

Venomous 341

Chapter 341: A Life for a Life (5)

Unexpectedly, Sun Cainan died at the hands of Shen Yuan. This time, the wandering Daoist's prophecy that Sun Tianzheng would be sonless was proven to be true.

"Shen Yuan..." Sun Tianzheng gritted his teeth and said, "I want him to pay with his life! "

"Master." One of Sun Tianzheng's beloved concubines wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes and said, "I heard that the servants brought that woman back. After all, it's that woman who caused our young master to end up dead. How do you plan to..."

Sun Tianzheng sneered and said, "Don't kill her yet. Leave her alive and give her to Madam."

The concubine shivered. These concubines had all experienced how cruel Madam Sun was. Now that Madam Sun was in pain of losing her son, she probably would use all the cruel tortures imaginable on Jing Chuchu.

"The Shen family is too powerful. We can only punish Shen Yuan. As for the Jing family, none of them can escape unscathed." Sun Tianzheng crushed the cup in his hand. The cup cut his hand and blood dripped down. He was still angry and said hatefully, "I want everyone in the Jing family to die with Shen Yuan!"

Everyone in the capital was talking about Shen Yuan killing the only son of the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs. In Prince Ding's mansion, Dong Hao stood in the hall and bowed to the person in front of him.

Fu Xiuyi rubbed the edge of the teacup with one hand and said thoughtfully, "I was about to write a letter to the emperor when Shen Yuan got into trouble today."

"The evidence Shen Yuan handed in to you is not complete. Your Highness, do you want to find a way to get more out of him?"

"No need." Fu Xiuyi waved his hand. "What Shen Yuan gave me is enough. I can't do anything about this case."

"Your Highness, do you mean to give up on Shen Yuan?" Dong Hao asked.

"He might be redeemable if he killed someone else. Sun Tianzheng is Prince Zhou's subordinate. Prince Zhou will definitely interfere in this matter. If I interfere, I will only alert Prince Zhou. Shen Yuan got into too much trouble this time." Fu Xiuyi shook his head.

Dong Hao was silent for a moment before saying, "But what if Shen Yuan is too desperate and threatens to expose you?"

"Shen Yuan is used to having a backup plan for himself. I naturally have thought about that." Fu Xiuyi looked at the teacup in his hand. "That's why not only can't we help Shen Yuan, but we also have to urge

the Ministry of Justice to execute him quickly. Killing Shen Yuan in prison will inevitably arouse suspicion. Think of a way to feed him something.”

Dong Hao quickly nodded and asked Fu Xiuyi, “Your Highness, are you still going to submit the letter tomorrow?”

“No.” Fu Xiuyi rubbed his forehead. “Let’s wait and find a better time.” He suddenly opened his eyes. “And, try to find out who Shen Yuan has been at odds with recently.”

Dong Hao was shocked. “Your Highness, do you mean that someone is behind this?”

“Shen Yuan has never been an impulsive person. This time, he strangely killed someone on impulse. Moreover, the one who was killed was Sun Tianzheng’s only son. Don’t you think it’s too much of a coincidence? Moreover, why did Jing Chuchu choose that place to meet Shen Yuan?”

“Shen Yuan is not someone who will let others scheme against him.” Dong Hao said, “If someone is really behind this, this person must be very familiar with Shen Yuan.”

“To be able to corner Shen Yuan into such a state,” Fu Xiuyi said, “We can’t let this person live. I didn’t nurture Shen Yuan to be used by others against me.” At this point, a trace of gloom flashed across Fu Xiuyi’s eyes. He was not as calm as he looked. He had carefully nurtured Shen Yuan for many years. Not only was Shen Yuan smart, but more importantly, Shen Yuan was a member of the Shen family. With Shen Yuan’s background, he could help Fu Xiuyi save a lot of trouble. However, now, he had no choice but to give up the chess piece.

Chapter 342: A Life for a Life (6)

“I will definitely investigate it carefully.” Dong Hao said, “Fortunately, Shen Yuan handed in the evidence before the murder took place.”

Fu Xiuyi said, “But we still have to wait.”

On the other side, upstairs in the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop, Ji Yushu clapped his hands and smiled from ear to ear. “Wonderful. Every blow Miss Shen deals is lethal. Shen Xin was supposed to be in trouble tomorrow, but today, Shen Yuan got into trouble.”

“It’s just a coincidence.” Gao Yang rolled his eyes at him. “Shen Miao probably doesn’t know about this yet.”

“Whether she knows it or not, it doesn’t matter. I won the bet.” Ji Yushu said smugly, “Send the banknotes to the pawnshop later and give it to Hong Ling.”

Gao Yang was silent for a moment before saying, “Shen Yuan might never have thought that he would one day fall into this trap.”

People would only treat this matter as a joke when they talked about it. Shen Yuan was originally talented and had a bright future. He had just returned to the capital. With how much Fu Xiuyi valued him, he would eventually become an influential figure.

"Sun Tianzheng will submit a letter tomorrow. Gao Yang, do you think Shen Yuan will lose his life this time?" Ji Yushu asked.

"What do you think of Shen Miao?" Gao Yang asked an irrelevant question.

"What does this have to do with Miss Shen?" Ji Yushu was puzzled.

"No one has ever succeeded in escaping the trap Shen Miao set up. I doubt if she set up this trap just to catch Shen Yuan. She might have a bigger fish to fry."

"Do you think she still has a bigger plan?" Ji Yushu asked, "Shen Yuan will lose his life. What else does she want?"

"I think Shen Yuan is just one of the fish." Gao Yang shook his head, and his expression could not help but become serious.

Ji Yushu was silent for a moment before asking seriously, "What kind of deep hatred does Miss Shen have with the rest of the Shen family? There must be a reason. Did the Shen family do something unforgivable to her?"

For a little girl to use such a cruel method to achieve her goal, there must be something else going on. However, even All Knowing Scholar could not find out.

Gao Yang shook his head. "I don't know either, but she's too ostentatious. This time, she sent Shen Yuan to prison. Shen Yuan is Prince Ding's subordinate. Prince Ding will definitely notice her. The people we sent previously also said that Prince Ding's subordinates already got down to investigate this matter."

"It's not good for Miss Shen to go against Prince Ding." Ji Yushu was worried. "Prince Ding is scheming and cold-blooded. Once he finds out that it was Miss Shen who did it, I wonder what he will do to her."

"Don't worry." Gao Yang said, "I think Shen Miao is very familiar with Prince Ding. Perhaps she has considered the consequences of being found out by Prince Ding. Instead of worrying about her, it's better to worry about yourself." Gao Yang looked at Ji Yushu. "Have you found the person Xie wants you to find?"

"Ahem." Ji Yushu rubbed his nose. "I'll send someone to do it immediately."

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"I didn't expect the Shen family to be in such a mess. What will happen after this?"

"One died and the other was injured because of a girl. Isn't this something that only happens in dramas?"

"In my opinion, that girl is just ordinary-looking. I wonder why the two young masters are fighting over her. It's better if the two young masters can be together."

"Huo Long, have you been reading some strange novels recently?"

The woman in black brushed her long hair and said charmingly, "Am I wrong? Only girls as beautiful as me are worth fighting over."

“Don’t you have anything else to do?” A voice sounded suddenly. The group of men in black who were squatting on the ground and playing immediately fell silent. All of them stood up as if they were facing a great enemy and looked at the person in front of them.

The young man in purple was handsome, but in the night, he looked even more cold and unapproachable. He glanced at everyone. “Why aren’t you continuing?”

Everyone lowered their heads and did not speak.

Xie Jingxing turned around and left. After leaving the group of people behind, he stopped and muttered to himself. “Little girl, you’re quite capable.”

He lowered his eyes and looked at the starless night sky. He said in a low voice, “But I’m running out of time.”

Chapter 343: Separation (1)

Regarding the case of Shen Yuan accidentally killing Sun Cainan, the trial was unprecedentedly swift and decisive. First, Sun Tianzheng wrote a letter to the imperial court asking Shen Yuan to pay with his life. If the emperor objected, he would retire from his position and go back to his hometown. He actually threatened Emperor Wen Hui.

Compared to Shen Gui, the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs was obviously more important. Sun Tianzheng had been in his position for many years. If he was replaced all of a sudden, it would probably cause a lot of unnecessary trouble. Emperor Wen Hui naturally had to comfort Sun Tianzheng.

What was surprising was Shen Gui’s attitude. Shen Gui knelt in front of Emperor Wen Hui and wailed with snot and tears, saying that he had not taught his son well and was willing to put righteousness before family and make Shen Yuan pay with his life.

It was said that these words shocked the civil and military officials in the imperial court at the time.

Although these words sounded impartial and fair, it was too inhumane to not try to save his son but instead suggested his son should pay with his life. This made his colleagues, who were usually on good terms with him, wanted to distance themselves from him.

The ministers all stood on Sun Tianzheng’s side. When Emperor Wen Hui asked the princes for their opinions, the nine princes all stood on Sun Tianzheng’s side.

Three days later, Shen Yuan was given the death sentence. This was probably the most uncontroversial death sentence since the founding of Ming Qi. No one attempted to overturn the case or resist, and Shen Yuan was directly convicted. Of course, this was partly because of the Sun family’s urging and partly because of the Shen family’s inaction.

In the dark prison cell, Shen Yuan sat in the innermost corner. His hair was already disheveled, and his body had not been washed for a few days. He already emitted a sour smell. In his usual calm eyes, there was a trace of panic and even despair.

Last night, someone sneaked into the cell and fed him mute drug. He could not say anything now. Shen Yuan knew very well who would do this and who had the ability to do so.

Fu Xiuyi was not going to save him. At first, he still had some hope, but after thinking about it carefully, he understood that Fu Xiuyi would never take the risk. His existence had already become a threat to Fu Xiuyi's, so Fu Xiuyi naturally had to get rid of him mercilessly.

It was not that Fu Xiuyi did not want to kill him straight away, but he was cautious by nature. He was probably afraid that it would arouse suspicion if Shen Yuan died in the cell.

A bitter smile slowly appeared on Shen Yuan's face. The winner was the king, and the loser was the bandit. He knew what kind of person Fu Xiuyi was from the beginning. When he worked for Fu Xiuyi, he should have expected this outcome, but he did not expect it to come so quickly.

There seemed to be someone's footsteps approaching in the darkness. Unlike the guards' hurried footsteps, the footsteps were slow and light. He looked up and saw a figure in a purple dress in front of him under the dim light.

Looking up further, he saw a girl smile at him. She said, "Second Brother."

Shen Yuan felt suffocated.'

The moment he saw Shen Miao's face, intense hatred and indignation surged from his heart, making Shen Yuan want to kill Shen Miao now.

Even if he did not understand how things ended up like this, Shen Yuan knew very well that Shen Miao was involved.

Chapter 344: Separation (2)

Shen Miao slowly squatted down to keep her eyes level with his. She smiled and said, "Second Brother must be having a hard time in this damp cell these days. Second Aunt is crazy, and Second Uncle refuses to come and see you. Speaking of which, Old Madam dotes on you the most. However, Old Madam ordered yesterday that no one is allowed to mention your name within the confines of the mansion. It seems like she has given up on you. After thinking about it, I decided to come to see you for the last time. We are a family after all."

Shen Yuan gritted his teeth and looked at Shen Miao. Words could kill and destroy a person's hope. What Shen Miao did now was to dismantle his hope to live. When he was in prison, no one even came to visit him. It was heartbreaking for Shen Yuan. Although Old Madam used to treat him well, it was only because he was talented and smart. Now that he was a prisoner, Old Madam Shen would definitely quickly draw a line between them to avoid getting into trouble.

"Now that I think about it, Second Brother and Eldest Sister are really siblings. Both of you have been to prison. However, when Eldest Sister was in prison, Second Aunt tried all she could to save her. But no one does that for you."

Shen Yuan did not speak.

"Second Brother, why aren't you talking?" Shen Miao tilted her head and looked at him. "Don't you want to talk to me? Or..." She suddenly smiled. "Have you been drugged with mute medicine?"

Shen Yuan was stunned. Shen Miao actually knew that he had been drugged. Before he could figure out why she knew, Shen Miao's following words shocked him even more.

"It seems like Fu Xiuyi still likes to use the old methods. Nothing changed," Shen Miao said expressionlessly.

Shen Yuan's eyes widened when he heard Fu Xiuyi's name from Shen Miao. How did Shen Miao know that he was working for Fu Xiuyi? Moreover, from her tone, she seemed to know Fu Xiuyi very well. Shen Yuan was shocked beyond words. No matter how brilliant Shen Miao had become, Shen Yuan did not think too highly of her, because there was only so much a young girl was capable of doing. However, when Shen Miao brought up Fu Xiuyi's name, Shen Yuan changed his opinion of her completely.

"Second Brother, you don't have to be so surprised." Shen Miao glanced at him and said, "Not only do I know Fu Xiuyi, but I also know his plan. If you want to tell Fu Xiuyi about me knowing everything to make him save you, I'm afraid it's already too late. Prince Ding is a cautious person by nature. To avoid arousing suspicion, he won't have any contact with you until you die. From the moment you became useless, he won't have anything to do with you, and he won't let you get in his way."

Shen Yuan's heart began to beat wildly. Shen Miao was right. Fu Xiuyi was that kind of person. Therefore, after yesterday, he waited for his death in despair. He had thought about exposing Fu Xiuyi, but after a second thought, he knew that would only bring him an even more miserable death.

He stretched out his fingers and wrote a few words on the dusty ground with the muddy water in the bowl.

What do you want?

Shen Miao laughed out loud. When she laughed, her eyes and the corners of her mouth were curved. She still looked like that foolish Shen Miao a year ago who didn't know anything, but the smile on her face made people feel a chill run down their spines.

Shen Miao finally stopped laughing and looked at Shen Yuan. "Second Brother, don't you know what I want?"

You want to deal with the second branch? Shen Yuan wrote on the ground.

"Not just the second branch," Shen Miao suddenly lowered her voice. A trace of ruthlessness suddenly flashed across her eyes. She said, "But also the third branch, Old Madam, and... Prince Ding."

Chapter 345: Separation (3)

Shen Yuan stared at her intently.

"You want to ask me why, right?" Shen Miao said, "I'm just giving you all a taste of your own medicine. Just like this time, don't you find the trick I used familiar? Second Brother, that's because it was your trick."

Shen Yuan looked at Shen Miao in confusion. He did not understand what Shen Miao was saying. He only felt that there was madness in Shen Miao's eyes. It made sense if she hated the second and third branches. Anyway, everyone knew that the Shen branches were just pretending to be harmonious on the surface, but where did her hatred for Prince Ding come from? Was it just because she liked Prince Ding back then but her love wasn't reciprocated?

"Second Brother." Shen Miao smiled strangely. "You should thank me. On your way to hell, there will be many people to keep you company. Don't worry, you will remain the eldest son of the second branch of the Shen family forever."

Shen Yuan glared at Shen Miao.

Shen Miao stood up, and her voice rose gently in the darkness, hitting Shen Yuan like a thunderbolt.

"The second branch will cease to exist."

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After leaving the prison, Shen Miao gave the prison guard what she promised. Jingzhe and Gu Yu helped Shen Miao into the carriage. Gu Yu asked, "Miss, is Second Young Master really going to be executed in three days?"

Shen Miao nodded.

"It really feels unreal," Gu Yu muttered. "A few days ago, Second Young Master was still high and mighty, but now he's going to die."

"That's his fate," Shen Miao said coldly.

Sensing that Shen Miao was probably not in a good mood, Jingzhe and Gu Yu stuck out their tongues and stopped talking. When they returned to the Shen mansion and entered the house, they saw that there were many people gathered in the main hall.

Mrs. Jing rolled on the ground and made a scene. "Give my Chuchu back to me! Give my Chuchu back to me!"

Old Madam Shen was so angry that her face was ashen. She called out to the servants at the side, "Get these people out!"

"Old Madam." Jing Guansheng changed his gentle appearance and said fiercely, "Chuchu was taken away from the Shen mansion and her life is at risk. No matter what, you have to be responsible for it."

Old Madam Shen cursed angrily, "How dare you talk to me like that? That little b*tch ruined my family. If not for her, the Shen family wouldn't have been in such a mess."

"Old Madam, be careful with your words." Jing Guansheng said, "Someone must be behind this. My sister's personal maid has gone missing. Don't you think it's strange? Someone must have bribed her!"

Chen Ruoqiu looked at the scene with a headache. Shen Yue looked at the Jing family in disgust, while Luo Xueyan looked indifferent. Concubine Wan held Shen Dongling's hand and stood quietly at the side. She had no right to interrupt.

"Cousin, don't you think what you said is funny? Do you think by making a scapegoat out of the maid, Jing Chuchu can get away with cheating on Shen Yuan?" Shen Miao's voice sounded. "No one will believe a maid can force her to cheat."

Everyone turned to look at the door as Shen Miao walked in. Old Madam Shen had never liked Shen Miao as much as she did today. As long as Shen Miao could make these troublemakers of the Jing family stop for a moment, Old Madam Shen would be satisfied.

Luo Xueyan happily pulled Shen Miao to her side. "Jiaojiao, did you just come back? Are you tired?"

Chapter 346: Separation (4)

Mrs. Jing was still crying and making a fuss. "You're my father's sister, and Chuchu is your family too. How can you be so heartless? Oh my god, Old Madam Shen, you're simply forcing us to our deaths."

Old Madam Shen was extremely annoyed. "Who's your family? You are just a bunch of poor people coming to the capital to take advantage of me. And Jing Chuchu. Does she think she can do whatever she wants just because she has a pretty face? As expected of someone from a small family. All she knows is seducing men..." Old Madam Shen was anxious and actually blurted out a series of hurtful words. For a moment, everyone was stunned.

After a while, Jing Guansheng suddenly smiled and said, "Old Madam, are you really going to be that heartless? Are you really going to stand by and do nothing?"

"What does Jing Chuchu have to do with me? What a joke!" Old Madam Shen replied without hesitation.

"Alright." Jing Guansheng sneered and suddenly glanced at Shen Miao. "Since you want to burn the bridge after crossing it, don't blame me for exposing you. Back then, you asked Chuchu to sleep with Shen Qiu and asked me to think of a way to get close to Shen Miao. At that time, you weren't so heartless."

As soon as he said that, everyone was shocked.

Of course, Luo Xueyan was the most shocked.

She looked at Jing Guansheng and asked word by word, "What did you say?"

Jing Guansheng ignored Old Madam Shen's furious expression and continued, "Aunt, you probably don't know. Back then, when Chuchu and I first came to the Shen family, Old Madam was very enthusiastic towards us. Why is that? She said that she liked us very much and hoped that we could marry into the Shen family. However, how could Eldest Cousin be interested in Chuchu who came from a small family? So, Old Madam came up with the idea of using drugs to make the marriage a done deal. Unexpectedly, the one being drugged turned out to be Second Cousin in the end."

Luo Xueyan was so angry that her entire body was trembling. She suddenly pulled out the sword from her waist and placed it in front of Jing Guansheng's neck.

Jing Guansheng's expression changed drastically, but he still forced a smile and said, "Auntie, you've got the wrong person this time. My sister and I both know our limits. We wouldn't dare to use drugs. Old

Madam was the one who instructed people to use drugs. Auntie, don't you think you should point your sword at someone else?"

Luo Xueyan turned to stare at Old Madam Shen, her killing intent soaring. Old Madam Shen was so frightened that she almost fell from her seat. She said, "What are you doing? Are you going to kill your mother-in-law?!"

"Not only does Old Madam want Chuchu to marry Eldest Cousin, but she also wants me to get close to Shen Miao and please her." Jing Guansheng smiled disdainfully. "She even said that once a man and a woman slept together, it would be a done deal."

Luo Xueyan could not stand it anymore and slashed at the ground, causing cracks to appear. Mrs. Jing screamed in fear, and Old Madam Shen's face turned pale.

Shen Yue and Chen Ruoqiu were a little frightened, but Concubine Wan was surprised. She did not expect Old Madam Shen to use such a despicable method. If this method was used by ordinary women or concubines, it wouldn't be so surprising. However, Old Madam Shen was the head of a huge family. Such a method was simply unsightly.

Luo Xueyan held Shen Miao's hand with one hand and looked at Old Madam Shen with a sword in the other. When she was really angry, her murderous aura surged out, making people feel that she would pounce on Old Madam Shen and cut off her head in the next second. She said, "Old Madam, ever since I married Shen Xin, I've always treated you with respect. Although you're not his biological mother, the two of us still respect you. Now after seeing your true colors, I don't think I can live with an ingrate under the same roof."

Chapter 347: Separation (5)

"Don't listen to his nonsense!" Old Madam Shen was still trying to defend herself. "Are you going to do something unfilial?"

"We'll know if it's nonsense once we investigate. As for being unfilial," Luo Xueyan sneered and said word by word, "I won't let my children be around such a family even if it means that I have to be unfilial!" She pulled Shen Miao and said, "Let's go!"

No matter how angry Old Madam Shen was, how sad the Jing family was, or how Chen Ruoqiu tried to smooth things over, these things were not important. Shen Miao was brought back by Luo Xueyan to the west courtyard, and she was in an extremely good mood.

This was what she wanted to achieve. If she suggested separating from the Shen family, it wouldn't be taken seriously. But if she showed them how evil the rest of the Shen family was, they would do so willingly. It was not an easy thing to make Shen Xin make up his mind to separate from the Shen family as it meant that he would have to be criticized.

However, after today, Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan would no longer have any pity for Old Madam Shen. As parents, when faced with people who wanted to hurt their children, they would instinctively want to protect their children.

Luo Xueyan pulled Shen Miao back into the house and closed the door. She said indignantly, "Your father and brother went to the palace today. How I wish they were also there to see the scene with their

own eyes!" After saying that, she suddenly thought of something and looked at Shen Miao apologetically. "Jiaojiao, you must be frightened. I was too angry just now."

Shen Miao shook her head and looked at her. "What should we do next? Mother, after what you said to Old Madam today, I'm afraid Old Madam will make things hard for you."

"What's there to be afraid of?" Luo Xueyan slammed the table. "When your father comes back, we'll discuss it. All of them are up to no good. If this continues, who knows what will happen?" She touched Shen Miao's face and said, "No wonder you wanted us to stay in the capital for another half a year. Did you... already know?"

Shen Miao smiled and did not say anything. Luo Xueyan felt that her guess was right. She stood up and said, "No, I still have to investigate this matter. I'll get more guards to guard the courtyard door. Don't go out."

Shen Miao nodded. After Luo Xueyan left, Jingzhe asked, "Miss, are we really going to split up from the Shen family?"

"Of course." Shen Miao said indifferently, "My mother is someone who can't tolerate bad people."

"That's great." Jingzhe said, "After we split up from the Shen family, Miss will have more freedom to do whatever you want. You don't have to be wary of this and that all day long."

Bai Lu walked in and said to Shen Miao, "Miss, Miss Tao Yuan has already been paid and sent away."

Shen Miao nodded.

It was extremely easy to bribe Tao Yuan, who was Jing Chuchu's maid. Jing Chuchu originally planned to make Tao Yuan Shen Yuan's concubine and use Tao Yuan to win Shen Yuan's heart. What Jing Chuchu did not know was that Shen Yuan already hated her to the core. If Tao Yuan really became his concubine, Shen Yuan would not treat her well either. However, Jing Chuchu thought that she had done a huge favor to Tao Yuan, but she did not know that Tao Yuan had already been bribed.

Tao Yuan did not want to be a concubine, nor did she want to follow someone like Jing Chuchu. She took the risk to trust Shen Miao and finally won her freedom. Shen Miao gave her the money she promised and helped her escape. Shen Miao had always followed the principle of treating people who worked for her with generosity and gratitude.

From today onwards, everything would go according to her plan. Gu Yu said, "After Second Young Master is executed, it will be the perfect time to split up."

"Second Aunt will definitely be very sad when she finds out that Second Brother is executed," Shen Miao said softly.

"Isn't Second Madam already mad?" Gu Yu was surprised to hear that. "She's mad and has lost her mind. I heard from the people of Rosy Cloud Garden that Second Madam can't even recognize her maids now."

"Mad?" Shen Miao shook her head. "That's not necessarily the case."

When people were in so much pain that they were in despair, they would use “madness” to escape the reality that they did not want to face. Ren Wanyun was in pain because of her “inaction” that night at the Wolong Temple, which eventually led Shen Qing to her death.

Once the word of Shen Yuan’s death was brought back, she would probably go even madder.

Ren Wanyun had actually not been mad for long. Whether she would continue to be mad depended on whether she could accept the fact her two children were dead. Shen Miao thought that it would not be long before Ren Wanyun woke up because she still had Shen Yuanbai. She was afraid that Shen Yuanbai would die at the hands of Concubine Wan.

Shen Miao wanted Ren Wanyun to “wake up” in advance.

What she had to deal with had never been an individual, but the entire branch. Before the second branch was wiped out, she wouldn’t stop.

What she wanted was for Shen Gui to die without descendants.

Chapter 348: Die Without Descendants (1)

Three days later, the case of Shen Yuan accidentally killing Sun Cainan came to an end. Shen Yuan would be executed at the Meridian Gate.

Countless commoners rushed to spread the news, all wanting to see how this young man with a bright future would end up like this. Some people felt sorry for Shen Yuan, and some people scolded Jing Chuchu for being a femme fatale. All of a sudden, the capital became lively.

Shen Yuan had probably never thought that such a day would befall him. He was proud and arrogant and wanted to climb up the ladder. He wanted everyone to see his achievements, but now, he was being pointed at by the “peasants”. He probably felt extremely humiliated.

More and more people threw vegetables, rotten food, and eggs at Shen Yuan. Needless to say, they were from the Sun family. Shen Yuan knelt on the execution platform with the executioner beside him. At this time, if his family was here, they would be allowed to come up and feed him the last meal. However, no one from the Shen family came today.

Shen Xin was already on bad terms with the rest of the Shen family. Why would he come? Shen Gui was a coward. Ren Wanyun had gone mad. Old Madam Shen had been suffering from leg pain, but even if her legs were fine, she wouldn’t be bothered to come. The third branch, who were fence-sitters, did not show up today either.

Shen Yuan looked up at the sun that was shining brightly above the capital. It was still winter, but the sun was already as dazzling as it was in summer. When it reached noon, the executioner spat out a mouthful of wine over the broadsword, raised it, and slashed down!

The crowd burst into exclamations. The women covered their eyes in fear. The head rolled down the stage and into the crowd. It rolled for a moment before blood spilled. On the ground, Shen Yuan’s eyes were wide open, as if he was still a little confused, as if this head that had already been separated from his body would say something in the next moment.

After witnessing this scene, someone quietly turned around, disappearing into the crowd.

At this moment, the Shen family was in dead silence.

Shen Yuan's death dealt a huge blow to the Shen family. The Shen family didn't have many offspring, and among them, Shen Yuan was considered the most outstanding. Such a talented young man who might take over the Shen family in the future died so aggrievedly under the executioner's sword. It would be a lie to say the Shen family wasn't sad.

Shen Wan was sitting in the room when a servant ran in and said, "The execution is over, and the corpse has been sent back."

The Sun family was kind enough to return Shen Yuan's corpse to the Shen family in the end. However, everyone knew that the feud between the Shen family and the Sun family wouldn't stop just like that.

"There's no need to hold a funeral. Bury him as soon as possible." Shen Wan sighed, looking deep in thought.

"Master, are you still worried about this?" Chen Ruoqiu walked over and said gently, "There's nothing we can do to save Yuan. After all, the Sun family is not an ordinary family."

"I just feel..." Shen Wan shook his head. "Something is wrong. Didn't you notice?" Shen Wan said, "Recently, the Shen family seems to have run into some bad luck."

"Could there be something unclean?" Chen Ruoqiu was shocked.

Shen Wan frowned. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

Chapter 349: Die Without Descendants (2)

Chen Ruoqiu quickly said, "I was just spouting nonsense. Master, don't take it to heart." She was a little annoyed. Shen Wan hated supernatural things the most. What she blurted out just now might have displeased Shen Wan. "Speaking of which, it seems like the second branch has always been the one in trouble. Qing, Second Sister-in-law, and now Yuan..." The more Chen Ruoqiu spoke, the more ill at ease she became. Although she used to be jealous of Ren Wanyun for having more power, after Ren Wanyun went crazy, no one was in the same team with her. Luo Xueyan? Shen Xin and Shen Wan did not come from the same mother. How could they treat each other sincerely?

"That's right." Shen Wan said, "I wonder who Second Brother has offended. It seems like the plans are all well-thought-out."

"Second Brother will inevitably offend some people in the bureaucracy." Chen Ruoqiu said, "But why did so many bad things happen this year? It seems like it has been happening one after another after Fifth Sister fell into the water..."

"Are you saying it was Fifth Miss who did it?" Shen Wan was amused. "If Fifth Miss had that kind of ability, she wouldn't be called an idiot." He patted Chen Ruoqiu's hand comfortingly. "I know you've been exhausted with handling family matters these days. Don't think too much. Fifth Miss isn't that capable. It's more believable to say that Eldest Brother and Sister-in-law taught her to do it but Eldest

Brother and Sister-in-law will never stab people in the back. They like to confront people face to face.” Shen Wan said, “I’ll pay attention to this matter. Don’t think too much. It’s better to think about Yue’s marriage. It’s about time for her to get engaged.”

At the mention of Shen Yue’s marriage, Chen Ruoqiu suppressed her doubts about Shen Miao. Shen Wan cared about his children more than Shen Gui. All these years, he had never disliked Shen Yue simply because she was a girl and really doted on her. Chen Ruoqiu smiled and said, “I’ll listen to you.”

In the west courtyard, Shen Miao was putting on her clothes. As Jingzhe tidied her hair, she said, “Second Young Master’s coffin has been brought back. I heard that he will be buried soon. There won’t even be a funeral.”

Other than the first branch, everyone in the Shen family liked grandiose occasions. For example, Old Madam Shen had to hold a big banquet for her birthday every single year. However, as the eldest son of the second branch, Shen Yuan did not even receive a proper funeral after his death. This was most likely because they knew that not many people in the imperial court were willing to offend Sun Tianzheng for Shen Gui. Even if a funeral was really held, not many people would come to pay their respects.

“Second Master hasn’t come back for a few days.” Gu Yu added, “Even if he comes back, he’ll only go to Concubine Wan’s courtyard. He doesn’t even want to see his son’s corpse. How cruel!”

Shen Miao smiled. “During the day, he’s busy winning over the officials who have distanced themselves from him. As for at night, if he doesn’t go to sleep with Concubine Wan, should he sleep with Second Aunt then?”

“Anything from the people we sent to spy on the Sun family?” Shen Miao asked.

“The Sun family hid it too well. Even the servants don’t know much about it.” Jingzhe quickly said, “The only thing we know is that Miss Jing is not having a good time. It was said that on the first day, on the first day...” She couldn’t bring herself to continue.

Chapter 350: Die Without Descendants (3)

“What happened on the first day?” Shen Miao turned around and looked at Jingzhe.

Jingzhe stammered, “I heard that on the first day, Miss Jing was drugged and thrown into the stable to let the horses... At that time, Master Sun and all the servants were watching.”

Gu Yu almost choked on her saliva. “Human and horses?”

Jingzhe’s face turned red. Gu Yu was still asking, “The Sun family is simply a bunch of perverts.” How painful was it for Jing Chuchu to have sex with horses? It was not just physical pain but also humiliation.

Seeing that Gu Yu was still asking her questions, Jingzhe was a little angry. She thought that it was better not to say these dirty things in front of Shen Miao. Unexpectedly, when she turned around, she saw that Shen Miao’s expression was calm. She didn’t look shy or surprised at all. Instead, she said something that shocked people. She said, “Lord Sun is too kind. Actually, he can use cows.”

“Miss...” Jingzhe opened her mouth wide.

Shen Miao glanced at her. "What's there to be surprised about?" In the harem, this method was often used to punish disobedient women. Shen Miao didn't use it. She preferred to kill them right away to avoid unnecessary trouble. However, she had once seen Consort Mei punish a palace maid who was eating with a eunuch with this method. She got someone to feed her drug and threw her into the cowshed.

Therefore, she was not surprised by Sun Tianzheng's method. However, she did not know how shocking her calmness was in the eyes of Jingzhe and Gu Yu.

After a while, Jingzhe managed to come back to her senses and said, "Miss, where are you going now?"

"To Rosy Cloud Garden."

"Miss, why are you going there?" Gu Yu was surprised. "Second Master is not around now. Are you going to look for Concubine Wan?"

Shen Miao shook her head. "I'm going to see Second Aunt."

"Second Madam has gone mad..." Gu Yu reminded her.

"Not necessarily."

The Rosy Cloud Garden had already been turned upside down.

In just a few months, the entire Shen family, or to be precise, the second branch of the Shen family, Rosy Cloud Garden, had undergone a drastic change.

The Second Madam, who used to be the proudest, was now a lunatic. The smart Eldest Miss had become a slut who committed suicide in prison after having an affair with Prince Yu. Even the second young master, who was an outstanding young official, became a prisoner and was executed. Life was like a show, and this show in Rosy Cloud Garden was too tragic.

The only good news was that Ren Wanyun still had a son, Shen Yuanbai. However, Shen Yuanbai was raised by Old Madam Shen. If Ren Wanyun did not go crazy, she might still be able to use Shen Yuanbai to stabilize her position as the first wife. However, this was only temporary. Who knew... if Shen Gui would continue to take in concubines in the future? After all, Shen Gui was lecherous. It was not impossible for his future concubines to give birth to a son for him.

Compared to Ren Wanyun, Concubine Wan, who had been neglected for many years, seemed to have turned the tables around. She had been a lowly existence for so many years, and even her daughter had to live on tenterhooks all year round. She did not expect that this time, she would be able to make a comeback. Although Shen Gui was indifferent to family, he treated women well. As long as Concubine Wan could win Shen Gui's heart, Shen Dongling's status would also rise.

"Dongling, in a few days, I'll get your father to change a courtyard for you," Concubine Wan said to Shen Dongling with a smile as she did her needlework. Probably because Shen Yuan was already dead and Shen Yuanbai was still young, Concubine Wan didn't feel threatened by Ren Wanyun at all. During this period of time, she had been in a joyful mood.