

## Venomous 221

### Chapter 221: Getting Married (6)

As soon as she finished speaking, Shen Qing fell to the ground. She paused for a moment and finally cried out in despair. Her makeup was smudged and her face was dirty, but she did not care about it at all.

"Is there really... no other way..." Ren Wanyun muttered.

"Although there is no way to stop this marriage from happening, I won't let my sister suffer for nothing." Shen Yuan said coldly, "Shen Miao became so smart all of a sudden. Either someone is giving her ideas, or she was just playing the fool in the past. If it's true that she's been playing the fool for more than a decade, then she's truly something."

"That little b\*tch seems to have been possessed. We almost succeeded in setting her up, but she managed to escape it at the eleventh hour. Yuan, she must die." Ren Wanyun gritted her teeth and said, "Thinking that that b\*tch is the cause of all our misery, I want to eat her flesh and drink her blood."

"Mother, we can't deal with her unscrupulously now. She has a backer. I heard that Eldest Uncle is going to stay in the capital for another half a year. We have to be careful." Shen Yuan glanced at Shen Qing.

Ren Wanyun trembled. "But we can't just let it go!"

"Of course." Shen Yuan said, "No matter how powerful a backer is, there will come a day when they fall. Since Shen Miao has a backer, we'll make her fall with her backer. It's good that Eldest Uncle's family is in the capital." A smile appeared on Shen Yuan's lips. "It saves me the trouble of dealing with them one by one."

Ren Wanyun was a little frightened for no reason, but when she saw Shen Qing lying on the ground, she immediately became angry and said, "Yuan, you must not let that little b\*tch off!"

"Don't worry." Shen Yuan's gaze was dark. "I'll make sure that Shen Miao gets what she sows."

With her makeup all messed up, Shen Qing had to redo it.

The maid came back to help Shen Qing put on the makeup again. She was surprised to find that this time, Shen Qing looked more lively than before and was no longer like a corpse.

When Shen Yue and Shen Miao came over to send their gifts, Shen Qing even smiled at them.

However, now that Shen Qing was pregnant, her body was a little swollen, and she had been very anxious these days. Even with makeup, she still looked old and haggard. Not only did her smile not have the charm of a girl, but it also looked a little strange and scary.

"Eldest Sister, you have to take good care of yourself," Shen Yue said with red eyes.

"Of course," Shen Qing replied. She then looked at Shen Miao and said in a hoarse voice, "I will definitely repay Fifth Sister for her kindness."

Although she was smiling, the ruthlessness in her words made Shen Yue shiver.

"I'll wait." Shen Miao smiled.

When Shen Qing got on the wedding sedan, Shen Yuan carried her up on his back. The most embarrassing thing was that Prince Yu did not come to pick up the bride at all and only sent a butler.

When Shen Yuan was carrying Shen Qing, the people around the entrance of the General's Mansion pointed at them and talked about how shameless and wanton Shen Qing was. Even if Ren Wanyun and Shen Yuan were angry, they could not do anything to the crowd.

## **Chapter 222: Getting Married (7)**

After the sedan was finally lifted, Shen Yuan returned to the entrance of the Shen family. He walked to Shen Miao's side and stood there. Looking at the sedan leaving, he said, "Fifth Sister, you look very calm."

"I'm not the one getting married. Why shouldn't I be calm?" Shen Miao replied.

"Fifth Sister, do you know what will happen to Qing after she gets married?"

"Her future is not up to me."

Shen Yuan did not seem to hear Shen Miao's words and continued, "In this world, everything is changeable. Sometimes, the situation you think is a conundrum will turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Sometimes, a smooth sailing will lead you," His voice suddenly sank. "Into a storm."

"That's right." Shen Miao smiled. "No one knows what will happen."

Shen Yuan finally turned around and looked at Shen Miao. He sized her up, making her feel uncomfortable, and said, "I only realized today that Fifth Sister is actually a smart person."

Shen Miao did not comment. She heard a shout behind her. "Sister!" Shen Qiu rushed over and looked at Shen Yuan warily before saying to Shen Miao, "Sister, don't run around. There are many people outside. You never know who has designs on you."

Shen Yuan glanced at Shen Qiu and smiled again. "Eldest Brother, you must be joking. Besides, Fifth Sister is so smart. I'm afraid no one is her match."

Shen Qiu sneered. "My sister is naive by nature unlike some sinister people. As her brother, I naturally have to worry about her all the time. Otherwise, those well-educated wolves will eat her up. Let's go, Sister. Let's take a carriage to Prince Yu's mansion!"

The Shen family also had to go to Prince Yu's mansion to attend the banquet. However, Shen Qiu's words showed that he really did not trust Shen Yuan.

Shen Yuan looked at the backs of the siblings as they left, and a trace of ruthlessness flashed across his eyes.

The wedding sedan had to travel through more than half of the capital and past the most prosperous streets. After all, it was a marriage personally arranged by the empress, so it naturally had to be grand.

On the most prosperous section of the road, the young man in white was waving the fan at himself as usual. He looked out of the window at the grand bridal escort team. As the bridal escort team walked, they scattered copper coins. The commoners who were watching the show rushed forward to snatch them. From the looks of it, they were also in a joyous mood.

However, only the person in the sedan knew what it felt like.

"This marriage is quite grand." Ji Yushu played with the silver coin in his hand and said, "I haven't seen such a lively marriage in a long time. I wonder if I'll have an equally grand wedding with Miss Shaoyao in the future."

"You're still thinking about Miss Shaoyao." Gao Yang glanced at him. "Yushu, I remember that you have a fiancée, right? Does your fiancée know that you're wooing Miss Shaoyao?"

"I already told you that didn't count. A marriage was arranged for me when I was just an infant. I don't even know what she looks like! I won't marry her! I just love Miss Shaoyao. If Miss Shaoyao turns me down, then Fifth Miss Shen is not bad either." He chuckled and looked at the person opposite him.

"Third Brother Xie, right?"

Xie Jingxing glanced at him and couldn't be bothered to speak. Gao Yang sneered. "Shen Miao? I'm afraid you will die not even knowing how you died."

"What? Don't talk like she's like a rakshasa. I think she's smart, sensitive, bold, and meticulous." Ji Yushu said indignantly, "Besides, she's not bad-looking. I heard that she was infatuated with Prince Ding before. How can Prince Ding compare to me?"

Gao Yang looked at Ji Yushu. "You're really something. However, Miss Shen seems to be in trouble."

"What trouble?" Ji Yushu asked.

"Shen Qing's brother, Shen Yuan, is back." Gao Yang said gloatingly, "Shen Yuan will definitely not let Shen Miao off. Shen Yuan is not easy to deal with. Among the second branch of the General's Mansion, Shen Gui is even more scheming than his father, Shen Gui."

"Shen Yuan doesn't seem to be an ordinary person." Ji Yushu suddenly thought of something. "Isn't he Fu Xiuyi's man?"

"He's just a small fry," Xie Jingxing suddenly said.

"Ha, you're still so arrogant." Gao Yang asked, "What's the next move?"

"Waiting."

Waiting for someone to start the game, then... joining the game when it was about to end and reaped the benefits.

## **Chapter 223: Massacre (1)**

After crossing more than half of the capital, the bridal sedan was finally carried into Prince Yu's mansion.

Many guests had already arrived at the entrance of Prince Yu's mansion. Although Prince Yu was usually fierce and cruel, he was still a member of the royal family, so the ministers still had to come. Emperor Wen Hui and the princes didn't come, but they all got someone to send their gifts.

Perhaps Prince Yu was displeased with Emperor Wen Hui's attitude towards him over the past few days. When the people from the palace came today, he didn't offer them a cup of wine to thank them. When the eunuch saw this scene, he sneered in his heart. Perhaps to others, they were just low life castrated men. However, in fact, they were closest to the emperor. Something must have happened between Emperor Wen Hui and Prince Yu. Prince Yu still went about doing his usual business, but Emperor Wen Hui was no longer as tolerant as before. Today, Prince Yu's unfriendly attitude would only make Emperor Wen Hui even angrier.

After the people in the palace left, Prince Yu turned around and instructed the servants to continue welcoming the guests. Today, Prince Yu was wearing a bright red wedding robe. The fabric and embroidery of the robe were undoubtedly very exquisite, but when he wore it, one of his trouser legs was hanging loosely, making it look a little strange. He was born with a fierce-looking face, but today, he forced a seemingly amiable face, which made the guests feel a chill run down their spines.

The Shen family was also here. Shen Gui and Shen Wan had long gone to talk to their close colleagues. Shen Gui had nothing to lose now. Anyway, everyone knew that Shen Qing was involved in such a scandal. It was better to take advantage of the fact that Shen Qing was married to Prince Yu to help his career. As for Shen Wan, there was no need to mention him. The two of them were ambitious people, so they naturally would not miss this opportunity.

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan sat at the same side. They looked down on Shen Gui's behavior. Ren Wanyun came and sat with Shen Yuan. She had carefully put on makeup to cover her red eyes. She was afraid of angering Prince Yu, so she forced a smile. However, no matter how she forced a smile, one could tell there was a hint of anger in her smile.

Every time Shen Yue looked over, Shen Qiu would shoot a glare back at him. Luo Xueyan noticed and asked with concern, "Brat, what happened between you and Shen Yuan?"

Shen Xin and his wife did not know about what happened between Shen Qing and Shen Miao, so Shen Qiu stammered, "Well... I don't like him. There's a little friction."

"You're really something." Luo Xueyan glared at him. "Shen Qiu, how old are you this year?"

Shen Qiu looked at Shen Miao for help. Shen Miao pretended not to know and looked at the teacup without saying anything.

The scene was filled with joyful laughter and flattery. In the blink of an eye, it was time for Shen Qing and Prince Yu to get married.

Shen Qing was helped into the hall by her maids. After the newly-wed paid their respects to the heavens and earth, they were about to bow to Shen Gui. Shen Gui looked very embarrassed. Prince Yu looked at him with a dark gaze. It was probably a terrifying thing to receive a bow from Prince Yu.

At this moment, the butler of Prince Yu's mansion said condescendingly, "His Highness is not feeling well these days. I think we can skip this procedure."

As soon as he said that, the hall plunged into silence for a moment. Ren Wanyun gritted her teeth, and the muscles on her face were trembling in anger. Clearly, Prince Yu did not want to acknowledge Shen Qing as his wife and was deliberately making things difficult for Shen Gui and Ren Wanyun.

Although Shen Gui also felt extremely embarrassed and humiliated, he was afraid that Prince Yu would blame him, so he immediately said, "Since Your Highness is not feeling well, forget it."

## **Chapter 224: Massacre (2)**

Some of the younger guests couldn't help but burst into laughter filled with undisguised mockery. Ren Wanyun had the irresistible urge to go up and argue with them. Just as she was about to do so, Shen Yuan suddenly reached out and grabbed her arm, shaking his head at her. Only then did Ren Wanyun calm down. Shen Yuan retracted his hand and looked at Shen Gui, who had an ingratiating smile on his face. A trace of ruthlessness flashed across his face.

"Second Brother is such a pathetic man." Luo Xueyan said in disdain, "Is he just going to let his daughter walk into hell like that?"

"I thought he was just greedy for wealth. I didn't expect him to be so out of his mind." Shen Xin shook his head and said in a disappointed tone, "Why did Second Brother become like this?"

"We've done nothing, but people also look at us with strange gazes," Shen Qiu said unhappily.

On the other hand, the third branch was also a little embarrassed. Although Shen Wan was also very ambitious in his official career, he was not as thick-faced as Shen Gui. Chen Ruoqiu always regarded herself as a woman with decent upbringing. After all, they were all from the Shen family. Shen Gui's eagerness to please Prince Yu made them very embarrassed.

After Prince Yu humiliated Shen Gui, he seemed to be very satisfied with the way everyone looked at the Shen family. When the bride walked past Shen Miao, she could tell that the bride was trembling.

After Shen Qing was sent to the bridal chamber, Prince Yu didn't go to join her immediately. He was still drinking with the guests and having fun outside.

"Congratulations, Prince." The ministers came up to toast him.

"Thank you," Prince Yu replied. On the surface, Prince Yu looked like he was really happy today. However, now and then, he would throw a cold glance at Shen Miao.

Prince Yu would definitely try to get back at Shen Miao for setting him up. He threw a lewd gaze at her and raised his cup, sticking out his tongue to lick it suggestively.

Shen Miao looked at him calmly, her face devoid of any expression. On the other hand, Shen Qiu saw her staring into the distance and followed her gaze. "Sister, what are you looking at?"

Prince Yu had already turned around to drink with someone else. Shen Qiu did not see anything. Shen Miao stood up and said, "It's a little stuffy here. I'll go out to take a breather."

"I'll go with you," Shen Qiu quickly said.

"No need. I have Mo Qing and the others by my side. I won't go too far. Just by the door." Shen Miao rejected him and stood up to leave.

Prince Yu's mansion was very big. Outside, Mo Qing was standing in the garden. When he saw her coming out, he immediately followed her. Shen Miao did not go far. She just stood there and looked at the southwest corner of Prince Yu's mansion.

Until a voice came from behind. "Fifth Sister."

Shen Miao turned around to find Shen Yuan following her out with a smile.

Shen Yuan's smile was different from Fu Xiuyi's gentle smile. It was also different from Shen Qiu's honest smile, and it was not as mischievous as Ji Yushu's. His smile always seemed to have other meanings, making people very uncomfortable. When he stared into others' eyes, he was like a poisonous snake sizing up its prey.

Shen Yuan was the most terrifying opponent in the second branch of the Shen family.

"The banquet has just started and Fifth Sister can't wait to go out. I thought you had some secret that you wanna hide from us." There was a hidden meaning in his words.

Shen Miao looked at the branches in the garden. It was already the middle of winter. The flowers that were once in bloom had long withered, and the branches were bare. Only the snow was heavy on the branches, making them look cold and desolate. She said, "Then why did Second Brother follow me out? Trying to find out what my secret is?"

### **Chapter 225: Massacre (3)**

"I have the intention to do so." Shen Yuan said truthfully, "It's just that you are hiding it too well, and I can't do anything about it. As your cousin. If you don't mind, I'd like to give you some advice."

Shen Miao turned around and stared at him without blinking. "Please go ahead."

"When I returned to the capital this time, I realized that you have changed a lot. You seem to have become a different person. Perhaps you have grown up, or perhaps you have acquainted with someone wise who can help you. However, I have journeyed further in this life than you after all. There are some things that I know better than you." He paused and looked at the wedding hall. There, the sound of glasses clinking, of people laughing and chatting, of officials complimenting each other could be heard from afar. Shen Yuan continued, "Fifth Sister, are you happy that Qing is getting married today?"

"To be honest, I'm satisfied instead of happy." Shen Miao said with a faint smile.

A trace of fierceness flashed across Shen Yuan's eyes, and then he smiled. "Fifth Sister, you really don't know how to restrain yourself. The grudge between you and Qing has reached the point where none of

you will stop until one of you is dead. Now that Qing is forced to marry Prince Yu, you think this is a victory. But in my opinion, this is just a childish thought.” He patted Shen Miao’s head, as if he was really a good brother of hers. “But after Qing marries Prince Yu, she might have a chance to make a comeback. But you, I’m afraid you will be in deep trouble.”

Shen Miao didn’t say anything. Shen Yuan continued, “If I were you, I wouldn’t have given Qing a chance back then. I would have taken her life in the first place. You wanted to vent your anger and retaliate, but all of this will only cause you troubles that you could have avoided.” He looked at Shen Miao and smiled kindly. “I think you’re still young and merciful, but mercy is not what you should show to your opponent.”

Shen Miao looked at Shen Yuan, and her heart skipped a beat. Shen Yuan was indeed the smartest person in the second branch. He cared only about the ends and showed no regard to the means. If Shen Miao offended him, he would take her life using the quickest way. His methods were ruthless and straightforward. He was calm and rational, unaffected by emotions. It was impossible to provoke such a person.

She smiled and said, “Second Brother, you are right. After all, I’m still young. I’m not as cold and merciless as you.” When Shen Yuan heard these sarcastic words, he smiled indifferently. However, immediately after that, he heard Shen Miao’s calm voice. “Although I’m not as cold as you, there’s one thing that you and I have in common. I... don’t like to leave any future trouble. Do you think Eldest Sister will be able to make a comeback after marrying Prince Yu?”

Shen Yue stared at her. “Do you think she won’t?”

“Will she?” Shen Miao asked back. In Shen Yuan’s memory, she had always been a calm and obedient girl, but this ‘Will She’ was filled with provocation and ridicule. Shen Yuan, who had always been composed, narrowed his eyes.

After saying that, Shen Miao chuckled and left the garden, heading back to the wedding hall.

Would Shen Qing be able to make a comeback? The corners of Shen Miao’s lips curled up slightly. How could she give her a chance to do so? Mo Qing, who was following behind Shen Miao, was stunned. After being by Shen Miao’s side for so long, Mo Qing had seen Shen Miao being ruthless, but most of the time, Shen Miao was calm. She would occasionally smile, but even with a smile on, she still looked unapproachable. However, at this moment, her eyes were curved, as if she was extremely happy, but he did not know what could make her so happy. Mo Qing glanced at Shen Yuan, who was still in the garden, and was puzzled. Why was Shen Miao suddenly so happy after exchanging a few words with Shen Yue?

## **Chapter 226: Massacre (4)**

No matter how grand the banquet was, it would eventually end. When they were drunk, the guests left in groups of two or three. Shen Miao also got into the carriage and went back home.

Luo Xueyan remained silent in the carriage. She seemed to have thought of something and held Shen Miao’s hand, asking, “Jiaojiao, what... does the ideal man in your mind look like?”

It was actually a little out of line for a mother to ask her unmarried daughter this question. However, today, she was quite sentimental, probably due to Shen Qing's wedding. She wasn't in the capital all year round. Now that she thought about it, she actually knew nothing about what Shen Miao was thinking. She only knew that Shen Miao had once been in love with Prince Ding. Luo Xueyan had also seen Prince Ding. He was indeed an excellent young man. However, a person like him must have a strong ambition. Marrying such a person might not be a good thing.

Shen Miao was stunned for a moment before looking at Luo Xueyan with a smile. "Mother, what kind of person do you want me to marry?"

Luo Xueyan did not expect Shen Miao to ask her this question. For a moment, she neglected the fact that when Shen Miao was asked this question, she didn't blush at all. She thought for a moment and said, "I hope you can marry a person with an upright character. He'd better not have too much power, too much wealth, too much ambition, and a complicated family. Power and wealth, your father and I will give you. Man with less ambition will treat you more sincerely. If his father is a simple one, after you marry him, you will not have to be wary of scheming people all the time. In short, he has to respect and love you sincerely."

Shen Miao lowered her eyes and smiled. Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin's hopes had never changed. They hoped that Shen Miao could marry an ordinary person. The most they wanted from their son-in-law was to dote on their daughter and love her. Unfortunately, in her previous life, she was blinded by love. There were thousands of men in the world, but she chose the one who loved her the least.

"However," Luo Xueyan said with a smile, "I know that girls your age don't love people like that. You probably like people who stand out from a crowd. When I was your age, I also liked young and handsome heroes. However, after I married your father, I didn't regret it."

"In that case, I'll listen to you," Shen Miao said softly.

Luo Xueyan was stunned. "What?"

Shen Miao looked at her and said word by word, "Isn't it your wish for me to marry an ordinary person who will love and respect me? In that case, when I reach the age of marriage, I'll marry such a person."

Luo Xueyan held Shen Miao's hand and couldn't help but feel a little strange. Shen Miao was like a completely different person from before. She was more obedient and gentle. Luo Xueyan should be very happy about her daughter's change, but for some reason, she was not happy at all. Instead, she felt heartbroken to see her daughter getting so mature in an age where she was supposed to be naughty and rebellious.

Luo Xueyan pulled Shen Miao into her arms and said in a low voice, "Even so, at your age, you should follow your heart and marry someone you truly like. I know that the man my daughter chooses will be the best. He will definitely love and respect you. As long as he treats you well, I won't stop you no matter who the man is."

Shen Miao buried her head in Luo Xueyan's arms and said in a faint voice, "Thank you, Mom."

Chapter 227: Massacre (5)

On the night of the eighth day of the twelfth month, it began to snow again.



At the end of the year, the weather gradually cleared up, and the sun was strong for a few days in a row. Unexpectedly, a snowstorm came suddenly that night.

There was almost no one on the streets of the capital. The doors were tightly shut, and one could only see the cold north wind dancing in the air with large patches of rough snow.

In front of Prince Yu's mansion, the red lanterns hanging on the door were blown to the side. The fireworks that had been set off at the door earlier had already been covered by snow. It gave off a sense of desolation like this mansion had been abandoned for a long time.

The two guards outside also drank quite a lot and weren't sober. One of them held a wine gourd in his hand and said with a smile, "I didn't expect we could live to see another princess consort. Who could've thought that the Shen family was actually willing to marry their daughter to a..."

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"Heh, it's more like selling than marrying. Even if she's the princess consort." The person who spoke looked inside and shook his head before continuing under his breath, "She can't live long."

"We might get a chance to try her." The former chuckled, his words filled with malice.

"She's pregnant with the prince's child. If you want to die, be my guest," the other man said.

With a whoosh, a figure flashed across the dark and wintry night. The person holding the wine gourd asked, "Did you hear that sound just now?"

"What sound?" The latter waved his hand drunkenly. "Don't be an alarmist."

"It's a joyous occasion for the prince today. It's best if nothing goes wrong." The man was slightly sober. He stood up and looked around, but he did not see anything.

"Don't worry." Another guard laughed at him. "Don't you know what kind of place this is? It's Prince Yu's mansion! Whoever dares to come here to cause trouble will die not even knowing how! Don't think too much. Eh?" He felt something dripping on his face. He wiped it and said, "Why is the snow so hot?" When he opened his hand, he saw clearly that it was not snow but blood!

Warm blood!

That guard was taken aback. As he looked up, he saw the corpse of a guard on the roof staring at him with wide eyes. Blood was dripping from his throat.

"Help!" Just as he was about to speak, he saw a silver light flash in front of him. He felt something hot gush out of his throat, and his entire body lost its strength and fell weakly to the ground.

Dozens of people jumped down from the eaves. They were all wearing black clothes and masks, almost blending into the night. Two more people jumped out from the other side and dragged the two corpses away.

The leader of the men in black gestured, and the group quietly sneaked into the mansion.

In Prince Yu's bedroom, Shen Qing sat by the bed, trembling.

Prince Yu lay on the soft couch, and two beautiful maids beside him were massaging his legs and feeding him. From time to time, they would flirt with each other. Shen Qing bit her lower lip tightly, and an indescribable sense of humiliation surged in her heart.

She was the daughter of a noble family and was supposed to marry a talented man like Prince Ding. Unexpectedly, she fell into the hands of Prince Yu. Now, as the prince consort, she still had to be humiliated by these lowly maids. Shen Qing was afraid and angry, but of all the people, she hated Shen Miao the most.

## **Chapter 228: Massacre (6)**

"You should be glad that you're pregnant with my child." Prince Yu noticed her expression and his face darkened. "Otherwise, you would be dead." He was satisfied to see a terrified look on Shen Qing's face. Prince Yu looked at Shen Qing and slowly said, "However, after you give birth to my child, I won't treat you badly. I have many guards in my mansion. These guards have been by my side, risking their lives to protect me. Since you're my wife, you have the responsibility to make them happy..."

Shen Qing's mind buzzed and she almost fainted. Prince Yu's words made her lose the courage to live.

"Ha, I will definitely treat you well." The gentler Prince Yu's tone was, the more fanatic his eyes were. Even the two maids in front of him were trembling.

"Why are you trembling?" Prince Yu suddenly frowned in displeasure. Just as he was about to speak, the maid on the left suddenly staggered and fell on Prince Yu, wrapping her slender arms around his neck. Before Prince Yu could do anything, the other maid suddenly pulled the hairpin from her head and stabbed it into Prince Yu's throat.

Prince Yu screamed, but he was not easy to deal with either. With a bang, the two maids were thrown to the ground. He was also a trained martial artist, so his attack had a lot of force. The two maids struggled on the ground for a while before they died.

Shen Qing was already dumbfounded. In her panic, she hid under the table. Prince Yu pulled out the hairpin from his throat. Although the hairpin didn't go too deep, it still caused him to bleed a lot. Prince Yu cursed and shouted, "Guards! Guards!"

A guard quickly came in. Prince Yu kicked the two corpses on the ground. "Find out who they are."

"Yes." The guard bowed. As soon as Prince Yu turned around, he lowered his head and saw a silver knife with blood on it.

The knife passed through his chest.

As the guard pulled out the knife, Prince Yu lost his balance and seemed to want to call for help. However, after taking a few steps, he fell down with a bang.

The tip of the knife was bright and shiny, reflecting a large piece of blood. The guard's blow was fatal and precise. He didn't give Prince Yu a chance to strike back.

The guard glanced at Prince Yu's corpse and looked at Shen Qing, who was trembling under the table.  
"Are you Shen Qing?"

"Yes,... Are you sent by my Second Brother to save me?" Shen Qing's eyes lit up as she looked at him.

The guard did not say anything and turned to leave.

Shen Qing was a little puzzled. Afraid to face Prince Yu's corpse in the room, she packed some gold, silver, and jewelry from the table, wrapped them in a cloth, and was about to leave.

As soon as she opened the door, she almost tripped. Under the faint light of the lantern, the corpses of the guards in front of the door looked especially shocking. Shen Qing screamed and looked out.

In the darkness, there seemed to be some black figures shuttling back and forth. Prince Yu's mansion was like hell. The snowstorm made people unable to see the scene outside clearly, but the strong smell of blood was like a huge net, shrouding everyone in it.

It was as if even the snow had turned scarlet.

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In the west garden of the Shen family.

Bai Lu closed the window again and said, "The snow outside is really heavy. The window has been blown open several times. It's quite scary."

"That's right." Shuang Jiang smiled and said, "I heard from old people that this kind of weather is brought about by the heavens to punish evil people. It seems that the evil that has been committed this time is huge. It's been many years since we encountered such a huge snowstorm."

"Miss, what are you looking at?" Jingzhe asked, "Are you still thinking about the wedding banquet during the day?"

After returning to the mansion in the evening, Shen Miao had been sitting at the table, thinking about something. For some reason, Jingzhe felt that Shen Miao was waiting for something.

What was she waiting for?

Shen Miao shook her head. "Let's wait and see."

Gu Yu and Jingzhe looked at each other. It was dark outside, and they couldn't see anything. What could Shen Miao see?

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. The lights in the room were dim. Before the sun rose tomorrow, how many people in the world would've died?

Her slender fingers tapped the edge of the table gently, as if it was a pleasant rhythm that reminded people of the strange songs sung by the unfavoured and abandoned consorts in the Cold Palace.

What kind of song were they singing?

What they were singing was that what comes around goes around.

## Chapter 229: Can't Bring Himself to do It (1)

The once-in-a-decade snowstorm in the capital came to an abrupt end the next morning. The thick snow could reach one's knees. In such cold weather, even the most diligent merchants would rather stay at home to enjoy the warmth of the blanket than go out in the cold to do business.

The old night watchman who was on night shift hurriedly got up with the gong. The sun was not up yet, and it was still pitch black. He wrapped himself up in a shabby linen jacket and trudged across the snow-covered street. Before long, he reached Prince Yu's mansion.

The door of Prince Yu's mansion was slightly open and unguarded. The guards in Prince Yu's mansion were all extremely fierce. Everytime the old watchman passed by, he would often be teased by the guards at the door, but he did not see any of them today. For a moment, he was a little puzzled. He suddenly remembered that yesterday was the day of Prince Yu's wedding. These guards and servants must have also drunk quite a lot and were nodding off somewhere.

The old watchman shook his head and was about to continue walking on when a cold wind blew past, making the heavy door creak and open a bit wider. The old watchman couldn't help but stand rooted to the ground and stare absent-mindedly at the door. For some reason, the old watchman had a strange feeling. He didn't know where this feeling came from, but he was gravitating towards looking at the door until one of the vendors who had already come out to set up the stall said to him, "Fourth Brother Li, why are you standing at the door?"

The old watchman's heart skipped a beat. He suddenly realized why he had a strange feeling. It was simply too quiet. Even if the servants were all drunk and asleep, what about the dogs? The dogs were supposed to bark at the smell of a stranger. However, there was nothing. It was as lifeless as a tomb.

His hands were trembling, and he couldn't help but take two steps forward. As soon as he reached the dark door, a strong smell hit him, almost making him stagger. The old watchman pushed the door, but the door couldn't be pushed open. He looked down and saw a square ice cube stuck in the doorframe.

It was probably because the snow from last night had frozen into ice and stuck the door.

The old watchman widened his eyes and took two steps back. Suddenly, he screamed, causing the people on both sides of the street to look at him.

With the help of the first ray of morning light, the scarlet blood was especially dazzling to the eye. What came into sight as the old watchman took a peep into the mansion was a mound of corpses one on top of the other with their blood condensed into thick clots.

The smell was repugnant...

...

On the day of Prince Yu's marriage, he and his entire mansion were wiped out. All the servants, concubines, cats, dogs, chickens, and ducks in the mansion were put to death. The People who did it seemed to have a deep hatred for Prince Yu as they left all the items untouched. Clearly, they didn't do it for money.

Prince Yu was a cruel and vicious person. He had done many evil things and had made many enemies. No one knew who might be the murderers. However, the people who did it were really bold. By doing this, they would also offend the royal family of Ming Qi. Everyone knew that Emperor Wen Hui valued Prince Yu the most. Because of that, Prince Yu's position had been unchallenged in the capital for so many years. Even the princes were afraid of him because he had Emperor Wen Hui backing him up.

### **Chapter 230: Can't Bring Himself to do It (2)**

However, this time, to everyone's surprise, Emperor Wen Hui did not give any orders to catch the murderers, nor did he offer a reward for people who caught the murderers. He only instructed the officials to investigate this matter and hand it over to the capital magistrate. The capital magistrate could handle the civil matters. but a tough case like this was simply too much for the magistrate to handle. Emperor Wen Hui obviously did not want to waste too much time on this murder case. Some smart people could tell that Prince Yu must have done something to make Emperor Wen Hui angry. Otherwise, why would Emperor Wen Hui be so indifferent this time? Perhaps Emperor Wen Hui was happy that the murderer helped him get rid of a problem.

However, speculation was speculation, and rumors were rumors. There were many rumors, some of which deviated from the truth, and some were infinitely close to the truth.

In the massacre, one person survived. This person was none other than Prince Yu's new wife, Shen Qing. The old watchman was the first to notice that something was wrong with Prince Yu's mansion. At that time, there were still many people on the street. Those who had guts rushed into Prince Yu's mansion together. As for what they saw, just by listening to their descriptions was enough to send shudders down one's spine.

According to the first batch of people who went in, the entire mansion was filled with frozen corpses and blood. The blood flowed all over the courtyard and was quickly frozen, making the entire ground look like a red glacier. The corpses were all covered in a thick layer of snow and were hard like sculptures.

Everywhere they went, it reeked of death and there was no sign of survivors.

Prince Yu's corpse was in his bedroom. There was a knife wound on his chest, and there were two dead maids beside him. Shen Qing was unconscious at the door of the bedroom where there was gold and silver scattered all over the ground. At first, people thought that she was dead too, but when they kicked her, she suddenly woke up. Therefore, Shen Qing became the only person in Prince Yu's mansion who survived.

To Shen Qing, this might be a good thing, but she was plagued by a horrible feeling. The entire Prince Yu's mansion was wiped out, but why was she unscathed? If it was because Shen Qing was innocent and had nothing to do with Prince Yu, shouldn't they also let the servants and guards live too? Clearly, the murderers weren't a soft-hearted bunch. Moreover, beside Shen Qing, there was gold and silver jewelry, indicating that she was trying to escape.

Most importantly, apart from the knife wound on Prince Yu's chest, there were also some wounds dealt by a woman's hairpin on his neck. Shen Qing, who had just married Prince Yu, naturally became the most likely suspect.

Much evidence was pointing at the fact that Shen Qing had something to do with it. Shen Qing couldn't possibly explain herself no matter how hard she tried. Everyone in Prince Yu's mansion was dead, but why was she still alive?

The people from the capital magistrate's court naturally wanted to capture Shen Qing and interrogate her. No matter if Shen Qing was related to this matter or not, she was the only survivor and witness. If they wanted to get to the bottom of it or just put on a show to let the citizens know that they were doing their job, they wouldn't let Shen Qing off easily.

When the Shen family received this news, the officials had already arrived at Prince Yu's mansion to arrest Shen Qing. When Ren Wanyun found out about this, she fainted. On the other hand, Shen Gui and Shen Yuan hurriedly packed up and were about to leave.

"Yuan, where are we going now?" Shen Gui was much more frustrated than his son. He knew that regardless of whether or not Shen Qing was really involved, she would still be punished. Although Emperor Wen Hui did not seem to flare up at this moment, who knew what was really on his mind? If he used this matter to go against the Shen family, they would be in real danger.

Shen Yuan said coldly, "Go to the capital magistrate's court. It's too late to go to the prince's mansion now. The capital magistrate must know a lot of things." After a pause, he glanced at Shen Gui. "Father, don't worry. His majesty won't blame you."