

Venomous 611

Chapter 611 Forced Marriage (4)

Shen Yue's eyes lit up. She pounced forward and hugged Shen Dongling, thanking her repeatedly, looking like she was really grateful. However, in a place where Shen Dongling couldn't see, a smug smile appeared on Shen Yue's face.

"But Second Sister, it's better to plan it out well." Shen Dongling said, "After all, the marriage swap is not a small matter. Once it's exposed, we won't have a good time."

Shen Yue let go of Shen Dongling and said excitedly, "Of course. Don't worry, Third Sister. Since you help me out, I will definitely explain to my parents that I force you to do this. I won't let them blame you or punish you."

Shen Dongling smiled. "Second Sister, I believe in you."

The night was as dark as ink. When Shen Dongling returned to her bedroom in Rosy Cloud Garden, Concubine Wan was already asleep. She sneaked out while Concubine Wan was sleeping, and Concubine Wan thought that Shen Dongling had already gone to bed.

Shen Dongling's maid, Xing Hua, asked, "Miss, are you really going to marry Young Master Wang for Second Miss?"

"Why not?" Shen Dongling watched as Xing Hua closed the door. She sat on the couch, picked up the teacup in front of her, and took a sip, revealing a smile. She said, "The Wang family is an official family to begin with. Wang Bi will have a bright official career ahead of him. With my background, it's impossible for me to marry him in this life. Since I have this opportunity, I'll be a fool not to hold on to it."

"In that case," Xing Hua smiled, "Second Miss did you a favor."

"A favor?" Shen Dongling smiled mockingly. "Do you really think she will be that kind?"

The maid was stunned and said in confusion, "Miss, you mean..."

"You have to know that on the day of the wedding when this matter is exposed, the first thing Shen Yue will do is to frame me. She will definitely act innocently and tell everyone that it's me who steals the marriage from her. Even if the second branch knows the truth, in order to not make the Wang family their enemy, they will still say that it's my doing. As for Old Madam Shen..." Shen Dongling sneered. "In her eyes, a concubine's daughter is naturally not as important as the legitimate daughter. No matter what, I'm the one who will be sacrificed."

A look of disbelief appeared on Xing Hua's face as she said, "But Second Miss said that she would stand up for you and not let you take the blame..."

"Is Shen Yue such a kind-hearted person?" Shen Dongling shook her head and smiled. "Everyone in this family is selfish. If she was really so kind, she wouldn't have asked me to marry in her place."

"In that case," Xing Hua asked, "Miss, are you still going to marry in her place? What if all the blame was pinned on you in the end?"

Shen Dongling smiled indifferently. "Don't worry. Since I agreed to marry in her place, I naturally have made all the necessary preparations. Xing Hua, remember, everyone in the Shen family is like wolves, tigers, and leopards. It's better to rely on yourself than on others. Fifth Sister made a good move to leave this place. Therefore, once I have the chance, I won't be reluctant to leave here."

Xing Hua nodded in understanding. Suddenly, she thought of something and asked, "Should we tell your mother about this?"

"There's no need." Shen Dongling shook her head. "My mother is timid and will definitely not agree. I'll tell her after it becomes a done deal."

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Only then did Xing Hua leave.

Coincidentally, in the Autumn Water Garden of the Shen family, someone was also talking about Shen Yue's marriage.

"Yue hasn't eaten all day. It's not good for her body." The person who spoke was Shen Wan. Shen Yue was the apple in his eyes. If not for the fact that Shen Yue was always thinking about someone she shouldn't be thinking about, Shen Wan wouldn't have punished her like this.

"She won't eat the food I sent over." Chen Ruoqiu sighed and said, "I asked Third Miss to send the food to her. I don't know if she has eaten it or not."

"Third Sister?" Shen Wan frowned. "When did Yue get so close to her?" In Shen Wan's eyes, Shen Dongling was the daughter of a concubine after all. It was not appropriate for Shen Yue to be on good terms with Shen Dongling, so he was not very happy to hear that.

Chen Ruoqiu smiled and said, "They only became close a few days ago. Before, Yue could talk to Qing, but now that Qing is gone, Yue has no one to talk to and is quite lonely. I think Third Miss is an honest girl. If Yue likes her, just let them hang out together."

Shen Wan did not say anything else. Chen Ruoqiu continued, "I'm just worried that what if Yue kicks up a fuss on the day of the wedding?"

"Just lock her up for a few days, and she'll learn. You're her mother. When the time comes, you can say something nice to her." Shen Wan said, "If she won't listen, we'll think of a way to make her listen."

Chen Ruoqiu's heart skipped a beat when she heard that. Shen Wan had always been gentle in front of her, but today, Chen Ruoqiu actually heard a trace of impatience in Shen Wan's words. She thought about how Old Madam Shen had been wanting to take in concubines for Shen Wan these days and felt even more uneasy. She hugged Shen Wan's waist from behind and said, "After Yue gets married, let's relax for a few days. These days, we don't talk much and I feel distanced from you."

Although Chen Ruoqiu was not young anymore, because she took good care of herself and had some tricks to keep Shen Wan interested, Shen Wan would usually be intimate with her when she acted coquettishly. Unexpectedly, today, Shen Wan only patted her hand and said flatly. "Let's talk about that after Yue's marriage is over."

His tone was perfunctory.

Chen Ruoqiu's heart gradually sank, and her grip on Shen Wan's waist slowly loosened.

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Shen Miao received a letter from Pei Lang.

Under the candlelight, Shen Miao finished reading the letter. The letter said that Fu Xiuyi seemed to have discovered that she had something to do with Prince Rui. In order to test the waters, he deliberately led Huangfu Hao to believe that she was involved in the matter concerning Princess Ming An. In the future, if Huangfu Hao made a move on Shen Miao, once Prince Rui stood up for her, their relationship would be in danger of being discovered.

Shen Miao did not expect Fu Xiuyi to find out about this so quickly. However, she thought about it and was no longer surprised. After being husband and wife with Fu Xiuyi for so many years, she knew that Fu Xiuyi was good at picking up clues from here and there. Moreover, if Fu Xiuyi wasn't so quick-witted, he would not be the one taking the throne eventually.

However, Shen Miao was not very worried because Huangfu Hao was not an impulsive person. Moreover, the Shen family was involved, so Huangfu Hao would not do anything rash. At least, he had to investigate carefully.

At the end of the letter, Pei Lang added that if Shen Miao was really friends with Prince Rui and was in trouble, she could ask him for help. Prince Rui had many capable people under him, so it would not be a problem for him to pull the strings.

Shen Miao felt that the last sentence was a little strange. Pei Lang and Xie Jingxing had nothing to do with each other. More importantly, with Pei Lang's cautious personality, it was really strange for him to ask Shen Miao to seek help from Prince Rui. However, this was undoubtedly Pei Lang's letter. Shen Miao thought for a moment and could not figure out why, so she did not dwell on it. She threw the letter into the flame of the heater and instantly turned it to ashes.

Chapter 613 Forced to Marry (6)

There was a bright red letter on the table. It was an invitation from the Shen family. Shen Yue was going to marry Wang Bi, the son of Minister Counsellor. She did not know what the people of the Shen family were thinking, but they sent this invitation to the first branch. Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan took a look and did not care. Shen Miao naturally couldn't be bothered with it. However, she did not think that Shen Yue would end up marrying Wang Bi.

In her previous life, Shen Yue was so obsessed with Fu Xiuyi that she did not hesitate to remain single for so many years just for him. How could Shen Yue be willing to marry someone in this life?

As she was thinking, she heard someone knocking on the window. She turned around and saw that Xie Jingxing had come uninvited again.

He looked at the red letter in Shen Miao's hand and raised an eyebrow. "You are attending?"

Xie Jingxing probably also knew about Shen Yue and Wang Bi's marriage. In order to prove that their daughter was also very precious, Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Wan would definitely hold a grand banquet. In

addition, the minister counselor knew many court officials and many of them were on good terms with him, so perhaps everyone in the capital knew about it now.

"No." Shen Miao threw the red letter on the table.

Xie Jingxing seemed to have expected her to say that. With a jump through the window, he was already in the room. Shen Miao sat down at the table. Xie Jingxing stood at the side with his arms crossed and said, "Shen Yue is locked up in the ancestral hall. Shen Dongling just went to check in on her."

Shen Miao looked at Xie Jingxing in surprise. After a moment of hesitation, she asked, "You even went to the Shen mansion?" Why did Xie Jingxing, the mighty Prince Rui, do all these sneaky things?

Xie Jingxing chuckled and said, "Of course it's not me who went."

Shen Miao understood that Xie Jingxing probably sent his subordinates to spy on the movement of the Shen family. However, she felt a little strange. The people in the Shen family had nothing to do with Xie Jingxing. Why did Xie Jingxing ask people to keep an eye on the Shen family? Could it be for her?

"Aren't you happy that Shen Yue is getting married?" Xie Jingxing asked.

"The people in the Shen family have nothing to do with me. Why do I have to be happy for her?" Shen Miao said, "Besides, whether she will eventually get married or not is unknown. What's there to be happy about?"

Xie Jingxing smiled and sat down opposite Shen Miao. He looked at her and said, "You seem to have predicted something."

"Didn't you come over to tell me that Shen Dongling went to see Shen Yue because you wanted to tell me a message?" Shen Miao smiled indifferently. "Shen Dongling will marry in place of Shen Yue. Shen Yue is lucky that Shen Dongling is there to help. With Shen Dongling around, nothing will go wrong this time."

In the Shen family, Shen Miao had never known what role Shen Dongling played. In her previous life, Shen Miao did not pay much attention to her. Ever since she was reborn, she understood things better. Shen Dongling was actually very similar to a person. Shen Dongling was very similar to Fu Xiuyi and was also good at enduring in silence. Everyone in the Shen family thought that Shen Dongling was a concubine's daughter who could be manipulated at will. She seemed to have a good temper. However, she managed to survive under Ren Wanyun's suppression. From the looks of it, in the entire second branch, only Shen Dongling and Concubine Wan were the winners.

Shen Miao did not dare to underestimate such a person.

Xie Jingxing smiled. "How did you know she is going to marry in Shen Yue's place?"

"Because Shen Yue is unwilling." Shen Miao said, "Shen Yue doesn't want to marry Wang Bi. Unfortunately, Chen Ruoqiu has already made this marriage a done deal with the Wang family. This is a forced marriage. Shen Yue has always been proud and arrogant, and everything has been going her way since she was young. How can she accept such an arrangement? It's not entirely a coincidence that Shen Dongling showed up at this moment. One wants to escape the Shen family, and the other wants to escape the marriage. It's an excellent deal."

As Xie Jingxing listened to Shen Miao, he smiled lazily. He seemed to enjoy hearing Shen Miao analyze her opponents. He found Shen Miao's serious expression interesting.

He said, "Forced marriage? With Wang Bi's background, he is totally worthy of Shen Yue."

"Unfortunately, Shen Yue has someone else she likes." Shen Miao sneered. "Shen Yue is a stubborn person. She won't change her mind. In order to marry her sweetheart, she will think of a way."

"What about you?" Xie Jingxing suddenly asked.

Shen Miao frowned.

Xie Jingxing said casually, "If you're forced to marry someone one day, what will you do?"

Chapter 614 Marriage Exchange (1)

"If you're forced to marry one day, what will you do?"

Shen Miao was slightly stunned. Forced to marry? In her previous life, she wasn't forced to marry, but she forced her parents to let her marry Fu Xiuyi. She had never thought of what she would do if she was forced to marry. At this moment, Xie Jingxing's question made Shen Miao think of something else.

As the first branch of the Shen family returned to the capital, not to mention that Emperor Wen Hui returned the military power to Shen Xin, even the Luo army far away in Spring City was no longer a negligible presence. Not only did the first branch of the Shen family not gradually decline because they were far from the capital, but they also became stronger. The Shen family was like a fat piece of meat. Among the princes, whoever was tied to the Shen family would have a chance to win.

How could they be tied to the Shen family? Marriage was the quickest way.

The marriage with Shen Qiu or Shen Miao became a way for people to be associated with the Shen family. The only difference was that Shen Qiu was a man, so he could wait for a few years. However, Shen Miao was a woman. If her marriage was postponed for too long, people would inevitably gossip.

If one day, she became a bargaining chip in the competition for the throne and was fought over by the princes and forced to marry, what would she do?

Xie Jingxing stared at her, his gaze as sharp as a knife.

"That day won't come," Shen Miao said.

"If it comes, what will you do?" Xie Jingxing did not let her off and insisted on asking Shen Miao.

Shen Miao thought for a moment and said, "Then I'll fight. If I can win, they'll back away. If I can't, marrying someone isn't necessarily a bad thing."

Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow. "Not a bad thing?"

"I have to live, right?" Shen Miao said indifferently, "After I marry him, I'll think of a way to take revenge. There are many things in the world that are outside your control. Do you expect me to hang myself to death? As long as I am alive, there will always be a chance to turn the tables."

What happened in the harem in her previous life made Shen Miao understand that death was the most despairing thing. Once she died, it meant that everything would be settled and there would be no turning back. She often thought that if she did not die just like that in her previous life, it was still unknown who would win in the end. Perhaps she would still lose, but perhaps she would win and avenge the entire first branch of the Shen family as well as Wanyu and Fu Ming.

Xie Jingxing stared at Shen Miao.

She was like a plant, full of vigor, like the weeds that grew in the winter. She would never lose hope even in the worst environment. Even if she was in the least advantageous position, she could still climb to the position she wanted bit by bit. Her goal was clear, but it was also mysterious.

She did not look like a 16-year-old girl.

Xie Jingxing smiled faintly. "You look like a member of the Shen family."

Shen Miao did not speak. Xie Jingxing continued, "I'll be away for the next few days. Be careful. If you are in trouble, go to the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop to look for Ji Yushu. Gao Yang is my man. You can trust him."

Shen Miao paused for a moment. She naturally knew that Gao Yang was Xie Jingxing's man who could even be considered his trusted aide. However, although she knew that, Shen Miao never revealed it. Even if Gao Yang was instructed by Xie Jingxing to save Luo Tan that day, Shen Miao pretended not to know. She knew that there was a line she shouldn't cross. Even if Xie Jingxing was not hostile to her now, it did not mean that he was happy with her knowing so much.

However, now that Xie Jingxing took the initiative to tell her that Gao Yang was his man, it meant that he really treated Shen Miao as one of his people.

Chapter 615 Marriage Exchange (2)

Just because they were allies on the surface, they could be completely honest with each other? Why did Xie Jingxing think that she would not betray him?

Xie Jingxing did not notice the surprise on Shen Miao's face. He said, "Huangfu Hao might find trouble with you. Leave what you can't solve to Gao Yang."

Shen Miao had an inexplicably strange feeling. She felt... like her husband was reminding her to be careful before he left home. Shen Miao was shocked by her thoughts and said in a panic, "Got it."

Xie Jingxing was a little puzzled by Shen Miao's panicked reaction, but he did not ask about it. He said a few more words and left.

After Xie Jing left, Shen Miao sat under the candlelight and inexplicably felt her cheeks burning. Every time she spoke to Xie Jingxing these few days, she felt that something was wrong.

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Xie Jingxing left Shen Miao's place and returned to his mansion. He happened to see Gao Yang and Ji Yushu there, feeding the white tiger. Xie Jingxing glanced at him and said unhappily, "Stop feeding it."

"Jiaojiao likes it," Ji Yushu said.

The veins on Xie Jingxing's forehead twitched. "Don't call it by its name."

Ji Yushu immediately felt a chill running down his spine. He stood up and silently retreated to the side.

Gao Yang was used to Xie Jingxing doting on this white tiger very much, but only Ji Yushu was bold enough to play with it all day long. He walked to Xie Jingxing's side and said, "Everything is set."

"I'll set off tomorrow." Xie Jingxing glanced at him. "While I'm gone, I'll leave the matters in the capital to you."

Gao Yang looked at him. "Don't worry, I'll definitely help you keep Fifth Miss Shen safe."

"But not in a too obvious way," Xie Jingxing said indifferently.

Gao Yang was speechless. Xie Jingxing was really too fickle. For example, yesterday, Pei Lang wrote a letter to Shen Miao, the gist of which was that he wanted Shen Miao to be wary of Huangfu Hao and Fu Xiuyi. In the end, he reminded Shen Miao to stay away from Xie Jingxing. Xie Jingxing asked Gao Yang to copy Pei Lang's handwriting and write a new letter. What was even more unbelievable was that Xie Jingxing erased the last sentence in the letter and asked Gao Yang to add that if Shen Miao was in any trouble, she could look to Prince Rui for help.

"I understand." Gao Yang waved his fan and said, "In other words, if she causes a mess, I'll clean it up. If she kills someone, I'll take the bullet, right?"

"Don't worry." Xie Jingxing smiled and said, "She'll be too busy with the upcoming marriage in the Shen family for the time being to kill anyone."

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After that night, Xie Jingxing did not appear again. Shen Miao knew that Prince Rui could not stay in the capital for nothing. If Huangfu Hao stayed until now because first, he wanted to investigate the cause of Princess Ming An's death, and second, he wanted to form an alliance with Ming Qi, then Xie Jingxing must be up to something too.

Time passed quickly. Soon, it was time for Shen Yue to get married.

The eighth day of December was an auspicious day. The eldest son of the Minister Counsellor was going to marry the second daughter of the Shen family, Shen Yue.

Although the current Shen family was not as good as before because the first branch split up from it two years ago and the incidents relating to Shen Yuan and Shen Gui, the minister counselor had a wide range of friends in the imperial court, so this marriage was quite an important event.

Chapter 616 Marriage Exchange (3)

In the Shen mansion, Shen Yue had already dressed up, but she chased everyone out, leaving Shen Dongling alone.

If one looked carefully, they would see that Shen Dongling had also dressed up meticulously. Shen Dongling was a natural beauty, but she usually did not go out, so she rarely dressed up well. Today, she

was dressed like a new bride, making her look even more beautiful. However, Shen Yue was not in the mood to admire or be jealous. When she saw Shen Dongling, she said, "Hurry up and change your clothes with me!"

The maids and Chen Ruoqiu had already left. Over the past few days, on the surface, Shen Yue looked like she was gradually accepting this marriage, but in fact, she was secretly planning with Shen Dongling how to carry out this marriage exchange without a hitch. The more she interacted with Shen Dongling, the more Shen Yue felt that Shen Dongling was very gullible. She was even stupider than Shen Miao in the past.

As Shen Dongling hurriedly changed into her clothes, she whispered, "Second Sister, I'm very afraid."

"Don't be afraid." Shen Yue was afraid that Shen Dongling would back off at this critical moment. She comforted her and said, "Don't worry, I'll explain to my parents tomorrow that I'm the one who forced you to do it. You won't be blamed at all. After today, you'll be the Young Madam of a powerful family. No one will dare to look down on you."

Shen Yue used the title of the Young Madam to tempt Shen Dongling. As expected, when she saw that Shen Dongling's fear had subsided a little and her face was red, she couldn't help but snort in disdain. If not for the fact that she had no choice, she wouldn't want Shen Dongling to live such a good life for no reason.

As soon as Shen Dongling put on her clothes, they heard the sound of someone walking outside. Shen Yue quickly hid behind the screen in the room, and Shen Dongling quickly covered her head with the veil. Shen Yue's maid walked in from outside to help the bride out.

Chen Ruoqiu wanted to say a few words to Shen Yue, but Shen Yue walked straight into the sedan with the help of a maid without even looking at her. Seeing this, Chen Ruoqiu felt a little sad and thought that Shen Yue was still blaming her for forcing her to marry, but there was nothing she could do.

The sedan chair was about to be carried to the Minister Counsellor's Mansion. Chen Ruoqiu was about to follow the wedding procession to the Minister Counsellor's Mansion when she saw Chang Zaiqing walking over. Perhaps to coordinate with the festival atmosphere, Chang Zaiqing was wearing a light peach-colored embroidered dress. Because she always wore green colors, it was rare to see her in a bright dress, making her look refreshingly charming. Chang Zaiqing smiled and said, "I hope Second Miss will be used to life in a new family."

When Chen Ruoqiu saw Chang Zaiqing, she remembered that she had not seen her for a long time. Ever since she spoke to Chang Zaiqing last time, she did not know what Chang Zaiqing was busy with. She was busy with Shen Yue's marriage, so she did not go over to talk to Chang Zaiqing. At this moment, seeing that Chang Zaiqing's face was glowing, she smiled and said, "Sister Chang, have you been going to see Shen Qiu these days?"

Chang Zaiqing smiled and shook her head, saying, "Not a lot. First Madam and General Shen are both very busy, so I don't want to disturb them."

Chen Ruoqiu was certain that Chang Zaiqing was lying and thought that she was just being shy, so she patted her hand and said, "Sister Chang, you're so likable. No matter what, they will take time out to talk to you." Chen Ruoqiu thought that after Shen Yue's matter was over, she had to ask Chang Zaiqing

how things were going. Shen Yue had no choice but to marry Wang Bi. Although the Wang family was not bad, at the thought that her daughter could not marry the person she liked in the end and she even had to fall out with her daughter because of this, Chen Ruoqiu felt suffocated. On the other hand, Shen Miao was doing better and better everyday in the capital. A few days ago, she thought that Shen Miao would definitely end up badly after being kidnapped, but Shen Miao came back unscathed. If Shen Miao wanted to marry a prince, it was quite possible. At the thought that what her daughter wanted could be easily obtained by Shen Miao, Chen Ruoqiu felt very indignant. Thinking that a vulgar woman like Luo Xueyan could actually have an excellent son and a daughter, Chen Ruoqiu wanted to ruin her.

Chapter 617 Marriage Exchange (4)

She glanced at Chang Zaiqing. Chang Zaiqing had already won the trust of Luo Xueyan. Now, it seemed that she was also getting along well with Shen Xin. As long as she could get Chang Zaiqing to think of a way to enter the Shen family... Luo Xueyan and Shen Miao's lives would probably not be easy in the future.

Chen Ruoqiu couldn't stand seeing others doing well, especially when she was not doing well. She couldn't wait to see Luo Xueyan cry her eyes out. For a moment, she felt even closer to Chang Zaiqing.

She held Chang Zaiqing's hand and said with a smile, "Let's go. Sister Chang, follow me to the minister counselor's mansion. I often tell Yue to learn from you. I didn't expect her to get married before she even had the chance to do it. It's a pity."

Chang Zaiqing smiled. "Second Miss is lucky to marry a husband who dotes on her."

"You always have a way with words to make people happy." Chen Ruoqiu smiled. She looked at the colorful sachet at Chang Zaiqing's waist and said, "This sachet is made very uniquely."

Chang Zaiqing took off the sachet and handed it to Chen Ruoqiu. "If Madam likes it, you can have it."

Chen Ruoqiu had always liked some exquisite things. Seeing that the embroidery of the sachet was indeed exquisite, she immediately took a liking and did not decline. She placed it under her nose and sniffed it gently, saying in surprise, "This smell is very good. I wonder what fragrance it is?"

Chang Zaiqing smiled. "I don't know about fragrance, but I'm good with tea. I mixed some tea leaves and placed them inside. It's refreshing."

"Sister Chang, you are really ingenious?" Chen Ruoqiu accepted the sachet and smiled. "I like it very much."

The two of them walked out, chatting and laughing.

This marriage between Shen Yue and Wang Bi undoubtedly added festivity and liveliness to the capital that had been under a gloomy atmosphere. In order to highlight the importance of this marriage, the Wang family instructed the wedding procession to carry the sedan around the entire capital.

Coincidentally, they passed by the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop.

Upstairs, Ji Yushu was eating pastries. As he ate, he said, "The Wang family is taking this marriage very seriously."

Opposite him, Gao Yang gently waved his fan and looked downstairs. The sound of gongs and drums shook the sky. He closed the window in annoyance and said, "The bride has already been changed. What's the point of all this gonging and drumming? It's just a farce."

"I'm quite interested in this show." Ji Yushu was a person who wanted the world to be in chaos so he could watch the show all day long. He said, "Speaking of which, is Miss Shen not doing anything?"

Before Xie Jingxing left, he instructed Gao Yang to take care of Shen Miao. If Shen Miao wanted to do anything, he had to think of a way to help her. After knowing Shen Miao for two years, Ji Yushu had a pretty good understanding of her. She looked gentle and harmless, but in fact, she was the most not to be trifled with. The Shen family had always been heartless to the first branch. It seemed unusual for Shen Miao not to hit them when they were down.

Gao Yang said, "Not now, but sooner or later."

Ji Yushu wiped his mouth. "Actually, you don't have to have such a big prejudice against Miss Shen. Miss Shen is a good person and is very generous. She's also very good-looking. Besides, the Shen family didn't cause you any trouble..."

"Didn't cause me trouble?" At the mention of this, Gao Yang wanted to smack the table angrily. Because of Shen Miao, Xie Jingxing had been moody, which made his subordinates on tenterhooks everyday. Even Shen Miao's cousin was unbelievably unreasonable. She always felt that he was the same as the doctors in the clinic. Gao Yang was a young and promising official in the Daliang Dynasty and was an imperial physician in Ming Qi. However, in Luo Tan's eyes, he was just a mere doctor. How could Gao Yang accept that?

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Ji Yushu did not notice Gao Yang's expression. He tidied his clothes and said leisurely, "Forget it. Let's wait and watch a good show tomorrow. The bigger the show, the better. This way, Third Brother won't feel bored when he comes back."

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No one in the first branch of the Shen family was present for this marriage. In fact, Shen Wan had sent an invitation to the first branch. No matter what, he had to show some respect. However, what the Shen family did back then disgusted Luo Xueyan, so she refused the invitation, let alone send a gift. Through this matter, the people who had been watching the developments between the two branches of the Shen family understood that the first branch had made up their minds to cut ties with the Shen family and wouldn't go back on their words.

No matter what, the marriage proceeded smoothly.

Early in the next morning, Concubine Wan woke up. Yesterday, when Shen Yue got married, Shen Dongling went to help. Later, when Concubine Wan asked, the maid said that after returning, Shen Dongling was too tired and fell asleep, so Concubine Wan did not disturb her. Today, she specially made sweet soup for Shen Dongling, so she stood outside Shen Dongling's room and knocked on the door.

No one in the room answered. Concubine Wan said, "Dongling, I'm coming in." As she spoke, she pushed open the door.

She saw someone lying on Shen Dongling's bed, covered by a blanket. When the person heard the sound, she suddenly sat up. Concubine Wan was stunned at first, and a look of disbelief immediately appeared on her face. She cried out, "Second Miss, why are you here?"

The person lying on Shen Dongling's bed was none other than Shen Yue. Yesterday, Shen Yue was married to the son of the minister counselor. In other words, she wasn't supposed to be in the Shen mansion, but in the minister counselor's mansion. Why would she appear on Shen Dongling's bed for no reason? Concubine Wan looked around and did not see Shen Dongling. Even though she was not considered smart usually, she vaguely understood something at this moment. She asked with a trembling voice, "Second Miss, where... where is Dongling? Where did she go?"

Shen Yue quickly lowered her head. When she looked up again, her face was filled with tears.

The moment Concubine Wan saw Shen Yue's tears, she felt her vision go dark. She heard Shen Yue cry and say, "I don't know, I don't know. Third Sister came to toast me, and then... I don't know anything anymore!"

The Shen mansion was in absolute chaos.

In Rongjing Hall, everyone was standing together. Old Madam Shen was so angry that her mouth and eyes were crooked. She looked at Concubine Wan and said furiously, "What a good daughter you raised!"

Shen Gui stood at a corner and wanted to say something. Now, Concubine Wan was the only woman who had given birth to a child for him. Moreover, Concubine Wan was usually gentle and obedient. Even though Shen Gui was messing around, he still had some feelings for Concubine Wan. However, when he saw his third brother and third sister-in-law's angry expressions, he swallowed his words.

Shen Dongling actually schemed against Shen Yue and got married in Shen Yue's place. Shen Yue was left in the Shen mansion while Shen Dongling was married to Wang Bi. Shen Gui himself did not expect that the usually obedient and timid Shen Dongling would have the guts to do this. Shen Gui would never offend his third brother for a daughter, even if she was already his only child.

Concubine Wan cried and kowtowed to Old Madam Shen. As she kowtowed, she said, "Old Madam, my daughter is as timid as a mouse. How can she have the guts to deceive everyone? Old Madam, could it be that there's a misunderstanding? Even if she has ten thousand guts, she won't dare to do such an outrageous thing!"

"Are you saying that my daughter is slandering your daughter?" Chen Ruoyu's face was ashen. "That's bold accusation you are making, Concubine Wan!"

Chapter 619 Marriage Exchange (6)

Old Madam Shen usually did not like Chen Ruoyu, and she did not even have much feelings for Shen Yue. However, Shen Yue was the illegitimate daughter of the Shen family after all. It would not be nice if word spread out that her marriage was snatched away by a concubine's daughter. She immediately added after Chen Ruoyu, "Like mother, like daughter! She's really a disgrace to the family!"

Concubine Wan looked at Shen Yue with tears in her eyes. "Second Miss, aren't you very close to my daughter lately? Speak up for her. She is not that kind of person, right?" Concubine Wan did not believe

that Shen Dongling would do such a thing. Shen Dongling had been smart since she was young. Most of the time, Shen Dongling would explain things that Concubine Wan did not understand. Concubine Wan had always thought that if not for her identity, her daughter would definitely not be inferior to any of the legitimate daughters in the Shen family. Shen Dongling looked timid on the outside, but everything she did was well-planned. Although she had heard from Shen Dongling saying that Shen Yue's marriage was an opportunity, Concubine Wan did not expect it to be like this. Concubine Wan believed that Shen Dongling was not stupid as to deceive the entire Shen family to marry Wang Bi. If she did this, she would have no place in both the Wang family or the Shen family!

Concubine Wan expected Shen Yue, who always looked gentle, to speak up for Shen Dongling. Unexpectedly, as soon as Shen Yue heard Concubine Wan's words, she cried and said, "Concubine Wan, I really don't know what's going on. Third Sister came to toast me, saying that I was going to leave the mansion and that she was sad. When I woke up again, it was already the next morning. I also believe that Third Sister didn't do it on purpose... but I really don't know how it ended up like this!"

On the surface, Shen Yue said that she trusted Shen Dongling, but her words implied that she was schemed against by Shen Dongling. As expected, when Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Wan heard this, their expressions darkened. Shen Gui also frowned. Seeing that everyone was on Shen Yue's side, a trace of despair flashed across Concubine Wan's eyes.

"The most important thing now is to think of a solution," Chang Zaiqing said softly. She was not from the Shen family, so it was not appropriate for her to say anything. At this moment, she reminded everyone that the bride had already changed. What if the Wang family came to question them? Should they take Shen Dongling back? Or should they send her away? Anyway, Shen Dongling was just a concubine's daughter. It was easy to get rid of her. The most urgent thing was to appease the Wang family.

Old Madam Shen made a prompt decision. "Go and discuss this matter with the Wang family first and get someone to take Third Miss back. Lock Concubine Wan up in the woodshed. She deserves to be taught a lesson for raising such a daughter!"

When Shen Yue heard that, she panicked. She did not expect them to want to take Shen Dongling back. If Shen Dongling was sent back, wouldn't she have to be sent to the Wang family? Then wouldn't all her efforts be in vain?

Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Wan were satisfied with Old Madam Shen's decision. Chen Ruoqiu glanced at Concubine Wan and was even more furious. She only thought that in the future, she would definitely find ways to torture Concubine Wan.

When Concubine Wan heard that, her vision darkened. The Shen family would definitely choose to protect Shen Yue and sacrifice Shen Dongling. This way, Shen Dongling's life would be ruined!

Just as she was thinking, a servant came to report that someone from the Wang family had come.

Chapter 620 A Farce (1)

Hearing that the Wang family had sent someone over, Concubine Wan looked out with a trembling body. Now that all the blame was pinned on Shen Dongling, if the Wang family wanted to pursue this matter, they would definitely punish her. Concubine Wan only had one daughter, so how could she not be heartbroken? Unfortunately, she was too weak to do anything.

Everyone looked at each other. Old Madam Shen said, "Invite them in."

The people who came were a dark and strong woman and a few maids. With a dark face, the woman walked in. Her arms were thick and her posture was forbidding, looking like she was here to interrogate everyone.

Seeing that Concubine Wan was crying to the ground, the woman was expressionless. Everyone realized that she was probably here to question them. Old Madam Shen frowned and was about to speak when she heard the woman ask, "May I ask where Concubine Wan is?"

Concubine Wan's heart skipped a beat, and she felt extreme despair. Chen Ruoqiu heaved a sigh of relief. If the Wang family wanted to vent their anger on Concubine Wan, the Shen family would definitely not stop them. Chen Ruoqiu even thought that it would be better if Concubine Wan and her daughter were tortured to death.

At the thought of this, Chen Ruoqiu smiled and went forward. "When we heard what happened yesterday, we were also very shocked. We didn't expect Third Miss to do such an abhorrent thing. However, my daughter is innocent. I think Young Master Wang is also very angry. This is our fault for raising such a scheming daughter. I hope that after the in-laws calm down, they can accept my daughter. I've already told my daughter to be more wary of people around her. This matter is really..."

The dark-skinned woman ignored Chen Ruoqiu and asked again with a dark expression, "May I ask where Concubine Wan is?"

Everyone was stunned. Chen Ruoqiu did not expect this old woman to dare to ignore her like this. However, in front of everyone, she had to maintain her usual gentle and amiable persona. In addition, the Wang family was the victim in this matter, so she could not say anything. Old Madam Shen said in a low voice, "The person kneeling on the ground is Concubine Wan."

Concubine Wan looked sad, but to everyone's surprise, the dark-skinned woman reached out to help Concubine Wan up. Not only did she not use violence on her at all, but her attitude was also respectful. She said, "Eldest Young Madam misses her mother and asked me to bring her back to live with her. I specially made a trip here to take her back. I hope Old Madam Shen will allow it."

As soon as she said that, everyone in Rongjing Hall was stunned.

What did she mean by Eldest Young Madam missing her mother and wanting her mother to go over to live with her?

Who was Eldest Young Madam? Who was Eldest Young Madam's mother? Was it Shen Dongling? Was it Concubine Wan?

When Chen Ruoqiu saw the dark-skinned woman help Concubine Wan up, she already had a bad feeling. When she heard this, she almost fainted. Shen Wan's face darkened and he said, "What do you mean?"

The dark-skinned woman looked at Shen Wan and asked in confusion, "I don't quite understand what Third Master Shen is asking. Can you explain it more clearly?"

Shen Wan and Chen Ruoqiu were both a little angry at the same time. This old woman was clearly pretending to not understand. She clearly knew something, but she pretended to be stupid. Did she want them to say that the bride was actually swapped?

Shen Wan and Chen Ruoqiu couldn't bring themselves to say it, but Old Madam Shen didn't have this concern. She straightened her back and said, "You're wrong. Yesterday, the bride was swapped. The bride in the Wang family is actually Third Miss Shen instead of Second Miss Shen. We were in the middle of discussing what to do about it. How dare a servant like you play fool with us?"