

Venomous 531

Chapter 531 I Want It (2)

"This..." Shen Dongling waved her hand in a panic. "No, that's..."

"Why are you hesitating?" Shen Yue pretended to be angry. "We're the closest sisters after all. It's only right for me to buy something for you."

Shen Dongling was a little at a loss, but she did not know how to answer Shen Yue. Seeing this, Shen Yue smiled and patted her shoulder gently. "Third Sister, you're still so timid. I still have something to do, so I won't talk to you anymore. Tomorrow, go to the jewelry shop with me." Her tone was unnegotiable.

Shen Dongling nodded in agreement.

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After Shen Yue and the others gradually walked away, Shen Dongling's maid, Wu Mei, said, "What is Second Miss trying to do? She's distant one moment and enthusiastic the next. Why did she suddenly invite you to the jewelry shop?"

Shen Yue had always been indifferent to Shen Dongling, but her enthusiasm at this moment was indeed suspicious.

"She's trying to please me." Shen Dongling looked at Shen Yue's departing figure and smiled. "She probably thinks that I'm easy to bribe and wants me to rely on her and trust her. In the future, it'll be much easier for me to help her."

Wu Mei was shocked. "Then what should we do? This Second Miss clearly has evil intentions and wants to use you."

"It's fine." Shen Dongling smiled happily. "I'll take the jewel. I'm not a saint. Why should I refuse to take something for free?"

Shen Yue, who was walking towards the Autumn Water Garden, had a dark gaze. Her mind was filled with Shen Dongling's weak and obedient appearance just now. For some reason, Shen Yue had a feeling that winning over Shen Dongling might be very useful to her in the future.

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While Shen Yue was making a fuss, on the other side, at the entrance of the west courtyard of the Shen family, someone was moving flowers out. Shen Wan passed by the west courtyard and happened to hear an old woman scream, "Miss, be careful!"

Shen Wan looked over and saw a young woman moving a pot of extremely heavy flowers to the stage. The pot in her hand was probably too heavy and she almost hit her foot. The nanny beside her heaved a sigh of relief. The woman turned around and smiled at the nanny.

Shen Wan stopped in his tracks.

The woman was wearing a green dress. Her hair was tied into a lily bun, and there was an agate hairpin on her head. Last night, there was a thunderstorm, and the sun had come out this morning. She was not

born to be devastatingly beautiful, but she was good-looking nonetheless. The sunlight made the sweat on her forehead crystal clear. Because she was sweating, her face was red, which made her look indescribably charming.

Everyone loved beauty. Although Shen Wan did not take in concubines, it did not mean that he didn't like beauty. Chen Ruoqiu was the only woman in his family. Although they were in love, after spending so many years together, he unavoidably got tired of her. Now that he saw this beauty in front of him, he could not help but be stunned.

It was like appreciating a painting and a poem he liked. At this moment, Shen Wan did not have any other thoughts. The woman seemed to have noticed that someone was looking at her and turned around. When she saw Shen Wan, she paused for a moment before walking over.

She walked up to Shen Wan and bowed gracefully. "Third Master."

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Shen Wan glanced at her and said, "Miss Chang."

Chang Zaiqing had only seen Shen Wan once. That was when she first came to the Shen mansion. At night, Chen Ruoqiu brought her to Rongjing Hall to pay her respect to Old Madam Shen. At night, the lights were dim, and everyone was tired, so Shen Wan did not notice Chang Zaiqing. Unexpectedly, when he looked closer, he found that she was a rare and extremely elegant beauty. Thinking that Chen Ruoqiu and Chang Zaiqing seemed to be very good friends, his attitude became even friendlier.

"Miss Chang, what are you doing?" Shen Wan asked with a smile.

Chang Zaiqing turned around and glanced at the flower pots at the entrance of the courtyard. She smiled and said, "It rained last night, and many of the branches were blown away by the rain. I'm 'bandaging' them."

"Bandage?" Shen Wan was a little curious and asked, "How do you bandage the flowers?"

Chang Zaiqing smiled. "Third Master, you can take a look for yourself."

Shen Wan walked to the flower pot to take a closer look. Indeed, he saw that some of the branches were wrapped in cloth, and some were coated with something that looked like medicine. There were some scissors and cloth around, and one of the flowers was snapped in half by the wind and pieced together by a cloth.

"You're quite considerate." Shen Wan sighed. "It's rare to see someone who is willing to put in the work to take care of the flowers." In the thunderstorm last night, the flowers and plants were inevitably damaged. Even someone like Chen Ruoqiu, who loved flowers, would just throw away the damaged flowers. The damaged flowers and plants were not as pleasing to the eye as before, and they were annoying to keep. However, not only did Chang Zaiqing not throw them away, but she even bandaged them.

"Flowers have a life of their own." Chang Zaiqing smiled and said, "Since I said that I love flowers, I can't abandon them just because they don't look as beautiful anymore, right? Everything has a spirit. I don't

want to be a hypocritical person. If I say I like flowers, I will take care of them no matter what.” Chang Zaiqing said heartily, “Besides, it’s not a taxing job. Why not?”

“Miss Chang is really a refined person.” Shen Wan looked at Chang Zaiqing with admiration.

“Third Master, you flatter me.” Chang Zaiqing teased, “We’re all just normal people, and I have my own selfish motives. If I can keep the flowers and plants well, I’ll feel much more at ease living in the mansion in the future. At least I can still do something to help.”

Shen Wan smiled happily. “Miss Chang, you’re overthinking. Even if you don’t know anything, no one in the Shen family will chase you away.”

Chang Zaiqing also smiled. “Thank you, Third Master.” She suddenly thought of something and looked at Shen Wan. “Speaking of which, I accidentally saw a chess game yesterday and couldn’t solve it. I wanted to ask Third Madam to help me take a look, but Third Madam seems to be a little busy today. I heard that Third Master is also an expert in chess. Can you give me some pointers?”

She thought of something and continued. “I can make tea for Third Master. Third Madam might have told you that the tea I made is very delicious.”

Her attitude was natural and graceful. If Shen Wan rejected it, it would seem like he was being rude. Shen Wan thought for a moment and smiled. “Then I won’t stand on ceremony.”

The two of them went to the stone table in the garden and started to play chess. When they played chess, they chatted casually. Shen Wan was surprised to find that not only was Chang Zaiqing’s chess skills outstanding, but she was also knowledgeable in many fields. Shen Wan had always valued inner beauty more than outer beauty. He only married Chen Ruoqiu because she was proficient in Guqin, chess, calligraphy, and painting. She was undoubtedly a talented woman. However, there was something annoying about Chen Ruoqiu. Because she came from a scholarly family, occasionally, she would put on airs and pretend to be noble.

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Chang Zaiqing was very different. She was also a very talented woman, but Chang Zaiqing did not have the arrogance and aloofness of a rich family. Instead, she was quite straightforward. When he spoke to Chang Zaiqing, he felt very comfortable. Unknowingly, Shen Wan’s eyes lingered on Chang Zaiqing longer and longer.

Nanny Zhao watched from afar, a trace of joy flashing across her eyes. She instructed the maids to guard the courtyard door and not let anyone in.

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In Ming Qi’s palace, it was especially lively today.

In order to entertain the two guests from the State of Qin and the Daliang Dynasty, the crown prince of Ming Qi specially held a banquet. The crown prince and princess of the State of Qin were present, and Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty also accepted the invitation. The nine princes of Ming Qi attended the banquet together.

It was a fact that the crown prince's health was getting more and more serious. It was precisely because of this that even Prince Chu and Prince Xuan, who sided with the crown prince, were starting to think about joining other factions.. In the past two years, the crown prince's power was gradually being taken by other princes. Almost everyone tacitly agreed that the crown prince would not be in the position for long. The crown prince probably realized that in the past two years, he had rarely participated in the affairs of the imperial court. It was not that he did not want to participate, but there were too few people who followed him.

On the other hand, the two brothers, Prince Zhou and Prince Jing, as well as Prince Li, were doing exceedingly well. Prince Li had always been a two-faced person with many followers. As for the two brothers, they relied on their mother, Consort Xu. These two factions were now at odds with each other.

The most stable one was Prince Ding, Fu Xiuyi. Prince Ding had also been participating in the matters of the imperial court for the past two years, but most of the things he handled were very trivial, as if he was deliberately trying to show that he was not ambitious. Even so, Emperor Wen Hui was very satisfied with him. Because of the neutrality and peace he displayed, no matter if it was the crown prince, Prince Zhou, or Prince Li, they weren't particularly wary of him.

Prince Ding was the safest person.

In the hall, the crown prince smiled and raised his glass in invitation. "Everyone, thank you for making the trip all the way to Ming Qi."

Huangfu Hao sat next to the crown prince and raised his cup to clink it with the crown prince's. He smiled and said, "Thank you for your hospitality, crown prince."

Princess Ming An sat beside Huangfu Hao. After being grounded by Huangfu Hao for a few days, Princess Ming An was finally allowed to go out. Today, she looked at the purple-robed young man sitting opposite her with a loving gaze.

Unfortunately, Prince Rui did not look at her at all. However, he did not look at the crown prince either. Instead, he stared at the wine cup, thinking about something.

The crown prince smiled and asked, "Prince Rui, why don't you drink? Is the wine not to your liking?"

Prince Rui curled his lips and said, "I'm not feeling well. It's not appropriate for me to drink."

Prince Rui had been mysterious since he came to Ming Qi, and no one could tell what his attitude was towards Ming Qi, but he was well-mannered. Today, everyone present could not help but think that Prince Rui seemed to be a little unhappy.

But who dared to provoke him for no reason?

The crown prince looked a little embarrassed. Fu Xiuyi said, "In that case, Prince Rui, you can drink tea instead of wine. Someone, serve Prince Rui tea."

Fu Xiuyi spoke to alleviate the tense atmosphere. The crown prince looked less embarrassed and was grateful to Fu Xiuyi. The other princes all agreed with Fu Xiuyi. Although Prince Rui was powerful, no one was willing to lower themselves in front of other countries. Fu Xiuyi's witty remark came just in time.

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Huangfu Hao looked at Prince Rui inquisitively, but Princess Ming An looked at him worriedly and said, "Prince Rui, are you alright? Are you feeling unwell? Do you want us to call the imperial physician over to take a look at you?"

When Huangfu Hao heard this, his face immediately darkened and he glared at Princess Ming An. He could spare Princess Ming An if she was only fooling around in private. However, now that with so many princes around, she actually openly showed her concern for Prince Rui. Wasn't she rushing to make a fool of herself? Moreover, Huangfu Hao was a man himself. Men knew men the best. The way Prince Rui looked at Princess Ming An clearly showed that he was annoyed. If Prince Rui was a bad-tempered person, this might even affect the relationship between the State of Qin and the Daliang Dynasty.

Prince Rui ignored her and looked at the last person in the seat opposite him. Everyone noticed his gaze and looked over. It was Prince Ding, Fu Xiuyi.

Fu Xiuyi had always been the most obedient among the nine princes. At this moment, Prince Rui was looking at him alone. The way the princes looked at Fu Xiuyi changed. Fu Xiuyi was not flustered. He stared back at Prince Rui calmly.

Prince Rui suddenly smiled and said, "Before I came to Ming Qi, I heard that the Ninth Prince was a young talent. He indeed lives up to his name, I wonder if he's married?"

No one expected Prince Rui to suddenly bring up this question, and their expressions suddenly became strange. Fu Xiuyi was also stunned for a moment before answering, "Not yet."

Prince Zhou laughed out loud. He sat beside Fu Xiuyi and patted his shoulder. "Ninth Brother is the only one of us who hasn't married. Why, Prince Rui, are you also interested in Ninth Brother's marriage?"

Prince Rui smiled under his mask and said leisurely, "There are also many princesses of the right age in the Daliang Dynasty. When I saw the Ninth Prince, I felt that we hit it off very well. I wanted to introduce him to someone."

As soon as he said that, the expressions of everyone present changed drastically.

What Prince Rui meant was that he actually wanted to be in-laws with Fu Xiuyi. If it was really as Prince Rui said, marrying a princess of the Daliang Dynasty meant having a powerful backup. If the reason why the princes were not on guard against Fu Xiuyi previously was because Fu Xiuyi had never expressed his interest in the throne, then what Prince Rui said at this moment made everyone wary of Fu Xiuyi. This was because once Fu Xiuyi married the princess of the Daliang Dynasty, he would become the most powerful competitor for the throne!

Fu Xiuyi tightened his grip on the wine cup and looked at Prince Rui calmly.

Was Prince Rui really interested in befriending him? Fu Xiuyi did not think so.

Prince Rui was not helping him, but harming him!

Fu Xiuyi had always kept a low profile. Until the very end, he would not show his ambition. Although Prince Rui's offer was tempting, Fu Xiuyi was definitely unwilling to take this offer in front of all the princes. With just one sentence from Prince Rui, the other princes looked at Fu Xiuyi with meaningful gazes.

No matter how tempted he was, he wouldn't agree. Fu Xiuyi gritted his teeth. For some reason, he felt that this Prince Rui, who he had never interacted with, seemed to be very hostile to him. Otherwise, he would not have pushed him to the center of attention.

He became wary of Prince Rui, but on the surface, he smiled and said, "Thank you for your kindness, Prince Rui. It's just that I don't have the intention of getting married yet."

"Oh?" Prince Rui smiled. "Ninth Prince, do you have a woman you like in mind so that you don't want to marry the princess from the Daliang dynasty? If that's the case, I won't force you."

Chapter 535 I Want It (6)

"Your Highness, you must be joking." Fu Xiuyi cupped his hands. "It's just that I am not ready yet."

Seeing that Fu Xiuyi had rejected Prince Rui's offer, the other princes looked a little better. However, after what happened just now, they were no longer at ease with Fu Xiuyi. Today, Fu Xiuyi said no, but who could guarantee that he would not change his mind in the future?

"How strange." Prince Rui seemed to be very interested in Fu Xiuyi and did not let him off just because Fu Xiuyi rejected his offer. He said with a faint smile, "The Ninth Prince is not married and has no girls in mind. Why won't you consider my offer? I see that the Ninth Prince is also a handsome young man. Don't tell me you don't have a girl who likes you."

As soon as she said that, Prince Cheng, who had always been a little slow on the uptake, laughed and said, "Prince Rui, you might not know this, but in Ming Qi, there was a girl who liked our Ninth Brother. Everyone in the capital knows that."

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"Is it Shen Miao?!" Before Prince Cheng could finish speaking, Princess Ming An interrupted him anxiously. Princess Ming An had heard those rumors about Shen Miao and even mocked her back then.

"So Princess Ming An knows about it too?" Prince Cheng was a little surprised.

"Even people in the State of Qin know that Shen Miao is infatuated with Prince Ding," Princess Ming An said gloatingly. As long as she could embarrass Shen Miao, she wouldn't hesitate.

"That's right." Prince Cheng smiled and said, "Prince Rui, you might not know this, but Shen Miao is the daughter of the mighty general. She is the girl who competed with Her Highness over archery at the banquet that day." He sighed and said, "Back then, Shen Miao was still young, so she spent all her time thinking of ways to find Ninth Brother. She knew no shame and directly told Ninth Brother that she loved him. She even made clothes, pastries, played the Guqin, and wrote poetry for Ninth Brother... Tsk tsk, she really did a lot of things."

"That day at the tribute banquet, she was quite charming." The person who spoke was Huangfu Hao. Huangfu Hao couldn't help but be a little surprised. In his mansion and at the tribute banquet, Shen Miao did not look like the fool she was rumored to be. What was more, the way Shen Miao looked at Princess Ming An was very strange and cold.

"Back then, Miss Shen was young." Prince Cheng continued, "Who knew that two years later, she would actually become so beautiful? Moreover, she was originally stupid and timid, but now, she's no longer

the same as before. Among the ladies in the capital of Ming Qi, those who can compare to her are very few." Prince Cheng chuckled. "If Nine Brother knew that she would change so much, he probably wouldn't have turned her down back then. But it's too late to regret now."

Princess Ming An sneered. "Miss Shen is quite something. As a girl, she doesn't know shame at all and openly expressed her love towards a man."

Knowing that Princess Ming An was at odds with Shen Miao, the princes only smiled and did not comment.

Fu Xiuyi shook his head gently and said, "Miss Shen is a good person. Everyone, don't make fun of her."

"Ninth Brother, you're too serious." Prince Chu smiled and said, "Are you telling me you don't want her and you also don't want others to have her? If not for the fact that I'm already married, I'm willing to marry Miss Shen!"

"That's right!" The other princes echoed.

"That's right." Huangfu Hao smiled and said, "If I were the Ninth Prince, I would definitely marry her."

Princess Ming An was extremely unhappy. She looked at Prince Rui and realized that he was not laughing with everyone. Instead, his eyes were calm. She was delighted and asked, "Prince Rui, do you think so too?"

Prince Rui paused.

Everyone looked at him.

The young man with the mask picked up the wine cup and played with it. He said indifferently, "Making clothes, pastries, playing the Guqin, writing the poetry for someone she likes..."

Princess Ming An said, "That's right. It's simply unbecoming and laughable!"

Prince Rui smiled and said, "As it happens, I want such a good girl too."

Chapter 536 Robbery (1)

Everyone present was originally smiling, but as they listened, the smile on their faces gradually froze. Huangfu Hao stared into Prince Rui's eyes, and Fu Xiuyi also looked at him in surprise. Princess Ming An's face was stiff, and her expression was almost distorted.

The crown prince laughed and tried to ease the situation. "Miss Shen is talented and beautiful, so she naturally attracted countless heroes!"

Everyone nodded in agreement. Prince Rui picked up the wine cup with a faint smile and stopped talking.

Everyone thought that he was just joking. How could Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty marry a general's daughter of Ming Qi? Not to mention that the two of them were not compatible, in this sensitive and tense situation, marrying a girl from another country was no different from plating a spy on his side. No matter how bold Prince Rui was, he would probably not dare to take this risk.

Everyone was still smiling and drinking. However, ever since Prince Rui said that, Princess Ming An had been consumed by hatred. Her eyes were filled with hostility, making Huangfu Hao frown.

All in all, the banquet held by the crown prince was considered successful. The princes of Ming Qi probably wanted to find out what kind of attitude the State of Qin and the Daliang Dynasty had towards Ming Qi. Up until now, the State of Qin had been very close to Ming Qi and had no intention of becoming enemies. On the other hand, Prince Rui was neither warm nor cold, making the princes confused.

In the end, Prince Rui was the first to leave. Because of his absence, Princess Ming An's expression became even worse. On the way back, she punished several servants. Even the subordinates who came to deliver the official letter to Prince Ding were scolded by her.

The two subordinates were none other than Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao. Fu Xiuyi reprimanded the two of them for a while before Princess Ming An stopped. When Fu Xiuyi returned, he told his advisors what happened at the banquet today. He thought for a moment and said, "That Prince Rui seems to be a little hostile to me. Is he deliberately putting me in a difficult spot at the banquet?"

Fu Xiuyi had recruited a group of capable people. Among the princes, he was not the most scheming. However, no one could compare to him in terms of recruiting talents and perseverance. In order to recruit someone, he was willing to travel far to see the person and wait outside his door for an entire night on the coldest day. Therefore, in addition to being talented, his advisors were also loyal to him. Once there was a problem, he could always get an answer from his advisors.

The art of choosing who he could trust was what an emperor should learn the most. In this aspect, Fu Xiuyi was indeed the most outstanding emperor.

While the advisors were deep in thought, Fu Xiuyi looked at the green-robed man at the front and said, "Mr. Pei, do you have any thoughts?"

Among the advisors, Pei Lang was trusted the most by Fu Xiuyi. Pei Lang was recruited by Fu Xiuyi two years ago. At that time, Fu Xiuyi was amazed by Pei Lang's talent, but Pei Lang was not greedy for power and didn't want to get involved. In the end, Fu Xiuyi spent a lot of effort and even swore that he would be a righteous and benevolent emperor before Pei Lang was convinced to follow him. Pei Lang didn't disappoint Fu Xiuyi. In the past two years, he helped Fu Xiuyi solve many problems. Therefore, now, every time he encountered something he couldn't solve, Fu Xiuyi would always think of Pei Lang immediately.

Chapter 537 Robbery (2)

Pei Lang frowned and said, "Your Highness, have you ever interacted with Prince Rui elsewhere?"

Fu Xiuyi shook his head.

"That's strange." Pei Lang analyzed, "If you didn't interact with him before, I really can't think of a reason why he would make things difficult for you. You didn't get in his way. Even if the Daliang Dynasty wants to make things difficult for Ming Qi, he should target His Majesty or the Crown Prince instead."

Fu Xiuyi nodded. "I think so too. Perhaps..." He pondered for a moment. "Perhaps it's for Shen Miao?"

"Your Highness, what do you mean?" Another advisor asked.

"I thought about it. Among all the things Prince Rui said, Shen Miao was the only one who was related to me in some way. However, at that time, I couldn't tell if he was joking or doing it on purpose, and I felt that Shen Miao had nothing to do with him. Now that I think about it, I find it a little strange."

An advisor said, "Could it be that Prince Rui and Shen Miao have a secret relationship?"

Pei Lang said firmly, "That's impossible."

Everyone looked at him. Pei Lang's words carried authority. What he said or predicted would always come out true in the end.

"Prince Rui just arrived in Ming Qi, and Shen Miao returned to the capital with Shen Xin not long ago. It's definitely impossible for them to have any contact before then." Pei Lang cupped his hands and said, "Your Highness, you should know that Prince Rui is not an easy person to deal with. Since the Daliang Dynasty sent him to Ming Qi, Prince Rui must be a person who weighs the pros and cons before doing anything. In such a short time, it's not beneficial for him to be enemies with you for a woman like Shen Miao."

Hearing this, Fu Xiuyi pondered for a moment and said, "You have a point. In your opinion, what should we do now?"

"If we act rashly, it will alert Prince Zhou and the others. Ever since the banquet, Prince Rui has never mentioned leaving Ming Qi. He must have something to do in the capital. However, with the State of Qin around, we're not afraid. Why don't we wait and see what Prince Rui is up to?"

Pei Lang said slowly.

Fu Xiuyi nodded. "In that case, let's do as Mr. Pei says." He pressed his forehead. "I drank too much today. I still have to go to court tomorrow morning. I need to rest first. Everyone, that's it for today."

After Fu Xiuyi left, the advisors in the hall dispersed in twos and threes. No one was with Pei Lang because Pei Lang was trusted by Fu Xiuyi too much. He would more or less make people jealous. In Prince Ding's mansion, no one was on good terms with him.

Pei Lang walked out of the hall and looked at the stars in the sky in a daze.

It had been two years. He complied with the agreement with that girl and finally became Fu Xiuyi's trusted advisor. His life had been peaceful. He relied on his intelligence to gain Fu Xiuyi's trust. Everything went very naturally. Sometimes, Pei Lang even felt that this was how the trajectory of his life should be. However, Shen Miao's return broke this illusion. From the beginning, Pei Lang knew there was going back on the agreement with Shen Miao. From the moment he was recruited by Fu Xiuyi, he had become a spy that he originally despised the most.

Fu Xiuyi treated him extremely well, but he was destined to betray him.

Pei Lang sighed deeply.

The peaceful days were over. From now on, the path he had to walk would be like today, filled with danger. If he was not careful, he would fall into a bottomless abyss.

Shen Miao... The delicate face of the girl in purple appeared in Pei Lang's mind.

Chapter 538 Robbery (3)

If it was already so difficult for a man like him, how could a girl who was planning behind the scenes take on everything on her shoulder?

He would never understand this in his life.

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Under the oil lamp, Shen Miao was writing carefully. The snow-white paper was spread out, and Gu Yu was grinding ink at the side. Jingzhe carefully added some oil to the oil lamp from time to time.

She wrote extremely seriously. From time to time, she would stop writing and think for a while before continuing. After filling up the paper, it was already dark and quiet outside. Shen Miao put down her brush, picked up the letter, and blew on it. After making sure that the ink on it was dry, she found an envelope, put it in, and handed it to Jingzhe.

"Tomorrow morning, find a reliable person and send this letter to Chang Zaiqing in the Shen mansion. Don't let anyone else take it. It has to be received by Chang Zaiqing herself," Shen Miao said.

Jingzhe nodded and put the letter away. Although she was puzzled as to why Shen Miao would write to Chang Zaiqing, she did not ask further.

Gu Yu put away the brush, ink, paper, and inkstone on the table and said with a smile, "Miss, rest early. It's late now. It's not good for your health to stay up."

Shen Miao nodded. After Jingzhe and Gu Yu left, she placed the oil lamp on the table next to the bed and sat on the bed in a daze.

After having such a nightmare last night, she couldn't fall asleep no matter what. Today, she spent the entire day thinking about the dream and seemed to have finally understood how Chang Zaiqing could slowly push Luo Xueyan to her death. If Chang Zaiqing was the culprit, then Shen Miao was the knife she used to kill.

At the thought of this, hatred surged inside Shen Miao. She wished she could skin Chang Zaiqing alive.

However, now, ruining Chang Zaiqing's reputation was too lenient a punishment. Chang Zaiqing had always been thinking about endless wealth and status. Why didn't she let Chang Zaiqing get everything she wanted and then take it all away from her? If Shen Miao could use Chang Zaiqing to deal with Chen Ruoqiu, she could save herself a lot of effort.

This time, it was Shen Miao's turn to use the knife to kill.

She thought about it for an entire day and finally came up with a letter filled with Shen Wan's likes and dislikes. She had been Shen Wan's nephew for so many years. In the past, because she really respected Shen Wan, Shen Miao was close to him and knew a lot about him. Shen Miao believed that with how smart and ambitious Chang Zaiqing was, she could definitely make a hypocrite like Shen Wan fall for her.

On the surface, they looked like a perfect match, but on the inside, they were all bad people. Wouldn't it be more interesting to see them slap each other in the face?

A trace of a cold smile flashed across Shen Miao's eyes.

She took off her outer clothes and got into the bed. Just as she was about to lie down, she glanced at the window.

The window was tightly shut, and the wind was blowing outside. In the dark night, there was no one else.

Shen Miao was frustrated with herself for a moment. Why would she suddenly look at the window for no reason? It was as if she found it strange that Xie Jingxing didn't come uninvited tonight. She shook her head and suppressed the strange feeling in her heart. She blew out the oil lamp and fell asleep.

In Prince Rui's mansion, someone was feeding the white tiger in the courtyard.

The white tiger was nestling at the young man's feet. From time to time, it would crane its head to ask for food from the young man. Perhaps because the tiger was taken good care of, its fur was shining, and it looked like it had gained weight, looking like a beautiful big cat.

Chapter 539 Robbery (4)

"Stop feeding. If you continue, it'll really become a cat." Gao Yang watched from the side and urged.

Xie Jingxing turned a deaf ear. As he continued to feed the white tiger, he said casually, "I dote on it. Do you have a problem with that?"

Gao Yang choked and waved his hand. "Alright, alright, alright. I don't care if you feed cats or tigers. What happened in the palace today? For some reason, why did you make things difficult for Prince Ding? A person like Fu Xiuyi must be suspicious of you now. It's not appropriate to alert the enemy, right? What are you thinking?"

When Gao Yang heard about what happened in the palace, he could not believe it at first. Xie Jingxing had his own way of doing things, and it was not a good time to go against Fu Xiuyi now. Fu Xiuyi also had some tricks up his sleeve. Although he would not hurt Xie Jingxing, he could cause him some trouble. Now was not the time to make any mistakes.

Seeing that Xie Jingxing was ignoring him, Gao Yang rolled his eyes. "Could it be because of Shen Miao?"

Xie Jingxing said, "Don't you have anything to do?"

"What?"

"Have you settled the matters about the Su family?" Xie Jingxing asked.

Gao Yang was stunned for a moment before saying, "I've already arranged for someone to do it. However," After a pause, he continued, "Is there a point in doing this? Although you and Su Mingfeng are good friends, one day, when he finds out your true identity, he will definitely become your enemy. At that time, everything you do will be a conspiracy in his eyes. Why do you have to do this?"

Emperor Wen Hui had the intention to suppress the Su family. Even though the Su family had already deliberately kept a low profile, they still left some evidence from what they previously did. This evidence was very likely to become a weakness for the Su family in the future. What Xie Jingxing asked Gao Yang to do was to secretly get rid of the evidence for the Su family so that nothing would happen to the Su family in the future.

Gao Yang did not comment on Xie Jingxing's actions. Xie Jingxing was now wearing a mask, so no one knew that he was Prince Rui. One day, with his mask gone, Su Mingfeng would definitely be able to recognize him. Being deceived by his childhood brothers, Su Mingfeng would be disappointed. Moreover, the Daliang Dynasty and Ming Qi would one day be enemies.

Xie Jingxing could protect the Su family, but he could not protect the friendship he had with Su Mingfeng. This was an unavoidable fact.

"When I want to do something, do I ever consider what others might think?" Xie Jingxing said, "I do it just because I want to do it."

Gao Yang said sharply, "Perhaps you've forgotten that you're different from before. With this identity, no one in Ming Qi can be your trustworthy friend. If you take off your mask, you will be enemies with those you were once close to."

The night breeze blew. The white tiger was full. It burped and happily went to bite Xie Jingxing's sleeve. The entire courtyard was filled with the sound of the wind.

After a while, Xie Jingxing said, "No."

"Not everyone. There's one person who's different." He said, "Someone who I can befriend as Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty."

"Are you talking about Shen Miao?" Gao Yang reminded, "Your Highness, don't forget that Shen Miao is friends with you now because she also wants to deal with Prince Ding, Fu Xiuyi. Your Highness can help her, but once the day really comes, in the end, she will still stand against you. Isn't Your Highness prepared to be hated by the world from the beginning? If you're just greedy for a moment of happiness, you'll only feel sad when the happiness is shattered."

"So what?"

Gao Yang was stunned.

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Xie Jingxing asked, "So what?"

He picked up the white tiger from the ground and held it in his arms. He stood up, his slender figure as straight as a pine tree in the night.

"Everything in the world has a cost." He said, "Power and people are all the same. If that day really comes, I'll think of a way to snatch it."

"I'll snatch the dynasty, the throne, the women, and the hearts."

"This path was destined from the beginning. So what if everyone in the world hates me? If you can't even understand this, go back to Daliang."

"I will never forget the path I want to walk. On the contrary, I know very well what I want. Therefore, don't doubt my decision."

"If everything is just a dream, then I'll turn the dream into reality."

He said indifferently, giving no room for retort, "I have the confidence to do what I think is right. Gao Yang, do you have a question about that?"

Many years later, when Gao Yang thought of this winter night again, he still felt passion running through his veins. He was used to Xie Jingxing being playful, arrogant, and cold. But at that very moment, he saw a domineering and dignified aura befitting a king in Xie Jingxing.

"If everything is just a dream, then I'll turn the dream into reality."

How many people in the world dared to say such a thing?

Gao Yang paused for a moment. A moment later, he knelt down and bowed to Xie Jingxing.

"I swear to follow Your Highness to the death."

"Get up." Xie Jingxing teased the white tiger in his arms.

Gao Yang patted the dust off his knees and thought for a moment before asking seriously, "Then, how do you plan to snatch Miss Shen?"

Xie Jingxing said, "Get lost."

...

After the beginning of winter, life passed especially quickly. However, everyone seemed to be busy, and nothing new happened in the capital.

After talking to Shen Wan that day, Chen Ruoqiu was bent-on marrying Shen Yue off. Every day, she would bring Shen Yue to socialize with the madams. Shen Yue was extremely unwilling. After being locked up in the ancestral hall by Shen Wan, she did not dare to kick up a fuss again. Shen Yue was pampered and couldn't take hardship, so she could only obediently go with Chen Ruoqiu to see those madams.

Although Chen Ruoqiu urgently wanted to marry Shen Yue off, she was still very careful when choosing. Shen Yue was the apple of Shen Wan's eye. The families included on the list were indeed well-matched with the Shen family and Shen Yue was able to marry a talented young man in the capital.

Because she was worried about Shen Yue all day, Chen Ruoqiu neglected Shen Wan a little. However, at some point, Chang Zaiqing actually became Shen Wan's confidante. In the past, after Shen Wan returned from the court, he would confide in Chen Ruoqiu. Now that Chen Ruoqiu did not have the time to care about him, Chang Zaiqing seized the chance to get close to Shen Wan. Not only that, Chang Zaiqing could occasionally help Shen Wan out.

For some reason, Chang Zaiqing had many interests and habits that were exactly the same as Shen Wan. For example, Shen Wan did not like sweetness, and the pastries that Chang Zaiqing made were not very sweet either. Shen Wan liked fragrant tea, and most of the tea that Chang Zaiqing made was fragrant. Even the painters they admired the most turned out to be the same. People had the tendency to be close to like-minded people. Shen Wan felt that Chang Zaiqing hit it off very well with him. He was used to seeing Chen Ruoqiu's gentleness and aloofness. Chang Zaiqing's straightforwardness and intelligence were like a breeze, making Shen Wan's heart flutter again.