

Venomous 691

Chapter 691 Suspicion (6)

Hearing Su Minglang's words, the Su couple was half happy and half worried. They were happy that Su Mingfeng was normal and liked women. What worried them was that the person Su Mingfeng liked was Shen Xin's daughter. Shen Xin held a lot of power. If they became in-laws with Shen Xin, once Emperor Wen Hui was prepared to deal with Shen Xin, the Su family would be in trouble too.

At the thought of this, they felt a headache coming on. Mrs. Su was considerate and said, "Don't be anxious. Minglang didn't make it clear. If Mingfeng really likes Miss Shen, he will definitely do something. Jin Feng, go and call all the servants in Young Master's courtyard over. I have something to ask them."

In the room, Su Mingfeng paced back and forth.

He was not wrong. Even just a glance was enough for him to see it clearly and figure it out. The jade bracelet on Shen Miao's wrist was clearly a tiger head bracelet.

There were a total of two Tiger Head Rings. One was in the hand of Princess Rong Xin, and the other appeared on Shen Miao. Su Mingfeng had always thought that the second one would not appear because Xie Jingxing was dead.

In the world, only Xie Jingxing knew how to make the tiger head bracelet.

At that time, Su Mingfeng and Xie Jingxing were still young boys. One day, Su Minglang saw Xie Jingxing take something that looked like a bracelet to sharpen and grind it, and he even mocked him. In fact, he was very curious. Su Mingfeng knew Xie Jingxing well. Although Xie Jingxing was handsome and cynical, he was actually not interested in these gorgeous accessories at all, let alone women's items. Out of curiosity, Su Mingfeng asked. Xie Jingxing rolled his eyes at him and said that it was actually a hidden weapon.

Later, Su Mingfeng nagged at Xie Jingxing to show it to him. The bracelet was connected by two separate parts, but there was a weapon hidden inside. It was a poisonous needle that could be used for self-defense.

Su Mingfeng found it interesting and wanted it. Xie Jingxing said disdainfully, "This is for women. Why does a man like you want to wear it?"

Su Mingfeng gave up. Later, he saw Xie Jingxing give the bracelet to Princess Rong Xin. Ever since Princess Yuqing died, Princess Rong Xin doted on Xie Jingxing very much. Xie Jingxing was very close to her, so it was understandable that he gave it to Princess Rong Xin.

Why was it called the Tiger Head Bracelet? It was precisely because Xie Jingxing had carved a tiger head on it. His carving skills were not good, and the tiger head looked similar to a dog head. Su Mingfeng mocked him, but Princess Rong Xin liked it very much.

Xie Jingxing wanted to make another one, but the jade was very difficult to find, and he never found it. Two years ago, Su Mingfeng found a raw jade for him from a rich merchant, but the jade quality was not as good as the previous one. There were faint white marks. Before Xie Jingxing went to war, he took that

raw jade and said that when he was bored on the way, he would make a tiger head bracelet. Unexpectedly, after he left, he never got to return home.

The tiger head bracelet Shen Miao had had faint white marks on it. It had the same usage and the same workmanship, and the ugly carving was undoubtedly done by Xie Jingxing.

Xie Jingxing left the capital two years ago. Shen Xin went to the Northwest two years ago. Shen Xin left first, and Xie Jingxing left after that. Could it be that Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing had met in the past two years?

But at that time, Xie Jingxing was already dead!

Moreover, the carving on the bracelet looked new. It seemed like it had not been polished for long and was not smooth enough.

Su Mingfeng's heart was pounding. He instructed his servant, "Get a few people to keep an eye on Fifth Miss Shen outside Shen Xin's mansion. I want to know everyone she meets and every place she goes."

Su Mingfeng naturally did not know how shocked his parents would be when they heard this.

"Oh my god." Su Yu said, "Mingfeng is really in love with her!"

"I thought that Mingfeng didn't look like someone who would do something so rash as snatching a woman's jewelry. I thought Minglang was spouting nonsense, but I didn't expect it to be true." Mrs. Su felt a headache coming on. She took a sip of tea and said, "Why does he behave so strangely, nothing like who he usually was? He even sent people to monitor Fifth Miss Shen. This is not how you should woo a girl."

"Maybe he's been rejected and still won't give up." Su Yu sighed. "This child is like me."

Mrs. Su rolled her eyes at him. "In that case, Mingfeng will lose hope to live if he can't marry her. We have to send an invitation to the Shen family first."

"An invitation for what?" Su Yu was puzzled.

"What else for? Of course to matchmake your son with her," Mrs. Su said.

Chapter 692 Dating (1)

The wind howled at night, and it was surprisingly cold. In Prince Rui's mansion, Gao Yang was reading a letter with relish.

Shen Miao lived with Shen Xin. Although they had many soldiers and guards, for various reasons, Xie Jingxing still felt worried about her, so he chose a secret guard from Black Feather Army to protect Shen Miao in secret to prevent any accidents from happening.

This secret guard called Cong Yang was originally a spy in Black Feather Army. He was first-class in martial arts and was also first-class at gathering information. However, there was one thing about him that annoyed people. He was a chatterbox. Every day, he was enthusiastic about reporting to Xie Jingxing what Shen Miao did. In this letter, he wrote about who Shen Miao saw today and what she said. Basically, other than going to the toilet and taking a shower, he included everything else in detail.

Gao Yang felt that this was quite perverted, but Cong Yang was such a cautious person by nature. When he read the part about Shen Miao meeting Su Mingfeng on the street at noon, his expression changed.

Although he did not know what Su Mingfeng had discovered, Su Mingfeng and Xie Jingxing had been friends for so many years. There was a chance that he might discover something.

Just as he was deep in thought, Ji Yushu passed by from behind with an apple in his mouth. Seeing that Gao Yang was absent-minded, he glanced at the letter and said, "Wait, so that Miss Luo likes Su Mingfeng?"

Gao Yang was suddenly frightened by Ji Yushu and almost fell off the stone bench. When he came back to his senses, he said angrily, "Can you stop spooking me?"

"Why are you reacting so strongly?" Ji Yushu patted his shoulder. "Don't play with your fan all day long. It's better to practice martial arts." After saying that, he returned to the original topic and said, "Miss Luo and Young Master Su are quite compatible. Third Brother is friends with both sides. Why don't we be a matchmaker for them?"

Gao Yang frowned. "In what way are they compatible? Besides, who said that Luo Tan likes Su Mingfeng?"

"Isn't it obvious?" Ji Yushu said. He pointed at the line of words on the letter and said, "Look, Miss Luo said to Su Mingfeng, 'As expected of two brothers. you are both equally good-looking.' Tell me, is it not obvious? Miss Luo is trying to get close to Su Mingfeng by compliments. Otherwise, why would she praise someone for being good-looking?"

Not only did Cong Yang write what Shen Miao said, but he also wrote what Luo Tan said. Ji Yushu was really a talent. In the entire letter densely filled with words, he found something most irrelevant.

Gao Yang suppressed the displeasure in his heart and said, "Boring."

"What does a blockhead like you know?" Ji Yushu snatched the fan from Gao Yang's hand and waved it the way Gao Yang usually did like he was the smartest person in the world. "Only a person as experienced with women as me can see the true feeling of a young woman. If you want to ask me, I can consider teaching you."

Gao Yang snatched back the fan and ignored him.

As they spoke, Xie Jingxing returned from outside, followed by Tie Yi and Nan Qi, looking travel-worn.

"Third Brother!" Ji Yushu greeted him warmly. Xie Jingxing did not even look at him and walked into the house with a cold expression. Nan Qi and Tie Yi also looked serious. Ji Yushu did not realize that Xie Jingxing was in a bad mood and continued, "Third Brother, something happened to Fifth Miss Shen."

Xie Jingxing stopped in his tracks and frowned at him.

Gao Yang also looked at Ji Yushu.

Ji Yushu cleared his throat and said seriously, "I just read the letter from Cong Yang, saying that when Fifth Miss Shen went out today, she bumped into a lecher who touched her hand."

Chapter 693 Dating (2)

Gao Yang held his forehead and heard Ji Yushu ask again, "Third Brother, do you know who this bold lecher is?"

Naturally, no one answered him. Nan Qi and Tie Yi were extremely nervous. Fifth Miss Shen was someone their master liked. Who had the guts to touch Fifth Miss Shen's hand?

Ji Yushu said with a sigh, "It's Su Mingfeng! It's Third Brother's sworn brother, Su Mingfeng! You are so close, but he actually took advantage of the woman Third Brother likes. How shameless!"

Nan Qi and Tie Yi were stunned. Xie Jingxing's gaze was cold, and Gao Yang simply covered his face with a fan.

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The light was dim, and Shen Miao was reading under the light in boredom. From time to time, she would look up at the window. The window was wide open on a cold day. Shen Miao guessed that Xie Jingxing had probably planted people in her house, but she didn't mind. Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan usually didn't work in the mansion, let alone Shen Qiu. There were no secrets in the Shen family, so it didn't matter if Xie Jingxing's people were around. She would just treat them as free guards.

Since Xie Jingxing's people were paying attention to her every movement, when they saw the open window, they would most likely report to their master that she was waiting for him.

Shen Miao thought about it and felt that it was really not a good thing to meet Su Mingfeng on the street today. Su Mingfeng and Xie Jingxing were very close. In her previous life, when Su Mingfeng died, only Xie Jingxing went to collect his corpse, not afraid of angering the Ming Qi royal family, so she knew that the two of them were indeed good friends. Since they were good friends, they definitely knew each other well. Today, Su Mingfeng noticed her bracelet and said something about the tiger head bracelet. It was definitely not a casual remark. It must have something to do with Xie Jingxing.

Shen Miao did not know how many people in Ming Qi knew Xie Jingxing's real identity. However, judging from what Su Mingfeng said today, it was obvious that he did not know. If Su Mingfeng found out that Xie Jingxing was not dead... Shen Miao did not know if Xie Jingxing would be in trouble.

As she was thinking, she heard a sound from the window. She looked up and saw that the purple-robed young man had already entered with ease. He even closed the window to prevent the wind from blowing in.

Xie Jingxing strode closer and sat down at the table. The tea on the table was still warm. Xie Jingxing poured himself a cup of tea. He was so at ease that those who didn't know might think he was at home. Shen Miao took a sip of tea and said, "I called you here today for something."

"What is it?" Xie Jingxing asked with a smile.

After a moment of hesitation, Shen Miao said, "Su Mingfeng might have figured out that you're still alive."

Xie Jingxing fell silent.

Shen Miao stretched out her wrist. The jade bracelet on her wrist was sparkling and translucent, making her wrist look even more slender and fair. She said, "Su Mingfeng saw this bracelet on the street today and said something about the tiger head bracelet. He asked me if I've seen you. I think there must be a connection."

Xie Jingxing frowned slightly. When he was silent, he gave people chills.

Shen Miao thought to herself that the reason Xie Jingxing wore a mask was because he didn't want people to find out his true identity. Unexpectedly, her negligence today might cause Xie Jingxing to be noticed by Su Mingfeng. Even if Su Mingfeng was Xie Jingxing's good friend, Xie Jingxing would inevitably be put at a disadvantage. If she caused trouble for Xie Jingxing... Xie Jingxing had helped her so much, but not only did she not help him but even caused him trouble. Shen Miao felt a little guilty.

She thought for a moment and said, "Why don't... we think of a way to make up for it?"

Chapter 694 Dating (3)

Xie Jingxing said, "Su Mingfeng and I have been friends for many years. He's smart. It's impossible to hide it from him."

Shen Miao felt a headache coming on, but she also blamed Xie Jingxing in her heart. Since this tiger head bracelet had this kind of story to it, he shouldn't give it to others, alright?

"Then what should we do?" Even though Shen Miao was smart, she did not know what to do.

Xie Jingxing shook his head. "If he finds out, so be it. Don't worry about it."

"Won't this cause you trouble?" Shen Miao frowned and asked, "The Su family serves Ming Qi after all. You're from the Daliang Dynasty. Perhaps he will think that you're a spy sent by an enemy country... There will be endless trouble in the future." For the sake of some benefits, the sisters in the harem could harm each other, not to mention that this concerned the interests of the two countries.

Xie Jingxing glanced at her casually and suddenly smiled. "Are you worried about me?"

Shen Miao was stunned for a moment before saying, "I'm worried about myself." After a pause, she added, "I'm in the same boat with you now. If you're discovered, I'll be implicated and even my family will be in trouble."

Xie Jingxing found it funny. "Don't worry, you won't lose anything for being my ally."

Shen Miao was used to his arrogance and did not take his words to heart. She suddenly thought of something and said, "Speaking of which, are you really not going to stop Su Mingfeng?"

"How long do you think I will keep wearing this mask?" Xie Jingxing suddenly asked.

Shen Miao did not understand what he meant and did not speak.

"My identity will be known sooner or later," Xie Jingxing said indifferently. "If it's not Su Mingfeng, it will be someone else."

Shen Miao was shocked and puzzled. She asked again, "Then have you thought about what your... relatives will think if your identity is revealed? The Marquis of Lin'an, Princess Rong Xin, Su Mingfeng,

and the others..." What would Xie Jingxing's family and friends think to find out that he was still alive and had become Prince Rui? Even Shen Miao did not dare to imagine what harsh words they would say to Xie Jingxing.

Xie Jingxing smiled casually. "So what if they find out?" He said, "It doesn't matter to me even if I'm hated by the world." He looked at Shen Miao and smiled evilly. "I'm not afraid."

However, for some reason, Shen Miao saw sadness through his smile. She felt that this handsome and beautiful young man was not as heartless as he looked.

Just as Shen Miao was thinking, Xie Jingxing rubbed her head and said, "Don't take off the bracelet. Since I gave it to you, I know it'll eventually be noticed."

Because she was the emperor, Shen Miao actually did not like it when people touched her head. Shen Miao would be unhappy even if Shen Qiu touched her head, but today, she let Xie Jingxing do it.

Xie Jingxing stood up. "I came over because I thought you had something urgent to tell me. If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave first." He said, "If you want to find me in the future, ask Cong Yang to do it. He's your secret guard now. You don't have to open the window and wait for me. I'll knock on it when I arrive."

Shen Miao did not think that there was anything wrong with what he said. It was not until Xie Jingxing left that Shen Miao felt that his words were too ambiguous.

Chapter 695 Dating (4)

Out of curiosity, Shen Miao called Cong Yang softly. In the blink of an eye, a young man in black appeared in front of her.

Shen Miao felt a headache coming on. Did Xie Jingxing put someone in her room? Would she be watched when she was sleeping? She asked, "Do you stay in the room all day?"

Cong Yang said, "I live on a tree out the door. I heard Young Madam call my name. I'm a martial arts practitioner, so I can hear you even if you whisper."

Shen Miao looked at him in shock. "What did you call me?"

Cong Yang bowed to her and said respectfully, "Young Madam."

Shen Miao said, "Don't call me Young Madam."

"Yes, Young Madam."

Shen Miao was speechless. After a while, she waved her hand and said with a sigh, "Forget it. Let me ask you, what is Xie Jingxing going to do?" Xie Jingxing left in a hurry, looking like he had something important to do. Because of what happened during the day, Shen Miao felt uneasy, thinking that Xie Jingxing must have gone to kill Su Mingfeng.

Cong Yang said, "I don't know."

Shen Miao took a deep breath. Apparently, Cong Yang was only instructed to monitor her. She sized up this person called Cong Yang. He looked young and strong. Tomorrow, she would send him to chop firewood with the kitchen staff!

Xie Jingxing left the Shen mansion and instructed Tie Yi, "In the future, tell Ji Yushu to keep his eyes off Cong Yang's letter."

Ji Yushu was a person who liked to join in the fun. Xie Jingxing really wanted to kick him back to Daliang.

Tie Yi nodded. Suddenly, he thought of something and said, "Your Highness, Master Guan Zhen, who is roaming around the world, has arrived at Putuo Temple. His Majesty asked you to go and see him. This time, he happens to be in Ming Qi. When do you plan to go?"

Xie Jingxing thought for a moment and said, "Tomorrow."

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The next day, the weather was extremely good.

Luo Tan had been obsessed with paper-cutting recently. Thinking that it was the end of the year and that she could cut some nice patterns and paste them on the window to decorate, she carried a large stack of red paper and scissors over, wanting to do paper-cutting with Shen Miao.

As Shen Miao cut the paper, she thought of something.

In her previous life, when she was in the State of Qin, those princesses and princes deliberately teased her and asked her to cut the paper and do needlework. Over time, it damaged her eyesight, causing her to not be able to see things clearly at night. There was also a thick layer of calluses on her hands.

Later, after she returned to the palace, even if she tried to shave off the layer of callus, she could not. At that time, it was Fu Xiuyi's birthday, and all the beauties in the harem had to give him a birthday gift to make him happy. Consort Mei's konghou performance was outstanding, and the way her slender fingers danced on it stunned everyone.

When it was her turn, Shen Miao gave Fu Xiuyu a painting of mountains and rivers. She was the empress, so it wasn't suitable for her to dance and sing. The painting was very grand. Fu Xiuyi clearly liked it very much, and the officials praised it. However, Consort Mei wanted to make Shen Miao embarrassed and insisted that Shen Miao play a song on the konghou as well.

Shen Miao was unwilling. She looked at Fu Xiuyi pleadingly, but Fu Xiuyi said casually, "Since Consort Mei is in the mood to hear a song, Empress, play a song for me. I haven't seen you play the Konghou for many years."

Forced to a corner, Shen Miao had no choice but to play.

Shen Miao knew how to play the Konghou. She had actually learned a lot to please Fu Xiuyi. Although the song she played was not as moving as Consort Mei's, it was still pleasant to the ear. However, it still caused the officials to criticize her, the palace concubines to laugh at her, and the people to point a finger at her.

Why? It was because the hands that were playing the Konghou were too ugly. The joints were thick because Shen Miao did work all year round, and thick calluses could be seen between the fingers. The entire hand was big and rough. It did not look like the hand of the empress of a country, but the hand of a peasant woman.

Chapter 696 Dating (5)

It formed a sharp contrast with the delicate, fair, and beautiful hands from Consort Mei.

Shen Miao was very scared. It was not that she was scared of making a fool of herself, but she was scared that because of her, Wanyu and Fu Ming would also be criticized. When she played the Konghou, she looked at Consort Mei who was smiling at her sneeringly. Seeing Fu Xiuyi's cold expression, she was actually so sad that she wanted to cry. However, Shen Miao could not cry. For the sake of Wanyu and Fu Ming, she had to be a dignified empress.

She pretended not to care. When she returned to Kunming Palace, she asked Shuang Jiang to bring a scissor and cut off a layer of skin on her hand.

Seeing that Shen Miao was deep in thought, Luo Tan asked, "Cousin Sister?"

Shen Miao came back to her senses and smiled bitterly.

After rebirth, her hands were still delicate, but it was as if those calluses still existed, constantly reminding her of her miserable past.

Shen Miao threw the scissor away and said, "I'm not cutting anymore."

Luo Tan exclaimed and asked, "Why?"

Shen Miao said casually, "They will give me calluses."

Luo Tan, who had always admired Shen Miao, couldn't help but have a strange expression on her face. She said, "It's not like you are cutting it day and night. How can it give you calluses?"

Shen Miao picked up the tea and took a sip. Gu Yu walked in and said, "Miss, Madam wants you to go to the main hall."

Luo Xueyan didn't go to the palace today. Shen Miao asked, "Why is my mother looking for me?"

Gu Yu shook her head and said, "I don't know either. However, Mrs. Su came to our mansion and is talking to Madam in the main hall."

"The Su family?" Shen Miao paused and put down her teacup. "The Earl of Pingnan?"

"Exactly."

In the main hall, Luo Xueyan was talking to Mrs. Su.

Mrs. Su did not come empty-handed today. She said that her husband had two snow sparrows, but these snow sparrows were only found in the north part of the country. Mrs. Su was afraid that she would accidentally kill the birds, so she specially came to ask how she could raise them well because she knew that Luo Xueyan was from the northwest.

Previously, the Shen family and the Marquis of Lin'an were enemies, and the Su family was on good terms with the Marquis of Lin'an. Naturally, the Shen family and the Su family were at odds and did not care about each other. Luo Xueyan thought that Mrs. Su was here to make fun of her, but she saw that Mrs. Su was sincere and did not have any intention of doing that.

Since Mrs. Su came with a friendly attitude, Luo Xueyan didn't give her the cold shoulder. However, Luo Xueyan was confused. Today, Mrs. Su said that she was here to ask how to raise the snow sparrows. After talking for a while, she did not mention the snow sparrows at all. She only pestered Luo Xueyan to tell her about the things that happened in Spring City and praised her for raising her children well.

After being complimented so much, Luo Xueyan thought that it was only right for Shen Miao to come out and greet the guest, so she asked someone to call Shen Miao over. However, Luo Xueyan was puzzled. Could it be that now that the Marquis of Lin'an was on the decline, the Su family wanted to find another backer for them, so they wanted to curry favor with the Shen family?

If that was the case, they must stay away from the Su family. At the thought of this, Luo Xueyan felt that her decision to call Shen Miao over was a little impulsive, especially when she saw Mrs. Su looking at the door expectantly. But she couldn't take back what she had said.

Chapter 697 Dating (6)

When the maid outside came to report that Shen Miao was here, Mrs. Su immediately sat up straight and looked at the door excitedly.

A tall girl in a light yellow dress walked in. She was quite perky and handsome in a heroic way. Her skin was wheat-colored. When she walked, she would bounce. Her hair was tied into a bun. There were only two pearl earrings as decoration on her body and a red dagger at her waist.

Mrs. Su was stunned. She did not expect Su Mingfeng to like such a woman.

When the girl saw Luo Xueyan, she smiled and said, "Aunt."

Aunt? Mrs. Su was confused before she saw that there was another girl behind the girl. That girl was wearing a lilac-colored pleated dress with begonias on the sides. She had a moon-white jacket and a snow-white cloak. Her skin was as fair as a peeled egg, and her eyes were round and bright. She had a small nose, a small mouth, and delicate eyebrows. She had a cute appearance. She walked elegantly and steadily, looking like someone who had come out of the palace. When Mrs. Su first married Su Yu, she had a chance to see the empress. She felt that the petite and cute girl in front of her was exactly the same as the empress, if not better in terms of temperament.

The girl called Luo Xueyan Mother and then looked at Mrs. Su.

Luo Xueyan quickly said, "This is the madam of the Su family. This is my daughter and niece, Luo Tan."

Shen Miao and Luo Tan bowed to Mrs. Su.

Mrs. Su did not go to the palace banquet last time. She had only heard of Shen Miao going against Princess Ming An at the banquet. She thought that Shen Miao was not a docile person, so she was a little worried when she heard from Su Minglang that Su Mingfeng liked Shen Miao. However, she still had to come and take a look for herself. After all, this was her son's marriage. Thinking that Shen Miao

must be an unruly girl, she subconsciously thought of Luo Tan as Shen Miao. However, she did not expect that Shen Miao was completely different from what she thought.

She smiled and took out two red packets from her sleeve. She stuffed them into Shen Miao and Luo Tan's hands and said with a smile, "Mrs. Shen, you're really lucky. Your daughter and niece are both very good-looking."

Luo Tan and Shen Miao both looked at the red packet in their hands in confusion. It was not the new year. It would be fine to receive the red packet if they were close. Shen Miao knew very well that the Su family and the Shen family were not close at all. Could it be that Su Mingfeng had found out something? But even if it was the case, why did Mrs. Su have to come?

Luo Xueyan was about to turn down the red packets when Mrs. Su grabbed her hand and said, "If you decline, I'll be angry. I just like these two girls very much. It's just a greeting gift." She sighed again. "If only I had two daughters."

Luo Xueyan was really confused by Mrs. Su today. She could only go along with her and say, "I'm flattered. Madam, you also have two outstanding sons."

"How are they outstanding?" Mrs. Su shook her head. "Minglang is very mischievous. He doesn't want to learn. I can't force him. I heard that your son, Shen Qiu, was very sensible when he was young. I'm very envious."

"Don't you still have Mingfeng?" Luo Xueyan smiled and said, "Everyone knows that Mingfeng is a young talent."

Mrs. Su was delighted. She looked at Shen Miao and Luo Tan and said, "Misses, we're just chatting about boring things. If you don't like it, go and have fun."

Shen Miao became more and more vigilant. At the mention of Su Mingfeng, Mrs. Su wanted to send her away. Could it be that Mrs. Su was really here for what happened yesterday?

Luo Tan and Shen Miao walked out. Shen Miao turned around and whispered, "Cong Yang, hide in the main hall and hear what they have to say."

Even if she spoke in a low voice, Cong Yang could still hear her. Seeing this, Luo Tan asked, "Little Cousin, what are you muttering about?"

In the main hall, Mrs. Su covered her chest and looked at Luo Xueyan with a melancholic expression. "To be honest, Mingfeng is indeed not bad. All these years, his father and I have never had to worry about him. He's a good-looking and talented man. He became an official at a young age and is filial and polite. You can't find a second one in the capital."

Luo Xueyan smiled, but she was thinking to herself, Just now, she said that Shen Qiu was good, and now, she said that her son was the best in the capital. Who would praise their son like that?

As she was thinking, she heard Mrs. Su sigh deeply and continue, "But there is one thing I'm dissatisfied with my son. He is stubborn. Once he makes up his mind on something, he won't change. As a result, he's not married yet even at such an age. Sigh!"

Luo Xueyan didn't understand why Mrs. Su made a mountain out of a molehill. Su Mingfeng was talented and handsome, so it's natural for him to be picky. Looking at Mrs. Su's troubled expression, she comforted her, "It's nothing. Mrs. Su, you don't have to be too worried. Look, my son is still unmarried as well. It takes time for them to find a suitable partner. If they get married rashly to someone incompatible with them, they'll be unhappy for the rest of their lives."

"Madam, you're right." Mrs. Su held Luo Xueyan's hand and said with a smile, "I originally thought so, but Mingfeng is a taciturn person. He doesn't tell me anything. I don't know what he's thinking at all."

Luo Xueyan listened absent-mindedly. She had seen Su Mingfeng before and knew that he was very eloquent. She really did not want to continue discussing Mrs. Su's family matters, so she changed the topic and asked, "Mrs. Su, don't you want to know how to raise the sparrow?"

Mrs. Su glanced at the two birds in the bird cage and continued, pretending not to hear her, "Let's talk more about my good-for-nothing son."

Luo Xueyan was speechless.

"When Mingfeng was young, he liked a painting that his father brought back. He liked that painting so much that he lost interest in other paintings. However, that painting was given to someone by his father, so Mingfeng was sad for many years." Mrs. Su sighed and said, "Mingfeng is a sentimental person. Everything he likes is the best. It's precisely because of this that once he set his heart on something, he won't change."

Just as Luo Xueyan was wondering what she was driving at, she heard Mrs. Su continue. "It's the same for women. Once he likes a woman, he won't be interested in all the other women."

Luo Xueyan smiled and said, "So Young Master Su already has someone he likes. I wonder who is so lucky."

She asked this out of politeness, but she did not expect Mrs. Su to be waiting for her to ask this. She immediately clapped her hands and said, "She's your daughter."

Luo Xueyan's face immediately turned pale. No wonder she talked nothing about the snow sparrows and kept praising her own son. So that was what she was driving at.

Seeing that Luo Xueyan did not look too happy, Mrs. Su was worried. She knew that the Shen family was rich and powerful, so they definitely did not care about the Su family's assets. There were many families like the Su family in the capital who were willing to marry the daughter of the Shen family. In addition, she had seen Shen Miao with her own eyes today. Such a dignified girl would be the most suitable for the position of the first wife of a family.

Luo Xueyan's expression turned cold. "Mrs. Su, is that why you came today?"

Mrs. Su was a little embarrassed. She knew that it was wrong of her to come uninvited to talk about this, but she still said, "Madam, don't be angry. I know I'm being rude today, but as a mother, you should be able to understand me, right?"

Luo Xueyan's expression softened. Mrs. Su came with a good attitude today, so Luo Xueyan didn't flare up at her. She said, "Mrs. Su, why did you bring this up all of a sudden?" Luo Xueyan's heart skipped a beat. Could it be that Shen Miao and Su Mingfeng were already dating in private?

Chapter 699 Phoenix Life (2)

Mrs. Su said, "I heard from Minglang that Mingfeng has a crush on Fifth Miss. At first, I didn't believe it because my son is a blockhead. He's never shown interest in any girls, and I don't know what kind of person Fifth Miss is, so I came today. When I saw Fifth Miss, I finally understood why Mingfeng liked her. She's good-looking, has a good personality, and has a good aura. I guess in the entire Ming Qi, only the Shen family can bring up such an outstanding girl. To be honest, Mrs. Shen, not only Mingfeng, but I also like Fifth Miss very much, so I can't wait to tell you about it. I know that you are a straightforward person, so I won't beat around the bush."

These words were spoken with extreme sincerity and filled with praises for Shen Miao. As a mother, how could Luo Xueyan not like her daughter being praised? Luo Xueyan was gradually tempted. However, Shen Miao's marriage was not something that could be decided by her on a whim. Firstly, the Shen family's status in Ming Qi was special now. They had to make sure their in-laws were neither powerful nor weak. Secondly, although Su Mingfeng had a good reputation, he had fallen sick a few years ago and had to quit becoming an official. Luo Xueyan did not want Shen Miao to marry an invalid. Moreover, Luo Xueyan and Su Mingfeng had never met, so she did not know what kind of person he was. Thirdly, and most importantly, Su Mingfeng liked Shen Miao, but she did not know if Shen Miao liked him. Luo Xueyan was an open-minded mother. She wanted Shen Miao to live a happy life and choose a husband she liked. Therefore, she could not make the decision now.

"My daughter's marriage won't be settled anytime soon." Luo Xueyan smiled and said, "On behalf of my husband, I thank Mrs. Su and Young Master Su for thinking so highly of my daughter. However, we have to consider a lot. In such a short time, I can't give you an answer. I'm afraid I'll have to think about it for a few days. Just as you said, we're all mothers. I hope you can understand." Luo Xueyan neither confirmed nor denied.

Mrs. Su was extremely satisfied with this. After saying a few more words, she left.

After Mrs. Su left, Luo Xueyan's gaze darkened, looking a little pensive.

All along, Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin thought that Shen Miao was still young and was not in a hurry to get married. However, when Mrs. Su came to propose arranging a marriage for their children, it reminded Luo Xueyan that at this age, Shen Miao could indeed be engaged.

Luo Xueyan planned to tell Shen Xin about this when he returned and get someone to make a list of the young talents in the capital. It was time to select someone for their daughter.

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For the first time, Mr. Su did not go fishing today. Instead, he stayed in the house, waiting. When he saw Mrs. Su return, he quickly went forward to massage her shoulders and instructed the maid to serve tea. Mr. Su asked, "How is it? What did Madam Shen say?"

"She neither confirmed nor denied. I think she needs some time to think about it." Mrs. Su said, "After all, the Shen family is not an ordinary family. It's only right for them to weigh the pros and cons before making a decision."

Su Yu pulled a long face. "What's there to think about?"

Mrs. Su found it funny. "Do you think they'll agree just because I went today?"

"Why not?" Su Yu asked, "Can you find another young man like Mingfeng in the capital? Any girl marrying Mingfeng is blessed." As he spoke, he thought of something. "Wait, how is Fifth Miss Shen?"

Chapter 700 Phoenix Life (3)

Mr. Su had seen Shen Miao at the palace banquet and felt that Shen Miao was not bad, but her personality was a little too domineering. However, men's judgment on a woman wasn't as accurate as women's judgment on a woman. That was why Mrs. Su went to check out her "daughter-in-law" with critical eyes. Su Yu wanted to hear what Mrs. Su thought of Shen Miao.

Mrs. Su took a sip of tea and said, "Mingfeng has good taste. I think Fifth Miss Shen is much better than most of the young ladies in the capital. There's no need to mention her appearance. Since she's a girl raised by Shen Xin, she must have a good character. Her temperament is rare, like she's a noble from the palace. However, there's one thing I'm afraid of, which is that Mingfeng won't be able to tame such a girl. However, it's not all that bad. Mingfeng has a gentle personality. They'll be compatible."

It was rare for Su Yu to hear Mrs. Su praise someone like that. He wondered if his wife was exaggerating it.

Su Mingfeng returned from outside. Just as he was about to step into the main hall, the corner of his shirt was grabbed. He turned around and saw Su Minglang.

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Su Minglang looked at him seriously. "Brother, don't go in and cause trouble now, or you'll ruin your marriage."

"My marriage?" Su Mingfeng was puzzled. "What about my marriage?"

"I heard that Mother went to see your future wife today," Su Minglang said.

Su Mingfeng was shocked and asked, "What do you mean? Who is my future wife?"

Su Minglang said, "Of course it's Sister Shen."

"Mother went to the Shen family?" Su Mingfeng raised his voice.

Su Minglang patted Su Mingfeng's arm. "I'm really envious of you."

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Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan discussed for a while and really started to look for young talents for Shen Miao in the capital. They were even considering whether they should let Shen Miao attend some social

banquets. Shen Xin even asked Shen Qiu to pay attention to see if there were young talents among his peers.

With such a commotion happening in the Shen family, it was impossible for Prince Rui not to be informed of it.

As soon as Xie Jingxing returned home, Ji Yushu ran over with a letter in his hand and shouted, "Third Brother, the Su family has gone to propose marriage! What are you waiting for?" After a pause, he continued, "Go and teach Su Mingfeng a lesson!"

Gao Yang also looked worried and said, "Mrs. Su is on good terms with many madams. The Su family has a good reputation. If Shen Xin thinks that Su Mingfeng is not bad, he might agree to this marriage arrangement."

Xie Jingxing felt a headache coming on. He didn't need to read the letter to know what it was about.

Su Mingfeng was quite a careful person and would not do anything too rash. However, his parents weren't the same. Now that they went to propose marriage for their son, they might do something more shocking later on.

Moreover, Ji Yushu was still fanning the flames at the side. He said angrily, "Su Mingfeng is really scheming. When he was with Third Brother, he called you brothers and you've been friends for so many years. Ever since you changed your identity, he revealed his true colors. People say that time will tell. So Su Mingfeng is actually such a person. Third Brother, cut ties with him."