

Venomous Empress Reborn

Chapter 9: Confrontation (2)

As soon as Shen Yue finished speaking, she saw Shen Miao looking at her. Her grape-like dark eyes were especially clear, as if there was something special in them.

The next second, she heard Shen Miao's calm voice. "Second Sister, what do you mean by me loving the Duke of Ding? You can't spout nonsense. Now that I am an adult, I'm afraid your words will ruin my reputation."

Shen Yue was stunned.

Everyone in the capital knew that Shen Miao loved the Duke of Ding, although Shen Miao didn't say it explicitly. But why was she denying it now?

She smiled and said, "Fifth Sister, we're all family here. It's understandable..."

"Second Sister!" Just as she was speaking, Shen Miao suddenly interrupted her in a loud voice and said sternly, "Second Sister, be careful with your words. As the saying goes, trouble comes from the mouth. As a noble family, we have to be careful with our words and actions. In the past, I was young and insensible. I'm afraid I did something that caused people to misunderstand me. However, what happened the day before was a lesson. I will restrain my words and actions in the future. Please don't say such things."

Hearing that, everyone in the room, including Old Madam Shen, was stunned.

Shen Miao was usually gentle and timid. She never spoke loudly and was obedient. When had she ever spoken so harshly?

A glint flashed across Chen Ruoqiu's eyes as she said gently, "It's not easy to tell if you like the Duke of Ding or not. After all, no one can guess what a girl is thinking. However, you have to listen to Auntie. Your second sister is right. His Highness is noble. No matter what, you have to apologize to him."

"That's right." Old Madam Shen also came back to her senses and said, "Tomorrow, go and personally apologize to the Duke of Ding."

Shen Miao was so angry that she almost laughed. These words could only fool her in her previous life. She was the daughter of a military family and had a noble status. Why should she have to apologize to the Duke of Ding? If she did, wouldn't his father be embarrassed and looked down by his subordinates?

She finally understood that the old madam just didn't like Shen Xin. She couldn't wait for Shen Xin to make a fool of himself.

But how could there be such a good thing in the world?

Shen Miao smiled and looked at Shen Qing, who had been silent since the beginning. She said, "Big Sister, when I fell into the water that day, you were the only one by my side."

Shen Qing looked up and nodded with a calm expression. She had already thought it through. Shen Miao would definitely say that she pushed her into the water next, but Shen Qing was not afraid at all. The people in charge of the Shen family were Old Madam Shen and Ren Wanyun. On the surface, Shen Miao was a miss, but in reality, she was just a neglected daughter. As long as she insisted that she did not do anything, Old Madam Shen and Ren Wanyun would side with her. If Shen Miao lied, she would definitely be despised by Old Madam Shen and would even be severely punished. She deserved it! Who asked her, a vulgar and ignorant daughter, to want to snatch the Duke of Ding from her? Why didn't she just drown Shen Miao that day!

"First Sister, did you see the Duke of Ding that day?" Shen Miao asked a question Shen Qing didn't expect.

"Yes," Shen Qing replied.

"That's right. The day before yesterday, I was playing with my elder sister by the pond and accidentally fell into the water. I happened to bump into the Duke of Ding, who was passing by the Shen family's mansion." Shen Miao shook her head. "If you said I went to peek at the Duke of Ding, then let me ask you one thing. How did I get the news that the Duke of Ding would be there? Second Uncle and Third Uncle's manservant have no reason to tell me that. How could I know that the Duke of Ding would suddenly come to the Shen mansion? I'm not a prophet, am I? Or..." She said leisurely, "Could it be that the Duke of Ding sent an invitation to our mansion?"

Shen Qing did not understand what Shen Miao meant by that. She frowned and was about to refute when she heard her mother, Ren Wanyun, suddenly shout, "Nonsense!" Her voice was filled with panic.

Shen Miao glanced at the pale Ren Wanyun and the suddenly nervous Chen Ruoqiu and smiled.

The emperor hated it when officials and princes got too close. If the Duke of Ding really sent an invitation, what would be the content of the invitation? Was it about the future crown prince?

There were thousands of eyes and ears in the world. Who knew if there would be spies from the Tian family in the Shen family?

With just a word from Shen Miao, this became a matter of loyalty. Shen Xin was in the Northwest, so there was naturally no problem. However, Shen Gui and Shen Wan were still working in the imperial court.

Shen Yue and Shen Qing did not understand this, but Ren Wanyun and Chen Ruoqiu definitely did.

Shen Miao sneered in her heart. If they wanted to trample on her reputation, she would use Shen Gui and Shen Wan's heads as a bet. She didn't know her second and third aunt would be willing to bet with her.

Shen Qing looked at her mother in confusion. Although she was indignant, she kept quiet.

Although Shen Yue did not understand what Shen Miao meant, she could still tell something from the nervous expression on Chen Ruoqiu's face, so she stood there obediently without making a sound.

Old Madam Shen frowned. Although she had been with Old General Shen for so many years, she did not understand the twists and turns of the bureaucracy. Her entire world was within this mansion surrounded by walls, so she could not tell what Shen Miao meant. She felt that Shen Miao had taken the wrong medicine today and had offended her dignity as the head of the family. She was about to flare up.

"You are right." Ren Wanyun smiled and interrupted Old Madam Shen. "It was just a misunderstanding in the first place. How can the news of what happened in the front hall spread to the backyard? It's just a coincidence. The Duke of Ding is broad-minded and won't take it seriously. It's all a misunderstanding. Poor Little Girl, it must be painful to fall into the water."

Old Madam Shen opened her mouth, a little unhappy that her second daughter-in-law suddenly interrupted her. However, Ren Wanyun's family was a famous merchant family in Ming Qi. Most of the expenses in the Shen family were subsidized by her second daughter-in-law. Although she was unhappy, she did not want to offend her. With a snort, Old Madam Shen fell into silence.

Chen Ruoqiu also realized something and quickly went along with what Ren Wanyun said. "That's right. Shen Yue and Shen Qing, don't say that again in the future. It's just that Shen Miao accidentally fell into the water and was seen by the Duke of Ding. There are all kinds of coincidences in the world." She smiled and looked at Shen Miao. "Old Madam is just worried about you. She's not really angry with you."

Shen Miao looked at the woman in front of her. Shen Yue looked like Chen Ruoqiu and had a similar temperament. Chen Ruoqiu came from a scholarly family and was pretty. Normally, when she walked and spoke, she was gentle and elegant. She was beautiful but not frivolous. Such a woman looked easy to get along with. But what happened later proved Shen Miao wrong...

Later, the Xiongnu envoy asked for a marriage alliance. There was only one princess of suitable age in the palace, and that was Wanyu. Chen Ruoqiu said that she was willing to marry the prince of Xiongnu in place of Wanyu. However, Shen Yue was not a princess, so Fu Xiuyi conferred the title of Princess Yue Ru on her. This way, she could rightfully marry the prince.

But in the end, it was still Wanyu who was sent to Xiongnu.

After Wanyu died on the road of marriage, her palace was given to Princess Yue Ru, who accepted everything without guilt.

At that time, Wanyu was not even sixteen years old.

Shen Miao closed her eyes. Chen Ruoqiu and Concubine Mei probably had already reached an agreement. They wanted to see Shen Miao think that there was hope until they broke her hope in front of her.

Chen Ruoqiu's smile froze.

The girl opposite her looked at her. She had a round face, round eyes, and a round nose. With such a face and a timid expression, it was easy for people to think that she was stupid and weak.

But now, it was different. The timid expression was gone, and it was replaced by a solemn expression. It was not a seriousness induced by anxiety, but a seriousness that came from the bottom of her heart. For a moment, Chen Ruoqiu suddenly felt that Shen Miao was not the stupid daughter of the eldest branch of the family anymore, but someone of high status.

The next second, the girl smiled at her. "Now Third Aunt also thinks I am innocent, right?"