

## **Venomous 591**

### **Chapter 591 Giving a Beauty a Flower (2)**

However, today, there was someone in the boat frozen in the middle of the water.

Xie Changwu sat in the boat and rubbed his hands uneasily. Perhaps it was because he felt guilty, or perhaps it was because Xie Changchao said that Shen Xin's people were still investigating in the dark that he felt a little nervous, so he did not dare to light the stove to warm himself up. He was already wearing very heavy clothes, but it was still cold, especially when he was near the water.

Xie Changwu looked out of the boat and was a little anxious when he did not see anyone.

In the letter, Xie Changchao said that they would meet in the pleasure boat at Wanli Lake late at night. He said that the capital was infiltrated with Shen Xin's spies everywhere. It was even more dangerous outside. However, in winter, no one would go to Wanli Lake, so they would be safe. At that time, he would bring a few people and let Princess Ming An see Shen Miao being humiliated with her own eyes. Princess Ming An would naturally be happy. The wind on the lake was strong, and the restaurant closest to the lake was closed. No one would notice anything. They had the perfect condition to carry out the plan.

Xie Changwu was a little unwilling to come, but since Xie Changchao had already arranged everything, he could only accept it. However, as midnight approached, he still didn't see anyone coming. He could not help but be a little anxious.

Just as he was thinking, he heard a slight movement outside. Xie Changwu was startled. Then, he opened the window of the boat happily and saw a figure vaguely approaching from afar carrying something on his back. Xie Changwu thought that it must be Xie Changchao carrying Shen Miao. He heaved a sigh of relief and walked to the bow to receive him.

That person walked closer and closer. When he got closer, Xie Changwu felt that something was wrong. Xie Changchao was not as tall as this person, and his figure did not look like him. Xie Changwu felt uneasy and was about to retreat when he saw the other party light a match. A familiar voice sounded, "Xie Changwu, what are you doing!"

Xie Changwu looked over in shock and saw that it was a person who looked like a guard. On his back was Princess Ming An.

At this moment, Princess Ming An was clearly very unhappy.

The letter Xie Changwu sent her said that they would meet at Lake Wanli at midnight. The State of Qin was warm all year round, so she was not used to the freezing winter in Ming Qi, and now, her entire body was shivering from the cold. Afraid of being discovered by Huangfu Hao, Princess Ming An could only go out quietly at night with a few of her personal guards. However, the place Xie Changwu chose was on the pleasure boat, so she could only get a guard to carry her over and leave the others ashore. If not for the fact that she wanted to see Shen Miao suffer today, she would not force herself to do this. When she saw Xie Changwu, she immediately flew into rage and took her anger out on him.

Xie Changwu asked, "Your Highness, why are you here?"

“Xie Changwu, are you crazy?” Princess Ming An said angrily, “Didn’t you ask me to come over to witness Shen Miao being humiliated? What nonsense are you talking about now?”

Xie Changwu was a little puzzled. Although Xie Changchao’s letter indeed mentioned that he wanted to invite Princess Ming An over to watch the show, Xie Changwu was careful. He was afraid that something would happen halfway and Princess Ming An would be implicated. Moreover, the plan was not foolproof. If Princess Ming An came but Shen Miao wasn’t humiliated, wouldn’t Princess Ming An become even angrier? Therefore, Xie Changwu did not intend to invite Princess Ming An.

However, Princess Ming An appeared here now and said that Xie Changwu asked her to come. For some reason, Xie Changwu felt a strong sense of uneasiness.

Seeing the confusion on Xie Changwu’s face, Princess Ming An became even more angry and said, “Xie Changwu, are you playing with me?”

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“I wouldn’t dare.” Xie Changwu was sweating profusely and said, “It’s just that I really didn’t write a letter to you.”

When Princess Ming An heard this, she shouted angrily, “If you didn’t write a letter to me, explain to me why you’re here now. Just as the letter said, you’re going to give Shen Miao an unforgettable painful experience tonight. Why didn’t you tell me?”

Xie Changwu didn’t know what to say, but he was secretly surprised. That letter to Princess Ming An actually included everything he planned to do. Only he and Xie Changchao knew about the plan. If this letter was written by Xie Changchao to Princess Ming An, why would Xie Changchao do this? Xie Changwu forced a smile and said, “That’s indeed what I plan to do. It’s just that Shen Miao is in my brother’s hands now. I’m still waiting for him to show up.”

“Xie Changchao?” Princess Ming An frowned. “Aren’t you brothers together?”

Xie Changwu did not dare to say that Xie Changchao had been missing for many days, so he could only answer vaguely, “I’m afraid it will arouse suspicion, so my brother and I are acting separately.”

Princess Ming An did not suspect anything. She thought for a moment and asked, “You told me that the news that Shen Miao has returned to the Shen family these days is actually a scam plotted by Shen Xin and Princess Rong Xin. Is what you said true?”

Xie Changwu’s heart skipped a beat and he said, “That’s right.” In fact, Xie Changwu was not confident. After all, this was only Xie Changchao’s one-sided story. However, at this moment, he could only choose to believe in Xie Changchao. Xie Changwu did not suspect that the letter on his table was fake. After all, in the world, other than Xie Changwu, there was probably no one else who could imitate Xie Changchao’s handwriting. Moreover, it was impossible for others to know the secret code the two brothers used to communicate.

Princess Ming An rubbed her hands and shouted at Xie Changwu, “When is Xie Changchao coming over?”

Xie Changwu said, “He said he will come at midnight.”

“What time is it now?” Princess Ming An asked her personal guard, who replied, “It’s almost midnight.”

The snow outside was blowing. For some reason, Xie Changwu suddenly felt more and more uneasy. Looking at the dark night sky, his heart was beating extremely fast. He instinctively wanted to escape as if he had sensed danger approaching. He looked at Princess Ming An and asked tentatively, “Your highness, why don’t you go back first? If there’s any progress, I’ll tell you the next day.”

“Do you think I’ll let you order me around?” Princess Ming An flew into a rage. “I’ve already come personally. Xie Changwu, I can kill you at any time!”

Princess Ming An was so domineering and fierce that Xie Changwu could only force a smile and stop talking. At this moment, they heard the sound of footsteps outside. Princess Ming An looked happy and said, “They’re here!”

The two of them walked to the bow of the boat to take a look and saw a group of men in black suddenly appear on the frozen lake. These men in black were wrapped from head to toe, only revealing their eyes. Princess Ming An’s expression softened slightly and she said, “They did it quite secretly.” She threw a sweeping glance across the dozens of people and then frowned. “Where’s Shen Miao?”

These people in black were all men, and there were no signs of Shen Miao. Princess Ming An looked back at Xie Changwu with a frown. “What’s wrong with Xie Changchao?”

When Xie Changwu saw these ten or so people in black, he instinctively felt a chill run down his spine. They did not look like good people, not to mention that Xie Changwu didn’t see Xie Changchao among them.

Xie Changwu wanted to run, but in the snow, the surface of Lake Wanli was frozen. If he ran on the ice, he would slip. Moreover, the surface of the lake was quite big, and there was no place to hide. Escape was easier said than done. Xie Changwu shouted, “Who are you?”

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The men in black did not speak and only walked closer and closer to them. Princess Ming An finally realized that something was wrong and asked Xie Changwu, “Aren’t they Xie Changchao’s men?”

Xie Changwu panicked and did not know how to answer Princess Ming An’s question. He only said, “I didn’t see my brother.”

Princess Ming An yelled, “How dare you! Why don’t you kneel down when you see me?”

However, those people didn’t seem to hear anything and were still approaching. The guard beside Princess Ming An drew his sword and charged into the men in black to protect Princess Ming An. Princess Ming An finally understood that the men in black did not come with good intentions. She suddenly thought of something and looked at the shore. “Where are the other guards? Where are they?”

When Princess Ming An was brought over to the boat, she did not want anyone to hear her conversation with the Xie brothers, so she only brought one guard. However, the others did not leave either. They were supposed to be waiting a distance away from the pleasure boat. After hearing the shouts, they should have rushed over to help. Why was there no one at all?

Xie Changwu was also flustered just like Princess Ming An. He did not come alone today. He had planted some subordinates in the other two boats just in case something happened midway. But why was no one coming to his aide?

Princess Ming An's only guard was quickly thrown to the side by the man in black. Under the weak fire, blood spewed out of his throat and he was killed.

The wind on the lake howled, cutting their faces like knives. Even so, cold sweat still broke out on Princess Ming An and Xie Changwu's foreheads.

"Who are you?" Princess Ming An suppressed the fear in her heart and said, "I'm the princess of the State of Qin. If you leave now, I'll let bygones be bygones and spare your lives. If you don't leave, my brother, the crown prince, will hunt you down and kill all of you!"

For a moment, Xie Changwu wanted to curse Princess Ming An for being an idiot. She actually revealed her identity just like that. However, on second thought, what happened today was obviously a trap. The other party probably already knew Princess Ming An's identity. Otherwise, the letter Princess Ming An received would be difficult to explain.

But what could they do at this moment? Xie Changwu thought to himself. He couldn't possibly shout for help here. Not to mention whether he could be heard or not, even if he was really rescued, he wouldn't be able to explain why an official of Ming Qi was meeting the princess of the State of Qin secretly in the middle of the night.

At a loss of what to do, Xie Changwu forced himself to calm down. He looked at the men in black and sneered, "Conspiring to murder a princess of a country is a serious crime. If you're not afraid of death, you can give it a try. Have a taste of what it's like to be skinned alive."

Xie Changwu's words put Princess Ming An slightly at ease. She said, "That's right. My status is not something you can challenge. If you dare to touch me today, the royal family of the State of Qin will definitely find you and burn you to ashes!"

"Is that so?" A male voice suddenly sounded among the men in black.

The voice was low and hoarse, but it was as mellow as good wine in the winter, sounding extremely pleasant to the ear. Princess Ming An and Xie Changwu looked over and saw one of the men in black walking forward.

Because they were all dressed in black, Xie Changwu and Princess Ming An did not notice this man just now. Now, they felt that this man in black was a little different from others. Under the faint light of the candle, he was obviously taller and straighter. Even the clothes he was wearing could not hide the noble aura spreading out from him, as if he could be distinguished at a glance.

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"Who are you?" Princess Ming An said angrily, "Don't you know who I am? I'm the princess of the State of Qin. With a word from me, I can kill all of you!"

Hearing this, the man in black paused for a moment and chuckled. Even though his face was hidden by the cloth, Xie Changwu and Princess Ming An seemed to be able to see the mockery on his face through the cloth.

Princess Ming An's face turned red. She had never been looked down on like this before. However, she was a little puzzled. She felt that this person's voice was familiar, as if she had heard it somewhere before. She asked, "What are you laughing at?"

"I'm laughing at you for overestimating yourself."

"You!" Princess Ming An was furious.

"You are just a princess." The person's voice was pleasant, but his words were malicious. "If you die, you'll just be a pile of bones."

"How dare you!" Princess Ming An shouted.

"What can you do about it?" That person said calmly.

Princess Ming An was stunned. In a flash, she suddenly thought of someone. That person also had a mesmerizing voice. She looked up. His face was covered by a cloth, but his eyes were as intoxicating as wine.

"You are... Prince Rui!" Princess Ming An cried out.

Prince Rui? Xie Changwu suddenly looked at the man in black. He also felt that this man in black gave him a familiar feeling, as if he had seen him somewhere before. However, he did not expect him to be Prince Rui.

The man in black did not admit or deny it. Xie Changwu hesitated for a moment and asked, "Prince Rui, why are you here?"

No matter how hard Xie Changwu thought about it, he could not figure out why Prince Rui was here. After all, Prince Rui was not associated with him at all and did not seem to have anything to do with Princess Ming An either. Then why was he here? What did he want to do?

Ever since Princess Ming An recognized the person in front of her as Prince Rui, the fear from before dissipated. In the blink of an eye, her voice turned soft as she asked gently, "Prince Rui, why are you here so late at night?"

Xie Changwu felt that Princess Ming An was really stupid. Since he had already killed the guards they brought, he was obviously not here to chat with them. Moreover, Prince Rui gave off an extremely dangerous feeling. Xie Changwu's heart trembled.

Prince Rui ignored Princess Ming An and looked at Xie Changwu. "You seem to have something to ask me?"

Xie Changwu forced a smile and said, "Your Highness, have you seen my brother?"

That letter was written by Xie Changchao, but the person who came was Prince Rui. Could it be that Xie Changchao was kept in captivity by Prince Rui? What grudge did Xie Changchao have with Prince Rui?

The man in black smiled. "Yes."

Xie Changwu widened his eyes. "He..."

"I killed him."

As soon as he said that, Princess Ming An and Xie Changwu were stunned and couldn't help but shiver.

After a long pause, Xie Changwu asked, "Why does Prince Rui want to kill my brother?"

"He provoked someone he shouldn't have."

Provoked someone he shouldn't have? Xie Changwu was puzzled. Who? Could it be Shen Miao? The only person Xie Changchao had offended now was Shen Miao. However, why did Prince Rui stand up for Shen Miao? What kind of relationship did Prince Rui have with the Shen family? Xie Changwu felt as if he had seen the tip of the iceberg of a shocking secret, but because he couldn't see the full picture, his mind was in a mess.

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"Prince Rui, why are you here?" Princess Ming An finally came back to senses from the shock of Xie Changchao's death. She seemed to have finally sensed the danger under the night sky. Her heart was beating abnormally fast.

The man's voice was as gentle and calm as the breeze, but it was also like the snow falling from the sky on Lake Wanli. It looked beautiful, but it made people shiver. He said, "Surrounded by such beautiful scenery, isn't this place very suitable for a burial ground?"

Xie Changwu asked, "Why would you do this? I have no grudge against you. Can't you let us go?" Knowing that Prince Rui was here to take his life but he had no way out, Xie Changwu finally couldn't hold back the fear in his heart and shouted.

"No grudge?" Prince Rui seemed to have heard a joke and said, "You're really forgetful."

"Xie Changwu, all these years, you haven't improved at all, just like your stupid brother," he said.

Then he slowly pulled off the cloth on his face.

The boat was only dimly lit by the candle, but when this man revealed his face, he was as dazzling as the bright sun. His thin lips curled up into a mocking smile as usual. He looked at the two of them with a hint of disdain in his eyes.

He was the nightmare of Xie Changwu's life.

"Xie Jingxing!"

Princess Ming An was engrossed in this man's charming face. She was thinking to herself that Prince Rui's face under the mask was as mesmerizing as the rumors said, but her thoughts were suddenly interrupted by Xie Changchao's hysteric shout.

Xie Jingxing? Wasn't that the son of the Xie family who died on the battlefield two years ago?

"It's good that you still remember me." Xie Jingxing smiled, but his originally handsome smile was especially terrifying in Xie Changchao's eyes. He turned around and was about to run. It was an instinctive reaction, just like how prey would react when it was in danger.

His body was pressed down, and his mouth was gagged. He could not move at all. Princess Ming An was also treated the same.

The pleasure boat was stuck in the middle of Lake Wanli. At midnight, the street was empty. The tavern in the distance was still lit up, filled with singing and dancing. However, what happened on this side went unnoticed.

Xie Changchao and Princess Ming An were held down by the men in black and watched helplessly as the person in the lead turned around and walked out of the boat.

Even on the ice, his walking was steady and graceful, and his voice was as cold as the winter ice that chilled people to the bone.

"Game is over."

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Shen Miao woke up with a start from her dream.

For some reason, her sleep tonight had been restless. At this moment, she simply got out of bed. There was no sound outside, so it must be late at night.

She rubbed her forehead and felt a pain in her head, but she could not fall asleep no matter what. The fire in the room was burning very brightly, but she had a heavy feeling in her chest. After thinking for a moment, she grabbed a cloak and casually draped it over her shoulders. She walked to the window and opened it, wanting to breathe some fresh air.

The window was opened, and the trees in front of the window were swaying. It was still snowing outside, and large patches of snowflakes were falling. Shen Miao stretched out a hand and watched as the snowflakes gradually landed and melted in her palm.

For some reason, she felt a little lonely.

On such a night, unable to sleep, she could not help but think of some things from her previous life, such as Wanyu and Fu Ming.

A small flower fell from the sky and landed in Shen Miao's palm. Shen Miao was stunned. With the help of the lantern hanging on the tree, she could see clearly that it was not a snowflake, but a red begonia.

In this season, how could there be begonias? This tree did not grow begonias.

Shen Miao subconsciously looked up and saw a person lying on the tree. His hands were behind his head, and he looked comfortable. Seeing that she was looking at him, he lowered his head slightly and looked down at her. He had a handsome face and a playful smile. He raised his eyebrows and said, "What are you looking at?"

Shen Miao asked, "What are you doing here?"

Why was Xie Jingxing sleeping on a tree in someone else's courtyard for no reason?

"I can't sleep." The person sighed and suddenly jumped down from the tree, landing in front of Shen Miao. Separated by the window, one person was outside and the other was inside. He pouted at Shen Miao's palm. "I wanted to send you a flower, but I was afraid that you were sleeping, so I waited for you to wake up on the tree."

What nonsense! Shen Miao thought to herself and rolled her eyes at him. Although he was smiling, he did not look like his usual self today.

For some reason, Shen Miao blurted out, "Come in. There are leftover pastries on the table."

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The tea and pastries were cold, but the arrogant and handsome young man did not mind it at all.

Shen Miao adjusted the wick on the table and noticed that Xie Jingxing's clothes seemed to be wet, as if he had just returned from outside. She asked, "Were you outside the entire night?"

Shen Miao did not believe that someone as high and noble as Prince Rui would be so bored as to do that.

Xie Jingxing smiled indifferently. "Didn't you ask me to kill Princess Ming An?"

Shen Miao was stunned. She looked at Xie Jingxing and asked tentatively, "Did you kill her?"

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"That's not all."

Shen Miao stopped talking. She had actually seen what Xie Jingxing was capable of. Two years ago, when Xie Jingxing was still the young marquis of the Marquis of Lin'an, he effortlessly dealt with those masked people who appeared out of nowhere to kidnap Shen Miao at the Lantern Festival. Two years later, in the secret room of the Marquis Residence, he killed Xie Changchao without leaving a trace. In fact, at some times, Shen Miao thought that Xie Jingxing had some qualities befitting an emperor. However, Xie Jingxing and Fu Xiuyi were different people. It was probably because in order to get the throne, Fu Xiuyi was willing to put on a show and endure it for many years, but Xie Jingxing would arrogantly confront and kill anyone who got in his way.

Perhaps this was the blood of the royal family of the Daliang Dynasty.

Shen Miao thought for a moment and shook her head. What did the Daliang Dynasty have to do with her? She looked at Xie Jingxing and was suddenly in a daze. Since when did she start regarding Xie Jingxing as one of her people? Did she really take him as her ally?

She asked, "What did you do to her?" How was Xie Jingxing going to deal with Princess Ming An? Shen Miao actually had a little anticipation in her heart. This anticipation carried a little malice. Shen Miao was not a pure and kind woman who could not stand the sight of blood. Moreover, facing a ruthless person like Princess Ming An, Shen Miao would not show any mercy.



"Are you that excited?" Xie Jingxing looked at her in amusement and said lazily, "You'll know tomorrow."

"What about Xie Changwu?"

Xie Jingxing even killed Princess Ming An, so there was no reason for him to let Xie Changwu off.

As expected, Xie Jingxing said, "I killed him."

"Aren't you afraid that the Marquis of Lin'an will be sad when he finds out?" Shen Miao looked at him and asked.

The fire was burning brightly in the room. Xie Jingxing picked up the teacup and took a sip. His thin lips were moistened by the tea and looked a little red. However, his smile was as casual as ever as he said, "What does the family matter of the Marquis of Lin'an have to do with me?"

It was a cold remark, but Shen Miao could tell from the young man's faint smile that he was mocking himself. Her heart skipped a beat.

From the moment he made a move on the Xie brothers, Xie Jingxing was fated to be enemies with the Marquis of Lin'an. Although they were not biological father and son, was Xie Jingxing really as heartless as he looked on the surface, or was he just hiding all his emotions through the casual smile on his face?

Everyone in the world had secrets that they did not want to tell. Shen Miao had no way of knowing what Xie Jingxing was thinking. On this cold winter night, when it was snowing heavily, Xie Jingxing climbed to the tree outside Shen Miao's window. Was he really just here to send a flower? Or was he like Shen Miao, plagued by nightmares and unable to sleep, wanting to find a quiet corner to seek a peace of mind?

## Chapter 597 Asking for A Kiss (2)

In that case, the two of them really had something in common.

Shen Miao suddenly found Xie Jingxing a little more tolerable.

When Xie Jingxing saw her gaze, he was slightly stunned. Then, he said, "What kind of gaze is that? Sympathy for me?"

Shen Miao smiled. "I can't even protect myself. What right do I have to sympathize with others? Prince Rui is someone who can do whatever he wants. Why do you need me to sympathize with you?" Shen Miao said with a hint of mockery. Perhaps even she did not realize that her words actually made Xie Jingxing feel better.

Xie Jingxing raised his eyebrows and glanced at Shen Miao. Suddenly, he placed his hands on the table and leaned closer to Shen Miao. He smiled and said, "You don't have to belittle yourself. You are my ally, so naturally you are above most people." His voice seemed to be deliberately lowered, carrying a trace of warmth. He said slowly, "Of course, if you're my woman, you will have everything you want in this world."

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His eyebrows were extremely beautiful. In her previous life, Shen Miao had seen countless handsome men in the palace, but she had never seen such a good-looking one. It was not just his exterior that made him shine, but more so because of the innate elegance that he exuded through his every move. When he stared at people carefully, he would give them the illusion that in this world, there wasn't a third person.

His gaze landed on Shen Miao's lips and slowly lowered his head.

The shadows, one tall and one petite, intertwined under the flickering light.

Shen Miao's heart palpitated and she subconsciously pushed Xie Jingxing away. She probably felt that her action was too abrupt and clumsy, so she picked up the cold tea in front of her and took a sip. However, she forgot that Xie Jingxing had just drunk from this cup. She coughed lightly and turned her head away from his face, but her face slowly began to redden.

Xie Jingxing fell back down on the chair from Shen Miao's push. When he looked up, he saw Shen Miao hurriedly bringing tea over to her mouth to drink. The displeasure from just now was gone, and he suddenly found it funny.

He said lazily, "Hey."

Shen Miao did not look at him and lowered her head to look at the shadow on the ground. The smile in Xie Jingxing's eyes deepened, and he deliberately teased, "Are you telling me you are being shy?"

Shen Miao suddenly raised her head and glared at him.

However, even this angry glare made her look soft because of the warm light in the room. Unlike her usual dignified self, at this moment, she was embarrassed and angry. Her fair face was slightly red, as if she was drunk, making her look even more charming. Suddenly, she reminded Xie Jingxing of that winter night two years ago. She was wearing an inner robe with her long hair draped over her shoulder. She was drunk and muttered that she wanted to see fireworks.

Xie Jingxing smiled and said, "Shen Miao."

"What is it?" Shen Miao was filled with anger. If he got tough on her or played some tricks, Shen Miao would be able to handle him calmly. However, Xie Jingxing teased her like he was teasing a little girl. This was outrageous, but Shen Miao didn't know what to do. In her previous life, the people she interacted with were all old-fashioned people who adhered to the palace rules and etiquette. She had never encountered someone as arrogant and unruly as Xie Jingxing.

Chapter 598 Asking for A Kiss (3)

"You're drinking from my teacup," Xie Jingxing reminded her.

Shen Miao subconsciously looked down and was so embarrassed that she wanted to leave the room. She suddenly felt that letting Xie Jingxing into the room tonight was the biggest mistake she had made!

"Are you shy?" Xie Jingxing seemed to like to see her embarrassed and continued to get close to her.

"It's getting late." Shen Miao said seriously, "Aren't you leaving?"

Xie Jingxing did not speak and just stared at her for a while. His gaze was sharp and deep, and ordinary people could not withstand it. Shen Miao forced herself to be calm and looked into his eyes. A moment later, Xie Jingxing stood up and said, "Forget it. Since you're shy, I won't disturb you anymore."

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He walked to the window and Shen Miao stood up. Xie Jingxing opened the window, and the cold wind outside blew in, causing Shen Miao to shiver.

"It's cold outside. There's no need to send me off." Xie Jingxing said, "Thank you for letting me in. The tea is good, and the pastries are not bad." With an agile jump, he was already in the courtyard outside the window.

Shen Miao walked over and was about to close the window when she saw the handsome purple-robed young man suddenly turn around as if he had thought of something and smile gently.

"By the way, you are quite cute when you are shy."

Shen Miao slammed the window shut.

She shouldn't have been soft-hearted to let him in! This person was too shameless!

After Shen Miao closed the window, she sat back on the bed and looked at the oil lamp at the head of the bed. It was so weak that it was about to go out. However, her eyes were abnormally bright and shiny, like top-grade pearls and gems, shining brightly in the dark.

She thought to herself that if it were in her previous life, what Xie Jingxing just did was punishable by death. She could scold him and get someone to drag him out to behead him, but in this life, she was teased but couldn't even talk back.

But why did she feel embarrassed?

Under the flickering light, with his head slightly lowered, she could almost see every one of his long eyelashes. His eyes were even more charming than the moonlight, and his lips were thin and cold...

Shen Miao suddenly came back to her senses and slapped her forehead. She must have been too tired these days, so she was out of her mind. Women would be attracted to a good-looking person like Xie Jingxing. It was normal. However, she could not calm her heartbeat. When she lay on the bed, the corners of her lips subconsciously curled up slightly.

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The winter in the capital was especially cold. The people who lived close to the emperor, even if they were just ordinary people, probably felt proud. They felt that they were different from ordinary people in other places and were more superior, let alone the officials and nobles. Therefore, every winter, people would wake up late. Other than the vendors who had to get up early to set up stalls on the street, ordinary people preferred to stay in their rooms to get warm.

It had snowed heavily all night yesterday, and it was extremely cold outside. Fortunately, the snow stopped early this morning, so people didn't mind going out. When it was slightly later, the streets gradually became more crowded.

After snowing for an entire night, the surface of the lake had already frozen into hard ice. The old men who liked fishing refused to come at this moment because it was difficult to even dig a hole in such hard ice. It was better to come when the weather was warmer.

Although there were fewer people fishing at Lake Wanli, there was a group of playful children. The surface of the lake was shiny, and children liked to sit on a piece of plank and skate on the ice. Most of these playful children were the children of the vendors on the street. Their mothers scolded them for dirtying their new jackets like this and were afraid that the ice would suddenly shatter. However, children at this age would not listen to their mothers obediently. They still secretly gathered around Lake Wanli to play.

#### Chapter 599 Asking for A Kiss (4)

It was the same today.

A few children who looked to be five or six years old walked towards the center of Lake Wanli with wooden planks in their arms. The surface of the lake was very slippery, so the children could only walk carefully. It was fine if they slipped, but if the ice wetted their new clothes, they would definitely be scolded by their mothers later, so they walked especially slowly.

When they finally reached the center of Lake Wanli, the children put down the planks in their hands and sat on it to skate. A little girl in a flower coat walked further with the piece of plank in her arms. She was about to walk further when she suddenly stopped.

“Chun, what are you doing standing there?” The older boy couldn’t help but ask when he saw his sister standing there in a daze.

“Brother.” The girl called Chun pointed ahead. “That ice sculpture is so strange.”

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...

There were exquisite restaurants in the south of the city, so there were naturally some ordinary shops. Most of the owners of these shops had some savings and were considered affluent. Because the shops were located in the south of the city, they were very busy most of the time.

Usually, the owners of the shops were busy with their own things. When they were not busy, they always liked to sit together and chat. Today, probably because it was a little early, not many customers came. The owners of the nearby shops gathered in front of the door to talk.

As they spoke, a few children ran over at the same time, all of them panting. These children were the children of the shop owners in this area and usually played together. The female shop owner who was selling rouge looked at them and suddenly frowned. She said angrily, “Dong, are you taking Chun to Lake Wanli again? The new cotton jacket I made for Chun yesterday is all wet. Are you itching for a beating?”

As she spoke, the other shop owners beside her started to reproach their children too. This group of children looked like a mess. Their clothes were torn and wet, and their bodies were all dirty. Some of them even lost a shoe, as if they were rushing back from somewhere.

The boy called Dong burst into tears and said, “Wanli Lake... There’s someone at Wanli Lake...”

When everyone heard that, they were stunned at first. A middle-aged man in a cloth gown said, "Oh no, did a child fall into the water?"

There were cases of children drowning in Lake Wanli all year round. It was fewer in winter, but it was not unheard of. There was once a child who fell into the water and died while playing on the ice. As soon as the man said that, everyone's expressions changed. The female shop owner who sold rouge was a warm-hearted person. She stomped her feet anxiously. "Then what are we waiting for? Let's go and take a look first. We're all neighbors. Let's go and take a look!"

Everyone agreed and ran towards the lake with the female shop owner.

When they arrived at Lake Wanli, they were stunned. Other than the children who usually came to play, there were already many people around the cold lake. Most of them were actually walking towards the center of the lake.

"Did... someone fall into the water?" The female shop owner muttered.

If a tragedy happened, some people would go up to help while some people would stand by and watch the show, but there were not so many people walking towards the center of the lake. Especially among the people, many of them were rich young masters in gorgeous clothes, which was a little unusual. It was not that rich people were bad, but in this world, it was common for rich people to ignore the affairs of ordinary people. Now... When did these rich people become so enthusiastic?

#### Chapter 600 Asking for A Kiss (5)

At this moment, people on the lake continued to march towards the center. Cai Lin was so cold that he was trembling all over. Although he was already wearing extremely thick clothes and a fur cloak, the lake had always been much colder than the ground. The ice under his feet kept sending chills up his spines.

"What's on the lake?" Cai Lin asked his friends, who usually hung out with him, "Why are people gathering here?"

Cai Lin originally planned to go to the casino to play today, but his friend said that there was a huge commotion at Wanli Lake and insisted on dragging him here.

"Actually, I don't know either." The person said, "But I heard from my servant that there's something shocking, so I brought you along to take a look. Hehe." He leaned closer to Cai Lin and whispered, "Usually, we only hear about corpses in plays and books. Today, we'll be able to see a real corpse."

"A corpse?" Cai Lin was shocked and quickly said, "I'm not going." Although he usually liked to seek novelty, he was still a little timid, even more so after being taught a lesson by Shen Miao.

The friend refused to back down and said, "We're already here. It won't hurt to take a look. What are you afraid of?"

Cai Lin couldn't stand being goaded the most and immediately said, "Why would I be afraid? I'll go with you now! I want to see what it is that makes you so excited."

The two of them had already walked most of the way and were very close to the center of the lake. When they walked to the center, there were already many people. Cai Lin and his friend squeezed into the crowd and his friend pointed at something in the middle. "Look, there it is!"

Cai Lin looked up.

The winter in the capital was freezing, especially recently. As long as a bucket of water was placed outside, it would definitely turn into a bucket of ice the next day. As long as something was wet, such as branches and eaves, it would definitely be covered in ice after a night.

In the center of Lake Wanli were three standing "ice sculptures".

In fact, it was not accurate to say that it was an ice sculpture. In the three human-shaped ice cubes, one could clearly see the appearance of people inside the ice cubes. It was precisely because of this that people could tell that this was not something carefully carved by a skilled sculptor, but three real living people, or rather, people who had been frozen to death and frozen into ice sculptures before they died.

What made people click their tongues in amazement was their posture.

In the middle was obviously a woman. Her clothes were unbuttoned, revealing more than half of her snow-white body. The man beside her was reaching out to unbutton her undergarment, and the man behind her was holding the woman's waist with both hands. The woman raised her head and leaned against the man behind her. Her expression and posture were erotic, making people's imagination run wild. Most of the people who surrounded this ice sculpture were men. Some were commoners, and some were rich young men. Even if it was a corpse, she was still a beautiful woman. Moreover, this ice sculpture was lifelike. Not only did it not make people feel afraid, but it also made people feel stimulated.

The truth was ignored.