

Venomous 571

Chapter 571 Ask for Help (6)

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When Luo Tan woke up, it was already evening and Gao Yang happened to come over to bring her medicine. Luo Tan did not stand on ceremony. She took it and gulped it down. Gao Yang's mouth twitched when he saw this. Without looking at her face, Gao Yan would have thought that Luo Tan was a man.

After drinking the medicine, Luo Tan wiped her mouth and looked at the gradually darkening sky outside the window. "I have to go back. Where is Prince Rui? I'll go and thank him."

Gao Yang glanced at her from the corner of his eye. "There's no need. Prince Rui has already gone out.

Luo Tan was stunned at first, then she was overjoyed. She thought that Prince Rui must have gone to save Shen Miao. It seemed that Prince Rui was also a kind-hearted person. As she thought about it, her impression of Prince Rui improved.

Gao Yang looked at Luo Tan, who suddenly became happy, in confusion and said, "Let's pack up and leave."

"Alright." Luo Tan got up from the couch happily and put on her shoes. Suddenly, she thought of something and asked, "Are you going back with me?"

"Of course." Gao Yang said, "If not for the fact that General Shen strongly requested me to stay, I wouldn't have wanted to. There are still many noble ladies in the palace waiting for me to treat them."

Luo Tan looked at him sympathetically. "Doctor Gao, you've been working too hard all day. In that case, you'd better hurry back to the palace. It won't be good if your money is deducted because of your absence."

Gao Yang was speechless.

Why did Luo Tan always make it sound like everyone was qualified to be the "Imperial Physician"? Gao Yang was puzzled. He gritted his teeth and said, "There's no need. I've already applied for leave from the imperial hospital."

No matter what, in the end, Gao Yang still followed Luo Tan back to the new Shen mansion. On the way back, in order to prevent Luo Tan's wound from hurting, Gao Yang found a carriage.

When they returned to the new Shen mansion, Shen Xin and the others had all returned. Seeing the two of them return, everyone heaved a sigh of relief. Shen Qiu asked, "Cousin Tan, Imperial Physician Gao, where did you go?" Everyone thought that Luo Tan had been kidnapped again. Shen Qiu even suspected that Gao Yang was the one who kidnapped Luo Tan.

"That's right, Tan. You're not fully recovered yet. Where did you go?"

Luo Tan's expression froze. She could not tell anyone about Shen Miao and Prince Rui. She had to find an excuse to get away with it. She stammered, "I... I just..."

"I brought her out." Gao Yang cupped his hands and said, "Miss Luo hasn't recovered yet, but she's been cooped up in the house all day and is in a depressed mood. It's not good for her recovery. I took her out for a walk."

Hearing this, Luo Xueyan's suspicious look disappeared. However, there was still a hint of anger in her words. She said to Gao Yang, "Imperial Physician Gao, I know you are being considerate. However, if this happens again, you have to tell the servants. Tan didn't bring a single maid with her. We thought something happened to her."

Gao Yang said, "I didn't think it through. My apology."

"Forget it, forget it." Luo Xueyan waved her hand.

Luo Tan heaved a sigh of relief. Although the way she looked at Gao Yang was still not very friendly, it was better than before. Luo Tan was grateful that Gao Yang had taken the blame for her. The Luo family was particular about repaying kindness. Luo Tan thought that she would pay Gao Yang more to even it out.

"Where is Cousin Ling?" Luo Tan craned her neck and looked around. Shen Xin, Luo Xueyan, and Shen Qiu were all here, but Luo Ling was the only one missing.

"Isn't he with you?" Shen Xin asked with a frown.

Luo Tan shook her head.

"That's strange." Luo Xueyan also said, "Before I went out today, I asked Ling to keep an eye on you. When I came back, I didn't see him. I thought you guys went out together. Did you only go out with Imperial Physician Gao?"

Luo Tan nodded.

"Did Cousin Ling go out to buy something?" Shen Qiu asked, "It's getting late. He should be back soon."

In order to exchange information, members of the Shen family would return home in the evening to tell each other the results of the search. Even if Luo Ling went out to look for someone, he should be back by now.

"Could it be that he found her?" Luo Tan's heart skipped a beat. "Could it be that Brother Ling found Cousin Miao, so he's back late?"

Shen Qiu and Luo Xueyan were stunned for a moment before looking happy. "If only that was the case."

At this moment, a flustered voice suddenly came from outside. "Not good, not good!"

Everyone looked over and saw that the person who came was Luo Ling's subordinate. He was covered in blood and said, "Not good, something happened to Young Master Ling!"

Chapter 572 Right Hand (1)

Everyone hurriedly walked out and saw someone helping Luo Ling in. Luo Ling's right hand was covered in blood, which was a shocking sight.

"Brother Ling!" Luo Tan was shocked to see Luo Ling being carried in by someone. His face was very pale, and countless drops of sweat rolled down his forehead.

"Imperial Physician Gao." Luo Xueyan quickly said, "Please take a look at Luo Ling."

Gao Yang looked a little helpless. He thought that after Luo Tan was alive and kicking, his mission would be completed. He did not expect another patient to come seamlessly. Although he was slightly displeased, he did not show it on his face. Gao Yang said, "Help him into the room. I'll take a look at him."

When Luo Ling and Gao Yang entered the bedroom, Shen Xin said angrily to the subordinate who helped Luo Ling back, "What exactly happened? Why is he so seriously injured?!"

The subordinate was also on the verge of tears. He said, "A group of us received a report that someone seemed to have seen Miss Shen's whereabouts. Young Master Ling brought us to look for her. Later, someone sent a note asking Young Master Ling to go alone. Unexpectedly, it was a trap. Those people seemed to have originally planned to scheme against Young Master Qiu, but they didn't expect the person to be Young Master Ling. Young Master Ling fought with them. Those people ambushed him and injured his right hand." The subordinate paused and said with a worried expression, "In the early years, Young Master Ling's right hand was injured once. Later, it healed. However, today, the knife stabbed on his old wound. When we arrived at the scene, he was already like this."

Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin did not know that Luo Ling's right hand had been injured before. Hearing this, they looked at Luo Tan and asked, "Was he injured before?"

Luo Tan nodded and said, "When he was young, he went to hunt with Eldest Uncle. While being chased by wild beasts, he fell down the mountain and smashed his hand into a boulder. At that time, all the doctors said that Brother Ling might not be able to keep his hand. However, to everyone's surprise, he made it."

Everyone realized the severity of the matter. If Luo Ling had suffered such a serious injury in the past, the new injury would probably be much worse. Shen Qiu said, "Who exactly is plotting behind the scenes? Did you see who they are?"

The subordinate shook his head and said, "Those people are very good at martial arts. They don't look like ordinary people. Their martial arts are better than Young Master Ling's."

"This is strange." Shen Xin said in a low voice, "First Jiaojiao, then Qiu. They're clearly targeting our family. Damn it! If I don't find those people and skin them alive, I might as well retire from my post!"

Luo Tan said, "The most important thing now is to treat Brother Ling." Luo Tan was a little anxious. "His injuries are so serious..."

The atmosphere in the room immediately became tense.

After the time it took to burn an incense stick, Gao Yang walked out of the room and closed the door. Everyone looked at him eagerly. Luo Tan couldn't wait to go forward and ask, "Doctor Gao, how is Brother Ling?"

Gao Yang said, "I've already applied medicine for him. It's a knife wound. The wound is very deep and there's poison on it. Although it's not a fatal poison and I've removed the poison for him, but..."

"But what?" Shen Qiu asked.

"But Young Master Luo's hand was injured in the early years. Even if he recovers, I'm afraid he won't be able to carry anything heavy with his right hand."

Luo Tan took two steps back and suddenly looked at Gao Yang. "What about the weapon?"

Gao Yang shook his head.

Chapter 573 Right Hand (2)

Luo Xueyan accidentally broke the cup. Shen Xin and Shen Qiu gasped at the same time.

Luo Ling was a child of a general family. This time, Luo Sui asked him to follow Shen Xin to the capital because he wanted him to broaden his horizon and train his mind so that when he returned to Spring City in the future, he would be able to take over the Luo army better. Luo Ling had also practiced martial arts since he was young. Not being able to hold a weapon meant that all these years of hard training would go to waste. This would be a huge blow to Luo Ling.

"Impossible, impossible!" Luo Tan went forward and grabbed Gao Yang's sleeve. She said anxiously, "Previously, when Brother Ling was injured, those doctors also said that Brother Ling could not use his right hand anymore, but later on, Brother Ling recovered. Aren't you the best doctor? When those doctors said that I'm hopeless, you were still able to save me from death. If you can save me, you can definitely save Brother Ling's right hand, right?" Luo Tan and Luo Ling were very close and had grown up together, so she naturally could not accept the accident.

Gao Yang said patiently, "Miss Luo, it's not that I don't want to save him, but he is too seriously injured." He added, "In all honesty, if I say someone can't be treated, then no one in the world can treat him."

These words almost dashed everyone's hope.

"How did this happen?" Luo Xueyan almost fainted. "How should I explain it to Brother and Sister-in-law?"

"Did Cousin Ling already know about his injuries?" Shen Qiu asked.

Gao Yang nodded and said, "Compared to his injuries, I think it's best to focus on his emotions these days. Anyone who suddenly suffers such an accident will inevitably be depressed, especially a proud person like Young Master Luo. This is no different from a disaster to him. If you can't help him get over it, I'm afraid it will be harmful to his recovery."

With that, Gao Yang picked up the medicine box at the side and said, "I have to go back to the palace first. I need to prepare a few herbs. I'll come back to perform acupuncture on Young Master Luo later. Goodbye."

Gao Yang had been staying in the Shen mansion for the past few days. It had indeed been a long time since he returned to the Imperial Hospital. Luo Xueyan nodded and said, "Sorry for troubling you for the past few days. Qiu, go and send Imperial Physician Gao off."

"I'll go!" Luo Tan said. Then, she grabbed Gao Yang's sleeve and pulled him out of the mansion.

Gao Yang stared at his sleeve that was almost ripped off by Luo Tan. Luo Tan only stopped when she reached the entrance of the mansion. Luo Tan looked at him and hesitated for a moment before asking, "Doctor Gao, is his right hand really hopeless?"

Gao Yang said helplessly, "I never lie."

Luo Tan looked a little disappointed. A moment later, she said, "Anyway, thank you for helping me out today."

"Help you out?" Gao Yang looked at her in surprise. "When did I ever help you out?"

Luo Tan looked at him dumbfoundedly. "Didn't you lie for me in front of my aunt and uncle..."

"I was just going with the flow. I'll talk to you about this in detail in the future when I figure out what I want in return from you." Gao Yang ignored the instant change of expression on Luo Tan's face and looked outside. "Tsk, it's getting late. I have to go first. See you another day, Miss Luo." He cupped his hands and left.

When Gao Yang was out of sight, Luo Tan sighed and was about to return when she saw a carriage running over from the other side. This carriage looked too gorgeous. The sky was a little dark, and Luo Tan could not see it clearly. She saw the carriage stop at the entrance of the Shen mansion and two people walk out.

Chapter 574 Right Hand (3)

Luo Tan rubbed her eyes. After confirming that she was not mistaken, she suddenly shouted, "Cousin!"

Shen Miao was sent back by Princess Rong Xin's personal maid, Lu Xi. When Shen Miao reached the door, she heard Luo Tan shout. Previously, she heard from Xie Jingxing that Luo Tan was extremely seriously injured. Shen Miao was still very worried. Now that she heard her shout, she was relieved.

Luo Tan's shout alarmed Shen Xin and the others inside. Everyone rushed over and looked at Shen Miao in disbelief.

Luo Xueyan was stunned for two seconds. She quickly walked up to Shen Miao and hugged her, tears flowing down her face. "Jiaojiao!"

Only then did Shen Qiu come back to his senses. He rushed over and shouted excitedly, "Sister, you're finally back!"

Shen Miao glanced around and said, "Let's go back inside first. Also, don't make my return public."

When they arrived at the hall, Luo Tan asked, "Cousin, what exactly is going on? This person is..." She looked at Lu Xi.

Lu Xi bowed to everyone. After all, she was the personal maid beside Princess Rong Xin. Her etiquette was outstanding, and she did not look like an ordinary person. She said, "I'm Princess Rong Xin's personal maid. The day before yesterday, Her Highness's guard saved Miss Shen from evil people. Her

Highness was afraid that Miss Shen would not be able to explain herself, so she asked me to send Miss Shen back home. Now that she's here, I should go back."

Two years ago, Shen Miao was saved by Princess Rong Xin at the Lantern Festival. Two years later, she was saved by Princess Rong Xin again. Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan were a little puzzled. Just as they were about to say something, they saw Shen Miao stand up and smile at Lu Xi. "Thank you, Aunt Xi. I hope you can tell Her Highness for me that I will remember her kindness and will definitely visit her to thank her in the future."

Lu Xi quickly turned around and said with a smile, "Miss, since you and Her Highness are old friends, there's no need to stand on ceremony. I'll go back first. Miss Shen, rest well. Tomorrow, Her Highness will send people to explain this matter to the capital magistrate."

After sending Lu Xi off, Shen Qiu finally couldn't help but ask, "Sister, what exactly is going on?"

Shen Miao smiled and said, "It's nothing. The people who kidnapped me that day actually mistook me for someone else and kidnapped the wrong person. Later, when they were about to release me, Princess Rong Xin's guard happened to pass by. The guard saw me once. He felt that I was in danger, so he saved me. Later, I told Princess Rong Xin what happened, and Her Highness planned to help me out." She did not want to tell Shen Xin everything for the time being because it involved Princess Ming An. The relationship between the State of Qin and Ming Qi was now complicated. If Shen Xin was not careful, it would be easy for him to get dragged into the mess. Shen Miao had worked hard to pull the Shen family away from the mess. How could she allow herself to repeat the mistake of her previous life?

Most importantly, she had discussed this excuse with Xie Jingxing. Although she did not know what Xie Jingxing was up to, Shen Miao thought that with Xie Jingxing's methods, Princess Ming An and the Xie brothers would definitely suffer a huge blow. Since that was the case, it was not necessary for Shen Xin to get involved.

Chapter 575 Right Hand (4)

Shen Xin frowned. "Jiaojiao, tell me the truth. Does this have anything to do with Princess Ming An?"

Shen Miao's heart raced.

Shen Xin was not a fool. From the time the Shen family returned to the capital until now, the only person they had offended was probably that arrogant princess of the State of Qin.

Shen Miao said, "Father, what are you thinking? This is Ming Qi's territory. Even if Princess Ming An wants to deal with me, the crown prince of the State of Qin is not a fool. How can he let her cause trouble at this juncture?" Seeing that Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan still did not believe her, Shen Miao raised her arm and said softly, "That day, they threw me out of the carriage. My hand hurt from the fall and I'm very hungry. Mother, I want to eat."

When Luo Xueyan heard that, she couldn't care less about anything else. As she instructed the kitchen to prepare food, she asked the maid to help Shen Miao back to her room to rest.

Luo Xueyan went to the kitchen to make soup. Shen Xin frowned and pulled Shen Qiu to do something. Luo Tan and Shen Miao returned to the room together. After Shen Miao sat down on the couch, Luo Tan said, "Cousin, you were lying just now, right? Actually, it was Princess Ming An who did it, right?"

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. She asked, "Why do you say that?"

Luo Tan rubbed her arm and pretended to have goosebumps all over her body. "The way you acted like a spoiled child just now really gave me goosebumps. You were obviously acting just to get them to stop pestering you with questions."

Shen Miao chuckled and sized up Luo Tan again. "I heard that you were seriously injured. Why are you bouncing around? Why don't you take some rest?"

Luo Tan did a twirl. "Doctor Gao from the palace is very skilled. He can revive the dead. I'm lucky." She looked at Shen Miao with bright eyes. "I just asked Prince Rui for help this afternoon, and you came back tonight. Prince Rui is really resourceful. This speed is unexpected. I thought I would have to wait a few days. So in fact, that personal maid Lu Xi is just an actress, right?" Luo Tan sighed and said, "This Prince Rui is really considerate."

Shen Miao was speechless."

Xie Jingxing had saved Shen Miao long before Luo Tan went to Prince Rui's mansion. When Luo Tan went, Shen Miao was probably already in the princess's mansion. Poor Luo Tan, she really thought that Xie Jingxing was so capable. Shen Miao thought to herself, but she did not correct Luo Tan. She thought of something and said, "But why didn't I see Cousin Ling?" She asked, "Has Cousin Ling gone out?"

Luo Tan's originally happy face instantly darkened. Seeing this, Shen Miao was a little puzzled and asked, "Why do you look so sad?"

"Cousin Ling is not doing well." Luo Tan's voice was a little obscure. "Gao Yang said that he will never be able to use his right hand again in this life... Go and take a look."

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In the Marquis's mansion, Xie Changwu was also on tenterhooks.

After returning from the banquet with Xie Ding, Xie Changwu couldn't find Xie Changchao anywhere. Not only was there no sign of Xie Changchao in the secret room, but there was also no sign of Shen Miao. What puzzled him even more was that there was no sign of a fight happening in the secret room.

Now, with the captive missing, when Princess Ming An sent someone over to ask, Xie Changwu could only find an excuse to brush him off. However, under the calm surface, he was burning with anxiety.

Chapter 576 Right Hand (5)

He sent his servants to go to the places Xie Changchao frequented the most. However, no matter how he looked, it was as if Xie Changchao and Shen Miao had disappeared from the face of the earth. For some reason, the longer time passed, the more uneasy Xie Changwu felt. He tried to find out if Shen Miao had returned home, but there was no sign of Shen Miao in the Shen mansion. This put Xie Changwu a little at ease.

After a few days, even Xie Ding became suspicious and asked why he did not see Xie Changchao for so long. Xie Changwu could only say that Xie Changchao had gone out of the city to hunt with his friends. When Concubine Fang asked, he said the same thing. Princess Ming An sent someone to deliver a

message that if the Xie brothers still did not take action, she would take Shen Miao away and do it herself.

Xie Changwu was panicking. Now, not to mention Shen Miao, even Xie Changchao was missing. If Princess Ming An found out, she would blame him for not doing his job well. Not only would she not put in a good word for the two of them in front of Fu Xiuyi, but they would probably suffer a lot of humiliation. Xie Changwu really regretted agreeing to such a task.

No matter what, Xie Changwu still kept sending people to search for Xie Changchao. A few days ago, they kidnapped Shen Miao, and the Shen family searched the entire city for her. Now, it was Xie Changwu's turn to search the entire city for Xie Changchao. How ironic!

Xie Changwu naturally did not know that the brother he was searching for was now in Xie Jingxing's hands.

Tie Yi followed behind the purple-robed young man and said, "Xie Changchao's corpse is in the tower jail, stored in the ice coffin. Master, when will you use it?"

"Leave it for now. There's no hurry." Xie Jingxing said, "We can't waste such a good thing."

He slowly walked into the mansion. As soon as he entered the courtyard, he saw Ji Yushu, who was wearing a purple robe and a silver mask, chasing after the white tiger called Jiaojiao. As he chased, he said, "Little brat, don't you recognize me? Open your eyes and look carefully. Come over!"

Tie Yi was speechless. Only a person like Ji Yushu would pretend to be Xie Jingxing to tease a tiger.

The white tiger was escaping from Ji Yushu's "warm" arms. When it suddenly saw Xie Jingxing and Tie Yi coming, it turned around halfway and suddenly rushed towards Xie Jingxing. It bit the corner of Xie Jingxing's robe and shook its head happily.

Xie Jingxing leaned over and picked up the white tiger. He looked at the "Xie Jingxing" and said with a faint smile, "Did you have a good time while I'm gone?"

"Third Brother!" The fake Xie Jingxing took off his mask, revealing Ji Yushu's sweaty face. Ji Yushu panted and waved his hand. "Third Brother, I didn't want to pretend to be you. Today, a girl came to look for you for help. Gao Yang insisted that I pretend to be you. However, I can assure you that I did quite well. When that girl saw me, she knelt down without a word and kowtowed to me many times."

"A girl?" Xie Jingxing raised his eyebrows and looked at Tie Yi. Tie Yi quickly said, "In the afternoon, Miss Luo and Young Master Gao came. At that time, Young Master Ji pretended to be you and agreed to Miss Luo's request... Then, the two of them left."

Ji Yushu emphasized, "Gao Yang forced me to do that!"

As they spoke, they heard Tie Yi say, "Young Master Gao is here."

Chapter 577 Right Hand (6)

Who else could the person in white be but Gao Yang? Gao Yang's white clothes did not look as clean and new as before, and his face was a little haggard. In the afternoon, Ji Yushu was busy acting and did not

look at Gao Yang carefully. Now that he saw him, he said in surprise, "Gao Yang, why do you look ten years older?"

Originally, when Gao Yang and Xie Jingxing stood side by side, his handsomeness was on par with Xie Jingxing's. Now that he stood next to Xie Jingxing, he was almost invisible.

"Don't mention it." Gao Yang said, "I've been treating Miss Luo for the past few days. Do they really think I'm just a normal doctor?" As he spoke, he looked a little angry. "I'm not a doctor. I'm an imperial physician!"

"What's the difference?" Ji Yushu ignored him and looked at Xie Jingxing. "Have you found Fifth Miss Shen?"

Xie Jingxing nodded.

Ji Yushu heaved a sigh of relief and said, "I'm worried sick. If a good person like Fifth Miss Shen was really harmed by someone, I'm afraid I won't be able to sleep well."

Xie Jingxing looked at him coldly. "Oh? Are you very familiar with Shen Miao?"

Ji Yushu instinctively sensed danger and subconsciously shook his head. He felt that Xie Jingxing's gaze was unfathomable. He quickly said, "Third Brother, aren't you friends with her? I'm not worried about her, I'm worried about you. Now that you've saved her, I'm very happy. I think Fifth Miss Shen will be very grateful to you."

"Bootlicker!" Gao Yang said disdainfully.

"None of your business," Ji Yushu retorted.

Gao Yang took a deep breath and asked Xie Jingxing with a serious expression, "Did Princess Ming An do it?"

In the entire capital, other than Princess Ming An, there was really no one else who dared to do anything to Shen Miao. If others had designs on Shen Miao, they had to take the Shen family into consideration. Everyone knew that Shen Xin doted on his daughter the most. If they wanted to touch Shen Miao, it would be no different from pulling the hair off a tiger's head. Only someone as brainless as Princess Ming An would do it.

"Not only that." Xie Jingxing said indifferently, "Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao are also involved."

"Are they crazy?" Gao Yang could not hide his surprise. "Even if Princess Ming An promised them benefits, how can Xie Changwu and Xie Changchao be so stupid as to use their lives to take the risk?"

Most people would weigh the pros and cons before making a decision. But what Xie Changchao and Xie Changwu did was really not worth it. Gao Yang could not understand. The two brothers of the Xie family even went so far as to become enemies with the Shen family just to climb up. Did they ever think about the consequences?

"They've probably lived a comfortable life for too long." Xie Jingxing smiled coldly. "They're just two idiots."

Gao Yang and Ji Yushu were silent for a moment. They could feel a coldness spreading out from Xie Jingxing. After silently mourning for the Xie brothers for a moment, Gao Yang said, "Actually, Princess Ming An didn't just make a move on Shen Miao this time."

Xie Jingxing turned around and frowned. "What do you mean?"

"They even tried to scheme against Shen Qiu. Today, in the Shen mansion, I heard that someone used Shen Miao's whereabouts to lure Shen Qiu out and set a trap for him. After Shen Qiu was alone, they waited for an opportunity to attack him. Those people's martial arts are top-notch. I think it's probably Princess Ming An's doing."

Not only did she want to destroy Shen Miao, but she also wanted to destroy Shen Qiu. Shen Miao and Shen Qiu were the two juniors of the Shen family. As long as she destroyed these two people, it would be difficult for the Shen family to rise again. Moreover, given the close relationship between Shen Miao and Shen Qiu, if Shen Miao came back to find that Shen Qiu was seriously injured for her, she would probably blame herself for the rest of her life. There was no worse punishment than making one live with remorse. Princess Ming An was indeed ruthless.

Xie Jingxing panicked slightly and asked, "How did it turn out?"

"Shen Qiu didn't fall for it," Gao Yang said.

Only then did Xie Jingxing look relieved. However, before he could speak, Gao Yang continued.

"However... Although Shen Qiu did not fall for it, the young master of the Luo family didn't manage to escape it. Those people lured Luo Ling out and thought that he was Shen Qiu. Luo Ling's martial arts are not as good as Shen Qiu's, so he did not end up well in the hands of those people."

Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow. "How is he now?"

"Not good." Gao Yang said, "Even with my medical skills, I'm helpless. He probably won't be able to hold a sword with his right hand in this life."

Xie Jingxing was stunned. His beautiful eyes gradually darkened, and his gaze turned cold.

Chapter 578 Pastry (1)

On this day, the weather was warm. The sun was shining brightly outside. In the east courtyard of the Shen family, Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Yue were sitting and chatting.

Over the past few days, because Chen Ruoqiu asked Shen Yue to start choosing a husband, Shen Yue and Chen Ruoqiu had quarreled a few times. Shen Yue had no choice but to go out with Chen Ruoqiu to meet all these young masters. After a few times, the mother and daughter became enemies.

It was rare to see them sitting together so peacefully today.

"I heard that Shen Miao was kidnapped. There's still no news of her." Shen Yue picked up a fruit from the porcelain plate on the table and ate it. As she ate, she looked like she was gloating. "I wonder if she's still alive."

Chen Ruoqiu frowned. She had always wanted to train Shen Yue to be calm and composed. At least on the surface, she could maintain calmness at all times, but compared to Chen Ruoqiu when she was young, Shen Yue was much more quick-tempered. She showed all her emotions on her face, especially at home, which made Chen Ruoqiu very worried.

“Who would kidnap her?” Shen Yue pondered and said, “Eldest Uncle has many enemies in the capital. I wonder who did it this time.”

“Since they dare to take such a risk, they must have a deep hatred for Shen Miao.” Chen Ruoqiu said, “Besides, the Shen army has been searching for her for a few days, but they haven’t found her. Shen Miao is not likely to survive this calamity.”

Hearing this, Shen Yue looked a little afraid at first. Suddenly, she thought of something and smiled. “Speaking of which, I’d rather she survived.” She did not continue.

After being abducted for so long, if she was still alive, she must have suffered a lot of inhumane torture. Rumors were the most hurtful in the world. If Shen Miao died, she would not need to care about the rumors. If she was alive, who knew what nasty words people would say about her? How many girls in the capital were kidnapped and saved? Although she survived, in the end, she would most likely kill herself because of all the criticism.

Moreover, Shen Miao was the daughter of the mighty general.

Chen Ruoqiu glanced at Shen Yue and sighed. “No matter what, this is still her business. Yue, you haven’t spoken to your father these days. How long are you going to throw a tantrum?”

Shen Yue hated Shen Wan more than Chen Ruoqiu. She found out from the servants that Shen Wan was the one who instigated Chen Ruoqiu to look for a husband for Shen Yue in such a hurry. Therefore, Shen Yue pushed all the blame to Shen Wan, thinking that Shen Wan wanted her to get married early for the sake of his official career. Therefore, Shen Yue had not spoken to Shen Wan for the past few days. Hearing this, Shen Yue said impatiently, “Father is nowhere to be seen all day. How can I talk to him?” After saying that, she turned around angrily and ignored Chen Ruoqiu.

Chen Ruoqiu also noticed it. She did not know if it was because he had been too busy in the imperial court these days, but she didn’t get to see Shen Wan as often.

Chen Ruoqiu sighed in her heart. Old Madam Shen was urging Shen Wan to take in a concubine. If her marriage with Shen Wan was in danger of breaking up, she would face the greatest crisis.

Chen Ruoqiu did not know that at this moment, Shen Wan, who she thought was “busy in the imperial court”, was playing chess with Chang Zaiqing in the west courtyard.

Chang Zaiqing was wearing a green shirt and a light yellow palace satin dress. Her hair was tied into a bun, making her look especially elegant and gentle. The tea she made was extremely tasty. Shen Wan, who loved tea, often came here to talk about tea with her. When he came to talk about tea, Chang Zaiqing would ask him questions about chess. Gradually, Shen Wan got used to coming here.

Chapter 579 Pastry (2)

Chang Zaiqing smiled and asked, "I heard that Fifth Miss Shen was kidnapped a few days ago. I wonder if she's been found."

"Still no news yet." Shen Wan shook his head.

Chang Zaiqing sighed. "Why did such a tragedy happen to a girl... In your opinion, was Fifth Miss Shen harmed by General Shen's enemies?"

Shen Wan said, "That's hard to say. After all, Shen Miao was the only one who was kidnapped. However, it's been so long. I'm afraid even if she's found..."

Chang Zaiqing looked sad, but she was secretly delighted. She did not know why, but when she faced Shen Miao, she felt an instinctive fear. Perhaps it was because of what Shen Miao said to her last time, or perhaps it was because Shen Miao read her mind too thoroughly. No matter what, with such a person around, Chang Zaiqing would always be uneasy. Hearing Shen Wan say that, she was very happy.

In the Shen family, there were also people talking about Shen Miao in Rosy Cloud Garden.

Concubine Wan said, "I originally thought that it was really not good for you to stay in the mansion all day. Now, it seems like it's a good thing. There are so many kidnappers on the street outside, and you're good-looking. If you're kidnapped and harmed, I don't know what I'm gonna do with my life." As she spoke, she stopped sewing and said, "I wonder if Fifth Miss is dead or alive."

When Shen Dongling, who was helping Concubine Wan with the embroidery, heard this, she smiled. "Mother, that's not something a kidnapper can do."

Concubine Wan widened her eyes. "Why?"

"No kidnappers will blatantly abduct people on the street. Even if they do, they won't abduct an official's daughter, especially someone with a powerful background. Those people are obviously targeting Fifth Sister. I think they're probably enemies of the first branch. They just happened to bump into Fifth Sister." Although Shen Dongling said that, she did not look sad, as if she was talking about something that happened to a stranger..

Concubine Wan sighed. "Fifth Miss's life is over. She was reincarnated into such a good family and blessed with such good parents, but she didn't have the chance to enjoy her life."

"That's not necessarily the case." Shen Dongling smiled. "Fifth Sister can always escape danger with the help of someone. Who knows if someone will save her this time?"

As they spoke, Shen Dongling's personal maid, Xing Hua, rushed in from outside, as if she had something to say.

"Concubine Wan, Third Miss, I heard that Fifth Miss was sent back to the Shen mansion in Princess Rong Xin's carriage. She's safe and sound!"

"Mother, look." Shen Dongling smiled. "I knew it. Fifth Sister is very capable."

...

A few days later, the news of Shen Miao being sent back by Princess Rong Xin's personal maid spread and caused another sensation in the capital.

The story that circulated went as follows. After Shen Miao was abducted by the kidnappers, the kidnappers wanted to transport her out of the city. However, that day, the Shen army imposed martial law and was investigating house by house. On the way to transport Shen Miao, Shen Miao escaped and fell on her leg and fainted. However, she happened to meet Princess Rong Xin's guard. The guard sent Shen Miao back to the princess's mansion. When Shen Miao woke up, she saw Princess Rong Xin. There was no news of her whereabouts for the past few days because Shen Miao was not fully conscious. The people of the princess's mansion did not know her identity, so they did not inform the Shen family.

All in all, Shen Miao was safe and sound and didn't suffer humiliation.

Chapter 580 Pastry (3)

Perhaps there were still some voices of doubt, but most people did not doubt this story, because the person who spoke was Princess Rong Xin, who was the most impartial in Ming Qi. Since Princess Rong Xin had already said so, it should really be the case.

However, what was strange was that ever since Shen Miao was sent back, she did not appear in public. Some people said that it was because Shen Miao was actually very seriously injured, so she could not go out now. Some people said that it was because the Shen family wanted to protect Shen Miao well and did not let her out of the mansion, in case she encountered something similar.

No matter what, Shen Miao had returned home. It was just that no one had seen her with their own eyes.

At this moment, Shen Miao was standing in front of Luo Ling's room.

Luo Tan's words kept echoing in Shen Miao's ears. "Little Cousin, go and persuade Brother Ling. Although Brother Ling doesn't say it, we all know that he must be very sad. We're all clumsy and don't know how to comfort him. Little Cousin, you've read so many books and know what others are thinking the best. If you go and persuade Brother Ling, Brother Ling will probably listen to you. When we were in Xiaochun City, Brother Ling would listen to everything you said. This time, I beg you on behalf of the entire Luo family."

Shen Miao sighed in her heart and hesitated for a moment before knocking on the door.

"Who is it?" someone asked.

"It's me, Cousin Ling."

After a moment of silence, someone said, "Come in."

Shen Miao walked in with a bamboo basket in her hand. As soon as she entered the room, she placed the bamboo basket on the desk.

Luo Ling sat at the table with some books on it. His face was a little pale, and his hand was bandaged. He smiled at her and said, "Cousin, you're here."

As the eldest grandson of the Luo family, Luo Ling had been the gentlest and most stable among the four juniors since he was young. He was a true gentleman. Unlike Pei Lang, who was selfish and cold-blooded at heart, Luo Ling was a person who could give people the warmth they needed.

When Luo Ling found out that Shen Miao had returned safely, he was naturally happy for her, but he did not mention anything about his injured right hand. When he spoke during meals, he was laughing and smiling, as if he had never been injured. If he did not say anything, no one would dare to bring it up. However, the calmer Luo Ling was, the more uneasy people felt.

Luo Tan came to beg Shen Miao, hoping that she could persuade Luo Ling.

"I brought you some pastries." Shen Miao smiled and took out the plate containing the pastries from the bamboo basket. "I added cow milk and honey. It's probably good for your injury."

She was the first person to directly say "injury" to Luo Ling.

Luo Ling paused for a moment before saying with a smile, "But I just drank the medicine and can't eat it now. Cousin, leave it here. I'll try it later."

"You can't eat it." Shen Miao looked at him and asked, "Or you don't feel like eating it?"

Luo Ling's hand that was holding the book trembled slightly. Then, he looked up and smiled. "What do you mean? Are you angry because I didn't eat the pastry immediately?"

Shen Miao sat down opposite Luo Ling.

Luo Ling reminded her of someone, Wanyu.

Luo Ling was gentle and tolerant, and he would not take it to heart even if he was hard done by. This characteristic of his was almost the same as Wanyu. Back then, perhaps because Wanyu knew that Shen Miao wasn't favored by Fu Xiuyi, or perhaps because she understood the danger of life in the palace, she didn't have the arrogance of a pampered princess at all. Later, Consort Mei urged Fu Xiuyi to marry Wanyu to Xiongnu. Shen Miao was in so much pain that she wanted to die. Wanyu comforted her, "The grassland is not a bad place to be. I've never been to the grassland in my life. Mother, if I see anything new and interesting, I'll definitely write a letter to you to share it with you."