

## Young Lady 431

### Chapter 431 Concubine Dong Couldn't Take It Anymore

"Sixth Young Lady, what a flawless move. Everyone has misjudged you!" Concubine Dong gritted her teeth as she looked at Wei Yuewu.

They were talking at a bend in the path, and no one was around. Even if someone came over, they could be seen from afar.

"What are you talking about?" Wei Yuewu blinked her eyes and asked indifferently.

"Sixth Young Lady, there is no one else here. You don't need to put on an act anymore. I'm afraid that Madam Dowager has fallen for your tricks too!" Concubine Dong sneered, and her eyes were almost burning.

It wasn't just about the shops. Thinking about how Wei Yuewu had instigated Lord Marquis to marry a noble lady of an aristocratic family, she couldn't take it anymore. Therefore, she specially waited at the courtyard entrance for Wei Yuewu to come out.

"Concubine Dong, I heard that my mother was supposed to have a smooth pregnancy back then, but you and Second Aunt made a ruckus at the entrance and disturbed Mother's labor. That was why Mother almost died with the baby!" Wei Yuewu didn't reply to Concubine Dong's words. Her eyes turned cold. She looked at Concubine Dong coldly while she spat those words harshly.

"I..." Concubine Dong was intimidated by Wei Yuewu's gaze, and she subconsciously took a step back. She felt as though Wei Yuewu's beautiful eyes had turned into an icy sword that could impale her heart.

But Concubine Dong quickly reacted and hurriedly said, "What are you talking about? How could I dare to do such a thing? It was obvious that Second Lady didn't like me and tried to pick a fight with me. At that time, I begged Second Lady not to make a fuss too. I was willing to bear the consequences if I did anything wrong. I tried to delay this fight until Madam had given birth, but Second Lady still wouldn't let me go."

Lady Li was not here, so Concubine Dong could naturally say whatever she wanted. Moreover, Concubine Dong was sure that no one knew about her secret back then.

“Then what about the medicine?” Wei Yuewu stared at Concubine Dong as her pale lips silently curled into a mocking smile.

“Medicine? What medicine?” Concubine Dong’s lips trembled for a moment before she asked.

Wei Yuewu switched the topic quickly, but Concubine Dong caught on immediately. She couldn’t help but look away, but her averting gaze fell straight into Wei Yuewu’s eyes.

Wei Yuewu thought, “Sure enough. Concubine Dong had something to do with Mother’s medicine!”

“Don’t you know what medicine I’m referring to? I heard that my mother had been taking medicine since she was pregnant. She still took them after giving birth to me. Aren’t you aware of that?” Wei Yuewu’s firm gaze was still on Concubine Dong.

“H-How would I know about this? Madam’s courtyard is not a place I can enter as I wish.” Concubine Dong felt a sense of guilt from Wei Yuewu’s staredown. Suddenly, she realized that Wei Yuewu was only a thirteen-year-old girl. For a moment, Concubine Dong became angry from the embarrassment she felt and retorted.

“In that case, was it a lie when you said you were close with my mother? Otherwise, why can’t you enter my mother’s courtyard?!” Wei Yuewu immediately identified the inconsistency in Concubine Dong’s words and said coldly.

This question made Concubine Dong tongue-tied for a moment, but she immediately spluttered, “I am merely Lord Marquis’ concubine. Even though Madam is close to me, I can’t enter her courtyard as I please.”

“Aren’t you longing after the title of Marquise Hua Yang? Unfortunately, my father thinks otherwise. What my father wants most now is to marry a young lady from an aristocratic family that can be the head of the backyard and helps him deal with the backyard’s affairs. Besides, Third Elder Sister has been getting out of control and misbehaving.”

Wei Yuewu said contemptuously. Then, she walked away delightedly with Huamo as Concubine Dong glared at her furiously.

She was now certain that Concubine Dong was related to the medicine that harmed her mother. A trace of resentment flashed in her eyes.

Didn't Concubine Dong covet the position of Marquise Hua Yang? Wei Yuewu wanted to destroy her hope so that she could only dream about this position forever. Didn't Concubine Dong lose her calm just now? She even brought up Lord Tu.

That was good. Things would be better when Concubine Dong used her last move in a hurry...

"Huamo, can Nurse Mei move now?"

"Miss, Nurse Mei can walk around but can't do anything intense. It's best if she doesn't strain her body." Huamo thought for a while and answered.

"Ask Nurse Mei to find out if someone in the mansion knows about Lord Tu's matter." Wei Yuewu said after pondering for a while. In her own courtyard, only Nurse Mei had been working for many years in the mansion and knew many people. She wouldn't garner too much attention even if she gossiped around.

Just now, Wei Yuewu had forced Concubine Dong to bring up Lord Tu. Then, she recalled the delicate pastries Concubine Dong had made before and how they were strategically placed in her father's study. She knew the visitor that day must be Lord Tu!

This meant Concubine Dong had a plan for Lord Tu. When she thought of Concubine Dong's current situation and Lord Tu's situation, some things were not that difficult to figure out.

Concubine Dong messed up, and it was all her own fault!

Wei Yuewu's scheme was working out nicely...

“Ask Jin Ling to keep an eye on Concubine Dong’s servant Jinzhu. Without Nanny Dong, the most trusted servants she brought from the border were only Jinzhu and Yuzhu. Right now, there was only Jinzhu by Concubine Dong’s side.

“Yes. I got it!” Huamo nodded.

Although it was chaotic in Marquis Hua Yang’s mansion, it still looked calm on the surface. However, there was a massive commotion on Prince Nan’an Mansion’s side.

Before Princess Nan’an and Madam Dowager could say anything, someone reported that a commotion had taken place in the backyard. It was said that Prefectural Princess Jia’nan had dragged Wei Fengyao, who was recuperating on the bed, into the courtyard and left her there. She even kicked Wei Fengyao a few times, causing her to faint on the spot.

When Princess Nan’an and Madam Dowager hurried over, Wei Fengyao had already woken up and been sent back to the mansion by her maids and old maidservants. However, she was hurt badly. She hugged her arms and was in so much pain that she couldn’t say anything.

When Prince Nan’an Mansion’s imperial doctor arrived, he only shook his head, implying that Wei Fengyao’s arm had been crippled completely.

Princess Nan’an trembled in anger and ordered someone to search for Prefectural Princess Jia’nan. However, she was informed that after Prefectural Princess Jia’nan came out of Wei Fengyao’s courtyard, she took her most trusted maid and rode away.

At this time, it was unknown where she had ridden off to.

When Princess Nan’an asked about the details, the servants in the mansion did not dare to conceal anything from her. They said that after Prefectural Princess Jia’nan came in, she slapped Wei Fengyao cruelly. She scolded Wei Fengyao for deliberately instigating her to harm Wei Yuewu. In the end, she got ruined instead.

After that, Wei Fengyao mocked Prefectural Princess Jia'nan. She said that Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was stupid and could only blame herself. With that, Wei Fengyao had infuriated Prefectural Princess Jia'nan. This was why Wei Fengyao was dragged to the courtyard.

"Madam Dowager, what do you think?" Princess Nan'an, who had understood the details of the matter, frowned and looked at Madam Dowager.

They were now sitting in the main apartment of Wei Fengyao's courtyard.

Wei Qiuju was trembling with fear as she stood next to Wei Yuejiao. At this time, Wei Yuejiao had a sour expression. When she recalled the matter, she was scared. If the ruthless Prefectural Princess Jia'nan had beaten her up and left just like that, she would have suffered a loss and lost her pride.

As of now, the two of them did not dare to speak a word.

"This matter is Jia'nan's fault indeed, but Fengyao was in the wrong too. Why does she have such great hatred for her cousin sister? I heard that they did not grow up together in the same mansion. Now, they have grown up and are living in different mansions. Why can't she tolerate her own cousin sister? They seemed to have an ill relationship. If Sixth Young Lady had really been bitten by a snake just now, she would have been dead! What a daughter-in-law... How can our mansion..."

Seeing that Madam Dowager was silent, Princess Nan'an sighed again.

Madam Dowager was fuming with anger. There was a hidden meaning behind Princess Nan'an's words, implicating that Wei Fengyao was in the wrong first. Moreover, this kind of behavior could have led to someone's death. She was vicious indeed, and it would be necessary to divorce such a ruthless person. However, Prince Nan'an Mansion was willing to let this matter go for the sake of the friendship between the two families.

However, if Madam Dowager wanted Prefectural Princess Jia'nan to bear the responsibility, then Princess Nan'an would publicize this matter too. Marquis Hua Yang's mansion would lose its pride entirely when people discovered that they had raised such a daughter.

"I'll do whatever you ask of me, Princess Nan'an!" Madam Dowager buried the anger in her heart.

She had to say this. Wei Fengyao had schemed against Wei Yuewu, and someone got a hold of evidence against her. Even Madam Dowager couldn't get her out of this rut this time.

"Since you have said so, I will write a letter to my elder brother and let him teach Jia'nan well. I must not let her be this unruly. As for Fengyao, I promise her position as the heiress-apparent will remain unchanged. The next Heir-apparent of Prince Nan'an Mansion depends on Fifth Young Lady's belly now!"

Princess Nan'an smiled and looked warmly at Wei Qiuju, who was standing at the side.

In other words, Prince Nan'an Mansion gave Marquis Hua Yang's mansion two promises. First, Wei Fengyao's position as the heiress-apparent and the future princess would never be threatened. Secondly, if there was good news from Wei Qiuju's belly, the next heir-apparent would be her son.

These promises proved Princess Nan'an's determination on this matter. Madam Dowager recalled how she had planned to give up on Wei Fengyao. Even though she was reluctant to make concessions regarding what happened today, she couldn't deny Wei Fengyao's wrongdoing.

"Let's do as you say! Please take good care of Wei Fengyao, Princess. It would be even better to invite a few more imperial doctors for her. I will bring my granddaughters back first if there's nothing else!" Now that things had reached this point, Madam Dowager was embarrassed to stay. She bid her farewell and stood up.

"Madam Dowager, you're acting like a stranger. If we can cure Fengyao, we will try our best to make her feel better. I will go to the palace in a while and ask the Empress to send more imperial doctors to treat Fengyao!" Princess Nan'an's words were polite. She smiled as she sent Madam Dowager out.

"Thank you, Princess!" Madam Dowager thanked her again. "Princess, there's no need to walk me out!"

"Madam Dowager, you are too kind. I don't mind sending you off. It is rare for you to have time to come here today. I didn't expect things to escalate to this point. If I have the time in the future, I will go to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang to apologize personally!" Princess Nan'an was very good with her words. Although she stopped her footsteps, she still smiled politely.

Therefore, Madam Dowager said a few more words of courtesy and brought her two granddaughters to the carriage waiting outside the gate. With that, the carriage returned to Marquis Hua Yang's mansion.

Just as they got off the carriage, they saw Wei Luowen's lad servant standing guard at the gate. It seemed as though he had been standing there for quite some time. When he saw Madam Dowager coming over, his eyes lit up, and he hurried forward to greet them. "Madam Dowager, Lord Marquis is asking you to meet him at his study!"

#### Chapter 432 Secret Confrontation Between Mother and Son

Madam Dowager nodded. She also had something to tell Wei Luowen at this time. She told Wei Qiuju to go back first. Then she took Wei Yuejiao with her to Wei Luowen's study.

When Wei Luowen heard that Madam Dowager was back, he hurriedly went to the entrance of the courtyard to receive her.

"Kneel!" Madam Dowager suddenly turned to scold Wei Yuejiao. Wei Yuejiao was stunned and did not react. She looked at Madam Dowager and said with grievance, "Grandmother!"

"I will speak to your father in a moment about what you have done today," Madam Dowager said harshly. "Kneel down!"

Wei Yuejiao took a pitiful glance at Wei Luowen. When she saw that Wei Luowen showed an expressionless face and did not even look at her, her eyes could not help but turn red. She fell to her knees with a thud. Tears immediately fell from her eyes. She cried out sorrowfully, "Father!"

"Mother, please come in and sit." Wei Luowen only looked at Wei Yuejiao for a moment before turning away in disappointment.

Madam Dowager nodded and followed Wei Luowen into the room to sit down. The lad servant served tea and retreated. Nanny Hong and the others, including the maids and old maidservants, were all standing in the corridor.

"Today at Prince Nan'an Mansion, Yuejiao and Fengyao plotted against Yuewu together. Even Prince Nan'an Mansion's guest, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan, was involved. After the incident, Princess Nan'an wanted to send Prefectural Princess Jia'nan back to her home. Prefectural Princess Jia'nan, who was so angry, beat up Fengyao. Then, she took her own maid and rode away. Fengyao's arm was ruined!"

Madam Dowager roughly explained what had happened.

Some of these matters were already known to Wei Luowen, but some were not. When he heard Madam Dowager's words, he became angry. "How did Prince Nan'an Mansion intend to give us an explanation?"

"Princess Nan'an didn't say much. She just promised that she won't deprive Fengyao of her position as the heiress-apparent. If Qiuju makes it, her son will be the next heir-apparent," Madam Dowager said with a gloomy face.

"She is really going too far!" Wei Luowen slammed his hand on the writing desk and suddenly stood up. With a stern look on his face, he said, "I'm going to talk to Prince Nan'an!"

After saying that, he was about to leave.

"Luowen, wait a moment!" Madam Dowager said hurriedly. "If this matter really blows up, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan will be punished, and Fengyao will be divorced. Yuejiao will lose her reputation, and Qiuju's matter may also be exposed. The daughters of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang will all be ruined!"

This was also the reason why Madam Dowager had to agree despite knowing that she had been treated unfairly just now.

"Mother, are we just going to let it go like this?" Wei Luowen said hatefully.

"If not, what else can we do? Fengyao's arm was ruined anyway. They said that it might not be cured before. Prince Nan'an Mansion finally made a concession. It depends on whether Qiuju can bear a son. Although there is another secondary concubine from Princess Nan'an's parents' home at the same time, since Princess Nan'an has agreed, she will not change her mind. As for Yuejiao..."



Madam Dowager sighed at this point. Wei Yuejiao was becoming more and more unappealing to her. "Yuejiao used to be a nice girl. I wonder how she became like this now."

These words made Wei Luowen silent. He was also disappointed with Wei Yuejiao. He calmly thought about the matter of Prince Nan'an Mansion. It involved three girls, one from each branch of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Wei Luowen really couldn't say anything.

"Let's do as you say, mother." Although he was indignant in his heart, Wei Luowen also understood that this matter could not be pursued. Otherwise, the three girls would be ruined.

Wei Luowen sat down again. He picked up the tea on the table and took a big sip. Then he put down the cup and said to Madam Dowager, "Mother, Yuejiao is not young anymore. I'll have to trouble you to choose a nice family for her. As long as the other party's family background is clean, it's fine."

"This matter... Hasn't it always been Concubine Dong's business?" Madam Dowager was stunned for a moment. It was not that she did not want to interfere, but in the past, Concubine Dong had repeatedly expressed that Wei Luowen wanted to raise her status to Marquise. Wei Yuejiao's marriage would be arranged after she became Marquise Hua Yang. Over time, Madam Dowager did not care about this matter.

"Mother, Concubine Dong is too ambitious. I will have to trouble you to take care of it," Wei Luowen said coldly.

"What's wrong with Concubine Dong?" Madam Dowager's eyelids twitched. She felt that something was wrong for some reason. She looked at Wei Luowen's expressionless face and asked carefully.

This was the first time that Wei Luowen had clearly said that Concubine Dong was too ambitious in front of Madam Dowager.

In the past, even if Madam Dowager had been beating around the bush and asked Wei Luowen if he had any interest in raising Concubine Dong to the status of Marquise, he would always smile and avoid talking about it. He didn't say yes or no, but no matter what, at least his attitude was cordial towards Concubine Dong.

Could it be that something had happened?

“Concubine Dong is really ambitious. She dared to covet the shops that Rui’er left for Yuewu. Mother, do you still remember that I said before that all of Rui’er’s things would be left to Yuewu? There were not many legacies, to begin with, so they should be left for Yuewu. However, Concubine Dong actually made two account books and took the fake one as an excuse to sell the shops.”

“Two account books? Sell the shops?” Madam Dowager could not sit still anymore. She moved uneasily with a look of surprise.

“Yes, mother. At this time, two shops were exposed and reported to the Mayor of the capital city. Their account books should be in Mayor of the capital city’s hands now, but the ones I have here are fake account books made later. The Shopkeepers colluded with Concubine Dong to cheat us. Later, I will send these account books to yamen...”

Wei Luowen said with a cold face, the scar on his face revealing a grim aura.

“No. If these account books are really sent to yamen, the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang will be totally disgraced.” Madam Dowager was anxious and hurriedly stopped him.

“She’s just a concubine. The mansion of Marquis Hua Yang doesn’t lack concubines. However, regarding Yuejiao’s marriage, I will have to trouble you, mother.” Wei Luowen showed no mercy.

“It’s not merely a problem about a concubine. Concubine Dong has been with you for so many years. Even if she has no great contributions, she did work hard. Besides, there is also Yuejiao. Yuejiao’s marriage has not been decided. If people find out that she has such a biological mother, which family will be willing to take her? In this case, she will have to live a terrible life,” Madam Dowager persuaded earnestly.

“Mother, what’s your opinion?” Wei Luowen seemed to have been persuaded. His brows were tightly furrowed.

“Go to Mayor of the capital city’s yamen later and drop the case. We will take care of our own affairs. As for Concubine Dong, if you don’t like her, then just leave her alone. She is just a concubine.” At this time, Madam Dowager had made a decision in her heart.

Concubine Dong’s matter was not a big deal, but it would definitely expose Madam Dowager’s scandal. If others find out that she embezzled her daughter-in-law’s dowry, she will be ashamed to the extreme, so she resolutely stopped Wei Luowen.

“Mother, Yuewu’s shops...” Wei Luowen hesitated.

“Don’t worry, I will definitely have Concubine Dong hand over all of them. Those were your wife’s shops back then. Even if the shops are all in the red, it’s up to Yuewu to decide whether to close them or not,” Madam Dowager said resolutely.

“Alright, then I’ll have to trouble you, mother.” Wei Luowen nodded sadly.

“What are you talking about? You are my son. Your business is my business. Haven’t I done enough for you all these years?” Madam Dowager sighed. Her eyes were slightly red, and she wiped her tears with a handkerchief.

When she said this, Wei Luowen also thought of something. The corners of his eyes were slightly moist. He stood up and bowed deeply to Madam Dowager respectfully. “Mother, you will always be my mother. If it weren’t for you, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Madam Dowager quickly stood up and came over to help him up. “We are mother and son. Why did you say such things? Alright, you should go to yamen to close the case first. You can’t let others see the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang as a joke.”

“Yes, mother! As for Yuejiao’s marriage...”

“I will pay attention to Yuejiao’s marriage. Since Concubine Dong is such a restless person, Yuejiao should not be a victim of her wrongdoings. Do you just want a well-reputed family for her?” Madam Dowager nodded and asked. She felt relieved as she saw Wei Luowen agreed.

“Yes, ordinary well-reputed families are fine. There is no need for those extremely noble and wealthy families. Yuejiao’s personality is too harsh. For so many years, she has always been raised by my side. She’s been living a life much happier than Yuewu, but she still can’t tolerate Yuewu. She wants to excel in everything and completely ignores the difference between legitimate and concubine-born daughters. Now, she is still unmarried. If she were to marry into a noble family, she might cause trouble.”

Wei Luowen sighed. “Actually, it’s not just Yuejiao. It’s good enough if Yuewu can marry a well-reputed family and be safe and happy for a lifetime.”

Speaking of which, this was also the fatherly love of Wei Luowen. Wei Yuejiao and Wei Yuewu were both his daughters. How could he bear to let them get involved in his own affairs? His own affairs were too great a burden. It was better to keep things simple and uneventful for the girls.

As for his own matters, it was better to solve them himself. No matter what the future was like, he would continue on this road...

“Does Yuewu have to marry a well-reputed family too?” Madam Dowager was slightly startled, feeling a little uneasy.

“Yes.” Wei Luowen nodded. “My daughters do not need to be related to the royal family.”

“But... Now the nation-wide selection of the Crown Princess and royal concubines is under way. It is really not appropriate to get engaged at this time.” Madam Dowager had something on her mind. She looked at Wei Luowen’s face and carefully reminded him.

“Then let’s wait until the selection is over,” Wei Luowen said.

“What... what if the Crown Prince takes a fancy to Yuewu?” Madam Dowager raised the question in her heart.

Slam! Wei Luowen’s hand slammed heavily on the table in front of him. Immediately, a corner of the table was cut off. “I’ll see if he dares!”

This action shocked Madam Dowager, but she immediately looked around vigilantly. When she saw that there was no one else in the room, she breathed a sigh of relief.

“Luowen, I also hope that it won’t happen. But Yuewu is so beautiful. Maybe the Crown Prince will take a fancy to her. What do you think you should do? You should prepare earlier. You can’t let Yuewu really marry into Crown Prince Mansion,” Madam Dowager lowered her voice and reminded Wei Luowen.

In her opinion, it would be better for Wei Yuewu to marry into Fourth Prince’s Mansion than into Crown Prince Mansion. Otherwise, it would be a waste of her outstanding face.

“Mother, I know.” Wei Luowen nodded with a gloomy face.

After they had agreed on what to do, Madam Dowager brought Wei Yuejiao back to Tranquility Courtyard and let Wei Yuejiao continue to kneel outside Tranquility Courtyard’s door.

In Lotus Courtyard, Huamo ran into the room with an invitation card in her hand.

“Miss! Miss! Duke of Yan State Mansion has an invitation card for you!”

#### Chapter 433 Duke of Yan State Mansion’s Tree-Viewing Party

An invitation card from Yan Huaijing?

Wei Yuewu was surprised as she received it. After looking at the content of the invitation card, she was stunned for a moment. As an heir-apparent, Yan Huaijing was different from other people who would either host a flower-viewing party or a lantern-viewing party. He was actually inviting her to a tree-viewing party!

What was so nice about viewing trees?

Then, she suddenly recalled the tall trees she saw in the palace that day. Yan Huaijing claimed that those were the trees from the State of Yan. Could it be that he wanted to invite everyone to view those trees?

However, the Duke of Yan State Mansion did not have a mistress, and Jing Wenyan was the person who signed the invitation card, saying that given the friendship between the two families, Yan Huaijing wanted her to entertain his guests in the inner courtyard on his behalf. Moreover, Jing Wenyan was actually asked to assist Yan Huaijing in serving his guests, particularly at this crucial time. It was interesting to contemplate the hidden meaning behind this.

Could it be interpreted as a hint that the Duke of Yan State Mansion wanted to make this top-ranked beauty its mistress?

If that was the case, wouldn't Third Princess and Fourth Princess actually turn into a joke?

"Miss, what does the Heir-apparent of Yan mean?" Jin Ling peeked over and asked in surprise.

"Since the State of Yan and the State of Jing have always been close, I assume that the Heir-apparent of Yan and Eldest Miss Jing should be well acquainted. Am I right?" Wei Yuewu thought for a moment and asked softly.

"Yes, they are. The State of Jing has always been flattering the State of Yan. What's more, Eldest Miss Jing would visit the State of Yan from time to time. Princess of Yan also liked Eldest Miss Jing very much, so that was why there was a rumor regarding the marriage alliance between the two states. However, the heir-apparent opposed it later on, so this matter was left unsettled. Following the episode, the State of Jing was then wiped out by the State of Yan."

Jin Ling replied after thinking for a while.

"The State of Jing has always been flattering the State of Yan? Isn't the Duke of Jing closer to the Emperor than the ordinary dukes?" Wei Yuewu thought of something. She had always thought that the State of Jing's arrogance was to blame for its destruction by the State of Yan. However, judging by Jin Ling's story, that did not sound right.

"I am not too sure about this. However, I heard that the State of Jing secretly maintained covert communications with the capital while expressing its submission to the State of Yan. Some of the military secrets of the State of Yan were thus revealed, and His Highness was quite displeased with this," Jin Ling replied.

“Miss, should we attend the party?” Huamo approached with caution and asked, not understanding what they said.

She would follow Wei Yuewu’s instructions in every way.

“Of course!” Wei Yuewu looked at the note attached to the invitation card silently and answered helplessly.

After opening the invitation card, there was a tiny note attached to the back layer of the card. The invitation card felt somewhat different the moment she got a hold of it. Wei Yuewu carefully removed the tiny note from the back layer.

The not-so-large note was unfolded. Two flamboyant words, “DO COME”, were written on it.

The handwriting was different from that of the card. In fact, it had greater vitality and was more powerful. Needless to say, Yan Huaijing must have written this himself.

“Is there anything to take into account when preparing a gift in the State of Yan?” Wei Yuewu asked Jin Ling as she folded the note in her hand and put it back into the card.

“The State of Yan isn’t as particular as the capital. A casual gift will do, Miss.” Jin Ling shook her head, but then she was a little worried. “Miss, if there are not many young ladies of aristocratic families attending the event, won’t our presence be too eye-catching?”

“They are definitely going,” Wei Yuewu replied as she nonchalantly closed the card. “Since everyone wants to see what is going on between the Heir-apparent of Yan and Eldest Miss Jing, so not only will they go, but there will be many people going too, including Third Princess and Fourth Princess.”

Since it was a banquet, everyone was welcome. Why would Third Princess and Fourth Princess miss out on this chance?

Compared with other young ladies of aristocratic families, Third Princess and Fourth Princess should be more concerned about the matter of Yan Huaijing.

"How is the inquiry going with Nurse Mei?" Wei Yuewu asked Huamo. Earlier on, she had asked Huamo to see Nurse Mei for a chat.

"Lord Tu and Lord Marquis have known each other for a long time, dating back to the year Madam passed away. They immediately became best friends when they first met. Therefore, when Lord Marquis returned to the mansion every year, Lord Tu would come to visit him. Lord Marquis would also take the initiative to go to Lord Tu's mansion to return the visit. I heard that a favored concubine in Lord Tu's mansion was actually given by Lord Marquis."

Taking advantage of the chance to support Nurse Mei earlier on, Huamo had been listening to her from the side. She sorted out the content as she spoke.

"Father even gifted him a concubine?" Wei Yuewu was shocked.

"That's right. That concubine used to serve Concubine Dong. It seems that she was a maid that Concubine Dong brought from the border, not from the capital. Therefore, nobody is familiar with her," Huamo replied. "However, in the past, she would occasionally accompany Lord Tu to come over and kowtow to Concubine Dong to express her gratitude."

Concubine Dong's maid? What was more, she was brought over from the border. As compared with all the maids in the mansion, she must have been the most trusted servant of Concubine Dong.

In other words, Lord Tu's favored concubine was also Concubine Dong's most trusted servant, so she would definitely share some confidential information she knew with Concubine Dong.

"What happened to Lord Tu then?" Wei Yuewu was really curious about him.

"I can't find out more about Lord Tu. I was only told that Lord Tu was in a difficult situation when he was young, and his family was down and out. After that, he lost his status as the lineal son of the Tu Family and became a member of the side family. However, he was determined to succeed and worked harder after that. After an excellent result in the imperial examination, he progressively revived his family. As



for the rest, I know nothing about him. It appears that Lord Tu was separated from his sister when he was young, and he has been looking for her for so many years.”

Huamo compiled the news she had heard previously and reported to Wei Yuewu.

“Is the pastry plate from last time still with us?” Wei Yuewu lowered her head and pondered for a moment. After a while, she raised her head and asked softly.

“Don’t worry, Miss. I have been keeping it carefully!” Shufei added on from the side.

“Bring it with you when we go to the Duke of Yan State Mansion.” Since she couldn’t find anything on her own, it seemed that she would have to bother Yan Huaijing for help. There was no way that no one could recognize such a unique plate. Moreover, Jin Ling had mentioned before that Lord Tu was previously acquainted with Yan Huaijing too.

“Yes!” Shufei nodded knowingly.

“What? I... I was requested to entertain guests on behalf of His Heir-apparent?” Jing Wenyan was shocked as she saw eight maids in front of her. Each of them was holding a beautiful gift box in their hands. When the gift boxes were opened, beautiful pieces of silk and satin were revealed.

“Yes, our heir-apparent asked you to help receive the guests. There is no other old acquaintance around in the capital, except you, Eldest Miss Jing. Since you previously assisted Princess to entertain her guests before in the State of Yan, you must be well familiar with the rules. For this reason, the heir-apparent asked you for a favor, Eldest Miss Jing.”

Yan Huaijing’s eunuch, Little Dezi, said with a smile.

“But this is the capital here...” Jing Wenyan opted out.

“It doesn’t matter much. Everyone knows that the State of Yan and the State of Jing had a long friendship. Eldest Miss Jing, it is reasonable if you do this as a favor. Our heir-apparent also said that if

you decline his request, do you think that everyone in the capital knows nothing?” Little Dezi repeated Yan Huaijing’s words.

Although his words sounded polite, how could Jing Wenyan not understand the strong meaning in them?

“Alright then!” Jing Wenyan gritted her teeth. With so many guests to the mansion of the Duke of Jing, even if she declined the request, others would still doubt her relationship with Yan Huaijing. Therefore, she might as well declare that she was doing this as a favor for him.

In the previous incident, Jing Wenyan had offended Fourth Princess. Hence, she wanted to seek protection from Yan Huaijing but was then rejected by him. Fortunately, she reacted quickly and hurriedly went to Crown Prince Mansion, pleading with the Crown Prince to speak something nice for her. Only then did Fourth Princess hold back from raging at her.

Yan Huaijing did not protect her last time, and she even got involved with him this time. Not to mention Fourth Princess, the vague relationship between them would definitely irritate Third Princess as well.

For now, how could she possibly gain the trust of the two princesses? Her mind was spinning rapidly as she tried to come up with a solution.

“Eldest Miss Jing, I will go back to return the message to our heir-apparent now.” Seeing that Jing Wenyan had agreed, Little Dezi smiled and ordered everyone to put down the gift boxes in their hands before bidding farewell to Jing Wenyan.

“Please tell your heir-apparent not to worry. I will go over and help him entertain his guests. However, isn’t there someone else by his side? Why doesn’t he just let her handle it instead?” Jing Wenyan smiled and stopped Little Dezi.

“Eldest Miss Jing, are you talking about Miss Lin?” Little Dezi smiled.

“That’s right. Since she is still in the mansion, why not ask Miss Lin for assistance? She is the daughter of an aristocratic family in the State of Yan. Isn’t she more knowledgeable about entertaining guests than I do? Isn’t she more justified in handling the matter?” Jing Wenyan quietly observed Little Dezi’s reaction.

The two princesses were curious about the woman from the State of Yan's aristocratic family, but shouldn't the Crown Prince have been even more so?

If she had the chance to send the woman to the Crown Prince, wouldn't the Crown Prince value her much more? With that, she could probably get better benefits from him.

As she thought about this, her heart couldn't help but beat faster. Her cheeks turned slightly red, making her face look like a peach blossom. She looked incomparably beautiful.

"Miss Lin is physically weak. I'm afraid that she won't be able to entertain guests." Little Dezi directly refused on behalf of Yan Huaijing.

"Duke of Yan State Mansion is hosting a party. Doesn't Miss Lin want to come over to take a look? After all, she is a young girl who likes to join in the fun like others. When the time comes, I will send someone to invite Miss Lin too!" Jing Wenyan used the retreat to advance and smiled indifferently.

"Urm... It still depends on Miss Lin's decision." Little Dezi couldn't bring himself to laugh anymore.

"It's fine. We're all about the same age, and there are so many young ladies of aristocratic families coming too. I'm sure Miss Lin will definitely enjoy the event. The daughter of an aristocratic family in the State of Yan must be a more straightforward person than the average daughter of an aristocratic family. However, I am not sure what relationship Miss Lin has with Young Master Lin Fang?" Jing Wenyan continued her inquiries quietly.

Yan Huaijing's Chief Bodyguard, Lin Fang, was the lineal son of an aristocratic family in the State of Yan. Jing Wenyan was acquainted with him previously, and she had never dared to overlook a person like him who seemed to conceal all his evil intents beneath a sincere grin.

"Of course, they are related. Eldest Miss Jing, His Heir-apparent is still waiting for me to return the message. Let's not talk about it for now. Please come to the mansion early that day, Eldest Miss Jing," Little Dezi said hastily.

This time, Jing Wenyan did not stop him. She nodded while smiling. After Little Dezi left, she turned and entered the inner room. Her maid, Xuecui, quickly spread out the paper for her. Jing Wenyan thought for a moment before picking up a writing brush and writing on the paper.

After that, she put down the writing brush and looked at the paper a few times. After the ink was completely dried, she folded the paper and put it into an envelope on the side. Then, she handed it to Xuecui and ordered, "Get someone to bring this to Crown Prince Mansion!"

Xuecui replied, "Yes!"

It would be better to report the matter about Miss Lin and her relationship with Lin Fang to the Crown Prince as soon as possible. Since she was brought to the stage and requested to handle the task, it would be convenient for her to investigate more about Miss Lin. Moreover, didn't Yan Huaijing also pay much attention to the Sixth Young Lady of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang?

After a while, a bodyguard walked out of the mansion of Duke of Jing, got on his horse in a hurry, and rode straight out.

However, the horse was caught by a tripping rope as soon as it just passed a corner of a small alley. The bodyguard lost balance and fell from the horse. Before he could react, a sword sliced through his throat, and blood splattered on the spot...

#### Chapter 434 Concubine Dong's Procrastination Plan

"Concubine mother, how come that bitch is not dead yet, and she even made me suffer from Grandmother's punishment... Ah... Please be gentle... Be gentle!" Wei Yuejiao hugged her legs and sat on the bed as Concubine Dong was applying medicine for her. She cried out in pain and cursed Wei Yüewu hatefully.

"Concubine mother, why didn't that bitch just die on her trip back to the capital? Didn't you say that she will die for sure?" Wei Yuejiao was about to spit fire from her eyes.

"Shut up!" Concubine Dong put down the medicine cup in her hand and shouted.

Seeing the situation, Jinzhu immediately waved her hand to dismiss all the other maids and old maidservants, except for Yuzhu and her.

“Third Young Lady, you can’t say such things however you like!” Concubine Dong looked outside and scolded her in a low voice.

“Why can’t I? Second Sister and Marquis Jing Yuan are both useless. They can’t even handle such a simple thing well. They brought so many people with them, but they still let that bitch escape. They are so stupid. That’s why they ultimately ended up in a sorry state!”

Wei Yuejiao curled her lips and said disdainfully. She was also injured in her knees due to the kneeling punishment. Both her hands and her legs were in great pain. A turmoil of hateful emotions overwhelmed her heart.

“Third Young Lady, what happened to you today? Why did you stir up trouble with Eldest Young Lady? That is Prince Nan’an Mansion, not our mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. If everything is exposed, how can you get a good marriage in the future!” Concubine Dong said bitterly.

“In fact, I didn’t do anything... I just helped Eldest Sister lure Fourth Prince and the heir-apparent over. Concubine mother, Fourth Prince actually takes a fancy to that bitch. There is news from Grandmother’s side saying that if that bitch is married to Fourth Prince, she will just marry me off to an ordinary family.”

When Wei Yuejiao thought of this, it was like a thorn in her heart. “I will be married to a man like Xie Qingzhao. Concubine mother, how can I get married to a man like him? He and Wei Qiufu had an ambiguous relationship.”

Seeing that there was no one else in the room, Wei Yuejiao became more and more outspoken.

“Your grandmother is going to marry you to Xie Qingzhao?” Wei Yuejiao’s marriage was the thing that worried Concubine Dong the most. Therefore, she questioned it right away.

“Yes. Concubine mother, I have no choice. When Fourth Prince heard that something happened to that bitch, he rushed over without saying a word and even slapped Prefectural Princess Jia’nan. If it hadn’t been for this, Prefectural Princess Jia’nan wouldn’t have beaten Eldest Sister up in anger!”

Wei Yuejiao was still scared when she thought about it now. Prefectural Princess Jia'nan really dared to make such a move. If she was the one who was beaten, wouldn't she have suffered for nothing?

"We must prevent that bitch from entering the Fourth Prince's mansion!" Concubine Dong gritted her teeth.

Her own daughter was the most precious one, and only she can be married into the imperial family and become a princess. Why was Qin Xinrui always suppressing her? Now, Wei Yuejiao, her own daughter, suffered the same fate and was suppressed by Qin Xinrui's daughter.

"But Fourth Prince really takes a fancy to her!" Wei Yuejiao said hatefully.

"But nothing else is happening right now, right? Besides, even if Fourth Prince is interested in her, he would not bring the topic up right now. That bitch is going to participate in the nationwide selection for the Crown Prince Mansion," Concubine Dong said with a grim face. She had to speed up her plans. Otherwise, everything would be too late.

"Concubine mother, why do you think that she is so powerful? Didn't everyone say that she was a useless and timid person who didn't even dare to look at people?" Wei Yuejiao gritted her teeth and asked in a hateful voice. "Concubine mother, don't you wonder how a bitch who knew nothing suddenly became so powerful as soon as she entered the capital? Could it be that she was switched on her way to the capital?"

"What do you mean?" Concubine Dong glanced sideways at Wei Yuejiao and asked. Her heart skipped a beat.

"Concubine mother, think about it. Marquis Jing Yuan brought so many people over to assassinate her. How could Wei Yuewu not be killed? Not only that, but she also escaped successfully. Could it be that the real Wei Yuewu died a long time ago and this is just a fake one?" Wei Yuejiao said whimsically.

"That's impossible. Madam Dowager had already addressed the same question when she entered the mansion," Concubine Dong denied flatly.

She had her most trusted servant in the mansion. When Wei Yuewu first entered the mansion, she had already inquired about the confrontation between Wei Yuewu, Wei Yan, and Lady Li. Therefore, she knew that attempting to bring down Wei Yuewu in this regard was impossible.

“Concubine mother, didn’t you tell me that the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State is also involved? The State of Yan is somewhere near the place where Father is defending the frontier. What if the Heir-apparent of Yan intervened in this matter?” Wei Yuejiao suggested.

“We can’t just say that the current Wei Yuewu is a fake one and that she was being switched by the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State, can we?” Concubine Dong frowned.

“Oh yes... we can! We can use this for justification!” Wei Yuejiao sat up straight in an instant out of excitement, but she accidentally bumped into her wound and groaned.

“Do you think switching someone is easy?” Although Concubine Dong was somewhat impressed by her wild imagination, she still scolded her.

“Concubine mother...” Wei Yuejiao was unwilling to comply.

“You have to bear in mind that these are not the things we need to do right now. Do you still remember what I asked you to keep in mind last time?” Concubine Dong’s face sank. There was no room for any mistakes at this point.

The attempt to get Tu Jiulin’s attention by sending the pastries over had failed. Therefore, she could only find other alternatives to accomplish her goal. It would be inappropriate for her to approach Tu Jiulin herself without any justifiable reason.

“Don’t worry, Concubine mother. I won’t make a mistake. I promise!” When Wei Yuejiao learned that Concubine Dong did not adopt her suggestion, she felt depressed. A trace of hatred flashed through her lowered eyes. She would definitely make life difficult for Wei Yuewu.

“Concubine mother, I heard that the Duke of Yan State Mansion sent an invitation to our mansion. I want to go too!”

"Only Fourth Young Lady and Sixth Young Lady are invited." The invitation card from the Duke of Yan State Mansion was delivered directly to the mansion without passing through Concubine Dong's hand, but how could she possibly not know anything about it?

"Why is it that bitch again? When she wasn't here in the past, no matter which mansion sent an invitation over, they would invite me!" Wei Yuejiao was furious.

"Alright, given your current state, you can't go even if you are invited." After that, Concubine Dong stood up and scolded again, "You ignored my advice the last time I advised you not to go out. This time, Eldest Young Lady was also involved. If Eldest Young Lady is as powerful as you expected, how could she possibly end up in a situation where she might be deprived of her position as the heiress-apparent? And yet, you still blindly got yourself involved with her."

"Concubine mother!" Wei Yuejiao felt wronged.

"Get some good rest, and don't overthink. When your father asks about it, just answer him according to my instructions. As for the rest, just say you know nothing," Concubine Dong instructed again out of concern.

"I got it," Wei Yuejiao replied weakly. After that, she leaned back and ignored Concubine Dong completely.

Seeing her daughter's indifferent attitude, Concubine Dong was so angry that her expression changed. However, she suppressed her anger and whispered a few words to Yuzhu. Then, she turned around and left Wei Yuejiao's courtyard with Jinzhu.

"What did Qian Ying say?"

"Don't worry, Concubine Dong. Qian Ying said that she will delay Lord Tu for the next few days and will keep Lord Tu from visiting the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. However, she can't delay him for long. Whenever there is a message from Lord Marquis, Lord Tu will definitely come as soon as possible." Jinzhu went out just now and secretly met up with Lord Tu's concubine, Qian Ying.



“Good!” Concubine Dong showed a trace of satisfaction on her face. By her estimation, Nurse Li should be there by then...

On the day of the Duke of Yan State Mansion’s banquet, the weather was pretty good. It was a rare sunny day in winter, and the sun was warm and cozy. This time, Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu were the ones to go on behalf of the mansion. Wei Ziyi and Wei Zifeng also went with them, but Wei Ziyang stayed behind.

Since there was no elderly madam in Yan Huaijing’s mansion and Jing Wenyan was invited to receive his guests in his backyard instead, the guests were mostly some young heirs-apparent, young masters, and young ladies.

After all, the party served as an excuse for the young masters and young ladies to come out from their mansions to have fun.

Without the elders accompanying them, everyone was happy to get some leisure.

Wei Yuewu was called up by her maid early in the morning. After dressing up properly and having some light breakfast, she went to Madam Dowager’s Tranquility Courtyard.

Wei Qiufu had already arrived. When she saw Wei Yuewu, she warmly greeted her, “Good morning, Sixth Younger Sister.”

“Good morning, Fourth Elder Sister.” Wei Yuewu returned a faint bow, and her expression was extremely natural.

“Sixth Younger Sister, I’m not going today,” Wei Qiufu said softly.

“Why aren’t you going?” Wei Yuewu raised her head in surprise. She had always been very careful with Wei Qiufu, a crafty and vicious beauty.

"I... I'd better go out less frequently now." Wei Qiufu smiled. There was a bit of shyness on her face, but her manners were natural and graceful. Madam Dowager, who was watching from the side, secretly nodded. She was satisfied with this well-mannered granddaughter in her heart.

In Madam Dowager's opinion, Wei Qiufu's status had already been decided. It was better for her not to show up in front of people at this particular time. Since Wei Qiufu's words were in line with what Madam Dowager wanted, Madam Dowager liked her even more now.

"The Crown Prince will also be there today." Wei Yuewu asked tentatively, "Fourth Elder Sister, are you sure you don't want to go over and take a look? Moreover, Eldest Miss Jing is helping the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State entertain guests in his backyard today. I heard that the mansion of Duke of Jing had a close relationship with Crown Prince Mansion in the past."

"Do you mean Eldest Miss Jing and the Crown Prince?" Wei Qiufu immediately understood the hidden meaning in Wei Yuewu's words and looked at Madam Dowager in a rather awkward manner.

"The daughter of the mansion of Duke of Jing hasn't been engaged yet?" Madam Dowager interrupted with a frown. However, she was speaking to Nanny Hong on the side, not Wei Yuewu.

"I'm not so sure about it. Everyone says that Eldest Miss Jing is going to marry into the palace, but no one knows who will be the lucky one." Nanny Hong shook her head. Almost all the aristocratic families in the capital were paying attention to Eldest Miss Jing's marriage because she was too outstanding. Moreover, with her status, she could probably become the Empress in the future too.

"Qiufu, you should go with Yuewu. The two of you can take care of each other." Hearing that the Crown Prince was also going, Madam Dowager quickly made the decision in her heart. She had to let Wei Qiufu keep an eye on the Crown Prince to make sure that the Crown Prince and Jing Wenyan did not have a chance to meet alone.

Simply put, Eldest Miss Jing was far too outstanding. If she married into the residence of the Crown Prince, it would not be good news for the Crown Prince's other concubines.

"Yes.." After hearing Madam Dowager's words, Wei Qiufu naturally agreed softly.

After that, they continued their conversation with Madam Dowager for a little while. Shortly after, Wei Ziyi and Wei Zifeng arrived as well. The four of them exchanged a few more words with Madam

Dowager before leaving together. They boarded the carriage and headed towards the Duke of Yan State Mansion.

The entrance of Duke of Yan State Mansion was very lively. All the carriages entered the mansion in an orderly manner. Just as the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang's carriage reached the mansion, a lad servant came over and led them to the side door.

Wei Ziyi and Wei Zifeng went to the front yard. As soon as Wei Yuewu got out of the carriage holding Jin Ling's hand, she heard a timid voice behind her. "Sixth Miss Wei!"

#### Chapter 435 Jing Wenyan's Request for Help

Wei Yuewu turned around to take a look. Seeing that it was Yang Yuyan whom she had not seen for a long time, Wei Yuewu could not help but stop in her tracks. "Eldest Miss Yang!"

"Eldest Miss Yang!" Seeing Yang Yuyan, Wei Qiufu had no choice but to stop and greet her. Their positions after marrying could be considered to have been decided. The status of Yang Yuyan was even higher than that of Wei Qiufu.

"Fourth Miss Wei." Yang Yuyan nodded at Wei Qiufu before asking, "Can I have Sixth Young Lady to say a few words?"

"Eldest Miss Yang, please do as you please!" Wei Qiufu glanced at Yang Yuyan and nodded before leading Ming Yan to walk in the front. Her paces were fast for the first few steps, but she slowed down afterward. She only kept a few steps' distance away from Wei Yuewu and Yang Yuyan while trying to focus on what they were talking about.

"Is there anything that I can help you with, Eldest Miss Yang?" Wei Yuewu smiled, and her feet didn't stop moving one bit.

The place was bustling with people at this time. They would stand out too much if they abruptly stopped moving there.

“Actually, it’s nothing much. It’s just that... there’s something I need to give you.” Yang Yuyan hesitated for a moment. After that, she took out a letter and handed it over to Wei Yuewu.

The letter was very old, as demonstrated by some yellow stains on it.

“The letter was left behind by my mother. I only discovered it recently. There are some matters about Marquise Hua Yang in the letter... And I think you should know...” Yang Yuyan raised her head, and she did not look well. After that, she stuttered for a moment before muttering, “My mother felt very sorry for your mother!”

“Your mother left this behind?” Wei Yuewu stretched out her hand and asked in astonishment.

“Yes.” Yang Yuyan raised her head, her face revealing a trace of bitterness. “My mother had always felt sorry for your mother. She asked me to show you the letter when I have the chance so as to repay Marquise Hua Yang’s kindness in the past.”

Yang Yuyan seemed to imply some hidden messages as she spoke.

After giving it some thought, Wei Yuewu decided to put the letter away in her pocket. Then, she glanced at Wei Qiufu who was slightly leaning sideways in front of her and asked, “Miss Yang, when are you moving to the Crown Prince Mansion?”

The question made Yang Yuyan blush. She lowered her head and replied, “Urm... It should be after the nationwide selection.”

Since she was now the highest-ranking concubine that Crown Prince Wen Tianyao had taken officially, no one dared to look down on her. What was more, she was also the one that the Crown Prince had developed feelings for. Hence, no one dared to ignore her as they did in the past when they saw her.

Even her sarcastic stepmother and arrogant sister did not dare to treat her however they pleased as they previously did. Sometimes, there was even a hint of jealousy in their eyes.

Of course, Wei Yuewu was the reason behind everything.

At this time, Yang Yuyan had long forgotten the grudges between the two of them and thanked Wei Yuewu wholeheartedly. Her situation had changed for the better, and so had her state of mind. Therefore, she no longer felt as though everyone was working against her.

When she was peaceful in mind and her thought was clear, she could finally figure things out. Assistant Minister Yang was quite loyal to his late wife. He still cared for Yang Yuyan, the daughter his late wife gave birth to, even after her passing. For fear that Yang Yuyan would be bullied in the backyard, he even assigned the two nurses of his late wife to assist his second wife in managing the affairs of the backyard.

His goal was obviously to protect Yang Yuyan, but Yang Yuyan herself was disappointing. Now that she was spirited up, she even had her authority in the backyard with the assistance of the two nurses. At once, Yang Yuyan became a different person, and she was now more open-minded than previously.

These changes in her were very subtle, but Wei Yuewu was still able to sense them clearly. Wei Yuewu had a hint of a smile on her face as she curled the corners of her lips. "The palace should have given you an approximate time, right?" Wei Yuewu gently asked.

Regardless of who was chosen as the Crown Princess, Yang Yuyan's position as a junior concubine was confirmed. Since that was the case, the palace should have made arrangements beforehand and provided a rough timeframe.

"I will move into the Crown Prince Mansion in a month after the wedding of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess," Yang Yuyan replied with a blush, feeling nothing out of the norm in Wei Yuewu's acute senses.

"Watch out for my Fourth Elder Sister by then," Wei Yuewu reminded unhurriedly as she cast a glance at Wei Qiufu who was walking extremely slowly in front of her.

"I will!" Yang Yuyan's gaze fell on Wei Qiufu with a hint of vigilance. She now realized that she had probably fallen for Fourth Miss Wei's tricks in the Plum Blossom Nunnery back then.

As they spoke, everyone had already arrived at the reception hall.

Duke of Yan State Mansion's maids were lined up in two rows, waiting at the entrance of the reception hall. When they saw young ladies of aristocratic families approaching, they would come over to lead the way courteously and respectfully.

Wei Yuewu followed a maid into the gate of the reception hall. She found out that the place was huge as soon as she walked in. It was not crowded at all despite having dozens of young ladies of aristocratic families inside. Among them, Jing Wenyan was the center of attention for everyone.

She was dressed in a light yellow dress that had a base color of blue floral and red plum. Her hair was tied in a high bun and secured with a hairpin that shone with great brilliance. There were a few pieces of rice-grain-sized diamond bits on the hairpin dangling from her hair, making her look even more beautiful than a flower.

Standing in the crowd of ladies, she looked even more outstanding and truly deserved her status as the top-ranked beauty in every way.

Jing Wenyan's eyes were very sharp, and she immediately saw Wei Yuewu at a glance. Her eyes flashed, and she walked over with a smile. "Sixth Miss Wei, you are finally here. I have already sent people out to check on you a few times, but they couldn't find you. I thought you had a commitment today and couldn't make it. However, after giving it some thought, I'm sure that you will come to show your support regardless of any excuses, considering your close friendship with the Heir-apparent of Yan."

These words might sound as though they meant something else. Immediately after, a few ladies started to look at Wei Yuewu unfavorably.

"I was rescued by the Heir-apparent of Yan several times. Although my father had thanked His Heir-apparent, how can I possibly forget his kindness?" Wei Yuewu said with a serious expression.

Upon hearing her words, everyone finally softened the expression on their face when they looked at Wei Yuewu.

"Sixth Miss Wei, you are truly a person who had a loyal and grateful heart. No wonder His Heir-apparent always praises you. He has never before given a woman such high praise." Jing Wenyan covered her mouth and smiled. After that, she came over and took Wei Yuewu's hand warmly as they headed inside.

"When my father talked about His Heir-apparent, he also praises him a lot. If it hadn't been for His Heir-apparent, I would have been gone long before. My father is very grateful to him." Wei Yuewu calmly took over the topic from Jing Wenyan, and she had no intention of avoiding it. At once, her generous and appropriate words dispelled everyone's doubts.

"Eldest Miss Jing, although it makes sense that you agreed to host the event on the behalf of His Heir-apparent, it is still outside of our expectations." Wei Yuewu's eyes grew a little cold as she glanced at Jing Wenyan's beautiful face indifferently. Now she was certain that Jing Wenyan was aiming for her.

The smile on Jing Wenyan's face became a little stiff. She did not expect Wei Yuewu to say such profound words. "I dare not refuse the invitation extended by the Heir-apparent of Yan."

"Sixth Younger Sister, since it was the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State who asked for the favor, I believe that none of the daughters of all the noble families in the capital would be able to refuse him." Wei Qiufu smiled and stepped forward to Jing Wenyan's rescue.

"You're right!" Wei Yuewu nodded in agreement. "Everyone says that the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State is like a celestial being. If he takes a fancy to anyone, no one could really refuse it." Wei Yuewu suddenly sighed, and her eyes darted around slightly.

Once Wei Yuewu said that, Jing Wenyan immediately felt a strong sense of hostility in her words. She wanted to smile and agree with Wei Qiufu's words just now. However, when Wei Yuewu said this, her smile became duller, and she did not dare to bring up the topic of how Yan Huaijing treated Wei Yuewu differently.

"Fourth Young Lady, Sixth Young Lady, please come with me!" Jing Wenyan's stiff smile abruptly vanished, and she immediately became serious.

"Sixth Young Lady, I am really sorry. I was so happy to see you here, so I misspoke. I hope you will forgive me," Jing Wenyan apologized to Wei Yuewu in a low voice as she walked. "I really didn't pay attention to what I said just now. If you are angry at me, just scold me in my face. If it doesn't make you feel relieved with that, it's okay if you hit me a few times."

Jing Wenyan looked very sincere as she quietly concealed her "unintentional" fault just now. If Wei Yuewu hadn't learned the truth that Jing Wenyan was the one who instigated Third Princess to attack her in the last incident, Wei Yuewu would have believed her.

"Eldest Miss Jing, what are you saying? It's just a misunderstanding. It's not a big deal at all." Wei Yuewu smiled leisurely.

"Sixth Miss Wei, you're so generous." Jing Wenyan sighed, and her eyebrows slightly wrinkled. "Actually, I wanted to ask you for a favor, but I was afraid that you would not agree, so I lost my composure just now."

"What is it?" Wei Qiufu's eyes flickered with interest as she came over to ask.

At this time, Jing Wenyan had already brought Wei Yuewu to the front of a seat. After letting Wei Yuewu sit down, Jing Wenyan also sat down in the seat on her side. Then, she rubbed her eyes with a handkerchief and said rather aggrievedly, "It's not a big deal, just that... Alas, speaking of which, it may seem like I'm receiving guests on behalf of the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State because His Heir-apparent thinks highly of me. However, in reality..."

Her words sounded both real and fake. Jing Wenyan looked so sincere when she spoke. Thinking about her situation, it seemed that this could be the only explanation.

"Eldest Miss Jing, what do you need Sixth Younger Sister's help with?" Wei Qiufu was very enthusiastic. She sat down on the other side of Jing Wenyan.

The topic piqued Wei Yuewu's curiosity as well. Eldest Miss Jing's behavior was too abnormal today. Could it be that she had something up in her sleeve?

When Jing Wenyan came to find her in her mansion, Wei Yuewu believed that Jing Wenyan was paying attention to her because of Yan Huaijing. She had no idea why Jing Wenyan might think highly of her.

Today, Jing Wenyan directly came over as soon as she arrived and expressed how Yan Huaijing had treated her differently in front of the crowd. Given Jing Wenyan's cautious nature, it seemed that she should not have made such a mistake...

"Eldest Miss Jing, if you have anything to say, just say it. But I can't promise that I can help you," Wei Yuewu said unhurriedly, her watery eyes rippling lightly.



"This actually... could solve my difficulties as well." Jing Wenyan looked around. After seeing that no one was paying attention to them, she then moved closer to Wei Yuewu and said in a low voice, "Sixth Miss Wei, can you help me out by persuading someone? With such a person around, I won't be in a difficult situation, and Third Princess and Fourth Princess won't be angry at me if they see me later."

#### Chapter 436 The Rightful Mistress of the Duke of Yan State Mansion

"Who is this person?" Wei Qiufu had long since been seated beside the two of them. After hearing what Jing Wenyan said, she asked in surprise.

"Fourth Young Lady and Sixth Young Lady, I understand that you might not believe in whatever I say. How is it possible that the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State has someone who is of so much importance to him? In fact, this person does exist." Jing Wenyan's beautiful face was covered with a layer of sadness. "She is the rightful mistress of the Duke of Yan State Mansion. I'm sure that she is better suited to receive Third Princess and Fourth Princess since there isn't much of a difference in their status. Unlike me, I'm just a temporary makedo."

"The mistress of the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State's Mansion?" Wei Qiufu was stunned. She had never heard anything like this before.

"Fourth Young Lady and Sixth Young Lady, I'm sure that both of you never heard of the existence of the daughter of an aristocratic family in the State of Yan who is now staying in the backyard of the mansion. His Heir-apparent had even brought her into the palace before and clearly indicated that they were childhood sweethearts. This daughter of the State of Yan's aristocratic family is the rightful mistress of the Duke of Yan State Mansion."

Judging from the way Jing Wenyan told them, everything sounded so authentic like a complete truth. As though she had nothing to hide, she even told them about Yan Huaijing bringing the girl into the palace.

However, Wei Yuewu did not believe it. Jing Wenyan would not tell them about these things for no reason. Although Jing Wenyan appeared to be quite sincere, how could she possibly be such a sincere person?

If Jing Wenyan were truly as sincere as she appeared to be today, she would not be her true self. Since Jing Wenyan wanted to put on an act, she would accompany her to play along. Wei Yuewu wanted to know what Jing Wenyan had in mind.

Moreover, she was also very curious. When Yan Huaijing brought her to Master Fenghe that day, she did not see Jing Wenyan. Where did Jing Wenyan see her? What was more, Jing Wenyan even knew so many details.

“Eldest Miss Jing, since the Duke of Yan State Mansion already has a mistress, why would His Heir-apparent ask you to take charge of the internal affairs?” Wei Yuewu played along with her words without waiting for her to continue.

Jing Wenyan didn’t expect that Wei Yuewu was not suspicious of her at all. She was stunned for a moment and suddenly found it difficult to answer her question.

Wei Yuewu was a bit difficult to deal with.

Looking at Jing Wenyan, Wei Yuewu immediately knew that there was something fishy about this. Was Jing Wenyan going to set up another trap for her again today? Or was Jing Wenyan going after the daughter of the aristocratic family that she was disguised as?

“Sixth Young Lady, you don’t seem to believe me.” Jing Wenyan looked a little irritated, and she did not seem happy.

“Eldest Miss Jing, what are you saying? Of course, I believe everything you said. The Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State should ask the daughter of the aristocratic family to receive his guests on his behalf even though I have never met her and you are fairly certain of who she is. Therefore, why did the Heir-apparent of Yan make life difficult for you, Eldest Miss Jing? Everyone clearly understood the intentions of Third Princess and Fourth Princess.”

Wei Yuewu’s face was full of grievances, and even her voice had a hint of sadness.

After being highly regarded by Wei Yuewu again and again, Jing Wenyan felt a little annoyed in her heart. However, after thinking about her plan again, she suppressed her anger, and her expression

turned cold. "Sixth Miss Wei, it doesn't matter if you believe me or not. Miss Lin does exist. If you don't believe me, you can go to the backyard to take a look. If you ask about Miss Lin, I'm sure that everyone in the backyard of the Duke of Yan State Mansion knows about her."

"Don't blame me for not reminding you. The Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State treasures Miss Lin very much. She even used a veil to cover her face when she was in the palace. Anyone who accidentally provokes her will be responsible for their own actions." Jing Wenyan's voice was a bit loud due to her anger. After finishing those words, she turned around and walked away furiously.

She totally ignored Wei Yuewu and Wei Qiufu.

Jing Wenyan caught the attention of other young ladies as she suddenly acted out after being kind for a split second. A few young ladies even secretly turned around. As Wei Yuewu observed many of them start leaving the reception hall, her lips curled slightly into a faint sneer.

It seemed that Jing Wenyan wasn't only after her.

"Sixth Younger Sister, let's go to the backyard for a walk!" Wei Qiufu's eyes flickered. She stood up with a smile and looked in the direction that Jing Wenyan had gone. "I don't know what's wrong with Eldest Miss Jing. Why is she so angry today?"

"I wonder too," Wei Yuewu said as well as she frowned and looked in Jing Wenyan's direction.

"Is it because we mentioned that Eldest Miss Jing has a good relationship with the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State? But if their relationship is not good, why would His Heir-apparent ask Eldest Miss Jing to receive his guests today? Sixth Younger Sister, are we right?" Wei Qiufu was also confused as if she did not understand what Jing Wenyan meant.

Wei Yuewu glanced at the serious Wei Qiufu and sneered in her heart. No matter what Jing Wenyan was plotting, she had treated everyone as a fool. Jing Wenyan had mistaken both her and Wei Qiufu.

However, it was very interesting to see two ambitious women dealing with each other.

"Maybe you are right," Wei Yuewu replied indifferently.

"Sixth Younger Sister, let's go!" Wei Qiufu invited with a smile.

Seeing many young ladies walking out in groups of two or three with the excuse of going to visit the Duke of Yan State Mansion's backyard, Wei Yuewu showed a hint of ridicule on her face. Jing Wenyan actually stirred up so many people to go to Yan Huaijing's backyard without batting an eyelid. Since that was the case, she also wanted to see the "childhood sweetheart" that was kept by Yan Huaijing in the backyard.

"Let's go!" Wei Yuewu stood up and nodded.

Following behind the young ladies, Wei Yuewu slowly walked out of the hall.

Although the Duke of Yan State Mansion's area was very large, it was smaller than the mansion of the Duke of Jing. Wei Yuewu stood on an artificial hill and looked around. She saw a few young ladies walking in one direction from the artificial hill and pavilion. The young ladies who were walking behind them also asked the maid before proceeding in the same direction.

However, was their intention really that simple?

"Sixth Younger Sister, is that the courtyard where the daughter of the aristocratic family in the State of Yan lives?" Wei Qiufu's eyes flickered. She also looked into the distance and smiled as she asked.

"I think so." Wei Yuewu hesitated for a moment.

"That must be the one. Sixth Younger Sister, shall we go and take a look together?" Wei Qiufu suggested.

"Urm... I don't think this is a good idea." Wei Yuewu shook her head. "Since the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State has hidden her away, it means that she is not willing to show herself in front of others. Is it really a good idea for us to disturb her like this?"

“Why would it be a bad idea? We are just curious. Moreover, many people are watching. It is not just the two of us. I saw Fourth Princess and Third Princess’ study companions also coming over. We will just stand far away and watch the fun!” Wei Qiufu wiped her lips with a handkerchief and smiled sweetly.

However, everything she said made perfect sense.

Therefore, Wei Yuewu only pondered for a moment before nodding.

Then, the two of them got off the artificial hill, bypassed a small bridge, and headed toward the courtyard.

The gate of the courtyard was tightly closed. There were two bodyguards guarding the courtyard. They were expressionless as they watched the people coming and going. From time to time, there were a few young ladies who passed by, but no one dared to come forward to disturb them. The bodyguards just stood there motionless, and their expressions were filled with frightening killing intent.

There were a few timid young ladies who did not dare to go over after being stared at by them. However, there were a few bold ones who were still laughing and moving closer to the bodyguards, as if they did not know that no one was allowed to enter the courtyard.

Finally, two young ladies approached the courtyard gate, and one of them even asked the maid to push the gate open.

Seeing that, one of the bodyguards stepped forward and stretched out his hand to stop them. “Ladies, no one is allowed to enter here without permission!”

“Why?” one of the young ladies asked in surprise.

“No reason. His Heir-apparent gave the order,” the bodyguard replied expressionlessly.

“Can’t we just take a look?” The young lady asked again.

"No!" the bodyguard said resolutely.

"Can I take a look from outside the wall then?" The young lady did not dare to go against Yan Huaijing's order by going too far. After thinking for a while, she suddenly pointed to the courtyard's side wall and asked, "Can we just take a look from there? We are just curious about what is inside and why the Heir-apparent of Yan values it so much."

There was also an artificial hill in the direction she pointed. Although it was just a small artificial hill, if one climbed up, one should be able to see the courtyard.

After being reminded, many young ladies' eyes lit up in excitement. Although it was not easy to enter the courtyard, there were many ways to catch a glimpse of it. There was a pavilion further away from the artificial hill. If one went up to the second floor, one should also be able to see the courtyard.

There was a high bridge on the other side. From where it was situated, one could be able to see the courtyard too.

A little further away, there was another artificial hill as well. Despite being quite distant, the location was not low. It was not as conspicuous as the artificial hill on the side, and the bodyguards were unlikely to find out too...

Therefore, those young ladies who were wandering outside the gate were thinking of other alternatives.

They must see the lady who was important to Yan Huaijing. In addition to that, they also wanted to evaluate and compare themselves with her. They were curious as to why the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State did not show interest in any of them except for the lady.

"No! Please leave, ladies!" The bodyguard still refused expressionlessly.

The two young ladies felt humiliated after being rejected. Then, they left with their maids in embarrassment.

The bodyguards returned to their original spots at the entrance of the courtyard and remained still with straight faces. It was as if they would not permit anyone to enter the courtyard no matter who the person was.

“Sixth Younger Sister, shall we take a look at the back door?” Wei Qiufu suggested to Wei Yuewu.

Wei Qiufu also wanted to see the daughter of the State of Yan’s aristocratic family. Yan Huaijing was the Crown Prince’s big opponent. If she could find out the woman Yan Huaijing cared about, the Crown Prince would definitely think highly of her. This was also the main reason why Wei Qiufu was so enthusiastic.

“Urm... I don’t think this is a good idea...” Wei Yuewu hesitated.

“What’s not good about it? Let’s go! The other ladies haven’t thought of the back door yet. Let’s go take a look. No one will find out!” Seeing that Wei Yuewu was hesitating, Wei Qiufu felt relieved, and she enthusiastically invited Wei Yuewu.

“Alright... then,” Wei Yuewu replied reluctantly.

Then, the two of them came to the back door while being escorted by their maids. Wei Qiufu was right. Those young ladies were considering where they could stand high enough to see the courtyard, and none of them actually went to the back door.

The two of them turned around the corner of the wall. Suddenly, they saw a maid rushing over to the back door. The maid didn’t notice the two of them at the corner. After looking around to make sure no one was around, she pushed open the door of the backyard and walked in...

## Chapter 437 Two Legitimate Wives

“Umm... is entry permitted here?” Wei Qiufu was stunned and asked in surprise.

The front door was so tightly guarded that no one was even allowed to peer the slightest sight of the courtyard. Unexpectedly, the back door was not fully closed. It was really suspicious.

"It is indeed strange!" Wei Yuewu frowned, and her eyes were filled with doubt. She even stopped in her tracks before continuing, "Fourth Elder Sister, let's just go back. This is too strange!"

Seeing that Wei Yuewu was also confused and suspicious, Wei Qiufu inexplicably breathed a sigh of relief. However, she really wanted to go in and take a look.

"Fourth Elder Sister, let's go back. This is the Duke of Yan State Mansion, and the Heir-apparent of Yan has always been aggressive. No one in the city, not even other princes, can pry too much into him." Wei Yuewu wanted to back out.

"No, let's go take a look. Anyway, there aren't many people here. I actually met this aristocratic daughter from the State of Yan when I was in the palace. We do know each other somewhat."

The more Wei Yuewu refused to go, the more Wei Qiufu felt relieved. It seemed that Wei Yuewu had nothing to do with this matter. As for her, she was interested in meeting this aristocratic lady merely because she heard Wei Yuewu say that Yan Huaijing didn't want people to pry too much into his private affairs.

Her intention was actually similar to that of Jing Wenyan. Both of them wanted to curry favor with Crown Prince by providing exclusive information about the aristocratic lady from the State of Yan. However, Jing Wenyan thought of it beforehand and even sent someone to notify the Crown Prince, while Wei Qiufu only came up with the idea at the last minute.

Wei Yuewu decided not to casually follow Wei Qiufu into the door at this time. No matter how she looked at it, this matter seemed to be somewhat iffy.

"I... I think I'd better not go in. Fourth Elder Sister, if you want to go in, I will wait for you outside." Wei Yuewu decisively shook her head. After saying that, she turned around and stood behind a rock in the corner. The rock was not small, just enough to block her figure.

"I'll wait for you here!"



“Are you sure you want to stand here and wait for me?” Wei Qiufu frowned, but then she felt happy in her heart and asked with a smile. If Wei Yuewu chose to stand here, even if she ran into trouble inside, Wei Yuewu would not be able to escape from it too.

This rock might be able to hide someone on usual days, but everyone was paying attention to this area now. Therefore, this large rock not only failed to serve as a means of camouflage, but it might also be easily spotted by others.

“Fourth Elder Sister, I will wait for you here.” Wei Yuewu looked like she did not know anything, but she was decisive and unwilling to get involved in this matter.

“Umm... Okay, you wait for me here then!” Wei Qiufu said rather proudly. She did not expect that Wei Yuewu would slip up at some point. Since Wei Yuewu did not want to get into trouble, she would get her into it.

If something really happened later, the entire mansion of Marquis Hua Yang would be responsible for her doing. Therefore, Wei Qiufu did not think that there was anything to be worried about. What was more, she just wanted to enter the courtyard and talk to the State of Yan’s aristocratic lady to gather some information. She could just mention that she entered from the back door by casually pushing the door open.

“Alright!” Wei Yuewu nodded without batting an eyelid. In order to increase her credibility, she deliberately hid behind the rock as if to avoid other people’s gazes.

Wei Qiufu was naturally more pleased by Wei Yuewu’s subtle movements. Then, she brought Ming Yan to the courtyard door with high confidence and boldly pushed the door open. Sure enough, the courtyard door was actually ajar.

She turned back and looked in the direction of Wei Yuewu. From her angle, she could see a corner of Wei Yuewu’s clothes behind the rock. As she looked at Wei Yuewu’s “careful” disguise, the corner of her lips silently revealed a trace of ridicule.

What was the point of hiding?

After all, Wei Yuewu had already followed her all the way here.

Wei Qiufu pushed the door open again and walked in. Ming Yan followed closely behind her...

"Miss, are we going to wait here?" Seeing Wei Qiufu leave, Jin Ling asked.

"Let's go!" Wei Yuewu smiled faintly and turned to leave in another direction. "Jin Ling, have you been to the Duke of Yan State Mansion?"

"No, I have never been here before. This is my first time following His Heir-apparent to the capital." Jin Ling shook her head. This was actually her first time entering the Duke of Yan State Mansion in the capital, and she was filled with curiosity towards this place.

At this time, she had already left the courtyard for a distance, so she was no longer as eye-catching. Wei Yuewu stood still, looked around, and asked, "Do you feel that the Duke of Yan State Mansion in the capital is somewhat similar to the one in the State of Yan?"

At this moment, she did not know the way, nor did she know where Yan Huaijing was. She had to ask Yan Huaijing about the matter of Tu Jiulin.

"It's different from the Duke of Yan State Mansion in the State of Yan." Jin Ling looked around and was also at a loss.

"Let's just stroll around and see if there are any people you know. Let them inform the Heir-apparent of Yan that I need to see him," Wei Yuewu said after giving it some thought.

Thinking that this was the only way, Jin Ling immediately nodded.

Thus, Wei Yuewu brought Jin Ling for a leisure stroll in the garden. It was still early now and there were many young ladies of aristocratic families strolling around in the garden. However, many of them headed towards the courtyard together. As Wei Yuewu strolled along, the compound grew quieter.

At a tall building, Yan Huaijing was leisurely sitting on the couch with his long hair casually tied behind his head. The wide sleeves of his clothes made him look like an immortal from heaven.

He was entertaining his guests in the tall building in his courtyard.

There weren't many guests that deserved to be entertained by him. Only Crown Prince Wen Tianyao, Fourth Prince Wen Yi, and the heirs-apparent from the three states were present.

Crown Prince Wen Tianyao was seated high up, and Yan Huaijing was seated below him. Although he looked lazy and casual, he was not inferior to Wen Tianyao in terms of aura.

"I heard that there will be a performance later, but I wonder which young ladies of aristocratic families will perform?" Wen Tianyao gently placed the teacup in his hand on the table and asked with a smile.

"I have no idea either." Yan Huaijing shook his head with a smile. A gentle and elegant smile appeared on his handsome face as he said indifferently, "I have already entrusted all of the matters regarding the inner courtyard to Eldest Miss Jing. Eldest Miss Jing used to host Mother Consort's guests in the State of Yan, so she knows some of the affairs of the inner courtyard."

Many young ladies would frequently be seen competing for fame when State of Yan's aristocratic family hosted guests. Wen Tianyao had gained some knowledge about this, and that was why he asked the question.

"Are you familiar with Eldest Miss Jing?" Wen Tianyao's eyes flashed as he asked with a smile.

"Eldest Miss Jing frequently accompanied her father, the Duke of Jing, to the State of Yan in the past. She is quite familiar with the place." Yan Huaijing bluntly answered without batting an eyelid.

"Why didn't you invite the State of Yan's aristocratic lady to host the banquet? Eldest Miss Jing is an outsider after all," Lu Yeli suddenly looked up and asked. His face had always been cold, and it was difficult to see any smile on his face.

"Miss Lin is not feeling well, and it is inconvenient for her to receive guests. Moreover, she doesn't hold a significant status in my life at the moment, and it is also inappropriate for her to handle the task on my behalf." Yan Huaijing smiled leisurely and blocked the conversation from going any further.

"Do you want to give her a status then?" Chu Fangnan glanced at Qi Yunhao and asked curiously after receiving the hint from the latter.

The face of Wen Tianyao, who was sitting in the top seat, sank.

"Of course I must!" Yan Huaijing chuckled lazily and answered without any hesitation, "In fact, in our State of Yan, it is eligible to have two legitimate wives. I wonder if anybody in the capital city has married two legitimate wives before?"

"There is only one legitimate wife. How can there be two?" Lu Yeli was extremely disgusted with Yan Huaijing's frivolous appearance and said coldly.

"I heard that it is also permissible in the State of Lu. The previous Duke of the State of Lu reportedly married two legitimate wives. He first married the daughter of a noble family from the State of Lu before marrying the daughter of a noble family from the capital. I wonder which of the two legitimate wives is the mother of the Heir-apparent of Duke Lu?" Yan Huaijing continued to smile as if he did not notice the embarrassment on Lu Yeli's face.

"You..." Lu Yeli was so furious that he was about to stand up and slam the table. However, he slowly sat back down and eased his expression. A trace of coldness flashed in his eyes.

After all, this was not a pleasant matter to mention. The Duke of the State of Lu originally had a wife, but on his way to the capital, he took a fancy to another daughter of an aristocratic family. Thus, he wanted to abandon his first wife. However, his wife's family was so powerful that they even drew in the entire nobility of the State of Lu to support her.

This was no longer a fight between individual families, but a struggle between the aristocratic families of the State of Lu and the capital.

In the end, they made a compromise. Neither the daughter of the aristocratic family from the State of Lu nor the daughter of the aristocratic family from the capital could be belittled. Therefore, the Duke of Lu ended up having two legitimate wives.

Lu Yeli was the son of the legitimate wife from the State of Lu. He had never regarded the other woman from the capital to be the legitimate wife of his father.

The lady from the State of Lu was considered to be the genuine legitimate wife by the nobles of the State of Lu. Therefore, Lu Yeli had never thought of his family affairs being brought up.

At once, Yan Huaijing's words immediately caused Lu Yeli's face to darken. However, he had good self-control, so he immediately steadied his mind and restored his cold expression, making it difficult for others to detect any emotional fluctuations.

"Heir-apparent of Yan, do you want the aristocratic lady from the State of Yan to be your legitimate wife as well?" Crown Prince Wen Tianyao asked sternly, and his face was also darkened.

This concerned the affairs of his two younger sisters. Regardless of which sister Yan Huaijing was going to marry, he would not allow anyone to be on equal footing with them.

"Yes, it has already been agreed upon. Although the State of Yan is remote, it is a country of etiquette after all. No one can abandon their wife. Our families had already agreed to the engagement, and it is only a step away from the final stage. That's why Miss Lin traveled a long way to the capital after knowing that I was coming here. However, she fell sick later on."

As Yan Huaijing sighed, a trace of worry could be seen on his handsome face.

"Sick? What kind of sickness?" Wen Yi's heart skipped a beat. Of course, he was also anxious. Yan Huaijing was the husband-to-be that his sister had taken a fancy to. Moreover, it was more than just his sister choosing a husband.

Yan Huaijing was undoubtedly the most suitable candidate among all the suitors. He was the heir to the powerful Duke of Yan State, so he was completely capable of assisting Wen Yi to rise to a higher position. Therefore, Wen Yi's concerns were comparable with those of Wen Tianyao.

"I've no idea. She has always been sick," Yan Huaijing sighed and said indifferently.

"Do you need the imperial doctors in the palace to take a look?" Fourth Prince suggested with a sudden thought.

Just as Yan Huaijing was about to speak, a bodyguard hurried in and whispered a few words into his ear.

Under the scrutinizing gazes of the crowd, Yan Huaijing smiled and stood up...

Chapter 438 Trust? Did I Say That?

"Your Highness, I will take my leave first. Something happened in the backyard!" Yan Huaijing said gently to the Crown Prince.

"What's wrong?" "Do you need any help?" Wen Tianyao asked, straightening his body.

"No need, it's just a small matter!" Yan Huaijing shook his head and then turned to the others.  
"Everyone, please sit here for a moment and enjoy our State of Yan's singing and dancing performance. I'll be back soon."

After saying that, he clapped his hands. Immediately, two teams of gorgeously dressed dancers came in from outside the hall, dancing to the music.

Yan Huaijing leisurely followed the bodyguard outside. He casually pointed in a direction and said lightly, "Let's go!"

"Your Heir-apparent, it's not that direction." The bodyguard was stunned for a moment. He thought that Yan Huaijing did not hear his reply clearly and said again, "Some young ladies of aristocratic families broke into Miss Lin's courtyard. Eldest Miss Jing asked you to go and take a look."

“Tell me, what’s going on? Isn’t the door over there always closed? How come someone suddenly barged in at this time?” Yan Huaijing smiled and continued to walk in that direction. There was no hint of impatience in his expression.

“I don’t know either. It seems that many young ladies went over there and that they all wanted to inquire about Miss Lin. A few of them wanted to directly barge in, but after being blocked, some went to the tall building and artificial hill on the side. I don’t know how someone went to the back door and opened it.”

The bodyguard received Jing Wenyan’s instructions and came over. He was not clear about the specific affairs. However, everyone in the entire mansion knew how much importance the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State attached to Miss Lin. He made sure that Miss Lin was heavily guarded, afraid that she would be disturbed in the slightest.

“Have you been there to take a look?” Yan Huaijing’s eyes were calm, and there was a hint of coldness in his gentle eyes.

“I... I, haven’t!” The bodyguard was so scared that his face turned pale. He hurriedly explained, “Eldest Miss Jing was invited by Your Heir-apparent. So, I thought it represents Your Heir-apparent’s trust...”

“Trust? Did I say that?” Yan Huaijing smiled.

“Your Heir-apparent, I...” The bodyguard’s forehead began to sweat. He already knew what he had done wrong. No matter how familiar this Eldest Miss Jing claimed to be with Yan Huaijing, Yan Huaijing had never explicitly told his bodyguards that he trusted her. This bodyguard had followed Yan Huaijing for a period of time, so how could he fail to understand the meaning of Yan Huaijing’s words?

“Not too stupid. Go down and receive your punishment!” Yan Huaijing said indifferently.

“Yes, I will go immediately!” The bodyguard did not dare to stay. After bowing respectfully to Yan Huaijing, he turned around and went to receive his punishment from Lin Fang.

Yan Huaijing had always known when to give rewards and punishments. The bodyguard realized he was almost used by others. One reason was that Yan Huaijing had invited Eldest Miss Jing to receive guests in the inner courtyard on behalf of him. The other reason was that he had neglected something.

“Your Heir-apparent, where are we going now?” Little Dezi had been following behind Yan Huaijing calmly. When the bodyguard left, he asked cautiously. No matter how he looked at it, this road was leading to somewhere desolate. However, he did not know what Yan Huaijing wanted to do at this time.

“In a while, if Jing Wenyan sends people again to report, say that I am busy and can’t leave for a while. Let her handle the issue herself. As for the reception of the two princesses, tell her I appreciate her help!” Yan Huaijing did not answer Little Dezi. He continued to walk on the small path. His handsome lips curved as he casually spoke.

Since he had let Jing Wenyan handle the issues of the inner courtyard today for him, he would give her the greatest right to deal with everything. No matter what Jing Wenyan wanted to do, he would give her the chance. Of course, that little fox was an exception.

The banquet today was not just a banquet...

With the State of Yan as the background and Duke of Yan State Mansion in the capital as the chess game, he was not in a hurry. He slowly approached his goal of controlling the entire country.

Although this goal was slightly different from his original goal before he entered the capital, he was still in firm control of the situation!

“Yes, I know that today’s matter in the backyard was handled by Eldest Miss Jing. Even if something happened in the end, it has nothing to do with Your Heir-apparent. You are busy entertaining the Crown Prince, other princes, and the other three heirs-apparent. You are really too busy to care about what happened in the backyard!” Little Dezi had followed Yan Huaijing since he was a lad and immediately understood.

“Let’s go, Yuewu is still waiting in front!” Seeing that Little Dezi understood what he meant, Yan Huaijing nodded in satisfaction. His feet did not slow down and he turned a corner.



Behind a row of tall trees, Wei Yuewu was strolling and chatting with Jin Ling on the path. From afar, she looked quite leisurely.

“Miss, His Heir-apparent is coming!” Jin Ling had sharp eyes and immediately saw Yan Huaijing walking over in large strides. She reminded Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu turned her head and saw Yan Huaijing walking over slowly. She stopped in her tracks and waited for him to come over.

“Greetings, Your Heir-apparent!” When Yan Huaijing walked in front of her, Wei Yuewu bowed.

“When did Yuewu become so polite to me?” Yan Huaijing smiled leisurely. As the wind blew, his wide sleeves were blown up gracefully. In addition, his extremely handsome face made him look like a celestial being. He reached out and grabbed Wei Yuewu’s sleeve. “I happened to have something to talk to you, and then you appeared!”

“What is it, Your Heir-apparent?” Wei Yuewu raised her beautiful eyes and looked at Yan Huaijing in shock.

“There is a good place. I always wanted to take you to see it. It’s rare to have a chance today!” Yan Huaijing said with great interest. He looked very happy and pulled Wei Yuewu to a small path on the side.

Wei Yuewu was dragged a few steps and could only follow his footsteps helplessly. She asked in surprise, “Your Heir-apparent, don’t...you need to entertain your guests?”

Today, the Duke of Yan State Mansion had a lot of guests. As the host, didn’t Yan Huaijing need to entertain the other heirs-apparent, princes and the Crown Prince?

As early as when she was outside the gate of the mansion, she had heard that the Crown Prince and Fourth Prince had already come.

“Just let them wait!” Yan Huaijing smiled gently at Wei Yuewu, his handsome eyes showing some relaxation.

“This... this is not appropriate. The Crown Prince is also here...” Wei Yuewu’s lively eyes flashed as she spoke with a bit of uneasiness.

In this world, only Yan Huaijing would have the courage to say something like letting the Crown Prince wait. However, he did have the capital to be so daring.

“It’s fine. It’s rare for you to come to my mansion. Naturally, I should show you around!” Yan Huaijing’s words were extremely meaningful.

His slender hand forcefully pulled Wei Yuewu’s slender little hand, wrapping her entire hand tightly in his palm. His long and narrow eyes glanced at Wei Yuewu, and the smile on the corners of his mouth became even wider.

It was very difficult for Wei Yuewu to respond to him. She bit her lips and inexplicably felt that her heartbeat actually accelerated a bit. She hurriedly lowered her head to hide the trace of panic in her eyes. Then, she restrained her mind and wholeheartedly observed the surrounding scenery.

Compared with the other mansions, Duke of Yan State Mansion had one particular feature: there were many trees here!

Tall trees were everywhere. Along the way, all kinds of trees were planted on both sides of the path. Right now, they were walking among trees which Yan Huaijing told her in the imperial palace were unique to the State of Yan.

This place had not merely two rows of trees by the path, but a small forest. These evergreen trees were tall and straight. Compared with those trees in the imperial palace, the trees here seemed to be taller and bigger, and they were taken better care of.

“The imperial palace has special flowers and trees sent from all over the country, including flowers from the State of Jing, trees from the State of Yan, as well as unique flowers and plants from Qi, Chu, and Lu,

but they aren't taken good care of compared with those that grow in the four dukedom mansions!" Yan Huaijing pulled Wei Yuewu into a bamboo building on the side of the path.

The bamboo building was not big, and it looked more elegant in the shade of the trees.

Wei Yuewu followed Yan Huaijing up to the bamboo building. She saw that the arrangement inside was extremely simple. There were a couch and a table, and there was a qin on the table, beside which were a few books of qin scores. It was obvious that this was where Yan Huaijing usually rested.

"Do you want to hear me play a tune?" Yan Huaijing looked at Wei Yuewu leisurely. His handsome face, which was like a beautiful pearl, revealed a hint of a smile. He lowered his head and casually plucked the strings of the qin.

The sweet sound of the qin flowed melodiously in the wind.

"Your Heir-apparent...is it really appropriate for you to play the qin here?" Wei Yuewu looked around uneasily. There were so many distinguished guests in the mansion today. As the host, he did not entertain them. Instead, he ran to the backyard alone to play the qin. From whichever perspective, it was impolite.

"Are you scared?" Yan Huaijing narrowed his eyes and looked at Wei Yuewu's slightly upset face.

"Why should I be afraid of the matter in the backyard of Your Heir-apparent?" Wei Yuewu inexplicably felt that there was a deeper meaning in his words. Her eyes fluttered, and she no longer dared to look at the gentle smile on his face.

"If one day you become the mistress of my backyard, will you be afraid?" Yan Huaijing deliberately ignored the hidden meaning in Wei Yuewu's words and continued to ask with a smile.

"Your Heir-apparent, you really shouldn't say that!" Wei Yuewu shook her head and said decisively.

"Oh, why did you say that?" Yan Huaijing put down Wei Yuewu's hand and leaned lazily against the couch. His handsome eyes revealed a hint of a smile.

“No doubt, the mistress of Your Heir-apparent’s backyard should be a very distinguished princess or Eldest Miss Jing.” Wei Yuewu said with a serious face.

“Do you think that I will be intimidated and will definitely marry one of them?” Yan Huaijing leaned back and looked at Wei Yuewu, who was obviously blushing. He had no intention of letting her go.

Being looked at by him like that, Wei Yuewu felt even more uncomfortable. She immediately tilted her head and said with a serious face, “Of course, Your Heir-apparent won’t be intimidated by anyone!”

Wei Yuewu clearly knew that if Yan Huaijing wanted to marry someone, he would not do it because he was intimidated by others, but because he liked her. Whichever woman he liked, he would marry her and make her the heiress-apparent.

“Come here!” A trace of a smile flashed through Yan Huaijing’s long and narrow eyes. He waved to Wei Yuewu with one hand, indicating for her to come over.

Wei Yuewu did not react for a moment. She blinked her watery eyes and stood still.

However, Yan Huaijing seemed to be impatient. He sat up straight and reached out to grab her sleeve, pulling her towards him.

Wei Yuewu’s body involuntarily fell towards him. Her heart shook and she waved her hands. She subconsciously wanted to grab something to stabilize her body.

Wei Yuewu’s hands went soft. She did not know what she grabbed, but she heard Yan Huaijing let out a muffled groan...

#### Chapter 439 The Capital Was Not a Place to Stay for Long-Term

Wei Yuewu hurriedly released her grip, and only then did she realize that she had actually grabbed the immoral-like heir-apparent’s ear. Immediately, her face turned red.

"Yuewu, you are getting more and more impudent." Yan Huaijing sighed with a hint of affection and grabbed Wei Yuewu's panicking hand. With a forceful pull, he made her sit obediently on the couch.

"What? Don't you know me well? You act like we're strangers!" Yan Huaijing commented casually.

Wei Yuewu blushed even more at his familiarity. Helplessly, she pulled her hand back, wanting to retract it. However, Yan Huaijing was holding her hand tightly. She was even more shocked when he reached out to roll up her sleeve. In a hurry, she grabbed his hand with her other hand.

"Your Heir-apparent..."

"I heard that you suffered a loss at Prince Nan'an Mansion and your hand was even hurt?" Casually, Yan Huaijing pulled Wei Yuewu's other hand away while still wearing a gentle smile.

However, his smile was a bit cold.

"It's nothing serious!" For some reason, Wei Yuewu felt a little faint-hearted.

Yan Huaijing had pulled up her sleeve. When he saw the swollen bruise on her wrist, a trace of coldness flashed across his eyes. Nonetheless, his voice was still gentle as usual.

"Prefectural Princess Jia'nan did this, huh?"

"Actually, it was not a big deal. I was grabbing her hard at the time. She must be taken aback, so she pinched my wrist hard, wanting me to let go." Wei Yuewu was not surprised that Yan Huaijing knew about it. Although Prince Nan'an Mansion must have taken measures to prevent the news from being disclosed, it was absolutely impossible to keep everyone quiet about it.

Besides, Prefectural Princess Jia'nan made a big scene while leaving.

Looking at the bruise on Wei Yuewu's delicate wrist, Yan Huaijing gently touched it with his slender finger. Then, he examined the ointment and asked unhappily, "What is this ointment?"

"It's prescribed by Doctor Ming for bruises," answered Wei Yuewu honestly.

"Get another type!" While still holding Wei Yuewu's wrist, Yan Huaijing turned and pulled open a writing desk's drawer with his other hand. He took out a small jade bottle from the drawer and placed it in front of himself.

Then, he took the handkerchief from Wei Yuewu's other hand and wiped away the ointment on her wrist with his head drooped.

He seemed extremely serious. The gentleness in his eyes was put away as his long eyelashes fluttered. With his lips slightly pursed, he had a cold and serious expression on his handsome face.

Nevertheless, his movements were extremely gentle. After wiping away the ointment on Wei Yuewu's hand, he put down the handkerchief, took the jade bottle, and poured out some transparent ointment that had a faint fragrance.

As soon as the ointment was applied, Wei Yuewu immediately felt a burst of coolness on her wrist. The pain in her wrist immediately dissipated a lot. She bit her lips and stared at his serious expression. Somehow, her heart ached. She quickly shifted her gaze away to the decorations in the room.

"When Prefectural Princess Jia'nan was on her way back, she ran into bandits and was knocked off her horse before passing out. At this time, she was already sent back to Prince Nan'an Mansion. She would be lying in bed for a few months before she can fully recover," said Yan Huaijing indifferently without raising his head.

"She was robbed?" Wei Yuewu was shocked.

"Yes, but fortunately, her life is not in danger. Princess Nan'an is having people investigate the incident right now. However, it's unlikely to find the bandits. Prefectural Princess Jia'nan is lucky to keep her life." Yan Huaijing smiled gracefully, looking like he had heard the news from others.

“Oh, Prince Nan’an Mansion is quite efficient though. I heard that the incident is related to the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan’an. Apparently, the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan’an has suffered a big loss from Prefectural Princess Jia’nan. Of course, the former can’t just let it go.”

“So...” interrupted Wei Yuewu anxiously with her eyes widened at Yan Huaijing.

“So, Princess Nan’an is very mad now. She locked the Heiress-apparent of Prince Nan’an up and stated that no one is allowed to visit her,” revealed Yan Huaijing with a light smile.

In other words, Wei Fengyao had really lost all her power. Her arm was broken, but she failed to win over her husband. Besides, she had lost her mother-in-law’s favor. When the two concubines married into the mansion, Wei Fengyao would have no more chance.

Hence, inevitably, Wei Fengyao would die powerless in Prince Nan’an Mansion.

She had no children. Her husband did not dote on her. And now, she even ruined the relationship with her side of the family.

“Thank you, Your Heir-apparent!” Wei Yuewu sincerely thanked Yan Huaijing. Clearly, there was no one else besides the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State who was familiar with the inside story.

“No worries. I’m helping myself too,” said Yan Huaijing as if it was a matter of course. Then, he put down Wei Yuewu’s hand and looked sideways at her slightly blushing face before nodding happily. “But of course, you can accept my kindness with gratefulness. When you come with me to the State of Yan, you can help take care of my backyard.”

“Your Heir-apparent...” Wei Yuewu was speechless at the cunning and multi-faced Yan Huaijing.

“Why? Haven’t you decided on coming with me to the State of Yan? The capital is not a place for long-term stay!” Yan Huaijing said matter-of-factly.

“Well, the State of Yan might not be a place for long-term stay either!” retorted Wei Yuewu rather angrily.

“How can you be certain that it is not a place for long-term stay?” As Yan Huaijing responded, he raised his handsome brows and glanced at Wei Yuewu with some interest.

Wei Yuewu went silent for a moment and did not know what to say. She looked away. Her watery gaze swept across the room. As if trying to change the subject, she asked, “Your Heir-apparent, this place seems very quiet and refined. Is this where you rest usually?”

“It is indeed my usual resting place. But if you like it, I can give it to you in the future.” When Wei Yuewu avoided his previous question, Yan Huaijing did not force her to talk about it. He just smiled lightly and leaned back lazily.

“Ah... don’t bother!” Wei Yuewu was a little surprised, then she immediately refused with a smile.

“Are you sure? Since you said so, you may leave now. I still have something to deal with here,” ordered Yan Huaijing lazily with his eyes closed.

Wei Yuewu blinked her bright and beautiful eyes. She could not catch up with the sly Yan Huaijing’s pace since he changed the subject dramatically.

“It’s fine that you don’t want to help. People will just say that you’re ungrateful, which is nothing serious because women aren’t really required to be grateful.” Nonetheless, Yan Huaijing’s handsome face darkened. He opened his eyes and gazed coldly at Wei Yuewu’s beautiful face. His appearance had gone from gentle to cold.

“What do you mean...” Wei Yuewu had to go along with his words.

“Of course, Yuewu, I want you to help! But if you don’t want to help me, then forget it. Anyway, it’s just marrying a princess. The State of Yan can easily afford to marry a princess,” stated Yan Huaijing seriously.

“Your Heir-apparent, you don’t want to marry a princess?” Wei Yuewu’s heart moved.



“No, I don’t want to! Our state does not need its heir to marry another princess to ensure the purity of the bloodline,” explained Yan Huaijing indifferently.

“Your Heir-apparent, if you don’t want to marry a princess, I’m afraid you won’t be able to leave the capital!” While stating that, Wei Yuewu clutched her hand that was placed on the couch and sat up straight. Anyone could tell that the Emperor favored Yan Huaijing. It was just a question of whether Yan Huaijing would be marrying the Fourth Princess or the Third Princess.

If Yan Huaijing didn’t marry either of the two princesses, he would have to stay in the capital as a hostage forever.

“So, I need your help, Yuewu. I was hoping that you would return my favor.” In a lazy manner, Yan Huaijing returned to the subject.

“What do you want me to do, Your Heir-apparent?” Wei Yuewu sighed helplessly. How could she return Yan Huaijing’s favor with just her father’s generous gift?

After all, if it had not been for Yan Huaijing, she would not have been here today. Before her father even went to the capital, she would have been devoured by wolves.

“Actually, it is not a difficult favor. I just want the two princesses to witness my determination to marry the State of Yan’s woman.” Yan Huaijing closed his eyes again and continued with indifference.

“Your Heir-apparent, how would you express the determination?” Wei Yuewu had no choice but to put up a tough front.

“It’s very easy. I just need to express my deep love for you in front of the two princesses.”

“When are the two coming over?” Just then, Wei Yuewu’s heart skipped a beat, and she looked out of the window. There was a faint voice coming from outside the window. It was the voice of a woman.

This place was quite remote. How could there be someone else?

“Of course, they will come. Since Jing Wenyan is here, why wouldn’t the Third Princess and the Fourth Princess drop by? But even if they don’t drop by, there will always be a chance next time! Anyway, I heard that someone broke into your courtyard, Yuewu. Do you know who it was?”

“It was my Fourth Elder Sister,” answered Wei Yuewu honestly after hesitating for a moment. Since this was the Duke of Yan State Mansion, it was very easy for Yan Huaijing to learn what had happened in the mansion.

“The Crown Prince’s concubine is indeed evenly matched with Jing Wenyan. It would be a pity if she is very weak!” Yan Huaijing commented slowly.

At this time, the voices downstairs were getting closer and closer. One of them was a woman, and there seemed to be a dispute.

Wei Yuewu listened to the voices carefully. Abruptly, she stood up, walked to the window, and frowned slightly while paying full attention.

Meanwhile, Yan Huaijing picked up a bottle of wine from his desk and leisurely poured it into a glass. He then took a sip. His long and narrow eyes were even more enticing now.

Even though Wei Yuewu was full of worries, she could not help but admit that Yan Huaijing was indeed good-looking.

On the other hand, sensing Wei Yuewu’s gaze, Yan Huaijing winked at her in an amorous manner.

Wei Yuewu was in a dilemma. The voices were just downstairs. It seemed that they were here to see Yan Huaijing. However, this room was so small that there was no place for her to hide even if she wanted to do so.

“Your Heir-apparent... where can I hide?” Wei Yuewu had no choice but to ask for help from the sly heir-apparent.

“Come here!” Yan Huaijing waved at her.

With a pause, Wei Yuewu glanced in his direction. Other than a couch, there was nothing else. “Your Heir-apparent, there is nowhere to hide over there.”

“Are you not coming over? Jing Wenyan is coming upstairs anytime soon.” Yan Huaijing shot Wei Yuewu a lazy look, elegantly picked up the wine glass, and took a sip.

Just then, the voice came from downstairs. It was Jing Wenyan. She seemed to be talking to Little Dezi. Then, Little Dezi seemed to have let the person pass, followed by the footsteps of someone coming up the bamboo stairs.

Glancing at the handsome and enchanting Yan Huaijing leaning on the bed, Wei Yuewu gritted her teeth. At this moment, there was indeed nowhere else to hide except the couch of Yan Huaijing.

After some hesitation, Wei Yuewu made a decision quietly. No matter what, she could not have Jing Wenyan see her being with Yan Huaijing alone.

As the footsteps approached, Wei Yuewu swiftly turned around and pounced on Yan Huaijing.

Chapter 440 The Courtyard of Miss Lin from the State of Yan

Jing Wenyan was feeling very smug when the Wei sisters entered the courtyard.

Upon getting her maid’s report, Jing Wenyan stood up and said to the group of young ladies with a smile, “The Duke of Yan State Mansion is different from the other mansions in the capital city. Would you like to take a tour?”

“Sure, Eldest Miss Jing.”

“Yeah, I was just about to ask.”

Instantly, several young ladies of aristocratic families responded. Even the few who remained silent raised their eyes shyly and had expectation in their gaze.

This was the Duke of Yan State Mansion, the most likely place to encounter the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State.

However, they were in the inner courtyard's parlor now. If they remained here, it was basically impossible for them to see the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State. Now that they had the chance to tour with Jing Wenyan, it would be more likely for them to encounter the incomparably handsome heir-apparent.

Seeing that many of the young ladies had responded, Jing Wenyan was very satisfied and curled her lips. She then led the group of seven or eight young ladies toward the inner courtyard.

They entered from the back and naturally did not see that the bodyguards were guarding the front door. Hence, of course, they did not know that Yan Huaijing forbade others from entering the place.

The few young ladies who had come with Wei Yuewu were now scattered around. Since they could only view the courtyard from afar and it was empty, they lost interest and broke up after looking around.

Hence, at this time, the group did not meet the few young ladies who had arrived earlier.

"Eldest Miss Jing, who is that?" A sharp-eyed young lady suddenly exclaimed when she saw a man's figure flashing past the back entrance.

"What?" Jing Wenyan asked the sharp-eyed young lady with a surprised expression.

"There was... a man who entered the back door of that courtyard..." The young lady answered after some hesitation.

"Uh... maybe it was the Heir-apparent's servant. After all, this is the Duke of Yan State Mansion's backyard, which belongs to the Heir-apparent. I heard that there is only one young lady of an aristocratic family who lives here." Jing Wenyan smiled indifferently.

“Really? There is a young lady? Who is it?” Instantly, this caught the attention of the others.

Right now, no one was willing to leave, and their eager gaze fell on the back entrance.

After all, Jing Wenyan’s words signaled that there was a possibility that Yan Huaijing was behind the door with a young lady who was actually accepted by him. Some of the young ladies, who originally treated Jing Wenyan with a bit of suspicion and envy, even relaxed.

It seemed that what Jing Wenyan had claimed was true. The Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State just wanted Jing Wenyan to help receive the guests. After all, she also mentioned that in the past, she had helped the Madam of the Duke of Yan State entertain guests. So, she must understand some of the State of Yan’s customs very well.

“She is a young lady from an aristocratic family in the State of Yan. I don’t know exactly who she is, but we’d better not go in. Maybe the young lady is resting inside.” Saying that, Jing Wenyan turned around and looked like she was about to leave.

However, those young ladies were even more unwilling to leave.

“Eldest Miss Jing, let’s go in and take a look. Since we’re His Heir-apparent’s guests and His Heir-apparent has always been gentle and refined, he definitely won’t blame us. As for that young lady from the State of Yan, I believe that she would be happy to tell us more about the customs in the State of Yan since it’s rare for us to have the chance to visit the Duke of Yan State Mansion.”

“Indeed, Eldest Miss Jing. Since we are here, we should meet this young lady from the State of Yan. She must be an extraordinary young lady for His Heir-apparent of Yan to value her so much.”

“Hey, isn’t there a performance later? If we can watch this lady perform a song, we will be utterly honored.”

One after another, the guests came up to persuade Jing Wenyan. None of them intended to move their feet, hinting that there was no way they would leave today without going in.

“Uh... I’m afraid this is not a good idea. If we disturb this young lady who is resting, it will be hard for me to explain to His Heir-apparent!” Jing Wenyan responded with a difficult look.

“Don’t worry about it! His Heir-apparent is best known as a gentle and polite man. He won’t blame you.”

“Indeed, let’s go in!” Another guest chimed in and persuaded.

Being persuaded by her peers, Jing Wenyan had no choice but to turn back, though she still looked a little hesitant. “But, what if His Heir-apparent...”

“Don’t worry, Eldest Miss Jing. If you still don’t trust us, we can promise to support you later. I believe that His Heir-apparent of Yan won’t blame you any further.”

“Yeah, if His Heir-apparent of Yan blames you, we will support you!”

Since they said so, Jing Wenyan naturally had to agree. With a reluctant look, she hesitantly led the group to the back entrance.

One maid stepped forward and pushed the door open. As expected, it was not locked.

Jing Wenyan led the group inside.

On the other hand, Wei Qiufu was still in the courtyard. She had previously followed the group in due to her curiosity about the noble young lady from the State of Yan. Since Wei Yuewu promised to wait for her outside, she felt much more at ease.

Nevertheless, Wei Qiufu had always been cautious. After entering the courtyard, she did not immediately walk around. Instead, she first observed her surroundings.

It was a relatively large courtyard and probably a little bigger than her grandmother's Tranquility Courtyard. There were several houses here. However, the backyard she was situated in was actually very quiet, and she did not spot the maid from before.

"Miss... should we go back?" Ming Yan looked around uneasily.

"No, let's look around!" Wei Qiufu gritted her teeth. She was only interested in the mysterious aristocratic young lady because the Crown Prince himself was interested in the lady. If she could find out about the lady for the Crown Prince, he would definitely appreciate her. x

Wei Qiufu had always been brooding over the fact that her status was lower than that of Yang Yuyan, who was an idiot. Especially today, she was even aggrieved when she had to go up and greet Yang Yuyan when they ran into each other.

Of course, Ming Yan listened to Wei Qiufu's decision. With caution, the two planned to pass a corner to explore further.

Just as they had passed the corner, a person suddenly appeared in front of them. Wei Qiufu did not expect to run into someone at this time and was too late to avoid the incomer. As a result, the two of them bumped into each other heavily.

The incomer was walking pretty fast. So, before Wei Qiufu could even see who it was, she was knocked unconscious.

Following behind Wei Qiufu, Ming Yan was just about to speak, but she was hit on the head and fell down.

After the two had passed out, two maids exchanged a look, nodded, pulled the two up, and then sent them to a room next to the room that was near the back entrance.

The room was very simple. There was only a screen and a bed. On the bed lay a fainted young man.

The two maids left Ming Yan outside, carried Wei Qiufu into the room, and put her on the bed. Wei Qiufu was now leaning against the man.

“Uh... who is this young lady?” One of the maids looked at Wei Qiufu’s face and whispered to the other.

“I don’t know either. Anyway, Miss ordered us to knock out whoever came in and put the pretty one on the bed. Now that there is only one young lady, she is the one then,” the other maid replied uncertainly.

The order they received was to place the beautiful young lady of a noble family on the bed. But since there was only one young lady now, it didn’t matter whether she was beautiful or not. At least, she should be much better looking than the maid outside!

“That’s it! Let’s go!” The previous maid said vigilantly.

“Alright!” Without saying much, the two maids put down the bed curtains and quietly left the room. Ming Yan was left to lean against the door. When one looked from afar, it was as if Ming Yan had fallen asleep at the door out of boredom.

The two maids did not dare to head toward the front yard. Their master had hired someone to lure out the words of a housekeeper who worked here in the backyard of the Duke of Yan State Mansion and secretly got a key. However, the housekeeper did not know much about the mysterious noble young lady who resided here.

The housekeeper only imparted that this young lady was not in good health and usually stayed in the room to recuperate.

After thinking about the information, their master decided to lure the young lady out. And if they did not manage to lure her out, they would cause a huge uproar here. As for Sixth Miss Wei, who was accidentally involved in this, she could only blame her bad luck since she was so pretty that even their master felt a sense of crisis.

The two maids were both Jing Wenyan’s most trusted servants. After taking a glance at Ming Yan who was still unconscious and making sure that there was no one suspicious around, one of the maids went to report to Jing Wenyan, while the other went back into the room to change into a set of man’s clothes.



When Jing Wenyan brought the guests over, it was the maid who entered the backyard through the back door.

Then, the maid went to the room where Wei Qiufu was lying and planned to change her clothes behind the screen. Of course, the clothes belonged to the man who was lying inside.

After she managed to hang the man's clothes on the screen, she would be considered to have succeeded.

Earlier, the maid hung her own clothes on the screen. But after she took off the man's clothes and was about to get her own clothes, she couldn't find her clothes. She looked up at the screen in surprise.

Her clothes were not on the screen. She began to suspect that perhaps she had thrown her clothes behind the screen.

As the maid was full of questions, she tied her belt with one hand and turned around. Unexpectedly, when she went around the screen, she was hit heavily on the head before she could see anything. She blacked out and fell to the ground without making a sound.

Behind the screen, Wei Qiufu had fear in her eyes as she held a wooden lamp hanger in hand. Her face was pale.

Wei Qiufu had always been cautious. She had woken up before the maid came in to change clothes. When she woke up, she immediately realized that her situation was not good and wanted to leave. However, she decided to hide when she heard the maid entering the room.

After knocking Jing Wenyan's maid out, Wei Qiufu threw away the lamp hanger and left the room. She saw that her maid, Ming Yan, was lying by the door.

She gave Ming Yan two tight slaps and immediately woke the latter up.

"Miss..." As soon as Ming Yan regained consciousness, she hurriedly got up.

“Come in and carry the maid onto the bed!” Wei Qiufu instructed sternly.

Ming Yan did not dare to say anything more and hurried in. The two of them worked together to throw the maid, who had not changed her clothes yet, onto the bed. The curtains of the bed were still down.

“Come, let’s hide to the side first!” Gritting her teeth, Wei Qiufu said viciously. No matter who it was, she would not let the person off easily.