

## **Venomous 681**

### **Chapter 681 Execution (2)**

Old Madam Shen pushed Chang Zaiqing away. Her face was covered in scratches, and her hair and clothes were in a mess, but she looked at the person on the ground in satisfaction. Chang Zaiqing curled up on the ground, hunched over, hugging her stomach with a twisted face from pain, moaning. Under her, there was gradually a pool of blood flowing out.

She actually had a miscarriage in prison.

It was unknown what Old Madam Shen did to Chang Zaiqing just now, but over the past few days, the food in the prison had not been to her liking, so Chang Zaiqing's body was getting weak, and she had probably hurt her abdomen from fighting with Old Madam Shen just now.

Shen Gui looked at Shen Wan, only to see that Shen Wan was not moved at all. He looked at Chang Zaiqing rolling on the ground in pain, as if he was looking at a stranger.

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As for Old Madam Shen, she looked at Chang Zaiqing like a lunatic and cursed, "B\*tch! You deserve to die! B\*tch!"

Shen Yue was a little afraid of blood. Seeing that there was more and more blood under Chang Zaiqing, she was terrified and edged closer to Chen Ruoqiu. Chen Ruoqiu hugged Shen Yue tightly and looked at Chang Zaiqing with a smug smile.

Chang Zaiqing was in so much pain that her mind turned blank. She tried her best to call the jailers, hoping that someone would notice that she was bleeding well and find a doctor for her. However, the jailers came and went. Occasionally, they would look at her with disdain and mockery. They had no intention of helping her.

After moaning for a long time, Chang Zaiqing gradually lost her voice and could not even make a sound. She was probably on the verge of death.

No one spoke in the cell. It was terrifyingly quiet. The Shen family looked at Chang Zaiqing with disgust, annoyance, mockery, fear, and disdain, but there was no sympathy.

Misfortunes would distort one's personality. In Shen Yue and Chen Ruoqiu's opinion, Chang Zaiqing deserved it. In Shen Wan's opinion, Chang Zaiqing dug her own grave. Shen Gui was not a sympathetic person, and Old Madam Shen wanted to tear Chang Zaiqing into pieces.

In Chang Zaiqing's life, the first half was probably very smooth-sailing. Although the second half of her life was not smooth-sailing, she thought that with her talent, she could still get rich. In order to get rich, she was willing to do things against her conscience. However, little did she know that the riches she plunged into were actually a burial ground, and the people she was surrounded with were actually more terrifying than a hyena.

At this moment, Chang Zaiqing suddenly missed his incompetent husband who liked to drink and his son, who always liked to feed the chickens.

She muttered in a daze, "Huai Sheng..."

Shen Yue frowned. "What is she talking about?"

Chen Ruoqiu shook her head.

"Mother, why do you look so listless?" Shen Yue held her hand tightly. "Is this matter... very serious? When can we go out?"

"It's fine. It's just a small matter. His Majesty will let us out after the investigation. Don't worry. Rest for a while." Chen Ruoqiu replied with a smile.

After receiving Chen Ruoqiu's reassurance, Shen Yue felt a little relieved and was suddenly overwhelmed by sleepiness. She leaned against Chen Ruoqiu and closed her eyes.

When Old Madam Shen heard Chen Ruoqiu's words, she gradually calmed down. Although she was still not satisfied with Chen Ruoqiu, people would only know who was better when they compared. With someone like Chang Zaiqing as a contrast, Old Madam Shen felt that Chen Ruoqiu was not all that bad. She closed her eyes and rested.

On the ground, no one cared if Chang Zaiqing was dead or alive.

#### Chapter 682 Execution (3)

Chen Ruoqiu glanced at Chang Zaiqing and sneered. Then, she thought of something and her gaze became filled with despair.

She had lied to Shen Yue about whether they could go out or not this time, and most likely, they would die.

No one understood Shen Wan's gaze better than Chen Ruoqiu. As long as there was still a trace of hope, Shen Wan would not have this reaction. He sat there indifferently, looking stupefied, as if he did not care about anything. Whether it was the Shen family becoming the laughing stock of the capital, the scuffle between Old Madam Shen and Chang Zaiqing, or the miscarriage at this moment, Shen Wan didn't react at all because he was already in despair.

Even Shen Wan was in despair, so Chen Ruoqiu had no reason to have any hope of living.

However, when she really knew this ending, Chen Ruoqiu didn't find it as unacceptable as she thought. Perhaps it was because Chen Ruoqiu had already seen the ugly side of human nature when the Chen family and the Shen family were fighting the lawsuit, or perhaps it was because she was divorced by Shen Wan that Chen Ruoqiu was utterly disappointed. At this moment, Chen Ruoqiu was physically and mentally exhausted. After taking her revenge on Chang Zaiqing, she did not care about what was going to happen next.

If they were going to die, they would all die together, right? If they died together, they would be a family again, Chen Ruoqiu thought.

"Third Brother." Shen Gui was the first to break the silence. He asked, "Do you think our family is haunted by something in recent years? When Father was around, nothing like this ever happened."

Ever since Shen Gui was diagnosed as infertile, he had been living a self-indulgent life. It was rare for him to be clear-headed. Whether it was true or not, he asked a serious question.

Shen Wan glanced at him and said in a calm tone, from which no one could tell if he was happy or angry, "When Father was around or when Shen Xin was around."

Shen Gui was at a loss for words. Indeed, to be precise, when the Shen family went downhill, it started from when the first branch split up. In fact, when Shen Xin just returned to the capital two years ago, their official careers were already a little bumpy. It was just that at that time, the Shen family had not split up yet, and their colleagues in the imperial court had to curry favor with them on account of Shen Xin. Later, when Shen Xin left the capital, those people started to walk away, and the Shen family became worse day by day. Although they did not want to admit it, it was the truth. Without Shen Xin, the Shen family was nothing.

Shen Gui asked hesitantly, "Are you saying that someone is plotting against us behind the curtain? This time, we were also set up by someone?"

Shen Wan smiled strangely, but no one knew what he was smiling about.

"Could it be... that Shen Xin was the one who did it?" This thought suddenly struck Shen Gui.

At this moment, Chen Ruoqiu, who was sitting quietly at the side, said, "Shen Miao, that little b\*tch Luo Xueyan gave birth to, is very evil. Didn't you notice that as long as someone is related to Shen Miao, they won't end up well?"

Shen Wan and Shen Gui looked at Chen Ruoqiu at the same time. Chen Ruoqiu did not seem to notice their gazes and continued, "First, it was Shen Qing and Shen Yuan from the second branch, and now it's the third branch's turn. Back then, Second Sister-in-law lost terribly to that little b\*tch. Thinking about it carefully, if we have to find a time from which the Shen family started to go downhill, it was when that little b\*tch's personality suddenly changed."

In the past, in the eyes of Shen Wan and Shen Gui, Shen Miao was at most a little smart, but she was not that capable. However, now that they listened to Chen Ruoqiu analyze it, they felt that it made sense. For example, Princess Ming An died for no reason after having a grudge with Shen Miao a while back, and her case was still left unsolved.

#### Chapter 683 Execution (4)

Shen Wan said in a low voice, "She won't be able to do this alone unless she has the guidance of an adviser or the help of a backer."

"I'm afraid it's not Shen Miao who has found a backer." Shen Gui thought for a moment and said, "It's the first branch who has found a backer." He seemed to have thought of something and suddenly slapped his knee. "Why didn't Shen Xin fall to his death on the battlefield back then! I was wondering why everything has been going wrong all these years. It turns out that Shen Xin is the one who has been plotting against us!" He said righteously, but he did not mention how much the Shen family had plotted against Shen Xin.

“No matter what, this matter will more or less be related to Shen Xin.” Chen Ruoqiu calmed down at this moment and said more and more pertinently, “Otherwise, why is everyone in the second and third branches keep getting into trouble while the first branch is safe and sound?”

Everyone was silent.

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After a while, Shen Gui gritted his teeth and said, “In that case, we have to drag them down with us this time! Even if we don’t have a good time, their first branch can’t have a good time either.” He looked at Shen Wan. “Third Brother, let’s think of a way to send Shen Xin to prison!”

“We can’t.” Shen Wan said calmly, “If we try too hard to involve Shen Wan at this point, anyone with a discerning eye can tell that we’re framing him. The more we do it, the more the emperor will think that the first branch is not on the same side as us. The first branch will benefit from this.”

Shen Gui said angrily, “Are we going to let him off just like that?”

Shen Wan sneered. “Even if we can’t pull Shen Xin down, we have to make him suffer!”

“Third Brother, you mean...” Shen Gui was a little puzzled.

Shen Wan lowered his voice. “Do you know who else is implicated and angry but was too noble to be sent to prison?”

Chen Ruoqiu frowned. “Prince Ding?”

“That’s right.” Shen Wan looked at Chen Ruoqiu calmly. At this moment, it was useless to blame Chen Ruoqiu for turning him in. Moreover, the reason Chen Ruoqiu was driven to do that was that Shen Wan divorced her for Chang Zaiqing. Moreover, they all might have fallen in the trap someone set up. What was the point of playing the blame game?

Shen Wan said coldly, “Our every move is being watched by others right now. Of course, there are also people from Prince Ding’s side. If we ‘chat’ about the first branch casually, it will definitely make Prince Ding suspicious.”

Previously, since Prince Ding wanted him to find a way to matchmake Shen Miao with Prince Zhou, he was already a little wary of Shen Miao. If they casually chatted about the first branch, Prince Ding might think that the first branch had tricked him and made him suspected by Emperor Wen Hui, he would probably want to destroy the first branch immediately.

Among the nine princes, Prince Ding hid his ambitions the deepest. Being targeted by Prince Ding, Shen Wan believed that the first branch would have a hard time in the future.

Even if Shen Wan could not change his fate, he had to drag the first branch with him.

He muttered in a low voice that he could hear, “I’ll wait for you on the way to hell, Brother.”

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The case related to Shen Wan in the capital was closed very quickly, so when the people found out about it, they were a little confused.

## Chapter 684 Execution (5)

The servants of the Shen family were all sent into exile while the masters and madams were all executed with the exception of the first branch.

It had been a long time since such a big case happened in Ming Qi, and this case did not seem to be so serious. The government seemed to have deliberately kept it a secret. They only announced that Shen Wan was convicted of failing to do his job and causing a great loss to Ming Qi.

However, no one knew what the “loss” was.

This was how officials were. If the emperor wanted the officials to die, they had no choice but to die. Sometimes, Emperor Wen Hui did not even bother to think of a reason to execute the officials. Now that Shen Wan and Shen Gui’s official careers had hit the rock bottom, there was no one who wanted to speak up for them. In short, everything happened so quickly that no one expected it.

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Shen Miao would naturally go and see the execution.

Luo Tan looked at Shen Miao in surprise and asked, “Why are you going to see that kind of bloody scene? You’ll have nightmares at night. It’s better not to go.”

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan would not go. They still had military affairs to attend to. Of course, even if they did not have military affairs, they would not go. Luo Xueyan did not have any feelings for the Shen family, but Shen Xin probably did. However, those feelings had been wiped away by the things the Shen family had done over the years.

Shen Miao said, “I want to go and take a look. I’ve never seen an execution before.”

Luo Tan was speechless. She said angrily, “What’s there to see about execution?!” However, she was secretly anxious for Shen Miao. Women were always soft-hearted. Although the Shen family were not good people, Shen Miao had been with them for so long after all. It was inevitable that she would feel sad.

“I’ll go with you then,” Shen Qiu said. Shen Qiu knew how stubborn Shen Miao was. If he didn’t let her go, Shen Miao would probably sneak out. He was not afraid. Moreover, with guards around, he could protect Shen Miao better.

“I’ll go with you too.” Luo Ling smiled and said, “I’ve never seen an execution either.”

“What nonsense are you talking about, Cousin?” Luo Tan glanced at Luo Ling. “When we were in the Northwest, people were getting executed almost on a daily basis. What do you mean you haven’t seen it?”

Luo Ling’s smile was a little stiff. When Shen Qiu heard this, he looked at Luo Ling meaningfully, making Luo Ling feel a little uneasy. He said, “Then let’s go together.”

Seeing that everyone had left, Luo Tan gritted her teeth and stomped her feet before saying, “Then I’ll go you too. I don’t want to stay in the mansion alone... Cousin Miao, you have to cover your eyes later.”

When the group arrived at the execution ground, it was packed with commoners. Because Shen Qiu had brought many guards with him, the commoners took the initiative to make way for them. Some people recognized Shen Qiu and started whispering with each other, pointing at him and Shen Miao.

They had long known that the first branch of the Shen family was not on good terms with the second and third branches, but they did not expect the siblings of the first branch to come to watch the execution. Some people said that it was a blessing in disguise for the first branch to leave the Shen family back then, which was why they weren't implicated this time. Some people said that these two siblings were too cold-blooded and took delight in watching their family getting executed.

On the execution platform, Shen Wan and the others were kneeling with shackles on their knees. They were wearing dirty prison clothes and looked disheveled. Shen Yue and Old Madam Shen's mouths were covered with rags, and people were able to see Shen Yue shaking her head desperately with fear in her eyes. Shen Yue and Old Madam Shen had always been very afraid of death. They probably still could not accept this outcome and were still trying to figure out ways to salvage the situation.

#### Chapter 685 Execution (6)

Shen Miao smiled faintly.

She glanced at the people on the platform one by one.

Shen Wan, Chen Ruoqiu, Shen Gui, Shen Yue, Old Madam Shen... She heard that Chang Zaiqing had a miscarriage in the prison. The next day, when the jailers found her lying on the ground, they carried her out, but her body had already stiffened and she had bled to death. That wasn't all that bad for her. At least, she didn't need to be beheaded and could have an intact corpse. However, what was the point of having an intact corpse? She was dead, and everyone in the capital knew that she had abandoned her husband and son.

"Cousin, what are you thinking about?" Luo Tan asked softly.

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"Thinking about the past," Shen Miao replied softly.

She thought of how when she was competing with Consort Mei for power in the harem, it was this group of people on the platform who stabbed the first branch in the back. They caused Shen Qiu's death, Luo Xueyan's death, and Shen Xin's decline. They caused Wanyu and Fu Ming to not have a strong maternal family to support them and could only sacrifice themselves in the power game. They were the most noble people, but they lived like lowly children of a concubine. All of this was caused by these people in front of her.

Shen Yue said to Shen Miao once, "Fifth Sister, we're not family."

They were not family, but enemies. However, from now on, with the death of the people on the platform, she would really have nothing to do with this pack of hyenas.

On the platform, Shen Yue looked around in a panic. Suddenly, she looked in Shen Miao's direction. When she saw Shen Miao, intense hatred suddenly shot out of her eyes. If not for the fact that she was

chained up, Shen Yue would probably have jumped through the crowd and pounced on Shen Miao to scratch her face.

Shen Miao smiled at her through the crowd. She did not care if Shen Yue could see it clearly, but she raised her chin slightly and looked at her like she was looking at a dog.

Shen Yue was angered by Shen Miao's posture and screamed even louder. The executioner who was holding her kicked her impatiently. Shen Yue seemed to be in pain and fell silent for a while. However, she looked in the other direction with an extremely angry expression.

Shen Miao followed her gaze and saw a familiar figure not far from her. It was a young woman in luxurious clothes. She had a sharp chin and big eyes. Who else could it be but Shen Dongling?

Shen Dongling also saw Shen Miao. She smiled gently and walked towards Shen Miao. When she got closer, she bowed to Shen Miao and said softly, "Fifth Sister." Then, she looked at Shen Qiu and said, "Brother."

Shen Qiu nodded indifferently while Shen Miao sized up Shen Dongling.

Shen Dongling was good-looking to begin with. She looked like Concubine Wan, charming and delicate. In the past, Shen Dongling had always kept her head lowered in the Shen family, and her good looks had been ruined by the dull clothes she wore. Now, her face was so tender that water could be squeezed out of it, and her eyes were sparkling and lively. She was wearing bright clothes, which accentuated her slender figure.

Looking at the group of servants behind Shen Dongling, it seemed like Wang Bi treated her well.

Because Shen Dongling rarely left the courtyard, no one in the execution ground recognized her. Luo Tan sized up Shen Dongling curiously. Shen Dongling looked at Shen Miao and smiled. "I didn't expect to meet Fifth Sister here. What a coincidence."

Shen Miao smiled.

Shen Dongling's attitude was very natural, and there was no trace of sadness on her face. Shen Gui was still Shen Dongling's father. However, knowing that he was about to be executed, Shen Dongling didn't seem to be concerned at all. As she chatted with Shen Miao, she was as casual as if she was appreciating flowers in a beautiful garden. Looking carefully, one could even see a trace of happiness on her face.

Shen Miao looked at Shen Dongling. "Third Sister, what brought you here?"

When Shen Dongling heard this, she covered her mouth and smiled. She was completely different from before. Now, her every move was charming, like Concubine Wan when she was young. She was not as timid as before.

Shen Dongling looked at the platform. "I just heard about this interesting event from my servant and came to join in the fun."

Just as she finished speaking, she heard the executioner on the platform say in a loud voice, "The time is up. Execution begins—"

A few streams of blood spewed out at the same time.

Shen Dongling covered her mouth with a handkerchief and widened her eyes. She said softly, "How pitiful."

"Yes," Shen Miao echoed calmly. "How pitiful."

#### Chapter 686 Suspicion (1)

Shen Miao had always hated the third branch. It was not a surprise that she was apathetic to their demise. However, Shen Dongling was different. Although she and Concubine Wan were suppressed by Ren Wanyun in the Shen family in the early years, Shen Dongling had never shown any dissatisfaction. It was precisely because of this that her behavior today seemed odd.

A few heads rolled down the stage and into the crowd. Exclamations burst out from the crowd, and the timid women were already screaming with their eyes covered. Because the Shen family were sinners, they were not allowed to be buried. Instead, their corpses would be incinerated.

Looking at the corpses being dragged away by the executioners, Shen Dongling seemed to have lost interest. She looked at Shen Miao and said with a smile, "When I was in the Shen mansion, because I was sick all year round, I didn't get to interact with Fifth Sister a lot. Now that I'm married, it's even more inconvenient to go look for you. However, Fifth Sister always has a place in my heart. When you have time, feel free to come look for me in the Wang mansion."

As Shen Qiu listened from the side, he frowned. Shen Dongling was a timid person, but she was able to wrap her husband around her fingers right after marriage. Shen Qiu was not a fool. He felt that Shen Dongling was not as simple as she looked. She looked delicate and unharmed on the surface, but her personality was very cold. He did not like her and didn't want Shen Miao to be close to her.

When Shen Miao heard that, she only smiled indifferently and asked, "From the looks of it, Young Master Wang treats Third Sister very well."

Shen Dongling lowered her head shyly. "The Wang family is kind."

Shen Miao smiled coldly. The Wang family was kind? That was probably not the case. In her previous life, she did not pay too much attention to Shen Dongling. Under Ren Wanyun's suppression, Shen Dongling probably did not dare to make trouble. However, Shen Dongling was like Fu Xiuyi and was good at hiding her ambition. She did not know if after her death, Shen Dongling could get the upper hand in the battle against the Shen family.

"Congratulations." Shen Miao said casually, "We still have something to do, so we will get going first. Enjoy your time."

Shen Dongling said, "Fifth Sister, see you around."

Shen Miao did not want to talk to her anymore and took the lead to leave. Shen Qiu nodded and said goodbye with a calm expression. Luo Tan and Luo Ling quickly followed suit. After Shen Miao and the others left, Shen Dongling's personal maid, Xing Hua, pouted in anger. Originally, Xing Hua was humble and timid. Now that she followed Shen Dongling to the Wang family, she was not as timid as before and was even a little arrogant.



Xing Hua complained, "Madam is treating Fifth Miss so nicely, but Fifth Miss doesn't appreciate it. It's really infuriating."

"She's the legitimate daughter, and I'm the daughter of a concubine. Of course she looks down on her." Shen Dongling was not as angry as Xing Hua.

"But you're also the young madam of the Wang family now. We can't let people treat us like before, right? Besides, when Fifth Miss gets married in the future, she won't even have a sister to keep her company. She'll probably be laughed at by many people. Not only did she not try to please you, but she even gave you the cold shoulder."

## Chapter 687 Suspicion (2)

Shen Dongling smiled faintly. "I'm just the young madam of the Wang family. I'm not worth mentioning in her eyes. Why does she have to please me?"

Xing Hua said angrily, "You're a proper wife of an official. Who is Fifth Miss going to marry in the future to be on equal footing with you? Don't tell me she wants to marry a prince? Her reputation was ruined a few years ago. Who would marry her?"

"Xing Hua." As if feeling that the maid had gone too far, Shen Dongling shot her a glare. Xing Hua quickly shut up, not daring to say anything else.

"Reputation is nothing." Shen Dongling said softly, "With the backing of the Shen family and the Luo family, no one can stop her even if she wants to marry the current emperor. It's just that..." Shen Dongling smiled meaningfully. "It's not necessarily a good thing to enter the royal family."

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On the other side, Luo Tan was asking Shen Miao, "Cousin Sister, is that the illegitimate daughter of the second branch? She doesn't look like a timid and low-key person."

Before Luo Tan came to the capital, she was afraid that she would not be able to recognize the people from the Shen family, so she specially asked the servants about each and every member of the Shen family. The servants said the least about Shen Dongling because this Third Miss was such an invisible person. She did not leave the courtyard at all and was very humble. Because the juniors of the Luo family were all mischievous and playful, especially Luo Tan and Luo Qian, they really could not imagine a life like Shen Dongling's.

Unexpectedly, today, it was not like what the servants said at all. Shen Dongling was completely different from what she had imagined.

Shen Miao smiled. "People change."

Luo Tan thought for a moment and agreed. "That's right. I think she's changed because she's married and is liked by her in-laws."

Shen Miao was amused by Luo Tan's remark. Shen Qiu asked, "Sister, after watching the execution, can we go home now?" The fact that Shen Miao was kidnapped last time still haunted Shen Qiu.

Just as Shen Miao was about to answer, she suddenly heard a clear voice. "Sister Shen!"

Shen Miao turned around.

The person who ran over was a young man. He was wearing a pine green satin dress with pine leaves embroidered on the sides of his collar. This young man was about 11 or 12 years old. He was considered very handsome, but for some reason, he still looked childish. He was fair and tender, looking like a person who had walked out of a painting.

Luo Tan's eyes widened. Even someone like Luo Tan, who did not have much patience for children, was attracted to this young man, let alone others.

Luo Ling and Shen Qiu were a little surprised. From the looks of it, this young man was quite familiar with Shen Miao. Shen Miao frowned and felt that the young man looked familiar, but she could not figure out who he was.

The young man thought that Shen Miao would remember his name immediately, but he did not expect her to just look at him in a daze. Therefore, he walked to Shen Miao's side. He was not as tall as Shen Miao and had to raise his head slightly to stare at her.

Just as Shen Miao was about to ask the young man, she heard someone beside her saying with a chuckle. "Fifth Miss Shen, Young Master Shen."

The person was wearing a lake-blue robe. The style of the clothes was exactly the same as the young man in front of her, but this person was much older than the young man. He looked vaguely similar to the young man's. He had a handsome face and an elegant smile. Shen Miao and Shen Qiu knew this person. It was Su Mingfeng, the son of the Earl of Pingnan.

#### Chapter 688 Suspicion (3)

"My younger brother is naughty and insensible. I hope he didn't offend you, Fifth Miss," Su Mingfeng said with a smile.

Shen Miao widened her eyes.

Seeing that the young man was looking at her angrily, Shen Miao asked, "Su Minglang?"

"We haven't seen each other for only two years and you forgot me?" Su Minglang said angrily, "Didn't you say that you would bring me a gift when you came back?"

Su Minglang was still angry. On the side, Luo Tan couldn't help but rub Su Minglang's head. Luo Tan liked beautiful things the most. Now that she saw Su Mingfeng, she said honestly, "As expected of two brothers. You are both equally good-looking."

Su Minglang was still sulky about the fact that Shen Miao forgot about him. On the other hand, Su Mingfeng had never been complimented so openly by a woman. For a moment, he did not know what to say.

Shen Qiu and Luo Ling quickly greeted the two brothers.

Shen Miao looked at Su Minglang and smiled. "The gift is at home. I'll get someone to send it to you later." Ever since she returned to the capital with Shen Xin, things had been happening one after

another, which kept her busy. She had really forgotten about Su Minglang. Now that she realized how much Su Minglang had changed, she couldn't help but sigh with emotion.

When she left Wanyu and Fu Ming back then, they were still children. But when she came back, they changed so much that she could barely recognize them.

Su Minglang did not hold a grudge against Shen Miao. When he heard that, his dissatisfaction was swept away. Su Minglang asked, "Sister Shen, are you here to shop?"

Su Mingfeng smiled awkwardly. He naturally knew that today was the day of the Shen family's execution. The first branch of the Shen family was not on good terms with the second and third branches of the Shen family. Not far from here was the execution ground. Shen Miao must be here to witness it. However, he could not tell his younger brother this.

Shen Miao said, "I was just strolling around. I'm going back home now."

Su Minglang nodded obediently and said, "Then remember to send me the gift."

Su Mingfeng slapped the back of his head. Su Minglang covered his head and glared at him. He turned to look at Shen Miao and was about to say goodbye to her when he suddenly looked dumbfounded. He pointed at the bracelet on Shen Miao's wrist and said, "Sister Shen, this jade bracelet looks like the tiger head bracelet made by Brother Xie back then."

As soon as he said that, the rest of them were stunned. Shen Qiu and Luo Ling did not know what the tiger head bracelet was. Su Minglang said indeliberately, but Su Mingfeng frowned.

There was indeed a jade bracelet hanging on Shen Miao's snow-white wrist. The jade was of good quality with a green luster. However, the jade bracelet was not a whole. It was divided into two at the head, like a pair of double rings. There were no traces of carving on it. There was only a small tiger head engraved on the protruding part of the head.

Although Shen Miao felt that it looked like a cat.

It was one of the jewelry that Xie Jingxing gave her. Shen Miao originally thought that those jewelry all had their unique usage, so if possible, it would be good to wear them all. Unexpectedly, when Gu Yu saw it, she said, "Miss, you can't wear all these. These jewelry are expensive. You have to wear gorgeous clothes to match them. If you put them all on, you will look out of place."

#### Chapter 689 Suspicion (4)

Xie Jingxing was not short of money, but he had already given her so much expensive jewelry. Did he have to specially buy a batch of gorgeous clothes for her to match these jewelry? Even if he bought them, she would find it troublesome to wear them.

After thinking about it, she felt that this jade bracelet was the least conspicuous one. There were needles hidden inside for her to use in critical moments, and it looked relatively simple.

While she was in a daze, Su Mingfeng's expression darkened. Before Shen Miao could react, he grabbed her hand and said, "Sorry to offend you."

Shen Miao subconsciously wanted to pull her hand back, but Su Mingfeng held it very tightly. Shen Qiu and Luo Ling's eyes turned cold at the same time. Shen Qiu said, "Young Master Su, you're too impetuous!"

Su Minglang widened his eyes. This was probably the first time he had heard someone say that his brother was impetuous.

However, Su Mingfeng quickly let go and cupped his hands at Shen Miao. "My apologies, Fifth Miss Shen."

In the end, he did not do anything, so Shen Miao didn't take it to heart. She just did not know what Su Mingfeng had discovered. The next moment, she heard Su Mingfeng ask, "Fifth Miss, may I ask where this tiger head bracelet came from?"

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. Luo Tan and the others were dumbfounded. Su Mingfeng was a man, so why did he ask where the jewelry on a woman came from?

Even Su Minglang looked at Su Mingfeng strangely.

Su Mingfeng was unmoved. He still looked at Shen Miao seriously, as if he would not let her go today without getting an answer.

Shen Miao came back to her senses and smiled. "I bought it from a merchant who came from afar. He said that it's an imported item. I didn't expect Young Master Su to know it. Is this bracelet called the Tiger Head Bracelet?"

For a moment, a look of disappointment flashed across Su Mingfeng's face. Then, he perked up and said, "That's right. It's called the Tiger Head Bracelet. Fifth Miss, are you willing to sell it to me?"

"Ahem." Luo Tan choked on her saliva. The people in the capital were so strange. The handsome young man in front of her actually wanted to buy jewelry from a woman. It was said that some rich families had some strange fetishes. For example, some people liked to collect women's undergarments, and some liked to put on women's rouge. It seemed that Young Master Su liked women's jewelry.

Su Minglang asked, "Brother, do you want to buy this tiger head bracelet for the girl you like?"

Hearing this, Luo Tan was enlightened. So it was not that he liked to wear jewelry himself, but he wanted to buy it for his beloved girl.

Shen Miao smiled and said, "After all, this is my personal jewelry. It's not right for me to give or sell it to a man. Moreover, if Young Master Su wants to buy jewelry for the girl you like, you shouldn't give her the jewelry I used. If Young Master Su wants, I know some good jewelry in the Treasure Pavilion in the capital. They're much better than the one I have."

At this point, if Su Minglang continued pestering Shen Miao, he would seem unreasonable.

Shen Qiu nodded and said, "That's right."

Su Mingfeng could only smile and say, "In that case, I won't force Fifth Miss Shen." After exchanging a few more pleasantries, Su Mingfeng brought Su Minglang to bid farewell to Shen Miao and the others.

Just as he was about to leave, Su Mingfeng suddenly thought of something. He looked at Shen Miao and hesitated for a moment before asking, "Fifth Miss, have you seen the Young Marquis of the Xie family?"

#### Chapter 690 Suspicion (5)

Shen Miao was stunned, and so were the people around her.

Everyone knew that Xie Jingxing had been dead for two years. Was Su Mingfeng crazy?

Shen Miao laughed. "The Young Marquis of the Xie family died young. How can I possibly have seen him?"

Su Mingfeng did not say anything else. This time, he walked away with Su Minglang.

When the two of them could no longer be seen in the crowd, Luo Tan hugged herself and said, "I have goosebumps all over me. Cousin Sister, why would that person ask you if you've seen a dead person?"

Shen Miao said, "He's probably crazy."

"I think so too." Luo Tan agreed.

Shen Qiu frowned. "Stay away from the Su family in the future."

"But why did he ask you?" Luo Tan asked curiously, "Did you have any relationship with Young Marquis Xie?"

"We have nothing to do with each other," Shen Miao replied.

Luo Ling looked at her in surprise.

...

What Shen Miao did not know was that on this day, Su Mingfeng, who saw the Tiger Head Bracelet, was restless the entire day.

Even Su Yu sensed that something was wrong with Su Mingfeng and asked him what was wrong. Now that a storm was brewing in the imperial court, the Su family had tried their best to keep a low profile and stay away from the murky water.

Su Mingfeng only said a few words to brush Su Yu off before returning to his room. Su Yu and Mrs. Su looked at each other. Mrs. Su asked, "What's wrong with him?"

Su Yu shook his head. Mrs. Su asked her younger son, Su Minglang, "Minglang, when you went out with your brother today, who did you meet?"

Su Minglang chewed the food as he replied, "We met Sister Shen. Brother asked Sister Shen for jewelry, but she refused. Sister Shen said that it was not right for her to do so, so Brother was unhappy."

Mrs. Su and Su Yu gasped.

Mrs. Su put down her chopsticks and asked, "Let me ask you, is the Sister Shen you're talking about the Fifth Miss of the Shen family?" Now that the second and third branches of the Shen family had been

eliminated, it was naturally not Shen Yue. Shen Qing died two years ago. Shen Dongling had married into the Wang family. Only Shen Miao was unmarried.

Su Minglang nodded vigorously.

This time, Su Yu couldn't sit still anymore. He pointed at Su Minglang shakily and said, "Your brother asked her for jewelry?"

Su Minglang nodded like a chicken pecking at grains.

The couple looked at each other and saw the disbelief in each other's eyes. Su Mingfeng would be 23 years old soon after the new year. Most men of his age would be married long ago and even had children. However, for some reason, their son had always been unwilling to get married. In the early years, Xie Jingxing from the Marquis of Lin'an often hung out with Su Mingfeng. Su Yu was not worried at all. He knew that Xie Jingxing was popular among girls, so his son would have a lot of chances to find girls he liked. Once Xie Jingxing died, his son practically became a monk. In the past two years, he had not shown interest in girls. Su Yu even thought his son might be a gay.