

## **Venomous 711**

### **Chapter 711 Grant a Marriage (2)**

"He is trying to use me." The crown prince smiled and picked up his wine to drink. He smiled and said, "He's quite bold. Now that Father is suspicious of him, he actually dares to curry favor with me. From the looks of it, we really underestimated him back then."

"Then what do you think of his suggestion just now about marrying Fifth Miss Shen?" The aide asked.

The crown prince put down the wine glass in his hand, and a glint flashed across his eyes. "Although he has ulterior motives, his idea is actually not bad. I do need the power of the Shen family. Shen Miao is a good chess piece. There's no harm in marrying her."

The aide nodded. "Your Highness, does it mean you agreed?"

The crown prince looked at the wine pot on the table. "In a few days, I'll personally mention this to Father. After this matter is settled, I'll reward Ninth Brother's kindness."

Just as Fu Xiuyi had expected, a few days later, the crown prince mentioned this matter to Emperor Wen Hui. Emperor Wen Hui did not agree immediately, but he did not reject him either. Instead, he looked at the crown prince meaningfully and said with a smile, "Good. I thought that you weren't ambitious. You finally know that you should pave the way for yourself." He then said, "I will consider it."

After the crown prince left, Emperor Wen Hui said to Eunuch Su, "The crown prince actually wants to marry Shen Miao. I didn't expect thi."

Eunuch Su smiled and said, "Miss Shen is talented and good-looking. His Highness has good taste."

Emperor Wen Hui snorted. "I'm not stupid. Prince Ding must be the one who gave him this idea. I just don't understand what he is trying to do."

Eunuch Su was careful not to speak. If he was involved in these family matters of the royal family, it would be no different from putting himself under the guillotine.

"But it just so happens that I want to support the crown prince. Prince Zhou and Prince Li are getting more and more out of hand, and Prince Ding is mysterious. With the Shen family behind the crown prince, he can not only keep Prince Zhou and Prince Li in check, but also control the military power of the Shen family. It saves me a lot of trouble. However..." Emperor Wen Hui looked at the book on the table and smiled. He closed the book and stood up. "Let's go to the Palace of Earthly Tranquility."

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When Luo Xueyan received a message from the palace asking her to bring Shen Miao to the palace tomorrow, she was very confused. She thought that it was related to Shen Xin, so she asked him about it, but Shen Xin was also confused. When it came to the royal family, the couple would always be especially careful. However, they didn't show it on their face, afraid that Shen Miao would be scared.

Although Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan tried their best to make it sound easy, Shen Miao could not relax no matter what. The royal family would definitely not let Luo Xueyan bring her into the palace for no reason. However, she had no clue what was going on this time. Pei Lang had not sent her a letter for a

long time. If he sent a letter, she would probably be able to figure out Fu Xiuyi's next move... Shen Miao's heart suddenly skipped a beat. That's right. Why hadn't Pei Lang sent her a letter for so long?

In the past, even if there was nothing serious, Pei Lang would still keep in contact with her through letters. However, it had been a long time since the last letter came. A thought appeared in Shen Miao's mind. Could it be that... Pei Lang could no longer write to her? Had Fu Xiuyi discovered something?

Shen Miao felt more and more flustered. Ever since she met that crazy Daoist priest at the Putuo Temple, it was very difficult for her to calm down. She wanted to know who the benefactor was, and she also wanted to know who prayed for her to live her life all over again in her previous life. However, no matter how she thought about it, she could not figure it out.

### Chapter 712 Grant a Marriage (3)

Shen Miao couldn't help but look up at the window. The window was tightly shut. Xie Jingxing told her once that she didn't need to open the window to call him, but Xie Jingxing had not appeared for the past few days. Shen Miao walked to the window in her outer clothes and opened it. The night wind was cold outside, and Shen Miao tightened her clothes.

Cong Yang suddenly stood up from under the wall and asked Shen Miao, "Miss, are you looking for Master?"

Shen Miao was taken aback. She rubbed her chest and said angrily, "No."

Cong Yang pretended not to hear Shen Miao and continued in all seriousness, "Master is away from the capital recently. Miss, you don't have to wait for him here."

"I am not waiting for him," Shen Miao emphasized. "I just want to get some fresh air."

Cong Yang did not speak. Shen Miao thought of something and asked, "Cong Yang, if I enter the palace, can you go with me?"

When Cong Yang heard that, he was stunned for a moment before saying with a blush, "I'm not familiar with the palace. If I follow you in, there's no place to hide and I'm not confident that I won't be discovered."

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. Since Cong Yang was not confident in not being discovered, she would not force him to go with her. She said, "Forget it."

"Miss, if you have anything to say, you can tell me. When I report to Master, I'll tell him about it," Cong Yang glanced at Shen Miao and said.

Shen Miao closed the window with a bang.

On the other side, in Prince Rui's mansion, Gao Yang and Ji Yushu were studying a map. This map was densely marked with many places. If one looked carefully, they could clearly see that it was a defensive map.

The guard outside reported, "Lord Gao, Young Master Ji, Miss Shen is going to the palace tomorrow. Do you want to send a letter to His Highness?"

“Going to the palace?” Ji Yushu asked, “What for?”

The guard shook his head.

Ji Yushu sighed and said, “I’ve been busy working on this map for the past few days and haven’t been able to help Third Brother take good care of Miss Shen. I’ll be dead when Third Brother comes back. If we don’t know anything, we’ll both be in trouble. Hey.” He nudged Gao Yang. “You know people in the palace. Is there anything special going on in the palace recently?”

“Nothing.” Gao Yang thought for a moment and said, “Let’s not include this in the letter first. He’s busy with work, so don’t make him distracted. Since there’s no news from Cong Yang, it shouldn’t be serious. If anything really happens, we’ll help her out.”

The guard nodded and left.

Ji Yushu looked at Gao Yang. “Why do I feel that the way you handle it is not appropriate?”

“What’s not appropriate with it?” Gao Yang said impatiently, “Focus on the map!”

Ji Yushu muttered, “In any case, if anything happens, Third Brother will ask me why I didn’t report it to him in time. I’ll say that you asked me to keep quiet...”

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The next day, Shen Miao followed Luo Xueyan into the palace.

Every time she entered the palace, something would happen. Luo Xueyan was a little vigilant, but Shen Miao was used to it because she already knew that the royal family was up to no good, which made her less nervous.

The palace maid brought them to the Palace of Earthly Tranquility.

When they arrived at the Palace of Earthly Tranquility, the first person they saw was the empress sitting at the head of the table. The consort sitting beside the empress was smiling and graceful. She was dressed elegantly but simply. It was Consort Dong.

The Empress and Consort Dong? Shen Miao’s heart skipped a beat.

The empress was the crown prince’s biological mother. At this point, she was focused on helping the crown prince stabilize his position and was not in the mood to fight for power in the harem. Eventually, she lost to Consort Dong, who was always inconspicuous.

#### Chapter 713 Grant a Marriage (4)

Consort Dong had always been uninvolved in the matters of the harem. Just like Fu Xiuyi, she watched the other consorts fight to the death. Oh, there was something else about her. She had always been secretly adding fuel to the fire, and that little fuel often pushed the situation to the worst. Using people as knives to achieve her end was her forte.

If Consort Mei was brazen and arrogant, Consort Dong was gentle and innocuous. Therefore, the two of them hit it off at first sight. Consort Dong looked down on Shen Miao, but she admired Consort Mei very much.

Looking at the situation in front of her, Shen Miao knew that the empress was probably used by Consort Dong. After all, Consort Dong was the kind of person who would get benefits for herself no matter what she did.

The empress smiled and gestured for Luo Xueyan to take a seat, but she waved at Shen Miao, indicating for her to come forward.

Shen Miao went forward as instructed, and the empress sized her up carefully. She smiled in satisfaction and said to Consort Dong, "She's perfect."

Luo Xueyan was a little uneasy. She wished she could grab Shen Miao and leave the palace. However, as a courtier, she was helpless. She did not know what the empress was up to, but as a mother, she had a natural intuition, especially when it came to people who had designs on her children.

"How old are you this year?" The empress asked.

"Your Highness, I'm sixteen," Shen Miao replied.

The empress smiled and held Shen Miao's hand. She said with a smile, "I often heard that General Shen's daughter is both talented and beautiful. I saw you at the palace banquet last time and found you extremely adorable. I have been wanting to ask Mrs. Shen to bring you to the palace to meet me." She sighed and said, "You're already so beautiful and smart at the age of 16. I wonder which young master will be so lucky as to marry you."

Luo Xueyan's heart skipped a beat, and she clenched her fists. Shen Miao understood why the empress called them to the palace today.

Consort Dong also smiled. "Indeed. She's beautiful and obedient, and there's no arrogance in her at all. It's rare to see such a girl nowadays."

"Madam Shen, I wonder if Miss Shen is engaged?" The empress asked with a smile.

Luo Xueyan hesitated for a moment before answering, "Your Highness, I've been looking for a suitable young man for my daughter these days." If this was the reason the empress asked them to come to the palace, she would probably have found out everything about Shen Miao's current situation. Luo Xueyan didn't dare to lie.

"I see." The empress smiled even wider. "Then how about I be a matchmaker for Miss Shen?"

"No!" Luo Xueyan said without thinking. Seeing the empress's unfriendly expression, she explained, "My daughter is still young. I can't bear to marry her off and want to keep her for a few more years."

The empress smiled again and said, "Madam Shen, you're wrong. If you keep delaying Miss Shen's marriage, I'm afraid Miss Shen will blame you in the future. Isn't that right, Miss Shen?"

Shen Miao glanced at the empress and smiled. "I also want to spend more time with my mother."

The empress's smile was no longer sincere. She stared at Shen Miao, not knowing if Shen Miao was stupid to be so arrogant or if she was deliberately going against her. At the thought of such a woman becoming her daughter-in-law, the empress immediately felt unhappy.

Seeing that the atmosphere was a little awkward, Consort Dong smiled and said, "Madam Shen and Miss Shen have a deep mother-daughter relationship. It makes people envious. However..." She changed the topic. "Women have to get married eventually. It doesn't mean that after getting married, you can't spend time with your mother."

#### Chapter 714 Grant a Marriage (5)

Consort Dong was trying to smooth things over, but Luo Xueyan and Shen Miao did not say anything.

Consort Dong was a little shocked. Previously, when Shen Miao was infatuated with Fu Xiuyi, Consort Dong thought that Shen Miao was a brainless idiot. Later, when she met her, she felt that it was not the case. She felt that Shen Miao was actually smart. Unexpectedly, today, Shen Miao struck her as both tough and unwavering just like her mother.

The empress wasn't worried. Today, she just wanted to test the Shen family and let the Shen family be prepared. She did not care about the Shen family's attitude at all. No matter how bold Shen Xin was and how much he doted on his daughter, it was impossible for him to defy the imperial edict.

Therefore, after chatting for a while, she asked Luo Xueyan and Shen Miao to go back.

On the way back, Luo Xueyan did not say a word. Shen Miao was also thinking about her own matters. This silent atmosphere frightened Jingzhe and Gu Yu, who thought that something bad had happened.

When they returned home, Shen Qiu and Luo Ling had just returned from the Ministry of War. They asked why the empress summoned them to the palace. Luo Xueyan vaguely answered them and pulled Shen Xin back to the room.

As soon as they entered the room, Luo Xueyan told Shen Xin what the empress said to her today. In the end, she asked, "I think the empress wants to matchmake Jiaojiao. What should we do?"

Shen Xin's face darkened. He said, "Jiaojiao is our daughter. Why should others have the right to interfere in her marriage?"

"I guess the empress wants Jiaojiao to marry the crown prince." Luo Xueyan said, "Today, she mentioned openly that the crown prince's health is improving. That won't do. The crown prince already has a crown princess. If Jiaojiao marries him, she will at most be a secondary consort. A secondary consort is just a concubine of a higher status. I don't want Jiaojiao to have to serve tea to other women and live under the nose of others after marrying him. At the thought of that happening, I feel suffocated."

"No matter which prince it is, Jiaojiao can't marry them!" Shen Xin slammed his fist on the table, making the cup shake.

"Are you afraid that if Jiaojiao marries one of the princes, the Shen family will inevitably be involved in the competition for the throne?"

"That's not all." Shen Xin let out a long sigh. "The sons of the royal family are heartless. They have many wives and concubines. If Jiaojiao really marries them, she won't be happy. So what if the crown prince becomes the emperor in the future? So what if he becomes healthy? I don't want Jiaojiao to live that kind of life. Moreover, as you said, they don't really want to marry Jiaojiao. My son-in-law doesn't have

to be a king or an emperor. However, he has to treat Jiaojiao sincerely and wholeheartedly. If he can't do this, there is no way I will allow him to marry my daughter."

When Shen Miao, who was eavesdropping outside the door, heard this, a warm feeling suddenly surged in her heart. In this world, there were still people who supported her unconditionally. They were willing to offend the rich and powerful just to protect her.

Luo Xueyan continued, "That's right. We can't let Jiaojiao marry the crown prince. However, when the imperial edict is issued, what should we do?"

#### Chapter 715 Grant a Marriage (6)

Shen Xin frowned and thought for a moment before saying, "Before the imperial edict is issued, we have to hurry up and marry Jiaojiao off. However, in such a short period of time, it will be very difficult to find a suitable man. No matter what, I'll get someone to look for some young talents tonight. If there's anyone with a good character, as long as Jiaojiao doesn't mind, we'll get them engaged first." Shen Xin said, "In short, we can't let Jiaojiao marry into the royal family!"

Shen Miao had an indescribable feeling in her heart. The voices in the room gradually quietened down. They were probably discussing which young talent was reliable. Shen Miao stood up and was about to turn around to return to her room when she saw Shen Qiu and Luo Ling standing behind her. The two of them were frowning. It was unknown how much of the conversation they had heard.

Shen Qiu grabbed Shen Miao and walked away..

When they reached Shen Miao's courtyard, Shen Qiu and Luo Ling entered the room and asked the maids to leave. Then, they closed the door and said, "Sister, the empress wants you to marry the crown prince?"

It seemed like the two of them had heard most of the conversation. Shen Miao did not intend to hide it and nodded.

Shen Qiu slammed his fist on the table and gritted his teeth. "This is too much!"

Shen Miao laughed and said, "So many people want to get close to the crown prince. Why are you so angry? Brother, aren't your standards too high?"

Shen Qiu said angrily, "Jiaojiao, I'm worried about you, but you're making fun of me."

Luo Ling looked at Shen Miao and asked gently, "Cousin, what do you think of this matter?"

Shen Miao shrugged. "I'll let nature take its course."

"Cousin, you don't want to fight back?" Luo Ling sounded a little confused.

"My parents have already found a way out for me," Shen Miao said indifferently, as if she was not talking about her marriage at all. She said, "They'll find some young talents. If I think one of them is suitable, I'll hurry up and get engaged to him before the imperial edict is issued. That'll solve the problem." She smiled and said, "Don't worry, my standards are not as high as Brother's. It shouldn't be difficult to find someone who suits me."

Shen Qiu muttered, "I wonder who is so lucky..." Shen Miao pretended not to hear him.

Luo Ling took a step closer and asked, "If there are no suitable people, or the imperial edict is issued before you can get engaged, what will you do?"

Shen Qiu said, "Cousin Ling, why do you say that?"

Luo Ling was still staring at Shen Miao, as if he was determined to get an answer from her.

Shen Miao smiled and said, "Then I'll marry the crown prince."

"Sister!" Shen Qiu shouted.

"What else do you want me to do?" Shen Miao said, "Do you want the Shen family to be accused of defying the imperial edict because of me? Do you want me to implicate you and everyone? Do you want me to watch you suffer because of my willfulness? Brother, is this what you want to see happening? Let me ask you. If you were me, what would you do? Would you rather die than marry?"

Shen Qiu fell silent.

If it were him, he would accept this marriage for Shen Miao and his parents. If he could sacrifice himself to protect his family, Shen Qiu would do it without batting an eye.

"Brother, you'll do the same, right?" Shen Miao said indifferently, "Not everyone in the world can have everything they want. Everyone has to make sacrifices. I'll do my best to avoid this outcome. If I can't avoid it, it's not a big deal." Shen Miao looked at Shen Qiu. "In my heart, nothing is more important to me than family."

"But that concerns the happiness of the rest of your life." Shen Qiu's eyes were red. He did not know why his sister looked so cold and even a little disgusted when she talked about marriage.

"Happiness has to be earned by oneself, not gained by relying on someone." Shen Miao said, "Can marrying a good man guarantee my happiness for the rest of my life? No matter if it's the crown prince or someone else, are you sure that in the next few decades, they won't have a change of heart?"

"Sister, you're not married yet. Why do you speak as if you are..." A woman of the world.

Luo Ling looked at Shen Miao thoughtfully. He opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but thought better of it.

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. Marriage? In her previous life, she suffered tremendously because of marriage. To her, this was a word that carried pain. She didn't want to fall in the same place twice. Without anticipation, there would be no pain.

She smiled coldly. "Brother, don't worry. All women have to get married eventually. If the marriage with the crown prince turns out to be a bad one, I will not let the person who hurts me live a good life either."

Chapter 716 Peach Blossom Luck (1)

The information that the empress suddenly revealed made the Shen family on tenterhooks. Without a doubt, Shen Xin and his wife did not want Shen Miao to marry into the royal family. In addition to many

political reasons, it was also because the royal family was complicated. If Shen Miao married into the royal family, she would have a hard time.

Shen Xin wanted to marry Shen Miao off before the imperial edict. Originally, before entering the palace, because of Mrs. Su's sudden arrival, Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan started to take Shen Miao's marriage seriously. Luo Xueyan even asked the servants to specially make a list filled with young talents of the right age in the capital. The list recorded in detail the characters of these people, where they lived, and how many people were there in their family. Luo Xueyan also asked Shen Miao about it. After hearing that Shen Miao did not mind selecting her husband like this, Luo Xueyan was relieved and hurried up.

The Shen family held a lot of power and was a very special existence in the eyes of Emperor Wen Hui. Therefore, it was not easy for the Shen family to select. Shen Xin did not even consider those officials who were powerful in order to prevent Emperor Wen Hui from thinking that they were deliberately forming an alliance. Therefore, Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin chose those middle-class families that did not have any ambition.

This was what Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan planned for Shen Miao. However, to their surprise, whenever Shen Xin showed the slightest intention of introducing his daughter, the other party would decline with a smile, saying that either their son was already engaged or that their son was not in a hurry to get married. Shen Xin had a bad temper and doted on Shen Miao. He couldn't tolerate others looking down on his daughter, so he left with a huff.

In the end, those young talents whom Shen Xin was satisfied with all found excuses to decline. Shen Xin sensed that something was wrong, and a general who was on good terms with him told him that most of the officials knew that the royal family wanted Shen Miao to marry the crown prince. Shen Xin was trying to find a husband for his daughter, but who would have the guts to snatch a woman away from the crown prince?

Even if the Shen family was powerful and Shen Miao was smart and beautiful, no one dared to marry her.

When Shen Xin heard this, he was furious. He only said that he didn't expect those noble families to be cowards. Fortunately, he didn't marry Shen Miao over. How could such a cowardly bunch take care of his daughter?

When Shen Miao heard what Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang said, she only smiled faintly.

Jingzhe said anxiously, "Miss, why aren't you anxious? Madam and Master are both on tenterhooks. At this rate, it'll be too late when the imperial edict is issued."

"The royal family is not stupid." Shen Miao picked up the tea on the table and took a sip. "How can they not know what Father and Mother are up to?"

Shen Miao knew from the beginning that Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan's plan would not work. As for how the news of her marrying the crown prince spread, needless to say, it was naturally done by the royal family. The royal family announced to the world that Shen Miao was the person they had chosen. How could the officials of Ming Qi dare to openly go against the royal family to snatch her away? Therefore, Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan's plan to let Shen Miao marry off as soon as possible was destined to fail.



## Chapter 717 Peach Blossom Luck (2)

Gu Yu felt a lump in her throat and said, "Miss, are you really going to marry the Crown Prince?"

As her personal maids, although Jingzhe and Gu Yu sometimes could not understand what Shen Miao was thinking, they could more or less sense her emotions. For example, Shen Miao did not like the palace at all, nor did she like the people in the palace. Now that Shen Miao was asked to marry into the royal family, she would definitely feel uncomfortable.

Shen Miao said, "Let's wait and see." However, she thought to herself that she would never want to marry into the royal family of Ming Qi again. However, an imperial edict was not to be challenged. If she had to, she would ruin her reputation. In the end, what the royal family wanted was the military power of the Shen family, but they did not dare to snatch it blatantly. After Shen Miao's reputation was ruined, if the crown prince still insisted on marrying her, his intention of wanting the military power from Shen Xin would be too obvious to the outside world.

However... Shen Miao stared at the tea leaves floating in the teacup. Unless it was absolutely necessary, she didn't want to ruin her reputation.

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan did not know that Shen Miao already had an idea and were still thinking about finding a good husband for her. However, the message from the royal family had already spread, and even matchmakers did not dare to accept the business from the Shen family.

If Luo Xueyan hadn't stopped him in time, Shen Qiu would have gone to kidnap his friend to marry Shen Miao. Shen Qiu, Luo Xueyan, and Shen Xin sat in the room and talked about Shen Miao's marriage with worried expressions.

Luo Xueyan said, "The royal family is really too despicable. Previously, so many people wanted to be in-laws with us, but now, they all want to stay away."

"It's all my fault." Shen Xin said, "I should have arranged a marriage for Jiaojiao back then. I thought that she was young and there was no rush. I didn't expect this to happen."

Shen Qiu scratched his head. "No matter what, Sister can't marry the crown prince. We doted on her. How can we let her be someone's secondary consort?"

"Now that no one dares to be in-laws with us, what should we do?" Luo Xueyan looked a little anxious and asked tentatively, "Why don't we try to find a suitable family outside the capital?"

Shen Qiu was surprised. "Mother, are you going to marry Sister far away?"

Luo Xueyan said angrily, "I have no choice. I'm afraid all the officials in the capital are informed of this. It might even have spread outside the capital. We have to find people in some remote places where no one knows about it."

"No." Shen Xin rejected flatly. "If she marries too far away, we can't help her when she is bullied by her husband."

Luo Xueyan was angry. "This won't do, and that won't do. What do you think we should do?"

Shen Qiu sighed. "The people in the capital are afraid of getting into trouble. Is there no man who likes Sister more than his life?" Seeing Luo Xueyan staring at him, Shen Qiu quickly added, "Other than me and Father."

As he spoke, he saw Luo Ling walk in. Luo Xueyan asked him to sit down and asked anxiously, "Ling, have you found anyone who wants to marry Jiaojiao today?"

Chapter 718 Peach Blossom Luck (3)

Luo Ling shook her head.

Shen Xin and Shen Qiu were both a little disappointed.

Luo Xueyan also lowered her head and looked at the teacup in front of her worriedly. In the silence, she heard Luo Ling say softly, "Aunt, Uncle, Cousin."

The three of them looked up and saw that Luo Ling had a strange expression on his face.

Shen Qiu asked, "Cousin, what's wrong? Just say it. There is no outsider here."

Luo Ling took a deep breath and said, "Has Cousin Miao found a suitable person yet?"

Luo Xueyan shook her head and said, "These people in the capital are all afraid of going against the royal family and don't want to have anything to do with us. It's really too difficult to find a suitable person who is willing to marry Jiaojiao at this juncture."

"In that case," Luo Ling paused for a moment before mustering his courage and saying, "I'm willing to marry Cousin Miao."

As soon as he said that, the room fell silent. Even the maids at the side did not dare to speak and quietly retreated to the side.

Shen Qiu and Shen Xin stared at Luo Ling, but Luo Ling seemed to have suddenly gained courage and continued, "I know that my right hand is not good now. In terms of family background and appearance, there are many people in the capital who are better than me, but... I'm willing to marry Cousin Miao. I'll always be good to her and won't take any concubines. She'll be the only one. Moreover..." Luo Ling smiled and said, "If Aunt and Uncle are worried about the royal family, I can take her back to Spring City. Father, Mother, and Grandfather are both there. They will also take care of her and won't let her suffer. When Aunt and Uncle go to war next time, you can also return to Spring City to visit her."

"Cousin, you..." Shen Qiu was speechless. Not only Shen Qiu, but Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin were also stunned.

Luo Ling's words were to the point and honest. It was not that Luo Xueyan did not think about putting these two children together, but seeing that Shen Miao seemed to only treat Luo Ling as her cousin brother, she did not bring it up. However, the situation is different now. Compared to the crown prince, Luo Ling was indeed the better choice.

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan watched Luo Ling grow up. They knew that he had an upright and gentle personality. If Shen Miao married him, she would not be made difficult by her parents-in-law. Most importantly, Luo Ling could bring Shen Miao back to Spring City.

As the competition for the throne between the princes became more and more intense, the situation in Ming Qi became complicated, and the capital became a dangerous place. Shen Xin could not leave the capital because of his military power, but he did not want his children to be involved in the dangerous vortex. Shen Qiu was a man and had already become an official, so he could not escape. However, Shen Xin always hoped that Shen Miao could live a peaceful life.

If she married into the Luo family, it would indeed be a good choice.

Shen Xin stared at Luo Ling and said sharply, "Ling, if you want to help Jiaojiao out by marrying her now, you might meet the girl you like in the future. What will you do then?"

Luo Ling suddenly blushed and said firmly, "I won't meet the girl I like... I only like Cousin Miao."

When Shen Qiu heard that, he was overjoyed. He slapped Luo Ling on the shoulder and said, "In that case, you've always liked my sister?"

Luo Xueyan was also a little surprised. Luo Ling did not normally show his emotions. Although he was usually good to Shen Miao, Luo Xueyan thought that it was just an elder brother taking care of his sister. She did not expect Luo Ling to have a different feeling towards Shen Miao.

Chapter 719 Peach Blossom Luck (4)

Luo Ling nodded.

"Lucky you," Shen Qiu suddenly said.

"Shut up, Qiu." Luo Xueyan glared at Shen Qiu and looked at Luo Ling. The more she looked at him, the more satisfied she was with him.

Shen Xin and Shen Qiu weren't so satisfied with Luo Ling. They looked at each other with mixed feelings. They were unhappy that no one was willing to marry Shen Miao, but now that someone wanted to marry Shen Miao, they were still unhappy, especially Shen Xin. He felt that Luo Ling was really lucky that he could marry his daughter.

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Shen Qiu said, "I didn't say anything wrong. If not for the situation Jiaojiao is facing, no one in the capital is qualified to marry her. Unexpectedly, this happened... I wonder what kind of good karma Cousin Ling accumulated in his previous life."

Luo Xueyan shot him a glare. "Try talking nonsense again!"

Luo Ling smiled and said, "Cousin Qiu is right. It's my blessing to marry Jiaojiao, but..." He said, "We still have to ask for her opinion on this matter. If she doesn't want to marry me, let's not mention this matter again."

Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin looked at each other and understood what each other thought. Whether Shen Miao wanted to marry or not depended on her attitude in the end. However, in this situation, Shen Miao would probably choose to marry Luo Ling without hesitation. After all, it did not seem to Shen Miao's liking to be a consort of the crown prince. Moreover, compared to the crown prince, Luo Ling was handsome and had a gentle and tolerant personality.

Luo Xueyan said, "Don't be discouraged. No matter what, your uncle, your cousin, and I will always be on your side."

Shen Xin and Shen Qiu were very unhappy with being "represented" by Luo Xueyan, but they did not refute.

Just as they were discussing this matter, a servant suddenly came over and reported, "Master, Madam, someone is looking for you at the door."

Over the past few days, everyone in the capital who was friends with the Shen family avoided them, let alone take the initiative to visit them. Shen Qiu did not expect someone to come looking for them at this time. He asked casually, "Who is it?"

The servant replied, "It's the wife of the Earl of Pingnan."

When Mrs. Su entered the house, she did not expect Shen Qiu and Shen Xin to be there. Speaking of which, she was a little afraid of Shen Xin. Because in the early years, Shen Xin and Su Yu did not get along well. Su Yu naturally did not like Shen Xin, and Mrs. Su was even more so. If not for Su Mingfeng, Mrs. Su would probably never set foot into the Shen mansion.

Luo Xueyan gestured for Mrs. Su to sit down. Mrs. Su and Shen Xin greeted each other. She smiled at Shen Qiu and said, "This must be Young Master Shen. He's indeed a young talent and extraordinarily handsome. One look and you can tell that he has a bright future ahead of him."

Mrs. Su looked at Luo Ling and asked with a smile, "This is..."

Luo Xueyan explained, "This is my brother's son, Luo Ling."

Mrs. Su looked at Luo Ling with a strange gaze and asked calmly, "Then is Young Master Luo married now?"

"No, Madam, I'm not married yet.," Luo Ling replied politely. Then, he looked at Mrs. Su in confusion, probably not understanding why this woman, who he had just met for the first time, wanted to ask him about his marriage.

The more polite Luo Ling was, the stranger Mrs. Su looked at him. On closer look, there was even a hint of hostility. Mrs. Su didn't expect there to be such a handsome young man in the Shen family. Luo Ling and Shen Miao spent time together everyday, and it was hard to say if they would grow to love each other. If that happened, wouldn't Su Mingfeng never have the chance to have the girl he liked? Mrs. Su immediately perked up and was determined to help her son.

#### Chapter 720 Peach Blossom Luck (5)

It was not appropriate for men to sit there and listen to women talking, so Shen Xin and the others stood up and left. Only Luo Xueyan and Mrs. Su were left in the main hall. Luo Xueyan smiled and asked, "Mrs. Su, what brought you here today?"

Mrs. Su said seriously, "Have you thought about what I told you a few days ago?"

Luo Xueyan was stunned. What did they talk about a few days ago? Was it about the marriage between Su Mingfeng and Shen Miao?

Luo Xueyan couldn't help but feel a little frightened. She said, "Mrs. Su, did you not hear the rumors recently?"

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Mrs. Su asked, "What rumors?"

Luo Xueyan said truthfully, "The rumor that the Crown Prince wants to marry my daughter."

"I see, so you are talking about that rumor," Mrs. Su smiled and said, "I heard about it. Miss Shen is so beautiful and outstanding that even the royal family likes her."

When Mrs. Su said this, her expression was natural. Luo Xueyan, on the other hand, was confused. Was Mrs. Su too bold? Did she not understand what the royal family meant, or did she not care at all?

"After hearing about this, are you still considering the marriage between Young Master Su and my daughter?" Luo Xueyan asked.

"Of course I am." Mrs. Su nodded. "I'm not an unreasonable person. Just because my son likes your daughter doesn't mean others can't like your daughter."

Luo Xueyan felt that Mrs. Su might have misunderstood something, so she made it clear to her in detail. She said, "The Crown Prince intends to marry my daughter. Since we're all mothers, I won't hide it from you. My daughter doesn't want to be a secondary consort, so she wants to get married before that. However, since this rumor has already spread, those men who intend to marry her previously changed their minds. Mrs. Su, I think you understand that whoever marries my daughter at this time is going against the royal family. If the royal family is angered, no one will have a good time... Mrs. Su, do you understand what I mean now? Do you still want your son to marry my daughter?"

Her words were sincere and she didn't hide anything. Su slowly smiled and said, "Madam, do you think I'm a fool who can't even understand this?"

Luo Xueyan was even more confused now. Since Mrs. Su understood the disadvantages, why did she insist on his son marrying Shen Miao? Wasn't the Su family afraid of getting into trouble?

"I won't hide it from you either, Madam." Mrs. Su said with a smile, "The situation in the capital is too complicated now. In the past two years, the Earl of Pingnan has already withdrawn from the imperial court. Speaking of which, since we've already quit officialdom, we don't have so many worries. I proposed this marriage, so I naturally am aware of the pros and cons. However, there is nothing I can do since my son likes Fifth Miss Shen."

Luo Xueyan widened her eyes and asked subconsciously, "Likes my daughter?"

"Of course." Mrs. Su said, "If Mingfeng didn't like Fifth Miss Shen, why would I keep pestering you?" She sighed. "I've never seen Mingfeng like any girl, but I know that he is stubborn. Once he makes up his mind, he won't change. Since he likes Fifth Miss Shen, he won't like any other girls in the future." Madam Su lowered her head and looked at her fingertips. "Because of the Su family's decision to not get involved in the imperial court, Mingfeng can only hide at home and can't make a name for himself in the officialdom. We've already let him down. If we can't help him marry the girl he likes, my husband and I will feel guilty."

