

Venomous 741

Chapter 741 Trouble (2)

The crown prince did not dare to speak. Prince Rui went to the palace and said something to Emperor Wen Hui. After Prince Rui left, Emperor Wen Hui flew into a rage and slammed the table and threw the teacup.

The crown prince guessed that he must have said something impudent. Otherwise, he wouldn't have made Emperor Wen Hui so angry.

Emperor Wen Hui was indeed furious. He knew better than anyone the current strength of Ming Qi. It was no longer as powerful as when the late emperor was alive. Facing the State of Qin and the rich and powerful Daliang Dynasty, Ming Qi had no chance of winning. He made this tribute banquet especially grand just to show the Daliang Dynasty and the State of Qin that Ming Qi was still not to be trifled with.

However, he was just deceiving himself. On the surface, Huangfu Hao respected him, but in fact, he did not take him seriously. In order to seek justice for Princess Ming An, he was nagging the judicial office to investigate. The officials of the judicial office were busy with the case of Princess Ming An's death all day long. However, Emperor Wen Hui did not dare to stop it. After all, he still wanted to rope in the State of Qin to deal with the Daliang Dynasty together.

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There was no need to mention the Daliang Dynasty. At least on the surface, Huangfu Hao still respected Emperor Wen Hui. However, Prince Rui did things his own way and did not show any respect for him. Emperor Wen Hui convinced himself that it was Prince Rui's nature to be willful. Yesterday, when Prince Rui came to the palace to talk to him in the imperial study, Emperor Wen Hui expressed his willingness to build an alliance with the Daliang Dynasty, but he was rejected by Prince Rui.

Emperor Wen Hui was the emperor of a country after all. Feeling disrespected, his expression darkened. Prince Rui didn't care if Emperor Wen Hui was offended or not. He casually mentioned the cities at the border of Ming Qi and the Daliang Dynasty, implying that he wanted to take back the cities.

Emperor Wen Hui's expression immediately changed.

The cities were not very big, but there were several mines in the cities. The ores mined from those mines could be used to make large weapons. The cities happened to be at the border of Ming Qi and the Daliang Dynasty. In the past, the Daliang Dynasty showed no intention of occupying the cities because the people living in the cities were all from Ming Qi. However, what Prince Rui meant was that the Daliang Dynasty had the intention of occupying the cities now!

Emperor Wen Hui was very sensitive about matters relating to his territory. If the Daliang Dynasty snatched the cities, who knew what else they would snatch later? In a few days, they would take a liking to other cities, and in no time, they would take a liking to the capital.

With Ming Qi's military strength, it was impossible for them to compete with the Daliang Dynasty.

Prince Rui was an envoy sent by the Daliang Dynasty, which meant that he represented Emperor Yong Le. These seemingly casual words of Prince Rui revealed some ambitions of the Daliang Dynasty. What

made Emperor Wen Hui frustrated was that even though he knew the ambitions of the other party, he did not dare to directly detain Prince Rui because he could not withstand Emperor Yong Le's wrath. If he formed an alliance with the State of Qin, he would probably have some confidence in confronting the Daliang Dynasty. Just Ming Qi alone was definitely not possible.

"Your marriage with Shen Miao is not urgent for the time being." Emperor Wen Hui said, "I can't anger Shen Xin now. It's a critical moment. If Shen Xin is unhappy with me, it won't be good if the Daliang Dynasty takes advantage of the situation."

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When the crown prince heard this, he was a little disappointed, but he did not say anything. He knew Emperor Wen Hui's temper very well. At this moment, he had to go along with him. Therefore, he said, "I'm not in a hurry. We naturally have to prioritize important things. I didn't expect the Daliang Dynasty to have this intention. We can't let down our guard against them."

Seeing the crown prince like this, Emperor Wen Hui was very relieved. He patted his shoulder and said, "I know. Don't worry, although the Daliang Dynasty has such ambitions, I won't sit back and do nothing. I'll talk to the crown prince of the State of Qin about forming an alliance tomorrow. If the State of Qin knows the ambitions of the Daliang Dynasty, they will definitely be nervous and agree. At that time, we don't have to be afraid of the Daliang Dynasty, and Shen Miao and the Shen family's military power will all be yours."

The crown prince smiled and nodded, but in his heart, he held a grudge against Prince Rui for bringing this up to Emperor Wen Hui at this time. The timing was too coincidental. Prince Ding had finally come up with such a brilliant plan for him, but it was ruined by Prince Rui, making the crown prince extremely unhappy.

However, there was nothing he could do.

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There was news from the palace that Shen Miao and the crown prince's marriage had been temporarily postponed. Although Princess Rong Xin did not know why, she heaved a sigh of relief.

That day, she saw Shen Miao in the palace and asked her personal maid to send Shen Miao out, but she went to see Emperor Wen Hui personally. Emperor Wen Hui was still polite to Princess Rong Xin. Princess Rong Xin said that she liked Shen Miao very much and hoped that Emperor Wen Hui would not force Shen Miao to marry the crown prince.

Unexpectedly, Emperor Wen Hui immediately flew into a rage and even said that women were not allowed to discuss politics. Princess Rong Xin was also a straightforward person. She said, "Why is Shen Miao's marriage political?" She immediately quarreled with Emperor Wen Hui. In the end, Emperor Wen Hui was angry and "invited" her out of the palace.

That night, Princess Rong Xin was so angry that she suffered another heart attack.

Fortunately, Emperor Wen Hui did not suspect why Princess Rong Xin spoke up for Shen Miao. Back then, there were a few times when Shen Miao was saved by Princess Rong Xin. In the eyes of outsiders, they would only think that Princess Rong Xin and Shen Miao were fated, so it was understandable that

Princess Rong Xin treated Shen Miao differently. No one would expect Princess Rong Xin to protect Shen Miao and take care of her for Xie Jingxing.

"That's good." Princess Rong Xin said to her personal maid, Yang Xin, "I thought that I couldn't help her this time, so I felt very guilty. Now that it's postponed, there's a chance to salvage the situation. I'll go and tell her now. Otherwise, I'll feel I've let Jingxing down."

Yang Xin quickly said, "When Young Marquis finds out what you've done for him, he will definitely be happy."

As she spoke, she saw someone coming in from outside. The palace maid bowed and whispered, "Your Highness, the herb sent by the people in the medical hall is here."

Princess Rong Xin was slightly stunned and asked, "Isn't the herb all sold out?"

She had been suffering from heart disease for many years and had a specific prescription. However, there was a herb in that prescription that was extremely difficult to find and rare. There were only so many in a year. When Xie Jingxing was still around, he used some tricks to find a lot of it every year, so Princess Rong Xin was not worried at all.

Later, when Xie Jingxing died, she had a hard time getting the herb. In the winter, the herb was even harder to find. Princess Rong Xin had been drinking the medicine without the herb for a long time. A few days ago, the medical hall said that they still didn't have that herb but she did not expect it to be delivered today.

Chapter 743 Trouble (4)

The palace maid said happily, "The doctor in the medical hall said that a merchant came over from afar to sell herbs yesterday. There happened to be a large basket of that herb inside, so the medical hall bought it all. I heard from the doctor that it's enough to last until next year. What a coincidence."

Yang Xin also smiled and said, "We're in luck."

Princess Rong Xin waved her hand and said, "Send it to the kitchen."

The palace maid quickly nodded. After the palace maid left, Princess Rong Xin smiled bitterly and sighed. "When Jingxing was around, he also sent herbs in basketfuls, but now, it's become rare luck."

Yang Xin knew that Princess Rong Xin was thinking of Xie Jingxing and felt sad. Just as she was about to change the topic, she heard Princess Rong Xin say, "Help me to Xingzhi Courtyard."

Yang Xin was stunned. Xingzhi Courtyard was a courtyard in the princess's mansion. Back then, after Princess Yuqing passed away, Princess Rong Xin was angry with Xie Ding and brought Xie Jingxing to the princess's mansion to live with her. Princess Rong Xin specially got someone to make a courtyard for him, which was called Xingzhi Courtyard. Later, Xie Ding took Xie Jingxing back, and Princess Rong Xin did not get anyone to tear down Xingzhi Courtyard. When Xie Jingxing grew up, he would occasionally come to the princess's mansion to stay in Xingzhi Courtyard for a few days.

However, ever since Xie Jingxing died in battle two years ago, Princess Rong Xin had gotten someone to lock Xingzhi Courtyard. Other than having servants clean it every day, no one was allowed to enter. She

was also afraid of recalling the past and getting sad, so she never stepped into Xingzhi Courtyard. Today, for the first time in two years, she wanted to go to Xingzhi Courtyard to take a look.

Yang Xin did not dare to disobey Princess Rong Xin's instructions. She helped Princess Rong Xin to Xingzhi Courtyard worriedly. Princess Rong Xin said, "For some reason, I've been dreaming about Jingxing for the past few days..." As she spoke, her expression became strange. Yang Xin was a little puzzled.

Princess Rong Xin had been feeling uneasy for some reason.

For the past few days, she had been dreaming every night about a young man in purple with half a silver mask on his face. She did not know who it was, so she reached out and took off his mask. That person had a face identical to Xie Jingxing's, but he called her "Princess Rong Xin" instead of "Auntie".

It was Prince Rui's voice.

Every time Princess Rong Xin woke up from her dream, she felt that most of her back was drenched in sweat. She wondered if she had mixed Xie Jingxing with Prince Rui because both of them shared the same pet name.

The more she thought about it, the more she missed Xie Jingxing. She wanted to go to Xingzhi Courtyard today to take a look.

While she was thinking, she had already arrived at Xingzhi Courtyard. The guards outside the courtyard were a little surprised to see her. Princess Rong Xin had not set foot here for two years, and she did not allow anyone to enter. The guards made way for her, and Princess Rong Xin and Yang Xin walked in.

The room was still the same as two years ago. Because someone cleaned it every day, there was no dust at all. It looked brand new and neat, as if time had stopped. It made Princess Rong Xin feel that when she turned around, she could see the handsome young man lying on the bed with his legs crossed, eating an apple casually.

The shelves were filled with the things Xie Jingxing liked to play with since he was young, and the chairs were draped with Xie Jingxing's old clothes.

Princess Rong Xin walked to the clothes and picked it up. She reached out to touch the patterns on it and said nostalgically, "It's exactly the same as before."

Yang Xin did not know what to say. She was afraid that Princess Rong Xin would fall into the memories of the past and be sad, so she said, "The golden thread on it is still brand new."

Princess Rong Xin chuckled and said, "Jingxing is a very well-behaved child. When he was young, other than purple, he refused to wear any other colors. I felt that purple would make him look old and not suitable for children, so I wanted to embroider flowers for him on it, but he didn't like it. Later, the embroiderer in the palace embroidered dark patterns on the corners of his robe with golden thread, which satisfied him. He wanted his clothes to be gorgeous but not too eye-catching. He really had a weird taste."

Yang Xin smiled. "Young Marquis is born noble. Only Young Marquis will look so good in purple. Back then, when Your Highness brought him to the palace, people thought he was a prince."

"He looks like a member of the royal family. Even Yuqing didn't have such an aura back then." Princess Rong Xin smiled. As she stroked the dark patterns embroidered with golden thread at the corner of the robe, she stopped smiling.

His expression gradually became solemn.

Just as she had said to Yang Xin just now, Xie Jingxing was very picky about clothes. He liked to wear purple clothes and liked his clothes to look gorgeous but not eye-catching. He wanted his clothes to be embroidered with dark golden thread on the corners. Because he had high standards, the needlework had to be done painstakingly and the patterns were very intricate.

However, that day in the palace, Prince Rui, who was holding Shen Miao's hand, was also wearing a purple robe. The golden thread on his sleeve was exactly the same as what Xie Jingxing used to wear.

Princess Rong Xin was not in good health, but she was not blind. That day, when she saw Prince Rui and heard Shen Miao call him Xie Jingxing, she thought of him as Xie Jingxing for a moment. However, later, when she saw Prince Rui's expression and temperament, she found him very unfamiliar. After hearing Prince Rui's explanation, she dispelled this thought. However, she felt that something was wrong. After returning home, she kept thinking of Xie Jingxing and Prince Rui.

She had always thought that the reason why she was brooding over this was because Prince Rui and Xie Jingxing's pet name was the same, but now, it had nothing to do with the pet name. It was simply because she saw the embroidery on his sleeve.

After spending more than ten years with Xie Jingxing, Princess Rong Xin treated him as her own son. Mothers were always especially concerned about their children, even if it was just a small matter. She still remembered the pattern on the sleeve clearly. However, ever since Xie Jingxing died, she had not seen this pattern for two years and did not remember it for a moment. Today, she remembered that Prince Rui was wearing a robe with the same pattern.

Sometimes, all it took was a light flick for the first domino to fall.

They both liked to wear purple color, had the same patterns on the corners of their robes, were called "Jingxing", and had a special relationship with Shen Miao.

Princess Rong Xin suddenly thought of the basket of the herb.

Why didn't she have it before? Why did she receive it today? Was it because a few days ago, she had a heart attack in front of Prince Rui, and a few days later, a merchant came from afar to sell herbs, among which there happened to be a basketful of the herb she desperately needed?

Too many coincidences happened, so it was no longer a coincidence.

Once the seed of doubt germinated, it would never grow back. It would quickly grow into a towering tree until it was rooted deeply into the soil and stood there indestructibly.

Although his temperament and figure had changed, there were some things that could not be changed, such as some small mannerisms, such as... the connection of kindred.

Princess Rong Xin suddenly squatted down and pressed on her chest. Yang Xin was shocked and saw that Princess Rong Xin's face was pale, and large drops of sweat had started to appear on her forehead. She quickly shouted, "Someone! Call a doctor! Princess is having a heart attack again!"

A hand suddenly grabbed Yang Xin's hand. Princess Rong Xin looked in pain, but her tone was very firm. She said, "Help me back to the study and prepare a letter."

She had to verify something herself.

Chapter 745 Trouble (6)

When Shen Miao woke up, Luo Xueyan told her happily that her marriage with the crown prince had been put on hold for the time being.

When Prince Rui and Emperor Wen Hui were chatting, he accidentally mentioned the cities at the border. Emperor Wen Hui was worried that the Daliang Dynasty would make some moves, so at this critical moment, he must not anger Shen Xin. Therefore, he would not mention Shen Miao's marriage for the time being.

Luo Xueyan said, "Prince Rui mentioned it at the right time. With more time, we can slowly choose a suitable man for Jiaojiao."

Shen Miao naturally knew that Prince Rui did not "accidentally" mention the cities. While she heaved a sigh of relief, Shen Miao could not help but be shocked by Xie Jingxing's methods.

Xie Jingxing's methods were not very brilliant, but they were very effective. With just a few words, he made the emperor hesitate and not dare to make a move. The crown prince's marriage was ruined, and Prince Ding's plan was ruined.

At the thought of this, Shen Miao was a little angry. The crisis that stumped her was resolved so easily by Xie Jingxing, making her look very incompetent. She couldn't help but think of Xie Jingxing's frivolous actions that night and wanted to beat him up.

Luo Tan said, "Little Cousin, why are you holding this book so tightly? You are about to tear the pages."

Only then did Shen Miao come back to her senses. She quickly let go and was a little embarrassed. Recently, when she thought of Xie Jingxing, she tended to lose control of her emotions.

Luo Tan held her chin with both hands and looked at her mischievously. "Are you thinking that Brother Ling, Young Master Su, and Brother Feng are all outstanding and you don't know which one to choose?"

Shen Miao said, "You're thinking too much."

Just as Luo Tan was about to say something, she saw Luo Ling walk in. Luo Tan stuck out her tongue and shouted, "Brother Ling."

Luo Ling smiled and said, "What are you talking about?"

"We're talking about Little Cousin's marriage." Luo Tan said loudly, "Little Cousin hasn't decided who to marry yet, so I came over to ask about it."

Shen Miao felt helpless. If it were an ordinary girl, she would probably be embarrassed.

Shen Miao did not have any reaction. On the contrary, Luo Ling was a little embarrassed. He put his hand to his mouth and cleared his throat. He looked around and said, "Cousin Miao, do you like the pendant?"

"Pendant?" Shen Miao frowned and asked, "What pendant?"

Luo Ling was stunned for a moment before saying, "Yesterday, I..."

Before he could finish speaking, he was interrupted by a servant outside. He said that Luo Xueyan asked Shen Miao to go to the front hall.

Luo Ling swallowed his words and smiled, asking Shen Miao to go first. Shen Miao smiled apologetically at him and said, "I'll talk to you later."

When she arrived at the front hall, she found out that someone from the princess mansion was here. Princess Rong Xin sent an invitation to Shen Miao and asked her to go and meet her.

Princess Rong Xin had saved Shen Miao a few times. Shen Xin and his wife were very grateful to her and had no reason to refuse, let alone Shen Miao. She smiled and accepted the invitation, but her heart was unusually heavy.

If it were in the past, Shen Miao would have accepted Princess Rong Xin's invitation without hesitation. To be honest, Princess Rong Xin treated her well because of Xie Jingxing. When she found out that Emperor Wen Hui wanted to give Shen Miao to the crown prince, she even spoke up for Shen Miao.

But what was so important that Princess Rong Xin wanted to talk to her in person?

Shen Miao couldn't help but think of that day in the palace when she was seen arguing with Xie Jingxing by Princess Rong Xin. At that time, she called Xie Jingxing's name. Later, Xie Jingxing brushed Princess Rong Xin off, but Shen Miao still felt uneasy. If Xie Jingxing was someone Princess Rong Xin knew and loved deeply, no matter what happened to him, she could still notice some clues.

Shen Miao's intuition had always been very accurate. She had never thought that Xie Jingxing could still hide his identity from Princess Rong Xin after bumping into her. Because the consequences were terrifying and unpredictable, she did not dare to dwell on it.

However, escaping was not an option because trouble had already come knocking on the door.

Shen Miao felt that Princess Rong Xin might have discovered something suspicious, but she could not reject this invitation, because rejecting was equivalent to admitting it.

Chapter 746 Exposed (1)

Shen Miao was asked to go the next afternoon. Luo Xueyan also asked Shen Xin to prepare a lot of gifts for Shen Miao to bring to the princess mansion. Because Princess Rong Xin had helped Shen Miao a lot, Luo Xueyan wanted to express her gratitude to Princess Rong Xin.

In order to prevent anything from happening on the way, Shen Qiu asked Ah Zhi and Mo Qing to go along. Even so, along the way, Shen Miao's expression was not very relaxed. Seeing this, Jingzhe and Gu Yu thought that Shen Miao was worried about her safety on the way and comforted her for a long time.

In the carriage, Shen Miao had been thinking about how to answer Princess Rong Xin if she asked about Xie Jingxing. However, Princess Rong Xin was a very cautious person, and once she was suspicious, it would be very difficult to dispel her suspicion.

Shen Miao felt a headache coming on.

Jingzhe smiled and said, "Miss, what are you thinking? It's been a long time since I've seen you like this."

Shen Miao was slightly stunned. That's right. Ever since she was reborn, her path had been especially smooth-sailing. Luo Xueyan, Shen Xin, and Shen Qiu were all prevented from repeating their previous fate. But what did others have to do with her? At this moment, she was racking her brains to help Xie Jingxing, but what was the relationship between her and Xie Jingxing? Did she have to go such a length to worry about him?

Shen Miao was a little frustrated. One of the voices in her mind said that this was all caused by Xie Jingxing and she should let him solve it himself. The other voice said that she shouldn't leave Xie Jingxing to face this knotty matter alone.

Unknowingly, before Shen Miao could think of a solution, the carriage had already arrived at the entrance of the princess mansion. Almost all the servants in the princess mansion had an impression of Shen Miao, so they naturally welcomed her in respectfully. Shen Miao asked Mo Qing and the others to stay outside the mansion before walking in with the palace maid.

She was brought straight to Princess Rong Xin's bedroom.

Although Princess Rong Xin was usually very low-key, the princess mansion was spacious and grand. However, ever since the death of her husband, Princess Rong Xin did not care much about these worldly possessions. Therefore, the bedroom was simple and even gave people a sense of desolation.

Princess Rong Xin was drinking the sweet soup sent by the kitchen. Seeing that Shen Miao had arrived, she instructed the servants to scoop a bowl for her. She smiled and said, "This is made by the new chef. He's very good at making snacks and sweet soup. I tasted it and think it's better than the ones made in the palace. Try it too."

Shen Miao thanked Princess Rong Xin and picked up the bowl to taste it in small sips. She actually did not like sweet food, but for the sake of Princess Rong Xin, she did not refuse. As she drank, she observed Princess Rong Xin's expression.

Princess Rong Xin looked much better than that day in the palace. Her face was very rosy and she seemed to be in a good mood. Shen Miao said with a smile, "Princess, you look in much better health."

"Recently, I received a basket full of a rare herb. The kitchen makes medicine from it for me every day. It's hard for me not to be healthy." Princess Rong Xin sighed and said, "I'm really lucky. In the past, it was very difficult to find this herb. I didn't expect to see so much of it at this time." Her tone was filled with surprise.

Chapter 747 Exposed (2)

Shen Miao originally thought that Princess Rong Xin was going to ask about Xie Jingxing today, but she did not expect Princess Rong Xin to not mention it at all. Instead, she changed the topic and started talking about how Emperor Wen Hui decided to postpone Shen Miao's marriage a few days ago.

"My brother has always been stubborn. He seems to want you to be his daughter-in-law very much. After you left that day, I personally went to talk him out of it, but he didn't listen to me. Later, it was all thanks to Prince Rui." She looked at Shen Miao and smiled. "I think General Shen has already told you about it, right?"

Shen Miao nodded and became vigilant.

"Although it's not right for me to say this, it's all thanks to Prince Rui. If not for his words, my brother wouldn't have changed his mind, and you would definitely end up marrying the crown prince."

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Shen Miao remained silent. She did not expect Princess Rong Xin to suddenly hold her hand and say with a smile, "Previously, I saw that you seem to be very close to Prince Rui. After all, I'm much older than you and have more experience. Prince Rui has a special identity. I thought that you were young and would inevitably be used by him, but I didn't expect him to be a good person. This time, I think he said those words to help you out, right?"

Princess Rong Xin did not have such an attitude towards Prince Rui previously. Shen Miao became more and more cautious, but she did not panic at all. She only smiled and replied, "Prince Rui is noble, and I'm nothing compared to him. I'm not so arrogant as to think that Prince Rui will speak up for me."

"I know you're too awkward to tell me." Princess Rong Xin was especially stubborn and strange today. She said, "I promise you I won't tell anyone."

Shen Miao was about to speak when Princess Rong Xin turned around and started talking about something else.

Princess Rong Xin was especially excited today. She talked with Shen Miao for a long time. Just like when she mentioned Prince Rui just now, Shen Miao thought that Princess Rong Xin would continue to ask, but Princess Rong Xin suddenly changed the topic and asked if Luo Xueyan had found a suitable young man for her.

Princess Rong Xin had no intention of ending the conversation and sending Shen Miao back home. Shen Miao did not understand what Princess Rong Xin was up to.

Jingzhe and Gu Yu wanted Shen Miao to go back before dark for safety reasons. However, it wasn't their place to speak, so they could only wait anxiously.

After finishing the last pot of tea, Princess Rong Xin stood up. Jingzhe and Gu Yu heaved a sigh of relief. They thought that they could finally go back. Unexpectedly, Princess Rong Xin held Shen Miao's hand affectionately and said with a smile, "Come with me to take a walk in the courtyard."

Jingzhe and Gu Yu were puzzled. Princess Rong Xin had lived here for so many years and walked around the courtyard every day. Why did she ask Shen Miao to walk around the courtyard with her? Moreover,

it was very cold outside in the dark. Why would she want to walk around the courtyard? Were all the princesses of the royal family like this?

Chapter 748 Exposed (3)

Shen Miao understood now. Princess Rong Xin clearly had her own agenda. She definitely did not invite Shen Miao here just for a chit-chat. Princess Rong Xin must have her own plans.

However, Shen Miao could not refuse.

She said, "Sure."

To Jingzhe and Gu Yu's surprise, the "courtyard" where Princess Rong Xin brought Shen Miao turned out to be a side courtyard. There were no lanterns at the door at night, so they could not see the words on the plaque.

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Princess Rong Xin held Shen Miao's hand and stepped into the house. She smiled and said, "This courtyard is called Xingzhi Courtyard."

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. She knew what Princess Rong Xin was going to say next.

As expected, as soon as Princess Rong Xin entered the room, she stroked the furnishings on the shelf with both hands and smiled. "This is where Jingxing used to live."

Jingzhe and Gu Yu followed behind. When they heard this, they were a little surprised. Was this the place where the young marquis of Lin'an lived?

"Jingxing lost his mother when he was young. After Yuqing died, I took pity on him because he had a rough life at a young age. I was also angry with the Marquis of Lin'an for taking in a concubine and causing a mess in the house. Yuqing had a bitter life. Before she died, she was even called a jealous woman. At that time, I was furious and was afraid that Concubine Fang would use some sinister methods on Jingxing, so I brought him home to raise him."

"Jingxing was born very naughty and was very close to me. I don't have a son, so I thought it would be good to keep Jingxing by my side. Later, I built a courtyard for him here."

When Princess Rong Xin mentioned these things, she was lost in thought. As she described, Shen Miao seemed to be able to see a baby crying. Fortunately, Shen Miao's parents were both healthy and doted on her very much. Although she was estranged from her parents because the second and third branches of the Shen family were sowing discord, she could at least make up for it. However, Xie Jingxing had never had a mother since he was born.

Or rather, as soon as he was born, the sad and pitiful role was thrust upon him.

"Jingxing was raised very well by me. The Marquis of Lin'an came to ask for him a few times, but I didn't let Jingxing go back. However, later on, Concubine Fang also gave birth to two sons, so I returned Jingxing." Princess Rong Xin turned to look at Shen Miao. "Do you know why?"

Shen Miao thought for a moment and said, "Because Young Marquis Xie is the legitimate son of the Marquis of Lin'an. If Young Marquis Xie continues to stay with you, he will be taken advantage of by the two illegitimate sons of Concubine Fang. Perhaps the position of the Marquis of Lin'an will fall into their hands in the future."

When Princess Rong Xin heard that, she smiled and said, "I've long known that you're a perceptive person. When I was your age, I definitely wouldn't have thought of this."

Shen Miao smiled and did not comment. Of course, as a young girl, she wouldn't have thought of this. However, she was once a mother of two children. If it were Wanyu and Fu Ming, she would also let them go back. What right did others have to take away what was theirs?

"Although Jingxing went back, he and I still have a very good relationship. It's said that blood is thicker than water. I was afraid that once he went back, he would be fooled by despicable people and would hold a grudge against me and Yuqing. However, what surprised me and made me happy is that his relationship with the Marquis of Lin'an has never been very good. No matter how the Marquis of Lin'an pleases him, he still lives the way he wants. Sometimes, I think that he and the Marquis of Lin'an really don't look like a father and son."

Chapter 749 Exposed (4)

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. What Princess Rong Xin was driving at was too obvious.

Princess Rong Xin picked up a small mirror on the shelf and said, "Actually, he doesn't look like the Marquis of Lin'an, and he doesn't look like Yuqing either. The Marquis of Lin'an is stupid and indecisive. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been used by a little b*tch like Concubine Fang. Yuqing was a lovestruck fool. She lost her life because of it. However, Jingxing is different from the two of them."

"Jingxing looked mischievous, but he was extremely decisive. One of his good friends used to take a fancy to a sword he got. His friend did not say it, but he understood it. Later, he said that he liked his friend's mirror and exchanged his sword for it."

"I asked him why he said he liked that mirror when he clearly didn't like it. He told me because he didn't like that sword either."

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"When he was young, he seemed to know very well what he wanted and didn't want. For things he didn't want, he wouldn't even take a look at it. He always liked to smile and was popular among girls, but he didn't show interest in these girls."

Princess Rong Xin stared at Shen Miao. For a moment, Shen Miao felt that Princess Rong Xin and Xie Jingxing were a little similar in some ways, especially when they stared at people with sharp eyes, as if they could see through people's souls.

She continued, "I thought that the title of the Marquis of Lin'an was not something he wanted, so from the beginning, he never had any kinship with the Marquis of Lin'an. I always thought that I was someone he wanted to hold on to tightly, but now it seems that I was wrong. I'm also someone he doesn't need, right?"

The question was directed at Shen Miao.

Jingzhe and Gu Yu had already been pulled out by Princess Rong Xin's personal maid, Yang Xin. There was no one else in the room. Shen Miao listened quietly and said, "Young Marquis always had you in his heart."

"Shen Miao, I know you're smart." Princess Rong Xin said, "If he really had me in his heart, why would he lie that he's dead? Why would he watch as I'm tortured by his death? He clearly planned everything from the beginning and took advantage of my trust in him. He was in front of me but he refused to acknowledge me and used a lousy excuse to brush me off. Shen Miao, tell me, does he really love me in his heart?"

At the end of her sentence, her tone suddenly became sharp, almost questioning angrily.

Shen Miao's heart sank. At the end of the day, Princess Rong Xin still discovered it.

But Shen Miao still didn't want to admit it.

There were many things that she could not say even if she knew it, even if there was ample evidence. Princess Rong Xin was a princess of Ming Qi, and Xie Jingxing was Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty. Once the secret was out and Princess Rong Xin made it public, Shen Miao could not imagine what kind of change it would bring to the overall situation and how much trouble it would cause Xie Jingxing.

Even if Princess Rong Xin was absolutely certain that she was right.

Shen Miao said, "I don't understand what Princess is talking about."

Princess Rong Xin looked at her disdainfully. The kindness and gentleness from before were gone, and it was replaced by the condescension of a superior when facing a subordinate. That was the most common expression of the royal family. Once upon a time, Shen Miao could see it every day. She suddenly felt a sense of disgust. It was not that she hated Princess Rong Xin, but she probably hated the blood of the royal family flowing in Princess Rong Xin. Princess Rong Xin said, "Do you know what kind of crime it is to deceive the royal family?"

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"It is the crime of treason and of deceiving the royal family, which is enough to get your entire family implicated and executed. I think you saw what happened to Shen Wan back then. Are you still going to lie to me?"

Shen Miao said, "I didn't lie."

"You won't shed a tear until you see the coffin, right?" Princess Rong Xin's voice was chilling. "If your answer today doesn't satisfy me, as long as I mention it to my brother, what awaits your Shen family will be a catastrophe. Do you want your parents and brother to die for your willfulness?"

Shen Miao didn't speak.

Princess Rong Xin slowly continued, "Now, tell me, Prince Rui is Xie Jingxing, who died in battle, right?"

"No." Shen Miao said firmly, as if the terrifying threats from Princess Rong Xin before were nothing.

“Shen Miao!” Princess Rong Xin was furious. “I will send the entire Shen family to prison!”

“You can’t without a justifiable reason.”

“As long as I want, I can put anyone to prison.” Princess Rong Xin threatened.

Shen Miao sneered in her heart. The royal family was just like this, unreasonable and domineering. Even Princess Rong Xin, who was the most impartial, would not hesitate to use imperial power to bully people when she wanted to reach her goal.

Humans were complicated and selfish.

“Let me ask you again. Is Prince Rui Xie Jingxing?”

“No.”

Princess Rong Xin was infuriated. Usually, she admired Shen Miao for being calm and collected. When this calmness was used to deal with her, Princess Rong Xin felt that she was facing a wall that she couldn’t penetrate. Ordinary girls would be terrified after being threatened, but Shen Miao was not.

“Guards!” Princess Rong Xin’s expression darkened. “Take Shen Miao...”

Before she could finish, the rest of her words were swallowed back down.

A purple figure jumped in through the back window. There was no one guarding the backyard, so no one saw him. That person was dressed in dark purple brocade robe, and the corner of his robe was embroidered with a pattern Princess Rong Xin was most familiar with.

After he entered the room, he took a look and walked up to Shen Miao leisurely. As if he was in his own mansion, he stood in front of Princess Rong Xin and said lazily and unhurriedly, “She’s timid. Auntie Rong, don’t scare her.”

Princess Rong Xin had been silent since she saw this person. She stood rooted to the ground in a daze. When she heard him call her “Auntie Rong”, she pointed at him and was so trembling that she could not speak.

In this small room, the candlelight swayed slightly. The person played with the ring on his thumb and was wearing a half-silver mask. The mask emitted a cold light, revealing a faint smile on his red lips.

Shen Miao stared at Xie Jingxing in disbelief. She did not expect Xie Jingxing to have the guts to show up in front of Princess Rong Xin! It had to be known that Xie Jingxing had already died on the battlefield in the northern border two years ago. If Xie Jingxing was seen alive and having taken the identity of Prince Rui, what awaited him was unimaginable.

How dare he?