

Venomous 761

Chapter 761 Waves (4)

He had a good relationship with Xie Jingxing and was considered Xie Jingxing's best friend in Ming Qi. Because they grew up together, he definitely knew something others didn't.

It was Su Mingfeng, the son of the Earl of Pingnan.

Princess Rong Xin immediately called the servant to send the invitation.

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It was approaching the end of the year.

The commoners were busy buying new year goods, and the streets were bustling with activity every day. Life was harmonious. Ordinary people could not imagine what was on the minds of people in high positions, just like how goshawks and sparrows were destined to see different things in the sky.

Ever since Emperor Wen Hui was shocked by the ambition Prince Rui revealed a few days ago, he became more and more interested in forming an alliance with the State of Qin. As Emperor Wen Hui showed more and more sincerity, Huangfu Hao was also tempted.

The government office in Ming Qi was at Huangfu Hao's command. Even the Judicial Office had to listen to Huangfu Hao. No matter what the outcome of the investigation was, Emperor Wen Hui had given Huangfu Hao enough authority and respect. Until now, he still could not find out the cause of Princess Ming An's death. Huangfu Hao thought that it was not that Ming Qi was deliberately covering things up. After all, he had seen the progress of the case with his own eyes. Perhaps Princess Ming An had offended a big shot at some point. Otherwise, why would there be no trace left at all?

In the end, what Prince Rui said to Emperor Wen Hui also reached Huangfu Hao's ears. At the beginning, Huangfu Hao deliberately put on airs in an attempt to seek more benefits for the State of Qin. When he heard Prince Rui's words, Huangfu Hao couldn't sit still anymore.

If Prince Rui represented the Daliang Dynasty and really wanted the cities where Ming Qi produced ores, just as Emperor Wen Hui was worried, Ming Qi would be in danger. The State of Qin alone was not a match for the Daliang Dynasty. Moreover, after seizing Ming Qi's military strength, weapons, and wealth, the Daliang Dynasty would only become more unstoppable. At that time, when the Daliang Dynasty came to deal with the State of Qin, the State of Qin would be helpless.

The purpose of the alliance between the State of Qin and Ming Qi was to counterbalance the Daliang Dynasty.

Huangfu Hao sent the news back to the State of Qin. Although the emperor of the State of Qin was also angry that he lost a princess in Ming Qi for nothing, a princess was really insignificant compared to the entire State of Qin. The emperor of the State of Qin only asked Huangfu Hao to ignore the matter of Princess Ming An's death for the time being and to form an alliance with Ming Qi.

After receiving the news from the emperor of the State of Qin, Huangfu Hao had been visiting the palace more frequently these days, and the relationship between Emperor Wen Hui and Huangfu Hao had become much closer.

Emperor Wen Hui wanted to support the crown prince. Previously, he wanted to marry Shen Miao to the crown prince. Unexpectedly, Prince Rui suddenly revealed his ambition, so he had something more urgent to deal with. Now that Huangfu Hao was here, he could let Huangfu Hao and the crown prince interact more and become friends.

Everything in this world was inextricably connected, but the connections were not at all obvious. Smart people were good at unraveling the connections and using them to their advantage.

At the Minister Counsellor's mansion.

Shen Dongling was drinking tea.

It was an high-end tea that would cost a few hundred taels of silver for a small handful. She drank tea in a beautiful and graceful manner and was wearing a cotton jacket made of brocade from the south. She was very beautiful and charming. At a glance, one could tell that she was a rich young woman who lived a pampered life.

Chapter 762 Waves (5)

No one could tell that not long ago, she was still an unknown illegitimate daughter of the Shen family. She did not leave the courtyard all year round, so people did not know that she used to be the daughter of the Shen family.

Although the Wang family did not look like it was more powerful than other families, it was still considered very affluent. Before marrying Wang Bi, Shen Dongling had always thought that the Wang family followed Prince Zhou, but later, she found out the Wang family was actually with the crown prince. The reason why they could be so rich was that they had some dealings with salt smugglers, and a large portion of the illegal money flowed into the crown prince's mansion.

Shen Dongling was extremely satisfied with Wang Bi. Wang Bi looked honest, but in fact, he was smart and could be considered a valuable person under the crown prince. Back then, Shen Yue looked down on Wang Bi, because she didn't know Wang Bi well. Shen Dongling was born beautiful and had a gentle personality. More importantly, she could give some suggestions to Wang Bi. However, she would never interfere too much. The more this was the case, the better Wang Bi treated her. Wang Bi had always been happy that Shen Yue swapped the marriage with Shen Dongling. The Wang family only had one son and Wang Bi was competent. It was not an exaggeration to say that Wang Bi had the ultimate say. As the young madam of the Wang family, Shen Dongling was respected by all the servants. If Ren Wanyun was still alive, she would probably be furious to see her doing so well.

It was the same today.

Wang Bi returned from outside and handed the pastry to the maid, saying, "I passed by Guangfu Restaurant and bought you your favorite cloud cake."

"Husband, you're very considerate." Shen Dongling poured tea for him with a smile, her every move gentle and graceful. She was the daughter of a concubine and had a special charm. She smiled and said, "Husband, you seem to be very happy today. Is anything good going to happen?"

Wang Bi did not hide most of the things from Shen Dongling, because Shen Dongling was not big-mouthed. Occasionally, she could help him share his burden. Wang Bi said, "His Majesty asked Huangfu

Hao to interact more with the crown prince. It's obvious that he wants to form an alliance with the State of Qin and that he wants to support the crown prince. Since we're the crown prince's people, when the crown prince inherits the throne in the future, we will definitely be rewarded handsomely." He smiled and looked at Shen Dongling. "Do you think we should celebrate?"

Shen Dongling immediately smiled in surprise and said, "Really?" After saying that, she looked at Wang Bi in admiration and said softly, "Husband, you're really amazing. It's really my blessing to be your wife."

Being looked at by such an adoring gaze by a beautiful woman, Wang Bi felt smug. He smiled and said, "If His Majesty had given Fifth Miss Shen to the crown prince a while ago, with the support of the Shen family's military strength, the crown prince would gain an even bigger advantage. Our chances of winning would be higher. Now, although the crown prince is close to Huangfu Hao, in terms of military strength..." He sighed. "Military strength is often the most important."

Chapter 763 Waves (6)

Shen Dongling leaned into Wang Bi's arms and reached out to touch his chest. She said gently, "Husband, you're too harsh on yourself. You're already not an ordinary person to be where you are."

This was what Wang Bi wanted to hear. He smiled and said, "You're really easily satisfied."

"I'm already satisfied to have a man like you." Shen Dongling smiled and asked casually, "So we can't let Fifth Sister marry the crown prince now?"

"Fifth Sister?" Wang Bi was stunned for a moment before saying, "I almost forgot that you two are sisters."

His question was unintentional, but in Shen Dongling's ears, it sounded especially ear-piercing. It was as if he was saying that she was the daughter of a concubine and Shen Miao was the legitimate daughter. Desires would grow with the change of the environment. In the past, Shen Dongling was busy protecting herself in the Shen family and looking for a way out for herself. She could endure the mockery and sarcasm. However, when she became the wife of the minister counselor, she became especially sensitive to these things.

"It's not that we can't." Wang Bi said, "It's just that the Daliang Dynasty's ambitions are unclear now. Everything else has to be postponed. We still need Shen Xin's help. I heard that the Shen family doesn't want Shen Miao to marry the crown prince either. It's very likely that Shen Xin will marry Shen Miao off during this period of time. At that time, the crown prince's plan will fail."

"Can't the emperor settle the marriage first?" Shen Dongling asked.

Wang Bi said, "Shen Xin doesn't want Shen Miao to marry the crown prince, and Shen Miao doesn't want to either. It won't be good if Shen Xin is dissatisfied at this time."

"Isn't Shen Xin just using his power to intimidate people?" Shen Dongling curled her lips.

"You can say that." Wang Bi smiled.

"Then why can't we let the crown prince use his power to intimidate others?"

Wang Bi smiled. "Crown Prince is kind and virtuous. He won't do such a thing."

"If everyone in the world wants Fifth Sister to marry the crown prince, will she still be able to refuse?"

As Wang Bi listened, his expression gradually became serious. He looked at Shen Dongling, who was nestling in his arms, looking cute.

Wang Bi was a smart person. He could tell that Shen Dongling had a trick up her sleeve. He asked, "You must have an idea in mind. Tell me about it."

"Husband, you're really bad. What good will it do me to tell you?" Shen Dongling asked.

"Ummm." Wang Bi pretended to think for a moment and said, "If your idea is proven useful, I'll think of a way to ask the crown prince to give you a noble title." He thought that if Shen Dongling really had a way to make Shen Miao marry the crown prince, she would have made a great contribution. It wouldn't be unreasonable for the crown prince to confer a noble title to Shen Dongling.

When Shen Dongling heard this, a trace of satisfaction flashed across her eyes.

She said, "I'm not doing this for a title, but for you, husband. I naturally support you in whatever you want to do. If you want to assist the future emperor, I will also assist the future emperor." The considerate words she said made Wang Bi even happier.

"Actually, this method is very simple. As long as the crown prince of the State of Qin cooperates," she continued.

Chapter 764 Black-hearted Couple (1)

When Wang Bi heard this, he asked, "What do you mean?"

Shen Dongling smiled. "Isn't Ming Qi about to form an alliance with the State of Qin? According to what you said, the State of Qin is also happy to form an alliance with us, right? What if the condition for the State of Qin to agree to the alliance is for Fifth Sister to marry Huangfu Hao?"

"This won't work. Even if His Majesty has no choice but to agree for the sake of the safety of the people and the country, General Shen won't agree to let Fifth Miss Shen marry far away." Wang Bi knew very well that Shen Xin doted on his daughter. If Shen Miao went to the State of Qin, Shen Xin would not have the chance to see her again.

Shen Dongling smiled. "That's right. However, if this news spreads and the people of Ming Qi find out, they will definitely ask General Shen to marry Fifth Sister over. After all, Huangfu Hao is the crown prince of the State of Qin and is not bad-looking. It's not a bad marriage for Fifth Sister. If First Uncle doesn't agree, the State of Qin won't ally with Ming Qi. The Daliang Dynasty might take advantage of the situation and Ming Qi will be in danger."

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Wang Bi fell into deep thought.

Shen Dongling continued, "Everyone knows that my first uncle values the lives of the people more than his own life. Now, between the safety of the people and his daughter, he will have to choose the former."

“Even His Majesty can’t do whatever he wants. He has to consider the people, let alone my first uncle. On one hand, my uncle doesn’t want the alliance between Ming Qi and the State of Qin to fall flat, but on the other hand, he doesn’t want Fifth Sister to marry far away. At this moment, as long as the crown prince steps out and says that Fifth Sister is already engaged to him, everything will be resolved.”

“This...” Wang Bi was a little hesitant when he heard that. Shen Dongling continued with a smile, “Huangfu Hao won’t be so impudent as to snatch the crown prince’s woman. Moreover, there was indeed news of this marriage spreading a few days ago. Huangfu Hao only needs to ask around to find out. Compared to marrying Huangfu Hao, who lives far away in the State of Qin, First Uncle is naturally more inclined to let Fifth Sister marry the crown prince. At this juncture, if the crown prince helps Fifth Sister out, First Uncle will also be grateful to him.”

Wang Bi’s eyes lit up. He was smart to begin with, so he naturally understood the merits of Shen Dongling’s idea and fell into deep thought.

Before Shen Dongling could finish, she wrapped her arms around Wang Bi’s neck and said, “However, in order to put on this show, Huangfu Hao and the crown prince need to cooperate. The crown prince can give Huangfu Hao some benefits. If Huangfu Hao gets it, he’ll be willing to put on a show together.”

Wang Bi hugged Shen Dongling tightly and kissed her on the cheek. “I didn’t expect I would be so lucky as to marry a think tank!”

Shen Dongling lowered her head in embarrassment. “Husband, don’t tease me. I just thought of it suddenly. There must be many flaws in this idea, but you can definitely think of a way to perfect it.”

“It’s not easy for you to come up with this idea.” The more Wang Bi looked at Shen Dongling, the happier he became. He said, “You’ve helped me a lot this time. Don’t worry, when it’s done, I’ll definitely mention your contributions to the crown prince.”

Shen Dongling snorted disdainfully in her heart. Men were most afraid of their contributions being shared by others. Moreover, she was a woman. It would be strange if Wang Bi would mention her contributions. What he said just now was sweet nothing.

Chapter 765 Black-hearted Couple (2)

However, Shen Dongling still nudged Wang Bi and said anxiously, “Husband, don’t mention that this is my idea. How can I scheme against my sister for no reason? If not for the fact that I want to help you out today, I won’t have said it. If word gets out, how will people look at me?”

Wang Bi never meant to mention her contributions at all. If Shen Dongling showed eagerness for the credit, he would think that she was too greedy. However, at this moment, Shen Dongling’s rejection made him extremely satisfied. The more he looked at Shen Dongling, the more affectionate he became. He said, “Alright, alright, alright, I won’t say anything. However, this is not a bad thing. When the crown prince ascends the throne, Fifth Miss Shen will be a consort. She will definitely thank you.”

Shen Dongling smiled and said, “I think so too.” However, she knew in her heart that Shen Miao was not a person who coveted power at all. The Shen family had already treated Shen Miao as the apple of their eyes, so wealth was not important to her. In some ways, Shen Miao was like Shen Xin, with a

stubbornness in her bones. To others, marrying the crown prince was a good thing. Even if they were unwilling at the first place, they would slowly be tempted by the endless wealth.

"I'm sorry," Shen Dongling said in her heart. In the entire Shen family, the person she did not want to be enemies with the least was Shen Miao, because Shen Miao was dangerous and had the unconditional support of Shen Xin. However... things were different now.

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Now Shen Dongling had the ability to go against Shen Miao. Shen Dongling suddenly remembered that she was actually jealous of Shen Miao. Shen Dongling could trample the rest of the Shen family, including Shen Yue and Shen Qing but not Shen Miao. The family Shen Miao could rely on was also something Shen Dongling would never be able to get.

Once people of low status became powerful, they would abandon their previous cautiousness and humbleness. This was why scholars from poor families became extremely arrogant after becoming a small official.

Because of her former low status, she was constantly afraid that others would look down on her.

Just as Shen Dongling was in a daze, she heard Wang Bi say, "We need to plan carefully. I have to discuss it with the crown prince first."

Shen Dongling came back to her senses and smiled. "It'll be good if we can ask Fifth Sister out at that time." She thought for a moment and said, "I can send an invitation to Fifth Sister."

"Oh?" Wang Bi asked, "Will she come out?"

It was as if he had long known that Shen Dongling and Shen Miao were not very close. However, in Shen Dongling's ears, she once again felt like he was mocking her for being an illegitimate daughter and different from Shen Miao. Suppressing the displeasure in her heart, Shen Dongling said, "Husband, you don't believe me? Don't worry, I'll definitely ask Fifth Sister out."

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In the Earl of Pingnan's mansion, Su Mingfeng was also having a headache.

Yesterday, Princess Rong Xin actually came to the Earl of Pingnan's mansion. Princess Rong Xin had not gone out for a long time and lived in seclusion. She came out in disguise, and Su Mingfeng almost did not recognize her.

Princess Rong Xin must have something extremely important to do for her to come to the Earl of Pingnan's mansion. Princess Rong Xin asked the servants to report directly to Su Mingfeng, which meant that her coming had nothing to do with Su Yu. Although Su Mingfeng did not understand, he did not dare to be negligent. He led Princess Rong Xin in, thinking that Princess Rong Xin wanted him to do something.

Unexpectedly, Princess Rong Xin was not here to ask him to do something, but to ask him about something.

Chapter 766 Black-hearted Couple (3)

The thing she asked shocked Su Mingfeng. It was about Xie Jingxing.

Xie Jingxing died on the battlefield in the northern border two years ago. Because everyone in the capital knew that Xie Jingxing and Princess Rong Xin were very close, after Xie Jingxing died, Princess Rong Xin fell seriously ill. Ever since then, no one dared to mention Xie Jingxing in front of Princess Rong Xin, lest Princess Rong Xin thought of something sad.

Unexpectedly, Princess Rong Xin took the initiative to ask Mingfeng about Xie Jingxing.

Princess Rong Xin asked Su Mingfeng about Xie Jingxing's past and asked him if Xie Jingxing had any secrets. In the end, she asked about Xie Jingxing's corpse.

Back then, Xie Jingxing was shot in the heart by ten thousand arrows by the enemy army on the northern border. His head was cut off and hung on the city gate tower, skinned, and dried. At that time, the Xie army all witnessed it, so it could not possibly be faked. Later, when they thought of a way to get the corpse back, it was already destroyed to an unrecognizable extent. At that time, when Xie Ding saw Xie Jingxing's corpse, he fainted. Princess Rong Xin was afraid that she would not be able to take it, so she did not go to look at it at all. On the other hand, Su Mingfeng, Xie Jingxing's childhood playmate, went to send him off for the last time.

Princess Rong Xin came to ask Su Mingfeng if he was sure that the corpse was Xie Jingxing.

If it were any other time, Su Mingfeng would at most feel a little puzzled. However, ever since he met Shen Miao on the street last time and found the tiger head bracelet on Shen Miao's wrist, Su Mingfeng had been suspicious and kept an eye on Shen Miao. Su Mingfeng almost immediately confirmed his guess that Xie Jingxing was not dead and was probably still alive.

Su Mingfeng did not understand why Xie Jingxing was still alive but wouldn't show up. After saying a few words to brush Princess Rong Xin off, Mingfeng fell into his own thoughts.

Since Princess Rong Xin was suspicious, she must have discovered something. Thinking of Shen Miao's bracelet and Princess Rong Xin's strange behavior, Su Mingfeng had a bold guess. Not only was Xie Jingxing not dead, but he was also in the capital.

However, what puzzled Su Mingfeng was that there had always been no secrets between Xie Jingxing and Princess Rong Xin, and they were the closest. Why was Xie Jingxing unwilling to tell the truth to Princess Rong Xin? Moreover, why did Princess Rong Xin ask about Xie Jingxing's childhood? What was the connection?

No matter what the reason was, Su Mingfeng felt that Xie Jingxing must have his own reasons. The most important thing now was to find Xie Jingxing. After finding Xie Jingxing, there would naturally be an answer to all the questions.

Where could he find Xie Jingxing? The capital was not big, but it was by no means small. It was definitely not easy to find a person who was hiding in the dark, especially since this person was quite capable.

Su Mingfeng planned to send someone to keep an eye on Princess Rong Xin.

Princess Rong Xin must know more than him. No matter what Princess Rong Xin was investigating, he just had to observe.

Su Mingfeng summoned a servant, instructing him something.

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When Shen Miao received Shen Dongling's invitation, Xie Jingxing was drinking tea in her room. Ever since that night, Xie Jingxing had been meddling in her matters. At first, Shen Miao was very unaccustomed to it, but later, she became used to it. Anyway, Xie Jingxing was very experienced. Even if she did not tell him, he could still find out for himself. In the end, it would still be the same.

Xie Jingxing glanced at the invitation in her hand and said, "Shen Dongling?"

Chapter 767 Black-hearted Couple (4)

"She's probably up to something again." Shen Miao said, "She even invited me to smell the incense." She paused for a moment before smiling. "From the looks of it, the Wang is doing not bad."

Tasting tea and wine was within expectation, but smelling the incense was different. Some of the top-grade incense was worth thousands of gold. Shen Miao knew that the most expensive incense was the jade pear incense. A small fingernail amount of it cost ten thousand taels of gold. Once, a merchant from the Western Region paid tribute to the palace and offered a fistful of jade pear incense. At that time, all the consorts in the harem came to see it, and Shen Miao also found it very novel.

Shen Miao had always thought that the jade pear incense would be stored in the treasury. After all, it was a very precious thing. Later, on Consort Mei's birthday, Fu Xiuyi lit the jade pear incense to make her smile. On the invitation, Shen Dongling said that she prepared peacock incense. It was not as rare as jade pear incense, but it was also expensive. Given the official rank of the Wang family, they wouldn't be able to afford it. After all, many first-grade officials in the capital would not squander money like this. It was obvious that Shen Dongling had married into a family with a strong financial foundation. Shen Miao wondered if Shen Yue would be angry when she found out about it.

"Peacock incense is not cheap. She spent so much money definitely not just to catch up with me."

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"Do you think she's trying to scheme against you?" Xie Jingxing raised his eyebrows and asked.

"Shen Dongling is not like Shen Yue. She is not stupid. I guess she wants me to go because she is planning something. If I go, it will only make it easier for her to execute her plan. If I don't go, I won't lose anything." Shen Miao smiled. "I'm just surprised that the Wang family actually has so much money." She looked at Xie Jingxing. When Shen Miao saw Shen Dongling at the execution ground, she noticed that Shen Dongling's clothes and jewelry were extremely precious. No matter how much Wang Bi doted on her, he would not be happy with her squandering enormous money. Then how did the Wang family get so much money?

Xie Jingxing saw Shen Miao's pensive gaze and said tactfully, "The Wang family is the crown prince's people. The crown prince is secretly doing business with the salt smugglers, and Wang Bi is the middleman."

Shen Miao was enlightened. Salt smuggling was a business with huge benefits. No wonder the Wang family was doing well. Shen Miao now understood where Shen Dongling got her confidence from. If

Shen Dongling was only married to an ordinary official, she would definitely have to be careful with spending. However, now that the Wang family was extremely rich, and Wang Bi was working for the crown prince, Shen Dongling thought that if Emperor Wen Hui supported the crown prince, the world would eventually be in the crown prince's hands. As someone who worked for the crown prince, Wang Bi's value would naturally increase. She was Wang Bi's first wife and would receive boundless glory. It was probably because of this that she became bold.

Life springs from sorrow and calamity; death comes from ease and pleasure. Shen Dongling couldn't keep a clear mind all the time, especially when she was swimming in wealth, so she couldn't see the whole situation. There were so many variables in the world, and no one could guarantee that the crown prince would definitely inherit the throne. Even if the crown prince inherited the throne, no one could guarantee that Wang Bi would continue to climb up the ladder.

"Wang Bi is the crown prince's man." Shen Miao thought for a moment and said, "Shen Dongling suddenly doing this must be related to Wang Bi, which means it's related to the crown prince." Shen Miao looked at Xie Jingxing. "My relationship with the crown prince... She is up to something about my marriage."

Chapter 768 Black-hearted Couple (5)

Xie Jingxing looked at her in admiration and said, "Smart."

"You knew all along?" Shen Miao was a little suspicious.

"It's Shen Dongling's idea." Xie Jingxing casually picked up a pastry and took a bite. "To let Huangfu Hao and the crown prince come to an agreement and put on a show together. The condition for the State of Qin and Ming Qi to form an alliance is that you have to marry Huangfu Hao. Otherwise, the alliance will not work, and the Daliang Dynasty might attack Ming Qi. At that time, when this news spreads, the people will ask Shen Xin to marry you to Huangfu Hao in fear. Torn between protecting the people and you, Shen Xin will be in extreme pain.

"At that moment, the crown prince will come forward and say that you are already engaged to him. Compared to marrying you to Huangfu Hao, Shen Xin will be more willing to let you marry the crown prince and stay in Ming Qi. He would even be grateful to the crown prince for this." Xie Jingxing shrugged. "Your half-sister is not a simple person."

When Shen Miao heard that, her face turned ashen. She sneered. "She's really concerned about me, isn't she?"

She actually used the people of Ming Qi to threaten Shen Xin. Shen Xin had always been taught by Old General Shen to fight for the people at all costs. When Shen Xin was torn between the people and his beloved daughter, he would be in extreme pain. Among the people of the Shen family, Shen Miao and Shen Dongling had always minded their own business. Now that Shen Dongling revealed her true color, Shen Miao felt an uncontrollable disgust towards her.

She said, "I can't marry the crown prince."

Xie Jingxing stared at her with a faint smile. "Why? Do you want to marry me so badly?" Without waiting for Shen Miao to flare up, he continued, "Don't worry, no one in the world can and dares to snatch my woman from me."

Xie Jingxing was always so unreserved and blunt about his feelings. Shen Miao blushed for some reason and changed the topic. "Shen Dongling schemed against me, so I naturally have to give her a taste of her own medicine."

"Madam Xie, I'm at your service," Xie Jingxing said lazily.

Shen Miao was speechless.

She said, "What exactly do you mean now? Are you going to destroy Ming Qi and let the Daliang Dynasty unify the world?"

Xie Jingxing smiled mysteriously and said, "If I say yes, will you help me?"

"I've said it before that in this aspect, we are the same," Shen Miao replied.

The teasing smile on Xie Jingxing's face gradually disappeared. He did not know what Shen Miao was thinking, and he could not tell at all. When it came to the war between the two countries, Xie Jingxing had never thought that Shen Miao would support him. Shen Miao's indifferent attitude towards the destruction of Ming Qi surprised him, and her expression told him that she was serious.

She wanted to destroy Ming Qi?

But why?

Shen Miao was definitely not a person pursuing fame and fortune, so she would not do it just for that. Would she do it because she liked Xie Jingxing so much that she was willing to turn her back on her country?... Xie Jingxing did not think so. It seemed that ever since he met Shen Miao, Shen Miao had been extremely hostile to the royal family. Of course, this was because the royal family also wanted to bring the Shen family down, but Shen Miao was a girl. How did she know so much about what was on the mind of the royal family? Sometimes, she could see things more clearly than Shen Xin and Shen Qiu. She had always been secretly protecting the Shen family like she had long expected something to happen. The closer he got to Shen Miao, the more he realized that there were many mysteries about her. However, even the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop could not find out.

It was really puzzling.

He hesitated for a moment and asked, "You... don't like Ming Qi?"

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. "That which is long divided must unify, and that which is long unified must divide. This has always been the case since ancient times. It's not something that can be changed by whether I want it or not. Even if I don't want it to happen, it will still happen. This is destined." She looked up at the flickering candle on the table and said, "Moreover, compared to the royal family, I prefer this country to be in your hands."

Chapter 769 Black-hearted Couple (6)

Xie Jingxing was stunned.

“The war between the two countries has nothing to do with the people. Over the years, people of Ming Qi have been facing heavy taxes and natural disasters. They are having a hard time. The bureaucracy is ossified, and the officials are corrupt. The emperor is even more muddle-headed. He wants to kill all the families with meritorious service. In comparison, the people of the Daliang Dynasty live and work in peace and prosperity.” Shen Miao said, “I know that Emperor Yong Le is a wise emperor. When he attacked other small countries, the people of other small countries opened the city gate to welcome him. Isn’t that right?”

Xie Jingxing looked at Shen Miao deeply, but there was an indescribable feeling in his heart.

People said that women were the most short-sighted. They could only see what was in front of them and not the big picture. Xie Jingxing had once seen a woman with vision and knowledge, and that was his sister-in-law, Emperor Yong Le’s wife, Empress Xian De. However, Empress Xian De came from a family of historians and was knowledgeable. Shen Miao was only 16 years old now. The furthest she had been was Spring City. Two years ago, she was even called a love-struck idiot. However, what Shen Miao said about the current situation was something that even most of Emperor Yong Le’s aides could not come up with.

She did not treat herself as a citizen of a country, but stood at the height of history and analyzed the situation calmly.

There were not many people in the world who could see through things clear-mindedly, but this person was sitting in front of him. Xie Jingxing suddenly felt a little glad that he was the one who found this woman and Shen Miao was willing to tell him this.

Shen Miao did not know what Xie Jing was thinking. She had only heard Fu Xiuyi evaluate Emperor Yong Le and say that he was an eternal figure, a wise emperor. The original territory of the Daliang Dynasty was not as vast as today, especially after the late emperor of the Daliang Dynasty died. The country was once in chaos, but it was taken advantage of by other countries. Later, when Emperor Yong Le ascended the throne, he slowly started to take back his territory. Not only that, but he also started to annex the surrounding small countries. Emperor Yong Le was an extremely charismatic person and was popular with the people. Some small countries even looked forward to Emperor Yong Le annexing them to improve their difficult lives.

And Emperor Yong Le did it.

At that time, Shen Miao was very surprised about such a figure, and Fu Xiuyi was extremely afraid of Emperor Yong Le. Later, when Fu Ming was studying history, he also read about this figure and discussed it with Shen Miao excitedly, so Shen Miao remembered him very well.

Xie Jingxing paused for a moment and said unhappily, “Why do you remember the things he did so well?”

Shen Miao was speechless.

She said, “I’m just trying to protect myself. If the royal family is in charge, the Shen family will sooner or later be wiped out. The emperor is heartless, so there’s naturally no need for officials to be loyal to him, right?”

"Then how do you know that Emperor Yong Le won't be the second Emperor Wen Hui and won't take the Shen family down?" Xie Jingxing asked.

"I heard that Emperor Yong Le has a general surnamed Li by his side. His fate is very similar to that of the Shen family, but the Li family is treated well by Emperor Yong Le. My father's military strength is not as good as that of General Li, so there's no need to worry about my father being targeted first." Shen Miao thought to herself that in her previous life, before she died, General Li and his family were still living very well.

Xie Jingxing was stunned. "How do you know there's a General Li?"

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. She had forgotten that she was now the daughter of the Shen family, so it was naturally impossible for her to know such a figure as General Li. However, she still had to hide it. She said, "General Li is very famous. It's not surprising for people in Ming Qi to know him."

"Famous?" Xie Jingxing frowned. "As famous as me?"

Shen Miao didn't want to talk to him about this anymore. "Let's not talk about this anymore. Since we want to deal with Ming Qi in the end, we naturally can't let the State of Qin form an alliance with Ming Qi. If that happens, it will be troublesome to the Daliang Dynasty. Aren't you staying in the capital to break up their alliance?"

Xie Jingxing smiled. "What's what a good wife should do, being considerate of her husband."

Shen Miao ignored him and said, "There's a good way to break up their alliance. It depends on whether you can do it or not."

Xie Jingxing smiled. "Tell me about it."

"Murder, robbery, framing, and slander." She smiled gently and demurely. "It's best if you don't leave any evidence."

Chapter 770 Marrying You (1)

Life seemed to be especially peaceful, but no one knew if there was something else lurking under the peace.

Over the past few days, everyone in Prince Ding's mansion was on tenterhooks, especially the few trusted aides under Fu Xiuyi. They were even more careful when doing things. A few days ago, Pei Lang, who Fu Xiuyi valued the most, was arrested and locked up in a private prison. No one knew the actual reason, but some servants who knew one thing or two revealed that it was because Pei Lang was a spy planted by Fu Xiuyi's opponent.

Before this, Pei Lang was commonly regarded as being the most talented among the aides. Although the others were jealous that Fu Xiuyi valued him, Pei Lang had indeed helped Fu Xiuyi solve many problems in the past two years. Fu Xiuyi arrested him just like that. The night before he was arrested, Pei Lang was still playing chess and drinking tea with Fu Xiuyi.

The fact that Fu Xiuyi made such a prompt decision could only mean that he had long been suspicious of Pei Lang. While he was suspicious of someone, he could still sit together and drink tea with that person.

No matter whether Fu Xiuyi was making an example out of Pei Lang or not, when the aides faced Fu Xiuyi again, their attitude was much more respectful. Fu Xiuyi was not a simple person.

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However, Fu Xiuyi did not have a good time these days. He was extremely puzzled.

Fu Xiuyi sent someone to keep an eye on Princess Rong Xin. In the end, he found out that Princess Rong Xin actually went to the Earl of Pingnan's mansion to look for Su Mingfeng in disguise. Although he did not know what they said or what Princess Rong Xin was up to, Fu Xiuyi thought that there must be something fishy going on. Princess Rong Xin lived in seclusion and was not even very close to Emperor Wen Hui. Princess Yuqing and Princess Rong Xin were good friends in the early years. However, Princess Yuqing had been dead for many years. Princess Yuqing's son, Xie Jingxing, was also close to Princess Rong Xin, but Xie Jingxing had already died on the battlefield in the northern border two years ago. The Earl of Pingnan did not have much of a relationship with Princess Rong Xin.

Fu Xiuyi racked his brains to think of a connection between Princess Rong Xin and the Earl of Pingnan. Unfortunately, no matter how hard he thought, he could not figure it out. Moreover, what puzzled Fu Xiuyi was why Princess Rong Xin did not look for the Earl of Pingnan, Su Yu, but Su Mingfeng instead. Su Mingfeng was no longer an official. Regarding official matters, Su Mingfeng could not help at all. Did Su Mingfeng know Princess Rong Xin in private? Su Mingfeng, Su Mingfeng... Just as Fu Xiuyi was thinking about this name, he suddenly realized something.

Su Mingfeng's name was known by many people in the capital. It was not only because he was outstanding and talented, nor was it only because he had to quit his official career because of a serious illness, but it was because he had been Xie Jingxing's childhood friend since he was young. People did not understand why such an upright young man would hang out with a cynical and mischievous boy like Xie Jingxing every day. However, the Marquis of Lin'an and the Earl of Pingnan were close friends, so it was not strange that the two younglings became friends.

As if he had found the end of the thread, Fu Xiuyi's thoughts cleared up. Su Mingfeng was Xie Jingxing's childhood friend, and Princess Rong Xin was Xie Jingxing's aunt. If Princess Rong Xin went to look for Su Mingfeng in private, they would most likely talk about Xie Jingxing.

But wasn't Xie Jingxing dead already? Why did Princess Ming An suddenly ask about a dead person? In the past, no one dared to mention a word about Xie Jingxing in front of Princess Ming An, afraid that she would recall the sad past. Princess Ming An taking the initiative to ask... Could it be that Xie Jingxing was not dead yet? Fu Xiuyi was shocked by this sudden guess, but he quickly shook his mind at this thought. He had personally read the secret report of Xie Jingxing's death that day. There was no mistake. Moreover, it was impossible for him to fake his death under the eyes of so many people.