

Venomous 651

Chapter 651 Infighting (2)

Especially... She looked at her stomach. Now that she was pregnant, she was certainly going to be the madam of the third branch of the Shen family. Therefore, she had to get rid of anyone or anything that might be a threat.

"It's not impossible. Actually, there's a way," Chang Zaiqing said with a sweet smile.

Shen Wan's eyes lit up and he asked, "What idea do you have?"

"That will depend on what kind of attitude you want Prince Zhou to have." Chang Zaiqing asked, "Does Prince Zhou want to marry Shen Miao or not?"

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Shen Wan's heart skipped a beat. Prince Zhou would definitely not be willing to marry Shen Miao. Marrying Shen Miao now would undoubtedly make him the common enemy of the other princes. Prince Zhou did not want to have anything to do with Shen Miao, but what Fu Xiuyi wanted to achieve was to make Prince Zhou look like he really wanted to marry Shen Miao.

He said, "Prince Zhou should be unwilling, but... we have to make people think that he is."

Chang Zaiqing thought for a moment and said, "That's a little difficult. However, women have always cherished their reputation. If their reputation is ruined, they will live in misery for the rest of their lives. I think if you want to be the matchmaker, you can start with Fifth Miss."

Seeing that Chang Zaiqing looked confident, Shen Wan asked, "Can you elaborate?"

"Madam Shen and General Shen don't want Fifth Miss to be a secondary consort. But if something worse than being a secondary consort happened to Fifth Miss Shen, they would be left with no choice but to marry her to Prince Zhou."

Shen Wan frowned.

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Chang Zaiqing continued, "There are many worse things than being a secondary consort. For example, being kidnapped and having your innocence taken by someone. That person might be Prince Zhou. Whether it's Prince Zhou or not, General Shen and Madam Shen will choose to let Fifth Miss marry Prince Zhou because this is the best way to protect her."

Chang Zaiqing did not make it very explicit, but smart people usually left the listeners to interpret what he or she meant. In an instant, Shen Wan understood most of it and felt enlightened. Chang Zaiqing smiled and touched her stomach, smiling gently. "It's just that this method is vicious. If not for the fact that I saw Master looking troubled, I wouldn't have said it."

Shen Wan had obtained a brilliant idea. At this moment, he felt that he had found a treasure. Chang Zaiqing was pregnant with his son and was smart. He immediately kissed Chang Zaiqing's cheek and smiled. "With such a beauty by my side, why would I ever be troubled?" After saying that, he stood up

again, as if he could not wait to do something. He said, "I still have something to do. I'll come and see you later."

After Shen Wan left, Nanny Zhao walked to Chang Zaiqing and asked worriedly, "Is Third Master going to deal with Fifth Miss Shen?"

"Maybe." Chang Zaiqing smiled. "It's not the first time I've heard that the first and third branches of the Shen family are not on good terms."

"Miss, are you planning to help Third Master deal with Fifth Miss?" Nanny Zhao asked, "Fifth Miss has General Shen backing her up. Will you be in danger if you get involved?"

"I'm not the one who does it. Why will I be in danger?" Chang Zaiqing's smile did not change. "As long as Shen Wan is not a fool, he won't let people catch him red-handed."

Nanny Zhao was still worried. "Miss, why do you want to help Third Master deal with Fifth Miss?"

Chapter 652 Infighting (3)

"Giving advice and suggestions to my husband is what a proper wife should do. I have to make him feel that I'm different from Chen Ruoqiu. I have to make him feel that I can do what Chen Ruoqiu can and I can do what Chen Ruoqiu can't. That's how I make him unable to leave me." Chang Zaiqing rubbed her stomach and narrowed her eyes. "Besides, I have a feeling that if I don't get rid of Shen Miao, I'll be in a series of misfortunes."

When Nanny Zhao heard this, she was shocked and did not say anything else. Chang Zaiqing changed the topic and said, "Speaking of which, is there any news from Liuzhou?"

Nanny Zhao said, "The people I sent are on the way. No matter how fast they journey, it will take a few days. They should be back in a few days."

"Let them settle the matter properly." A trace of coldness flashed across Chang Zaiqing's eyes. "I can't let anyone know about my past."

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At night, Shen Miao received a letter from Pei Lang.

According to the letter, Fu Xiuyi actually asked Shen Wan to think of a way to get her to marry Prince Zhou. Seeing that Shen Miao's expression was not good, Jingzhe and Gu Yu thought that something bad had happened, so they asked, "Miss, did something bad happen to you?"

Shen Miao shook her head. In her previous life and this life, Fu Xiuyi was equally scheming. No matter if she would end up marrying Prince Zhou or not, as long as she had something to do with Prince Zhou, the Shen family and Prince Zhou would not have a good ending. The Shen family would anger Emperor Wen Hui, making Emperor Wen Hui feel that the Shen family supported Prince Zhou and wanted to take a stance in the competition for the throne. As for Prince Zhou, he would be the target of everyone. Fu Xiuyi was really scheming.

As for her third uncle, if he wanted to tie her to Prince Zhou, he would definitely use some unpresentable methods. As Shen Miao thought about it, she couldn't help but sneer in her heart. No matter when, the people of the third branch of the Shen family would use and harm the people of the first branch without hesitation. If possible, they were willing to use the entire first branch as a stepping stone to wealth. They deserved to die.

She said, "Let Mo Qing come in."

Jingzhe went outside to call Mo Qing over.

Shen Miao asked Mo Qing, "Did the people you sent to Liuzhou find out?"

Mo Qing cupped his hands and said, "Miss, the people I sent to Liuzhou have already reported that they have found them. However, there's another group of people who are also asking about the whereabouts of that father and son. I heard that they even hired assassins to kill them."

Shen Miao suddenly laughed, but her smile was cold.

"Chang Zaiqing is really ruthless."

The people Shen Miao asked Mo Qing to find were Chang Zaiqing's husband and son. Who else would hire assassins to kill the father and son other than Chang Zaiqing? Now that Chang Zaiqing had gotten what she wanted, she even wanted to kill his husband and son to avoid trouble later on.

"Send someone to tell the people in Liuzhou to protect the father and son and bring them back to the capital as soon as possible," Shen Miao said.

Mo Qing nodded. Shen Miao suddenly thought of something and added, "Wait." She said, "Help me deliver a letter to Shopkeeper Ji of the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop."

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The lawsuit between the Shen family and the Chen family was really long and lingering. Many people thought that this case had been closed for a long time. Later, when they asked, they found out that it was not over yet. It took almost two months for the case to be concluded. In the end, Shen Wan divorced Chen Ruoqiu.

This beautiful marriage, which was praised by everyone as an ideal marriage between a talented man and a beautiful woman, ended in such a farce. What was most shocking was that after Shen Wan divorced Chen Ruoqiu, he quickly married Chang Zaiqing.

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However, even so, both sides suffered heavy losses in this lawsuit. Because of this, Shen Wan's official career was obstructed, and a lot of money was spent. However, in comparison, the Chen family was obviously in a worse state.

The Chen family had some reputation, but because they were a scholarly family, they did not have much money. Back then, Old Master Chen wanted to defend the Chen family's reputation, but he did not expect this lawsuit to go on for so long. After fighting for two months, it was not an exaggeration to say that the Chen family had gone bankrupt.

Because of this, Old Master Chen blamed everything on Chen Ruoqiu. Chen Ruoqiu's mother was also complaining. Chen Ruoqiu was hurt by Shen Wan and hated Shen Wan for disregarding their decades-long marriage. She was also angry with herself for being outdone by Chang Zaiqing. The most sad thing was that there was still no news of Shen Yue's whereabouts. Now that she was despised by her parents, she felt despair and all her hope dashed.

What she did not know was that the daughter she had been searching for for so long was in Crown Prince Qin's mansion in Yanqing Alley.

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At this moment, Shen Yue was dressing up in the mirror.

The clothes she was wearing were all top-notch. Although the Shen family was also a rich family, they could not compare to the wealth of the State of Qin. The jewelry she was wearing was also very luxurious. She was dressed like a different person from before. In the past, influenced by Chen Ruoqiu, Shen Yue's choice of fabric was simple, but now, she looked much more noble.

This was because Shen Yue had already become Huangfu Hao's concubine.

The maid beside her carefully served Shen Yue tea, but Shen Yue looked a little impatient.

She had a pretty face. Under the influence of Chen Ruoqiu, she could be considered gentle. One day, Huangfu Hao asked her frivolously if she was willing to be his concubine. Shen Yue thought for a night and agreed the next day.

That was her only way out.

Rumors were spreading like wildfire outside, and the lawsuit between the Shen family and the Chen family had almost become a joke. Chang Zaiqing was pregnant. If she gave birth to a son, Shen Yue would probably be abandoned by the Shen family without hesitation. Even if Chang Zaiqing didn't give birth to a son, because Chen Ruoqiu caused Shen Wan to become a laughing stock, Shen Wan and Old Madam Shen would also hate Shen Yue. Her identity had already been taken by Shen Dongling. These days, there were rumors that Wang Bi doted on his wife, Shen Yue. The more she heard about it, the more regretful and indignant Shen Yue became.

Regardless of whether she really liked Wang Bi or not, Shen Yue was extremely indignant at the thought that the comfortable life Shen Dongling was living now should be hers.

She hated Shen Wan for being heartless, and she hated Chen Ruoqiu for being a disappointment. At this moment, she also understood that it was even more impossible for her to get close to Fu Xiuyi with her current status. If she returned to the Shen family, Shen Wan might arrange a lousy marriage for her out of anger.

Shen Yue also had the coldness unique to the Shen family in her nature. Shen Wan and her had been father and daughter for so many years. Back then, they had a deep relationship. However, now, Shen Yue looked at Shen Wan more warily than outsiders.

Shen Yue thought that rather than being married to an lousy family, she might as well be Huangfu Hao's concubine. Huangfu Hao was handsome and young, and he was the crown prince of the State of Qin. If

she could get Huangfu Hao's favor in the future, she might be able to get promoted. Most importantly, if she could use Huangfu Hao's power, she might be able to protect herself and Chen Ruoqiu.

Therefore, Shen Yue became Huangfu Hao's concubine.

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To be honest, Huangfu Hao treated Shen Yue quite well, which was naturally because Shen Yue was deliberately currying favor with him. However, among the concubines Huangfu Hao brought, Shen Yue was still the most favored. Perhaps Huangfu Hao also enjoyed the feeling of having a concubine whose father was an official in Ming Qi.

Shen Yue asked the maid beside her, "Have you delivered the letter to the Chen family?"

The maid said, "It's on their way. They should probably receive it soon."

Shen Yue took a sip of tea.

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Chen Ruoqiu received a letter.

She did not know who sent this letter to her room. The old master and madam of the Chen family did not want to see Chen Ruoqiu at all. Because Chen Ruoqiu had caused the Chen family to suffer a huge blow, her allowance had been reduced by a lot. Her brother and sister-in-law looked at her like she was a troublemaker. Chen Ruoqiu's life was very difficult. She stayed in her room all day and did not go out.

She looked around to make sure that no one was around. Out of curiosity, she opened the letter, and then she was stunned.

The handwriting on the letter was very clear to Chen Ruoqiu that it was written Shen Yue. The letter instructed Chen Ruoqiu to go to a rather remote inn in the east of the city. There was no inscription. However, Chen Ruoqiu already knew that Shen Yue wanted to meet her.

Chen Ruoqiu felt relieved. Shen Yue could still write to her. Looking at the unhurried handwriting, it was obvious that Shen Yue was still very safe. Chen Ruoqiu slowly calmed down, and her previous worries were all gone.

These days, she had suffered blow after blow, making her anxious and feel that her life was hopeless. However, Shen Yue's letter seemed to have lit up her hope. With her daughter still around, Chen Ruoqiu was suddenly filled with fighting spirit. At least she was not alone. She wanted to make a comeback and took back what was hers from Chang Zaiqing.

Chen Ruoqiu gradually calmed down. The next day, the servants around her realized that Chang Zaiqing, who had been haggard and irritable these days, seemed to be in a much better mood. It was as if she had become Third Madam Shen again. Even when the servants bumped into her, Chen Ruoqiu didn't flare up and only smiled.

If one looked closely, they would notice that Chen Ruoqiu's eyes seemed to have been reignited with endless hope.

The next morning, Chen Ruoqiu went out.

No one from the Chen family stopped her. Old Madam Chen was a little worried, but after being glared at by Old Master Chen, she did not say anything. Chen Ruoqiu's brothers and sisters-in-laws couldn't care less. She was wearing an eye-catching brown short dress. The dress was still an old style from a few years ago. When Chen Ruoqiu moved out of the Shen family, she did not take away a single cent. At that time, because she was in a fit of anger, she only took some jewelry but not much clothes. Later, she was busy with the lawsuit and did not have time to get new ones. Now, the Chen family didn't even have the extra money for her to spend on clothes.

Wearing outdated clothes that did not fit her, Chen Ruoqiu felt humiliated. She was wearing a bamboo hat, so others could not see her face. However, even if they saw her face, they would probably not associate her with the talented Third Madam Shen who used to be praised by everyone in the capital.

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In order to save money, Chen Ruoqiu had no choice but to hire an old carriage. When the carriage arrived at the east of the city, Chen Ruoqiu paid the money and walked quickly to the inn mentioned in the letter.

As soon as she entered the inn, Chen Ruoqiu looked around and did not see Shen Yue. Just as she was feeling puzzled, a shop assistant walked towards her and asked, "Madam, are you looking for a young girl?"

Chen Ruoqiu was stunned for a moment before nodding. Now that everyone in the capital knew that she was fighting a lawsuit with Shen Wan, she was afraid that she would be recognized and laughed at. The shop assistant said, "Madam, please follow me."

The shop assistant brought Chen Ruoqiu to a room upstairs in the inn. When he reached the door, he stopped and smiled. "The person Madam is waiting for is inside." Then, he left.

Chen Ruoqiu pushed the door open and entered. She saw a young woman sitting at the table in the room. No matter how Chen Ruoqiu looked at her back, she could recognize her. But who else could it be but Shen Yue?

Chen Ruoqiu closed the door and shouted, "Yue!"

Shen Yue turned around and was stunned when she saw Chen Ruoqiu. It was not until Chen Ruoqiu stepped forward and held her hands that Shen Yue saw Chen Ruoqiu's face clearly and shouted, "Mother!" However, she immediately frowned and said, "How did you become like this?"

If she did not see it with her own eyes, Shen Yue would not believe that this woman in front of her was her noble, gentle, and generous mother.

When Chen Ruoqiu heard this, a trace of hatred flashed across her face. She gritted her teeth and said, "If not for that b*tch, Chang Zaiqing, and your heartless father, I wouldn't have ended up like this!" With that, she looked at Shen Yue anxiously. "Yue, where have you been these days? Do you know that I've been anxious and worried sick about you? Are you alright? Did something happen?"

Chen Ruoqiu only had one child and usually doted on Shen Yue. Shen Yue felt a little sad when she heard that, but she still smiled and said, "Mother, don't be afraid. I'm doing very well now. I've found a backer who's even more noble than the emperor. With this backer, we will make a comeback."

Chen Ruoqiu asked suspiciously, "Who are you talking about?"

Shen Yue hesitated for a moment and said, "The crown prince of the State of Qin."

Chen Ruoqiu exclaimed, and Shen Yue quickly continued to explain, "The crown prince treats me very well. Back then, when I left the Shen family, I encountered bad people, and it was the crown prince who saved me. After that, he wanted to send me back home, but the Shen family was in chaos, so I decided to stay in his mansion. He is a good person. Mother, don't think it's a bad thing. It's much better for me to be with the crown prince than with those pretentious people from the Wang family. You can't bear to see Shen Dongling being on equal footing with me, right? If I return to the Shen family, who knows if they will force me to marry again? Mother, just listen to me this once, okay?"

Chen Ruoqiu instinctively felt that something was wrong. When she heard that Huangfu Hao had saved Shen Yue, her expression softened slightly. However, after all, he was not from Ming Qi.

"He's from the State of Qin after all, and he's the crown prince..."

Seeing that Chen Ruoqiu still did not agree, Shen Yue made up her mind and lied, "The crown prince said that when I return to the State of Qin with him in the future, he will give me a new identity and make me his secondary consort."

"Are you serious?" Chen Ruoqiu was stunned. If Shen Yue left Ming Qi and went to the State of Qin to become the crown prince's secondary consort, she would be able to enjoy endless wealth in the future. After the long lawsuit with Shen Wan, Chen Ruoqiu changed quite a lot. She no longer believed in love. Love was too illusory. The only thing that mattered was money.

"Absolutely," Shen Yue said.

Chen Ruoqiu hesitated for a moment and said, "Let's talk about this later. There's one thing that's more urgent."

Shen Yue asked, "What is it?"

"Chang Zaiqing, that b*tch, schemed against me behind my back and tricked me into her trap. Now I am down and out. What I hate the most is not Chang Zaiqing, but your father. If not for your father protecting her, I wouldn't have ended up like this. He didn't care about our relationship for the past decades at all. I'm indignant! I hate him!"

Chapter 656 Holding Hands (1)

"I'm indignant! I hate him!" Chen Ruoqiu's words were filled with deep hatred. Now that she looked haggard, her expression was sinister when she said that. Even Shen Yue was shocked.

Shen Yue said, "Mother, what are you talking about?"

"You know what happened, right?" Chen Ruoqiu gritted her teeth and said, "Over the years I'm married to your father, I treated him wholeheartedly. I never wished that I could be his only wife, but I didn't

expect him to humiliate me with someone like this. He even chased me out of the house and confronted my family in court, causing them to lose a huge amount of money. It was your father and Chang Zaiqing who forced me into such a desperate situation. What's my reputation in the capital now? A hen that can't lay an egg? A jealous woman? This is what your father repays me with!" As Chen Ruoqiu spoke, she sneered and said, "And that old fart, Old Madam Shen. Ever since I married into the Shen family, she has been picking on me everywhere. She just can't stand others doing well. This time, she was the one who put Chang Zaiqing and your father together and urged them to do this. None of the people in the Shen family are good people!"

Shen Yue couldn't help but frown. She felt that Chen Ruoqiu looked like shrew cursing on the street. However, at the mention of the Shen family, at this moment, Shen Yue didn't have any feelings for them.

Chen Ruoqiu glanced at her and continued, "Back then, when your father asked you to marry Wang Bi, I thought that you wouldn't agree because you have someone else in your heart, but your father insisted, so I could only agree. It turns out that the Wang family is just an unreasonable bunch. They actually refused to acknowledge you after having Shen Dongling. Now, you even lost your own identity. They are really going too far! If your father cared about you, I think he would stand up for you. But look at what your father did. He actually wants you to apologize to the Wang family and be on equal footing with Shen Dongling. Why should you, the daughter of the Shen family, be on equal footing with a concubine's daughter? It's simply the biggest joke in the world! Does he even treat you as his daughter!?" Chen Ruoqiu's words were filled with provocation. Now that Chen Ruoqiu had nothing and no one was on her side, if her daughter was coaxed back by Shen Wan, she would really be alone.

When Shen Yue heard that, her expression darkened. It was not that she didn't have any feelings left for her father. What she hated the most about the Shen family was that although they said that they did everything for her own good, she was the one who suffered the most so far. Although Huangfu Hao treated her well, she was just a concubine after all. A concubine... Even if she was the Crown Prince's concubine, she was still the lowest-grade concubine and could be abandoned at any time. However, Shen Yue sighed sadly and said, "Mother, it's impossible between Prince Ding and me. I'm probably not fated to be with him." As she spoke, she smiled sadly. "Besides, the Crown Prince treats me very well. I like him very much."

Chen Ruoqiu knew her daughter the best, so how could she fail to notice the sorrow in Shen Yue's eyes? Chen Ruoqiu was angry and heartbroken. Her daughter was so good, but why couldn't she get what she wanted? She took a deep breath and said, "The Shen family harmed us to this extent. We can't take this lying down. Don't worry, I will definitely take revenge. None of them can escape. Now that I've been divorced and returned to my parents' house, I no longer have anything to do with the Shen family. Even if something happens to the Shen family, I will not be implicated. You're no longer Shen Yue, so you'll be safe too."

Chapter 657 Holding Hands (2)

"Mother, what do you plan to do?" Shen Yue could tell that Chen Ruoqiu was up to something and asked.

Chen Ruoqiu sneered and replied, "Just wait and see. I came over just to tell you that I'm relieved to see you doing fine."

Shen Yue could not get anything out of Chen Ruoqiu, so she didn't ask further.

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A few days later, the capital seemed to have returned to normal. Nothing new happened, but it was almost the end of the year, and the people buying new year goods on the streets gradually increased.

Luo Tan was very happy that she got to go out and buy new year goods. Ever since the last incident, Shen Xin told Shen Miao and Luo Tan not to go out. If they wanted to go out, they had to bring a lot of guards with them. This was a little boring. Feng Anning also felt extremely guilty because of what happened last time, so after she went to apologize, she stopped asking the two of them out. Luo Tan was bored in the mansion. Later, she followed Luo Ling and Shen Qiu to the training ground to see the soldiers train. She dressed like a man, and with Shen Qiu and Luo Ling by her side, she was safe.

Shen Miao stayed quietly in her room. She did not like to join the crowd, nor did she like to shop on the street. Being alone was the most relaxing for her.

On this day, Mo Qing came back from outside and said that Chang Zaiqing's husband and son had already been brought to the capital. Because he wanted to prevent them from being seen, he did not bring them to the mansion.

Shen Miao said, "You did very well." She remembered that in her previous life, Chang Zaiqing's husband was a gambling addict and looked a little rough.

Mo Qing asked Shen Miao, "Miss, when do you plan to visit the father and son?"

There must be a reason why Shen Miao brought this father and son to the capital.

Just as Shen Miao was about to answer, she suddenly thought of something and paused.

In Pei Lang's letter, it mentioned that Fu Xiuyi asked Shen Wan to matchmake her and Prince Zhou. What method would Shen Wan use? Although Shen Miao did not know, she could more or less guess that it was just some dirty tricks. Therefore, outside the mansion, there might be danger everywhere. These days, it had been peaceful. Perhaps it was because she had never gone out at all. If she went out, they would seize the opportunity.

She was not so bold as to jump into a fire pit when she knew there was a fire pit. Moreover, it was not easy to explain herself once she got involved with a prince.

Shen Miao asked, "How many trained people like you are there in the mansion?"

Mo Qing was stunned for a moment before frowning. "Young Master should have some capable subordinates. Master also has some. There should be at least 30 people in total."

With 30 people protecting her... probably no one would dare to have designs on her. However, this way, she would be too conspicuous on the street. Moreover, Shen Qiu and Shen Xin were not fools. They would suspect why she went out with so many guards. Shen Miao said, "I see."

“Miss, are you worried about your safety?” Mo Qing asked. “I can mobilize more people at that time.” Mo Qing also felt that it was a little strange. Shen Miao had never been a timid person. Her reaction today was a little abnormal.

Chapter 658 Holding Hands (3)

“No need. I know what to do. You can leave,” Shen Miao said.

Mo Qing stopped talking and left in silence. Shen Miao looked around and her gaze landed on the half-open window in the room.

She instructed Gu Yu, “Open the window wider.”

Gu Yu was puzzled. “Miss, the wind is still blowing outside. You’ll catch a cold.” She really found it puzzling. When Shen Miao was young, she was very afraid of the cold. For some reason, she seemed to like to sleep with the window open at night these days.

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“I’m not cold.” Shen Miao said calmly, “Go and open it.”

Gu Yu glanced at Shen Miao’s thick outer clothes, but she did not ask further. She opened the window in confusion.

For the entire day, Shen Miao stayed in the house. From time to time, she would glance at the window, causing Jingzhe and Gu Yu to look at the window too. They thought that something would bloom there, but there was clearly nothing on the windowsill. Shen Miao read for a while before walking to the window and standing there for a while.

Unknowingly, the sky turned dark. After dinner, Jingzhe and Gu Yu left. Shen Miao felt that it was silent outside, as if the entire capital was in a deep sleep. There was still nothing in the window.

A trace of disappointment flashed across Shen Miao’s eyes. Bored, she played with the chess piece in her hand. Gradually, she became sleepy, so she closed her eyes and fell asleep on the table.

When Xie Jingxing entered the room, he saw Shen Miao sleeping soundly on the table. The window was open, and the candlelight was swaying slightly because of the cold wind. Shen Miao was sleeping quietly with her head buried in her arms.

He walked to Shen Miao’s side and looked down at her. After a pause, he took off his cloak and gently covered Shen Miao.

Shen Miao was a vigilant person. When there was a movement, she tilted her body slightly and looked up, but she did not open her eyes. She said in a daze, “Lizi, rub my shoulders.”

Xie Jingxing was speechless.

He leaned against the cabinet beside him and looked at Shen Miao. He said in amusement, “Hey, did you dream of becoming the empress again?”

These sudden words woke Shen Miao up. Coincidentally, a cold wind blew in from outside. She sneezed and was instantly awake.

Xie Jingxing walked to the window and closed it. The room immediately became much warmer. He crossed his arms and leaned against the window, asking, "Why are you sleeping at the table?"

Shen Miao looked at the purple-clothed young man and rubbed her eyes. She asked, "Why are you here so late?" She actually sounded like she was complaining. She had probably just woken up from her sleep and was still in a brain fog, so she did not notice anything wrong with her tone.

But Xie Jingxing noticed it.

The room fell silent. He walked forwards her step by step until he reached the table where Shen Miao was sitting. He placed his hands on the table and leaned over, asking, "Are you waiting for me?"

Shen Miao suddenly came back to her senses and quickly replied, "No."

The corners of Xie Jingxing's lips curled up, and his tone was a little sad. "Oh, I heard that you waited for me at the window for the entire day today. So it's not true. Since there's nothing else, I'll leave." With that, he pretended to leave.

"Wait!" Shen Miao stopped him.

Xie Jingxing said, "Why?"

"If you know, why are you still asking me?" Shen Miao gritted her teeth. Facing Xie Jingxing, she really couldn't be calm and collected, because this person was simply devilish. She regretted checking the window so often throughout the day. Xie Jingxing had probably planted some people in the mansion to inform him of her every movement. However, it was really annoying that Xie Jingxing deliberately asked when he knew it already.

Chapter 659 Holding Hands (4)

"I'm waiting for you. I need your help with something," she said after taking a deep breath.

"Speak." Xie Jingxing pulled out a chair and sat down opposite Shen Miao. He seemed to be in a very good mood, and even his beautiful eyes were more charming than usual.

"You should have many capable people like Mo Qing under your command, right?" Shen Miao asked tentatively.

"You think Mo Qing is capable?" Xie Jingxing sneered. "How about I give you some real capable people?"

"Can I borrow some from you?" Shen Miao said, "I'll pay."

Xie Jingxing glanced at her and frowned slightly. "What are you going to do?"

Shen Miao thought that since Xie Jingxing already knew about Chang Zaiqing's husband and son, there was no need to hide it from him, so she said, "Chang Zaiqing's husband and son have already been brought to the capital and are kept in the east of the city. I'm afraid I don't have enough people to escort me there."

"You want to use my people?"

Shen Miao said, "I'll pay."

Xie Jingxing asked, "Do I look like I'm short of money?"

Shen Miao didn't know what to say. Indeed, Xie Jingxing did not seem to be short of money. It was as if he had more money than he could use. She simply asked, "What do I have to do to make you help?"

Xie Jingxing narrowed his eyes. "Is this the attitude you use when you ask people for help?"

Shen Miao was finally annoyed and said, "Forget it, pretend I didn't say anything. It's getting late. Prince Rui, please leave." She called Xie Jingxing "Prince Rui" when she was angry, sounding very distant. As expected, Xie Jingxing frowned and looked unhappy.

"I didn't say I wouldn't let you use my people." Xie Jingxing stopped her. "What's the hurry?"

Shen Miao sat back down. Xie Jingxing stared at her with his beautiful eyes. A glint flashed across his eyes as he said, "You're really stupid. Why do you ignore the most capable person in front of you?"

"What do you mean?"

"I'm in a good mood today." Xie Jingxing said unhurriedly, "I'll escort you there personally."

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In the middle of the night, the moon was covered by clouds, leaving only a few stars hanging in the night sky. Because it was winter, it was surprisingly cold. There was a thin layer of snow on the ground, and when one stepped on it, there was a rustling sound. However, because it was the end of the year, every house was hung with red lanterns under the eaves. The lanterns were colorful, making the scene surprisingly beautiful.

At this moment, two people were standing under the roof.

The tall young man was bending down slightly to tie a scarf for the other person beside him. The two of them were extremely close. If one walked closer, they could hear the short girl complaining, "Why do I have to wear this?"

"Shh." The young man whispered into her ear, "Just take it that I'm afraid that your peerless beauty will be seen by others and get us into trouble. Don't ask too much."

Shen Miao sneered. "Peerless beauty? Then you should cover your face first."

"There's no need for that." The young man did not notice the sarcasm in the Shen Miao's words. "I'm powerful and capable. No one dares to mess with me."

Shen Miao was speechless. She did not expect that after telling Xie Jingxing about the father and son from Liuzhou, Xie Jingxing would choose this hour to go with her. In the middle of the night, the father and son would probably be asleep. However, the reason Xie Jingxing gave was that at night, there would be less people and it was easier for them to make the trip without being seen.

What he said made sense, and Shen Miao could not refute him. However, she did not expect Xie Jingxing would take her to walk on the street openly instead of taking the alleyway.

Chapter 660 Holding Hands (5)

Although there seemed to be no one on the street, it was inevitable that she felt uneasy.

"What's there to be afraid of? My men will follow us closely behind," Xie Jingxing said.

While Shen Miao was in a daze, Xie Jingxing had already tied the scarf on her face, revealing only her eyes. Her eyes were round and watery, and the black and white were very clear. Under the dim light of the lantern, she looked even more adorable. Xie Jingxing helped her put on the hat and raised his eyebrows. "Not bad."

In order to avoid unnecessary trouble, Shen Miao found a set of servant's outfit to wear. The hat was a little oversized, almost covering her eyes. When she came out, she forgot to bring a cloak. Xie Jingxing looked at her for a moment and put his cloak on Shen Miao. "Let's go."

"Just like this?" Shen Miao asked in surprise.

"The east of the city is not far." Xie Jingxing said, "It's good to take a walk. You haven't seen the capital at night, right?"

Shen Miao was silent.

Most of the nights she had spent were within the square walls of the palace in Ming Qi. Sometimes, she sat in the huge Kunning Palace and thought about the annoying things in the harem for the entire night. Sometimes, she went to the royal garden to take a look and saw Fu Xiuyi chatting happily with different beauties.

She was the empress, but her nights were filled loneliness.

She had once regretted becoming the empress and envied the carefree life outside the palace.

Xie Jingxing said, "No one can see you and recognize you. Do whatever you want."

Shen Miao looked at his handsome face and suddenly felt envious of him.

Not only was Xie Jingxing the young marquis of the Marquis of Lin'an, but he was also the younger brother of Emperor Yong Le. Everyone thought his life was glamorous, but in fact, he must have tons of weight upon his shoulder. However, his proud and arrogant personality seemed to have never changed. Nothing could change him. It was as if no matter how time flowed, he still stood there in an unshakable manner, leaving people in awe.

Shen Miao was envious of people who were strong-willed. She felt that she was not as strong as Xie Jingxing, because when she thought of Wanyu and Fu Ming occasionally and the things in her previous life, she would feel tired.

Xie Jingxing's gaze was sharp. He grabbed her chin and asked, "What's wrong?"

Shen Miao broke free from his hand and turned around. "Nothing." She did not want anyone to know what she was thinking. She turned around and took two quick steps, but she was not used to wearing men's boots. The ground was very slippery because of the thin ice, and she almost fell to the ground. Fortunately, Xie Jingxing grabbed her arm and said with a frown, "Be careful."

His hand was long and cold, and it was just big enough to wrap Shen Miao's entire hand. Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat and she subconsciously wanted to break free, but she did not expect Xie Jingxing to hold her hand even tighter.

Xie Jingxing said indifferently, "I'll hold you in case you slip."

"I'll be careful not to slip," Shen Miao said.

"Then I'm afraid I'll slip. Hold my hand," he said with a serious expression.

Shen Miao was speechless.

Reflected by the lanterns, the entire street covered with snow looked mesmerizing. From time to time, Shen Miao would look up at the sky. The sky was very good and spacious, looking much better than the sky within the palace wall. The street was very quiet, and no one would notice her. Some of her unfulfilled wishes in her previous life were fulfilled at this moment. Being held by the young man beside her, for some reason, Shen Miao smiled, imperceptibly.