

Venomous 781

Chapter 781 Kill (6)

As the crown prince was protected by his guards, he was dumbfounded. Huangfu Hao shouted that he wanted to kill him?

This was simply ridiculous!

The moment he arrived, Huangfu Hao was already dead. Why would Huangfu Hao slander him? Wait... The crown prince's heart suddenly skipped a beat. Before he arrived at Yi Feng Pavilion, he seemed to have heard someone shouting his name. However, he was on the road at the back of the mountain and could not hear it clearly. Could it be that he wasn't mistaken?

But why did Huangfu Hao call his name?

The crown prince's mind was in a mess, but he still said, "I just came here. How can I have killed him?"

"Tou b*stard. You tricked our master out and asked him to keep us halfway up the mountain so that you could kill him! If we don't take revenge, the State of Qin will not take it lying down!"

The crown prince felt dumbstruck.

He had personally written the invitation to Huangfu Hao to make this "love at first sight" scene more natural and realistic. The crown prince asked Huangfu Hao out to smell the incense, which happened to be an incense Wang Bi gave to him. Wang Bi's new wife was "insensible" and invited her sister out to join the fun. The four of them "accidentally" got together, and the show would unfold in such a manner.

However, there was no mention of "leaving your guard halfway up the mountain" in the invitation!

A guard stood in front of the crown prince and said, "Your Highness, we can't hold on anymore. This person wants to die with us. Your Highness, you'd better leave first."

The crown prince looked up. Huangfu Hao was obviously dead and could not be revived. Those guards probably knew that their master was dead. Even if they returned to the State of Qin, they would only be executed for failing to do their job, so they might as well die with the crown prince.

The crown prince's guards still had to protect the crown prince, so it was difficult for them to fight back. The crown prince was a little hesitant. If he left, it would be almost equivalent to admitting having killed Huangfu Hao. However, if he did not leave... looking at the situation, the crown prince did not know if he could return home alive today.

He gritted his teeth and glanced at Huangfu Hao on the ground. "Let's go!"

The people outside did not know what happened in Yi Feng Pavilion.

Shen Dongling and Wang Bi sat in the carriage. The carriage was still on the way to the mountain. There was still some distance before they could reach the foot of the mountain. They were just here to "witness" today. It would not be good if they arrived too early. Moreover, the Shen mansion was far from Yi Feng Pavilion, and Shen Miao was probably still on her way too, so Wang Bi instructed the coachman to slow down.

Shen Dongling leaned into Wang Bi's arms and smiled. "Husband, you look like you're in a good mood today."

Wang Bi hugged her. "I'm naturally in a good mood after marrying a beauty." At the thought that after today, his status in the crown prince's faction would rise again, Wang Bi couldn't help but feel extremely smug.

Although the Wang family was extremely rich because of the salt smuggling business, they were constantly afraid of being discovered and reported. When Wang Bi was not short of money, power became more important to him.

He wanted his official career to rise by leaps and bounds.

Wang Bi was the crown prince's subordinate. In the past, although the crown prince was the rightful heir, he was not outstanding among the princes. However, now that the other princes were competing for power, Emperor Wen Hui valued the crown prince more and felt that the crown prince was easier to control. Emperor Wen Hui wanted to support the crown prince, and the crown prince gradually became more ambitious.

In addition... Wang Bi glanced at the beauty in his arms. After marrying Shen Dongling, he felt that he had to make a name for himself.

As long as Shen Miao followed their plan, the crown prince would have a higher chance of inheriting the throne.

Just as he was thinking, the carriage suddenly stopped.

Wang Bi lifted the curtain and asked, "What happened?"

A guard ran over. Wang Bi knew him. He was someone close to the crown prince. The crown prince had sent this person to deliver messages to him a few times, and Wang Bi was quite familiar with him.

However, at this moment, that person's expression was really ugly. Not only that, but his clothes were also disheveled. He waved at Wang Bi and said, "Lord Wang, something happened."

Shen Dongling tensed up in the carriage.

Chapter 782 All Yours (1)

Things seemed to have changed drastically overnight. In just a moment, the plan they carefully thought out brought them countless troubles.

Wang Bi and Shen Dongling did not expect Huangfu Hao to be killed by the crown prince. The two of them did not know what was going on. Although the crown prince's guards had been trying their best to emphasize that the crown prince did not attack Huangfu Hao, when the crown prince arrived at Yi Feng Pavilion, Huangfu Hao was already dead. However, Huangfu Hao's guards seemed to believe it without a doubt that the crown prince killed their master.

The misunderstanding turned into a bloody misunderstanding, and what followed was a crime that would get anyone beheaded.

Shen Dongling tried her best to maintain calm as she comforted Wang Bi, "There must be a misunderstanding. As long as the misunderstanding is resolved, everything will be fine." However, her heart sank into the abyss.

In the eyes of outsiders, it was Wang Bi who found a good incense and gave it to the crown prince. The crown prince invited Huangfu Hao to come and enjoy the incense with him. Indirectly, Wang Bi seemed to be the cause of all of it. Even if this had nothing to do with Wang Bi at all, it was impossible for Wang Bi to extricate himself from it.

Moreover, even if the crown prince was lucky enough to prove his innocence in the end, it was Wang Bi who suggested the gathering, and because of Wang Bi, the crown prince of the State of Qin was dead. The State of Qin would definitely not let this matter rest so easily. How could the crown prince not take his anger out on Wang Bi?

Therefore, no matter how one looked at it, Wang Bi, this scapegoat, would not be able to escape.

Wang Bi obviously thought of this too, and his expression was extremely ugly. However, he was still calmer than Shen Dongling. He only said, "Let's go back first. I'll visit the crown prince to ask him what happened."

How did Huangfu Hao die for no reason? Who killed him? Why did Huangfu Hao shout the crown prince's name? This was complicated and really puzzling. No matter what, they had to figure out what was going on before they could find a countermeasure.

The coachman turned his horse around and rode towards the capital. Shen Dongling seemed to have suddenly thought of something and asked, "Why don't I see Fifth Sister?"

Wang Bi was stunned.

It had to be known that the reason why they came up with this plan was to trick Shen Miao. Shen Dongling calculated the time and realized that it was the time when Shen Miao was supposed to arrive. They had stopped here for a while. Logically speaking, Shen Miao and the others should have arrived here. However, the mountain path in the outskirts was clear. There were no other carriages in front of them.

Why wasn't Shen Miao here?

Could it be that Shen Miao already knew that something would happen today? No one in the world had the ability to predict the future. Could it be... that it was Shen Miao's doing?

However, no matter how resourceful she was, how could she kill the crown prince of the State of Qin so easily?

When Wang Bi heard Shen Dongling's words, he said, "That's right. If Fifth Miss Shen is also here, things will probably be better for us."

Wang Bi thought that if Shen Miao was around, there would be another person to share the blame. For the sake of Shen Xin, Emperor Wen Hui would not make things too difficult for him. If he was punished alone, Emperor Wen Hui would appear unfair. That was why Shen Miao's presence would save Wang Bi a lot of trouble.

He said, "Let's go back first. Perhaps Fifth Miss Shen has already gone back. Let's see what the crown prince has to say about this."

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Shen Dongling nodded, but she smiled bitterly. For some reason, she felt that Shen Miao didn't just go back. Shen Miao probably had no intention of coming to Yi Feng Pavilion from the beginning.

Shen Miao... this opponent was even more terrifying than she thought.

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On the other side, on the street, Luo Tan sat in the carriage and wiped the sweat off her forehead. "What should we do? We've been delayed for so long. I'm afraid it'll be too late by the time we arrive at Yi Feng Pavilion."

Just now, when the Shen family's carriage was traveling in a lively place in the market, it accidentally bumped into an old woman. The old woman immediately fainted. The Shen family was not a small family in the capital, and Shen Xin was a hero respected by everyone. Shen Miao and Luo Tan could not just leave the old woman on the street. They got a guard to send the old woman to the nearest medical hall and watched as the doctor took the old woman's pulse. When the old woman woke up, they left.

Their actions naturally won the approval of many commoners. They felt that the girls from the General's Mansion were not arrogant. Instead, they were considerate of the commoners.

It was true that they had earned a lot of praise, but they had also wasted a lot of time. If they rushed to Yi Feng Pavilion now, it would probably be noon when they arrived.

Shen Miao thought for a moment and said, "We're not going."

"Eh?" Luo Tan was still thinking about how to solve this problem. When she heard Shen Miao say that, she couldn't help but say in surprise, "Why aren't you going? Don't you hate people who go back on their words the most?"

Shen Miao smiled and said, "The best time to enjoy the incense is in the morning while the air is the freshest. At that time, the smell will be pleasant. At noon or in the afternoon, the air is not clean, and the smell of the incense will be compromised greatly. We can't make people wait for us. That is not appropriate." She reached out to call Mo Qing and asked him to send a message to Yi Feng Pavilion, saying that because she and Luo Tan were busy, they couldn't go.

Although Luo Tan was a little disappointed, she didn't mind too much because she was not interested in the incense anyway. It was rare for her to come out, so she immediately pulled Shen Miao to shop.

Seeing that it was still early and with Ah Zhi and the other guards by her side, Shen Miao agreed.

Unexpectedly, Luo Tan was in high spirits. After shopping, it was almost evening when they returned to the Shen family.

As soon as their carriage arrived at the entrance of the mansion, the servant at the door smiled and said, "Miss, good to see you back. Madam and Master have just returned."

“Just in time for dinner!” Luo Tan smiled and held Shen Miao’s hand, stepping into the door.

When they entered the main hall, Luo Xueyan was talking to Shen Xin. When she saw Shen Miao and Luo Tan return, she was stunned for a moment before heaving a sigh of relief and saying, “Jiaojiao, Tan, where did you go?”

“Today, Young Madam Wang from the Wang family invited us to Yi Feng Pavilion to enjoy incense. On the way, the carriage hit an old woman. Cousin and I were busy taking care of that woman, so we didn’t go. Instead, Cousin and I shopped around. Father, Mother, did something happen?”

Shen Miao called Shen Dongling “Young Madam Wang”. Clearly, she wanted to draw a line and did not want to have anything to do with Shen Dongling at all.

Luo Xueyan did not notice this. She only took a deep breath and said, “You scared me to death. Huangfu Hao was assassinated in Yi Feng Pavilion today. Everyone involved was arrested and brought to the prison for interrogation. Wang Bi said that you were also present, but no one saw you. Your father and I rushed back. When we saw that you were not around, we thought you were also brought to prison.”

Chapter 784 All Yours (3)

Luo Tan was stunned. “Assassinated?” She said, “Who would have the guts to assassinate the crown prince of the State of Qin in broad daylight? Are the guards of the crown prince of the State of Qin very weak? How can they not even protect their master’s life?”

Unlike Luo Tan, who was surprised, Shen Miao was very calm. She said, “Don’t worry, Cousin and I didn’t go to Yi Feng Pavilion. When we bumped into that old woman today, many commoners on the street saw it. In order to avoid conflict, we even introduced ourselves. Those commoners can testify for us. At that time, we were busy taking care of the old woman. How could we have the time to go to Yi Feng Pavilion?”

Shen Xin snorted, looking a little angry. “How dare Wang Bi slander my daughter!”

“It seems like the Wang family wants to drag us down with them.” Luo Xueyan also understood and said hatefully, “I didn’t expect Shen Dongling to have such a vicious thought. How can she scheme against her own family!”

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Shen Miao sneered. “No one in the second and third branches of the Shen family has ever treated us as their family.”

Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin fell silent.

Luo Tan felt that the atmosphere was a little heavy. She smiled and interrupted, “Sigh, Little Cousin and I were lucky today. If not for the fact that we bumped into that old woman halfway, I’m afraid we would really have gone to Yi Feng Pavilion. Since Huangfu Hao was assassinated and couldn’t even be protected by his own guards, the assassin must be very skilled in martial arts. If Little Cousin and I went, we might also be in danger. Speaking of which, we should thank that old woman.”

Shen Miao laughed. Just as she was about to say something, she heard Luo Tan mutter, “But in the invitation that was sent to us, there was no mention of the crown prince of the State of Qin going along.

Why would the crown prince of the State of Qin suddenly want to go? Is there anyone else there? If there are, are there any casualties?"

Before anyone could answer Luo Tan's questions, they saw two people walk in. They were Shen Qiu and Luo Ling. Luo Tan turned around and happened to see them. She couldn't help but scream, "Cousin Qiu, Brother Ling, what's wrong?"

Shen Qiu and Luo Ling's clothes were disheveled. Not only that, but their faces and bodies were also stained with blood, making them look in a sorry state.

Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin were also shocked. Luo Xueyan quickly went forward and sized up the two of them. "What happened?"

Shen Qiu quickly explained, "Don't worry, it's not my blood. It's someone else's."

Only then did Luo Xueyan feel relieved. However, before she could relax, she heard Luo Tan ask, "Cousin Qiu, did you and Brother Ling go to catch the assassin who killed the crown prince of the State of Qin today? Is the assassin very powerful and difficult to deal with? From the looks of it, you two seem to have had a tough battle."

Shen Xin frowned and asked, "Shen Qiu, is that so?"

Shen Qiu and Luo Ling looked at each other with strange gazes. A moment later, Shen Qiu asked the servants in the main hall to leave. He looked at Luo Tan and Shen Miao thoughtfully. Shen Miao smiled and said, "Cousin Tan and I won't tell anyone. Brother, if you have anything to say, just say it."

Luo Tan quickly raised her hand to indicate that she would definitely not reveal anything.

Seeing that Shen Qiu was so serious, Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan were also a little puzzled. Luo Ling nodded at Shen Qiu. Shen Qiu sighed and said, "Today, the soldiers of the Ministry of War went to arrest people. However, it's not the assassin who killed Huangfu Hao, but his guards."

"His guards?" Luo Xueyan frowned. "Could it be that they want Ming Qi to be responsible for Huangfu Hao's death?" Luo Xueyan did not have a good impression of the people of the State of Qin. She did not know if it was because the State of Qin had been founded the shortest among the three countries and did not have much history. From the royal family to the commoners, everyone looked arrogant. Even if the State of Qin was slightly stronger than Ming Qi now, the arrogance they displayed every time in front of Ming Qi was really annoying.

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"That's not the case." Shen Qiu hesitated for a moment before saying, "Huangfu Hao's guards said that the person who assassinated Huangfu Hao was the crown prince."

"The crown prince killed Huangfu Hao?" Shen Xin stood up. "Impossible!"

Not to mention whether the crown prince could do it or not, now that Ming Qi was trying to rope in the State of Qin to deal with the Daliang Dynasty, how could he do such a destructive thing to his own country? If he killed Huangfu Hao, he would only anger the State of Qin. Not only would the alliance collapse, but he would also make an enemy for himself. The crown prince was not a fool. Why would he do such a thankless thing?

"I think it's impossible too." Shen Qiu was a little puzzled. "However, those guards said that at that time, they heard Huangfu Hao shouting the crown prince's name on the mountain and saying that the crown prince was the murderer. They are Huangfu Hao's guards, so there's no reason for them to frame someone and let the real murderer go."

Luo Xueyan asked, "Aren't Huangfu Hao's guards with him? Why did they say they heard him shouting?"

"That's the question." Luo Ling continued, "According to what Huangfu Hao's guards said, it's the crown prince who invited Huangfu Hao to smell the incense today. Huangfu Hao's guards recalled that the crown prince said in the invitation that he had something to discuss with Huangfu Hao and wanted the guards to stay on the mountainside while Huangfu Hao went up the mountain alone. However, the crown prince said that he never asked Huangfu Hao to leave his guards on the mountainside. The officials were ordered to search for the crown prince's invitation, but that invitation had long been discarded by Huangfu Hao. Now that there's no evidence, both sides are very anxious."

Luo Tan muttered, "The crown prince asked Huangfu Hao to go, but why didn't Young Madam Wang mention the two of them in the invitation she sent to Little Cousin?"

Everyone in the room was stunned.

They were all focused on the crown prince and Huangfu Hao and ignored Shen Miao. At this moment, after Luo Tan mentioned it, they remembered it. The crown prince and Huangfu Hao wanted to enjoy the incense, but why did they ask Shen Miao and Luo Tan to go along? Luo Tan had nothing to do with the people in the capital, but Shen Miao was different. Shen Miao was Shen Xin's daughter.

When Shen Dongling sent the invitation, it was impossible for her not to know that the crown prince and Huangfu Hao were also coming, but why didn't she mention it to Shen Miao? Did she forget, or did she deliberately not mention it? If she did it on purpose, why did she do it on purpose? Was she planning something?

Everyone felt a chill run down their spines.

Luo Xueyan said, "I have to ask Shen Dongling."

"Mother." Shen Qiu stopped her. "Shen Dongling and Wang Bi are already in prison. We can't see them at this time. Otherwise, it won't be good if people think that she has something to do with them."

When Emperor Wen Hui found out that Huangfu Hao had died and his son became the murderer for some reason, he was so angry that he almost fell to the ground. However, he had to arrest a few people to appease the anger of the people of the State of Qin. Since Wang Bi and his wife were the ones who suggested to enjoy the incense, they were no different from the instigator. Wang Bi's beautiful dream was shattered, and it remained a question whether he could get out of it alive.

Everyone had different expressions. Only Shen Miao was as calm as ever. When she heard these things, she looked like they had nothing to do with her. Of course, they indeed did not have anything to do with her. She said, "This has nothing to do with us. Let's wait and see how the royal family deals with it."

Chapter 786 All Yours (5)

Shen Qiu noticed Shen Miao's expression and asked, "Sister, why aren't you surprised that Huangfu Hao was killed at all?"

Shen Miao smiled. "What's there to be surprised about? Since it's as those people said, the crown prince wants to 'discuss' with Huangfu Hao alone, it's very likely that the crown prince will kill him on impulse. It's not like there hasn't been such a case in Ming Qi in the past. Why make a fuss?"

Shen Qiu was speechless. Shen Miao's words made everyone in the room fall into a deep thought. Shen Miao was right, but what disagreement could be so intense as to drive the crown prince to kill someone? Moreover, the victim was the crown prince of a country. Even if Emperor Wen Hui was so angry that he lost his mind, he would not kill someone so rashly.

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan both frowned. Shen Miao did not have to think too far ahead, but they were officials in the imperial court. Every small move in the imperial court could affect their future lives. Moreover, Huangfu Hao died in Ming Qi this time, and the person who was accused of doing it was the Crown Prince of Ming Qi. Those guards had probably already sent someone back to send a message. After the Emperor of the State of Qin found out that his son and daughter both died in Ming Qi, what would he do?

It was very difficult for Ming Qi and the State of Qin to form an alliance again. At this moment, it was unknown what the Daliang Dynasty would do.

That night, because of this sudden occurrence, even the atmosphere in the Shen family fell into silence. However, it was not because they sympathized with Huangfu Hao or the crown prince, but because they were worried about the variables that might happen in the future.

When Xie Jingxing came to look for Shen Miao, she was standing in front of the window in a daze.

Huangfu Hao died just like that. In her previous life, Huangfu Hao and Princess Ming An were a nightmare that she could not get rid of during the five years she was a hostage in the State of Qin. Princess Ming An was arrogant and despotic, and Huangfu Hao liked to find novel ways to make fun of her. He was the crown prince of the State of Qin. Once Huangfu Hao started making fun of her, the others would follow suit. In fact, there was no hatred between Shen Miao, Huangfu Hao, and Princess Ming An, but such malicious humiliation eventually amounted to strong resentment.

Unlike the others, Shen Miao had never thought of making Huangfu Hao and Princess Ming An pay with their lives, because they were not the ones who harmed the Shen family the most in her previous life. These people had at most hit her when she was down for a while in her previous life.

If not for the fact that they were plotting against her again in this life, Shen Miao would probably ignore the two of them.

Now that they were gone, Shen Miao was a little at a loss.

Ever since she was reborn, the path she had always followed was to take revenge and protect the Shen family from walking down the same path. However, as long as the royal family was around, they would not let the Shen family off. Her enemies were very powerful from the beginning. Sometimes, Shen Miao would wonder if she could make it to the end.

The figure who jumped down from the tree waved his hand in front of Shen Miao. When Shen Miao came back to her senses, she saw Xie Jingxing's playful smile. He said, "Do you miss me so much that you are lost in thought?"

Shen Miao was about to close the window when Xie Jingxing quickly caught her and jumped into the room. He pressed one hand on Shen Miao's shoulder and closed the window with the other. "Be careful not to catch a cold."

Cong Yang, who was standing in the corner and freezing, was speechless.

Shen Miao pushed Xie Jingxing's hand away and sat down at the table in the room, asking, "How did you handle it?"

"No problem." Xie Jingxing sat down and gestured for Shen Miao to pour him tea.

Shen Miao held her breath and poured him tea. She reluctantly pushed the teacup over and asked, "Are you sure the people of the State of Qin won't find out?"

Chapter 787 All Yours (6)

"They can't." Xie Jingxing smiled. "Not everyone is as smart as us."

Shen Miao rolled her eyes. Looking at the purple-clothed young man drinking tea leisurely opposite her, her heart was in turmoil.

What happened today was planned by her and Xie Jingxing. Xie Jingxing had many capable people under him. Some of them were skilled in disguising themselves, and some of them were outstanding at mimicking people's voices. Some of them could even copy someone's handwriting with just a glance. Huangfu Hao and Fu Xiuyan's letters were secretly changed, so they went up the mountain at different times and through different paths. After Huangfu Hao went up the mountain, Xie Jingxing's man disguised himself as the "Crown Prince".

Although Huangfu Hao and the crown prince were considered familiar with each other, it was definitely not to the extent of close friends.

In the eyes of outsiders, the fact that the crown prince killed Huangfu Hao was an irreversible fact. The State of Qin would not let the matter rest. Not to mention forming an alliance, they would probably become enemies in the future. In order to appease the anger of the emperor of the State of Qin, Emperor Wen Hui had to sacrifice the crown prince.

"Why are you so sure that the emperor will sacrifice the crown prince?" Xie Jingxing raised his eyebrows and asked, "That's his own son."

Shen Miao smiled. "Do you remember my second uncle?"

"I do."

"Back then, when Shen Yuan, his son, was in trouble, he was busy trying to push all the blame to Shen Yuan. The emperor is also an ordinary person. For the sake of the world and his throne, what does it matter if he sacrifices one of his sons? Even if he knows that the crown prince is innocent, the emperor

will only swallow this bitter fruit," Shen Miao said mockingly, but there was a faint killing intent in the corners of her eyes.

Xie Jingxing stared at her thoughtfully.

Shen Miao always had a deep-rooted hatred for the royal family. Even if she had tried her best to hide it, there would always be times when she couldn't. Xie Jingxing caught these moments and was suspicious, but he didn't ask. He joked, "You seem to know the royal family very well. You make it sound like you're one of them."

Shen Miao lowered her eyes.

After she married Fu Xiuyi, Fu Xiuyi fought for the throne and killed a group of brothers. Nine princes were either dead or crippled, and some were missing. In the end, after Fu Xiuyi ascended the throne, she was deposed by some groundless accusations.

Cruelty was the nature of the royal family.

Even Fu Xiuyi and Emperor Wen Hui were scheming against each other. Emperor Wen Hui was wary of his son usurping the throne, and Fu Xiuyi hoped that his father would die early. There was also Consort Xu, Consort Dong, the empress... In the palace, whoever valued family was a fool and would die the quickest!

Unfortunately, in her previous life, she did not understand this simple logic. She always thought that people had hearts. However, she forgot that since Fu Xiuyi could kill his brothers and father, he could naturally kill her and her children too!

Over time, Shen Miao's love for Fu Xiuyi from when she was young was chipped to the point where it was almost gone. The remaining love she had for Fu Xiuyi was all built on the fact that he was the father of Wanyu and Fu Ming. Shen Miao thought that no father would not love his children.

However, in the end, Fu Xiuyi gave his daughter to the Xiongnu and forced his son to a dead end!

She would definitely get back at him personally!

Seeing that Shen Miao was still in a daze, Xie Jingxing frowned. He hesitated for a moment and softened his voice. "If you have any difficulties, you can tell me. I'll help you solve them."

Shen Miao looked up at him. "You make it sound like you can do it." However, she knew very well that Xie Jingxing could indeed do it. He could kill two crown princes just like that. The crown prince and Emperor Wen Hui knew that they were schemed against, but they did not even have a chance to fight back. Only Xie Jingxing could do such a thing. He was bold and capable, but he was also so cunning that no one could catch him. It was as if there was nothing in the world he could not do.

If only I had met him in my previous life, Shen Miao suddenly thought to herself.

However, she only said, "If I ask you to overthrow Ming Qi, can you do it?"

When the purple-robed young man holding the jade teacup heard this, he smiled. He was handsome and beautiful, and his noble and elegant aura were innate. Although his gaze was as sharp as a knife, his tone was slightly teasing.

“It’s just overthrowing a dynasty. What’s so difficult about it? If you want it, it’ll all be yours.”

Chapter 788 Brother-in-law (1)

In the end, what happened in Ming Qi could not be hidden from the world.

For some reason, the death of Huangfu Hao at the hands of the crown prince gradually began to spread in the marketplace. Emperor Wen Hui wanted to lock up Huangfu Hao’s guards. Now that the situation had become out of control, if he could not suppress it, Ming Qi would fall into chaos.

However, how could the people in Huangfu Hao’s mansion sit back and do nothing? When the news reached the ears of the State of Qin’s emperor, in just a few days, someone rushed to Ming Qi to deliver a letter, saying that Emperor Wen Hui must give them an explanation. Otherwise, they would send troops to wipe out Ming Qi!

If it were the State of Qin in the past, Ming Qi would naturally be able to fight back. However, now that with the Daliang Dynasty lurking at the side, if the State of Qin declared war at this juncture, Ming Qi would really be finished.

Under the pressure of the irrefutable evidence, Emperor Wen Hui had no choice but to lock the crown prince up too.

The older Emperor Wen Hui got, the less decisive he was compared to when he was young. Not to mention what other princes would think of this move, even the court officials felt disappointed. In order to protect himself, he was willing to sacrifice his son even though he knew that there was something fishy about the crown prince assassinating Huangfu Hao.

However, as a matter of fact, the reason why Emperor Wen Hui locked the crown prince up was not only because he wanted to appease the emperor of the State of Qin, but also because he wanted the crown prince to be safe. Those guards of Huangfu Hao wanted to seek revenge for their master. If the crown prince was careless, it was not impossible for him to die at the hands of those guards. Now that the crown prince had become a prisoner and there were so many people guarding the prison, nothing bad would happen.

Unfortunately, no one understood Emperor Wen Hui’s true intention. Seeing that her son was locked up, the empress was anxious.

As soon as the empress entered the Hall of Mental Cultivation, she asked angrily, “Your Majesty, you clearly know that the crown prince was wronged. Why did you still lock him up? Have you thought about how the officials will look at him in the future?”

Emperor Wen Hui frowned. He did not like the feeling of being questioned very much, so he said, “I have my own reasons.”

Emperor Wen Hui still had some respect for the empress. The empress was his first wife. Back then, when the late emperor was alive, the competition for the throne was as fierce as it was today. If not for the support of the empress’s family, Emperor Wen Hui might not have ended up getting the throne. Therefore, Emperor Wen Hui was willing to give the empress some respect. Moreover, the empress was the crown prince’s biological mother.

Not to mention that the empress was indeed considered a good empress. She did not get jealous and managed the harem well.

"I beg Your Majesty to retract your order." The empress said, "The crown prince still has to face the court officials in the future. What Your Majesty is doing will cause the people in the world to misunderstand!" In the past, the empress would never refute Emperor Wen Hui's decision, but as a mother, she was always especially sensitive to what happened to her son. The empress did not allow anything to impede the crown prince's future.

Moreover, this time, it wasn't a small matter. Once the crime of murdering the crown prince of the State of Qin was proven, it would probably be very difficult for Fu Xiuyan to be spared a life. Although the empress did not interfere in the affairs of the imperial court, it did not mean that she did not know anything about the affairs of the imperial court.

Emperor Wen Hui had been overwrought by this matter for the past few days and was extremely frustrated. Coupled with the fact that the empress was interfering, he immediately said impatiently, "I don't need you to tell me what to do!"

Chapter 789 Brother-in-law (2)

The empress's heart skipped a beat. After being husband and wife with Emperor Wen Hui for so many years, she naturally knew what kind of person Emperor Wen Hui was. She immediately softened her tone. She said gently, "I know Your Majesty is frustrated, but I didn't mean to put pressure on you just now. I'm just worried about the crown prince... I remember that when the crown prince was young, he wasn't good at mathematics. The grand tutor couldn't teach him no matter what. It was you who taught the crown prince personally... In the crown prince's heart, Your Majesty is the wisest and most powerful. Your Majesty and I both know that this matter definitely has nothing to do with the crown prince. The crown prince is kind and honest, so why would he kill someone? Even if he really wants to kill someone, he definitely won't do it in broad daylight. Your Majesty, the crown prince is innocent. You're the crown prince's father. Do you want to watch the crown prince be infamous because of groundless accusation?"

Emperor Wen Hui's expression softened. Among the nine princes, he wanted to support the crown prince the most, so he naturally did not want the crown prince to die at this moment for nothing. Just as he was about to speak, he heard a palace maid report from outside, "Your Majesty, Consort Xu is here."

The empress's expression was calm, but her hands that were hidden in her sleeves were clenched tightly. Among the consorts in the palace, Consort Xu was the most arrogant, because she gave birth to two princes, Prince Zhou and Prince Jing. She was pampered and beautiful and was able to make Emperor Wen Hui infatuated with her.

As for Prince Zhou and Prince Jing, the empress knew their ambitions very well. Consort Xu naturally hoped that her sons could sit on the throne, so if the crown prince was in trouble, Consort Xu would not let go of this opportunity to kick him when he was down.

Consort Xu walked in gracefully. Even though she had already given birth to two sons, her appearance did not age at all. It was said that she bathed in goat milk every day, and her skin was smooth and tight. Compared to the innocent look of a young girl, she had the mature charm of a woman. No wonder Emperor Wen Hui, who knew that Consort Xu was domineering, still doted on her.

As soon as Consort Xu entered, she greeted Emperor Wen Hui and the empress. Then, she smiled and said, "Your Majesty, you've been in a bad mood recently. I asked the pastry chef in the imperial kitchen to make some bird's nest for you to nourish your body. I didn't expect the empress to be here either."

The empress smiled faintly but it was obvious that she did not want to talk to her. However, how could Consort Xu let go of this opportunity? She looked at the empress and said, "Sister, are you here to look for His Majesty for the crown prince today?"

Before Emperor Wen Hui could say anything, the empress raised her eyebrows and said angrily, "Sister, you're being a busybody!"

Consort Xu covered her mouth and smiled. She looked at Emperor Wen Hui, who was silent, and then at the empress. Then, she said unhurriedly, "Originally, I didn't want to ask. However, His Majesty is already worried about it day in and day out. Why don't you show some consideration for His Majesty? Instead, you came to disturb his rest?" As she asked the palace maid to put down the basket in her hand, she said, "The matter of the crown prince is associated with the future of Ming Qi. The crown prince of the State of Qin died here. That day, only the crown prince and the crown prince of the State of Qin were together. I naturally believe that the crown prince won't do such a crazy thing. However, we have no evidence."

"If we don't have evidence, how can we convince the State of Qin? Besides, the people in the State of Qin are watching us closely. If His Majesty softens his heart and releases the crown prince, who knows how much chaos it will cause? Sister, you can't just think about yourself and the crown prince. You have to think for the people of the world." Consort Xu's thoughtful words made the empress's expression change.

"Shut up!" The empress said angrily.

Consort Xu pretended to be frightened and retreated a little. She looked at Emperor Wen Hui aggrievedly and said, "Your Majesty, I kindly advised Sister, but she didn't appreciate it. It hurts me!"

Chapter 790 Brother-in-law (3)

Emperor Wen Hui felt a headache coming on. At this moment, he didn't want to see either of them. How could he not know that Consort Xu was trying to sow discord between him and the empress just to make things difficult for the crown prince? However, Emperor Wen Hui could not deny that what Consort Xu said was the truth. The crown prince's matter was no longer just a matter that involved one person. Ming Qi could not afford to make any mistakes this time. If this matter was not handled well, no one could say for sure what kind of disaster it would bring to Ming Qi in the future.

At the thought of this, Emperor Wen Hui felt annoyed with the crown prince, and even became impatient with the empress. He said to the empress and Consort Xu, "All of you, leave. I want to be alone."

The empress had a hard time convincing Emperor Wen Hui to be lenient towards the crown prince. She did not expect Consort Xu to interfere and ruin all her efforts. She was still indignant. Before she could speak, Consort Xu beat her to it and said, "Your Majesty, since you don't want to be disturbed, we'll leave first. Please take care of yourself."

Emperor Wen Hui waved his hand without looking up.

No matter how unwilling the empress was, she could only leave with Consort Xu.

After leaving the Hall of Mental Cultivation, the empress stopped and looked at Consort Xu with a cold smile. "I know what you're up to. But keep in mind that the sons you gave birth to will never be able to replace my son!"

Consort Xu smiled and said, "Sister, you flatter me. The crown prince is noble, and I always hope that he can become healthy and do well. My sons are brothers with the crown prince and respect him. They have no intention of wanting to replace the crown prince." She chuckled again and admired the empress's frustrated expression before continuing, "What I have always wanted to replace is you." With that, she turned around and left enchantingly.

The empress was left to stand rooted to the ground and gritted her teeth in anger.

The news of the empress and Consort Xu entering the Hall of Mental Cultivation one after another quickly reached the ears of the others.

Consort Dong sat on the couch and listened to the maid play the Guqin. She did not like to compete with others and believed devoutly in Buddhism. Usually, when she did not go to the temple hall, she would embroider and listen to the Guqin in her side hall. She did not look like a consort, but like an outsider in the harem. Among the four consorts, she was the one who was ignored the most. It puzzled many people how she managed to become one of the four consorts.

Below her sat a man in a jade-colored robe. He had a faint smile on his face and tilted his head to listen, as if he had been immersed in the music.

After the song ended, the maid stood up. Consort Dong waved her hand to signal her to leave.

After everyone in the side hall left, Fu Xiuyi smiled and said, "Mother, you seem to be especially happy today."

"The empress can't sit still anymore." Consort Dong smiled and said, "She personally went to plead for leniency for the crown prince. Consort Xu also went. Now that Consort Xu and the empress are about to fall out, it's naturally worth being happy about."

Fu Xiuyi smiled. "The crown prince is down and out, so Consort Xu naturally won't let go of this opportunity to make sure he can never get back up. Prince Zhou and Prince Jing want to replace the crown prince. Consort Xu will definitely help them."

"Unfortunately, she is too stupid to come up with good schemes." Consort Dong picked up her tea and took a sip.

The mother and son laughed together.

Fu Xiuyi looked more like Consort Dong than the emperor. Usually, he looked cold, but when he smiled, he was gentle, making people not wary at all.

Consort Dong asked, "How have you been lately?"

Fu Xiuyi smiled. "I discovered some interesting secrets and am investigating. I think it won't be long before I find out."

Consort Dong looked at him with concern. "You've always been smart, so I don't worry about these things. Speaking of which, it's time for you to get married. You're not young anymore. If this continues, you'll inevitably be taken advantage of. Consort Dong and the others want you to marry a useless woman to be your wife." As Consort Dong spoke, she sighed and said, "Originally, Shen Miao liked you. I thought that if she continued to like you and eventually married you, you would get the help of the Shen family. I didn't expect things to turn out like this. At this moment, marrying her might be more of a disaster than a blessing."