

## Venomous 821

### Chapter 821 Protection (4)

The wind swept up the fallen leaves in the courtyard. The white tiger had already curled up in the nest that had been built for it to rest. In the starless night, only the lantern emitted a weak light.

Su Mingfeng asked hesitantly with shock on his face, "What... Do you mean?"

"My real identity is Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty, not the son of Xie Ding." Xie Jingxing said indifferently, "It's not a temporary solution."

"Impossible!" Su Mingfeng blurted out, "You and I have known each other for more than ten years and have been together since we were young. Why didn't I know that you're Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty?"

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"The real heir of the Marquis of Lin'an is already dead." Xie Jingxing said, "It's not me."

Su Mingfeng looked at Xie Jingxing in a daze. His mind was in a mess, and he did not know what was going on. He said, "You mean that you weren't the son of the Marquis of Lin'an from the beginning? You've been living in the capital for a long time, but you're actually not from Ming Qi. You're from the Daliang Dynasty. You're Emperor Yong Le's brother. You're the prince of the Daliang Dynasty. How is that possible? This is impossible..."

When he saw Xie Jingxing's expression clearly, he suddenly paused. Su Mingfeng knew Xie Jingxing well. When Xie Jingxing was talking about serious matters, when he did not like to repeat himself, and when he was impatient, he usually had this expression.

What he said was true.

Su Mingfeng couldn't describe what he was feeling at this moment. There seemed to be knots in his stomach. The joy he felt when he saw his old friend just now was gone. There was only disappointment and some anger.

He asked, "When did you know your identity?"

"From the time I can remember," Xie Jingxing replied.

Su Mingfeng took two steps back.

"From the time you can remember?" He asked, "You knew long ago that you were from the Daliang Dynasty?"

Xie Jingxing did not comment.

Shen Miao sighed in her heart. Why did Xie Jingxing have to be so honest? In fact, the more he said that, the more Su Mingfeng would feel like he had been deceived. Sometimes, a white lie here and there would make things easier both for him and the others.

However, Shen Miao thought to herself that if she was in his shoes, she would probably be as honest as Xie Jingxing.

There was really no need to lie to a very close person.

As Shen Miao expected, after hearing Xie Jingxing's answer, Su Mingfeng's expression became extremely complicated. After the initial surprise and shock, he gradually looked angry as if he had been betrayed. He sneered and asked, "Oh, then why are you back now? Do you want to dismantle Ming Qi from within?"

His words were so harsh that even Shen Miao couldn't help but be shocked. However, she knew that Su Mingfeng would definitely not be able to take so many secrets at once.

"So what if I am here to destroy Ming Qi?" Xie Jingxing did not go along with Su Mingfeng. Instead, he admitted it calmly.

Shen Miao wanted to speak, but on second thought, she gave up on being a busybody.

As expected, Su Mingfeng was even angrier. He shouted at Xie Jingxing, "Today, I finally know what it feels to be betrayed! I thought that you were not close to the Marquis of Lin'an since you were young because of Princess Yuqing's death. Now, it seems that you were the one who wanted to cut ties with him from the beginning! You're not the son of the Marquis of Lin'an, but you enjoy all the wealth and comfort provided by the Marquis. Even the two illegitimate sons didn't live as comfortably as you. You keep saying that Princess Rong Xin is your family, but you lied to her and made her suffer the pain of losing you. I'm afraid there's also an ulterior motive why you became friends with me in the first place."

#### Chapter 822 Protection (5)

"You don't like Ming Qi, but that's where you were raised after all. You enjoyed everything Ming Qi gave you, but later on, you abandoned everything and everyone in Ming Qi for the title of Prince Rui. Xie Jingxing, you're heartless. You're a villain! You're not worthy of being a citizen, a son, or a brother! Get lost and go back to Daliang!"

"Enough!" Shen Miao suddenly stood up and interrupted Su Mingfeng.

Su Mingfeng's words were too hurtful.

She turned to look at Xie Jingxing. There was no mask on his face. He was not angry or smiling. He just looked at Su Mingfeng calmly, as if the person Su Mingfeng was talking about was not him, or... he did not care about what Su Mingfeng said at all.

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Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat.

She looked at Su Mingfeng with a mocking smile and said, "Oh? Young Master Su, you talk so righteously and you can't wait to claim the moral high ground. Unfortunately, in my opinion, you're the same."

Xie Jingxing was stunned.

Su Mingfeng was also angry with Shen Miao and said, "What did you say?"

"I'm saying you are also an ingrate." In her previous life, when Shen Miao fought with Consort Mei in the harem, her arguing ability was honed. When it came to mocking people, she could be considered skillful.

She smiled, looking dignified and steady. The more she was like that, the more it accentuated Su Mingfeng's rudeness. Her voice was gentle, like the wind and rain, but every word she said was merciless.

"Before you criticize others, you'd better ask yourself first. Young Master Su, you think that Prince Rui is an ingrate and that he is using you. Let me ask you, how much has Xie Jingxing helped you since you were young?"

"After you became an official, you didn't know how to socialize. It was Xie Jingxing who helped you get to know more people. You wanted to learn martial arts, and it was Xie Jingxing who hired a martial arts master for you. The emperor wanted to suppress the Earl of Pingnan. He was the one who reminded you to be careful and persuaded the Earl of Pingnan to lay low. If not for that, do you think the Earl of Pingnan could still exist in Ming Qi? I'm afraid you'd all be six feet under."

"You said that Xie Jingxing has ulterior motives for befriending you. Ever since you were young, you were weak, but no one in school dared to bully you. Why do you think that was the case? Because you were the son of the Earl of Pingnan or because you had a friend whom no one dared to provoke? The logic is simple. Young Master Su, forgive me for being rude. Ever since you were young, how many times has Xie Jingxing helped your family and paved the way for you? If this is what you mean by being used, I also hope that someone can use me. Young Master Su, don't you think so?"

She smiled, but her words were like raindrops hitting on the leaves. "You received the benefits, and yet you turn your back on your benefactor and call him an ingrate. If you are not an ingrate, then who is? Young Master Su, can I also say that you're heartless and unworthy of being someone's brother? Don't you feel guilty to enjoy everything given to you by the person you accuse?"

Su Mingfeng was not someone who would argue with women. Moreover, although Shen Miao's words were filled with mockery, she was telling the truth, making his face turn purple-red. In his extreme anger, as Shen Miao spoke, scenes from back then appeared in his mind.

#### Chapter 823 Protection (6)

In all fairness, Xie Jingxing treated him very well. If not, Su Mingfeng would not have remembered him for so many years. Xie Jingxing was arrogant, rude, impudent, mischievous, and did whatever he wanted. There was almost nothing that could restrain him. Xie Jingxing would always help Su Mingfeng. For example, when someone bullied Su Mingfeng, Xie Jingxing would bring people to beat them up. Even if that person was a child of the royal family, he would still beat him up. Finally, no one dared to bully Su Mingfeng.

However, although Xie Jingxing did a lot of things, he never took credit or even mentioned it. As time passed, people remembered his bad side, but his good side was gradually forgotten.

After Shen Miao finished speaking, she felt extremely gratified. For some reason, when she saw Su Mingfeng criticizing Xie Jingxing, she felt that the scene was very jarring. After saying that, although she was a little embarrassed, she did not regret it.

Did Xie Jingxing have any intention of making use of Su Mingfeng? Shen Miao thought that he definitely didn't. In her previous life, the Su family was executed by Emperor Wen Hui. No one collected Su Yu and his son's corpses. Everyone was afraid of offending Emperor Wen Hui, but only Xie Jingxing went to collect their corpses and buried them.

A real hero, loyal to friends, and true to himself were the comments Fu Ming gave to Xie Jingxing. Children were the most unbiased. Shen Miao thought that what Fu Ming said was true.

If such a person was still called "not worthy of being a brother" by Su Mingfeng, Shen Miao would feel sad for Xie Jingxing. The title of Prince Rui looked glorious, but in fact, what came with it was not something everyone could withstand.

However, she did not notice that while she was speaking, after being slightly surprised, Xie Jingxing's gaze landed on her with a happy smile.

Su Mingfeng looked at Xie Jingxing and was lost for words.

He felt complicated and sad. It was supposed to be a happy thing that his good friend was still alive, but for some reason, he couldn't bring himself to feel happy at all.

Xie Jingxing glanced at him and said, "I don't owe you anything."

"Even if I owed you something, I've paid it off all long ago." Xie Jingxing continued, "The Earl of Pingnan is big and influential and is the target of the emperor. The Marquis of Lin'an has tens of millions of soldiers under him. If I showed ambitions of inheriting military power from the Marquis of Lin'an, the emperor would be paranoid and no one could live."

"Isn't it worth it to estrange the Marquis of Lin'an for everyone's safety?" Xie Jingxing asked with a smile.

Su Mingfeng couldn't retort.

"If I didn't do this, Xie Ding would have been gotten rid of by the emperor, and everyone in the Xie family would have been implicated and either executed or exiled. Now, although the son of the Marquis of Lin'an is dead, at least the emperor let Xie Ding off and everyone can still live." Xie Jingxing smiled mockingly. "In name, Princess Yuqing is my mother. For this little bit of relationship, the only thing I can do is to protect the dignity of the Marquis of Lin'an."

Shen Miao looked at Xie Jingxing's handsome side profile. He said it casually, as if all of this was not important at all. However, in the past few years, he could only keep these words to himself.

Xie Jingxing was an honest person, but he was also the most dishonest person. He told the truth honestly, but what he was not honest about was his heart. He did not mention the grievances he had suffered, nor did he speak out his worries. Therefore, in everyone's eyes, he was playful and cynical. There seemed to be nothing in the world that could stump him. However, in order to protect the dignity of the marquis, he was willing to bear the accusation of an disobedient and unfilial son.

Su Mingfeng was stunned.

"My life in Daliang is not as glorious and simple as you think." He looked at the ice on the tree and said casually, "If it were you, you would come back crying to look for your mother in less than a day."

Su Mingfeng was so infuriated by this that he choked.

“There’s no such thing as free lunch in the world. You have to fight for what you want. Su Mingfeng, your life is comfortable. You can’t judge me while living such a comfortable life. I’ve experienced more than you can imagine.”

He sighed softly, but there was still a smile on his face. His eyes were slightly curved, and his eyelashes were lowered. From this angle, his eyebrows were gentle, and he was as beautiful as if he had walked out of a painting. However, there was no smile in his eyes.

His eyes were as cold as the winter wind.

“Most importantly, Ming Qi didn’t nurture me. Instead Ming Qi killed me,” he said.

#### Chapter 824 Visit (1)

Su Mingfeng staggered away. When he left, he seemed to have suffered a huge blow and was battered out of his senses.

Shen Miao wanted to say a few words to Xie Jingxing, but Xie Jingxing returned to his usual casual self and urged her to return home to rest early. Shen Miao had no choice but to do as he said.

A person like Xie Jingxing probably did not like to expose his weakness to others, so in the eyes of outsiders, he was still powerful and omnipotent.

However, Shen Miao could tell something from his words “Most importantly, Ming Qi didn’t nurture me. Ming Qi killed me”.

When she returned home, Shen Miao was still thinking about this. What did Xie Jingxing mean when he said Ming Qi almost killed him? What appeared in Shen Miao’s mind was what happened in her previous life.

In her previous life, the Marquis of Lin’an fell in the end. Xie Ding and Xie Jingxing both died in battle, and only Xie Changchao and Xie Changwu were left and were promoted. Now, in this life, although the Xie family’s three sons were gone, at least Xie Ding was still around. As long as Xie Ding was around, the Marquis of Lin’an would not fall. If Xie Ding wanted to remarry, it was possible for him to have another son at this age. Although his life was miserable as of now, it was still much better than death.

What was different about this life from her previous life? The changes seemed to have emerged two years ago. In her previous life, Xie Jingxing did not go to the northern border two years ago, but rather a few years later. The advancement of the event seemed to have caused some changes. Then what exactly caused Xie Jingxing to make this decision?

Was it because of her? Shen Miao pondered. But what did Ming Qi have to do with it?

In her previous life, when Shen Miao found out about the death of the Xie family, she sighed deeply. She had once wondered if the royal family was involved in it, but she was unwilling to investigate further. The Xie father and son had always been loyal to Ming Qi. If they were killed just because the royal family was wary of them, then the royal family was too heartless.

At this moment, this guess appeared in her mind again.

What if getting rid of the Xie father and son in battle had always been the plan of the royal family from the beginning? Because Xie Jingxing took the initiative to go to war in advance, this “plan” was brought forward.

The royal family set up a trap for Xie Jingxing that caused him to “die in battle. However, at this moment, Xie Ding was still alive. Not only that, but Xie Ding also had two sons. The royal family’s ambition to deal with the Marquis of Lin’an did not disappear. Fortunately, after Xie Jingxing died, Xie Ding could not recover from the setback. Therefore, there was no hurry for the royal family to execute the plan to eradicate the Marquis of Lin’an.

Two years later, the two illegitimate sons of the Xie family died in an accident. From then on, Xie Ding had no chance of making a comeback, so it was fine to keep him alive. The royal family changed their previous plan and even took the initiative to comfort him to show that the royal family was benevolent and sympathetic to their officials.

If Xie Jingxing had already predicted everything that would happen in the future, then going to war two years ago was not an impulsive decision. Just like what he told Su Mingfeng, this was the only way to protect the Marquis of Lin’an.

However, these were all just Shen Miao’s thoughts. No one knew the truth. She thought that she would find a chance to ask Xie Jingxing. In her previous life, she did not want to delve into it, but in this life, she was really curious.

#### Chapter 825 Visit (2)

That night, Shen Miao was deep in thought. Su Mingfeng was racking his brain to sort out what had happened, while there were others who couldn’t fall asleep.

Prince Ding’s mansion was bright all night.

Fu Xiuyi sat at the head of the table and looked at the person who came to report. He slowly asked, “Su Mingfeng went to Prince Rui’s mansion?”

The person said, “That’s right. After coming out, he seemed to be dumbfounded and was in a daze.”

Fu Xiuyi waved his hand and his subordinate left. The aide beside him went forward and asked, “Could it be that the heir of the Earl of Pingnan is working with Prince Rui?”

“Su Mingfeng is no longer an official. If Prince Rui really wanted to find someone to work with, he wouldn’t find Su Mingfeng.” Fu Xiuyi’s gaze turned cold. “The Su family was an excellent chess piece. If not for the fact that Su Mingfeng suddenly fell seriously ill and the Su family gradually left the bureaucracy, this wouldn’t have happened. However,” he said, “the Su family was lucky to have escaped a calamity.”

The aide said, “Speaking of which, the illness he was suffering from was really strange. Because Su Mingfeng was sick, the Earl of Pingnan actually resigned. Now, he’s gradually retired and there’s almost no news about him in the capital.”

Fu Xiuyi smiled. “Do you really think Su Mingfeng is sick?”

“Your Highness, please enlighten me.”

“Su Mingfeng and Xie Jingxing of the Marquis of Lin’an are good friends.” Fu Xiuyi said, “It’s strange that the Su family suddenly quit their official career, especially Su Mingfeng. At that time, he was on the rise, but he suddenly fell seriously ill and resigned. It was said that he would not have more than two years to live. Look, two years have passed, but isn’t Su Mingfeng still alive and well? The Earl of Pingnan is clearly trying to protect themselves by walking away from the imperial court. I think they were reminded to do so by someone. The Earl of Pingnan and the Marquis of Lin’an have always been on good terms. Apart from Xie Jingxing, I can’t think of anyone else who would give Su Mingfeng this idea.”

“But.” The aide asked in confusion, “Why is it Xie Jingxing who reminded them and not Xie Ding?”

“Xie Ding can’t even protect himself.” Fu Xiuyi took a sip of tea. “Xie Ding is arrogant and presumptuous. Relying on his outstanding military achievements, he has been impudent in front of my father. My father has long wanted to get rid of him. If Xie Ding was smarter, he would restrain himself. But look, in the capital, he has never restrained himself. On the other hand, this Xie Jingxing.” Fu Xiuyi narrowed his eyes. “He’s not to be underestimated.”

“Isn’t Xie Jingxing also impudent?” The aide said, “Everyone in the capital knows that Young Marquis Xie is a mischievous and wild person.”

“That’s right, but don’t forget one thing,” Fu Xiuyi replied. “From the beginning to the end, he didn’t become an official.”

“Everyone says that Xie Jingxing didn’t become an official because he was deliberately disobeying Xie Ding to anger him. I don’t think so. At the Chrysanthemum Banquet, Xie Jingxing dealt with his two half-brothers alone. The martial arts he displayed were admirable. He had peerless talent, but he didn’t want to show it. He was hiding his talent.”

“Xie Jingxing is the most terrifying person in the Xie family. Therefore, the person who reminded the Su family was not Xie Ding, but Xie Jingxing. Only Xie Jingxing could do it.”

The aide looked at Fu Xiuyi. “Your Highness, don’t you think too highly of Xie Jingxing? Even if he reminded the Su family, it doesn’t prove anything...”

“Doesn’t prove anything?” Fu Xiuyi looked at him and asked, “Then how about the Xie army?”

“The Xie army?” The aide was puzzled. Then, he thought of something and looked at Fu Xiuyi in shock. “Your Highness, you mean...”

## Chapter 826 Visit (3)

“In short, the most terrifying person in the Xie family is not Xie Ding, but Xie Jingxing.” Fu Xiuyi said, “This person is ambitious and smart enough at a young age. If he was given a certain amount of power, I’m afraid the capital would be peaceful. With him around, the Xie family will be indestructible.”

“Fortunately, Xie Jingxing is already dead.” After hearing Fu Xiuyi’s words, the aide heaved a sigh of relief with lingering fears. “The current Marquis of Lin’an won’t be able to do anything.”

“That’s right.” Fu Xiuyi said, “Towards dangerous enemies, we have to kill them before they grow stronger. However,” he changed the topic, “what I’m curious about now is why Su Mingfeng is with Prince Rui.”

“Not only that.” The aide continued, “Princess Rong Xin also seems to be investigating Prince Rui. Su Mingfeng even sent people to spy on the Shen mansion, and so did Princess Rong Xin.”

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“Su Mingfeng, Prince Rui, Princess Rong Xin, and Shen Miao.” Fu Xiuyi said, “These people must be connected in some way, especially Shen Miao and Prince Rui. I know my father very well. He won’t give up anything he has set his mind on. The Shen army is already his. He will definitely not let outsiders take it. Why would he give Shen Miao to Prince Rui for no reason? No matter how you look at it, it’s not a good deal.”

“Your Highness, you mean...” The aide pondered.

“Prince Rui must have taken the initiative to propose this marriage. Not only that, but he must have used some method to force my father to agree.” Fu Xiuyi suddenly smiled strangely. “Don’t you think it’s strange? Previously, I suspected that Prince Rui and Shen Miao seemed to have an unusual relationship, but I also felt that Prince Rui is not someone who will take a risk for a woman. But now it seems that I was wrong.”

“Nothing happens for no reason in this world. Su Mingfeng and Princess Rong Xin have never left the capital in their lives, so it’s impossible for them to know Prince Rui. However, their attitude towards Prince Rui is quite abnormal. Also, Prince Rui and Shen Miao have only met a few times. Why would he go to such an extent for her? Could it be that Prince Rui has been to Ming Qi in the past?”

The aide was shocked. “Your Highness, do you mean that Prince Rui has been to the capital in the past and has seen them and even been friends with them?”

“Of course not openly.” Fu Xiuyi smiled and said, “Maybe we were all deceived from the beginning. Or rather, Prince Rui lived in the capital of Ming Qi with another identity. Otherwise, why would he wear a mask this time? I heard that everyone in the Daliang Dynasty’s royal family is shockingly handsome. Why doesn’t Prince Rui dare to show his face?”

“I think he’s afraid that we’ll recognize his face.”

The aide was silent, as if he was so shocked by this news that he didn’t know what to say.

Fu Xiuyi smiled again. “But these are just my guesses. I can’t be sure now. It’s fine. I’ve already sent people to continue spying. It’s just that now, I’m looking forward to Prince Rui’s secret even more.” He paused for a moment and suddenly thought of something. He asked, “How is Pei Lang now?”

The aide thought for a moment and said, “He’s still unwilling to speak.”

Fu Xiuyi smiled. “Continue. Just make sure he doesn’t die.” He continued, “These people the Shen family found are all really tough. I’m envious.”

Chapter 827 Visit (4)

The aide felt a chill run down his spine, but he did not dare to say anything and left respectfully.

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A few days passed.

The Shen family finally accepted the fact that Shen Miao was about to marry Prince Rui. Although Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan actually did not agree with Shen Miao marrying Prince Rui, if they did not prepare the dowry well, others would think that they did not take Shen Miao seriously.

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Shen Xin did not want people to look down on his daughter. However, the list of betrothal gifts sent by Prince Rui was really shocking, so how to prepare the dowry became a problem.

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan were both generals. In the early years, they had outstanding military achievements and received a lot of rewards. The two of them were not in the capital all year round, so apart from giving a portion to Old Madam Shen, these rewards were almost untouched.

However, in the two years in Spring City, they invested a lot of money into the Luo army, and the Shen family wasn't as well-off as before.

Previously, Shen Qiu thought that Prince Rui was bragging because this betrothal gift list was enough for officials to marry ten wives. However, the next day, Tie Yi sent two golden geese at Prince Rui's instruction, which shocked Shen Qiu so much that he almost staggered.

That was something that even the empress would find precious...

From then on, everyone believed that the Daliang Dynasty was really rich and Prince Rui was really generous. This betrothal gift was not a joke.

Shen Qiu took the initiative to give the money he saved up for his marriage to Shen Miao and said, "How can we let Sister's dowry be less than half of the betrothal given by Prince Rui? If she goes to the Daliang Dynasty, won't she be looked down upon? My sister has to have the best of everything. I still have some antiques and paintings that I can pawn. Although we're poor, we can't lose face!"

Shen Xin agreed.

Shen Miao was speechless.

The Shen family was one of the richest families in the capital. Why did Shen Qiu say that they were poor and wanted to sell the antiques in the house to gather the dowry?

If word got out, they would be made laughing stock.

Because it was the end of the year, the atmosphere in the capital was much more relaxed. Shen Miao's marriage was granted by Emperor Wen Hui. Perhaps knowing that the Shen family was very unhappy with this marriage, Emperor Wen Hui specially granted Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan a period of leave and asked them to accompany Shen Miao until Shen Miao's marriage was over.

Even without the permission of the emperor, Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan would still focus all their attention on Shen Miao. Shen Qiu and Luo Ling were not busy in the military at the end of the year. Over the past few days, they had been going out to buy new year goods with Luo Xueyan or helping Shen Miao.

The family was chatting in the hall. The chef had made new snacks, and the stove was burning brightly. Luo Tan smiled and looked at Shen Miao. "Cousin, you're going to get married soon. Tomorrow, I'll get the embroiderer to come over to measure your figure and make one for you."

#### Chapter 828 Visit (5)

When girls got married in Ming Qi, they had to embroider the wedding dress themselves. Generally speaking, the ones who were engaged at an early age would start embroidering for themselves a few years before the wedding. The ones who were engaged late would get the embroiderer to make the wedding dress.

If Shen Miao started embroidering a wedding dress for herself now, it would definitely be too late.

Luo Xueyan patted her head and said in frustration, "I've been so busy these days that I almost forgot about this. Tan is right. We have to start preparing Jiaojiao's wedding dress. I'm not familiar with the embroiderers in the capital. Later, I'll ask my friend. She knows where to buy the best clothes and jewelry. We can't be careless with Jiaojiao's wedding dress." With that, she sized up Shen Miao and smiled. "Jiaojiao has a slender figure. She'll look good in the wedding dress."

When Shen Miao heard this, the thought of Xie Jingxing pulling her into his arms and saying "I'll know after a hug" that day appeared in her mind. She couldn't help but feel her face burn.

Shen Qiu asked, "Sister, why is your face so red? Do you want me to call a doctor?"

Luo Ling's eyes darkened. He lowered his head and did not speak.

Luo Tan was smiling and talking to Luo Xueyan about what festive patterns to embroider on the wedding dress when she saw the servant outside rush in and say, "Madam, Master, someone wants to see you."

"Didn't I tell you that I won't be seeing guests for the next few days?" Shen Xin said unhappily. He wanted to spend as much time as he had with his daughter, so he didn't want to entertain any guests.

The servant said nervously, "It's... it's Prince Rui."

Luo Tan widened her eyes. Shen Qiu stood up and asked with a murderous gaze, "What is he doing here?"

The servant said, "This... I didn't ask..."

Before the servant could finish, they heard a low and pleasant voice.

"I'm here to deliver the wedding dress."

A tall figure walked out from behind the servant, his purple robe swaying.

The silver mask emitted cold light, making him look unfathomable. Even if one could not see his face, from the outline of his face, they could tell he must be handsome. He was elegant and noble, so dazzling that people couldn't ignore him.

He said, "I'm Prince Rui."

Shen Qiu almost drew his sword. He slammed the table, causing the snacks and plates on the table to tremble. He asked, "You are Prince Rui?"

Prince Rui nodded.

"Why do you want to marry my sister? What are you up to?" Shen Qiu shouted.

Luo Tan's jaw almost dropped. Shen Qiu was really too hostile to Prince Rui. Even if he was displeased with Prince Rui, wouldn't it be too offensive to question him like that?

"Jiaojiao is gentle, sensible, dignified, and generous. I've admired her for a long time and wanted to marry her. Fortunately, the emperor is kind enough to grant me this marriage and it would be too rude of me to turn it down," he said slowly with a smile.

#### Chapter 829 Visit (6)

Shen Miao couldn't help but shudder. She was really not used to Xie Jingxing speaking in such a refined manner. When they were not familiar with each other at first, every time Xie Jingxing saw her, he was testing her, looking at her coldly, mocking her...

Shen Xin and Shen Qiu immediately flew into a rage. On the surface, Prince Rui was praising Shen Miao and saying that he admired her, but the more he spoke, the less it seemed to be the case. Others did not know, but they knew very well that Prince Rui was the one who forced Emperor Wen Hui to issue the imperial edict.

Shen Qiu and Shen Xin were like two firecrackers that were about to explode.

Luo Xueyan's gaze softened.

Instead of calling Shen Miao "Fifth Miss Shen", Prince Rui used "Jiaojiao". If his goal was just to get the power of the Shen family, Prince Rui had already gotten what he wanted. He didn't need to go to such an extent to express his goodwill. No matter if he was sincere or not, Luo Xueyan was happy that he would put in the effort. Back then when Shen Miao was in love with Fu Xiuyi, Fu Xiuyi didn't refuse or accept Shen Miao. Instead, he played hard to get and didn't do anything to make Shen Miao happy. Therefore, the reason why the Shen family did not want Shen Miao and Fu Xiuyi to be together was not only because Fu Xiuyi's identity would drag Shen Miao down, but also because Fu Xiuyi was a complete scumbag.

If a man loved someone, he would be willing to spend time and effort on her. If the man was unwilling to put in the effort, how could you expect him to do anything after marriage?

Luo Xueyan sized up Prince Rui. Prince Rui was a much more considerate man than she had thought. Moreover, in terms of appearance and temperament, it was really difficult for people to dislike Prince Rui.

Compared to Fu Xiuyi, who always put on the airs of a prince, Luo Xueyan hoped that the husband Shen Miao married would not treat her with a condescending attitude.

She said, "Prince Rui..."

"My name is Xie Yuan." Prince Rui said, "Madam, you can call me by my pet name, Jingxing."

Shen Miao almost choked on her tea.

Luo Xueyan was a little surprised. The royal family valued etiquettes the most. Even princes had to pay attention to all kinds of etiquettes when interacting with each other. In Ming Qi, the people of the Daliang Dynasty were considered very noble guests, especially since Prince Rui was Emperor Yong Le's brother. Luo Xueyan did not expect Prince Rui to want her to call him by his pet name.

Only people who were on very good terms with each other would call each other by their pet name.

Luo Xueyan's gaze on Prince Rui softened even more. She said, "Jingxing, take a seat first." Then, she instructed Jingzhe, "Serve the tea."

Shen Qiu and Shen Xin immediately looked at Luo Xueyan in shock, not understanding why Luo Xueyan would treat Prince Rui so well.

"Jingxing." Luo Tan suddenly said, "Isn't that also the name of the young Marquis of Lin'an?"

Shen Miao held her teacup, feeling a little helpless.

Xie Jingxing was really bold! He actually dared to mention his pet name here. Did he think that since Su Mingfeng and Princess Ming An already knew his true identity, it was better for more people to know? Anything related to his identity might arouse suspicion. Not only did Xie Jingxing not avoid suspicion, but he also caused it.

Even though she was drinking tea, Shen Miao still felt that she was about to get drunk.

Shen Qiu was already very unhappy that Luo Xueyan asked Prince Rui to take a seat and asked the servants to serve tea. Hearing Luo Tan's words, he said, "That's right. Prince Rui must not know who the young Marquis of Lin'an is, right?"

Prince Rui turned to look at him. "Oh? Who is that?"

"His name is also Xie Jingxing. He's the eldest son of the Marquis of Lin'an. Everyone says that the Xie family is a military family that's as famous as our Shen family! Xie Jingxing is the Young Marquis of the Xie family. He's a rare young talent. Back then, he could defeat several people with a single move. Not to mention his literary and martial arts skills, he even had an incomparably handsome face. He's considered a young man respected by everyone in Ming Qi. Everyone who knows him will praise him!" Shen Qiu sighed. "Unfortunately, the heavens are jealous of talents and he died on the battlefield in the northern border long ago." He changed the topic and looked at Prince Rui provocatively. "I wonder how Prince Rui feels about having the same name as such a person. That person is peerless in literature, martial arts, and appearance. What are your chances of winning?"

Shen Miao was speechless.

"From what Young General Shen said, you seem to admire Young Marquis Xie a lot?" Prince Rui asked slowly.

"Of course!" Shen Qiu said impassionedly, ignoring the looks Luo Xueyan gave him. Instead, he saw Shen Xin giving him an encouraging nod and continued, "He's the hero in my heart. No one can replace him!"

Shen Miao held her forehead.

If possible, she really wanted to pretend not to know Shen Qiu.

At this moment, Xie Jingxing must be extremely satisfied.

### Chapter 830 Wedding Dress (1)

Shen Qiu praised Xie Jingxing unreservedly in front of Prince Rui. Ordinary people would be happy after being compared to someone like that. Prince Rui was wearing a mask, so no one could see his expression. However, everyone could clearly see that the corners of his mouth were slightly curled up, and his voice was very gentle and polite. Most importantly, there was actually a hint of joy in Prince Rui's eyes.

Joy?

Shen Qiu was already tired from praising. Not only did he not see Prince Rui look embarrassed, but he even seemed to agree. Prince Rui said, "In that case, it's indeed a pity."

Shen Qiu was very dejected, but he became more and more wary of Prince Rui.

Luo Xueyan was very satisfied. After all, she was not as childish as Shen Qiu, nor was she as picky as Shen Xin. Prince Rui was not angered by Shen Qiu's provocative nonsense. People always had a preconceived judgment of whether a person was good or bad. However, after spending some time with Prince Rui, Luo Xueyan felt that Prince Rui was not bad.

In Luo Xueyan's heart, Prince Rui was more mature than Su Mingfeng, more honest than the crown prince, and more generous than Feng Zixian.

Not only was Luo Xueyan satisfied with Prince Rui, but Luo Tan was also very satisfied with her cousin-in-law. She asked Prince Rui many things about the Daliang Dynasty. At the tribute banquet, Prince Rui did not have much patience with Emperor Wen Hui. He could leave and stay whenever he wanted, but he would answer Luo Tan's questions patiently. Previously, Luo Tan had been grateful that Prince Rui saved Shen Miao's life. Now, the more she looked at him, the more she felt that only Prince Rui was worthy of Shen Miao. She said, "I think Cousin-in-law and Cousin are extremely compatible. With Cousin's personality, only someone like Prince Rui can handle her."

As soon as she said "Cousin-in-law", the room fell silent. Prince Rui was a member of the royal family after all. Compared to him, Luo Tan's status was nothing. Luo Tan was carefree by nature and did not notice what she said at all. Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin subconsciously looked at Prince Rui to see his reaction.

Prince Rui smiled and said, "Thank you for your kind words, Cousin."

Cousin...

Shen Qiu said angrily, "Who's your cousin? Mind your language!"

"Brother Qiu, why are you shouting like that?" Luo Tan glared at him and said with a smile, "Well, it's strange for you to call me Cousin now. Just call me Tan."

Shen Qiu stared at Prince Rui angrily. This person relied on his good-looking face and identity to attract women everywhere. Luo Xueyan and Luo Tan fell into his trap. How despicable!

Luo Ling looked at the scene in front of him and found it a little funny. However, as he smiled, he thought of something and stopped smiling. Instead, he looked at Shen Miao with a bitter expression.

Shen Miao was thinking about what Luo Tan said just now and was in disbelief. What kind of wrong impression did Luo Tan have of Xie Jingxing that she actually felt that he was a good person? If Luo Tan saw Xie Jingxing kill people without batting an eyelid, she would probably not be so enthusiastic.

Seeing that Luo Xueyan and Prince Rui were getting closer and closer as they chatted, Shen Xin didn't feel good. He deliberately cleared his throat and forcefully interrupted their conversation. He asked Prince Rui dryly, "Didn't you say that you were here to deliver the wedding dress? Why? Is the tea in my family so good that you forgot about the dress?"