

## **Venomous 551**

### **Chapter 551 Dying (4)**

"Don't worry, they should be here for me. When the time comes, just pretend you fainted and find an opportunity to escape," Shen Miao said.

"How can I abandon you and run for my life?" Luo Tan grabbed Shen Miao's hand. "Back then, you saved the Luo family in Spring City. Even if I can't save you, I won't abandon you. If we have to die, we'll die together!"

Shen Miao did not know whether to laugh or cry. Now was not the time to be heroic. She stood up with difficulty in the swaying carriage and whispered into Luo Tan's ear, "Remember, if you successfully escape, think of a way to send a letter to Prince Rui. Tell him that you have a deal to make and that you'll talk about the price later."

Luo Tan was stunned when she heard that. She looked at Shen Miao suspiciously. "Why do you know Prince Rui? Cousin, you..."

"Don't ask so many questions." Shen Miao said, "This matter is very important. Don't mention Prince Rui to anyone. I'll tell you because I trust you."

Luo Tan nodded, then shook her head. "No, I won't leave you alone."

Before Shen Miao could say anything, the carriage suddenly stopped. Then, the curtain of the carriage was suddenly lifted, and someone came in and dragged Shen Miao out.

Luo Tan hugged Shen Miao's thigh. "Cousin!" She used all her strength to keep Shen Miao from being taken away. The person was probably very angry and suddenly gave Luo Tan a hard kick.

Even if Luo Tan practiced martial arts in the Luo family all year round, she was still a young girl. After being kicked in the check, she immediately fell out of the carriage.

The other person urged, "Hurry up. Don't be discovered."

They cut off the carriage from the horse. Without a word, one of them covered Shen Miao's mouth with a cloth and tied her hands and feet. He knocked Shen Miao out and threw her onto the horse, making Luo Tan furious. Luo Tan suddenly saw a saber falling out of the carriage. Today, Feng Anning had enough of shopping in the jewelry shop, so she was kind enough to accompany Luo Tan to shop in the weapons shop. That was where she bought the saber. Without thinking, she grabbed the saber and charged at one of the men.

That person was a martial artist. He knocked Luo Tan to the ground in a few moves. Luo Tan suddenly looked surprised. "The military..."

These two were not ordinary people. They knew the moves taught exclusively to the soldiers. They were from the army!

When the person heard Luo Tan's words, his eyes suddenly turned fierce. He snatched the saber from Luo Tan's hand and stabbed her.

Luo Tan held her waist and slowly fell down.

Another person was still urging, "Stop dawdling. Let's go!"

Only then did the man throw down the saber and get on another horse. The two of them quickly disappeared into the alley.

In the dark alley, there was an upturned carriage. Luo Tan lay on the ground, her apricot-colored dress gradually dyed red, looking especially terrifying.

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Feng Anning slapped the two guards.

The two guards knelt down and kowtowed. "Miss, please punish me!"

"Punish you?" Feng Anning smiled instead of being angry. "How should I punish you? Flog you or sell you? What's the point of punishing you? Can Shen Miao and Luo Tan come back after I punish you?"

The two guards did not say anything. They also tried to chase after the carriage, but the carriage was extremely fast. When they started to chase, there was already a distance between them. The other party seemed to have come prepared. They went into alleys and disappeared.

#### Chapter 552 Dying (5)

Feng Anning was about to go crazy. She just went to the restaurant to ask the waiter if he had seen her cat-eye hairpin. When she came back, she saw that the carriage was gone, and a lot of commoners gathered. She sent a maid to ask around and found out that someone had hijacked her carriage.

In the carriage were Shen Miao and Luo Tan!

Not long after, the remaining two guards returned, but they did not manage to bring the carriage back. Feng Anning looked at the hairpin on the ground and closed her eyes. No matter how reckless she was usually, she knew very well that someone had planned all this! They sneaked into the Feng family's guards to kidnap Shen Miao and Luo Tan.

Who were Shen Miao and Luo Tan? One was Shen Xin's daughter, and the other was Luo Xueyan's niece. Both of them were quite famous in the capital. If someone dared to have designs on them, it meant that they had already thought about the consequences. Shen Miao and Luo Tan were definitely in danger.

At the thought of this, Feng Anning shivered with fright. She was the one who asked Shen Miao and Luo Tan out to shop today. She was the one who brought the guards. If she didn't go back to find the hairpin, there would be more guards protecting Shen Miao from being kidnapped. If she didn't ask Shen Miao out, this wouldn't have happened.

It was all her fault!

Feng Anning's body was on the verge of collapse. The maid beside her was shocked and quickly went forward to support her. "Miss, don't blame yourself. If you fall sick, Master and Madam will feel sad."

Feng Anning shook her head and said with a sad smile, "If General Shen and Mrs. Shen find out about what happened to Shen Miao and Luo Tan, won't they be sad too? Even if they kill me, it's not enough

to atone for my mistake.” She covered her face. This was the first time she cried in front of everyone without caring about her pride.

“What’s going on? Where’s Jiaojiao? Where is Cousin Tan?” A solemn male voice suddenly came from outside the restaurant. Feng Anning looked up and saw Shen Qiu walking in with large strides. Behind him was a group of soldiers. All of them were mighty and imposing, and the people in the restaurant couldn’t help but shrink their heads.

Shen Qiu came back early today. He wanted to return to the mansion and ask Shen Miao and Luo Tan if they wanted to go hunting together another day. Unexpectedly, before he could arrive at home, he was informed by his subordinates that Shen Miao and Luo Tan were in danger.

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan had yet to return to the mansion, so they naturally did not know this. When Shen Qiu found out, he rushed over without stopping. As soon as he arrived, he saw the arrogant Miss of the Feng family crying in the middle of the crowd. In an instant, Shen Qiu had an ominous feeling.

He strode up to Feng Anning and asked, “What happened?”

Feng Anning was stunned. Shen Qiu was standing in front of her. He was tall, and his eyes were filled with anxiety. Feng Anning was suddenly lost for words.

Everyone knew that Shen Qiu and Shen Miao were very close. For Shen Miao, Shen Qiu was willing to commit murder and arson. If Shen Qiu found out that Shen Miao had been kidnapped...

With an embarrassed expression, she said with difficulty, “After we finished shopping, I went back to the restaurant to get something. Shen Miao and Luo Tan stayed in the carriage... Some people sneaked into the Feng family’s guards. They hijacked the carriage and kidnapped Shen Miao and Luo Tan. I’ve already asked my father to send people to investigate in secret, but...” Feng Anning held back her tears.” I’m sorry. It’s all my fault.”

Shen Qiu did not even look at Feng Anning, but everyone saw him suddenly clench his fists and heard the sound of knuckles cracking.

#### Chapter 553 Dying (6)

He took a deep breath and instructed Mo Qing in a calm voice, “Report to the government. Lock down the city and look for them. Immediately mobilize the Shen army. Take my token and pass down the order. Search the entire city. Anyone who finds the two of them, the Shen family will reward them ten thousand taels of gold!”

Ten thousand taels of gold! The people around gasped.

Feng Anning was also stunned when she heard that, but when she came back to her senses, she blamed herself even more. Shen Qiu was willing to pay 10,000 taels of gold without batting an eyelid. Didn’t that mean that Shen Miao was like a pearl in his eyes? But now, Shen Miao’s life and death were unknown.

Mo Qing also turned around and left with a serious expression to carry out the order. Feng Anning said, “Although reporting to the government can make it easier to lock down the city, this way, rumors will definitely spread in the capital and harm Shen Miao and Luo Tan’s reputation.”

Feng Anning was a woman, so she naturally understood the importance of reputation to women. If news of Shen Miao and Luo Tan being kidnapped spread, it would inevitably be maliciously speculated by people.

Shen Qiu said, "Reputation is worthless compared to their lives. Even if their reputation is really damaged, they still have the Shen family to rely on for the rest of their lives."

He turned around and walked out. Feng Anning said, "I'm sorry. I'm the one who caused all of this. I'll definitely go and apologize to the Shen family another day."

"This has nothing to do with you." Shen Qiu's voice was emotionless. "Those people came prepared. Even if they didn't make a move today, they would sooner or later have done the same thing."

Feng Anning felt a little comforted. Before she could speak, she heard Shen Qiu's indifferent voice.

"But I'm sorry, I'll inevitably take my anger out on you when I see you, so it's better if Miss Feng doesn't visit the Shen family for the time being."

He strode away without looking back, leaving Feng Anning standing alone in the hall.

Outside, Ah Zhi asked Shen Qiu, "Young Master, don't you need to ask General Shen before mobilizing the Shen army?"

"Ask my ass!" Shen Qiu scolded. "Do you think we have time to ask and think about what to do now? Those people know the consequence of kidnapping Jiaojiao and Cousin Tan, and they are not afraid. Jiaojiao is in extreme danger. They actually have designs on my family. When I catch them, I'll f\*cking kill them!" The young general was furious at this moment. He got on his horse and said, "Go to the capital magistrate. Even if we have to turn the capital upside down, we have to find them!"

The news of Miss Shen and Miss Tan being kidnapped by some people spread throughout the capital in no time. This was an incident that could not be hidden. Firstly, when Shen Miao was kidnapped, there were people around who were watching. Secondly, the capital magistrate, the city guards, the government, the Shen army, and the Feng family's guards were all mobilized to search. With such a big commotion going on, it was hard for anyone not to know.

Everyone knew that Shen Xin doted on his daughter, but people were still shocked to see that Shen Xin was actually willing to go such an extent for his daughter. After Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin were informed, they immediately led their personal guards to search every house in person.

They spent the entire night searching without even stopping to take a sip of water.

Xie Jingxing returned from outside. As soon as he arrived at his mansion, he saw Ji Yushu and Gao Yang waiting for him. The two of them would usually see him at the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop because Gao Yang's identity was sensitive. Generally speaking, they would not take the risk to come to Prince Rui's mansion.

Xie Jingxing looked at the two of them in surprise and handed the thing in his hand to Tie Yi. When the white tiger in the courtyard saw him enter, it pounced on Xie Jingxing's boots and bit his pants affectionately.

Xie Jingxing bent down to pick up the white tiger and asked, "What's the matter?"

Gao Yang glanced at Ji Yushu. Ji Yushu stared at the white tiger for a while and made up his mind. "I have something to tell you."

"What's it?" Xie Jingxing went out of the city alone today, so he really did not know what happened in the capital.

"The security in the capital hasn't been very good recently. It's a little chaotic." Ji Yushu scratched his ears and cheeks and said incoherently, "It's just that a young lady went out to shop today. Outside the restaurant, her carriage was hijacked and she was kidnapped. She still hasn't been found yet."

Xie Jingxing stared at Ji Yushu.

Ji Yushu was a little frightened by his gaze and said with a trembling voice, "Gao Yang and I just want to remind you that your beauty is not inferior to those ladies. You have to be careful to not get kidnapped."

Xie Jingxing said calmly, "Ji Yushu."

"I mean! You know that person too. She's Fifth Miss Shen!" Ji Yushu quickly said. He took a step back and hid behind Gao Yang.

There was a moment of silence in the room.

"Where is he?" Ji Yushu looked at the empty courtyard in a daze. Only the white tiger was thrown to the ground and was whimpering in pain.

"Are you stupid?" Gao Yang looked at him coldly.

"As long as I'm smarter than you," Ji Yushu replied.

At the same time, Shen Qiu, who was searching for Shen Miao everywhere in the city, received news that Luo Tan was found.

Mo Qing said, "Miss Luo is dying."

#### Chapter 554 He's Here (1)

When Luo Tan was found, she was in an almost abandoned alley in the west of the capital. The alley was connected to several alleys, and the route was very zigzagging and difficult to navigate.

However, although they found Luo Tan, the situation wasn't great. Luo Tan was stabbed deeply near her abdomen, and the wound was very deep. When they brought her back to the Shen mansion, she was already on the verge of death.

A few doctors came in a row. When they saw Luo Tan's injuries, they shook their heads repeatedly. Shen Xin was so angry that he almost pulled out his sword at the doctors. It was Luo Xueyan who stopped him and said, "These doctors are all quacks. Go and invite the imperial physicians from the palace! Aren't the people from the Imperial Hospital all capable of bringing the dead back to life? Whoever cures Tan will be heavily rewarded by the Shen family!"

Shen Qiu handed a letter signed by Shen Xin to his subordinate and asked him to go to the palace to invite the imperial physician. Everyone surrounded Luo Tan's bed. Luo Xueyan's eyes were red as she said, "Who did it? How can they be so cruel!"

Luo Ling's eyes darkened. Luo Tan was his cousin. Now that her life was uncertain, he naturally felt terrible. However, what made people even more uneasy was that they had found Luo Tan, but they still did not know where Shen Miao was. Luo Tan was already in such a state. The kidnappers did not show any mercy and were clearly vicious people. No one dared to imagine what would happen to Shen Miao.

The soldiers of the Shen army searched the capital without stopping, but they could not find any clues. It was as if the kidnappers had disappeared into thin air. The houses of the commoners had already been searched as well as the streets and alleys. They could not search the mansions of those officials. Even if they wanted to, they did not have the right.

The room fell into a terrifying silence.

Shen Miao did not know what was happening outside. When she woke up, she did not know what time it was.

Her hands and feet were tied and she could not move. Shen Miao slowly opened her eyes. The kidnappers had forgotten to blindfold her. Perhaps they felt that there was no need.

This was an empty secret room. There was a desk, a cabinet, and a bed inside. She did not know where it was, but it looked like a secret room in someone's mansion. Shen Miao could not even move and could only observe her surroundings quietly.

There was no sound outside and she could not hear anything. Shen Miao had been knocked unconscious previously, and she did not know what happened. She did not know if Luo Tan had escaped or not and if she had delivered the message to Xie Jingxing.

Now, Shen Xin was a figure that everyone in the capital dreaded, especially since the people of the State of Qin and the Daliang Dynasty had not left yet. Because Emperor Wen Hui wanted to rely on Shen Xin to boost morale, Shen Xin's status was also rising steadily. In addition, he had taken back his military power, so ordinary people would not mess with him. Now, someone actually did it. Shen Miao could guess who it was without thinking. Other than Princess Ming An, who else would be so foolhardy?

However, she did not expect Princess Ming An to find helpers in the capital so quickly. Clearly, Princess Ming An would not do it herself, and even Huangfu Hao would not allow Princess Ming An to do such a stupid thing. The people who kidnapped her were actually among the Feng family's guards. They knew something about the Feng family and seemed to know Feng Anning's schedule very well. At that time, they drove the carriage into a deserted alley and quickly shook off the Feng family's guards. Everything clearly indicated that the helpers Princess Ming An found were very familiar with the routes in Ming Qi. Clearly, they were born and raised in the capital.

## Chapter 555 He's Here (2)

It was impossible for a high and mighty person like Princess Ming An to have anything to do with some small fry. However, if the kidnappers weren't just some hooligans, why would they be willing to take such a risk to help Princess Ming An? If they got caught, Shen Xin would find a thousand ways to make them suffer

Therefore, those people must have a certain official status and were extremely eager to climb higher even at a heavy cost. Who would they be? Shen Miao couldn't think of anyone.

For some reason, the first thing Shen Miao thought of was that if Xie Jingxing took action, he should be able to find her very quickly because he had the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop behind him. The Exiled Immortal Pawnshop had an intelligence network covering every cranny and nook of the capital.

Shen Miao could only hope that Xie Jingxing would find her as soon as possible.

She struggled to retract her hand into her sleeve. The kidnappers tied her up extremely tightly. Shen Miao almost scraped her wrist before touching the hairpin in her sleeve.

This hairpin was specially made by her. Ever since she was reborn, for safety's sake, she had specially made a hairpin. The tip of the hairpin was bent into a hook. At the critical moment, she could probably use it to stab the other party's eyes. This was a method she learned in the palace in her previous life, but at the moment, she could use it to wear down the rope that was tied to her limbs.

Just as she was about to do it, she heard footsteps outside. Shen Miao quickly stuffed the hairpin back into her sleeve and leaned against the wall with her eyes closed, pretending to be unconscious.

The door opened, and there seemed to be more than one person walking in.

One of them said, "The entire capital is under watch. At this rate, when will we be able to transport her away?"

Another person replied, "What are you panicking for? She's in our hands. We can wait until they give up on her."

There were two people. Shen Miao thought to herself. From what they said, it seemed like they were only temporarily keeping her here. In the end, they would still send her away. Where could Princess Ming An send her to? It couldn't be a good place. She was slightly relieved that Shen Xin quickly locked down the capital. Now that the entire city was heavily guarded, it would be difficult for them to send her away. At least for the time being, she would not be in any danger.

However... Why did their voices sound familiar? However, Shen Miao was pretending to be asleep and could not open her eyes to look.

One of them said with uncertainty, "Why isn't she awake yet? Did we hit her too hard?"

"Second Brother, are you still in the mood to care if she wakes or not?" Another person said, "Don't worry, even if Shen Miao never wakes up, Princess will still be happy. You've seen her attitude. The more miserable Shen Miao is, the better. It doesn't matter if she's dead or alive."

"I'm just worried." The person called "Second Brother" sounded worried. "If Father finds out about this..."

"So what if Father finds out? Don't forget that you and I are his sons too. Ever since that little bastard died, Father can only rely on us in the future." That person said, "Besides, the Xie and Shen families are not on good terms to begin with. Do you think Father will turn in his sons for his enemy?"

Chapter 556 He's Here (3)

The Xie family? The Xie family!

In the corner, Shen Miao's eyelashes fluttered slightly, unable to hide the shock in her heart.

She did not expect the people who kidnapped her to be from the Xie family. Without a doubt, these two people were Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao!

Shen Miao was in disbelief. She did not expect that the ones who would form an alliance with Princess Ming An would be Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao. Although Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao had always been at odds with Xie Jingxing, in her previous life, they were just like their master, Fu Xiuyi, who wouldn't make a move until the very end. Why would they be so reckless and willing to take such a risk in this life?

The Marquis of Lin'an was a big family in Ming Qi. Even if they were sons of a concubine, they were still better than the legitimate sons of many officials. Once Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao were caught, the entire Marquis of Lin'an would be implicated. Were these two people crazy?

Xie Changwu spat and said, "Is this place safe?"

"Of course it's safe." Xie Changchao said proudly, "Who would have thought that the young lady of the Shen family would be hidden in our mansion? Besides, in this mansion, only the two of us know about this secret room. Even if Shen Xin is really permitted by His Majesty to search our mansion, I guarantee that he will go back empty-handed."

"That's good." Xie Changwu heaved a sigh of relief and said, "We can't afford to make any mistakes. Once the lockdown is lifted, quickly send her away."

Xie Changchao nodded and took out water and food from the basket. He walked to Shen Miao's side and placed two bowls in front of her.

"Are we going to wake her up and feed her the food?" Xie Changwu asked.

"No need." Xie Changchao said, "It's not like she doesn't have a mouth. Don't you think Her Highness will be very happy to hear that she eats like a dog? At that time, Her Highness will be happy and put in a good word for us in front of His Highness."

Xie Changwu said, "That makes sense. Third Brother, you are indeed more insightful. In that case, let's go out first to avoid suspicion." After saying that, the two of them left.

When there was no more sound outside, Shen Miao slowly opened her eyes.

There were two bowls on the ground in front of her. One was water, and the other was... Fortunately, Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao did not give her anything more disgusting to eat.

Shen Miao sighed in her heart.

It was not like she had never eaten it before. In her previous life, she had eaten leftovers and even rotten food. So what? In order to survive, she could put down her dignity for the time being. As long as she could survive to take revenge, she could put up with any humiliation.

However, Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao's words made her frown slowly.



This was actually the secret room of the Marquis of Lin'an's mansion. If that was the case, it would probably be very difficult for Shen Xin to find this place. Firstly, without Emperor Wen Hui's permission, it was impossible to search an official's mansion unless there was concrete evidence. However, the Xie brothers and Shen Miao had nothing to do with each other. Why would anyone suspect them? Secondly, if Shen Xin was really permitted to search, as the Xie brothers said, this secret room must be well-hidden. How could Shen Xin find something that even Xie Ding did not know?

The Xie brothers took an unconventional method. The most dangerous place was the safest place. This way, things became trickier.

Shen Miao looked at the water in front of her.

Could Xie Jingxing find her?

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On the other side, in the new Shen mansion, the imperial physician finally arrived.

The person who came was dressed in white and held a folding fan in his hand. If not for the medical box on his back, he looked like a gentleman who came to admire the flowers instead of saving people.

Chapter 557 He's Here (4)

This person was the young imperial physician in the palace, Gao Yang.

Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin looked suspicious. Although Gao Yang's medical skills were commendable in the palace, the people who sought treatment in the palace were mostly consorts. Women always liked flashy things. No one could say for certain that it was not necessarily because Gao Yang was good-looking that he was highly praised. Moreover, most people in the world had the same thought about doctors. The older they were, the more outstanding their medical skills were. As for the younger ones, they only knew a little.

Shen Xin did not expect the imperial physician to be Gao Yang, but he could not reject him. If he went to get another imperial physician over, it would probably take a lot of time.

The legendary Imperial Physician Gao was welcomed in and walked to the unconscious Luo Tan to take her pulse.

Everyone looked at him with bright eyes. After a while, Gao Yang shook his head and sighed. "Her breathing is weak, and her pulse is in a mess. The wound is too deep and has hurt her lungs. She also bled a lot. It's difficult."

Luo Xueyan immediately shouted, "Another quack. Qiu, go and find another one."

"Wait!" Gao Yang said unhappily, "I just said that it's difficult. I didn't say that it's incurable. General Shen, what do you mean by inviting me over and then looking for another doctor?"

"Can you really save Cousin Tan?" Shen Qiu took a step forward and asked.

"If the treatment is delayed any longer, she'll really be incurable," Gao Yang said.

"Alright." Shen Xin said, "I believe you. If Imperial Physician Gao can cure Tan, the Shen family will definitely pay you a lot of money!"

Gao Yang smiled and said, "There's no need for money. It's my duty to save lives. Miss Luo's life is at stake. I have to perform acupuncture on her first. Please wait outside."

Luo Xueyan was still a little hesitant, but Shen Xin had already walked out. He had traveled extensively and knew that some capable people had strange habits. Gao Yang was probably afraid of his medical skills being seen and stolen.

Shen Qiu and Luo Ling followed closely behind Shen Xin. Seeing this, no matter how worried Luo Xueyan was, she could only follow suit.

Only Gao Yang and the unconscious Luo Tan were left in the room. Gao Yang put down his medical box and muttered to himself as he opened it, "What does this have to do with me?"

He took out a cloth bag and opened it. There were dozens of golden needles of different sizes.

Gao Yang said, "It's fine if you want to please Shen Miao, but now you want to please her family too?" He shook his head and reached out to unbutton Luo Tan's shirt. He said helplessly, "I don't want to offend you. If you are angry and want to vent your anger, go to Prince Rui's mansion and take everything out on the one wearing the mask."

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Time passed quickly. Two days were gone in the blink of an eye.

In the past two days, Imperial Physician Gao had indeed displayed outstanding medical skills. Gao Yang performed acupuncture twice and prescribed some medicine to Luo Tan. Luo Tan's breathing gradually stabilized, and her pulse was much stronger than before.

Unlike before, Luo Xueyan treated Gao Yang as an esteemed guest. Because she was afraid that Luo Tan's condition would relapse midway, Luo Xueyan asked Gao Yang to stay in the Shen mansion now so that he could check on Luo Tan every day.

Luo Tan was getting better, but there was still no good news about Shen Miao.

When Emperor Wen Hui found out about this, he was furious. Putting aside his prejudice against Shen Xin, if someone kidnapped the daughter of an official at the territory of the emperor, wouldn't it show that the public safety was in danger and the people could not live and work in peace? Therefore, he tacitly agreed to Shen Xin's large-scale search for his daughter.

Chapter 558 He's Here (5)

However, even after turning the capital upside down, they still could not find Shen Miao.

It was as if she had disappeared into thin air. The houses of the commoners had all been checked. Next, they could only start searching the houses of the officials. However, the relationship between the officials was complicated. If it wasn't done right, it would cause a huge chaos. Emperor Wen Hui was unwilling.

Therefore, there was an awkward period. The soldiers patrolled the streets all day long, and the security in the capital was much better. However, to the Shen family, it was no different from a torture.

In the study of the Marquis of Lin'an, Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao were chatting.

Xie Changwu said, "The Shen family is watching the capital too closely. We can't transport Shen Miao out at all. If this continues, I'm afraid Princess Ming An will blame us."

In fact, Princess Ming An was already angry. Although the Xie brothers had successfully kidnapped Shen Miao, Princess Ming An hated Shen Miao to the core and wished she could see Shen Miao end up in a brothel as soon as possible. Because the capital was under watch, Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao did not dare to act rashly. Shen Miao had been locked in a secret room for quite some days. How could an impatient person like Princess Ming An tolerate it? This morning, she sent someone over to warn Xie Changwu that if he did not send Shen Miao out, the previous deal would be invalid.

In front of him was the Shen army patrolling the streets and searching from door to door. Behind him was Princess Ming An who pressed on unreasonably. No matter how smart Xie Changwu was, he felt a headache coming on at this moment.

"Second Brother, don't be anxious. Shen Xin is very good at interrogating and spotting suspects. We have to ensure that we won't be caught," Xie Changchao said.

"I'm not in a hurry, but Princess is rushing me." At this point, Xie Changwu couldn't help but complain, "Doesn't she have a brain? If anything goes wrong, she will be implicated too."

"That's enough." Xie Changchao said, "Princess just wants to see Shen Miao being humiliated. Although we can't send Shen Miao out, we can bring people in. It's not illegal for the Marquis of Lin'an to hire some rough servants, right? There's nothing suspicious about that, right?"

Xie Changwu was stunned. That's right. What Princess Ming An wanted to see was someone humiliating Shen Miao. They couldn't send Shen Miao away because the Shen army was everywhere, but if they could make Shen Miao a sex slave, wouldn't it also satisfy Princess Ming An?

"Third Brother, you..." Xie Changwu said, "You've already thought of it?"

"There is a social engagement today. The two of us can't be absent at the same time, or people will suspect us." Xie Changchao said, "Second Brother, you can attend it while I go and get the butler to buy a few servants... After the matter is done, I'll inform the princess."

Over the past few days, because they had to keep an eye on Shen Miao, the two of them declined a few social engagements. If this continued, it would arouse suspicion. Xie Changwu said, "I understand. Third Brother, be careful. Don't let anyone catch you red-handed."

After Xie Changwu left, Xie Changchao took out the key to the secret room from his sleeve, and a strange glint flashed across his eyes.

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Shen Miao stayed in the secret room for two days. Although she did not know the exact time, she could guess from the number of times the food was delivered. It had been two days and she was still safe, which meant that Shen Xin had deployed lots of soldiers around the capital. However, they still couldn't

find this place. It showed how well-hidden the secret room was. It was very difficult for anyone to think that the Xie brothers were the culprits.

Just as she was thinking, she heard footsteps outside and the door was pushed open.

In the dim light, the person looked straight into Shen Miao's eyes and was stunned for a moment. Then, he smiled. "You've been pretending to be asleep every time I come over these few days. Why aren't you pretending today?"

#### Chapter 559 He's Here (6)

Xie Changchao looked a little like Xie Changwu, but compared to Xie Changwu, he was more impetuous. At this moment, he walked closer to Shen Miao and looked at the bowl of rice that had been half-eaten by Shen Miao. He clicked his tongue and said regretfully, "It's not just Her Highness. Actually, I also want to see what a rich girl looks like when she eats like a dog. Why don't you show it to me?"

Shen Miao looked at him coldly.

For a moment, Shen Miao felt that she could understand why Xie Jingxing hated these two half-brothers so much. They were just like Shen Qing and Shen Yue.

As if angered by Shen Miao's disdainful gaze, Xie Changchao suddenly grabbed Shen Miao's chin and forced her to stare at him. Xie Changchao said, "Miss Shen, you still don't know, right? General Shen and Mrs. Shen are searching for you in the capital for ten thousand taels of gold. Unfortunately, no one has claimed it yet. Do you think I'll get ten thousand taels of gold if I send you out?"

Shen Miao didn't say anything.

"Unfortunately, I'm also working for someone, so I naturally can't let you out so easily." Xie Changchao smiled again. "Don't worry, after today, your life will be a little better... Her Highness originally planned to sell you to a low-grade brothel, but unfortunately, it's not safe out there, so we had no choice but to open a brothel in the Marquis's mansion."

Shen Miao's eyes darkened.

As if extremely satisfied with Shen Miao's expression, Xie Changchao leaned closer to her and whispered in her ear in a strange tone, "This morning, I instructed the butler to recruit a few rough men to guard the courtyard. Do you think you still have the strength to glare at me like this after tonight?"

Shen Miao lowered her eyes, and the hand in her sleeve secretly grabbed the hairpin. Over the past two days, she did not stay idle. Every day, she would slowly use the hairpin to wear down the ropes on her hands and feet. She estimated that at this moment, there were only a few threads left where the ropes on her hands and feet were connected. She only needed to struggle slightly to break free. At that time, she would use the hairpin to stab Xie Changchao in the eyes.

There was no such thing as a dead end in this world. The so-called dead end was just because one did not have the courage to step into the abyss.

Xie Changchao said, "But I'm not willing to give up a delicate little beauty like you to someone else. Why don't you let me enjoy you first?"

“Back then, that little bastard, Xie Jingxing, seemed to treat you differently.” Xie Changchao smiled a little lecherously. “I’ve been brothers with him for more than ten years and know him the best. I’m afraid your relationship with him is not that simple. Why? Are you his secret lover?”

Xie Changchao’s words were so unpleasant that even Shen Miao looked a little angry. However, this anger seemed to please Xie Changchao. He laughed and said, “It doesn’t matter if you’re his lover. All these years, that little bastard has trampled us under his feet. Today, after sleeping with his woman, I’ll call it even.” He smiled evilly. “Miss Shen, you should thank me. Sleeping with me will be much more enjoyable than with those rough men! They have plenty of tricks up their sleeves.”

He suddenly turned Shen Miao’s head and rubbed his thumb on her face. An intoxicated expression appeared on his face, but it was disgusting.

Shen Miao’s gaze was calm, but she was thinking when to stab the hairpin into Xie Changchao’s eyes. She would blind him and see if he could still be so arrogant.

Xie Changchao suddenly sobered up and looked at Shen Miao. “Why aren’t you afraid?”

Shen Miao looked at him.

Xie Changchao’s face was dark, as if he was very unhappy with her indifferent attitude. He said, “Why aren’t you afraid? Are you still waiting for someone to save you?”

Shen Miao said, “What exactly do you want?”

Xie Changchao suddenly jumped up. Shen Miao could not dodge in time and was pushed to the ground by him. At this moment, she couldn’t care less and struggled to break free from the rope. However, before she could reach out to take out the hairpin, Xie Changchao suddenly started to nibble on her body. He seemed to have gone crazy and shouted, “Who are you waiting for to save you? Could it be that dead Xie Jingxing?”

Shen Miao finally took out the hairpin. Xie Changchao buried his face in Shen Miao’s neck and was about to pull off her clothes. Shen Miao’s gaze was cold as she raised her hand to stab him in the back!

However, when she saw the door from the corner of her eye, she suddenly stopped.

“Do you think Xie Jingxing will come and save you?” Xie Changchao shouted, “That little bastard has already been skinned and beheaded. He’s dead!”

A calm and suppressed furious voice sounded in the empty secret room.

“Is that so

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“Is that so?”

A man’s low voice sounded in the empty secret room. This voice was very calm and even pleasant to the ears. However, at this moment, it seemed to have a terrifying power, making people’s hair stand on end.

Xie Changchao was stunned. He let go of Shen Miao and turned to look at the person.

There were horns hanging on the wall of the secret room, and there were torches placed in the horns. The burning torches were bright, seemingly dividing the dark secret room into two parts. The person opposite him stood in the darkness, and under the dim light, one could vaguely see his face.

It was an extremely tall young man. He was wearing a black cloak made of wolf fur, a purple-gold brocade robe inside, deer skin boots, and a dark gold belt. Even in such a dark place, his noble aura was still remarkable. He had a silver mask covering half of his face. It was clearly an extremely cold color, but under the light of the torches in the secret room, it emitted a hint of warmth, making people unable to help but be attracted.

Xie Changchao was stunned for a moment before suddenly shouting, "Prince Rui!"

He had seen this person at the banquet in Ming Qi and at the crown prince's banquet. Who else could it be but Prince Rui? But why did Prince Rui suddenly appear here? Xie Changchao's heart suddenly skipped a beat. He asked, "How do you know this place?"

This was a secret room in the Marquis's Residence. Even if Prince Rui had the ability to sneak in, he would never find this secret room. Xie Ding knew nothing about this secret room. In the entire Marquis's Residence, only Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao knew. How did an outsider like Prince Rui discover this place? Xie Changwu would definitely not tell anyone.

The moment Shen Miao saw Xie Jingxing appear, she heaved a sigh of relief and felt a little glad. Although she could fight with Xie Changchao, there was always a chance that she would fail. If anything went wrong, she would be in greater danger.

"Tell me! How do you know there's a secret room here?" A strong sense of uneasiness suddenly surged in Xie Changchao's heart. This uneasiness was not because he was afraid of Prince Rui, but an instinctive reaction. However, only he and Xie Changwu knew about this secret room. Even his subordinates did not know.

"There's nothing I don't know about this tiny mansion."

The young man in the purple robe slowly walked forward from the darkness to the light. The brighter the torch was, the brighter the silver mask was. He smiled, and it was unknown if his smile was mocking or sincere. He slowly reached out to touch the mask on his face.

Shen Miao tensed up slightly. Xie Changchao swallowed his saliva and stared at the purple-robed young man in front of him without blinking.

The silver mask was taken off.

The light crept up the young man's almost perfect face inch by inch. His facial features were so handsome that even the sun lost its dazzle in comparison. His mischievous expression was as usual, and his eyes, after seeing the vicissitudes of life, had become deeper and more unfathomable.

Xie Jingxing was more handsome, calmer, and more dangerous than two years ago.

It was Xie Jingxing, who had his heart pierced by ten thousand arrows on the battlefield and was hung on the city wall as a warning.

Xie Changchao could not believe his eyes.

He shouted, "Xie Jingxing! Xie Jingxing!"