

Venomous 811

Chapter 811 Identity (6)

Any woman would be touched to see such a beautiful boy doing such a considerate thing.

Ten years passed in the blink of an eye. They were not mother and son, but they were more than mother and son. How did they end up like this?

On one side was the enemy of the country, and on the other side was decades of companionship. Princess Rong Xin suddenly felt sad.

What should she do?

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Princess Rong Xin did not know that every move in the princess mansion had been monitored these days, and she was not alone. Because very few people visited the princess mansion, even the guards were slacking off.

In the Earl of Pingnan's mansion, Su Minglang looked at the sugar-steamed cheese brought over by the maid and rejected righteously, "I don't want to eat it. Give it to Brother."

Now that Su Minglang had reached the age where he paid attention to his appearance, he was not willing to be a chubby boy. Therefore, although these sweet things tasted very good, he would not touch them.

Then, he suddenly thought of something and stopped the maid. "Forget it, don't give it to my brother. If my brother gets too fat, Sister Shen will not like him."

The maid looked at Su Minglang and was a little speechless. She held the plate and did not know what to do. Seeing this, Su Minglang sighed and said, "Since you're in such a difficult position, I'll reluctantly eat it to help you out." He then warned the maid fiercely, "Don't tell my mother that I stole Brother's sugar-steamed cheese!"

The maid was speechless.

In the room, Su Mingfeng paced back and forth, looking very anxious.

Su Yu looked at him sympathetically and patted his shoulder. "Son, I know you're sad, but this imperial edict was personally issued by His Majesty. There's nothing I can do. I can only say that you're not lucky. The girl you like is not fated with you. However, fortunately, if Miss Shen marries Prince Rui, she has to go to the Daliang Dynasty. Out of sight out of mind. In a few days, you'll forget about her."

Emperor Wen Hui issued an imperial edict. What Su Yu and Mrs. Su were most afraid of was that Su Mingfeng would not be able to withstand this blow. After hearing it, Su Mingfeng locked himself up in the study. Mrs. Su was afraid that Su Mingfeng would kill himself, so she specially asked Su Yu to go in and persuade him.

"Father, can you not cause trouble for me?" Su Mingfeng said impatiently, "I'm not sad because of this."

“Son, I’m your father. Do you think I don’t know what you’re thinking?” Su Yu said, “I’ve been through what you are going through. It’s nothing. There are plenty of fish in the sea. You have to be more open-minded.”

Su Mingfeng couldn’t take it anymore and said, “Alright, Father, I understand. I want to be alone now and won’t kill myself. Can you leave me alone for a while?”

Seeing that Su Mingfeng, who had always been gentle, was starting to look unhappy, Su Yu was afraid that if he continued, he would agitate Su Mingfeng again, so he smiled and said, “In short, I’ll try my best to find another girl who’s like a fair for you to be your wife. Don’t be sad!” With that, he left dejectedly.

After Su Yu left, Su Mingfeng sat down at the desk, feeling inexplicably frustrated.

Emperor Wen Hui suddenly issued an imperial edict to marry off Shen Miao. This surprised Su Mingfeng. After all, Shen Miao had just gotten involved with the crown prince a few days ago. Why was she pushed to Prince Rui suddenly?

Su Mingfeng did not have time to guess what Emperor Wen Hui was thinking. He was thinking about Shen Miao. Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing seemed to be very close two years ago. A few days ago, because of that tiger head bracelet, Su Mingfeng was certain that there was a special relationship between Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing. Su Mingfeng even suspected that Xie Jingxing was still alive.

If he wanted to find any information about Xie Jingxing, he had to start from Shen Miao.

But why did Shen Miao’s marriage with Prince Rui make him so uneasy? It felt as if something was about to happen.

This strange feeling made Su Mingfeng feel very abnormal today. Just as he was feeling uneasy, someone came back from outside. This was a spy sent by Su Mingfeng to spy on the princess’s mansion and the Shen family. Su Mingfeng felt that Princess Rong Xin might know something, let alone Shen Miao.

The spy bowed to Su Mingfeng and said, “Young Master, I found something about what you asked me to investigate a few days ago.”

Su Mingfeng was delighted. He immediately sat up straight and said, “Tell me!”

“I followed the guards of the princess’s mansion and realized that some of them have been monitoring the movements of Prince Rui’s mansion. If I’m not wrong, they should be instructed by Princess Rong Xin to do so.”

“Among the guards of the Shen family, some of them seem to be Prince Rui’s men. I don’t know if they’re spying or protecting Miss Shen.”

Su Mingfeng frowned. Why was it all related to Prince Rui? Princess Rong Xin was spying on Prince Rui, and Prince Rui was spying on Shen Miao.

However, what he was after was clues about Xie Jingxing’s whereabouts!

Could it be... a terrifying thought flashed across his mind.

Su Mingfeng's heart palpitated.

Chapter 812 Betrothal Gift (1)

Over the past few days, the Shen family had been shrouded in a very strange atmosphere. Because of the imperial edict, everyone was depressed. Although everyone tried their best to appear happy, they could not hide their gloomy expressions.

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan went out early every day and returned late. They were probably looking for a way to cancel this marriage, but they came back empty-handed every time. That made sense. Since Emperor Wen Hui announced this imperial edict in front of the entire court, it was probably to stop Shen Xin from disobeying him.

Every time Shen Qiu saw Shen Miao, he would look guilty. These days, he gave Shen Miao some rare treasures and said, "I'm not a very capable brother, so I can only find these for you."

Shen Miao was quite speechless with the atmosphere in the Shen family. She naturally knew that things were not that bad, but she could not tell them about it. If Shen Xin knew what Xie Jingxing was really up to, he would probably kick up a scene.

In Ming Qi, she had to take care of the Shen family, so there were many things that were inconvenient for her to do. If she went to the Daliang Dynasty and used Prince Rui's name to execute her plan, it would probably be much easier.

While she was relaxed and at ease, others thought that she was pretending. Today, when she was sitting in the room and reading, she saw Bai Lu rush in and say, "Miss, Madam wants you to hurry to the main hall. The betrothal gift list is here!"

Shen Miao was stunned. The betrothal gift list?

Xie Jingxing was really bold. He knew that the Shen family did not like him now and even hated him to the core, but he actually dared to send a betrothal gift list. Wasn't this adding fuel to the fire?

However, thinking about Xie Jingxing's devil-may-care personality, it was indeed something he could do.

When they arrived at the main hall, they saw Luo Xueyan holding a long thing and looking at it. Beside Luo Xueyan, Shen Qiu and Shen Xin were also craning their heads to peep at the thing. Luo Tan covered her mouth, and Luo Ling had a complicated gaze. In short, everyone looked strangely tense.

Shen Miao stepped into the hall and realized that apart from the Shen family, there was another person standing in the hall. When she saw that person's face clearly, Shen Miao almost choked. This person was a middle-aged man with a beard. Shen Miao had seen him before. He seemed to be a guard under Xie Jingxing. Cong Yang had once called him "Tie Yi". This person was obviously burly and fierce. Today, he was wearing a bright red shirt. The shirt was embroidered with colorful phoenixes and auspicious clouds with thin golden threads. However, Tie Yi's skin was dark to begin with. With this shirt, his fierce aura was completely concealed, making him look extremely comical.

Seeing her, Tie Yi bowed to her and said respectfully, "Princess Consort."

At this moment, even Shen Qiu couldn't help but cough. He glared at Tie Yi. "Watch your language!"

Tie Yi ignored him.

For some reason, Shen Miao wanted to laugh. Even if Xie Jingxing wanted to send a betrothal gift list, he should find a woman to deliver it.

Seeing that Shen Miao was in a daze, Luo Tan called her, "Cousin, what are you standing there for? Come and take a look at this betrothal gift list!" She winked at Shen Miao, as if she was very excited.

Shen Miao walked over.

The betrothal gift list was made very exquisitely. It was a scroll made of incense wood sprinkled with gold powder and had an emerald-green cat's eye stone on the cover. Just the scroll itself was very luxurious. Although Shen Xin and his wife were not vain people, they were still happy that Prince Rui showed that he valued Shen Miao.

Chapter 813 Betrothal Gift (2)

Luo Xueyan handed the betrothal gift list to Tie Yi and said, "Read it."

According to Ming Qi's custom, the betrothal gift list had to be "sung" by the person sent by the groom's family. The longer the song was sung, the more generous the betrothal gift was.

Tie Yi was obviously not used to doing such a thing. He turned to the first page and sang dryly, "One rosewood bed with begonias, one arhat bed, one rosewood cabinet, wooden cabinet of rosewood, one nanmu bookshelf, a pair of red bean porcelain bottom, one rosewood long table..."

The first page was filled with furniture. Everyone was dumbfounded. There were so many things that even the current Shen mansion could not fit them all!

The second page was filled with decorations. Tie Yi sang again, "An agarwood inlaid with jade, a jade Ruyi, a tin paper oil lamp, a small gold-plated clock, a silver pocket watch, a pot of money tree, a pot of plums, a set of porcelain teapot, a hanging mirror, a screen..."

Every one of them was worth a lot of money, probably enough to cover the expenses of an ordinary family for a few years. Even if Prince Rui was rich, this was not the way to squander money. Luo Tan sniffed and tugged at Shen Miao's sleeve timidly, saying, "What does Prince Rui's family do... Salt merchants?"

Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin also frowned. Prince Rui was too generous with the betrothal gifts.

However, before they could be surprised, Tie Yi had already continued to sing. On the third page were daily necessities. He sang, "Six boxes of boxwood comb, two boxes of double-edged fine-toothed comb, a red sandalwood dressing box, a gargling bowl, sandalwood soap, a curtain, a satin curtain, a glass bead curtain, a five-colored tassel..."

Everyone in the Shen family was dumbfounded.

Tie Yi continued on the fourth page of clothes. "There are 32 sets of fur, silver mouse skin, gray mouse skin, sheep skin, pearl fur, and various cotton flags. There are 12 sets of cocoon silk, and gauze flower coats. There are 30 sets of fragrant cloud yarn, 20 pieces of brocade, 10 pieces of cloud brocade, 10

pieces of Shu brocade, and 12 pieces of silk of various colors. There are 36 pieces of embroidered satin, 20 pairs of embroidered shoes, and 40 pairs of silk socks...”

Luo Xueyan couldn't help but ask, "This... Did you take the wrong list of betrothal gifts from Prince Rui? This... is too generous!"

Tie Yi said expressionlessly, "No, Prince Rui only has this list of betrothal gifts. Madam, please continue to listen."

He sang the fifth page of gold and silver jewelry. "Four pieces of jade, four pieces of white jade, and two pieces of crystal. Pearl bracelet, jade bracelet, coral bracelet..."

He sang the sixth page of antiques. "Four pairs of gold-colored porcelain bottles, a pair of red jade teapots, a pair of colorful bottles, and a white plum bottle..."

He sang the seventh page of books.

He sang the eighth page of maids, servants, and personal guards.

The ninth page of carriages.

The tenth page...

Everyone in the Shen family was dumbfounded.

The more Tie Yi sang, the smoother he became. He sang with the aura of an experienced matchmaker. With every line he sang, it made people feel like they had seen a large amount of money. After singing the last sentence, he stopped and took a deep breath. He closed the betrothal gift list and looked at Shen Miao.

Chapter 814 Betrothal Gift (3)

"Lands and shops are not included in the list because they are all in the Daliang Dynasty." Tie Yi smiled sincerely. "However, His Highness converted them all into gold, which is 10,000 catties of gold."

Ten thousand catties of gold!

Luo Tan was about to faint.

Tie Yi continued, "All the houses between Prince Rui's mansion and the Shen mansion are purchased by Prince Rui. I'll get someone to send the title deeds over later." He respectfully handed the betrothal gift list to Luo Xueyan and said, "Madam, please take it."

Luo Xueyan did not take it.

Did Prince Rui really move the treasury of the Daliang Dynasty over?

Was Prince Rui crazy?!

Shen Xin frowned. Shen Qiu was the first to react. He carefully probed, "Does your emperor know about this betrothal gift list written by Prince Rui?"

Tie Yi was stunned for a moment before he said with a smile, "His Majesty doesn't care much about worldly possessions. Moreover, it's not a lot."

Seeing that everyone in the Shen family was shocked, Tie Yi continued, "In the palace of the Daliang Dynasty, gold, silver, and pearls are everywhere like gravels."

Everyone was in awe. It seemed that the Daliang Dynasty was indeed rich. Such a generous betrothal gift could instantly fill Ming Qi's treasury. In their opinion, it was just like gravel. How rich!

Tie Yi continued, "But Madam Shen, don't worry. His Highness will marry Miss Shen according to the royal etiquette of the Daliang Dynasty."

Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin were gratified that Prince Rui was willing to marry Shen Miao according to the royal etiquette. They sighed. Shen Miao's betrothal gift was almost comparable to that of the empress's back then.

If an ordinary official married a wife, he had to make sure that the betrothal gift must not be more generous than the royal family's. However, Prince Rui was not from Ming Qi, but from the Daliang Dynasty, so he naturally did not have to consider this. Even if it was more generous than the royal family's, the royal family would not say anything. Shen Miao's betrothal gift should be the most generous since the founding of Ming Qi.

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan's worries dissipated a lot. Now, the imperial edict could no longer be changed, and Shen Miao was destined to marry Prince Rui. Marrying out in a grand manner was at least the wish of many girls. Shen Miao would probably also be happy to see it.

At the thought of this, their hatred for Prince Rui dissipated a lot. Even their attitude towards the bearded man in front of them became much friendlier.

Luo Tan couldn't help but ask, "Then when is the wedding? The imperial edict didn't specify when."

Tie Yi smiled and said, "The marriage contract has been prepared. After the new year, His Highness will return to the Daliang Dynasty. On the day they return to the Daliang Dynasty, he will hold a grand wedding to marry Miss Shen. He will pave the way with red carpet all the way to the gate of the capital of the Daliang Dynasty.

After completing all the etiquettes for the marriage in Ming Qi, he would officially announce to the people of the Daliang Dynasty that Shen Miao was Princess Consort Rui.

Chapter 815 Betrothal Gift (4)

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan looked at each other and saw the confusion in each other's eyes.

Why did it seem like... Prince Rui really liked Shen Miao?

How was that possible? Shen Miao had only seen Prince Rui a few times!

Luo Ling's eyes were dark. He lowered his head and looked at the ground, deep in thought.

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Everyone in the room had different expressions, but Shen Miao's reaction was calm. She nodded and said to Tie Yi, "Thank you."

Tie Yi said that he would send the things over in a few days before leaving.

After Tie Yi left, everyone looked at each other. Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan had already sensed something unusual. If Prince Rui's goal was to sow discord between the Shen family and the Ming Qi royal family, or to make the Shen family useless to the Ming Qi royal family, when the imperial edict was issued, he had already achieved his goal.

Since he had already achieved his goal, everything else was not important. Why did he have to put on such a big show? No matter how much money he had, he would not give it to the Shen family unless the treasury of the Daliang Dynasty was overflowing with gold.

Shen Qiu said angrily, "Prince Rui is up to no good, right? Does he think the Shen family is greedy for wealth? We're marrying Jiaojiao off, not selling her. If we take so much money, who knows what others will think of us?"

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan were silent.

That was true. Even the royal family would be envious of these betrothal gifts, let alone ordinary people. What was even more shocking was that these were sent by Prince Rui. Even those who had designs on these betrothal gifts did not dare to snatch it.

Luo Tan smiled and said, "No matter what, it's better for Brother-in-law to be generous than stingy. It's only right for a man to be willing to spend money on a girl. He's willing to spend so much for Little Cousin. I believe he will dote on Little Cousin after marriage."

Shen Xin covered his forehead. "But where are we supposed to store these things?"

"That's right." Luo Xueyan also said worriedly, "There's no way we can fit so many things in our house. We can't even fit jewelry and antiques in the storeroom. Do we have to build another storeroom in the mansion to store things?"

Shen Miao wanted to laugh when she heard that. She said, "Didn't he buy all those houses? After I leave, those houses will belong to the Shen family. How about putting the things there? Or else, you can move into Prince Rui's mansion."

Shen Xin shook his head. "Yanqing Alley is not a place for us to live." That was where the royal family lived. If Shen Xin and the others lived there, who knew what outsiders would think? He thought of what Tie Yi said previously, and a trace of pain flashed across his eyes. "After the new year, he will leave for Daliang. Jiaojiao, you..."

After the new year, Shen Miao would have to go to Daliang.

Everyone in the room fell silent.

Separation, especially separation between family, was never a happy thing.

Seeing this, Shen Miao was afraid that they would be sad again, so she quickly changed the topic and said, "Prince Rui has given us so many betrothal gifts. What about the dowry?"

Luo Tan was feeling a little thirsty. She picked up the tea on the table and took a sip. When she heard this, she spat out a mouthful of tea and sprayed it all over Luo Ling. However, at this moment, she was not in the mood to care if Luo Ling was angry. Instead, she said, "Dowry? Oh my god!"

Chapter 816 Betrothal Gift (5)

Everyone in the Shen family felt as if they had been struck by a shocking lightning.

Logically speaking, the dowry had to be equivalent in value. Although it did not have to be more than the betrothal gifts, it could not be too far apart. Otherwise, when a girl went to her in-laws' house, she would be disdained. If the dowry was very generous, the girl would be respected. Therefore, the more dowry, the better.

Shen Xin naturally doted on his daughter, but as for the dowry... Prince Rui had given the Shen family so many betrothal gifts. Even if he emptied the entire Ming Qi treasury, he wouldn't be able to prepare a dowry equivalent in value.

Prince Rui gave the Shen family a problem.

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At night, Shen Miao sat under the light and thought of Tie Yi singing happily with a long betrothal gift list in his hand during the day. She couldn't help but want to laugh.

Xie Jingxing actually wrote so many betrothal gifts. Shen Miao held her forehead. If word spread, the Shen family would probably be envied by everyone in Ming Qi. However, it was only a matter of time before word spread.

However, Shen Miao did not know if Emperor Yong Le knew that Xie Jingxing had squandered so much money. As she thought about it, Shen Miao felt a little sad.

In her previous life, when she married Fu Xiuyi, Fu Xiuyi's betrothal gift was pathetic. At that time, Fu Xiuyi said he was frugal by nature and didn't want to hold a grand wedding, so Shen Miao believed him. Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan were afraid that she would suffer, so they took out more than half of the Shen family's assets to make a dowry for her.

In the end, the dowry was all used up by Fu Xiuyi.

In order to rope people in, Fu Xiuyi had to spend money. She managed the money carefully and even sold some antiques and paintings in the Shen family to make up for the deficit. Now that she thought about it, after marrying Fu Xiuyi for so many years, she had always been the one sacrificing, and Fu Xiuyi had never reciprocated anything.

Especially after ascending the throne, Fu Xiuyi's generosity to Concubine Mei was like a slap to her face.

Now that she was going to marry Xie Jingxing, she could describe with words how she felt. She was tempted, but she was not as wild with joy as in her previous life. However, what Xie Jingxing gave her far exceeded her imagination.

It actually made her look forward to this marriage.

The window was “knocked” twice. Shen Miao looked up and saw Cong Yang wandering outside, so she opened the window. When Cong Yang saw her, he first bowed to her and said, “Young Madam, Master asked me to bring you over.”

Shen Miao nodded and said, “Okay.” Coincidentally, she also had something to say to Xie Jingxing.

When Shen Miao arrived at Prince Rui’s mansion, the servants stopped what they were doing and shouted at her respectfully, “Young Madam!”

Shen Miao was speechless.

Cong Yang chuckled and said, “Young Madam, everyone likes you very much.”

Shen Miao felt a little awkward and had mixed feelings.

When Cong Yang led her to the backyard of Prince Rui’s mansion, she saw a snow-white furball pounce on her from afar and bite the corner of her shirt happily.

Chapter 817 Betrothal Gift (6)

A lazy voice sounded in the night. “Jiaojiao, come here.”

Shen Miao looked up and saw Xie Jingxing leaning against the tree with his arms crossed, looking at her with a faint smile. She didn’t know if he was calling her or the white tiger.

Shen Miao walked towards him, and the white tiger followed happily. This white tiger was quite easygoing. They had only met a few times, and it actually wagged its tail affectionately at her. Those who did not know better would think that this white tiger was raised by Shen Miao.

She stood beside Xie Jingxing and asked, “Why are you looking for me?”

Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow. “Making a wedding dress.”

“Making a wedding dress?” Shen Miao was puzzled. Before she could continue asking, Xie Jingxing suddenly reached out and pulled her into his arms. He hugged her gently and let go.

He was too fast. The hug only lasted for a moment, catching Shen Miao off guard.

Xie Jingxing said, “With your personality, you probably won’t embroider a wedding dress for yourself. I found the best embroiderer in the Daliang Dynasty, but I don’t know your size.” He sized up Shen Miao from head to toe and said meaningfully, “I’ll know after a hug.”

Shen Miao said, “Shameless, shameless.”

Xie Jingxing nodded nonchalantly and said, “But you seemed to like it very much just now.”

Shen Miao glared at him and said sarcastically, “You’re quite capable. You can tell my size with just a hug. Have you done this many times in the past?”

Xie Jingxing stared at her until Shen Miao’s cheeks turned red. Then, he smiled and said, “Are you jealous? Then you can hug me back.” He opened his arms, looking like he was willing to let her do whatever she wanted.

"Who wants to hug you?" Shen Miao said disdainfully, "By the way, I have something to ask you."

Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow. "What is it?"

"I've received the betrothal gift list. Why did you give so many betrothal gifts?" Shen Miao found it funny. "My house can't accommodate those things. Besides, the Shen family can't prepare that much dowry. Are you deliberately looking for trouble?"

"Is that a lot?" Xie Jingxing said casually, "I was planning to give more."

Shen Miao was speechless. Just as she was about to speak, she saw a guard rush in from outside. When he saw Xie Jingxing, he looked troubled and said, "Your Highness, someone is looking for you outside. We stopped him, but he seemed to have gone crazy and shouted your name. Afraid of causing misunderstanding, we had no choice but to restrain him for the time being."

"So?" Xie Jingxing asked.

"It's the eldest young master of the Su family, Su Mingfeng," the guard said.

Shen Miao suddenly looked up.

In the front hall of Prince Rui's mansion, a young man was tied up, and there was a rag in his mouth. He glared angrily at the guard at the side and was still struggling in vain.

This person was Su Mingfeng.

Su Mingfeng had sent people to spy on Prince Rui's mansion for a long time, including the Shen family and the princess's mansion. The longer he investigated, the more suspicious Su Mingfeng became. He suspected that Prince Rui was the dead Xie Jingxing. Although this guess was very ridiculous, as time passed, not only did this thought not disappear, but it became more and more entrenched.

Xie Jingxing and Shen Miao were close. Now that Shen Miao was granted to marry Prince Rui, if Xie Jingxing was Prince Rui, everything would make sense.

Su Mingfeng had a deep bond with Xie Jingxing. After all, he had been friends with him since they were young. He had learned a lot from Xie Jingxing. What Xie Jingxing meant to him was ineffable.

Regardless of whether Xie Jingxing was Prince Rui or not, Su Mingfeng had to go and check it himself.

He wanted to sneak into Prince Rui's mansion and see how Prince Rui looked when he took off his mask. At that time, the truth would be revealed.

This was a crazy move, but Su Mingfeng felt that there was a reason why he felt the need to do it. He was not stupid enough to stride in from the door. Instead, he let his people lure the guards away before he sneaked in.

However, Su Mingfeng did not expect the guards of Prince Rui's mansion to be so smart and immediately caught him.

Su Mingfeng was a little dejected and disappointed. At this moment, he thought that since he had already been caught, it was even more impossible for him to know the truth.

Just as he was thinking, a person with a big beard and dressed as a guard walked in and stopped in front of him.

Su Mingfeng's heart tightened. The bearded man gave the people around him a look. Immediately, someone came over to untie him and take off the cloth in his mouth.

"My master wants to see you. Follow me."

Chapter 818 Protection (1)

Su Mingfeng followed the bearded guard in. Along the way, the servants looked at him appraisingly, making Su Mingfeng feel a little uncomfortable.

However, on second thought, at this point, there was no turning back. In any case, he had already offended Prince Rui. If his guess was not true, at most, he would apologize. No matter what, in Ming Qi's territory, Prince Rui would have to give the officials some respect.

Su Mingfeng started to feel uneasy again. Prince Rui did not even care about the emperor, so why would he care about a young master of the Su family? Moreover, the Su family was no longer an official family. To Emperor Wen Hui, the Earl of Pingnan was useless. If something really happened, Emperor Wen Hui would not offend Prince Rui for him.

Fortunately, there was still the second young master of the Su family, Su Minglang. If anything happened to him, the Su family could still continue the bloodline.

However, what if Prince Rui took his anger out on the Su family?

Along the way, Su Mingfeng let his imagination run wild, and cold sweat gradually broke out on his back. He did not even know that the bearded guard had brought him to his destination until the bearded guard reminded him, "Young Master Su, we're here."

Only then did Su Mingfeng come back to his senses.

This was the backyard of Prince Rui's mansion. There was a pond in the courtyard. In the winter night, the wind blew past the pond and hit people's faces, making them feel really cold. Through the lanterns hanging on the branches, one could vaguely see a stone table in the garden. At the stone table sat two people, a man and a woman, their figures blurry.

Su Mingfeng subconsciously looked at the bearded man. The bearded man said, "His Highness is waiting. I'll take my leave first." With that, he turned around and left without waiting for Su Mingfeng to speak.

Su Mingfeng looked at the bearded man's back and thought to himself that Prince Rui's guards were actually so arrogant. No wonder Prince Rui was like that. Like master, like servant. Prince Rui was not respectful to Emperor Wen Hui, and the guards of Prince Rui were not respectful to guests either.

Now that he thought about it, the only person who was so impudent in the capital was Xie Jingxing, the young marquis of the Marquis of Lin'an.

At the thought of Xie Jingxing, Su Mingfeng's heart skipped a beat. He looked at the two people at the stone table and paused for a moment before walking towards them.

When he got closer, he realized that there was a furry white animal lying under the table. At first, Su Mingfeng thought that it was a cat. When the cat-like thing heard him, it turned around and roared, revealing sharp white teeth.

It was actually a tiger.

Su Mingfeng walked to the stone table. Prince Rui's back was facing him, so the first person Su Mingfeng saw was the woman sitting there.

The woman had delicate features and was graceful and dignified. When she looked over, Su Mingfeng shouted, "Miss Shen!"

It was actually Shen Miao!

"Miss Shen, why are you here?" Su Mingfeng couldn't help but ask.

"Young Master Su, aren't you being too nosy?" A casual voice sounded, as if it was filled with displeasure. "What's wrong with my princess consort being in my mansion?"

Shen Miao smiled at Su Mingfeng and nodded. "Young Master Su."

Su Mingfeng's gaze landed on Prince Rui, who had his back to him.

He sat lazily, but his figure was surprisingly tall and slender. Under the faint light of the lantern, one could see the smooth patterns outlined by the golden thread on his collar.

Chapter 819 Protection (2)

"Prince Rui," Su Mingfeng said.

Prince Rui did not speak. Su Mingfeng composed himself. With Shen Miao here, he was not afraid anymore. At the thought of this, he almost forgot that Shen Miao was now considered Princess Consort Rui. From the looks of it, Shen Miao and Prince Rui were on good terms. If Prince Rui really wanted to kill him, Shen Miao would not sit back and do nothing for the sake of Xie Jingxing back then.

Although it was a little strange to think that way, Su Mingfeng still mustered his courage and asked, "I came today to ask something."

"Shoot."

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The curter Prince Rui's reply was, the more uneasy Su Mingfeng was. He said, "Your Highness is very similar to an old friend of mine, but that old friend has already disappeared for many years. If you don't mind..." He made up his mind and continued, "Can you take off your mask and let me see you?"

After saying that, Su Mingfeng lowered his head and waited for the reply uneasily.

After a moment of silence, a voice sounded. It was still faint and pleasant to the ear, but every word sounded like it weighed more than a thousand pounds in Su Mingfeng's ears.

Prince Rui asked, "Is the old friend you're talking about Xie Jingxing?"

Su Mingfeng's heart skipped a beat, and he was almost overjoyed. However, in the next moment, he forced himself to calm down. Prince Rui had been in Ming Qi for a few months. Xie Jingxing was quite a famous figure in Ming Qi. He and Xie Jingxing were childhood friends. Perhaps someone had told Prince Rui about this.

He said, "Yes!"

"Xie Jingxing is dead." Prince Rui's voice was emotionless. "You said he disappeared?"

"Everyone says that he died in battle on the northern border. I've also seen his corpse with my own eyes." Su Mingfeng smiled bitterly. "But I don't want to believe it. I know that my request is abrupt and unreasonable, but... there are always some things in this world that I have to do my best to accomplish." Su Mingfeng did not hide anything from Prince Rui. He looked at Prince Rui and thought that he seemed to be an understanding person. Perhaps Prince Rui would be moved by his words and grant him his wish.

The white tiger on the ground whimpered softly. Prince Rui stood up from the stone stool.

He turned around, and half of his mask emitted a cold and dark light in the wind. Only then did Su Mingfeng realize that Prince Rui was actually half a head taller than him when he stood up.

Xie Jingxing was also half a head taller than him.

At that time, they were young men and liked to compete with each other. To make up for this small difference in height, Su Mingfeng used to eat an extra bowl of rice everyday, hoping to be taller than Xie Jingxing. At that time, Xie Jingxing was quite amused and said, "Do you want to become the second Su Minglang?"

Time flew in the blink of an eye.

Shen Miao wanted to say something but hesitated. Prince Rui said, "Do you want to see my face?"

Su Mingfeng nodded.

Prince Rui reached out to cover the silver mask and slowly took it off.

His eyebrows were slanted, and his eyes were deep. There was still a lazy smile on his lips. His appearance had changed slightly, from a beautiful and mischievous young man to a mature and handsome young man.

But it was still him.

Xie Jingxing curled his lips and smiled, his tone frivolous. "Are you dazzled by my handsome face?"

Su Mingfeng suddenly felt a lump in his throat. He went forward and suddenly punched Xie Jingxing on the shoulder, just like they used to do. He cursed, "You bastard, you're even hiding from me. Are we not sworn brothers?"

Chapter 820 Protection (3)

Shen Miao could not hide her surprise.

She really did not expect Xie Jingxing to take off his mask so easily and admit his identity in front of Su Mingfeng, just like how he did in front of Princess Rong Xin.

The more precious a relationship was, the less they should test it, because if the test result was not something you could bear, it would leave a deep and indelible scar in your heart.

If it were Shen Miao herself, she might not be so honest. After all, she did not dare or have the courage to face the uncertainty.

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In this aspect, she was never as decisive as Xie Jingxing. He indeed knew what he wanted and did not want.

"How did you become Prince Rui?" Su Mingfeng patted his chest. "Just now, I was thinking that if Prince Rui wanted to kill me, I would die here today." He said, "Now, I don't have to die."

His tone was filled with excitement.

Xie Jingxing looked at him and said, "After not seeing you for two years, you've become more and more stupid."

Su Mingfeng waved his hand. "I knew you weren't dead." He sighed again. "If not for the fact that Princess Rong Xin came to look for me that day and I saw the tiger head bracelet on Miss Shen's hand, I'm afraid I would still be kept in the dark by you. Were you planning to hide it from me forever?" he said angrily.

Xie Jingxing shrugged. "Yes."

Su Mingfeng was often teased by Xie Jingxing in the past. Now, he was not particularly angry. He only said in confusion, "It seems like Miss Shen already knows your identity." He chuckled and looked at Shen Miao, saying meaningfully, "Back then, I felt that something was going between you two. You've been hiding it well."

Shen Miao was speechless.

"What exactly do you want to say?" Xie Jingxing said impatiently, "I still have something to say to your sister-in-law."

Shen Miao and Su Mingfeng were shocked by the word "sister-in-law" at the same time. Su Mingfeng glanced at Xie Jingxing and said, "Since you're still alive, why didn't you tell me? Moreover, it seems like Princess Rong Xin has begun to suspect your identity. Why didn't you take the initiative to tell her? And your father..."

"Su Mingfeng." Xie Jingxing interrupted him. "I'm Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty."

The courtyard fell silent.

Shen Miao sighed in her heart. Sooner or later, this confrontation had to come.

With Xie Jingxing's identity, no one in the capital would stand on his side. No matter who it was, when they realized the truth, they would only feel betrayed. No matter what difficulties Xie Jingxing had, no one cared.

Princess Rong Xin doted on Xie Jingxing like her own son, but in the end, she couldn't help but be vigilant upon knowing the truth. Su Mingfeng was naturally overjoyed to see his old friend safe and sound, but after that short period of joy, it would slowly be replaced by vigilance.

This was human nature.

Su Mingfeng looked at Xie Jingxing in confusion and asked, "What are you talking about? By the way, is becoming Prince Rui a temporary solution you used back then to escape death on the battlefield? Although the status of Prince Rui is high, it's not a permanent solution. You have to..."

"I'm Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty," Xie Jingxing repeated.

The room fell into silence again.