

## Venomous 191

### Chapter 191: Taking the Dark Path (6)

She sighed. "I'm not confident if I can succeed this time."

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The next day, Shen Qiu really came to Shen Miao's courtyard with a few boxes of real money. He was probably worried that the money was not enough, so he took out a banknote worth thousand taels of silver to her. He smiled and said, "Sister, at this age, you probably have a lot of places to use money at your age. I'm afraid that's not enough. Take this money. If there's anything you want to buy, buy it. If it's not enough, just ask me for more."

The maids who were sweeping the floor outside looked at Shen Miao enviously. In the past, they used to think that their Fifth Miss had an awkward status in the mansion. Her title sounded nice, but she had practically no say in anything and was often bullied. Now, it seemed that they were all wrong. Not only did Shen Xin and his wife dote on Shen Miao, but even Shen Qiu treasured his sister like she was the apple in his eyes.

Shen Miao felt Shen Qiu's attitude was strange. She nodded and did not decline. She accepted the banknote and said, "Thank you."

Shen Qiu thought for a moment and motioned his guards to come over. The two guards behind him immediately stepped forward. Shen Qiu said, "My two guards are both experienced soldiers in the army. They'll protect you for the time being." He was worried that Prince Yu would have something up his sleeve. If not for Shen Miao clamoring to go out, Shen Qiu would have asked her to stay in the mansion.

Shen Miao agreed. When Mo Qing stepped out, Shen Qiu looked at him and said with a smile, "This guard of yours looks pretty capable."

Mo Qing had already left his post as a door guard of the Shen mansion. Shen Miao told Shen Qiu his identity, and Shen Qiu asked Mo Qing to join the Shen army. However, for the next few days, he would be Shen Miao's guard and protect her.

With three guards and two maids, Shen Miao left the Shen mansion.

Even the coachman Shen Qiu found for Shen Miao was someone with excellent combat skills.

Shen Qiu's personal servant said, "Young Master is really protective of Miss."

"Let's go." He waved his hand. "Let's go back and practice swordsmanship!"

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The Exiled Immortal Pawnshop was the largest pawnshop in the capital.

Compared to other pawnshops, this pawnshop naturally had something special about it. The Exiled Immortal Pawnshop only accepted precious items. If it was an ordinary item, it would be "politely" rejected by the shop assistant. The owner of this pawnshop was probably a person with a lot of money.

If the item given by the customer was really precious enough, the pawnshop would definitely not be stingy with money. However, there was another rule in the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop. Once an item was pawned, there was no way to redeem it.

However, no one would sell their precious items unless they were left with no choice. Therefore, although the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop was rich and big, there were very few customers visiting the shop every day. Under such circumstances, this Exiled Immortal Pawnshop actually managed to not go bankrupt.

Today, a carriage stopped in front of the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop.

Some passers-by could not help but look over. This was because most people who came to the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop to pawn things were in desperate need of money. This carriage looked quite exquisite, and the coachman did not look like an ordinary coachman either. It was obvious that the person sitting inside was by no means poor.

The shop assistant was a young gray-clothed boy who looked smart and capable. When he saw the carriage stop in front of the door, he was slightly stunned. Then, a few women walked out. The girl in the lead was probably from a rich family. She was wearing a delicate cloak and had a pair of clear eyes.

A few guards and maids escorted the girl over. The young man went up with a smile. "Miss, do you want to pawn something?"

"I do," the girl in purple said.

"What do you want to pawn? Can I take a look at it first?" The shop assistant said with a smile. He could tell that this girl was either rich or noble, so his attitude was very ingratiating. Unexpectedly, the girl shook her head. "I want to see the person in charge here."

"This... This is against the rules, Miss." The shop assistant shook his head. He had seen many people come here to cause trouble, and some of them were rich and powerful. However, the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop had never been afraid of these people.

"What I want to pawn is too valuable for you to look at," the girl said indifferently and calmly.

The shop assistant felt like he had fallen into an icehouse when he was stared at by that pair of dark eyes. Before he could speak, he heard a charming female voice. "Who wants to see me?"

A young woman walked out from behind. This woman was not considered beautiful, but she exuded a charming aura. The guards behind Shen Miao all blushed.

"Miss, do you want to see me?" The woman walked over with a smile.

Shen Miao shook her head. "I want to see the person in charge, All Knowing Scholar."

The woman's smile suddenly froze at the mention of All Knowing Scholar.

Chapter 192: Bargaining (1)

All Knowing Scholar was not a person, but an industry.

There were all kinds of people in the world, and All Knowing Scholar was the kind of people who knew the things that most people didn't. They had connections covering every nook and corner of the world.

Ordinary people wouldn't know who, where, or what All Knowing Scholar was, but that didn't mean All Knowing Scholar didn't exist. The Exiled Immortal Pawnshop in the capital was the All Knowing Scholar of Ming Qi.

The woman in red looked at Shen Miao with a serious expression, making Mo Qing and the others behind her feel a little puzzled. They had no clue what All Knowing Scholar was.

"Miss, you—" the woman in red asked tentatively.

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"I'm here to make a deal."

Hearing this, the woman's expression changed slightly. Then, she smiled and said to Shen Miao, "Miss, the item on you must be expensive. In that case, please follow me to the back so that we can talk in detail."

Mo Qing and the others were about to follow when they were stopped by the woman in red. "There's no need for you to come along."

"Miss—" Jingzhe was a little worried. If Shen Miao went in alone, she might encounter danger.

"Remain here." Shen Miao said, "After making a deal, I'll come back."

After Shen Miao and the woman in red left, Mo Qing and the others stayed in the outer hall. One of the guard asked Mo Qing, "Brother Mo, what exactly is Miss doing here?" After all, he had been to the battlefield and killed people, so he naturally had some intuition about danger. The expression of the woman in red and the conversation between her and Shen Miao made him realize that this matter was not simple.

"I don't know either." Mo Qing smiled awkwardly and shook his head. He looked at the corridor and said, "Miss knows what she's doing."

The woman in red led Shen Miao through the corridor. The corridor was very long. At the end of the corridor was a square wooden pavilion with a total of six floors. It was covered in a thin veil, and the interior could not be seen clearly. However, it looked extremely exquisite. At least the pillars were made of ebony wood worth thousands of gold coins.

It was rumored that the head of the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop was extremely rich. Otherwise, not everyone could afford to buy such a large piece of land in the most prosperous area of the capital.

However, Shen Miao knew that the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop got rich not through the pawn business. The pawn business they were doing could barely be profitable.

The woman in red led her to the lowest floor of the pavilion and found a room at the bottom for her to sit down. It was a tea room. The mahogany table and chairs in the tea room were carved with landscape paintings. The carvings were lifelike. At a glance, one could tell that it was all very expensive.

“My name is Hong Ling.” The woman smiled. When she smiled, the corners of her eyes curled up into the shape of a half-moon. She asked, “Miss, how should I address you?”

“My surname is Shen,” Shen Miao said.

While Shen Miao was sizing up Hong Ling, Hong Ling was also sizing up Shen Miao. Hong Ling was shocked. At first, she thought that it was a young lady from a rich family who came to the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop to cause trouble. However, she didn’t expect Shen Miao to bring up “All Knowing Scholar”. She thought that Shen Miao was probably an insider, so she led her in. Hong Ling had been doing business in the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop for many years, and this was the first time she had met such a young client. She was not sure how much Shen Miao knew.

## **Chapter 193: Bargaining (2)**

“So Miss Shen.” Hong Ling smiled and said, “I wonder if you are here to buy or sell?”

Shen Miao said, “Buy and sell.”

Hong Ling couldn’t help but be stunned. She quickly regained her composure and asked with a smile, “Then how much is this deal worth?”.

Shen Miao shook her head.

Hong Ling did not understand what she meant. “Miss Shen...”

Shen Miao’s voice was calm as she said, “I’ve already said earlier that the deal I want to do is too big. I won’t talk about it with the assistant, nor will I talk about it with you. I want to talk about it with your master.”

Hong Ling suddenly found herself speechless. This was the first time she was treated so rudely. For a moment, she instinctively wanted to flare up, but when she looked up and met Shen Miao’s gaze, she was slightly stunned.

The girl opposite her did not look old. Her eyes were as clear as water, but when she looked at people, there seemed to be danger lurking underneath those calm eyes. She was exhibiting an inexplicable aura of dignity. Hong Ling felt that Shen Miao had no fear at all when she was confronting her. It was as if she was merely talking to her subordinate.

Hong Ling’s heart skipped a beat, and her anger instantly disappeared. She had been doing business with people from all walks of life and was quite good at judging people. This girl’s aura... was a little intimidating. She did not know where Shen Miao came from, but she actually felt a little frightened.

“Miss Shen, I’m the person in charge here. If you want to do business, you naturally have to do it with me,” she said. Although she felt that Shen Miao’s identity was extraordinary, Hong Ling was not someone to be trifled with either. She put on a broader smile and continued, “I’ve seen all kinds of precious items and a humongous amount of money.

"It has nothing to do with money." Shen Miao smiled. "I've said it before. You can't make the decision." She looked around. "I came with sincerity, but you guys don't seem to want to reciprocate with sincerity. All Knowing Scholar has disappointed me."

Hong Ling had never met someone so straightforward. The smile on her face immediately turned cold, and she said, "I don't think Miss Shen is here to do business. Since Miss Shen doesn't trust me, I have no choice."

Shen Miao stared at her. After a while, she said, "In that case, I'll sell you a piece of news first."

Hong Ling paused for a moment in shock. With a calm expression, Miao Yin continued, "Back then, the sisters of the Chen family in Yuzhou were missing. How about I sell this news to you? If you think this news is valuable, please ask the person in charge to come out and meet me."

After taking a moment to gather herself together, Hong Ling straightened her back and said, "Miss Shen, please wait for a moment. I will come back soon."

Hong Ling left in a hurry. The few green-clothed maid servants in the tearoom looked at Shen Miao curiously, clearly not knowing why Hong Ling suddenly left after hearing her words.

Shen Miao looked at the teacup in her hand. The tea was made of top-grade Mountain tea, and the fragrance of the tea was rich. Coupled with the faint incense in the tea room, it made people feel relaxed. Clearly, the owner of this place knew the ways to enjoy life.

All Knowing Scholar was the business of exchanging information. Some people wanted to buy information while others wanted to sell information. When the person who had a particular piece of information matched with a person who wanted that piece of information, a business deal would be done. All Knowing Scholar was like the middle-men who connected two parties.

### **Chapter 194: Bargaining (3)**

The news that Shen Miao wanted to sell was related to an unsolved case that caused a sensation in Ming Qi back then. There were two daughters in the Chen family, the richest family in Yuzhou. They were extremely beautiful. If they entered the palace, they would, without a question, be selected as consorts. They were like two pieces of exquisite porcelain that people wanted to appreciate and protect.

It was not necessarily a good thing to have two gorgeous-looking daughters. If the family wasn't powerful enough, they wouldn't be able to protect their daughters. Fortunately, the Chen family was not only the richest family in Yuzhou, but also had a lot of influence.

Unexpectedly, when the Chen sisters were 16 years old, they disappeared under people's noses on the day of the Lantern Festival. The Chen family searched for a long time but to no avail. It had been three years since the Chen sisters disappeared. The Chen family had been spending manpower and money to find their two daughters. Although they knew that it was unlikely that their daughters were still alive, they had never given up. They even found All Knowing Scholar and spent a lot of money to buy information.

However, there was no news of the whereabouts of their daughters.

Now that someone suddenly brought up this case that had remained stagnant for three years, how could Hong Ling not be surprised? As long as All Knowing Scholar could make this deal, they would be able to earn a fortune.

Shen Miao did not believe that the real owner behind this pawnshop could resist this amount of money.

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The pavilion in the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop was called Lake Immortal. Deals were done on the first floor. From the second to the sixth floors, it was occupied by the owner.

At this moment, in the tearoom on the sixth floor, three people were sitting at the table.

“Yu Shu, why are you here so quickly?” Gao Yang frowned and looked at the person opposite him. “You didn’t even greet me.”

Sitting opposite him was a young man of 17 or 18 years old. This young man looked very cute. He was different from Xie Jingxing, who was as handsome in a dangerous way, and from Gao Yang, who was as gentle as a summer breeze. This young man was like a boy at school who gave you a sense of affinity. He was wearing a lake-green robe and had a pleasant smile. He said, “I heard that the plan in the capital has changed. I know the two of you definitely need the help of a capable person like me, so I hurried back to help.”

“Hehe.” Gao Yang sneered in reply.

“But, Third Brother Xie!” The young man called Yu Shu suddenly turned to him and said, “Miss Shaoyao has been ignoring me recently and is very distant from me. Third Brother, you have always been popular among girls. Why don’t you teach me something?”

This seemingly amiable and harmless young man was an experienced playboy.

Xie Jingxing did not even look at him and said, “That entirely depends on appearance.”

“What? Don’t you think I’m handsome?” The young man was so angry that his face turned red. “Back then, I was also... the prince charming of thousands of girls. Third Brother, are you saying that because you are jealous of me?”

Gao Yang couldn’t stand it anymore and turned Yu Shu’s head to the other side. “Ji Yushu, go back if you keep talking like that.”

“Ahem.” Yu Shu immediately sat up straight and said seriously, “Third Brother, let’s talk about the new plan.”

Before he could finish speaking, he saw a woman in red coming up from downstairs, but she did not come in. She called from afar through the gauze curtain, “Owner.”

“Hong Ling.” Yu Shu said patiently, “I’ve told you many times. Although you’re good-looking, It’s better if you don’t show up while I’m talking with my friends. I like you, but that doesn’t mean you can cross the line.” If an ordinary girl heard this, she would probably be so embarrassed and blush, but Hong Ling had been working for him for a long time and knew what kind of a person he really was.

## Chapter 195: Bargaining (4)

"Sir, a customer wants to see you. She... she wants to talk about a big business deal with you," Hong Ling said.

"Heh." Yu Shu waved her hand. "Do I look like I'm short of money? Chase her out. Want to see me? That's not gonna happen."

"But Sir, that business deal is not ordinary..."

"I said I won't do business with her. The Exiled Immortal Pawnshop won't tolerate arrogant people." Yu Shu reached out and grabbed a piece of pastry in front of him.

Hong Ling was a little troubled, but there was nothing she could do. Just as she was about to leave, she heard the purple-clothed youth, who had been remaining silent, ask, "What is the business deal about?"

Hong Ling was put on the spot. She looked at Yu Shu, waiting for his instruction. She knew that the other two people had a good relationship with Yu Shu, but after all, all the information the shop was selling had to be kept confidential. Yu Shu looked at her and said, "These two are both my friends, and they are the managers of my Exiled Immortal Pawnshop too. Their words are my words. In the future, when I'm not around, they will be in charge."

Hearing that, Hong Ling was relieved and said with a smile, "She's here to sell information about the case of the Chen sisters in Yuzhou three years ago."

As soon as she finished speaking, Gao Yang shouted in surprise, "It's actually related to the Chen family. It's been three years. This is really a big business deal."

"That's right." Xie Jingxing also said, "The Chen family has a lot of power in Yuzhou. If we accept this deal, other than money, there will be other benefits too."

Yu Shu scratched his head and said, "Since you all say so, I'll go and take a look. Is this customer pretty?"

"She is pretty and looks like a well-educated person."

Yu Shu leaped up from his seat and adjusted his robe. He cupped his hands at Xie Jingxing and said with a smile, "Excuse me for a moment." After saying that, he turned to Hong Ling and said anxiously, "Where is she? Hong Ling, why didn't you tell me that earlier..."

After the two of them left, Gao Yang sighed and said to Xie Jingxing with a look of disappointment, "I don't think he's gonna be much of a help in the capital. Let him go back."

"He can at least be a target," Xie Jingxing said casually.

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Shen Miao sat in the tearoom, looking at the tea leaves floating in the teacup.

Footsteps came from the door. Then the gauze curtain was lifted and Hong Ling walked in.

Shen Miao looked up.

The person who walked in after Hong Ling was a young man about the age of 17 or 18. He looked very naive and was wearing a lake-green robe with deer-like patterns. People said that clothes could exhibit one's personality. This young man's personality was probably cheerful, which seemed to match his age. However, Shen Miao was deep in thought about him. To be able to take care of the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop well and be an All Knowing Scholar, he was really not to be underestimated. The naivety he put on was probably just a disguise.

"I'm Ji Yushu." He sat down opposite Shen Miao and smiled at her with his hand cupped.

"Shopkeeper Ji."

"Miss Shen, what's your age?" He asked a question that was completely unrelated.

Shen Miao was stunned for a moment before answering, "Fourteen."

"Oh, that's right." He rubbed his hands, his eyes filled with passion. "I wonder if you're married. Do you have any siblings at home?"

### **Chapter 196: Bargaining (5)**

Hong Ling smiled awkwardly and turned her head away, as if she did not want to have anything to do with her master.

Shen Miao chuckled. "It seems like Shopkeeper Ji isn't here to do business." With that, she stood up, ready to leave.

"Hey!" Ji Yushu panicked. "Miss Shen, what's the hurry? Let's talk business now."

Only then did Shen Miao stop.

Ji Yushu muttered to himself, "She looks gentle, but why is she so bad-tempered..." When he noticed that Shen Miao was fixing her eyes on him, he immediately sat up straight and said, "Miss Shen, I gather that you want to sell information related to the case of the Chen family in Yuzhou. I must say something. Three years ago, you were only eleven. How did you know about this?"

"My information can't be faked. The person selling the information and the person buying the information will have to meet eventually. Whether it's real or fake, it will be up to the buyer to decide. What is Shopkeeper Ji worried about?"

As soon as she said that, Hong Ling and Ji Yushu paused in shock at the same time and looked at Shen Miao inquisitively. From Shen Miao's tone, it was as if she knew every step of the procedure. However, Hong Ling and Ji Yushu were sure that Shen Miao had never been here before.

"Ahem, that's true... but how did Miss Shen know about the business we are doing here?" Ji Yushu asked again.

"I heard about it, so I came to give it a try," Shen Miao replied truthfully.

Ji Yushu asked, "Then how much do you want to sell this information for?"



The person who bought the information would have to pay the money. A portion of it would be given to the person who sold the information, and a portion would be given to the middle-man, All Knowing Scholar.

"After that, I want to buy some information. If Shopkeeper Ji has the information I want, I won't take a single cent from the Chen family."

For many years, Hong Ling had been the one managing the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop. He was just a boss in name. This was a profitable and simple business that relied entirely on connections.

"Miss Shen, what information are you after? Looks like it's gonna be something big. I don't think we can't help you find the information you want anytime soon."

"If Shopkeeper Ji wants to cooperate, you can provide me the information right here right now," Shen Miao said.

"What does this have to do with me wanting to cooperate or not?" Ji Yushu widened his eyes. "I'm not a seller. I'm just a middle-man."

"The information I want is about Prince Yu wanting to rebel. However, this news is not for me but for the Ming Qi's royal family. Shopkeeper Ji, do you understand what I'm saying?"

Ji Yushu was shocked by the words she said and almost fell over his chair. He looked at Shen Miao like she was crazy. Hong Ling also widened her eyes and felt stupefied while listening to Shen Miao utter these cheacherous words.

The tearoom suddenly fell into silence. When the incense was almost burned, Ji Yushu said, "Hong Ling, bring them out."

Hong Ling quickly brought the servant girls out. Before she left, she glanced at Shen Miao and saw her picking up the teacup with a calm expression.

"Miss Shen." Ji Yushu said, "You're not buying information. You're making news."

## **Chapter 197: Bargaining (5)**

All Knowing Scholar was only responsible for connecting two parties, so no one would directly tell the information to them, so Shen Miao came today not to do business with anyone else but the All Knowing Scholar. She wanted some rumors to spread out from the All Knowing Scholar, and she wanted the royal family to "accidentally" hear about these rumors.

All Knowing Scholar had many connections in every nook and cranny of the city. Once a rumor was out, it would spread like wildfire, and no one would be able to find the source of the rumor.

Because this rumor was targeting the royal family, Shen Miao had to remain anonymous. She didn't want to implicate her family. This was her plan.

"Fortune comes from danger." Shen Miao smiled. "Shopkeeper Ji, do you dare to do this business?"

Ji Yushu scratched his head and said like he was put on a spot, "I'm naturally very tempted by your offer, but the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop is not a tool for power game. If I let the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop get into trouble because of my greed, I'll really be letting the predecessors down." He cupped his hands and continued, "Nowadays, not many people are in the business of All Knowing Scholar. For the sake of the my predecessors, I can't take the risk. I'm sorry, Miss Shen." He stood up and bowed to Shen Miao. "The Exiled Immortal Pawnshop won't do this business with you. If you still want to sell the information, I'll get someone to write it down. When the Chen family replies me, I'll get someone to inform you. As for where we'll meet up, you can come to the pawnshop in ten days."

After saying that, Ji Yushu smiled at her apologetically and turned to leave. Just as he was about to step out of the tearoom, Shen Miao's voice came from behind. "Shopkeeper Ji, apparently, my offer is not attractive enough. What if I put the Shen family on the table?"

Ji Yushu was stunned and turned around.

The girl in purple lowered her head and looked at the teacup in front of her, as if she was appreciating a beautiful artwork. Her voice was calm, making the vibe in the tearoom strangely tense.

"If you agree to this deal, the Shen family will be your connection."

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Upstairs, Gao Yang and Xie Jingxing were drinking tea when they suddenly heard a nervous voice. "Emergency!" They looked up and saw Ji Yushu running in.

He lifted the curtain and sat in front of the table. He poured himself a cup of tea. Then, he panted and said, "I'm scared out of my wits."

"What's wrong?" Gao Yang teased. "Didn't you rush down to see the beauty? Why? Is she beautiful or not?"

"She's beautiful. Terrifyingly beautiful."

"That's strange." Gao Yang rubbed his chin and thought for a moment. "Could it be that the beauty is very bad-tempered and you angered her?"

"She's more than just bad-tempered!" Ji Yushu said with lingering fear, "She's simply a demon! Ahem, I've been an All Knowing Scholar for so many years, but this is the first time I've seen someone do business this way."

"Isn't it about the Chen family? Did she ask for too much money?" Gao Yang asked.

"She didn't ask for money, but what she asks is ten times scarier than money."

"What is it?" Xie Jingxing glanced at him. "If you don't talk properly, I'll throw you out of here."

"Ahem, she wants to use the information related to the Chen family to exchange information with us. Do you know what the information she wants is? She wants to buy information about Prince Yu plotting a rebellion! Damn it!" Ji Yushu couldn't help but curse. "She wants us to create false information for her!"

When Gao Yang and Xie Jingxing heard that, their expressions gradually became serious. Ji Yushu liked to play and have fun, so he probably did not know how dangerous the situation was. However, the two of them knew how dangerous it was.

This customer was really ruthless.

Ji Yushu was still shouting indignantly, "Why?! Why should I be someone else's chess piece? If anything happens, it'll be me who gets into trouble. My pawnshop will be the one to suffer. Does she think I'm stupid?"

"In that case, you can refuse her," Gao Yang said.

Ji Yushu cleared his throat and said, "If I didn't bargain with her, she wouldn't have made a shocking offer. Do you know what that is?"

"What?" Xie Jingxing asked lazily.

"The Shen family. The Shen family will be our connection if this deal is done. Look at how much I helped you as soon as I came back. Don't you think you need to thank me?" Ji Yushu said proudly.

The Shen family?

Xie Jingxing stared at him and said slowly, "Who came?"

## **Chapter 198: Trade (1)**

As soon as he finished speaking, the tearoom fell into a strange silence. A moment later, Gao Yang smiled and looked at Xie Jingxing. "I think I know who it is. This girl from the Shen family is quite powerful." Although his smile was gentle, his tone was sharp.

"Actually, I think it's strange too." Ji Yushu shivered and scratched his head. "It doesn't seem to be her first time doing business with All Knowing Scholar. I've asked Hong Ling, but she said she's never seen her before. Our business is only done in secret, and I'm afraid no one in the capital knows about our existence except a few families. How... does she know?"

"This girl is not simple." Gao Yang thought for a moment and said, "I originally thought that the Shen family was just a stupid bunch that would be eliminated sooner or later. Now it seems that I'm wrong." He glanced at Xie Jingxing and realized that he was deep in thought. He asked, "What is on your mind?"

Xie Jingxing looked up at Ji Yushu. "Have you agreed?"

"I have to discuss it with you two." Ji Yushu said, "But I think if we can make the Shen family our connection, given how many troops they have, they can help Third Brother Xie greatly in the future. After all, she doesn't know that our Exiled Immortal Pawnshop is actually owned by Third Brother."

The girl surnamed Shen probably did not know that Xie Jingxing would be the one to benefit in the end. However, she could not be blamed, because even Hong Ling, who had been a manager of the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop for many years, did not know about this.

"That being said..." Gao Yang pondered for a moment and continued, "This gamble is too big. If we're not careful, the information she wants to create will attract the attention of the royal family. We have to be careful. If anything goes wrong, it will be the end for all of us. As for the Shen family, in our original plan, they weren't part of it anyway."

"You have a point." Ji Yushu nodded and looked at Xie Jingxing. "But in the end, we have to listen to what Third Brother has to say about this."

"Agree to this deal."

As soon as Xie Jingxing said that, Gao Yang frowned and said, "Don't you need to take some time to think about it?"

"The Shen family is a good chess piece that can be used to our advantage. As for the information she wants to create, it's targeted at Prince Yu." Xie Jingxing raised his eyebrows. "Coincidentally, we need to deal with Prince Yu as well, so why not?"

When he said that, the other two were enlightened. Ji Yushu clapped his hands. "That's right. I almost forgot. She wants to create a rumor about Prince Yu plotting a rebellion. Does the Shen family have a grudge against Prince Yu? Why does that girl want Prince Yu to die?"

Ji Yushu had just returned to the capital and was clueless about what happened while he was gone.

Gao Yang knew the grudge between Shen Miao and Prince Yu, and he couldn't help but be impressed by Shen Miao. Ordinary girls would definitely be intimidated by the power of Prince Yu. Not only was Shen Miao not afraid, but she was also waiting for an opportunity to counterattack. She was very smart. Prince Yu was backed by the royal family, so she wanted to sow discord between them. If the royal family was suspicious of Prince Yu, he would be done for.

"Agree to this deal." Xie Jingxing said, "Notify the Chen family as soon as possible."

## **Chapter 199: Trade (2)**

"Don't worry, I've already asked Hong Ling to send a letter to Yuzhou. The Chen family's case has been delayed for three years, but I don't know if the information from that girl is true or not. After all, back then, the Chen family tried everything they could but to no avail. How could a girl know about it now? If her information is fake, I think the Chen family won't let her off easy," Ji Yushu said with a snack in his mouth.

"Since she's here to sell information, it must be true." Xie Jingxing frowned. "But there's still something that doesn't make sense about this matter."

"Are you starving?" Gao Yang looked at Ji Yushu wolfing down the food and couldn't help but shake his head. "Why do you look like you haven't taken a bite of food for a couple of days? Aren't you the shopkeeper of this pawnshop?"

"Tch." Ji Yushu stretched out a finger and shook it. "The snacks elsewhere are not as good as the ones made by Third Brother's personal chef. Last time, I brought the snacks made by Third Brother's chef to

Miss Shaoyao, and guess what? Miss Shaoyao actually smiled at me after eating it. So what I'm trying to say is that..." He picked up a snack and waved it in front of Gao Yang. "These snacks are really good."

Gao Yang couldn't be bothered with him. Suddenly, he saw Ji Yushu's expression turn serious. He thought of something and took out a banknote from his pocket. "Speaking of which, Miss Shen still gave me a thousand taels worth of banknotes in the end to buy some information."

"What information?" Xie Jingxing and Gao Yang looked at him at the same time.

"She said she was looking for a girl called Liu Ying. She said... this girl is probably from a brothel in the capital. She asked me to find her." He asked curiously, "Why is she looking for a girl from a brothel? Does she like beauties like me?"

Gao Yang and Xie Jingxing looked at each other. The former was puzzled, and the latter only shook his head slightly.

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When Shen Miao was brought out by Hong Ling, Mo Qing and the others heaved a sigh of relief. Shen Miao had been in there for too long. If she stayed any longer, they would probably rush in to rescue her. Before they left, Shen Qiu reminded them repeatedly that they had to be careful on the way. If they really lost Shen Miao, Shen Qiu would definitely punish them.

Hong Ling smiled politely at Shen Miao and said, "Miss Shen, you can come back in ten days."

"Thank you, Miss Hong," Shen Miao replied softly.

This was probably the first time the shop assistant saw Hong Ling being so respectful to someone. He couldn't help but take a few more glances at Shen Miao.

After Shen Miao and the others got into the carriage and left, the assistant asked Hong Ling, "Miss Hong, who is that girl?"

"Do your thing and mind your own business." Hong Ling patted his head gently. After thinking for a moment, she said, "Next time you see Miss Shen, be more respectful. She's not simple."

The young man quickly nodded. Hong Ling looked at the departing carriage and sighed. There were indeed many talented people in the capital.

In the carriage, Shen Miao was deep in thought. Jingzhe and Gu Yu were afraid of disturbing her thoughts, so they didn't say anything. In fact, they didn't know what Shen Miao was up to today. It was clearly a pawnshop, but they didn't know what Shen Miao was pawning. However, the two maids wouldn't ask if Shen Miao didn't intend to tell them.

When they passed by a place, Gu Yu smiled and said, "Guangfu Restaurant is up ahead. We haven't been out for a long time. Why don't I go and buy some snacks from Guangfu Restaurant?"

The snacks at Guangfu Restaurant had always been popular. It was not packed with customers at this moment, so there was no harm in buying some snacks. Although Shen Miao did not like it, Luo Xueyan and Shen Qiu liked it. Shen Miao nodded and said, "Go ahead."

## Chapter 200: Trade (3)

Gu Yu jumped off the carriage and headed straight to Guangfu Restaurant.

Mo Qing and the others surrounded the carriage. They were all tall and strong, so inevitably, they attracted a lot of attention from the passers-by. Shen Miao lifted the curtain to get some air, but her gaze was attracted by someone.

That person probably just came out of Guangfu Restaurant. He was holding a bag of snacks. When his gaze met Shen Miao's, he couldn't help but be stunned.

It was Pei Lang.

Shen Miao had not been to Guangwen Hall for a long time. She did not want to win the reputation of a talented woman, nor did she want to get an academic title. She had been busy with her own matters these days and had forgotten about everything else. She looked at Pei Lang and nodded at him slightly.

Pei Lang was stunned for a moment. Ming Qi paid special attention to the respect for teachers. Even if students like Xie Jingxing had to be polite to their teachers. However, Shen Miao's nod just now gave Pei Lang the illusion that she was his teacher while he was her student.

Before he could react, Shen Miao had already lowered the curtain. Mo Qing and the others noticed Pei Lang looking at the carriage and became instantly wary.

Pei Lang stood rooted to the ground. He was supposed to flare up when he was treated as such by his student. However, for some reason, other than feeling a little sad, he didn't feel anything else.

Shaking his head, Pei Lang walked away.

Knowing that the person outside the carriage had left, Shen Miao lowered her eyes and looked at her sleeve, deep in thought. She had mixed feelings about Pei Lang. She hated Pei Lang for his inaction when Wanyu and Fu Ming were unfairly treated by Fu Xiuyi, but she also knew that Pei Lang was just being loyal to his emperor and did what he thought was right. However, it was all in the past. Since she still had a use for Pei Lang in this life, she shouldn't dwell on this matter.

While she was thinking, Gu Yu had already returned.

When they returned to the Shen family's mansion, it was not too late. Shen Qiu was also staying in the west courtyard. Shen Miao planned to send some snacks to Shen Qiu. When she walked to the hall, she happened to see Ren Wanyun helping Shen Qing out. Ren Wanyun looked at Shen Miao with undisguised killing intents, and Shen Qing's gaze was extremely vicious. Even Gu Yu and Jingzhe couldn't help but shiver and subconsciously step forward to protect Shen Miao.

"Shen Miao, you haven't gone to pay your respect to Old Madam these days." Ren Wanyun said, "Did you forget something so basic as respecting your elders?"

Shen Miao glanced at her. Ren Wanyun was like a mad dog now, biting whoever she found displeasing to the eyes. On one hand, she was afraid of Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan, and on the other hand, she wanted to seek justice for her daughter.

However, Shen Miao was not scared by her. She smiled and looked at Ren Wanyun. "Second Aunt, it's surprising that you still have the extra energy to worry about me. Eldest Sister is going to marry Prince Yu next month. Don't you need to teach her some surviving skills? After all, she's not marrying someone ordinary but Prince Yu. You know what he's capable of."

With that, she left with Jingzhe and Gu Yu without looking back.

Ren Wanyun was so angry that her entire body was trembling. Over the past few days, the angrier she was, the more confused she felt. She did not even have the time to care about how much Shen Gui doted on that Concubine Wan. Chen Dongling, the illegitimate daughter born to Concubine Wan, was no longer as gloomy as before. She would spend time preparing food for Shen Gui from time to time. With Shen Qing as a contrast, she looked like a much more likable daughter. On the other hand, Ren Wanyun and Shen Qing became more and more annoying.