

Venomous 901

Chapter 901 Wife and Concubine (6)

When Lu Wan'er and Madam Lu heard this, they almost choked.

What was going on? They originally wanted to trick Shen Miao and accuse her of being rude, so naturally, there was no one guarding the entrance. However, after hearing what Shen Miao said, it seemed like the Lu family was so poor that they could not even afford to hire a servant to guard the door. Shen Miao even asked the guards to guard the door. If the commoners passing by outside saw this, what would they think?

Shen Miao said kindly, "Madam, you don't have to thank me. If you need it in the future, you can ask His Highness to send a few guards over to watch the door."

The surrounding madams also understood that this Princess Consort Rui was definitely not someone to be trifled with. The Lu family had originally arranged this show to scare Shen Miao so that Shen Miao would make a fool of herself.

Unexpectedly, not only was Shen Miao not at a disadvantage, but she even gave the Lu family a taste of their own medicine.

Madam Lu forced a smile and said, "Princess Consort, please take a seat first."

The seat arranged for Shen Miao was in an inconspicuous spot.

Shen Miao did not decline. She did not come today to argue, let alone quarrel. She just wanted to express her attitude and take the opportunity to evaluate the situation clearly.

Ba Jiao quietly leaned over and whispered into Shen Miao's ear, "That round-faced madam is Madam Yuan. She's on good terms with the Lu family. The short madam is Madam Wei, the wife of the Minister of Revenue. She's in-laws with the Ye family and has a good relationship with the Lu family... As for the madam on the left wearing a yellow dress, her husband is the marquis. Young Master Ji is her youngest son."

Ji Yushu's mother? Shen Miao looked at Madam Ji. Madam Ji was very composed and calm, looking completely different from Ji Yushu.

Shen Miao thought to herself that these madams were either rich or noble. No wonder they said that the Lu family was quite influential in Long Ye, and Consort Jing was so arrogant that she did not even take Empress Xiande seriously. Since these families all wanted to get close to the Lu family, it was obvious that the Lu family had a lot of connections with them.

If Emperor Yong Le and Xie Jingxing wanted to completely suppress the Lu family, it would not be easy. The life and death of the Lu family concerned many other officials. If the Lu family fell, many families related to it would suffer. For the sake of their own survival, those families would not sit back and watch the Lu family fall.

Just as she was thinking, someone walked over and sat down beside her. Ba Jiao immediately stood up and stopped explaining to Shen Miao. Shen Miao turned around and saw the beautiful and proud Fourth Miss Lu sitting beside her.

Lu Wan'er said, "Princess Consort Rui, can I ask you something?"

Shen Miao said, "Please go ahead."

"How long have you known Prince Rui?" Lu Wan'er asked.

Shen Miao sneered in her heart. She knew why Lu Wan'er approached her. Speaking of which, Xie Jingxing had been in Ming Qi since he was young. Apart from Emperor Yong Le and Xie Jingxing's people, no one else should know about this. The people of the Daliang Dynasty thought that Xie Jingxing had been traveling with a master for many years.

In that case, it should have been less than a year since she returned to the capital from Spring City and met Xie Jingxing at the tribute banquet.

She said, "Less than a year."

Hearing this, Lu Wan'er smiled. Her smile was a little smug and disdainful. Lu Wan'er said, "So it's less than a year. In that case, I think Princess Consort Rui still doesn't know much about Prince Rui."

Shen Miao smiled. "Fourth Miss, you seem to know His Highness very well?"

Lu Wan'er said, "I know the status of your Shen family in Ming Qi is high, but in Long Ye, our Lu family is equally powerful. Prince Rui is a very good person. In the Daliang Dynasty, almost every young lady wanted to marry Prince Rui. However, ordinary girls are not worthy of him."

Lu Wan'er glanced at Shen Miao and continued, "Prince Rui is a very ambitious person."

"From the moment he returned to Long Ye, he started to make a name for himself in the imperial court. Such a person will waste time on love. What can you help him with? In the future, when you're useless to him, he'll mercilessly abandon you."

Shen Miao was surprised. She originally thought that Lu Wan'er was an innocent and willful girl who was infatuated with Prince Rui. Hearing her words, she realized that Lu Wan'er could see the situation very clearly and could analyze the pros and cons.

"So?" Shen Miao asked.

"His Majesty wants me to be Prince Rui's wife, but Prince Rui can't have two consorts." Lu Wan'er said as if she was giving Shen Miao a gift, "So, you'll be his concubine, and I'll be his wife."

Chapter 902 Secret (1)

Shen Miao looked at Lu Wan'er in surprise. She did not know where Lu Wan'er got the confidence to say that. Originally, after hearing what Lu Wan'er said just now, Shen Miao felt that she wasn't all that brainless. Now, what Lu Wan'er said made Shen Miao wonder if she was actually an idiot.

"Miss Lu, you can go and tell His Highness about it yourself." Shen Miao smiled. "Telling me is useless."

"Of course I know." Lu Wan'er glanced at her disdainfully. "I told you this today because I hope you know your place and take the initiative to tell His Highness that you are willing to be his concubine."

Shen Miao almost laughed out loud. She smiled and said, "I can't do that."

“What did you say?” Lu Wan’er widened her eyes, as if she did not expect Shen Miao to reject her.

They spoke a little too loudly, and the surrounding madams looked over. Shen Miao did not hide it and said with a smile, “I won’t take in concubines for my husband. Back then, when Prince Rui came to the Shen family to propose marriage, he also said that he would not take in any other women. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have married him and come all the way to Long Ye.”

The surrounding madams were dumbfounded.

It was not that there was no monogamous marriage in the Daliang Dynasty or Ming Qi, but it was rare. The men of ordinary families could not resist beauty, let alone rich men, officials, and the royal family.

Prince Rui was handsome, charming, and had a high status. How could a person like him only have one woman in his life?

Lu Wan’er was so angry that her face was ashen. She said word by word, “Princess Consort Rui, this is jealousy. Jealous women are not virtuous.”

Shen Miao smiled. “Maybe. I’ve always been jealous. If not for Prince Rui making that promise, I probably wouldn’t be tempted to marry him.”

Lu Wan’er was so angry that she was speechless.

The surrounding madams were also shocked. Shen Miao was new to Long Ye. Not only did she not behave herself, but she was also arrogant. She even dared to offend the Lu family, which even Emperor Yong Le was a little afraid of. Was she really so stupid?

Shen Miao was naturally not afraid.

Even if Emperor Yong Le was dissatisfied with her and wanted to arrange another marriage for Xie Jingxing, he would not matchmake Lu Wan’er with Xie Jingxing. Although Lu Wan’er said that her marriage to Xie Jingxing would help his official career, not to mention that Xie Jingxing was not someone who relied on women to climb up the social ladder, even Emperor Yong Le did not dare to let Xie Jingxing be tied to the Lu family.

Emperor Yong Le probably had no choice but to marry Consort Jing back then. However, if Lu Wan’er married Prince Rui, the entire royal family of the Daliang Dynasty would be inseparable from the Lu family. Fu Xiuyi was willing to marry Shen Miao back then just to get the power of the Shen family because the Shen family was loyal by nature, but the Lu family was ambitious.

Emperor Yong Le couldn’t possibly let Lu Wan’er marry Xie Jingxing. Now that Shen Miao rejected Lu Wan’er outright, it was probably also what Emperor Yong Le wanted.

Chapter 903 Secret (2)

Just as Madam Lu and Lu Wan’er were both stunned, they heard a chuckle from the other side.

“Princess Consort Rui is indeed a straightforward person. Prince Rui is young and talented, but most of all, he is devoted. He’s a rare man in the world.”

Shen Miao looked at the person who spoke. That person was sitting beside Ji Yushu’s mother. She was a slightly thin madam. She was wearing a tea-colored embroidered dress. Her skin was slightly dark, and

her eyebrows were straight, but because she was old, she looked a little unapproachable. Her eyes were deep, and when she looked at people, she seemed to be studying them, as if she could see through them. At a glance, one could tell that she was a no-nonsense woman.

While refilling tea for Shen Miao, Ba Jiao whispered into her ear, "This is the wife of the Prime Minister, Madam Ye."

Unlike Madam Lu, who was a little arrogant, this Madam of the Ye family looked much more restrained, but it also made Shen Miao feel that she was even more difficult to deal with.

Madam Ye looked at Shen Miao and suddenly said with a smile, "Royal hunt will be held in a few days. Princess Consort Rui, you will also be present at that time, right?"

Shen Miao smiled and said, "I still have to discuss this with Prince Rui." She couldn't make a hasty promise. Today, the entire room was filled with people with ill intentions. She didn't dare to let her guard down.

"Princess Consort Rui, you're new here and don't know the wonders of hunting in Long Ye yet. There are many interesting things. Please join in the fun with us," Madam Ye continued.

Shen Miao looked at Madam Ye, who was trying to force her to agree to go to the royal hunt.

Madam Ji, who was sitting beside Madam Ye, said with a smile, "Everyone, don't force Princess Consort Rui. Princess Consort Rui is still young. Just as Madam Ye said, she's new here. I'm afraid she's still a little shy. It's only right for her to think about it."

She took the initiative to help Shen Miao out.

Shen Miao looked over in surprise to see Madam Ji smiling at her with a nod.

Madam Ji's husband was the marquis, and his status was not low. When Madam Ye heard this, she did not talk back. She only looked at Shen Miao inquisitively, making Shen Miao frown.

The banquet ended eventually. Lu Wan'er was angered by Shen Miao, so she left halfway through the banquet. Madam Lu treated Shen Miao indifferently. Since the hostess of this banquet was Madam Lu, the other madams naturally followed suit and deliberately ignored Shen Miao.

However, when Shen Miao was young, she was often ignored in Ming Qi, so she did not take it to heart. As she drank her tea, she listened to Ba Jiao secretly explain the relationship between the madams to her and remembered it. Not only did these cold treatments not affect her, but it also allowed her to remember the relationship between these people better.

When she left, no one sent her off. Just as she was about to get into the carriage, she was unexpectedly stopped.

She turned around and saw that it was Madam Ji.

Ji Yushu's mother had a dignified and amiable personality. She looked at Shen Miao and said with a smile, "Yushu told me that when he was in the capital in Ming Qi, he was taken care of by you. Today, I came to thank you on his behalf."

Shen Miao blushed and shook her head. It should be the other way around. It was her who often used Ji Yushu's Exiled Immortal Pawnshop to achieve her goals.

Chapter 904 Secret (3)

Seeing that there was no one around, Madam Ji leaned closer to her and said in a low voice, "Princess Consort, you saw it too today. Fourth Miss Lu... wants to marry Prince Rui, but you don't have to take it to heart. If it can work, Fourth Miss will have long become Princess Consort Rui. As for the royal hunt that Madam Ye mentioned today, you have to tell Prince Rui later. Don't let them scheme against you." Seeing that other madams had already come out one after another, Madam Ji said, "If you have time, you can come to my mansion. I don't think you're familiar with Long Ye, so I can show you around." Only then did she say goodbye to Shen Miao and leave in a hurry.

On the way back, Shen Miao kept thinking about what happened today. She did not take what Lu Wan'er said to heart, but for some reason, she felt that Madam Ye was extremely strange.

Shen Miao asked Ba Jiao, "I don't think I saw Madam Ye's daughter at the banquet today. How many ladies are there in the Ye family? Why didn't she bring them along?"

Ba Jiao was stunned for a moment before shaking her head. "There's no young lady in the Ye family."

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"Why?" Shen Miao frowned.

"Everyone in Long Ye knows this." Ba Jiao said, "Prime Minister Ye and Madam Ye married when they were young. They had a daughter, but unfortunately, she died prematurely. Later, Prime Minister Ye took in a concubine and the concubine gave birth to a son, the current Young Master Ye."

Shen Miao frowned. "They don't have any other children?"

Ba Jiao shook her head. "After Prime Minister Ye had Young Master Ye, he was harmed once and became infertile. It's impossible for him to have any children in the future."

Shen Miao was surprised. How could a high-ranking family like the Ye family only have one son? She asked, "Doesn't that mean the Ye family only has one illegitimate son?"

"That's not the case. The concubine passed away when Young Master Ye was born... However, there are also people who say that the Ye family strangled the concubine to death. After Young Master Ye was born, he was raised by Madam Ye as the legitimate son. However," Ba Jiao paused for a moment, "Even if he's the legitimate son, Young Master Ye is still not valued by Madam Ye."

"Why is that?" Shen Miao found it strange. Although he was not her biological son, he was after all the only son in the Ye family.

"Young Master Ye was born with a congenital disease and can't walk properly. Such a person won't be able to enter the official path in the future, so some people say that the Ye family will decline in this generation," Ba Jiao explained.

Only then did Shen Miao understand. It turned out that he was a cripple. No wonder Madam Ye looked down on him. At the thought of this, she was enlightened. The Lu family had sent Consort Jing to the

palace. Why didn't the Ye family send someone to the palace too? It turned out that it was not that the Ye family was not ambitious, but that the Ye family did not have any daughters to be sacrificed.

Then in this situation... Shen Miao could roughly guess Emperor Yong Le's plan.

If the Ye family formed an alliance with the Lu family, the Lu family would benefit the most. They were both big families in the Daliang dynasty. Why should the Lu family reap all the benefits while the Ye family declined day by day?

Emperor Yong Le probably wanted to incite internal strife between the Lu family and the Ye family to subdue the Ye family before dealing with the Lu family, which had military power. This way, it would be much easier.

Chapter 905 Secret (4)

However, the Ye family and the Lu family had been on good terms for so many years and their interests were intertwined. The Ye family had the Lu family's weakness, and the Lu family also had something on the Ye family. It was not easy to sow discord.

As she was thinking about these things, Shen Miao did not even notice it when the carriage arrived at Prince Rui's mansion until Ba Jiao suddenly shouted, "Master". Someone flicked Shen Miao's forehead and said, "What are you thinking about?"

Only then did Shen Miao see Xie Jingxing. He came back early today and was still wearing his dark red official uniform, looking dignified. Shen Miao pulled his sleeve, hurriedly walking towards the study. She said, "Coincidentally, I have something to ask you..."

Xie Jingxing was stunned at first, then he let her pull him forward. On the other hand, Ba Jiao and Gu Yu were dumbfounded. Ba Jiao smiled and said, "Madam is really proactive."

Uncle Tang appeared from behind and said, "What are you looking at? Go to work!"

Ba Jiao and Gu Yu stuck out their tongues and quickly walked away. Uncle Tang looked at the tightly shut door and shook his head. He sighed and said, "The marriage is not even consummated yet."

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In the room, Shen Miao told Xie Jingxing what happened today. Xie Jingxing said, "Royal hunt?"

Shen Miao nodded. "It seems a little unusual."

"Every year, on the second day of June, the royal family will hunt. It's a rule passed down by the late emperor." Xie Jingxing said lazily, "However, my brother and I will only roam on the periphery. We won't go too deep into the forest to hunt."

"Why?" Shen Miao asked.

"It's dangerous." Xie Jingxing lowered his voice.

Shen Miao was stunned.

When Xie Jingxing saw the look on her face, he smiled and raised his eyebrows. "Are you afraid?"

“What’s there to be afraid of?” Shen Miao looked at him. “Do you mean that someone will attack the emperor and you? The hunting ground will be filled with imperial guards. Who has the guts to do that?”

“You’ve seen the Black Feather Army before.” Xie Jingxing suddenly changed the topic and said, “That’s my people. My brother knows the existence of this army too. Do you know why I raised an army?”

“Because you don’t trust the royal army?” Shen Miao answered quickly.

Xie Jingxing snapped his fingers.

Shen Miao didn’t know what to say.

People said that Emperor Yong Le was a wise emperor, and the people of the Daliang Dynasty all respected him. It seemed that this was the case for the people, but the soldiers and officials under him did not seem to be as loyal as the rumors said. There was no threat coming from inside the royal family of the Daliang Dynasty, but there was an external threat.

The royal army was established by the late emperor. In other words, the people served the late emperor and were unwilling to be loyal to the current emperor. Thinking of the cold tone Xie Jingxing used when he talked about the late emperor, Shen Miao was a little curious. She hesitated for a moment and looked at Xie Jingxing, asking, “Speaking of which, what exactly happened that caused you to end up in the capital of Ming Qi back then?”

Hearing this, Xie Jingxing’s eyes narrowed slightly. Shen Miao, who was sitting beside him, could feel the temperature drop by a few degrees.

A moment later, Xie Jingxing smiled and reached out to touch Shen Miao’s head. He said, “Why do you have so many questions? Do you want to know my secret again? If you want to know, you have to trade.” He smiled ambiguously. “Your body is fine too.”

Shen Miao rolled her eyes at him.

Xie Jingxing continued, “However, you don’t seem to be angry at Lu Wan’er at all.” He was a little dissatisfied. “Someone lusts after your husband but you are unmoved. Shen Jiaojiao, you’re really heartless.”

Shen Miao said, “You won’t agree anyway, right? The Lu family is ambitious. You’re probably not so stupid as to keep a poisonous snake by your side.”

Chapter 906 Secret (5)

Xie Jingxing laughed and stared at her. “Don’t I have a poisonous snake by my side already? A beautiful snake.”

Shen Miao couldn’t be bothered to talk to him and said, “The Ye family... What do you think of the Ye family?”

Xie Jingxing thought for a moment. “The Ye family is smarter than the Lu family and knows how to endure. Perhaps because they don’t have many offspring, they’re not as arrogant as the Lu family. My brother and I plan to start with the Ye family to sow discord between the Ye and Lu families.”

Shen Miao narrowed her eyes. For some reason, when she faced Madam Ye today, she felt that the Ye family was not as easy to deal with as she thought. However, this thought came out of nowhere, and she did not know what was going on.

Xie Jingxing saw the strange expression on her face and asked, "You seem to have something to say?"

Shen Miao shook her head, thinking to herself that she was probably overthinking. She asked, "Will you participate in the hunt this time? Madam Ji told me to be careful. It makes me feel very strange."

Xie Jingxing's expression turned cold as he said, "This time, even if you don't want to go, you have to."

"Why?"

"This year is the 60th festival set by the late emperor. In the hunt, my brother has to hunt a male lion in the hunting ground to be sacrificed for the good weather next year and to prove that he is qualified to be the emperor."

"A male lion?" Shen Miao said, "This is considered a ferocious beast." In ordinary hunting grounds, safety was naturally the most important. After all, the people who came to hunt were all high-ranking officials and nobles. It was not good to lose their lives.

"Wild beasts are nothing to be afraid of." Xie Jingxing curled his lips and smiled coldly. "Wild beasts don't know how to shoot arrows in secret. It's much safer than humans."

"Only the imperial guards can be allowed to enter. This is a rule set by the late emperor. It's hard to say if the imperial guards are loyal or not." Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow. "So you have to understand that this is a show for the world to see. My brother and I have no choice."

He glanced at the worried Shen Miao and pinched her face. "But don't worry, you'll be fine. Although you'll go as a consort of the royal family, you don't have to enter the main venue."

Shen Miao asked, "Are you confident?" A trace of an ominous feeling flashed across her heart, so she couldn't relax.

Xie Jingxing stared at her and slowly shook his head. "No."

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat.

Xie Jingxing smiled. "I was lying to you."

Shen Miao glared at him. Xie Jingxing stretched and said leisurely, "After the hunt, I'll tell you about what happened in the palace so that you won't have to think about it all day long." He said with a faint smile, "You're also a member of the Xie family now. You have to bear some responsibility."

Shen Miao became nervous. Was Xie Jingxing planning to tell her his secret? How exactly did Xie Jingxing end up in the capital of Ming Qi? She felt that there was something else going on.

Although she was happy that she could know the secrets, she still felt extremely uneasy about this royal hunt. It was as if something bad was about to happen. Her heart was beating rapidly. Although she tried her best to calm down, she was still in a state of panic.

She clenched her fists in silence.

Chapter 907 Secret (6)

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In the palace of the Daliang Dynasty, Empress Xiande listened to the palace maid report what happened at the Summer Banquet today. When she heard Shen Miao say, "I won't take in concubines for my husband. When Prince Rui came to propose marriage to me, he said that he wouldn't take in any other women. Otherwise, I wouldn't have married him and come all the way to Long Ye." Hearing this, Empress Xiande couldn't help but laugh. She had to look dignified as an empress and rarely smiled. When she smiled, she actually looked a little girlish.

"Empress, why are you smiling so happily?" Emperor Yong Le's voice came from outside. His expression was slightly cold as he stepped into Weiyang Palace. Looking at Empress Xiande, a strange look flashed across his eyes.

Empress Xiande smiled happily and said, "Cai Lian, tell His Majesty what the princess consort said."

The palace maid called Cai Lian quickly lowered her head and repeated what she had said to the empress in detail. Hearing this, Emperor Yong Le flicked his sleeve and said angrily, "Nonsense! Unruly! How dare she!"

Cai Lian was shocked and her body was trembling. The emperor's anger was not something a small palace maid like her could withstand.

Empress Xiande looked at Emperor Yong Le reproachfully and said to Cai Lian, "You can leave."

Cai Lian heaved a sigh of relief and quickly left. Only then did Empress Xiande smile and say, "Shen Miao is really compatible with Jingxing. They are both straightforward people."

"Xie Yuan is insensible and fools around. Are you also insensible?" Emperor Yong Le looked at Empress Xiande in dissatisfaction. "You seem to like Shen Miao very much?"

"It's been a long time since I've seen such an interesting person in Long Ye." Empress Xiande smiled. Seeing Emperor Yong Le sit down beside her, her tone was still gentle, but her voice was filled with praise. "She is a smart person, but she also keeps an honest heart."

"I can't tell if she's smart or honest," Emperor Yong Le said coldly. "But I can tell she's scheming."

"If that's the case, with Jingxing's intelligence, how could he not tell and fall for a scheming woman?"

Emperor Yong Le said disapprovingly, "Xie Yuan is still young and can't tell right from wrong. That's why he's bewitched by that woman."

Empress Xiande sighed. She knew that Emperor Yong Le was stubborn and did not want to argue with him, so she said, "In short, I think Jingxing's wife is a very good person."

"If she's really good, she wouldn't have said that in front of so many people." Emperor Yong Le was very dissatisfied. "Empress, do you also think it's right for women to be jealous and stop her husband from taking in concubines?"

Empress Xiande smiled faintly. "That's naturally a good thing for women. It's just that very few women can do it."

"Empress!" Hearing this, Emperor Yong Le frowned and looked at Empress Xiande sternly.

"My apology." Although Empress Xiande said that, she did not look too afraid. She only said, "Your Majesty, don't worry too much about Jingxing. He knows what to do. If you interfere too much, you will only irritate him."

"I have my own ideas," Emperor Yong Le said in a low voice.

After a moment of silence, Empress Xiande said, "Your Majesty, are you ready for the hunt next month?"

Emperor Yong Le's expression was unreadable. "I've already arranged everything."

"Can I go with you?" Empress Xiande asked, "I want to be by your side."

"I'll bring Consort Jing along." Emperor Yong Le said, "If anything happens to me, you have to take care of the harem."

Empress Xiande lowered her head and did not speak. A moment later, she looked up and smiled gently. "I understand."

"The person I'm most worried about is Xie Yuan. Back then, he hid in Ming Qi when he was young. I felt guilty towards him. However, now that the world is in a state of chaos, I still can't fulfill the promise I made back then. In the future, no matter how much he hates me and understands the efforts I made, this is all I can do." Emperor Yong Le looked out and said sadly, "Unfortunately, before Mother died, she didn't even get to see him."

"Mother will be happy to see Jingxing becoming such an outstanding man," Empress Xiande said.

"Empress," Emperor Yong Le suddenly said.

Empress Xiande looked at him and heard Emperor Yong Le continue, "It's been hard on you all these years."

"It's my job to share Your Majesty's burdens." Empress Xiande smiled. Her expression was very calm as she said, "I've accompanied Your Majesty for decades. Your Majesty treats me very well. I'm already satisfied."

Emperor Yong Le looked at Empress Xiande and wanted to say something. He moved his lips, but he couldn't bring himself to say it. He only looked at Empress Xiande with a complicated expression before looking away.

Chapter 908 Hunt (1)

The weather on the second day of June was fortunately good. Yesterday, it was still raining heavily, but the sun was high the next day.

Luo Tan stretched lazily. There was enough ice in the room, so although the summer in Long Ye was long and hot, the room was cool.

The maid in the room smiled and asked her, "Miss, where else do you want to go today?"

Luo Tan said, "I don't know. I'll ask Doctor Gao later."

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"Young Master Gao went out today and won't be back until tomorrow night." The maid said, "He asked me to tell Miss that if you want to go out, you have to bring a few guards with you. If you like anything, you can buy it."

"Is he busy?" Luo Tan asked, "Is there a patient he has to treat?"

The maid smiled but did not answer.

Luo Tan waved her hand. "Never mind."

She had been in Long Ye for almost a month. Over the past few days, she had been with Gao Yang. Gao Yang said that when he was young, he traveled around and lived in Long Ye for a period of time. This mansion in Long Ye was his. Although Luo Tan didn't believe it, she did not ask further.

The messenger sent by the Shen family to deliver a letter to Shen Miao had already been sent back by Gao Yang. He told the messenger that Shen Miao had already agreed to bring Luo Tan along and would take good care of her. After that, the Shen family really did not send anyone over again.

Luo Tan thought to herself that when she toured around Long Ye, she would go and tell Shen Miao everything. If she told Shen Miao now, she was afraid that Shen Miao and Prince Rui would get someone to send her back. She had not had enough fun. How could she be willing to go back now?

Luo Tan walked out of the door and into the courtyard. When she heard some noise coming from the street through the courtyard wall, she asked the maid beside her, "Why is it so noisy outside?"

The maid smiled and said, "Today is the royal hunt, and it happens to be the 60th year of the festival. His Majesty is also going to the hunting ground to hunt. Now that the imperial guards are marching towards the hunting ground, the people on the street are cheering."

Luo Tan liked to join in the fun, so she said, "Then let's go and take a look. Will we be able to see His Majesty's face?"

The maid's expression changed slightly. She shook her head and said, "The street is crowded. Moreover, His Majesty is inside the carriage. You can't see him."

Luo Tan was a little disinterested. The maid smiled and said, "I'll go and prepare some snacks for you to eat on the way. After this, where do you want to go? I'll go with you."

"Go ahead," Luo Tan said. After the maid left, Luo Tan secretly sneaked towards the door of the backyard and muttered to herself, "It won't be too much to take a look from afar, right?"

Soon, her figure disappeared from the courtyard.

After Shen Miao washed up, she saw Xie Jingxing come out after changing his clothes.

Because he was going to hunt today, he was wearing riding clothes, looking very agile.

Seeing Shen Miao, Xie Jingxing frowned and said, "This dress..."

After all, they were going to the hunting ground and it was a hot summer day. Jingzhe was afraid that Shen Miao would faint from the heat, so she specially found light clothes for her. The pants were wide and comfy, but the clothes were a little revealing. It was a thin layer of silky gauze coupled with a tube top. Shen Miao usually dressed formally and solemnly. After dressing up like this, she actually looked charming and feminine.

Chapter 909 Hunt (2)

Shen Miao lowered her head and looked at herself. "It doesn't look good."

Xie Jingxing said, "It's cold in the mountains. Why don't you put on a coat?"

Shen Miao was speechless. How could it be cold in June? Moreover, Long Ye had always been hot during summer.

Xie Jingxing added, "Your body, hair, and skin now belong to the Xie family. You can't get sunburned casually."

Shen Miao said, "Got it. Jingzhe, go and get a coat."

Only then did Xie Jingxing stop nagging at her.

When they went out, Mo Qing and some of the guards were already ready to set off. Ba Jiao and the others were also there. Jingzhe and Gu Yu did not have to follow them today. Xie Jingxing also got a female guard, Hui Xiang, from Black Feather Army to pretend to be Shen Miao's personal maid with Ba Jiao to protect her.

The more well-arranged it was, the more uneasy Shen Miao felt. It was the 60th royal hunt, so she had to come. However, even if it wasn't the 60th, Shen Miao would still come, because her right eyelid kept twitching, as if it was indicating that something was about to happen.

When Xie Jingxing saw the worried look on her face, he asked, "Why do you look unhappy?"

Shen Miao said, "I feel uneasy for some reason."

"I'm blessed and won't die so easily." The corners of his lips curled up. "Madam, don't worry about me."

Shen Miao rolled her eyes at him. Seeing that there was no carriage at the door, she asked, "Is the carriage still on the way?"

Xie Jingxing smiled and pulled Shen Miao to the door. Mo Qing led a horse over. Xie Jingxing got on the horse and suddenly grabbed Shen Miao's hand. Shen Miao was caught off guard and was lifted onto the horse by Xie Jingxing.

"The carriage is too slow." He looked down at Shen Miao and said unhurriedly, "Do you know how to ride a horse?"

Just as Shen Miao was about to speak, Xie Jingxing interrupted her again and said, "It's fine if you don't know. I'll teach you." With that, he raised the whip and the horse neighed and ran away.

Shen Miao leaned back against Xie Jingxing and was hugged by him. She couldn't help but feel nervous. The horse was a top-notch horse and ran very quickly. Xie Jingxing's horsemanship was extremely good. He picked some winding roads. Whenever the crowd saw him, they would exclaim.

Shen Miao thought of the first time she saw Xie Jingxing in this life. In front of Guangwen Hall, the handsome young man in purple sat on the tall horse and sized up everyone lazily.

His breath landed on her cheek. His low and happy laughter came from above her head, and Shen Miao gradually felt a sense of freedom.

Shen Miao actually yearned for such freedom. She had once stood on the palace wall and looked at the eagles flying in the distance and the horses under her feet. She yearned for such a free life. However, she could only be locked in the palace, guarding the man she did not love and scheming against the women who coveted her position.

It seemed like it had been a long time since she felt so liberated.

Shen Miao smiled. "Are you as rebellious in Long Ye as in the capital?"

"More so in Long Ye!" Xie Jingxing replied. He lowered his head and glanced at her. He rested his chin on the top of her head and chuckled. "You were never so happy when you were in the capital."

Shen Miao was stunned. Xie Jingxing continued with a smile, "I like it when Shen Jiaojiao is happy and smiling."

"Me too," Shen Miao said with a smile.

Chapter 910 Hunt (3)

The laughter of the two of them drifted far away with the summer breeze. Among the guards behind them, Hui Xiang whispered to Ba Jiao, "Didn't they say that Madam has a cold personality and that it's always Master who pleases Madam? They seem to have a good relationship."

"Madam is not a cold person." Ba Jiao smiled and said, "Madam is a good person."

...

When the sun almost reached its zenith, Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing finally arrived at the hunting ground.

The outer venue of the hunting ground was a flat forest, but the inner venue was in the depth of the forest towards Hua Luan Peak. Hua Luan Peak was a strange peak in Long Ye. It was densely covered with trees, and it was tall and dangerous. There were many rare beautiful sceneries and many rare birds and beasts. Naturally, the journey was very difficult, and it was dangerous because there were wild beasts roaming around.

This place was personally chosen by the late emperor to be the hunting ground. It was a rule that during the 60th year of the festival, the emperor would have to enter the hunting ground to hunt a lion to be sacrificed.

When the late emperor hunted on the Hua Luan peak, he would also encounter danger. However, because there were imperial guards following him in the forest, it was not a big problem. However, things were different now. With the imperial guards, it was even more dangerous than without them.

Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing were undoubtedly the center of attention. When everyone saw that they didn't come in a carriage, they were dumbfounded. Emperor Yong Le and Consort Jing had already arrived. Consort Jing covered her mouth and exclaimed in surprise. Then, she said, "As the wife of the royal family, how can she... She's really ill-mannered."

Emperor Yong Le frowned and looked at Xie Jingxing, as if he was also very unhappy with his doing. Xie Jingxing helped Shen Miao get off the horse and walked towards Emperor Yong Le under the gaze of everyone.

Emperor Yong Le was wearing a bright yellow riding outfit today. He was handsome and had a strong aura. When the two brothers were together, they stole the limelight from all the men present.

Xie Jingxing and Shen Miao bowed to Emperor Yong Le, but neither of them paid attention to Consort Jing. Seeing this, Consort Jing bit her lip and suddenly looked at Shen Miao with a smile. "Princess Consort Rui, you came to the hunting ground with Prince Rui today. You are deeply in love with each other. I'm really envious." With that, she changed the topic. "In that case, when Prince Rui enters the inner venue, I think you will also follow him, right?"

Before Shen Miao could answer, Emperor Yong Le frowned and said coldly, "She doesn't have to enter!"

Consort Jing was stunned, as if she did not expect Emperor Yong Le to suddenly speak. She was still thinking that it would be good if Shen Miao followed Prince Rui into the inner venue. The inner venue was filled with ferocious beasts. Even if Shen Miao was not injured, it would still be satisfying to see her in a sorry state. That day, at the Summer Banquet, Shen Miao's rude words to the Lu family had already reached Consort Jing's ears. Consort Jing was determined to teach Shen Miao a lesson, but she did not expect Emperor Yong Le to help her out.

Although Consort Jing was arrogant, she did not dare to go against Emperor Yong Le.

Shen Miao understood that Emperor Yong Le was not helping her out. Perhaps Emperor Yong Le and Xie Jingxing had already set up everything. If one more person went in, there would be more variables. Emperor Yong Le was probably afraid that her going in would affect their plan.

Xie Jingxing smiled and glanced at Consort Jing. Although he did not say anything, Consort Jing felt a warning in his gaze. For some reason, apart from Emperor Yong Le, she was most afraid of this young prince. She was even more afraid of Prince Rui than her father.