

Venomous 621

Chapter 621 A Farce (2)

When Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Wan wanted to stop Old Madam Shen, it was too late. Old Madam Shen always had this thought that she was better than everyone else and everyone had to curry favor with her. In fact, Old Madam Shen did not think highly of the Wang family and wanted Shen Yue to marry a better husband. However, in fact, the status and connections of the Wang family in the imperial court were far higher than what Shen Wan had now. Without the permission of the Wang family, how could this dark-skinned woman dare to speak to the Shen family like this? If Old Madam Shen scolded this dark-skinned woman, it was equivalent to her scolding the Wang family. The Wang family would only think that the Shen family was ignorant and was looking down on them.

When the dark-skinned woman heard this, she laughed. However, that laughter was especially ear-piercing to Chen Ruoqiu and Shen Wan. She asked in confusion, "Old Madam, what do you mean by the bride is swapped? Our young madam is sensible and considerate, and everyone in the mansion likes her. Are you joking with me?"

When Concubine Wan heard this, her heart skipped a beat, and she suddenly felt happy. Her daughter was extremely smart, and her personality and appearance were top-notch. If she could win Wang Bi's heart in a night, with Wang Bi protecting her, she would be safe.

When Chen Ruoqiu heard this, she was almost driven crazy with anger. At this moment, she couldn't care less about her persona and said to the dark-skinned woman, "What exactly does the Wang family mean? If they are angry, just say it. Why are they putting up such a show? Do they really want to treat Shen Dongling as my daughter?"

Shen Wan frowned slightly and looked at Chen Ruoqiu in surprise. Chen Ruoqiu's attitude was no better than Old Madam Shen's. Unless it was absolutely necessary, Shen Wan did not want to offend the Wang family, especially since the Shen family was the one who was at fault.

The dark-skinned woman turned to Chen Ruoqiu and said, "Third Madam Shen, you are confusing me. Yesterday, when Eldest Young Master got married, he married the second miss of the Shen family. Everyone in the mansion likes her."

Chen Ruoqiu was stunned on the spot.

What she meant was that the Wang family knew that the bride was swapped, but they wanted to let Shen Dongling live there as Shen Yue. What kind of nonsense was that?! Chen Ruoqiu was about to go crazy!

On the other hand, Shen Yue finally heaved a sigh of relief when she heard this. All she wanted was for Shen Dongling to marry into the Wang family in her place, and then she would turn herself into the victim. In the end, Shen Dongling would be blamed, and Wang Bi would be made a laughing stock. She, Shen Yue, would still be a free person, and she might be able to gain sympathy from people.

Although Shen Yue was not satisfied that the Wang family did not make a fuss and did not make Shen Dongling suffer, she was still happy that she could get rid of this marriage completely.

Shen Wan frowned. This dark-skinned woman's attitude clearly represented the Wang family's attitude. If the Wang family wanted Shen Dongling to live as Shen Yue, then what about Shen Yue? The Wang family was not an unreasonable bunch. Could it be that Shen Dongling said something to Wang Bi?

Chen Ruoqiu sneered and said, "Alright, as you said, the one who married into the Wang family is Second Miss. I'm Second Miss's mother. Why are you bringing Concubine Wan over for no reason? Don't you think it's a little ridiculous?"

Concubine Wan looked at the woman in fear. The woman smiled and said, "It's like this. Young Madam said that although Concubine Wan is not her biological mother, she has always been very close to her. Now that she has just married and moved to a new place, she's not used to it, so she wanted Concubine Wan to go over to keep her company for a while. Eldest Young Master dotes on his wife, so he agreed."

Chapter 622 A Farce (3)

Shen Yue thought that after Shen Dongling married Wang Bi, the Wang family would make things difficult for and despise her for being a concubine's daughter, but she did not expect Shen Dongling to actually do so well. This was like a huge mockery to her.

Shen Yue gritted her teeth and was a little indignant. Originally, she wanted Shen Dongling to replace her, but when she realized that Shen Dongling might actually be liked by the Wang family, Shen Yue was unhappy.

Everyone in the Shen family was stunned. Today, they expected the Wang family to kick up a fuss and fall out with the Shen family, but they did not expect the Wang family to have such an attitude. Not only did the Wang family not seem to hate Shen Dongling, but they also seemed to be very unhappy with the third branch of the Shen family.

Chen Ruoqiu was about to speak when she was stopped by Shen Wan. Shen Wan said, "In that case, I'll visit the Wang family tomorrow to explain personally. Before that, I hope the Wang family can be rational and not be blinded by anger."

The dark-skinned woman smiled and said, "Third Master, what are you talking about? The Wang mansion is very lively and harmonious at this moment. Master and Madam are both very satisfied with their daughter-in-law. They said that the daughter raised by the Shen family is extremely good. How can they be angry? Third Master, I'm afraid you're thinking too much."

This dark-skinned woman was quite eloquent. Her words rendered Shen Wan speechless. She patted Concubine Wan's hand and smiled at Old Madam Shen. "I'm going to bring Concubine Wan back now. I'm still waiting for Old Madam's permission. Eldest Young Master is waiting for me to go back."

Old Madam Shen frowned and looked at Shen Wan and Shen Gui. She also vaguely sensed that something was wrong with what happened today. After all, Shen Wan was Shen Yue's father, and Concubine Wan was from the second branch, so she could only ask her two sons for their opinion.

Shen Gui didn't care. Shen Wan's expression was dark, and he said, "In that case, Concubine Wan, go with her. It's good for Second Miss to have someone familiar by her side."

Concubine Wan was half surprised and half terrified. She was surprised that the Wang family did not seem to intend to pursue the matter with Shen Dongling. She was terrified that she did not know if the

Wang family did this on purpose or if they were just trying to express their dissatisfaction and anger at the third branch. In the end, would Shen Dongling still end up miserably?

The dark-skinned woman took Concubine Wan away under the watchful eyes of everyone in the Shen family. Rongjing Hall was silent. A moment later, Old Madam Shen said coldly, "What exactly is going on!"

The strange attitude of the Wang family made the Shen family feel even more uneasy than falling out with the Wang family. Chang Zaiqing moved her lips, as if she wanted to say something. When she saw Shen Wan's expression, she swallowed the words that were about to come out of her mouth.

Shen Gui was a little embarrassed. Originally, it was Shen Dongling who snatched Shen Yue's marriage. He also wanted to hand Shen Dongling and her mother over to the Wang family to appease the Wang family and the third branch, but he did not expect this to happen. Shen Gui cleared his throat and said, "I'll write a letter to Dongling later and ask her what she's up to!"

Shen Wan snorted and looked at Shen Yue. He said softly, "Yue, come with me." He turned to look at Old Madam Shen and said, "Mother, we can't do anything rash. After I personally go and apologize tomorrow, I think this matter will be resolved. It's all my fault for disturbing your rest."

Chapter 623 A Farce (4)

"Why would I blame you?" Old Madam Shen sighed, and her tone suddenly became sharp. "It's all Third Miss's fault. She learned all these nasty tricks from that b*tch, Concubine Wan!" She then took her anger out on Chen Ruoqiu, "If you were more careful, Third Miss wouldn't have a chance to replace Yue."

Chen Ruoqiu was already in a fit of anger. At this moment, after being reprimanded by Old Madam Shen, she retorted impulsively, "Mother, how can you blame me? I didn't expect Third Miss to have a scheming mind. Mother, you're too unreasonable to blame me for this."

"You are calling me unreasonable?" Old Madam Shen was furious.

Chen Ruoqiu was about to talk back when Shen Wan shouted at her, "Enough!" She was slightly stunned. All these years, Shen Wan had never spoken harshly to her, and this was the first time he had shouted at her. Shen Wan said, "Yue, come with me."

Shen Yue nodded.

Chang Zaiqing saw this scene and an imperceptible smile appeared on her lips.

Shen Yue followed Shen Wan back to his room. Shen Wan had his back to her and did not speak. Shen Yue thought that Shen Wan was unhappy about the Wang family. Thinking about the attitude of the Wang family today and how Shen Dongling might have won the Wang family's favor, Shen Yue was extremely dissatisfied. She said, "Father, the Wang family is outrageous. They clearly have no respect for you. If Third Sister uses my identity to live, what should I do? Third Sister stole my marriage and now she wants to snatch my identity. Father, you can't let her have her way."

Perhaps because she had lied too much, Shen Yue actually believed that this matter was all caused by Shen Dongling, and that she was schemed by her.

“She stole your marriage?” Without turning around, Shen Wan asked slowly.

Shen Yue did not notice anything wrong with Shen Wan’s tone and nodded. “Yes!”

A slap landed on Shen Yue’s face.

Chen Ruoqiu, who had just followed them into the room, saw this scene. She exclaimed, “Yue”, went forward to hug Shen Yue, and roared at Shen Wan, “What are you doing?”

“What am I doing?” Shen Wan laughed instead of getting angry. “Why don’t you ask your good daughter what she did?”

As Shen Yue covered her face, her body couldn’t help but tremble. Although the slap mark on her face hurt, it couldn’t compare to the fear in her heart.

“Yue, are you telling me that you don’t know anything about this? Is it really Shen Dongling who set you up and snatched your marriage? Do you really think you can fool everyone? You asked Shen Dongling to marry in your place because you only want to marry Prince Ding. Have you ever thought about what will happen to your father if you offend the Wang family? To have a smart daughter like you, I’m really blessed!!!”

Shen Wan was usually gentle and calm, and he had always doted on Shen Yue. This was the first time he had shown such a ferocious expression to Shen Yue.

Chen Ruoqiu looked at Shen Yue in her arms with a trembling body and asked, “Yue, is what your father said true?”

“I-I just want freedom,” Shen Yue muttered in fear. Suddenly, she thought of something and looked up. “But Shen Dongling also led me astray. She must have said something to sow discord. Otherwise, why is the Wang family’s attitude towards us so cold? It’s all because of that b*tch!”

“Shut up!” The more Shen Wan listened, the angrier he became. “You’re stupid and you’re still blaming others. Have you read all your books?”

When Chen Ruoqiu heard Shen Yue admitting that she was the one who wanted to swap with Shen Dongling, she closed her eyes in despair. She did not expect Shen Yue to be so bold as to do this. However, Shen Yue was after all her own flesh and blood and had been carefully raised by her. Chen Ruoqiu only had this one daughter. When she heard Shen Wan shouting at Shen Yue, she could not help but speak up for her, “Although Yue is in the wrong, she’s not entirely to blame. I think Yue is right. Shen Dongling obviously said something to deliberately lead Yue astray. I’m afraid this was all carefully planned by Shen Dongling.”

Chapter 624 A Farce (5)

Shen Wan rubbed his forehead and looked at Chen Ruoqiu with disappointment. “When did you lose the ability to tell right from wrong?”

Chen Ruoqiu was stunned. Shen Wan continued, “Forget it. I’ll personally go and apologize to the Wang family tomorrow. However, I don’t know if it will work. After all, our Shen family is in the wrong first. If it doesn’t... it’s your fault. You can’t blame anyone.” After saying that, he glanced at Shen Yue and turned to leave.

Chen Ruoqiu was frightened by Shen Wan's disappointed gaze when he left. She wanted to say something, but Shen Gui had already left the room. Looking at Shen Yue, who was crying, she could only turn around to comfort her daughter.

When Shen Wan left the room, the servant beside him saw that he was exhausted and asked, "Master, do you want to go out to relax?"

"No need." Shen Wan waved his hand. He thought for a moment and said, "Let's go to the west courtyard."

The west courtyard was now occupied by Chang Zaiqing.

The servant did not say anything and silently led Shen Wan to the west courtyard.

The two of them did not see that someone was looking at their backs from afar. This person was Mrs. Zhang, who was with Old Madam Shen in Rongjing Hall. Mrs. Zhan muttered to herself in confusion, "Why is Third Master going to the west courtyard..."

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The farce in the Shen family early in the morning quickly reached Shen Miao's ears.

Back then, when splitting up from the Shen family, Shen Miao also bribed some servants from the second, third branch, and even Rongjing Hall. Chen Ruoqiu's managing ability was not as capable as Ren Wanyun. When Ren Wanyun was in charge of the household, the various courtyards, especially Rosy Cloud Garden, were Impregnable, and it was very difficult to get any spies in. When Chen Ruoqiu took charge of the household, it was in a state of disunity. In addition, the servants were not earning as much as before. It was very easy for her to bribe the servants with some money. Moreover, what she wanted to ask was not anything confidential. It was just something trivial that happened in the Shen mansion.

After the decline of the second branch, the third branch was the one holding up the family.

When people had a good and comfortable life for too long, they would become foolish. For example, Shen Yue's move this time was really terrible.

After the quarrel, Shen Wan really went to apologize to the Wang family the next day. No one knew what kind of excuse he came up with, but he probably pinned all the blame on Shen Dongling.

The Wang family did not accept Shen Wan's apology. They did not acknowledge Shen Yue at all. They insisted that Shen Dongling was the daughter of the third branch. As for Shen Yue, sorry, they did not know who she was at all.

Shen Wan was very embarrassed. He could tell that the Wang family was deliberately making things difficult for him. He also understood that the Wang family might have already known that the marriage exchange was proposed by Shen Yue, so they deliberately made things difficult for him. Shen Gui thought that with his relationship with the Wang Family, after assuming airs for a while, the Wang families would eventually replace Shen Dongling with Shen Yue. However, this time, Shen wan was wrong.

Therefore, in the end, the two parties came up with two solutions. First, Shen Dongling would stay in the Wang family as Shen Yue, and the real Shen Yun would be forbidden to go out into the public. This was

naturally unacceptable to Shen Wan. Then, there was the second solution. Shen Yuan would also marry into the Wang family and be an equal wife.

Because everyone attended Shen Yue and Wang Bi's wedding, there was no need to hold a big wedding this time. Judging from the scale of the marriage, others would think that Wang Bi was just marrying a concubine's daughter, which was why they kept a low profile.

Chapter 625 A Farce (6)

This solution almost made Shen Wan storm out in anger.

It was not uncommon for a legitimate daughter and an illegitimate daughter to serve the same husband. However, generally speaking, the legitimate daughter would be the first wife while the illegitimate daughter would be concubine. What the Wang family proposed was for them to be equal wives! Moreover, in order to hide it, Shen Yue could only have a low-key wedding, while Shen Dongling, the illegitimate daughter, snatched away the honor and glory that Shen Yue deserved!

This was humiliation!

Shen Wan rejected flatly, but the Wang family's attitude was also very firm. It was not their fault that the bride was wrong. Now that Shen Dongling and Wang Bi were getting along quite well, they did not care about Shen Yue. However, Shen Yue could not afford to delay the wedding. If this continued, the one who would suffer would be Shen Yue.

Therefore, Shen Wan was a little hesitant. Because of this matter, he had quarreled with Chen Ruoqiu a few times.

As Shen Miao listened to Bai Lu telling her about the things that had been reported back from the Shen family, she smiled from ear to ear. Shen Miao had always been calm and rarely looked as happy as she was now.

"Miss, do you find it interesting?" Bai Lu said, "Second Miss shot herself in the foot this time. She even caused Third Master to be in a difficult spot."

"In my opinion, Third Miss is the winner." Shuang Jiang said, "Not only did Third Miss become the first wife, but she also seems to be liked by everyone in the Wang family. She even brought Concubine Wan over to live with her."

"It's too early to say who's the winner." Bai Lu shook her head. "If Second Miss marries into the Wang family in the end, although the two of them are equal wives, there's still a difference between the legitimate and the illegitimate daughters. Third Miss only has a mother who is a concubine, but Second Miss has the third branch of the Shen family standing behind her. The Wang family will be more biased towards Second Miss, right? Third Miss has the momentum now, but there's a long way to go."

Shen Miao smiled and said, "You are wrong. Third Sister is a capable person."

Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang looked at Shen Miao at the same time. Shen Miao said, "Even if Shen Yue really marries into the Wang family one day, she won't be comparable to Shen Dongling. I think the reason why the Wang Family treats the third branch so coldly is probably because they know that the marriage

exchange was proposed by Shen Yue. Which man in the world will like a wife who has someone else in her heart? Shen Yue has already lost.”

“I’m afraid Wang Bi won’t even let her give birth to his children. Although there are differences between the legitimate and illegitimate daughters, they’re both equal wives. Whoever gives birth to the child will naturally have more say.” Shen Miao said indifferently, “Besides, with Shen Yue’s brain, how can she beat Shen Dongling? Shen Dongling can make Wang Bi not blame her and even bring Concubine Wan out of the Shen family. How can such a smart and capable person be defeated by Shen Yue?”

Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang were stunned as they listened to the analysis. After a while, Shuang Jiang said, “It seems like Third Miss is really a powerful person.”

“She’s the only one in the Shen family who actually has a brain.” Shen Miao said, “Help me grind the ink.”

Bai Lu went to find some ink. As she ground it, she saw Shen Miao take out a pen and paper, as if she was going to write something. Bai Lu asked, “Miss, are you going to write a letter?”

Shen Miao nodded.

Naturally, Shen Miao was happy to see Shen Yue making a scene and shooting herself in the foot this time. However, she did not forget that in her previous life, the third branch also contributed a lot to the fall of the first branch of the Shen family.

One day, she would get back at them. In fact, she did not want to take action to bring down the third branch from the beginning to the end, but if the third branch walked to the cliff on their own, Shen Miao would not mind giving them one last push.

Shen Wan and Chen Ruoqiu quarreled all day long. At this moment, he needed the comfort of his confidante the most.

It was time for Chang Zaiqing to show up.

Chapter 626 Adding Fuel to the Flame (1)

The marriage exchange between Shen Yue and Shen Dongling had an unimaginable consequence. At the demand of the Wang family, Shen Wan had no choice but to agree to let Shen Yue marry Wang Bi as an equal wife because he didn’t want to make enemies with the Wang Family. He did not know what Shen Dongling said to the Wang Family this time, but the Wang Family refused to listen to Shen Wan’s explanation.

However, this was not the outcome Shen Yue wanted. She fell out with her parents, shouting that she wouldn’t marry Wang Bi no matter what, and that she couldn’t tolerate being equal with Shen Dongling.

Not only was Shen Yue unwilling, but Chen Ruoqiu was also very angry. Chen Ruoqiu was usually a person who could see the bigger picture, but this matter concerned her daughter’s marriage, so she could not take it lying down and insisted that Shen Wan go to the Wang family to ask for an explanation. The master and madam of the third branch, who had always been loving to each other, had been having frequent conflicts these days.

It was the same today.

Chen Ruoqiu paced back and forth in the room. Suddenly, she turned around and walked up to Shen Wan, saying anxiously, "What exactly does the Wang family want? We can't let this matter drag on like this, right? That little b*tch, Shen Dongling, is taking over Yue's place. Does she really have the guts to challenge us? Master, go to the Wang family and argue with them!"

She kept calling Shen Dongling "little b*tch", making her look like a completely different person from the one with good upbringing. Shen Wan couldn't help but frown. He said patiently, "Now, we can only let Yue marry over as an equal wife before trying to figure out what to do next. Give me some peace."

"Master!" Chen Ruoqiu screamed, "Yue is your daughter, and she's also the legitimate daughter of our third branch. How can you bear to see her on equal footing with that little b*tch, Chen Dongling! Even if it's Yue's fault, it must be because Shen Dongling instigated it. How could you be so heartless!"

Shen Wan felt deafened by Chen Ruoqiu's scream and said angrily, "Then what do you think we should do? The longer this matter goes on, the more Yue will suffer. As you said, if this matter blows up, Shen Dongling, the daughter of a concubine, won't be affected. Instead, Yue will be pointed at and laughed at. The Shen family will also become a joke."

Chen Ruoqiu was shocked by Shen Wan's angry voice and trembled a little. However, when she thought of Shen Yue, she brace herself and said, "But we can't let Yue suffer just like that, right? No, I have to go to the Wang Mansion personally to seek justice for Yue."

"Enough!" Shen Wan said angrily, "Stay at home and watch over Shen Yue. Don't cause me trouble!"

Chen Ruoqiu was stunned. Over the years of living with Shen Wan, even when he was the angriest, he had never been so harsh to her. Her heart tightened, and she subconsciously said, "You and I used to be loyal and loving to each other, and you promised that you wouldn't take in a concubine. Are you going to change your mind? Do you not love me anymore..."

Over the past few days, Chen Ruoqiu had been worried sick about her daughter. She looked much older and more haggard. In Shen Wan's eyes, she looked a little ridiculous. He glanced at Chen Ruoqiu indifferently and said, "If that's what you think, then so be it." He turned around and left.

Chapter 627 Adding Fuel to the Flame (2)

Chen Ruoqiu was stunned and stood rooted to the ground. The maids beside her, Shi Qing and Hua Yi, quickly helped her up. Fear gradually surged in Chen Ruo Qiu's heart. She suddenly felt that something was slowly changing, and the most terrifying thing was that she did not know what was changing.

The commotion in the Autumn Water Garden quickly spread to other courtyards, such as the west courtyard that had been abandoned for a long time.

The west courtyard was spacious to begin with. Ever since Chang Zaiqing moved in, she decorated it with flowers and plants, making the west courtyard a unique and elegant place. At this moment, Chang Zaiying was sitting in the room. She folded the letter she had just finished reading and put it away.

Nanny Zhao opened the window to let in some fresh air. She said to Chang Zaiqing, "Is it a letter from First Madam Shen?"

Chang Zaiqing nodded.

The letter was sent by Luo Xueyan. Actually, Chang Zaiqing could not tell if it was from Luo Xueyan or Shen Miao. At the thought of Shen Miao, the clear eyes of the girl that seemed to see through everything appeared in her mind, making her shiver. In the letter, Luo Xueyan said that Chang Zaiqing had not been to the new Shen mansion for a long time. If she had time, she could go and visit them. Luo Xueyan even mentioned that she wanted to introduce a good family to Chang Zaiqing.

However, in this letter, Chang Zaiqing seemed to have read a hidden message.

Some time ago, she changed her target from Shen Xin to Shen Wan. Dealing with Shen Wan was much easier than Chang Zaiqing thought. The reason was that Shen Wan liked elegant people the most, and Chang Zaiqing was quite to his taste. Ever since Shen Yue got into a mess, the conflict between Shen Wan and Chen Ruoqiu had become more and more intense, and Shen Wan liked coming to the west courtyard very much because Chang Zaiqing could understand him and had a way to comfort him. Gradually, Chang Zaiqing became more and more familiar with Shen Yu.

Was Luo Xueyan going to matchmake her and Shen Wan?

Just as she was thinking, a maid outside came in to report that Shen Wan was here.

Nanny Zhao quickly left. When Shen Wan entered the room, she saw Chang Zaiqing holding a letter and reading it with relish. He asked curiously, "Whose letter is this? Why are you so engrossed in reading it?"

Chang Zaiqing seemed to have just seen Shen Wan enter. She smiled and put down the letter in her hand. "It's a letter from First Madam Shen."

The smile on Shen Wan's face froze for a moment. He pretended to ask casually, "Why did Sister-in-law send a letter to you?"

Chang Zaiqing smiled and said, "First Madam Shen is a good person. She said that she wants to be my matchmaker. She probably thinks that I am alone and don't have anyone to rely on."

She was still smiling happily, making her look even more charming, but Shen Wan gradually stopped smiling.

This matter in the Shen family was also being discussed in Rongjing Hall.

Old Madam Shen sat on the couch, and the maid behind her gently massaged her shoulders. Mrs. Wang said softly, "Old Madam, Third Master went to the west courtyard again."

Old Madam Shen opened her eyes slightly, as if she was thinking about something. A moment later, she slowly closed her eyes and said, "So be it. Although her status is a little low, she'll just be a concubine anyway. Her status doesn't matter."

Mrs. Wang also smiled and said, "Old Madam, you can rest assured now. Initially, Third Master refused to take in concubines. After taking Miss Chang in as a concubine, Third Master will definitely start taking in other concubines in the future. At this rate, it won't be long before he can have a son."

Chapter 628 Adding Fuel to the Flame (3)

Old Madam Shen sighed. "If not for the fact that the Shen family doesn't have a single grandson, I wouldn't have interfered in his affairs. At first, he was very protective of Chen Ruoqiu and didn't even

listen to me, his mother. At that time, I said that Chen Ruoqiu won't be doted on for too long because men are all greedy. One day, she would be despised. Didn't I hit the nail on the head?"

Mrs. Wang quickly echoed Old Madam Shen's words. "That's right. Old Madam, you have consumed more salt than she has of rice. you are naturally far-sighted."

Old Madam Shen seemed to enjoy Mrs. Wang's flattery very much, and a trace of smugness appeared on her face. She said, "If I had known that Shen Wan liked such a woman, I would have found a concubine from a scholarly family for him. Chen Ruoqiu always thinks that she's unmatched just because she has read some books. She can't even manage the household well." Then, she said, "I think Chang Zaiqing is not bad. She's obedient and has manners. It's understandable that Shen Gui likes her."

"But neither of them have told each other their feelings yet." Mrs. Wang said, "If this continues and Third Madam finds out, she will probably kick up a big fuss."

"Kick up a fuss? How dare she!" Old Madam Shen said angrily. Then, she thought about it carefully and said, "But it'll indeed be quite troublesome if she kicks up a fuss. Forget it. Since the two of them are interested in each other, find a chance to help them out. What's done is done. Let's see if Chen Ruoqiu dares to stop it. If she dares, the Shen family won't tolerate such a jealous and useless madam who can even give birth to a son. Just send her a divorce letter."

Mrs. Wang nodded.

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The mess in the third branch eventually reached the ears of Shen Dongling.

Xing Hua was carefully making tea for Shen Dongling. It was a top-notch tea. Although the Wang family was not extremely wealthy, they were still very particular about food and clothing. Shen Dongling was treated much better than when she was the illegitimate daughter of the second branch. If the Shen family were present, they would definitely be shocked to find that this leisurely-looking rich lady in front of them was actually the submissive illegitimate daughter of the second branch.

Shen Dongling picked up the tea and took a sip. Xing Hua said worriedly, "I heard that the people from the Shen family came again this morning and said that they agree to let Second Miss marry over. If Second Miss enters the family, what will happen? I'm afraid Third Madam and Third Master will help Second Miss to take everything away from you."

"Don't worry, she won't be able to marry into the Wang family." Shen Dongling smiled and said, "The Wang family won't let Shen Yue enter the family. Even if she does, it's impossible for her to live a good life. Why should they show respect to someone who doesn't show them respect? Choose a few pieces of beautiful fabric and send them to my mother for her to make some new clothes."

At this moment, Shen Dongling acted and spoke like the madam of a family. Xing Hua thought for a moment and smiled. "Miss, you are always smart. I don't know what you said to Young Master Wang that day, but ever since then, he hates all the people from the third branch. However, the third branch reaped what they sowed. It's obvious that Third Miss was the one who suggested the marriage exchange, but she actually wanted to push all the blame to you. She's too vicious."

When the news of Shen Yue saying that everything was planned by Shen Dongling spread to the Wang family, Xing Hua was furious. Back then, when Shen Yue begged Shen Dongling to marry in her place, she clearly said that she would not implicate Shen Dongling, but she went back on her words and tried to harm Shen Dongling. It was simply despicable.

The reason why the Wang family did not like the third branch so much was because Shen Dongling said something to Wang Bi. She said Shen Yue liked Prince Ding, Fu Xiuyi, and the third branch also wanted to stand on Fu Xiuyi's side.

Chapter 629 Adding Fuel to the Flame (4)

Shen Wan wanted Shen Yue to dispel the idea of marrying Fu Xiuyi and chose the Wang family because the Wang Family was not on Fu Xiuyi's side in the competition for the throne. However, it turned out that Shen Yue was infatuated with Prince Ding, and the third branch of the Shen family supported Prince Ding. If the Wang family and the third branch of the Sheng family were related through one way or another, they would definitely have conflicts in the future. Therefore, as long as the Wang family were not stupid, they would not let Shen Yue marry over. Even Shen Dongling's marriage exchange was a blessing for the Wang family because they didn't want to have anything to do with Prince Ding.

Shen Yue's fate with the Wang family was destined to end. However, Shen Dongling did not feel pity or sympathy for her. Shen Yue asked for it, so she naturally had to bear the consequences herself.

Even if the Wang family agreed to let Shen Yue enter the family as an equal wife, would Shen Yue be ok with it? Shen Dongling did not think so.

Not only did Shen Dongling not think so, but Shen Miao also did not think so.

Jingzhe said, "The Shen family is in a mess. This show is really exciting."

Shen Miao smiled indifferently. "Maybe. The bigger the mess, the better. We've cut ties with them, and it has nothing to do with us."

Jingzhe looked at Shen Miao and walked to the side to mutter to Gu Yu, "What's going on with Miss these days? Why does she look like she's not in a good mood?"

Gu Yu was stunned for a moment. She looked over and saw Shen Miao sitting in the courtyard, the book in front of her untouched. She supported her chin with one hand and looked into the sky lazily, thinking about something.

"I think so." Gu Yu nodded and said, "She's been listless for the past few days."

"She's not just listless." Jingzhe shook her head. "In the past, Miss would always be happy to see the Shen family in trouble. Now that the Shen family is in a mess, Miss only nodded faintly when she heard that, as if she's not interested. Is she sick?"

"She can eat, drink, walk, and jump. What kind of sickness would make her like this?" Gu Yu rolled her eyes. "Do you think she's lovesick?"

"Who's lovesick?" A voice came from behind. The two of them were shocked and turned around to see Luo Ling walking over. Jingzhe and Gu Yu quickly greeted, "Greetings, Young Master Luo."

Luo Ling waved his hand and walked towards Shen Miao, who was sitting at the stone table. When he walked to her side and saw that she was still sitting there in a daze, he called out, "Little cousin?"

Shen Miao turned around and saw Luo Ling. She smiled and said, "Cousin Ling."

Luo Ling sat down opposite Shen Miao. His right hand was still not healed, but Shen Qiu had found a left-hand sword technique for him. Over the past few days, he had really been practicing the left-hand sword technique seriously. His mind was much broader than before, and his speech was even more eloquent, making him different from other men of his age. Occasionally, when he walked out, girls would steal glances at him and discuss shyly. They heard from Luo Tan that many young ladies in the capital secretly liked him.

Luo Ling said, "Little Cousin, what's on your mind?"

Shen Miao smiled. "Nothing. I was just absent-minded."

She looked at Luo Ling. "Cousin Ling, why are you looking for me?"

Luo Ling was stunned, and a trace of embarrassment appeared on his handsome face. He just wanted to come and see Shen Miao, but when Shen Miao asked seriously why he was here, he didn't know how to answer her. He had an idea and said, "Uh, the pastries you sent me a few days ago were a little too sweet, so I came to tell you."

Chapter 630 Adding Fuel to the Flame (5)

Gu Yu, who was behind Luo Ling, looked a little angry. Her Miss was not a pastry chef who specialized in making pastries. He had pastries sent to him for free and yet he still wanted to complain.

Jingzhe suppressed her laughter. Gu Yu was a blockhead and couldn't tell, but Jingzhe was smart. Young Master Luo clearly wanted to get close to Shen Miao, but he couldn't find an excuse. However... looking at Shen Miao's indifferent expression, Jingzhen knew that Shen Miao didn't get it.

As expected, Shen Miao frowned and asked, "Too sweet? I didn't add much sugar."

Luo Ling scratched his head in embarrassment. He thought of something and said, "Ahem, Luo Tan once said that Little Cousin seems to know how to make pastries with the fragrance of fruit juice. Can you make that for me next time?"

Shen Miao was stunned.

Luo Tan often came to Shen Miao to talk to her. Occasionally, she would eat the pastries on the table without being asked to. The pastries were made by Shen Miao herself, but she was not skilful at it. However, Luo Tan felt that they were delicious, so she finished the basket of pastries in one go.

The pastries were mixed with water and fruit juice, which was the way the royal chef of the Daliang Dynasty did it. Previously, when Xie Jingxing asked Shen Miao to make two baskets of pastries for him to fill his stomach while he went to kill Princess Ming An. Later, Xie Jinxing disappeared for a period of time. These days, while watching the farce in the Shen family, Shen Miao wanted to make some more to thank him.

Thinking of this, Shen Miao gradually lowered her eyes. Speaking of which, it had been a few days since Xie Jingxing left. What was strange was that there was actually no news about Prince Rui disappearing for so many days in the capital. Shen Miao didn't know if Xie Jinxing was safe. After all, he was still carrying the identity of the young marquis of the Marquis of Lin'an.

Seeing that Shen Miao was in a daze again, Luo Ling waved his hand in front of her and asked, "Cousin?"

Shen Miao came back to her senses and smiled apologetically at Luo Ling. "I'm sorry, Cousin Luo. I made the pastry recipe on a whim. At that time, I fiddled with the ingredients and was lucky enough to make some that were actually edible, and it was all eaten by Cousin Tan. I don't know if I can make that kind of thing again."

Jingzhe, who was behind Shen Miao, widened her eyes. Shen Miao actually lied to Young Master Luo in a serious manner. Jingzhen naturally knew if Shen Miao knew how to make the pastry or not. Shen Miao came up with the recipe in detail and made it skilfully. Why wasn't she willing to make some for Young Master Luo?

Could it be that Young Master Luo had offended Shen Miao? Jingzhe was puzzled.

Luo Ling did not expect Shen Miao to reject him and was even more embarrassed, not knowing what to say.

Shen Miao looked calm and did not reveal any emotion that would betray her. The process of making those pastries was complicated. She had made it once, but she did not have the patience to make it for others all day long. Luo Ling... It was better to get the pastry chef in the kitchen to make something else for him.

While they were talking, the other person under the roof in the distance observed quietly. That person was dressed in white and had a fan in his hand. He looked like a gentleman. It was Gao Yang.

Ever since Xie Jingxing left, instructed by Xie Jingxing, Gao Yang had been staying in the new Shen mansion with the excuse of treating the injury on Luo Ling's arm so that he could protect Shen Miao at all times.

Gao Yang looked at Luo Ling with sympathy. Then, he looked at Shen Miao and shook his head, sighing deeply.