

Venomous 231

Chapter 231: Can't Bring Himself to do It (3)

Shen Gui could hear a sarcastic tone in Shen Yuan's voice and was a little displeased with that, but he didn't say a word about it. He could only pretend not to understand what Shen Yuan meant and say, "In that case, let's go."

On the other side, Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin were also preparing to set off.

"Qiu, go to Prince Yu's mansion. Your second uncle is going to the capital magistrate's court, and your third uncle has entered the palace to ask for information, but we still need someone to keep an eye on the situation in Prince Yu's mansion. Your father and I will go to the palace first. This matter is very important. If there are really assassins in the capital, it's no joking matter." Luo Xueyan instructed Shen Qiu, "Go and find out if anyone from our mansion died there. If so, we need to inform their family and compensate them."

"Don't worry, Mom. Leave this to me." Shen Qiu agreed readily.

After Shen Xin and his wife left, Shen Qiu grabbed his stuff and was about to leave when he suddenly heard Shen Miao's voice behind him. "Brother."

"Sister?" Shen Qiu was stunned. He turned around and asked, "Why don't you stay in the house?"

"Brother, are you going to Prince Yu's mansion?" Shen Miao asked.

"That's right." Shen Xin replied, "I still have some things to deal with. I'll be back soon."

Shen Miao looked at him and said, "Brother, take me with you."

Shen Xin was stunned for a moment before shaking his head and saying seriously, "Sister, I know that you have a deep grudge with Prince Yu. To be honest, I think they deserve it. The scene will be very uncomfortable to look at. Just stay at home."

Shen Miao smiled. "I don't mind. I just want to take a look."

"There's really nothing to see." Shen Qiu deliberately tried to scare her. "I heard that those people died extremely miserably last night. Their stomachs were all cut open, and their blood was all dried up. I'm afraid if you go, you'll see a ghost." Although the scene was tragic, it was definitely not as terrifying as Shen Qiu said. Shen Qiu just wanted to scare Shen Miao. He really did not want Shen Miao to see those bloody scenes.

However, after he finished speaking, Shen Miao was still expressionless as if she had witnessed this kind of scene countless times. She replied with a smile, "As the daughter of a general, if I'm frightened by some corpses, won't I be made a laughing stock? Brother, are you afraid of seeing dead people on the battlefield?"

"Of course not!" Shen Qiu immediately said. As soon as he said that, he knew that he was tricked. Shen Miao looked at him calmly and continued, "In that case, there's nothing to be afraid of. Brother, bring me with you."

"I mean, Sister, why are you going to Prince Yu's mansion?" Shen Xin said anxiously, "There's really nothing there."

"I'm just going over to take a look. Brother, you don't have to worry about me. Just as you said, the mansion is heavily guarded now, so there won't be any danger. It won't be a problem to bring me there."

Shen Miao said every word with extreme determination. Over recent days, Shen Qiu had also noticed that Shen Miao had become an opinionated and stubborn person. Even if he refused to bring her along, she would still find a way to do so. It was safer for her to go with him.

"Alright." Shen Qiu stared at her. "Don't walk around when you reach the mansion. I'll get Mo Qing to follow you. If there's anything wrong, shout!"

Shen Miao smiled. "Okay."

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In just one night, Prince Yu's mansion seemed to have changed completely. Yesterday, it was still filled with joyful chatter and laughter. One could still vividly remember the scene of guests lining up to enter the mansion outside. Now, the door was sealed, and the guards guarding the door had solemn expressions, afraid that some ruthless assassins would suddenly appear to take their lives.

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Occasionally, when commoners passed by the mansion, they would look at it and sneer hatefully. Over the years, everyone knew about how notorious Prince Yu was. Seeing evil people end up getting punished was probably the happiest thing in the world.

When Shen Qiu and the others rushed to Prince Yu's mansion, they were struck dumb by this scene. The difference between the festive atmosphere yesterday and the desolation today formed a sharp contrast, making people feel dazed for a moment. Even Shen Qiu, who was used to seeing death on the battleground, could not help but feel sad.

After all, it was undoubtedly a tragedy that no one survived.

Shen Qiu's soldiers explained their intentions of coming to the officials at the entrance of Prince Yu's mansion. The officials let them in, and the group followed Shen Qiu in. As soon as they entered, they were so shocked by the scene in front of them that they were speechless.

The corpses of the servants in the mansion had been dragged away, but the blood left behind from last night was still there. It was frozen and looked very terrifying, painting the entire mansion scarlet. Even the thick snow could not hide the strong smell of blood. Looking at the scarlet ground, one seemed to be able to picture the tragic massacre taking place in the snow last night as well as hear the desperate cries as the people were being slaughtered.

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The soldiers were all a little frightened. Shen Qiu also frowned tightly. He suddenly remembered that Shen Miao was beside him and was afraid that she would be frightened. He quickly looked at Shen Miao and wanted to cover her eyes. However, when he turned around, he saw that Shen Miao's gaze was intent and calm, even more so than the soldiers around him.

Shen Miao lowered her eyes and looked at the blood on the ground. The blood of her enemy would only make her excited. In her previous life, the massacre that happened to the entire Shen family must be more tragic than this. She was not moved, nor was she sympathetic. She wanted to laugh out loud and take out a knife to slash Prince Yu's corpse.

"Sister!" Shen Qiu asked hesitantly, "I'm going to investigate. Do you want to find a room to rest?"

Shen Miao looked at the southwest corner of Prince Yu's mansion and smiled. "When I came yesterday, I heard from the maids that there's a tearoom there where I can rest. I'm going there to take a short nap. Brother, after you're done, come to the tearoom to find me."

"Over there?" Shen Qiu followed Shen Miao's gaze. The trees in the southwest corner were lush and exquisitely trimmed. He nodded and said, "Ask Mo Qing to go in with you. Don't run around."

Shen Miao agreed and walked to the southwest corner with Mo Qing. Today, she was afraid that her maids would be frightened by the blood in Prince Yu's mansion, so Shen Miao did not bring a single maid with her. Mo Qing was a guard, so he was naturally not afraid of the ghastly scene.

Mo Qing followed behind Shen Miao and was surprised to find that Shen Miao seemed to be familiar with this place. She knew where the corners were, where the corridors were, and where to go up the stairs.

The tearoom was hidden behind the flowers, and there were grapevines on the shelves outside. The grapes would bear fruits in the summer, so it would definitely be pleasant to sit here drinking wine and enjoying the cool shade.

"Wait for me outside." Shen Miao said to Mo Qing, "I'll go in alone."

Mo Qing was a little hesitant. Shen Miao glanced at him and said, "It's just a tea room. If you're worried, go in and take a look."

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Mo Qing immediately cupped his hands and said, "Yes." With that, he walked in with his sword.

Shen Miao looked at Mo Qing's back and was a little dazed. In her previous life and this life, no matter what her identity was, Mo Qing had always been so careful and loyal.

The tearoom was very large and was divided into three rooms by screens. Mo Qing checked carefully and confirmed that there were no assassins hiding inside. Then, he cupped his hands at Shen Miao and said, "Miss, if there's anything you need, just call me. I'll wait outside." With that, he walked out.

After Mo Qing left, Shen Miao walked to the table in front of the tea room. There was a blue tea set on the table that looked priceless. Shen Miao glanced at it and walked on. She walked past the first and second screens and arrived at the third room at the end.

In the third room, the walls were filled with calligraphy and paintings. Looking carefully, one could tell the calligraphy and paintings were from famous artists. Shen Miao scrutinized them one by one, as if she was admiring the works. When she walked up to a painting, she stopped.

It was the painting of a banquet by a painter called Liu Yuan from the previous dynasty. The painting depicted the grand evening banquet in the official mansion of the previous dynasty. The maids were beautiful, and the wine and food were bountiful. The guests all had a joyful smile on their faces. The characters were lifelike, and the ink brush was exquisite and elegant. Among the paintings, it wasn't the most outstanding one. However, Shen Miao was in a daze, looking at it, as if she was attracted by the scene in the painting.

She stared at the painting for a long time. A moment later, she finally reached out to touch the paper. She ran her finger extremely carefully across the paper until it stopped at the collar of the fat official.

The collar was also very exquisite. Even if it was a painting, when one touched it, they seemed to be able to feel the buttons on the collar.

In fact, Shen Miao did feel a button.

Shen Miao pressed the button down, and a soft clicking sound was heard.

Followed by the sound, the wall that was filled with art works suddenly split into two, revealing something that looked like a secret room. From the outside, one could only see a long corridor with torches illuminating it.

Shen Miao heaved a sigh of relief and walked in without hesitation.

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In the innermost part of the secret room, there was a coffin. The lid of the coffin had been lifted, revealing the things inside. There were two people standing in front of the coffin. One was dressed in purple, and the other was dressed in white. They were Xie Jingxing and Gao Yang.

Xie Jingxing was holding a bright yellow cloth bag in his hand. It was unknown what was in the bag, but it looked heavy. Gao Yang smiled and said, "Prince Yu, that old dog, actually hid this thing here. If not for the massacre of the Chen family last night, we would probably have to go through a lot of trouble to find this thing."

"That's why I told you to wait and see." Xie Jingxing said, "Let's see if there's anything else around."

Gao Yang nodded and looked around. "Speaking of which, Old Dog Yu didn't even leave a guard here. This place must be very secret. I'm afraid no one else knows."

"The Fu family is paranoid." Xie Jingxing said lazily, "If it were you, wouldn't you hide it?"

"Of course I will hide it." Gao Yang waved his fan and smiled extremely gently. However, the words that came out of his mouth were very terrifying. "If I were Old Dog Yu, if anyone finds this place, no matter who it is, they must die. Old Dog Yu did a pretty good job in making this place a secret."

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Xie Jingxing could not be bothered with him and looked around for other things.

At the same time, Shen Miao walked quietly in the dark passage with a torch in her hand. Unlike her usual slow walking pace, this time, she walked much more urgently. The reason was that she did not know when Shen Qiu would come over. Before Shen Qiu came, she had to get that thing.

This secret room in Prince Yu's mansion was discovered by Fu Xiuyi back then. She accidentally overheard the conversation between Fu Xiuyi and Pei Lang. At that time, Pei Lang copied the banquet painting of Liu Yuan and told Fu Xiuyi that the mechanism to open the secret room was on the collar of the painting. At that time, Pei Lang also said, "The thing must be in the secret room. You can investigate it."

Shen Miao did not know what the "thing" was, but from the tone of Pei Lang and Fu Xiuyi, that "thing" should be very important to Fu Xiuyi. Shen Miao told the Chen brothers to eradicate the entire Prince Yu mansion also because she wanted to pave herself a clear path to the secret room.

If she didn't kill all the people, someone might catch her red-handed. Now that everyone in Prince Yu's mansion was dead, she was perhaps the only one aware of the secret room. After all, when Fu Xiuyi found out about this in her previous life, he had already ascended the throne.

As long as that "thing" was very important to Fu Xiuyi or beneficial to him, she had to make sure Fu Xiuyi couldn't get it. She had to either destroy it or send it to Fu Xiuyi's enemy. At least with this "thing", she would have one more bargaining chip when dealing with Fu Xiuyi in the future.

This was why she followed Shen Qiu to the Prince's mansion today.

This secret room was winding and was much longer than she had imagined. After turning a corner, the room suddenly opened up, as if she had suddenly entered the spacious main hall from a narrow corridor. There were rows of torches hanging on the stone wall, illuminating the entire room.

In the room, there was a coffin lying there horizontally with two people standing in front of it.

Before Shen Miao could do anything, she heard one of them shout, "Who is it?!"

That voice was very familiar. Before she could react, she saw two familiar faces suddenly turn around.

Xie Jingxing, Gao Yang.

Why was Xie Jingxing here? Gao Yang was from the Imperial Hospital, but why was he together with Xie Jingxing?

Even someone as calm as Shen Miao was stunned, but strangely, she seemed to have found a way to unravel the dead knot that had confused her for so long.

"Shen Miao!" Gao Yang was also surprised. Then, he looked at Xie Jingxing and said, "Do it!"

Shen Miao widened her eyes and felt a spinning sensation. Before she could see the figure in front of her clearly, her body was pushed hard against the stone wall behind her, and she gasped in pain. Immediately after, a slender hand grabbed her throat, and Xie Jingxing's handsome face was inches away.

"Shen Miao must die." Gao Yang quickly said, "This is a serious matter. She's entered a place she never should. Let's kill her and leave her body to rot here. No one will find out about it. Xie, don't be soft-hearted. Do it!"

Shen Miao looked at Xie Jingxing. The hand holding her neck was slender and beautiful, but it was also fierce and firm, keeping Shen Miao fixedly in place.

The purple-clothed youth's eyebrows were even darker under the touch light. The more strikingly handsome he was, the crueler his smile was. Like a cat catching a mouse, what was revealed in his gaze was absolute indifference and killing intent.

He really wanted to kill her.

Shen Miao looked at him without moving. Her clear eyes were brighter than the stream at the beginning of spring. There was no sadness or joy in them, as if they contained a lifetime of sorrow.

Xie Jingxing's eyes flickered, and he suddenly smiled. He covered Shen Miao's eyes with one hand and lowered his head slightly, whispering into her ear.

"Don't look at me like that. I can't bring myself to do it."

Chapter 235: Softhearted (1)

"Don't look at me like that. I can't bring myself to do it."

Time stopped in a strange manner in an instant, and everything in the world seemed to have lost its voice. The soft whisper that was supposed to be gentle and loving was made terrifying when it came from Xie Jingxing.

Xie Jingxing lowered his eyes. The place under his palm was slightly warm, as if he could feel her eyelashes fluttering slightly, like the wings of a fluffy butterfly that wanted to escape but couldn't

"Gao Yang, get out," Xie Jingxing said.

Gao Yang frowned. "What do you mean?"

"Go out first," Xie Jingxing said calmly.

Gao Yang glanced at him and did not say anything. He picked up the cloth bag and walked out. After the footsteps were gone, Xie Jingxing slowly let go of her.

He opened his hand. Under the light, there seemed to be a crystal flickering in his palm.

Just now, Shen Miao seemed to have shed tears.

Xie Jingxing said lazily, "It's just death. What are you crying about?" He wanted to say something, but when he saw the girl's expression, he suddenly stopped.

Shen Miao's eyes were clear, and even the little bit of childishness on her face was covered by the coldness on her face. Her eyes were as clear as water, but she did not look sad at all. Just now, her crying was probably just an act, and she was not afraid at all. As Xie Jingxing was thinking, he saw Shen Miao suddenly raise her elbow and hit him in the chest. This time, she was ruthless and accurate. If it were anyone else, they would probably be knocked to the ground by her. However, Xie Jingxing only swayed slightly and grabbed Shen Miao's left arm. Shen Miao was pulled by him and almost fell into Xie Jingxing's arms. Without him noticing, Shen Miao took out something from inside her sleeve and stabbed Xie Jingxing with it decisively.

The hairpin was small to begin with, so it could not be seen if one didn't look at it carefully enough. Shen Miao did not hold back at all and the hairpin pierced into his arm. Xie Jingxing's eyes darkened. He raised his hand and threw Shen Miao back to the stone wall again.

Xie Jingxing immediately placed his hand on Shen Miao's neck, as if he was ready to break it at any time. His voice was low and carried a hint of anger. "As expected of someone from the General's Mansion. You've learned a lot about sneak attacks."

Shen Miao's gaze landed on Xie Jingxing's arm. Half of the hairpin was inside his arm, and blood was gradually flowing out, dyeing his sleeve red and sticking to his arm. Xie Jingxing followed Shen Miao's gaze and smiled indifferently. "Even if it's poisonous, I'll make sure you die before I'm killed by the poison."

His eyes were extremely beautiful and well-shaped. When he looked at people casually, he was the most charming. If the girls in the capital saw him now, they would probably scream in excitement. However, in that pair of eyes, Shen Miao saw a coldness that was well hidden.

What kind of person was Xie Jingxing? He seemed to be very complicated. In the capital, he struck people as a cynical and rebellious young man who couldn't be disciplined and wouldn't have a bright official career. However, at this moment, Shen Miao couldn't help but suspect if Xie Jingxing was really like the way people saw him. He was indeed arrogant and unruly, but did he really have no ambition for the dynasty and the throne?

Xie Jingxing seemed to be unhappy with her absent-mindedness. He approached her and stared at her. "Shen Miao, if I kill you today, no one will protect the Shen family in the future."

Shen Miao's gaze darkened, and she saw Xie Jingxing smiling evilly at her. He continued, "Shen Yuan has already returned to the capital. With the second and third branches of the Shen family working together, what are the chances of Shen Xin winning?" He slowly grabbed her throat tighter and said, "The Fu family is eyeing the Shen family covetously. Shen Xin's path will be difficult in the future. What you want and what you are planning will be ruined by me today. If you want to take revenge, you have to wait for your next life."

Chapter 236: Softhearted (2)

The more ruthless he was, the more unbelievably handsome his face was. It was as if he could see through people's hearts. His words were all aimed at what Shen Miao was most worried about. When Shen Miao was reborn, she wanted nothing more than for the Shen family to be safe and sound. She wanted nothing more than to take revenge. If she died here, everything would come to an end. There was no sympathy or pity in Xie Jingxing's eyes. He was truly cold and heartless. No matter what her identity was, even if she was a royal princess today, she would definitely not be able to get out of here unscathed since she had already found out the relationship between Gao Yang and Xie Jingxing]. This was the reason why she risked her life to fight back just now. Otherwise, with her cautious personality, she would not use such a risky method until the last moment.

The smiling faces of Wanyu and Fu Ming suddenly flashed past her mind. Shen Miao's eyes widened, and two streams of tears flowed down her face.

She was really unwilling to die here just like that.

When Xie Jingxing saw her tears, he narrowed his eyes and looked at her inquisitively. He didn't forget how badly Shen Miao wanted to take his life just now. A woman who used tears to gain sympathy wouldn't work with him.

However, Shen Miao only widened her eyes and cried silently. There was no sign of her wanting to beg for mercy or weakness in her eyes. Her silent tears suddenly made people's hearts tighten and inexplicably sad. It was as if she had already experienced pain that was beyond the imagination of ordinary people and was so hopeless that her tears came out before her body collapsed.

Xie Jingxing frowned at her and gradually relaxed his grip on Shen Miao's throat.

Shen Miao did not notice it at all. Finally, Xie Jingxing put down his hand, looking a little helpless. He was tall, and pushing a little girl into the corner made him feel a little strange, as if he was bullying a child, although he knew very well that Shen Miao was not a child at all.

A moment later, he finally pulled out the hairpin on his arm. It hurt a lot to pull out the hairpin. Xie Jingxing frowned as he played with the hairpin in his hand. Seeing Shen Miao staring at him, he immediately felt inexplicably awkward. He said, "Don't cry. I won't kill you." After a pause, he added, "I was just scaring you."

Shen Miao heaved a sigh of relief. She knew that Xie Jingxing was not scaring her. The killing intent just now was really strong, and he really wanted to kill her. In the end, he became soft-hearted because of the tears she shed. As for why, Shen Miao did not know.

Xie Jingxing said, "How did you find this place?"

"I once saw my third uncle copying this painting by Liu Yuan at home. When I was running my finger across the paint, I accidentally found the button that opens the secret room. I was curious so I entered, but I didn't expect to meet you guys."

Xie Jingxing looked at her with a faint smile. "Shen Wan?"

Shen Miao lied without changing her expression. "Yes."

"Little girl, I'm not the Chen brothers. Don't use me as a knife to get rid of people you want to get rid of," Xie Jingxing said lazily. Shen Miao was a bad person to the core. Even at this point, she still wanted to plot against Shen Wan.

"I didn't see or hear anything today. If you don't make things difficult for me, I naturally won't make things difficult for you." Shen Miao looked at him. "Let's mind our own business."

"You can't make things difficult for me." Xie Jingxing's arrogant tone made people grit their teeth in hatred. He said, "I'll spare your life today. If a word of this matter goes out, I'll make sure your Shen family ceases to exist."

Shen Miao replied quickly, "I won't say a word."

Xie Jingxing was obviously very satisfied with her attitude. He was silent for a moment before suddenly asking, "Shen Miao, do you have a grudge against the Fu family?"

Chapter 237: Softhearted (3)

Xie Jingxing used "The Fu family" instead of "The royal family", which seemed to imply something. Shen Miao turned to look at him, her heart skipping a beat. She said indifferently, "Young Marquis, you can think whatever you want."

Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow. "As expected." He glanced at Shen Miao. "Since this matter is over, leave immediately. If you stay here for too long and are seen, I won't be able to save you."

Shen Miao did not say a word and turned to leave. The meeting with Xie Jingxing today made her understand something. At least, this young marquis of the Marquis of Lin'an was not as simple as he looked on the surface. She could not use such a person, nor could she offend him. If Xie Jingxing's enemy was also from the Ming Qi Royal Family, that would naturally be good for her. If not, she wouldn't dare to deal with him either.

After Shen Miao took two steps, Xie Jingxing followed. His legs were long, so he quickly caught up to Shen Miao and threw her a small medicine bottle. "Don't go around telling people I bullied you and made you cry." Then, he strode forward and left before Shen Miao.

Under the dim light of the touches, Shen Miao suddenly looked a little sheepish. In her previous life, after she returned from the State of Qin, when she was fighting for favor with Concubine Mei, she had once heard someone advise her, "Your Majesty, although as an empress, a solemn and dignified look is important, His Majesty might not like this. Look at that Concubine Mei. She's coquettish and weak. It's said that children who cry will get candy. Love in this world is the same. Men are all protective of weak women. Women should be like water, flexible and gentle."

However, back then, she scoffed at this saying and thought that such a behavior was not appropriate. How could the empress learn from those coquettish concubines? However, when her life was at stake just now, she suddenly thought of that saying "Children who cry will get candy".

She was still young and born with a naive and innocent look. Not wearing the empress's phoenix robe, if she did something cute or played weak, she could really melt people's hearts. Shen Miao did not expect

that a tough girl like her would cry like a river in front of a man. However, the outcome surprised her. With Xie Jingxing's fierce and arrogant personality, he actually let her off.

However, in this confrontation, she had used a very disgraceful method.

After leaving the secret room, she did not know where Xie Jingxing and Gao Yang left from, but there was no one in the tearoom. When she walked out of the tearoom, Mo Qing was still guarding outside. Shen Miao asked him, "Did anyone come out just now?"

"Someone?" Mo Qing was stunned. "Miss, aren't you the only one inside? Did you meet someone else inside?"

"No." Shen Miao smiled and said, "I was just asking." In her heart, she thought even more highly of Xie Jingxing.

"Why isn't Brother here yet? Let's go find him first," Shen Miao said.

Mo Qing was a little confused. He did not know why Shen Miao changed her mind so quickly. Just now, she said that she would wait for Shen Qiu in the tearoom, but now, she wanted to go and find him. However, Mo Qing naturally would not disobey Shen Miao, especially about such a small matter. He nodded and walked away with Shen Miao.

When Shen Miao left, she looked back at the closed door of the tearoom, wondering if Xie Jingxing and Gao Yang were still inside. Today, she came for that "thing", but that "thing" unexpectedly ended up in Xie Jingxing's hands. For a moment, Shen Miao was puzzled. According to the trajectory of her previous life, Xie Jingxing shouldn't have discovered the secret room at this time. Could it be that something had changed in this life, which caused Xie Jingxing's fate to change too? Or could it be that there were some things that were left unnoticed in her short and tragic life in her previous life?

Chapter 238: Softhearted (4)

This puzzle remained unsolved not even until she saw Shen Qiu and returned to the Shen family in the evening. On the other hand, when Shen Qiu saw that Shen Miao had been in a daze since she came out of Prince Yu's mansion, he thought that Shen Miao was frightened by the tragic scene. He instructed the kitchen to make a calming soup and was scolded by Luo Xueyan for bringing Shen Miao to that kind of a gruesome place.

On the other side, Gao Yang looked at the wound on Xie Jingxing in shock. "That girl is too ruthless."

Xie Jingxing took off his outer robe and only wore an undergarment. The collar of the Undergarment was loose, revealing half of his firm and robust body. His sleeves were rolled up halfway, and the wound on his exposed arm was so deep that the bone was visible. As Xie Jingxing let Gao Yang apply medicine for him, he played with the hairpin in his hand.

The hairpin was an ordinary silver hairpin with simple wavy patterns on it. However, the tip of the hairpin was extremely sharp, comparable to a silver needle used as a hidden weapon. If such a hairpin was stabbed into a person's body, it would definitely tear off a large piece of flesh.

"Why is that girl so vicious? She doesn't look like Shen Xin's daughter at all." Gao Yang was still very surprised. "Look, she didn't hold back when she attacked. It even went into your flesh." He sprinkled the powder evenly on the wound. Xie Jingxing frowned and gasped.

"Even if it hurts, you have to bear with it." Gao Yang said angrily, "Xie, I've been with you for so many years, but I've never seen you show any mercy to a woman. Why did you do something like this today? She ran into us in the secret room and even hurt you, but you let her go just like that. I mean," Gao Yang rubbed his chin, "Do you like her? She's still a little girl. She doesn't have anything that a woman has. Are you out of your mind?"

Xie Jingxing said impatiently, "Enough. I'm not so shameless as to bully a little girl."

"You make it sound like you've never bullied a little girl before." Gao Yang sneered. "I really don't understand what you're thinking." He wrapped the bandage carefully around Xie Jingxing's arm and sighed. "Now that we've got it, what's next?"

"Find more," Xie Jingxing said.

"The Fu family will find out sooner or later." Gao Yang frowned. "Actually, what I find most strange is how Shen Miao knew about the secret room. If she's siding with the Fu family, you'll be done for."

"She has a grudge against the Fu family," Xie Jingxing said lazily. "She wants to use me to kill people. As for how she found it, it's probably a coincidence." A sharp glint flashed across his eyes. He did not believe Shen Miao's words at all. Shen Miao already had a motive for doing what she did, which could be seen from the way she dealt with Shen Qing and Prince Yu. He had a bold guess that the reason Shen Miao wanted to get rid of Prince Yu was because of the thing in his hand.

However, how did she know? Even he and Gao Yang had just found out not long ago, and it took a lot of effort. Shen Miao was just a young girl. How did she know so many secrets?

"In short, it's better to be careful." Gao Yang stood up and picked up the remaining medicine and bandages. He said as he walked out of the room, "Besides, now that she has discovered my identity, I wonder what will happen in the future."

Chapter 239: Softhearted (5)

Xie Jingxing stayed in the room alone. He pointed the hairpin in his hand at the dancing light in the candle and looked at it thoughtfully, his mind packed with the image of the girl in the secret room with her eyes wide open and crying silently.

He was not a person who had compassion for women, nor did he have any other thoughts about Shen Miao. However, at that moment, he felt an inexplicable sense of pity. This sense of pity eventually made him do something even he himself couldn't imagine. Now that he thought about it, he felt a little regretful. The wound on his arm after applying the medicine was a little numb and painful. When Shen Miao attacked him, she did not show any mercy. If he did not dodge quickly, the hairpin might have gone through his throat.

In fact, Shen Miao's crying might just be an act. Xie Jingxing knew very well that the girl was extremely cunning and smart. It was probably her desire to survive that made her reveal her vulnerability.

Xie Jingxing spread out his hand. The silver hairpin shone brightly in his palm, but it reminded him of the furry touch on this hand when it was covering Shen Miao's eyes. The feeling resembled a butterfly dancing in his palm, and it was precisely that feeling that caused Xie Jingxing to have shown a compassion he was not supposed to have.

"Little vicious woman." Xie Jingxing suddenly smiled. Under the light, the young man's handsome eyes were dazzling. The smile on his lips was playful as he muttered, "I shouldn't be soft-hearted."

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At this moment, the east courtyard of the Shen family was in chaos.

In Rongjing Hall, Old Madam Shen's expression was dark. She looked at Shen Gui and said, "In that case, there is no way to get Qing out of there?"

Shen Gui shook his head. "Prince Yu and his mansion were wiped out overnight, and Qing was the only survivor. It's only natural for people to take her as the most likely suspect. However, this case still remains to be investigated."

"With such a horrendous incident happening, I wonder if His Majesty will pin the blame on us." Old Madam Shen said worriedly, "What exactly is going on with Qing? Is this really unrelated to her?" Her tone suggested that she believed that Shen Qing was involved.

Ren Wanyun exploded when she heard that. She immediately threw herself in front of Old Madam Shen and knelt down, which startled Old Madam Shen. Ren Wanyun cried and said, "Old Madam, you watched Qing grow up. Don't you know what kind of person she is? How could she do such a thing? Moreover, why would Qing risk her life and ours to get involved with these murderers? It's clearly a revenge taken by Prince Yu's enemies. Qing was just lucky enough to have survived. We've already let her down. We can't give up on her."

Ren Wanyun and Old Madam Shen had been in-laws for so many years, so she knew Old Madam Shen's temper very well. Old Madam Shen was extremely selfish to the core and was very much a fence-sitter. Even if she had feelings for Shen Qing, when it was time to protect herself, she would not hesitate to abandon Shen Qing. Sometimes, Ren Wanyun felt that Shen Gui was a heartless person because he inherited it from Old Madam Shen.

After hearing Ren Wanyun's words, Old Madam Shen was even more furious. She said, "Eldest Daughter-in-law, I don't understand what you are saying. When did we let Qing down? Did I force her to have an affair with Prince Yu? Or did I force her to get pregnant before marriage? I don't remember ever having taught her to do that!"

Ren Wanyun was angered by Old Madam Shen's ugly remark. She said, "Mother! How can you say that about Qing? She's your granddaughter!"

Chen Ruoqiu advised, "Second Sister-in-law, stop talking back to Mother. She's worried about Qing too. Everyone knows that among the three daughters, she likes Qing the most."

Chapter 240: Softhearted (6)

So Old Madam Shen would abandon her favorite granddaughter at the drop of a hat when something bad happened. Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan both sneered, but they did not say a word and just watched the show silently.

Shen Yuan glanced at Chen Ruoqiu. His gaze was very dark, making Chen Ruoqiu freeze and a little afraid. Shen Yuan walked to Ren Wanyun's side and helped her up. He looked at Old Madam Shen and said, "Grandma, don't be anxious. It's not the end of the world yet. Now, my sister is only suspected and hasn't been convicted. She has nothing to do with this incident. I think the truth will be revealed in a few days. I will also investigate it seriously and not let my sister be wronged for no reason."

When Old Madam Shen heard this, her gaze softened. Among her children and grandchildren, the one she liked the most was her youngest grandson, Shen Yuanbai, but the one she was most proud of was Shen Yuan, who was extremely capable at such a young age. She immediately nodded and said, "In that case, go and investigate. If Qing is really innocent, I naturally don't want her to be wronged." After a pause, she looked at Ren Wanyun and sneered, "However, I think your mother is crazy. If she is really out of her mind, lock her up and stop her from causing us trouble."

Ren Wanyun was angry and resentful, and her face was red. At some point, Old Madam Shen had become more and more dissatisfied with her. Now, she was even humiliating her in front of her son. Even Chen Ruoqiu was looking at her mockingly.

Ren Wanyun only managed to catch her breath after Shen Yuan helped her back to Rosy Cloud Garden. She grabbed Shen Yuan's arm and said, "Yuan, think of a way to save your sister. How can Qing really be involved? How can she be the murderer?"

"Mother, don't worry." Shen Yuan comforted her. "Now, Sister is suspected because the real murderer has yet to be found. Once the real murderer is found, Sister will naturally be freed."

When Ren Wanyun heard that, it was as if she had found a straw to clutch at. Her eyes immediately lit up again. She asked happily, "When will the murderer be found? How long will your sister be locked up for? When will you find the murderer?"

Shen Yuan looked at Ren Wanyun. She looked very haggard. It had been a long time since she had applied makeup. Her skin looked old and dull, and her hair was very messy. She had always been a person who cared about her appearance, but now she looked like a different person.

And the cause of all this was just a girl who was once taken by everyone as an idiot.

Shen Yuan felt a headache coming on. He thought he was smart, but he did not expect that as soon as he returned to the capital, such a big mess would be thrust upon him. Ren Wanyun's status in the mansion had plummeted. Not only was Shen Qing pregnant before marriage, but she was also involved in the massacre of Prince Yu.

For some reason, Shen Yuan suddenly thought of Shen Qing's wedding day. That day, Shen Miao said to him, "No one can say for sure what will happen in the future. Perhaps all of a sudden, the road ahead will be cut off."

Now, the path ahead for Shen Qing was really cut off. Even if there was a road, it would be an extremely bumpy road. She was the only one left alive in the entire Prince Yu's mansion. At this point, Shen Yuan could almost say for a fact that the murderers didn't kill Shen Qing not because they were merciful or sympathetic, but they wanted Shen Qing to suffer a life worse than death.

However, Shen Qing was just a little girl. Why would anyone be so brutal to a little girl? Was it Shen Miao? But how could Shen Miao have command over so many assassins who were killing to help her kill Prince Yu?

Shen Yuan's eyes darkened. Regardless of whether the person behind this was Shen Miao or not, he had to get to the bottom of it. Since that person targeted Shen Qing, the second branch might be targeted too. Although Shen Qing was now in a difficult situation, it was by no means a dead end. He had to find out who was behind this and return the favor a thousand times over.

That was what Shen Yuan thought, but what he did not expect to happen was that just like Shen Miao said, "No one can say for sure what will happen in the future. Perhaps all of a sudden, the path ahead will be cut off."

On the second day, his path was cut off and he was faced with a dead end.