

Venomous 791

Chapter 791 Brother-in-law (4)

Fu Xiuyi smiled and said, "Although I can't get the support of the Shen family, no one in Ming Qi can. Apart from the crown prince, anyone else who is tied to the Shen family will arouse Father's suspicion. Originally, the crown prince was a step away from tying himself to the Shen family, but he didn't expect something to happen halfway to ruin his plan. Perhaps the heavens are on our side." He had no regrets at all and only said, "Powerful officials in Ming Qi are all wary of being too close to the Shen family. Although the Shen family is rich and powerful, Shen Miao might not be able to marry well."

Consort Dong sighed. "That's right." After saying that, she thought of something. "But the crown prince really suffered a huge setback this time. Huangfu Hao's matter will definitely not be settled so easily. Do you think this was done by Prince Zhou or Prince Li?"

Fu Xiuyi did not form a faction because he did not trust his brothers. He had always been a loner. Originally, Prince Zhou and Prince Li fought the most fiercely. Now, Emperor Wen Hui wanted to support the crown prince and even wanted the crown prince to marry Shen Miao. Therefore, Prince Zhou and Prince Li were anxious. The crown prince had become their enemy, so they naturally had to do their best to get rid of him.

Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that there was something fishy about the crown prince killing Huangfu Hao this time. It was very likely that the crown prince had been schemed against. No matter what, it was most likely Prince Zhou or Prince Li.

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However, such a blatant scheme did not seem to be their usual style.

Fu Xiuyi shook his head and said, "It might not be the two of them."

When Consort Dong heard that, she was stunned and asked, "If not them, who else?"

The faces of Prince Rui and Shen Miao suddenly appeared in Fu Xiuyi's mind.

There must be some unspeakable relationship between Prince Rui and Shen Miao. Although he did not know what exactly was their relationship, every time Shen Miao was in trouble, she could always get out of it miraculously. All kinds of signs indicated that Prince Rui was undoubtedly the one who helped Shen Miao.

Previously, Emperor Wen Hui asked the empress to test the Shen family by spreading the rumor that Shen Miao was going to marry the crown prince. Not long after, Prince Rui went to talk to Emperor Wen Hui, causing Emperor Wen Hui to give up on the idea of getting Shen Miao to marry the crown prince immediately.

Now, the gathering to enjoy the incense this time was clearly set up to scheme against Shen Miao. Up until now, Huangfu Hao and the crown prince both fought like Kilkenney, but Shen Miao was unscathed as always. It was said that Shen Miao was also going to the Yi Feng Pavilion that day, but she bumped into an old woman on the way and couldn't go. Why was it so coincidental? Could it be that Prince Rui was behind it this time as well?

Even though he was in Ming Qi, he still dared to do such a horrendous thing so blatantly. This Prince Rui was really a little terrifying.

Seeing that Fu Xiuyi was deep in thought, Consort Dong asked him, "What's wrong?"

Fu Xiuyi came back to his senses and said, "Nothing." Suddenly, he stood up and looked at Consort Dong. "I suddenly remembered that I still have something to do."

Consort Dong said with a nod, "Go ahead."

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On the other side, thank God, Ji Yushu and Gao Yang were finally released from the tower prison.

Over the past few days, the two of them had been guarding the prisoners in the tower prison and had seen all kinds of torture methods. Gao Yang was not so much affected, but Ji Yushu was so shocked that he lost a lot of weight.

The two of them looked at each other with teary eyes. After a while, Ji Yushu said, "I have to return to the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop to take a shower and change my clothes. Goodbye." With that, he ran away.

Gao Yang sighed. Looking at his disheveled face, he felt dejected. Xie Jingxing was actually so heartless as to get someone to send them to the tower prison for a small mistake. The tower prison! That was a place that even Tie Yi could not withstand the first time he entered!

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Not to mention people like him and Ji Yushu who lived like princes.

When Ji Yushu returned to the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop, he first asked Hong Ling to run a bath for him. After taking a nice bath and eating some snacks, he returned to the study. As soon as he entered, he was greeted with the thick dust. Ji Yushu's study was not allowed to servants because there were many secrets. Therefore, no one came in to clean these days. Ji Yushu originally wanted Hong Ling to clean it for him, but after thinking for a moment, he gave up. He picked up the broom and started cleaning.

After cleaning it, Ji Yushu sat down at the desk and saw that there was already a thick stack of letters on the table. He started to read them. When he reached the last letter, Ji Yushu was already a little sleepy. However, as he read, his sleepiness was swept away, and his expression gradually became serious.

Pei Lang was actually locked up by Fu Xiuyi? Had Pei Lang's identity been exposed?

Oh my god! Did anyone know that such a serious matter had happened? Did anyone go to save him?

It was Ji Yushu's own idea to monitor Pei Lang. He was just curious why Shen Miao wanted Pei Lang to be a spy by Fu Xiuyi's side. Even if Pei Lang was talented, being a spy required a lot of loyalty. Fu Xiuyi was so good at managing people. Wasn't Shen Miao worried that Pei Lang would betray her? More importantly, Shen Miao's relationship with Pei Lang before that was just ordinary. Why was she willing to take the risk?

Just as Ji Yushu was about to get up to hand the letter to Xie Jingxing, he stopped.

“Will Third Brother Xie lock me up again,” Ji Yushu muttered to himself.

The reason why Xie Jingxing locked Ji Yushu and Gao Yang up was because that day, the empress summoned Shen Miao to the palace to test her. The two of them ignored this matter and did not report it to Xie Jingxing. Later, Xie Jingxing threw the two of them into the tower prison.

“Third Brother Xie values Miss Shen a lot. This Pei Lang seems to be interested in Miss Shen too. He even said that he wants to marry Miss Shen, so Pei Lang is Third Brother Xie’s love rival. Since he’s a love rival, if I tell Third Brother now, will he beat me up? Why would Third Brother want to save his love rival?” Pei Lang muttered to himself, “Just like how I don’t like Miss Shaoyao always smiling at the young master of the prime minister. Later, the young master of the prime minister fell from the horse and was injured. I was very happy.” Taking himself as an example, Ji Yushu came to a conclusion. “It’s better not to tell Third Brother about this now. Since there’s no new news, he must still be alive. Let him stay there for a few more days!”

Ji Yushu thought that he had done very well, but little did he know what kind of changes his actions would bring to the future.

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As the commanders of the capital garrison, Shen Qiu and Luo Ling had been very busy these days. Huangfu Hao was dead, but there were a lot of problems left unsolved. If they killed Huangfu Hao’s guards, it would arouse the dissatisfaction of the emperor of the State of Qin, but if they didn’t kill them, those guards would clamor to seek justice for their master, spreading the rumor that the crown prince was a murderer in the marketplace.

They couldn’t kill the guards, so they could only lock them up. However, the guards were all personally chosen by the emperor of the State of Qin to protect Huangfu Hao, so they weren’t ordinary people. It was not impossible for them to break the prison. In order to avoid chaos, the city defense army had doubled and was patrolling the capital at all times, especially afraid that Huangfu Hao’s guards would hurt innocent people to vent their anger.

By the time they were done with today’s matters, it was almost evening. Shen Qiu and Luo Ling walked side by side on the street. Originally, at the end of the year, the streets of the capital were supposed to be the busiest. However, because of Huangfu Hao’s death, the people were reminded by the city guards to close the shop early and go home. Before night fell, there were already very few people on the street.

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Shen Qiu sighed. “If the Ministry of Justice doesn’t come up with a solution, the commoners will have a hard time.”

The crown prince was locked up in prison. On one hand, the emperor of the State of Qin was demanding an explanation, and on the other hand, Emperor Wen Hui was reluctant to give up on his eldest son, so the people were the ones suffering.

“The unpeaceful days are going to last for quite some time.” Luo Ling shook his head. “No matter what the outcome is, I’m afraid the capital will be in chaos.”

The two of them looked at each other and saw the worry in each other's eyes.

Shen Qiu said, "Let's not talk about this. Yesterday, I heard from my mother that we have to start thinking about my sister's marriage again. Although we don't have to worry about the crown prince for the time being, the more chaotic the situation is, the more people will want to use the Shen family. My sister's identity is special, so it's inevitable that people will covet her. If we don't settle the marriage as soon as possible, it will be much harder in the future."

When Luo Ling heard this, he was stunned for a moment. Before he could speak, he heard Shen Qiu continue, "Cousin, what's on your mind?"

"Me?" Luo Ling blushed slightly. "Don't you already know what's on my mind?"

Shen Qiu sighed and put an arm around Luo Ling's shoulder. He said, "You're a martial artist after all. You grew up in the army with your father. Why do you speak like those vulgar scholars?" He said, "I think you're good at everything, but you're thin-skinned. Why don't you go and talk to my sister about your feelings? Do you want her to take the initiative to look for you?"

Luo Ling smiled awkwardly.

Shen Qiu said patiently, "My sister looks gentle on the surface, but she's actually the most proud and stubborn. If you want my sister to take the initiative to look for you, I'm afraid you can forget about it. As a man, if you like her, you should just go and tell her." Shen Qiu looked at Luo Ling critically. "I'll be happy to see you becoming my brother-in-law."

Luo Ling was even more embarrassed to hear that. He said, "For that to happen, Cousin Miao has to agree first..."

"If you don't tell her, how will she know what you're thinking?" Shen Qiu glared at him. "First of all, you have to find a chance to explain to her what you're thinking. Cousin, I'll tell you the truth. Su Mingfeng used to be sick, so I don't like him. Feng Zixian, tsk tsk, last time, the Feng family almost caused my sister to be killed by bad guys. You're the best among them."

"Thank you for saying that, Cousin Qiu." Luo Ling smiled and said, "If there's a chance, I will definitely..."

Just as Luo Ling was about to say something, he saw a horse suddenly run over from the other side of the street. The horse coat was shiny, and it was dazzling even in the dim street in the evening. Shen Qiu and Luo Ling could not help but be attracted by the horse.

The person on the horse was also heroic. From afar, he looked extraordinary. When the person approached Shen Qiu and Luo Ling, he suddenly stopped the horse. The horse raised its front hooves, but the person on it sat extremely steadily. Clearly, his horsemanship was outstanding. Shen Qiu couldn't help but shout, "Good horse!"

The person on the horse said, "Young General Shen."

Shen Qiu was stunned.

A person was sitting on the horse. His luxurious purple-gold robe became more and more visible under the light of the lantern. His figure was tall and straight, and he was wearing a silver mask, revealing a

beautiful outline. His chin was smooth, and his thin lips were slightly curled. His eyes cast down with a faint smile.

"Prince Rui!" Shen Qiu and Luo Ling quickly bowed to this person. They had all seen Prince Rui at the tribute.

Prince Rui said, "You're welcome. I thought I was mistaken, but I didn't expect it to really be you, Young General Shen." He only spoke to Shen Qiu and did not look at Luo Ling.

Shen Qiu was a little flattered. Prince Rui was someone who treated Emperor Wen Hui indifferently, but he actually took the initiative to greet him? Moreover, he spoke so politely. Shen Qiu couldn't help but feel a little smug.

Could it be that even Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty had heard of his heroic acts and admired him?

However, he did not see Luo Ling's suddenly pale face.

There was a safety pendant hanging on Prince Rui's waist. It was inexplicably familiar.

Chapter 794 Conviction (1)

The patterns on the safety pendant were very special. Luo Ling's expression was very ugly. He asked, "Prince Rui... where did you get the safety pendant from?"

Shen Qiu looked at Luo Ling in surprise. Luo Ling was a person who had a sense of propriety and could always remain composed outside. It was a little rude of him to ask Prince Rui in such a tone.

Unexpectedly, Prince Rui didn't take offense. Instead, to their surprise, he took off the safety pendant at his waist and played with it in his hand. He smiled lazily and said, "This? A girl gave it to me."

Shen Qiu was stunned.

Prince Rui seemed to be particularly outspoken today, so much so that he was even willing to share his love affairs. Shen Qiu was very embarrassed. The more he knew, the sooner he would die. He was not interested in Prince Rui's private matters at all.

Luo Ling's face turned even paler. He couldn't help but stare at the safety pendant in Prince Rui's hand. However, Prince Rui only glanced at him and casually hung the safety pendant on his waist. He said to Shen Qiu, "I still have something to do, so I won't talk to you anymore. Young General Shen, when you're free, you can come to my mansion." He said with a faint smile, "I've long heard that you are good at martial arts and really want to spar with you."

With that, he pulled the reins and the horse trotted off, leaving Shen Qiu and Luo Ling standing rooted to the ground.

Shen Qiu muttered, "Could it be that Prince Rui wants to rope me in?" Why did Prince Rui want him to go to his mansion for no reason?

Shen Qiu was feeling smug when he suddenly saw Luo Ling's abnormal expression. He felt a little strange and asked, "Cousin Lin, what's wrong? Are you not feeling well? Why do you look so pale?"

Luo Ling came back to his senses and forced a smile. "Nothing. Let's go back."

"Alright." Shen Qiu glanced at the end of the street where Prince Rui had disappeared and said, "It seems like Prince Rui likes that girl quite a lot. He actually wears a love token on his waist. I wonder which girl has the honor to be liked by him."

Shen Qiu did not notice that on the way back, Luo Ling was staggering.

It was as if he had suffered a heavy blow.

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Just as everyone expected, the assassination of Huangfu Hao was not easily resolved. Although the people on the crown prince's side had been speaking up for the crown prince, there was still no news from the Ministry of Justice for a long time, as if they wanted to lock the crown prince up forever.

Emperor Wen Hui's action also made the court officials start to analyze the situation differently. As soon as the crown prince was imprisoned, some people saw that the situation was not right and turned around to join other princes. The power had been again reshuffled.

At night, the wind was howling and cold. During the day, Shen Miao and Luo Tan went out to buy fabric for the new year. Luo Xueyan said that Luo Tan and Shen Miao were young ladies and needed a few more sets of clothes. When they returned to the mansion, Shen Miao felt a little tired.

She asked Jingzhe and Gu Yu to run a bath. When Shen Miao came out of the bath, she saw that there was another person in the room.

When Xie Jingxing turned around, he saw Shen Miao wearing an inner robe and twisting her wet hair with a handkerchief.

The girl was different from two years ago. Although she was still petite, she was like a budding flower, young and fragrant. Her inner robe was loose and slightly moist, as if one could see her slender figure through the fabric. Under the flickering light, her lips were red, her teeth were white, and her eyes seemed to be covered in a layer of mist. Her hair was black and wet, sticking to her face. Further down, one could see her snow-white body...

Chapter 795 Conviction (2)

Xie Jingxing looked away. Before Shen Miao could react, she saw a thick cloak thrown at her, almost knocking her down. Holding the cloak tightly, Shen Miao said angrily, "What are you doing?"

"Put it on." Xie Jingxing frowned.

Hearing that, Shen Miao indeed felt a little cold, so she put on the cloak.

Only then did Xie Jingxing turn around and glance at her. Seeing that Shen Miao did not seem to care that there was another man in the room at all and was still calmly combing her hair, the corners of his mouth curled up.

As she dried her hair, she walked over and sat down. Seeing that Xie Jingxing was sizing up her thoughtfully, she asked, "What are you looking at?"

"I thought you would be shy." Xie Jingxing said lazily, "Not bad."

Shen Miao was puzzled.

Xie Jingxing supported his chin with his hand and sized her up. "Why are you looking for me?"

Today, Shen Miao asked Cong Yang to think of a way to call Xie Jingxing over. Shen Miao stopped drying her hair and hesitated for a moment before asking, "Mr. Pei hasn't replied to me for a long time. Can you help me find out if something happened to him?" When Shen Miao said the words "Mr. Pei", she was a little stammering. She did not take the initiative to tell Xie Jingxing about Pei Lang and her, but with Xie Jingxing's methods, he probably knew the relationship between her and Pei Lang very well. In the past, Pei Lang would send her letters every few days to tell her something about Prince Ding, but there were no letters these days. Shen Miao guessed that something must have happened.

Hearing this, Xie Jingxing frowned and looked at her meaningfully. "Pei Lang?" He said indifferently, "You care about him very much."

Shen Miao frowned. "I'm not someone who will kick people to the curb when they've outlived their usefulness." No matter how dissatisfied she was with Pei Lang in her previous life, Pei Lang was on her side in this life.

Xie Jingxing nodded casually. "Alright, I'll ask around for you."

Shen Miao was speechless. Why did she feel that Xie Jingxing was just being perfunctory?

The two of them were silent, and the atmosphere was a little awkward. Shen Miao changed the topic and asked, "I heard that the crown prince hasn't been released yet. What's going on in the palace?"

Xie Jingxing glanced at her and said, "Don't worry, the crown prince is almost finished."

Shen Miao was stunned. "What?"

"The emperor of the State of Qin has already given Emperor Wen Hui an ultimatum. If Emperor Wen Hui doesn't deal with the crown prince and avenge Huangfu Hao, the emperor of the State of Qin will send troops to attack Ming Qi." Xie Jingxing stared at the tea leaves in the teacup and said in a calm tone, "At this juncture, Emperor Wen Hui can't afford to take the risk."

Shen Miao said, "No wonder..." She looked up at Xie Jingxing. "However, I don't think the emperor of the State of Qin has investigated the matter. Is he determined to make the crown prince the scapegoat? Why? Does he not want to catch the real murderer who killed his son?" In Shen Miao's mind, although she had already guessed that this would be the case, she did not expect it to happen so quickly. After all, the death of a person was not a small matter. No matter what, the emperor of the State of Qin had to investigate.

Chapter 796 Conviction (3)

Xie Jingxing smiled. "Naive."

Shen Miao was speechless. It had been a long time since anyone called her naive.

Xie Jingxing said, "The royal family only cares about the outcome. The truth is not important. After all, it's already impossible for Huangfu Hao to come back from the dead." He played with the teacup in his hand and said indifferently, "The State of Qin might have other suitable princes to replace Huangfu Hao."

It's just that the current state of affairs in the State of Qin must be very chaotic because of this. The State of Qin naturally wants Ming Qi to lose someone equivalent in status."

"No matter if the crown prince is the murderer or not, the crown prince has to die." The smile on Xie Jingxing's lips was cold. "Only when the crown prince dies will Ming Qi and the State of Qin be considered even."

Shen Miao took a deep breath.

Ming Qi and the State of Qin were originally on par with each other in terms of national strength. Now that the State of Qin had lost a crown prince, the competition for the throne between the princes would probably cause even more chaos in the imperial court. If Ming Qi was fine, the State of Qin would not be happy.

No matter what, the first reaction of a person who was in a quagmire was not to think of a way to climb out, but to pull the people around him into it.

Emperor Wen Hui had probably already seen through this, so very soon, the crown prince would become a sacrifice to balance this unfairness.

No matter how unwilling he was, for the sake of the dynasty, he had to make this decision.

Shen Miao didn't speak.

Xie Jingxing smiled. "Killing two birds with one stone. You did well."

Shen Miao said, "I'm just in charge of coming up with an idea. You're the one who executed it."

Shen Miao was the one who came up with this idea while Xie Jingxing was in charge of executing it. Xie Jingxing had many capable people under him, and it wasn't easy for him to put up such a flawless show.

Shen Miao thought that Xie Jingxing contributed the most.

Xie Jingxing smiled faintly and did not comment.

After chatting for a while, Shen Miao's hair was dry. She was so sleepy that she yawned twice. Seeing this, Xie Jingxing planned to leave.

Before he left, Shen Miao suddenly stopped him. She hesitated for a moment before asking, "Has Princess Rong Xin been looking for you recently?"

"No." Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow.

"Then... What are your plans?"

"No plans." With that, Xie Jingxing rushed out of the window without looking back.

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Shen Dongling and Wang Bi were locked in the deepest part of the prison. It was unknown if Emperor Wen Hui did it on purpose to show fairness or not, but he did not lock up the rest of the Wang family.

However, this did not mean that the situation was much better. Wang Bi was the only child in the Wang family. If anything happened to Wang Bi, the Wang family would probably be finished.

The prison guards who came and went did not treat the two of them kindly, because they were used to seeing powerful people being locked up in this prison. Moreover, the minister counselor was not a high-ranking official.

Shen Dongling was in an extremely sorry state.

A few days ago, she had the dream of becoming famous in the future, but she did not expect things to turn out like this. Originally, she and Wang Bi respected each other and were harmonious. However, once something bad happened, they fell out.

Wang Bi blamed Shen Dongling. After all, Shen Dongling was the one who came up with the idea that caused the two of them to end up in prison. Wang Bi was not a fool. If the crown prince could not be saved, how could he be saved?

Chapter 797 Conviction (4)

Shen Dongling could only try her best to defend herself. How could she have known that Huangfu Hao would die for no reason? It was clearly a conspiracy, and that she was innocent.

Today, a prison guard came to deliver food to them. The food was unusually good.

Shen Dongling was overjoyed. Over the past few days, the food they ate in the prison was often rotten, or it was dry and hard to chew. When she suddenly saw such a sumptuous meal, she was a little surprised and asked, "Is this for us?"

The guard glanced at her and smiled strangely. "Yes, it's for you."

Wang Bi suddenly realized something and his expression turned ugly. He asked, "What does this mean?"

"Heh, it seems like you are smarter than her." The prison guard continued, "After this last meal, you can say goodbye to the world."

The chopsticks in Shen Dongling's hand fell to the ground. She could not believe her ears.

On the other hand, Wang Bi fell to the ground weakly, as if he had long expected it.

"What's going on!" Shen Dongling suddenly became agitated. Her voice was distorted and sharp. She asked, "When can we be released? We are innocent. The assassination of Huangfu Hao really has nothing to do with us. We've been locked up for so long, but you still haven't solved the case. When can we be released?" She said quickly and anxiously, as if this could dispel the fear in her heart.

This was the first time Wang Bi had seen Shen Dongling lose her composure. He looked at her in a daze and did not speak.

The guard frowned at Shen Dongling. He took two steps back and said impatiently, "Not to mention you, even the crown prince has been convicted. What's the point of shouting that you are innocent?"

Wang Bi was stunned and asked, "His Highness the Crown Prince confessed?"

The prison guard snorted and said, "That's right. No matter if you're innocent or not, it's your blessing to die with the crown prince. Besides..." The prison guard smiled maliciously. "Even if you're not guilty of the assassination, the Wang family is still guilty of selling illegal salt."

Wang Bi trembled and asked with a trembling voice, "How... how did you know?"

"How did I know?" The guard waved his hand and said impatiently, "Everyone outside knows it." He glanced at Wang Bi and said, "I heard that when the ministry of justice sent people to raid the Wang family, the gold and silver were carried out in boxes for an entire afternoon! You've enjoyed wealth for long enough. Young Master Wang, don't think about anything else. Eat this meal in peace and reincarnate into a good family in your next life."

Shen Dongling's heart sank. She had hope before, but once the matter of the Wang family selling illegal salt was exposed, she and Wang Bi would really be doomed.

Now that the treasury of Ming Qi was running out, Emperor Wen Hui would not hesitate to confiscate the Wang family's wealth. Since the Wang family had been confiscated, no one in the Wang family could escape.

Shen Dongling felt like the world was spinning and she couldn't take the blow. She had done everything she could to swap marriages with Shen Yue and plan such a new life for herself, but now, it was all gone.

She was indignant!

If she hadn't come up with this idea for Wang Bi, wouldn't she still live comfortably? Huangfu Hao wouldn't have died, the crown prince wouldn't have been wronged, and they wouldn't have become innocent sacrifices. Knowing that no one who went against Shen Miao had a good ending, why did she still scheme against her that day and get beaten in her own game?

Chapter 798 Conviction (5)

Shen Miao? Oh right, Shen Miao!

Shen Miao must have done it behind the scenes!

Shen Dongling suddenly had an idea. She took off a bracelet from her wrist. After she was sent to the prison, she had almost used up all her jewelry to bribe the prison guards. This bracelet was given to her by Madam Wang the day she married Wang Bi. It was extremely expensive and was almost enough to buy a shop in a remote place. She stuffed the bracelet into the hands of the prison guard and said anxiously, "Please help me. Find my fifth sister and send a message to her for me. Tell her that I have something to say to her." She then said sincerely, "I hope you can help me one last time."

She was good-looking to begin with. When she put on such a pitiful expression, the guard's heart softened. He took the bracelet and said, "In that case, I'll help you this time. However, I'm only in charge of delivering a message. I can't guarantee if Fifth Miss Shen will come or not."

Shen Dongling quickly thanked him.

Wang Bi sneered, looking tired. It was unknown if he was mocking himself or Shen Dongling, but he said, "Do you think Shen Miao will come to save you?"

"I don't know if she'll come or not." Shen Dongling was no longer as weak as when she was facing the prison guards. Her expression was a little ruthless. "If she's willing to save me, I'm willing to be her servant. Since we're family, we naturally have to help each other."

The prison guard really delivered a message to Shen Miao. However, Shen Miao interrupted him and expressed that she did not want to go.

Among the three branches of the Shen family, only the first branch was still standing in the capital like an impregnable wall. Two years ago, Shen Xin was demoted and chased out of the capital. Not one expected him to return two years later. Not only that, but Shen Xin was doing better than two years ago. One was a prisoner, and the other was the daughter of a general with a lot of power. No matter what, the prison guard would not choose to offend Shen Miao.

The prison guard left.

Shen Miao sat in front of the dressing mirror. As Jingzhe combed her hair, she asked, "I thought Miss would go and see Third Miss."

Gu Yu glared at her. "Why would Miss go to see here? After all, the second and third branches have nothing to do with us. Moreover, they committed a capital crime. If People saw Miss going to see Third Miss, wouldn't they spread rumors?"

Jingzhe stuck out her tongue and said, "Miss, you went to see Second Miss and Eldest Miss for the last time, but why don't you want to see Third Miss for the last time?"

"Shen Dongling is not an ordinary person." Shen Miao listened to the two of them argue and said, "She specially set up a trap for me. I won't jump in."

"A trap?" Jingzhe's expression suddenly changed. "Miss, are you saying that Third Miss wants to harm you?"

"Never relax vigilance against evildoers," Shen Miao said indifferently.

Among the daughters of the Shen family, Shen Yue and Shen Qing were pampered by their mothers. They were vicious, but they were not very scheming. However, Shen Dongling was different. Shen Dongling and Concubine Wan had been suppressed by Ren Wanyun. Shen Dongling, who had survived in such an environment, was more strong-willed than ordinary people. The fact that she could endure for more than ten years and make herself almost invisible was enough to prove this.

Shen Miao had never dared to underestimate such an enemy. If Shen Yue and Shen Qing suffered a heavy blow, they would panic first. However, Shen Dongling would still try to seize every opportunity to make a comeback. As long as she was not dead, she would not give up.

Chapter 799 Conviction (6)

Seeing how coldly Shen Dongling treated her biological father, Shen Miao did not think that Shen Dongling would have any feelings for a sister like her.

Gu Yu also mumbled, "She's already in prison. I don't think she can still play tricks."

"Don't worry. As long as I don't go, nothing will go wrong," Shen Miao said.

Jingzhe nodded repeatedly. "Yes, it's right not to go."

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. However, there was something she found strange. The crown prince and Wang Bi were naturally sent to prison because of Huangfu Hao's death, but what made Emperor Wen Hui in such a hurry to convict them was probably related to the smuggling of salt.

Emperor Wen Hui could not tolerate people who wanted to use illegal means to make money, even if it was his own son. That was why the decision was made so quickly.

However... How did the news of the salt smuggling spread?

Did Xie Jingxing do it? She held her chin and thought hard.

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In the palace, outside the Hall of Mental Cultivation.

The empress had been kneeling there for the entire day.

At this moment, under the sun, she was sweating profusely. She gritted her teeth and did not say a word, looking like she was about to faint at any time.

The palace eunuch beside her advised, "Your Majesty, let's go back first. His Majesty is probably busy today and can't see you. Why do you have to hurt yourself like this? It's not good if you catch a cold."

"I have to kneel." The empress said firmly, "I have to kneel until His Majesty changes his mind."

When the eunuch delivered the empress's words to Emperor Wen Hui, Emperor Wen Hui flew into a rage and said, "Let her kneel! Let her kneel! If she wants to change my mind, she can forget about it."

Ever since she found out that the crown prince had been convicted, the empress wanted to see Emperor Wen Hui personally to plead for leniency, but Emperor Wen Hui did not even want to see her. The empress was worried about the crown prince, but there was nothing she could do. She could only kneel outside the Hall of Mental Cultivation, thinking that if she knelt for long enough, Emperor Wen Hui would let her in for the sake of her status.

The empress knew that the crown prince had made a huge mistake. Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that there was something fishy about what happened to Huangfu Hao. Because of this, Emperor Wen Hui was still protective of his son. The sale of illegal salt with the Wang family had worn away the last bit of guilt towards his son in Emperor Wen Hui's heart. Now that Emperor Wen Hui was angry and disgusted with the crown prince, why would he see the empress?

The empress had no choice. After being husband and wife with Emperor Wen Hui for so many years, she knew very well what Emperor Wen Hui was thinking. However, the crown prince was her only son. For this only son, she was willing to kneel for the rest of her life. A day was nothing.

Just as the situation was in a deadlock, the empress heard a chuckle from behind. Someone walked over enchantingly. She was wearing a peach-colored golden-threaded dress. Her clothes were bright, and her face was radiant. She looked at the empress and said, "Sister, why are you kneeling here? You scared me. I thought you were performing a courtesy to me."

The empress gritted her teeth and looked at her with hatred. This person was Consort Xu. The empress suspected that the revelation of the illicit salt dealings must be done by Prince Zhou and Prince Jing. After all, when the crown prince was dead, the two of them would have one less powerful enemy.

However, without evidence, she could not accuse her.

Consort Xu smiled charmingly and asked, "Sister, why aren't you going in? Did you do something wrong? Do you want me to go in and ask His Majesty to forgive you?"

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The empress gritted her teeth and said, "There's no need."

In the battles of the previous dynasty, the women in the harem were often implicated. If the crown prince fell, how long could the empress keep her position? One day, Emperor Wen Hui would age. If Prince Zhou succeeded the throne, what would happen to the empress?

Consort Xu smiled and said, "If you don't want me to, I won't force you. However, I still have something to tell His Majesty. I won't accompany you anymore." She covered her mouth and smiled, about to send someone in to inform Emperor Wen Hui.

The empress wanted to scratch Consort Xu's face. If Consort Xu went in now to add fuel to the flame, the empress would probably be even angrier at the crown prince.

However, she could not stop Consort Xu.

Just as Consort Xu was about to enter, she saw someone rushing over from outside. When he saw Consort Xu, he said apologetically, "Your highness, Prince Rui is outside and wants to request an audience with His Majesty."

Prince Rui? Consort Xu and the empress were stunned at the same time. Why was Prince Rui here now?

Although Consort Xu was usually arrogant, she was not stupid and did not dare to be careless when it came to serious matters. She immediately said, "Then I'll come back later."

The empress was a few years older than Consort Xu and had seen a lot of things in the imperial court. Her heart sank. Prince Rui only came when the crown prince was convicted. He probably came with ill intentions.

The personal guard beside Emperor Wen Hui quickly came out and said a few words to the person who reported. The person who reported left. Soon, the empress and Consort Xu, one kneeling and one standing, saw a young man in purple walking over.

He was wearing half a silver mask and had a relaxed expression. For some reason, the empress was a little ashamed and angry. As the empress of a country, she was seen in such a sorry state by outsiders. Consort Xu looked at his face and was a little stunned. She could not see his appearance clearly, but his noble aura and elegance were enough to make people admire him. It was as if as long as he stood here, others would naturally be attracted to look at him.

Prince Rui walked past the empress and glanced at her. There was not much emotion in his eyes, and his footsteps did not stop, as if he did not see the empress kneeling in front of the hall.

In the study, Emperor Wen Hui sat at the table. He looked calm and composed, as if he was not the person who had just flown into a rage in the study.

However, his back was a little stiff.

The purple-robed young man walked in from outside and lazily called him Your Majesty. Then, he walked up to him and sat down. There was no respect or admiration in his eyes.

That look actually made Emperor Wen Hui feel like he was nothing in front of a young man.