

## Venomous 251

### Chapter 251: Family (5)

Shen Qing was already a little out of her mind. She was young and had never experienced anything so catastrophic. Ren Wanyun had always doted on her since she was young. Once something happened, she wouldn't be able to take it. She screamed, "Shen Miao, you're not human! You'll die a horrible death!"

Shen Miao looked at her quietly. "Shen Qing, how does it feel to see your hopes shattered one by one?"

Shen Qing stared at Shen Miao with hatred.

"When I was down and out, you kicked me in the face, so this time, I'm returning the favor," she said with a smile, but there was no smile in her eyes. Her clear eyes were like black clouds that pressed down on Shen Qing.

In her previous life, before she died, she saw Shen Qing and Shen Yue standing behind Consort Mei, smiling ingratiatingly. The second and third branches contributed a lot to the tragic ending of the first branch of the Shen family. She lived this difficult life again because she wanted to pull out the fangs of the poisonous snakes one by one and slowly torture them.

Shen Qing did not understand her. She gritted her teeth and said, "Shen Miao, you'll die a horrible death..."

Shen Miao stood up and looked down at Shen Qing. In the gloomy cage, her slightly tender face actually revealed a dignified and elegant aura. In that dignified aura, there was a faint black storm in the making. In the end, it turned into a cold smile on her lips.

The corners of her purple dress fluttered as she gradually walked away. The last thing Shen Qing heard was...

Shen Miao said, "Shen Qing, you're the first."

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In the east courtyard of the Shen family, there was an unusual silence that day.

Shen Gui stayed in the room, looking gloomy. Today, he heard from the eunuchs in the palace that it was nearly impossible to save Shen Qing.

Something must have happened between Emperor Wen Hui and Prince Yu, and this problem was obviously much more serious than the courtiers thought. Shen Gui was in a dilemma. If he interfered with Shen Qing's matter, he would probably make Emperor Wen Hui unhappy. If he ignored Shen Qing, the rumors would spread more and more. When the time came, he would be the first to be implicated.

While he was sighing, Concubine Wan walked to his side and gently massaged his shoulders.

Shen Gui was lecherous and had many concubines in the mansion, but Ren Wanyun was strict with the concubines. In the end, those concubines did not give birth to a child for him. Even if they were lucky

enough to give birth to a child, the child would quickly die. However, Concubine Wan managed to give birth to a daughter, Shen Dongling, under Ren Wanyun's nose. She brought her daughter. Back then, the servants in the mansion said that if Concubine Wan did not give birth to a daughter but a son, her status would probably be on par with Ren Wanyun.

Ever since she gave birth to Shen Dongling, Concubine Wan had been staying in her courtyard without making a fuss, as if she had disappeared from everyone's eyes. Even Shen Dongling, who was weak and sick, did not leave the courtyard all year round. She only came out to see people during the holidays and was usually forgotten by the others. Now that Shen Qing was in trouble and Ren Wanyun and Shen Gui would quarrel whenever they met, it was time for Concubine Wan to make a comeback. These days, Shen Gui was served comfortably, and when he looked at Ren Wanyun and her daughter, he felt an indescribable disgust.

"Master, are you still worried about Eldest Miss." As Concubine Wan massaged Shen Gui's shoulders, she advised, "Master, don't worry too much. If Eldest Miss didn't do it, she would eventually get the justice she deserves."

### **Chapter 252: Family (6)**

"Sigh." Shen Gui sighed. "Whether she really did it or not, this matter won't be that simple. This time, Qing might implicate everyone."

When Concubine Wan heard that, she said worriedly, "I believe there is always justice in this world." She said, "Our daughter and I don't mind being implicated. As long as I am with Master, I don't care if I live or die. However, Second Young Master has a bright official career ahead of him now, and Seventh Young Master is still young. What if they get implicated?"

Shen Gui's expression changed, and he was a little frustrated. Although he was selfish, greedy, and lecherous, he still gave his two sons a lot of hope. For some reason, in their generation, the Shen family did not have many sons, and the fact that he had two sons was something that Shen Gui was extremely proud of. To Shen Gui, his daughter was just an item that could be exchanged for benefits, but as for his sons, they could pass down the bloodline.

At the thought that he had to sacrifice his precious two sons for Shen Qing, he was immediately furious.

"I heard that Madam is running around to ask for help to save Eldest Miss now. I really feel sorry for them. If not for the fact that I'm weak, I really hope I can help," Concubine Wan continued.

"What can you help?" When Shen Gui heard Concubine Wan mention Ren Wanyun, he felt even more annoyed. He said, "It's all that crazy woman's fault for raising such a shameless daughter. Now, she even got everyone involved!"

Concubine Wan seemed to be frightened and suddenly shrank back. She stopped massaging his shoulders and paused for a moment before saying softly, "Master, don't blame Madam. Madam doesn't feel good either. If Eldest Miss feels hopeless and does something stupid to herself in the prison, Madam's heart will break."

Shen Gui said impatiently, "What can she do..." He suddenly paused and said slowly, "Something stupid?"

Concubine Wan's eyes flashed with a smirk, but her voice still sounded very worried. "As soon as Eldest Miss got married, such a bloody calamity happened, causing her to be sent to jail. Eldest Miss has been pampered since she was young. It's very likely that she will have suicidal thoughts. We have to send someone to remind her to stay calm."

Shen Gui suddenly stood up and looked outside. The sun was about to set, and the sky was especially dark in winter. He said, "I'll go out for a while."

"It's already so late. Where is Master going?" Concubine Wan asked.

"I have something to do. Have dinner yourself." Shen Gui strode out.

When Shen Gui was no longer in sight, Concubine Wan closed the door and walked to the table to sit down. The dishes on the table were in abundance. In this gloomy east courtyard, her food was extremely exquisite. However, no one knew that just a few years ago, she couldn't even get Ren Wanyun to fork out money to treat Shen Dongling's illness and the food she ate was all leftovers from other courtyards.

What goes around comes around. In the past, she was the unlucky one, but now, it was Ren Wanyun and her daughter's turn to be unlucky. Ren Wanyun had made her and her daughter live on tenterhooks all these years. Now that Shen Qing was in prison, she would probably be in a worse state than Shen Dongling in the past.

"Go, call Third Miss over for dinner," she instructed the maid beside her, and the maid left.

"Madam, will Master really be so ruthless as to do something to Eldest Miss?" Another maid asked carefully.

"Of course." Concubine Wan smiled charmingly. "He will." After being husband and wife with Shen Gui for so many years, she knew better than anyone what he was thinking. She deliberately reminded him just now of the consequence of letting Shen Qing live. If Ren Wanyun found out that her daughter was killed by her husband in the end, she would probably go hysterical.

She scooped a spoonful of soup and slowly tasted it.

At the same time, Shen Yuan, who was in Rosy Cloud Garden, put on a cloak and walked out of the Shen family's door without telling anyone.

### **Chapter 253: Shen Qing's Death (1)**

The night gradually darkened. The winter night was always especially cold. If one walked outside, the north wind seemed to be able to blow into one's bones.

In the gloomy prison, the wind blew in through the narrow window, making the people in the prison shiver. Shen Qing wrapped the broken quilt tightly around her body, revealing only her head. She stood up with difficulty and tried to close the window.

However, even if she stood on her tiptoes, she could not reach it. A moment later, she gave up on it, afraid that if she used too much strength, she would only make herself weaker.

When the guard who came to patrol saw this scene, he only smiled and stood there to watch, but he did not go forward to help. People who were in such a gloomy place for a long time would more or less be a little distorted. Probably for the guards, watching the prisoners suffer had become a form of entertainment, at least for now.

Shen Cling glanced at the prison guard and quickly lowered her head to hide the hatred in her eyes. She had been here for a few days and had suffered all kinds of hardships. She did not know if Shen Yuan and Shen Gui did not bribe the guards, but these prison guards treated her no differently from others. They also watched her suffer and made fun of her. If there was anything different with their attitude towards her, it was probably that she wasn't raped by these prison guards like the other female prisoners. However, this might not be because of the Shen family. After all, she was still pregnant with Prince Yu's flesh and blood. No matter if her background was glorious or not, she was still related to the royal family.

Shen Cling carefully touched her stomach. Now, this was the only thing she could rely on. For some reason, what Shen Miao said to her in the afternoon made her feel an extreme fear. This was something she had never felt before. Even when she was brought to prison in the beginning, she wasn't that terrified because she knew that someone would come to save her. Her family would not let her suffer for nothing.

However, Shen Miao's analysis shattered her hopes one by one, making question if she could escape unscathed this time.

The guard glanced at her and was about to walk out when Shen Qing suddenly said, "Sir."

The guard stopped and walked up to her. He probably couldn't stand the smell of Shen Qing and waved her hand in disgust. "What's the matter?" "Have my family come to see me these past few days? Or have they sent me a message? She held back her anger. If it was in the past, they would probably curry favor with her. The guard laughed. "Miss Shen, what are you thinking? Before the case is thoroughly investigated, no one will dare to come and see you. Besides, other than your sister, no one in your family has asked about you." At this point, the guard's tone was a little mocking. After all, after what happened to Shen Qing, even if she was cleared of her crimes in the future, she would probably have a hard time surviving. It wasn't unreasonable to speculate that the Shen family would abandon her. At the thought of this, the guard treated her even more harshly.

Shen Qing couldn't tell if she was disappointed or relieved. After a moment of hesitation, she looked at the prison guard and said, "Sir, if my brother comes to see me: Tell him that I'm too heavy-hearted and don't want to see anyone. I won't let him see me." As she spoke, she took off a bracelet from her wrist and handed it over.

When she was sent to the prison, most of the jewelry on her body had been plundered. This bracelet was worn by Ren Wanyun on the day of Shen Qing's marriage. It was also very precious. Shen Qing wasn't willing to part with it, but now, she had to..

## **Chapter 254: Shen Qing's Death (2)**

When the guard saw the bracelet, his eyes lit up. He snatched it away and looked at it carefully under the light. Seeing that it was not bad, he said with a smile, "In that case, I'll help you. However, it's a good thing that your brother came to see you. Why don't you want to see him?"

Shen Qing forced a smile and said, "I really feel bad for involving my family in such a mess this time. I'm too ashamed to see them."

The guard nodded, but his gaze was filled with disdain. If she was really such a self-respecting woman, why would she do something adulterous behind her family's back? She even got pregnant before marriage. Now that she said that she felt bad and was too ashamed to see her family, it was really a little pretentious. However, the guard didn't say that out loud. He agreed and left.

After the prison guard left, Shen Qing squatted down and hugged her shoulders helplessly, burying her head in her knees, hoping that when she opened her eyes again, she would wake up from this dreadful dream.

She slept like this for a long time until she heard someone knocking on the bars. She looked up in a daze.

In the flickering light, a familiar face was reflected. If it were in the past, she would definitely be overjoyed to see this face. However, after hearing Shen Miao's words and looking at her face, Shen Qing was so frightened that she fell to the ground and looked at the person in front of her in panic.

Shen Yuan said, "Sister, are you doing well?"

"Second Brother, why are you here?" Shen Qing asked and took a step back.

When Shen Yuan saw her move, he frowned slightly, but he did not say anything. He took out a key from his sleeve and opened the cell. Seeing this, Shen Qing was stunned for a moment before standing up happily. "Second Brother, are you here to save me?"

Shen Yuan shook his head. "I can't save you for the time being." He took out a bag of snacks and handed it to Shen Qing. "I came to see you and get you something to eat."

Shen Qing was a little disappointed. Shen Yuan had already walked in. As if he felt that the prison was too dirty, he looked a little disgusted. When Shen Qing saw this, she felt a little sad. She took the basket from Shen Yuan and removed the cloth. In the basket filled with pastries, the smell was fragrant and pleasing. It was her favorite chestnut cake.

"You've suffered a lot these days." Shen Yuan said gently, "I know you like to eat this the most, so I brought you some."

Shen Qing felt a lump in her throat and almost cried. Over the past few days, she had been eating rotten food in the prison and had never been full. She lived in fear every day. Now that she saw her favorite food and her second brother, she suddenly couldn't help but cry.

"Don't cry. After eating, I'll take you out in a few days," Shen Yuan said gently.

Shen Qing took out a piece of pastry and was about to put it into her mouth when she saw Shen Yuan's gentle smile. Her hand suddenly trembled, as if a bucket of cold water had been poured on her. For

some reason, Shen Miao's words echoed in her ears. "He could have a good official career and a bright future, but because of you, he's in constant trouble. Do you really think he'll want to save you?"

The pastry was right in front of her mouth, but Shen Qing could not bring herself to bite it.

In the past, Shen Qing would definitely choose to trust Shen Yuan without hesitation. However, ever since Prince Yu's incident, Shen Qing had also seen the coldness of the Shen family with her own eyes. Was this second brother really willing to take such a huge risk to save her for her sake? If Shen Yuan were in prison, she would probably not want to take the risk. Shen Qing suddenly thought of the jade bracelet she had given to the prison guard. At that time, she told the guard that if Shen Yuan came to see her, tell him to go back. However, why did Shen Yuan insist on coming in? Was it because the prison guard took her thing but did not do what he promised, or was it because Shen Yuan used some other method to get in?

### **Chapter 255: Shen Qing's Death (3)**

Only then did Shen Qing suddenly realize that none of the guards who were supposed to be patrolling were around. There were no other prisoners in the cell where she was locked up. In other words, at this moment, there was only her and Shen Yuan here. He was her closest brother, but looking at him, Shen Qing felt a chill run down her spine.

"Why aren't you eating?" Shen Yuan asked her.

Shen Qing forced a smile and said, "I-I can't bring myself to eat such a delicate pastry. I'll save it for later."

"It won't taste good when it's cold." Shen Yuan smiled and said, "I'll send more to you in a few days."

"No..." Shen Qing declined. "I-I don't want to eat now."

"Weren't you very hungry just now?" Shen Yuan looked at her. "Why do you suddenly not want to eat anymore?"

Shen Qing waved her hand in a panic and said, "I just don't want to eat anymore. I suddenly feel a little uncomfortable. It's probably because I am pregnant." She put the snack aside and said, "When I feel better later, I'll definitely eat it."

Shen Yuan looked at her in silence. In the end, he sneered and said, "Sister, you seem to have become smarter after staying in prison for a few days." His voice was no longer gentle like before. Instead, it was inexplicably cruel. Shen Yuan said, "It seems like you already know. What a pity. I originally wanted to make it easier for you to leave."

Shen Qing trembled and looked at Shen Yuan. "Second Brother, what do you mean?"

"Sister, you're so guarded against me. I thought you already understood what I meant."

Shen Yuan's words were very calm. Coupled with his cold face, he had a terrifying aura. Shen Qing realized something and suddenly shook her head crazily, wanting to shout. Unfortunately, before she could make a sound, her throat was grabbed.

She didn't expect that someone who looked gentle and amiable had so much strength. What was even more terrifying was that he was grabbing his sister's throat, and in his eyes, there was no pity at all as if he was looking at a passerby.

Shen Qing widened her eyes and stared at the person in front of her. Shen Yuan chuckled and said, "Sister, don't blame Second Brother for being ruthless. Now that you've caused such a huge trouble for all of us, if you continue to live, you'll implicate the entire Shen family. Do you want Father, Mother, and Yuanbai to die for you? Sister, you can't be too selfish."

Shen Qing struggled with all her might, but she was a woman to begin with, and she was pregnant. Moreover, she had been tortured to the point of death these days, so her strength was no match for a man. She could only kick her legs in vain, and the straw on the ground flew everywhere.

"I know you don't want to die." Shen Yuan said softly, "I'm your second brother, so I'll definitely avenge you. I promise you that the first branch of the Shen family and Shen Miao will definitely end up a thousand times worse than you. So, Sister, don't hate me. Only when you die and the second branch is not implicated will I be able to avenge you. Do you understand?"

Shen Qing's body gradually went limp, and her eyes gradually dimmed out, like a fish on the verge of death gradually drying up on the dry shore.

Shen Yuan let go, and the body fell to the ground with a thud. Just like that, Shen Qing died in prison.

#### **Chapter 256: Shen Qing's Death (4)**

Shen Yuan looked at Shen Qing's corpse indifferently. A moment later, he poked Shen Qing's fingertip with the tip of the needle and wrote a line of words using her blood on the stone wall of the cell. Then, he took out Shen Qing's belt and hung it up, putting Shen Qing's head in.

After everything was done, he stood up and picked up the basket that Shen Qing had placed on the ground. He looked at the figure swaying in the cell one last time.

"Sister, you won't die in vain. I will definitely avenge you," he said softly.

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This winter in the capital seemed to be really a gloomy season with shocking events happening one after another. Everyone knew about the massacre of Prince Yu's mansion. Although the people were secretly clapping their hands, they knew that the capital would now be in chaos. The only surviving new bride, the eldest daughter of the Shen family, was locked up. Everyone wanted to know the outcome if Shen Qing had confessed or revealed any detail about the massacre.

However, one day, there was suddenly a rumor spreading that the eldest daughter of the Shen family had committed suicide by hanging herself. Before she died, she left a letter written with her blood, saying that she was indeed unrelated to this matter. In addition, her husband was dead and she didn't want to live in this world alone.

People found it strange that Shen Qing was, at the end, so much tolerant of Prince Yu who died. Previously, because Shen Qing got pregnant before marriage and married Prince Yu, she was called a

slut. Now that she committed suicide for the sake of Prince Yu, it caused many people to sigh. They all praised her for having integrity and morals, but her life was ruined by Prince Yu.

With Shen Qing's death, the previous rumors circulating in the capital naturally died down overnight. It was unimaginable for the commoners to figure out what could've driven Shen Qing, who was pregnant with a loyal child, to kill herself.

As a result, the Shen family and Shen Qing were not suspected anymore. Even Emperor Wen Hui did not say anything, but they still could not find out who the murderer was. The case was mostly going to become an unsolved case.

In the Shen family, everything seemed to be no different from before.

Shen Qing had already married Prince Yu, so she had to be buried with him as a princess consort. Old Madam Shen actually felt a little relieved to know that her granddaughter was dead.

Shen Wan and Chen Ruoqiu looked very sad. Shen Yue was crying uncontrollably. However, no matter how sad they were, they had never even gone to the prison to see Shen Qing. Therefore, no one knew if they were putting on an act or if they were sincere.

In comparison, Shen Gui was very indifferent. He did his job as usual and did not look sad. Perhaps to Shen Gui, Shen Qing's suicide saved him a lot of trouble, so he was naturally happy. As for Shen Yuan, the responsibility of the entire second branch of the Shen family was now on him. Every day, he was out and about and was nowhere to be seen in the mansion. No one knew what he was busy with.

After Ren Wanyun found out that Shen Qing had committed suicide in prison, she fainted. When she woke up, she was a little delirious. She held Xianglan's hand and said that she wanted to see Shen Qing return. Clearly, this matter had a huge impact on Ren Wanyun. In such a state, she naturally wasn't qualified to manage the second branch. Shen Gui asked Concubine Wan to temporarily manage the second branch. Everyone in Rosy Cloud Garden thought to themselves that Concubine Wan was probably going to replace Ren Wanyun. Even Shen Dongling, who was invisible all year round, was going to make a comeback. On the other hand, Old Madam Shen was worried about Shen Yuanbai. In the end, she did not let Concubine Wan take care of her grandson. Instead, she brought Shen Yuanbai to Rongjing Hall to take care of him herself.

### **Chapter 257: Shen Qing's Death (5)**

The mess caused by the second and third branches of the Shen family had nothing to do with the first branch. When Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan returned this time, they had a lot of complaints about the other two branches, so they naturally didn't want to help. Every day, they practiced swordsmanship in the mansion or went out to visit their old friends. Shen Qiu also went along to meet the people in the bureaucracy. As Shen Qiu accumulated more and more military achievements, one day, he would take Shen Xin's place.

After resting for a period of time, Shen Miao went to Guangwen Hall again.

As the new year approached, teachers in Guangwen Hall became less and less strict with the students. They knew that at this moment, the students were not in the mood to study, so they let them be. Shen

Miao had not been there for a long while, but she was actually not so behind in her study. On the other hand, when the students saw her, they started discussing.

The news of Shen Qing spread like wildfire, but no one had ever heard of the Shen family commenting on it. After the massacre, Shen Yue was asked by Chen Ruoqiu to stay in the mansion and not go to school, in case anything went wrong. Therefore, when Shen Miao came, everyone was eager to ask.

Yi Peilan said, "Oh, Shen Miao, you're actually here? Why aren't you wearing mourning clothes?" She deliberately raised her voice and said, "Oh, it's no surprise. Back then, Shen Qing and you had a lot of friction. I think you aren't too sad about her death."

Yi Peilan and Shen Qing had always been good friends, so she wanted to stand up for Shen Qing and her words were naturally filled with malice. Everyone looked at the door and saw Shen Miao wearing a dark-colored dress and a simple jade bracelet, looking a little cold.

"According to the law of the Ming Qi Dynasty, when the elders die, the juniors have to wear white clothes. Miss Yi, Shen Qing is my sister, but she's not my elder," Shen Miao replied without looking back. She walked to her seat and sat down.

When Feng Anning saw her, she looked very excited, as if she had a lot of questions to ask her. Yi Peilan was immediately furious. Without thinking, she said, "Shen Miao, stop pretending to be a good person. Back then, you and Shen Qing were at odds. I think you're still happy that Shen Qing ended up like that. Otherwise, why didn't your father and mother help her when she was in prison?"

As soon as she said that, everyone immediately looked at Shen Miao, as if they were waiting for her to answer this tricky question. That's right. When Shen Qing was imprisoned, Shen Xin did not help her. Otherwise, with Shen Xin's meritorious service, he could at least help Shen Qing buy some time.

Shen Miao's eyes turned cold, and she suddenly turned to stare at Yi Peilan. Yi Peilan couldn't help but feel a chill run down her spine. Before she could speak again, she heard Shen Miao say mockingly, "Miss Yi and my eldest sister have always been close friends. I think you're very sad about her suicide. However, back then, my second aunt hoped to save my eldest sister and went to the Yi family to ask Mrs. Yi for help. I remember that at that time, Mrs. Yi said that she was sick and refused to see her."

Yi Peilan was stunned for a moment before her face turned red. The surrounding students looked at her meaningfully. She stammered, "T-That's because my mother was indeed sick!"

"Since Mrs. Yi can say that she's sick at such a critical juncture, why can't my parents do the same?" Shen Miao did not use rude words to retort, but she humiliated Yi Peilan fiercely. Shen Miao continued, "Since Mrs. Yi can't do it, why do you want my parents to do it? My eldest sister is in prison. Even my second uncle and second brother can't do anything to help her. Do you think it's easy to save her? Miss Yi, it's easy to talk but difficult to do. If you want to lecture others next time, please lecture yourself first!"

## **Chapter 258: Shen Qing's Death (6)**

As soon as Pei Lang entered the hall, he heard Shen Miao's words. Looking at the classroom, he saw Shen Miao was standing upright. Her words were said in a calm tone but they humiliated Yi Peilan and the Yi family greatly. Yi Peilan was speechless. She bit her lower lip and glared at Shen Miao.

That's right, do unto others what you don't want them to do unto you. The Yi family was just a bunch of fence-sitters, but they still stood on the moral high ground and criticized others. It was really laughable.

"Shen Miao!" Yi Peilan was about to rush up and fight with Shen Miao when she heard a light cough and Pei Lang walked in.

Seeing their teacher, everyone immediately fell silent. Before Yi Peilan could calm down, Pei Lang said indifferently, "No arguing in the school." After saying that, he glanced at Yi Peilan warningly.

Everyone knew that in Guangwen Hall, although Pei Lang had a gentle personality, he was respected by everyone. Even someone as arrogant as Yi Peilan did not dare to talk back to him. Shen Miao sat down. Feng Anning elbowed her and said in a low voice, "Mr. Pei is helping you out. Yi Peilan is too much. Even Mr. Pei can't stand it."

Shen Miao looked up and met Pei Lang's gaze. There was a hint of curiosity in his gentle expression, as if he wanted to see what she was thinking.

She met Pei Lang's gaze and smiled gracefully.

Pei Lang was slightly stunned. The girl had a delicate face and was cold and dignified. However, that smile just now seemed to have the charm of an adult woman. There was a hint of seduction in it, making people want to find out more.

However, at that moment, Shen Miao lowered her head, making him feel like the smile on her face just now seemed to be an illusion.

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The Exiled Immortal Pawnshop naturally knew all the rumors in the capital.

Ji Yushu buried his head in his abacus and said to the two people opposite him, "This deal we made with the Chen family is really worth it. With such a large sum of money, this pawnshop won't have to open for three years."

"Are you going to pocket all the money and not leave a penny to Fifth Miss Shen?" Gao Yang said teasingly, "After all, she's the one selling information."

Ji Yushu curled his lips. "She said that the money would all belong to me. I took such a huge risk to create rumors for her. Otherwise, how could Prince Yu be dealt with so easily?" He said, "Besides, if not for the fact that she told Chen Yueshan that she didn't want the money, the money I could've got from them would allow me to not work for thirty years. Thanks to her, I didn't make as much money as I could have. If not for the fact that she's a woman, I would have taught her a lesson!"

"Tell me when you are going to teach her a lesson, because I'll definitely prepare a coffin for you." Gao Yang waved his folding fan and smiled gently. However, his words made people grit their teeth. "Prince Yu wanted to harm her, but in the end, he was killed by her. Her sister set her up, so she took her life mercilessly. I bet you'll die in less than three moves if you become her enemy."

“Cut it out.” Ji Yushu was dissatisfied. “Am I that weak? Besides, no matter how powerful she is, she’s still a woman. Women have weaknesses.” Ji Yushu looked at Xie Jingxing, who was drinking tea leisurely, and said, “Let’s put it this way. If Fifth Miss Shen falls in love with our Third Brother one day, she will definitely be obsessed with him. At that time, even if Third Brother Xie points his sword at her, I don’t think she will dodge.”

“Hehe.” Gao Yang looked at him coldly. “At that time, she will definitely cut Xie into pieces and feed him to the dogs.”

“Third Brother Xie, Gao Yang called you a dog,” Ji Yushu immediately said.

Xie Jingxing played with the hairpin in his hand and rolled his eyes at the two of them, a look of seriousness flashing across his face.

“They’re here.”

### **Chapter 259: Jade Rabbit Festival (1)**

“They’re here.”

After hearing Xie Jingxing’s words, Gao Yang stopped teasing Ji Shuyu and looked at him. “You mean they are here in the capital?”

“Be careful these few days.” Xie Jingxing frowned. “They are here for the thing. In order not to expose your identity, don’t go out for the time being.”

“But how can you do it alone?” Without waiting for Gao Yang to speak, Ji Yushu said anxiously, “You’ve already attracted their attention. Now that they are in the capital, they’ll definitely look for you first. You can’t alert the others in the capital.”

“Don’t worry.” Xie Jingxing stretched and smiled wickedly. “I’ve been waiting for them for a long time anyway.”

“Third Brother Xie, are you going to teach them a lesson again?” Ji Yushu looked at him with sparkling eyes. “Can you bring me along this time?”

“Sure.” Xie Jingxing said casually, “I’ll use you as a target.”

Gao Yang was speechless.

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The gloom brought about by the massacre in Prince Yu’s mansion was quickly swept away by the joy of the new year. Since it was the new year, everywhere was decorated in a festive manner.

There was nothing more important than the new year. Time would not stop here. New snow covered old snow, new discussion covered old discussion, and new hope was always more hopeful than the old ones.

The emperor wasn't sad that his brother was dead either. He even spent a lot of money to set up a palace banquet and invite all the consorts to celebrate the new year with him. This made the people think that the rumors of the royal family being heartless were indeed true. However, only the smartest people knew that Emperor Wen Hui had dealt with a future problem tactfully and cleanly. Therefore, even if his officials failed to find the murderer, Emperor Wen Hui did not punish them.

Shen Qing and Prince Yu were buried in the royal tomb together. However, because Shen Qing committed suicide and she wasn't from the royal family, the emperor did not compensate the Shen family. This made Old Madam Shen very angry.

In the west courtyard of the Shen family, Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang were taking out the books in Shen Miao's room to bask in the sun.

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan went to the drill ground to train the new recruits early in the morning. At the end of the year, they still had to train the new recruits. Shen Qiu also went to join in the fun, leaving Shen Miao alone in the west courtyard.

"A few days ago, Eldest Young Master asked someone to send a batch of new books over. Why don't we take them out too?" Gu Yu asked Shen Miao.

"I still have some use for those books. There's no need to dry them," Shen Miao replied. Ever since Shen Qiu saw many military books in Shen Miao's room, he immediately told Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan about it happily. However, Shen Miao had never shown that she was into military tactics and strategies before, so Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan thought that she was just doing it on a whim. Even so, they still found many military books for her.

Those who did not know better would think that the Shen family planned to raise a female general. Shen Miao naturally had no intention of becoming a female general. It was just that the Shen family's army would face many dangers in the future, and she could only rely on her understanding in her previous life to help the Shen family get through these problems. There was no harm in knowing more about tactics.

As Bai Lu flipped the pages, she said, "Tomorrow is the Jade Rabbit Festival. I heard that there will be a festive activity by the lake this year where thousands of people come together to light lanterns. Are you going tomorrow?"

The Jade Rabbit Festival was a festival in Ming Qi. On the night before the new year every year, people would go to the streets to look at lanterns and guess riddles. It was very lively. There would be an especially large jade rabbit in the lanterns, blessing the entire Ming Qi with good weather and rain in the coming year. The difference this year was that the Jade Rabbit was on the water. At that time, the people could put their own lanterns on the water to make a wish or pray for their family. The scene would definitely be very lively. Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang were young and curious. It was natural for them to want to join the fun.

## **Chapter 260: Jade Rabbit Festival (2)**

"What are you talking about?" Gu Yu said angrily, "The streets will definitely be very crowded. What if something happens to Miss?"

“But didn’t we always go in the past?” Bai Lu said, pouting.

“It’s different!” Gu Yu said fiercely. Bai Lu was right. At this time in the past, Shen Xin and his wife had already returned to the capital. The entire Shen family would go out to watch the Jade Rabbit Festival. However, this year, the Shen family was involved in a big case, and the murderer had yet to be found. If someone took the opportunity to take revenge, Shen Miao’s life would indeed be in danger.

“It’s fine.” Shen Miao smiled. “I want to go and watch the show anyway. With my parents and brother by my side, I won’t be in any danger.”

“But...” Gu Yu still wanted to persuade her.

“It’s decided.” Shen Miao interrupted her and walked back into the house. Gu Yu had no choice but to suppress the worry in her heart. At some point, Shen Miao had become extremely stubborn. She no longer looked like she would ask the second and third branches for help. It was indeed good that she had her own thoughts like this, but when she was stubborn, she made people feel very helpless.

Shen Miao returned to the house and sat down at her table. Her gaze landed on the plum branch outside. The branch was covered in red spots, reminding her of the letter she had received previously.

The Chen brothers had already gone back home. After Prince Yu’s mansion was wiped out, they never contacted each other again. Shen Miao was extremely cautious. All her communication with the Chen family was done through a letter sent by Mo Qing to the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop so no one would suspect her.

This time, there was another piece of news that Mo Qing brought back. There was finally something about Miss Liu Ying, who Shen Miao had asked Ji Yushu to investigate. She worked in the biggest brothel in the capital, the Treasure Fragrance Chamber where she was considered one of the top beauties. It was said that on the day of the Jade Rabbit Festival, she would also dress up as the Jade Rabbit Fairy and dance by the lake. Shen Miao really wanted to go and take a look.

As for the worry Gu Yu had that someone would use this opportunity to harm Shen Miao, it was simply not going to happen. The Chen brothers were in the same team with her to begin with, so there was no way they would harm Shen Miao. As for the Shen family, Old Madam Shen was so angry that she refused to see everyone except her two sons and the grandson. The second branch of the Shen family had collapsed. Shen Yuan was too busy currying favor with the officials to harm Shen Miao.

Now that she thought about it, this was the only new year when she could temporarily let down her guard.

At this thought, the corners of Shen Miao’s lips curled up slightly, making Gu Yu, who was looking at her from outside, stunned. However, before she could come back to her senses, she heard Jingzhe’s voice. Jingzhe walked in and said, “Miss, Concubine Wan from the east courtyard has come to see you.”

Concubine Wan? Gu Yu frowned and said in a low voice, “Again?”

“Why does Concubine Wan keep coming to our courtyard?” Shuang Jiang and Bai Lu also whispered, “She’s too eager to curry favor with us.”

The maids did not like Concubine Wan. No matter what Concubine Wan's purpose for coming was, she was still from the second branch.

A few days ago, when Concubine Wan came to see Shen Miao, she was rejected by Shen Miao with all kinds of excuses. Today, Shen Miao said, "Let her in."

Jingzhe was stunned for a moment before going out to bring the guest in. On the other hand, Gu Yu and the others looked worried, afraid that Concubine Wan was up to no good.