

The Good 71

Chapter 71: I Hate Getting Carsick The Most (1)

It was obvious that Shen Jiawei had also failed!

Shen Yifeng had lost, while Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei had also suffered a crushing defeat. However, the sage had confirmed that he had managed to wake the Vermilion Bird.

There was no doubt that the Vermillion Bird would have chosen a candidate among the few of them as his master if he was awakened. That would mean...

Everyone looked at the second-to-last carriage, and they were aware of who was in it.

Could it be?!

...

Shen Yanxiao took her time as she was not anxious to get out of the carriage at all. It was not because she did not want her feet to feel the ground again, but rather, it was because...

“Ough!” The arrogant and proud Vermilion Bird had a deathly pale complexion as he hugged a wooden bucket and vomited.

Who would expect that the awe-inspiring mythical beast would get motion sickness?!

After they started their journey, the Vermilion Bird had begun to look pale as his palms began to sweat and then he started to vomit not long after that. What annoyed Shen Yanxiao was that the stinky little bird had refused to return to her body. After a magical beast signed a contract with its master, they could transform their physical body into mental energy to reside within their master. Since the motion of the carriage was too much for him, he could have obediently opted to stay in her.

However, it seemed that he was a stubborn little bird. He chose Shen Yanxiao because he had no other choice, but she did not have the strength to make him submit to her willingly. They wanted him to reside in a weak human like her? He was not willing to do that, not even if he was beaten to his death.

Since he had no other alternative option, the Vermilion Bird had vomited throughout the journey back to the Vermilion Bird Family’s compound.

How could he still have any traces of arrogance on his exquisite face then? His small face completely lacked color, and his scarlet eyes beamed with tears that made him look so miserable that one’s heart would ache for him if one were to look at him.

If one were to describe his current appearance in the modern world, they would call him...

Super adorable!

Of course, Shen Yanxiao would never treat the Vermilion Bird like an adorable animal that one would keep in captivity. She remembered the scene where the little bird nearly killed Shen Jiayi vividly. He did not even blink when he attacked her, and he only looked adorable because he was ill from the journey.

If it was possible, Shen Yanxiao wanted to look up and laugh wildly at him.

'Serves you right!'

"Hey, are you done vomiting? We've reached, and we can get down now." Shen Yanxiao propped her chin. She did not mind if the others had to wait longer for them, but she did not wish to stay in a carriage that was filled with vomit!

"You're... noisy... If you want to get down... go yourself. Would it kill... you if I were to... sit here for a little while more..." The Vermilion Bird wanted to kick his new master out of the carriage roughly, but he was too sluggish even to move his fingers.

'This damned carriage. I will never ride in one again! Next time, I will fly here myself!'

Shen Yanxiao's mouth twitched. After she gave her orders to the respectful attendants that stood on one side, she took the lead and walked out of the carriage.

When she stretched out her head from the carriage, many pairs of eyes that revealed complicated emotions suddenly turned toward her.

Shen Yanxiao quirked her eyebrows.

Why did those people act as if they had seen a ghost in broad daylight?

Shen Feng looked at the familiar and yet unfamiliar face in surprise. Even though Shen Yanxiao was not usually appreciated in the Vermilion Bird Family, it did not mean that he would not remember what his granddaughter looked like. She still looked dull and unattractive, but her usual blank expressions had some cleverness in them. Her rosy lips were slightly raised, and even though she would not be considered as pretty, others might find her cute.

Chapter 72: I Hate Getting Carsick The Most (2)

He had never seen such a lively expression on Shen Yanxiao's face before.

She did not seem like the idiot everyone thought she was before! It was as if she was a normal little girl, the same as every other young lady.

A speculation flashed past Shen Feng's mind, but he was not sure about it.

Shen Yue and Shen Duan felt as if a hurricane had wrecked their minds. When they saw Shen Yanxiao, they were surprised that she did not look like the smiley idiot who never had no other expressions with the exception of a foolish smile. The little girl stood quietly beside the carriage. The smile in her eyes had traces of liveliness in it, and her huge black eyes swept past each one of them in confusion.

They were also stunned to see the flame mark between Shen Yanxiao's eyebrows.

There was a written account in the Vermilion Bird Family's ancient records. After a person signed a contract with the Vermillion Bird, a flame-like mark would appear on their forehead, in between their eyebrows, and that was the proof that the person was the Vermillion Bird's new master.

Shen Yue and Shen Duan had been too confident about the success of their children that they forgot to check if they had the mark on their foreheads. They became a joke because they had celebrated too soon. Furthermore, the records were from more than a hundred years ago, and no one was sure about its authenticity. After all, none of them had seen the mark of the flame before.

However, the moment Shen Yanxiao appeared from the carriage, they realized the ridiculousness of their thoughts. It was as if the flame-like mark had magic that attracted their attention with only one glance.

The Vermilion Bird had indeed chosen Shen Yanxiao as his master!

The same answer surfaced in their hearts. Even if they did not want to believe it, they knew that the mark between Shen Yanxiao's eyebrows was real.

Shen Yue and Shen Duan's expressions were as black as charcoal. Their exceptional children had lost to such an idiot, and even if they were beaten to their death, they would have never expected that. Otherwise, they would not have allowed Shen Feng to include Shen Yanxiao in that quest.

By then, everything was already too late. The Vermilion Bird had chosen his master, and nothing could change the situation.

Shen Yanxiao smiled and walked up to the shell-shocked Shen Feng casually as she dutifully said, "Grandfather, I've lived up to your expectations and brought back the Vermillion Bird."

"..." Everyone in the Vermilion Bird Family was struck dumb.

Was it an auditory hallucination? The idiot who usually did not understand conversations had managed to speak so rationally and orderly!

The moment Shen Yanxiao revealed herself, Shen Feng noticed the changes in her. However, when Shen Yanxiao dutifully called him 'grandfather,' Shen Feng could only stare ahead blankly.

Since she was young, Shen Yanxiao had not managed to see much of Shen Feng. Even if she were to occasionally bump into him, she would hide in a corner and stay silent. It could even be said that Shen Yanxiao had not uttered a single word to her grandfather since she was born.

When she spoke that day, her simple words set off massive waves in everyone's heart.

Where was the idiot? What was with that eloquent little girl? Where did the idiotic seventh young miss of their family go?

Even though Shen Feng did not know why Shen Yanxiao had suddenly recovered, she was still his granddaughter. Furthermore, Shen Yanxiao had even brought the Vermilion Bird back to the family, so how could he not be happy?

"Great. It's great that you're back." Shen Feng looked at Shen Yanxiao excitedly, and he could not help but ask the question in his mind.

"Xiaoxiao, how did you suddenly..."

Shen Yanxiao blinked her eyes adorably. She touched the tip of her nose and then said, "Grandfather, are you trying to ask me how I recovered all of a sudden? I honestly don't know the reason myself. After I signed the contract with the Vermilion Bird, my mind seemed to have cleared up."

Chapter 73: I Hate Getting Carsick The Most (3)

The Vermilion Bird had not appeared for a hundred years, and even Shen Feng did not know much about him. He only knew that the Vermilion Bird possessed remarkable abilities. Shen Yanxiao had already prepared her explanation beforehand. If someone were to ask her about her sudden recovery, she would use the Vermilion Bird as a cover.

Who would dare to question her answer? They could seek confirmation from that conceited little bird if they were capable of that.

"Good, very good... that's great." Shen Feng patted Shen Yanxiao's shoulders in excitement. He had believed her as soon as he saw the flame mark between her eyebrows.

The Vermilion Bird had returned, and Shen Yanxiao had recovered. The concurrent joyous events had brought a huge smile on Shen Feng's usually imposing face, and he then asked everyone to go back to the estate.

However, Shen Yanxiao stopped him and pulled on his sleeves.

"What's wrong?" Shen Feng did not know how to react with his granddaughter, who had suddenly recovered.

Shen Yanxiao looked at her carriage, and distressingly said, "Grandfather, the Vermilion Bird is still in the carriage."

"..." Shen Feng looked at the carriage that was still parked outside the gates as Shen Yanxiao's words rang in his mind.

The Vermilion Bird... was in that carriage!!

The man, who was already more than fifty years old, suddenly trembled as he anxiously checked if his clothes were neat.

Whereas for Shen Yue and Shen Duan, they wished they could glue their eyes onto the carriage.

Everyone continued to stand outside the huge gates as they quietly waited for the Vermilion Bird to appear, and no one dared to complain.

It was not until their faces were almost burned by the scorching sun that there were finally some movements from the carriage.

A small white hand stretched from the carriage, and everyone held their breath.

A small pale face suddenly appeared, and everyone immediately widened their eyes.

That... was the Vermilion Bird?

Everyone was dumbstruck as they looked at the haggard little face. Even though his handsome face had far exceeded their expectations, they would never have imagined that their family's powerful mythical beast would appear as a four-year-old child.

Shen Feng was speechless. He stared at the Vermillion Bird's scarlet eyes and immediately remembered something that he had read from the Vermillion Bird Family's ancient records. The records stated that the Vermillion Bird would have scarlet eyes when it transformed into a human form. However...

It said nothing about a four-year-old child!!

The Vermillion Bird's appearance had far exceeded everyone's expectations. Many members of the Vermillion Bird Family stood rooted to the spot as if they were petrified.

The attendant with the Vermillion Bird had carefully supported him as he got down the carriage. After the incident in the Lava Valley, he became extremely respectful toward Shen Yanxiao and did not even dare to breathe loudly in her presence. He was completely different from his previous unfriendly attitude toward her.

The Vermillion Bird did not notice any of those shocked gazes that were aimed at him. He bit his lip and walked down the carriage. With his small frame and pale complexion, he seemed exceptionally delicate.

Was he really their family's mythical beast? Wasn't his image... a little too adorable?! The other members of the Vermillion Bird Family could not help it as those thoughts popped into their minds. They had imagined the Vermillion Bird in all kinds of different forms. From a mighty beast to a tyrannical human, but they had never expected the Vermillion Bird to look so... adorable!

Everyone was at a loss.

At that moment, the Vermillion Bird was very angry. He was a powerful mythical beast and yet, he needed an inferior human to support him down a carriage. That was too embarrassing!

As he was resentful and shameful of the situation, the Vermillion Bird stared angrily at the few carriages that were parked outside the entrance. Suddenly, he waved his left hand, and a flame ignited mid-air. Before anyone could react, the fire that flickered in the air swooshed past them and headed toward those eight carriages.

Chapter 74: Shen Feng's Determination (1)

The flame that was similar to a fiery dragon had instantly engulfed all of the carriages and burned them into ashes.

Those carriages were specially customized to resist high temperature, but the fiery flame had melted them instantly. In a blink of an eye, those few expensive and luxurious carriages had instantly become a useless pile of ash!

As they witnessed the unexpected scene, everyone immediately swallowed any doubts that they had about the Vermillion Bird.

...

Shen Feng appeared to be very happy as he smiled and looked at Shen Yanxiao who sat in the Vermilion Bird Family's main house for the very first time.

As for the Vermilion Bird who had felt tormented throughout the journey, he immediately ordered for someone to bring him to Shen Yanxiao's room for some rest the moment he stepped through the gates. Even though Shen Feng wanted to spend some time with the mythical beast, there was no room for him to say otherwise the moment the Vermilion Bird had opened his mouth.

At that moment, he could only look at Shen Yanxiao as he rejoiced over the fact that she had become the Vermillion Bird's master.

Shen Yanxiao was a smart girl. As soon as she entered the main house, she recounted the incidents at the Lava Valley to Shen Feng. As he listened to the stories, Shen Feng repeatedly nodded and laughed. On the other hand, Shen Duan and Shen Yue's expressions were as dark as the charcoal.

That was an excellent opportunity, and the idiot had unexpectedly took advantage of it. Both of them got more depressed as they pondered about it, to the extent that they would puke blood if they could.

"I believe that the spirits of your parents in heaven would be delighted with what you have achieved now." Shen Feng looked at Shen Yanxiao with a sincere smile in his eyes.

Shen Yanxiao had no impressions of her parents and only pretended to nod in obedience.

"Now that you've signed the contract with the Vermilion Bird, you can't continue living the way you did before," Shen Feng said.

Shen Feng's words stunned Shen Duan and everyone else who were present in the main hall.

'Obtain the Vermilion Bird, and become the Family Head.'

Did Shen Feng intend for Shen Yanxiao to inherit the Family Head position? Even though she had recovered, she was still trash who couldn't train in magic or battle aura! She had the assistance of the Vermillion Bird, but what of it? Her strength was still extremely weak. If a crafty person were to take advantage of the situation, she would not even have the ability to protect herself.

"In the future, I will arrange for someone to help you to get involved with the affairs in our household. You have to learn about it diligently and don't disappoint me." Shen Feng informed Shen Yanxiao with care and concern.

To be involved with the affairs in the household? Shen Feng's words caused alarm bells to ring in the minds of everyone there. It was apparent that he intended to train Shen Yanxiao to become his successor.

What a joke!!

"Father! Xiaoxiao is still young, and her physique has always been weak. Even though she has obtained the Vermilion Bird, the other disciples of the other four families aren't so easy to be trifled with. From what I know, Qi Xia from the Qilin Family of the current generation is a young man with profound and immeasurable strength. Furthermore, since the sage could awaken the Vermilion Bird for us, we can't guarantee that he would not assist the other four families in their quests to awaken their mythical beast. The five mythical beasts are equally matched, and any fights between them are completely reliant on

their master's strength. Xiaoxiao is not suited to train in magic or battle aura, and I'm afraid that in the future..." Shen Duan said in a worried tone.

It was already a fact that Shen Yanxiao had obtained the Vermillion Bird. Even though she was no longer an idiot, she was still trash. With her condition, she was not suited for the position as the Family Head. Most people would consider her as an object that possessed the Vermillion Bird, and due to the competition between the five great families, they placed the importance of the strength of the Family Head above anything else.

Shen Feng frowned at Shen Duan's words, but he knew that he was right.

Chapter 75: Shen Feng's Determination (2)

"Father, Xiaoxiao has just recovered, and you want her to undertake so many responsibilities immediately. I'm afraid that won't be appropriate. Why don't we have other disciples of the family to assist her, so that she can have time for training?" Shen Yue immediately agreed with Shen Duan. Even though he was on bad terms with Shen Duan, both of them had the same thoughts then.

Shen Yanxiao was only an appendant of the Vermilion Bird, and her strength was almost non-existent. Perhaps that was a good thing for them. Even if they could not obtain the Vermillion Bird, their children could still inherit the position as the Family Head. If that was the case, then Shen Yanxiao only had to contain the Vermillion Bird and to command it if they had to deal with the other families' mythical beasts.

They thought of her as more of a vessel for the Vermillion Bird rather than its master.

So what if she had managed to obtain the Vermillion Bird? She was still trash. Her strength was so weak that she was unworthy of the position as the Family Head.

Shen Yanxiao quietly listened to their conversation as she sat at one side and internally sneered at those two elder's 'good intentions.'

How compassionate of them! If she could not even guess their plans, then she would have lived her past life in vain. They merely intended to make her a puppet of the Vermilion Bird Family and to help their children to inherit the position of the Family Head.

They dared to be so presumptuous because Shen Yanxiao's strength was, admittedly, feeble, and she could not oppose the other four Family Heads. Secondly, it was because both her parents had passed away, and she did not have any familial support.

Did they think she was a punching bag and was still so easily bullied? Shen Yanxiao kept Shen Yue and Shen Duan's intentions in her mind. She would make them pay for those intentions one day.

Everyone waited for Shen Feng's decision. Shen Yue and Shen Duan were not nervous because they knew that their father was not close to Shen Yanxiao. Besides, even though their intentions were selfish, they also merely stated the facts.

How could trash inherit the prestigious position as the Family Head?

Shen Feng was silent for a long time, and his gaze landed on Shen Yanxiao's smiling face. Even though the child's appearance did not resemble any of her parents, but as she smiled, he saw the slight resemblance with Shen Yu. Shen Feng's heart and expression sank a little as he thought about his son. He then took a deep breath and said, "Since Xiaoxiao will be inheriting the position as the Family Head in the future, she will have to suffer through these hardships. Otherwise, how can she assume a huge responsibility next time?"

Shen Feng supported Shen Yanxiao to the end.

Shen Yue and Shen Duan were shocked with Shen Feng's persistence, and even Shen Yanxiao was puzzled as well.

There were justifications to what her two bastardly uncles had said. With Shen Feng's usual temperament and personality, he would have most likely gone with their suggestion. However, the sun seemed to have risen from the west that day as Shen Feng supported her.

Was it for the Vermilion Bird? She was only the Vermilion Bird's vessel and there was no need to be so highly regarded.

Shen Yanxiao found it hard to understand Shen Feng's attitude.

"Father! Xiaoxiao cannot train in magic or battle aura. If you were to allow her to ascend the Family Head position, then in the future..." Shen Duan wanted to continue to persuade his father, but Shen Feng had already interrupted him impatiently.

"She's my granddaughter. It doesn't matter if she can't train in magic or battle aura. In this world, are there no other methods to defend herself beside magic and battle aura? Fool!" Shen Feng was enraged. His sons' repeated objections had made him very unhappy.

"I've already decided. The Saint Laurent Academy enrollment will begin next month, and when the time comes, I'll have Xiaoxiao join the Herbalist Division."

Chapter 76: Shen Feng's Determination (3)

The Herbalist Division!

The members of Vermilion Bird Family gasped. If there were a role that the people valued more than that of a magician and a martial arts practitioner, that would be the herbalist.

Herbalists were weak, but they possessed the ability to produce various miraculous potions. The advanced potions that an advanced herbalist could produce would attract numerous experts to his side. Even though they did not possess any powerful abilities to fight, they had strong connections. Most people would prefer to offend a magician than an advanced herbalist because they knew that if they were to provoke an herbalist, they would have to deal with the encirclement of the powerful influences behind them!

It was apparent that Shen Feng wanted Shen Yanxiao to abandon any attempts to seek the ability to fight and to develop strong connections instead. If she could become an advanced herbalist, then the potions she produced in the future would attract other powerful influences and experts.

If she had that support, then the other four aristocratic families would think thrice before they would provoke the Vermillion Bird Family.

They would have to consider the connections that she had before they could deal with her.

“Father... are you joking?” Shen Yue’s lips twitched incessantly.

Many had wanted to become an herbalist, but only a few succeeded. The conditions for one to flourish as an herbalist were much more complicated than the ones for those trained in magic and battle aura. Not only were they required to possess powerful mental energy, but they also need to have extremely keen observation skills. It was also essential for them to have a steady temperament, and above everything else, a talent in medicine. Otherwise, everything was just empty talk.

If it were that easy to become an herbalist, then the potions in Longxuan Empire would not be sold for such high prices.

Shen Yanxiao was an idiot before she recovered, so why would Shen Feng think that she would be able to enroll in the Saint Lauren Academy Herbalist Division?

Shen Feng coldly glanced at Shen Yue and said, “You’re getting braver these days, and now you even dared to question my decision?”

Shen Yue immediately shut his mouth.

“You do not have any right to challenge my decision, and all of you should pay attention to this. I have decided for Xiaoxiao to be my heir, and if anyone of you dares to utter a word of nonsense about this, you can pack your bags and get lost to the other branches of the family!” Shen Feng stood up in anger, and his sharp gaze swept past everyone in the main hall to serve as warning.

The rest of the disciples immediately behaved themselves after that little outburst.

Shen Yanxiao sat at the side and watched the scene that had unfolded before her. She found it hard to accept the fact that Shen Feng had defended her. If she remembered correctly, Shen Feng and Shen Yanxiao had never been close, and so it was quite hard to justify his actions toward her, even if it was because of the Vermillion Bird.

Suddenly, Shen Yanxiao had an absurd thought.

Even though Shen Feng did not usually care much for Shen Yanxiao, he did not kick her out despite others’ recommendation for him to do that. He also continued to provide her with food and clothing.

Shen Yanxiao had thought it was weird that Shen Qiu was sent to check on her well-being. Shen Qiu was Shen Feng’s most trusted physician, and even though she needed a check-up, it did not warrant Shen Qiu’s presence.

Chapter 77: Hidden Concern (1)

The clues connected in her mind and the thought became clearer.

Just as she pondered about that, Shen Feng suddenly called for her.

“Shen Duan, you shall be responsible for receiving the guests from the God Realm. Shen Ling, if the Vermilion Bird has any requests, you have to satisfy him immediately. As for the rest, go and do what you’re supposed to be doing! Xiaoxiao, come and walk with me to my study room.”

...

That was the first time Shen Yanxiao had entered Shen Feng’s study. It was simple and unadorned, with a bookcase that was tightly packed with ancient books and a table. The Vermilion Bird Family was very rich, but Shen Feng’s way of life was unexpectedly simple and plain. He was frugal, but he would never mistreat any member of his family.

“Have a seat.” Shen Feng smiled and looked at Shen Yanxiao.

Shen Yanxiao complied with the request and sat down. She did not know why Shen Feng wanted her in his study, so she waited for him to start the conversation.

Shen Feng took a scroll painting from behind his desk and gave it to Shen Yanxiao.

She unfolded the scroll and saw that it was a painting of a couple who stood side by side. The man was in his early twenties, and he looked a hundred times better than Shen Yifeng. Even though it was only a painting, the man’s elegant appearance was vivid and lifelike. His smiling eyes would have attracted favorable opinions, and the woman who was nestled against him seemed dainty. She was beautiful and had huge, lively eyes along with perfect facial features that appeared very likeable in general.. It was as if a fairy had descended onto the world, and they could not shift their gaze away from her.

The two people in the painting were so perfect that they did not seem real.

“They are your parents. Unfortunately, they passed away soon after you were born.” Shen Feng’s voice was low, and there was obvious regret in his tone of voice.

Shen Yanxiao was confounded. She finally understood why Shen Yue and the rest had always denied her to be Shen Yu’s child. How could such a perfect pair of couple give birth to such an unattractive child? Even Shen Yanxiao had doubts about her identity, let alone Shen Duan or Shen Yue.

“I don’t look like them.”

Shen Feng smiled and said, “Although you don’t resemble them, I can see a shadow of your father when you smiled after you had recovered.

Shen Yanxiao touched her ordinary-looking face, and it was hard to believe her smile was similar to the man in the scroll painting.

Her appearance was like an ugly duckling, and it was not even enough to describe the couple in the scroll painting as beautiful swans.

Even if it was a genetic mutation, was the change not too outrageously excessive? There were no cosmetic surgeries in that era, and yet that couple looked perfect. If she were their daughter, why was her appearance so... repulsive?!

Shen Yanxiao pursed her lips. The heavens must have really disliked her. Even with such gorgeous parents, her appearance still lacked. She felt as if she let them down somehow.

“Your father was my youngest son, and he was also my pride and joy. I had hoped that he could become the Vermillion Bird’s master if we were to wake the mythical beast. He was brilliant and talented in battle aura. Everyone saw Shen Yifeng as a rare prodigy in this century, but he was not even comparable to your father.” Shen Feng stood behind Shen Yanxiao and looked at the image of his son on the scroll painting, the son that he was most proud of. He had passed away for such a long time, but there was still sadness in Shen Feng’s eyes.

Chapter 78: Hidden Concern (2)

“That year, your parents had died under strange circumstances, and you were diagnosed as mentally deficient when others brought you back here. They told us that you wouldn’t be able to train in battle aura or magic your whole life. When I looked at you back then, I felt sad. I know better than anyone else about the internal strifes within our family. Since you don’t have your parents as your support, it was probably a good thing that you weren’t able to train in magic or battle aura.” Shen Feng sighed.

Shen Yanxiao nodded. She understood the meaning behind Shen Feng’s words. There were many internal conflicts within the family, especially between Shen Yue and Shen Duan. Without any parental protection, they could have secretly disposed of her if she had any caliber in her.

Even if Shen Feng had the heart to protect her, he was already old. After he passed away, she would no longer have any support while Shen Yue and the rest of the family members could do whatever they wished with her.

Shen Feng’s words resolved any doubts that Shen Yanxiao had in her.

Shen Feng alienated and neglected her because he had wanted to protect her. She was only safe if she was not on anyone’s radar. Shen Qiu’s secretive care for her must have been due to Shen Feng’s influence. Even Shen Siyu’s love for her could have been partially due to Shen Feng.

After all, he could not be seen to care for her. He probably arranged for Shen Siyu, who did not possess the Vermilion Bird Family’s bloodline, to care for her safety.

Shen Yanxiao’s felt tears welled in her eyes. The imposing older man had secretly made plans for her future. Without Shen Feng’s deliberate actions, she probably would not have lived till then.

Shen Yanxiao had never experienced the love of a family member, and thus, it was hard for her to express her feelings. She was like a stray animal who had been thrown in a corner to run its own course, but all of a sudden it realized that someone had always been raising it in care.

She understood Shen Feng’s worries. The clearer she was about his intentions, the fonder she grew of him.

She was an idiot and good-for-nothing trash who did not resemble Shen Yu. It was apparent Shen Feng took great pains to protect her as such.

For the first time in her life, Shen Yanxiao was speechless. She was not a heartless person. It was just that she had never been treated like a human being in her previous life, and she was only a tool to be used by the organization. The co-workers that she had gotten to know within that organization were

nothing but her rivals. She had faced endless mutual deception in her previous life, and it was only in that new life that she had felt the warmth from Shen Siyu's care.

"Grandfather." That was the first time that Shen Yanxiao had sincerely called out to Shen Feng.

Even if she was not the real owner of that body, but since she had been given to live, she would then treat it as if she substituted the previous Shen Yanxiao.

There were tears in Shen Feng's eyes as he nodded with gratification. He stroked his granddaughter's head and then kindly said, "It's been hard on you all these years. I am glad that you've recovered and obtained the Vermillion Bird because it meant that I no longer have to worry about anyone bullying you. Rest assured, no one can bully you for as long as I'm alive." Initially, Shen Feng had wanted to let his granddaughter continue with an ordinary and worry-free life. However, it seemed that the heavens had played a joke on them and allowed Shen Yanxiao to recover her intellect. He decided that he would put all of his expectations for Shen Yu on that child.

"Xiaoxiao, now that you've recovered, I have some things that I have to tell you."

"Grandfather, please speak your mind."

Chapter 79: Hidden Concern (3)

"I am old, and even if I wanted to care for you, I'm afraid I don't have much time left. Even though you've obtained the Vermilion Bird now and your uncles won't dare to provoke you, you still need to know how to protect yourself. The five great aristocratic families may look harmonious on the surface, but our private relations aren't the best. Our relationship had worsened while the five mythical beasts were dormant. If you want to inherit the position as the Family Head, you need to have self-preservation skills. Therefore, I have arranged for you to enroll at the Saint Laurent Academy, and you will have to study diligently." Shen Feng frowned. He was still worried about many things in the future. Fortunately, his granddaughter had recovered her intellect, and she could already guess what he did not specifically mention.

"But, I don't know a single thing about herbalism." Shen Yanxiao was vexed. She could train in both magic and battle aura, but she knew nothing about herbalism. Her understanding of herbalism was limited to about how expensive those few bottles of low-grade disguise potions were.

"Don't worry. I won't let you attempt the impossible." Shen Feng smiled gently and pointed toward the gorgeous woman on the painting. "The world knew of your mother's beauty, but none knew that she was also a powerful advanced-level herbalist."

"What?" Shen Yanxiao was stunned. She looked at the beautiful woman in the scroll painting as she digested the news that she had just heard.

"Your mother's family was very mysterious. When she appeared in Longxuan Empire, she attracted countless attention due to her appearance. When your father met your mother back then, I had also sent someone to investigate her identity, but I found nothing. Later on, your father insisted on marrying her, and I didn't object. After they were married, your mother came to me and told me that she was an

advanced herbalist. However, she asked me to keep it a secret, and she secretly concocted potions for our family.”

After Wen Ya married into the Vermilion Bird Family, the supply of their potions had overtaken the other four families. There was a rumor that the Vermilion Bird Family had a secret advanced herbalist. However, no one knew that it was the young lady of the house who had just entered the family.

“I believe your mother’s family isn’t that simple. However, they took no actions, even after her death. You are her daughter, and you would have naturally inherited her talents. Perhaps that was why you couldn’t train in magic or battle aura.” Shen Feng gravely said, “No matter what, you must learn diligently while you’re at the Saint Lauren Academy. It would be good if you inherited your mother’s talents. However, if it doesn’t work out, I will think of another method to ensure your safety.”

Shen Feng’s hands were no longer tied as Shen Yanxiao was the master of the Vermillion Bird. At least the rest of the family would not be able to threaten Shen Yanxiao’s safety, and he could make more arrangements for her.

Shen Yanxiao sniffled. Shen Feng had done all that he could for her. Every method that he had thought of was out of consideration for her.

“Alright, you should return to your room first. Have a good rest during this period, and after a few days, I will have Shen Siyu to help you to familiarize yourself with our family’s matters.” Shen Feng patted Shen Yanxiao’s shoulders and sent the emotionally-moved little girl on her way.

Chapter 80: I Don’t Want to be Devastatingly Gorgeous (1)

Shen Feng appeared to be alone in his room. He took a deep breath and sat on the chair while his gaze looked towards the back of the screen inside the room.

“You knew that the Vermillion Bird would choose Xiaoxiao if she went to the Lava Valley. Was that why you insisted that I let her go with them as a candidate?” Shen Feng suddenly asked the seemingly empty room.

“It doesn’t matter whether I knew or not. Now that you’ve welcomed the return of the Vermilion Bird and you also managed to protect your granddaughter at the same time, isn’t that great?” As a gentle voice answered him, Shen Siyu in a light-blue robe slowly walked out from behind the screen. His usual gentle demeanor was replaced with a cold gaze.

“You’re right, it’s great.” Shen Feng nodded.

“Then that should be enough. Tell your subordinates to make the appropriate arrangements over at the Saint Laurent Academy. Before she graduates, do not let anyone other than the Vermilion Bird Family know about her information.” Shen Siyu looked at Shen Feng with an air of indifference, a far cry from the usual respect that he displayed for Shen Feng.

Shen Feng looked at the entirely different Shen Siyu, but he seemed to be accustomed to his cold attitude.

It was not Shen Feng's impromptu decision to add Shen Yanxiao's name as a candidate for the Vermillion Bird. That choice was made on that young man's insistence.

"Are you afraid that the other families would take action?"

Shen Siyu nodded and said, "Before she can protect herself, I will not allow anyone to harm her."

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"By the way, what do you think of that herbalist specialization?" Shen Yanxiao had returned to her room, and at that moment, she was seated on the chair. She cared about Shen Feng's suggestion, and his actions also moved her. However, she had no intentions to reveal her strength in magic and battle aura yet. Her power was still insufficient, and if she were to expose herself too soon, it would only allow the enemy more time to plan for her defeat.

The Vermilion Bird laid on the bed and he had finally recovered some vitality after he got some rest. However, his remarkably arrogant expression had also returned.

"Being an herbalist is a pretty good choice, but the question is whether you have enough energy to learn it." Xiu paid very close attention of Shen Yanxiao's effort to become stronger.

"There shouldn't be a problem. The main issue would be to undo the seal. Everything else is manageable." Shen Yanxiao somewhat understood her situation. Once her seal was undone, she would advance rapidly like a rocket, and so, she did not have to worry about the time that she would need to spend for the training in magic and battle aura. Instead, the herbalist profession that looked profitable had aroused her interest.

"In that case, give it a try. However, an ordinary herbalist isn't useful. Only an advanced herbalist would be able to maximize the advantages of that profession." Xiu said after he had seriously analyzed the situation for her.

"Hold on!" The Vermilion Bird, who had been sleeping like a corpse on the bed, suddenly leapt to his feet. He looked at Shen Yanxiao and asked, "You mentioned a seal? What kind of seal?"

Shen Yanxiao looked at him and then rolled up her sleeve to reveal the Seven Star Moon Seal on her arm.

"The Seven Star Moon Seal?" the Vermilion Bird looked at Shen Yanxiao in shock.

"Young lady, who did you offend that they would go to such great efforts to cast a Seven Star Moon Seal on you?"

Shen Yanxiao looked at the Vermilion Bird in confusion. It seemed like he also knew about that seal.

"You know of this seal?"

The Vermilion Bird snorted. "Obviously! I've lived for at least tens of thousands of years, and this Seven Star Moon Seal was invented a thousand years ago during the war between the gods and the devils. It was used to seal powerful battle gods that were held captive on both sides. You are merely an ordinary human, so why would anyone use such a powerful seal to suppress your strength?"

