

Venomous 311

Chapter 311: Do It for Her (5)

"Second Brother."

"I heard that Fifth Sister has been quite close to cousins recently." Shen Yuan smiled and said, "Did you just come back from Cousin Brother's place?" He mentioned Jing Guansheng, as if he was hinting that there was something between Shen Miao and Jing Guansheng. Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang frowned. Shen Yuan's words sounded especially jarring.

Shen Miao glanced at Shen Yuan and did not answer him. She said, "It seems like Second Brother just came back from Second Aunt's place. I heard that Second Aunt hasn't been acting weirdly for a long time. Is she about to recover?" Ren Wanyun had not shown up for a long time. Everything in the second branch was left to Concubine Wan. Even Old Madam Shen, who had always looked down on Concubine Wan, did not say anything. Everyone in the Shen family knew that it was impossible for Ren Wanyun to live as gloriously as she did in the first half of her life.

Shen Yuan paused and sized her up. He smiled and said, "Fifth Sister, you look quite glowy. Is there something happy happening to you?"

"What happy things can happen to me? Actually, Second Brother, you seem to be very busy these days. Perhaps something good is happening to you, right?" Shen Miao replied.

Hearing this, Shen Yuan actually looked pleased. He said, "Oh? You noticed it. I've been plagued by bad luck for a while, but recently, I've been thinking of a way to get rid of it. Things are going smoothly for me lately, so I'm naturally very happy." He looked at Shen Miao meaningfully. "But Fifth Sister, don't worry. I think something happy is about to happen to you soon."

Shen Miao remained silent. Shen Yuan cupped his hands and said, "I still have something to do. Goodbye." With that, he strode away.

Bai Lu said angrily, "Second Young Master is too rude." Anyone could tell that Shen Yuan was hostile to Shen Miao and said those sarcastic words deliberately.

Shen Miao frowned and looked at Shen Yuan's back without saying anything.

"Miss?" Shuang Jiang asked worriedly.

Shen Miao said, "He's indeed behaving very strangely." Shen Miao knew Shen Yuan very well. He looked like he did not care about anything in the mansion, but he was the most ruthless. Now, Shen Miao was certain that Shen Yuan was definitely involved in what happened to Shen Qiu in her previous life.

Although Shen Yuan did not know that his plan had been messed up by Shen Miao, what he said just now seemed to have revealed some information.

"Should we get Guard Mo to spy on Second Young Master?" Shuang Jiang suggested.

"There's no need. Mo Qing doesn't have the ability yet." Shen Miao shook her head. Fu Xiuyi was nothing to be afraid of, but the people behind him were different. She said, "Let's wait and see."

When she returned to the west courtyard, she had just stepped into the house when she saw Gu Yu and Jingzhe waiting anxiously in the house. Seeing that Shen Miao had returned, Gu Yu quickly closed the door and pulled Shen Miao to sit down on the couch. Jingzhe whispered, "Miss, Fu'er from Rongjing Hall sent a message."

"How is it?" Shen Miao asked.

"Old Madam plans to execute the plan herself in two days." Jingzhe said angrily, "Old Madam is really too evil. Master and Madam treat her so well, but she is actually scheming against Eldest Young Master. And that cousin of yours, I knew she's not a good person all along. She's really shameless!"

"Alright." Gu Yu interrupted her. "Miss, what should we do now?"

Chapter 312: Do It for Her (6)

"Why two days later?" Shen Miao asked.

"It'll be the family banquet in two days. Coincidentally, Second Madam's best friend is coming over to visit Second Madam..." Jingzhe did not finish her sentence, but her meaning was obvious. Old Madam Shen wanted to take advantage of the fact that there were many people during the banquet to accuse Shen Qiu of molesting Jing Chuchu. How could Shen Qiu defend himself?

Just like in the previous life, Old Madam Shen's method remained still not so brilliant.

"Send some words to Fu'er." Shen Miao waved her hand and asked Jingzhe to lean over and whisper something in her ear.

"But we still have to get someone to keep an eye on it." Shen Miao said, "We can't afford to make a mistake."

"I understand." A trace of eagerness flashed across Jingzhe's eyes. "I will definitely do this well."

Shen Miao smiled faintly. "Don't mess it up. They look like a match." She reached out and gently knocked on the teacup in front of her. She looked calm and composed, like a superior monarch.

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At night, in a manor hundreds of kilometers away from the capital, a person was sitting in the hall.

The people standing in the hall were all dressed in black and had long boots. Their aura and presence were intimidating. The person in the lead cupped his hands and said, "I didn't do my job well and the words have been sent back. Master, please punish me."

"Enough." The young man sitting at the head of the table waved his hand lazily. He was dressed in purple and there were thin dragon patterns embroidered with gold thread at the corner of his robe. Under the light, the golden dragon seemed to be about to soar into the sky from the flowing purple

clouds. He played with a woman's hairpin in his hand. On his handsome and charming face, even his smile looked evil. Looking at him carefully, his intoxicating eyes were as cold as ice.

"You can't keep it a secret forever." Xie Jingxing said, "I don't intend to hide it anymore. I'm just trying to buy time. Since the words have been sent back, time is even tighter now."

"Master." The leader of the men in black frowned and said, "The matters in the capital have not been settled. Time is tight. What do you plan to do?"

"Let's not leave any trouble behind. First thing we need to do is," He tilted his head and thought for a moment before saying casually, "Find a time to get rid of Xie Changwu and his brother." Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao were his half-brothers after all, but when Xie Jingxing said it, he did not hesitate at all, as if he was just dealing with strangers or even cats and dogs.

"Master?" The man in black was stunned and asked hesitantly, "You didn't do anything for so many years. Why all of a sudden?"

"In the past, I couldn't be bothered to deal with them. Now, the two of them wanted to make a move." Xie Jingxing said, "I can't leave in peace without getting rid of them first."

"But Marquis Xie has already brought the two of them into the officialdom." The man in black said, "These days, the two brothers have been by Marquis Xie's side. I heard that Marquis Xie has already introduced them to his colleagues in the bureaucracy and instructed his colleagues to take good care of them. It's not difficult to make a move, but alarming some people will be inevitable."

"Xie Ding, that idiot!" Xie Jingxing's expression darkened and his tone was a little angry. "He just can't do anything right."

When he called the Marquis of Lin'an by his name, the people below were not surprised at all, as if this was something natural.

The man in black cleared his throat and said, "Master, because you refused to be an official, Marquis Xie is afraid that there will be no successor to take on his position, so he asked the two of them to join him."

Xie Jingxing had been rebellious for a long time. Xie Ding must be really helpless about it. Otherwise, with the Marquis of Lin'an's personality, why would he give up on Xie Jingxing and let Xie Changwu take over his position?

"Forget it." Xie Jingxing frowned. "Let's wait for a while before dealing with the twin brothers. From today onwards, send someone to protect Princess Rong Xin in secret."

"Master." The man in black hesitated for a moment and only said when he made up his mind, "Since it will happen sooner or later, why don't we cut ties with Princess Rong Xin now..."

"When is it your turn to teach me how to do things?" Xie Jingxing glanced at him. The latter immediately fell silent, feeling a chill run down his spine. "Whether she appreciates my help or not is her business. I've already done my best."

His words were indifferent and ruthless. Coupled with his handsome face, he looked inexplicably terrifying.

He stood up, the corners of his robe moving slightly on the seat. "Do as planned."

"I heard that Shen Yuan has already collected most of the evidence." The man in black said, "I'm afraid once the new year is over, he will be done collecting the evidence and the Shen family will be targeted first."

"Not bad." Xie Jingxing shrugged. "If Shen Yuan needs help, help him secretly."

"But Shen Yuan is Prince Ding's man," the man in black reminded him.

"Of course I know he's Prince Ding's man." Xie Jingxing waved his hand. "I just want to use the Shen family as a shield for the time being."

Chapter 313: Drunk (1)

The Shen family banquet was set to be held in two days.

Old Madam Shen was the one who suggested holding the family banquet. However, every year, Ren Wanyun was the one who organized the family banquet, but this year, the handling of the family banquet could only be handed over to Chen Ruoqiu. Now that the power of the Shen family was in Chen Ruoqiu's hands, Old Madam Shen felt that she was doing Chen Ruoqiu a lot of favor. Little did she know that this job that looked glamorous on the surface actually made Chen Ruoqiu miserable.

In the Autumn Water Garden, Chen Ruoqiu sat at the table, holding an account book in one hand and an abacus in the other. The two maids standing behind her said, "Madam, you've been working for the entire morning. You should rest for a while."

"The expense doesn't match." Chen Ruoqiu shook her head in frustration. "I have to pay for it myself tomorrow." As she spoke, she looked angry.

Chen Ruoqiu prided herself on being a noble girl from a scholarly family. She was aloof and proud, and she could not stand the stench of money. Back then, when Old Madam Shen handed the power to Ren Wanyun, it was not that she was not jealous, but she could not bring herself to fight for it. After so many years, she finally became the madam of the Shen family, but at this moment, she realized how much of a responsibility came with that power.

Ren Wanyun was from a rich family. Usually, she would use her own money to make up the deficit. After all, Ren Wanyun did not lack money. However, the Chen family was just a civil official. To put it bluntly, they were poor and could not afford to spend too much. Chen Ruoqiu thought that if she had more power in the Shen family, she would be able to embezzle some money to support her own family. Now that after she checked the accounts, she realized that there was a lot of money in the accounts that did not match.

In the past, with Shen Xin's help, the deficits could easily be made up. However, now that the relationship between Shen Xin and the Shen family was awkward, Chen Ruoqiu felt a headache coming on.

“Old Madam is still holding a family banquet at this time even though she knows that we don’t have enough money. Isn’t she intentionally making things difficult for Madam?” Chen Ruoqiu’s maid, Shi Qing, was indignant for her.

“Madam, why don’t you ask Master for some to make it up?” Hua Yi said.

“What nonsense are you talking about?” Chen Ruoqiu said, “At this moment, he needs a lot of money to network in the bureaucracy. How can we let him fork out money to support the family?” She said, “I’ll think about what to do.” Shen Wan wanted to climb up the official ladder, but Shen Gui was different. Shen Gui was extremely ambitious and did not have much ability. He only knew how to curry favor with powerful people. Shen Wan, on the other hand, climbed up step by step. Although his steps were slower, every step he took was stable.

Chen Ruoqiu had always known that since she did not give birth to a son, she must rely on Shen Wan’s love for her in the second branch. Therefore, in order to not disappoint Shen Wan, she did everything meticulously. If she could not even resolve the matter at home, wouldn’t she cause unnecessary trouble for Shen Wan? With Shen Wan’s status, there were many women outside who wanted to become his concubine. How could she let herself be outdone by those women?

“Besides, I won’t spend money for nothing.” Chen Ruoqiu’s eyes flashed. “If I can gain something in return, it’s worth it to spend some of my own money.”

“Madam, you mean...”

Chen Ruoqiu smiled. “It’s a little strange that Old Madam wants to hold a family banquet at this time. Besides, I heard that a few days ago, her grandniece frequented the west courtyard quite a lot...” As Chen Ruoqiu spoke, there was a trace of disgust in her eyes. “Old Madam is really evil, but... as it happens, I don’t like Shen Qiu either.”

Chen Ruoqiu did not like Shen Yuan, nor did she like Shen Qiu. She was still a little afraid of Shen Yuan, but she looked down on Shen Qiu. She could not give birth to a son herself, so she could not stand other people having outstanding sons. As for Shen Qiu, Chen Ruoqiu only felt that he was an uncivilized brute who only knew how to fight and wield spears. Why did he deserve so much praise? People wanted to destroy something just because they could not get it. She did not dare to make a move against Shen Yuan yet because Shen Yuan was scheming. However, Shen Qiu was silly and non-scheming, and he had never experienced the nasty tricks in the mansion. It was much easier to deal with him. Most importantly, she did not have to make a move at all. This time, it was Old Madam Shen who was making a move, and she just had to sit back and watch the show.

Chapter 314: Drunk (2)

“I’ll write a few more invitation letters later.” Chen Ruoqiu said, “Get someone to send the letters to other noble ladies.” The more people there were, the better.

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Two days later, at the Shen family’s banquet.

Ever since Ren Wanyun went crazy, those noble ladies had cut off all contact with her. Although they did not know what happened to Ren Wanyun, none of them asked about or showed any concerns for her. It was true that when a person falls from power, his hangers-on disperse.

The ladies who were originally on good terms with Ren Wanyun gradually got closer to Chen Ruoyu. Although they didn't want to have anything to do with Ren Wanyun, the relationship with the Shen family still had to be maintained. The Shen family had more than one madam. Compared to Luo Xueyan, who was not in the capital all year round and had a bad temper, Chen Ruoyu, who came from a scholarly family, was obviously easier to curry favor with.

Madam Yi and Madam Jiang arrived early. Jiang Xiaoxuan and Yi Peilan pulled Shen Yue to the side and said, "I can only go to Guangwen Hall after the new year. I've been locked up in the mansion for a long time. It's so boring."

They chatted as if they had completely forgotten about Shen Qing who died miserably. They forgot that not long ago, they were really good friends with Shen Qing. The friendship between the noble young ladies in the capital was also cold. After all, friendship was nothing in comparison to benefits. It wasn't the person they wanted to befriend but the power behind the person.

Shen Yue also smiled back and chatted happily with them. On the other hand, Bai Wei looked at the figure in the distance and said, "Hey, who is that? Is that the Miss Jing you mentioned?"

She raised her chin and pointed at the girl standing not far away. The girl was wearing an apricot-colored dress and was talking to the maid beside her.

"That's my third sister, Dongling." Shen Yue smiled and said, "She was born to a concubine. In the past, when she was not in good health, she didn't show up at all. It's natural that you haven't seen her." She deliberately emphasized the word "concubine".

Hearing this, Jiang Xiaoxuan and the others immediately looked at Shen Dongling with disdain. Yi Peilan said, "Not in good health? I think she was just avoiding Second Madam Shen. These born to concubines are the most scheming. Yue, don't be deceived by her."

Shen Yue smiled and said, "Third Sister doesn't leave the courtyard much. Look, that's my new cousin."

As Shen Yuan spoke, he saw Jing Chuchu walking over from the side. She probably did not see Shen Yue and the other two, so she did not come over to greet them. On the other hand, Bai Wei had sharp eyes and asked in confusion, "Yue, didn't you say that your cousin is from Suzhou and is poor. That doesn't look like it. Look at the bracelet she's wearing. It's better than yours."

Bai Wei said it unintentionally, but Shen Yue's face turned pale. She forced a smile and said, "I don't know either. It's probably a gift from Grandmother."

"What's there to see?" Jiang Xiaoxuan said, "She's from Suzhou. How can she compare to the girls in the capital? She can put on expensive clothes and jewelry for all she wants, but her horizons and knowledge are not far inferior to ours. Look at her timid look. How is she presentable?"

Shen Yue shook her head and said, "Don't say that about my cousin."

"You're being too kind-hearted." Yi Peilan said righteously, "Why are you so nice to everyone? You even protected that idiotic sister of yours in the past. Now that she's become smarter, she even looks down on you. Speaking of which, why is that idiot nowhere to be seen?"

The "Idiot" she was talking about was naturally Shen Miao. Ever since having an argument with Shen Miao in Guangwen Hall, Yi Peilan had treated Shen Miao as her number one enemy and was trying to find every chance to belittle her.

At this moment, Shen Miao was drinking tea with Shen Qiu in the west courtyard.

"What does Grandmother want?" Shen Qiu frowned and said, "Why did she invite so many women? They are really noisy wherever they go."

Chapter 315: Drunk (3)

"She probably invited everyone Third Aunt knows." Shen Miao handed Shen Qiu a cup of tea. "Maybe they came to admire you, the young general."

"Sister, don't tease me." Shen Qiu waved his hand. "One is already difficult enough. There are so many women. Even the battlefield is not that scary."

Shen Miao found it a little funny that Shen Qiu looked at women like they were ferocious beasts. However, it made sense. Most of the women approached Shen Qiu with ulterior motives. The women of the Shen family were not a good bunch either. To someone as righteous and straightforward as Shen Qiu, it was indeed like a torture to be with them.

Shen Miao tried to comfort him. "When you meet the girl you like in the future, you won't think that way."

Shen Qiu did not speak and stared at her as if he had seen a ghost. A moment later, he shook his head and said, "Sister, the expression on your face when you said that just now is really like Mother."

Shen Miao was speechless. As she thought about it, she realized that she actually treated Shen Qiu as Fu Ming in some way.

Just as she was about to speak, she suddenly saw some noise outside. She looked at Shen Qiu and walked out together, only to see someone shouting at the door, "What's wrong with you? I'm just here to see Shen Miao. Let me in!"

Shen Miao was stunned. "Feng Anning?"

When that person heard Shen Miao's voice, she waved at her. "It's me, Shen Miao. Tell them to let go of me!"

"Let go of her." Shen Miao said, "She's Miss Feng."

After Feng Anning was let go by the guards, she patted the dust off her body in exasperation and said angrily, "What's going on? Why are there so many guards outside your courtyard? I thought something

happened to you, so I came in. Why did you get so many people to block the way? Shen Miao, are you crazy?"

This was probably the first time Feng Anning was manhandled like this by someone. She lost her temper and reprimanded Shen Miao. Shen Qiu stepped forward and said coldly, "Who are you? Why are you shouting in someone else's house? Don't you even know the basic manners?"

Feng Anning looked up and was about to retort when she saw Shen Qiu. Shen Qiu had sharp eyebrows and bright eyes. He was very handsome and was different from the weak young masters of the capital. Usually, his smile was warm and innocent, but when his face was cold, he was like a young general on the battlefield.

Feng Anning immediately restrained her arrogance and asked softly, "Who are you?"

"This is my brother," Shen Miao said.

Shen Qiu was quite famous in the capital. The young marquis of the Xie family and the young general of the Shen family were often mentioned by people. Unfortunately, Xie Jingxing refused to become an official. Otherwise, these two people would be the most outstanding among the young officials.

"What are you doing here?" Seeing that Feng Anning was a little embarrassed, Shen Miao asked.

When Feng Anning heard this, she complained, "I came to talk to you. You know that ever since those people in Guangwen Hall found out that I'm on good terms with you, they purposefully froze me out. Who cares? I came to talk to you."

When Shen Qiu heard that, his expression softened. He knew that Shen Miao was quite disliked in the school, but unfortunately, he was not around all year round and could not protect Shen Miao all the time. Now that Shen Miao had a friend, although her friend was arrogant and did not know etiquette, it was better than having no friends at all.

Of course, he and Feng Anning did not know that Shen Miao had no intention of making friends at all.

Chapter 316: Drunk (4)

"Since your friend is here, you guys can chat." Shen Qiu coughed lightly. "I'm going out to talk to Father."

After Shen Qiu left, Feng Anning whispered, "Why is your brother so fierce? He scared me to death just now."

Fierce... Shen Miao couldn't be bothered to explain and said, "That's right. He kills people like flies."

Feng Anning quickly patted her chest and said, "Fortunately, I admitted my mistake early. I won't dare to rush in like this next time."

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Soon, it was time for the Shen family's banquet to start.

The men and women sat separately. The women were all in the banquet hall of Rongjing Hall, and the men were received by Shen Gui and Shen Wan. Shen Xin wasn't into this so-called family banquet, and nor was he into socializing with the officials. He sat in an inconspicuous spot and drank alone.

There were not many men who came, and they were all civil officials who were on good terms with Shen Gui and Shen Wan. Therefore, looking across the dining hall, it was as if Shen Xin and Shen Qiu had been deliberately ignored. Shen Qiu was not unhappy at all because of this, and he ate happily.

In the women's section on the other side, the ones who were ignored were naturally Luo Xueyan and Shen Miao. Since the noble ladies were Chen Ruoqiu's friends, they naturally had to give Chen Ruoqiu more face. They couldn't ridicule Shen Miao in front of Luo Xueyan, but they could ignore them. Therefore, Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Yue were asked all kinds of questions by the ladies. Even Jing Chuchu and Shen Dongling had someone to talk to. Only Shen Miao was deliberately ignored.

Luo Xueyan was a little angry. If it were the old Shen Miao, she would also be angry too. However, it was different now. No matter what those ladies said, Shen Miao ate and drank indifferently. Her every move carried a dignified and noble aura, making people feel that it was not that those people deliberately ignored her, but that Shen Miao disdained to talk to these people.

Madam Yi smiled and said, "I heard that Suzhou is endowed with beauties. I didn't believe it at first, but now that I see Old Madam's grandniece, I am convinced. You can't find such a beautiful girl in the capital."

At the banquet, Old Madam Shen showed how much she valued Jing Chuchu. Although the ladies did not know why, they were not stupid. Since Old Madam Shen thought highly of Jing Chuchu, there was no harm in praising her.

Jing Chuchu blushed and lowered her head without saying anything. Old Madam Shen smiled. "Madam Yi, I don't agree. Miss Yi is also very pretty. I like her."

Yi Peilan smiled and thanked Old Madam Shen for her praise. She became even more curious about Jing Chuchu and asked Shen Yue in a low voice, "Old Madam seems to like your cousin a lot."

Shen Yue nodded vaguely, feeling a little puzzled as well.

Shen Dongling sat in the corner of the banquet quietly and looked like a nobody. Even so, Shen Dongling did not show a trace of resentment. She just ate the food in her bowl, looking exactly like a well-behaved and unloved illegitimate daughter.

Old Madam Shen instructed Jing Chuchu to eat more while praising her like she was the best girl anyone could ask for.

Chapter 317: Drunk (5)

It was not until the maid who came over to pour tea accidentally splashed the tea on Jing Chuchu that Old Madam Shen stopped praising. She scolded the maid, "What are you doing? What if you scald her?"

"It's fine." Jing Chuchu smiled and said, "The tea is not hot. I'm not hurt."

"Your clothes are all wet." Old Madam Shen looked at the water stain on Jing Chuchu's clothes and said with concern, "You can't wear wet clothes in this cold weather. Xi'er, bring Miss to change into a clean dress." She then instructed Jing Chuchu, "Be careful. Don't catch a cold."

Jing Chuchu lowered her head and looked at her clothes. The tea had drenched the cotton, and it was quite uncomfortable wearing it. She did not decline. With a red face, she excused herself before leaving with the maid.

Madam Jiang said, "Miss Jing is really lucky to be valued by Old Madam."

Old Madam Shen smiled until the wrinkles on her face glued together. "It's me who is lucky to have such an obedient and sensible grandniece."

Hearing this, everyone started praising Jing Chuchu again. Chen Ruoqiu glanced at Old Madam Shen and subconsciously looked at Shen Miao. Perhaps sensing her gaze, Shen Miao also looked at Chen Ruoqiu, her face filled with confusion.

Chen Ruoqiu smiled faintly and lowered her head, a trace of joy flashing across her heart. However, Chen Ruoqiu did not see that the moment Shen Miao lowered her head, the confusion on her face was replaced by an extremely faint smile. If one looked at it seriously, there seemed to be an inexplicable excitement in that smile.

On the other hand, Shen Dongling stole a glance at Shen Miao and quickly lowered her head to eat the food in her bowl.

The men's section was not as intense as the women's section. It was filled with mutual compliments and flattering, which was the style of the bureaucracy. Although Shen Xin and Shen Qiu were ignored, a few colleagues still came over to toast. After a few glasses, Shen Qiu felt a little dizzy.

"Are you telling me you are drunk after just a few glasses? Are you a five year old?" Shen Xin said angrily.

Shen Qiu rubbed the space between his eyebrows and shook his head. "I don't know." As a man who had grown up in the military camp, this bit of wine was naturally a piece of cake. It had to be known that they usually drank from big jars in the military camp. The wine in the capital had always been nothing to Shen Qiu. Unexpectedly, he got drunk today after just a few glasses.

"You really learned nothing all these years." Shen Xin expected better from him.

"Uncle, don't be angry." Jing Guansheng smiled and explained, "It's not that Cousin can't hold his liquor, but he mixed the strong wine with the light wine." He pointed at the wine glass in front of Shen Qiu. As expected, the wine in the wine glass was not red like the strong wine, nor was it clear like the light wine. Instead, it looked like it was mixed together. Jing Guansheng continued to explain, "Cousin probably didn't notice it and poured it together. If it were someone else, they'd already be dead drunk. It's already impressive that Cousin can still stay sober."

"Hahaha." An official smiled and said, "Your son is already impressive. General Shen, don't blame him."

Shen Yuan glanced at Shen Qiu and said, "Brother, you can't continue drinking like this. It's better for you to rest for a while."

Shen Qiu waved his hand, muttering something that no one could catch. It seemed like he was very drunk.

"How about I send Cousin back to his room?" Jing Guansheng suggested with a smile.

Although Shen Xin didn't have a good impression of Jing Guansheng because he had been pestering Shen Miao, ever since the guards were placed at the entrance of the courtyard, Jing Guansheng had been sensible enough to not come uninvited. Shen Xin glanced at him. "In that case, I'll have to trouble you and Ah Zhi to help him back."

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Jing Guansheng was about to get up when he saw Shen Qiu grab Shen Yuan and shake his head. "Ah Zhi, you take me back."

Shen Yuan was stunned. Shen Xin said with a frown. "It seems like he mistakes you as Ah Zhi." With that, he said to Shen Qiu, "You little brat, let go of your second brother."

Shen Qiu refused to let go. Shen Yuan's eyes darkened and he said, "In that case, I'll help Eldest Brother back to his room." He helped Shen Qiu up and walked out without waiting for Shen Xin to reject.

Just as Shen Xin was about to speak, Shen Wan came over with a glass of wine. "Brother, let me toast you!"

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It was extremely common for people to go out and enter. However, when the banquet ended and the madams were chatting in the courtyard, Madam Bai seemed to have remembered something as she asked, "Why isn't Miss Jing back yet?"

After Jing Chuchu's clothes were stained by the tea that the maid spilled, she went back to change her clothes. However, she had not appeared since then. Old Madam Shen was somewhat nervous and said to Xi'er beside her, "Go and see why Miss is not here yet."

"Maybe she's a little drunk." Shen Yue smiled and said, "She drank a lot of honey wine just now. Although it's sweet, the aftereffects are strong. Cousin likes sweet things, so I forgot to stop her. She might be a little dizzy and is resting in her room."

Xi'er nodded and left.

Feng Anning pursed her lips and nudged Shen Miao. "I thought that with so many girls in your mansion, the family banquet would definitely be very lively. Now it seems that it's also very boring." Feng Anning did not have so many sisters. However, even though Shen Miao had so many sisters, she was not close to any of them and was even deliberately ignored. In Feng Anning's eyes, she felt that it was boring.

"It's always been like this," Shen Miao replied.

Feng Anning looked around. "I'm going to the bathroom. Wait for me. I'll be right back."

After Feng Anning left with the maid, Xi'er returned to Old Madam Shen's side and shook her head. "Old Madam, Miss is not in her room."

"Not in her room?" Old Madam Shen raised her voice. All the madams looked over. Old Madam Shen quickly lowered her voice and said, "Where is she then?"

Xi'er shook her head. "The servants don't know either."

"This girl." Old Madam Shen was a little anxious. "Did something happen to her?"

When the noble ladies saw her like this, they started to have wild imaginations.

Chen Ruoqiu walked over from the other side. After asking what happened, she smiled and said, "Old Madam, don't worry. I think Chuchu is just drunk. As it happens, Shen Qiu is also drunk and has been sent back to his room to rest. The alcohol at our banquet is strong. Chuchu might have gone to another room by mistake."

Shen Miao's gaze suddenly turned sharp when she heard Chen Ruoqiu say "Shen Qiu is also drunk".

Old Madam Shen shook her head and said, "Go and find a few people to look for Chuchu. She must still be in the mansion. It won't be good if she catches a cold." As she spoke, she looked at everyone.

"Everyone, I recently obtained a Golden Buddha Painting. It's a double-sided embroidery by Zhang Qiaoxian. It's hanging in my main hall. If you want to see it, I'm willing to show you."

Zhang Qiaoxian was a famous embroiderer in Ming Qi. Hearing that Old Madam Shen had the authentic work, everyone wanted to see it. Shen Miao sneered. That double-sided embroidery was a reward from the palace. A few years ago, it was given to Old Madam Shen by Shen Xin. She was just stingy and had never shown it to everyone. There must be a reason she suddenly wanted to show it to everyone.

The madams and young ladies followed Old Madam Shen to appreciate the embroidery. The main hall of Rongjing Hall was a room similar to a tearoom for guests to rest. Usually, very few people went there because Old Madam Shen did not have many guests. Most of the time, the tearoom was empty.

However, just as they reached the door, they noticed something strange.

There was a sound coming from inside the room that sounded like something had fallen to the ground.

Everyone suddenly stopped in their tracks..

"Who's in there? Where are the guards?" Old Madam Shen asked.

"Old Madam, the guards were here earlier. There shouldn't be anyone in the tearoom," Xi'er said in confusion.

"What a bunch of idlers! They can't even guard the door properly." Old Madam Shen was a little angry. "Open the door!"

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"Open the door!"

When Old Madam Shen said this, her face flushed with anger. None of the madams left as there was nothing they liked more than a spectacular show.

Chen Ruoqiu comforted her, "Mother, don't be angry. Perhaps the guests entered the wrong room." With that, she gave the maids a look. The two maids beside her took a step forward and pushed the door open.

The door looked to be tightly shut, but it was not tightly shut. With a light push, it opened. However, immediately after that, the two maids were startled and took two steps back.

Old Madam Shen shouted sternly, "What's going on?"

One of the maids lost her balance and fell. As she fell, she held onto the doorframe tightly and caused it to open wider. The situation inside was immediately exposed to everyone, and everyone couldn't help but gasp.

The tearoom was very small. It was originally a place for people to rest for a short while. There was only a small table and a couch for people to sit. The teacups on the table were all broken on the ground. On the narrow couch, two figures overlapped, and one could vaguely see a man pressing down on a woman. The sound from inside just now was clearly the sound of teacups shattering.

The madams immediately covered their daughters' eyes to prevent them from seeing this nasty scene.

Outside, Xi'er also exclaimed, "Miss, Miss Jing!"

"Chuchu!" Chen Ruoqiu also shouted.

"What?" Old Madam Shen was stunned and almost fainted. Fu'er, who was beside her, quickly went to support Old Madam Shen.

"What's going on?" Chen Ruoqiu looked a little flustered. When the two people in the room heard the commotion outside, the man lying on the woman did not move, but the woman tried her best to push the man away.

"Oh my god." Xi'er covered her mouth in surprise. "Didn't Eldest Young Master already return to his room after getting drunk? Why is he..."

When everyone heard this, they immediately understood what was going on.

The young master of the Shen family, who was drunk, happened to meet his cousin who went back to change her clothes. He couldn't stand the temptation of a beauty dressed in wet clothes and molested her.

"Qiu has always been a prudent child. How could he do such a thing?" Chen Ruoqiu shook her head and said, "It's all because of wine!" At this point, she looked like she was heartbroken.

From her tone, she was certain that the man was Shen Qiu.

Shen Miao looked at the scene in silence. It was almost the same scene as in her previous life. After Shen Qiu woke up, he could not justify himself. Although Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan believed in Shen Qiu, the truth was right in front of them. Moreover, in such matters, the one who suffered the most was

always the girl. If Shen Qiu did not swear to marry Jing Chuchu, the madams present today would definitely spit at Shen Qiu and drown him. What did Shen Miao do at that time? As Shen Miao thought about it, she felt deeply ashamed. Because of feeling embarrassed to have such a brother, she accused Shen Qiu and despised him together with the rest of them.

Shen Yue suddenly said, "Fifth Sister, why aren't you saying anything?"

Everyone immediately looked at Shen Miao. Shen Qiu was Shen Miao's brother. She would definitely feel embarrassed to have a brother who did such a thing. They did not know if Shen Miao would choose to speak up for Shen Qiu or if she would turn against him.

Yi Peilan liked to see Shen Miao in trouble. At this moment, she gloated and said in a pretentious manner, "Shen Miao, actually, this has nothing to do with you. Although you are a family, you've done nothing wrong."

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However, the more she said that, the more it seemed to remind everyone that Shen Miao was Shen Qiu's sister. How good a person could she be if her brother was a bad person?

"I'm just curious." Shen Miao said indifferently, "Why are you discussing this here instead of resolving the matter? Do you want more people to join the show? Why don't you go out and get the passers-by to come in?"

Her sarcasm made everyone plunge in silence.

Indeed, if it happened to an ordinary family, they would immediately think of ways to cover it. However, Old Madam Shen and Chen Ruoqiu seemed to want more people to know. They even started discussing at the door. Anyone with a brain could tell the two of them were up to no good.

Chen Ruoqiu and Old Madam Shen were a little embarrassed, but Shen Miao continued casually, "Even if my mother isn't here, there should be someone here to take charge of the situation, right? Second Aunt is not here today. Third Aunt, don't you have a clue what you should do?"

Chen Ruoqiu's face turned pale, and so did Shen Yue's. At this moment, when Ren Wanyun was brought up, everyone looked at Chen Ruoqiu meaningfully. Chen Ruoqiu was even angrier. Shen Miao was clearly saying that her ability to manage the mansion was not as good as Ren Wanyun's.

After all, Shen Miao had been in the harem for many years. None of the women in the harem were easy to deal with. When it came to arguing and quibbling, everyone was sharp-tongued.

Just because Luo Xueyan was not here didn't mean they could accuse Shen Qiu as they pleased. When Shen Qiu was in trouble, they stood outside gloating without doing anything. More importantly, the madams were not fools. Earlier, they were shocked by the situation inside and couldn't think straight. However, Shen Miao's sarcastic tone made them gradually realize that this matter might not be as simple as it seemed.

Old Madam Shen flew into a rage out of humiliation and said, "Shen Miao, is this how you are supposed to talk to us after what your brother has done?"

Shen Miao almost laughed, but she shook her head. "This is considered a big matter. Let's get my father, Second Uncle, and Third Uncle to come over to judge."

Old Madam Shen, Chen Ruoqiu, and all the madams present were stunned. The less people knew about this, the better. Why did Shen Miao want more people to know? Chen Ruoqiu felt even more uneasy. For some reason, although everything was going according to her plan, she felt that something was wrong.

The door was wide open, and there seemed to be no movement from the two people inside. Old Madam Shen's maids wanted to close the door, but they heard Shen Miao sneer and say, "Don't close it. Since we've already seen what there is to see, it's useless to close the door. Anyone who wants to see more can go on."

At this moment, Old Madam Shen also felt that something was wrong. At this moment, she was in a difficult position. Old Madam Shen could only suppress the uneasiness in her heart and watch helplessly as Shen Miao instructed someone to invite Shen Xin and the others over.

Jiang Xiaoxuan wiped her tears and said, "Miss Jing is still young. How is she going to live the rest of her life after this?"

"Please be my witness." Old Madam Shen said, "People of the Shen family have always been upright. After such a thing happened, I naturally have to give everyone an explanation. Chuchu is my grandniece and has always been obedient and sensible. I originally wanted to keep her by my side and find a good match for her in the future. Unexpectedly..." Old Madam Shen looked sad. "My Shen family is not that kind of family to shun the responsibility. No matter what happens, I will definitely give Chuchu justice!"