

## **Venomous 211**

### **Chapter 211: Suspicion (2)**

"Don't worry, we know," Chen Yuehai said.

"I don't know what the rules of the martial world are. What I mean by getting rid of them all is that everyone, the old, the young, the weak, and the strong must all be eliminated, and the entire Prince Yu's mansion must be turned into a tomb."

Chen Yueshan and Chen Yuehai were both stunned. Chen Yuehai frowned and said, "Even the concubines and the servants. Most of those concubines were kidnapped by Prince Yu."

Shen Miao sneered. "If Young Master Chen wants to be merciful, then you will only drag your family into unnecessary disaster, and my family will be implicated too."

A moment later, Chen Yueshan nodded. "We won't leave anyone alive."

"That's good." Shen Miao said, "Then I hope the two of you can successfully avenge your sisters and wipe out Prince Yu's mansion."

After chatting with Shen Miao for a while, the Chen brothers stood up and left. After they left, Ji Yushu finally said, "Miss Shen, given how young you are, you really know a lot of things. The Chen brothers are people who've seen the world, but they are actually willing to listen to the plan from a young girl. Miss Shen, this is the first time I've seen a smart and beautiful girl like you. I wonder if I'll have the honor to accompany you to appreciate nature, make poems together by the lake, and..." The more he went on, the more ridiculous his flirts got.

"Shopkeeper Ji." Shen Miao asked, "Is this all you got to say?"

"Ahem." Ji Yushu cleared his throat. "In fact, I just want to tell Miss Shen that the rumor has already been created and spread to the palace. I think it won't be long before Miss Shen gets the result you want."

Shen Miao was slightly shocked. Although she knew that the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop was capable, she did not know that they were so efficient. She guessed that there must be someone in the palace who could help them. Otherwise, it would probably take a lot of time before the rumor could reach the palace.

"Thank you, Shopkeeper Ji." Shen Miao lowered her eyes. "After I get what I want, I will keep the promise I made to you."

Ji Yushu was silent for a moment before asking seriously, "Miss Shen, there's something I don't understand."

"Please go ahead."

"Miss Shen, you're using the Shen family to trade with me. Aren't you afraid that one day, I'll make the Shen family do something dangerous and push the Shen family to the edge? This doesn't look like a good trade to you." After saying that, Ji Yushu stared at Shen Miao and paid attention to her expression.

Shen Miao didn't blink and said indifferently, "Instead of worrying about the problems in the future, it's better to worry about the problem at hand. If that day really comes, let it be then."

Ji Yushu said in confusion, "Do you really mean it?"

"Of course not," Xie Jingxing said lazily as he listened to the conversation in the secret room.

"Only a fool like Yushu will believe her," Gao Yang said. "This girl is very good at lying. Yushu is not her match at all."

"Don't worry." Xie Jingxing said slowly, "Once she's on my ship, it's not that simple for her to get off."

When Shen Miao got up to leave, Ji Yushu suddenly said, "By the way, Miss Shen, I think we have found out where Miss Liu Ying is. If Miss Shen wants a definite answer, we might be able to give you one in the next few days."

However, Shen Miao's answer stunned Ji Yushu. She said, "There's no hurry. Shopkeeper Ji, take your time. I'll... just wait."

### **Chapter 212: Suspicion (3)**

After she left, Ji Yushu shook his head and said, "She's even harder to understand than Miss Shaoyao. At least Miss Shaoyao will be happy if she receives a pearl. This one... Could it be that she'll only be happy when she receives the head of someone she wants?" At the thought of this, he shivered.

...

In the palace.

In the emperor's study, the report scrolls on the table were folded into a tall stack. Emperor Wen Hui sat at the table with the report scroll spread out in front of him, but he did not even look at it. He was about to enter his sixties. Although he was still energetic, age nonetheless left obvious traces on his face. Looking at him, his courtiers felt like he was an old tiger that had lost its sharp teeth.

Sooner or later, a new and young tiger would replace him.

At this moment, Emperor Wen Hui's expression was dark. As he grew older, he became extremely thin, almost bone-skinny, looking gaunt and scary. When he spoke in a hoarse voice, one could tell he was angry.

"Did Prince Yu really kill someone who looked identical to that assassin?"

The two men in black standing in front of him said, "Your Majesty, yes, the trusted aide of Prince Yu who was caught by us also admitted that he executed a masked guard a few days ago."

Emperor Wen Hui closed his eyes and suddenly raised his hand. The paperweight on the table flew out and shattered into several pieces on the ground. A moment later, he sneered. "I underestimated him!"

There were many spies in the palace planted by consorts, officials, and even the empress. Whoever had the most information would have the upper hand. The emperor was no exception. Only with his spies being planted everywhere would he have a firm grip on the throne.

At first, when he accidentally found out from his spies that Prince Yu had killed someone who looked identical to the assassin, Emperor Wen Hui did not believe it. The royal family was notorious for being heartless. Emperor Wen Hui managed to succeed to the throne by stepping on the corpses of his brothers. Prince Yu, who was the eleventh prince at that time, was spared from death because he risked his life to protect Emperor Wen Hui from being assassinated and became crippled ever since then.

After becoming the emperor, Emperor Wen Hui felt that dangers lurked everywhere. Even his sons were scheming against him and couldn't wait to replace him. However, Prince Yu always reminded Emperor Wen Hui that there was still someone in this world who would die for him, and he still had a brother whom he could trust.

However, now, this turned out to be a mare act put up by this "trusted brother". Emperor Wen Hui even started to suspect that perhaps, Prince Yu's crippled leg was fake too.

What exactly did Prince Yu want to do? Was he planning a mustiny? Was he coveting the throne too just like everyone else? Emperor Wen Hui felt a surging anger and humiliation at being deceived.

If one was betrayed by someone they trusted, they would take back their trust. Not only that, but they would also become even more paranoid. The people of the royal family had always been paranoid. In the past, they did not suspect Prince Yu because of his seeming loyalty, but now, his loyalty turned out to be nothing but a show.

"Send someone to keep an eye on Prince Yu's mansion. I want to see what he's up to!"

Eunuch Gao kept his head lowered and tried to observe the expression on the emperor's face from the corner of his eyes. Seeing the anger in the emperor's tone, he sighed, thinking to himself, "Troubled times are on the way."

#### **Chapter 213: Suspicion (4)**

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The days passed uneventfully in the capital like nothing had happened. As the new year approached, people were busy buying new year goods. Even the poor families had joyful smiles all across their faces.

However, some people weren't that happy at all.

In the palace, Prince Li and Prince Xiang were walking in the garden.

In Prince Li's faction, Prince Xiang and Prince Cheng were not very powerful and were very respectful to Prince Li. Compared to the crown prince's taciturn personality and Prince Zhou and Prince Jing's high-profile ways of doing things, Prince Li was the most mediocre. He wasn't the most outstanding prince,

and his mother was not the most favored, but he was extremely tactful. Whether it was the court officials or his brothers, they were willing to give him face. In private, he was a friendly-looking villain.

"Sixth Brother, I heard that Father has been very cold to Uncle these days," Prince Xiang said.

"Oh, you heard it too?" Prince Li smiled. When he smiled, small wrinkles appeared at the corners of his eyes, making him look very easygoing. His tone was also very friendly as he chatted with Prince Xiang. "Father has always thought highly of Uncle. However, the few times Uncle came to look for Father, he was shut outside and told that Father was too busy to see him. Anyone with a discerning eye can tell that Father is deliberately avoiding seeing Uncle."

Emperor Wen Hui had been very protective of Prince Yu. Back then, Emperor Wen Hui had a consort who had offended Prince Yu. That consort's family was quite influential, but Emperor Wen Hui still sent her to the cold palace without a word. He even warned everyone publicly, "Prince Yu is my brother. If anyone is disrespectful to him, then he's disrespectful to me too!" The sudden change of attitude made everyone unable to help but wonder what happened.

"But why?" Prince Xiang asked in confusion, "Did Uncle do something to anger Father? But all these years, even if Uncle did something out of line, Father has never blamed him. I haven't heard about Uncle causing any troubles these days."

"Do you know why Uncle came to the palace to talk with Father?"

Prince Xiang shook his head.

"Seventh Brother." Prince Li patted his shoulder, looking like he was sincerely concerned about this insensible brother of his. "You have to be careful about everything in the palace. If you are too honest, you'll be the one to suffer."

Prince Xiang smiled. "I'll follow you. Sixth Brother, you are smarter than me. I'll do whatever you say."

"I heard that Uncle wanted to talk about something related to the Shen family with Father."

"The Shen family?" Prince Xiang was enlightened. "Could it be that Uncle angered Father because of the Shen family?" He thought for a moment and continued, "But Uncle is going to marry the daughter of the second branch of the Shen family. Why should Father get angry over that?"

No one knew Emperor Wen Hui better than his own sons. The only reason Prince Yu could've angered Emperor Wen Hui would be that what he wanted was out of line. Power was always something the emperor wasn't willing to share. The second branch of the Shen family, Shen Gui, was a third-grade civil official. He did not have any real power in his hands, so it would not affect the overall situation. Emperor Wen Hui did not have to be angry with Prince Yu because of this.

"That's right." Prince Li said meaningfully, "But what Uncle wants is to marry the daughter of the first branch of the Shen family, Shen Miao."

"I see." Only then did Prince Xiang think it through. "Shen Xin has military power. If Uncle wants to marry Shen Miao, he is definitely crossing the line that he never should. But why does Uncle suddenly want to marry Shen Miao? Didn't he make Shen Qing pregnant already? I don't think Uncle is so stupid as to offend Father intentionally."

"I don't know either." Prince Li shook his head. "Although Uncle has been messing around all these years, he's never crossed the red line. This time, he's not just a step over the red line but a stride..."

#### **Chapter 214: Suspicion (5)**

"Father definitely won't let Uncle marry Shen Miao. However, this time, Father didn't tell Uncle directly. Instead, he avoided him as if he was warning him."

"His patience is probably worn out." Prince Li smiled faintly. "It's better for the two of us not to talk about this. It has nothing to do with us anyway. Father doesn't look too happy these days. Better stay with him for the time being."

"Sixth Brother, you are right." Prince Xiang nodded.

After the two of them left, a person slowly walked out from the corner of the garden. It was Prince Ding, Fu Xiuyi. He stood in the garden, clearly having heard the conversation between the two of them. He looked at the back of the two of them and muttered thoughtfully, "Shen Miao?"

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On the top floor of Lake Immortal Pavilion, Ji Yushu showed the letter to Gao Yang before burning it to ashes in the fireplace.

"The rumor has already spread. Emperor Wen Hui is also suspicious of Old Dog. This time, Old Dog shot himself in the foot without knowing it." Ji Yushu gloated.

Gao Yang shook his head. "We have to be careful. We can't afford to make a tiny mistake now."

"I know." Ji Yushu rubbed his nose. "What is Third Brother Xie busy with these days? He's nowhere to be seen."

"When is he not busy?" Gao Yang suddenly sighed. "I wonder if it's right or wrong to let him do whatever he wants."

"I believe in Third Brother Xie." Ji Yushu said, "Third Brother Xie is so capable. What are you worried about? He has been preparing for so long. Even if he can't succeed, he can still get out of it unscathed. Gao Yang, you're just overthinking. Look at our Third Brother Xie. No matter how troubled he is, he still lives a carefree life. This is what a man should be like!"

Ji Yushu was obviously Xie Jingxing's loyal follower. Gao Yang rolled his eyes at him. "Bootlicker."

"Who's bootlicker? Besides, it's not that I'll bootlick everyone." He looked at Gao Yang in disdain and said, "For example, I can't be bothered to bootlick you even if you get down on your knees and beg me to."

Gao Yang smiled gently. "Is that so? Then don't ask me to prescribe you medicines in the future. If you kneel down and beg me, I won't prescribe it to you."

Ji Yushu was stunned for a moment before immediately changing the topic. "Actually, in the past, I felt that the young people in the capital were all sissy and useless. Only Third Brother Xie is a man. But now,

I admire another person. I feel that other than Third Brother Xie, there are other talented young people in the capital.”

“Oh, there’s someone you admire. How eye-opening.” Gao Yang said indifferently, “Who is that person? May I know?”

“Shen Miao, the daughter of the Shen family!” Ji Yushu slapped his thigh. “Damn, I’ve never seen such a bold woman! She even dares to scheme against the royal family. Moreover, she’s targeting Prince Yu and wants to wipe out the entire Prince Yu’s mansion.”

“Well, that’s not the craziest thing she’s done,” Gao Yang said with admiration. Previously, Shen Miao burned down her ancestral hall and even dared to bet her life on it. At that time, Gao Yang felt that Shen Miao was really a lunatic. People like Gao Yang were used to planning everything in detail before making a guaranteed move. At first, Gao Yang just took Shen Miao as a foolhardy clown. He was sure that Shen Miao would not live long given how reckless she was. However, he did not expect that she would’ve come thus far and won every time.

Sometimes, Gao Yang felt that it was very strange. People like him all treated themselves as exquisite porcelain. Unless they had no choice, they would never risk their lives to fight with others. However, Shen Miao was the opposite. She treated herself as a stone, and the people who she went against became porcelain. She didn’t lose a thing, but the porcelain that was shamed by the stone had all shattered into pieces.

## **Chapter 215: Suspicion (6)**

Not everyone had the courage to treat themselves as stones. It was precisely because of this that Gao Yang felt that Shen Miao was even more dangerous. The way to deal with potential danger was to get rid of it before it could pose a threat. However... Gao Yang was actually a little uncertain about what Xie Jingxing was thinking.

It was impossible for Xie Jingxing not to know that Shen Miao was an unstable variable. If Shen Miao became an obstacle that got in their way, the consequence would be unimaginable.

“I didn’t know she’d done something so mind-blowing.” Ji Yushu said in surprise. Then, he nodded and said, “But on second thought, it’s not that surprising for the daughter of the mighty general to be so fearless. Although she doesn’t have a martial arts background and isn’t raised by Shen Xin, with her personality and temperament, no one will dare to offend her.”

Seeing that Gao Yang was a little lost in thought, Ji Yushu suddenly thought of something and continued, “Speaking of which, although I was the one who made up the rumor this time, everything was done according to Shen Miao’s plan. Now that I think about it, she’s really a little scary. For some reason, Prince Yu seems to have been in fury these days. He actually told Emperor Wen Hui that he wanted to marry Shen Miao. Prince Yu actually made such an idiotic mistake. He knew that Shen Xin had military power, and whoever married Shen Miao would become an eyesore in the emperor’s eyes. I’m afraid Emperor Wen Hui wouldn’t be merciful to Prince Yu this time. This way, it’d be much easier for the Chen family to execute their plan. Shen Miao is really a genius. Her plan was flawless and well-calculated.”

"Accidents won't happen to her," Gao Yang muttered pensively. Xie Jingxing was right. Every time Shen Miao did something that seemed dangerous, it ended up exactly the same as what she wanted to achieve in the beginning. In her plan, there were no accidents.

Gao Yang thought with relish that if he could see Shen Miao panic one day and be dumbfounded because of an "accident", it would definitely be an entertaining scene.

"In short, I think this Shen Miao is someone worth befriending." Ji Yushu said seriously, "In addition to her appearance, I think she will definitely become a beauty in a few years. How can I, Ji Yushu, miss out on such a smart and beautiful woman?" He revealed a smile that he thought was charming. "I've decided to make her as important as Miss Shaoyao in my heart. From now on, other than Miss Shaoyao, Shen Miao will also be considered my confidante."

Gao Yang turned his head away and couldn't be bothered to talk to this fool.

After that, the "confidante" Ji Yushu mentioned was picking and choosing items in the room.

"Sister, are you looking for something to add to Shen Qing's dowry?" Shen Qiu scratched his head and asked.

In the storeroom, Shen Miao picked out a portion of the things that the emperor had given to the mighty general. After fumbling for a while, she finally picked out a jade pillow. It was very cold to the touch, and it emitted a jade glow, looking very expensive and nice.

"Sister, are you going to give this to Shen Qing?"

As the day of Shen Qing's wedding approached, the entire Shen family began to prepare for Shen Qing's marriage. A few days ago, Shen Yue asked Shen Miao what she wanted to give Shen Qing, and Shen Qiu happened to hear it. However, Shen Miao did not do anything for the past few days, so he thought that she finally remembered it and was selecting a gift for Shen Qing.

"This?" Shen Miao picked up the jade pillow and shook her head. "No."

"Oh." Shen Qiu asked, "Sister, do you want to use it yourself? This jade pillow looks good."

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. This jade pillow was called the Ice Silkworm Pillow. In her previous life, this pillow was stuffed into her dowry by Shen Xin when Shen Miao left the Shen mansion to live with Prince Ding. One day, Consort Mei said that she was not feeling well and had a headache, so she insisted on wanting this pillow. At that time, the Ice Silkworm Pillow was given to Wanyu. Wanyu refused to give it and quarreled with consort Mei, causing the pillow to break. Hearing the incident, Fu Xiuyi punished Wanyu severely.

Thinking about it now, though it was all in her last life, Shen Miao still felt a stinging pain.

"Sister?" Shen Qiu asked worriedly when he saw that Shen Miao was silent.

"I'm giving this to someone." Shen Miao said, "As for Eldest Sister's dowry, if you have time, help me pick one thing or two for her. If you don't have time, I'll get Gu Yu to buy something." The way she said it was filled with indifference.

"Oh," Shen Qiu replied blankly. Only when Shen Miao walked out of the house did he slap his head.  
"Damn, I forgot to ask who she's giving that pillow to!"

Outside the house, Jingzhe asked, "Miss, who are you giving your pillow to?"

"A friend."

Since she would need the Chen family in the future, she had to show her willingness to befriend them. If a little gift could win her a powerful ally, the trade was definitely worth it. It was from Fu Xiuxi that she learned how to manipulate people.

This pillow was conducive to sleep and was undoubtedly a good thing for the Chen sister.

## **Chapter 216: Getting Married (1)**

Time passed quickly. In the blink of an eye, it was the eighth day of the twelfth month of the lunar year.

Today, it was an auspicious day for marriage. It was also on this day that Prince Yu was finally going to marry his princess consort many years after his wife passed away. However, everyone knew that this was not something to be happy about because most likely, a funeral would be on the way too.

Prince Yu was going to marry the daughter of the second branch of the Shen family, Shen Qing. In the Shen mansion, there were three unmarried ladies. Shen Miao was once famous for being an idiot, and Shen Yue was famous for being talented. Shen Qing was considered beautiful, generous, and smart. In the end, she ended up marrying Prince Yu. When the news of this spread throughout the capital, many commoners found it unbelievable.

"Shen Gui must be crazy." Someone in the crowd whispered, "Is he really going to sit back and watch his daughter die in the hands of a devil? What a sin."

"What do you know?" Another person said disapprovingly, "I heard from my cousin who's an official that Eldest Miss Shen has already been having an affair with Prince Yu. She's already pregnant with his baby. If not for the fact that she's pregnant with the royal blood, she would have been drowned as a punishment."

"Ah? Are you serious?" When the people around heard that, they were all a little surprised. Clearly, they did not know about this before.

That person nodded his head proudly. "Dead serious. I heard that all the civil and military officials saw it at the royal banquet that day. That's why I said that Eldest Miss Shen is not pitiful at all. She deserved it."

"That's right. Pregnant before marriage is immoral!"

"How shameless!"

"How did the second branch of the Shen family raise such a daughter? She's really a disgrace to the family."



Everyone was talking at once, their words filled with disdain for Shen Qing. It took them only a moment to shift from pitying Shen Qing to cursing her.

The person who initially said that Shen Qing was pregnant smiled and disappeared into the crowd.

In the Shen family, the maid was helping Shen Qing dress up.

Ren Wanyun stood behind Shen Qing and clenched the handkerchief in her hand tightly, almost tearing it into pieces. The daughter she had raised well and carefully was now going to marry a devil. To Ren Wanyun, it felt like someone was skinning her bit by bit.

Unlike Ren Wanyun, Shen Qing did not experience as much emotional fluctuation as Ren Wanyun. She sat quietly in her seat and let the maid help her put on clothes. The maid smiled and said, "Miss, I'm going to pull on the corset for you. This will be a little painful. Miss, bear with it for a while."

As soon as the maid said that, Ren Wanyun felt a sharp pain in her heart and almost fainted. Shen Qing, on the other hand, only looked at herself in the bronze mirror with a blank expression. If not for the fact that her eyes would blink from time to time, others would probably think that she was a lifeless corpse.

The maid was a little afraid when she saw Shen Qing like this. She took out a corset from the box and started to put it on. It was indeed very painful. Usually, those young ladies would always shout in pain. However, when the corset was pulled on, Shen Qing was still expressionless, as if she was actually dead.

"Qing..." Ren Wanyun couldn't help but cry.

## **Chapter 217: Getting Married (2)**

The maid saw that not only was the bride not happy, but she also revealed an expression of despair. She understood what was going on and stopped saying anything congratulatory to Shen Qing. After doing her job, she quickly excused herself and scurried away.

Only Ren Wanyun, Shen Qing, and a few personal maids were left in the room.

Ren Wanyun could not stop crying. In just a few months, she seemed to have aged a decade with wrinkles and white hair multiplying on her face. She no longer looked like a rich and smart woman.

"Mother, don't worry." It was Shen Qing who spoke first. Her voice was hoarse, and it sounded like she was crying and laughing at the same time. She said, "I will definitely not suffer for nothing today. I will take revenge."

"Qing, I'm sorry." Ren Wanyun went forward and hugged her.

Shen Qing let her hug her and said in a hoarse voice, "Father and Mother can't help me, so I can only help myself." Her tone was dark, but everyone could feel that it was filled with resentment.

Ren Wanyun felt as if she had been struck by lightning. However, she knew that she was also the cause of her daughter's misery. If she had not schemed against Shen Miao back then, if she had gone out to take a look at night in the Wolong Temple, or if she had not cooperated with Prince Yu to harm Shen Miao, Shen Qing wouldn't have ended up in such a desperate situation now.

She forced a smile and said, "Qing, don't be afraid. I swear that I will definitely avenge you. And your second brother will help you ruin that little b\*tch..."

In the hall outside, Old Madam Shen sat on the chair in the middle with a dark expression. Shen Yuanbai was half-lying in her arms. As if he was a little afraid of the ruthlessness on Old Madam Shen's face, he didn't dare to even lift his fingers.

"What's the point of dressing up?" Old Madam Shen said, "She did such a shameless thing and still has the cheek to keep us waiting! Shen Gui, look at what a good daughter you've raised!" Old Madam Shen was vain and loved to show off. When she found out that all the civil and military officials knew about Shen Qing's scandal, Old Madam Shen felt that she had lost all her face, so she naturally hated Shen Qing and her mother.

Shen Gui nodded with agreement, wishing he could divorce Ren Wanyun now.

When Shen Qiu heard that, he pursed his lips, as if he was fighting back his laughter. Perhaps Old Madam Shen had forgotten that she wasn't any better than Shen Qing. She was just using her seniority to criticize Shen Qing on the moral high ground and pretend she was all pure and noble.

Shen Wan did not say anything, and Chen Ruoqiu was silent as well, not wanting to provoke Old Madam Shen when she was in a fit of anger. As for Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan, they stood rooted to the ground, as if they did not hear Old Madam Shen at all.

After Old Madam Shen finished being angry, she said, "There's no need to prepare too much dowry for such a daughter."

As soon as she said that, Luo Xueyan looked at her more disdainfully. Old Madam Shen favored the second branch the most. Although she favored boys over girls, Shen Qing was also brought up by her. She knew that Shen Qing would live in misery after marrying Prince Yu and giving her more money might potentially save her life, but Luo Xueyan did not expect Old Madam Shen to be so stingy and heartless.

Shen Gui agreed readily. He had always acted like a filial son. Seeing that he was so obedient, Old Madam Shen's expression softened. She looked at Shen Xin and was about to say something when she suddenly heard Shen Yue cry out, "Second Brother?"

### **Chapter 218: Getting Married (3)**

Everyone followed Shen Yue's gaze and saw a young man walking in from the door. He was wearing a green robe and looked quite handsome. In terms of appearance, he looked quite like Shen Gui, but there was a hint of arrogance between his eyebrows.

This person was none other than the second branch of the Shen family, Shen Gui's eldest son, Shen Yuan.

In the second branch, Shen Yuan had always been smart. Compared to Shen Qiu, who obtained his military achievements through hard work, Shen Yuan was much more talented. When he was young, he was ranked very high in the imperial examination. Later, he was recognized by a noble and went on to become an official. However, he had to work as an official outside the capital for three years. This year

was the last year, and he was supposed to stay in the capital to become an official after the end of the year. After knowing what happened to his sister, Shen Yuan rushed back, hoping to see his sister before she married.

Even Shen Yue could not help but hide behind Shen Wan. Shen Wan patted Shen Yue's back and looked at Shen Yuan.

The people in the Shen family were more or less afraid of Shen Yuan. Perhaps it was because Shen Yuan had become an official at a young age, or perhaps it was because they felt that he was scheming and unfathomable. In short, Shen Yue and Shen Miao were very afraid of him.

Old Madam Shen was the happiest. She waved at Shen Yuan in surprise. "Yuan!" Shen Yuanbai, who was in Old Madam Shen's arms, also shouted, "Second Brother!"

Only then did Shen Yuan smile and bow to Old Madam Shen. He called her "Grandmother" and patted Shen Yuanbai's head. "Yuanbai has grown taller again."

"Yuan, you must be tired after such a long journey back." Chen Ruoqiu smiled and said, "Do you want to rest first?" Now that Ren Wanyun was not around, she was now managing the Shen family and naturally had to express her concern for the younglings.

Shen Yuan turned to look at Chen Ruoqiu. For some reason, Chen Ruoqiu's heart sank and she felt a sense of fear. After not seeing him for a year, Shen Yuan had become more and more unfathomable. Chen Ruoqiu had always been smart, and when the children were young, she had tried to make things difficult for Shen Yuan. However, Shen Yuan was unexpectedly smart. In the end, Chen Ruoqiu was sometimes the one who suffered.

"There's no need." Shen Yuan said, "I came back this time to see my sister get married. If I rest, I'm afraid I'll sleep in."

At the mention of Shen Qing, the atmosphere in the room became a little awkward. Without any hesitation, Shen Yuan turned to look at Shen Miao who was standing beside Shen Qiu.

"It's been a long time since we last met. Fifth Sister has changed a lot." He narrowed his eyes. "As expected, girls change when they grow up. Fifth Sister has become... somewhat unrecognizable."

Shen Miao looked at him calmly. Shen Yuan's gaze was sinister and probing, like a poisonous snake crawling in the mud. She smiled. "Second Brother, you remain the same."

Chen Ruoqiu widened her eyes. For some reason, she felt Shen Yue was teasing him. Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan both frowned at the same time, but at this moment, Shen Qiu added with a smile, "That's right. Second Brother, you indeed don't seem to have changed much." Shen Yuan looked at Shen Qiu. Then, he said meaningfully, "I didn't expect Fifth Sister and Eldest Brother to be so close now."

"We're from the same parents, so we are naturally very close." Shen Miao smiled gently. "Second Brother, why don't you go and see Eldest Sister now? If you've prepared something to add to her dowry, it's not too late yet."

#### **Chapter 219: Getting Married (4)**

Shen Yuan looked at Shen Miao intently and smiled. "That's right. I'll go now." After saying that, he bowed to Old Madam Shen. "Grandma, I'll go and see my sister first. Over the years, I haven't fulfilled my responsibility as a brother. Now that she's getting married, I don't know if she'll be bullied in the future. I will try to give her all the support I have. Excuse me." With that, he turned around and left quickly without greeting others.

From the beginning to the end, he did not say a word to Shen Gui.

In the past, although Shen Gui and Shen Yuan were not particularly close, they were still father and son. Shen Gui valued Shen Yuan and took good care of him. Shen Yuan also treated Shen Gui with respect. Today, his attitude was obviously not right. Shen Gui's face was ashen and he clenched his fists. Old Madam Shen looked at him resentfully and was a little annoyed. She waved her hand and said, "Help me back to my room!"

Old Madam Shen did not plan to go to the wedding banquet today. Most of the guests who were invited to the banquet were high-ranking officials and nobles who knew the ins and outs of this marriage very well. She didn't want to go to be a walking embarrassment.

After Old Madam Shen left, the hall was a little awkward. Shen Yue glanced at Shen Miao and asked, "Fifth Sister, what did you give to Eldest Sister?"

"Just some jewelry," Shen Miao said indifferently.

Shen Yue nodded. Seeing that Shen Miao couldn't be bothered to talk to her, Shen Yue was pissed off. BUT in front of Shen Xin, she didn't dare to reveal the anger on her face and just stood quietly beside Chen Ruoqiu.

Shen Wan looked at Shen Xin. "Brother, now that Yuan is back, what should we do?"

"What does it have anything to do with me?" Shen Xin asked curiously. "I don't even have the time and energy to take care of Jiaojiao and Qiu, so why should I care about Shen Yuan? Third Brother, try to help Second Brother if you can. We're all brothers, right?"

Shen Xin looked honest and sincere, but in fact, he was the most sharp-tongued. Xie Ding, the Marquis of Lin'an, had been engaged in a war of words with Shen Xin for decades but never managed to beat him. After Shen Xin said this, Chen Ruoqiu was so angry that she dug her nails into her palms. Everyone knew that the third branch was very underpopulated. Other than Shen Yue, they had no children. Although Shen Wan was deeply in love with Chen Ruoqiu now, Old Madam Shen had long wanted to take in a few concubines for Shen Wan. What Shen Xin just said hit Chen Ruoqiu right on her most vulnerable spot.

"That's right, Sister-in-law." Luo Xueyan also smiled and said, "Don't always worry about others. I know the two of you are kind-hearted, but it's time to think about your own matters. Yue has already come of age. You can start thinking about perhaps having another one."

Shen Miao smiled. Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan were not good at dealing with battles at home, but their experience on the battlefield made them more sensitive than others. Shen Wan and his wife wanted to sow discord, but with just a few words, Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan made them speechless.

"Sister, let's go and see Eldest Sister too." Shen Qiu patted Shen Miao's shoulder. "I selected some jewelry for you to give to her."

Shen Miao knew that Shen Qiu had something to say to her, so she nodded and walked to the west courtyard with Shen Qiu.

"Sister, Shen Yuan is hostile to you," Shen Qiu said.

"I know."

"He might know the real reason why his sister is married to Prince Yu." Shen Qiu was a little anxious.

"He likes to stab people in the back and is quite scheming. He will probably avenge Shen Qing and will always think of ways to harm you. You, you stay in the mansion for the next few days and don't go out."

## **Chapter 220: Getting Married (5)**

Shen Qiu had a natural hostility towards Shen Yuan. It was hard to explain why. In fact, Shen Yuan and Shen Qiu did not have much to do with each other, but Shen Qiu just did not like Shen Yuan. Perhaps some people were born enemies.

"Brother, if he really wants to harm me, no matter how well I hide, he can still sneak up to me and attack me. Besides, what can he do? Don't worry. He's a very cautious person and won't kill me at this juncture."

"Sister, you're still young and don't understand the danger of some things." Shen Qiu was even more anxious. "Shen Yuan is not a good person. You'll be at a disadvantage if you're careless!"

"Brother, don't worry." Shen Miao looked at Shen Qiu. "If anything happens, I still have you, right?" She smiled coldly, but there was something she didn't say to Shen Qiu.

In her previous life, Shen Qiu's death was definitely not an accident. She did not know who in the second or third branches did it, but none of these people were innocent. Even if Shen Yuan did not attack her, she would not let him off easily.

If Shen Yue attacked her, she would beat him in his own game.

In the Rosy Cloud Garden in the east courtyard, when Ren Wanyun saw Shen Yuan, she went forward to hug him and cried. The fear and helplessness she had been feeling these days finally condensed into streams of tears the moment she saw Shen Yuan. Ren Wanyun was so choked with emotion that she could not say a word. When Shen Qing, who was already as stiff as a puppet, saw Shen Yuan, a trace of happiness flashed across her dull eyes.

After comforting Ren Wanyun for a while, Shen Yuan went forward and patted Shen Qing's head. Shen Qing couldn't hold it anymore and finally burst into tears. As she cried, she said, "Second Brother, why didn't you come back earlier..."

When Ren Wanyun saw that Shen Qing was crying, she cried too. For a moment, the room was filled with cries. Those who did not know better would think that it was a funeral. No one would expect it to be a wedding.

A trace of gloom flashed across Shen Yuan's eyes. He had grown up in the General's Mansion. Although Shen Xin and his wife had the unchallenged status in the General's Mansion, in his opinion, the two of them were just martial artists who only knew how to fight wars. Their daughter was also a fool. These people could be easily dealt with by their second branch. As for his mother and sister, they had always been elegant and smart. In comparison, Shen Miao was like a stupid country bumpkin.

Now, that stupid country bumpkin actually forced Ren Wanyun and Shen Qing to this extent. To Shen Yuan, this was undoubtedly a blatant provocation.

In the letter Ren Wanyun wrote to him, she had already explained everything clearly. In Shen Yuan's opinion, although Ren Wanyun's plan was not perfect, it was really beyond his expectations that Shen Miao could fight back and even escape safely.

"Mother, don't cry." Shen Yuan's expression was calm as he said, "Crying won't help."

"Yuan." Ren Wanyun grabbed his hand and said, "You're always the smartest. You can definitely save your sister, right?"

Hearing this, Shen Qing also looked at Shen Yuan expectantly. "Second Brother, I beg you to help me. I don't want to marry that person... I shouldn't have married him... Second Brother, help me, help me..." Although Shen Qing was also a little afraid of her brother, as long as she was bullied since she was young, Shen Yuan would always seek justice for her. Now that Shen Yuan was her last straw to clutch at, she naturally had to hold on to him tightly.

"I can't." Shen Yuan's expression was so calm that it made people shudder. "At this point, there's no way to turn around the situation. I can't allow you to put everyone in danger. Therefore, my dear sister, you must marry him."