

Venomous 181

Chapter 181: Pregnant (2)

“Poisoned!” As soon as she said that, everyone present shouted in panic.

Shen Miao continued to look at Luo Xueyan and said, “Could it be that an assassin has sneaked in?”

At this moment, not only the women, but even the expressions of the princes and Emperor Wen Hui changed. At the banquet, all the civil and military officials were present. If an assassin sneaked in, the royal family would be in danger. Immediately, the guards guarding outside rushed in, their hands on the swords at their waists, watching the surroundings vigilantly.

Soon, everyone forgot about what Prince Yu said about marrying the girl from the Shen family. After all, compared to that, the looming danger was more worthy of attention.

Su Mingfeng opened his mouth and said in a low voice after a while, “Good move.”

With just one sentence from Shen Miao, everyone’s attention was diverted. Standing in the chaotic crowd, Prince Yu look like a fool.

Xie Jingxing glanced at the girl who had a worried look on her face and snorted.

Shen Miao’s eyes flickered. After spending so many years with the royal family, no one understood their paranoia better than her. Shen Qing’s scream was enough to make Emperor Wen Hui, whose life was coveted by many, panic.

“Mother, let’s find an imperial physician for Eldest Sister.” Shen Miao said, “This can’t go on.”

Only then did Luo Xueyan come back to her senses. She looked at Ren Wanyun and frowned. Shen Qing was in so much pain, but as a mother, Ren Wanyun did not rush to find a doctor for her daughter. She did not know what kind of mother she was. Immediately, Luo Xueyan bowed to Emperor Wen Hui and said, “I beg Your Majesty to invite the imperial physician to treat Qing and save her.”

As soon as she said that, before Shen Qing could speak, Ren Wanyun screamed, “No!”

Everyone’s gaze landed on Ren Wanyun.

As soon as Ren Wanyun said that, she thought to herself that she had made a terrible move. Facing so many inquisitive gazes, she forced a smile and gritted her teeth. “I... I was just thinking that it’s not necessary to invite an imperial physician to treat Qing... Don’t ruin everyone’s mood. I’ll just take Qing away...”

“What are you talking about?” Luo Xueyan said seriously, “Nothing is more important than her life. As a mother, do you think Qing’s life is not more important than the banquet?”

Everyone had a strange expression on their faces. Why was Ren Wanyun, Shen Qing’s biological mother, unwilling to find a doctor to treat her daughter, but Luo Xueyan, Shen Qing’s aunt, was anxious about Shen Qing’s life.

In the male section, Shen Gui stared at Ren Wanyun with a dark expression. He wished that this annoying mother and daughter had nothing to do with him. If Emperor Wen Hui was displeased with this incident that ruined the banquet, what would happen to his future?

"Eldest Madam Shen is right," at last, the empress said indifferently. She glanced at Ren Wanyun and said, "Eldest Miss Shen's life is more important."

Ren Wanyun panicked. If Shen Qing was checked by a doctor, wouldn't the matter of Shen Qing's pregnancy be exposed? She said, "Your Highness..."

"I'm fine..." Shen Qing's forehead was covered in sweat, and her face was as pale as paper. She held her stomach and was in so much pain that she couldn't speak, but she knew that she could not let the imperial physician come over to check her.

"Sister, this not only concerns your safety, but also the safety of everyone in the hall. If you're really poisoned, it means that an assassin has sneaked in and everyone is in danger. Even if you don't think for yourself, you should think for His Majesty," Shen Miao said calmly.

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After she finished speaking, Emperor Wen Hui's gaze became a little solemn.

Shen Qing was so angry that she almost spat out blood. What could Shen Qing say? How could she not show concerns for the emperor's safety?

The princes of the royal family also understood what Shen Miao meant. Prince Li paused and said, "This Miss Shen is good at talking."

"Guard." Without any hesitation, Emperor Wen Hui said, "Go and get the imperial physician. Something happened to Miss Shen in the palace, so I naturally have to investigate it thoroughly!"

"Eldest Sister, don't move." Shen Miao said indifferently, "The murderer might be hiding in the crowd at this moment. After the imperial physician comes, he will take Eldest Sister's pulse here. If you move, you might make the pain worse."

Before Ren Wanyun could speak, Emperor Wen Hui nodded and said, "That's right."

Hearing that, they didn't dare to refute.

Letting the imperial physician to treat Shen Qing meant that Shen Qing's pregnancy would be exposed in front of all the officials. At the thought of this, Ren Wanyun's body could not help but tremble, and her fear finally spread to Shen Qing.

As Shen Qing endured the pain, more fear surged in her heart. "Mother, don't..."

However, what could Ren Wanyun do? Emperor Wen Hui had already spoken, so she could not disobey the decree. Ren Wanyun was at a loss as to what to do. She raised her head and looked in Shen Gui's direction, hoping that he would help her, but when she met his eyes, they were filled with blame and anger.

For a moment, Ren Wanyun's limbs were cold and her heart was filled with despair. She did not even have the time to comfort Shen Qing, who was in her arms.

"What's wrong with your aunt?" Feng Anning whispered into Shen Miao's ear, "Why does she look like she's very afraid?"

Shen Miao smiled, and Luo Xueyan frowned. She found Ren Wanyun's abnormal behavior a little strange, but she couldn't figure it out. She looked at Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Yue.

Shen Yue was frightened by Shen Qing's appearance. She grabbed the corner of Chen Ruoqiu's shirt and was a little flustered. Chen Ruoqiu also stared at Ren Wanyun without moving. After living with Ren Wanyun for so many years, Chen Ruoqiu naturally knew that her second sister-in-law had always been able to handle all kinds of situations with ease. There was only one reason why she lost her composure today, and that was that she couldn't handle it this time.

Shen Yue whispered, "Is Eldest Sister really poisoned? Mom, is Fifth Sister..."

"Yue!" Chen Ruoqiu stopped her sternly. She couldn't help but glance at Shen Miao. There were a few people between them, so she couldn't see Shen Miao's eyes clearly. However, when she saw that the corners of Shen Miao's mouth seemed to be slightly curled up, Chen Ruoqiu couldn't help but be shocked. She felt that what happened today was definitely related to Shen Miao, but was Shen Miao really bold enough to poison someone in the palace? However, no matter what, Shen Qing's reputation today would be ruined.

Prince Yu's face darkened at the sudden turn of events. This was definitely not a good time to continue talking about his own matter. A mocking smile appeared on his face. Today, Shen Miao had escaped it. No matter if it was Shen Miao who poisoned Shen Qing or not, if Shen Miao thought she could get away with this little trick, then she was too naive. After the banquet, he could still talk about it with Emperor Wen Hui. There was no way Shen Miao could escape his grip.

The imperial physician rushed over very quickly. The imperial physicians in the palace were all old people who could only enter the Imperial Hospital because of their rich experience. However, the imperial physician who came looked to be in his early twenties and was very handsome, making some of the young ladies unable to take their eyes off of him.

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The moment Shen Miao saw the imperial physician, her heart skipped a beat. She carefully sized up the imperial physician. The young imperial physician was carrying a medical box. After bowing to the empress, he walked to Ren Wanyun's side. Ren Wanyun still wanted to stop him, but she heard the imperial physician say, "Madam, please let go of Miss Shen so that I can take her pulse." His voice was very pleasant to the ear and made people feel very comfortable.

Under everyone's gaze, and with the sharp gaze of the empress, no matter what, Ren Wanyun did not dare to resist. Shen Qing had already fainted from the pain. She took a step back and watched helplessly as the imperial physician placed two fingers on Shen Qing's wrist.

Just as Shen Miao was in a daze looking at the imperial physician, Feng Anning's teasing voice suddenly came from beside her. She said, "Don't tell me you like that imperial physician too? If you like him, you don't have bad taste."

Shen Miao was slightly stunned and asked, "You know him?"

"Eh?" Feng Anning said in surprise, "This is the first time you're interested in something like this. Forget it, I'll tell you. This imperial physician is a new doctor in the imperial hospital. His medical skills are amazing. He even cured Consort De's heart disease. His Majesty thinks very highly of him and made an exception to let him enter the imperial hospital. Now, he's the youngest one in the imperial hospital. He's also very good-looking, so many girls like him very much."

Shen Miao said, "You like him too?"

"How can I like him?" Feng Anning raised her head. "Although his medical skills are brilliant and he's good-looking, he's at most an imperial physician. He doesn't have the support of a family, so how can he be with me?" Feng Anning had been pampered by her family since she was young and believed that her husband should also be an heroic figure. She really didn't care about a mere imperial physician.

"What's his name?" Shen Miao asked.

"Don't tell me you really like him?" Feng Anning looked at Shen Miao suspiciously and said, "His name is Gao Yang, but there's no Gao family in the capital." In other words, Gao Yang was definitely not from a rich family.

Shen Miao looked at the young imperial physician and even ignored Shen Qing and Ren Wanyun. Her heart skipped a beat because she realized that Gao Yang actually gave her a familiar feeling, as if she had seen him somewhere before. However, in her previous life, she had never seen someone like Gao Yang in the Imperial Hospital.

If not at the Imperial Hospital, where had she seen him before?

While she was thinking, Gao Yang had already finished taking the pulse. When he turned around, he was stunned by Shen Miao's gaze. However, he quickly regained his senses and cupped his hands at Ren Wanyun.

"Imperial Physician Gao." The empress asked, "Is Miss Shen poisoned?"

Gao Yang glanced at the unconscious Shen Qing and then at the pale Ren Wanyun. He cupped his hands and said, "Your Highness, Miss Shen was not poisoned. She just drank lotus tea." After a pause, he said, "The lotus tea that Miss Shen drank was not poisoned."

"Oh?" Emperor Wen Hui looked at Shen Qing. "Since she wasn't poisoned, how did this happen?"

"Your Majesty." Gao Yang sighed and said, "Lotus tea is cold in nature. It's fine for ordinary people to drink it, but people who are pregnant will have an upset stomach... Miss Shen is already pregnant."

Miss Shen was already pregnant.

As soon as he said that, the surroundings were in an uproar. Shen Gui opened his mouth, and his face instantly turned livid. He suddenly looked at Ren Wanyun, who fell to the ground in a daze.

“How horrendous!” The person who spoke was the madam of the Wei family. She stood up immediately and pointed at Ren Wanyun without caring that she was at a royal banquet. “Your daughter is engaged to my son, but she is already pregnant. You actually want my son to marry a pregnant woman and raise someone else’s child. Ren Wanyun, don’t you have any shame!”

Chapter 184: Pregnant (5)

The crowd started to discuss it more fiercely because of what Madam Wei said. Shen Qing’s marriage with the Wei family was spreading widely some time ago, but today, out of blue, she was pregnant. What kind of logic was this? How could a virgin girl get pregnant? Did she have an affair before marriage?

Ren Wanyun still did not move. She seemed to have lost all her strength. She only crawled to Shen Qing’s side and hugged her.

“Madam Shen, I also want to know what’s going on,” the empress said coldly.

Although Ming Qi was open-minded about the matters between men and women, getting pregnant before marriage and having an affair with someone was something that would embarrass the family. The Shen family was an influential family in Ming Qi. Although Shen Gui’s official rank was not as high as Shen Xin’s, it was not low either. The higher Shen Qing’s rank was, the worse the impact of this matter would be.

Ren Wanyun only felt bitterness and could not say a word. What could she say? That her daughter didn’t have an affair with someone but was raped? But no matter what, it was a fact that her daughter lost her virginity before marriage. She could not say it was Prince Yu’s doing. Prince Yu was a person who would not hesitate to retaliate. If she accused him, she would probably end up miserably.

“If Madam Shen doesn’t want to tell me, then Miss Shen will.” The empress’s gaze suddenly turned sharp as she instructed the palace maids beside her, “Go and wake Miss Shen up. I have something to ask her.”

Ren Wanyun was shocked, but the palace maids beside the empress had already walked forward. They were very fast, and before Ren Wanyun could stop them, the two palace maids had already woken Shen Qing up very roughly. Shen Qing’s stomach was still in pain, but she heard the empress ask coldly, “Shen Qing, who is the father of your child?”

When Shen Qing heard this, she froze. She looked at Ren Wanyun for help. In a hurry, Ren Wanyun shook her head slightly at Shen Qing and told her not to spout nonsense. As for the future, Ren Wanyun would definitely think of a way to save her.

Seeing that Ren Wanyun was shaking her head, Shen Qing did not understand what she meant, but she did not dare to spout nonsense. She stammered, “I... I...”

Shen Miao sighed and said, “Eldest Sister, you’ve committed a capital crime so you’d better confess and bring everything out in the open.”

Ren Wanyun looked at Shen Miao fiercely, wishing she could tear her mouth apart.

Shen Qing trembled, her eyes filled with fear. What Shen Miao meant was that she would not be able to escape death. At the thought of this, Shen Qing couldn't care less and suddenly shouted, "No... No... My child is Prince Yu's! The child in my stomach is Prince Yu's flesh and blood!"

Prince Yu... Everyone looked at Prince Yu. He narrowed his eyes and looked at Shen Qing with a very gloomy expression.

"Qing, stop talking nonsense!" Ren Wanyun rushed over and covered Shen Qing's mouth. However, Shen Qing could not take back what she had already said.

Shen Qing widened her eyes and stared at Prince Yu. Her thoughts were very simple. Since she was pregnant with Prince Yu's flesh and blood, she was related to the royal family. This way, no matter what, the emperor would not execute his nephew.

Shen Miao looked at Shen Qing and found it a little funny. She could roughly guess what Shen Qing was thinking, but Shen Qing forgot that the royal family would get rid of her while keeping the child. In the harem, this method had been used countless times. Did Shen Qing really think that she could live safely with that child inside her? She would just die faster.

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The empress's expression was unreadable. If Prince Yu was involved, it would indeed not be that simple.

In the men's section, Shen Qiu and Shen Xin looked at each other. Shen Xin was a little stunned by this matter while Shen Qiu secretly clenched his fists. Previously, Shen Miao didn't tell him who raped Shen Qing, but now he knew. No wonder Shen Miao refused to tell him. It turned out to be Prince Yu. At the thought that if Shen Miao wasn't lucky, the person who would end up like Shen Qing would be his sister, Shen Qiu felt indignant.

Prince Yu did not admit it, but he did not deny it either. This way, it was almost certain. Everyone looked at Shen Qing with sympathy and pity. Prince Yu had always liked to use all kinds of methods to abduct girls. He even dared to touch the daughters of officials. This time, the person who fell into his hands was Shen Qing.

In the silence, Shen Miao said softly, "No wonder Prince Yu asked to marry Miss Shen. He wanted to give Eldest Sister a rightful title."

These words made everyone present realize what was going on. No wonder just now, Prince Yu said that he liked the girl from the Shen family. It turned out that it was Shen Qing. In an instant, the way they looked at Shen Qing changed. In this way, it did not seem like Prince Yu was forcing Shen Qing, but Shen Qing was willing to be the princess consort.

"Fifth Miss Shen is impressive." Su Mingfeng said in surprise, "She's also very good at distorting the truth."

Most people were led by the nose, but not everyone was led by the nose. Those who were clear-headed still remembered that when Prince Yu said that he wanted to marry Miss Shen, he was looking at Shen Miao.

Xie Jingxing crossed his arms and looked at the girl in purple with a faint smile. At some point, everyone at the palace banquet had been led by the nose by Shen Miao. Now that things had developed to this point, it was all in her plan. There was a possibility of her plan falling flat, but she was willing to make a bet and again, she won.

In that case, he did not mind fanning the flame. Immediately, Xie Jingxing said, "It's good that Prince Yu cares about the future princess consort."

The emperor frowned slightly. In the past, although Prince Yu also liked to mess around, at least he managed to resolve it in private instead of putting it on the table. However, if he punished this brother of his in public, he would probably make Prince Yu angry and turn against him. If he didn't punish him, he wouldn't be able to convince all the officials present. However, what Xie Jingxing said reminded him that if this relationship was consensual, it might not be a bad idea for them to be together. He glanced at the empress and she understood. "So the girl Prince Yu likes is Shen Qing. However, the two of you are really too reckless. What will you do in the future?"

Shen Qing heaved a sigh of relief. Ignoring the pain in her stomach, she got up and knelt on the ground, kowtowing. She begged, "It's all my fault, but I can't bear to part with my child. I beg Your Majesty to forgive me on account of the child in my stomach."

The crowd was shocked. This time, Shen Qing put all her dignity behind her. The empress also looked at her in disgust, but she said indifferently, "You can't escape the punishment. However, since today is a joyful occasion, and Prince Yu has been alone for so many years, I'll grant the two of you a marriage."

Shen Qing quickly said happily, "Thank you, Your Majesty. Thank you, Your Highness, for granting my wish." She did not know how disgraceful her actions were in the eyes of others. In the past, Shen Qing said that Shen Miao was the most unpresentable. Now, Shen Qing herself had become the most unpresentable daughter of the Shen family.

Prince Yu looked at Shen Qing darkly, then his gaze turned to Shen Miao. Sitting on the throne, the emperor stared at him warningly. Prince Yu could only cup his hands and say slowly, "Thank you, Emperor and Empress."

Shen Miao smiled and looked at Prince Yu without fear. Her clear eyes were filled with joy, but there was also a trace of beastly ferocity.

Today was just the beginning. More blows were yet to be dealt to Prince Yu. Prince Yu must be furious at this moment that Shen Miao played him in his own game.

When people were angry, they were most likely to make a mistake. This mistake was like the mistake of a chess piece on the chessboard. When his mistake was used to her advantage, she could easily beat him.

She tilted her head, and her eyes were unusually bright. However, when one looked at the smile on her lips carefully, they would find it terrifying.

It had begun, Prince Yu.

Chapter 186: Taking the Dark Path (1)

The banquet ended in this sudden accident. Emperor Wen Hui's mood was disturbed, and not long after, he left. The empress was also tired. Since the empress had left, the officials naturally knew that they could not stay for long, so they found an excuse to leave. Although on the surface, it looked like today's matter had a perfect ending. The eldest daughter of the Shen family married Prince Yu, anyone with a discerning eye knew that it was just a shocking scandal. As for the eldest daughter of the Shen family, once she married Prince Yu, it was hard to say how long she could live.

Luo Xueyan held Shen Miao's hand tightly. She did not know why Shen Qing and Prince Yu were involved, but she was more worried about Shen Miao's safety. She felt that the danger in the capital was not less than in the Northwest Desert.

Shen Qiu did not say a word. He had always been a cheerful person, which was why when he signed, Shen Xin thought that he was feeling sorry for Shen Qing. However, he did not know that Shen Qiu was furious. He hated the second branch of the Shen family for being vicious and shameless and hated Prince Yu for being corrupted and licentious.

Shen Qing had long been brought away by Ren Wanyun, but Shen Gui's expression was very complicated. Everyone looked at him meaningfully. Some colleagues from the imperial court even came to hit him when he was down. They cupped their hands and smiled at him. "Congratulations, Lord Shen. It's a great blessing for your daughter to be Prince Yu's consort."

If Shen Qing was to marry Prince Yu in the past, it might not have been a big deal to Shen Gui. As long as it could help his career, his daughter's happiness was not important. But now, what Shen Qing did and said today clearly angered Prince Yu. Would Prince Yu take his anger out on him? As he thought about it, Shen Gui felt a little frustrated and afraid.

After the banquet ended, Luo Xueyan and Shen Miao walked out of the palace. When they passed by a corridor, Shen Miao reminded her softly, "Be careful, there's a brick here that's loose."

Luo Xueyan was a general, so her steps were big and heavy. If she stepped on it, she might fall. Luo Xueyan took a closer look and smiled. "I almost fell." Then, she was stunned and looked at Shen Miao. "Jiaojiao, how did you know?"

Shen Miao had lived in the palace for decades and could remember everything vividly. When Luo Xueyan asked, she could only answer, "I fell here once and remember it."

"I see." Luo Xueyan smiled brightly and said, "Jiaojiao is smart. Remember not to fall where you once fell."

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat, but she did not say anything.

As the two of them walked, they saw two people who looked like guards dragging a young eunuch past. The little eunuch's mouth was gagged, and he seemed to be struggling with all his might. However, he couldn't break free from the tall guard. Behind the three of them was Eunuch Gao.

"Madam Shen, Miss Shen." Eunuch Gao stopped and bowed to them.

"Eunuch Gao, this..." Luo Xueyan looked at the young eunuch and asked.

"The new guy doesn't know the rules and made a mistake. I'm taking him to be punished," said Eunuch Gao in a sharp voice.

When the young eunuch saw Shen Miao, his gaze landed on Jingzhe, who was behind Shen Miao. He suddenly struggled crazily, as if he wanted to rush to Jingzhe's side.

"Behave yourself!" Eunuch Gao kicked the young eunuch in the knee. The latter grunted and fell to his knees. Eunuch Gao snorted and said, "Useless. You almost offended a noble."

Luo Xueyan frowned. She did not like these inhumane punishments in the palace. Such a scene would make her feel uncomfortable. She immediately said to Eunuch Gao, "In that case, I won't disturb you anymore."

Chapter 187: Taking the Dark Path (2)

Eunuch Gao quickly smiled and nodded.

Shen Miao suddenly said, "Since he made a mistake, he naturally deserves to be punished."

Everyone looked at her in surprise. The young eunuch trembled and looked at Shen Miao with a trace of hatred. Shen Miao ignored him and left with Luo Xueyan. Before she left, she said indifferently, "If you don't know the rules, you have to be taught. The palace is different from the outside world. Today is different from the past."

Shen Miao and the others gradually disappeared into the distance. Eunuch Gao said to the two guards, "What are you waiting for? Let's go."

Lizi's face was filled with disbelief, and his face was filled with fear. He did not know what he had done wrong. In the small garden, Shen Miao's personal maid, Jingzhe, gave him a silver ingot. She said to him that Eldest Miss Shen was not feeling well and did not want to drink the wine prepared by the palace banquet. She needed a cup of lotus tea and asked him to make an exception during the banquet later. Lizi was happy to do that and felt that if he pleased Eldest Miss Shen, he might get a chance to climb up the ladder.

However, Lizi did not expect Shen Qing to be pregnant. The lotus tea became the trigger of the entire series of events. After investigation, they found it was Lizi who did it.

No matter how many times Lizi explained, no one believed him. It was not hard to imagine what would happen to him in the torture room.

Shen Miao walked quietly. She knew better than anyone what was waiting for Lizi. The palace was a place where it was easy to distort the truth. When Fu Xiuyi just ascended the throne, Lizi was a dog that Eunuch Gao could order around at will. She took pity on him and was willing to use him in the palace. Later, when Lizi became Eunuch Li, she went from the empress to the deposed empress. This eunuch she helped stepped on her when she was down and told her, "Today is different from the past."

Now, she returned this sentence to him. This life was different from the past. Now, she was the daughter of a high and mighty official, and he was just a speck of dust. She did not even need to kill him with her own hands.

She and Luo Xueyan walked in front, but they did not know that behind the winding corridor, someone looked at her back and sighed. "Does this Miss Shen have a grudge against that young eunuch? Why would she kill someone for no reason?"

Beside him, Xie Jingxing sneered at him. "When did you become so merciful?"

"A doctor should have the heart of a parent." Gao Yang suddenly thought of something. His expression became solemn as he said, "Miss Shen is not simple. Just now, in the hall, she looked at me for a long time. Could it be that... she discovered my identity?"

"Impossible."

"Then the way she looks at me is really scary." Gao Yang rubbed his chin and thought for a moment before saying, "Could it be that she likes me?"

Xie Jingxing stared at him expressionlessly and said, "Get lost."

"You're really boring." Gao Yang shook his head. "Although something big is imminent, you have to relax. Don't pull a long face all day long"

Xie Jingxing looked into the distance and said, "Yu Shu is here."

"What?" Gao Yang was shocked. "When?"

Chapter 188: Taking the Dark Path (3)

"Yesterday."

Gao Yang gradually became serious. "Do you want to..."

"That's right."

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Dingjing, Shen family, Rosy Cloud Garden.

With a slap, clear finger marks appeared on Shen Qing's face, and her lips were red.

"Shen Gui, what are you doing!" Ren Wanyun shouted sternly. She hugged Shen Qing and looked at Shen Gui fiercely.

"What am I doing?" Shen Gui's smile was sinister, like a ferocious wolf. If not for the fact that he still regarded them as his family, he really wanted to kill the two people in front of him. He said, "What did you do today?"

"What do you mean?" Ren Wanyun was not to be outdone in terms of attitude. "Can you blame Qing for this? You're her father. Shen Gui, you're heartless!"

"Daughter?" Shen Gui laughed in anger. "I, Shen Gui, don't have such a daughter! She's shameless and adulterous! She's even pregnant with a bastard! She's really worse than a prostitute!"

Shen Qing's body trembled violently, and her eyes were a little blurry. Seeing this, Ren Wanyun felt like a knife was twisting in her heart. If Shen Gui had a trace of father-daughter relationship with Shen Qing, he would not use such vicious words.

Ren Wanyun handed Shen Qing to Chun Tao and stood up with a cold smile. She said, "Shen Gui, ask your conscience. Who exactly made Qing end up like this? Is it me? It's that little b*tch, Shen Miao! Why don't you go and slap Shen Miao? Oh, you're afraid of your brother and don't dare to touch that little b*tch. Don't forget that you were also involved in the matter at the Wolong Temple. Now, you want to pin all the blames on me and Qing. I won't let that happen! If you anger me, I'll tell Shen Xin about it. None of us will have a good time!"

"You!" Shen Gui had been married to Ren Wanyun for many years, but he had never seen her like this. What made him even more uneasy was that Ren Wanyun actually used this matter to threaten him. Although Shen Gui was a tactful person, he was extremely timid by nature. This could be seen from the fact that he did not dare to provoke Prince Yu at all. Now that Shen Xin and his wife were both in the capital, he did not dare to cause trouble for Shen Miao. If Ren Wanyun really dared to expose this matter, Shen Gui believed that Shen Xin would probably kill him.

At the thought of this, Shen Gui said angrily, "You wicked woman, you're so unreasonable. I can't talk to you! I'm leaving!" With that, he fled.

Looking at Shen Gui's departing figure, Ren Wanyun sneered. She knew her husband the best. Shen Gui was a person who bullied the weak and feared the strong. He could not even protect his daughter.

Without a doubt, Shen Miao gave Ren Wanyun a fatal blow. To Ren Wanyun, watching her daughter walk towards destruction step by step was more painful than killing her. At this point, even if Ren Wanyun had extraordinary ability, she could not change anything.

"Shen Miao, I, Ren Wanyun, will make you pay for this." She gritted her teeth so hard that they bled.

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In the west courtyard, after Shen Xin and his wife returned to their room, Shen Qiu was still sitting there.

He sat at Shen Miao's table with a long face. This young general usually looked like a spring breeze, but when his face darkened, he looked like a man from the battlefield. Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang were a little afraid and did not dare to go forward.

"Brother." After sending her parents back to their room, Shen Miao sat down opposite Shen Qiu.

"Sister, I've been thinking about it." Shen Qiu said, "I still can't let this matter go just like that. I constantly feel a heaviness on my chest." He was referring to the matter between Shen Qing and Prince Yu. Although Shen Miao had hidden a portion of it from him, after the banquet, Shen Qiu could already piece together the whole story. It was precisely because this trick was vicious and outrageous that Shen Qiu was furious. His sister had actually been schemed against and almost died. If something really happened, Shen Qiu did not dare to imagine how regretful he would be.

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Shen Miao looked at him. Shen Qiu was still saying, "The more I think about it, the angrier I get. Sister, don't stop me. Even if I have to risk my life, I won't let them off easy."

"Brother." Shen Miao sighed. "I've already said that you can find any evidence. Since Prince Yu is involved, the royal family will protect him. If you stand out, you'll be standing against the royal family. Do you want our parents to get into trouble because of me?"

Shen Qiu was stunned. Shen Miao's words were rational. He knew that Shen Miao was right. Back then, there were girls among the noble families who had been humiliated by Prince Yu. Some of those families were more famous than the Shen family, but in the end, they had to make compromises. Prince Yu was backed by the highest power in Ming Qi. Challenging him was like hitting a rock with an egg. However, he still felt very indignant. He asked, "We can't just let it go like that, can we?"

"Brother, play a game of chess with me," Shen Miao said.

"Are you still in the mood to play chess?" Shen Qiu scratched his head. "Besides, since when did you like to play chess?"

Shen Miao did not answer him. She set up the chessboard and picked up the black piece. She handed the white pieces to Shen Qiu and said, "This is your soldier and this is my soldier. Let's pretend this chess board is the world and see who can get it. How about that?"

Shen Qiu had always been passionate about the battlefield. Hearing that, he became interested and said, "Okay." He was also skillful in chess because chess and war had many things in common.

Unlike Shen Qiu who placed his pieces decisively, Shen Miao played slowly. It was not that her movements were slow, but they were very gentle like she was in no hurry. No matter how pushy Shen Qiu's style of playing was, Shen Miao could always remain collected. She maintained her rhythm and played the black chess piece slowly. Although it looked like she was at a disadvantage, she still had a lot of black chess pieces in her hand. Occasionally, when Shen Qiu was about to eat her black chess piece, she would cunningly escape.

After the time it took to burn an incense stick, none of the white pieces and black pieces on the table were captured. No one managed to take advantage of the other party. However, it could be clearly seen that Shen Qiu's white pieces had always been the one taking the initiative. The black pieces had been forced into a corner by the white pieces. If this continued, Shen Qiu would be able to capture Shen Miao's white pieces one by one.

Shen Qiu said, "Sister, you have a good way of escaping, but are you going to continue escaping for the whole day? I'm going to attack."

"That's good." Shen Miao smiled. "I plan to do that too." Before she could finish her sentence, the black chess piece in her hand suddenly landed in a tricky position. Shen Qiu frowned. In that position, the entire situation seemed to have changed.

He was surprised. Previously, he had the upper hand, but now, it seemed like he was caught in a trap. He was trapped by Shen Miao and couldn't do anything.

Next, Shen Miao changed her style of only attacking and not defending. Her attacks were sharp and fierce, and she captured Shen Qiu's white stones in big handfuls. In less than 15 minutes, there was only one white piece left.

"I lost." Shen Qiu smiled bitterly and looked at Shen Miao in surprise. "Sister, when did your chess skills improve so much?"

With the chessboard as the battlefield, Shen Qiu would be made a laughing stock if word got out that a general like him was defeated by his sister. However, he was also very surprised. What Shen Miao displayed was not her understanding of the chess game, but her understanding of the overall situation. From the style of defending to the style of attacking, she did it calmly. Perhaps she had always been confident in this game and knew exactly what to do.

Chapter 190: Taking the Dark Path (5)

"Brother, it's not chess that I want to play with you." Shen Miao shook her head and said, "Previously, you asked me if we should just let this matter rest. Let's play a big game of chess. What do you think?"

Shen Qiu was stunned at first, then he said with his eyes wide-open, "You..."

In the beginning, the black chess piece was gentle, only defending and not attacking. At the end, it suddenly turned the situation around, swallowing the white pieces one by one. What Shen Miao tried to say through her style of playing was that she did not kick up a fuss, not because she planned to let it go, but... she was waiting for an opportunity, waiting for those people to make a mistake before giving them a fatal blow.

"There are many ways to achieve your goal." Under the light, the girl held a black chess piece in her hand. Her fair fingers formed a sharp contrast with the dark chess piece, looking strangely beautiful. She said casually, "If this path doesn't work, then we'll change it. If we can't do it in broad daylight, then we'll do it in the dark. They've already blocked their way out. Next, it's our turn to play chess."

Under the light, Shen Miao looked like a delicate beauty. However, at this moment, even Shen Qiu couldn't help but look at her. The girl's posture was composed, and it seemed to contain a huge amount of energy. In her mind, everyone had become a chess piece on the chessboard and she had the situation under control.

Shen Qiu felt a mixed feeling. He had always felt that Shen Miao was too naive and with her nativity, she would probably be used by people. But now, he could clearly see that his sister had already grown up without him knowing. She had outdone her in terms of evaluating the situation and seeing things in a bigger picture.

"Sister, I don't understand," he said.

"Brother, if you believe me, leave this to me." Shen Miao said, "Prince Yu will definitely cause trouble for the Shen family in the future. We need to get rid of him once and for all. We don't need such an enemy."

“Didn’t you say just now that Prince Yu is backed by the royal family so I can’t go against him directly? What are you going to do?” Shen Qiu asked worriedly.

“I told you long ago that if we can’t take the bright path, we’ll take the dark path. There are thousands of paths in the world, and one of them will definitely work.” Shen Miao said indifferently, “Prince Yu is just a turtle with a shell. Without his shell, he’s nothing.”

While Shen Qiu was dumbfounded, Shen Miao smiled at him and said, “But Brother, I need some money, so... sell the things His Majesty gave us.”

Shen Qiu wanted to ask Shen Miao what she wanted to do, but for some reason, when he met Shen Miao’s bright eyes, he could not say anything. When he faced Shen Xin, he would occasionally argue with him. However, as long as Shen Miao looked at him quietly, Shen Qiu felt that he would listen to her unconditionally.

“Brother?”

Shen Qiu came back to his senses and said, “Alright, I’ll get someone to pawn them and send you the money.”

“Thank you, Brother.” Shen Miao nodded. “It’s getting late. Brother, go and rest.”

“Okay.”

“Don’t worry about Prince Yu, and don’t tell our parents. I’ll take care of it.”

“... Okay.”

Shen Qiu scratched his head and left. When he left Shen Miao’s room, he suddenly facepalmed and frowned. He had a feeling that he was being protected by his sister!

In the house, Gu Yu asked carefully, “Miss, are we really going to use that much money tomorrow?”

Shen Miao’s gaze froze. It had been a long time since Gu Yu saw Shen Miao look so serious.