

Venomous 641

Chapter 641 Return (3)

Xie Jingxing said, "These are all priceless. You're a girl after all. What's wrong with having some jewelry?"

Shen Miao thought for a moment and said, "Maybe I can pawn them to the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop."

Xie Jingxing choked and frowned. "Are you short of money?"

"It's always a good thing to have a lot of money. Without money, you can't do anything. As time passes, I will inevitably run out of money," Shen Miao said frankly. Now when she was with Xie Jingxing, she was not as vigilant as before, so she spoke in a very down to earth manner. Anyway, Xie Jingxing was resourceful. There were some things that he could find out himself without Shen Miao telling him. There was no need to hide it.

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When Xie Jingxing heard this, he took out a round jade token from his sleeve and said, "This is the token of the Golden Jade Bank. With this, you can take as much money as you want."

Shen Miao picked up the jade token. It was crystal clear and cold to the touch. Shen Miao knew that Xie Jingxing would definitely not lie. This jade token could indeed be used to get banknotes from the Golden Jade Bank. However, the Golden Jade Bank was the largest bank in Ming Qi. Even the royal family sometimes would borrow money from them. Xie Jingxing could even get his hand on the token. What else was he capable of?

Shen Miao returned the jade token to Xie Jingxing and said, "I didn't want to take your things."

Xie Jingxing stared at her with interest and said, "You really have a backbone." He nodded and gestured for Shen Miao to look at the box. "These are not ordinary jewelry. Look closely."

Shen Miao was a little puzzled. She casually picked up a pair of jade rings. The jade was of extremely good quality. Shen Miao looked at it and saw that the buckle of the pair of rings seemed to be a little strange. She touched it carefully and found that it was a hidden buckle. She looked up at Xie Jingxing. "What is this?"

Xie Jingxing smiled. "Hidden weapon."

"Hidden weapon?" Shen Miao was about to press the buckle when Xie Jingxing suddenly stopped her. Immediately after, Xie Jingxing stood up and walked behind her. He wrapped his arms around her shoulders from behind and taught her how to use the jade ring.

"There's a poison needle here. Ordinary people will be unconscious for a while after being injected. Don't use it randomly."

"There's poison powder in the hairpin. If you pull out the hairpin, it can blind people. It's very useful when you encounter bad people."

"There's a knife hidden in the bracelet. If you are tied up, you can use the knife to cut open the rope."

“There’s a whistle in the earring. If you are in a really urgent situation, you can blow the whistle. My people are everywhere in the capital. If you’re in danger, they’ll rush over to save you...”

He explained everything to Shen Miao carefully. His tone was no longer as frivolous and lazy as usual, but it was extremely serious. His long eyelashes were slightly lowered as his beautiful eyes fixated on the jewelry. Occasionally, he would glance at Shen Miao, looking charming and mesmerizing.

Shen Miao felt a little hot.

Even when the window was open, Shen Miao still felt stuffy in the room. When he leaned over, he looked down. Shen Miao was almost leaning against his chest, and even her back seemed to be covered in a layer of sweat. She tilted her head slightly to steal a glance of him. Xie Jingxing’s lips were beautifully curled up, as if he was smiling. Shen Miao looked away as if she was dazzled.

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Xie Jingxing was a little unhappy that Shen Miao was distracted. He knocked Shen Miao gently on the head and said, “Focus.”

Shen Miao sat forward and moved a little away from him. She pretended to be calm and said, “I’ve already remembered everything you said. I’ll put them on when I go out.”

Xie Jingxing smiled. “Didn’t you say you don’t want it?”

Shen Miao turned around. “You remembered wrongly.”

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When she turned around, she almost bumped into Xie Jingxing because he was looking down at her. Shen Miao was slightly stunned and her face quickly turned red.

This young man was unbelievably handsome. Usually, he was devilish and cynical. However, when he looked at you with those beautiful eyes, it was as if winter was replaced by spring, giving vitality to the earth.

Xie Jingxing chuckled. His voice was as mellow as wine, making Shen Miao flustered. He reached out and brushed the hair on Shen Miao’s forehead away. He stared into Shen Miao’s eyes and said in confusion, “Why are you blushing?”

Shen Miao suddenly stood up and took two steps forward. With her back facing Xie Jingxing, she said, “The room is too stuffy.”

It was precisely because her back was facing Xie Jingxing that she missed the smile that flashed across the purple-clothed young man’s eyes.

“Because you feel embarrassed about getting things from for free?” Xie Jingxing said indifferently, “It’s simple. Just make some pastries for me.” After saying that, he thought of something and said, “I can’t get you to make pastries for me no matter how hard I try while someone can get it without doing anything. It’s really infuriating.”

“What?” Shen Miao did not understand what Xie Jingxing meant. However, she saw that Xie Jingxing had already stood up. He said, “Forget it. I’m just here to send you the hidden weapons today. They can help you get rid of people and get out of danger. I think you need them.”

Shen Miao wanted to retort, but she felt that Xie Jingxing was right. She lived on the edge of a knife. Although she was protected by the Shen family, what she did was extremely dangerous. If one day, the Shen family could not protect her, she could only protect herself.

This box of hidden weapons that looked like jewelry could undoubtedly come in handy for her. Xie Jingxing was indeed someone who knew her best. Thinking of how she had treated Xie Jingxing as her opponent previously, Shen Miao felt a chill run down her spine.

Xie Jingxing suddenly thought of something and said, “Do you know where Shen Yue is?”

Shen Yue? Shen Miao shook her head. She had planted spies in the Shen mansion and knew that Shen Yue had fled home and gone missing. Chen Ruoyu’s people had yet to find Shen Yue, and Shen Miao had once sent people to find her, but they all came back empty-handed. Shen Miao had been suspicious. Although the capital was big, it was not to the extent where it was hard to find someone. Moreover, how could a delicate girl like Shen Yue survive alone outside for a few days?

“You know where Shen Yue is?” Shen Miao asked.

Xie Jingxing said, “She’s in Huangfu Hao’s place.”

After Xie Jingxing left, Shen Miao rubbed her forehead and sat down on the bed. The candle on the table was about to burn out.

Shen Yue actually went to Huangfu Hao’s place. The trajectory of events had deviated too much from that of Shen Miao’s previous life, such as Shen Yue’s fate. Now that Shen Yue was with Huangfu Hao, no one could predict what would happen next.

Shen Miao looked at the box and reached out to take it before picking out an emerald bracelet and putting it on. The emerald bracelet made her wrist look slender and fair like a painting. It was originally a cold jade, but Shen Miao felt it was warm on her skin, just like the young man’s eyes.

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She scratched her head in frustration and closed the box. However, she accidentally saw a jade token lying quietly beside the box.

The token of the Golden Jade Bank...

Shen Miao remembered that she returned the token to Xie Jingxing, but somehow, Xie Jingxing still left it behind, obviously intentionally. Shen Miao had never seen anyone giving out so much money to others. She felt sorry for the Daliang Dynasty for having such a prodigal prince.

Putting away the jade token, Shen Miao shook her head. She thought that when she met Xie Jingxing another day, she would return this to him...

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In Huangfu Hao's mansion, late at night, a woman was sitting in front of the mirror to dress up.

She was quite beautiful, especially so because of the scholarly aura she exuded. At this moment, she was wearing a snow-white inner dress. However, through the mirror, one could see her dark expression.

This person was none other than Shen Yue, who had been missing for many days.

Shen Yue had never thought that one day, she would actually build a relationship with the crown prince of the State of Qin. She originally planned to leave home and go to Prince Ding's mansion. She thought that Fu Xiuyi was such a gentle person and she was the daughter of the third branch of the Shen family, so on account of her father, Fu Xiuyi would not sit back and do nothing. She was born beautiful, had a friendly personality, and was talented in poetry and painting. Even a rock would be tempted by her. At that time, as long as she poured her heart out to Prince Ding, Prince Ding would definitely take pity on her.

However, she had never left home alone like this since she was born, so how could she navigate her way to Prince Ding's mansion? Because she was afraid that the servants of the Shen family would be searching for her, she had no choice but to hide. There were often such women in the capital. They either escaped from the marriage or had done something wrong. Women who were alone were the easiest to be targeted. Shen Yue was also targeted.

The people who targeted her were a group of local hooligans. Before she could find Prince Ding's mansion, she was cornered in a remote alley. Those local hooligans snatched her belongings and wanted to humiliate her. In a hurry, Shen Yue shouted that she was the niece of the mighty general.

Shen Yue knew very well that her father's name was far less famous than Shen Wan's, especially now that Shen Xin had returned to the capital and was highly valued by Emperor Wen Hui.

In the end, someone happened to pass by. When the person heard her shout, he helped her out. Later, Shen Yue found out that this person was actually from Crown Prince Qin's mansion.

Then, Shen Yue was brought to see Huangfu Hao.

Shen Yue had only seen Huangfu Hao once at the tribute banquet. He was of noble status, so she did not have a chance to talk to him. This time, Huangfu Hao helped her out, so Shen Yue thanked him profusely. Unexpectedly, Huangfu Hao seemed to be very interested in her. To be precise, he was very interested in Shen Miao and asked her a lot of questions about Shen Miao.

Shen Yue felt that Huangfu Hao probably liked Shen Miao, so she was even more jealous. No matter what, Huangfu Hao was the crown prince of the State of Qin. One day, he would be the emperor of the State of Qin. If Shen Miao and Huangfu Hao got together, she would become the crown princess and be the empress one day with endless wealth to enjoy.

Therefore, Shen Yue said a lot of bad things about Shen Miao. Slowly, she revealed that Shen Miao was a scheming and untalented woman. As expected, after Shen Yue finished speaking, she saw that Huangfu Hao frowned with a trace of disgust on his face, which made Shen Yue satisfied.

Huangfu Hao planned to send Shen Yue back. Shen Yue heard that Shen Wan wanted to divorce Chen Ruoqiu and Chen Ruoqiu returned home in a fit of anger. She was furious and planned to go back to seek justice for her mother. However, just as she was about to leave, she thought that if she went back

now, she would definitely be asked to marry Wang Bi. Now, Shen Wan and Old Madam Shen were still angry with her. If she went back, what awaited her was definitely punishment.

Shen Yue could not think of a good idea, but she did not want to sit back and see Chen Ruoqiu suffer either. Once Chen Ruoqiu was divorced, even her place in the family would be affected. She would probably have no place in the Shen family in the future. Shen Yue already had a lot of grudge against Shen Wan and Old Madam Shen, and this time, she was filled with resentment.

In the end, she thought of a way.

Huangfu Hao was the crown prince of the State of Qin and had monstrous power. If Huangfu Hao could step in, nothing would be a problem.

As for her, she just had to please Huangfu Hao.

She had to stay here to prevent the Shen family from finding her and controlling her.

Chapter 644 Matchmake Shen Miao (1)

It had been snowing for a few days in the capital, and the sky finally cleared up.

Shen Miao was drying books in the courtyard. They were all military books sent to her by Shen Qiu. These days, they had gone moldy because of the damp weather and needed to be dried. Jingzhe and Gu Yu were drying the bedding in the courtyard. Jingzhe said, "I heard that the lawsuit between the Chen and Shen families was extremely lively. Many people lined up the street to sit on the case. Now that it's dragged on for so long, I wonder what the outcome will be."

"The outcome can't be good. Both sides will suffer a loss." Gu Yu said disdainfully, "They even brought their family affairs to court. Fortunately, Master and Madam split up from the Shen family early. Otherwise, they might also be affected."

Chen Ruoqiu's family and the Shen family had a lawsuit.

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Old Master Chen was a stubborn old man. He was very prideful and refused to back down. He would defend himself to the end and would never allow himself to be the one in the wrong. Old Master Chen went all out to protect Chen Ruoqiu's reputation naturally not because he doted on Chen Ruoqiu, but because he did not allow the Shen family to look down on the Chen family. Chen Ruoqiu's mother, on the other hand, was something. Her heart ached for Chen Ruoqiu, and with just a few words, she convinced Old Master Chen to fight a lawsuit with the Shen family over the divorce.

The Chen family said that over the years Chen Ruoqiu had been married to Shen Wan, she was conscientious and managed the household well. She had once suggested Shen Wan take in a concubine, but Shen Wan declined the suggestion. Everyone outside knew that Chen Ruoqiu was well-educated and gentle. Now, Shen Wan was actually willing to divorce his wife for a woman who came out of nowhere. It was simply outrageous.

The Shen family said that although Chen Ruoqiu was the madam, she could not give birth to a son. Now that her husband was finally going to take in a concubine, out of jealousy, she even tried to stop him.

This farce provided the people of the capital something to talk about in idle hours.

The capital magistrate had a headache dealing with this lawsuit. He could not afford to offend either side, so he could only drag it out.

During the lawsuit, Shen Wan and Chen Ruoqiu's marriage was destined to end. Firstly, it was because Shen Wan was a court official after all, but because of this family matter, his reputation was ruined and his official career hindered. Secondly, it was because Chang Zaiqing was pregnant.

Chang Zaiqing's pregnancy at this critical juncture put Chen Ruoqiu at a greater disadvantage. Although Shen Wan had doted on Chen Ruoqiu for so many years, it did not mean that he did not look forward to having a son. If Chang Zaiqing was pregnant with his son, he would have someone to carry on the family line. Therefore, the more he was with Chang Zaiqing, the happier he felt. As for Chen Ruoqiu, she became a piece of tattered rag that no one wanted.

Shen Miao smiled and said, "Don't forget to give some money to the people in the government."

Gu Yu nodded and asked in confusion, "Miss, are you helping Third Master or Third Madam?"

Shen Miao asked Gu Yu to take some money to give to people in the government, but she did not know who Shen Miao wanted to side with.

Gu Yu whispered, "It's better not to get involved in it. That family is not a good family."

Although her voice was soft, Shen Miao still heard it. Shen Miao said, "I'm not on either side."

Fighting a lawsuit was the most expensive thing. The poor families fought the lawsuit without money, so the lawsuit could end quickly. However, when the lawsuit involved rich people, the lawsuit would last for quite some time because the people in the government office also had to make money. The longer the lawsuit lasted, the more money the government office could make.

Chapter 645 Matchmake Shen Miao (2)

When Shen Miao was in the palace in her previous life, she had seen Fu Xiuyi using this method to deal with a courtier. That courtier was originally Prince Zhou's subordinate. Fu Xiuyi couldn't deal with him openly, so he got the courtier involved in a lawsuit. In the end, the courtier went bankrupt.

The government office and the casino were the most profitable places. Whenever Shen Miao thought about how Shen Wan and Chen Ruoqiu tried their best to frame the first branch of the Shen family in her previous life, she wanted to rip their faces apart.

As long as Shen Miao gave some money to ask the people in the government office to delay this lawsuit, the Shen and Chen families would definitely suffer a huge blow if not bankrupt. Moreover, Shen Wan and Chen Ruoqiu were both people who cared about their reputation. This time, it was definitely impossible for them to get back together.

There was nothing more satisfying than this.

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Shen Miao's gaze turned cold. However, Chang Zaiqing actually got pregnant at this time... At the thought of what Chang Zaiqing had done to cause Luo Xueyan's death in her previous life, Shen Miao couldn't help but sneer.

She said, "Call Mo Qing over and ask him to find some people to bring someone from Liuzhou."

In Liuzhou, Chang Zaiqing still had her son and husband. After driving Luo Xueyan to an early grave, Chang Zaiqing enjoyed a comfortable life for many years before her unsavory past was dug out. Now, Shen Miao would be the one to dig out her unsavory past.

While Shen Miao was thinking about how to deal with the third branch of the Shen family, Shen Wan went to Prince Ding's mansion.

Shen Wan was a smart person. In the competition for the throne, the crown prince was the rightful successor, but he was sick and weak. Prince Zhou had his mother, who was a favored consort, to back him up, but he was arrogant. Prince Li was resourceful, but he was not favored by Emperor Wen Hui. Only Prince Ding seemed to be outside the competition, showing no interest in the throne.

However, Shen Wan had a feeling that Fu Xiuyi was not as uninterested in the throne as he looked on the surface. This made Shen Wan even more hesitant as to what to do. However, ever since Shen Xin returned, the Shen family had been in trouble one after another. Shen Wan's official career was going downhill, and none of the princes showed enthusiasm towards him. At this moment, he thought of Fu Xiuyi.

In the early years, before Shen Xin split up from the Shen family, Fu Xiuyi actually treated Shen Wan quite well and showed interest in roping him in. Shen Wan naturally understood that Fu Xiuyi was after Shen Xin's military power, but at that time, he was in the position to choose, so he didn't give Fu Xiuyi a straightforward answer. Later, Fu Xiuyi seemed to understand what he meant, and he was not as enthusiastic as before.

Now that the Shen family was not doing as well as before, if Shen Wan still wanted to protect his official career... In addition, Chang Zaiqing might be able to give birth to a son for him. He no longer wanted to stay mediocre and suddenly had the desire to make a name for himself.

Riches came from danger. He still wanted to give it a try.

Therefore, Shen Wan made up his mind to pay Prince Ding a visit to express his stance. Shen Wan found it a little funny. If he had made this decision earlier, perhaps Shen Yue would not have to be forced to marry Wang Bi, nor would she have to escape home. He could even use Shen Yue to win over Fu Xiuyi's heart. However, without Shen Yue's marriage exchange, perhaps he and Chen Ruoqiu would not have come to this point. Chang Zaiqing would not be pregnant, and he would not have made up his mind to join hands with Prince Ding.

Fate liked to play tricks on people.

Fu Xiuyi sat at the head of the table and ordered someone to serve tea to Shen Wan. There was no need for an exchange of pleasantries because they both knew why they were here. Fu Xiuyi smiled gently. "Lord Shen, I heard that you've been busy with family matters these days. What brings you here?"

Chapter 646 Matchmake Shen Miao (3)

Shen Wan was embarrassed. Now that the matter between him and Chen Ruoqiu had become a laughing stock in the entire imperial court, his colleagues looked at him as if he was a joke. It was simply a torture for Shen Wan, who was thin-skinned.

Shen Wan said, "I'm willing to sacrifice my life for Your Highness!"

When Fu Xiuyi heard this, he only smiled imperceptibly and did not reply. It was unknown if he trusted Shen Wan or not. There were only the two of them and the servants in the hall. This silence gradually made the atmosphere tense. Cold sweat started to break out on Shen Wan's forehead.

After a long silence, when Shen Wan felt that he was drenched in sweat, he heard Fu Xiuyi's voice. He said, "But now that Shen Xin has already left the Shen family, what's the use of having you?"

Shen Wan's heart skipped a beat. Shen Xiin was indeed the reason Fu Xiuyi was enthusiastic towards him back then.

Before the second branch declined, Shen Wan had already guessed that Shen Yuan was working for Fu Xiuyi. However, what could Fu Xiuyi ask Shen Yuan to do? Shen Yuan was recruited by Fu Xiuyi at a very young age, so it couldn't possibly be because Fu Xiuyi thought highly of him. Later, Shen Wan thought it through. It was probably because Shen Yuan was a spy Fu Xiuyi could use to monitor Shen Xin at all times.

However, after Shen Yuan died, Fu Xiuyi couldn't find another person to replace Shen Yuan. Later, Shen Xin went to Spring City, so there was no need for a spy.

Unexpectedly, two years later, Shen Xin returned triumphantly to the capital and reclaimed his military power. Shen Xin was an existence that Fu Xiuyi couldn't ignore if he wanted to win the competition for the throne.

Shen Wan said carefully, "Although he left the family, we're still brothers. If Your Highness has any instructions, I'll do my best."

"Good." Fu Xiuyi said, "I admire talented people and believe in Lord Shen's ability. I happen to have something to ask of you. Since we're all on the same side, I believe Lord Shen will do it well."

Shen Wan was a little uneasy. Fu Xiuyi was obviously giving him a test. If he passed the test, he would naturally be recruited by Fu Xiuyi. If he did not do it well, he would not be able to prove that he was a "talented person" and would be heartlessly abandoned by Fu Xiuyi. As for the consequences that the test brought about, Shen Wan naturally had to bear them himself.

This was a deal.

Shen Wan made up his mind and said, "Your Highness, please enlighten me!"

Fu Xiuyi looked at him in satisfaction and said, "It's not difficult. I know that General Shen has a daughter, Fifth Miss Shen, whom he loves dearly. Fifth Miss Shen should have reached the age for marriage."

Shen Wan suddenly looked up!

Back then, when Shen Miao was chasing after Fu Xiuyi and said that she wanted to marry him, Fu Xiuyi couldn't even be bothered to cast a glance at her. Occasionally, when the other princes mentioned Shen Miao, he would look extremely annoyed. After all, being liked by such an idiotic and stupid girl was a humiliation to a high and noble prince. But now... Shen Wan's heart was pounding. Shen Miao was getting more and more beautiful, and her temperament was steadier. She no longer looked like an idiot and could be considered a very good noble lady in the capital. If Fu Xiuyi wanted to marry Shen Miao... With the hatred between the first and third branches of the Shen family, once Shen Miao became powerful, she would definitely do everything to bring him down.

Shen Wan did not want Shen Miao to climb higher and higher. He hoped that Shen Miao would be as low as dirt!

Shen Wan suppressed the bitterness in his heart and said, "Your Highness... do you want to marry Fifth Miss?"

"Me?" Fu Xiuyi smiled, as if he had heard a funny joke. He shook his head and said, "Not me, but my brother."

Chapter 647 Matchmake Shen Miao (4)

Shen Wan was stunned.

Fu Xiuyi's voice slowly reached his ears.

"Let Fifth Miss Shen marry my fourth brother, Prince Zhou."

Shen Wan was shocked at first, but when he thought about it and understood, he suddenly felt a chill run down his spine.

Shen Miao was Shen Xin's daughter. Xie in the south and Shen in the north. The Xie family had declined and there was no coming back for them, making Shen Xin the most powerful person second only to the emperor in Ming Qi. Whoever married Shen Miao would gain a huge military advantage. With Shen Miao's identity, she was destined to not be able to marry a prince because it would make Emperor Wen Hui, who was already paranoid, feel threatened. It would be ideal if Shen Miao married an ordinary man. It was probably because of this that Shen Miao had not been engaged at this age, because if she really married an ordinary man, Shen Xin would definitely feel that his daughter would suffer.

For the crown prince, it was fine if he married Shen Miao. After all, he was the rightful successor to the throne. If any of the other princes married Shen Miao, it would be no different from openly declaring that they wanted to compete for the throne. On the surface, it seemed like roping in Shen Xin was a good thing, but if one thought carefully about it, one would realize the underlying danger.

In the competition for the throne, Prince Zhou's faction was doing the best. Prince Zhou's mother was favored by the emperor and was quite capable. If Prince Zhou and Shen Miao were tied together by marriage at this juncture, he would definitely be pushed to the center of the storm. Emperor Wen Hui would definitely be wary and afraid, and the other princes would be jealous. Prince Zhou would probably be suppressed very badly. As for the Shen family, if they took sides so openly, they would probably die miserably once the people from the State of Qin and the Daliang Dynasty left.

What a masterful use of the strategy of killing two birds with one stone. Shen Wan suddenly felt afraid of Fu Xiuyi. He was too scheming and ruthless.

Fu Xiuyi did not seem to notice Shen Wan's expression. He smiled gently and said, "I'll leave it to Lord Shen." He did not even tell Shen Wan how to do it or how far he had to do it. Prince Zhou already had Consort Zhou. If Shen Miao married him, she could only be his concubine.

Shen Wan was not confident at all, but he did not want to show it. He cupped his hands at Fu Xiuyi and said, "I will do my best."

Next, the two of them exchanged a few pleasantries. Fu Xiuyi's attitude was neither warm nor cold. If it were two years ago, Fu Xiuyi would probably treat Shen Wan better. However, things were different now. The Shen family was not as good as before. Shen Wan was also in a lawsuit, so Fu Xiuyi naturally did not value him much.

After Shen Wan left Prince Ding's mansion, Pei Lang walked out from behind the screen.

Fu Xiuyi looked at Pei Lang. "Sir, what do you think of Shen Wan?"

Pei Lang shook his head. "Although he has some tricks up his sleeve, he's not ruthless enough. He can't even handle his family matters. If you use him, he will do more harm than good."

Fu Xiuyi smiled and looked at Pei Lang with admiration. "Sir, I think so too." After saying that, he sighed and continued, "Ever since the Xie brothers died, I've been having a hard time finding people to replace them. The Xie brothers were useful if trained well, but now they are both gone."

Pei Lang frowned. "Your Highness, are you planning to use Shen Wan?"

"He's just a fence-sitter." Fu Xiuyi smiled faintly. "In the past, he was indecisive and couldn't make up his mind. Now, the situation has forced him to side with me, but it's too late. I just want him to do something for me."

Pei Lang asked, "Your Highness, do you think it's a good idea to get Shen Wan to think of a way to put the fourth prince and Shen Miao together?"

Chapter 648 Matchmake Shen Miao (5)

"I don't know if it's a good idea or not, but since this is Shen Wan's only chance, he will definitely make it happen at all costs. Shen Xin and Prince Zhou both have unstoppable momentum. If we don't make a move now, I'm afraid it'll really be too late."

Pei Lang stopped talking. Fu Xiuyi suddenly asked, "If I marry Shen Miao, what do you think?"

Pei Lang's heart skipped a beat, but he still maintained a calm expression and analyzed, "I'm afraid if it's not good, it will arouse His Majesty's suspicion and make the other princes wary of you."

Fu Xiuyi nodded, looking a little regretful. His tone was ambiguous as he said, "What a pity."

Pei Lang did not understand what Fu Xiuyi was feeling regretful for. Fu Xiuyi did not seem to have any feelings for Shen Miao. If he did, he would not be so cold to Shen Miao when she was chasing after him back then.

What was Fu Xiuyi regretful for? Was he regretting that he could not get the military power of the Shen family?

Pei Lang did not know what the answer was. After Fu Xiuyi left, he returned to his room. When he was alone, he started to write a letter.

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Tonight, Prince Rui's mansion was grim, filled with murderous intentions.

The servants all had solemn expressions, and none of them dared to breathe loudly. Today, when Prince Rui returned, his expression was very cold. Gao Yang and Ji Yushu, who were beside him, also had rare solemn expressions. Tie Yi and Nan Qi brought a person who looked like a guard into the room with Prince Rui.

Even his study was very spacious. Coupled with some magnificent decorations, it did not look like a study anymore but rather, a place in the palace. There was a person sitting at the desk, playing with the thumb ring in his hand in boredom. He was wearing a gorgeous dark purple robe with gold embroidered on it. His robe slowly draped over the wide chair, like a purple cloud flowing down from the sky.

The person kneeling on the ground was prostrating. One could only see his boots. They were green-black deerskin boots, and the threads seemed to be made of silver. With a glance, one could tell that the owner of this pair of boots was arrogant and prodigal.

Xie Jingxing leaned back against the couch with his feet on the chair. He lowered his eyes and looked at the person below. When his face turned cold, it made people shiver. His eyes seemed to have instantly turned into the ice in the glacier. He said indifferently, "Tell me, who do you work for?"

That person gritted his teeth and did not speak.

Gao Yang and Ji Yushu also frowned.

Xie Jingxing smiled lazily and said, "It's fine if you don't want to speak. Throw him into the tower jail." He suddenly bent down and leaned closer to the guard, saying in a low voice, "I know who it is anyway."

The guard's expression did not change. His body was covered in wounds. Clearly, he had been tortured a lot. Xie Jingxing smiled, but his smile did not reach his eyes. "Take away his token."

Ji Yushu and Gao Yang were stunned at the same time and could not help but look at the guard.

The guard widened his eyes as a trace of shock flashed across his face. When Xie Jingxing mentioned the token, it was obvious that he already knew his identity. Everyone knew that Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty was ruthless, and the tower jail was a terrifying place to be.

The guard made up his mind and knelt down to kowtow to Xie Jingxing a few times. "Your Highness, please show mercy!"

Chapter 649 Matchmake Shen Miao (6)

Xie Jingxing glanced at him and sneered. "I overestimated the person sent by my brother." His tone was filled with mockery. "I thought you got tough bones. How boring."

Ji Yushu couldn't help but ask the guard, "What does His Majesty want you to do to Fifth Miss Shen?"

This person was caught at the entrance of the Shen mansion. Fortunately, Xie Jingxing sent his people to keep an eye on the Shen mansion all day long to prevent any accidents from happening. This person was extremely skilled in martial arts and was quite vigilant. Xie Jingxing's men waited for a few days before catching him.

The guard wanted to say something, but when he met Xie Jingxing's devilish smile, he couldn't help but feel a chill run down his spine. In the entire royal family of the Daliang Dynasty, this Prince Rui, who always looked handsome and apathetic to everything, was the one who was the most difficult to deal with. Two years ago, when he returned to the Daliang Dynasty, many forces in the court were secretly planning to deal with him, but they were all eliminated by Xie Yuan one by one. His methods were merciless and he was unfathomable.

Under his penetrating gaze, the guard no longer dared to hide anything. He came clean about why he was here. "His Majesty knew about Fifth Miss Shen and was afraid that Your Highness is lingering in Ming Qi because of Fifth Miss Shen, so His Majesty sent me to investigate... He didn't ask me to hurt Fifth Miss Shen. He just wanted me to investigate..."

Gao Yang and Ji Yushu both had a complicated look on their faces. Although Emperor Yong Le was in the Daliang Dynasty, he might have spies in the capital of Ming Qi. After discovering the relationship between Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing, with Emperor Yong Le's personality, he would not allow anything that was not part of his plan to happen. Shen Miao was from Ming Qi after all, and her identity would bring many variables. From the looks of it, Emperor Yong Le wasn't just going to let Xie Jingxing do whatever he wanted.

However, the most troublesome thing was that these two brothers were both stubborn and would never change their minds. If Emperor Yong Le tried to stop Xie Jingxing, Xie Jingxing would not give in even if the world was turned upside down.

As expected, when Xie Jingxing heard that, he smiled and said, "Oh? Since you're just here to investigate, there's no need to lock you up. I'll send you back to the Daliang Dynasty."

The guard was slightly stunned. Before he could speak, he heard Xie Jingxing's voice above him. "Do you know what to reply?"

The guard hesitated for a moment. Prince Rui and Emperor Yong Le were both terrifying existences. In despair, he asked tentatively, "Should I reply that Your Highness has nothing to do with Fifth Miss Shen?"

Xie Jingxing looked at him with interest, his beautiful eyes filled with a deep meaning. He slowly said, "How can you lie to His Majesty?"

Gao Yang tightened his grip on the folding fan in his hand while Ji Yushu swallowed hard.

"Go back and tell him that he's right. I stayed because of Shen Miao." The young man smiled gently, but his eyes were scary. He said indifferently, "Don't think about changing anything, because I won't allow it."

"By the way, remember to remind my brother." He yawned. "Of the agreement with me."

...

The quiet night covered everything from the tension in Prince Rui's mansion, to the schemes in Prince Ding's mansion, to the whispers in the Shen Mansion.

The Autumn Water Garden was already occupied by a new mistress. In a fit of anger, Chen Ruoqiu went back to the Chen family and even filed a lawsuit against her husband. Everyone knew that Chen Ruoqiu would not be able to win her place back. As for this new mistress, she seemed like a good and generous person. What was more, she was pregnant. The servants were fence-sitters. Immediately, they became servile to Chang Zaiqing.

Chang Zaiqing sat in the room and rubbed her stomach with a gentle smile.

After all, the west courtyard was too far away, and it was a little cold. The doctor Old Madam Shen found said that the child in Chang Zaiqing's stomach was a boy. Since then, Old Madam Shen had been treating Chang Zaiqing like she was her mother and Shen Wan immediately brought Chang Zaiqing to the Autumn Water Garden just so he could take better care of her.

Obviously, Chang Zaiqing was already the new mistress of the Autumn Water Garden. She was very satisfied with the current situation. Although Chen Ruoqiu was more experienced in life, she was old and ugly now, and she did not give birth to a son, so in this battle, Chang Zaiqing was destined to win.

Shen Wan entered the room and put down the tonic in his hand. He walked to Chang Zaiqing's side and rubbed her stomach with a smile.

Chang Zaiqing smiled at him. Suddenly, she asked in a soft voice, "Master, is there something troubling you?"

Shen Wan was stunned for a moment before he said with a sigh, "There's indeed something troubling me."

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"Something is bothering me," Shen Wan replied with a bitter smile.

Chang Zaiqing patted Shen Wan's hand and smiled. "Master, if you have anything on your mind, why don't you tell me? Perhaps I can help."

Shen Wan looked at Chang Zaiqing's stomach and said, "Forget it, your priority is to rest well at home. Don't let anything bother you. Besides, what's troubling me is related to the imperial court."

Chang Zaiqing was not discouraged. She smiled and said, "Before I moved in with you, you treated me as a confidante and would always tell me what was on your mind, be it the trivial matters at home or the matters of the imperial court. You've never been so distant. Why is it that as long as we are together, you're estranged from me?" She shook her head and said, "I'm not just a woman who only knows how to sew clothes and grow flowers in the backyard. Although I'm not very smart, it's much easier for two people to think of a solution together than one person."

Chang Zaiqing was different from Chen Ruoqiu. Chen Ruoqiu was a real "delicate wife". In the past, she would never interfere in Shen Wan's career. When Shen Wan's career was flourishing, it was good to

have such an obedient wife who minded her own business. However, if anything happened, Chen Ruoqiu would not be able to help Shen Wan at all.

Chang Zaiqing was different. Before the two of them got together, they regarded each other as friends. They would talk about everything. Chang Zaiqing was quite knowledgeable and could occasionally hit the nail on the head about matters in the imperial court.

Hearing Chang Zaiqing say that, Shen Wan's heart skipped a beat.

Not only did Chang Zaiqing have her own opinion on the matters of the imperial court, but more importantly, Chang Zaiqing was also a woman. Getting Shen Miao to marry Prince Zhou now was not as easy as two years ago. If it were two years ago, before Shen Miao's personality changed drastically, it would naturally be very easy. He only needed to say a few nice words to make Shen Miao believe him. Now, it would not work. Moreover, his relationship with the first branch was tense, so he could not persuade Shen Xin either. Perhaps he could get some useful insights from Chang Zaiqing.

At the thought of this, Shen Wan looked at Chang Zaiqing and asked tentatively, "If I want Fifth Miss to marry Prince Zhou, what do you think I should do?"

"Prince Zhou?" Chang Zaiqing was stunned and asked curiously, "Why do you want Fifth Miss to marry Prince Zhou?"

Shen Wan chuckled. "I'm just wondering." Although he already regarded Chang Zaiqing as his woman, he had to keep his mouth shut when working for Prince Ding. Otherwise, he would die a horrible death should the words leaked out.

Chang Zaiqing was a smart person. She quickly understood and did not continue asking. She said, "Fifth Miss Shen is General Shen's beloved daughter. Now that Prince Zhou already has a princess consort, if Fifth Miss Shen marries over, she will at most be a secondary consort. General Shen and his wife will not agree."

Shen Wan frowned and nodded, looking troubled.

Chang Zaiqing saw this and her heart skipped a beat.

No matter what, being a secondary consort was definitely not a good thing for Shen Miao. Although Chang Zaiqing did not understand what Shen Wan was up to, she was certain that once this matter was done, Shen Miao would not have a good time. Thinking of that girl's piercing eyes that seemed to be able to see through her mind, Chang Zaiqing felt a little uneasy. For some reason, Chang Zaiqing had an instinctive fear and uneasiness towards Shen Miao, as if Shen Miao's existence would pose a threat to her own existence. Chang Zaiqing was a person who wanted to be safe. Therefore, if she could get rid of Shen Miao, it might not be a bad thing for her.