

Young Lady 411

Chapter 411

“What? Fourth Princess’ carriage almost flipped over? Later on, the Heir-apparent of Yan sent someone to send her back?! He even said that he was coming to see me and talked to me about the screen?!” Jing Wenyan was shocked and abruptly stood up from the qin. She almost ruined her elegant appearance.

“Y-Yes, I heard it from someone. It is said that there were many people at that time. They all heard the Heir-apparent of Yan’s order,” the maid timidly answered as she witnessed Jing Wenyan lost her usual graceful posture.

“Let’s go. Let’s go to Duke of Yan State Mansion!” Jing Wenyan stood up and pushed away the qin in front of her. Because she had used too much force, the expensive qin fell to the floor, and one of the strings snapped.

“Miss...” The maid cried out in alarm as she pointed at the qin, her face turning pale. This was Eldest Young Lady’s favorite qin. There was once a maid who accidentally scratched it a bit, and her hands were chopped off as a punishment.

“Let’s go!” Jing Wenyan did not even take a look at the broken qin. She lifted her skirt and walked down the stairs.

The maid did not dare to hesitate. She hurriedly lowered her head and followed behind with small steps, hurrying out.

Not long after, the carriage of the mansion of Duke of Jing stopped outside Duke of Yan State Mansion’s gate. Looking at the large signboard of Duke of Yan State Mansion, Jing Wenyan took a deep breath and held the maid’s hand as she got off the carriage. Just as she was about to walk forward, she was stopped by a bodyguard.

“Eldest Miss Jing!” The bodyguard bowed to her respectfully. “The heir-apparent is resting now, so he asked you to go back.”

“Resting?” Jing Wenyan looked up at the sky. “The heir-apparent is resting at this time?”

It was noon, and he had just returned to the mansion not long ago...

"The heir-apparent has always been casual," the bodyguard answered respectfully. The intention of refusal was too obvious, so much so that Jing Wenyan felt embarrassed and awkward. She was the most beautiful woman in the country, and Yan Huaijing was the only one who would chase her away.

"I can give the screen to the heir-apparent now!" Jing Wenyan tried her best to maintain her calm. "Can you inform him about my visit? He was quite eager to get the screen earlier."

"I'm sorry, Eldest Miss Jing. The heir-apparent said that he is not free at this moment even if you come because of the screen. When he has time, he will go to your mansion to ask for it. He will not trouble you." The bodyguard was well prepared. He remarked word by word according to what Yan Huaijing asked him to say.

These remarks were like a verbal slap to Jing Wenyan's face. The meaning behind the words was very clear. Yan Huaijing didn't want her to come to the Duke of Yan State Mansion, even if it was about the screen.

"I..." Jing Wenyan's face turned red and pale. In the end, she could only stomp her feet helplessly and turn back to the carriage. If Yan Huaijing let her in today, the Fourth Princess would not do anything to her. After all, the princess did not know how much she meant to Yan Huaijing, so the princess would not dare to go too far despite being arrogant.

But now that Yan Huaijing did not let her in, it clearly meant that Yan Huaijing had no intention of protecting her. In that case, everything she had hinted to the Fourth Princess, such as how Yan Huaijing had feelings for her, would be nullified.

"Miss..." The maid timidly looked at Jing Wenyan, who was sitting in the carriage with a gloomy expression.

"Let's go to Crown Prince Mansion!" Jing Wenyan gritted her teeth. If there was another person that the Fourth Princess would be wary of, it was definitely the Crown Prince. She didn't want to be too eye-catching at first, but if she didn't help herself this time, the Fourth Princess' wrath would be enough to burn her.

Jing Wenyan was very clear about her identity and status. Despite her title as the number one beauty in the country, it meant nothing in practice because the State of Jing had been gone.

Did Yan Huaijing really have no feelings for her? Why? Was she not worthy enough for him?

In this world, other than her, who else could be worthy of the elegant Yan Huaijing? Ever since she saw Yan Huaijing when she was a little girl, she had been working hard and trying hard to be worthy of him. But why did he treat her like this?

Did she do something that annoyed him? But she didn't do anything today. She simply used him to stall the Fourth Princess...

The carriage slowly moved, turned around, and left the Duke of Yan State Mansion.

The bodyguard watched the carriage leave before returning to the mansion to report. In front of the flat stage of the tall building, layers of curtains were raised. Yan Huaijing wore a pure white long robe, and there was no ribbon tied around his waist. However, he had the elegance of a famous scholar.

He casually leaned on the couch, narrowed his eyes, looked at the sky outside, picked up a book, and leisurely read it. The candle on the incense burner next to him curled up.

"Your Heir-apparent, Eldest Miss Jing left." The bodyguard came over and knelt down on one knee.

"Is she going in the direction of the Crown Prince Mansion?" Yan Huaijing did not raise his head, his handsome eyes still falling on the page in his hand.

"Yes, I saw that her carriage went in that direction," the bodyguard reported truthfully.

"Don't worry about her!" Yan Huaijing raised his fairy-like face, a faint smile on his lips. He had never really cared about Jing Wenyan's actions, but now that Jing Wenyan dared to manipulate his little fox, he was upset.

Yan Huaijing didn't feel that he had to spend too much effort on someone he didn't care about. However, if that person tested his limit and crossed the line, he would immediately take action.

The Fourth Princess' carriage almost capsized, and Jing Wenyan went to see Wen Tianyao. The more muddled the capital was, the better...

At this time, Wei Yuewu had returned to the mansion and she was in her own courtyard. After washing up, she sat down at the table.

"Miss, Lord Marquis went out and hasn't returned yet. I have already asked Yan Feng to follow him. It seems that he travels quite far today because he took a carriage," Jin Ling came to report.

Indeed, if he went out on a carriage at this time, it meant that Wei Luowen would travel far today. He was injured, so he couldn't ride a horse if it was a distance away.

"Did he go to Concubine Dong's place?" Wei Yuewu looked at her tender fingers and asked softly.

"No, and he didn't send anyone to ask her, as if this matter had nothing to do with Concubine Dong!" Jin Ling said with some dissatisfaction. "Miss, no matter how we look at it, this matter has something to do with Concubine Dong. Why didn't Lord Marquis ask her or send someone to investigate? Did Lord Marquis have no intention to avenge Madam?"

"I think he must have had a target now!" Wei Yuewu raised her head.

"Does Lord Marquis know who murdered Madam? Isn't it Concubine Dong?" A few maids looked at Wei Yuewu in shock. In their hearts, they had long connected Concubine Dong with Marquise Hua Yang's death.

But now, Wei Yuewu actually told them that Concubine Dong had nothing to do with it! They refused to believe it!

Wei Yuewu did not believe it either. She looked out of the window with a cold gaze. She had seen Concubine Dong's temperament clearly in this period of time. Every time Concubine Dong attacked her, she would not leave any leeway. All of Concubine Dong's schemes were intended to force her into a desperate situation. Even if it was not death, she would slander her. How could such a person be innocent?

How could Concubine Dong just watch quietly as Mother was in Marquise Hua Yang's position? Based on Nurse Han's words and the interaction between Concubine Dong and Lady Li when Mother gave birth to her, Wei Yuewu was sure that they wanted Mother to die during labor.

However, her father trusted Concubine Dong so much that he didn't even ask her about this. It seemed that after so many years, Concubine Dong still had a good image in her father's eyes.

"When Yan Yang comes back, find out where my father went," Wei Yuewu said indifferently.

"Miss, Concubine Dong is unusually quiet. She doesn't even do anything. I saw that her courtyard was quite busy. From time to time, maids and old maidservants would come over to report. Even when a few maids and old maidservants were chased out, there was a new batch coming in." Shufei had been observing the situation on Concubine Dong's side.

Of course, Wei Yuewu did not believe that Concubine Dong would not do anything after suffering such a loss.

Concubine Dong's maids and old maidservants were mostly brought from the border. However, after this incident, there should be fewer people. Even Nanny Dong had been eliminated, so she should not have that many trusted servants by her side now.

Concubine Dong was still in charge of the affairs in the backyard of the mansion, so she certainly lacked the manpower. She could order about Madam Dowager's people, but it was not as convenient as her own people. There should be her most trusted servant at the border.

It was easy to make mistakes in a flurry, especially this time. Concubine Dong should not be able to endure for long!

"Has Wei Yuejiao been to Concubine Dong's place?"

“No, but Concubine Dong went to her courtyard in a hurry. I heard that the chaos at Third Miss’ place did not stop. The situation got better when Concubine Dong went to persuade her.” Shufei thought for a while and replied.

Leisurely picking up the teacup and taking a sip, Wei Yuewu slowly put the cup down. Looking at the ripples in the cup, she curled her lips into a faint smile. It seemed that Concubine Dong was really in a terrible fix!

She had lost her most trusted servant, and a large group of people were kicked out. Next, new maids should be sent to Concubine Dong’s place. But Wei Yuewu observed Concubine Dong’s reaction when the new people were sent to Concubine Dong. She seemed quite calm and relaxed about it. Did it mean that there were her people among these new maids?

Concubine Dong brought some people with her when she came back from the border. However, there were not many people in the courtyard originally, so it was very likely that these people did not enter the mansion because of internal matters.

But this time, Concubine Dong needed more servants.

Wei Yuewu had to quickly deal with the matter of her mother’s shops, or these shops would become Concubine Dong’s and Madam Dowager’s!

Coincidentally, Concubine Dong did not have enough manpower right now...

“Is Sixth Young Lady in there?” A familiar voice suddenly came from outside the courtyard. Wei Yuewu was stunned for a moment before she suddenly thought of something. Her lips curled into a cold smile silently. This person had really come at the right time. She had originally been wondering how to talk about this matter!

“Jin Ling, go invite her in!”

Wei Yuewu smiled faintly and put away the dowry list that was placed on the table. She picked up the teacup at the table and took a sip. Her clear eyes were raised as she quietly waited for that person to come in.

Not long after Jin Ling went out, she heard a voice. Shufei hurriedly went over and lifted the curtain and smiled as she waited at the door...

Chapter 412

Nanny Hong walked over with a smile and seemed to be in a pleasant mood. "Greetings, Sixth Young Lady."

Wei Yuewu hurriedly stood up and helped Nanny Hong up. "You're too polite, Nanny Hong. May I know if Grandmother wants me to do something?"

"Eldest Young Lady sustained a hand injury in the palace the other day. Today, she sent a message, saying that her injury had recovered and that she missed Madam Dowager and wanted to see her. Madam Dowager figured that you must have been worried about Eldest Young Lady, so she asked me to come and inform you and Fifth Young Lady to go over to Eldest Young Lady's residence to visit her."

"Why aren't Third Elder Sister and Fourth Elder Sister going?" Wei Yuewu asked with a surprised expression. She raised her eyes and smiled, looking as if she was purely curious.

"Third Young Lady is resting in her room because of her injury, and it's inconvenient for her to go out. Fourth Young Lady's status has been affirmed, so it is inconvenient for her to visit other mansions," Nanny Hong explained with a smile.

"So, only Fifth Sister and I will go with Grandmother?" Wei Yuewu asked softly. Tomorrow, Shopkeeper Liu would come to the mansion. It meant so much for Madam Dowager to take her away at this time.

"Yes, Madam Dowager will bring you and Fifth Young Lady over. As for Fifth Young Lady's matter, Madam Dowager will discuss it with Princess Nan'an. After all, she is one of the young ladies in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. If she is made to look shabby, it will not be good for everyone's reputation," Nanny Hong said.

"But... Is it appropriate for me to go?" Wei Yuewu frowned. "This matter... I..."

"Sixth Young Lady, it's fine. If you don't go, Fifth Young Lady will feel so lonely. You should join her." Nanny Hong quickly persuaded, knowing why Wei Yuewu hesitated.

"Uh... Alright!" Wei Yuewu nodded despite looking a little reluctant.

"It's a deal then. I'll take my leave now. Excuse me, Sixth Young Lady." Nanny Hong immediately smiled and retreated, not giving Wei Yuewu a chance to change her mind.

Wei Yuewu stood up and wanted to see Nanny Hong off, but Nanny Hong smiled and stopped her. "Please sit down. I need to go to Concubine Dong's courtyard over some matter. There are a lot of things going on in the mansion, so Madam Dowager is very busy."

"Okay. Be careful, Nanny Hong!" With a gentle smile, Wei Yuewu asked Jin Ling to send Nanny Hong to the door. They actually granted her wish. Wei Yuewu figured that she had to spend a lot of effort on this matter, but it seemed that she was not the only one who was anxious. Madam Dowager and Concubine Dong were even more anxious...

After walking out of Lotus Courtyard, Nanny Hong went straight to Concubine Dong's courtyard with a gloomy expression. Madam Dowager had asked her to convey some other messages to Concubine Dong.

To be honest, Nanny Hong did not understand why Madam Dowager did what she did now. In her opinion, those shops were not that important at all. If they made a fuss over those shops, everyone would be ashamed. Moreover, the matter did not end there!

It seemed that Madam Dowager was sure that Sixth Young Lady would not succeed in the future.

However, Nanny Hong had a feeling that Sixth Young Lady was not a pushover...

Concubine Dong's courtyard did not look as neat as it used to be. There were a few servants in the courtyard, all of them lowering their heads, looking listless and dazed.

Hearing that Nanny Hong had come over, Concubine Dong brought a few maids to the door to welcome her.

“Nanny Hong, please come in!” Concubine Dong said politely. Although her face looked a little pale, her complexion was not so bad.

Nanny Hong followed Concubine Dong into the room. She sat down, picked up the teacup beside her, and took a sip. Then, she glanced at the people around Concubine Dong but did not say anything.

Understanding what she meant, Concubine Dong waved her hand to dismiss them. Everyone left, leaving only her and Nanny Hong in the room.

“Madam Dowager asked me to come over and inform you that if you want to annex those shops, please hurry. Don’t delay any longer. Lately, Lord Marquis has expressed a strong intention to support Sixth Young Lady,” Nanny Hong put down the teacup in her hand and said indifferently.

Sure enough, Madam Dowager knew what Concubine Dong was doing.

“D-Did Madam Dowager say so?!” Concubine Dong was shocked at first, but then she was overjoyed. To her surprise, Madam Dowager did not reprimand her.

“Yes. Madam Dowager wanted to inform you to do it in complete secrecy, and you should know what to say if Lord Marquis found out about this!” Nanny Hong’s face darkened.

“Yes, I know. I can’t blame others since the management has been bad. I was the one who ran those shops before, but because I’ve always been at the border, I can’t deal with the problems fast enough. Then, I handed the management over to Second Lady, but there are some things that she didn’t manage properly.” Concubine Dong understood and nodded repeatedly.

In this way, she took the blame for the three shops that were supposed to belong to Madam Dowager.

Madam Dowager allowed her to snatch the two shops under her nose because the former needed her to be the shield. If anything happened, and Lord Marquis found out about it, Concubine Dong must be the one to take all the blame, and she could not drag Madam Dowager into this. Concubine Dong was very clear on this point.

Madam Dowager had always been the one who was in charge of the family affairs of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Even Qin Xinrui had a miserable end after irritating Madam Dowager.

“Madam Dowager ordered Sixth Young Lady to go to Prince Nan’an Mansion tomorrow with her!” Nanny Hong said, but she believed that Concubine Dong would understand the implication of this message.

“Okay. I’ll let them handle the matter quickly...” At this point, Concubine Dong suddenly frowned. Just now, she received news from the shopkeepers, saying that something had happened to the goods, and they needed more time to take care of the issue.

Originally, the matter would be over once they transferred the goods directly. However, because of some trouble, it would take longer time than expected. Of course, she had to act faster since Madam Dowager came to urge her. She hoped that she could finish the matter that needed to be done by her tomorrow.

The matter was for her to sign the papers. She would first sign the papers in order for the shopkeepers to take care of the goods. Then, she would send the official invoice with the official seal. At that point, she would complete all the procedures, and it was useless for Wei Yuewu to fight for the shops.

“Do you face some difficulties?” Nanny Hong asked as she heard the dilemma in Concubine Dong’s tone.

“Yes, there are some problems on my side, but please inform Madam Dowager that I’ll definitely settle this matter tomorrow,” Concubine Dong hurriedly said with a smile.

Recently, she had upset Madam Dowager over and over again, so she did not dare to upset Madam Dowager again over such a small matter.

She was confident that she would be able to regain Madam Dowager's trust after she had settled all the matters.

Nanny Hong was quite satisfied with Concubine Dong's tactfulness. After saying a few more words to Concubine Dong, she stood up and left. Concubine Dong escorted Nanny Hong to the door.

"Concubine, Third Young Lady asked me to come over!" Jinzhu came in from outside the courtyard and greeted Concubine Dong.

"Come in!" Concubine Dong nodded, turned around, and walked inside.

Jinzhu and Yuzhu were originally her most trusted servants. She appointed both of them to Wei Yuejiao in order to give her guidance. However, now that she did not have any trusted servant by her side, she talked to Wei Yuejiao about it, and Jinzhu was temporarily transferred back.

"Jinzhu, get someone to send this letter to the border and transfer Nurse Li over." Concubine Dong walked to the writing desk, took out a letter, and handed it to Jinzhu.

"Concubine, didn't you say that you wouldn't transfer Nurse Li to the capital? Nurse Li is directly in charge of the affairs of the mansion at the border. If she comes over, who will take her place at the border?"

Jinzhu asked in surprise as she took the letter from Concubine Dong.

Nurse Li was one of Concubine Dong's most capable servants, which was why she had full authority over the affairs in the mansion at the border after Concubine Dong left the border. If Nanny Li was transferred over, Concubine Dong would have had one less useful person at the border.

"I'll think about it after she is transferred over," Concubine Dong grunted with a gloomy face. There was still a trace of worry in her eyes. It had been so many years. Doctor Ming should not remember Nurse Li whom he had met once again, right?

However, she was not afraid even if he remembered. There were two sides to the story, and there were only two people there at that time. Even if he brought it up and argued about it, no one would win the argument due to the lack of witnesses. She believed that Doctor Ming was a smart person and would not bring this matter up.

At this moment, Concubine Dong had no idea that Wei Yuewu had already tricked Doctor Ming into bringing this matter up.

“Tell the shopkeepers of the two shops to bring the account books, seals, and whatnot into the mansion tomorrow. We must hurry up and settle this problem. Also, go and check the goods over there. Try to find out what had happened and why they suddenly became chaotic. It was properly arranged all the while, wasn’t it?”

“I don’t know what happened either, but I will inform them in a while!” Jinzhu nodded. She was the one who conveyed the messages from the two shopkeepers to Concubine Dong.

Everything happened all of a sudden. The shop assistants did not arrange things properly and even broke some things. Some of the items were expensive and precious. At this moment, the shopkeepers’ hands were tied, and they were very busy handling the matter.

However, it should not be difficult for them to bring the account books and seals over.

Jinzhu thought about it and nodded. She turned around and hesitated for a moment, but then she turned back and said, “Concubine, Third Young Lady is sad!”

“So what? Didn’t I tell her to rest quietly? We can talk about other things later. If anything happens again at this time, she will really annoy her father!” Concubine Dong sighed. At the thought of this matter, her face was full of hatred.

No matter how she interpreted this matter, it was related to that little bitch Wei Yuewu, but she could not find any clues that linked to her.

The geomancer, who had suddenly changed his mind, had already been thrown out of the mansion. She had sent people to look for him, but her people told her that the geomancer had run away, leaving no clue for her to find his whereabouts.

She would not suffer this loss for nothing, but this was not the best time to make a move. All she needed to do now was work with Madam Dowager and let Wei Yuewu bear the consequences.

With Madam Dowager involved, she believed that Lord Marquis would not expose this matter. Madam Dowager had always been good to Lord Marquis. She had a dispute with him over Qin Xinrui's matter, but other than that, she basically listened to Lord Marquis. Lord Marquis was aware of it, and he respected Madam Dowager very much.

"Does Lord Tu plan to come to the mansion these days?" This was what she should focus on now.

"Yes, I think he will be coming in these two days. The lad servant said that Lord Marquis had sent his invitation over." Jinzhu inquired about this in person. After some thought, she nodded and informed Concubine Dong.

"Is everything ready?" A trace of a grin appeared on Concubine Dong's gloomy face.

"Yes, everything is ready!"

Chapter 413

"Miss, are you really going to Third Young Lady's place? But now..." Huamo looked at Wei Yuejiao's courtyard hesitantly and advised again.

In her opinion, it was extremely inappropriate for Wei Yuewu to go to the Third Young Lady's courtyard now. Previously, when Fourth Young Lady went to visit Third Young Lady, they had a dispute and even dragged the matter to the Madam Dowager. Huamo figured that it was not a good time for Wei Yuewu to go there at this time.

"Alright. Let's go back!" Wei Yuewu took her advice, turned around, and walked back.

In fact, they had already walked to the door of Wei Yuejiao's Fengyi Courtyard. Even the old maidservant, who was guarding the door, saw them and stood there with her hands down.

"Miss, they saw us!" Huamo widened her eyes and looked at the old maidservant at the entrance of the courtyard. Then, she looked at Wei Yuewu and reminded Wei Yuewu in confusion.

She had actually been persuading Wei Yuewu along the way, but Wei Yuewu wouldn't budge. Now that they had come to the entrance of the courtyard, Wei Yuewu suddenly decided to leave. Huamo was clueless and could not figure out what Wei Yuewu was trying to do.

However, Huamo had always trusted Wei Yuewu, so despite her doubt, she followed Wei Yuewu and turned around decisively. Then, under the old maidservant's shocked gaze, they walked away.

Wei Yuewu reminded, "The letter!"

"Oh, yes, Miss!" Huamo hurriedly took two steps forward, and a folded note fell to the ground silently. Then, she suddenly came to her senses, and a smile immediately appeared on her face.

Originally, she thought that Wei Yuewu would directly send this note to the Third Young Lady, and she felt that it was inappropriate. Yet, she had never expected Wei Yuewu to pass the note to the Third Young Lady in such a way.

The old maidservant, who was guarding the door of Fengyi Courtyard, stared in disbelief as she watched Wei Yuewu come with her maid and then leave decisively. She was dumbstruck for a moment and then felt that she'd better report this.

Everyone in Fengyi Courtyard knew that Third Young Lady disliked Sixth Young Lady very much.

"What? Wei Yuewu came and then left? What the hell did she mean by that?" When she heard that Wei Yuewu had actually left immediately after she arrived at her gate, Wei Yuejiao was furious, and she stood up abruptly.

“Yes, Third Young Lady. They came all the way to the door and then suddenly turned around and left,” the old maidservant honestly reported.

“Let’s go and take a look!” Wei Yuejiao was furious.

Previously, after Wei Qiufu came to see her, she was reprimanded by Grandmother. This time, Wei Yuewu had come to the door but didn’t enter her courtyard. Was Wei Yuewu implying that she wasn’t worthy of her sisterhood?

At the thought of this, Wei Yuejiao gritted her teeth in hatred. In her opinion, all the young ladies in this mansion were pretentious and hypocritical. She disliked every single one of them. So, what if Wei Qiufu was elected to enter Crown Prince Mansion? The Crown Prince did not even appoint her as a consort, yet she made it look like her status had suddenly become much nobler.

Not only that, but Wei Qiufu also dared to frame her! Wei Yuejiao was up in arms when she thought of this.

Apart from Wei Yan, no one dared to offend and provoke her. Yet this time, not only the slut Wei Yuewu, but even Wei Qiufu also dared to insult her.

Wei Yuewu was nowhere to be seen outside the courtyard, but a sharp-eyed maid noticed a letter at the spot where Wei Yuewu had stood earlier. She hurriedly said, “Miss, there’s a note over there.”

“Bring it over!” Wei Yuejiao ordered with a gloomy face.

“Yes.” The maid bowed, rushed to pick up the note, and handed it to Wei Yuejiao.

Wei Yuejiao took the note and casually unfolded it. However, when she read the content, her expression changed drastically, and she trembled with rage.

“Where did she go?” Wei Yuejiao crumpled the paper in her hand and asked sternly.

The old maidservant who was guarding the door knew that she was asking about Wei Yuewu, so she pointed in a direction and stammered, “T-T-T-That way...”

“Let’s go! Let’s go take a look!” Wei Yuejiao strode out.

“Miss, Concubine Dong asked you to rest in the yard and not to go out,” Yuzhu hurriedly stopped her although she did not know what was written on the note.

“I’m just taking a stroll. I won’t do anything!” Although she tried to make herself sound calm and composed, everyone could see that she was exasperated.

“Should we go and ask Concubine’s permission first?” Yuzhu asked gingerly as she did not dare to stop her directly.

“Concubine, Concubine! Concubine is all you can say! I’m just planning to take a stroll around the yard, yet I have to ask for Concubine’s permission! Am I your master or not?!” Wei Yuejiao was frustrated at this moment. Yuzhu’s question drove her up the wall, and she bellowed.

Plop! Yuzhu hurriedly knelt down and explained, “You are my master. I will never forget that!”

Wei Yuejiao knew that she shouldn’t vent her anger on Yuzhu, so she calmed down and said, “Let’s go!”

After saying that, Wei Yuejiao turned around and walked in the direction where Wei Yuewu left. She was determined to ask Wei Yuewu about what was going on. Yuzhu’s hands were tied, and she hastily kept up with Wei Yuejiao.

At this moment, Wei Yuewu was sitting in a seat in the pavilion where the sunshine shone and chatted with Jin Ling, who was standing beside her.

The sun shone on her elegant clothes. When one looked from afar, she looked otherworldly gorgeous. Her beauty was so significant and unique that she could be seen at a glance even if she was in the middle of the crowd.

However, Wei Yuejiao loathed her beauty the most. She gritted her teeth and strode over to Wei Yuwu.

In the pavilion, Wei Yuwu seemed to have noticed Wei Yuejiao's arrival. She turned around and looked at her. There was a trace of clear disgust in her eyes. At this moment, Wei Yuwu stood up as if she was going to leave with Jin Ling through another exit.

"Wei Yuwu, stop right there!" Wei Yuejiao was anxious and roared in a shrill voice.

"Third Elder Sister, what a surprise! They say that you are resting in your room. Why did you come here? You may catch a cold if you come here as it is quite chilly!" Wei Yuwu stopped abruptly and seemed to be surprised to see Wei Yuejiao here.

However, Wei Yuwu made it look as if she was somewhat reluctant to see Wei Yuejiao.

It was clear that Wei Yuwu did not want to see her.

However, Wei Yuejiao was determined to bump into Wei Yuwu right here!

Wei Yuejiao walked over and put on a fake smile. "I heard that you passed by my courtyard but didn't enter. I especially came after you to see if there was something urgent that you needed to tend to. I didn't expect you to merely come here to admire the scenery."

She was implying that Wei Yuwu didn't care about her injured sister because she wanted to admire the scenery. This news would not be good for Wei Yuwu's reputation if it spread out.

"I wanted to visit you, Third Elder Sister, but suddenly, I remembered I had something to do, so I planned to visit you next time," Wei Yuwu said with a smile. The displeasure on her face seemed to have disappeared.

"What's the matter? Why are you in such a hurry?" Wei Yuejiao held the note in her sleeve and asked proudly.

“Actually, it’s not a big deal. Something happened on Fourth Elder Sister’s side, so I specially came over to take a look. Fourth Elder Sister might come over later,” Wei Yuewu calmly explained.

“Sixth Younger Sister, you’re going to Prince Nan’an Mansion tomorrow, aren’t you?” Wei Yuejiao decided to get straight to the point and sneered.

“Yes, everyone is going other than Fourth Elder Sister, isn’t it? Third Elder Sister, are you feeling better? How is your injury? You’d better not go if you don’t feel well,” Wei Yuewu glanced at her hand casually and said meaningfully.

“Of course, I will go!” Wei Yuejiao gritted her teeth and said. Even though Grandmother had not sent anyone over to inform her at this time, someone should have come over later.

“Speaking of which, Third Elder Sister, your hand hasn’t recovered yet. You have a good reason not to go. Why don’t you just rest at home?” Wei Yuewu suggested softly.

Wei Yuewu sounded as if she was advising Wei Yuejiao, but her gaze was cold and aloof, and there was a bit of provocation in her gesture.

“Don’t worry, Grandmother will let me go. Even if Grandmother is concerned about me and doesn’t let me go, she will let you stay to keep me company. We are biological sisters. Compared with other sisters, we should be closer to each other and support each other, am I right?” Wei Yuejiao said with a fake smile.

However, her words sounded as if she squeezed the words out through her gnashing teeth.

“But... Your hand...” Wei Yuewu’s face was full of concern. In Wei Yuejiao’s eyes, that kind of concern was obviously hypocritical.

“Yes, my hand is injured, but my legs are fine, and I can walk. Also, I can’t lock myself in the yard all day long. I should come out occasionally to breathe some fresh air!” Wei Yuejiao said bluntly.

“Maybe Grandmother won’t agree,” Wei Yuewu said.

“So what? I’m going to visit Eldest Sister. We have a good relationship. When I was in the capital, she took care of me. Now that she’s injured, I should go and visit her.” Wei Yuejiao looked calm and serious. At this moment, she had calmed down. Although the look in her eyes was cold, the expression on her face was natural.

“But... I don’t think it’s a good idea.” Wei Yuewu began to look worried and constantly stole a peek at the road. It was as if she was waiting for Wei Qiufu to appear.

“What’s so bad about that? How do you know about my relationship with Eldest Sister? You just grew up in the countryside. How can you understand the sisterhood of my relationship with Eldest Sister!” The more Wei Yuewu refused to let her go, the more Wei Yuejiao believed the words on the note. Thinking of what the note said, she gritted her teeth even more.

If she didn’t go, she might end up with Xie Qingzhao. Wei Yuewu was so cunning to stop her from going. In her dreams!

Wei Yuejiao didn’t understand what Grandmother and her father were thinking to match her up with the pathetic Xie Qingzhao. Was it because of her identity as a concubine-born daughter?

Thinking of Xie Qingzhao, Wei Yuejiao began to glare at Wei Yuewu in an indignant way. Originally, she was confident that she would become the legitimate daughter after returning to the capital. If it hadn’t been for Wei Yuewu, she would not have had so much trouble now.

To make matters worse, Xie Qingzhao came her way!

Among all the men in the world, Wei Yuejiao hated Xie Qingzhao the most!

“Third Elder Sister, do you know something?” Wei Yuewu sounded somewhat curious.

“Yeah, someone is hiding something from me.” Wei Yuejiao sneered, her gaze burning on Wei Yuewu’s face, wanting to observe the slightest change in her expression.

Wei Yuewu was a cunning and devious slut, so she had to observe her carefully.

“Third Elder Sister, I was joking with you just now. Grandmother confirmed to let me and Fifth Sister go to visit Eldest Sister. Grandmother wants you to rest, so she doesn’t let you go,” Wei Yuewu suddenly smiled and said indifferently.

There was no panic or any intention of hiding the fact. She just looked at Wei Yuejiao calmly. However, her expression made Wei Yuejiao more and more convinced that Wei Yuewu did not mean what she said.

That note was real...

Chapter 414

Wei Yuejiao figured that Wei Yuewu must have behaved so suspiciously because she found out that she was doubted.

Therefore, at this time, Wei Yuejiao would not expose herself so as to prevent Wei Yuewu from becoming skeptical. She immediately sneered, “Oh, so you were joking with me. Of course, Grandmother didn’t ask me to go to Prince Nan’an Mansion!”

“Grandmother didn’t say anything, but Nanny Hong came to inform me.” Wei Yuewu nodded, but she shifted her feet slightly as if she didn’t want to talk to Wei Yuejiao. “Third Elder Sister, I have something to do, so I need to take my leave now. Bye.”

“Sixth Younger Sister, don’t you want to wait for Fourth Younger Sister here?” Wei Yuejiao sneered and mocked.

“No, I need to go now. Fourth Elder Sister might be caught up with something, and she can’t come,” Wei Yuewu said indifferently and left with Huamo.

However, after they took a few steps away, Huamo suddenly whispered something to Wei Yuewu. From Wei Yuejiao’s angle, she could see that Wei Yuewu’s expression changed, and she asked Huamo a few

more questions in a low voice. She seemed to be scolding her as Huamo's hands shivered, and the latter looked as if she was about to cry.

Wei Yuejiao clenched the note in her hand tighter.

She looked at Wei Yuewu smugly. Wei Yuewu must have found out that the note was missing. Of course, she would not tell her that she had the note.

"Third Elder Sister, did you see something on the floor?" Sure enough, Wei Yuewu turned around and asked timidly.

"No. Did you drop something? What is it?" Wei Yuejiao raised her chin and glanced at Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu pretended not to see the pride on her face. She sized Wei Yuejiao up skeptically and shook her head. "Nothing. Never mind, I'll keep looking."

"What are you looking for? Do you need my help?"

"No, thanks! Thanks for your help." Wei Yuewu shook her head decisively and left with Huamo in the direction of Wei Yuejiao's Fengyi Courtyard. This path should be the one she had taken before.

At the sight of Wei Yuewu's frown, Wei Yuejiao narrowed her eyes, and the last trace of doubt in her mind dissipated. She crumpled the note in her hand. Needless to say, the content of the note must be real.

She could tell from the way Wei Yuewu tried to keep her in the dark!

"Xie Qingzhao? Hah, I don't want to be with him! Whoever wants him, be my guest, but don't even think about marrying me to him!"

He should look at himself in the mirror before saying something so ridiculous as to marry her! Last time, he even dared to say that he fell in love with her at first sight!

Charming and handsome? Had a promising future? Hah, she didn't think so! The man she wanted to marry was naturally a man who was elegant and powerful. The Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State was the best choice in her eyes.

Xie Qingzhao didn't even qualify to be his lad servant...

"Miss, what was Sixth Young Lady looking for?" Yuzhu looked at Wei Yuejiao doubtfully. She saw the note that Wei Yuejiao had picked up, and she took the note from the place where Wei Yuewu had left.

"Who knows!" Wei Yuejiao turned around, but instead of going directly to the path Wei Yuewu had gone, she went another way.

She had no intention to tell Yuzhu about the note because Yuzhu was one of Concubine Dong's trusted servants. If Yuzhu knew about the note, she would definitely inform Concubine Dong about it. By then, Concubine Dong would come over again and nag her. It was so annoying even when she imagined it.

"Miss, are we not going back to the courtyard?" Yuzhu looked at the path that Wei Yuejiao was walking on and asked worriedly.

The path that Wei Yuewu had taken before was the path back to Fengyi Courtyard.

"No, we're not going back to Fengyi Courtyard. Let's visit Fifth Younger Sister," Wei Yuejiao snorted lightly. Wei Qiuju was the daughter of a concubine, so Wei Yuejiao had never taken her seriously. In fact, in the entire mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, Wei Qiuju was a dispensable person, and she was the one whom Wei Yuejiao looked down on the most.

Of course, at that time, she didn't have Wei Yuewu on her list of rivals. Concubine Dong repeatedly told her that Wei Yuewu would not live for long and might not be able to return to the capital.

"Visit Fifth Young Lady?" Yuzhu was startled. As Wei Yuejiao's personal maid, she knew about Wei Yuejiao's contempt for Wei Qiuju.

“Yes, visit Wei Qiuju, my Fifth Younger Sister,” Wei Yuejiao said resolutely.

“But why? Even if you wanted to talk to someone, you should go to Fourth Young Lady,” Yuzhu asked in confusion as she couldn’t understand what Wei Yuejiao was thinking.

Wei Qiufu? Wei Yuejiao gritted her teeth in great dismay when she thought about how Wei Qiufu had tricked her. However, she couldn’t go and condemn her now because her status in the mansion was very high now because of the Empress’ decree.

As soon as she thought of this, Wei Yuejiao was so angry that her face turned ashen, and her chest ached.

Over the years, she had treated Wei Qiufu as her best sister. Every time she returned to the capital, she would bring her many things. However, she didn’t expect Wei Qiufu to put her in harm’s way.

“Fourth Younger Sister is not an ordinary person now. We can no longer go and see her as we please,” Wei Yuejiao mocked. Even the thought of Wei Qiufu enraged her, so she did not want to see her at all, lest something bad happened again.

When that happened, Grandmother and Father would definitely reprimand her.

On the contrary, she wanted to see Wei Qiuju because the content of the note was related to the latter. She wanted to see Wei Qiuju on the grounds of discussing the marriage between Wei Qiuju and the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an.

Did she have to end up with Xie Qingzhao just because the Fourth Prince took a fancy to Wei Yuewu? In her dreams! No matter what, Wei Yuejiao was determined to ruin the Fourth Prince’s impression of Wei Yuewu. If Wei Yuewu became the Fourth Princess Consort, she and Concubine Dong would never flourish again.

Since Wei Qiuju was the one who passed her the note, she naturally had to go and ask Wei Qiuju in person. Wei Qiuju was timid and docile, and she would not dare to disobey her. By then, she would spill all the beans!

After she left in a hurry, Wei Yuewu slowly walked back with Huamo.

“Miss, Third Young Lady really went to see Fifth Young Lady. Do you think Fifth Young Lady will snitch on you?” Huamo looked worriedly in the direction where Wei Yuejiao had disappeared. Her heart was in her mouth.

“She won’t.” Wei Yuewu shook her head and looked at the road indifferently.

“Why not? Fifth Young Lady is always accommodating and manipulable.” Huamo was genuinely worried and jittery because of Wei Qiuju’s fickle personality.

When she went to deliver the letter to Wei Qiuju, she saw that Wei Qiuju looked distressed as if she wanted to refuse her. Later, she said a few words according to Wei Yuewu’s instructions, and Wei Qiuju reluctantly agreed.

Despite that, Huamo felt that she was not too reliable.

“I’m sure that she won’t this time,” Wei Yuewu said as she walked towards Lotus Courtyard. Tomorrow’s matter was crucial to Wei Qiuju. It would be too conspicuous if she didn’t go. If others knew that Madam Dowager had taken the initiative to discuss this matter, the reputations of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang and Wei Qiuju would be tarnished.

Therefore, it was good for Wei Qiuju to have one more person go over.

Moreover, Wei Qiuju would embarrass herself if she annoyed Wei Yuewu, and Wei Yuewu decided not to go by feigning sickness. Wei Yuewu figured that Wei Qiuju would not snitch on her if she took this under consideration.

All Wei Qiuju had to do was to vaguely hoodwink Wei Yuejiao. If Wei Qiuju could not understand such a simple fact, she would not be able to win over the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an’s heart that day!

“But Miss, you will go to Prince Nan’an Mansion tomorrow too. What about Shopkeeper Liu and the shop?” Huamo felt relieved when she heard Wei Yuewu’s reassurance.

"Don't worry about it. I will take you to Prince Nan'an Mansion tomorrow. Jin Ling and Shufei will be here," Wei Yuewu said indifferently.

Jin Ling could assign tasks for Yan Yang and Yan Feng outside the mansion. Shopkeeper Liu was also one of her weapons.

Both Madam Dowager and Concubine Dong hoped that the matter would be resolved quickly, and they wanted to change the ownership of her mother's shops without her acknowledgment. Although the two of them took different methods, they would come to the same outcome. They wanted this to go on in secret, but she wanted to make a big deal out of it.

She wanted to intensify the whole matter, so much so that it would attract the attention of everyone in the entire capital.

She wanted to see if Concubine Dong and Madam Dowager had the cheeks to take advantage of her mother's property by then.

She would not reveal her mother's dowry list, nor could she reveal it. It seemed to contain a huge secret. Before she found out about the secret, she would not disclose the list.

She was even more curious and confused about the few large shops on the list. Moreover, these shops seemed not to be in Madam Dowager's control. No matter how she looked at it, this matter was mysterious.

"Is Jin Ling leaving the mansion tomorrow? But what if Madam Dowager finds out?" Huamo asked worriedly. She was genuinely concerned because the maids could not casually leave the mansion.

If she forcefully left the mansion, she would definitely attract Madam Dowager's attention, and Madam Dowager might be suspicious of the latter events.

"I will bring you all out of the mansion tomorrow and then ask Jin Ling to buy some medicinal herbs. I'll say that it's winter, and I'm not feeling well, so she will buy some medicine according to Doctor Ming's prescription and prepare some traditional decoction for me," Wei Yuewu said in a flat tone. The other

day, she had specifically asked Doctor Ming to prepare a prescription for her because Doctor Ming's visit to the mansion would arouse suspicion.

Now, the prescription came in handy.

Huamo was eventually relieved when she heard that Wei Yuewu had arranged everything properly. She raised her head and looked at Wei Yuewu's slender and frail back, feeling at ease for some reason.

Everyone who lived in the seemingly wealthy and influential mansion of Marquis Hua Yang had to take every step cautiously like treading on thin ice. Wei Yuewu was so fragile and scrawny with nobody backing her in the mansion, but she managed to come this far with her intelligence and resourcefulness. Having this kind of Master was really reassuring.

Actually, not only she but also Jin Ling and the rest were also impressed by Wei Yuewu, and they had absolute faith in her.

While they were returning to Lotus Courtyard, Wei Yuejiao aggressively came to Wei Qiuju's courtyard.

At this moment, Wei Qiuju was very nervous because the trip to Prince Nan'an Mansion tomorrow was related to her marriage. Previously, she had been to Madam Dowager's courtyard and whined a little according to Wei Yuewu's instructions, and Madam Dowager seemed to have realized her unique value.

If Wei Fengyao couldn't make it, Wei Qiuju would be another trump card of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, so Madam Dowager promised to seek a position as high as possible for Wei Qiuju, and tomorrow was the key.

"Miss, Third Young Lady is here!" Her maid, Yueya, hurriedly came in and reported.

"What? S-She really came!" Wei Qiuju's hand trembled, and the hairpin in her hand fell to the ground...

Chapter 415 Tell Grandmother Eldest Sister Misses Me

“Hey, Fifth Younger Sister! What are you talking about? Are you talking about me?” Wei Yuejiao had already appeared at the door. She gently waved the handkerchief in her hand and looked at Wei Qiuju with extreme contempt.

This was the first time she had taken the initiative to come to Wei Qiuju’s courtyard, and she felt that she was giving a big face to Wei Qiuju.

“T-Third Sister, hello. How can I help you?” At this moment, Wei Qiuju regained her composure and lowered her head slightly, for fear that Wei Yuejiao would notice her panic.

Originally, she did not want to be part of these matters. She would not be implicated if Wei Yuejiao did not come.

Since Wei Yuejiao came, she had to do as Wei Yuewu said. However, Wei Qiuju wondered if she would be alright after this.

“You can help me a lot! Fifth Sister, let’s go in and talk!” Wei Yuejiao hinted that they needed to talk in a private place, so she donned a wide grin, pulled Wei Qiuju’s arm, and walked into the inner room.

Yueya wanted to follow them, but Yuzhu stopped her.

“The young ladies want to talk about something private. Let’s give them some space,” Yuzhu pointed at the door and said.

Although Yueya was worried, she stopped following them after seeing Wei Qiuju giving her a look.

When they came to the inner room, Wei Yuejiao first pulled Wei Qiuju to sit down on a chair by the side with a bit of affection. Then, she went to the chair opposite her and sat down.

“Fifth Younger Sister, I heard that you will be going to Prince Nan’an Mansion tomorrow. In addition to visiting Eldest Sister, you have another agenda,” Wei Yuejiao went straight to the point as soon as she sat down.

"I-I'm not too sure!" Wei Qiuju shook her head and looked at Wei Yuejiao uneasily. She seemed a little flustered.

This made Wei Yuejiao more convinced that this was true. With a cold snort, she slammed the note on the table furiously. "Fifth Younger Sister, what is this?"

"I... I... I-I just told Sixth Younger Sister something!" Wei Qiuju reached out to take the note. After reading the content of the note briefly, she crumpled the paper tightly, and her eyes began to wander frantically.

"Fifth Younger Sister, you seem to have a close relationship with Sixth Younger Sister. But as far as I'm concerned, you guys were not that close before," Wei Yuejiao grunted. "I think we are the ones who grew up together!"

"Y-Yes!" Wei Qiuju said dryly.

"So, tell me, what exactly is going on?" Wei Yuejiao snapped arrogantly.

"Third Elder Sister, actually... I-I don't know if this is true or not. Maybe, the heir-apparent had said something like this, but it might not necessarily be true!" Wei Qiuju seemed to want to push the blame on others.

"Just tell me what the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an said and skip all the nonsense!" Wei Yuejiao snorted.

"But... if it's not correct..." Wei Qiuju was obviously apprehensive.

"That has nothing to do with you. I may not believe what you said, but it is just a reference. Does Fourth Prince really take a fancy to Wei Yuewu?" An angry look appeared on Wei Yuejiao's face. Why would the Fourth Prince take a fancy to Wei Yuewu, so much so that he wanted to take this opportunity to take a closer look at her?!

In fact, this was not that important. The most important thing was that there was such a remark on the note. If the Fourth Prince took a fancy to Wei Yuewu, she would have to marry the pathetic Xie Qingzhao! Why?!

She couldn't understand why Madam Dowager liked Xie Qingzhao so much. She claimed that Xie Qingzhao was a poor scholar who had a promising future ahead of him and took Grand Preceptor Tu as an example of a poor scholar who succeeded in his latter life. Madam Dowager even said that since Wei Fengyao married Prince Nan'an, Wei Qiufu would be part of the Crown Prince Mansion, and Wei Yuewu had the potential to marry the Fourth Prince, she couldn't marry Wei Yuejiao off to a noble young master.

In that case, she had to marry the pathetic Xie Qingzhao!

As soon as she thought of this point, Wei Yuejiao was so angry that her face turned extremely red!

Madam Dowager even had the cheek to say that Xie Qingzhao was actually out of her league because she was just a concubine-born daughter. In the future, if Xie Qingzhao triumphed in his career, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would have to curry favor with him, and they might marry a legitimate daughter with the same surname to him too!

When Wei Yuejiao read the note, she was so exasperated. At this point, Xie Qingzhao was the person she hated the most in the world.

It was not fair! Why could Wei Yuewu marry the Fourth Prince, but she had to marry Xie Qingzhao? Moreover, she was worried that in the future, when Xie Qingzhao became successful, he would look down on her and marry another legitimate daughter of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

As soon as she thought of this, Wei Yuejiao exploded in anger.

"Yes... I heard that the Fourth Prince thought highly of Sixth Younger Sister. Also, she was there at the Prince Nan'an Mansion, and you too, Third Sister." Wei Qiuju looked panicked when she mentioned this matter.

Wei Yuejiao was indeed there at that time, and she also saw that the Fourth Prince looked at Wei Yuewu differently. She and Fourth Prince were not compatible. Since she wrongly recognized the Fourth Prince as an irrelevant person, the Fourth Prince had never liked her.

“I want to go to Prince Nan’an Mansion tomorrow to visit Eldest Sister!” Wei Yuejiao decisively said after confirming the truth of the matter. She was going to destroy Wei Yuewu’s plan.

No matter what, she could not let the Fourth Prince marry Wei Yuewu. Otherwise, she would have to marry the useless Xie Qingzhao. Moreover, when she thought about the ambiguous relationship between Xie Qingzhao and Wei Qiufu, she felt disgusted.

Why would Grandmother and Father think that scum like him had a bright future?! She would definitely not marry such a person.

Wei Qiuju abruptly raised her head in shock when she heard this. “B-But Grandmother has decided on the people to go!” No one dared to disobey Madam Dowager’s decision, and Madam Dowager stated that she would only bring Wei Qiuju and Wei Yuewu tomorrow.

“So what? I need your help to persuade Grandmother.” Wei Yuejiao approached Wei Qiuju with a cold face, and there was a little bit of pressure in her glare.

“B-But... I-I can’t...” Wei Qiuju stammered in fright and retreated.

“This note was a personal message from the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an to you, right? Fifth Younger Sister, you haven’t married yet, but you already exchanged messages with the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an. If this news goes out, it will not do any good to your reputation. Although you are selected to be his concubine, the status is different. You have to hold a dignified and graceful demeanor in order to become a concubine who is recognized by the royal family. Don’t you think so?”

Wei Yuejiao smiled coldly and leaned back as she threatened Wei Qiuju.

The young ladies of aristocratic families had always been well-behaved and dignified. If the news of Wei Qiuju and the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an had been exchanging messages before their wedding, it

would have done harm to their reputation. If someone with ulterior motives instigated the spread, Wei Qiuju's position would be intimidated.

"Third Elder Sister, I... This is our first time..." Wei Qiuju was anxious. She suddenly stood up, gripped her handkerchief tightly, and explained with red eyes.

"Fifth Younger Sister, I won't say anything, I swear. You just have to say that Eldest Sister misses me very much and has something to tell me, so I have to go with you to the mansion. That will do." The smile on Wei Yuejiao's face suddenly eased.

"E-Eldest Sister misses you?" Wei Qiuju was shocked.

"Yes! Just tell Grandmother that I have to go because Eldest Sister misses me and has something important to tell me. Grandmother won't go against her wishes at this time. In fact, Eldest Sister's current situation is quite pitiful, and I heard that her arm is crippled! After all, we are sisters, and I can't just sit back and watch her get hurt, right?"

Wei Yuejiao looked distressed and sad as if she really had a close-knit relationship with Wei Fengyao.

"But... but..." Wei Qiuju stammered nervously, and the handkerchief in her hand was twisted into a ball.

"But what? It's settled. Grandmother will agree." Wei Yuejiao had figured everything out. If Madam Dowager wanted Wei Qiuju to marry into Prince Nan'an Mansion, she had to get Wei Fengyao's consent. Although Madam Dowager was their grandmother, Wei Fengyao had the final say in this matter, so she would not go against Wei Fengyao's will at this moment.

Therefore, Wei Yuejiao felt that Wei Fengyao was the best excuse in her case.

Moreover, Wei Fengyao certainly did not want Wei Yuewu to become Fourth Prince's wife, did she? After entering Prince Nan'an Mansion, she could join hands with Wei Fengyao to ruin Wei Yuewu's marriage.

"But... I don't dare to..." Wei Qiuju was about to cry. Wei Yuejiao rolled her eyes in disgust at the former's pathetic and cowardly look.

"Alright, you send a message to Eldest Sister, and let her tell Grandmother!" Wei Yuejiao stood up and snarled. She didn't want to send the message herself in case Madam Dowager would find out, so Wei Qiuju was the best messenger. Anyway, Wei Qiuju had been flirting with the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an for a long time.

Sure enough, a concubine-born daughter was always so inferior, useless, and unreliable!

"O-Okay!" Wei Qiuju hurriedly said, but she was secretly relieved. She was glad that she didn't have to say this to Madam Dowager herself, or the keen and sensitive Madam Dowager might suspect her.

It would be best if nothing happened when they were at Prince Nan'an Mansion, but if something really happened, Madam Dowager would definitely blame her for it, and it would possibly put a risk on her potential marriage.

Fortunately, judging from the current situation, she would not be implicated. All she had to do was convey the message to the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an and let him tell Eldest Sister. As for whether Eldest Sister wanted Wei Yuejiao to go to the mansion or not, it was not within Wei Qiuju's consideration, and it would be none of her business.

In that case, she would complete the task that Wei Yuwu asked her to do.

Wei Qiuju deftly hid the note in her sleeve and crumpled it. She would definitely not return the note to Wei Yuejiao.

Seeing that Wei Qiuju had agreed, Wei Yuejiao grinned in satisfaction and did not want to stay in her room any longer. She turned and walked out. When she reached the outer room, Yuzhu followed her, and they exited Wei Qiuju's courtyard one after another.

"Miss... Are you alright?" Yueya came over nervously and looked at Wei Qiuju gingerly. She heaved a light sigh of relief after noticing that only her expression was a little gloomy. Wei Yuejiao was more

arrogant than Second Young Lady, so she was worried that Wei Yuejiao's visit would be detrimental to Wei Qiuju.

"Prepare the ink and paper. I need to write a letter to the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an," Wei Qiuju ordered.

Although she did not write the note herself, she felt fortunate that the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an took a fancy to her. He would secretly send some gifts to her, so it would be a piece of cake to send him a letter in secret.

"Alright, Miss... Nothing will happen to you, right?" Yueya asked worriedly.

"Of course, not. My hands are tied either way, so I might as well do it!" Wei Qiuju grunted with a frown. After thinking about it, she felt that she would be at an advantage if she followed Wei Yuewu's instructions.

She was already in trouble, so she might as well follow Wei Yuewu's wishes.

Tomorrow... It seemed that tomorrow was destined to be a turbulent day...

At Madam Dowager's Tranquility Courtyard.

"What?" Madam Dowager suddenly stood up and violently coughed...

Chapter 416 Gifts from the Fourth Prince

Nanny Hong quickly patted Madam Dowager's back gently while reassuring her, "Madam Dowager, Eldest Young Lady is quite pitiful now, that's why she had resentment toward the entire mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, Fifth Young Lady, and even you!"

“Resentment?! She still has the cheek to resent us! Does it never cross her mind that she could continue to be the Heiress-apparent because of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang’s backing?! Without us, she would either be locked up in the courtyard or be denounced!” Madam Dowager shivered in rage.

Wei Fengyao had the cheek to send someone over to directly inform Madam Dowager to bring Wei Yuejiao along tomorrow. Otherwise, she would not see Madam Dowager.

At that time, there were maids and old maidservants around Madam Dowager when the old maidservant from Prince Nan’an Mansion delivered such a crude and blatant message. The humiliation was equivalent to slapping Madam Dowager in the face in public, and she almost couldn’t control herself then.

Fortunately, Nanny Hong reacted quickly. She directly acknowledged the message, sent Prince Nan’an’s old maidservant off, and dismissed the maids and old maidservants in the room. Only then did Madam Dowager regain her composure.

“Madam Dowager, please think about it. Eldest Young Lady is injured, and her face has been scratched. Now, the only thing she feels fortunate about is her position as the Heiress-apparent. The Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an protected Fifth Young Lady the other day, and judging from this, we can see that he adores her very much. If Fifth Young Lady goes to the mansion tomorrow, of course, Eldest Young Lady will be jealous.”

Nanny Hong continued to persuade Madam Dowager.

“Jealous?! Hah! She has the audacity to be jealous! She was also favored and adored after she married him! Everyone in Prince Nan’an Mansion praised her. But look at her now! She ended up like this and offended everyone there! If we don’t send one of our daughters over, the position of the next heir-apparent may fall into the hands of other families!”

Madam Dowager patted the edge of the couch hard, and her anger had not subsided.

None of her granddaughters had ever embarrassed her in front of so many people. Just the thought of it enraged her so much.

“Madam Dowager, what about Third Young Lady...” Seeing that Madam Dowager was still angry, Nanny Hong hastily changed the topic.

“Go, let her go with me! She wanted Yuejiao to go there, didn’t she?! Alright, let her go! I don’t know what is up in her mind to let Yuejiao go. Yuejiao is another good-for-nothing! Does she want Yuejiao to replace Qiuju? If so, she won’t be able to remain as the Heiress-apparent!”

Madam Dowager bellowed angrily.

“Eldest Young Lady wouldn’t think that way, would she?” Nanny Hong quivered anxiously.

“No one can stop her from digging her own grave. She’s an Heiress-apparent who loses favors from the Heir-apparent. Does she think she can defeat those daughters in the first branch? Although Yuejiao is a concubine-born daughter, her identity is not something that she can compare with as a cold-shouldered Heiress-apparent if that thing....” Despite her annoyance, Madam Dowager was calm enough to suppress her emotions and vaguely skipped some keywords.

“So... We’re going to let Third Young Lady go?” Nanny Hong said uneasily, worried that this was what Eldest Young Lady thought of.

In the past, Eldest Young Lady was smart and magnanimous before she got married. She was the first granddaughter in the mansion, so Madam Dowager pampered and adored her. Nanny Hong watched her grow up, so she didn’t want to see her end up in a worse situation.

“Impossible. Luowen adores Yuejiao very much. He will definitely not let Yuejiao be Prince Nan’an Mansion’s concubine. Luowen is smart enough to know that. Even if he doesn’t have a suitable candidate from the noble family as Yuejiao’s husband, he can choose a young man with a bright and promising future for her. After all, Yuejiao has been raised as the legitimate daughter for so many years.”

“But... she’s not a legitimate daughter, after all,” Nanny Hong said in a low voice.

“So what? Yes, Luowen adores her, but as long as Concubine Dong is not the legitimate wife, he has the final say even if Yuejiao wants to marry into a more prominent family!” Madam Dowager had already

regained her composure from Wei Fengyao's attack. Her eyes were gloomy as she grunted, "Bring Yuejiao along tomorrow and have someone watch over her. Don't let Fengyao scheme against her."

Madam Dowager's hands were tied. She had to discuss something with Wei Fengyao tomorrow. When Wei Qiuju was married over, she had to serve tea to Wei Fengyao, the legitimate wife, according to the custom. If Wei Fengyao refused to drink the tea or make a fuss, it would be a disgrace, and Madam Dowager would feel very embarrassed.

Therefore, the wiser option now was to agree to Wei Fengyao's request and tell her about the benefits of Wei Qiuju entering the mansion so as to calm her down and prevent her from doing something embarrassing.

Since she had asked Wei Yuejiao to go over, Madam Dowager would grant her wish.

"So, shall I send a maid to inform Third Young Lady about the news?" Nanny Hong gingerly probed.

"Yes. Go!" Madam Dowager nodded and suddenly called out to Nanny Hong, who was about to turn around and leave. "Send some things to Yuewu. Tell her that Fourth Prince specially sent them over."

"Madam Dowager... W-What things?" Nanny Hong asked with a frown. The Fourth Prince did not send anything to the mansion.

"The gifts that Empress Dowager rewarded them when they entered the palace last time. Pick a few and send them to Yuewu," Madam Dowager thought for a moment and said.

Nanny Hong knew that Madam Dowager wanted to express goodwill to Wei Yuewu on behalf of the Fourth Prince. In other words, she agreed to Marquis Jing Yuan's suggestion. Thus, she smiled and nodded. "Okay. You can relax for a while once Sixth Young Lady's marriage is settled."

However, Nanny Hong frowned slightly without being noticed by Madam Dowager. Could Sixth Young Lady marry the Fourth Prince? Was that really okay?

“Relax?! How can I relax? Yes, the girls’ affairs have been settled down, but don’t forget about the boys!” Madam Dowager frowned and sighed. It was really inconvenient because there was no one in charge of the second branch. Wei Ziyang’s marriage had been arranged early, but there was no one in the branch who could go over to the bride’s family to discuss the matter.

Originally, Madam Dowager wanted him to get married as soon as possible. After all, Wei Ziyang was not young anymore. He should have gotten married by now if he had not been at the border and was unwilling to get married early.

On the other hand, Luowen said that he wanted Wei Ziyang to go to the border after the new year and slowly handed over the military power to him. In that case, Wei Ziyang would be even busier than now. They would have to drag the wedding for another year if he didn’t get married as soon as possible.

“Madam Dowager, please calm down. Didn’t Lord Marquis say yesterday that he was going to write a report asking the Emperor to appoint Eldest Young Master as the Heir-apparent? By then, Eldest Young Master can get married in the status of an Heir-apparent. It will be a glorious event!” Nanny Hong chuckled and advised as she could tell what Madam Dowager was worried about.

“But... it won’t be that easy, I’m afraid.” Madam Dowager shook her head and smiled bitterly. “In fact, Luowen always wanted to make Ziyang the future Lord Marquis, but the Emperor thinks that Luowen is still young and can still have a son soon. If Luowen has a son, it will be unreasonable to pass down the position of Lord Marquis to his nephew instead of his own son.”

This was what Madam Dowager was anxious about. She would be worried sick as long as Wei Ziyang could not become the Heir-apparent.

“Madam Dowager, you worry too much. Lord Marquis knows what to do and won’t make things difficult for you. You see, he hasn’t had a legitimate wife for so many years not only because of Marquise Hua Yang, but he is also concerned about you. He knows what he is doing, and he also respects you very much!”

Nanny Hong said with a smile.

“Alright. Go ahead. We shall see if the Emperor agrees this time.” Madam Dowager sighed and nodded.

“Okay. I’ll first convey the message to Third Young Lady and then send the gift to Sixth Young Lady.” Nanny Hong was very clear about the importance of her tasks, and she arranged the matter in an orderly manner.

In Lotus Courtyard, Wei Yuewu was drawing the picture on the screen she had previously seen. Although she could not remember every detail clearly, with her mother’s screen as a reference, so she could naturally draw the picture off the top of her head.

After thinking for a while, she drew a little. The room was very quiet at the moment, and only the smoke curling up from the incense burner on the table was dancing in the air.

“Miss, Nanny Hong is here. She said she is delivering a gift for you!” Shufei lifted the curtain and came in.

“A gift?” Wei Yuewu put down the writing brush in her hand and muttered to herself. Then, she smiled slightly. “Invite Nanny Hong in.”

It was neither the new year nor a festival day, so she didn’t know why someone sent her a gift at this moment. It should not be from Madam Dowager, so she wondered who the sender was that Nanny Hong had to specially come here.

“Sixth Young Lady, these are the gifts that the Fourth Prince specially sent to you. Madam Dowager asked me to deliver the gifts.” Nanny Hong came in with a bright smile and ordered the two maids behind her to put the gifts on the table. They were a roll of satin and a box of palace flowers.

They were not very expensive gifts, but Wei Yuewu could tell that they were from the palace.

The box was opened, revealing twelve colored palace flowers of different flowers. There were some gold pendants hanging from the corners, and the box was both elegant and beautiful. It was the style that girls liked the most nowadays.

“Were... Were these from the Fourth Prince? What about the other sisters?” Wei Yuewu raised her eyes and looked at Nanny Hong in surprise. She did not believe that the sly Madam Dowager did not understand the meaning of this.

When had she become so familiar with the Fourth Prince?!

"The gifts for the other young ladies have not been delivered yet, so I sent these over to you first. When Marquis Jing Yuan visited our mansion the other day, he also sent greetings to Madam Dowager on behalf of the Fourth Prince." The smile on Nanny Hong's face grew wider and wider.

"But... I don't think it's appropriate, Nanny Hong." Wei Yuewu blinked her watery eyes, and there were ripples of emotions in them. She lamented in a gentle yet agitated tone.

"There's nothing inappropriate about it. It's Madam Dowager who gave them to you now," Nanny Hong said.

Shufei's heart skipped a beat, and she hurriedly lowered her eyes. This meant that Madam Dowager wanted to marry Wei Yuewu to the Fourth Prince.

She didn't have any objections to the Fourth Prince, but when she remembered that the Fourth Prince's sister, the Third Princess, had framed Wei Yuewu, she was upset.

For some reason, she felt that there was another conspiracy in this matter!

"But I don't know the Fourth Prince very well." Wei Yuewu seemed as if she wanted to reject the gifts. "How about you send these gifts to Father?"

"Don't worry, Sixth Young Lady. It's not a big deal. You met the Fourth Prince when you were at Prince Nan'an Mansion, didn't you? It's not like you don't know him at all. Maybe, you will meet him again when you go to Prince Nan'an Mansion tomorrow!" Nanny Hong said casually as she assumed that Wei Yuewu was shy.

"Will the Fourth Prince go to Prince Nan'an Mansion tomorrow?" Wei Yuewu raised her beautiful eyes, her long eyelashes flashed, and then she looked down again with a sweet smile on her face. "I'll ask Third Elder Sister and the other sisters what their gifts are tomorrow."

Nanny Hong couldn't see Wei Yuewu's expression clearly. At this moment, Wei Yuewu's gaze turned gloomy and cold. She was thinking about how to get away with it, but it was just right since the Fourth Prince and Mo Huating offered such a chance to her...

Chapter 417 Inquest, Dilemma

"The gift..." Nanny Hong was taken aback for a moment. Then, she instantly came to her senses and chuckled. "You're right. I need to ask them why they delivered the other young ladies' gifts so late!"

Nanny Hong assumed that Wei Yuewu had expressed her agreement, so Madam Dowager could rest assured. As for the other young ladies in the first branch, Madam Dowager had always been circumspect and discreet because she did not want anything unexpected to happen in case she absent-mindedly made a mistake.

It was great news now that Wei Yuewu expressed her interest in the Fourth Prince.

Wei Yuewu was shy, so she came up with an excuse to ask the Fourth Prince about the gifts for other sisters. Nanny Hong took it as an obvious hint that Wei Yuewu took a fancy to the Fourth Prince.

Nanny Hong decided to inform Madam Dowager about this later and ask her to invite the Fourth Prince to appear at Prince Nan'an Mansion tomorrow. It was also a good opportunity to observe the Fourth Prince's reaction. If the Fourth Prince was as enthusiastic as Marquis Jing Yuan, he would come over no matter how busy he was. If he wasn't enthusiastic about this arrangement, Madam Dowager would have to reconsider this matter.

With this thought in mind, Nanny Hong said a few more words and left with a smile.

"M-Miss, is everything okay?" Seeing Nanny Hong leave, Shufei immediately asked worriedly.

The palace flowers on the table were shining flamboyantly, creating a beautiful sight. The flowers were of different colors and shapes, and some tiny gold ornaments and pearls decorated the bouquet. It was mesmerizingly breathtaking. However, Wei Yuewu looked at the fascinating flowers with a calm gaze and a light smile on her lips.

The other day, Mo Huating came for the Fourth Prince.

“They must be scheming against me, but it’s just as well the Fourth Prince will be there tomorrow. If I want to get away, Madam Dowager and Wei Fengyao won’t be able to say anything to stop me!”

Wei Yuewu was certain that there was something going on since Mo Huating was a part of this matter now. If the Fourth Prince really took a fancy to her, he did not have to be secretive about it. He could go to the Empress to express his interest in her. If the Empress respect Marquis Hua Yang, she would invite Madam Dowager into the palace to discuss the matter.

If the discussion went well, the palace could directly issue an imperial decree. All the Fourth Prince needed to do was express his interest in her to the Empress. He did not even need to go through the trouble and ask Mo Huating to come here and convey his message in private.

“What should we do then?” Shufei was shocked.

“Don’t worry. Put these away first!” The other day, Wei Yuewu saw clearly that Mo Huating came with only one lad servant, and they came empty-handed. Hence, these so-called gifts from the Fourth Prince must be something that Madam Dowager had obtained from the palace. Madam Dowager gave these gifts to her in the name of the Fourth Prince to observe her reaction and response after receiving the gifts.

Just now, Wei Yuewu told Nanny Hong that she wanted to ask the Fourth Prince about the gifts for other sisters with the sole intention of wanting to see the Fourth Prince in Prince Nan’an Mansion.

Tomorrow, a thrilling drama would unfold in Prince Nan’an Mansion. Wei Fengyao, Wei Yuejiao, the Fourth Prince, and even Madam Dowager would gather there tomorrow, each with their own hidden agenda against her.

Wei Yuewu picked up the writing brush again, lowered her head, and wrote something on the paper. Then, she asked Shufei, who walked into the room, “Have you prepared the things for tomorrow?”

“Yes, Miss. Don’t worry, I’ve prepared everything.” Shufei nodded keenly and looked at Wei Yuewu with pride. Despite Madam Dowager’s endless schemes, Wei Yuewu dealt with the problem by remaining calm and composed. She was certain that Wei Yuewu could destroy Madam Dowager’s trap ultimately.

Shufei didn't expect that Madam Dowager, who looked so dignified, would actually do such heinous things. She actually ganged up with Concubine Dong to embezzle the deceased marquise's dowry. How abominable!

Wei Yuewu looked up at the several accounting books placed by the window and curled up her lips slightly...

"Later, go to the kitchen, prepare some pastries, and keep them warm. Ask the maids at the door to keep a close eye on my father. If he comes back, report to me immediately!"

"Why did you do this?" Wei Luowen looked at the person in front of him coldly and asked angrily. He slammed the medicine bottle on the table heavily. The table even shook because he exerted too much force.

The nun took the medicine bottle and took a look under the sunlight. "Was this custom-made in the palace?" She asked in a low voice.

"Yes, it was, but I didn't know why it ended up in Rui'er's possession and what kind of medicine was in it! Rui'er had always been healthy. Was it because of the medicine that made her weak day by day?" Wei Luowen glared at the person in front of him aggressively.

"I have no idea, but I can tell you that this matter has nothing to do with me!" The nun shook her head decisively.

"You have no idea? Who else knew about this if you didn't?! Are you trying to tell me that the Empress gave her the medicine? Even if it was true, Rui'er would not take the medicine casually!" Wei Luowen roared fiercely, and his body trembled in rage.

The pain in his eyes seemed to materialize as he glared at the person in front of him hatefully.

"Well, you know that I won't do such a thing. I've actually been doing it for your good!" The nun sighed with a bitter expression on her face.

“My good? I don’t think so. He wouldn’t either, I suppose. What happened between us was a true tragedy. Rui’er was innocent. My matter had nothing to do with her. I’d implicated her, and she died because of me!” Wei Luowen’s face was ashen, and the veins on his forehead bulged.

“I know, so I wouldn’t hurt her, although she didn’t like me...” The nun lowered her head and murmured.

“Like you? Haha, that’s so funny. Do you think I can decide my current life by just liking her? If I could, I would have ditched such a life immediately. I would have taken Rui’er and left forever. I don’t want to be in your fights at all.”

Wei Luowen gritted his teeth.

“No matter what, I didn’t do anything to her. I didn’t give this medicine bottle to her! Even though I didn’t like her, she did nothing wrong. You know that I have always protected your lineage!” The nun raised her head. Her eyes were filled with pain, but her expression was stern.

“So, you didn’t...” Wei Luowen slowly calmed down.

“It wasn’t me!” The nun shook her head with certainty.

“Who else could it be? Would Rui’er have taken the Empress’...?” Wei Luowen snapped.

“No, it shouldn’t be the Empress’ either. Qin Xinrui wouldn’t want the Empress’ food, nor would she eat it. I’m afraid that it was given to her by someone close to her!” The nun shook her head.

Someone close to her? Wei Luowen’s face darkened. Rui’er did not have many close friends. He noticed that she only had a few close friends after she entered the capital.

Zhaoyi Tu? Assistant Minister Yang’s wife? Marquise Jing Yuan?

Two of these three people were dead. Was it Zhaoyi Tu? But why did she do this? He didn't have much contact with her. She was Rui'er's friend even before Rui'er married him. They met by chance and became best friends, so he had nothing to do with their friendship.

"It really wasn't you?" Wei Luowen glanced sideways and asked.

"No! It definitely wasn't me!" The nun shook her head again.

After saying this, Wei Luowen fell silent. He believed the nun's words. She was still a proud and arrogant person despite her current look.

But Wei Luowen could not think of another person if it wasn't her. Of course, he doubted Concubine Dong, but Concubine Dong was just a maid in the mansion at that time. He did not believe that she could get such a medicine bottle.

On the way back to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, Wei Luowen had been thinking about this problem.

When he returned to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang, the lights in the mansion had already been lit. Along the way, all the servants he met on the road bowed to him. He hurried forward without looking at them.

Then, Wei Yuewu suddenly appeared from the corner of the study's door.

"Father," Wei Yuewu bowed and greeted him softly. Wei Luowen looked at her and then at the maid behind her, who was carrying a food basket. He recognized the maid. She was Wei Yuewu's personal maid.

The wind on a winter night was very strong. Wei Yuewu looked so fragile and thin as if the wind would take her away with it. Wei Luowen's gaze softened a little. "Yuewu, why are you here at this time?"

"The chef made some pastries. They are very delicious. Then, I heard that you returned to the mansion, so I specially brought them here for you to try," Wei Yuewu said softly.

"It's cold outside. Come in and talk!" Wei Luowen nodded and pointed to the room where the lights had been turned on. Then he turned around and strode inside.

"Yes, father," Wei Yuewu answered and followed behind.

In the study, the lad servant poured two cups of tea. Wei Yuewu took the food basket from Shufei, took out a few plates of delicate pastries, and placed them on Wei Luowen's desk one by one.

"Father, please have some."

Under the warm light, Wei Luowen watched as Wei Yuewu served him tea and pastries, and he felt a lump in his throat all of a sudden. It was the warmth that he had not felt for a long time. Only Rui'er could give this kind of warmth to him. It was during the time when they got married. But later, Rui'er slowly became wary of him and distanced herself from him...

He picked up a piece of the pastry and took a few bites before putting it down.

"Father, are you done? The pastries are very delicious, right? I'd never eaten such delicious pastries when I was at my maternal grandparents' place. Oh, and the palace flowers too! Today, Grandmother gave me a box of palace flowers! I was the only one who got them!" Wei Yuewu beamed, and a childish and pure smile appeared on her face. She sounded like what she said was just a casual remark.

"She gave the palace flowers only to you? Where did they come from?" Wei Luowen frowned and raised his head.

"She said they were a gift from the Fourth Prince. His Highness gave me a very beautiful box of palace flowers. I wonder why the Fourth Prince gave the flowers to me." Wei Yuewu casually served Wei Luowen another piece of pastry. "Father, try this. This is also very delicious."

However, Wei Luowen pushed away the pastry in front of him and asked with a serious face, "Yuewu, do you know the Fourth Prince well?"

"No. I only met him a few times. I talked to him when we met in Prince Nan'an Mansion, and then we talked briefly when we met in the palace too." Wei Yuewu smiled gently. "Well, it's not a big deal, but I wasn't sure if I should accept the flowers or not."

"Where are the flowers now?" Wei Luowen's face turned stern.

"They are in my room," Wei Yuewu blinked her watery eyes and said.

"Send them to me later!" Wei Luowen ordered decisively. He didn't want his daughter to marry any prince right now. Neither Yuejiao nor Yuewu should marry into the imperial family. No matter whose idea it was, he would make them get rid of this idea.

But he couldn't figure out what the Fourth Prince was thinking about. Why was he suddenly so interested in Yuewu, so much so that he sent gifts over? How could a prince decide on his own marriage so easily? Only the one who went through the official marriage procedure would be his official and legitimate wife, yet the ones who secretly hooked up with him would become his concubines. Was the Fourth Prince trying to take Yuewu as his concubine?

"Okay," Wei Yuewu answered softly. Then, she hesitated for a moment before saying, "I heard that the Fourth Prince will also go to Prince Nan'an Mansion tomorrow."

Chapter 418 Please Keep Me Company

"Okay. Just be there with Madam Dowager for a bit. I will send someone to take you home in a while," Wei Luowen said decisively.

Since he hadn't decided to marry Wei Yuewu into the imperial palace, it was better for her to avoid meeting the Fourth Prince.

"But... Will Grandmother..." Wei Yuewu murmured uneasily.

"I will talk to her. Don't worry." Wei Luowen nodded.

"Thank you, Father. Do you think I should stay at Prince Nan'an Mansion until lunchtime?" Wei Yuewu frowned in concern, looking as if she was still jittery about it.

"No, you don't have to! I'll take you home as early as possible." Wei Luowen reassured, "I'll say that I have something urgent to talk to you about. Your grandmother and Princess Nan'an will not have any complaints."

"But Third Elder Sister is also going. Do you want to take her home together?" Wei Yuewu reminded Wei Luowen.

"What? Is Yuejiao going too? Why? Her hand is still injured, isn't it? Why does she want to leave the mansion instead of staying home to rest?" Wei Luowen was taken aback and grunted in exasperation.

"I'm not sure why. I heard that Eldest Sister specially asked her to go, and Grandmother agreed." Wei Yuewu blinked her watery eyes and muttered, "Will Grandmother be upset if both of us come back?"

"Since Yuejiao wants to go, just let her stay there for the lunch. Fengyao is closer to her than to you, anyway. They have more things to talk about." Wei Luowen pondered the circumstances and figured that this was a wiser move. He only had two daughters. Taking two daughters home at once would certainly arouse suspicion. Moreover, there was nothing urgent regarding Yuejiao. Since Wei Fengyao and Wei Yuejiao were quite close, Wei Luowen assumed that Wei Yuejiao was genuinely concerned about Wei Fengyao and therefore wanted to visit her.

"But... It's not a good idea to leave Third Elder Sister there alone." Wei Yuewu still had some concerns.

"You don't have to worry about it. It's settled. Tomorrow, you will go to Prince Nan'an Mansion as promised, but I'll send someone to take you home as soon as possible. You need to watch out too. If you bump into the Fourth Prince, avoid him and don't speak with him," Wei Luowen reminded her, worried that Wei Yuewu did not understand the situation in the capital. "Qiuju has no choice but to be a concubine because of her illicit affairs with the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an!"

"Yes, Father, I understand." Wei Yuewu nodded and pushed another plate of pastries over. "Father, please eat a little more. Dinner hasn't been delivered yet!"

Wei Luowen was full of worries and did not have an appetite to eat anything. He looked at Wei Yuewu and reassured her, "It's okay. I'm not hungry. Go back to your room. It's a little cold tonight. You may catch a cold."

This time, Wei Yuewu nodded timidly. She left the pastries on Wei Luowen's table, bowed at Wei Luowen, and returned to Lotus Courtyard with Shufei.

In Lotus Courtyard, Jin Ling had already been waiting for her. When she heard the voice outside, she quickly lifted the curtain. Immediately, Wei Yuewu felt warm air blowing onto her face.

Compared with the cold weather outside, there seemed to be a kind of warm spring inside the room.

When Wei Yuewu entered the room, Jin Ling and Shufei helped her take off the big robe and drape a light jacket over her shoulders.

After tidying up, Wei Yuewu sat at the writing desk again.

"Where has my father been?" Wei Yuewu asked after taking a sip of the hot tea that Huamo had handed her.

"Plum Blossom Nunnery. Lord Marquis went to Plum Blossom Nunnery," Jin Ling reported.

"Plum Blossom Nunnery? Did Father go to Plum Blossom Nunnery alone at this time?" Wei Yuewu was stunned. She had thousands of guesses about his whereabouts, but she didn't expect Wei Luowen to go to Plum Blossom Nunnery at this time.

"Did Lord Marquis go there to visit Marquise?" Shufei asked in surprise. Just like Wei Yuewu, she couldn't figure out why Wei Luowen would go there at this time.

"No." Wei Yuewu shook her head. Wei Luowen didn't have to go to Plum Blossom Nunnery if he wanted to visit Mother. Previously, she had told him to go to Mother's courtyard when he had time. On one hand, he could reminisce about the past when he missed Mother. On the other hand, his visit would attract the attention of the servants, and they would be more respectful toward Mother's courtyard.

“Why did Lord Marquis go to Plum Blossom Nunnery at this time? He did not stay there for long. He went and left in a hurry. It seemed like he went there to meet an important person. Miss, Yan Feng did not dare to be too close to him, but he said that Lord Marquis rushed into Plum Blossom Nunnery angrily. At that time, a nun greeted him at the gate of the nunnery. He ignored her and went in directly, but he looked worried and confused when he came out.”

Jin Ling told Wei Yuewu everything that Yan Feng had witnessed.

Plum Blossom Nunnery? How come it was Plum Blossom Nunnery again?

Wei Yuewu inexplicably thought of the nun who had saved her. The nun was injured, but she had no intention of asking for compensation. After that, she left as if she was in a hurry.

Could it be that there was some motive behind the nun's actions?

“Didn't father say that he would take me to Plum Blossom Nunnery? We'll see what happens then.” Wei Yuewu's gaze turned gloomy. “We'll stay in Prince Nan'an for a short while tomorrow. I bet that Madam Dowager and Concubine Dong will not expect me to come back so soon!”

“Miss, I have already instructed Shopkeeper Liu to act according to the plan!” Jin Ling nodded. She had already told Yan Feng that tomorrow was the highlight. It would be the ultimatum to whether Wei Yuewu could rightfully obtain Madam's dowry.

Concubine Dong had always put on a disguise that she respected Miss and Madam. Tomorrow, everyone would see how greedy Concubine Dong was and how she secretly embezzled Madam's dowry.

The next day, a few carriages parked outside the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang's gate early in the morning. Madam Dowager, Wei Yuejiao, Wei Qiuju, and Wei Yuewu walked to the carriages that were waiting for them at the door.

Needless to say, Madam Dowager sat in one carriage. Wei Yuejiao was arranged to share a carriage with Wei Qiuju, while Wei Yuewu sat in a carriage alone.

Wei Yuejiao was very dissatisfied with this arrangement, but she didn't dare to express her discontent in the face of Madam Dowager's cold expression. She gritted her teeth and entered the carriage in great dismay. Then, she glared at Wei Qiuju as the latter entered the carriage timidly.

She was much more dignified than Wei Qiuju! How could she share a carriage with this concubine-born daughter?!

Besides, how could Wei Yuewu have a carriage all to herself? After all, Wei Yuewu was younger than her. The more Wei Yuejiao thought about it, the angrier she became. She glared fiercely at Wei Qiuju, causing the latter to lower her head in fright.

The convoy of carriages slowly headed toward Prince Nan'an Mansion.

Wei Yuewu's carriage was very spacious, and Old Li drove very steadily. She brought Jin Ling and Huamo with her. Because their carriage was the slowest, they were the last carriage in the convoy, and they kept a discreet distance from the two carriages in front.

After passing through a street corner, Wei Yuewu asked Jin Ling to get off the carriage, and she and Huamo remained in the carriage.

Jin Ling got off the carriage, identified her current location and the surrounding roads, and turned to a small road...

When the convoy of carriages arrived at Prince Nan'an Mansion, Princess Nan'an assigned the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an to personally greet them at the gate. When he saw Madam Dowager, he hurried forward and bowed. "Greetings, Madam Dowager. Mother Consort has been waiting for your arrival!"

Wen Ruoming greeted Madam Dowager respectfully, but his gaze involuntarily fell on Wei Qiuju, who was standing timidly on the side like a delicate little flower. His eyes were full of smiles. Of course, he knew that Madam Dowager's purpose of visiting today was to discuss his marriage with Wei Qiuju.

Hence, he was over the moon!

"Greetings, Heir-apparent. How is Fengyao doing now?" Madam Dowager asked as she walked in.

"Oh, she..." Wen Ruoming was obviously delighted, but he feigned a sorrowful and worried expression. Madam Dowager noticed his insincerity and was dismayed, but since another young lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would marry into Prince Nan'an Mansion, Madam Dowager swallowed her frustration and heaved a long sigh.

Wei Fengyao suffered from her own actions, so it was no wonder that her own husband despised her.

"Did the imperial doctors also say that she couldn't fully recover?" When Madam Dowager came last time, Princess Nan'an vowed to get another imperial doctor if the one who checked on Wei Fengyao was not very skilled, saying that they couldn't just ignore Wei Fengyao and make her injury turn worse. But from the looks of it, she could tell that Wei Fengyao was not doing very well.

"I'm afraid she can't recover fully. Her hand will remain stiff, and she can only do some simple things with that hand," Wen Ruoming answered absent-mindedly. His gaze swept over Madam Dowager and fell on Wei Qiuju. They hadn't seen each other for quite some time, and today, Wei Qiuju looked even more pitiful and fragile. What happened? Did the people in her mansion torment her?

At the thought of this, he subconsciously glanced at Wei Yuejiao, who was standing right next to Wei Qiuju. Wei Yuejiao was pretty too, but she looked rather overbearing and bossy. At a glance, he felt as if the timid Wei Qiuju was being suppressed by the overbearing Wei Yuejiao.

Wei Qiuju looked like a pitiful and sad little puppy!

Wen Ruoming was immediately upset.

The Third Young Lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang was such a lousy character. Sixth Miss Wei, who was the legitimate daughter of Marquis Hua Yang, looked so gentle and polite. Yet Wei Yuejiao looked so aggressive and proud that she was obviously showing her aggressiveness to Wei Qiuju.

No wonder the Fourth Prince did not like her. Her appearance was not likable.

“So, are you saying that her hand will be permanently disabled?” Madam Dowager sighed softly.

“I think so, yes. Her hand is still wrapped in splints now. We can only know the specific condition of her arm after the splints are removed,” Wen Ruoming answered absent-mindedly and kept glancing at Wei Qiuju.

Wei Yuejiao noticed Wen Ruoming’s gaze. Her eyes were filled with disdain, and she raised her head even higher.

However, Wei Yuewu looked ever so gentle and elegant as she followed closely behind Madam Dowager. It was as if she did not notice the secretive interaction between the people in front of her.

Wen Ruoming’s eyes finally fell on Wei Yuejiao’s arrogant face. Everyone could see the rage in his eyes. “How dare you look down on me?! You’re just a concubine-born daughter!” Wen Ruoming thought.

However, they didn’t talk to each other. They just looked at each other very unpleasantly.

The group of people continued to head for Princess Nan’an’s courtyard. When they came to the inner courtyard of Prince Nan’an Mansion, it was a courtesy to greet Princess Nan’an first, and everyone knew the rule.

On a small path that was quite curvy, a little maid hurriedly ran over. She was stunned when she turned around and saw Wen Ruoming. However, after thinking for a while, she ran forward and stopped the group of people.

The maid respectfully bowed to Wen Ruoming first before turning to the crowd and uttered, “Madam Dowager, Third Young Lady, Fifth Young Lady, Sixth Young Lady, the Heiress-apparent would like to invite Third Young Lady to keep her company.”

The moment she finished her remarks, everyone was silent...

Chapter 419 Fragrance, Rudeness, and Secret Plot

It was very rude for Wei Fengyao to call Wei Yuejiao over before the latter met and greeted the Princess.

Wei Fengyao actually did such a thing and behaved so nonchalantly. Wen Ruoming's smile stiffened, while Madam Dowager pulled a long face.

The rest of the people, including Wei Yuejiao, all looked down as if they had heard nothing. The scene suddenly turned eerily silent.

Wei Yuewu lowered her head, and her butterfly-like eyes blinked twice. A trace of caution flashed through her eyes. There was indeed something strange about Wei Fengyao's state. It seemed as if she was going to do whatever she wanted regardless of the situation and consequences.

This represented a type of madness.

It seemed that she had to be even more careful today!

"Go and tell the Heiress-apparent that Yuejiao will go and see her after greeting the Princess. Ask her to stay calm and rest," Madam Dowager cleared her throat and ordered the maid. As the eldest person present, she had no choice but to come out and speak in order to ease the mood.

"But..." The maid hesitated for a moment. She lowered her head, clasped her hands together, and stammered, "I-If Third Young Lady doesn't go, the Heiress-apparent will be angry."

The maid was clutching her wrist tightly. Her sleeve covered her wrist, and no one could see anything, but Wei Yuewu keenly spotted a trace of red blood on the sleeve that was covering the maid's wrist. Her gaze became deeper.

"What's there to be angry about? It's not like her sister won't go see her. Just let her wait!" Wen Ruoming snapped angrily. He felt very embarrassed because of Wei Fengyao's perverse.

Plop! The maid suddenly knelt down. "Heir-apparent, the Heiress-apparent said that she was very close to Third Young Lady before she married. When she heard that Third Young Lady was coming, she

couldn't sleep all night. Right now, all she wants is to talk to the Third Young Lady. She even said that the next time Third Young Lady came, she... she would be dead!"

The maid cried and lamented.

Her remarks rendered Wen Ruoming speechless, and Madam Dowager looked gloomy.

Moreover, Wen Ruoming and Madam Dowager had the same goal today. In this situation today, they figured that it was best not to provoke Wei Fengyao. Although Wei Fengyao could not decide whether Wei Qiuju could marry Wen Ruoming, neither of the two families wanted anything unpleasant to happen during this period of time. After all, they were prominent and honorable families in the capital. It would be very embarrassing if something really happened.

It was beneficial to everyone as long as Wei Fengyao could quietly accept the fact and let the matter go on smoothly.

"Heir-apparent, Fengyao was indeed very close to Yuejiao before she got married, not to mention that she is very fragile now. How about..." Madam Dowager sighed and turned to Wen Ruoming. She did not care whether the two girls were really close or not. All she wanted to do was to appease Wei Fengyao.

Everyone could sense that Wei Fengyao was in a devastating state right now. It would be best if Wei Yuejiao could comfort her.

"Alright. Third Young Lady, go ahead and see Fengyao first." Wen Ruoming had the same concerns, so he nodded and agreed.

"Alright." Wei Yuejiao was complacent, but she said politely and followed the maid, who got up from the floor, to Wei Fengyao's residence.

Wei Fengyao's current residence was in a remote location and away from the mansion's Inner courtyard on the pretense that they wanted to let her rest and recover from her injury in a quiet place.

Wei Yuejiao glanced at Wei Yuewu smugly before leaving, but Wei Yuewu simply gave a faint look and left with Madam Dowager.

Wen Ruoming escorted them to Princess Nan'an's courtyard.

"Madam Dowager, the Fourth Prince is also here. I will go and be with him. Later, I'll come with him to greet you." With a smile, Wen Ruoming bowed to Madam Dowager and said goodbye.

"Is the Fourth Prince here too?" Madam Dowager asked after standing still, and there was a hint of joy in her eyes. The Fourth Prince really came after she sent a message to him. This meant that the Fourth Prince really took a fancy to Wei Yuewu.

"Yes, he arrived earlier than you, and now he's in my study. When he heard that you came over, he asked me to greet you first." Actually, Wen Ruoming didn't know why the Fourth Prince came today. He just wanted to stay in the inner courtyard more than anything.

Only when Mother Consort and Madam Dowager finalized the matter between him and Wei Qiuju could he be truly relieved.

However, he had to entertain the Fourth Prince since the latter had come, so he escorted Madam Dowager and the two young ladies to Mother Consort's courtyard before leaving.

"Okay then. Please do as you please, Heir-apparent," Madam Dowager said with a smile. Then, she looked at Wei Yuewu's delicate and beautiful little face with gentle eyes, feeling very satisfied. At last, Wei Yuewu proved her usefulness since she could make the Fourth Prince fall in love with her.

This was the best. They could build a closer relationship with the imperial family. The closer their relationship was, the better it would be for the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. In the future, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would definitely start another period of glory...

After Wen Ruoming left, Madam Dowager entered Princess Nan'an's courtyard with Wei Qiuju and Wei Yuewu.

A maid went in to report their arrival to the Princess, and another maid came to welcome them. They entered the courtyard in a lively manner.

Wei Yuewu looked over and saw maids and old maidservants standing neatly in two rows. On the couch in the middle sat the elegantly dressed Princess Nan'an. Beside her was a beautiful young girl.

Seeing everyone come in, the young girl hurriedly stood up with a gentle smile on her face.

The two parties greeted each other and took their respective seats.

"Who is this?" Madam Dowager looked up at the young girl and asked in surprise.

"She is my Eldest Brother's youngest daughter, and her official title is Jia'nan." Princess Nan'an introduced the young girl with a smile.

Princess Nan'an came from the land of dukes, but not all of the daughters of dukes had a title. Wei Yuewu looked at Prefectural Princess Jia'nan stealthily, and some thoughts flashed in her mind.

"Is this Prefectural Princess Jia'nan?" Madam Dowager's eyes widened in astonishment.

"Greetings, Madam Dowager." Prefectural Princess Jia'nan stepped forward and bowed with a smile. Madam Dowager hurriedly urged Nanny Hong to hold her up and beamed. "I've long heard that Prefectural Princess Jia'nan is cute and cheeky. I have such a pleasure meeting you today, and indeed, you are so adorable. If I had a granddaughter like you, I would have sweet dreams every night!"

"Oh, you're flattering her, Madam Dowager. Your granddaughters are outstanding too, especially Sixth Young Lady. She is so extraordinary that she does not pale in comparison with the Eldest Young Lady of the mansion of Duke of Jing!" Princess Nan'an chuckled.

Prefectural Princess Jia'nan smiled and returned to her seat.

“No, she’s not very outstanding, but I’m glad that she didn’t do anything to embarrass the family. Anyway, Princess, thank you for your compliment.” Madam Dowager made her statement in a vague manner, but Princess Nan’an understood her implication.

What Wei Fengyao had done during this period of time was really embarrassing. Her incident tarnished the reputation of Prince Nan’an Mansion and the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

“Don’t say that, Madam Dowager. Jia’nan, take Fifth and Sixth Young Ladies to see your cousin-in-law.” She dismissed the young ladies after exchanging greetings and pleasantries. Since they were here on the premise of visiting Wei Fengyao, she naturally had to send them to the latter.

“Yes, Aunt!” Prefectural Princess Jia’nan beamed and said to Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiuju, “Fifth Young Lady, Sixth Young Lady, I’ll take you to the back to see my cousin-in-law.”

Wei Qiuju lowered her head slightly. Her face was red with embarrassment. She moved her feet and wanted to walk, but she stopped in her tracks after finding Wei Yuewu was standing still.

Wei Yuewu looked at Madam Dowager.

“Yuewu, Qiuju, go ahead!” Madam Dowager nodded and was very satisfied with Wei Yuewu’s actions.

After getting Madam Dowager’s permission, Wei Yuewu followed Prefectural Princess Jia’nan out. Wei Qiuju carefully walked beside her, not daring to make any mistakes in case she would leave a bad impression on Princess Nan’an.

Prefectural Princess Jia’nan looked at Wei Qiuju first. Then, she looked at Wei Yuewu and asked, “Sixth Young Lady, you have only returned to the capital not long ago, have you? When do you plan to go back?”

“Yes, I have just returned not too long ago, but this is my home, isn’t it? Where should I go back?” Wei Yuewu asked with a gentle smile.

“Oh, right, I must be mistaken. The mansion of Marquis Hua Yang in the capital is your home. I thought that since you have been living in your maternal grandparents’ house for so many years, you plan to make that place your real home and get married there.” Prefectural Princess Jia’nan smiled.

The implication behind Prefectural Princess Jia’nan’s words made Wei Yuewu frown slightly, and her gaze darkened. It seemed that Prefectural Princess Jia’nan was up to something.

Just now, Wei Yuewu had a feeling that Prefectural Princess Jia’nan had been paying attention to her. She was not the least bit curious about Wei Qiuju, who was about to marry the Heir-apparent of Prince Nan’an as his concubine. Instead, she placed her focus on her. It was really strange.

This inexplicable hostility made Wei Yuewu even more puzzled.

Wei Yuewu was certain that she had never met Prefectural Princess Jia’nan before, let alone offended her in any way.

Yet now, she clearly sensed the hostility Prefectural Princess Jia’nan had toward her! She was not mistaken! The hostility came out of nowhere and was directed at her!

All noble daughters of aristocratic families would get married from their parents’ mansion but not their maternal grandparents’ house. Only the ladies who tarnished their reputations would hastily get married at a relative’s house instead of their parents’ home in order to be married off quickly.

Prefectural Princess Jia’nan’s words meant more than what she said.

“Oh, I’m sorry for the misunderstanding, Prefectural Princess Jia’nan. Will Prince Nan’an Mansion be your maternal home when you get married?” Wei Yuewu looked puzzled and donned a naive and innocent smile on her delicate face. She looked as if she could not grasp what Prefectural Princess Jia’nan implied at all.

The smile on Prefectural Princess Jia’nan’s face froze. She expected Wei Yuewu to be ugly since she was infamously known to be extremely hideous. To her bewilderment, Wei Yuewu was not only pretty but also very eloquent and sharp-tongued. Indeed, Wei Yuewu was vicious and cynical as Wei Fengyao described her to be. Only a heinous person like her could harm Wei Fengyao to this extent.

Prefectural Princess Jia'nan hated Wei Yuewu's smiling face to the core. The conversation she had with Wei Fengyao flashed across her mind. In that case, she was determined to avenge Wei Fengyao's injury!

Prefectural Princess Jia'nan secretly signaled her maid with her eyes, and the maid quietly retreated.

Despite her stealthy act, Wei Yuewu saw their interactions clearly, and her gaze turned profound and gloomy. She was walking beside Prefectural Princess Jia'nan now. As the wind blew, she could smell a faint and peculiar fragrance...

"Fifth Young Lady, Sixth Young Lady, let's go this way!" Prefectural Princess Jia'nan pointed to a courtyard and smiled.

Chapter 420 The Scent Gave Them Away

"This way?" Wei Yuewu asked with a smile while looking at the desolate courtyard.

"Yes, this way. It's a shorter route to Fengyao's courtyard," Prefectural Princess Jia'nan pointed with her finger and explained, giggling.

"Alright. Let's go then," Wei Yuewu said indifferently and looked at Wei Qiuju beside her. "Fifth Sister, what do you think? Is it okay to go this way?"

The appearance of Prefectural Princess Jia'nan frightened the life out of Wei Qiuju, who had been standing on the side and dared not say a single word.

"I... I... I-I don't think it's a good idea," Wei Qiuju stammered timidly and uneasily as she looked at the seemingly desolate courtyard.

There was a gravel road on the side where they could bypass this particular courtyard. For some reason, the courtyard looked particularly creepy and bleak. Wei Qiuju thought that there was no reason for them to walk through the courtyard.

“It’s a big detour that way, but it’ll be much faster to go from here. Fengyao told me that she wanted to see her sisters as soon as possible, so why don’t we just go through this way?”

Prefectural Princess Jia’nan insisted on taking the shortcut because Wei Fengyao had been looking forward to meeting her sisters. However, it was a known fact that Wei Fengyao was at odds with Wei Yuewu, and she always despised Wei Qiuju, who was a concubine-born daughter.

Prefectural Princess Jia’nan seemed to be asking for Wei Yuewu’s and Wei Qiuju’s opinions, but she kept walking toward the desolate courtyard.

Wei Qiuju looked timidly at Wei Yuewu and leaned toward her. She had also sensed that there was something strange about this place.

Meanwhile, Wei Yuewu looked calm and indifferent as she stepped forward and followed Prefectural Princess Jia’nan. It was indisputable that there was something fishy going on here, and Wei Fengyao must be the one who set up this plot. Needless to say, Prefectural Princess Jia’nan was Wei Fengyao’s accomplice.

Despite that, Wei Yuewu was never intimidated by other people’s schemes and tricks. Those who tried to scheme against her would come after her over and over again, but once she found out about their tricks—no matter how meticulous the plan was, she would not let them succeed!

Coincidentally, her nose spotted their flaw, and the scent gave them away.

Wei Yuewu, who had the experience of concocting medicinal powder, had a heightened sense of smell and had a very sensitive recognition toward some special medicinal fragrance.

The courtyard was really desolate as they had assumed. Wei Yuewu glanced at Prefectural Princess Jia’nan and saw the peculiarity in the latter’s expression beyond the casual and leisurely smile on her face.

Wei Yuewu looked composed and poised as she followed behind Prefectural Princess Jia’nan, but Wei Qiuju carefully walked one step away from her, not daring to stay too far away.

“Prefectural Princess, what’s over there?” Suddenly, a maid beside Prefectural Princess Jia’nan cried out in alarm. She pointed to a corner on the left side of the corridor, her face pale with shock.

“What’s wrong?” Prefectural Princess Jia’nan narrowed her eyes and growled in dismay.

“I-I-I don’t know. I-I think there’s something flashing by!” the maid stuttered in fear, her entire body trembling.

“What thing?! I’ve walked through this place so many times, but I’ve never seen anything before!” Prefectural Princess Jia’nan snapped furiously.

Then, she turned around and smiled apologetically at Wei Yuewu. “I’m so sorry, Sixth Young Lady. This is so embarrassing. The maid is feeble. She must have been mistaken.”

“No, Prefectural Princess, I was not mistaken. I-I really saw something...” The maid stuttered as she opposed Prefectural Princess Jia’nan’s words. She seemed as if she was about to faint out of extreme shock.

Wei Yuewu remained composed and poised as she looked at Prefectural Princess Jia’nan and her maid. There was not the slightest change of expression resulting from the maid’s claims.

No matter what kind of evil tricks Prefectural Princess Jia’nan was going to play, she would go along with it!

Wei Yuewu was very vigilant despite her calm expression, but she was not perturbed. She said lightly, “Prefectural Princess, how about you send someone to take a look?”

It was not late at night. Even if the maid really saw something, it wouldn’t be so spooky. She went a little overboard with her act.

“Uh... You! Go and take a look!” Prefectural Princess Jia’nan seemed to be very angry. She pointed at the maid and shouted angrily.

"B-But I'm scared..." The maid's legs went weak, and she collapsed to the ground. Her whole body shivered because of fear.

The few maids who were originally not afraid exchanged glances. For some reason, they began to feel a chill down their spines too. They immediately lowered their heads, for fear that Prefectural Princess Jia'nan would order them to take a look.

Actually, they couldn't let the imagination fester in their head. The more they thought about it, the scarier it became. All the maids looked pale and daunted now as they were spooked by their own imagination.

"You, go!" Prefectural Princess Jia'nan pointed at another maid. The maid also knelt down with a pale face. "Please, Prefectural Princess, I'm scared!"

"You!"

"You!"

Prefectural Princess Jia'nan pointed at the maids one by one. Prince Nan'an Mansion's maids knelt down and shivered in fear. No one dared to go forward.

"You..." Looking at the maids' timid and cowardly look, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was so exasperated that her face turned livid. She snorted coldly and grunted, "Hah! You're nothing but a timid bunch of losers! Okay, since none of you dare to go, I'll go! I want to see what it is that frightens the life out of all of you!"

After that, she waved her sleeve and turned to go to the corridor. After she took a few steps forward, she seemed to feel faint-hearted as she was alone, so she turned to look at Wei Yuewu. "Sixth Young Lady, can you come with me, please? I want to show these maids that there is nothing there. I want them to see how humiliated they are for making such a big fuss over nothing. It's an embarrassment to Prince Nan'an Mansion!"

"But..." Wei Yuewu hesitated for a moment.

Prefectural Princess Jia'nan suddenly turned around and walked to Wei Yuewu. She affectionately held her hand, leaned toward Wei Yuewu's ear, and whispered, "Please do me a favor, Sixth Young Lady. I can't embarrass myself in front of these maids!"

They were all daughters of aristocratic families, so they understood the importance of prestige and dignity in the hearts of maids and others. After her earlier remarks, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan had to go over and take a look in order to prove her point. Otherwise, the maids would despise her and not obey her orders in the future.

It was even more important for Prefectural Princess Jia'nan to establish her reputation since she had just come to Prince Nan'an Mansion. She could not let the maids and old maidservants in the mansion dishonor her. Now that she had a chance to prove herself, it would not be good if she messed it up.

"Alright!" Wei Yuewu nodded slowly and slipped her hand out of Prefectural Princess Jia'nan's grip without batting an eyelid. She was not used to holding hands with someone who was hostile to her.

"Sixth Young Lady, are you afraid? Don't worry. Yes, someone died in this courtyard a long time ago. She was a concubine. I don't know what happened then, but everyone in this courtyard died, and I heard that the way they died was very strange. I wonder if they attracted some vile spirits or whatnot. Anyway, it happened a long time ago, and it is daytime now. There's nothing to be afraid of,"

Prefectural Princess Jia'nan explained with a smile.

Despite her casual tone, Wei Qiuju was so frightened that she almost cried out loud. Her legs were trembling, so much so that she had to grab Yueya in order to stand firm. She first looked at the maids who were kneeling on the ground, and then at Wei Yuewu who looked calm and poised. She felt that it was better to follow Wei Yuewu.

At the thought of that, she reluctantly walked forward and followed Wei Yuewu.

At this moment, even the sunlight in the air felt chilly. She felt as if something had crawled over her back, and it gave her a creepy feeling.

"Sixth Younger Sister..." Wei Qiuju took two steps forward and mumbled with a trembling voice.

"What's up, Fifth Sister? Are you alright?" Wei Yuewu stopped in her tracks and asked softly.

"Fifth Young Lady, are you afraid? Actually, this is just gossip. I've never met the concubine who died in this courtyard. Maybe, the concubine was desperate, so she took all the maids and old maidservants with her when she died! But this is none of our business. She has never seen us. Even if she wanted to curse us, she couldn't!"

Prefectural Princess Jia'nan also stopped and chuckled as she talked.

Wei Qiuju was already scared. After hearing Prefectural Princess Jia'nan's remarks, she was so spooked that her teeth began to chatter.

"S-Sixth Younger Sister, I won't go over. Y-You go ahead!" Wei Qiuju stopped decisively. Although the maids behind them were cowardly, they didn't have to enter the courtyard. She could be less afraid since there were so many people out there, but if she followed them into the courtyard, something bad might happen.

This incident was scarier and more peculiar than a concubine committing suicide. As a daughter of prominent families, she was used to listening to various deaths of people in their mansions. Most of them hung themselves, jumped into the river, or were beaten to death.

However, Wei Qiuju had never heard of the death of all the people in one courtyard. This matter was inexplicably strange and horrifying. The more she thought about it, the more afraid she became. She could not even move her feet forward.

Yueya tried hard to keep a straight face and did not dare to show a look of fear as she held Wei Qiuju's arm, but when she heard that Wei Qiuju decided not to follow Wei Yuewu, she inevitably let out a sigh of relief and hurriedly nodded. "Okay, Miss. Come on, I'll help you to rest there. We'll wait for Sixth Young Lady to come out."

As she spoke, she directly pulled Wei Qiuju back a few steps and did not dare to take a step forward.

“Alright. Stand here and wait for me then.” Wei Yuewu nodded, her gaze becoming colder and colder.

Was the purpose of this story to scare Wei Qiuju away and not let her follow them? No, it was not that simple. It seemed that Wei Qiuju was not the only one Prefectural Princess Jia’nan wanted to scare. Wei Yuewu knew that Prefectural Princess Jia’nan had been observing her expression and reaction keenly as she kept checking on her from time to time.

Did Prefectural Princess Jia’nan try to catch any frightful expression on her face? Did she expect her to be so scared that her legs were trembling and she couldn’t speak properly? What would happen next? Would some accident happen when she got cold feet?

Everyone was trembling with fear under such circumstances. If some accident really happened to her at this moment, people would claim that she deserved it because she was showing off. After all, at a moment like this, she was expected to stay back as Wei Qiuju did.

She should stop being a hero if she didn’t have what it took to be one. If she insisted on doing it, and something bad really happened, she would end up being a laughingstock.

But it was not that simple, wasn’t it? Wei Yuewu remained expressionless, but her gaze was cold and solemn. In this case, she had to be more careful...

“Sixth Miss Wei, let’s hurry up and take a look. If there’s nothing, we can go straight to Fengyao’s courtyard. As for this bunch of losers...” Prefectural Princess Jia’nan glared at the shivering maids and Wei Qiuju with contempt. “They can stay here and walk slowly!”

As she spoke, she took a few steps forward, and Wei Yuewu slowly followed her.

When they passed through the corridor and were about to reach a corner, Prefectural Princess Jia’nan, who was walking at the front, suddenly cried out in surprise and retreated. She happened to step on Wei Yuewu’s foot, and Wei Yuewu subconsciously pushed forward...