

Venomous 121

Chapter 121: Marriage Exchange (2)

In the General's Mansion, Old Madam hated the first branch the most. She couldn't do anything to Shen Xin, but she could do something to Shen Miao. Now that Shen Miao had proven herself otherwise, Old Madam Shen would definitely think of a way to dissuade those who came to talk about marriage.

"My poor girl, she will probably die in the house before she gets married." Ren Wanyun looked at the closed door of the room. Shen Qing was in the room every day and did not want to see anyone. A trace of resentment flashed across her eyes as she said, "But Master actually wants Qing to marry that kind of person!"

Shen Gui did not know that Shen Qing was pregnant, and Ren Wanyun did not intend to tell him. If he knew that Shen Qing was pregnant, he would definitely force her to abort the child.

However, even so, Shen Gui was afraid that the truth would be exposed, so he urged Ren Wanyun to marry off Shen Qingxun. Therefore, they chose Huang Dexing, the youngest son of the young eunuch.

The Huang family was actually a level higher than the Wei family, and they naturally had endless wealth. However, compared to the Wei family, the master and madam of the Huang family were not easy to deal with, and Huang Dexing was in fact a homosexual.

It was precisely because of this that the Huang family did not set the bar too high when it came to choosing a wife. As long as the wife was gentle and turned a blind eye to Huang Dexing's licentiousness, they did not care about anything else.

Shen Gui thought that since Shen Qing had already been tainted, she might as well marry into the Huang family. Since Huang Dexing was not interested in women and would not touch Shen Qing, this secret would naturally not be discovered. Shen Qing only needed to enjoy the glory and wealth of being the daughter-in-law of the Huang family.

On the other hand, Ren Wanyun did not agree to this marriage. Even if Shen Qing's body was already tainted, in Ren Wanyun's heart, she would still try all she could to find a good marriage for her daughter. Marrying Huang Dexing was like living as a widow for the rest of her life. She would definitely not marry off her daughter like that. Because of this, Shen Gui and Ren Wanyun had been arguing for a long time. The relationship between the husband and wife therefore worsened. Shen Gui rarely went to Rosy Cloud Garden. He had been staying with his concubines day in and day out.

"If only First Miss could marry who Fifth Miss is going to marry," Cai Ju said angrily.

When Ren Wanyun heard this, her eyebrows twitched and she suddenly looked at Cai Ju. "What did you say?!"

Cai Ju was shocked and stammered, "I said that it would be good if First Miss could marry who Fifth Miss is going to marry."

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"You're right!" Ren Wanyun stood up immediately, and a look of ecstasy suddenly appeared on her face. She said, "That's right. As long as Qing and that little b*tch change their marriage..." She muttered, "Her marriage should have been my daughter's in the first place. This time, I'll let that little b*tch suffer the consequences!" As she spoke, she suddenly thought of something. "Bring my cloak. I'm going to Rongjing Hall."

"Madam, why are you going to Rongjing Hall?" Cai Ju and Xianglan were a little puzzled. Ren Wanyun smiled sinisterly and said, "Of course, to discuss marriage."

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In the winter, when the sunlight shone on the flowers and plants on the window sill, it seemed to be reflected with a layer of green. However, the sunlight was thin, as if it would be broken if one was not careful. Shen Miao was wearing a beautiful dress with a narrow-shouldered lotus embroidered on it. The dark purple color made her fair skin almost transparent, and her eyes seemed to be as spotless as ink. Even if she stood by the window, a noble aura lingered around her.

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Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang were almost in a daze. Even they, who had served Shen Miao since they were young, sometimes felt like they couldn't recognize Shen Miao.

"Miss, you seem to like to wear lotus green clothes," Bai Lu said. "Although you look good in them, don't young ladies usually like bright colors like pink and blue?"

The color of the lotus was noble and solemn, but the young ladies of the noble families rarely wore such a color. Firstly, it was easy to look old-fashioned, and secondly, it was very difficult to look right in that color. If one wasn't careful, one would look much older than their actual ages.

However, even though Shen Miao had a tender face, in that clothes, she exuded the aura of a noble lady in the palace. The maids didn't know why.

Although Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang lowered their voices, Shen Miao still heard them. She smiled. The reason why she liked to wear lotus green was probably because this color could always remind her that she had to remain calm, thoughtful, and never merciful.

When she was in the palace in her previous life, she would wear the empress's court dress every day. The golden color could deter the concubines in the palace who were up to no good.

When she married Fu Xiuyi when she was young, she experienced many things that others couldn't at her age. It was precisely because of this that her naive and almost stupid personality finally became as calm as a pool of stagnant water. Later, she fought with Consort Mei for favor in the harem. In order to protect Fu Sheng and Wanyu, she held tight to that bright yellow imperial court dress, but in the end, nothing was left.

One day, she would snatch over the power from the Ming Qi Royal Family and trample those bandits under her feet.

“Miss, something’s wrong!” Just as she was deep in thought, Jingzhe rushed back from outside and said, “Miss, Mo Qing received news from Chun Tao that the Wei family came to propose marriage. Old Madam Shen accepted the invitation.”

Shuang Jiang frowned and asked, “Who is the person the Wei family is proposing to?”

“It’s, it’s Miss.” Jingzhe stomped her feet anxiously. “We still don’t know what the situation is in the Wei family. How can Old Madam accept the invitation without asking Miss? Master and Madam don’t even know. This is clearly a trap.”

Jingzhe had never liked Old Madam Shen, so she naturally knew that Old Madam Shen would definitely make things difficult for Shen Miao. If the Wei family was really a good family, Old Madam Shen would definitely turn down this proposal.

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“Miss, what should we do? We have to write to Master quickly.” Bai Lu looked anxious.

The maids in the room were all flustered, but Shen Miao was silent. A moment later, under the surprised gazes of the maids, she chuckled and said, “This is really strange. Although the Minister of Zhongshu is a fourth-grade official, the Wei family is rich. As for the son of the Wei family, Wei Qian, he’s also a talent. I’m flattered that such a good thing happened to me.”

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“Miss?” Bai Lu was stunned. “Miss, do you mean that the Wei family is not bad?”

“Not bad.” Shen Miao said indifferently, “I’m afraid when Father comes back and finds out about this marriage, he won’t reject it. To an official’s daughter, Wei Qian is indeed a good man who can be trusted.”

“Miss, how did you know?” Jingzhe was puzzled. Shen Miao was in the mansion all day. Even when she was outside, she was only in Guangwen Hall. There was no way for her to know the situations of these official families. However, it seemed like she was very familiar with them, which puzzled the maids.

Shen Miao who stayed in the mansion all year round naturally did not know which young master was talented. However, as Empress Shen, she knew very well who was talented and had good personalities. Wei Qian was indeed a good talent and had a good personality. Therefore, when the Wei family came to propose marriage to Shen Miao, Shen Miao was surprised to know that Old Madam Shen actually agreed.

At this moment, Gu Yu ran in from outside and said with a surprised expression, “Miss, a maid from Rongjing Hall has sent a message to you. Old Madam wants you to go to Rongjing Hall at a moment’s notice.”

“They’re really fast.” Shen Miao narrowed her eyes and smiled. “Then let’s go and take a look.”

In Rongjing Hall.

Shen Yuanbai leaned against Old Madam Shen. Over the past few days, Ren Wanyun had been busy taking care of Shen Qing, so she simply left Shen Yuanbai at Rongjing Hall. Old Madam Shen loved her grandson to begin with, so she naturally doted on him a lot.

Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Yue were not around. Ever since Ren Wanyun started taking care of Shen Qing in the mansion, Chen Ruoqiu temporarily took over the reins of the family. Naturally, the task of socializing with the rich madams fell to her. Chen Ruoqiu certainly would not let go of such a good opportunity. She brought Shen Yue out every day to socialize. She also wanted Shen Yue to show up more in front of the madams of the noble families.

Ren Wanyun stood in the middle of the hall, her eyes dark and deep.

Shen Miao was brought to Rongjing Hall by Old Madam Shen's maid.

These days, she was grounded. Every day, she had to copy Buddhist scriptures and kneel in the Shen family's ancestral hall. Old Madam Shen probably did not like her and did not let her come here to pay her respects.

"Miao, after copying the scriptures, have you become calmer?" Old Madam Shen asked.

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Hearing that, Shen Miao almost laughed out loud. She smiled and said, "Much calmer."

"That's good." Old Madam Shen cleared her throat, and her maid quickly handed her a cup of tea. She opened the lid of the tea and took a sip. Then, she looked at Shen Miao and said, "Although it wasn't your fault a few days ago, you were the one who started it. Moreover, you're too stubborn. That's why I grounded you to copy the scriptures. Do you have a grudge against me?"

"No, I will never hold a grudge against you."

"I know you're a sensible girl." Old Madam Shen looked at her in satisfaction. "You're the daughter of the Shen family, so of course, I'll dote on you. You're about to reach the age of marriage. Today, the Wei family came to matchmake you with their legitimate son. Do you think this marriage is good?"

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Shen Miao smiled and said, "My parents will decide on my marriage. It's not for me to worry."

Old Madam Shen was about to fly into a rage when she heard Ren Wanyun cough softly. She calmed down and said with a calm expression, "You're really too willful. At first, you liked... That's fine. Now that I see that you seem to have woken up from your fantasy and known your limits. This family is considered a good match for ours. That young master of the Wei family, Wei Qian, is also a dignified and talented man. Even your father wouldn't reject this marriage. This is the first time such a family has come to propose marriage to you. If you don't seize the opportunity, that young master of the Wei family will become someone else's husband."

Shen Miao was still unmoved. She said indifferently, “Young Master Wei is indeed not bad, but it’s really not what I want. Grandmother, forget it. My father and my mother will naturally make the decision for me.”

“You!” Old Madam Shen, who was not patient to begin with, finally said angrily, “Are you complaining that I, your grandmother, am interfering in your marriage?”

“I didn’t say that.” In other words, Shen Miao was implying that she was the one who said that.

Old Madam Shen was so angry that she was about to go crazy. Now, Shen Miao was becoming ever more arrogant and posing a threat all the time. Old Madam Shen hated the first branch, but she was also afraid of Shen Xin. Therefore, after so many years, although she was angry, she could only hold it in. She could not hit Shen Miao, because if she did, she would be punished by Shen Xin. At most, she could only reprimand Shen Miao. All these years, she just sat back and watched as Ren Wanyun and Chen Ruoqiu raised Shen Miao to be a useless idiot.

However, in the end, for some reason, one day, Shen Miao, who had been raised to be useless, suddenly became smart. Old Madam Shen said angrily, “Don’t you have any manners?!”

Shen Miao found it boring. With Old Madam Shen’s patience and composure, she definitely wouldn’t be able to live for more than two days in the harem. She had seen too many powerful women in her previous life. She really didn’t want to take Old Madam Shen seriously.

“Let me ask you again.” Old Madam Shen looked at Shen Miao and asked in a low voice, “Who do you think about this marriage?”

“I don’t agree,” Shen Miao replied.

“Good, good, good.” After saying “good” three times in a row, the maids quickly went forward to hold Old Madam Shen to prevent her from fainting from anger. Old Madam Shen said indignantly, “In that case, it seems like you have learned nothing from copying the scriptures. From today onwards, you’ll move out of your courtyard and live in the Shen family’s ancestral hall. You’ll be grounded to copy the scriptures every day until you learned your lesson.”

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A young girl like her would definitely be scared out of her wits if she faced the memorial tablets of her ancestors every day. Moreover, the ancestral hall was cold. If she stayed there for a few days, she might fall sick. Old Madam Shen said that out of anger. After saying that, she looked at Shen Miao, probably waiting for her to beg for mercy.

However, Shen Miao didn’t even frown and said, “Yes, I’ll go back and pack my things and move to the ancestral hall immediately.”

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Old Madam Shen almost choked on the tea when she heard that indifferent reply from Shen Miao.

After finishing what she had to say, Shen Miao turned around and left.

"This wicked girl! She has no respect for her elders!" Old Madam Shen was furious. Because she was born a lowly person and could not say anything civil, she cursed, "Little b*tch! As expected of someone from that old b*tch!"

The "old b*tch" she was talking about was naturally Shen Xin's mother, Shen Miao's biological grandmother.

Ren Wanyun raised her head and looked out the door. Shen Miao was no longer there.

"Didn't you say that she would definitely agree to this?" Old Madam Shen targeted Ren Wanyun. "Did she look like she agreed? What should we do next?"

Not to mention Old Madam Shen, Ren Wanyun also found it strange. With Wei Qian's conditions, even Shen Qing would be attracted and agreed to marry him, but Shen Miao actually rejected him without even thinking. Ren Wanyun pondered for a moment and said, "She must still be interested in Prince Ding. She pretends not to care about him, but in fact, she hasn't given up. Otherwise, she wouldn't have rejected such an excellent young man." Shen Miao didn't even blush when her marriage was brought up.

"Then what should we do now?" Old Madam Shen said angrily, "If she doesn't agree, how can she write a letter to Shen Xin?"

Originally, their plan was to coax Shen Miao into agreeing to the marriage and make her tell Shen Xin that she had a lover. Then, before Shen Xin returned to the capital, they would swap Shen Miao and Shen Qing's husbands. After that, they would put all the blame on Shen Miao. Once a woman got married, her temper would be gone. Shen Miao would be afraid, so she would not make a fuss. Shen Xin would not know that Shen Miao and Shen Qing had changed marriages, and he would think that Shen Miao liked Young Master Huang.

However, now that Shen Miao was unhappy with the Wei family's marriage, she naturally wouldn't write a letter to her father. If Shen Miao did not agree, the entire plan would fall flat, and there would be a lot of trouble.

"If she doesn't want it, we'll do it the hard way." Ren Wanyun said fiercely, "She's grounded in the ancestral hall anyway. We'll do whatever we want. In short, we have to get her engaged as soon as possible."

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Old Madam Shen glanced at Ren Wanyun and did not speak. Although she also wanted the first branch to be in trouble, if she really did it the hard way, she would be in trouble if Shen Xin found out that she was involved.

Ren Wanyun knew what Old Madam Shen was thinking at a glance. She gritted her teeth and said, "Mother, don't worry. I'll take care of this. You won't be implicated."

Old Madam Shen was reassured and did not say anything else.

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On the Hundred Flowers Tower, there was a tall platform and a pavilion. The handsome young man was dressed in purple and looked like a faint sun in the sky. His eyelashes were extremely long, and his peach blossom eyes were extremely beautiful. When he looked at people, his eyes were filled with coldness and cruelty.

"Ahem." A light cough broke the silence in the pavilion. A young man placed his folding fan in front of his chest and made a begging gesture. "I'm sorry for being late."

"I didn't expect you'd ever be late." The young man in purple glanced at him.

Su Mingfeng rubbed his nose. This good friend of his hated it when people were late. If it were anyone else, Xie Jingxing would probably have left long ago.

"It's all because of Wei Qian." Su Mingfeng smiled bitterly. "You know the young master of the Minister of Zhongshu. He's quite sad. He already has a girl he likes, but his family proposed to another lady for him. The other party even accepted his marriage proposal. I'm afraid the marriage is about to be settled. Wei Qian was unhappy, so he asked me to drink with him. However," Su Mingfeng pointed at himself, "I'm currently 'seriously ill' and can't drink, so I comforted him for half an hour."

"Boring," Xie Jingxing said with a cold expression. Obviously, he was very unhappy that Su Mingfeng was late because of this reason.

Su Mingfeng felt helpless. Xie Jingxing looked cynical and always had a smile on his face, but in fact, he was very vengeful and picky. Su Mingfeng did not know what things didn't go right for Xie Jingxing these few days, but his expression was so calm. As long as Xie Jingxing looked at him calmly, Su Mingfeng would feel his hair stand on end.

"Wei Qian is really unlucky. The wife his family chose for him is an idiot. Previously, everyone knew that that idiot was after Prince Ding. Wei Qian couldn't defy his parents and had to marry her." He quickly found a topic to talk about, hoping to arouse Xie Jingxing's interest. "You should know who she is, right? She's Shen Xin's daughter, Shen Miao. She should consider herself lucky to be able to marry Wei Qian."

Xie Jingxing suddenly opened his mouth and asked slowly, "Shen Miao?"

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"That's right." Su Mingfeng was a little surprised by Xie Jingxing's attitude. He suddenly thought of something and smiled mischievously. "Isn't she the girl you saved last time at the test? She's quite brave and not too ugly. Wei Qian clearly doesn't know how lucky he is."

Seeing that Xie Jingxing was deep in thought, he couldn't help but say in surprise, "Hey, are you telling me you like that girl?"

Xie Jingxing sneered and glanced at Su Mingfeng coldly. "Are you very available?"

"Of course I'm." Su Mingfeng frowned. "I'm 'seriously ill' now, and I can't go to court. All I do day in and day out is playing with my pets. You haven't been showing up often recently and are very close to that doctor called Gao Yang. Are you hiding something from me?"

They had a deep friendship when they were young, but the older they grew up, the more mysterious Xie Jingxing became. Su Mingfeng sometimes felt that he knew nothing about Xie Jingxing.

Xie Jingxing threw a fruit at him. "Eat it."

Obviously, he did not intend to continue. Su Mingfeng's eyes flashed and he smiled bitterly, but he did not say anything.

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Not long after the Shen family accepted the invitation from the Wei family, Ren Wanyun asked Xianglan to get Shen Gui to come to Rosy Cloud Garden.

Ever since Shen Qing's incident, there had been a conflict between Shen Gui and Ren Wanyun, and the two of them did not talk much.

This time, Ren Wanyun took the initiative to give in.

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Xianglan and Caiju greeted Shen Gui, who had just entered. Ren Wanyun sat at the table, looking a little depressed.

"What's wrong with you again?" Shen Gui's tone was still very stiff. Back then, Shen Gui was extremely unhappy with Ren Wanyun scolding him for being heartless. Although he admired Ren Wanyun for being able to manage the mansion well, he was by no means a magnanimous person.

Ren Wanyun glanced at him, her face very haggard. She had always been smart and high-spirited, and she had never looked like this. When Shen Gui saw this scene, his heart softened. He knew that Ren Wanyun doted on Shen Qing and was worried sick about her daughter. After all, she was his first wife, so he still had to show her respect. He shouted at Xianglan and Caiju, "Why is Madam so haggard? How do you take care of her?"

Ren Wanyun could also hear the gentleness in Shen Gui's tone. "It's not their fault. I'm the one who's worried about Qing. I haven't been able to sleep and eat these days because I am heartbroken."

"Since it already happened, there's no point in thinking too much about it. You'd better get well as soon as possible. We still need you to take care of the mansion." Shen Gui glanced at Ren Wanyun. Previously, it was Ren Wanyun who was in charge of the mansion, so he could use the money at will. Now that Ren Wanyun had to take care of her daughter, Chen Ruoqiu became the temporary manager. Naturally, it was not as convenient as before.

Ren Wanyun gritted her teeth. Shen Gui only cared about his official career and did not care about Shen Qing at all. She said, "I think so too. It's just that I'm worried about letting others take care of Qing."

"That's why we should just marry her to the Huang family." At the mention of this, Shen Gui's tone became stiff again. "The Huang family is big and rich. When Qing'er goes over, she will be the first wife, but you don't agree."

Chapter 127: Imprisonment (2)

Ren Wanyun sneered in her heart. As a father, Shen Gui was really heartless. How could the Huang family be considered a good family? Although she had long known that her husband valued benefits over anything else, thinking about it now, Ren Wanyun still felt a chill run down her spine.

However, this was not the time for her to think about this. She wiped her eyes and said, "Master is right. I was wrong. The family that you chose is naturally the best. I didn't want to marry off Qing to that family at first, but now I think it's not a bad thing for her."

Shen Gui was stunned for a moment before looking at her in disbelief. "You agreed?" Ren Wanyun loved her daughter so much. How could she agree to this marriage so easily?

"Yes." A sad expression appeared on Ren Wanyun's face. "With Qing like this, no good family will want her in the future. After thinking about it, I think the Huang family is not bad. At least, after marrying over, Qing won't suffer." After saying that, she tugged at her sleeve and cried softly.

Seeing Ren Wanyun like this, Shen Gui felt relieved and believed what Ren Wanyun said. Now, Shen Qing was no longer a virgin, and the Huang family just needed a legitimate daughter of a noble family to take the position of Young Madam Huang to deceive the outside world. After Shen Qing married Huang Dexing, she would have no worries for the rest of her life. Although as a woman, she might not be able to consummate her marriage, after that kind of thing happened, who would still want her?

At the thought of this, Shen Gui sighed and walked to Ren Wanyun's side. He patted her back and comforted her, "It's good that you've thought it through. Qing is my daughter after all. I won't harm her. Master Huang and I are friends. I'll ask him to take care of Qing. If Qing marries, she won't suffer."

"Then I'll have to trouble you to mention it to Master Huang and ask the Huang family to send someone over to talk about marriage."

"So soon?" Shen Gui was a little surprised.

"Qing is already like this. How can we wait?" Ren Wanyun sighed. "The longer we wait, the more likely people will find out. After all, Qing hasn't been out for a long time. If she marries into the Huang family, she can at least hide it. Moreover," Ren Wanyun rubbed her chest, "I've been feeling uneasy all the time ever since Qing became pregnant."

Seeing her nervous expression, Shen Gui pondered for a moment and said, "You're right. We can't wait. In that case, I'll write to Lord Huang today and mention this matter."

"I'm counting on you, Master," Ren Wanyun said meekly.

Shen Gui said a few more words before leaving in satisfaction. Today, Ren Wanyun apologized and did as he said, making him feel much better. The gloominess he had been feeling for the past few days was gone.

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After Shen Gui left Rosy Cloud Garden, Xianglan closed the door and said in a panic, "Madam, is it really good to hide it from Master?"

Ren Wanyun made Shen Gui think that Shen Qing was really willing to marry Huang Dexing, but she did not tell him about her plans to swap Shen Qing and Shen Miao's husband. In this way, Shen Qing would marry the real good man, Wei Qian, and Shen Miao would marry Huang Dexing.

She naturally couldn't let Shen Gui know about this, because he would not take the risk in doing anything that might affect his career. However, for her daughter, Ren Wanyun would do anything.

Chapter 128: Imprisonment (3)

"Of course we have to hide it from him. He's so heartless. He only wants to use my daughter to gain more power." Ren Wanyun sneered. Her husband's coldness and her daughter's accident had already made her look old. It was as if a few wrinkles had appeared on her face overnight. Her originally kind face was now replaced by a sinister expression. "This has to be done flawlessly. Even if he finds out in the future, it will be too late."

"But won't this be bad for Miss?" Caiju asked, "Even if it succeeds, how can the Huang and Wei families, after knowing the truth, be willing to accept it?"

"Don't worry." Ren Wanyun held the paperweight in her hand and said, "What the Huang family wants is just a girl from an official family. As for the Wei family, if they dare to make a fuss, I'll sue them for raping innocent women. There will always be a way to make them shut up. Moreover," Her expression instantly turned sinister, "What's wrong with Qing? Isn't she better than that little b*tch, Shen Miao? The Wei family should consider themselves lucky to have my daughter instead of Shen Miao."

At the mention of Shen Miao, Ren Wanyun trembled with hatred. Xianglan and Caiju immediately lowered their heads in silence.

After a while, Ren Wanyun said, "But the most important thing now is to get the two marriages done as soon as possible. We have to do it before Shen Xin and his wife return to the capital."

"They will only return to the capital at the end of the year. There are still a few months left." Xianglan took a step forward and reminded, "On the other hand, Fifth Miss is too stubborn. If she finds out that she's engaged, she'll probably cause a commotion. She might even escape from the Shen family at night. What will we do then?"

"Escape?" Ren Wanyun said fiercely, "That depends on whether she has the ability or not. Isn't she locked up in the ancestral hall now? From today onwards, lock up the ancestral hall!"

She actually wanted to lock up Shen Miao alive!

Xianglan and Caiju were shocked and lowered their heads. In the past, although the Shen family suppressed Shen Miao, it was not obvious on the surface. This was the first time they had used such a ruthless method on Shen Miao.

"That little b*tch has a lot of tricks up her sleeve. She has to be locked up. When the time comes, we'll just drug her and force her to marry. The Huang family is not a kind bunch. After a few days of discipline, she will be obedient." Ren Wanyun did not hide the viciousness in her words. "If they can't, how about Prince Yu?" She smiled smugly.

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The winter was getting colder and colder. There were frequent reports of victory in the Northwest Desert. The army led by Shen Xin had rendered meritorious service by defeating the enemy. On the battlefield, the enemy was terrified. The people in the capital naturally guessed that when Shen Xin returned to the capital at the end of the year, he would definitely be rewarded with countless merit points.

The glory of the Shen family was really enviable, but it was all earned on the battlefield. Now that the Xiongnu had not retreated, and the neighboring countries were also eyeing the land covetously, the Ming Qi royal family naturally had to put the Shen family in an important position. However, in the future, it was hard to say if it would still be so. After all, the royal family always liked to stab people in the back. Especially the nine princes of the Ming Qi royal family, no one dared to underestimate them.

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If there was anything exciting in the capital recently, it would be that the daughters of the Shen family were going to get married. However, for some reason, details of this matter weren't revealed. People only knew that two families came to propose marriage. One was the Wei family, the Minister of Zhongshu, and the other was the Huang family. These two families were both rich and powerful. The two young masters were considered young and talented, and they were of equal social status with the Shen family. Shen Yue went to Guangwen Hall every day as usual, so everyone could guess that the ones who were going to get married were definitely Shen Miao and Shen Qing.

Chapter 129: Imprisonment (4)

Among the current military officials, only the Marquis of Lin'an could compare to him. However, the Marquis of Lin'an seemed to be a smart person. He usually didn't lead troops.

With a father like Shen Xin who held a lot of power, whoever Shen Miao married would mean that her husband's family would be able to get a helping hand. The Ming Qi Royal Family was watching. Fortunately, the two families that came to propose marriage were both civil servants and had nothing to do with the military.

In Guangwen Hall, Yi Peilan asked Shen Yue, "Are your sisters really getting married? Why don't they come to Guangwen Hall?"

Ever since coming back from the Wolong Temple, Shen Miao and Shen Qing had never left the house. Shen Miao was grounded, and Shen Qing had to recuperate.

Shen Yue smiled. "I don't know. Maybe you are right."

"Speaking of which, your sisters are quite lucky." Jiang Xiaoxuan thought for a moment and said, "Especially Shen Miao. Both Young Master Wei and Young Master Huang are not bad. Why didn't they marry you?"

Shen Yue said with a forced smile, "I still want to stay at home for a few more years. I'm not thinking about getting married." However, there was a knot in her heart. Indeed, at her age, she was meant to

start considering marriage. In the Shen family, Shen Miao was two years younger than her. Now that even Shen Miao was engaged, Shen Yue was the one who was not wanted.

She couldn't stand Shen Miao doing well. In the past, Shen Miao was inferior to her in everything. Now that a family like the Wei family took the initiative to propose marriage, it meant that Shen Miao was acknowledged as a qualified girl. If not for Chen Ruoqiu's persuasion, Shen Yue probably wouldn't be able to get over it.

"You." Bai Wei tapped her forehead. "You have to think for yourself..." She nodded at the other side. "What do you think of him?"

Shen Yue followed Bai Wei's gaze. When Cai Lin sensed Shen Yue's gaze, he turned around and was stunned for a moment before looking away uncomfortably.

Shen Yue's eyes turned red and she bit her lower lip tightly.

The young man who used to love her so much was now avoiding her like the plague. A proud person like Shen Yue naturally felt extremely humiliated.

Cai Lin avoided Shen Yue's gaze and was a little frustrated. Ever since he was taught a lesson by Shen Miao at the test, when he saw Shen Miao again, he would feel a fear that came out of nowhere. It was as if his innate fear of danger made him want to avoid Shen Miao. Moreover, that day, Xie Jingxing seemed to have helped Shen Miao out. Cai Lin was a big shot in the capital, but he was in no way a match for Xie Jingxing, so he naturally would not take the initiative to go against him. No matter if Xie Jingxing did it on purpose or not, Cai Lin would not dare to provoke Shen Miao again.

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That day at the test, Shen Yue did not even look at him, which completely destroyed the young man's burning passion for her.

Seeing that Shen Yue was embarrassed, Yi Peilan pursed her lips and changed the topic. She smiled and said, "However, it's your grandmother's birthday soon. I think I should go and pick some gifts."

Old Madam Shen's birthday banquet every year was extremely grand. This kind of extravagance was even comparable to that of the royal family. Old Madam Shen felt that the grander the birthday banquet, the more she would be respected. Every year, many officials would be invited. Shen Gui and Shen Wan were naturally happy to see this. This way, they could expand their network.

Chapter 130: Imprisonment (5)

Yi Peilan and the others would probably be present at the banquet next month. After all, at this time every year, the Shen family would invite all the good officials in Ming Qi.

"That's right." Bai Wei seemed to have just remembered. "I almost forgot about it. Thanks for reminding me, Yue, what gift did you prepare for your grandmother?"

As a talented girl in the capital, Shen Yue naturally made Old Madam Shen proud at the birthday banquet every year. If what Shen Qing prepared was something expensive, what Shen Yue prepared was unique and exquisite. Only Shen Miao would give something that made people laugh their heads off.

"It's just a portrait that I embroidered," Shen Yue said humbly.

"Now that you mention it, I'm starting to get curious." Jiang Xiaoxuan said maliciously, "Then what will your fifth sister prepare? Don't tell me she forgot about the birthday gift because she is busy embroidering her wedding dress."

Feng Anning, who was lying on the table, snorted and left.

The conversation between the girls was heard by Pei Lang. These days, he had naturally heard the news of Shen Miao's engagement, but he had a strange feeling. The girl's eyes were like that of a beast. Would she be willing to marry just like that?

At the same time, Shen Miao lined up the chess pieces in front of her in the ancestral hall.

The wind in the ancestral hall was cold, and the ground was covered in green and gray stone slabs. If one knelt down, they would feel cold to the bones. Jingzhe and Gu Yu brought some soft cushions, but those cushions were useless. Shen Miao instructed them to boil some herbs and place them in the corner of the house to get rid of the humidity.

At first, Jingzhe and Gu Yu did not believe it. Later, when they saw that the herbs were really effective, they asked Shen Miao where she learned that. Shen Miao only said that she had heard it from others, but she knew very well that it was something she had learned after becoming a hostage in the State of Qin for a few years. It was too cold and there was not enough money, so she had to find the cheapest method to get warm. Now, what she experienced in the ancestral hall was nothing.

"Miss, why are you still in the mood to play chess?" Jingzhe stomped her feet anxiously.

Shen Miao lined up the chess pieces in front of her.

"Chun Tao even asked Mo Qing to send a message over." Seeing that Shen Miao was silent, Jingzhe continued, "Second Madam wants to change the marriage between you and First Miss. That Young Master Huang is gay. What should we do? Miss, why are you still in the mood to play chess?"

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The Shen family had already agreed to this marriage on behalf of Shen Miao. However, no one in the west courtyard knew about it. In other words, apart from Shen Miao, everyone knew that Shen Miao was getting married.

It would be fine if she married Wei Qian, at least he could be considered a righteous person. However, Huang Dexing was gay, so wouldn't Shen Miao be a widow if she married him? When the girls heard this, they almost went crazy. Mo Qing also said that if Shen Miao was willing, he could help her escape.

Mo Qing didn't know that once she escaped, it meant that she automatically gave people the chance to fabricate stories at will. Moreover, Shen Miao had no intention of escaping from the beginning, so she rejected him.

“If you don’t want to escape, at least ask Mo Qing to pass the message to Master. They want Miss to get married before Master returns to the capital. This way, nothing can be changed,” Gu Yu advised. She knew that Shen Miao had an idea now, but she didn’t tell them anything. The maids could only be anxious for her.v