

## **Venomous 671**

### **Chapter 671 Going to Prison (4)**

In the room, Shen Miao sat at the table and heaved a sigh of relief.

This was just the beginning. Emperor Wen Hui was paranoid. He probably could not tolerate the princes getting too close to the court officials.

From the beginning, she had never forgotten who she wanted to deal with the most. Ever since she was reborn, many things had gradually changed. For example, the Shen family. Even if she did nothing, they would still walk to their own demise. However, Fu Xiuyi was different.

Fu Xiuyi was like the most poisonous snake hiding in the dark. He looked harmless, but he would slither out and bite people. Just like the last time he asked Shen Wan to matchmake her with Prince Zhou. Even though Shen Miao had already tried her best to keep a low profile, Fu Xiuyi still targeted her.

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It was no longer appropriate to continue planning. It was better to set up the chess board and start playing the game.

What was Fu Xiuyi most afraid of? What he was most afraid of was his ambition being exposed.

Although Emperor Wen Hui would be suspicious of him for being too close to Shen Wan, with Fu Xiuyi's methods, he would not be defeated so easily. He would definitely think of a way to help himself out.

However, how could Shen Miao miss this opportunity? Even if she couldn't bring him down completely this time, she had to make Fu Xiuyi shed some blood.

Shen Wan alone was not enough. This chess game had to be more exciting. Shen Miao asked Jingzhe to call Mo Qing in and instructed him something in a low voice.

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It only took a night to go from cloud nine to rock bottom.

Shen Wan felt that the Shen family had been very unlucky for the past two years. It was as if they had run into something unclean and everything was not going well. At first, something happened to the second branch, and after that, it was the third branch's turn. Now, everyone in the Shen family was locked up in prison. Oh, except for the first branch. The first branch had already been reinstated by Emperor Wen Hui. No matter what happened in the future, at least for now, the first branch had the upper hand.

Speaking of which, the Shen family's continuous misfortunes seemed to have started after the first branch split up. Or to be precise, it started when Shen Xin returned to the capital two years ago. Could it be that someone had cast a curse on the Shen family behind their backs?

In the cell next door, the women of the Shen family were locked up. Old Madam Shen and Chang Zaiqing were put together. Hearing Old Madam Shen's complaints and moans, Shen Wan gradually felt a little frustrated.

Two years ago, the Shen family was flourishing with endless guests visiting them everyday. Shen Xin was not in the capital all year round, and the Shen family did not lack money. Although Shen Gui and Shen Wan were civil servants, their careers were also rising year by year. The two daughters were graceful and beautiful. Shen Yuanbai and Shen Yuan were still alive, and Ren Wanyun was smart and Chen Ruoqiu was gentle. It was a happy and harmonious family that people envied.

In just two years, things had changed beyond recognition, and they actually ended up in such a miserable state.

Shen Gui asked sickly, "Third Brother, what exactly did you do? Why did His Majesty arrest all of us?"

"What did I do?" Shen Wan sneered and said, "Second Brother, you've also been an official in the imperial court. Don't you know that if His Majesty wants to put someone in prison, he can have a thousand ways to do it?" The emperor would not punish the entire family of an official who failed to carry out a task.

When Chang Zaiqing heard this, she exclaimed, her voice filled with anxiety, "His Majesty actually arrested us all on purpose? Why did His Majesty do it on purpose? Could it be that you angered His Majesty in some way?"

#### Chapter 672 Going to Prison (5)

If it were any other time, Shen Wan would definitely say some comforting words to Chang Zaiqing. However, when he thought of the news he had received from Liuzhou that Chang Zaiqing actually had a husband and son, he felt disgusted. Looking at Chang Zaiqing now in this state, Shen Wan did not know why, but he actually felt a little happy. Chang Zaiqing was bent on pursuing wealth and status, so she hid herself well. However, now that everything was gone, she was probably painfully regretful.

He waved his hand and said impatiently, "No idea."

However, he thought of the letter that his assistant gave him.

The letter was written by an official who was very close to him. The official received a piece of news from somewhere that Shen Wan's sworn enemy had handed in a memorial to the emperor. On this memorial was evidence of the relationship between Shen Wan and Fu Xiuyi over the past few years.

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Although Shen Wan had not really begun to work for Fu Xiuyi, he had been wavering all these years and did not want to draw a clear line between him and Prince Ding. His attitude was a little ambiguous. In the eyes of others, it was as if he and Prince Ding had long formed an alliance. When Emperor Wen Hui saw the evidence, it was no surprise that he was furious.

As for why his sworn enemy suddenly had all the evidence, Shen Wan could actually vaguely guess who it was. Chen Ruoqiu had been his wife for so many years. If Chen Ruoqiu was the one who stabbed him in the back, everything would make sense.

At the thought of how considerate and understanding a person Chen Ruoqiu was in the past, Shen Wan's gaze landed on Chang Zaiqing, and his expression gradually darkened. If not for Chang Zaiqing, he

and Chen Ruoqiu would not have divorced. With this in mind, Shen Wan even started to hate the child in Chang Zaiqing's stomach.

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On the surface, Shen Wan and his family were sent to prison because Shen Wan failed to do his job. However, everyone who had discerning eyes knew that Emperor Wen Hui was angry with Shen Wan being too close to Fu Xiuyi in private. Of course, Prince Ding, Fu Xiuyi, couldn't get away with it unscathed either.

Fu Xiuyi had many spies in the palace, so he quickly found out the whole story. Fu Xiuyi did not expect him to be involved in the matter between Shen Wan and Chen Ruoqiu. This was a critical moment. He could not let Emperor Wen Hui be suspicious of him at this time.

At the same time, Fu Xiuyi was also very puzzled. This year, Emperor Wen Hui's health was not as good as before, so he was much more sensitive to the relationship between the princes and the officials than in the past. At this sensitive moment, it seemed too coincidental for Emperor Wen Hui to know that he was close to Shen Wan. Although the person who took the brunt of Emperor Wen Hui's wrath was Shen Wan, in fact, the losses he suffered were no less than Shen Wan's. The more he thought about it, the angrier he became. Fu Xiuyi said coldly, "A good for nothing!"

Pei Lang thought for a moment and said, "Your Highness, the most urgent thing is to distance yourself from Shen Wan as soon as possible. No matter what, you have to prove your innocence."

"Of course I know." Fu Xiuyi said, "Sir, what do you think?"

"The evidence is conclusive. Instead of denying it, which will make you look more suspicious, Your Highness, why don't you admit it and push the blame to Shen Wan? Although His Majesty doesn't want the princes to form an alliance with the officials, if Shen Wan took the initiative to join us and you could not refuse, His Majesty might not take the anger out on you."

Fu Xiuyi nodded. "Sir, it's exactly as I thought. I can only sacrifice Shen Wan. Anyway, it will be troublesome to keep such a useless piece. It's good to get rid of him as soon as possible." What he meant was that he was going to sacrifice Shen Wan. The things written on the memorial could not be denied. There was evidence, and anyone who wanted to investigate could find out. However, if this was all Shen Wan's idea because he wanted to curry favor with Fu Xiuyi, Fu Xiuyi could get away with it without being punished.

#### Chapter 673 Going to Prison (6)

However, this way, the punishment meted out to Shen Wan would be even more severe. Fu Xiuyi naturally did not care about Shen Wan's ending. He would never show mercy to people who were useless to him and even caused trouble for him.

"I'm really fated with the Shen family." Fu Xiuyi's expression was cold. "Many of my plans are ruined by them. I don't know why, but although Chen Ruoqiu started it this time, I don't think it's that simple. It's as if someone is behind it."

Pei Lang's heart skipped a beat, but his expression was still as calm as before. He said, "The most important thing now is for Your Highness to prove yourself first. The longer we wait, the angrier His Majesty will be."

Fu Xiuyi smiled. "Sir, do you think we should keep the Shen family or not?"

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Pei Lang replied gently, "Since they've hindered Your Highness from succeeding, we naturally can't let them live."

Fu Xiuyi smiled and stared at Pei Lang. "Sir, what you said is just as I thought. You can leave. I still have something to do."

Pei Lang nodded and left.

However, Pei Lang did not notice that Fu Xiuyi, who was behind him, was staring at his departing figure with a dark gaze.

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The fact that Shen Wan and his family were imprisoned spread like wildfire in the capital, so it naturally reached Huangfu Hao's mansion too. At the stone table in the garden, Shen Yue was stunned when she heard that. On the other hand, Huangfu Hao glanced at the servant who came to report and asked, "Oh? Is the entire Shen family really in prison?"

"It's absolutely true." The servant said, "I heard that the emperor is very angry and is going to put them to death."

Huangfu Hao turned to look at Shen Yue. Shen Yue was surprised and in disbelief, but what she did not show was sadness. Involuntarily, what Chen Ruoqiu said to her that day flashed across her mind. At that time, Shen Yue felt that there was a hidden meaning in Chen Ruoqiu's words. Could it be that what happened to the Shen family today was all Chen Ruoqiu's doing? Shen Yue did not want Huangfu Hao to notice her emotions. She lowered her head and put on a sad expression. "How can that be..."

"Why would Emperor Wen Hui put them to death just because Shen Wan failed to do his job? I'm afraid that's not the real reason." Huangfu Hao smiled. "I'm afraid there's more to this matter." After saying that, he looked at Shen Yue and asked, "Yue, do you want to go and see Lord Shen?"

Shen Yue was shocked and stammered, "If I go now, I'm afraid I'll make him sad and cause trouble for Your Highness. No, no need..."

She was not implicated because people thought she was already married to the Wang family. However, if people found out that she wasn't, who knew if they would lock her up too? The Shen family was heartless to her, and she did not have any feelings for the Shen family. She was afraid of getting herself into trouble. Why would she want to see Shen Wan?

Hearing this, Huangfu Hao only smiled and didn't insist. Shen Yue heaved a sigh of relief. After Huangfu Hao left, Shen Yue wanted to write a letter to Chen Ruoqiu and ask her if it was all done by her.

Although she was a little afraid of getting implicated, when she heard that the entire Shen family was in prison, Shen Yue actually felt delighted, especially so when she found out that Chang Zaiqing, who stole everything from her mother, had to suffer with Shen Wan. Thinking of this, Shen Yue felt that it was not that humiliating to be Huangfu Hao's concubine. She even felt a little smug. If she did not leave the Shen family, she would have ended up being sent to prison too.

That was what Shen Yue thought. However, the next day, a scandal was exposed in the capital. This scandal was like a stone thrown into the water, causing thousands of ripples. It gave the idle people something new and interesting to gossip about.

It also made the Shen family a complete joke.

#### Chapter 674 Murky Waters (1)

A shocking scandal broke out in the capital.

Early in the morning, a middle-aged man knelt at the entrance of the government office and beat the drum to petition. He said that Third Master Shen of the Shen family, Shen Wan, forcefully snatched his wife and took her in as a concubine. Although the man looked like a loafer, he had a glib tongue and was eloquent in voicing his grievance. Not long after, he attracted a large group of commoners over to watch the show. In less than an hour, everyone in the capital knew about this.

Because of the commotion caused by the lawsuit between the Chen family and the Shen family a while back, the people in the capital knew a lot about this legendary concubine, Chang Zaiqing. Shen Wan was willing to divorce his first wife for her. Some nosy people found out that Chang Zaiqing was the daughter of Old General Shen's old friend. She was knowledgeable, gentle, and elegant. Her personality was even better than Chen Ruoguo's. She was even pregnant with Shen Wan's child. Naturally, people would understand why Shen Wan wanted to marry her.

However, early this morning, this middle-aged man knelt at the entrance of the government office with a young boy and slapped the faces of those people who said that Chang Zaiqing deserved to enter the Shen family.

Liuzhou and the capital were far away. Back then, Chang Zaiqing came to seek refuge with the Shen family and claimed to be unmarried. As opposed to Shen Wan snatching Chang Zaiqing from the man, people found it more convincing that Chang Zaiqing was the one who threw herself at Shen Wan. Shen Wan was known to be a smart person, but in the end, he was fooled by Chang Zaiqing and divorced his first wife for a married woman.

As for what the man said, no one doubted it. Firstly, it was because the man had the marriage contract with Chang Zaiqing's name on it. Secondly, the young boy who came with him really looked identical to Chang Zaiqing, but he was clearly at a loss.

Everyone treated this matter as a joke that was unheard of in decades. It was said that there were a lot of ugly things going on in big families, but they did not expect the masters of big families to be so gullible. In the past, this matter could have been suppressed, and it would not have spread throughout the entire capital so quickly. However, today, this man appeared suddenly and sounded the drum early in the morning outside the government office. It was difficult to suppress it. Moreover, the people in the

government office were also a bunch of fence-sitters. Now that Shen Wan and his entire family were locked up, they didn't care about Shen Wan and also joined in the fun.

In a remote courtyard in the Chen family's mansion, Chen Ruoqiu laughed when she heard the news Shi Qing got from outside.

Now, she was getting more and more lazy and slovenly. The more this was the case, the less people liked her in the Chen family. However, she probably did not care much about her appearance anymore. The purpose of her life now was to pull the Shen family down. Without a doubt, Chen Ruoqiu had done it.

After being husband and wife with Shen Wan for so many years, Chen Ruoqiu more or less knew the shady deals Shen Wan had done. She bribed someone who was working for Shen Wan to send the evidence to Shen Wan's sworn enemy and was waiting for the good news. Finally, the good news came.

The deeper Chen Ruoqiu's love for Shen Wan was, the deeper her hatred towards him was. It was Shen Wan who made her so miserable, so she definitely could not let Chang Zaiqing and Shen Wan have an easy time. When she found out that the entire Shen family was in prison, Chen Ruoqiu was happy. However, she did not expect that the next day, the news that Chang Zaiqing had a husband and son would break out out of the blue.

Chen Ruoqiu did not expect that she would lose to such a woman who abandoned her husband and son. Chen Ruoqiu was originally smiling hysterically at Shen Wan's misfortune, but as she smiled, she felt a bitterness coming from the depth of her heart. If she could compose herself and send people to Liuzhou to investigate, everything would be different now. Shen Wan was a person who could not tolerate being lied to. If he was told that Chang Zaiqing had been keeping so many secrets from him, he would be disgusted with Chang Zaiqing even without Chen Ruoqiu doing anything.

## Chapter 675 Murky Waters (2)

However, at this point, there was no going back for her.

"Madam, what should we do now?" Shi Qing asked carefully. Now that Chen Ruoqiu was despised by almost everyone in the Chen family and no longer had anything to do with the Shen family, Chen Ruoqiu could not go on living like this for the rest of her life.

"I think..." Chen Ruoqiu rubbed her eyebrows tiredly. "Yue has some to rely on. I can do whatever I want now. In a few days, I'll leave the capital and find a small place to live for the rest of my life in peace." She smiled sadly. "It's better than staying in the capital and being mocked by everyone."

Shi Qing heaved a sigh of relief. It was good that Chen Ruoqiu thought so. As long as there was some hope, things would get better and better in the future.

"But I have to go and see Yue first." Chen Ruoqiu held her chest. "Otherwise, I'll always be worried."

As she spoke, she saw Hua Yi rush in from outside. She looked panicked and said, "Madam, something bad happened!"

Chen Ruoqiu stood up and asked with a frown, "What is it?"

"Second Miss, Second Miss..."

At the mention of Shen Yue, Chen Ruoqiu's heart skipped a beat. She grabbed Hua Yi's hand and asked anxiously, "What happened to Yue?"

Hua Yi was about to cry. "Second Miss was found staying with the crown prince of the State of Qin."

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When Shen Yue was taken away by the bailiffs, Huangfu Hao did not stop them.

No matter how much Shen Yue cried and grabbed his sleeve to beg, Huangfu Hao was unmoved and only said casually, "You'll be fine. Just go with them." His attitude was not protective of Shen Yue at all. The bailiffs who came were very smart. Seeing Huangfu Hao's attitude, they no longer had any worries. They practically dragged Shen Yue out.

Huangfu Hao looked at the group of people leaving with Shen Yue and couldn't help but frown. He asked the guard beside him, "Go and ask what exactly happened in Ming Qi Palace."

Early in the morning, a group of bailiffs came, saying that they wanted to take away the daughter of the third branch of the Shen family, Shen Yue. Ever since Shen Yue entered Huangfu Hao's mansion, she had never gone out. No one would expect that the daughter of a Ming Qi's official would become Huangfu Hao's concubine. However, these bailiffs somehow found out about it and came over to take her away.

Emperor Wen Hui was still polite to Huangfu Hao. The reason why he took Shen Yue away was because Shen Yue was also a member of the Shen family, so she could not get away with the punishment for the crime her father committed. Emperor Wen Hui did not mention the marriage exchange between Shen Yue and Shen Dongling at all. He probably wanted to deliberately avoid talking about it. However, why did Emperor Wen Hui go to such an extent to eliminate the Shen family? Huangfu Hao thought that there must be something fishy going on.

Since the bailiffs came, knowing full well that Shen Yue was staying with him, Huangfu Hao didn't go against them. For him, Shen Yue was just a tool to get to know Shen Miao better. He did not really take Shen Yue seriously. There was no need to fall out with Emperor Wen Hui for Shen Yue.

However... Huangfu Hao still knew nothing about what happened in Ming Qi Palace. It was precisely because of this that he was somewhat confused. After thinking for a moment, he summoned a servant and instructed, "Go to Prince Ding's mansion and pass a message to him."

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The Shen family was in absolute shambles. It was as if a thread had suddenly appeared on the flat surface. With a pull of this thread, the originally embroidered pattern was instantly messed up, looking nothing like what it used to be.

### Chapter 676 Murky Waters (3)

First, Shen Wan was sent to prison for not doing his job well. Then, Chang Zaiqing's husband and son, who were far away in Liuzhou, came and knelt at the entrance of the government office to beat the drum to petition. Now, Shen Yue was found to have become a concubine of the crown prince of the State of Qin, which led people to realize that the one who married the Wang family was actually someone else. At the same time, it made people sigh at how chaotic the Shen family actually was. It also

made people wonder if the Shen family had offended someone. Why were they in trouble one after another? It was really too strange.

It was afternoon. Shen Miao pulled the curtain down and planned to take a nap. Everything that happened to the Shen family was going exactly the way she wanted. Shen Miao could also roughly guess what Emperor Wen Hui would do.

As soon as she took off her cloak, she suddenly sensed the presence of someone else. She turned around and saw that in the shadow, Xie Jingxing was standing there since God knows when. He was leaning against her bed, his hand casually rubbing something furry. It was the white tiger that Shen Miao had seen before.

The tiger had grown bigger and stronger. Even its fur was smooth and beautiful. However, Shen Miao did not care. She took a deep breath and said, "Who gave you the permission to climb into my bed?"

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Xie Jingxing was really going overboard. Now that he was used to jumping in through the window at night, he started to visit her during the broad daylight and even climb into her bed. In no time, he'd probably swagger into the mansion from the entrance.

How audacious and bald.

Xie Jingxing said, "I specially came to congratulate you. Why do you have such a reaction?"

"Congratulate me?" Shen Miao was stunned. "On what?"

"As you wished, the Shen family is in prison." Xie Jingxing let go of the white tiger. The white tiger let out a roar and jumped happily on Shen Miao's bed. It even used Shen Miao's top-grade silk bedding to sharpen its claws. Xie Jingxing rubbed his chin and said, "Chang Zaiqing's reputation is ruined. Shen Wan regrets divorcing Chen Ruoqiu. Chen Ruoqiu is down and out and Shen Yue is also taken away and sent to prison. No matter how you look at it, it's something to be happy about." His eyes curved and he said, "Aren't you happy?"

The fact that her schemes were seen through by him made Shen Miao uncomfortable. She took two steps forward, grabbed Xie Jingxing's sleeve, and pulled him up from her bed as she said, "Prince Rui, you don't have to come personally."

"How can I show my sincerity if I don't come personally?" Xie Jingxing didn't budge an inch no matter how hard Shen Miao pulled him. He glanced at Shen Miao and said with a faint smile, "Besides, you even dealt a blow to Fu Xiuyi in this round. It's worth celebrating."

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. Xie Jingxing suddenly raised his eyebrows, grabbed Shen Miao's hand, and pulled her towards him.

Shen Miao was caught off guard and fell forward, falling on Xie Jingxing's chest.

The young man smiled, but his gaze was as sharp as a knife. His tone was as gentle as a lover's whisper, but every word he said was cold.



He said in a low voice, "Even Huangfu Hao is involved. The old emperor won't let Fu Xiuyi off easily. You surely made a brilliant move, but aren't you afraid of getting burnt yourself by the fire you started?"

Shen Miao looked up at Xie Jingxing.

Two years ago, the young man was rebellious and cynical. Perhaps he portrayed himself in that way on purpose. Two years later, when he showed up again, he became more unfathomable. His attitude was as frivolous as ever, as if nothing in the world could concern him. However, the ambition hidden under his casual smile was the most terrifying.

#### Chapter 677 Murky Waters (4)

Yes, Xie Jingxing was right. Chen Ruoqiu, Shen Wan, and Chang Zaiqing were just the chess pieces Shen Miao used to corner her real enemy.

Shen Miao had never forgotten her real enemy, the most terrifying enemy and the enemy she hated the most, Fu Xiuyi. Shen Wan had already got involved with Fu Xiuyi. Now that Shen Yue was found to have become Huangfu Hao's concubine, and Shen Yue was Shen Wan's daughter, it made people wonder if Huangfu Hao and Fu Xiuyi were also plotting something in secret..

Emperor Wen Hui was paranoid, and he would definitely send people to investigate. If Huangfu Hao and Fu Xiuyi really had nothing to do with each other, he would naturally not be able to find anything. Unfortunately, the two of them had an intention of forming an alliance. If Emperor Wen Hui investigated seriously, it was very likely that he would find something interesting. At this critical moment, Fu Xiuyi was not having a good time. His path to the throne would not be so smooth anymore.

She thought that she had done it meticulously and secretly, but she did not expect the purple-clothed young man in front of her to see through it at a glance.

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She wanted to break free from Xie Jingxing, but he held her arm with one hand and the back of her head with the other. Shen Miao was almost lying on Xie Jingxing's body. As she breathed, she could hear a heart beating violently, but she did not know if it was hers or his.

If someone came in from outside at this moment, Shen Miao would not be able to explain herself. However, Xie Jingxing was a frivolous person and did not feel that there was anything wrong with him doing this.

Shen Miao suddenly smiled and said slowly, "Getting burnt by the fire?"

Xie Jingxing stared at her calmly.

"I've already caught the fire" Shen Miao's voice was indescribably cold and heavy. She said, "Prince Rui, do you think I have a way out?"

She had never had a way out. Without these blood feuds, without Wanyu and Fu Ming, without her rebirth for revenge, Shen Xin's unparalleled achievements would one day lead to the death of the first branch of the Shen family. In order to protect the Shen family, she would eventually be enemies with Fu Xiuyi.

"Of course there's a way out," the young man suddenly said.

Shen Miao's fingers that were grabbing his sleeve trembled slightly.

His side profile was peerlessly handsome, and his eyes were dark and beautiful, making one unable to help but immerse in it. His long eyelashes gave off a warmth under the sunlight coming through the curtain. He said indifferently, "With me around, the fire won't catch you. If you're afraid, you can hide in my arms."

His voice was as mellow as wine and drifted into Shen Miao's ears.

"I'll fight a way out for you."

Shen Miao looked at him. Even if he was frivolous with his words and actions, he always gave people the illusion that he was a man of his word.

But why did she suddenly feel like crying?

If someone had said to her in her previous life, "Hide in my arms and I'll fight a way out for you." Would she still end up hanging herself to death? Would her children still be alive and happy? It didn't matter if Xie Jingxing meant it or not. At this moment, Shen Miao felt touched.

It was as if butterflies were about to fly out of her heart.

Xie Jingxing suddenly stopped smiling and looked at Shen Miao seriously. He narrowed his eyes and whispered into Shen Miao's ear, "However, why is your heartbeat suddenly so rapid and loud?"

Chapter 678 Murky Waters (5)

Shen Miao pushed Xie Jingxing hard and sat up. Xie Jingxing smiled and placed his hands behind his head. "Are you sick?"

"You're sick." Shen Miao took a deep breath and said, "Prince Rui, can you leave now? I'm also an unmarried girl. If others see us together, I won't be able to get married."

Xie Jingxing frowned and said, "Don't you want to be the empress? How can ordinary people marry you?" Seeing that Shen Miao was about to flare up again, Xie Jingxing sat up and grabbed the tiger and threw it into his arms. He glanced at Shen Miao and said with a smile, "How about I do something to celebrate your victory?"

Shen Miao was stunned and subconsciously looked at Xie Jingxing. "What do you want to do?"

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"I don't like Fu Xiuyi. He annoys me." Xie Jingxing said casually, "Although we can't deal with him together." He winked at Shen Miao frivolously. "It's not a bad idea to hit him when he's down."

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Just as Shen Miao had expected, when Fu Xiuyi, who could remain unflappable under all circumstances, heard that Shen Yue was sent to prison, he couldn't help but turn pale.

"How did Shen Yue end up with Huangfu Hao?" he asked his servant.

"I heard that back then, Second Miss Shen didn't want to marry the young master of the Wang family, so she let Third Miss of the Shen family marry in her place. Later, after the matter was exposed, Second Miss Shen ran away, but somehow, she got involved with the crown prince of the State of Qin and became his concubine..."

"Enough!" Fu Xiuyi interrupted the servant and pressed his forehead. He said hatefully, "This group of people from the Shen family!" Ever since he got entangled with the Shen family, nothing had gone smoothly for him. A few days ago, when Shen Wan came to pledge loyalty to him, he gave Shen Wan a difficult task. He did not expect Shen Wan to screw it up before he even started. Fu Xiuyi had finally found a way to extract himself from the mess and was prepared to push the blame to Shen Wan to make Emperor Wen Hui trust him again. Unexpectedly, at this critical moment, Huangfu Hao was also pulled in.

On the surface, it looked like it was about Shen Yue, but in fact, it was related to the relationship between Ming Qi and the State of Qin. Everyone knew that the State of Qin and Ming Qi were about to form an alliance. Among the nine princes, whoever was closer to Huangfu Hao was the thorn in Emperor Wen Hui's side. Emperor Wen Hui naturally did not want his sons to be close to Huangfu Hao. Emperor Wen Hui hoped that in the eyes of the State of Qin, he was the emperor and the ruler of the dynasty. At such a sensitive time, what would Emperor Wen Hui think when Shen Yue was found living with Huangfu Hao? Could Shen Yue be a chess piece Shen Wan used to win over Huangfu Hao. If so, that would be a catastrophe for Fu Xiuyi because Shen Wan was working for him.

At this moment, Fu Xiuyi and Huangfu Hao were really tangled together.

The more Fu Xiuyi thought about it, the more he felt a headache coming on. Even though he had always been scheming, he did not know what to do at this moment. After all, he did not know that Shen Yue and Shen Dongling had swapped marriages, nor did he know that Huangfu Hao had taken Shen Yue as his concubine.

"This is too coincidental." A trace of ruthlessness appeared on Fu Xiuyi's cold face. "Someone must be plotting behind the curtain. They're obviously targeting me. What if the ultimate goal of sending Shen Wan to prison is to send me to prison?"

A young aide asked carefully, "Your Highness, what do you plan to do next?"

"My father is already suspicious of me. If I take the initiative to defend myself, it will backfire." Fu Xiuyi said, "I can only wait and see. However, the first thing I have to figure out is who is plotting against me."

"Maybe it's Prince Zhou or Prince Xuan?"

"That's impossible." Fu Xiuyi denied flatly. "I know what these two are capable of. If Father finds out that they are playing nasty tricks behind his back, they'll be finished. It's not a risk worth taking for them."

Chapter 679 Murky Waters (6)

The aides looked at each other and didn't know what to say.

Pei Lang stood in the middle of the aids with his head lowered. Fu Xiuyi did not ask him anything, and he did not take the initiative to speak. However, he could feel Fu Xiuyi looking at him from above.

Looking at Pei Lang's calm face, for some reason, another face suddenly appeared in Fu Xiuyi's mind.

The girl's face was delicate and small, and her eyes were as clear as a mirror, making people want to pat her like a little cub. However, she always had a frown on her face and a dignified aura around her, reminding Fu Xiuyi of the empress who lived in the Palace of Earthly Tranquility. Perhaps compared to the empress, she looked more noble and unfathomable.

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Was she a phoenix? Or a ferocious beast?

Fu Xiuyi sneered. She was just a woman. No matter how capable she was, it was impossible for her to be the mastermind. However, Fu Xiuyi did not forget that Shen Miao might have a special relationship with Prince Rui.

Prince Rui's attitude towards the entire Ming Qi royal family was neither warm nor cold. Occasionally, he would seem to deliberately target him... Did he do it for Shen Miao?

If Prince Rui really did it for Shen Miao, Fu Xiuyi would know what to do. Once he knew someone's Achilles heel, he would attack mercilessly. This was Fu Xiuyi's style of doing things.

Fu Xiuyi clenched his fists and slowly calmed down. He said, "Get a few people to keep an eye outside Prince Rui's mansion at all times!" He slowly glanced at his aides and said indifferently, "Add twice as many guards in our mansion. Don't let a fly in and don't let a mosquito out!"

Pei Lang's heart skipped a beat. He felt that Fu Xiuyi was implying something, but he still maintained a calm look. When the surrounding aides heard this, they whispered to each other, as if they had sensed something coming.

Fu Xiuyi's anger dissipated, and a smile appeared on his face as usual. However, halfway through his smile, a guard came in from outside and said, "Your Highness, the crown prince of the State of Qin sent someone to deliver a message to you."

Fu Xiuyi was stunned and said, "Bring him in." Just as he was about to get up, he suddenly realized something and his expression changed drastically. "Oh no!"

Emperor Wen Hui suspected that Fu Xiuyi and Huangfu Hao were in close contact. At this moment, he was probably doing his best to investigate the relationship between Fu Xiuyi and Huangfu Hao. Huangfu Hao did not know what happened and was not sure about the real reason why Shen Wan was captured. He probably sent someone over to ask, but little did he know that he actually shot himself in the foot.

At this moment, Emperor Wen Hui's people had probably already seen the person Huangfu Hao sent entering the mansion. Now, no matter what Fu Xiuyi said to defend himself, Emperor Wen Hui would not believe him.

Fu Xiuyi collapsed on the chair.

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At this moment, many people were locked up in the prison of Ming Qi.

Shen Yue and Chen Ruoqiu did not expect to be reunited with the Shen family under such circumstances. Shen Wan did not expect Shen Yue to become Huangfu Hao's concubine. After all, Shen Wan had been through thick and thin in the imperial court. Although he knew that he could not escape death this time, he felt even more despair when Shen Yue dragged Huangfu Hao into the whole mess.

Emperor Wen Hui would not deal with Huangfu Hao, because Huangfu Hao was the crown prince of the State of Qin after all. Fu Xiuyi could also think of a way to protect himself since he had many capable people under him. Unless Emperor Wen Hui did not care about being criticized by the world, he would not kill a prince because of suspicion. All in all, the ones to be sacrificed were the Shen family.

Shen Yue was afraid and angry. After entering the prison, she was locked up with the women of the Shen family. She grabbed Chen Ruoqiu and asked anxiously, "Mother, why are we arrested too? Aren't we no longer related to the Shen family? What exactly is going on?"

Seeing this, Chang Zaiqing was gloating. She already regretted seeking refuge with the Shen family. Not only did she not get rich, but she was also going to lose her life and future. On the contrary, Shen Yue, who had left home, and Chen Ruoqiu, who had been divorced, were lucky. Originally, Chang Zaiqing was just an outsider and would not get implicated. The more she thought about it, the more indignant she became. She did not expect Shen Yue and Chen Ruoqiu to also be sent to prison. Chang Zaiqing was indescribably happy.

Chang Zaiqing said, "Second Miss, what do you mean you are not related to the Shen family? You're still Second Master's daughter."

Shen Yue sneered. "You b\*tch, it's not your place to interrupt."

#### Chapter 680 Execution (1)

Chang Zaiqing was stunned. She knew all along that Shen Yue was not as gentle as she looked on the surface, but she did not expect her to be so sharp-tongued. She subconsciously looked at Shen Wan, but to her surprise, Shen Wan did not even look at her, as if he did not hear anything.

When Shen Yue saw Chang Zaiqing's expression, she said smugly, "Why? Do you still want my father to speak up for you? Everyone in the capital knows that you're already married to someone in Liuzhou! You're just as shameless as the prostitute in a brothel!"

"W-What nonsense are you talking about?" Chang Zaiqing's heart skipped a beat as she subconsciously replied. She had been locked up in prison and did not know anything about what was going on outside. She did not know that the fact that she was already married had already been made public and the entire capital was looking down on her.

"Don't you know?" Shen Yue used words to provoke her. "Your husband and son in Liuzhou miss you a lot, so they specially came to the capital to look for you." Shen Yue glanced at Shen Wan maliciously and was quite angry with him. She continued unhurriedly, "Tian Li knelt at the entrance of the government office and accused the Shen family of kidnapping his wife!"

!!

Chang Zaiqing trembled. She knew that she could not hide it anymore. She looked at Shen Wan. Seeing that Shen Wan was not too surprised, she asked with a trembling voice, "You... you knew it already?"

“What!!!” The person who exclaimed was Old Madam Shen, who had been staring with her eyes wide open. She thought that Shen Yue and Chang Zaiqing did not get along, so Shen Yue said some humiliating words to her. Now that she realized it was not the case, she asked in a sharp voice, “You’ve been married before? You have a son?”

Chang Zaiqing did not answer, but Chen Ruoqiu, who was watching coldly from the side, smiled and said, “Mother, you still don’t know, right? The daughter-in-law you carefully chose for your son is someone else’s wife. What people say about the Shen family is really horrendous. How I wish you could listen to it for yourself.”

Shen Gui was also stunned by this sudden news. Chang Zaiqing finally came back to her senses. She glanced at Chen Ruoqiu and sneered. She no longer pretended to be gentle and said, “So what if I’ve been married before? So what if I have a son? You are not a bunch of innocent and good people either. It’s just the pot calling the kettle black. Moreover, I’ve only entered the Shen family for a short time and I’m already in such trouble. It’s hard to say who harmed who.”

When Old Madam Shen heard this, anger rose in her heart. She was half afraid and half frustrated to be locked up in prison for no reason. She had nowhere to vent her anger. She immediately pounced on Chang Zaiqing without a word. As she tugged at Chang Zaiqing’s hair, she cursed, “B\*tch! You ruined my family! You shameless b\*tch!”

Chang Zaiqing was not to be outdone. In the past, she had to pretend to be polite and nice because she was trying to leave a good impression on the Shen family. Now that her mask was ripped off, she couldn’t care less. She immediately started fighting with Old Madam Shen.

Although Old Madam Shen was old, she still had the shrewishness from when she was young. She had also been in the streets before. Chang Zaiqing was much younger, but she prided herself on being an educated and talented girl, so she rarely engaged in fights with anyone. The two of them cursed as they scratched each other’s faces and pulled each other’s hair. Shen Gui wanted to step in to stop the fight, but because men and women were locked up in different cells, there was nothing much he could do. Shen Yue and Chen Ruoqiu, who were locked up together with Old Madam Shen and Chang Zaiqing, were less likely to stop the fight. Chen Ruoqiu looked at them coldly, and Shen Yue even laughed out loud. The fight only stopped with a deafening scream from Chang Zaiqing.