Marquis, there's also some trace of Five Drums Grass in this ink," Doctor Ming frowned and said directly.

It was very easy for a doctor who was familiar with Five Drums Grass' stench to detect the smell from such a large basin of ink. The stench was quite strong and obvious, which indicated that there was a significant amount of Five Drums Grass inside.

"So what if the ink has the trace of Five Drums Grass? Do you think someone will be stupid enough to drink the ink?!" Madam Dowager slammed her hand on the table and shouted angrily. She was very dismayed about Wei Luowen's action of bringing the geomancer here.

Wei Yuewu's eyes darted slightly, and she hid the mockery in her eyes. Madam Dowager was really selfish. Was she so certain that someone had attempted to harm her? However, she didn't have to do the explanation.

Sure enough, after hearing what Madam Dowager said, Doctor Ming hurriedly asserted, "What is the use of this ink? If it is mixed with Five Drums Grass, Five Drums Grass will be colorless and odorless after the ink is dried. If someone uses this ink to paint the walls, for example, a person who stays in that place for a certain period of time will die. However, since that person does not directly consume Five Drums Grass, it is not detectable in the person's body, and people will only think that the person dies because of illness."

When he said this, everyone in the room could not help but think of Wei Yuewu's fainting earlier.

"What will happen if people drink it directly? Are there any symptoms?" Wei Luowen asked in a stern voice.

Sensing the oddity in the room, Doctor Ming looked at the people, cleared his throat, and answered, "If people drink it directly, they will die in a couple of hours, and the symptoms after death are obvious. Blood will come out of their eyes, noses, and ears."

In other words, whether it was Concubine Dong or Madam Dowager who fell ill after drinking the medicine, accidental or coincidence was not a wise explanation. If either of them died tragically, everyone would know that someone must have secretly poisoned them, and it was a serious issue.

However, Wei Yuewu fainted simply after smelling the Five Drums Grass in the medicine. Then, they recalled that the ink was used to draw the talismans that were applied on the walls of Qin Xinrui's courtyard that had been sealed. Wei Yuewu would definitely be there often when she missed her deceased mother. After a certain period of time, she would be poisoned inadvertently and eventually die without any significant symptom.

Most importantly, the cause of her death was untraceable, and no one would relate her death to the talismans or the ink on the wall.

"Tell me, what exactly is going on? Answer my question honestly. If there is a false statement, I'll beat you up and then send you to the authorities!" Wei Luowen was immediately furious when he heard this. He glared at the geomancer and shouted sternly.

He was threatening the geomancer, indicating that he would never forgive him if the geomancer had something to do with this matter.

"L-L-Lord Marquis, I-I-I don't know anything about this! The maids in the mansion prepared the ink for me, and my job is to draw the talismans with the ink, that's all! I don't know about the rest. I have nothing to do with this." When Wei Luowen related the geomancer to the matter, the geomancer hurriedly waved his hands and cleared his name anxiously.

What he said made sense. Wei Luowen glared at the geomancer coldly. The cunning geomancer looked calm and composed, so Wei Luowen couldn't tell if he was telling the truth or not.

"Luowen, calm down. This matter has nothing to do with him. It is not his fault. There are people in the mansion who are plotting against him." Madam Dowager felt embarrassed when Wei Luowen

questioned the geomancer because she was the one who hired the geomancer. She glanced at Wei Yuewu who was standing aside and grunted faintly.

Of course, she couldn't be bothered with Wei Yuewu's health, but she feigned her concern on the surface. When the matter was no longer related to her, she became much calmer. She was no longer as furious as before. In fact, she even persuaded Wei Luowen.

"But the kitchen has nothing to do with it either. We're not in charge of purchasing these things," an old maidservant, who worked in the kitchen, avowed timidly.

They had specialized staffs in the kitchen who were in charge of purchasing, but their responsibility was to purchase only the ingredients in the kitchen. Those staffs would never buy something like the ink and whatnot.

"Concubine Dong, aren't you in charge of purchasing?" Wei Luowen looked at Concubine Dong and asked.

"Oh, I have been concerned about the progress of the other side lately, so, just like the medicine, I let Nanny Dong handle this matter." Feeling that there was no big deal about this, Concubine Dong conveniently pushed the blame on Nanny Dong.

Nanny Dong had been working for Concubine Dong for years, and she was experienced in this kind of matter. After thinking about it, she indeed felt that this matter was not much of a concern. She and Concubine Dong believed that the geomancer would not betray and expose them.

After all, Madam Dowager would take the geomancer's side, and Lord Marquis' hands were tied without concrete evidence.

"Y-Yes, these things are under my control. I've recorded the purchase of the ink and other ingredients. I even checked them carefully because I didn't want any mistakes to occur. Nothing could have happened!" Nanny Dong said with certainty, indicating that she had done her job well, and that there should be no problem on her side.

“See? Lord Marquis, the people in the mansion provided me the ink, and I used it to draw some talismans. Are you suspecting me? Is that why you question me like that? Alright, if you don’t believe me, just send me to the authorities. As for whatever happens in the mansion, you can say them out for everyone in the capital to judge.”

Noticing that the situation was favorable to him, the geomancer darted his eyes around and feigned a humble posture. He cupped his hands together and bowed at Wei Luowen, as if surrendering himself to him.

Seeing him like this, Wei Luowen was not sure if this matter had anything to do with the geomancer.

“No way! How can we make such a big deal out of it when we don’t even have evidence? Do you want us to be a joke in the capital?” Madam Dowager snapped unhappily.

“Alright, now that we have reached this point, we should investigate it slowly and attentively, but don’t you mix up the people who are not related to this matter. At that time, not only will the people in the capital see us as a joke, but it will also not be of any use.” Madam Dowager looked as if she was trying to gloss things over.

Wei Yuewu sneered. Madam Dowager was basically sure that she was out of trouble, so she intended to protect the geomancer and said that the matter should be investigated slowly.

“No! We must investigate this matter clearly and immediately!” Wei Luowen’s heart skipped a beat when he thought that Yuewu was implicated in this matter. He never expected someone in the mansion would be so heartless as to intend to kill Yuewu.

Was this heartless person related to Rui’er’s incident back then? He had been investigating this matter for years, but he had never found any clue. Now, of course, he would not end the investigation so easily.

“You can draw talismans, so it means that you are literate, right?” Wei Yuewu asked indifferently.

“Yes. I’ve spent more than ten years studying. Later, my family fell apart, and I had no choice but to become a geomancer.” When the geomancer heard this, he raised his head in an extremely conceited manner.

The geomancer's answer was within Wei Yuewu's expectations. All the geomancers and fortune-tellers were literate. Otherwise, how could they manage to fool the people into giving them money and fortune?

"Since that is the case, you must be able to read and write, am I right?" Wei Yuewu nodded and asked.

"That's for sure. Without years of reading and writing, how could I be a good geomancer? How could I be able to discern the truth and false?" The geomancer felt very proud of his years of study, so he answered Wei Yuewu's questions truthfully.

However, Concubine Dong could sense that something was wrong. She immediately interjected and stopped Wei Yuewu from asking. "Sixth Young Lady, whether he is literate or not, it has nothing to do with this matter. Let Lord Marquis interrogate him. After all, Lord Marquis is more experienced!"

"How do you know that?" Wei Yuewu raised her eyebrows, and a trace of coldness flashed through her beautiful eyes.

"I-I'm just guessing!" Wei Yuewu's question was direct and impolite, but since Wei Luowen did not say anything, Concubine Dong could only bite the bullet and reply.

"I didn't expect you to be so smart. You can actually figure this matter out with just a guess. So, Concubine Dong, can you please guess where the Five Drums Grass in your and Grandmother's medicine came from?"

Wei Yuewu asked with a mocking tone.

"I..." Concubine Dong was tongue-tied. Of course, she knew where they came from, but she certainly couldn't sell herself out.

"Since you've studied for more than ten years, why can't you smell the difference in the smell of the ink?" Wei Yuewu suddenly asked sternly.

The smell of the ink was indeed very strong. Even Wei Luowen, who did not recognize the smell of the Five Drum Grass, could tell that something was odd about the strong and strange smell in the ink. It was impossible for someone who had studied for more than ten years to not notice the oddity. The geomancer began to sweat on his forehead.

He didn't expect to leave such an obvious loophole in his remarks.

"There is a strange smell in the ink. Even if you didn't know what it is, you could ask the old maidservant who was in charge. This is the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Do you think you can bear it if something happens here?" Wei Yuewu pressed forward and asked solemnly.

Because of anger, she involuntarily held Jin Ling's hand and walked in front of the geomancer. Finally, she stood in front of the geomancer and directly refuted him.

"I-I asked an old maidservant. She said that the ink was different than usual, but it didn't matter!" The geomancer answered reluctantly. After he finished speaking, he suddenly felt relieved. He had just been to the mansion and didn't know anyone. Later, he would just claim that he couldn't recognize the old maidservant.

"Who is that old maidservant?" Sure enough, Wei Luowen asked with a livid face.

"Yes, who is that old maidservant? I have been with Concubine Dong all along, but I've never seen any old maidservant talk about this!" Under Concubine Dong's hint, Nanny Dong hurriedly asked.

At this time, she exchanged glances with the geomancer and felt relieved. They shared the same thought now. As long as the geomancer claimed that he couldn't remember which old maidservant he saw, this case would reach a dead end. It was impossible for the geomancer, who had only been in the mansion for a few days, to recognize all the old maidservants in the mansion.

Moreover, they could claim that the matter happened a few days ago, and he couldn't remember even if he saw the old maidservant again.

"Who is that old maidservant? Please take a good look before you answer my question!" Wei Yuewu repeated Wei Luowen's words. However, she pulled out a corner of the letter from her left sleeve with

her right hand. Coincidentally, a few words on the letter were revealed. The geomancer, who was standing opposite her, saw the letter and was immediately shocked. His eyes widened, and his face turned pale...

#### Chapter 396 Severe Punishment for the Evil Concubine's Lackey

The geomancer recognized the letter. It was clearly his handwriting on the letter! He wrote the letter to that woman, who was said to be a disfavored concubine in the second branch.

In fact, she was among the dozen or so concubines who were sent over to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, and she was the most unremarkable one.

The geomancer had his reason to take a fancy to her. She was an unpopular concubine who had been placed in that courtyard since she was sent to the mansion. She didn't even get to meet Second Master.

Even if Second Master wanted to have fun with these concubines in the future, there would naturally be more beauties there that were more outstanding than her.

Even if he took such an unremarkable woman away with him, it wouldn't make a difference. The geomancer had seen too many dramas in these big and prominent families. He presumed that such an unpopular concubine was even more insignificant than a maid who held a slightly important role in the mansion. Even if she disappeared, they would simply investigate as a pretense and forget about her.

That was what he thought, which was why he went to hook up with Concubine Yang. The other day, when the lad servant came back and told him that the matter was done, he was pretty smug and overjoyed. After all, he would leave and go far away when the matter was over here. It would be a delightful thing to have a beautiful woman to travel with him.

However, how did the letter end up in Sixth Miss Wei's hands? The geomancer was really panicked.

Despite his panic, he was not losing his mind. Just as he was about to speak, he heard the seemingly delicate and weak Sixth Young Lady speak in a warm and gentle manner, "The concubines living in this mansion were sent by the heirs-apparent from Yan, Lu, Chu, and Qi. If any one of the concubines is missing, I think these four heirs-apparent will hunt her down and kill her!"

Her statement came so abruptly that Wei Luowen was taken aback, but he couldn't see the letter in Wei Yuewu's sleeve since he was standing behind her.

"Yuewu, what are you talking about? It has nothing to do with this! Just ask him which old maidservant told him this!" Madam Dowager snapped impatiently.

"Well, you're right. I thought that he saw one of the old maidservants who are serving those concubines. Yes, they may not be favored, but they were sent over by the heirs-apparent, and nobody can ignore them. Otherwise, disasters will ensue." Wei Yuewu smiled slightly and slid the letter back into her sleeve.

The geomancer trembled in fear. He had been dealing with all walks of society for so long that he knew how dangerous and cruel the four heirs-apparent were. More importantly, many men were at their disposal. If any of them wanted to pursue him, he couldn't even escape from the capital.

At this moment, the geomancer secretly regretted his action. If he had known more about Concubine Yang's background, he wouldn't have seduced her. Sixth Miss Wei had his letter now. If anyone knew that he hooked up with one of these concubines, he would definitely die.

The rumors about the ruthlessness of the heirs-apparent spread in the capital like wildfire.

The geomancer involuntarily trembled in horror, and he stared ahead blankly. He felt as if his life was in the hands of Sixth Miss Wei.

"Since Nanny Dong is in charge of this, I'm sure you have seen her before!" Wei Yuewu changed the subject and suddenly smiled leisurely.

"Yes! Nanny Dong was the one who told me that there was no problem with the ink!" Wei Yuewu's remarks were so vague and inexplicable that no one understood what she was implying, but the geomancer, who was sweating profusely, understood every word she said. He turned his anxious eyes to Nanny Dong and said decisively.

In his opinion, his life was more important than the old maidservant. Moreover, her Master was Concubine Dong, who was said to be most likely to become Marquise Hua Yang. The geomancer was certain that Concubine Dong would be able to come up with a plan to get away with it.

If she could get away with it, it meant that he would be out of danger too. This was the reason why he did not hesitate to push the blame on Nanny Dong.

Moreover, in this situation, he had to make Nanny Dong the scapegoat because the letter was equivalent to his life. If he said the wrong thing, even a tiny mistake, he believed that the seemingly delicate Sixth Miss Wei would definitely not let him off the hook.

It was beyond his imagination that such a fragile-looking girl would have such a pair of beautiful eyes with a bit of viciousness in them.

“What?! I...” Not expecting the geomancer to point his finger at her, Nanny Dong was so shocked that her face turned ghastly pale, and she almost collapsed to the floor. Why did he do this?!

Concubine Dong was also frightened to the point that her face turned pale, and her limbs spasmed unconsciously. She could even feel that her vision turned black, but she forced herself to look fine.

“Tell me, what exactly happened? Why didn’t you explain it clearly earlier?” Wei Luowen was so exasperated that the veins on his forehead popped up. He patted the table with a hint of killing intent.

He was a general on the battlefield, and he had a sense of ruthlessness. Coupled with the horrifying scar on his face, and thinking about his methods at the border, Nanny Dong had her heart in her mouth. With a plop, she knelt down and cried, “Lord Marquis, I-I... It’s none of my business! Someone is trying to harm me!”

“You are in charge of everything, including Grandmother’s medicine, Concubine Dong’s medicine, and the ink! Didn’t you say that you checked everything carefully? If so, why are there Five Drums Grass in the ink and their medicines?”

Wei Yuewu raised her eyes and looked at Nanny Dong coldly. She linked all of Nanny Dong’s statements together perfectly.

No matter how smart Nanny Dong was, she could not find any other excuses at this time. Previously, she thought that she would not be dragged into this matter, so she made her statement in a very straightforward manner and indicated that she was in charge of everything and assured that everything was fine. But at this moment, it was too late for her to shift the blame to others.

Panicked, she stole a glance at Concubine Dong, but no words came out of her gasping mouth.

Concubine Dong walked over with a pale face, gritted her teeth, and raised her hand to slap Nanny Dong in the face. "Nanny Dong, Lord Marquis and I think so highly of you, but you... you! You harbored resentment against me! I've always treated you kindly! Why did you do this to me?! Have you ever thought about your son and your newborn grandson?!"

Concubine Dong deliberately emphasized the word "grandson", and Nanny Dong was so scared that her body trembled, and she collapsed to the floor. She knew that she couldn't implicate Concubine Dong in this, and she must take the fall for this matter. Otherwise, her son's whole family, including the newborn grandson, would be dead.

She knew Concubine Dong's vicious methods very clearly!

"Lord Marquis... I-It's all my fault. Last time, Concubine Dong didn't reward me with a significant amount of jewelry, so I thought that she looked down on me. She was once a servant too, so what made her think that she could be so cocky? I was furious and wanted to punish her, so I put Five Drums Grass in her medicine."

"But I don't know why it ended up in the ink and Madam Dowager's medicine too. Maybe the maid who decocted the medicine made some mistake. No wonder Concubine Dong was fine even after drinking the medicine for several days, because the Five Drums Grass was mixed into the ink. Lord Marquis, please forgive me. I was out of my mind and thought of doing the horrible thing to Concubine Dong. Also, I didn't mean to implicate Madam Dowager and Sixth Young Lady into this!"

Nanny Dong knelt down and kowtowed continuously, crying loudly.

"Lord Marquis, you can't forgive such a despicable maid who dared to harm her master!" Concubine Dong barked angrily, but then her expression changed to sorrow. "But... she has served me for so long. I

couldn't bear to see her being hit to death. How about having her beaten up and kicked out of the mansion?"

"But that's too light a sentence for her action!" Wei Luowen hissed coldly.

Concubine Dong was the main cause of this matter, but Yuewu had been implicated. There was nothing he could say since Concubine Dong had stated her opinion. Moreover, he was satisfied with Nanny Dong's professionalism and attitude when they were at the border.

"How about 50 flogs?" Concubine Dong secretly observed Wei Luowen's expression and heaved a sigh of relief when Wei Luowen didn't doubt what she said. In fact, Nanny Dong might not be able to endure 50 flogs, and Concubine Dong didn't intend to save her life either. She just gave a sound reason so that Wei Luowen would not feel that she was heartless.

Despite that, she wanted to save Nanny Dong in the first place. Nanny Dong was her most trusted servant, so she couldn't abandon her. However, she came to her senses after seeing Wei Luowen's sinister face. At this moment, she must cut off her ties with Nanny Dong no matter what. She didn't want Wei Luowen to suspect her, yet she couldn't bear to be a heartless master.

Because of her conflicted emotions, she made such a gesture. It sounded as if she was pleading on Nanny Dong's behalf, but she was actually cutting off her ties with her...

"Drag her to the outside of Madam Dowager's courtyard and have her punished!" Wei Luowen frowned and ordered sternly.

Two bodyguards came over and dragged Nanny Dong, who was completely limp on the ground, out to punish her in the open space outside Tranquility Courtyard.

"I've never thought your maid would do such a horrible thing!" Madam Dowager finally understood the cause and effect of this matter and snapped with a displeased expression.

"Since this matter is settled, we should go on with the plan. Prepare a new batch of ink and send some trustworthy people over there."

“Father, what exactly is going on with Mother’s courtyard? Why does it need to be sealed up and have talismans and runes all over the walls? I don’t get it, and I’ve never heard of such a thing. Is it true that Mother is considered to be an inauspicious or evil person? If so, why did she bring bad luck to herself instead of others? If she was so ominous, how come she ended up dying at such a young age?”

Wei Yuewu sneered at Madam Dowager’s behavior, but then her eyes became cold again. She raised her long eyelashes and stared at Wei Luowen.

Her gaze made Wei Luowen feel ashamed. His heart ached, and he couldn’t say anything.

“Don’t you have anything to say to Madam Dowager?” Jin Ling stood next to Wei Yuewu and said to the geomancer sternly, “Are those words of yours true? How dare you slander Marquise Hua Yang like this? Who ordered you to do so?”

Concubine Dong, who was slightly relaxed, became nervous again upon hearing Jin Ling’s remark. Her eyes swept over Wei Yuewu, and she saw the chill and firm look on the latter’s pale and fragile face. Concubine Dong’s heart skipped a beat, and she felt a chill down her spine. What was this bitch up to this time?!

She had used a lot of efforts to cut ties with Nanny Dong and push all the blame to the latter. If something were to happen again, she might not be able to deal with it.

“I...” At this time, all the geomancer wanted to do was to please Wei Yuewu. After receiving Jin Ling’s hint, he gritted his teeth and suddenly knelt down in front of Wei Luowen...

## Chapter 397

“A-Actually, there is nothing wrong with Marquise Hua Yang’s courtyard!” The geomancer wanted to clear his name and couldn’t be bothered with anything else. “I said what I said because I was greedy and wanted for more money! In fact, Marquise Hua Yang’s courtyard is fine, and she was not a bad omen! Everything that happened in the mansion has nothing to do with her!”

“What?” Madam Dowager stood up in rage. “Are you saying that you were lying?!”

“Please forgive me, Madam Dowager. I just wanted to make more money, but I didn’t expect it to turn up this way. I’m greedy, but I also cherish my life. Madam Dowager, Lord Marquis, please forgive me.” The geomancer kept kowtowing and begging for mercy.

No matter how much money he made, he had to be alive to enjoy his wealth. If the letter leaked out to the public, Concubine Yang and either one of the four heirs-apparent would not let him go in order to restore their reputations. The geomancer knew the fact very clearly. Hence, he would say whatever Wei Yuewu wanted him to say.

On the other hand, he didn’t dare to mention anything about Concubine Dong’s involvement. Others might not know about Five Drums Grass in the ink, but he knew, and he might be punished with death because of it. He might as well take all the blame under the pretense of greediness.

The geomancer had figured things out. He was sure that Concubine Dong would help him for the sake of his sparing her from this.

Seeing the geomancer kneel in front of Wei Luowen, Concubine Dong felt that all the blood in her body had become frozen, and she almost went limp. Thankfully, the keen maid noticed her abnormality and supported her, so that she did not make a fool of herself on the spot. When she heard the geomancer’s words, she felt relieved.

At that moment, she really thought that he would confess everything. She clearly knew that Lord Marquis would definitely not spare her if this matter was exposed.

“Madam Dowager, h-h-how can this be...” Concubine Dong reacted quickly. She gasped in surprise and shock.

Concubine was clear that Madam Dowager suggested the whole thing, and she made her move in secret. No one knew that she was the one who hired the geomancer.

“How dare you! How dare you deceive us!” Madam Dowager was exasperated. She was up in arms when she learned that a swindler tricked her, the dignified Madam Dowager of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang!

Moreover, when Wei Luowen came to talk to her about this, she repeatedly reassured him that the geomancer was a professional and not a swindler. She even warned him not to stop her because she was doing this for the sake of everyone in the mansion.

“What did you say?” Taken aback, Wei Luowen grabbed the geomancer’s clothes and lifted him back. “Everything you said was a lie?! There’s nothing wrong with Marquise’s courtyard, and Marquise was not a bad omen?!”

He was so worked up that he used too much strength and almost choked the geomancer.

The geomancer desperately pulled his collar with both hands and took a deep breath. Then, he whispered with a pale face, “Yes, Lord Marquis... Marquise Hua Yang was a lucky star and very honorable!”

Wei Luowen loosened his grip, and the geomancer fell heavily to the ground. The latter gasped for breath and was so scared that he didn’t dare to say another word. At that moment, he sensed Marquis Hua Yang’s killing intent.

“Mother, what do you think...” Wei Luowen couldn’t be bothered with the geomancer at this moment and turned to Madam Dowager.

“Tear it down. Tear everything down right now!” Madam Dowager had no choice but to wave her hand dejectedly.

“Grandmother, Father, I’m afraid some of the things over there have already been destroyed because of the damage, right?” This was the moment that Wei Yuewu had been waiting for, and she spoke unhurriedly.

After so many years of desolation and abandonment, Mother’s courtyard had actually been utterly ruined.

“Have someone reorganize everything together and repair all the damage!” Madam Dowager also felt guilty, so she complied with everything Wei Yuewu suggested.

"I don't know if the things inside are broken. There are too many people going in and out of that place. I heard that Mother's courtyard had been left open these years and anyone could go in!" Wei Yuewu reminded.

"Mother, all the things inside have to be rearranged completely. Some are old, and some are probably damaged!" It finally dawned upon Wei Luowen. He dared not to take a look at Rui'er's courtyard since they wanted to burn it down and then sealed it up. Now that he thought about it, he figured that it must be a big mess inside.

Wei Luowen was frustrated when he thought of the sweet moment he shared with Rui'er in that courtyard. He turned around and kicked the geomancer, who fell back and hit the wall, making a heavy sound of impact.

The geomancer held his chest and felt a fishy taste in his throat. He spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Lord Marquis, just let him go. We've cleared everything up, anyway!" Concubine Dong stepped forward to stop Wei Luowen, who was about to go over and kick him again.

"Yes, Luowen. Just send him to the authorities!" Madam Dowager didn't want the geomancer to die at her place. She restrained the anger in her heart and echoed.

"Father, there is no need to get Grandmother's place dirty for such a person!" Wei Yuewu also stepped forward to persuade him in a soft voice.

"This liar actually lied to your grandmother, saying that your mother was a bad omen and suggesting to burn your mother's courtyard!" Wei Luowen pushed Concubine Dong away with a pained expression on his face.

"Father, I heard that he's quite capable, or Grandmother wouldn't have believed him." Wei Yuewu sighed and pulled Wei Luowen's sleeve. "He is greedy, but he's also a professional, albeit his lousy character. See, he has now admitted that Mother was noble and extraordinary."

"Yes... Marquise Hua Yang was extraordinary and honorable. Even if she passed away early, she would protect her children for the rest of their lives and protect the safety of her home," the geomancer said

as many nice words as he could possibly think of. He had no dealings with Wei Luowen before, so he did not know that Marquis Hua Yang cared so much about his deceased wife.

“Are you telling the truth or lies this time?” Wei Yuewu turned around and asked.

“The truth, of course! Marquise Hua Yang’s character existed simply to protect her offsprings, which was why she passed away at such a young age. As for all of Marquise Hua Yang’s relics, it’s better to maintain their original appearance and position. Please keep this in mind.”

The geomancer struggled to sit up, covering his chest as he said.

His reputation in the capital had always been good. He wouldn’t have risked destroying his foundation here and fleeing had it not been for Concubine Dong’s high bid. In fact, that was also why he had thought about seducing Concubine Yang. She was just a disfavored concubine who looked like a maid, so no one would have noticed her disappearance even if she had eloped with him.

Furthermore, he was certain that Concubine Dong would help him smooth things out in case anything happened. Therefore, he didn’t take the matter seriously and had the nerve to hook up with Concubine Yang.

“Father, do you hear this? He said that Mother was not a bad omen! She is a lucky star, and she can maintain the peace of the family and protect the safety of her children!” Wei Yuewu looked at Wei Luowen with tears in her eyes. The coldness in her eyes was hidden behind the joy.

Now that they had the geomancer’s statement, no one could casually touch her mother’s courtyard, not even Madam Dowager. The so-called peace in the family was relative. Even though so many things had happened in the mansion recently, who could say what was the real reason behind them?

But no matter what, nobody could ever put the blame to her mother and hold her responsible.

“Flog him twenty times and throw him out!” At this time, Wei Luowen also calmed down and ordered in a stern voice.

Two of the bodyguards, who were standing outside the room, came in and pulled the geomancer out. They carried out the execution outside Tranquility Courtyard.

The geomancer was relieved when he heard that he would only be flogged twenty times as a punishment. He could endure the physical punishment, but if they had insisted on sending him to the authorities, he would have confessed everything, including the matters regarding Concubine Dong and Sixth Young Lady.

If he was sent to the authorities, his life would be in Marquis Hua Yang's hands. Since his punishment was only the flogs, it meant that his life was spared, so he docilely let the bodyguards carry him out.

Moreover, sending him to the authorities was actually very humiliating for an aristocratic family like the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, especially since it was related to Madam Dowager's dignity. If this news leaked out, it would tarnish Madam Dowager's reputation among the aristocratic families. Of course, Wei Luowen also thought of this, so he made such a decision.

Madam Dowager also breathed a sigh of relief. Although she proposed sending the geomancer to the authorities, she did so just to calm Wei Luowen's anger. It would be a humiliation to her name if the geomancer was really sent to the authorities.

Concubine Dong was also relieved. If Wei Luowen was really determined to send the geomancer to the authorities, she wasn't sure what would happen or if the geomancer would sell her out.

The punishment of twenty flogs was a good decision for everyone.

Wei Yuewu observed everyone's reaction attentively, and she curled her lips into a sneer. Of course, she didn't want the geomancer to die.

His statement was much more important than his life! Using his reputation in the capital to restore Mother's name was the most righteous thing to do. In the future, no one in the mansion would dare to badmouth her mother!

Moreover, the geomancer might make an ultimate struggle and pull everyone in if they insisted on taking his life!

"Just do as you say!" At this time, Madam Dowager felt exhausted all over. She supported her head with her hand and sat down powerlessly.

Today, such a dramatic plot happened right in front of her. It began with the idea of someone trying to harm her, but it ended with such a humiliating scene. Madam Dowager felt embarrassed in front of the maids and younger generations. Moreover, her old illness had relapsed, and she had not recovered yet. At this moment, she had lost all spirit.

"Mother, please have a good rest. I'll get someone to deal with the matters over there!" Wei Luowen naturally understood what Madam Dowager meant and said.

Madam Dowager waved her hand without saying a word.

Madam Dowager's reaction was within Wei Yuewu's expectations. After such a humiliating incident, Madam Dowager would not interfere with Mother's matters in the future, and she would not forcefully refuse to return Mother's dowry, which her father and she insisted on taking back.

However, it was impossible for the extremely selfish Madam Dowager to obediently return everything to her...

Everyone followed Wei Luowen out.

"Concubine Dong, please stay!" Wei Yuewu stood at the entrance of the courtyard and stopped Concubine Dong.

Wei Luowen, who was walking in front, stopped and turned his head...

Chapter 398 Mo Huating Came Again

"Sixth Young Lady." Concubine Dong respectfully stood still and lowered her head.

“Concubine Dong, do you really have nothing to do with Nanny Dong’s matter?” Wei Yuewu looked at Concubine Dong with a determined expression. She looked petite and small in front of Concubine Dong, who was much taller than her, but she stood so firmly and upright that no one dared to look down on her.

Nanny Hong, who sent Wei Luowen out on behalf of Madam Dowager, could not help but look a little worried as she stood in the corridor and quietly looked at Wei Yuewu.

Concubine Dong’s expression changed greatly. She never thought that Wei Yuewu would say such words in front of Wei Luowen. Her hands involuntarily trembled in her sleeves.

“Sixth Young Lady, I never dare to show any disrespect to Marquise!” Concubine Dong gritted her teeth and blurted despite her dismay.

She could sense Wei Luowen’s cold gaze from the side.

“Nanny Dong is your most trusted servant, right? She actually drugged you simply because of some trivial matters. You must be in great danger for those years she had been working for you.”

Wei Yuewu turned her eyes and looked at Concubine Dong quietly. Her remarks made Concubine Dong’s face turn vivid. Nanny Dong had been working for her for so many years. Concubine Dong would not be so well and healthy if Nanny Dong was really as narrow-minded as she claimed herself to be.

Wei Luowen looked at Concubine Dong coldly. He frowned and did not speak. The courtyard suddenly became eerily quiet. Only the sound of the wind blowing through the branches swept past everyone’s ears.

The winter wind was blowing fiercely, but it was not as fearsome as Wei Yuewu’s warm and gentle words.

“Sixth Young Lady, if I ever disrespect Marquise, I will...” Concubine Dong gritted her teeth and gasped for breath, and she was about to swear for the sake of her innocence.

“Concubine Dong, when you go back this time, I think you should check the people around you and filter the bad ones out. Something horrible will happen if you let someone like Nanny Dong work for you!” Wei Yuewu suddenly smiled sweetly, but her smile was very cold and insincere.

“When I came back to the mansion the other day, I dropped by my mother’s courtyard, but I found that the maids and old maidservants were chatting and laughing there. They did not have the slightest respect for my mother. I wonder if Nanny Dong assigned these people to work there?”

Nanny Dong could be abandoned now, but Concubine Dong must have more than one trusted servant. She had no idea how many more Concubine Dong’s people were there. When Concubine Dong returned to the capital this time, she brought so many people with her. These people only recognized Concubine Dong as their master, but no one cared about her mother.

Now that she had made her move on Concubine Dong’s servant, Wei Yuewu felt that she might as well do it more thoroughly so that Concubine Dong would not dare to be so pompous in the future. Under such circumstances, Concubine Dong did not dare to say anything.

Furthermore, Wei Yuewu did not intend to make Concubine Dong swear. Not only did it have no effect, but she also would not believe her oath. If this got out, people would only chide her for forcing her father’s concubine to swear instead of understanding the real reason behind this.

That was why she stopped Concubine Dong from swearing! She had never wanted to listen to this kind of meaningless oath. It was better for her to take revenge for her mother with practical actions!

“Y-Yes, Nanny Dong assigned them. I’ll go and deal with them immediately!” Concubine Dong had no choice but to swallow her anger. She did not even dare to ask another question.

“Thank you, Concubine Dong,” Wei Yuewu said faintly and then turned to Wei Luowen. “Father, can I go with you, please? I had arranged Mother’s courtyard with my maids before. I recognize some of her things and where to place them.”

“Let’s go!” Wei Luowen nodded, his gaze sweeping across Concubine Dong’s pale face with a hint of coldness.

Did Concubine Dong really not have any ill intentions towards Rui’er? Wei Luowen felt uncertain now...

Ignoring Concubine Dong's resentful gaze, Wei Luowen turned around and strode out. Wei Yuewu raised her eyes and looked at the people on the small track. Their eyes met, but Wei Yuewu looked away as if she hadn't noticed them and left with Wei Luowen.

Wei Ziyang and Mo Huating were standing on the small road outside Tranquility Courtyard and they had observed the situation for a while.

Mo Huating's face looked particularly handsome in the stunning robe, but there was a bit of unfathomable depth between his eyebrows. His gaze fell on Wei Yuewu's face, and he felt as if this was the first time he had seen Wei Yuewu clearly.

When their eyes met, there was no surprise or astonishment in her clear and sparkly eyes. It seemed as if she was not the least bit surprised when she saw him here.

Wei Yuewu was clearly so weak and fragile that he could kill her easily by exerting a little force. However, there seemed to be tenacity and stubbornness in her body that made her as solid and firm as a boulder. When she stood in front of Concubine Dong, who was much taller than her, she was unbeatable in terms of aura.

Mo Huating could not help but think of the assassination that he had attempted. If that incident had never happened, would the gorgeous Wei Yuewu have become his bride? Could he lawfully have her by his side by means of the marriage contract? She looked as pretty as a flower but as cold as an iceberg.

It seemed that this kind of woman was the most suitable for him...

But now was not the time to think about this. Although his purpose for coming here today was related to Wei Yuewu, it had nothing to do with himself.

The engagement between the two had been officially annulled since Wei Luowen's return, and they had no relationship at all...

A trace of coldness flashed in his eyes. It was not up to Wei Yuewu to decide whether they had a relationship or not, but now, he had more important things to do...

"Marquis Jing Yuan, this way, please!" Wei Ziyang withdrew his gaze and looked at Mo Huating as he spoke indifferently.

"Did... something happen?" Mo Huating nodded and asked as they walked towards Tranquility Courtyard.

"It's just some trivial matters between the women in the backyard!" Wei Ziyang had no idea what had just happened. He just came back from Prefectural Prince Huai Mansion and learned that Madam Dowager wanted to seal Eldest Aunt's courtyard.

But since this was decided by Grandmother, there was nothing Eldest Uncle could comment about, let alone he. He felt that it was extremely absurd to believe the geomancer's words and decided that he would not be one of the believers. However, he began to be skeptical and ambiguous after what happened to him.

It seemed that something bizarre had haunted their family after what happened to his mother and his two younger sisters!

Therefore, he just accepted his fate and watched his steps.

However, it was quite an embarrassing encounter, so Wei Ziyang kept it from Mo Huating.

"What? Marquis Jing Yuan is here? What is he doing here?" Madam Dowager massaged her forehead and blurted in a troubled tone that she usually didn't have.

"I'm not sure. He was here with Eldest Young Master. They saw Lord Marquis, but they didn't come forward to greet him, so I think it's not about the matter of the outer courtyard," Nanny Hong reported in a low voice.

Lord Marquis had just left, and Marquis Jing Yuan came in immediately. They would have bumped into each other within seconds. Marquis Jing Yuan would definitely have stopped Lord Marquis if he were to speak with him.

“What is it that Marquis Jing Yuan has to come over personally?” Madam Dowager grumbled in dismay. Enraged and embarrassed at this moment, she felt listless and was not in the mood to talk to Mo Huating.

“Could it be that he came because of Second Young Lady...” Nanny Hong carefully reminded.

Hearing this, Madam Dowager was silent for a while. She closed her eyes and pondered for a moment. Then, with a sigh, she opened her eyes and urged, “Go and invite Marquis Jing Yuan in!”

“Alright. I’ll go now!” Nanny Hong nodded and left. When she saw Mo Huating waiting outside the door, she greeted respectfully, “Marquis Jing Yuan, this way, please!”

“Thank you,” Mo Huating said politely and entered Madam Dowager’s room with Wei Ziyang.

They greeted Madam Dowager, who had returned to her usual kind smile. She waved her hand and asked them to sit.

Nanny Hong asked the maid to bring tea.

“Madam Dowager, Crown Prince is making his selection of consorts, and Sixth Young Lady is on the list. What do you think about this?” Mo Huating took a sip of tea and went straight to the point.

Hearing that it was not about Wei Yan, Madam Dowager heaved a sigh of relief. “We won’t object since the palace has decided the matter.”

In the past, only one imperial concubine was selected in one mansion. Now that Wei Qiufu was selected, Wei Yuewu could be considered as only a backup, so Madam Dowager felt that there was nothing to worry about.

Although Wei Qiufu was not given the position of Crown Princess, she was still a high-ranking concubine of the Crown Prince. In the future, when Crown Prince officially succeeded the throne, there would be a

chance for her to become an imperial concubine of the main palace. Madam Dowager was not very satisfied with such a result, but it was better than nothing.

Moreover, with Wei Yuewu's identity, she could not be placed in a lower position than Wei Qiufu, so she presumed that Wei Yuewu would not be selected to enter the palace as a concubine. Madam Dowager felt that the palace would not deliberately inform her about this again.

"Madam Dowager, I actually came to ask you on behalf of Fourth Prince." Mo Huating stood up and bowed respectfully to Madam Dowager.

"What is it?" Madam Dowager asked in surprise. She didn't think that Fourth Prince had anything to do with this matter.

"Do you think that it is impossible for Sixth Young Lady to enter Crown Prince Mansion?" Mo Huating raised his eyebrows and asked with a smile.

"There has never been a case where two young ladies from the same mansion had been selected as two high-ranking concubines in the palace!" Madam Dowager felt that Mo Huating should know about this, so she grunted disapprovingly, "Are you implying that we will have one more high-ranking concubine in the Crown Prince Mansion?"

"There is nothing absolute, Madam Dowager. Who would have thought that both the Empress and Zhaoyi Tu came from Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion?" Mo Huating had long known what Madam Dowager wanted to say. At this time, he said unhurriedly.

With this sentence, Madam Dowager immediately frowned and glanced at Mo Huating indifferently. "Marquis Jing Yuan, are you here to talk about Empress and Zhaoyi Tu?"

Although Zhaoyi Tu was not a high-ranking imperial consort, she was an imperial consort with real power in the palace. Her position could not be higher because of the Empress, but everyone knew that the Emperor had always been very fond of her.

“The women of the Tu Family are famous all over the country, but actually, it was an accident that Zhaoyi Tu could enter the palace!” Madam Dowager did not think that such an accident would happen to Wei Yuewu.

#### Chapter 399 Fourth Prince’s Royal Consort

Zhaoyi Tu entering the palace was an accident, an accident that no one could resist!

It was because the Emperor fell in love with Zhaoyi Tu at first sight. Although he had already had Empress Tu, he insisted on taking Zhaoyi Tu in as his concubine.

In the nationwide selection, Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion sent two daughters into the palace, but in the end, no one had expected that both daughters were selected. For a time, the reputation of the Tu Family’s daughters became extremely famous in the capital.

The one who was more dignified became the Empress, while the fragile one was conferred with the title Zhaoyi.

Two sisters from the same family had thus become the Empress and Zhaoyi in the palace.

In order to marry Zhaoyi Tu, the Emperor fought against all objections. In the end, he managed to persuade everyone to agree with his decision. Others did not know about the secret operation of this matter, but Madam Dowager did. It could be said that the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang had also their part in getting two young ladies of the Tu family to be selected into the harem.

At that time, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang owed Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion a favor.

However, Madam Dowager did not think that there would be anything happening between the Crown Prince and Wei Yuewu, so she considered this matter an accident.

It was an accident that would never happen between Wei Yuewu and Wen Tianyao.

“Madam Dowager, do you know that Crown Prince has always viewed Sixth Miss Wei differently? Maybe, he will fight against all objections to marry her,” Mo Huating said.

“What do you mean?” Madam Dowager was shocked, and her expression changed.

“Back then, when Zhaoyi Tu and Empress Tu entered the palace together, Grand Preceptor Tu, who was originally high and mighty, suddenly retreated and hid behind the scene. Even though the Emperor trusted Grand Preceptor Tu a lot, the entire Grand Preceptor Tu Mansion seemed to be keeping a low profile. Except for the Tu sisters who were greatly favored by the Emperor after they entered the palace, the women of the Tu Family seemed to have lost their limelight.”

Mo Huating smiled slightly. Wei Ziyang frowned at the side, inexplicably unhappy.

The Grand Preceptor Tu in the previous dynasty had to keep his distance from power because the women of the Tu Family were extremely popular in the harem. Hearing Mo Huating’s remarks, Madam Dowager was shocked. She wanted to revitalize the reputation and glory of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, so she couldn’t let such a thing happen.

Having power in the harem was indeed a good thing, but in the previous dynasty, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would inevitably be weakened if two of its daughters were in the harem. If that was the case, at least in her lifetime, Madam Dowager felt that she could not see the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang reaching the pinnacle of its power. At the thought of this, she couldn’t help but contemplate. She did not want to see such a thing happen, nor did she want it to happen at all.

No... It was not just her, no one would allow such a thing to happen!

But now that she heard that Crown Prince had already treated Wei Yuewu differently, Madam Dowager suddenly felt as if someone had fiercely pinched her heart! What should she do?

“Madam Dowager, you can prevent any of this from happening if you can prevent Sixth Young Lady to participate in the selection,” Mo Huating smiled faintly and said as he saw that his words had fluctuated Madam Dowager’s emotions.

“Oh? Do you still want to continue your relationship with Yuewu, Marquis Jing Yuan?” Madam Dowager sneered and ridiculed vigilantly.

“Oh, no, Madam Dowager. You misunderstood. I’m already with Second Young Lady, so I won’t be so greedy to court Sixth Young Lady. Previously, I have made my promise to Second Young Lady, so I won’t let anyone be above her.” Mo Huating chuckled, and the sincerity in his words made Wei Ziyang feel much better.

Although his second sister was disappointing, she was still his biological sister, so he was concerned about her. He had always been concerned about the fact that Mo Huating did not want to marry Wei Yan. Now he was a little relieved when he heard Mo Huating’s passionate confession.

From the looks of it, Mo Huating did not look like a good-for-nothing. At least, he adored his second sister very much.

“Is it Fourth Prince?” Madam Dowager understood his implication immediately. After listening to Mo Huating, she frowned and asked.

“Yes!” Mo Huating came here today to represent Fourth Prince. At this time, he smiled and nodded. “Fourth Prince thinks that Sixth Young Lady is an excellent candidate for the position of his Princess Consort, so he wants to know what you think about this.”

“Princess Consort? The Prince’s official wife?” Madam Dowager asked after a moment of hesitation.

“Yes! She is naturally Princess Consort with the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang’s family background as her backing,” Mo Huating said with a smile.

“But I think the Empress should be the one who calls the shots,” Madam Dowager mumbled uncertainly. She had no place to decide on the selection of Royal Consorts. It was usually decided by the Empress. Although Fourth Prince was not the Empress’ biological son, she, who was ranked the highest in the palace harem, had the right to decide his marriage.

“Well, it was originally determined by the Empress, but Fourth Prince was worried that Crown Prince had stated his intention to the Empress since he is her biological son. Actually, Fourth Prince had stated

his intention to the Empress before, and Her Majesty had promised to consider it, but later, there was no news! Fourth Prince was worried!”

Mo Huating curled his lips into a smile.

“But... no matter what, the Empress has to be the one to decide on this!” Madam Dowager frowned and grunted, not understanding what the Fourth Prince meant. Did he want her to enter the palace to beg the Empress?

Even if she was willing to do so, the Empress might not agree to it!

“Madam Dowager, as long as your mansion is willing to be humble, this is considered a done deal!” Mo Huating had already discussed this with Fourth Prince before he came, so he was sure that Madam Dowager of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would agree with him.

He had been interacting with the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang for years, so he knew that Madam Dowager, who had been hiding in the backyard of the mansion, actually loved power and control. Therefore, he began his topic with the matter of Grand Preceptor Tu having to keep a low profile.

Sure enough, when Madam Dowager thought that even Grand Preceptor Tu had to keep a low profile after two of the mansion’s daughters entered the palace, she immediately objected to the idea of Wei Yuewu entering the Crown Prince Mansion.

“What do you mean?” Madam Dowager asked in confusion.

“Well, if you pleaded for Empress’ consent to the marriage between Fourth Prince and Sixth Young Lady, she would not agree to it. However, she would definitely agree if Sixth Young Lady were to marry Fourth Prince as his secondary concubine.”

“What are you talking about?! We, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, won’t rush our daughters to become someone’s concubines!” Madam Dowager snapped in annoyance.

"This is only temporary. As long as the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang has this desire, this matter will be considered successful when Fourth Prince goes to Empress and makes the request later. Madam Dowager, please think about it. It's killing two birds with one stone. If you go to the Empress and request for Sixth Young Lady to become a Princess Consort, I'm sure that the Empress will be irritated, and she may not even agree with the request," Mo Huating explained with a smile.

The Empress was the first lady of the country and the most powerful woman in the palace harem. She would not agree with everything that others requested. However, if the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang was willing to make a humble request, so humble that it was more insignificant than what they should deserve, and in addition to Fourth Prince's effort, it would not be a problem for Wei Yuewu to become Princess Consort.

The Fourth Prince had always been Crown Prince's henchman, so their relationship had always been good. In the future, when Crown Prince ascended to the throne, he would naturally look up to his brother who did not have any conflicts with him. Therefore, the benefits of marrying the Fourth Prince to become his Princess Consort were very obvious.

If Wei Qiufu could give birth to a son in the future, with the support of Wei Yuewu, who would be the Fourth Princess Consort, the possibility of the child being the next Crown Prince would increase a lot.

Thinking of this, Madam Dowager felt that it was a good decision for Wei Yuewu to marry Fourth Prince. It was better than the two sisters entering the Crown Prince Mansion to compete for the Crown Prince's favor.

Moreover, Wei Yuewu absolutely could not marry Crown Prince...

"What if the Empress does not agree?" Madam Dowager probed.

"That's impossible. The Empress has always respected you, Madam Dowager." Mo Huating shook his head and smiled.

"Let me think about it!" Although Madam Dowager was already tempted, she could not agree immediately as she could not make the decision for Wei Yuewu alone. Moreover, this matter was very important, but she believed that Wei Luowen would agree. After all, there was something she had never expected before, and now, she should do something about it.

“Okay, Madam Dowager. I will take my leave first!” Mo Huating was very satisfied with Madam Dowager’s reaction and said with a smile.

“Thank you, Marquis Jing Yuan, for your visit!” Madam Dowager also said politely.

“You’re welcome. The mansion of Marquis Hua Yang’s problem is my problem. Of course, I have to do my best!” Mo Huating quietly closed the distance between him and the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

Therefore, Wei Ziyang brought Mo Huating out of Madam Dowager’s courtyard and walked toward the gate of the mansion.

“Miss, what is Marquis Jing Yuan doing here?” Wei Yuewu and Jin Ling had been quietly standing in a pavilion beside the flower gate for a while. When they saw Wei Ziyang and Mo Huating walk past, Jin Ling could not help but ask curiously.

Previously, Wei Yuewu had followed Wei Luowen to the courtyard on the other side of the mansion. However, halfway up the road, Wei Yuewu asked Wei Luowen to leave first because she had something to do. After that, she quietly stayed here with Jin Ling until Mo Huating appeared.

After seeing Mo Huating disappear, Wei Yuewu returned to the chair in front of the pavilion and sat down. Her eyes narrowed slightly. Of course, Mo Huating had something to discuss with Madam Dowager. And from the looks of it, this was related to the backyard of the mansion, which was why he went straight to Madam Dowager instead of going to her father first.

Of course, it could not be related to Wei Yan. Mo Huating had always been cautious, and he would not let others be aware of Wei Yan’s matter. But since it was not about Wei Yan, what was it then? Was it about Wei Qiufu? But Wei Qiufu’s matter had been decided and settled, so there was no point for Mo Huating to see Madam Dowager because of her.

Then, her heart skipped a beat. She felt that the most likely person was herself.

“Send more people to visit Madam Dowager these few days and ask her what she needs. She is old and ill, and so many things have happened recently. As her granddaughter, I must make sure that everything

is in its orderly manner while paying regular respects to her every day. You don't have to stay by my side all the time if I am in the Tranquility Courtyard for a long time."

Wei Yuewu said with a meaningful smile.

"Yes, I understand!" Jin Ling immediately understood what Wei Yuewu implied. She wanted her to drop by Tranquility Courtyard from time to time to inquire about the news.

"Let's go and check out Mother's courtyard first!" Wei Yuewu stood up.

"That bottle..." Jin Ling reminded.

"You must leave it in the ball of thread as it had been. I must show it to Father. Only then will he suspect something." A trace of coldness flashed through Wei Yuewu's eyes. She would definitely investigate the matter of her mother. She would not let go of anyone who had harmed her mother. Of course, Doctor Ming's medicine bottle would appear in front of her father at a proper time.

In fact, it would appear at the most appropriate moment...

## Chapter 400

Wen Tianyao casually flipped through a few paintings. When he came to the last painting, his gaze fell on it, and he froze. First of all, he knew that this was definitely not the work of his third brother. The strength of the strokes in this painting looked much weaker.

At the first glance, he could tell that it was the work of a woman.

When he looked closer, he found that the woman in the portrait looked somewhat familiar. The image of a woman immediately appeared in his memory, and it became clearer.

When he looked at the signature below, he saw that it was actually Marquise Hua Yang.

Marquise Hua Yang? Wen Tianyao felt as if his heart had been stabbed, and he felt a slight pain. So this was Marquise Hua Yang?

She looked exactly like the image he stored in his memory. He curled his lips into a bitter smile. No one would have thought that the Crown Prince had never met the dignified Marquis Hua Yang's wife.

One day, he happened to ask by chance and hear that Marquise Hua Yang entered the palace to meet Mother Empress. He was intrigued to know how the vicious-looking Marquis Hua Yang could marry such a beautiful woman, so he went to steal a glance.

Only then did he know that Mother Empress disliked him seeing Marquise Hua Yang!

It was his mother's most trusted confidant who came to stop him, and her attitude was so firm that in the end, she did not hesitate to stop him by mentioning his mother's name. Because of this, he, who was still young and naive, decided to obey her order.

Then, he noticed that Marquise Hua Yang rarely entered the palace, but when she did, he would be sent away to do something that he could not refuse. The instruction came directly from Mother Empress.

This made Wen Tianyao even more suspicious.

Until one day, he saw the young woman in this painting standing among the orchid in the garden...

After that, he would occasionally go over to locate where the qin music came from and meet this woman. The music she was playing was the one Wei Qiufu had placed in the Plum Blossom Nunnery, but it was different from other women's editions of Confession of Love...

However, Wen Tianyao did not meet Marquise Hua Yang on formal occasions till the day she passed away. Hence, he had no way of knowing if the woman he met was Marquise Hua Yang.

Now, it seemed that it was! As expected, she looked somewhat similar to Wei Yuewu, but not exactly. At first glance, they did look alike, but on closer inspection, there were not many similarities. Wei Yuewu

had her eyes, but the eyes of Marquise Hua Yang in the painting seemed gentle and kind, while Wei Yuewu's eyes were a bit detached and indifferent.

"W-Where did this come from?" He heard his own voice asking coldly.

"They are all portraits of the daughters of the aristocratic families that Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State returned. I don't know why this portrait is stuck in there," the eunuch thought about it and said. The Third Prince would always draw some portraits of the young ladies of the aristocratic families and send them over in order to please the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State.

However, he returned the portraits batch after batch. This time, it was another batch of portraits that he returned.

In fact, there were only four to five of them, and each time, there would be a few that were repetitive. But this time, for some reason, this portrait was contained in this batch of portraits that were returned.

"Did the people from the mansion of Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State send these over?" Wen Tianyao's brows furrowed even more. Yan Huaijing was paying attention to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang and even to Marquise Hua Yang.

However, he handed the portrait to him. Did he do it intentionally?

Wen Tianyao's gaze involuntarily fell on the beautiful and feminine brushing style of the portrait. It was obvious that this was not drawn by Yan Huaijing, but by a young lady instead. He had seen Yan Huaijing's handwriting before. His brush strokes were strong and vigorous. Although the painting in front of him was very good, it could be seen that the brush strokes were not strong enough.

A young lady? The young aristocratic lady beside Yan Huaijing?

As soon as this thought appeared, he withdrew it. That young lady had been in Yan Huaijing's mansion all the time and never left. In fact, Marquise Hua Yang had passed away years ago, so the young lady would never have the chance to meet her.

However, this portrait obviously looked new.

If it was not drawn by the young lady, who drew this?

He inexplicably remembered that he had asked Wei Yuewu to find a portrait of her mother, and his heart skipped a beat upon this thought. Was this portrait drawn by her?

The only people who could paint Marquise Hua Yang's portrait accurately were none other than the young ladies in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

Right now, there were only four young ladies in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang who were still unmarried.

Wei Yuejiao was a concubine-born daughter, so she wouldn't draw the Marquise's portrait. Wei Qiufu was from the third branch, and she wouldn't draw it either. It was even more impossible for the other concubine-born daughter to draw it.

At this point, he figured that Wei Yuewu was the most likely person. It would explain the light and dainty brushing style. Wei Yuewu looked quite agile and petite, so it showed that she had extraordinary skills for her to draw a fine portrait like this. However, women were innately inferior to men in terms of strength. This was difficult to make up for.

Thinking of this, Wen Tianyao was almost certain that it was Wei Yuewu who drew the portrait.

But why did Yan Huaijing have this portrait? It made Wen Tianyao even more suspicious.

"Your Highness, Third Prince is here!" Another eunuch came in and informed.

"Hurry up and invite him in!" Wen Tianyao nodded with his hands behind his back.

The Third Prince followed behind a eunuch and was about to bow to Wen Tianyao when he was stopped. "Third Brother, you don't have to do this. Come and see this. This portrait was returned together with the portraits Yan Huaijing returned to me. It's Marquise Hua Yang's portrait."

"Marquise Hua Yang?" The Third Prince was stunned for a moment. He obviously did not expect such a thing to happen.

"Come and take a look. Is it Marquise Hua Yang?" Wen Tianyao pulled Third Prince over and showed him the portrait he had placed on the table.

The Third Prince came over and looked at the woman in the portrait. The face in the painting was somewhat familiar. It was clearly the image of the gentle woman in his memory.

He thought that he had forgotten this image, but once he saw the portrait, the image suddenly appeared in his mind so clearly.

The face was sincere and gentle. It had once made him so attached to her. It was not only him, but also...

At that moment, he was greedy for the motherly gentleness, so much so that he deliberately followed her to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, just because this woman could make him feel the gentleness and caress of a mother...

It was so beautiful at first, but in the end, the beauty of that precious moment became another painful memory. The Third Prince clenched his hands fiercely, and his eyes twitched unconsciously. There were some things he couldn't get over.

Those things were about Marquise Hua Yang, himself, and also Sixth Miss Wei.

"Third Brother, did you see this?" Noticing the pain and struggle on the Third Prince's face, Wen Tianyao asked cautiously and sighed inexplicably. It seemed that it was true. Perhaps Marquise Hua Yang mistook him for Third Prince at that time.

"Yes, it was Marquise Hua Yang!" The Third Prince's hand slowly relaxed, and he exhaled forcefully. It was as if he had breathed out the air that caused his suffocation in his chest.

"Who do you think drew it? Wei Yuewu?" Wen Tianyao reached out and patted his shoulder, seemingly comforting him.

This third brother had no greed and desire, and the two of them shared a good relationship. Because of this, he would help him no matter what.

"It's very possible." The Third Prince collected his thoughts and nodded.

"Can it be Wei Qiufu? I heard that Marquise Hua Yang treated her very well," Wen Tianyao probed.

That day, Wei Qiufu said that Marquise Hua Yang treated her even better than Wei Yuewu. This was really strange. Who would treat their own daughter badly but treat other people's daughter well?

"She treated other people's daughters well." The Third Prince nodded and felt a pain in his heart. She was kind to everyone, which was why that kind of thing happened to her.

He had never been able to forget that matter and had blamed himself because of that over the years. Things would probably have never happened in this way had he not yearned for the motherly gentleness and warmth from her, had he not come back and talked about Marquise Hua Yang all the time, and had she not been so gentle and kind...

"Did she treat them better than her own daughter?" Wen Tianyao asked in surprise.

"Equally well!" The Third Prince lowered his eyes to hide the pain in his eyes. After Marquise Hua Yang passed away, he could draw her, but her image had gradually faded away in his memory. It felt as if he couldn't draw it even if he wanted to.

But when he saw the painting today, it was as if he had returned to the past. At that time, he was still young. No one took care of him, and he yearned to have a mother who could take care of him gently, but he did not have one...

“Why do you think Yan Huaijing has this?” Wen Tianyao sighed silently, waking up Third Prince from his thoughts. Every time he talked about Marquise Hua Yang, his brother would look so sad and sorrowful, but there was a hint of longing in his expression.

At that time, even though he was curious about Marquise Hua Yang, he did not dare to ask his brother to draw her portrait.

“Maybe Wei Yuewu gave it to him,” the Third Prince said after pondering for a moment.

“Why?” Wen Tianyao asked, although his answer was in line with his assumption.

“No matter how powerful Yan Huaijing is, he can’t go inside an unmarried young lady’s room and take a painting from there. I think he must have asked Sixth Miss Wei to draw this. I heard that Yan Huaijing saved her once when she came to the capital and again during Madam Dowager’s birthday banquet. He has saved her life twice. So I think it’s not a big deal for him to ask her for a portrait, and it is not her own portrait.”

It sounded reasonable and made sense. Wen Tianyao thought for a while and was a little dismayed when he remembered that he had asked Wei Yuewu to search for Marquise Hua Yang’s portrait but she never gave him.

“So, Yan Huaijing asked Wei Yuewu to draw this portrait. Of course, his target is not Wei Yuewu, but Wei Luowen, Marquis Hua Yang,” the Third Prince looked at Wen Tianyao and said.

Wei Luowen was an important official of the imperial court, and he also guarded the border with the State of Yan. It could be said that he held an extremely important position.

There was naturally a reason why Yan Huaijing valued him.

“Eldest Brother, could Yan Huaijing have taken a fancy to Wei Yuewu?” The Third Prince suddenly thought of a possibility, and his expression changed.

"It's very possible!" It dawned upon Wen Tianyao. When he first met Wei Yuewu, Yan Huaijing said something ambiguous and meaningful, and then, a series of events happened that indicated that Yan Huaijing had another and deeper meaning. Of course, his main focus was Wei Luowen.

"Then what should we do?" The Third Prince frowned.

"We don't have to do anything. Marquis Hua Yang has already reported the matter at the border to Father Emperor. He is willing to let Wei Ziyang take up the job. He will only have an idle position in the capital," Wen Tianyao said indifferently. In this way, although the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang's overall strength did not increase, the center of power was leaning toward the entire second branch, and the main branch was basically powerless!

"Why did Marquis Hua Yang do this?" This was definitely not a small matter. The Third Prince's expression changed slightly...