

Venomous 801

Chapter 801 Grant a Marriage (2)

This thought only lasted for a moment before Emperor Wen Hui came back to his senses. He smiled at Prince Rui and said, "I've been very busy these days, so I didn't have a chance to ask if Prince Rui is used to living in Ming Qi."

Now that the State of Qin had a hostile attitude towards Ming Qi, if the Daliang Dynasty wanted to take advantage of this situation, Ming Qi would really be finished. Therefore, Emperor Wen Hui did not want to make things too ugly with the Daliang Dynasty.

That was why he was in a hurry to curry favor with Prince Rui. If the people of Ming Qi saw Emperor Wen Hui like this, they would probably be disdainful.

Prince Rui smiled lazily and said, "Thanks to Your Majesty, I'm doing well. However, I heard that Your Majesty hasn't been doing well these past few days."

Emperor Wen Hui's heart skipped a beat, but he did not show it on his face. He only shook his head and smiled bitterly. "I didn't teach my son well. I'm really sorry that such a thing happened while you are in Ming Qi."

"You can't be blamed." Prince Rui said, "After all, you have nine sons and you can't discipline all of them." His tone was neither happy nor angry. "But Huangfu Hao is really pitiful. He came to Ming Qi to pay tribute, but he died together with his sister here. What a tragedy."

Emperor Wen Hui's smile became a little awkward.

Prince Rui was right. The emperor of the State of Qin wanted the crown prince to pay with his life. Of course, it was because he wanted Ming Qi to suffer an equivalent loss, but there was another reason. When the two countries came to pay tribute, Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty was not injured at all, but the crown prince and princess of the State of Qin were both dead. What did this mean? Was Ming Qi deliberately targeting the State of Qin? Or was he showing that the State of Qin was weak and could not even protect its own crown prince and princess?

No matter what, this was something that made the State of Qin very embarrassed. Therefore, even if the crown prince paid with his life, the alliance between Ming Qi and the State of Qin would still be at a standstill for a long time.

He said, "I'm also trying to settle this matter as soon as possible."

Prince Rui smiled. "The emperor of the State of Qin won't let this matter rest so easily."

Emperor Wen Hui was annoyed. He tried his best to avoid talking about this matter, but Prince Rui kept bringing it up. Emperor Wen Hui did not think that Prince Rui was stupid enough to not discern this. Then Prince Rui must have done it on purpose to disgust him.

Emperor Wen Hui wanted to storm out like he did with his disobedient officials, or fly into a rage. Unfortunately, Prince Rui was not his official. Although he was a prince, in a way, he was even more fierce than him, the emperor.

Emperor Wen Hui could only change the topic by asking, "I wonder why Prince Rui is here today."

Prince Rui did not speak and only knocked at the table with one finger. In the silence, Emperor Wen Hui felt like his heart was clenched by something. He suddenly thought that Prince Rui chose this time to come today because he wanted to talk to him about something very important.

If Prince Rui mentioned the city at the border of the Daliang Dynasty and Ming Qi at this time... how could Emperor Wen Hui reject him?

His back turned from stiff to being covered with cold sweat. Prince Rui was silent, but the silence put a lot of pressure on Emperor Wen Hui.

A moment later, Prince Rui stopped knocking at the table and said casually, "I come for my marriage."

"What?" Emperor Wen Hui was instinctively stunned when he heard this. Before he could understand, he heard Prince Rui's calm voice.

"My brother always wanted me to start a family as soon as possible. This time, when I came to Ming Qi, he specially instructed me to bring a princess consort back. That's what I am here for."

Chapter 802 Grant a Marriage (3)

This time, Emperor Wen Hui understood. Prince Rui wanted to find a woman in Ming Qi. But why? Emperor Wen Hui instinctively felt that it was a little strange. He guessed that there was a conspiracy, but he could not show it. He immediately revealed a magnanimous smile and said, "I see. Prince Rui, you are a young and talented man. I wonder which girl you like?"

Prince Rui stared at him, and a smile suddenly appeared in his beautiful eyes. Emperor Wen Hui was stunned when he heard the answer.

"Shen Miao from the Shen family."

Emperor Wen Hui immediately stopped smiling.

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His hands were trembling with anger. He wished he could get someone to drag Prince Rui away and kill him, but he couldn't. However, he finally couldn't maintain the friendly smile on his face anymore, and his expression was extremely stiff.

He asked in a dry voice, "Who... did you say?"

"The daughter of the mighty general." Prince Rui said, "Your Majesty, don't you remember her? A few days ago, the crown prince wanted to marry her as his secondary consort."

How dare he push me like this!? He was going too far!

Many thoughts flashed across Emperor Wen Hui's mind. In the end, he couldn't help but sneer.

Prince Rui looked like he did not care about the alliance between Ming Qi and the State of Qin and only cared about his own matters every day. It turned out that he was just pretending to be indifferent and was secretly planning this.

Did he want to marry Shen Miao or the military power of the Shen family?

Emperor Wen Hui knew that to the Daliang Dynasty, the Shen family's military power might not be a big deal. The Daliang Dynasty had many outstanding generals to begin with. However, for Ming Qi, most of the outstanding generals had been dismissed by him in the early years. Now that the Xie family was practically non-existent, the only family that could support Ming Qi was the Shen family. Without the Shen family, Ming Qi was like a tiger without claws.

What a good move Prince Rui was planning!

Emperor Wen Hui forced a smile and said, "Prince Rui, you have good taste. However, everyone knows that General Shen loves his daughter. Even if Prince Rui insists on marrying Shen Miao, General Shen will not want her to go to Daliang."

"What's so difficult about that?" Prince Rui played with the ring on his finger and said casually, "Can't Your Majesty just issue an imperial edict?"

Emperor Wen Hui was stunned.

Prince Rui continued, "The Daliang Dynasty and Ming Qi are on good terms now. Your Majesty, don't tell me you won't even do me this favor." He stretched and said indifferently, "In that case, it's time for me to suggest to my brother about occupying the city."

Emperor Wen Hui had lived for his entire life and finally knew what it felt like to be "shaking with anger".

The Shen family was a fat piece of meat. Not only did Prince Rui want to snatch this fat piece of meat, but he also wanted the owner of the meat to offer it to him with both hands!

If he really gave Shen Xin an imperial edict, even if Shen Xin stayed in Ming Qi in the future because of his loyalty towards Ming Qi, he would probably be resentful.

If he refused to issue the imperial edict... Emperor Wen Hui glanced at the man opposite him. He was wearing a mask, so his expression could not be seen clearly. However, he felt that under this lazy and impudent appearance, he was an extremely ruthless person. In a situation where Ming Qi and the State of Qin were at odds, it was not a wise move to rashly go against the Daliang Dynasty.

Prince Rui put him in a conundrum to which there was no perfect answer, because no matter what he did, it would always be wrong!

The man's gaze landed on Emperor Wen Hui, like a cat playing with a mouse in its claws. He asked lazily, "Your Majesty, have you thought it through?"

Chapter 803 Grant a Marriage (4)

Emperor Wen Hui held his breath. Ever since he ascended the throne, he had dealt with countless tricky matters, but none of them were as aggrieving as this one. No one dared to be so rude to him!

For the first time in his life, Emperor Wen Hui began to regret dealing with the big families in order to be safe. If Ming Qi had a few more fierce generals like Shen Xin, would he have to be fearful of the Daliang Dynasty?

However, there was no medicine for regret in the world.

Seeing that he did not answer, Prince Rui smiled and stood up and was about to leave.

“Wait!” Emperor Wen Hui stopped him.

Prince Rui stopped and smiled. “Your Majesty, have you thought it through? The emperor of a country is a man of his word.”

“Since Ming Qi is on good terms with the Daliang Dynasty, I naturally have to help you.” Emperor Wen Hui smiled uglier than if he was crying. He said, “If Miss Shen marries Prince Rui, it will also be Miss Shen’s blessing. I’ll be glad to see it. Don’t worry, I’ll draft an imperial edict today and issue it in a few days.” After hesitating for a moment, he said with extreme difficulty, “About the city...”

“Take it as a gift for helping me.” Prince Rui smiled and left in a good mood.

After Prince Rui left, Emperor Wen Hui collapsed on the chair. Beads of sweat appeared on his forehead, and his face was extremely red.

Anger, shame, humiliation, and hatred intertwined on his face. However, he was too powerless to change anything.

This might be the most humiliating thing in the world. He was the emperor of a country and held supreme power, but he had to admit that he was useless.

Eunuch Gao, who was at the side, did not even dare to breathe loudly. Seeing the emperor forced to such a state, he was also terrified.

“Bring me my pen and paper.” Emperor Wen Hui paused for a moment and suddenly said.

Eunuch Gao quickly agreed.

Emperor Wen Hui’s eyes darkened. Although Prince Rui said that the Daliang Dynasty would not annex the city at the border, it was only temporary. No one knew when the Daliang Dynasty would show its ambition again. Most importantly, after Shen Miao married Prince Rui, although Shen Xin was still serving Ming Qi, Emperor Wen Hui no longer dared to trust him.

Previously, Emperor Wen Hui suppressed Shen Xin because he was afraid that Shen Xin would surpass him in terms of power and reputation. However, the mighty general had been loyal for generations, which was why he still trusted Shen Xin. However, if his daughter was in the Daliang Dynasty, and the Daliang Dynasty used Shen Miao to threaten Shen Xin, who knew what Shen Xin would do?

Shen Xin was no longer a useful chess piece to Ming Qi. In order to guard against the Daliang Dynasty, Ming Qi had to quickly restore its alliance with the State of Qin. Only by working together could the two countries resist the Daliang Dynasty.

The State of Qin was still angry at Ming Qi for what happened to Huangfu Hao and Princess Ming An, so Ming Qi had to show his sincerity.

The crown prince had to die.

Emperor Wen Hui closed his eyes.

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To everyone's surprise, the verdict Emperor Wen Hui gave the crown prince came quickly and suddenly. The crown prince committed suicide in the prison.

Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that it was not a suicide. The crown prince was executed in the prison. For the sake of the crown prince's reputation, he couldn't be beheaded in front of everyone like a prisoner in the market. This way, the prestige of the Ming Qi royal family would probably be destroyed the next day.

The commoners were always easy to fool, but the officials knew this very well.

When the news of the crown prince's suicide came, the empress caused a scene. Then, she fell seriously ill and stayed in the Palace of Earthly Tranquility to recuperate.

Chapter 804 Grant a Marriage (5)

Everyone in the harem was on tenterhooks. How could the empress fall seriously ill all of a sudden? It was probably because the crown prince had fallen, and the empress no longer had anyone to rely on for the rest of her life. The empress had lost her beloved son, so she would probably hate Emperor Wen Hui. Emperor Wen Hui naturally had to be wary of her. Only they knew if the empress was recuperating and locked up because of illness.

If the empress fell, who would replace her? It seemed that Consort Xu had the highest chance of winning. Emperor Wen Hui doted on Consort Xu, and Consort Xu had two sons. Prince Zhou, Prince Jing, and Prince Li fought to the death, but after all, Prince Li did not have a mother who was doted on by the emperor.

Prince Zhou and Prince Jing could be considered to have the right time, place, and people.

Apart from the crown prince and the empress, everyone else who was involved in Huangfu Hao's death was implicated. The one who was the most implicated was the Wang family.

That day, it was Wang Bi who suggested going to enjoy the incense and even brought his wife along. Unexpectedly, Huangfu Hao died at their gathering place. There was no way Wang Bi and Shen Dongling could get away with it.

However, they weren't jailed on charges of murdering Huangfu Hao.

The Wang family was secretly engaged in the smuggling of illicit salt. It was a serious crime to trade illicit salt, and the entire Wang family was in trouble. Wang Bi and Shen Dongling were sentenced to beheading, and the other men of the Wang family were exiled, while the women were sent to the border as military prostitutes.

Emperor Wen Hui was quite angry this time, as if he had been provoked by something and was venting his wrath. However, the thoughts of an emperor had always been unpredictable. Although the officials were puzzled, they were only following orders.

As Shen Miao listened to Jingzhe talk about what had happened over the past few days, she drank tea. Beside her, Luo Tan kept stuffing snowflake candy into her mouth.

The snowflake candy was brought by Cong Yang. He said that it was made by a famous pastry chef in the Daliang Dynasty. In the world, only the royal family of the Daliang Dynasty could eat it. After Luo Tan ate one, she was very surprised and asked Shen Miao where she bought it. Shen Miao could only make up something to brush her off.

“Huangfu Hao’s death has really blown up.” As Luo Tan ate, she said, “He got so many people to die with him. The death of a crown prince is not even enough.” At the end of her sentence, her voice trailed off, as if she was afraid that the walls had ears.

Shen Miao smiled faintly and did not comment, but she was also shocked by Emperor Wen Hui’s decisiveness.

Like father, like son. Back then, in order to get rid of the Shen family, Fu Xiuyi did not care about the lives of Fu Ming and Wanyu at all. At that time, she couldn’t believe there was no such a heartless person in the world. Now, it seemed that Fu Xiuyi was exactly the same as Emperor Wen Hui.

In the eyes of the emperor, family, love, and friendship were not important. Only power was what he was after. In order to stabilize his position, sacrificing a son was nothing. Anyway, there would be other women who would give birth to his children.

This was probably the nature of the royal family.

Luo Tan looked at the small amount of candy on the plate and counted with her fingers. “Aunt and Uncle have tried it, and so has Cousin Qiu. Only Brother Ling hasn’t tried it. Let’s leave this for Brother Ling.” She looked at Shen Miao.

Shen Miao naturally wouldn’t mind it.

“If only you could remember where you bought this snowflake candy.” Luo Tan sighed and said regretfully, “I’ve eaten all the pastries in Spring City and almost all the pastries in the capital. This is the first time I’ve eaten such delicious snowflake candy. I plan to get someone to look for it tomorrow. I have to find this shop!”

Chapter 805 Grant a Marriage (6)

Shen Miao was speechless. This was made by the royal chef of the Daliang Dynasty. Even if Luo Tan turned the entire capital upside down, she would not be able to find this “shop”.

Luo Tan continued, “Brother Ling also likes pastries. He will definitely like this.” After saying that, she thought of something and said, “But Brother Ling has been a little strange these past few days.”

Shen Miao asked, “Why?” She didn’t pay attention to Luo Ling that much, so she really didn’t notice what had changed about Luo Ling.

“Apart from going to the Ministry of War, he doesn’t come out much after returning to the mansion. He just practices martial arts in the courtyard.” Luo Tan supported her chin and said, “Brother Ling wasn’t so harsh on himself in the past. Moreover, when I talked to him these few days, he was very dejected, as if he had suffered a blow.” Luo Tan looked at Shen Miao. “Cousin Miao, you’re smart. Do you know what’s wrong with him?”

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Shen Miao said, "I'm not with him all the time. How can I know what he's thinking?" Seeing that Luo Tan looked worried, she comforted her, "Don't worry. It's probably because the Ministry of War is busy at the end of the year. He'll be fine after a few days."

Luo Tan nodded. As she spoke, she saw Shen Qiu and Luo Ling walk in one after another. Seeing that the two of them were in the main hall, Luo Tan called out, "Cousin Qiu, Brother Ling, come and eat snowflake candy!"

Luo Ling entered the hall and glanced at Shen Miao. Seeing that Shen Miao was smiling at Shen Qiu, his eyes darkened, and he walked to the side and sat down.

Shen Qiu grabbed a piece of candy and stuffed it into his mouth. "Why are you so free today?"

Luo Tan giggled and chatted with Shen Qiu. Then, she heard a servant outside report that Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan had returned.

Shen Qiu said, "It just so happens that Father and Mother are back. It's time for us to eat."

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan walked in from outside. However, this time, even the carefree Luo Tan sensed that something was wrong.

Shen Xin's face was ashen, and his expression was very ugly. Luo Xueyan also looked very angry. Usually, even if something worried them in the imperial court, Shen Xin and his wife would make sure they kept it at the doorway. Moreover, the two of them were happy-go-lucky by nature, and there was rarely anything that could anger them.

However, today, it was obvious that they were furious.

The servant beside Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan did not even dare to breathe loudly. He lowered his head and left.

Luo Tan and Luo Ling were puzzled, but they did not ask. Shen Qiu wanted to ask, but when he saw his father's expression, he hesitated and did not dare to speak.

In the end, it was Shen Miao who took the initiative to speak. She looked at Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan and said with a smile, "Father, Mother, why don't you look happy? Is something wrong?"

As soon as Shen Miao spoke, Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan looked at her at the same time. Shen Xin's eyes were filled with all kinds of emotions, while Luo Xueyan's eyes were filled with guilt and helplessness.

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat, but she quickly understood that this matter was probably related to her.

Luo Xueyan took a deep breath and said, "It's nothing. It's something to do with the imperial court. Jiaojiao, are you hungry? Let's eat first."

However, that smile was so forced that even someone as insensitive as Luo Tan could tell.

What was so serious that the fearless Shen Xin and his wife had to hide it?

Shen Miao did not speak or move. She just looked at Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan intently. From her attitude, it was obvious that she wanted an explanation and she was not satisfied with the explanation Luo Xueyan had just given her at all.

Looking at Shen Miao like that, Shen Qiu was in a daze as he flashed on the scene a few years ago. At that time, Shen Miao was insensible and not close to them. Every time she asked Shen Xin for something, she would stand in front of him stubbornly and not say a word.

All these years, Shen Miao seemed to have changed a lot, but some of her mannerisms had not changed.

Shen Xin said, "Jiaojiao, be good." It was rare for him to be so strict with Shen Miao. If it were in the past, Shen Miao would have cried.

Luo Ling looked at her worriedly.

Shen Miao's expression did not change. She still looked calm. She said, "Father, Mother, why don't you tell me the truth? If I can't solve it either, I can at least share some of the burden. If I can solve it, wouldn't it be better? I'm not a child. Like Brother, I'm also a member of the Shen family."

Shen Xin's lips moved, but he still did not speak.

Shen Miao looked at him, her eyes as clear as a stream. Under such a gaze, it was impossible for anyone to refuse her. She continued, "Besides, this has something to do with me, right?"

Luo Xueyan was suddenly shocked. Luo Tan and Luo Ling looked at Shen Miao in surprise, and Shen Qiu was puzzled.

When Shen Xin heard this, he looked at Shen Miao for a while. Finally, he sighed deeply and said with a bitter smile, "Today, the emperor issued an imperial edict."

"He wants to marry you to." He said with difficulty, "Prince Rui."

Chapter 806 Identity (1)

As soon as he said that, the hall fell silent.

Luo Xueyan did not dare to look into Shen Miao's eyes. Shen Xin's voice revealed deep fatigue. Luo Ling was stunned, and Luo Tan opened her mouth wide in shock. Shen Qiu slammed the table and stood up. "What's going on!"

The calmest one was Shen Miao.

However, on the surface, she looked calm, but her heart was in turmoil. She had long thought that Xie Jingxing would do this, but she did not expect him to dare to do it so blatantly... Wait, how did he get Emperor Wen Hui to take the initiative to grant the marriage?

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As Shen Miao was thinking, Shen Qiu couldn't wait to stand up and say anxiously, "Who is Prince Rui? How can a girl from Ming Qi marry someone from the Daliang Dynasty? Is the emperor crazy?"

“Qiu!” Luo Xueyan glared at him. “Be careful with your words!” The walls had ears. The people of the royal family had spies everywhere. If Shen Qiu’s words were brought back to the palace, he would be severely punished.

Shen Qiu suddenly shut up and glanced at Shen Miao. He scratched his ears and cheeks and said, “No matter what, Sister can’t marry that Prince Rui... Prince Rui, why is this name so familiar...” A thought flashed across his mind and he suddenly clapped his hands. “So it’s that person! I was wondering why the dignified Prince of the Daliang Dynasty would take the initiative to greet me. So he’s trying to get close to me for my sister. Damn it!”

Shen Xin frowned and asked, “You’ve seen Prince Rui?”

“Last time, on the way back to the mansion with Cousin Ling, I met him. He even invited me to his mansion to spar with him.” Shen Qiu said angrily, “If I had known that he was up to this, I would have cut off the horse’s leg and let him fall to his death!”

Shen Miao was speechless.

Luo Ling was also stunned. Then, he thought of something and looked at Shen Miao.

Shen Miao was puzzled by Luo Ling’s strange gaze, but she was not in the mood to ask. She only asked Shen Xin, “Is this an imperial edict issued by His Majesty? Why did His Majesty suddenly grant me a marriage?”

There were many girls in the Daliang Dynasty who were suitable for marriage. There were also a few princesses in the royal family who were at the right age. Shen Miao knew that this was Xie Jingxing’s idea, but she still wanted to ask how Xie Jingxing convinced Emperor Wen Hui.

Shen Xin looked at Shen Miao with a sad expression. He paused for a moment before sighing and saying, “Jiaojiao, I’m incompetent—” Only then did he slowly tell her what happened today.

It turned out that when Emperor Wen Hui was about to dismiss the court, he suddenly mentioned that Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty wanted to bring a princess consort back home. Some of the court officials were excited, and some were uneasy. Those who doted on their daughters naturally did not want their daughters to marry far away, and those who were ambitious wanted to make their daughter a princess consort.

Emperor Wen Hui did not give them a chance to speak and directly granted the marriage. The girl who was given the marriage was Shen Miao, the daughter of the mighty general, Shen Xin.

Everyone was stunned. They knew that Shen Miao was the apple of Shen Xin’s eye. Shen Xin was probably unwilling to let Shen Miao marry into the Daliang Dynasty. Now that Ming Qi needed Shen Xin, why would Emperor Wen Hui do something to displease Shen Xin at this time? Even the wise officials couldn’t understand what was on the mind of the emperor this time.

Shen Xin was naturally filled with anger. He wished he could draw his knife and cut off the throne room. He could tolerate all kinds of grievances, but he could not let his daughter suffer. This time, Emperor Wen Hui did not even discuss it with him and directly arranged a marriage for Shen Miao. This meant that the Shen family did not have a chance to object at all. If they objected, they would be disobeying the imperial edict and die.

Chapter 807 Identity (2)

At the same time, Shen Xin was very puzzled. A few days ago, Emperor Wen Hui still wanted to marry Shen Miao to the crown prince. Why did he change his mind so drastically in just a few days?

After the court session ended, Emperor Wen Hui stopped Shen Xin. He brought Shen Xin to the imperial study and chatted with him for a while.

This time, he told Shen Xin the truth behind this marriage arrangement.

Therefore, Shen Xin knew that Prince Rui was the one who wanted to marry Shen Miao. Prince Rui used Ming Qi to threaten Emperor Wen Hui into making this decision.

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Emperor Wen Hui was helpless and had no choice but to agree to this request. In the end, Emperor Wen Hui said to Shen Xin, "I'm Ming Qi's emperor. I can't watch my people die because of my poor decision, so General Shen, please let Miss Shen exchange her for the safety of the people. I believe Miss Shen will understand my decision too."

Officials were supposed to obey the emperor. If it were in the past, Shen Xin would definitely understand Emperor Wen Hui.

However, when Emperor Wen Hui asked him to let her daughter to exchange her life for the safety of the people, Shen Xin felt a chill run down his spine. He even felt that the emperor he had been loyal to his entire life was a hypocrite.

Among the people of the world, Shen Miao was also one of them! Why should she be the sacrifice? In his life, he had fought in the war and sacrificed most of his life for Ming Qi. He would not hesitate to die at any time to protect the people. However, if he could not even protect his daughter, what kind of father was he? After sacrificing him, was it his daughter's turn to be sacrificed now?

Shen Xin zoned out and did not hear what Emperor Wen Hui said after that. He was probably talking about what he would give Shen Miao as a reward when she got married to Prince Rui. However, in Shen Xin's ears, he felt that it was extremely ironic.

No matter how selfless a person was, they would still prioritize their family, especially Shen Xin. In the past few decades, he did not bring his daughter with him, which made Shen Miao distant from him and his wife. Later, the heavens took pity on them and made Shen Miao close to them again. However, Shen Miao's personality had changed a lot, as if she had suddenly grown up overnight. Shen Xin's heart ached when he saw this.

Shen Miao was protected like a flower in the Shen family. Now, this flower had unknowingly grown into a strong tree. Shen Xin already felt guilty towards Shen Miao. Now that the imperial edict was issued, Shen Xin was really too ashamed to face Shen Miao.

After Shen Xin finished speaking, everyone in the hall fell silent, and Shen Qiu stopped talking.

Emperor Wen Hui had made it so clear. What else could they do? Were they going to watch Shen Miao get married? It seemed too cruel to Shen Miao.

Shen Qiu did not dare to imagine his sister living with a man who she barely knew and going to a country she had never been to.

Shen Miao said, "I see." Her expression was calm, as if she was not affected at all. Only then did everyone realize that after hearing the content of the imperial edict, Shen Miao did not look surprised at all.

Luo Xueyan was afraid that Shen Miao would suffer a shock, so she said, "Jiaojiao, you don't have to worry. It's not decided yet..."

"Mother, you don't have to comfort me. The imperial edict has already been issued. You can't go against the imperial edict, right?" Shen Miao smiled. "Besides, it's not a bad thing to marry Prince Rui. As a princess consort, I don't have to worry about money. Although Prince Rui's face can't be seen, it's not hard to tell that he's a good-looking person."

Chapter 808 Identity (3)

"But you don't know him." Shen Qiu said anxiously, "How do you know if he's a good person?"

"Isn't this how it works?" Shen Miao said indifferently, "Some people spend their entire lives together without knowing what kind of person they live with. Marrying Prince Rui is not as bad as you think. If I stay in the capital, given my identity, I will be most likely to be schemed against again. The Shen family can't protect me everytime."

A sadness of pain flashed across Shen Xin's eyes.

The more military power he had, the more he would be shackled. The more afraid the emperor was of him, the more the emperor wanted to restrain him. If Shen Miao's marriage couldn't be used by the crown prince, it would naturally be used by others. It was indeed impossible for the Shen family to protect Shen Miao at all times.

For the first time, he hated having so much military power.

"Daliang is a good place." Shen Miao smiled and said with a yearning tone, "It's written in the travelog that the Daliang Dynasty is rich and peaceful. At night, people are singing and dancing in harmony, and they don't even need to lock their doors. It's a good scene."

"No matter how beautiful the scene is, you're alone..." Luo Xueyan couldn't bear to continue.

"No one dares to bully the princess consort of Prince Rui." Shen Miao thought for a moment. "Since Prince Rui wants to marry me, he might be deeply in love with me and will naturally treat me well."

She rarely teased herself like this, which made Luo Xueyan and the others laugh. Luo Xueyan smiled and said, "Silly child, he might not..." She suddenly paused. Shen Miao was smart. How could she not know that what Prince Rui wanted was most likely the Shen family instead of her?

At the thought of this, Luo Xueyan felt extremely sad.

Shen Miao smiled. "It's a joyous thing. Why don't we celebrate it?" She said, "Since the imperial edict is issued, it won't be long before it's announced. I have to start preparing my dowry."

There was no resentment or unhappiness in her tone. Instead, it was very natural, as if this was a marriage that had been proposed for a long time. The more this was the case, the sadder Shen Xin and his wife were.

After chatting for a while, they started eating. The meal was tasteless to everyone, and everyone had their own thoughts. After eating, they went to rest. Luo Tan held Shen Miao's arm and had something to say to her. Just as she was walking towards her courtyard, she was stopped by Luo Ling.

"Cousin Ling, what's the matter?" Shen Miao looked at him and asked.

Luo Ling asked, "Cousin, do you really want to marry Prince Rui?"

Luo Tan looked at Luo Ling strangely. Shen Miao smiled and said, "The imperial edict has been issued. It doesn't matter if I really like him or not."

"I thought you would say no straightaway." Luo Ling's eyes darkened, but he still smiled. "Just like how you rejected those young masters in Spring City in the past."

Shen Miao smiled and did not say anything.

"Congratulations." He smiled bitterly.

Shen Miao nodded in thanks.

After sending Luo Ling off, Luo Tan pulled Shen Miao into the house. After closing the door, she lowered her voice and said mysteriously, "Little Cousin, you know about this, right?"

"What?" Shen Miao was puzzled.

"About Prince Rui forcing the emperor to allow him to marry you!" Luo Tan said anxiously.

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. Luo Tan was usually carefree and not sensitive to anything, but she had a surprisingly sharp intuition when it came to things she wasn't supposed to know.

She replied vaguely, "How is that possible?"

"Why not?" Luo Tan was suddenly enthusiastic. "Do you still remember the last time we were kidnapped? When I woke up, I told Prince Rui what you said. It didn't take Prince Rui long to find you. At that time, I was curious about your relationship with him. You must be quite close. Otherwise, why would he help you? It's like the hero saying the beauty in the novels."

Chapter 809 Identity (4)

Shen Miao said, "Stop reading so many novels."

Luo Tan rested her chin on her hands. "That Prince Rui is quite capable. At that time, Aunt and Uncle looked for you for a few days but to no avail, but he found you immediately. In our Luo family, we only look at people's ability. He's a capable man. I heard that he's very good-looking, which is even better. Many good-looking men are useless. For example, Doctor Gao, who often comes to our mansion, is quite good-looking. However, at a glance, you can tell that he's weak. Such a man is unreliable."

Cong Yang, who was listening with interest on the tree branch outside, almost fell down. He wondered how Young Master Gao would feel after hearing this...

"Enough of that." Shen Miao glanced at her. "What exactly do you want to say?"

"Cousin, I knew you were the smartest! In the entire Shen family. You know me the best!" Luo Tan looked at Shen Miao expectantly. "I only have one wish. When you go to the Daliang Dynasty, bring me along!"

Shen Miao asked in disbelief, "What did you say?"

"I've never been to the Daliang Dynasty." Luo Tan said, "But I've heard that the Daliang Dynasty is a good place with a lot of delicious food and fun things. Brother Ling and I came to the capital to broaden our horizons. The more places we see, the better."

Shen Miao said, "You were the one who secretly climbed into the carriage."

Luo Tan said, "If you still treat me as your cousin, bring me along!"

"No," Shen Miao said firmly.

In the next hour, Shen Miao was pestered by Luo Tan. When she went to the Daliang Dynasty, although she had Xie Jingxing, Shen Miao knew that it might not be a smooth journey. No one knew what would happen in the future, so she didn't want to drag Luo Tan into it.

After Luo Tan left, Shen Miao sighed and opened the window. Outside, the trees were swaying, and the winter night was cold.

Xie Jingxing is really something, she thought. He took the initiative to "impose an imperial edict" without even letting her know in advance. Not only did he succeed in getting an imperial edict, but he was also gone. What did he mean by not showing up at this time when an explanation was needed?

Shen Miao closed the window with a bang.

The bang was so loud that Cong Yang dug his ears. He thought that Young Madam was probably on her period, which was why she was so moody...

On the other side, in Shen Xin's courtyard, Shen Xin was also discussing this with Luo Xueyan.

Shen Xin said, "Going to the Daliang Dynasty with Jiaojiao?"

Luo Xueyan nodded. "If we're not by Jiaojiao's side, when Jiaojiao is in danger, we can't help her in time. Back then... wasn't there a young lady who married into another country and was killed? It wasn't until years later did her family find out."

"How dare they!" Shen Xin was furious. Then, he suppressed his anger and said, "I can go, but I'm afraid the emperor won't let me go."

Luo Xueyan lowered her voice. "Now that the situation in the Daliang Dynasty and Ming Qi is so tense, if we go to the Daliang Dynasty together, the emperor will definitely think that we've changed sides... It's indeed inappropriate. But is there really no other way?"

Helpless, Shen Xin turned his back to Luo Xueyan and looked at the calligraphy on the wall.

It was the calligraphy given to him by Old General Shen, on which “Loyalty to the Country” was written.

He was loyal, and he served his country diligently, but what did he get? The teaching of the Shen family was that if the emperor wanted them to die, they had no choice but to die. But why did he feel regret at this moment?

Chapter 810 Identity (5)

This emperor had always been wary of him, suppressed him, and controlled him. Shen Xin did not think much of it even if the emperor wanted to use him.

But why did he want to use his children?

Was this how all the emperors treated their loyal officials? Shen Xin thought that if Emperor Wen Hui strongly opposed Prince Rui’s request or stood up for Shen Miao, he would not be so angry with Emperor Wen Hui. It was precisely because Emperor Wen Hui agreed so readily and justified it as doing it for the people that Shen Xin felt uncomfortable.

If Ming Qi was stronger, would the emperor not have to bow down to a prince of the Daliang Dynasty?

Shen Xin suddenly felt a trace of disgust towards Emperor Wen Hui’s incompetence.

However, he did not realize that unknowingly, he hated Emperor Wen Hui far more than Prince Rui.

He naturally did not know that someone had already predicted his change of mind a long time ago.

Luo Xueyan was still muttering, “Why does Prince Rui suddenly want to marry Jiaojiao? The Daliang Dynasty doesn’t lack military power. Even if it’s to sow discord between us and Emperor Wen Hui, it doesn’t have to be like this.”

Shen Xin said, “I’ll go and ask around tomorrow. Let’s sleep first.”

However, tonight was destined to be a sleepless night.

...

Emperor Wen Hui announced the imperial edict in front of the entire court, so in just a day, almost everyone in the capital knew. Everyone, from the officials to the commoners, was talking about this.

The princess’s mansion was silent.

Princess Rong Xin sat at the head of the table and couldn’t help but sneer.

Her nephew’s ability far exceeded her expectations.

Xie Jingxing had clearly taken a liking to Shen Miao two years ago. Later, he became Prince Rui. Princess Rong Xin thought that as a prince of another country, no matter how much Xie Jingxing liked Shen Miao, it would be impossible for him to be with her in this life. She did not expect Xie Jingxing to have the ability to get what he wanted!

In the afternoon, after Princess Rong Xin found out about this, she went to the palace to see Emperor Wen Hui. She knew that Emperor Wen Hui would not let Shen Miao marry Prince Rui for no reason and insisted on knowing the reason. Emperor Wen Hui still respected his sister, so he told Princess Rong Xin the whole story.

Princess Rong Xin couldn't describe what she was feeling, but she felt a chill run down her spine.

That mischievous young man, who always called her "Auntie Rong" with a smile, only existed in her memory. The current Xie Jingxing was filled with an unfamiliar aura. He could lay low for a few years to get what he wanted. His domineering attitude, sharp methods, and merciless threats... He was more like a ruler.

Princess Rong Xin was a little afraid.

She did not know if she should tell Emperor Wen Hui Xie Jingxing's identity.

She knew that even if she told him, nothing would happen. Since Xie Jingxing dared to come, he must be fully prepared.

However, if she told him, at least the people of Ming Qi would know Xie Jingxing's true colors and not think of him as a talent who died young.

Princess Rong Xin thought for a while, and the scene many years ago appeared in her mind. She did not go out all day and did not interact much with people. Even the maids were not allowed to enter her room at night. At that time, she was suffering from the pain of losing her husband. She caught a cold and could not get up from bed the next day. Xie Jingxing, who was only five years old, brought a bowl of porridge from the kitchen and fed her spoon by spoon. He even took a small stool to sit by her bed and read poetry to her.