

Venomous 841

Chapter 841 Saving Pei Lang (6)

After all, he did not want Shen Miao to be hurt. If Prince Rui was Xie Jingxing, then this matter was going to get much more complicated.

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The days passed, and in the blink of an eye, there were only a few days left until the end of the year. To ordinary people, the days at the end of the year were the happiest, because at the end of the year, they would treat themselves better. They ate, drank, played, and were happy every day.

However, to Pei Lang, every second was suffering. Every day, he would be tortured until a piece of flesh was cut off. The next day, the torture would continue. Sometimes, he wished he could kill himself.

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He had been locked up in the dungeon for God knows how long. Apart from the guards who tortured him, even Fu Xiuyi was not coming now. The torture was getting more and more painful. His legs were already dripping with blood and sweat. It was said that after today, if he still refused to speak, his kneecaps would be gouged out.

After having his kneecaps gouged out, he could only crawl for the rest of his life. For a proud person like Pei Lang, it was undoubtedly a nightmare. Fu Xiuyi indeed knew the weakness of human nature very well. A young man with a lot of knowledge and a bright future would have to crawl from now on. Even if he could still live to see the sun rising, his life would probably be completely ruined.

Strangely, even at this moment, Pei Lang did not intend to betray Shen Miao even though his mind had been persuading him to do it.

He and Shen Miao were not really friends. It was just that Shen Miao used Liu Ying to threaten him back then, so he had no choice but to work for her. Although Shen Miao spoke ruthlessly every time, she actually never harmed innocent people. Even if he betrayed her, Shen Miao would definitely not take her anger out on the innocent Liu Ying.

After all, such torture was too unbearable.

Every time he was about to open his mouth, he would shut up at the last moment. He felt as if it was a heinous crime to betray Shen Miao. Pei Lang wondered if he owed Shen Miao a huge debt in his previous life so that he was so willing to suffer for her in this godforsaken dungeon.

However... it had been so long, but no one had come to save him. Pei Lang was a little disappointed.

Shen Miao had probably forgotten about him. Or perhaps, in her chess game, sacrificing an insignificant chess piece was not worth mentioning.

Just as he was thinking, he suddenly heard a commotion outside. He did not know what happened, but it was noisy.

Then, the heat wave swept past him.

Someone shouted, "There's a fire! A fire!"

A fire?

Pei Lang was stunned. This was Fu Xiuyi's dungeon. Usually, only Fu Xiuyi's trusted aides and guards would come to the dungeon. Because the security was very tight, nothing could go wrong. He did not expect a fire to break out here, but it would probably be put out very quickly.

However, Pei Lang was wrong this time. Not only was the fire not put out, but it also became bigger and bigger. Some black smoke even floated in, and the chaotic footsteps outside gradually became weaker and weaker, as if they were getting further and further away.

Pei Lang's cell was the furthest away and the innermost one. Others usually could not see him, so he was almost isolated here alone. When the fire broke out, Pei Lang's cell was in the most dangerous position. Generally speaking, no one dared to break into the fire to save him..

Feeling the surging heat wave, Pei Lang felt a strong sense of déjà vu, as if he had seen it somewhere before. At the same time, he felt relieved and liberated.

Let's leave it at that... It was not a bad thing to end it like this.

Just as he closed his eyes, he heard an unfamiliar voice in front of him. "Hey, are you dead?"

Pei Lang opened his eyes in surprise and saw a man in black standing in front of him. This person's face was covered by a black mask, so his face could not be seen. Only his eyes were revealed, shining brightly. Seeing that Pei Lang did not answer, he seemed to be a little impatient and opened the cell door.

This person was actually here to save him!

Pei Lang actually found it unbelievable. However, dressed like this, what else could this person do but save him?

When Pei Lang met this person's eyes, his heart skipped a beat as he felt a sense of familiarity with that pair of eyes.

Chapter 842 Injured (1)

At night, Shen Miao lit a lamp, wanting to pack up the books that Shen Qiu had sent over during the day. Shen Qiu knew that she liked to read. These days, knowing that she was about to get married, he asked someone to find many books. Some of these books recorded the major events of the previous dynasty, and some were romance books. Shen Miao planned to give the romantic books to Luo Tan and Feng Anning and keep those historical books to herself.

Just as she was tidying up, she suddenly heard movement outside the window. She was not used to being served at night, and usually, Jingzhe and Gu Yu would leave early. She looked up at the window, but there was no one there. After thinking for a moment, Shen Miao opened the door and walked to the courtyard to take a look.

She was not afraid of bad people. After all, there was still Cong Yang hiding in the dark. If someone like a burglar had barged in, Cong Yang would've already made a move. Unexpectedly, when she walked into

the courtyard, she saw a person standing under the tree. She was stunned for a moment before taking two steps forward with a lantern. To her surprise, it was Xie Jingxing.

Xie Jingxing was not wearing his purple robe. Instead, he had changed into black clothes. When he was in purple, he was a noble young master. When he was in black, he looked cold and murderous. However, the lazy smile on his face didn't change as he looked at Shen Miao and walked forward.

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Shen Miao felt that something was wrong with Xie Jingxing, but she could not tell what was wrong. She stood beside Xie Jingxing and asked, "Why are you standing here?"

If it were in the past, Xie Jingxing would probably have entered her room uninvited and started drinking tea.

Xie Jingxing smiled. Before Shen Miao could speak, Xie Jingxing suddenly fell on her.

Shen Miao subconsciously supported him, but when she touched the wet patch on his back, she looked at her hand and saw her hand covered in blood under the dim light of the lantern. When Xie Jingxing fell on her, she smelled a strong smell of blood.

Shen Miao called out softly, "Cong Yang!"

No one replied. Cong Yang did not seem to be around.

Shen Miao was a little anxious. At such an urgent moment, Cong Yang was actually not around. She did not dare to alert anyone in the family. She half-dragged and half-carried Xie Jingxing back to her room and let him lie on her bed, wanting to call a doctor over.

Just as she was about to leave, Xie Jingxing said weakly, "Don't call anyone."

Shen Miao was stunned for a moment before squatting down beside him and asking, "What about your injuries?"

Xie Jingxing took out a medicine bottle-like thing from his pocket. Before Shen Miao could continue asking, he fainted again.

Shen Miao made a prompt decision. There was still some hot water in the room, which was for her to wash her hands at night. She brought the hot water over and found a clean handkerchief to wet it. After a moment of hesitation, she slowly unbuttoned Xie Jingxing's clothes.

Under the light, the young man's body was well-proportioned and slender. For some reason, Shen Miao felt her face burning. She tried her best to calm down.

Xie Jingxing's clothes were stained with large patches of blood. The congealed blood stuck to his skin. Blown by the freezing wind outside, the blood-stained clothes almost glued to the flesh. As Shen Miao pulled the clothes off, Xie Jingxing would frown slightly, as if he felt uncomfortable in his coma.

Helpless, she could only find a pair of silver scissors and burn them before carefully cutting the clothes for him.

It was not that Shen Miao had never seen a man's body before. For example, she had seen Fu Ming's body many times. However, it was different from seeing Xie Jingxing's body. In order to protect Xie Jingxing, she did not even call Jingzhe and Gu Yu. She was pulling off Xie Jingxing's clothes alone, so she inevitably felt a little awkward.

Chapter 843 Injured (2)

However, soon, the embarrassment on her face disappeared and was replaced by a serious expression.

There were many knife wounds scattered on Xie Jingxing's body, but these knife wounds were not deep. Although they were not fatal, Shen Miao knew that with so many knife wounds, just bleeding would be enough to make Xie Jingxing die of blood loss. At that moment, she did not dare to be careless. She immediately wet a handkerchief with hot water and wiped the blood off Xie Jingxing's body bit by bit. She then took out the powder from the medicine bottle and sprinkled it on him. After searching for a long time, she could not find a clean cloth. Shen Miao could only cut off a piece of her new corset to bandage Xie Jingxing's wound. Shen Miao had never bandaged anyone before, but she had seen soldiers of Shen Qiu do this in the past, so she imitated it. Although it was clumsily done, the blood had stopped.

She took out a few more pills from the cabinet. Luo Tan had bought them for her. She said that when women were on their periods and didn't look good, they could take it. Although Xie Jingxing was not on his period, he had lost a lot of blood. This should be able to nourish him. Shen Miao crushed the pills and mixed them with warm water before feeding it to Xie Jingxing.

After finishing everything, the night was as dark as ink, and one could not even hear the sound of livestock outside. Xie Jingxing lay on Shen Miao's bed with his body half-naked, his body wrapped in Shen Miao's cloth, looking very strange.

The corners of Shen Miao's mouth twitched. She planned to turn Xie Jingxing over and check if there were any other wounds on his body.

Xie Jingxing's clothes were wet, but his pants were dry, so Shen Miao didn't think there were any wounds on his lower body. When she flipped Xie Jingxing over, her hand accidentally touched his thigh. Shen Miao felt as if she had been burned by fire. Just as she was about to retract her hand, she suddenly felt that something was wrong.

The skin under her hand was hard, not as smooth as the skin on the other parts of his body. Instead, it was as if a thick layer of scabs had formed. Her heart skipped a beat and she subconsciously lifted Xie Jingxing's pants slightly, only to see a terrifying scar spreading into the depths of his stomach.

This scar was different from the scars that Xie Jingxing had been inflicted upon today. Although there were many scars today, they were not deep, so they were not fatal. The one in front of Shen Miao was long and deep. Clearly, it was an old scar from the past. It was enough to show that when he was injured, the wound must have reached the bone and looked terrifying.

When Xie Jingxing was in Ming Qi, there was never news of him being injured. Could it be that he was injured in the Daliang Dynasty? Shen Miao was puzzled, but she realized that there were other wounds. Every wound, big and small, was so deep that bones could be seen. Although the wounds had already healed, the sight of which still shocked people. How did Xie Jingxing survive so many calamities?

Shen Miao did not realize that she had already touched Xie Jingxing's leg and was about to reach further down when the person on the bed grunted and grabbed her wrist. Shen Miao's face turned red. She thought that Xie Jingxing was awake and misunderstood that she was taking advantage of him. She subconsciously looked at Xie Jingxing and saw that he was frowning and pursing his lips, but his eyes were closed.

Shen Miao heaved a sigh of relief. Although she still had many questions about the scars, she did not dare to touch any further. Xie Jingxing's clothes had been torn by her, so Shen Miao could only take a coat for Xie Jingxing to wear and cover it tightly for him. Afraid that Xie Jingxing would have a fever in the middle of the night, she brought a stool over and sat in front of the bed to guard him.

She did not know when she fell asleep.

When Shen Miao woke up, she realized that she was already sleeping on the bed with a thick blanket covering her body. She clearly remembered that she was the one sitting in front of the bed and guarding Xie Jingxing last night, but she did not expect to fall asleep halfway. She thought she was probably so tired that she did not even know that she had unconsciously climbed onto the bed.

Chapter 844 Injured (3)

She subconsciously got up. Seeing that the room was empty and Xie Jingxing was nowhere to be seen, she was stunned for a moment before hearing a smiling voice from behind. "Are you looking for me?"

Xie Jingxing walked over in a loose robe. Shen Miao did not know where he found the robe. She looked at him in surprise. Xie Jingxing was injured and was unconscious yesterday, but now, he looked refreshed. How could he possibly recover so fast?

She asked, "Are you feeling better?"

Xie Jingxing smiled. "Of course."

Shen Miao nodded. "As expected, the pill is effective. Cousin Tan is not lying to me."

"Pill?" Xie Jingxing frowned. "What pill?"

"It's for women to feel better during their periods," Shen Miao said without changing her expression, "When women are on their periods, take one pill and they won't feel so weak. Last night, I saw that you were bleeding profusely, so I gave you three pills." She smiled at Xie Jingxing and said, "It seems like it's all thanks to the pill that you recovered so quickly."

Xie Jingxing's smile froze.

Seeing him speechless, Shen Miao couldn't help but laugh in her heart. The next moment, she couldn't laugh anymore. Xie Jingxing said leisurely, "Oh, in that case, as a return, I won't pursue the matter of you touching the last time."

Shen Miao was stunned. Xie Jingxing smiled ambiguously. "Last night, someone touched something..."

Shen Miao's face turned pale and then red. She said angrily, "You were awake?"

"I couldn't speak, but my mind was awake." Xie Jingxing walked to the table and sat down. After washing up, he looked even more energized. He heated another pot of tea and poured himself a cup. He smiled at Shen Miao.

Shen Miao stood rooted to the ground and asked, "What's wrong with your injuries? What happened yesterday?"

"I was doing what you asked me to do," Xie Jingxing said casually. "I won't go to a place like Prince Ding's mansion next time." He stretched. "Fu Xiuyi really has a lot of tricks up his sleeve. I'm not confident I can come out alive every time."

"You went to Prince Ding's mansion?" Shen Miao widened her eyes. "You went to the dungeon?"

Xie Jingxing's eyes flashed. "You know a lot about Prince Ding's mansion and even know there is a dungeon." He said, "That's right. I went and saved 'your' Mr. Pei."

Shen Miao looked at him blankly.

She did not expect Xie Jingxing to go and save Pei Lang personally. Xie Jingxing's identity was sensitive, and Fu Xiuyi was definitely not someone to be underestimated. Once Fu Xiuyi caught him, Xie Jingxing would inevitably be in a lot of trouble. Shen Miao asked Xie Jingxing for help because she knew that he had many capable people by his side. She did not expect him to take the risk.

Shen Miao had an indescribable feeling in her heart. However, Xie Jingxing went to Prince Ding's mansion, then it was not surprising that he was wounded.

Fu Xiuyi was a very cautious and paranoid person. Because he had made countless enemies, Prince Ding's mansion was like an impregnable castle. As for the dungeon, the prisoners locked inside were mostly spies sent by the enemy. It could even be said that Fu Xiuyi spent much more effort to strengthen the security of the dungeon than the entire Prince Ding's mansion.

Under such conditions, it was already not easy for Xie Jingxing to come out alive, let alone save someone.

Seeing that Shen Miao was in a daze, Xie Jingxing tilted his head and looked at her suspiciously, asking, "Why don't you ask if your Mr. Pei is dead or alive?"

Chapter 845 Injured (4)

Shen Miao came back to her senses. "Is he still alive?"

"He's alive and well." Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow. "He didn't even touch a spark."

Shen Miao caught the key word and asked, "Spark?"

"I burned down the dungeon," Xie Jingxing said. "Just in case anything happens."

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Shen Miao gasped. Most of the people locked up in the dungeon had the secrets that Fu Xiuyi wanted to know. With Xie Jingxing's fire, those secrets could never be discovered. Fu Xiuyi had lost so much, so how could he let Xie Jingxing off easily?

At this moment, Shen Miao couldn't help but admire Xie Jingxing. She thought that she was bold enough, but that was because she had the memories of her previous life to rely on. However, Xie Jingxing always did as he wanted, showing no regard for the consequences.

Shen Miao was silent for a moment before asking, "Is he in your mansion now?"

Xie Jingxing said, "Gao Yang is treating him."

Shen Miao found it a little strange. Gao Yang was treating Pei Lang. Why didn't Xie Jingxing let Gao Yang treat him? Instead, he came to her courtyard with injuries. Did Xie Jingxing think that her medical skills were better than Gao Yang's?

However, she had another question that bugged her. She looked at Xie Jingxing intently. Xie Jingxing smiled. "Why are you looking at me like that? I'm not that kind-hearted. If not for you..."

"What's with those scars?" Shen Miao interrupted him.

"There are many guards in Prince Ding's mansion, and there are Fu Xiuyi's death warriors in the dungeon." It was rare for Xie Jingxing to explain to her.

"I'm not talking about this." Shen Miao paused for a moment before asking, "Your old scars look very deep. Were you injured in the Daliang Dynasty?"

Xie Jingxing was stunned and did not speak.

"I've never heard of you being injured in Ming Qi," Shen Miao said. "But these scars look old. How did it happen?"

"Concerned about me?" Xie Jingxing looked at her with a faint smile. "It's nothing serious. There's no need to mention it."

"I want to know." Shen Miao lowered her eyes. "Tell me for the sake of helping me be better prepared mentally. I don't want to go to a strange place without knowing anything."

This reason sounded convincing, but Shen Miao knew that she just wanted to know how he got those scars.

Apart from the fact that she was reborn, Xie Jingxing already knew her very well. However, from Shen Miao's point of view, there were still many things she did not understand about Xie Jingxing. In the past, she was very afraid of understanding him. The more she knew the secrets about a dangerous person like Xie Jingxing, the more uneasy she would feel. Now, she wanted to take the initiative to know about Xie Jingxing.

Xie Jingxing looked at the tea in front of him and smiled. "I was injured on the northern border."

Shen Miao suddenly looked up.

Xie Jingxing said indifferently, "There were people planted by the royal family in the Xie army. Back then, when I went to the northern border, because my plan changed, I returned to the Daliang Dynasty in advance to reclaim my identity."

“The people of the northern border and the royal family worked together from the inside to set up a trap. Originally, they were targeting Xie Ding, but because I requested to go to war, they changed their target to me. That day, I didn’t expect the Marquis of Lin’an’s trusted aide to be the emperor’s subordinate. He schemed against me. Although the Daliang Dynasty’s Black Feather Army secretly came to my aid, I was still seriously injured. My brother sent people to bring me back. The emperor thought that his plan was successful, but in fact, I was brought back to the Daliang Dynasty to recuperate. I was bedridden for half a year before I could walk on my own.” He looked at Shen Miao and smiled disapprovingly. “To be precise, I was injured in Ming Qi.”

Chapter 846 Injured (5)

Shen Miao was enlightened.

In her previous life and this life, many things had changed, and the father and son of the Xie family were one of them. In her previous life, the Marquis of Lin’an, Xie Ding, went to war first and was defeated and died. Then, the Marquis of Lin’an declined. Xie Jingxing received the imperial edict to go to war, but he also ended up with ten thousand arrows piercing his heart. Whether Xie Jingxing faked his death in her previous life was unknown, but one thing was certain. The father and son of the Xie family died on the battlefield at the same time because they were targeted by the royal family.

For some reason, in this life, Xie Jingxing changed his mind and went to war in advance. The emperor originally wanted to deal with the Marquis of Lin’an, so he took the opportunity to change the target to Xie Jingxing. Xie Jingxing was dead. Unexpectedly, the Marquis of Lin’an couldn’t recover from the setback, so the royal family didn’t have to make things difficult for him again.

At the thought of this, Shen Miao understood what Xie Jingxing meant when he said to Su Mingfeng, “Ming Qi didn’t nurture me. Instead Ming Qi killed me.”

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The Marquis of Lin’an had once made great contributions to Ming Qi, but once he outlived his usefulness, the royal family could not wait to get rid of him. Although Shen Miao already knew that the fall of the Marquis of Lin’an in her previous life was related to the royal family, it was different when she heard it from Xie Jingxing.

If even Xie Ding’s trusted aide was a spy planted by the royal family, then almost every move of the Marquis of Lin’an was under Emperor Wen Hui’s nose. Therefore, Xie Jingxing had never been close to Xie Ding since he was young. Perhaps back then, although he could not be sure who the spy was, he knew that the royal family had always been watching their every move.

Perhaps even Concubine Fang, Xie Changchao, and Xie Changwu were secretly controlled by Emperor Wen Hui. However, now that Xie Changchao and Xie Changwu were dead, Concubine Fang was on the verge of collapse, and the Marquis of Lin’an had no successor, Emperor Wen Hui probably wouldn’t take the Marquis of Lin’an seriously.

Shen Miao looked at Xie Jingxing again, feeling glad that he had survived a calamity.

Xie Jingxing’s life in Ming Qi was indeed not as good and comfortable as Su Mingfeng thought. Perhaps the Daliang Dynasty sent Xie Jingxing over because the status of the young marquis of the Marquis of

Lin'an could provide a lot of convenience. They thought that if Princess Yuqing died in misery, the Marquis of Lin'an would dote on his son even more. However, they did not expect that Xie Jingxing's life in the Marquis of Lin'an was even harder than if he was born in an ordinary family.

There was infighting, deception, hypocrisy, and hidden schemes.

If not for the people of the Daliang Dynasty coming to his rescue on the battlefield in time, Xie Jingxing would've been reduced to dust scattering over the wilderness of the northern border.

Xie Jingxing looked at Shen Miao's expression. Although Shen Miao tried her best to remain calm, her breathing was still a little irregular. He smiled and reached over the table to touch her head. "What are you afraid of? When we reach the Daliang Dynasty, with me around, no one will dare to bully you."

"There's also a royal family in the Daliang Dynasty." Shen Miao felt that things were not that simple.

Xie Jingxing said indifferently, "I'm also from the royal family." He retracted his hand and said indifferently, "Apart from my brother, you don't have to be afraid of anyone. Even if you see my brother and really anger him, tell me and I'll guarantee your safety."

"The Daliang Dynasty is my territory. Whoever dares to bully you will be going against the world." Xie Jingxing said.

Chapter 847 Injured (6)

After saying a few more words, the sky lit up. Seeing that Jingzhe and Gu Yu were about to come to wake Shen Miao up, Xie Jingxing left.

After Xie Jingxing left, Cong Yang appeared out of nowhere. Shen Miao glared at him and asked, "Why weren't you here last night?"

Last night, when Xie Jingxing was injured, Cong Yang was nowhere to be seen. Now that Xie Jingxing left, he came out.

Cong Yang said apologetically, "Young Madam, it's really unfortunate. I had a mission yesterday. I thought I would be back soon. Unexpectedly, I was delayed halfway. When I came back, it was already the next morning." He looked apologetic and sincere as he asked, "Young Madam, do you have something to tell me?"

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"Nothing." Shen Miao waved her hand, closed the window, and left.

Cong Yang jumped back to the tree, feeling very aggrieved. Last night, his master instructed him not to make a sound, so Cong Yang could only squat on the tree for the entire night without even covering himself with a blanket. He did not know what his master and Young Madam were doing in the room. He thought about how his master had suffered that small injury and still had to rush back to the Shen mansion. Gao Yang wanted to stop his master's bleeding, but his master did not let him. His master let the blood flow all over his body just to make Young Madam pity him.

Gao Yang felt sorry for himself. After being in the cold wind for the entire night, he still had to be blamed by Young Madam. His master did not give him any rewards. Why did no one feel sorry for him?

On the other side, Xie Jingxing was walking towards Prince Rui's mansion.

Cong Yang had already reconstructed all the mansions from Prince Rui's mansion to the Shen mansion. There were no walls between them, almost forming a continuous mansion.

The cold wind in the late winter was heavy. Outside his loose white robe, he was wearing a black cloak. The black and white colors collided, making his face look a little pale.

He was not wearing a mask, and his expression was not as relaxed as usual. His beautiful eyes, which were always curved, were deep and dark, carrying a trace of coldness.

In the end, he still lied to Shen Miao.

Apart from the scars left behind in the northern border, there were also scars left behind in the Daliang Dynasty.

The scar left behind in the northern border was caused by the knife of the deputy general of the Xie army, who Xie Ding trusted the most. That scar was so deep that the bones could be seen. Later, during the half a year he was recuperating in the Daliang Dynasty, people said that he could not get over it. In the end, Gao Yang risked his life to save him from the jaws of death. Gao Yang said that if the knife was slightly off at that time, or if Gao Yang came any later, his life would probably not be saved.

Apart from Gao Yang, Emperor Yong Le, and his trusted aides, no one else knew that Xie Jingxing was injured. When he appeared in the imperial court of the Daliang Dynasty again, he was still the handsome Prince Rui.

However, it was not easy for people to accept a prince who came out of nowhere. Everything in this world was related to benefits. The appearance of Prince Rui would eventually cause some people to lose benefits. Therefore, there were countless schemes and plots against him.

There were countless life and death situations, and he had also suffered many injuries. In the Daliang Dynasty, fighting was even more brutal than in Ming Qi. In Ming Qi, his identity was hidden, and the royal family was dealing with the entire Marquis of Lin'an, not him alone. In the Daliang Dynasty, people were targeting him for the title he claimed.

Every time, after escaping death, the person who appeared in the imperial court the next day was still Prince Rui, who had a lazy smile on his face. In everyone's hearts, Prince Rui was a terrifying enemy who was scheming and ruthless. They no longer acted rashly. They respected and feared him. In their hearts, they wished that Prince Rui would die instead of living, but on the surface, they had to bow to him.

That was what Xie Jingxing risked his life to earn.

He used two years to stabilize his identity as Prince Rui in the Daliang Dynasty. No one dared to suspect him, provoke him, and scheme against him.

"I want to know." Shen said, "Tell me for the sake of helping me be better prepared mentally. I don't want to go to a strange place without knowing anything."

On this winter morning, Xie Jingxing walked slowly. His green boots stepped on the snow, making rustling sounds. Ice crystals swayed on the tree like hanging gems.

A faint smile slowly appeared on his lips.

What was there to prepare?

In any case, he would get rid of all the trouble for her.

Chapter 848 Showdown (1)

On this day, an uninvited guest came to Prince Rui's mansion.

One look and one could tell that he was someone who had been on the battlefield. He stood straight at the entrance of the mansion, looking like he had come with ill intentions.

The guard at the door stopped the burly man, who said, "Bring me to see Prince Rui."

The burly man was arrogant, but the guards of Prince Rui's mansion weren't pushovers. They did not back down at all. Instead, they said, "If there's no invitation. His Highness won't see you."

Just as the burly man was about to flare up, he heard a surprised voice from inside. "General Shen?" He looked up and saw Tie Yi striding over. When he walked over, he glared at the guards and said respectfully, "General Shen, I hope you won't mind them being rude. I'll bring you to see His Highness at once."

The guard widened his eyes, probably having realized who "General Shen" was. Then, he looked at Shen Xin suspiciously, as if he did not expect him to come at this time.

Shen Xin was filled with anger. Over the past few days, he had been tossing and turning. Every time he thought of his ridiculous guess a few days ago, he could not sleep well. He thought that as time passed, this matter would gradually fade away. Unexpectedly, the longer it passed, the harder it was for him to get over it.

Shen Xin was a person who did not like to dwell on something. Once he had any doubts, he would definitely get to the bottom of it. Moreover, this concerned Shen Miao's life. Therefore, he finally decided to come to Prince Rui's mansion personally. No matter what the outcome was, he had to find out.

Unexpectedly, as soon as he arrived, he encountered a stupid guard, making him even more furious..

Fortunately, Tie Yi was a sensible person. When he saw that Shen Xin seemed to be angry, he tried to make him happy by saying that everyone in Prince Rui's mansion had been busy with the marriage recently, so that Shen Miao could get married in a grand manner and not be embarrassed in Ming Qi.

Shen Xin followed Tie Yi all the way. As Tie Yi had said, the mansion was decorated with lanterns inside and outside, looking very festive. No matter what, the people of Prince Rui took this marriage very seriously. Only then did Shen Xin feel much better.

When they arrived at the door of a room, Tie Yi stopped and said, "I can't enter His Highness's study. Someone has already reported it. General Shen, you can go in directly."

Shen Xin thought that what he said to Prince Rui later would be very private, so naturally, he could not let outsiders hear it. If the servants could not enter the study, it would be much more convenient to

have the conversation. At the same time, he was a little puzzled. Prince Rui did not allow the servants to enter, but he was allowed to enter. Wasn't Prince Rui afraid that he would attack him? However, on a second thought, he understood that with the skills Prince Rui displayed that day, they were probably equal opponents.

Although he was thinking a lot, Shen Xin still looked calm on the surface. He nodded and walked into the door, only to see a furry white thing suddenly jump out of the door. It was a white tiger, but it was still small, whimpering at him aggressively.

Shen Xin almost slashed down with his sword.

Tie Yi immediately went forward to carry the white tiger away. Shen Xin took a deep breath and pushed the door open to enter.

In the room, Prince Rui was sitting on a chair and reading. His posture was lazy, and he was flipping through the pages casually.

Shen Xin frowned. "Prince Rui?"

Chapter 849 Showdown (2)

Unlike Luo Xueyan, although Prince Rui kindly asked everyone in the Shen family to call him "Jingxing" and Luo Xueyan did so, Shen Xin could not do it. Men were different from women. Women could rely on their intuition to judge if someone was friendly or malicious, but men could not rely on their intuition alone, especially Shen Xin. He was more willing to rely on evidence.

Prince Rui looked up and casually placed the book on the table. Shen Xin saw that it was a military book, and it was a very obscure one. Only old generals would read it. Prince Rui was only 22 years old now. Him reading such a book, either he was putting on an act, or he was hiding his true color.

Before Prince Rui paid a visit, in Shen Xin's eyes, Prince Rui was just an idle prince who was arrogant because he had Emperor Yong Le backing him. However, after Prince Rui competed with Shen Qiu that day, looking at Prince Rui again, Shen Xin felt that he was not that simple.

Perhaps this was a man's intuition.

"General Shen, play chess with me, would you?"

Shen Xin said, "I don't know how to play."

"A game of war chess." Prince Rui raised his hand and took the chessboard from the other side. He placed it on the table and gave Shen Xin a jar of white pieces, leaving a jar of black pieces for himself. He said, "General Shen and I will use the chessboard as our country and the chess pieces as our soldiers. How about that?"

When Shen Xin heard it was about war, he was excited. He didn't want to be looked down upon by a young man, so he said, "I'll be obliged to keep you company then."

The two of them set up the chess pieces and started to play.

Unlike Prince Rui's appearance, Prince Rui's chess style shocked Shen Xin. He had a ruthlessness that did not match his age. It was extremely tiring to play war chess. Every step he took had to be thought carefully. However, Prince Rui did not seem to need time to think. Instead, he placed his chess pieces where he wanted to place them. It was very casual, but when one looked carefully, one could tell that every move he made was delicate.

Shen Xin was good at playing war chess, but compared to Prince Rui, he was at a disadvantage. Shen Xin even had the illusion that he had played chess with Prince Rui before. Otherwise, why did Prince Rui seem to know where his next chess piece was going to be placed?

After the round ended, as expected, Shen Xin lost.

Prince Rui said, "You lost."

Shen Xin waved his hand and said, "Again!"

"It'll be the same," Prince Rui said.

"What do you mean?" Shen Xin frowned.

"You'll lose," he said.

For many years, other than Luo Xueyan and Emperor Wen Hui, no one dared to talk to Shen Xin like this. He immediately looked angry. Just as he was about to flare up, he saw Prince Rui say casually, "General Shen, I'm afraid you didn't come to my place to play chess." He curled his lips and asked, "What is it about?"

Shen Xin's angry words were stuck in his throat.

Prince Rui always seemed to have an ability to make people angry. After making people angry, he would change the topic smoothly, as if he wasn't the one who said those infuriating words just now. This ability was really like a person, Xie Ding, the Marquis of Lin'an when he was young. Every time Xie Ding and Shen Xin argued, Xie Ding would act like this. Shen Xin was an honest person and took every word seriously, so he was often fooled by Xie Ding.

At the thought of Xie Ding, Shen Xin suddenly remembered why he came today. He was no longer in the mood to flare up. He looked straight into Prince Rui's eyes and did not let go of the change in Prince Rui's expression. He slowly asked, "When you were competing with Shen Qiu the other day, you used your dagger to lock his throat. Where did you learn that move?"

Chapter 850 Showdown (3)

Hearing this, Prince Rui smiled. "General Shen, I did it so slowly that I thought you saw it clearly. Why? Do you need me to do it again?"

Shen Xin was stunned, and his heart skipped a beat. Prince Rui indeed did it on purpose!

That day, the dagger move was done deliberately slower than usual, as if Prince Rui was letting him see what move it was. At this moment, hearing Prince Rui admit it, Shen Xin felt an indescribable feeling, but he was more puzzled. He asked, "How did you learn it?"

“I learned it a long time ago.” Prince Rui said lazily, “General Shen, haven’t you seen it before?”

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Instantly, Shen Xin’s mind went blank, as if a thunderclap had suddenly exploded around him, making every inch of his body tremble.

Many years ago, on the street of Ming Qi, he accidentally saw the heir of the Marquis of Lin’an, Xie Ding’s son, use this move on someone. At that time, he even thought that Xie Jingxing’s move was much more powerful than his father’s.

Shen Xin’s heart was in turmoil. At this moment, he was actually at a loss. He did not know if he should look surprised or shocked, but at the same time, he was also calm, because the guess that was bugging him day and night was proven right.

He asked, “Are you Xie Jingxing?”

Prince Rui took off his mask.

Shen Xin gasped.

The relationship between the Shen family and the Marquis of Lin’an had never been good, but it was precisely because of this that Shen Xin knew the Marquis of Lin’an the best. Xie Ding had a son who was always going against him. On the surface, Shen Xin was gloating that this was the case, but he secretly admired Xie Jingxing. He felt that although this young man was a little mischievous, he had a boldness and carefreeness that no noble young master in the capital had.

Therefore, Shen Xin remembered Xie Jingxing’s appearance very well.

Now, the person in front of him looked more mature and handsome, but there was still a shadow of the past in his looks. At that moment, Shen Xin understood everything.

He said, “What’s going on? Shouldn’t you explain?”

His tone was like an elder disciplining a junior. At this moment, Shen Xin even had the ridiculous illusion that he was helping Xie Ding discipline his son.

Xie Jingxing smiled and poured a cup of tea for Shen Xin. He said, “Father-in-law, have some tea and listen to my explanation.”

In the next hour, Shen Xin heard a shocking secret from Xie Jingxing that he had never thought of.

Shen Xin did not expect Xie Jingxing to be the prince of the Daliang Dynasty and had such a bumpy life. He did not expect Xie Jingxing to be so bold as to come to Ming Qi like this. Wasn’t he afraid that once his identity was exposed, he would be in trouble?

After hearing Xie Jingxing’s words, Shen Xin was furious, indignant, regretful, and hesitant. All kinds of emotions welled up in his heart. However, he still understood what decision he should make at this moment. He said, “Since you have this identity, Jiaojiao can’t marry you!”

“Why?” Xie Jingxing asked.

“Your goal is definitely not just to come to Ming Qi to pay tribute.” Shen Xin’s words were sharp. He said, “The Daliang Dynasty’s ambitions will not stop. One day, the Daliang Dynasty will make a move on Ming Qi. At that time, you and I will meet on the battlefield. If Jiaojiao marries you, what should she do? Do you want her to be torn between you and her father? I won’t put Jiaojiao in such a difficult position even if I have to defy the imperial edict and risk losing everything.”