

## **Venomous 241**

### **Chapter 241: No Way Out (1)**

The entire capital was talking about the murder of Prince Yu. The rumors were getting bigger and bigger, and the more they spread, the more ridiculous they became. There were all kinds of speculations. Some people even suspected that the person who killed Prince Yu was the lover of Prince Yu's wife.

Such rumors were everywhere. However, in the vast ocean of rumors, there was one that stood out because it was extremely shocking.

This rumor had it that Prince Yu's mansion was destroyed overnight by the Shen family. As for why the General's Mansion did this, it was complicated and there were all kinds of interpretations.

If the previous rumors caused Shen Qing and her family to be ridiculed and looked down upon, this conspiratorial rumor really pushed the Shen family to the front.

When Prince Yu's mansion was wiped out, not even a livestock was spared other than the bride who had just married into the mansion. How could this bride make the ferocious murderers spare her life unless she was also one of them? If this horrendous case was done by the Shen family, all of this would naturally make sense. However, why did the Shen family want to do that to Prince Yu? On the surface, it might seem like they were dissatisfied with this marriage, but the perceptive ones knew that currently in the imperial court, chaos was in the making. Who knew if the Shen family did this because they were instructed by someone or because they were trying to show something?

Early in the morning, Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang brought some snacks to Shen Miao. At this moment, the Shen mansion was in disarray. Other than Rongjing Hall, the other courtyards just made do with what they had in the kitchen.

After breakfast, Shen Miao went to wash up. She looked at herself in the mirror and frowned slightly. Then, she said to Gu Yu, "Go and get the fox fur scarf that Brother sent over."

Gu Yu took out the scarf from the box and was about to put it on for Shen Miao when Shen Miao stopped her. "I'll do it myself."

The fox skin used to make the scarf was snow-white and smooth. Shen Qiu hunted the fox in the northwest forest up in the mountain and asked the tailor to make an exquisite scarf for Shen Miao because he thought that the skin was precious. However, Shen Miao had never liked to wear it, so it was left unused under the box for a long time. For some reason, she suddenly thought of it today, which made Gu Yu a little surprised.

When Gu Yu saw Shen Miao wrap the scarf around her neck, she praised, "Miss, you look so good with this scarf around your neck. It makes you look fairer. It can definitely keep you warm and comfortable."

Shen Miao lowered her eyes and her fingers gently brushed past the soft fur. She thought of the bruise on her neck in the mirror just now. It was the mark left by Xie Jingxing when he grabbed her throat yesterday. At that time, he did not hold back at all. Yesterday, she did not notice it, but today, it was

especially obvious. Although the collar of the clothes she wore in the winter was high, if her parents saw it, she wouldn't be able to explain herself.

Putting down the bronze mirror in her hand, Shen Miao opened the door and walked out. She happened to see Shen Qiu standing under the tree in the courtyard and instructing the soldier beside him. Shen Qiu's guards were all from the army. Unlike ordinary guards, they looked brave and unyielding. Seeing Shen Miao, Shen Qiu said something to the soldier before turning around and smiling. "Sister."

## **Chapter 242: No Way Out (2)**

"What happened?" Shen Miao asked. Usually, in the morning, Shen Qiu would be in the courtyard, practicing his swordsmanship. The best thing about the west courtyard was this spacious spot. In the past, Shen Qiu and Shen Xin loved to spar here. Occasionally, Luo Xueyan would join in. These days, Shen Miao was already used to seeing Shen Qiu practicing martial arts the moment she opened the door. Today, for the first time, there was no movement. Naturally, something had happened.

Shen Qiu chuckled and said, "Nothing. Why are you up so early? Why don't you sleep more?"

Shen Miao didn't let him change the topic. She continued to ask, "It's about Eldest Sister and the Shen family, right?"

Shen Qiu quickly cleared his throat and pulled Shen Miao into the house. After entering the house, he chased the servants out and closed the door before looking at Shen Miao and said, "Sister, don't talk about this outside."

"What exactly happened?"

Shen Qiu scratched his head. "It's nothing serious. Leave it to Father, Mother, and me. Don't go out these days and don't worry about this."

He was probably trying to fool Shen Miao. However, if the current Shen Qiu could be fooled that easily, she wouldn't be able to survive thus far. She stared at Shen Qiu and said, "Alright, Brother, you don't have to hide it from me. It's about Prince Yu's death. People are starting to suspect the Shen family, right?"

Shen Qiu was stunned. Looking at Shen Miao, he felt strangely powerless and not worthy of being her elder brother. It was as if Shen Miao knew everything. When she was stupid, he was afraid that she would be bullied. Now that she was smart, he felt helpless.

Seeing that Shen Qiu did not speak, Shen Miao continued, "Brother, is this really what worried you?"

"Sister." Shen Qiu said seriously, "You're still young and don't know much about what's going on in the imperial court. The person who spread the false rumor to slander us behind our backs is definitely up to no good. If we're not careful, the Shen family will be implicated." He looked at Shen Miao and hesitated for a moment before asking hesitantly, "Sister, do you know who killed Prince Yu?" As soon as he finished asking, he answered it himself, "I don't think you know. How can a girl like you be so capable?"

Ever since Shen Miao told Shen Qiu about how the second branch and Prince Yu schemed against her, Shen Qiu had never been able to take it lying down. If not for the fact that Shen Miao did not let Shen

Qiu tell their parents and told him not to do anything rash, Shen Qiu would probably have long taken revenge for Shen Miao. From the beginning to the end, Shen Miao had repeatedly told him that she had a way to deal with everything.

Shen Qiu was already surprised beyond words to find that Shen Qing's pregnancy and her marriage to Prince Yu was all Shen Miao's doing. However, if Shen Miao was also involved in the death of Prince Yu, he felt like it was too much a blow to take. It had to be known that even Shen Xin had to go through a lot of trouble to get rid of Prince Yu. How was it possible for a little girl like Shen Miao to do that? However, the more he felt that it was impossible, the more Shen Qiu felt Shen Miao might be involved.

Shen Miao glanced at Shen Qiu and sighed. "Brother, are you suspecting me?"

"No, no, no. Sister, why would I suspect you? You're just a little girl. If word gets out, people will laugh their heads off," Shen Qiu quickly explained, afraid of angering Shen Miao.

### **Chapter 243: No Way Out (3)**

When Shen Miao saw worries in his eyes, she sighed in her heart. She couldn't tell Shen Qiu the truth. The people of the first branch of the Shen family were all kind and honest. If they found out that such a vicious thing was done by her, they would definitely feel painfully disappointed. She could only choose to lie to Shen Qiu. Shen Miao smiled and said, "I certainly don't have that ability, and there is no need to suspect me. However, you don't have to worry too much about what you're worried about now."

Shen Qiu looked at Shen Miao and asked curiously, "Sister, why do you think so?"

"People in the world are not stupid. They won't just believe some rumors on a blind faith. Without evidence, Eldest Sister won't be convicted. Besides, what does it have anything to do with our first branch? Father and Mother are not in the capital all year round, so they naturally can't be involved in anything conspiratorial. It's not our place to worry about it at all. There will be someone 'smart and capable' to solve these problems for us."

"A smart and capable person?" Shen Qiu was puzzled. "Who is that?"

Before he could finish his sentence, he heard Bai Lu say loudly, "Greetings, Second Young Master."

"Speaking of the devil." Shen Miao turned around and smiled. "Here comes the smart and capable person."

Shen Qiu rolled his eyes and walked to the door to open it. Sure enough, he saw Shen Yuan standing at the door. Shen Yuan had always paid attention to his appearance. Now that he had probably been up all night long, he looked a little haggard. His gaze when he looked at Shen Miao and Shen Qiu was undisguisedly dark. He said, "Fifth Sister, I want to talk to you in private."

"My sister has nothing to say to you." Shen Qiu stood in front of Shen Miao and deliberately emphasized the words "my sister".

"It's fine, Brother." Shen Miao said, "Coincidentally, I also have something to talk about with Second Brother."

"Sister," Shen Qiu said anxiously. Shen Miao patted Shen Qiu's arm. "Don't worry. If you're worried, just guard the door."

"Then I'll guard the door," Shen Qiu quickly said.

In the past, no matter how much Shen Qiu disliked Shen Yuan, he would at least be polite and pretend to be friendly. This time, when Shen Yuan came back, Shen Qiu had been blatantly hostile towards him.

"Fifth Sister, come in with me." Shen Yuan glanced at Shen Qiu coldly. "Brother, please guard the door." After saying that, he stepped into the house first.

Under everyone's worried gazes, Shen Miao walked in.

The door slowly closed. Shen Miao turned around and heard Shen Yuan say with a dark expression, "You did it."

His tone was very certain. Shen Miao smiled and said, "Second Brother, what are you talking about? The massacre that happened in Price Yu's mansion or the rumors?"

"Aren't you the one who did all that?" Shen Yuan sneered. "I've underestimated you."

"I'm afraid Second Brother thinks too highly of me." Shen Miao didn't care. "I'm not that capable. How can I escape unscathed after doing such a thing?"

"Oh?" Shen Yuan sized her up and said, "Aren't you having a very good time?"

#### **Chapter 244: No Way Out (4)**

"I don't care what others say. Since Second Brother insists on this, I can't be bothered to explain. You won't believe me anyway. Did you come all the way here today just to accuse me of that?"

Shen Yuan endured the anger that was surging inside him. The girl in front of him had an indifferent smile on her face, and the corners of her lips curled into a mocking smile. Her eyes were as clear as water, reflecting Shen Yuan's slightly disheveled appearance. Shen Yuan was proud and conceited, but now that he was tricked by a girl, he was naturally extremely indignant. However, at this point, he had to admit that he really underestimated his opponent.

"Aren't you afraid of implicating the Shen family by doing this? Should the truth be revealed, your family won't have a good time either!" Shen Yuan said fiercely.

Hearing this, Shen Miao seemed to have heard a funny joke. She chuckled and looked at Shen Yuan for a moment. When Shen Yuan could no longer hold back his anger, she said indifferently, "I didn't do anything. In addition, what Second Brother said is really strange. Even if this matter is related to the Shen family, what does it have to do with my first branch?" She said casually, "My parents and brother are in the Northwest all year round. No one will believe I, a young girl, can manage taking down Prince Yu. Even if the Shen family is really involved, Second Brother, I think the first branch will automatically be taken out of the equation."

Shen Yuan gasped.

No matter how smart and cunning Shen Miao was, she could only play tricks within the confines of the Shen mansion, whereas the imperial court was the battleground for men. Shen Wan and Shen Gui would never be bothered to discuss political matters with Shen Miao. However, the remark made by Shen Miao just now clearly showed that her understanding of the situation was better than anyone.

“So you had a backup plan.” Shen Yuan’s expression changed and he sneered. “It seems like your first branch is going to just stand by and watch.”

“We’ve never had the intention to stick our noses into other people’s business.” Shen Miao looked at him calmly. “Second Uncle and Third Uncle will be busy for quite a while. However, Second Brother, you should be the one who’s most worried.” She shook her head and said with a sigh, “As soon as you return to the capital, such a troublesome matter is immediately thrust upon you. This will absolutely hinder your official career.”

She deliberately laid stress on “official career”, which caused Shen Yuan to clench his fists in anger.

Shen Miao suddenly turned around and touched the soft fur on her neck. She smiled and said, “But considering that we’re both surnamed Shen, I have an idea that can perhaps help you.”

“I don’t dare to use your idea.” Shen Yuan stared at her. “If I’m not careful, I might lose my life.”

“Second Brother, you must be joking. I’m not that scary. I came up with this idea for you sincerely. However, with Second Brother’s intelligence, I’m afraid you’ve already thought of it. Since the Shen family is already involved, we just have to get the Shen family out of it. Actually, Second Brother also knows that rumors can’t be taken seriously. It’s just that after the rumor is spread for a long time, people will inevitably be suspicious. To stop the rumor from continuing, all it takes is for Eldest Sister to come out and clarify it.”

Shen Miao looked out of the window. Shen Qiu was sitting under the tree with his eyes fixed squarely at the door. She smiled faintly. “I think the most convincing way to explain oneself is through the death of one’s own life.”

“You!” Shen Yuan suddenly stretched out his fist, but he stopped at the top of Shen Miao’s head. He stared at Shen Miao and said, “You’re the first person I’ve seen who has such a vicious heart at this young age.”

## **Chapter 245: No Way Out (5)**

“It takes one to know one.” A trace of smugness flashed across Shen Miao’s eyes. She asked, “Do you think Eldest Sister will be willing to do so for the sake of your official career?” She smiled gently. “I think she will. After all, you two are siblings.” After a pause, Shen Miao suddenly shook her head. “No, I don’t think she will. Elder Sister loves her life more than anything. Why should she sacrifice her life for your future?”

“Shen Miao, you won’t be lucky every time.” Shen Yuan gritted his teeth, his tone as if he wanted to skin Shen Miao alive. He suddenly understood why Ren Wanyun hated Shen Miao to the core when she mentioned her.

"I don't know if I'll be lucky every time." Shen Miao looked at him. "But Second Brother, you have no choice now."

With a bang, Shen Yuan kicked the door open and left without looking back. Shen Qiu was frightened and immediately rushed into the room. Seeing that Shen Miao was safe and sound, he was relieved and asked curiously, "What did you say to him? Why is he so angry?"

"Oh, he is probably blaming himself for not being able to help his sister who is suffering in prison." Shen Miao picked up her cloak without looking back. Seeing this, Shen Qiu asked, "Sister, are you going out?"

"Eldest Sister is in prison. As her cousin, I feel obliged to go and see how she is doing." Shen Miao smiled. "After all, we are from the same family."

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In the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop, Hong Ling placed the exquisite pastries and tea set on the table before quietly leaving. Ji Yushu picked up a piece of pastry and took a bite. He spat it all out and said, "What's this? It's really disgusting." Then, he looked at Xie Jingxing and said shamelessly. "Third Brother Xie, can I borrow your chief for a few days."

Xie Jingxing simply told him to get lost.

Gao Yang drank his tea and said, "Now that the entire capital is in shock after the massacre that wiped out Prince Yu's mansion, you still have the mood to enjoy pastries. Ji Yushu, you're really something."

Ji Yushu threw him a glance and said, "What does that have to do with me? Why can't I eat pastries?"

"Don't forget that your pawnshop is also involved in this matter." Gao Yang reminded him.

When Ji Yushu heard that, he retorted angrily, "Shen Miao is the mastermind and she doesn't seem to be worried in the slightest. I heard that she even went to see Shen Qing in the prison early this morning. If I were Shen Qing, I would die from indignation."

Xie Jingxing smiled and picked up a piece of pastry to eat. The taste was probably not to his liking. He frowned slightly, put down the remaining half, and stopped eating.

"How can you compare to her?" Gao Yang said coldly, "The Fifth Miss of the Shen family probably fears nothing. You have to know that this is the first time I've met someone who can escape unscathed after stabbing our Third Brother Xie."

"What?" Ji Yushu exclaimed and looked at Xie Jingxing. "Third Brother, you were actually stabbed?"

Xie Jingxing glanced at Gao Yang. "Do you want me to send you back?"

Gao Yang immediately sat up straight. "I was talking nonsense just now."

## **Chapter 246: No Way Out (6)**

However, Ji Yushu's curiosity was obviously piqued as he kept asking Xie Jingxing, "How did she stab you? With a sword? Third Brother, even you couldn't dodge it. That means she's well-trained. What's more, she can even escape unscathed. Oh my god, Third Brother, are you not her match at all?"

Xie Jingxing finally couldn't take it anymore. "Shut up!"

"She's so skilled and good-looking. I suddenly feel that Miss Shaoyao can't compare to her. Ah, Third Brother Xie, can you help me think of a way to woo her? I think it's better to marry such a girl home as soon as possible." Ji Yushu continued to nag.

"If you say another word, I'll send you back together with Gao Yang," Xie Jingxing said expressionlessly.

Ji Yushu finally shut up.

Gao Yang waved his folding fan and changed the topic. "But why do I feel that this matter isn't over yet?"

"How is it not over yet?" Ji Yushu said, "They're all dead. Speaking of which, I am really puzzled. Why did Miss Shen ask people to spread that kind of rumor for no reason? Isn't she afraid of implicating the entire Shen family? Instead of proving to others that the Shen family has nothing to do with the massacre, she's intentionally pulling her family into it."

"Have you ever seen a person who stops fishing after catching a big fish?" Xie Jingxing glanced at him and smiled with interest. "The moves she makes are connected intricately, and her goal has never been Prince Yu."

In the Rosy Cloud Garden of the Shen family, Shen Yuan dragged his feet back into the house. When Ren Wanyun saw him, she pounced on him and asked expectantly, "Yuan, how is it?"

Shen Yuan shook his head. "Troublesome."

"Yuan, you have to save Qing." Ren Wanyun's tears immediately flowed down. Over the past few days, she had been washing her face with tears every day, and her eyes were so swollen that they were a little scary. She did not even clean herself, and there was a strange smell on her body. Shen Yuan quietly kept a distance from her. Unexpectedly, Ren Wanyun grabbed his arm and said, "She's your sister. You have to save her! Qing is very pitiful. She's innocent. She must be very afraid of being locked up in the prison. We're not by her side. Only you can save her now!"

As she spoke, her tears and saliva sprayed on Shen Yuan. Shen Yuan was already frustrated, and seeing Ren Wanyun like this, he became even more frustrated. He said, "I understand." He turned around and was about to return to his room.

Ren Wanyun panicked when she saw this. She grabbed Shen Yuan and said, "Yuan, why are you going back to your room? Shouldn't you go to the government office to take care of the matter? Or you can go and beg the emperor. You're so smart and know many people in the imperial court. You can definitely help your sister. Do you need money? I'll go get it for you."

"Mother." Shen Yuan suppressed the frustration in his heart and said, "I can't do anything at the moment. Don't push me."

"I'm pushing you?" Ren Wanyun was stunned for a moment before screaming, "I'm trying to save your sister. There are no good people in this mansion! Your father is heartless. All he cares about is having fun with his concubines and he doesn't care about us at all. Now, are you going to abandon your sister too? Are you going to be just like your father? I raised you painstakingly, and this is how you repay me! Shen Yuan, your father is heartless, and you're heartless too!" Ren Wanyun's voice became louder and louder. These days, she was quite out of her mind and would get worked up easily. There was something in what Shen Yuan said that caused her to go crazy.

Not only did she scold him, but Ren Wanyun even pushed Shen Yuan. She looked nothing like a lady from a noble family but a shrew. Shen Yuan suddenly felt exhausted, and what Shen Miao said flashed across his mind.

After returning to the capital, he was supposed to have a bright and smooth-sailing official career. He would choose a wise prince to assist him and eventually become a famous minister. He would trample everyone under his feet and everyone would look up to him. But things were heading in the opposite direction. His mother had become a shrew, and his father was useless. Even his sister, who could've become the prince consort, was locked up in prison.

Although family was important, his future was important too. He had secretly been siding with Fu Xiuyi for many years and had been working diligently outside for the sake of returning to the capital to help him one day. Who knew that so many things would happen in a row? Rumors were rumors and could not be taken seriously. However, if rumors continued for too long and reached the ears of the royal family, no matter how much Fu Xiuyi valued him, he would still be hesitant about using him.

Shen Miao had laid two paths in front of him. One was his family and the other was his future. However, in a sense, he was really cornered.

Shen Yuan looked at Ren Wanyun and said calmly, "Mother, even if you don't care about me, do you also not care about my little brother's life?"

## **Chapter 247: Family (1)**

As soon as he said that, Ren Wanyun stopped scolding. She looked at Shen Yuan in a daze. "What did you say?"

"Now that the entire Shen family is dragged into this mess, our second branch will be the first to be implicated. You don't care about Father and me losing our official positions, but what about my little brother who is only a few years old?" Shen Yuan said.

Ren Wanyun looked at him and instantly looked a little flustered. "What does this have to do with Yuanbai? He is still so young. How can he be implicated? No one is more innocent than him."

"Mother, no one is innocent in this matter." Shen Yuan sneered. "Am I not innocent?" After taking a deep breath, he continued, "Mother, the rumors are now spreading like wildfire. If we provoke someone we shouldn't at this time, I'm afraid the entire family will suffer." He looked at Ren Wanyun and said in a low voice, "You want Shen Miao to die with you. But do you want my little brother to die for nothing?"



Ren Wanyun was stunned, and she couldn't help but tremble. It had to be known that she did have this thought of dying together with Shen Miao. Although she hated Shen Miao to the core, hated the coldness of the entire Shen family, hated the heartlessness of Shen Gui, hated Old Madam Shen's reaction, and hated the inaction of the third branch. She even thought that it didn't matter if the entire Shen family was implicated because of Shen Qing. If she could kill everyone in the first branch, it would be considered revenge taken.

However, Shen Yuan pointed out one thing. If the Shen family was really implicated, Shen Yuanbai could not avoid the punishment either. Since ancient times, the emperor loved the eldest son, and the people doted on the youngest son. Shen Yuanbai was smart since he was young, and Ren Wanyun had always been very fond of him. Shen Yuanbai had to die with the entire Shen family, she couldn't accept it.

"Then... Yuan, what should we do?" Ren Wanyun looked at Shen Yuan as if he was her life-saving straw and her backbone. The madness from before was gone.

"Mother, we can't be greedy." Shen Yuan looked at her with a cruel gaze. "You can only keep one, either Sister or Brother."

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In the prison near the government office in the capital, there were guards standing outside.

In this massacre case, Shen Qing was actually in a very awkward position. On the surface, she looked like a pitiful person. As soon as she married Prince Yu, she encountered a massacre. Fortunately, she was lucky enough to have survived. However, if one thought about it deeper, there were many doubts regarding this case. Perhaps it really had something to do with Shen Qing. Even if it had nothing to do with her, all kinds of guesses or rumors about her being a jinx were enough to make her name the center of discussion in the capital. From the looks of it, it seemed better if she died during the massacre.

Emperor Wen Hui's attitude towards Prince Yu's case was also intriguing. He said that he would investigate this case thoroughly, but he only entrusted this case to the capital's magistrate and the government without even bothering to ask about the progress. With Emperor Wen Hui's close relationship with Prince Yu, it was strange that he was so indifferent. The emperor's thoughts had always been difficult to guess, and the courtiers didn't dare to make bold guesses as to what Emperor Wen Hui wanted to do, so they could only lock Shen Qing, the most likely suspect, up for the time being.

This was actually a little farcical. The only woman who survived the massacre was unarmed, but she was taken as the culprit. Sometimes, things in the world were really strange.

When Shen Miao arrived at the gate of the prison, the head of the prison guards was stunned to see her. He went forward and asked, "Who are you?"

## **Chapter 248: Family (2)**

"My Miss is the fifth daughter of the Shen family." Jingzhe took a step forward and stuffed the sachet containing silver coins into the guard's hand. "She specially came to see her sister."

Shen Miao waved the token given to her by Shen Qiu in front of the head of the guards. When the man saw it, he quickly bowed respectfully and said, "It's Fifth Miss Shen." Shen Xin was famous in the capital. Not to mention the head of the guards, even officials had to show him some respect.

"I want to see my sister. Please show me the way," Shen Miao said.

The man smiled and said, "We're actually not allowed to let anyone in to see the prisoner for the next few days, but since Fifth Miss Shen has spoken, follow me please." With that, he instructed the guard guarding outside. Jingzhe and Gu Yu stayed outside while Shen Miao walked in alone with the man.

Shen Qing was now in a very awkward position. No one knew if she would be freed anytime soon. However, even if she really got out, it would be extremely difficult for Shen Qing to live with that kind of reputation.

"Actually, Fifth Miss, you don't have to worry too much." The head of the prison guards smiled and said, "Although Eldest Miss Shen is still in prison, once this case is investigated thoroughly, Eldest Miss Shen will get the justice she deserves." He thought that since Shen Miao came to visit Shen Qing, the two sisters must be very close. No matter what, if he could make Shen Miao comfortable, he could at least do Shen Xin a favor.

Shen Miao nodded. "Thank you for telling me that."

When a stone staircase appeared in front of her, the head of the guards stopped in his tracks and said, "Miss Shen is locked up down there. Fifth Miss, go down and talk to her. My subordinates and I will wait outside. Don't take too long."

Shen Miao thanked him again. After the guards walked away, she walked down the stairs.

Down the long steps, there was a cell at the end. It was surrounded by metal bars, and there was only a small window the size of a fist in the cell. This was where prisoners of the most evil kind were kept. There was a row of torches on the stone wall, but the torches swayed in the gloomy cell, making the cell look a little creepy.

The cell was covered with straw, and there was a dirty quilt on it. One could see with naked eyes that there were lice on the quilt. The person sitting on the straw with her head buried in her knees was probably asleep.

Shen Miao looked at her quietly for a while before walking over. She reached out and knocked on the iron fence.

The person suddenly raised her head, revealing a slightly frightened face. When she saw that it was Shen Miao, her frightened expression turned into anger. She gritted her teeth and shouted, "Shen Miao!"

"It's me." Shen Miao took a step back to prevent Shen Qing from pouncing on her and scratching her. She was right. The next moment, Shen Qing pounced on her. She wanted to grab Shen Miao with both hands, but she couldn't break the metal bars.

"It seems like you haven't learned your lesson." Shen Miao chuckled and looked at her calmly. "Don't waste your energy. It's useless."

Shen Qing put down her hand unwillingly and suddenly laughed out loud. "Shen Miao, are you here to gloat over my misery? Are you here to see how unfortunate I am? Let me tell you, one day, you will be a hundred times more miserable than me!"

"What a pity." Shen Miao looked at her with pity. "Even if that day really comes, you won't be able to see it."

Shen Qing was stunned, and a trace of fear suddenly surged inside her. She had been locked up in this prison for a few days, and she had absolutely no clue what was going on with the massacre. She had always been a spoiled rich girl and thought that the night she spent with Prince Yu at the Wolong Temple was the most painful time of her life. She did not expect the bad incidents that followed to be more and more terrifying. She became pregnant, was humiliated at the royal banquet, got married to Prince Yu, and then survived the bloody massacre on the night of her marriage. Now, she ended up becoming a prisoner. She suppressed the uneasiness in her heart and said stubbornly, "Don't lie to me. This has nothing to do with me. I am innocent and won't be implicated."

### **Chapter 249: Family (3)**

"Why don't you understand?" Shen Miao squatted down and looked into Shen Qing's eyes. She shook her head gently like an adult looking at an insensible child. "Whether it's a conspiracy or not and whether you are part of it or not, as long as you're alive, you'll have to bear the sin."

Shen Qing retorted. "Why should I kill Prince Yu? I have no grudge against him. You are the one who has a grudge against..." She suddenly stopped in the middle of her sentence and looked at Shen Miao in disbelief. "You did it?"

Shen Miao smiled faintly.

"You did it?" Shen Qing grabbed the metal bar and looked at Shen Miao. "It's you. You have a deep hatred for Prince Yu. You asked someone to kill him. You deliberately let me live just to make me the scapegoat for you. Shen Miao, what a plan you have!" She looked at Shen Miao, shocked and angry. She was shocked that Shen Miao was so vicious and angry that she was in this state because of Shen Miao!

"Eldest Sister, you have to show evidence." Shen Miao smiled and said, "But after staying in the prison for two days, you seem to have become smarter." Although Shen Miao didn't admit it directly, Shen Qing knew for a fact that her speculation was true.

Shen Qing was furious. "What do you want? Shen Miao, you won't be able to get what you want. My father and brother will do what they can to save me. They will find evidence and you will be the one in prison, not me! At that time, I will think of a way to make you suffer!"

"Are you still counting on Second Uncle and Shen Yuan?" Shen Miao mocked. "Second Uncle is afraid of being implicated now, so he doesn't even want to come and see you. As for Shen Yuan..." Shen Miao smiled. "He could have had a good official career and a bright future, but because of you, he is dragged into this mess. Do you really think he would want to save you?" "

Shen Qing glared at Shen Miao, but she knew in her heart that Shen Miao was right. How could she not know what kind of person Shen Gui was? When Shen Gui married her to Prince Yu, Shen Qing could tell

that Shen Gui was just like Old Madam Shen. He only cared about benefits and would avoid trouble at all costs. As for this second brother who had been unpredictable since he was young, although he had helped her solve many problems in the past, this time, she had affected Shen Yuan's career. Would Shen Yuan really help her again?

"Shen Miao, cut that crap!" Although she was uneasy, Shen Qing still pretended to be calm, "My mother won't stand by and do nothing! My mother will definitely think of a way to help me out. As long as my mother steps in, with my second brother's ability, it won't be difficult for him to find evidence. At that time, you'll be the one who ends up in prison."

"Second Aunt?" Shen Miao sighed. "I know Second Aunt treats you very well. If anything happens to you, Second Aunt will definitely protect you with her life, just like how she treated me back then..."

Only then did Shen Qing feel less uneasy. Ren Wanyun had always been very indulgent towards her. Among the three daughters of the Shen family, Chen Ruoqiu was slightly strict with Shen Yue. Luo Xueyan was rarely with Shen Miao, and only Ren Wanyun loved Shen Qing with all her heart. This was because when Shen Qing was born, Ren Wanyun had a difficult time giving birth. It was not easy for the mother and daughter to be both safe. Ren Wanyun extremely doted on her daughter. Back then, when Shen Qing wanted to pursue Prince Ding, Ren Wanyun did not say anything and even came up with ideas for her.

Now, even if others were cold to her, as long as Ren Wanyun was around, she would definitely not let her be wronged. Before Shen Qing could talk back, she heard Shen Miao's mocking voice. "But Eldest Sister, guess who is more important in Second Aunt's heart. You or Shen Yuanbai?"

#### **Chapter 250: Family (4)**

Shen Qing was stunned and stared at Shen Miao without saying anything.

Shen Miao looked at her flatly. "Everyone in our house knows how much Second Aunt dotes on Seventh Brother. If he gets in trouble because of you, who do you think Second Aunt will protect? Actually, I'm also looking forward to knowing the answer. I wonder if Eldest Sister can answer me."

Shen Qing's body began to tremble violently. She knew better than anyone else how important Shen Yuanbai was to Ren Wanyun. Although Shen Yuanbai was naughty, he was also very likable. Most importantly, Shen Yuanbai was a boy.

This world was especially difficult for women. In Ren Wanyun's heart, she was always more biased towards her youngest son. Shen Qing knew very well that she would definitely be the one to be abandoned. However, no matter how afraid she was, Shen Qing was always unwilling to lose her composure in front of Shen Miao. She looked at Shen Miao and sneered. "What do you want to say? Do you want to say that I'll die no matter what? Shen Miao, don't forget that I'm still pregnant with the royal family's child! The child in my stomach has the blood of the royal family. As the child's mother, I won't die that easily!" After saying that, Shen Qing rubbed her stomach and revealed a loving smile. Just a few days ago, she was hitting her stomach and wanted nothing more than the child in her stomach to die.

“Eldest Sister, do you really think he’s your life-saving talisman?” Shen Miao’s gaze landed on Shen Qing’s slightly bulging stomach. She said indifferently, “In the past, with how much His Majesty values Prince Yu, he will naturally protect this child. But now... I’m afraid this child will only make you die quicker.”

“What do you mean?” Shen Qing did not understand what Shen Miao was talking about, but from Shen Miao’s determined gaze, she suddenly felt afraid. She had a feeling that Shen Miao was not lying to her, but why would the child in her stomach make her die quicker?

Being locked up in the cell, Shen Qing did not know that some rumors had spread in the palace and reached the ears of the emperor. In the past, in order to protect Prince Yu’s child, Emperor Wen Hui naturally would not let Shen Qing die so early. But now, the emperor was paranoid and would not show mercy. He probably wanted to kill Shen Qing and the bastard in her stomach as soon as possible.

Seeing that Shen Miao was smiling and did not answer her, Shen Qing panicked even more. She said sternly, “Shen Miao, I have not harmed you. Why did you do this to me?”

“You have not harmed me?” Shen Miao looked at Shen Qing as if she had heard a funny joke. “When you and your mother schemed against me, weren’t you thinking about harming me?”

“You...” Shen Qing was indignant. She looked at Shen Miao as if she was looking at a terrifying person. “You set me up. I curse you to die a horrible death, and your family too!” At the end of her sentence, her voice suddenly became sharp, as if she was doing so to hide the fear in her heart.

Amidst her cursing, Shen Miao’s expression did not change. She said in a low voice, “What’s so scary about a horrible death?”

Shen Miao had already experienced the horrible death Shen Qing talked about once. At that time, Luo Xueyan had already passed away, and Shen Qiu had been drowned. In the Shen family’s first branch, Shen Xin and all the servants were locked up. According to the account from the young eunuchs in the Cold Palace, Shen Xin was locked up in the most terrifying prison. They used a chain to penetrate his shoulder blades to prevent him from escaping, and the word “prisoner” was branded on his cheek. To a general who had fought countless wars, this was undoubtedly the most humiliating thing. Physical torture was still tolerable, but humiliation was not for Shen Xin. At that time, Shen Miao was confined in the Cold Palace and watched as Fu Ming was deposed as the crown prince but couldn’t do anything.