

Venomous 391

Chapter 391: Disdain and Hatred (2)

Now that she thought about it, the two teacups on the table seemed a little too strange.

Shen Miao shook her head and threw away the thoughts in her mind. Regardless of who was behind the partition, she had to say what she wanted to say to Su Mingfeng. With her understanding of Su Mingfeng, this should work.

After getting into the carriage, Gu Yu asked, "Miss, will Young Master Su help Master and Madam?"

Jingzhe and Gu Yu were outside. They did not know what Shen Miao and Su Mingfeng said. They thought that Shen Miao was asking Su Mingfeng for help. However, the relationship between the Su family and the Shen family had always been awkward, so they were a little worried.

Shen Miao nodded. "Yes, he will."

In her previous life, the entire Su family was killed because of smuggling war horses. The royal family could no longer tolerate an old family like the Earl of Pingnan, so in addition to the evidence of smuggling war horses, they also found other things to accuse them of. At the beginning of the 69th year of Ming Qi, the war horses managed by the Earl of Pingnan fell ill and even caused a horse plague to break out. Later, the Earl of Pingnan found a veterinarian from the countryside to curb the epidemic. Other than the Su family's trusted aides, no one knew about this. Later, the Earl of Pingnan was executed, and this matter was exposed.

Back then, Shen Miao was still the empress, and she had read the file on Earl of Pingnan's crimes carefully, so she knew where the veterinarian lived. In fact, even if Shen Miao didn't come to look for Su Mingfeng today, before long, when the horse plague spread, Su Yu would still be able to find the veterinarian and curb the outbreak.

However... Shen Miao's expression darkened. Before Shen Yuan died, he handed the evidence of Shen Xin disobeying the emperor to Fu Xiuyi. Fu Xiuyi actually started to deal with the Shen family without having sufficient evidence, which made Shen Miao a little nervous. Currently, she did not have enough chess pieces to go against Fu Xiuyi. Time was not ripe, and there was no opportunity. Retreat might really be the only way for the time being.

However, retreating was also a problem. How to retreat unscathed after arranging everything was what she should worry about now.

Shen Miao quickly returned to the Shen family as she had to avoid staying outside for too long and arousing suspicion. In the Shen family, when everyone saw her return, they thought that Shen Miao just went to talk to Feng Anning. As for Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan, it didn't seem like they were going to come back from the palace anytime soon. Probably because Shen Gui and Shen Wan said something, the rest of the Shen family looked like they were watching a show.

Shen Miao was already used to the Shen family treating the first branch as their enemy. She did not even look at them and returned to the west courtyard straight away. Jingzhe and Gu Yu thought that

Shen Miao would probably have to sit at the table for the entire night like yesterday. Unexpectedly, Shen Miao washed up early and went to bed, making the maids look at each other in confusion.

Shen Miao lay on the bed and looked at the four-cornered sachet hanging on the pillar of the bed. She slowly closed her eyes.

She had done everything she could. Now, the only thing she could do was wait.

When the Su family joined forces with the other court ministers to impeach Shen Xin, Emperor Wen Hui would be suspicious.

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In the palace, Shufang Palace was different from other magnificent palaces. Decorated only by some flowers, paintings, and calligraphy, Shufang Palace could even be considered simple. Consort Dong was sitting on the soft couch and listening to music. The person playing the music was a young girl. She had a round face and was not very beautiful, but the music was lively. Consort Dong listened with a smile. Among the four consorts, she was the least eye-catching one.

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On her side sat a young man. He was dressed in luxurious clothes, had a handsome face, and a cold aura. However, the smile on his face was very friendly. He said to Consort Dong, "This song is not bad."

This person was none other than Consort Dong's son, the Ninth Prince, Fu Xiuyi.

Consort Dong smiled at Fu Xiuyi and waved her hand. The person playing the song suddenly stopped. Consort Dong smiled and said, "You played well. Go to receive your reward."

A trace of joy flashed across the face of the girl playing the song. She quickly carried the Guqin and left. Everyone in Ming Qi Palace knew that the servants of Shufang Palace were the happiest because Consort Dong was a kind person and treated the servants extremely amiably. For example, at this moment, the girl would be rewarded very handsomely for playing just a while.

"All of you can leave." Consort Dong glanced at the other palace servants. When the palace servants heard this, they retreated obediently. In the blink of an eye, only Consort Dong and her son were left in the palace.

"Mother, your methods of teaching your servants are getting better and better," Fu Xiuyi said with a smile.

"It's better to make friends than to make foes." Consort Dong smiled and said, "How many times have I told you this?"

"Yes, yes, yes." Fu Xiuyi sighed. "Unfortunately, in my position, it's much easier to make foes than to make friends."

Hearing this, the smile on Consort Dong's face faded a little. She asked, "Your father has been troubled by the matter regarding the mighty general for the past few days. Are you... confident?"

Consort Dong had never stuck her nose into the matters of the imperial court. The harem was not to interfere in politics. Moreover, Emperor Wen Hui had nine sons, all of whom were not easy to deal with. Now that the situation was not clear, Consort Dong didn't mind keeping a low profile.

"Father won't let this matter rest so easily." Fu Xiuyi said, "Once I submit the evidence and he is convinced, the plan will go smoothly."

"I believe you know what you are doing." Consort Dong shook her head and said indifferently, "But Xiuyi, the situation is tense now. You'd better be careful. Don't stand out. Just let them fight. When they're done fighting, it won't be too late for you to make a move."

"Mother, I will do as you said," Fu Xiuyi quickly said.

Consort Dong smiled and suddenly thought of something. "The last time I asked Mrs. Shen to bring Shen Miao into the palace, you asked me not to let Shen Miao hear our conversation... What's going on?"

The last time she asked Luo Xueyan and her daughter to enter the palace, Fu Xiuyi had told Consort Dong beforehand not to let Shen Miao be present during the conversation. Therefore, later, Consort Dong asked Tong Yao to take Shen Miao out.

"Mother, what kind of person do you think Shen Miao is?" Fu Xiuyi asked.

"She's not bad-looking and will probably be a beauty when she grows up. However, she's too dull and docile. She'll probably be a pushover." Consort Dong looked at Fu Xiuyi. "I heard that she once liked you, but she doesn't look like the idiot people described."

Fu Xiuyi smiled. "Mother, can't you find any fault with her? You've always been very picky."

Consort Dong was stunned. On the surface, she looked amiable, but in fact, she was an extremely picky person. This was because Fu Xiuyi had already reached the age of marriage and was very outstanding. There were also noble families wanting to marry their daughters over, but Consort Dong could always find fault with them and felt that they were not worthy of her son.

Although she did not praise Shen Miao, her words were not negative either. On careful thought, she even found Shen Miao quite likable. This was the first time Consort Dong took a liking to a young lady from the official family.

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Therefore, Consort Dong paused in a daze when Fu Xiuyi reminded her of that.

However, other than being a little dull, Consort Dong really couldn't find any fault with Shen Miao.

She showed no greed, ambition, and conducted herself composedly. Consort Dong's heart skipped a beat. Wasn't Shen Miao exactly the same as her... or rather, Shen Miao was also disguising herself.

"Mother, I think you can tell." Fu Xiuyi smiled. "Miss Shen is an expert at disguise."

Consort Dong looked at Fu Xiuyi in confusion. "You mean she's disguising herself?"

“Mother.” A strange glint flashed across Fu Xiuyi’s eyes. “I’ve seen her make a fool of herself in front of everyone, and I’ve also seen her shamelessly professing love and making the young master of the Cai family embarrassed on the school field. Which one do you think is the real her?”

Consort Dong paused, tightening her grip on the teacup.

Shen Miao seemed to have a thousand faces. Every face was lifelike, and every face was like her own face. Her disguise skill was too terrifying. What was even more terrifying was that she was still so young.

Fu Xiuyi lowered his head. What he did not tell his mother was that he had seen Shen Miao look at him with uncontrollable hatred at the palace banquet. That kind of hatred was definitely not the hatred that arose from being rejected romantically by him. That kind of hatred came from the very bottom of one’s heart.

There were many questions that puzzled Fu Xiuyi.

“Mother, the Shen family is the biggest variable as of now. The current situation in the imperial court is complicated.” Fu Xiuyi lowered his voice. “Miss Shen might not be as simple as we think. We have to get rid of the roots. It’s best to end it before it begins.”

“So, the mighty general won’t be able to save himself this time?” Consort Dong asked.

“That’s not necessary.” Fu Xiuyi smiled. “The Shen family is now the head of large families. Tackling the Shen family rashly will only cause more uncertainties. However, after taking back the power of the Shen family, the Shen family will gradually decline. When the time is right, we’ll just eliminate them all.”

“What if something happens along the way?” Consort Dong looked at him. “The Shen family might have other trump cards. So what if they can get over this crisis safely? If they find out that it was you who wanted to bring them down, I’m afraid you’ll be targeted.”

Fu Xiuyi shook his head. He still had a friendly smile on his face, but his eyes were suddenly ruthless. “Lying to the emperor is already a very serious crime. No matter how powerful Shen Xin is, he can’t save the entire Shen family. Anyhow, I’m just testing the water,” He said indifferently.

“Testing the water?” Consort Dong was a little puzzled.

Fu Xiuyi looked at his fingertips. “That’s right.” Back then, Fu Xiuyi did not take Shen Yuan’s words about being wary of Shen Miao to heart. However, after a series of events, including the massacre of Prince Yu’s mansion and Shen Yuan’s death, he gradually realized that what Shen Yuan said might be true.

Shen Miao was just a young girl. There was only so much she could do. There was only one possibility, which was that there was someone behind Shen Miao. The person behind her was so capable that Fu Xiuyi had no choice but to be wary.

This time, Shen Miao was the only one unaffected in the first branch of the Shen family. It was naturally Fu Xiuyi’s doing. He suggested to Emperor Wen Hui to spare Shen Miao. However, his goal was to see what kind of method this fifth miss of the Shen family could come up with to solve the problem, and who was behind her.

However, no matter what method she came up with, Shen Xin would not get away with it unscathed this time. Fu Xiuyi clenched his fists.

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There was no doubt that the Shen family was destined to be destroyed.

Tonight, in the mansion of the Marquis of Lin'an, it was not peaceful either.

In the innermost courtyard, as soon as Xie Jingxing took off his outer robe, the door opened with a bang. The servant stood at the door nervously, afraid that he would be punished. He lowered his head and said, "Young Master, I can't stop him!"

Xie Ding, the Marquis of Lin'an, stood at the door. When he heard that, he was even angrier and said furiously, "Stop me? Try stopping me. I'm your father! When did my mansion have a different master? Xie Jingxing, stand properly!"

Xie Jingxing glanced at Xie Ding casually and lazily threw his robe on the couch. He sat down on the chair and leaned back, putting on the air of a profligate son. "Marquis, why are you here in the middle of the night?"

It was as if he was talking to a stranger.

Xie Ding was further infuriated by that attitude. On the other hand, Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao, who were following behind Xie Ding, looked angry when they heard this. However, looking at them carefully, their eyes seemed to be gloating. Xie Changchao said, "Brother, Father likes you the most among us three. How can you speak to Father like that? Don't you have any respect for him?"

"It's none of your business," Xie Jingxing said.

"You little brat!" Xie Ding said angrily, "Why in the world would you go to war?!" He smacked the table as he spoke.

Xie Jingxing raised his eyebrows and said, "Did you come here in the middle of the night just to ask me this?"

"Xie Jingxing, what exactly are you doing!" Xie Ding flew into a rage. "Do you know what kind of place the Northern border is? It's not a joking matter. You've never commanded the Xie army. I've never taught you how to command them either. Do you really think you can lead such a large army?"

As soon as he said that, a trace of gloom flashed across Xie Changchao and Xie Changwu's eyes. The Xie army was the most valuable asset of the Marquis of Lin'an. It was even more precious than the wealth and glory. Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao also practiced martial arts, but Xie Ding had never had the intention of letting the two of them take over the Xie army. He wanted to nurture Xie Jingxing into the next commander of the Xie army. Even if Xie Ding helped the two brothers become official, once Xie Jingxing really took over the Xie army, even if Xie Changchao and Xie Changwu worked hard for their entire lives, they would not be able to reach Xie Jingxing's level.

"So what?" Xie Jingxing smiled. Wherever he looked, there was a trace of evilness. "I'll learn as I command them."

"No!" Xie Ding rejected flatly. "Withdraw the request tomorrow. You can't go to war!"

"Marquis." Xie Jingxing tilted his head and looked at him, as if he was looking at a clown. "I made the request, and now you want me to go back on my words. If you want His Majesty to behead me, just say it. Why do you have to be so roundabout like others?" As soon as he finished speaking, he looked at Xie Changwu and Xie Jingxing with a faint smile.

Being stared at by Xie Jingxing, Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao froze, cold sweat breaking out on their foreheads. Xie Changwu said, "Brother, Father is just worried about you. The terrain in the northern border is complicated. If anything happens, not only will your life be in danger, but even Father will be punished and the entire Xie army will be humiliated. You can't just think about being in the limelight and not care about the future of the Xie family."

In other words, Xie Jingxing was biting off more than he could chew this time. He did not know his place and wanted to make a name for himself. Even if he went to war, he would only bring humiliation back to the family.

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As soon as she said that, even Xie Ding couldn't help but frown.

"Brother, don't worry." Xie Jingxing retorted, "I'll wait for you to become officials and make contributions in the imperial court. At that time, we still have to rely on you to protect the Xie family. The marquis will be very happy too."

Now that Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao had just become officials, it would take them a long time to reach the point of making contributions. Xie Jingxing was mocking them for not having good qualifications and could only rely on the Xie family's network to climb up.

"You!" Xie Changchao was furious. Just as he was about to speak, he heard Xie Ding shout, "Enough!"

Xie Changchao and Xie Changwu immediately fell silent. On the contrary, Xie Jingxing looked a little impatient and said, "Marquis, are you done talking? If you're done, get out. I'm going to sleep."

"Jingxing." Xie Ding suddenly said tiredly, "After so many years, do you still hate me so much? You hate me so much that you don't hesitate to put your life at risk just to stay away from me."

Although Xie Ding was also a general, he was different from Shen Xin who was rough and forthright. He was more of a gentleman kind. When Xie Ding was young, he was called a "Confucian general" and was quite handsome. Most of the people of the Xie family had inherited Xie Ding's looks. Even Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao were considered handsome young men, but they were far inferior to Xie Jingxing.

Xie Ding continued, "Jingxing, do you still hate me?" When he said this, Xie Ding's voice was trembling. He was usually angry with Xie Jingxing, but at this moment, he was like a father surrendering to his son.

Hate? What did Xie Jingxing hate? Did he hate his father for taking in Concubine Fang? Did he hate his father for causing his mother to die and making the mansion he once called home an unbearable place to stay? Xie Ding was in the wrong in the first place, but he still acted like he was a good husband, swearing that he would never marry anyone. If he loved his wife that much, why did he not execute

Concubine Fang? The only thing he ever did was doting on Xie Jingxing in every way and tried to atone for his sins.

How could the sins ever be atoned?

Xie Jingxing glanced at him, his gaze sharp for a moment. However, he was not moved by what his father said.

He had never hated Xie Ding. He just felt disdain for him and despised him. Moreover... Xie Jingxing said, "Marquis, you're thinking too much. I don't have the time to hate you."

I don't have time to hate you.

These words were too hurtful. When Xie Ding heard this, he subconsciously took two steps back and held his chest, his expression sad.

On the other hand, Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao were more and more happy. The more Xie Jingxing hurt Xie Ding, the more disappointed Xie Ding would be with him. Only then could the two of them completely replace Xie Jingxing one day.

"In that case..." Xie Ding said with difficulty, "Then go. I'll get the Xie army to support you with all they can. Take the armor and heart-protecting mirror in the mansion." Xie Ding seemed to have aged ten years overnight. He looked at Xie Jingxing and said, "You... take care of yourself."

Xie Changchao and Xie Changwu helped Xie Ding out. Before leaving, Xie Changchao even smiled maliciously at Xie Jingxing. "Brother, I wish you a triumphant return after defeating the enemy."

He looked like he couldn't wait for Xie Jingxing to die on the battlefield.

After the two of them left, the door was closed. Under the dim light, a man in black walked out and said, "Master, Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao..."

"Forget it." Xie Jingxing said, "If they die now, the Marquis of Lin'an won't let me go."

"The Xie army will only listen to the Marquis of Lin'an and will definitely disobey your order." The man in black said, "Master, what do you plan to do?"

"Who cares about the Xie army?" Xie Jingxing was a little impatient. "How's the arrangement going at the princess's mansion?"

"Master, I've planted plenty of people there to secretly protect Princess Rong Xin. Aren't you going to say goodbye to her?"

"No need." Xie Jingxing waved his hand. "You can leave."

The man in black nodded and turned to leave.

Under the dim light, the handsome face lost its usual arrogance and charm, revealing a little gentleness. He was no longer wearing a purple and gold robe, only a jade-white inner robe. Looking into the flame of the candle, he was as handsome as a person straight out of a painting.

"Hate?" He lowered his eyes and smiled faintly.

“Everyone in the world will hate me.”

Chapter 396: Confiscation of Military Power (1)

There was never a lack of new things in the capital.

If anything happened yesterday, it would immediately spread like wildfire the next day. If anyone famous was involved in something, it would naturally be talked about for a couple of days.

Some people were talking about these things as a joke, but there were also people who really felt sorry for the person who was being talked about.

Today, everyone was talking about the mighty general of Ming Qi.

Ever since Old General Shen, the Shen family had won a reputation among the people of Ming Qi with their outstanding contributions. Unfortunately, among Old General Shen’s three sons, only the eldest, Shen Xin, inherited his mantle and continued to walk the military path. Fortunately, like father, like son, Shen Xin did not let his father down. Even Shen Xin’s son, Shen Qiu, was a brave general on the battlefield.

Shen Xin did not put on airs in the army. On the battlefield, he was always in the front. The marriage between him and Luo Xueyan, the tiger girl of a general’s family, had also become a legend talked about by people throughout the dynasty. The people of Ming Qi respected Shen Xin from the bottom of their hearts. If they had to find fault with Shen Xin, it was probably his stupid daughter, who didn’t inherit any good qualities from her parents.

However, even though his daughter was a good-for-nothing, Shen Xin was still respected by the people.

When the news that Shen Xin was accused of deceiving the emperor, the commoners were dumbfounded.

It was not a small matter. Deceiving the emperor was a crime that could result in the confiscation of one’s family. Early in the morning, the officials of the imperial court surrounded the entrance of the Shen family, saying that they wanted to gather evidence. The commoners only knew that Shen Xin had committed the crime of deceiving the emperor, but they did not know how he deceived the emperor.

“Why would General Shen deceive the emperor? He’s such a good person.”

“That’s right. Last time, my child was naughty and startled Mrs. Shen’s horse. Not only did Mrs. Shen not blame us, but she even apologized to us. Is His Majesty wrong this time?”

“I don’t think so. I heard that this time, there’s concrete evidence.” Someone said in a low voice, “Although I don’t know the details, I heard that General Shen was impeached by Prince Ding this time.”

“Prince Ding?”

“That’s right. Think about it, why would Prince Ding fabricate fake evidence to harm General Shen? Perhaps it’s because Fifth Miss Shen once liked Prince Ding and was humiliated by him. In order to avenge his daughter, General Shen did something wrong on impulse.”

“Ah, that makes sense. Poor General Shen. The entire Shen family will probably be harmed by that idiotic daughter.”

The voices of these commoners were not low. Shen Miao stood at the entrance of the mansion and could hear them clearly. Everyone in the mansion stood at the entrance so that the soldiers could go in and search. Shen Yue pretended to be afraid and hid behind Chen Ruoqiu, looking at Shen Miao sympathetically. “Fifth Sister, how can these people say that about you? What does what First Uncle did have to do with you?”

Shen Miao looked at the fierce soldiers coldly, but when she heard that, she smiled. She was once blind enough to fall in love with Prince Ding, and ever since then, she was made a laughing stock by everyone in the capital. At the thought of this, Shen Miao felt disgusted.

Seeing that Shen Miao did not speak, Shen Yue thought that Shen Miao was too ashamed to say a word. A smug look instantly appeared in her eyes, but she didn’t continue. After confirming that Shen Xin would not implicate her, Old Madam Shen was relieved. She put on the attitude of a matriarch and shouted angrily, “How can the first branch do such a thing? My Shen family has been loyal for generations. There’s no such disloyal people in the entire history of the Shen family! They’re simply embarrassing us! If the old general was still around, he wouldn’t watch the first branch ruin the family’s reputation!”

Chapter 397: Confiscation of Military Power (2)

When Shen Miao heard this, her heart skipped a beat. She looked at Old Madam Shen and said, “Grandmother, what are you talking about? Father is also a member of the Shen family. The Shen family and Father are connected. How can you say this about Father at this time? In the past, when Father was rewarded and praised by His Majesty, didn’t Grandmother say that it was the Shen family’s blessing to have such a general? Have you forgotten what you said?”

When the onlookers outside heard this, they looked at Old Madam Shen in unison.

When the mighty general was rewarded by the emperor, Old Madam Shen wasn’t so mean. They were a family, and they were supposed to be together for good or ill. Why did Old Madam Shen look like she was in a hurry to dissociate herself when Shen Xin was in trouble?

Old Madam Shen also realized that everyone was looking at her with unfriendly gazes. For a moment, she flew into a rage out of humiliation, but she did not know how to respond. She could only look at Chen Ruoqiu for help.

Since Shen Gui and Shen Wan had both gone to court, the only person who could take charge here was Chen Ruoqiu. Chen Ruoqiu smiled and said, “Fifth Miss, Old Madam didn’t mean that. Old Madam is just angry. As you know, our Shen family has always been an upright family. If the old general finds out, he will also blame your father. If the impeachment against your father is proven valid, how can our family continue to go on with our lives in the capital?”

Seeing that Chen Ruoqiu was speaking up for her, Old Madam Shen found Chen Ruoqiu more pleasing to the eye. She nodded and said, "That's right. Your father made a mistake. Are we not allowed to criticize him?"

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At first glance, she looked like an arrogant girl who had been forced to speak without thinking it through. However, when one listened carefully, Shen Miao's words were very well organized, leaving no room for negotiation.

Shen Xin and his wife doted on their daughter. If they knew that their daughter was forced to the point of being chased out of the Shen family, they would probably flare up and settle the score with the Shen family.

The surrounding onlookers were in an uproar. They did not expect to see such a good show here. However, Old Madam Shen's behavior was really displeasing. On the other hand, the fifth daughter of the Shen family, who was taken as an idiot, was forced to such a state. They could not help but pity her and side with Shen Miao.

Chen Ruoqiu was shocked. She looked at Shen Miao and did not say anything. It was too late to say anything now. In less than half a day, everyone in the capital would know about this. Although dissociating themselves with Shen Xin would do the Shen family more good than harm, Chen Ruoqiu still felt uneasy.

Shen Miao had been leading everyone by the nose. However, why did Shen Miao do this? Why did it seem like Shen Miao was using Old Madam Shen's words to get Shen Xin out of the Shen family?

Chen Ruoqiu couldn't help but think of what happened a few days ago when the first branch suggested to split up. Old Madam Shen naturally didn't want the first branch to move out with all the treasures, but Shen Xin and his wife decided not to change their mind. At that time, they were already on the lookout for a new mansion, but this sudden occurrence caused them to temporarily drop their plan. Chen Ruoqiu thought that the separation would be over, but she didn't expect it to be brought up again by Shen Miao.

Moreover, Shen Miao brought it up in front of everyone, leaving herself no room for maneuver.

Old Madam Shen snorted and walked back in, ignoring the disdainful gazes of the onlookers outside. Chen Ruoqiu hesitated for a moment before holding Shen Yue's hand and following her in.

Concubine Wan wanted to follow her in, but Shen Dongling shook off her hand and walked straight to Shen Miao.

"Fifth Sister," Shen Dongling called her.

This seemed to be the first time Shen Dongling called her since she left the courtyard. Shen Miao lowered her eyes and replied indifferently, "Third Sister."

"Fifth Sister, don't worry." Shen Dongling looked weak, but her smile was gentle. "Eldest Uncle will definitely be fine. He's not someone who will deceive the emperor. The truth will eventually come out."

Shen Miao's expression did not change as she said, "Thank you, Third Sister."

Only then did Shen Dongling smile. She turned around and walked to the stunned Concubine Wan, pulling her into the door.

"Miss." Jingzhe leaned over and asked, "Why did Third Miss do that?"

Just now, Shen Miao made such a fuss, which almost meant that her relationship with the rest of the Shen family had completely fallen apart. However, Shen Dongling came to express her goodwill. Wasn't she afraid that Old Madam Shen would punish her?

Shen Miao did not say anything. Looking at Shen Dongling and Concubine Wan's backs, she shook her head thoughtfully.

When there was no one around, Concubine Wan whispered, "Dongling, what was wrong with you just now? How could you show goodwill towards Fifth Miss? If Old Madam sees you doing that, she'll tell your father..." Shen Gui did not like the first branch either. It would be strange if Shen Gui was happy that Shen Dongling was eager to please Shen Miao.

"Don't worry, Mother." Shen Dongling smiled. "None of them is Fifth Sister's match."

"What?" Concubine Wan was stunned.

Shen Dongling pursed her lips and pulled Concubine Wan forward. "No more asking. Let's go back."

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With such a big thing happening, even the commoners were alarmed. Naturally, the situation in the imperial court was tense.

Chapter 399: Confiscation of Military Power (4)

In the throne room, Emperor Wen Hui sat on the dragon throne with a dark expression. Looking at the officials in the hall, he threw the memorial in his hand at the face of the closest official.

The official was hit in the face, but he did not dare to say a word and immediately knelt down.

Ever since Shen Xin, his wife, and Shen Qiu entered the palace, they had not left. No one outside knew what happened, but the officials knew very well that Shen Xin and his wife had clearly been detained by Emperor Wen Hui. Why were they detained? It went without saying that Emperor Wen Hui wanted to show them who the ruler of the dynasty was.

All the officials understood this simple logic. Generally speaking, all they needed to do was pretend nothing happened. However, Emperor Wen Hui's expression today was a little strange.

"Earl of Pingnan, you tell me!" Emperor Wen Hui called out.

Su Yu, the Earl of Pingnan, shuddered. The other officials all looked at him. Su Yu thought of what Su Mingfeng said to him last night and immediately stopped hesitating. He took out a letter from his sleeve and handed it to the eunuch who then handed it to the emperor.

“Your Majesty, I also think that the mighty general is not to be forgiven. He doesn’t take the royal family seriously and doesn’t respect you. Please punish Shen Xin and kill his entire family!”

Killing his entire family? The officials who weren’t particularly on good terms with Su Yu were all shocked when they heard this. The Earl of Pingnan had always been considered a non-violent and friendly person in the imperial court. Unexpectedly, this time, he was more ruthless than anyone else.

Emperor Wen Hui’s hand trembled as he took the letter and stared at Su Yu with a burning gaze.

Su Yu raised his head and looked determined.

“Your Majesty.” On the other side, the Marquis of Lin’an, Xie Ding, who had been silent all this while, also said, “Shen Xin has a lot of soldiers. He even dares to resist your orders outside. I’m afraid he already has the intention to rebel. I also agree with Lord Su about executing him and his entire family.”

Everyone looked at Xie Ding and Su Yu. They knew that the Su and Xie families had always been on good terms, but the Shen family and these two families were clearly not on the same boat. Now that Shen Xin was in trouble, the Su and Xie families were naturally willing to kick him when he was down.

Emperor Wen Hui’s gaze was uncertain.

Originally, he was extremely satisfied with the evidence sent by Fu Xiuyi. He had always been eyeing the Shen family covetously, but he could not find a chance. With the evidence of Shen Xin disobeying his order, the emperor could easily take back the Shen family’s military power. Unexpectedly, early this morning, when he mentioned this in the court, the court officials all expressed that they agreed to punish Shen Xin severely.

Shen Xin had been fighting in the northwest all year round and did not have a deep relationship with the officials in the imperial court. Emperor Wen Hui had expected that many people would agree to punishing Shen Xin, but he did not expect it to be so many.

Emperor Wen Hui was paranoid. If there were many officials who spoke up for Shen Xin, Emperor Wen Hui would probably suspect that Shen Xin was roping in many people in private. However, with so many people suggesting to punish Shen Xin, Emperor Wen Hui was actually relieved. An official with an ambition to rebel would not make so many enemies for himself.

If the impeachment of Shen Xin by these officials only made Emperor Wen Hui a little hesitant, the “killing his entire family” suggested by the Earl of Pingnan and the Marquis of Lin’an made Emperor Wen Hui suspicious.

The Shen family, the Su family, and the Xie family were all thorns in Emperor Wen Hui’s heart. It was not that these officials were bad, but just the reputation and military strength of these large families would make Emperor Wen Hui feel a constant threat. How could he allow others to be more powerful than him?

Chapter 400: Confiscation of Military Power (5)

The Su family and the Xie family were tied together. Fortunately, the Shen family and the Xie family were incompatible like fire and water. Otherwise, they would really become a huge problem for

Emperor Wen Hui. If what the Su and Xie families said was true, after killing the Shen family, there would be no one in Ming Qi who could counterbalance the combined power of the Su and Xie families.

For the first time, Emperor Wen Hui felt like he was in a difficult position. He just wanted to take back a portion of Shen Xin's military power. With the Shen family around, Su Xie could be kept in check, but now, no one was willing to speak up for Shen Xin. Emperor Wen Hui felt a headache coming on.

He slowly asked, "Kill his entire family?"

Generally speaking, from the tone with which the emperor asked this question, the officials could tell that something was wrong. However, for some reason, Xie Ding pretended not to know and replied, "Yes!"

Emperor Wen Hui closed his eyes. When he looked at Xie Ding again, it was as if he was trying to see Xie Ding's ambition through his skin.

Su Yu was a little worried, but he didn't show it on his face.

Finally, a young general stepped forward and said, "Although General Shen is willful this time, he doesn't deserve to die. He has made great contributions to the dynasty, so he can atone for his mistakes. Your Majesty is benevolent. I hope you can be lenient on him because he has been on the battlefield for many years."

This young general had a good relationship with Shen Xin. He finally couldn't stand it anymore and spoke up for Shen Xin.

Emperor Wen Hui had been waiting for someone to say this, but for some reason, no one spoke. As soon as this young general spoke, Emperor Wen Hui's eyebrows relaxed and he said, "You're right. Although General Shen is guilty this time, he still made lots of contributions in the past. If I sentence his entire family to death, it will make me look like a heartless person."

"Your Majesty, you can't do that!" Su Yu quickly knelt on the ground. "General Shen deceived you this time. No one knows what he'll do next time!"

Xie Ding hurriedly said, "That's right, that's right! Your Majesty, think twice!"

The more the two of them said that, the more Emperor Wen Hui found it suspicious. Without looking at the two of them, he said to the young general, or rather, to every official in the court, "When Old General Shen was alive, he also went through thick and thin with the late emperor. The Shen family has been loyal for generations, and the mighty general, Shen Xin, was also extremely brave in the battlefield. I'm not a tyrant, and the Shen family doesn't deserve to be sentenced to death."

"Your Majesty is wise." The young general quickly knelt down and said.

Emperor Wen Hui waved his hand and said, "I still have to punish Shen Xin though. Pass down the order. Take back Shen Xin's military power and deduct one year of his salary. Other than his personal guards, all the soldiers will be integrated into the royal army!"

In other words, the troops that Shen Xin had nurtured for so many years were all stolen by the royal family!

Even if Shen Xin got away with it this time, the title of the mighty general would only be an empty shell that posed no threat to the royal family. The emperor kept him alive just to use his reputation to keep the Su and Xie families in check.