

Venomous 731

Chapter 731 Anger (4)

Shen Miao said, "Let nature take its course."

"You can't marry the crown prince," Pei Lang said.

"It doesn't matter if I marry him or not." What Shen Miao hated the most was Pei Lang's confident expression, as if he had everything in his control. She said coldly, "Even if I marry him, I might not have a bad life. I'll use what I have to achieve my goals. The path is paved by oneself. Every path leads to a different destination Mr. Pei, do you think there's only one path in this world?"

"That's not what I mean." Pei Lang sighed and said, "It's just that using your marriage to pave the way is too cruel for you. It's really not worth it."

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Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat as she looked at Pei Lang.

Pei Lang actually said, "Using your marriage to pave the way is too cruel for you." In her previous life, when Wanyu was about to marry the Xiongnu, Shen Miao had once begged Pei Lang because Pei Lang was Fu Xiuyi's trusted aide. At that time, Pei Lang told Shen Miao, "Your Highness, isn't it a good thing to exchange a princess's marriage for the safety of Ming Qi and the welfare of the people?"

Pei Lang, who always prioritized the overall situation, actually placed the overall situation second.

Pei Lang did not notice Shen Miao's expression. He continued, "Now that the royal family has spread the news, no one in the capital dares to marry you"

Shen Miao said, "So what?"

"If you have to marry someone, marry me," Pei Lang said.

The air seemed to have become unbearably silent for a moment. However, to Pei Lang's surprise, Shen Miao stared at him without shock or shyness. Looking at him seriously, she even seemed to be a little cold. She asked, "What are you talking about?"

Pei Lang felt as if a bucket of cold water had been poured on his heart. Stated by that pair of clear eyes, Pei Lang felt that his secret wish seemed to have been seen through. In an instant, he became embarrassed.

Pei Lang avoided Shen Miao's gaze and composed himself before continuing, "You can't marry into the Eastern Palace. You have to marry someone else to get out of the situation. If you marry me, you might be able to protect yourself."

"Mr. Pei, why are you helping me?" Shen Miao asked softly. There seemed to be some other emotion in her voice that was unfathomable. She said, "We're just tied together by a deal because of Liu Ying. From the beginning to the end, I've been threatening you. If I'm in trouble, won't it be advantageous for you? Serving Fu Xiuyi is thousands of times better than serving me."

There was a hint of mockery in Shen Miao's words, which made Pei Lang feel inexplicably sad. Pei Lang didn't know why Shen Miao was sometimes friendly to him and sometimes seemed to be hostile to him. Perhaps women were all so fickle.

However, he could not give an answer to Shen Miao's question, because he did not know why he did this either.

Shen Miao smiled. "Even if I want to marry you, what identity do you want to use to marry me? How will you explain it to Prince Ding? You will expose your identity because of it. Mr. Pei, you are a good chess piece. I don't want to use you so casually."

"Besides." She raised her chin slightly. "Marriage is not as important to me as you think. Other than eating and sleeping together, a husband is no different from a stranger in my eyes. I don't care who I marry. I don't care if I'll be forced to marry. My happiness won't depend on this."

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Pei Lang shook his head repeatedly when he heard that. He wanted to deny Shen Miao's words. He felt that Shen Miao was still young and did not know how important a marriage was to a woman. At this moment, she was just saying this in a fit of anger. In the future, when she understood the importance of a good marriage and suffered, she would regret it. However, when he looked up and saw Shen Miao's expression, he couldn't bring himself to say a word.

Shen Miao's expression was serious. She was cold and indifferent to the outside world, as if she hated it and really did not care.

However, how could a woman not care about the person she would spend the rest of her life with?

Pei Lang looked at Shen Miao blankly.

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Just as the atmosphere was getting awkward, they heard a malicious mockery coming from behind. "I didn't expect to witness such a love affair."

Shen Miao suddenly turned around and saw two masked men in black appear behind her. These two people were both holding swords and ready to attack.

Pei Lang quickly pulled Shen Miao behind him. Shen Miao shouted sternly, "Who are you?"

"Miss Shen, don't blame us. If you want to blame someone, blame yourself for getting in the way of others!" The two of them sneered. One of them charged at Pei Lang, and the other raised his sword and charged at Shen Miao.

They had no intention of letting the two of them leave alive.

Shen Miao panicked and held the bracelet on her wrist, but this bracelet had to be used at a close distance. At the critical moment, two stones appeared in the air and hit the knees of the two men in black. The two of them screamed in pain and fell to the ground.

With a whoosh, two sword lights suddenly shot out and stabbed the men in black in the chest.

Everything happened too quickly, not giving anyone a chance to catch their breath. The two people who appeared later were dressed as palace guards. They looked at Shen Miao and bowed.

Just as Pei Lang was about to speak, he saw another person jump down from the roof. He was tall and straight, wearing a purple and gold robe and a silver mask. His eyes were as sharp as blades.

It was Prince Rui.

“Prince Rui...” Pei Lang muttered. He was smart, and after thinking for a moment, he realized that the two guards in front of him were probably Prince Rui’s subordinates. Although he did not know the relationship between Shen Miao and Prince Rui, Pei Lang did not dare to be negligent. He was extremely vigilant, but a polite smile appeared on his face. He cupped his hands and said, “Thank you for your help, Prince Rui.”

Prince Rui did not speak and glanced at him coldly. Although his expression could not be seen through the silver mask, Pei Lang felt that that gaze was especially cold, making people feel a chill run down their spines.

Shen Miao frowned. Prince Rui had already grabbed her arm and turned to walk out. Pei Lang was shocked and quickly shouted, “Prince Rui, don’t!”

However, the two guards suddenly blocked his way.

These two guards were both fierce and exuded a murderous aura. Pei Lang was a scholar and did not know martial arts. Even if he wanted to help, he could not. On the other hand, Shen Miao was dragged away. She turned around and said calmly, “Mr. Pei, go back first. I still have something to do with Prince Rui.”

Prince Rui quickened his pace.

Pei Lang looked at the two disappearing figures. After the two of them were gone, the two guards also followed suit.

However, there were still two corpses on the ground. Pei Lang could not stay for long. He did not know what relationship Shen Miao had with Prince Rui, but... for a moment, he felt down and his heart empty.

Chapter 733 Anger (6)

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Shen Miao’s arm hurt from being grabbed by Xie Jingxing. Xie Jingxing walked quickly without saying a word. She tried her best to keep up with Xie Jingxing, but he was tall and had long legs. She almost tripped a few times.

In the end, Shen Miao was furious and shouted angrily, “Let go of me!”

Xie Jing walked to an empty corridor before suddenly letting go. Shen Miao couldn’t react in time and almost fell to the ground. After standing still, she was furious and said, “You’re crazy!”

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This garden was a little wider than the desolate garden just now. Shen Miao was a little afraid of being seen and was about to walk out when Xie Jingxing grabbed her arm and pulled her back. He pushed her against the wall, pressed her hands on it, and looked at her coldly.

He was wearing a silver mask, revealing only his sharp chin, but his thin lips were pursed very tightly. The cynical smile was long gone. He said word by word, "Shen Miao, is that all you can do?"

Shen Miao frowned at him.

Xie Jingxing reached out and held her chin, forcing her to look up at him. He looked down at Shen Miao like a hunter looking down at his prey. Shen Miao hated being looked down at from above and struggled to break free.

However, she was a woman after all. How could she resist Xie Jingxing? Xie Jingxing easily locked her in place, making her unable to move.

Shen Miao asked, "What exactly do you want?"

Xie Jingxing's tone was unreadable. "Luo Ling, Su Mingfeng, Feng Zixian, and now Pei Lang. I really underestimated how popular you are among men."

Shen Miao did not speak.

He suddenly tightened his grip, making Shen Miao's chin hurt and she frowned slightly.

However, the young man gritted his teeth and said, "You don't care who you marry, nor do you care if you are forced to marry. Do you really want to marry the crown prince?"

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. Xie Jingxing must have heard what she said to Pei Lang just now. What Xie Jingxing liked to do the most was to observe everything in the dark. Normally, Shen Miao did not care, but at this moment, she was suddenly angry, as if the secret she had been hiding was made public.

She sneered and said, "What does it matter if I marry the crown prince? Anyway, you know that I want to be the empress. The crown prince will eventually sit on the throne. Perhaps if I figure out a way to kill the crown princess, I'll be the future empress of Ming Qi. What's wrong with that?"

Xie Jingxing smiled, but his smile was cold. "Unfortunately, the crown prince can't sit on the throne."

Shen Miao did not know where Xie Jingxing's confidence came from, but at this moment, she was very embarrassed and aggrieved to be questioned in such a sorry state.

Xie Jingxing held her chin and pressed her against the wall, locking her hand. That devilish smile on his face made Shen Miao believe for a moment that Xie Jingxing, who looked cynical, indifferent, and did not care about anything, actually had another side to him.

However, Shen Miao was not in the mood to study him.

She said, "Even if he can't sit on the throne, it has nothing to do with you." Shen Miao looked up at him and tried her best to say calmly, "Prince Rui, why are you questioning me? My relationship with you doesn't seem to be that close. What does it have to do with you who I marry?"

As soon as she said that, a strange smile slowly crept up on Xie Jingxing's lips.

He grabbed Shen Miao's chin and pulled her towards him. "You were much more capable than this when you killed people. Why? Is this all you can do now? Huh?"

Shen Miao felt a lump in her throat. She really hated Xie Jingxing's behavior at this moment. However, she could not break free. She hated herself for being so powerless. She felt that her eyes were slowly getting blurred and very uncomfortable.

Xie Jingxing frowned and said, "Don't cry!"

Shen Miao's tears were about to fall. She felt extremely ashamed. She had lived for two lifetimes, but she actually wanted to cry after hearing a few words from Xie Jingxing. She felt like something was stirring up her mind, making her unable to think.

Unwilling to give in, Shen Miao glared at Xie Jingxing and said angrily, "Xie Jingxing, don't go too far!"

"Xie Jingxing?" A cry came from the grass on the other side.

Chapter 734 Bed Bam (1)

Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing suddenly turned around and saw a person stumbling out of the grass. When the person approached, Shen Miao couldn't help but stiffen and subconsciously look at Xie Jingxing's expression. However, because Xie Jingxing was wearing a mask, he wasn't recognized.

That person was Princess Rong Xin.

Princess Rong Xin originally wanted to take a shortcut, but when she approached here, she vaguely saw Shen Miao being pulled over by an unfamiliar man. Princess Rong Xin quickly asked the palace maids to wait outside and followed. If others saw Shen Miao with an unfamiliar man, they would probably gossip.

Princess Rong Xin trusted Shen Miao's character and believed that she wouldn't do anything out of line. She was afraid that Shen Miao was harassed by a prince, so she wanted to help Shen Miao out.

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She observed far away at first and could not hear what the two of them were talking about. Then, she saw that Shen Miao seemed to be about to cry. Feeling anxious, she walked out and happened to hear Shen Miao say, "Xie Jingxing, don't go too far."

The tall figure turned around. It was an unfamiliar young man with a silver mask on his face. He nodded at Princess Rong Xin slightly.

Princess Rong Xin quickly walked forward. Only then did she see that this man was Prince Rui.

When Prince Rui first came to Ming Qi, Princess Rong Xin had seen him once. However, she had never cared about these matters in the imperial court, so she did not deliberately ask around about him. At this moment, when she saw that this person was Prince Rui, she felt an indescribable feeling.

Princess Rong Xin looked at Shen Miao questioningly and asked, "Miss Shen, just now, you called Prince Rui... Xie Jingxing?"

Before Shen Miao could speak, Prince Rui took the initiative to speak. He said, "My name is Xie Yuan. Jingxing is my pet name. Just now, Miss Shen called me by my pet name."

Shen Miao heaved a sigh of relief. She thought that Xie Jingxing's reaction was very fast and he could definitely come up with an explanation. When she saw Princess Rong Xin's strange expression, she suddenly came back to her senses and cursed Xie Jingxing in her heart.

Other than their family members, only the married couple would call each other by their pet names. When Princess Rong Xin heard that Shen Miao called Prince Rui by his pet name, what would she think?

Xie Jingxing must have done it on purpose!

Princess Rong Xin glanced between Prince Rui and Shen Miao before fixing her gaze on Prince Rui.

Although the man in front of her exuded a similar aura as Xie Jingxing, the fact that Xie Jingxing was dead on the battlefield was indisputable. Her heart ached for a moment. Princess Rong Xin suddenly covered her chest and bent down. No matter how long it had been, she could not get over the thought of Xie Jingxing's death. After Princess Yuqing died, she treated Xie Jingxing as her son.

Shen Miao quickly went forward to help her up, but the purple-clothed young man stood with his hands behind his back and glanced at Princess Rong Xin indifferently.

Princess Rong Xin couldn't help but smile bitterly.

That's right, how could Prince Rui be Xie Jingxing? If he was Xie Jingxing, he would not be so cold, as if he took delight in watching the struggles of an unfamiliar person. If Xie Jingxing was still alive, how could he bear to see her in such pain?

Chapter 735 Bed Bam (2)

Princess Rong Xin waved her hand and said, "Why are you here?"

Shen Miao replied, "Her Majesty summoned me to the palace."

Princess Rong Xin frowned and looked at Xie Jingxing, asking, "Why is Prince Rui here?"

Shen Miao glanced at Xie Jingxing and said, "The young eunuch who led the way had something to do and left. I waited for a long time and didn't see him, so I tried to find my way out and got lost. I happened to meet Prince Rui here, so I asked him to help me out."

This was almost a blatant lie. Just now, Princess Rong Xin clearly saw that it was Prince Rui who pulled Shen Miao all the way here. Moreover, Shen Miao had already called Prince Rui by his pet name. The relationship between the two of them was not simple.

Princess Rong Xin was inexplicably a little angry. Back then, when Xie Jingxing brought Shen Miao to the princess's mansion, Princess Rong Xin thought that Xie Jingxing treated Shen Miao specially. The more she interacted with Shen Miao, the more she liked her. Princess Rong Xin had always wanted to matchmake Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing. If not for the fact that Xie Jingxing died in battle later, this marriage might have been completed.

Now, Shen Miao had a deep relationship with another man, and this man's pet name happened to be "Jingxing". Princess Rong Xin was not happy. She also knew that it was impossible for Shen Miao to stay single for the rest of her life for a dead person, but Prince Rui was not from Ming Qi after all. Moreover, Princess Rong Xin had lived for most of her life and was good at judging people. This Prince Rui exuded a dangerous aura and acted strangely. He was not a simple man. It wasn't safe for Shen Miao to fall in love with this man.

"In that case, I thank Prince Rui on behalf of Miss Shen," Princess Rong Xin said, trying her best to draw a line between Shen Miao and Prince Rui.

Prince Rui nodded.

"I have many palace maids following me. I'll take Miss Shen out. Prince Rui, you don't have to trouble yourself to show us the way," Princess Rong Xin said. Her attitude showed that she was obviously wary of Prince Rui.

Prince Rui did not say anything and nodded before leaving.

After Prince Rui left, Princess Rong Xin heaved a sigh of relief and asked Shen Miao, "How do you know him?"

Shen Miao did not expect to suddenly meet Princess Rong Xin today, nor did she expect Princess Rong Xin to hear her and Xie Jingxing's conversation. She couldn't help but complain that Xie Jingxing's secret guards were usually sharp-eared, but today, at the critical moment, they slacked off and didn't even notice Princess Rong Xin.

She said, "I met Prince Rui a few times accidentally. We can be considered friends."

Princess Rong Xin looked at her deeply and said, "If you don't want to tell me, I won't force you to. It's just that... this person is not from Ming Qi. He might have designs on you. You're a smart girl. You have to think for yourself." She was actually afraid that Shen Miao would be deceived by a man.

Shen Miao didn't know whether to laugh or cry. At this point, she couldn't explain herself. Princess Rong Xin rubbed her chest and panted. Seeing this, Shen Miao asked, "Princess, are you feeling unwell?"

"I had a heart disease in the early years." Princess Rong Xin shook her head. "It's been acting up a lot these days."

Seeing that she was in so much pain, Shen Miao vaguely remembered that in her previous life, Princess Rong Xin also had a heart disease. The imperial physician even advised her not to worry too much lest the heart disease worsen. Shen Miao said, "Princess, you should find an imperial physician to treat you. It's not good if you leave it untreated."

"It's fine." Princess Rong Xin waved her hand. "I've enjoyed everything I should and shouldn't have until now. I probably won't live long, and I don't want to live long either." Her voice gradually trailed off. "After all... there's nothing to live for anymore."

Chapter 736 Bed Bam (3)

Shen Miao knew that she was thinking of Xie Jingxing again and did not know how to comfort her, so she said, "Young Marquis will not be happy to see you like this."

“If he really cared about me, his aunt, he wouldn’t be so heartless as to die.” Princess Rong Xin put away the sadness on her face and patted Shen Miao’s hand. “I’ve already heard that my brother wants to matchmake you. I came to the palace today to talk about this with my brother. Shen Miao, you don’t want to marry the crown prince, right?”

Shen Miao did not expect Princess Rong Xin to want to speak up for her. For a moment, she was stunned. In her previous life, she tried her best to please Princess Rong Xin, but all she got was Princess Rong Xin’s disdain. In this life, because of Xie Jingxing, Princess Rong Xin changed her opinion of her and was even willing to help her. Although Shen Miao knew that Princess Rong Xin could not change Emperor Wen Hui’s mind, she would remember this favor. Shen Miao said, “I don’t want to marry into the East Palace, but Princess, you don’t have to force yourself. Everything in the world is predestined. Let nature take its course.”

Princess Rong Xin smiled and said, “Your take on the world is surprisingly mature.”

She continued, “It’s getting late, so I won’t talk to you anymore. Let’s go over there first. I’ll get a palace maid to send you out.”

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Shen Miao was sent out of the palace gate by Princess Rong Xin’s maid. Jingzhe and Gu Yu, who were waiting outside, were the first to come up to her. They first sized up Shen Miao from head to toe. After confirming that Shen Miao was safe and sound, they said, “Miss, we’re scared to death. After waiting for so long, we thought something had happened. If you still don’t come out, we’ll think of a way to go in and find you.”

Shen Miao laughed. “Palace is not a hell. It’s not that dangerous.” However, she thought to herself that the two assassins who appeared out of nowhere today actually dared to kill her in the palace. If she died, it would only be harmful to the crown prince. Most likely, it was done by Prince Zhou’s faction or Prince Li’s faction. It was impossible for Fu Xiuyi to do this. It had not been long since Shen Wan died. Fu Xiuyi would not take the initiative to get involved. With his personality, he would hide for a while longer.

At the thought of this, she couldn’t help but sneer in her heart. In short, none of the people of the royal family were good people. The Shen family and the royal family were destined to be enemies. Since her enemy was so ruthless, she wouldn’t show mercy.

Mo Qing went forward and gestured for Shen Miao to get into the carriage and set off for the Shen mansion.

On the busy street at the entrance of the palace, in a lively tavern, someone was observing Mo Qing and the others in the corner. When he saw Shen Miao come out of the palace gate unscathed, a trace of surprise flashed across his eyes. Then, he picked up the sword on the table and left quietly.

When Shen Miao returned home, Shen Qiu and the others surrounded her and asked her what the empress said to her in the palace today. Shen Miao didn’t mention the assassination and only told them what the empress said to her. Everyone in the Shen family was worried again. With the empress taking this step, they had to think of a way as soon as possible.

Luo Xueyan thought of the people who came to propose marriage. She wanted to ask Shen Miao what she thought. If Shen Miao liked any of them, they could immediately start preparing for a wedding. After all, Shen Xin had asked around and found out that they were all young men with good character.

However, after the interaction with Xie Jingxing today, Shen Miao was not in the mood to talk about this. When Luo Xueyan mentioned it, she revealed a rare trace of displeasure. Seeing this, Shen Xin and the others thought that Shen Miao was scared by the empress today, so they didn't continue. They asked Shen Miao to go back and rest early.

Chapter 737 Bed Bam (4)

When Shen Miao returned to her room, it was already dark. Gu Yu lit the oil lamp for her. Seeing that Shen Miao was in a bad mood today, Jingzhe did not disturb her. She pulled Gu Yu away and closed the door, leaving Shen Miao alone.

Shen Miao combed her hair in frustration, but there seemed to be an indescribable anger in her chest that could not be suppressed. Thinking of what Xie Jingxing asked her in the palace today, she could not help but feel even more frustrated and aggrieved. What did her own matters have to do with Xie Jingxing? Did Xie Jingxing want to interfere in her life?

However, at this point, with all kinds of people interfering, including Xie Jingxing, she was getting more and more helpless.

Thinking of what Pei Lang said, Shen Miao couldn't help but smile, but her smile was a sad one. How could a woman not want to marry a man who was in love with her and grow old together? It was just that in her previous life, she had been hurt so much by Fu Xiuyi that she lost hope in love. She had never really experienced what it was like to be loved by someone. She did not want to repeat her previous life where she foolishly handed her happiness to someone else.

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She sat under the light absent-mindedly for a while before she blew out the light and crawled to the bed to sleep.

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The snow in Prince Rui's mansion was especially heavy today.

A guard stood trembling in the wind. Even the white tiger, which had already grown much bigger, was thrown outside the bedroom to be punished. Today, Prince Rui just found everyone displeasing to the eye. He punished everyone in the mansion one way or another. Even Ji Yushu and Gao Yang were locked up in the tower prison to reflect on themselves.

What kind of place was the tower prison? It was filled with vicious people, and torture was necessary to deal with these vicious people. As the cruelest place in the Black Feather Army, there were at least 49 kinds of torture. Many tough men went to guard the tower prison and came out crying and howling.

Nightingale quietly poked Nan Qi's arm and asked, "What's wrong with Master? Who provoked him?"

Nan Qi put a finger to his lips. Seeing that there was no movement in the bedroom, he said in a low voice, "Fifth Miss Shen was granted a marriage by the emperor. Master was angry because Young Master Gao and Young Master Ji didn't report it in time."

Nightingale covered her mouth and widened her eyes for a while before saying, "Young Master Gao and Young Master Ji are really bold. They even dare to hide the news of Fifth Miss Shen from Master. No wonder they were locked up in the tower prison." After saying that, she glanced at the white tiger, which was trembling in the cold, and said sympathetically, "This tiger is doted on like a treasure by Master usually. I thought it was different from us, but when Master is in a fit of us, the white tiger is nothing special."

In the room, Xie Jingxing handed the letter to Tie Yi. Tie Yi took a look and said hesitantly, "Master, if His Majesty finds out about this change of plan..."

Xie Jingxing glanced at him, and Tie Yi immediately shut up. Questioning Xie Jingxing when he was angry was definitely not a good idea.

Chapter 738 Bed Bam (5)

Xie Jingxing put the other letter into the envelope and said, "Find out what's going on with Pei Lang." After a pause, he continued, "And Feng Zixian and Su Mingfeng." He frowned slightly and suddenly thought of something. "Any progress on finding the herb?"

Tie Yi quickly said, "I've already sent people to look for it. Once they find it, they'll send it to the medical hall immediately." Princess Rong Xin's heart disease had been acting up frequently recently. There was a rare herb that could only be found in spring in the prescription. All the medical halls in the capital that had this herb had run out of it. Over the past few days, Princess Rong Xin had been enduring the pain. Xie Jingxing got someone to secretly find the herb and sell it to the medical hall.

"Be quick," Xie Jingxing said. After thinking for a moment, he suddenly stood up, put on his coat, and was about to walk out.

Tie Yi was stunned. "Master, are you still going out?"

"I'm not done settling the score." Xie Jingxing snorted and left.

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It was already quiet in the Shen mansion. Shen Miao's room was dark. Clearly, she had been asleep for a long time.

When Xie Jingxing arrived, Cong Yang was sleeping on the tree. When he saw him coming over, he was so frightened that he almost fell from the tree. He quickly came down and bowed to Xie Jingxing.

Xie Jingxing glanced at the window and Cong Yang quickly said, "Young Madam is already resting."

Xie Jingxing walked to the window and saw something that looked like a jade pendant on the windowsill. Xie Jingxing looked at Cong Yang inquiringly. Cong Yang immediately said, "This is the safety pendant Luo Ling secretly placed on the windowsill after Young Madam went to bed. Young Madam hasn't discovered it yet."

When Xie Jingxing heard this, his gaze changed slightly. He picked up the safety pendant with the tip of the dagger in his sleeve and threw it into Cong Yang's arms. "Keep it well."

Cong Yang was stunned for a moment before he heard Xie Jingxing continue, "My pet needs a pendant."

While Cong Yang was speechless, Xie Jingxing had already opened the window and entered.

On the bed in the room, Shen Miao was sleeping soundly.

Xie Jingxing walked to the side of the bed and crossed his arms to look at her for a while. He raised his eyebrows and said, "You can still fall asleep. It seems like you didn't take my words to heart. You're quite bold."

He sat down by the bed, grabbed a cup of tea placed on the table beside the bed, and took a sip. Then, he turned to look at Shen Miao.

When the girl fell asleep, she did not have her usual dignified and calm aura. Under the moonlight, her eyes were delicate and gentle. One must not ignore the fact that she was a 16-year-old girl because of her ruthless methods and the calmness she displayed.

Thinking of how Shen Miao's chin was pinched by him during the day and how she tried her best to hold back her tears, Xie Jingxing felt a little guilty.

He reached out to tuck the messy hair behind Shen Miao's ear and saw that the girl's eyelashes were trembling slightly. Xie Jingxing paused and looked down to see that her body, which was wrapped in a blanket, was trembling slightly.

She was actually pretending to be asleep.

Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow and sat closer. He placed his hands on both sides of Shen Miao's body and leaned down slightly, his ambiguous and magnetic voice sounding in her ears.

"I've helped you so many times. Why don't you repay me with your body?"

He stared into Shen Miao's eyes and slowly leaned down.

Shen Miao's body was extremely stiff. The sound of her breathing seemed to echo in the room, and the pressure above was getting more and more palpable. She suddenly pushed Xie Jingxing away and was about to sit up, saying angrily, "What do you want to do?"

Her voice was a little flustered.

Chapter 739 Bed Bam (6)

Xie Jingxing pressed her back to the bed.

Shen Miao struggled. Xie Jingxing locked her in place and said in amusement, "Do you think I'll do anything to you?" He sized her up. "In your dreams."

Shen Miao was so angry that she wanted to call Mo Qing in and beat Xie Jingxing up.

Because she only wore an undergarment when she slept at night, after struggling with Xie Jingxing just now, the undergarment slipped off, revealing her snow-white shoulders. Xie Jingxing was slightly

stunned. When Shen Miao realized where he was looking, she was angry and embarrassed. Just as she was about to curse, she saw Xie Jingxing suddenly pull the blanket over her.

Shen Miao stuck her head out of the blanket and said angrily, "You're crazy!"

Xie Jingxing ignored her and quickly wrapped her tightly in the blanket, making her look like a cocoon. Then, he pressed her onto the bed. Shen Miao could not move no matter what. Xie Jingxing supported his head with one hand and looked at her with a faint smile.

Shen Miao stopped struggling and asked in annoyance, "What are you doing here?"

"Shen Miao, don't do anything stupid." Xie Jingxing frowned and said, "With me around, who will dare to force you to marry?"

Shen Miao was amused. "You won't stay in Ming Qi forever. One day, I will get married. You can protect me today, but you can't protect me tomorrow. If you can protect me tomorrow, there will be a day when you can't."

"What if I can?" Xie Jingxing asked.

Shen Miao was stunned and did not speak.

Xie Jingxing said, "Do you not care about who you are married to, or do you just want to get married?"

"What does that have to do with you? You're asking too many questions." Shen Miao was still unhappy with Xie Jingxing's rudeness during the day and did not intend to talk to him nicely.

Xie Jingxing didn't understand why she suddenly got moody. He turned around on the bed and pressed Shen Miao under him. He supported himself with one hand beside Shen Miao's head and asked in a low voice, "Who do you want to marry?"

"Luo Ling, Su Mingfeng, Feng Zixian? Or Pei Lang?"

He approached closer and closer. Under the moonlight, his handsome facial features were magnified in front of Shen Miao. She could smell the fragrance of bamboo leaves coming from him. His eyes were extremely beautiful, but at this moment, they were aggressive, as if they wanted to see through her.

Shen Miao suddenly panicked.

This distance was too close, so close that she could hear the heart beating like drums, but she could not tell if it was hers or Xie Jingxing's.

Not wanting to do something she would regret, Shen Miao suddenly shrank back. Behind her was the bedhead. Xie Jingxing reached out to prevent her from banging her head on the plank.

"This has nothing to do with you." Shen Miao quickly retorted, "We're just allies. Allies help each other, but allies don't interfere in each other's marriage. It has nothing to do with you who I marry, if I'm deposed, and who I have children with!"

Xie Jingxing was originally quite angry when he heard her say the first half, but when he heard the second half, he didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He said, "What nonsense are you talking about? Do you really want to be a deposed empress?" It was already the umpteenth time he had heard her say that

she was a deposed empress. Xie Jingxing couldn't understand. Could it be that Shen Miao was so unconfident in herself that she wanted such a miserable ending? She usually didn't look like an unconfident person.

Shen Miao was so angry that she blurted out, "It has nothing to do with you! We're just allies. What right do you have to interfere in my business?"

Xie Jingxing stared at her, his anger rising. He was a proud person to begin with, so he felt extremely aggrieved to be despised again and again.

He asked, "Are they allies?"

Shen Miao nodded.

"Allies can't interfere in your business?"

Shen Miao continued to nod.

Xie Jingxing said readily, "Sure." He quickly leaned over and pecked Shen Miao's lips. Shen Miao was instantly stunned. The handsome purple-clothed young man said in an extremely devilish tone, "We're not allies anymore."

"You..." Shen Miao didn't know what to say. The gentle touch just now was still lingering on her lips.

He smiled cynically. "Now I can interfere in your business." With that, he stood up from the bed and stared down at Shen Miao, threatening, "Remember, in the future, when you get married, have children, divorce, and be deposed, you have to get my permission."

With that, he glanced at the windowsill coldly and disappeared.

Outside the house.

Cong Yang was forced to eavesdrop on the tree. He listened until his face turned red, but he did not dare to leave without Xie Jingxing's order. When Xie Jingxing came out, Cong Yang bowed to him. Xie Jingxing said, "In the future, throw away everything people send her." He took the pendant from Cong Yang and left with a displeased expression.

Chapter 740 Trouble (1)

In Prince Zhou's and Prince Li's mansion, people were faced with the same conundrum.

Tonight, someone knocked on the door of Prince Zhou's room. Prince Zhou thought that it was a servant and called him in, but no one entered for a long time. Prince Zhou stood up to open the door to see two cold corpses lying outside. No one knew how these two corpses got here. Prince Zhou flew into a rage and severely punished all the guards who were on night watch.

The identity of these two corpses were also found. They were the assassins sent to assassinate Shen Miao today.

Prince Zhou felt uneasy and got someone to send a message to Prince Jing overnight. The two brothers planned to investigate this matter carefully.

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Someone threw two corpses into Prince Li's mansion from outside the wall, scaring the guards. The guards went out to chase after the person but to no avail. In the end, they found that the two corpses were assassins sent by Prince Li to assassinate Shen Miao. Prince Li was extremely frustrated and uneasy.

On the other side, Prince Zhou and Prince Jing were talking.

Prince Zhou asked, "Who do you think did it?"

Prince Jing pondered for a moment. "Maybe it's Prince Li."

"I think so too." Prince Zhou nodded. "Maybe he wants to use this to threaten me."

"But Prince Li has always been amiable on the surface. He won't use this matter to go against you." Prince Jing shook his head. "It might be the crown prince's doing."

"The crown prince?" Prince Zhou paused and nodded. "All these years, the crown prince has been saying that he's sick. Who knows if it's a smokescreen? None of us know what he is up to. If he sows discord between Prince Li and me, he can benefit from it."

"That's right." Prince Jing sighed. "But don't forget about Ninth Brother."

"Ninth Brother? I don't think so." Prince Zhou waved his hand indifferently. "Even if he has the guts to do it, he doesn't have capable people under him who can't kill the assassins I sent."

"For some reason, I feel that Ninth Brother is not as simple as he looks." Prince Jing said, "Don't underestimate him."

"In short," Prince Zhou sighed, "this matter is not that simple. Whether it's Prince Li or the crown prince, they don't have good intentions. I'll investigate carefully and see who's behind it."

Prince Jing nodded in agreement.

Prince Zhou and Prince Li naturally did not know that the person who wiped out the assassins they sent out was not the crown prince or Fu Xiuyi, but someone who was completely unrelated. The battle between the princes of Ming Qi unknowingly became more and more intense.

As time passed, while everyone in the Shen family was anxiously looking for a "suitable man" for Shen Miao, the imperial edict did not come for a long time. It was not because Emperor Wen Hui forgot it, but because Emperor Wen Hui had been extremely troubled by something else recently.

He asked the crown prince beside him, "What does the Daliang Dynasty mean? Are they going against Ming Qi? I've never seen such an arrogant person!"