

Venomous 171

Chapter 171: Back and forth (3)

As for Shen Yue, she was wearing a pink dress as usual. She looked delicate and scholarly. In the past, she would definitely be able to attract everyone's attention, but today, it was different. She was overshadowed by Shen Miao who came before her. Her movements were a little stiff, and her expression was a little nervous. Her hands were clasped too tightly. In short, she could not compare to Shen Miao at all. At the thought of this, everyone's expressions became a little strange. Why did Shen Miao, the idiot, outshine her two cousins today?

Shen Yue was young and did not notice it, but Chen Ruoqiu was sensitive enough to sense the difference in the gazes of those madams. In the past, the gazes that landed on her and her daughter would definitely be filled with envy and praise, but today, there seemed to be mockery. Chen Ruoqiu frowned. Etiquette and manners had always been something she was proud of. She was also extremely strict with Shen Yue about it. She was confident that no noble lady in the capital could do it better than her daughter, but looking at the expressions of these people, there seemed to be someone who did it better than them. Who could it be?

She naturally did not know that the one who did it better than Shen Yue was right in front of her.

Shen Miao sat beside Luo Xueyan. Although Luo Xueyan was the protagonist of this banquet, she seemed to have been isolated by others.

That was indeed the case. The noble families in the capital had always had their own circles. The men were fine. No matter how much they disliked each other, they had to pretend to be friendly because their careers were usually intertwined. However, women were different. Most of the noble ladies in the capital were proud and arrogant. For example, the daughters of the first wife were unwilling to play with the daughters of the concubines. The people born in the capital looked down on outsiders.

Luo Xueyan was that outsider.

It would have been fine if she came from the rich lands in the south, but Luo Xueyan came from the bitter cold land of the northwest. When she first married into the capital, Luo Xueyan did not even know how to speak the official language, and her local accent was secretly mocked by these madams for a long time. They mocked that the desert in the northwest was very windy and robbers were a constant threat. As for supplies, they were even scarcer. Good silk was pretty much non-existent.

Therefore, Luo Xueyan was ostracized by the noble ladies in the capital. In addition, Shen Miao was a complete idiot previously. This mother and daughter were the targets of these madams' ridicule.

Bai Wei's mother, Madam Bai, called Chen Ruoqiu to sit beside her. She and Chen Ruoqiu were close friends, so she naturally had to sit with her. Bai Wei also pulled Shen Yue to her side. Ren Wanyun walked to Mrs. Yi and sat down. Yi Peilan looked at Shen Qing and commented, "You haven't shown up for a long time. I heard that you're sick. Eh, you look like you lost a lot of weight, but why is your face a little swollen?"

Shen Qing lowered her head, flustered, and said vaguely, "Maybe I've been lying in bed for too long." Ren Wanyun had cooked a lot of medicine for her to stabilize her pregnancy. Although Shen Qing also hated the child in her stomach, she was more afraid that she would never be a mother again after the miscarriage, so she could only grit her teeth and drink it.

Yi Peilan did not suspect anything and only patted Shen Qing's hand. "You have to recuperate well. You're about to be engaged. Take care of your body."

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Shen Qing trembled and lowered her head without saying anything. Ren Wanyun had told her about the marriage of the Huang family and she knew that Huang Dexing was a young and talented man, but for some reason, she was very resistant to this marriage. It was as if her intuition told her that there was some unknown danger under this glamorous marriage.

Yi Peilan's voice was not soft, and it happened to be heard by Madam Huang, who was sitting at the side. When Madam Huang heard this, she looked at Shen Qing critically. Regarding this marriage, she just wanted to find a wife for her son. Shen Qing was still worthy of her son, but looking at her sickly appearance today... She hoped that she was not an invalid. After all, she still had to carry on the Huang family's bloodline and give birth to a son.

On the other end, Madam Bai was whispering to Chen Ruoqiu, "Ruoqiu, I think that Fifth Miss Shen is not a simple girl."

"Oh?" Chen Ruoqiu asked curiously, "Why do you say that?"

"I'm afraid someone is guiding Miss Shen behind the scene. When she came in just now, all the ladies saw it. Her figure and etiquette are even better than the ladies in the palace. I'm afraid even your daughter is upstaged by her."

Chen Ruoqiu was stunned and said, "What are you talking about? Everyone knows that Shen Miao doesn't know anything about etiquette."

Bai Wei was Chen Ruoqiu's childhood friend and also came from a scholarly family. Naturally, she had high standards for etiquette. Today, she thought so highly of Shen Miao that Chen Ruoqiu found it unbelievable. At the same time, Chen Ruoqiu couldn't help but look at where Luo Xueyan was sitting.

Luo Xueyan was isolated, so she sat on the side while Shen Miao leaned against her. After all, Luo Xueyan had seen and experienced a lot. Even if no one paid attention to her, she could not be bothered at all. She just had to look like a mountain, collected and unmoved. However, Shen Miao, a little girl, was also sitting upright, giving off the impression that others did not talk to her not because they were ignoring her but because they didn't dare to talk to her.

Chen Ruoqiu's fingers were trembling.

While the women were deep in thought, in the main hall, Shen Xin's words caused a huge commotion.

"General Shen, are you serious?" Emperor Wen Hui asked.

Emperor Wen Hui was almost 60 years old, but he did not look old at all. He had a smile on his face, but his eyes were sharp and penetrating. At this moment, he looked at Shen Xin and asked in a low voice.

Just now, in front of all the officials, Emperor Wen Hui praised Shen Xin, but Shen Xin asked Emperor Wen Hui to allow him to stay in the capital for another half a year to accompany his wife and daughter.

For so many years, the mighty general, Shen Xin, had been on the battlefield and was brave and invincible, but he had never made such a request. For a moment, people were deep in thought, and the expressions of the officials changed. At this critical moment, Shen Xin wanted to stay in the capital for half a year. Was it really just to accompany his family?

Emperor Wen Hui sized up Shen Xin. Before he died, the competition for the throne between the princes was already in full swing. Now that the situation was ever-changing, the interference of any force would cause a change in the entire situation. A few days ago, the news that Shen Xin's daughter, Shen Miao, was infatuated with Prince Ding spread like wildfire. Emperor Wen Hui even thought about what would happen if the power of the Shen family fell into the hands of Fu Xiuyi. Now that Shen Xin suddenly made this request, could it be that he was planning something?

He carefully sized up the man below. Shen Xin had dark skin and a firm gaze. He stood as straight as a mountain and looked at Emperor Wen Hui respectfully. He was a loyal and brave man. However, what an emperor cared most about his subjects was their value. To Emperor Wen Hui, anyone who was a threat to the country, even if they made a huge contribution, had to be eliminated once and for all.

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A moment later, Emperor Wen Hui laughed and said, "All these years, General Shen has been guarding the Northwest. Now that you have defeated the enemy, I am deeply relieved. It is a blessing to have such a general. I will grant your request!"

Shen Xin immediately thanked him. "Thank you, Your Majesty!"

After Emperor Wen Hui finished speaking, he walked out of the main hall, leaving everyone behind. Shen Xin's request just now was unexpected. The first to speak was actually the Marquis of Lin'an, Xie Ding. This person who had been at odds with the Shen family for his entire life obviously did not understand what Shen Xin was trying to do. He mocked, "General Shen, are you afraid of war? Do you want to stay in the capital for half a year to enjoy yourself?"

Not only was Shen Xin not angry, but he even smiled and revealed his white teeth. "Is Marquis Xie envious of me? Sigh, it's no wonder. After all, Marquis Xie doesn't have a wife or daughter..."

"You!" Xie Ding's face was ashen. Shen Xin looked like a big and burly fellow, but in fact, he had a sharp tongue. The death of Princess Yuqing and how his son, Xie Jingxing, treated him like a stranger were Xie Ding's Achilles' heel. Shen Xin deliberately poked his sore spot. Xie Ding really wanted to kill Shen Xin with a spear.

Fu Xiuyi looked at Shen Xin, and his expression was quite complicated. The Shen family had exceeded his expectations time and time again. In the past, when Shen Miao was in love with him, although he was annoyed, he thought that he could use the Shen family to his advantage. Later, Shen Miao actually

clarified in front of everyone that she had no such intentions, causing Fu Xiuyi to be mocked by Prince Zhou and Prince Jing. Now that Shen Xin proposed to stay in the capital for half a year, it was even more confusing. Fu Xiuyi had a strange feeling that this Shen family, which seemed to be the easiest to control, suddenly became volatile. It seemed that in the future, there would be countless variables, and it would affect the entire situation...

The officials were a little confused by Shen Xin's unexpected move, but the reward he received today was really enviable. The rest of the people went forward to congratulate him sincerely or insincerely. When Shen Xin told them about the interesting things in the Northwest, he did not notice a dark gaze behind him.

The person stared at Shen Xin like a poisonous snake hiding in the grass, waiting for an opportunity to rush up and bite him to death. The person who was looking at Shen Xin was none other than Prince Yu.

The atmosphere was quite lively. Outside, Shen Qiu blocked Wei Qian in the corridor.

Wei Qian was born with a handsome appearance. He was humble, but compared to Shen Qiu who was energetic and youthful, he looked too weak. Wei Qian asked with a frown, "Deputy General Shen, what brings you here?"

Shen Qiu sized up Wei Qian from head to toe. He had a cheerful and friendly personality. If he had met Wei Qian in the past, he might have made friends with him. However, ever since he heard from Shen Miao that Wei Qian already had someone in his heart, he felt angry. In Shen Qiu's opinion, his sister was very good. It was only right for Shen Miao to not like someone. How could anyone not like her?

"You're Wei Qian?" At the thought of this, Shen Qiu's tone was not very happy.

Wei Qian was stunned. He sensed the hostility of the person and said, "Yes."

"I'm here not for anything in particular." Shen Qiu patted Wei Qian's shoulder and said, "I just wanted to tell you that there was a rumor that my sister is engaged to you. Since it's a rumor, my Shen family doesn't take it to heart, and your Wei family shouldn't take it to heart too." Shen Qiu took a step back and said in a cold tone, "The husband my sister chose naturally has to be judged by me first!" After saying that, he turned around and strode away without looking at Wei Qian.

Wei Qian was stunned on the spot. Shen Qiu was obviously trying to draw a line between him and the Wei family. However... he did have a sweetheart. No matter how indignant Shen Qiu was for his sister, there was no need to make him sound like a useless fool. The Shen family was too protective of their daughter. Besides, he had no say in this marriage at all. It was entirely arranged by his parents.

Outside the corridor, Gao Yang looked at the stunned Wei Qian and shook his head. "Shen Qiu is just like his father, disregarding everyone. He even dares to offend the Wei family."

The purple-clothed youth beside him looked impatient, and his tone was displeased. "Are you done watching?"

"Wei Qian is your man." Gao Yang said, "Aren't you going to stand up for him?"

"If you want to stand up for him, go ahead." Xie Jingxing glanced at him.

"I wouldn't dare." Gao Yang said as if he was just a spectator of a show, "That girl from the Shen family has so many people protecting her. If I'm not careful, trouble will come knocking on my door. However," he smiled gently, but his tone was a little gloating, "With Prince Yu present today, I'm afraid things won't end well. I heard that Prince Yu plans to marry a princess consort. Guess which girl from the Shen family he wants to marry?"

"I guess he can't marry anyone." Xie Jingxing raised his eyebrows and looked ahead.

In the garden, a familiar figure jogged forward and said something to the young eunuch before stuffing a sachet into the eunuch's hand.

That figure was Shen Miao's maid, Jingzhe.

Chapter 174: A spectacular show (1)

"He can't marry anyone."

Gao Yang followed Xie Jingxing's gaze and saw that among the flowers, Shen Miao's personal maid told the young eunuch something. The young eunuch agreed. It was probably the first time he had received so much money. He was very happy and said something to the maid respectfully before leaving.

After the eunuch left, Jingzhe stood rooted to the ground, revealing a puzzled expression. Shen Miao had specially instructed her to hand the thing over to this eunuch, but this eunuch was clearly new to the palace and had no interaction with Shen Miao. Why did she specially instruct her to do so?

Unable to figure out the reason, Jingzhe shook her head. In any case, she had already done what she was told, so she turned around and left.

"This Miss of the Shen family is very bold." Gao Yang commented, "She even dares to play tricks in the palace. Moreover, it seems like Shen Xin doesn't know anything."

Xie Jingxing did not comment. He never thought that a person who dared to burn down her ancestral hall would be a coward. As for where to execute her plan, it probably did not matter to Shen Miao.

"Let's go." A strange smile appeared on his lips. "We should go see the show."

"I won't go." Gao Yang blinked. "It's better to be careful now."

"Up to you," Xie Jingxing said lazily. Suddenly, he thought of something and said casually, "If you have time, go to the Imperial Hospital and see if there's anything we want."

"Yes." Gao Yang cupped his hands and walked towards the other side.

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Time passed quickly. It was finally time for the banquet to begin.

The women sat at the tail of the hall, and the men sat at the head of the hall. On the leftmost side, close to the throne in the middle, were the princes. Prince Zhou, Prince Jing, and Prince Ding had already arrived, followed by Prince Li, Prince Xiang, and Prince Cheng.

Prince Zhou and Prince Jing were brothers, so they were naturally on the same side. As for Prince Xiang and Prince Cheng, they teamed up with Prince Li and were on the same side. As for the crown prince, who had yet to arrive, he was supported by Prince Xuan and Prince Chu. As for the ninth prince, Prince Ding, Fu Xiuyi, he did not belong to a faction. He looked like the weakest and most neutral one.

With the appearance of the three princes, the commotion in the hall gradually quietened down.

Emperor Wen Hui's nine sons were all extremely outstanding. If they were born in an ordinary family, the family would probably be overjoyed to have so many outstanding sons. However, in the noble families, the more outstanding sons there were, the more intense the competition. What was worse was that these nine outstanding sons were born in the most heartless royal family in the world. This meant that whoever was most excellent would likely be the first to die.

Now the nine sons had all grown up. Although the crown prince had been chosen, the various forces had not stopped trying. Now that Emperor Wen Hui was still around, he could still maintain the balance, but one day, he would also grow old and die. At that time, the royal family of Ming Qi, which had long been restless, would probably be in a bloody storm.

Among the faction led by Prince Zhou, the faction led by Prince Li, and the faction led by the crown prince, the crown prince looked to be the strongest on the surface, but the crown prince was sickly. Emperor Wen Hui would not allow a weak son to sit on the throne, so the crown prince's power was unstable. If he fell seriously ill, Prince Xuan and Prince Chu, who followed him, would benefit. The faction led by Prince Li was the largest in number thus the most powerful, so many officials chose to side with him.

Chapter 175: A spectacular show (2)

As for Prince Ding, no one took him seriously. In terms of power, he had none. In terms of background, his biological mother, Consort Dong, was also extremely low-key. If not for the fact that she gave birth to Fu Xiuyi, she would not be able to remain a consort. Although Fu Xiuyi was outstanding and humble, he was after all alone and his power was limited, so no one thought highly of him. Although Fu Xiuyi appeared to be neutral and was not interested in the competition for the throne, his brothers were still wary of him. Being wary in the palace was never wrong.

However, the women did not see things through the lense of power. The girls present were secretly stealing glances at Fu Xiuyi's handsome face and discussed softly with flushed faces.

Everyone in the royal family was all good-looking, and Fu Xiuyi was the most outstanding among the nine princes. He was born in the royal family but he did not put on airs, nor did he hold his chin high. To the girls, such a "nice" and "extraordinary" man was really magnificent.

"Prince Ding is simply irresistible," the girl muttered in a low voice. Shen Miao turned around and saw that Feng Anning had already moved to her side. She smiled at her and said with a straight face, "Since you're here, why didn't you look for me?"

Shen Miao was a little confused by her words. She didn't know since when Feng Anning liked to stick to her. She also did not know when Feng Anning changed her attitude towards her. After all, Shen Miao

was not really a young girl. She could not be friends with Feng Anning. Moreover, now, she was always wary of people's friendliness, so she did not know how to treat Feng Anning. In the end, she could only shake her head and find an excuse. "I didn't see you."

Shen Miao naturally did not know that if it were her in the past, Feng Anning would definitely not even take a second look at her. However, the current Shen Miao was the empress who had bathed in the blood of the Ming Qi Palace. People admired those who were stronger than them. Feng Anning could vaguely feel Shen Miao had a powerful presence, so she gravitated towards her.

Feng Anning curled her lips and suddenly whispered teasingly, "But Prince Ding is here too. He's someone you used to like. Why don't you even look at him?"

As soon as Feng Anning finished speaking, Jiang Xiaoxuan smiled and said loudly, "Fifth Miss Shen, Prince Ding is here!"

She wanted to embarrass Shen Miao, and she knew with the royal family around, Shen Miao did not dare to flare up. Even Luo Xueyan had to endure it. Everyone in Ming Qi knew that Shen Miao was infatuated with Prince Ding. As soon as she said that, not only the women, but even the men looked over.

Luo Xueyan gritted her teeth. She knew that this person was deliberately trying to anger Shen Miao. Although Shen Miao said that she no longer liked Prince Ding, Luo Xueyan knew that it was not easy to give up on someone. Shen Miao looked calm on the surface, but she might be in extreme pain on the inside. Luo Xueyan was angry that Shen Xin was not around at this time. She turned to look at Shen Miao, afraid that Shen Miao would be sad because of this, and said softly, "Jiaojiao..."

In the male section, everyone's eyes were filled with excitement. The corners of Cai Lin's mouth twitched, as if he was gloating. Back then, Shen Miao humiliated him at the test. Now that Shen Miao was going to be humiliated too, he felt happy. Su Mingfeng and Su Minglang sat together. Su Minglang tugged at Su Mingfeng's sleeve and said with excitement, "Brother, is Sister Shen here too?"

Chapter 176: A Spectacular Show (3)

Su Minglang was too small and his sight was blocked by the table, so he couldn't see clearly. Su Mingfeng nodded. He did not know why his brother liked the fifth miss of the Shen family. If not for the fact that Su Minglang was too young, Su Mingfeng would have thought that his brother had some designs on her.

However... he also turned to look at Shen Miao. At such a close distance, how would Shen Miao face Prince Ding?

In the corner of the men's section, there was a man in green. Compared to the other nobles in luxurious clothes, his clothes were extremely simple. However, this did not make him look out of place. On the contrary, because of his simple clothes, he looked like an ancient scholar. At this moment, he was also quietly looking at the purple-clothed girl who had her head lowered.

This person was Pei Lang. Originally, Pei Lang was not qualified to attend such an occasion. However, today, someone in the family of the director of Guangwen Hall was dead, so the director asked Pei Lang

to attend in place of him. Although Pei Lang was a teacher in Guangwen Hall, he was actually half a director, so he did not decline.

Prince Zhou and Prince Jing stood beside Fu Xiuyi, and they heard Jiang Xiaoxuan's deliberately provocative words. Prince Zhou smiled and patted Fu Xiuyi's shoulder, saying meaningfully, "Our ninth brother is really amazing..."

Fu Xiuyi frowned slightly, but a faint smile appeared on his face. "Fourth Brother, you must be joking." Although he said that, his gaze subconsciously drifted to the girl in the seat.

"Heh." The girl chuckled audibly, and the surroundings instantly fell silent.

The chuckle was gentle and calm, like a cup of strong wine that had been brewed for a long time. It was filled with all kinds of emotions and complicated feelings. In the end, it turned into a light laugh.

The women were surprised. They were all women of the world, but they couldn't tell the meaning behind Shen Miao's laughter at all.

Shen Miao looked up suddenly with a piercing gaze. It was the same gaze when she was shooting an arrow at Cai Lin at the test that day. Without a warning, she shot her gaze at Fu Xiuyi.

Fu Xiuyi was slightly stunned.

There was no infatuation, love, admiration, or surprise in the girl's eyes, only a bottomless calmness. It was as if an old man who had experienced the vicissitude of life was looking at him through the passage of time. The gaze was neither filled with sadness or happiness, but it made people feel uneasy.

That pair of clear eyes had an extremely beautiful shape. If Shen Miao curled them slightly, they would probably be so sweet that they reminded people of honey. However, she only watched quietly. An uneasiness suddenly surged in Fu Xiuyi's heart, as if a huge beast was staring at him from the depths of the grass. The uneasiness became stronger and stronger. The faint smile on his face had disappeared at some point, and he was staring fixedly at Shen Miao.

"Heh." Shen Miao chuckled again. This time, everyone could see it clearly. The corners of her red lips curled up slightly, but the corners of her eyes did not move. It was a sneer.

It was probably a sneer from hatred towards the person she loved but couldn't get. Everyone thought to themselves, but they were surprised that Shen Miao actually dared to express her dissatisfaction so bluntly.

Fu Xiuyi did not move.

In that sneer, he clearly saw a faint killing intent. Although it was deliberately concealed, the killing intent was still so strong that it surged out, pointing at him like a sharp knife. The coldness of being determined to win actually made his heart skip a beat.

Chapter 177: A Spectacular Show (4)

Just because he didn't respond to her affection, she wanted to murder him? Fu Xiuyi was a little stunned. What surprised him even more was that he actually felt that the killing intent was filled with threat.

Could this be his delusion?

When he looked at Shen Miao again, she had already turned around and said something to Feng Anning.

A trace of killing intent flashed across Shen Miao's eyes. After so long, even at the test venue, she only wanted to meet Fu Xiuyi from afar. She did not want to meet him so close because she was afraid that once she got close to him, she would not be able to hide her hatred!

Jiang Xiaoxuan's provocation was answered by two chuckles from Shen Miao. The first chuckle was complicated, and the second chuckle was a sneer. However, even a fool could tell that she did not have any feelings for Fu Xiuyi! After chuckling twice, she simply started talking to the girl beside her. Her contempt and disregard made it difficult to tell if she was doing it on purpose or not.

However, the atmosphere still turned cold because of what she did.

A glint flashed across Prince Zhou's eyes. He smiled and approached Fu Xiuyi. "Ninth Brother, it seems like you're not that invincible."

Fu Xiuyi smiled bitterly, but from that point on, he took Shen Miao seriously.

"Heh, looks like the fifth daughter of the Shen family is quite bold," Su Mingfeng said with interest. Now his "serious illness" had improved a lot, but he still couldn't work hard. Therefore, he still hadn't been reinstated.

In his seat, Pei Lang lowered his head and took a sip of tea, deep in thought.

Just as they were silent, they heard a hearty laugh. "Haha, everyone, I'm late!"

The figure that was like a small mountain was none other than Shen Xin. Following closely behind Shen Xin was Shen Qiu. Seeing that this important figure was here, the bureaucrats greeted him one after another. Shen Xin bowed to Prince Zhou and the others before sitting down. He and Shen Qiu had missed the show just now. Otherwise, even if Shen Xin did not make a move, Shen Qiu would definitely teach Jiang Xiaoxuan a lesson.

After Shen Xin, the crown prince and Prince Li arrived one after another. The crown prince was weak, but the crown princess was elegant. Shen Miao glanced at the crown princess and was deep in thought.

The crown princess had the support of the prime minister's family. Originally, the crown prince used the power of the crown princess's family to stabilize his status. Later, when the crown princess was pregnant, Emperor Wen Hui was afraid that the crown prince would be seriously ill and the power would be in the hands of the prime minister, so he used means to make the crown princess have a miscarriage. The crown princess was deeply in love with the crown prince, but she did not know that the emperor would even kill her child. She was also afraid of telling her family and causing trouble for them, so she died of depression. Three years after the crown princess died, the prime minister's family found out the truth and wanted to avenge their daughter. In the end, they sided with Fu Xiuyi...

Shen Miao looked at the cup in front of her. Everyone in the royal family was ruthless, and the men of the royal family were just a bunch of beasts. She and the crown princess were no different. They were both sacrifices of the power game.

Now, she wanted to be a chess player. Whoever wanted to play chess with her had to be prepared to die!

After the crown princess sat down, her friends from before she got married chatted with her. On the men's side, Prince Yu also arrived.

When Prince Yu arrived, the people in the women's section were silent, especially the girls. They were so frightened that their faces were pale.

In the past, Prince Yu would not attend any of the royal banquets. For so many years, he did not care about anything in the court. That was why Emperor Wen Hui, who was paranoid by nature, was especially tolerant of his brother. Of course, this was partly because Prince Yu had risked his life to protect him when Emperor Wen Hui was young. However, if not for the fact that Prince Yu had been quiet and did not interfere in the court matters for so many years, no matter how grateful he was to Prince Yu, he wouldn't let him live. After all, Emperor Wen Hui's brothers were all killed by him.

Chapter 178: A Spectacular Show (5)

The sudden appearance of Prince Yu, who had never participated in the banquet, made the women feel uneasy. The men were puzzled, but the princes smiled tacitly. The woman who was on good terms with the crown princess said, "I wonder why Prince Yu is here."

The crown princess naturally knew the reason. She smiled and said, "Prince Yu has been alone for so many years. It's time to find someone to serve him."

As soon as she said that, the women were all shocked. Could it be that Prince Yu was going to choose a princess consort? However, becoming Prince Yu's princess consort was not a good thing. At this moment, the girls couldn't help but tremble.

"May I ask, Crown Princess," The madam asked with a smile, "May I know which miss is blessed with such a chance?"

The crown princess refused to say anything. She just shook her head and smiled. "We'll know later."

Because of the Crown Princess Consort's words, the women fell into silence. Everyone was a little afraid. The title of Princess Consort Yu was like a death warrant. Whoever was chosen would just die faster. It was not a good thing...

Feng Anning leaned closer to Shen Miao and asked, "Guess who Princess Consort Yu will be?"

Shen Miao said, "No clue."

"You're so boring." Feng Anning pursed her lips.

On the other side, Shen Qing was clutching the corner of her shirt tightly. The moment she saw Prince Yu, her mind was filled with the torture that Prince Yu had done to her that night. If not for Ren Wanyun holding her tightly, Shen Qing would probably scream.

“Don’t be afraid, Qing.” Ren Wanyun leaned close to Shen Qing’s ear and said in a volume that only the two of them could hear, “Prince Yu came today to help you deal with that bitch. When she marries Prince Yu mansion, he will naturally have ways to kill her...”

On the side, Chen Ruoqiu looked at Ren Wanyun and Shen Qing and took a sip of tea.

People thought that everyone except the empress had arrived. Suddenly, They heard cries of surprise. Feng Anning was talking to Shen Miao when she heard the commotion.

In the depths of the palace, outside the door of the hall, a person walked over from afar. He was dressed in a purple-gold robe and black shoes. His eyes were bright and handsome, and his footsteps were neither fast nor slow.

Xie Ding, the Marquis of Lin’an, shouted in surprise, “Jingxing!” Then as if having thought of something, he frowned and remained silent.

Everyone was surprised. What was going on today? Not only did Prince Yu, who never attended royal banquets, but now even the Young Marquis of the Xie family, Xie Jingxing, was here.

The women were more excited and infatuated with Xie Jingxing than with Fu Xiuyi.

The young man’s figure was straight. Although he looked like he was walking leisurely, his every step was oppressive. He had an extremely striking appearance to begin with. Under the contrast of the purple-gold robe, he actually gave off a faint feeling that he could not be looked at directly. His face was like snow, and his eyes were as black as ink. His eyebrows were like swords, and the corners of his mouth were slightly raised. He was like a red plum blooming in the snow, having a color that was as beautiful as peach blossoms. The officials present became just the background that accentuated his importance. It was no exaggeration to say that he looked like the real owner of this palace.

He was so handsome that the world lost its color.

This young man, who was as dazzling as the sun, had a cold and sharp gaze. Looking at his cynical smile carefully, it was filled with coldness and cruelty.

Chapter 179: A Spectacular Show (6)

“When did this Young Marquis Xie become so outstanding...” Feng Anning muttered.

In the past, although Xie Jingxing was also extremely handsome, it was nothing compared to him today. It was as if he had deliberately covered up his brilliance in the past. The current Xie Jingxing had shed that layer of disguise. Compared to Fu Xiuyi, he was really the person who should stand at the peak of the dynasty and look down on all living beings!

As soon as this thought appeared, Shen Miao was shocked by herself. She looked up at Xie Jingxing. The purple-clothed youth walked to the front of the table and met everyone’s surprised gazes. He raised his

eyebrows and smiled. "I'm here to join in the fun today." As he spoke, he walked to the table and sat down. However, he was not sitting next to Xie Ding, the Marquis of Lin'an, but Su Mingfeng. Su Minglang pouted and reluctantly moved to the corner.

Seeing this, Xie Ding's expression immediately darkened. When the surrounding people saw this, although they were discussing it, they did not stop him. Xie Jingxing had always been such a carefree person. Most likely, he was really just here to join the fun today.

"Xie Ding has an extraordinary son." Luo Xueyan's expression was solemn. Whether it was a dragon or a worm, she had always been good at judging people. Xie Jingxing had a great bearing when he moved, and he made people feel a little dangerous for no reason. People who had been on the battlefield were more sensitive to that kind of danger.

"This kid from the Xie family is not bad." Shen Xin was very satisfied. If not for the fact that he was from the Xie family, he might even be able to become sworn brothers with him.

The princes of the royal family looked a little gloomy.

This young marquis of the Marquis's mansion looked too outstanding. Although he had not entered the royal court, they could tell that he was not someone to be trifled with. If they couldn't recruit him to work for them, the sooner he was dead, the better.

The royal family did not want to see a powerful person from the marquis's mansion.

At this moment, the eunuch shouted, "The emperor is here—the empress is here—"

The empress finally arrived while everyone was waiting.

Emperor Wen Hui looked like he was in a good mood, but the empress looked a little fierce. As a woman, she was quite beautiful, and one could probably see her charm when she was young. However, as she aged, her cheeks were sunken, making her look a little mean.

Because the crown prince was sick, this empress had always been very ruthless with the methods she used. In the past, after Shen Miao married Fu Xiuyi, her time was made very difficult by this empress. She had suffered countless hardships. It was also this empress who taught Shen Miao how to survive in the palace.

Everything in the past was fake. She came for revenge, but her final goal was to completely overthrow the entire royal family.

One day, she would sit on that throne again.

Shen Miao lowered her eyes and took a sip of tea.

Not far from her, Shen Qing also smiled, as if she was celebrating with Shen Miao. At the same time, she raised her teacup and took a sip.

The darkness in Shen Miao's eyes deepened, and the corners of her lips curled up. This smile was different from a cold smile. Her eyes were curved, and her sweet appearance was extremely eye-catching. Even in the men's section opposite, some people were stunned by Shen Miao's smile.

Pei Lang had been staring at Shen Miao. He did not know why he did this, but it was as if there was something about this girl that had always attracted him. However, a few months ago, Shen Miao was just an idiot in Guangwen Hall. Pei Lang treated her gently only because he was her teacher, but inside, he had always looked down on her.

The empress sat down and the banquet began. This so-called joy between the emperor and the officials was actually just an act. The emperor was still the emperor, and the officials were still officials. Everyone made harmless jokes, pretending that the harmony would last forever.

Su Mingfeng nudged Xie Jingxing. "Why are you here?"

"I'm here to watch the show." The corners of Xie Jingxing's lips curled up.

"What's there to see?" Su Mingfeng felt a headache coming on.

As he spoke, Prince Yu said, "Brother—"

His voice was neither loud nor soft, but the hall immediately fell silent. Clearly, everyone was extremely afraid of this fiend.

"I've already thought through what you promised me a few days ago about choosing a prince consort." Prince Yu smiled strangely and said, "Since today is a joyous occasion, why don't I announce my chosen consort?"

"I like Miss Shen," he said extremely slowly. His eyes were like a poisonous snake, fixedly staring at the purple-robed girl.

Chapter 180: Pregnant (1)

"I like her—Miss Shen."

The hall burst into an uproar. Everyone looked at the three daughters of the Shen family. Among the three daughters of the Shen family, Shen Qing was already engaged, so only Shen Yue and Shen Miao were left. Shen Yue was gentle and charming, and her name was famous. Now that Shen Miao was also a slender and beautiful girl, her aura was also eye-catching. More importantly, Shen Miao had the backing of Shen Xin. Everyone could clearly see that the person Prince Yu was looking at was Shen Miao.

For a moment, everyone looked at Shen Miao with an extremely strange gaze. Some were gloating, while others were sympathetic. Everyone knew that there was something fishy about the previous Princess Consort Yu's death. Everyone knew what kind of demon Prince Yu was. However, such a person was protected by the royal family. On one hand, there was a mighty general, and on the other hand, there was the brother of the emperor. What would the emperor do?

After Prince Yu finished speaking, Shen Xin's expression darkened and veins popped out on his forehead. For a moment, there was a fierce aura that made the expressions of everyone around him change.

Shen Xin was a loyal official, but if he could not even protect his daughter, how could he protect the country?

Shen Qiu also tightened the corners of his mouth and stared fiercely at Prince Yu, as if as long as Prince Yu said Shen Miao's name, he would jump up and fight him to the death.

As for Luo Xueyan, she was already holding Shen Miao's hand tightly. The smile on her face had long disappeared, and it was replaced by a deep and ruthless expression, like a female wolf protecting its cub.

When the people around saw the Shen family's reaction, they couldn't help but exclaim in their hearts. The atmosphere was tense when the Shen family made such a move. Emperor Wen Hui was a paranoid person, wasn't the Shen family afraid that Emperor Wen Hui would be unhappy with them being so intimidating in front of him?

Prince Ding also looked at Shen Miao in surprise.

"It seems like Fifth Miss Shen is an apple in General Shen's eyes." Su Mingfeng whispered to Xie Jingxing, "The Shen family actually did this for her."

Challenging Prince Yu was equivalent to challenging the entire royal family. No matter what, Shen Xin's attitude made it clear that he would do everything to stop Prince Yu even if Emperor Wen Hui gave the order.

Xie Jingxing smiled lazily and did not comment.

In the corner, Pei Lang tightened his grip on the teacup. What would the girl who could shoot arrows at her classmates without batting an eyelid do?

Emperor Wen Hui's smile was a little unfathomable. He looked at the Shen family with a dark gaze and said, "Which girl from the Shen family do you like?"

Everyone was waiting for Prince Yu's answer. A mocking smile appeared on Shen Qing's face. However, before she could gloat, she suddenly felt a sharp pain in her stomach. She couldn't help but cry out in pain and fall to the ground.

"What's going on?"

"Qing!"

Shen Qing's sudden action shocked everyone. Ren Wanyun immediately held her in her arms. Shen Qing's face quickly turned pale. Shen Yue pulled the corner of Chen Ruoqiu's shirt. Chen Ruoqiu's heart skipped a beat. For some reason, she looked at Shen Miao.

The girl in purple sat at the table, her expression unchanged. When she met Chen Ruoqiu's gaze, she smiled and turned to look at Luo Xueyan. She asked worriedly, "What happens to Eldest Sister? What's wrong? Is she poisoned?"