

Venomous 411

Chapter 411: Brother Xie (4)

Xie Jingxing nodded.

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The Shen family was a big family in the capital. In the past, they had many colleagues who were in close contact with them. Given how much of an influential figure Shen Xin was, many people wanted to suck up to him. However, when a tree fell, the monkeys would scatter. This time, Shen Xin was clearly demoted and forced out of the capital. Other than the few officials who were extremely close to Shen Xin, no one came to send him off.

Shen Miao took a trip to Guangwen Hall herself.

Once she set off, she naturally could not attend Guangwen Hall anymore. After her performance in the yearly test, many students of Guangwen Hall changed their opinions of Shen Miao and were a little afraid of her. However, when they heard that the Shen family's military power was confiscated, they started ridiculing Shen Miao openly again. However, Shen Miao walked past them without looking back, as if she did not hear them.

Feng Anning cried when she saw her. She grabbed her sleeve and said, "Shen Miao, when will you come back?"

Shen Miao was a little at a loss for what to do with Feng Anning's tears. In her previous life, because of her stupidity, the noble ladies in the capital were unwilling to befriend her. In this life, she became indifferent to friendship and did not deliberately try to please anyone. Feng Anning was a friend Shen Miao made by accident. Although she was a little arrogant, she did not have any evil intentions towards Shen Miao. Sometimes, looking at her, Shen Miao would even think of Wanyu.

She comforted Feng Anning. "I won't be gone for too long."

"You are lying." Feng Anning sobbed. "I heard from my father that General Shen really angered His Majesty this time. How can he be allowed to back so quickly... Shen Miao, you have to write me letters every now and then. When you come back, will I already be married?"

Shen Miao almost laughed out loud. Looking at Feng Anning's red eyes, she couldn't bring herself to laugh. She knew better than anyone what would happen to Feng Anning later on. Although the Feng family wouldn't fall in two years,... She patted Feng Anning's shoulder. "It's fine. I promise you I will be there on your wedding day."

Feng Anning wanted to say something, but she saw Pei Lang walk in with a book. Pei Lang was dressed in green. His gaze landed on Shen Miao. He paused for a moment and said, "Shen Miao, come with me."

It was only right for Shen Miao to bid goodbye to her teacher, so no one felt that there was anything wrong. Feng Anning reluctantly let go of Shen Miao's hand.

Pei Lang brought Shen Miao to a triangular courtyard of Guangwen Hall. The teachers of Guangwen Hall lived inside the school. This was Pei Lang's own courtyard, and no one could enter. He pushed the door open and walked into the nearest study. Shen Miao followed him in and closed the door at the right time.

"Are you leaving?" This time, Pei Lang did not beat around the bush and asked bluntly.

Shen Miao nodded.

Pei Lang's expression changed. He hesitated for a moment before saying, "The thing about Liu Ying..."

"Miss Liu Ying has already been settled." Shen Miao interrupted him. "She's doing very well in the embroidery shop. Her double-sided embroidery is outstanding. In the future, she can definitely make a living with her embroidery skills. She might be able to take in a few apprentices."

Pei Lang gradually relaxed. Shen Xin's family was about to leave the capital. What he was afraid of was that Liu Ying's matter couldn't be settled in time.

Shen Miao stared into his eyes and asked, "Then Mr. Pei, did you think it over?"

Pei Lang was stunned.

What Shen Miao wanted him to think over was naturally to be a spy by Fu Xiuyi's side. That day at the Pleasure Restaurant, Pei Lang had already made his stance clear, but he had to think about it further. Hearing this, Pei Lang frowned and said, "What do you want to say exactly?"

Chapter 412: Brother Xie (5)

"Two years." Shen Miao said, "In two years, I will definitely return to the capital. At that time, Mr. Pei, you must become Prince Ding's trusted aide, the kind he relies on the most."

Pei Lang smiled, but there was a hint of anger in his smile. "Shen Miao, don't you think too highly of me? I'm just a poor scholar. I have nothing. Even if I'm lucky enough to become Prince Ding's aide, how can I get him to rely on me the most?"

"Sir, there's no need to belittle yourself. You're a talent, and he has an eye for talent." Shen Miao smiled. "Even if you're not a talent, sir, you have to make yourself a talent." She lowered her voice and looked at Pei Lang provocatively. "If you can't do it, guess what'll happen if I tell Miss Liu Ying who you are? Do you think Miss Liu Ying will be so touched that she will cry?"

"You!" Pei Lang was furious. Shen Miao was clearly threatening him. If she told Liu Ying that he was the one who helped her, she might return to the Treasure Fragrance Chamber to become a prostitute again in a fit of anger.

Pei Lang said, "I've never seen a woman as vicious and cunning as you." The young girl treated him neither as her teacher nor as her senior. Pei Lang even had the illusion that Shen Miao was always one step ahead of him. She provoked and threatened him, and there seemed to be some inexplicable resentment in her voice, making Pei Lang look puzzled. Who would have thought that a gentle and delicate girl like her was actually more cold-hearted than anyone?

"Sir, you must be joking. It's a difficult world. I'm just trying my best to survive," Shen Miao said with a humble smile, as if she was a student who was receiving a lecture from her teacher. She quietly took out something from her sleeve, reached into Pei Lang's sleeve, and handed it to him.

Pei Lang was stunned. Her soft fingertips rested on his palm for a second before they fluttered away like butterflies. For some reason, Pei Lang actually had the urge to want them to linger a bit longer. However, immediately, he brought his wandering mind back to the present moment. He held the letter in his sleeve and looked at Shen Miao in confusion.

"The address is written on the letter. If you have time, you can naturally go and take a look at Miss Liu Ying. In addition, there are some other things I wrote. In the next two years, I hope you can do as I say," Shen Miao said.

Pei Lang froze. Instead of being angry, he smiled helplessly, "Shen Miao, you want me to be your puppet?"

"A scholar has the pride of a scholar. Sir, you are knowledgeable and I truly admire you. If it were any other scholar, I would not have to use such a method." Shen Miao looked up and saw Pei Lang's angry expression. She smiled and said, "But do you have a choice?"

"It's fine if you don't want to do it. Even if I'm thousands of miles away, I still have a way to tell Miss Liu Ying a story." She smiled gently, but her tone was sharp.

Pei Lang felt inexplicably angry and aggrieved. In front of Shen Miao, he had no dignity as a teacher at all. Every time he felt like losing his temper, Shen Miao always had a way to make him choke back his anger. Pei Lang even wondered if he owed Shen Miao something in his previous life so Shen Miao was here to collect the debts.

He suppressed the humiliation in his heart and said, "Will I be able to meet your requirements as long as I follow what you wrote in the letter?"

"I believe in your ability." Shen Miao lowered her eyes. On the letter was what Fu Xiuyi would do in the next few years. On the surface, Fu Xiuyi did not look ambitious, but in private, he had been recruiting knowledgeable people. As for how he would recruit knowledgeable people, no one knew better than Shen Miao. Pei Lang was not an ordinary person to begin with. As long as he revealed some of his "talent", he would naturally be chosen by Fu Xiuyi.

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In the entire letter, Shen Miao did not mention what she wanted Pei Lang to do exactly. She only told Pei Lang the opportunities to get close to Fu Xiuyi. How he could get Fu Xiuyi's trust depended on him.

This was the greatest trust Shen Miao could give Pei Lang.

In her previous life, Fu Xiuyi and Pei Lang were in the same boat. Now, she became the first person to discover this talent and use it. She also wanted to let Fu Xiuyi have a taste of what it felt like to be betrayed by someone closest to him.

She glanced at Pei Lang and suddenly felt a little disgusted. After finishing what she had to say, she did not want to talk to Pei Lang anymore and turned to leave.

“Shen Miao!” Pei Lang stopped her. He hesitated for a moment before saying, “Take care.”

Shen Miao was a little surprised, but she only said indifferently, “Thank you.” Then, she left, leaving Pei Lang standing there alone, staring at Shen Miao’s back with a complicated gaze.

When Shen Miao left Pei Lang’s courtyard, she saw a fair meatball standing in the garden outside the school. When he saw her, his eyes lit up and he ran over, shouting in surprise, “Sister Shen!”

Su Minglang rolled over like a ball.

Shen Miao was speechless.

In fact, Su Minglang was already ten years old this year. Unlike Su Mingfeng, his mature brother, Su Minglang looked even more childish than a five or six-year-old child. After running a few steps, he was panting. Shen Miao walked up to him and held his chubby arm, asking, “What’s going on?”

“Sister Shen, are you leaving?” Su Minglang stammered for a while. “I’ll wait here for you to come back, okay?”

Shen Miao was stunned. After everyone here found out that Shen Xin was going to Spring City, the first thing they said was: When are you coming back or are you not coming back? Everyone always felt that if Shen Xin went, he might stay in Spring City forever. The first thing Su Minglang said was that he wanted to wait for her to come back, as if he was sure that Shen Miao would definitely return to the capital. Shen Miao found it interesting and tapped his forehead, deliberately teasing him. “Who said I would come back? Maybe I won’t.”

“No.” Su Minglang looked up and said matter of factly, “Sister Shen will definitely come back!”

Shen Miao tilted her head to look at him. When Su Minglang said this, his eyes were firm and did not have a trace of doubt. She asked, “Why are you so sure?”

“Brother Xie said that you would come back in less than two years!” Su Minglang said excitedly.

Brother Xie? Shen Miao thought for a moment. Xie Jingxing?

“My father said that General Shen angered His Majesty this time, and most likely, General Shen will never be summoned back again to the capital.” Su Minglang didn’t care if his words would hurt Shen Miao. He just continued, “But when Brother Xie came to see my brother, he told him that General Shen will definitely return to the capital in two years!”

Xie Jingxing... could actually read her thoughts so accurately. Shen Miao was a little frightened.

“Brother Xie is a very bad person. He bullied me, my brother, and my father... But what he said will always turn out to be true!” This was the first time Su Minglang spoke so fluently, as if he was proving something. He continued, “If he says that you will come back, you will come back. Sister Shen, right?” As he spoke, his eyes were filled with anticipation.

Shen Miao immediately thought of Fu Ming and her heart softened. She smiled and said, "He's right. I'll come back."

"That's great!" Su Minglang jumped up and said word by word, "Then I'll wait for you here. When you come back, I'll treat you to candies, steamed sugar cake..."

Shen Miao couldn't help but laugh. When she was with Su Minglang, it was as if some of her dark memories would be swept away in an instant. It was as if days had become carefree. She said, "Be a good boy. And... remember you can't tell anyone else what we talked about today."

When Su Minglang saw Shen Miao's serious expression, he immediately said obediently, "Got it. I won't tell anyone else." He whispered to Shen Miao, "Sister Shen, but you can't tell Brother Xie about this either. I eavesdropped on their conversation. If Brother Xie finds out that I eavesdropped, he'll beat me up again."

In the eyes of the second young master of the Su family, the elegant and noble Young Marquis of the Xie family was an out-and-out black-hearted bandit.

Shen Miao said, "Alright, I won't tell him."

Chapter 414: Kiss (1)

Henyee Translations Henyee Translations

Shen Xin's family started to pack their luggage that night. The most shocking thing was that before they left, they forced Old Madam Shen to split up the assets in front of the Shen family.

That day, when Shen Xin and his wife were summoned to the palace, Shen Miao's argument with Old Madam Shen at the entrance of the mansion eventually reached Shen Xin's ears. Shen Xin was naturally furious that the Shen family couldn't wait to kick him when he was down. Luo Xueyan was even more angry that she was stupid enough back then to treat this family sincerely.

Trained to be a general since he was young, Shen Xin was quite well-built. Even if all the people of the Shen family joined forces, they were still not his match. Before Old General Shen left, he hoped that this family would be harmonious, but in the end, they still fell apart.

Old Madam Shen kicked up a fuss and snatched away more than half of Old General Shen's shops and fields. Shen Miao did not mind. All these years, because of poor management, those shops and fields were no longer as profitable as before. Keeping them was a burden. Moreover, they were about to go to Spring City, so these things were useless.

Shen Xin did not lack money. The emperor gave him a lot of money every year. Old Madam Shen originally thought that the money given by Shen Xin had long been cleared out of the account books, but she did not expect Shen Miao to actually find another account book from somewhere. It clearly stated how much money given by Shen Xin was left.

Shen Miao thought that no matter how much she could get back, even if Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan didn't care about these worldly possessions, it would still be good to disgust Old Madam Shen.

Chen Ruoqiu was also very angry. Now that she was in charge of the expenditure and the money was already very tight, if Shen Xin still took away a portion of it, the Shen family would have to cut down on their expenses. If anything went wrong, Old Madam Shen would definitely take it out on her.

Shen Yue was also angry. Over the past few days, she had been watching Chen Ruoqiu work herself to death over money. Shen Yue, who had been raised to disdain money, had also changed. Initially, she did not care about money, but now, she felt that she had to compete for it. She could not say anything to the seniors, so she looked at Shen Miao and pretended to be worried. "I don't know when Fifth Sister will be back. I heard that Spring City is short of supplies. It's better to bring more money."

She was clearly mocking Shen Miao for going to a remote desert. Luo Xueyan was about to flare up when she saw Shen Miao smile and say, "That's right, but the price of goods in the capital is very high. Without His Majesty's reward in the future, Second Sister, you need to learn to be frugal." Her gaze landed on Shen Yue's wrist and she said with a smile, "After all, my father will not be able to send you a bracelet in the future."

Shen Yue was stunned. She looked at the bracelet on her wrist and blushed. That bracelet was one of the rewards Shen Xin received. Every year, when Shen Xin's reward was handed in to the Shen family, Shen Yue would also choose some beautiful jewelry. She didn't expect Shen Miao to say it out loud in front of everyone that the bracelet Shen Yue was wearing belonged to Shen Xin. Was Shen Miao asking her to take off the jewelry and return it to its original owner?

However, this bracelet was extremely precious, and Shen Yue was unwilling to take it off and return it to Shen Xin.

Shen Miao seemed to have seen through her mind. She smiled and said, "Sister, you don't have to return this bracelet. We won't take back what we gave out. It's just that... I wonder if you will have such a good bracelet in the future."

Chapter 415: Kiss (2)

This time, even Shen Wan, who was standing at the side without saying anything, had an ugly expression on his face. What Shen Miao meant was that it was impossible for Shen Wan to get such a good reward with his ability. Shen Wan would never be able to reach Shen Xin's level in his career.

He looked at Shen Miao coldly and said to Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Yue, "Go back." He left without looking at Shen Miao again.

Since Shen Xin was no longer powerful and was about to leave the capital, there was no need to pretend to be brothers. Shen Wan would never bother to talk to people who were useless to him.

Shen Gui also bowed to Shen Xin with a smug look and said, "Brother, I'll take my leave first." With that, he left without looking at them. Seeing this, Concubine Wan quickly pulled Shen Dongling and followed suit.

Shen Gui was snobbish. In his official career, he relied on flattery to climb up. In terms of talent, he was not as good as his son, Shen Yuan. In terms of temperament, he was not as tenacious as Shen Wan and was heartless. He wasn't someone to be afraid of.

However, Shen Qiu was so angry that he said with a snort, "What a bunch of ingrates!"

Shen Miao smiled but did not say anything. Let's not talk about Shen Wan and Chen Ruoqiu for the time being. In two years, Shen Yuanbai would die because of smallpox. At that time, Shen Gui had already been drugged by Ren Wanyun and would lose his ability to have another child in this life. Even if he had money, power, and beauties for the time being, he would eventually die without descendants.

The wicked would be dealt with by the wicked. She would leave this mess to the Shen family and let them clean it up themselves.

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When Prince Ding, Fu Xiuyi, heard that Shen Xin requested to go to Spring City, Emperor Wen Hui had already granted it.

At this moment, Fu Xiuyi naturally could not say anything else. The more he said, the more suspicious he would appear. However, he found it a little strange that Shen Xin would suddenly do this. He could clearly see Shen Xi was definitely not an impulsive person. Even if he was angry that his military power was taken away, he wouldn't be in such a hurry to leave the capital.

Fu Xiuyi couldn't help but recall what Shen Yuan had reminded him before.

"Your Highness, don't underestimate my fifth sister."

However, Fu Xiuyi did not take these words to heart at that time. Now, for some reason, he thought about it again. Could it be that Shen Miao was urging Shen Xin to make this decision? However, why would a pampered young lady from the capital take the initiative to go to a cold place like the Northwest?

Fu Xiuyi was sensitive enough to sense that something was wrong, but he could not tell what was wrong exactly. He only felt that things should not have developed like this.

The aide beside him asked, "Your Highness, are you worried about the mighty general? Although Shen Xin's departure was very unexpected, the Shen army has already dispersed, and his military power has been taken away. The mighty general is not very useful. Your Highness, you can rest assured.""

Fu Xiuyi pulled back his mind and nodded absent-mindedly. Shen Xin was not his important chess piece after all. If Shen Miao still loved him, he didn't mind using Shen Xin to his benefit. However, for some reason, Shen Miao's love for him was gone all of a sudden, making him lose the chance to rope Shen Xin in.

Anyhow, it didn't seem to be a bad thing that Shen Miao stopped taking a fancy to him. If he really married Shen Miao, even if he could gain the Shen army in return, he would be mocked by everyone. Fu Xiuyi was extremely self-conceited. How could he allow himself to be a laughing stock? Now that Shen Xin and his family were about to leave the capital, those rumors would be gone too. He said, "In the next few days, go and recruit more people."

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The aide was stunned for a moment before cupping his hands in agreement.

Fu Xiuyi looked away. Since the competition had already begun, it was only a matter of time before he must vie for the throne. The most important thing now was to recruit more talents in the shortest time possible.

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Shen Xin left the capital early the next morning.

Shen Xin left in a low key manner. Firstly, he did not want to make things difficult for his friends. If they came to send him off, they would be going against Emperor Wen Hui. The heart of an emperor was capricious, and Shen Xin didn't want the emperor to take his anger out on his friends. Secondly, Spring City was thousands of miles away from the capital. If they set off early, he would probably be able to arrive early.

However, even if they traveled at full speed, it would still take them more than half a year to arrive.

Shen Xin had a group of trusted aides by his side. Coupled with Shen Qiu's subordinates, as well as Mo Qing and Ah Zhi, they were not afraid of encountering any danger. The journey was not bad. At first, Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin were worried that Shen Miao would not be able to withstand such a long journey and would probably feel uncomfortable along the way. Unexpectedly, Shen Miao did not say a word of complaint the entire journey. Even Shen Xin praised, "Jiaojiao is indeed my daughter. Which girl in the capital has such a tenacious personality?"

Luo Xueyan rolled her eyes at him. She felt more and more guilty towards Shen Miao. A girl at her age was supposed to live in the comfort of her boudoir, but because of them, she had to take this arduous journey.

Jingzhe leaned against the curtain of the carriage. Because this was the first time she was on a long trip, she was a little excited. One moment, she pointed at the birds in the sky, and the next, she pointed at the hare in the forest and screamed. Seeing Shen Miao's calm expression, she asked curiously, "Miss, why don't you find it interesting? We don't get to see these things in the capital."

Hearing that, Gu Yu also looked at Shen Miao and asked tentatively, "Miss, you don't look like you miss the capital at all."

Luo Xueyan, who was sitting in the carriage, was stunned.

Every girl who was about to leave a prosperous place for a remote city in the middle of nowhere would show reluctance. However, Shen Miao was very calm from the beginning to the end. Sometimes, she even looked a little happy.

What was there to be happy about leaving one's hometown?

Sensing Luo Xueyan's gaze, Shen Miao smiled and looked at the scenery outside the carriage. "Father, Mother, and Brother are all by my side. What's there to miss? Even if I stay in the capital, I don't have any family."

As soon as she said that, Luo Xueyan's heart ached. After coming back this time, she had seen the ugly side of the entire Shen family. For so many years, they had left Shen Miao with that family and thought

that she was doing well. Now, it seemed like it was a huge joke. Shen Miao had probably never treated those people as her family either. Otherwise, she wouldn't say that.

At the thought of this, Luo Xueyan pulled Shen Miao into her arms and said guiltily, "That's right. Jiaojiao, you will be with us in the future. No one will dare to bully you."

Shen Miao leaned into Luo Xueyan's arms and lowered her eyes to hide the coldness in them.

How could this be the first time she had left her hometown and traveled alone? In her previous life, when she went to the State of Qin to be a hostage, she took the journey alone. How many of her trusted maids had died in a foreign country? At that time, the scenery was just like now. Though the memory had blurred, she still remembered the feeling at that moment clearly. From the capital to the State of Qin, from the State of Qin to the capital, she took two very bleak paths. She thought that she did it for a good cause to benefit the dynasty and the people, but little did she know that in the eyes of the people, she was nothing more than a joke.

Chapter 417: Kiss (4)

Now that she did not travel alone, she would definitely not be alone when she returned.

The mountain path reached out to as far as the eye could see, and before they knew it, it was already dark. Because they were on the mountain path, there were no taverns around, so they could only seek temporary lodging with a farmer. Fortunately, the farmer's family was warm-hearted. They welcomed everyone warmly and even cooked many dishes for them.

Because they had to travel, Shen Xin and the others did not dare to drink. They were afraid that drinking would delay their departure the next day. On the other hand, Shen Miao drank quite a lot probably because she was in a good mood or because the plum wine brewed by the farmer was delicious. After drinking a few glasses, her face turned red.

"Jiaojiao, why did you drink so much?" Luo Xueyan didn't notice it at first, but when she saw how red Shen Miao's face was, she couldn't help but be shocked. Seeing that Shen Miao was holding her cheek with one hand and looking a little sleepy, she quickly reached out to touch her head.

"This young lady probably doesn't know how strong this wine is." The farmer's wife said with a smile, "The plum blossom wine made by our family tastes sweet, but it has a strong delayed effect. Every time my daughter drinks a few more glasses, she'll get drunk too. However, after a good night of sleep, she'll recover. Madam, don't worry."

Only then did Luo Xueyan feel relieved. Shen Qiu looked at Shen Miao, who was a little drunk, and found it funny. "I didn't expect I would live to see Sister getting drunk one day. How interesting."

When Shen Qiu returned this time, he saw a calm and gentle Shen Miao. She was so mature and serious that sometimes, Shen Qiu even thought that Shen Miao was his elder sister. Sometimes, he would miss the Shen Miao of the past. Although she was willful and rude, she was more like a little girl. Looking at her now, Shen Qiu thought of the Shen Miao of the past and felt a little close to her.

"Brat." Shen Xin kicked Shen Qiu. "Your sister is already so drunk, but you're still making fun of her!"

Shen Qiu quickly stuck out his tongue and apologized. The entire family, including the farmer, was filled with laughter. There was no sadness of leaving one's hometown at all.

Shen Miao rested her chin on her hands and narrowed her eyes at the scene in front of her. Although this plum wine was intoxicating, she was still a little sober. She was indeed extremely happy today. In fact, not only did she want Shen Xin to leave the capital, but she also wanted him to stay away from the danger.

The lively dinner lasted until late at night. The enthusiastic farmer arranged enough rooms for them to sleep. Originally, Luo Xueyan wanted to stay in the same room as Shen Miao, but Shen Miao insisted on staying in the room next to the courtyard wall that was far away from the others.

At first, Shen Xin felt that it was not good. If there was any danger, he was afraid that he would not be able to save Shen Miao in time. However, for some reason, perhaps due to drunkenness, Shen Miao wouldn't give in no matter what and insisted on staying in that room. When the farmer's wife saw this, she smiled and said, "Miss, you probably want to see the flowers outside the courtyard, right? These flowers look good on a snowy day. All girls like them. Madam, don't worry. No bandits will visit a small place like this. If you're worried about your daughter, you can get a few guards to watch outside."

Only then did everyone realize that when the window was opened, there was a large snow-white garden outside. Under the moonlight, the shadows of the flowers swayed, looking very beautiful.

Shen Qiu was amused. He pinched Shen Miao's nose. "Look at how spoiled you are. Even when you are drunk, you still wants to find a place with a good scenery."

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Luo Xueyan slapped Shen Qiu's hand away and said angrily, "Don't annoy your sister." She looked at the drunk Shen Miao and shook her head. "Alright, I'll let Mo Qing, Ah Zhi, and the others set up a tent outside the courtyard for the night. Jingzhe and Gu Yu, come out after helping Miss change."

This farmer's house was not like the house in the capital. There was a sleeping room and an outer room where Jingzhe and Gu Yu could make do for the night. Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin were not harsh people. They wouldn't let Jingzhe and Gu Yu sleep on the ground. With Ah Zhi and Mo Qing guarding outside, even Shen Miao slept alone, there shouldn't be any problem.

After Jingzhe and Gu Yu helped Shen Miao change, they left the room. Mo Qing, Ah Zhi, and the others, who had set up the tent in the courtyard outside, also took turns keeping watch at night.

In the "beautiful" side room, only Shen Miao was left.

Shen Miao, who was helped to lay down on the bed by Jingzhe, suddenly got up.

The aftereffects of the plum wine finally surged up at this moment. At this moment, Shen Miao's eyes were blurry. She stood up shakily and was about to walk towards the window when she staggered and almost knocked over the corner of the table.

In the darkness, a pair of strong arms helped her up. She could vaguely smell the faint fragrance on the other party's body. A familiar voice sounded in her ear with a faint teasing tone. "Tsk, you don't have to pounce on me like that."

Shen Miao wrapped her arms around his waist to steady herself, but she did not notice that the other party's body tensed up.

A moment later, with a whoosh, a flame was lit. The person found a match from somewhere and lit the oil lamp in the room.

The windows of the farmer's house were carved straight from wood. The lights in the room could not be seen from the outside, so the people in the courtyard did not notice anything unusual in the room.

Under the dim light, she could see the other party's face clearly. He was wearing a snow-white fox fur coat and a dark red brocade robe. His dark eyes were as bright as the starry sky. Who could this person be other than Xie Jingxing?

Shen Miao was stunned and said, "Xie Jingxing?" When she said this, her body was heavy. She accidentally leaned against Xie Jingxing again, almost hugging him.

Xie Jingxing frowned. "How much did you drink?" He sized up Shen Miao and said in disdain, "I was kind enough to come to send you off, but I didn't expect to bump into a drunkard."

"You're the drunkard," Shen Miao immediately retorted.

"Oh, you recognized me. It seems like you're not drunk," Xie Jingxing said as he helped Shen Miao to the couch and brought the oil lamp closer.

Under the dim light, Shen Miao was wearing a plain white inner robe with her hair down. She looked at him in a daze, looking like a different person from her usual smart and calm self. She really looked like a pitiful little girl. Xie Jingxing thought for a moment and couldn't help but pinch her face.

Shen Miao puffed out her cheek and glared at him.

It was rare to see her like this. Xie Jingxing found it interesting and thought that since Shen Miao was drunk now, he might be able to get something out of her. He asked, "Who am I?"

"Xie Jingxing," Shen Miao replied quickly.

"Do you know who Xie Jingxing is?"

Shen Miao stared at him and slowly frowned, not saying anything for a long time. Xie Jingxing was a little puzzled by her gaze and thought to himself that this girl was probably cursing him in her heart. Unexpectedly, Shen Miao suddenly smiled and said, "He's an amazing person!"

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Xie Jingxing was dumbfounded.

He stared at Shen Miao thoughtfully and asked, "Are you pretending to be drunk?"

"Young Marquis Xie, a young talent, an eternal figure, died..." The rest of her sentence gradually trailed off, as if she couldn't remember it.

At first, Xie Jingxing was a little suspicious, but when he saw that Shen Miao did not seem to be pretending, he found it a little strange. He raised his eyebrows and said, "I didn't expect you to think so highly of me." He leaned closer and teased, "Don't tell me you like me."

Shen Miao reached out and pushed his head away.

Xie Jingxing was a little speechless. Normally, it would be very interesting to tease Shen Miao. However, now that Shen Miao was so drunk that she even commented on him as an "eternal figure", he found it very boring to tease her now. He said, "I wanted to see you for the last time. But since you are so drunk, forget it. Farewell." As he spoke, he was about to leave when he heard a thud and Shen Miao fell to the ground again.

Xie Jingxing first wanted to help Shen Miao up, but then he stopped and stood at the side with his arms crossed. He watched Shen Miao struggle on the ground in enjoyment for a while before saying, "I really should let you see yourself like this."

Shen Miao was dizzy from drinking and her body was weak. How could she stand up? She struggled on the ground for a long time but to no avail. In the end, Xie Jingxing couldn't stand it anymore. He helped her up again to sit on the couch. He heard Shen Miao say, "Eunuch Li, I want to see the fireworks."

In the quiet night, Shen Miao's words were especially clear.

Eunuch Li, I want to see the fireworks.

The charcoal in the room seemed to have frozen.

The corners of Xie Jingxing's lips slowly lowered, and his eyes were no longer filled with a teasing smile. He squatted down slightly and looked at Shen Miao, who was sitting on the couch. He said, "What did you say?"

Shen Miao opened her eyes and looked at him. Under the light, her eyes became clearer and clearer. In her clear eyes, there was a hint of drunkenness, making the young girl suddenly look more like a woman. She stretched out a hand, as if she was about to put it on the hand of a palace maid, and ordered, "Eunuch Li, I want to see the fireworks. Go and call the crown prince and princess over."

Crown Prince? Princess?

Xie Jingxing stared fixedly at Shen Miao. His eyes were as handsome as a painting. When he smiled, he was as charming as spring flowers and autumn moon. When he did not smile, he was as dangerous as the abyss. He looked at Shen Miao and suddenly chuckled.

However, although he was smiling, there was no smile in his eyes. He gently lifted Shen Miao's chin. This extremely seductive action was elegant and natural when it was done by him.

He asked, "Shen Miao, do you want to be the empress?"

Shen Miao blinked at him and said, "That's mine to begin with."

“Yours?”

“It’s mine.”

Xie Jingxing slowly tightened his grip. Shen Miao frowned in dissatisfaction.

“Little girl, you already have the ambition to be the empress at such a young age.” His tone was unclear, but his eyes were dangerous. “A woman with ambition is the most beautiful, but... you’re not a woman yet.”

Shen Miao also looked at him. Under the moonlight, the snow was clear, and the plum trees were swaying gently. The atmosphere was filled with danger and ambiguity.

She was like a girl who had been pampered since she was young. If she were an ordinary girl, she would soon be married to a good husband. However, she had been patiently scheming and planning step by step. Although Xie Jingxing had already guessed that she was ambitious, he couldn’t help but be surprised when he really heard it.

Chapter 420: Kiss (7)

Shen Miao was covered in thorns. From a notorious idiot to a player in the power game, from the daughter of a general to a rich girl who had lost her home, she seemed to have never changed. It was this docile but fierce gaze that made her look noble and unyielding.

Xie Jingxing slowly let go of Shen Miao’s chin and glanced at her, his eyes filled with complicated emotions. After a pause, he was about to get up and leave when he heard Shen Miao mutter, “Little Li, go and get my cloak. I’m cold.”

In an instant, he went from “Eunuch Li” to “Little Li”.

Xie Jingxing was at a loss whether to laugh or cry. He asked, “Are you giving me an order?”

“Cold.” Shen Miao looked at him aggrievedly.

Xie Jingxing took a deep breath and held back the urge to pull Shen Miao up and beat her up. He took off his cloak and threw it on Shen Miao.

Wrapped in his cloak, Shen Miao smiled at him. “I’ll reward you with a few pieces of satin later.”

Xie Jingxing looked at her expressionlessly. “Thank you for your kindness, Your Highness. I’ll take my leave.” As he spoke, he was about to leave when Shen Miao grabbed his sleeve.

Tonight, Shen Miao was really too abnormal. Xie Jingxing never dreamed that the drunk Shen Miao would look like this. He thought that he could bully Shen Miao while she was drunk, but in the end, it seemed like he was the one getting bullied. The young marquis of the Xie family was ordered around like a eunuch... Eunuch Li or Little Lizi?

Shen Miao tugged at Xie Jingxing’s sleeve and pulled him to squat down. When their eyes met, she was satisfied. She let go and grabbed Xie Jingxing’s collar.

Xie Jingxing was confused by Shen Miao's action. Shen Miao muttered to herself, "In the previous dynasty, there was a widowed princess who built a mansion dedicated to accommodate her gigolos. Since His Majesty doesn't treat me well, I might as well pretend I'm a widow and find a gigolo too."

Xie Jingxing originally couldn't understand the first sentence, but when he heard the second sentence, he found it unbelievable. He stared at Shen Miao. "In your dream, are you an unfavoured empress?"

"Not unfavoured but widowed!" When Shen Miao heard that, she glared at him.

Xie Jingxing nodded and said lazily, "You must be a venomous empress."

"Anyhow, you're quite good-looking." Shen Miao suddenly said, "Are you the new gigolo?"

Xie Jingxing was speechless.

"The princess of the previous dynasty found a beautiful gigolo. I've seen a portrait of him before, but I don't think he's as beautiful as you." Shen Miao said, "If you follow me, I'll take care of your life."

When Xie Jingxing heard that, he was completely stunned. Was he... being treated as a gigolo?

He was still in a daze when he saw the hand that was holding his collar suddenly exert force, followed by a soft touch on his lips. Shen Miao gently licked his mouth and then nibbled.

"From now on, you're mine." Shen Miao let go and looked at him with a dignified smile.

When Xie Jingxing came back to his senses, he only had one thought. He wanted to strangle the woman in front of him to death!

At this moment, a whistle suddenly came from outside. It was a signal given by Xie Jingxing's people to show that Mo Qing and the others had noticed the commotion. Xie Jingxing gritted his teeth, glanced at Shen Miao, and flew out through the window.

Ah Zhi opened the door, but there was no one inside. He scratched his head and said, "No one."

"I guess we are being overly vigilant." Mo Qing frowned.

In the snow, the handsome young man in dark red clothes looked a little ill at ease. When the middle-aged man beside him saw this, he could not help but ask, "Master, you look troubled... What happened there just now?"

Xie Jingxing was just going to say goodbye to Miss Shen. Why did he look so strange when he came out?

The young man in red said, "Tie Yi, do I look like... like a..."

Tie Yi was puzzled. "Like what?"

"Forget it!" He gritted his teeth and said, "Let's go."