

Venomous 911

Chapter 911 Hunt (4)

Xie Jingxing put his arm around Shen Miao's shoulder and said, "Brother, I'll show Jiaojiao around first. She just came to Long Ye and is not familiar with people." With that, he left with Shen Miao without waiting for Emperor Yong Le to speak.

After taking a few steps, they saw Ji Yushu running over excitedly from afar. He ran up to them and said, "Third Brother, Sister-in-law!"

Shen Miao looked at Ji Yushu's bright smile and really could not associate the shopkeeper Ji in Ming Qi with this young master. She asked the question she had always wanted to ask, "Why do you keep calling him Third Brother?"

"Eh?" Ji Yushu was stunned and looked at Xie Jingxing. "Didn't you tell Sister-in-law?"

Seeing that Xie Jingxing did not intend to speak, Ji Yushu scratched his head and smiled at Shen Miao. "Actually, I should call him Third Cousin. Third Cousin and I are cousins. He's the third child in the family. Third Brother's mother is my aunt, so we're cousins."

When Shen Miao heard Ji Yushu's explanation, she understood that Ji Yushu's mother and Xie Jingxing's mother were sisters from the same mother. No wonder Xie Jingxing took care of Ji Yushu despite the fact that Ji Yushu had messed up a lot of things.

Ji Yushu smiled foolishly and said, "I heard that my mother has also seen Sister-in-law. My mother even said that Sister-in-law had a good upbringing and looked like a lady from a rich family. If not for the fact that Third Brother made a move early, ahem, she would have asked me to marry Sister-in-law."

Xie Jingxing said calmly, "Ji Yushu, do you want to go to the tower prison again?"

"I was just joking!" Ji Yushu jumped up and ran away like his butt was on fire. "I heard that Gao Yang is here today. I'll go and see him... Sister-in-law, enjoy your time!"

He disappeared into the distance.

Shen Miao was caught between laughter and tears. She turned to ask Xie Jingxing, "Gao Yang is here too? Where is him?"

"He's an official and will arrive later than us." He continued, "Gao Yang is the minister of defense."

Shen Miao smiled. "I know."

"You're quite capable. You can even find out Gao Yang's identity," Xie Jingxing said with a faint smile.

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat and she didn't know what to say. She knew Gao Yang's identity because in her previous life, the person who came was not Xie Jingxing, but Gao Yang. At that time, as Princess Consort Ding, she had also seen Gao Yang.

Fortunately, Xie Jingxing did not dwell on this question. He only said, "When the hunt begins, just follow me to the outer venue to hunt some rabbits and wild storks. At 11 o'clock, I'll go to the inner venue with my brother and leave a guard for you. You can do whatever you want in the outer venue." After a pause,

he continued, "Auntie is here today. If I'm not back later, you can return to the city with Auntie. She will send you back."

"If you are not back later?" Shen Miao looked at him intently. Xie Jingxing had always been very confident with his plans. Under the watchful eyes of the royal family in Ming Qi, he could still carry out his plan with ease. It was enough to show that he was not a careless person. However, this time, Shen Miao felt really bad.

"Don't worry, my brother and I have already made preparations." He smiled ambiguously. "I still have to live to consummate our marriage."

Chapter 912 Hunt (5)

Shen Miao pushed him. She did not want to be teased by Xie Jingxing in public. When she turned around, she saw Madam Ye looking at her.

Madam Ye was wearing light clothes. She stood far away, looking at Shen Miao without avoidance. However, that gaze made Shen Miao instinctively uncomfortable. She asked, "Are the Ye family going to hunt today too?"

"Ye Mao is the prime minister, so he naturally has to go. However, the officials will only be on the outside and won't go in." Xie Jingxing followed Shen Miao's gaze and realized that she was staring at Madam Ye. He asked curiously, "You seem to be very concerned about Madam Ye. What happened?"

"I don't know why..." Shen Miao frowned. "I keep having a bad feeling. You'd better be careful."

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"My brother wants to rope in the Ye family and has been watching their every move. He didn't find anything unusual about the Ye family." Xie Jingxing thought for a moment and comforted her, "They'll be kept on the outer venue and can't affect the situation inside. Don't worry."

When Shen Miao looked at Madam Ye again, Madam Ye had already turned around to talk to other madams. She suppressed the uneasiness in her heart and put this thought to the back of her mind for the time being.

The hunt was about to begin. The people who came today were all officials of a high status in Long Ye. The officials would join the hunt while their wives and daughters would watch from the side.

Coincidentally, Lu Wan'er was also here today.

Lu Wan'er dressed up carefully. Even her riding clothes were very exquisite, making her look extremely beautiful. If not for Shen Miao, she would probably be the most eye-catching person on this occasion. After all, Consort Jing and Lu Wan'er were sisters. She had been pampered and raised well by the Lu family.

However, with Shen Miao around, she didn't receive much attention, and her gorgeous outfit was quite out of place. She and Prince Rui didn't look compatible at all.

On the other hand, there was a strange harmony between Xie Jingxing and Shen Miao. Prince Rui was Emperor Yong Le's brother after all. He was a true noble. However, Shen Miao was a girl from a military

family, but she also had a noble aura and was dignified and beautiful. The atmosphere between the two of them was flawless.

Lu Wan'er did not seem to realize this. She walked up to Shen Miao under everyone's strange gazes. Although she was talking to Shen Miao, her eyes were glued to Xie Jingxing. Her voice was delicate and sweet.

"Princess Consort, I didn't expect to meet you here today. On the Summer Banquet, I hit it off with you at first sight. I was just thinking about finding a time to pay you a visit when I saw you here. What a coincidence." At this moment, Lu Wan'er was polite to Shen Miao. Her humble attitude and obedient look were nothing like that day at the Summer Banquet.

As Lu Wan'er spoke, she looked at Xie Jingxing without waiting for Shen Miao to answer. Her beautiful eyes were filled with undisguised love as she said in a soft voice, "Prince Rui, you look very impressive today. I met you once in the palace. At that time, you even praised me for my outstanding Guqin skills. Now that I have practiced hard, I have improved a lot. I wonder when you will have time to listen to me playing Guqin again?"

Chapter 913 Hunting (6)

Shen Miao was stunned and couldn't help but look at Xie Jingxing. Lu Wan'er wouldn't lie in front of Xie Jingxing. Had Xie Jingxing really listened to Lu Wan'er playing the Guqin and praised her?

Seeing Shen Miao throw a glance at her, Xie Jingxing smiled and said, "Oh? Are you unhappy?"

Shen Miao turned her head away.

Xie Jingxing shrugged. When he looked at Lu Wan'er again, his expression had changed. He was still talking lazily, but his smile was gone.

"Back then, when I was talking to my brother, we met Consort Jing. She said that her fourth sister was playing the Guqin in the Jinghua Palace and asked my brother to go and listen to it. That day, I listened to it and said that it's comparable to the crow cawing. Fourth Miss Lu, can't you even tell sarcasm from compliments?"

Shen Miao almost laughed out loud. She did not realize that Lu Wan'er was so stupid. Xie Jingxing never showed mercy when he spoke.

Lu Wan'er's face immediately turned red.

In fact, back then at Jinghua Palace, after she finished playing the Guqin, she was focused on Prince Rui, and her heart was pounding non-stop. She was so engrossed in Prince Rui's handsome face that she did not listen to what he said. She did not hear it clearly and thought that Prince Rui was praising her. Now that Prince Rui pointed it out, Lu Wan'er was immediately dumbfounded.

Xie Jingxing slowly glanced at her and said, "Also, be careful with what you say. I'm a married man and don't want people to misunderstand." With that, he pulled Shen Miao away, leaving Lu Wan'er to stand rooted to the ground.

Shen Miao felt that Lu Wan'er was so stupid that she was a little pitiful. She asked Xie Jingxing, "The Lu family is so powerful. How did they raise such a stupid daughter?" Be it Consort Jing or Lu Wan'er, they were comparable to Shen Miao in the past.

Xie Jingxing said, "The Lu family is all focused on the competition in the imperial court, so they naturally don't have time for their children. Moreover, the Lu family has always been relaxed with their daughters. They focus on nurturing the men."

Only then did Shen Miao understand. With the Lu family's background, their daughters could live comfortably for the rest of their life. Therefore, it did not matter if they were arrogant and willful. Anyway, they had their family backing them up.

As he spoke, Xie Jingxing had already pulled Shen Miao to the edge of the hunting ground. As Xie Jingxing approached, Tie Yi led two horses over. One was a tall black horse, and the other was a slightly short red horse. Xie Jingxing helped Shen Miao onto the red horse and got on the black horse.

Emperor Yong Le also started to set out. The imperial guards were ready to follow Emperor Yong Le in.

The drummer began to beat the drum rhythmically. The sound of the drum became louder and louder. In the end, an archer standing on the platform drew his bow and shot. The bow flew straight and hit a golden fruit hanging in the distance. The drummer raised the drumstick and gave the drum a hard hit.

It was a signal for the hunt to begin!

Xie Jingxing brought Shen Miao to the outer venue. Mo Qing and the others were following closely behind. When they entered the hunting ground, they could bring a few guards with them. However, the outer venue was not dangerous to begin with, and it was broad daylight. Nothing would happen.

"When are you entering the inner venue?" Shen Miao asked Xie Jingxing as she rode. She had not ridden a horse for a long time, but the horse under her was quite docile.

"My brother will give me a signal when it's time. At that time, I'll leave." Xie Jingxing sat up straight. "I can still show you around for a while. Do you want to hunt a fox?"

Shen Miao asked, "Fox?"

Xie Jingxing reached out and grabbed her reins. "Follow me."

Xie Jingxing was an expert hunter. Shen Miao had no doubt that if not for the fact that he was Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty, he would probably be able to make a fortune with his hunting skills. In just a short period of time, their horses were already filled with prey.

"What else do you want to hunt?" Xie Jingxing smiled smugly. "I'll help you hunt it."

Just as Shen Miao was about to speak, she saw Cong Yang rushing over from the other side. He was out of breath and said, "Master, bad news. His Majesty has entered the inner venue! Just now, Tie Yi and I were searching for His Majesty, but we didn't see him. We saw hoof prints at the bottom of the peak."

"Inner venue?" Xie Jingxing frowned. "He went to the inner venue without giving me a signal." His eyes narrowed and he suddenly growled, "Damn it!"

Chapter 914 Going Down the Mountain (1)

Xie Jingxing suddenly turned around and instructed Mo Qing and the others, "Escort Madam out of the venue. Tie Yi, follow me."

Shen Miao said, "Are you going to the inner venue now?" The uneasiness in her heart grew stronger and stronger, so much so that Shen Miao almost had the urge to grab Xie Jingxing and stop him from leaving.

Xie Jingxing looked at her deeply, and for the first time, his eyes darkened. "The plan has changed."

Shen Miao clenched her fists and looked at him. "I'll wait for you to come back."

Xie Jingxing did not say anything else. He turned his horse around and rode away, followed by Tie Yi.

Shen Miao held the reins tightly and sat on the horse. At this moment, she was no longer in the mood to stroll around alone. Mo Qing said, "Madam, let's go back."

Shen Miao nodded, and Mo Qing and a group of guards escorted Shen Miao away. Even so, Shen Miao's heart was still racing. She tried her best to calm down and analyze the situation.

What happened today was filled with danger. Emperor Yong Le's throne was not as stable as Shen Miao thought. The Lu family seemed to be plotting a rebellion. Most importantly, the Lu family served the late emperor.

Could it be that there was a conflict between Emperor Yong Le and the late emperor? Did Emperor Yong Le use some method to take the throne because the late emperor didn't want to pass down the throne to him.

Xie Jingxing and Emperor Yong Le should have made some arrangements for the event today, but for some reason, Emperor Yong Le entered the inner venue alone and went to Hua Luan peak without giving Xie Jingxing a signal. There were only two possibilities. First, someone in the imperial guards threatened Emperor Yong Le and forced him to enter the inner venue in advance. Second, this was Emperor Yong Le's idea. He made a decision without telling Xie Jingxing.

Shen Miao felt that it should be the second possibility, because there were still some officials and others walking in the outer venue. Even the people with evil intentions in the imperial guards would not choose to make a move there. They would definitely let Emperor Yong Le enter the inner venue before making a move.

However, why did Emperor Yong Le go in early and what decision did he make to make Xie Jingxing so nervous? It seemed that Shen Miao had never seen such a serious expression on Xie Jingxing's face.

She rode the horse in a daze and happened to see an eagle flying across the sky letting out a long cry. Her heart suddenly skipped a beat, and an unbelievable thought appeared in her mind.

However, she quickly rejected that thought. She shook her head and rubbed her chest.

When she left the venue, she saw Madam Ji. Madam Ji did not go to the venue to hunt with Marquis Ji and was waiting outside. Shen Miao did not know anyone in Long Ye, so she walked up to greet Madam Ji.

"Princess Consort, why are you out so early?" Madam Ji smiled and said, "I thought you would spend more time there. There are many foxes. Sometimes, if you're lucky, you can hunt a rare black fox. The scarf made of its skin is warm and beautiful."

Shen Miao smiled. "I don't know how to hunt." She looked at Madam Ji and said, "Madam, you don't have to call me Princess Consort. We're considered relatives after all. Just call me Jiaojiao."

Madam Ji was stunned for a moment before smiling even more warmly. "So Jingxing already told you. In that case, I won't stand on ceremony."

Chapter 915 Going Down the Mountain (2)

Madam Ji held Shen Miao's hand and said as they walked to the other side, "Jingxing is going to the inner venue to hunt today. Wait outside with me. By the time the sun sets, they will be back. At that time, let's go back to the Ji mansion for dinner. Speaking of which, Jingxing hasn't come to our mansion since he came back this time."

Shen Miao smiled and agreed. In the next moment, she thought of Xie Jingxing and suddenly became a little worried. She asked, "Auntie, is the inner venue dangerous or not... I'm afraid it's not easy to hunt a lion, right?"

Madam Ji sighed. She paused for a moment and looked at Shen Miao with a smile. "You don't have to worry. They brought the imperial guards. Although the lions are fierce, those guards are not to be trifled with. Moreover, the two of them know martial artists. They can protect themselves."

When Shen Miao heard that, she smiled too. It seemed like Madam Ji did not know anything. If she did, she would definitely not look so relaxed. Those guards were by no means trustworthy. Madam Ji was not someone who Shen Miao could discuss things with. At this moment, Shen Miao felt a little regretful. She should have brought Pei Lang along. At least at this moment, she could discuss things with him. She did not know anyone in Long Ye and did not know anything about Xie Jingxing's arrangements.

At the far edge of the venue, there was an awning. Because the people who came today were all nobles, ice was transported over in batches. At this moment, it was very cool over there. Some young ladies sat under the awning, drinking tea and eating snacks. Occasionally, when they saw their families return with some prey, they would be excited and cheer.

Apparently, they all treated this event as a joyful occasion.

Shen Miao's heart was heavy. She looked at the foggy peak in the distance. The peak was steep and endless. Everyone here was chatting happily, not caring about whether there was a life and death battle in the depth of the inner venue.

Just as she was thinking, someone walked over. Shen Miao looked up and saw that it was Madam Ye. Madam Ye walked to Madam Ji's side and sat down. She looked at Madam Ji and said with a smile, "Why didn't you go in?"

"I don't know how to hunt. Me going in will only become their burden." Madam Ji smiled too. Although the Ji family and the Ye family did not have much to do with each other, she still had to show some respect. Madam Ji said, "Madam Ye, aren't you going in?"

"I'm not." Madam Ye waved her hand. "I'm too weak to hunt anything." Her gaze landed on Shen Miao and she said, "Why isn't the princess consort going in? I saw you with Prince Rui just now. Why don't you stay there for a while longer?"

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. Madam Ye seemed to be testing her. Could it be that she also knew a thing or two about what was going to happen today? The Lu family and the Ye family had special statuses in Long Ye, so Shen Miao had to pay heed to them. She said, "The sun was too strong, and I felt dizzy, so I came back first." Then, she held her chest and continued, "Besides, I can't bear to see animals being killed."

Chapter 916 Going Down the Mountain (3)

Madam Ji smiled. "Princess Consort Rui is really soft-hearted." As if afraid that Madam Ye would continue to pester Shen Miao, Madam Ji deliberately changed the topic and asked Madam Ye, "Speaking of which, I heard that Young Master Ye had a pain attack a few days ago. Is he feeling better?"

Young Master Ye was naturally the son born to the concubine of the Ye family. When Madam Ye heard that, she said, "He's alright. It's just an old illness. It hurts a lot when it rains. There's nothing we can do about it." Her tone was indifferent.

Shen Miao later found out from Ba Jiao that on the surface, Young Master Ye was the legitimate son of the Ye family. The servants treated him very respectfully, but in fact, they didn't think he could go far. Madam Ye only treated him well on the surface, but it was all pretense.

Shen Miao felt that this Young Master Ye, who she had never met, was a little pitiful.

Madam Ji continued to keep Madam Ye busy, probably trying to divert her attention. In the end, Madam Ye became impatient and stood up to leave.

Shen Miao and Madam Ji sat together and waited.

The sun gradually set, but Emperor Yong Le and Xie Jingxing were still nowhere to be seen.

Shen Miao instructed Mo Qing, "Go and see if they're back."

Madam Ji smiled. "Don't worry. It happened in the past. Because hunting requires patience and concentration, time often passes in the blink of an eye. The road down Hua Luan Peak is too steep. It's not easy to walk when it's dark. They probably have to wait until the next morning to come back." Although she said that, Shen Miao still caught the anxiety in her eyes.

Shen Miao did not know if she was being too sensitive. This time, she had a bad feeling and knew that Xie Jingxing was not as confident as he looked on the surface, so she was on tenterhooks all this time.

After the sunset, the sky gradually darkened. The emperor had not returned yet. Apart from the ladies and madams who had already returned, the officials were still around the hunting ground. Shen Miao asked Madam Ji if this was the first time such a thing had happened. Madam Ji said, "Not exactly, but it's rare."

Some officials had already set up camp and made something like a tent. At night in summer, if they were not careful, they would still catch a cold. The Ji family had also made such a tent.

Shen Miao was walking outside when she saw Lu Wan'er standing not far away and talking to a middle-aged man. The man was stern-looking. Right on the heels of that, Lu Wan'er was dragged into the carriage and escorted away by a group of guards.

Lu Wan'er probably wanted to stay here, but this man did not allow her to. Just as Shen Miao was about to leave, the man seemed to have sensed Shen Miao's gaze and suddenly turned around, revealing a fierce face. He was as burly as a bear, and his face was filled with bloodlust. He looked at Shen Miao with a dark gaze. Ba Jiao said, "That's the head of the Lu family, General Lu Zhengchun."

Shen Miao was shocked. Shen Xin was also a general, but he was more of a heroic kind and didn't look so ruthless and tyrannical. However, this stern-looking man had a killing aura that he couldn't hide, as if he was born to be a killer. Shen Miao had been curious about how since Madam Lu, Lu Wan'er, and Consort Jing were so stupid, the Lu family could still maintain such a status in Long Ye. Now that she saw Lu Zhengchun, she understood. With such a man around, it was no wonder Emperor Yong Le could not easily make a move on the Lu family.

Shen Miao wondered if Lu Zhengchun stayed here because he was also waiting for the outcome on Hua Luan Peak. Shen Miao thought to herself and glanced at Lu Zhengchun before turning to leave.

Chapter 917 Going Down the Mountain (4)

Lu Zhengchun stayed, and so did Madam Ye. Ye Maocai had also returned and was talking to Madam Ye. The Lu and Ye families were both here. If anything should happen to Emperor Yong Le here, would the Lu and Ye families take the opportunity to do something outrageous?

Looking around, some of the officials had already crawled into the tent to rest. They treated this hunt as a fun game and were just waiting for Emperor Yong Le and Xie Jingxing to hunt the lion back as an offering for the ceremony.

Shen Miao stopped in her tracks and looked at the sky. The starry sky was peaceful, and the summer breeze blew past her face, making her feel very comfortable.

However, was such a night really as calm as it looked on the surface?

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Madam Ji called her, "Jiaojiao, it's cold outside. Come into the tent first."

Shen Miao smiled and went in. Old Master Ji was not in the tent. The officials sat together in groups of three or five, drinking and chatting.

Madam Ji poured a cup of tea for Shen Miao and said, "Don't worry, they'll be fine. As for you, if you catch a cold and Jingxing blames me for not taking good care of you, I won't be able to bear the responsibility."

Shen Miao smiled and said, "He naturally won't dare to blame you." After saying that, she thought of something and hesitated for a moment before asking, "His Highness... doesn't seem to have a good relationship with the late emperor?"

Hearing this, Madam Ji was stunned. She smiled and said, "Why are you suddenly asking about the late emperor?"

No matter how hard Madam Ji tried to hide it, Shen Miao could still feel a trace of hatred flashing across her eyes.

Shen Miao had always been curious about what kind of role the late emperor played in the life of Xie Jingxing and Emperor Yong Le. Since Madam Ji was sisters with the late empress, she must know something about the late emperor. Could she get some information about the late emperor from Madam Ji?

Shen Miao stopped hesitating and said, "I once heard His Highness mention something about his father, but he didn't say much. I just found it strange."

Madam Ji looked at her in surprise and said, "I didn't expect him to tell you about his father." Then, she smiled and said, "After all, this is Jingxing's family matter. It won't be good if I tell you. Another day, when you talk to Jingxing, you can ask him more about it."

It was precisely because of Madam Ji's attitude that Shen Miao confirmed her guess. It seemed that the late emperor was not on good terms with Xie Jingxing and his brother. From the looks of it, the late emperor probably didn't treat the late empress's family well either.

Madam Ji was deep in thought for a while before saying to Shen Miao, "Let's not talk about this. Jiaojiao, sleep for a while. Don't tire yourself out."

Concerned about Xie Jingxing's safety, how could Shen Miao sleep at this moment? She said, "I'll just sit here. I can't sleep anyway."

Seeing that she insisted, Madam Ji did not persuade her anymore. After chatting for a while, Madam Ji was tired. She was not as young as Shen Miao and could not stay up late. Soon, she fell asleep in the tent. Shen Miao covered her with a cloak and sat in the tent.

Unexpectedly, she sat there for the entire night.

The first ray of sunlight came from the horizon, and the cries of birds and beasts came from the distant forest. Yesterday, Master Ji was drinking with his colleagues on the other side. At this moment, he had already sobered up and walked towards the tent. He happened to see Shen Miao opening the tent door to go out. Shen Miao smiled at him and said, "Auntie is not awake yet. She's sleeping. Uncle, keep your voice down."

Master Ji nodded and said to her, "Go and eat something."

Chapter 918 Going Down the Mountain (5)

Shen Miao nodded and walked out.

Some of the madams had already woken up, but they still looked tired. They were all noble people who couldn't make do in the tent. The especially pampered ones had already gone back last night. The ones who stayed were either here to curry favor with Emperor Yong Le or to experience this rare leisure time.

Hui Xiang scooped a bowl of porridge for Shen Miao. As Shen Miao drank the porridge, she asked Ba Jiao, "Is there any news of His Highness?"

Ba Jiao shook her head.

Shen Miao looked into the distance. The sun had already risen from the mountain. In another two hours, the sky would be completely bright. Even if Xie Jingxing and the others spent the night on the mountain, they should be back by now.

“Did the Black Feather Army receive any signals?” Shen Miao asked, “Didn’t your master tell you what kind of signal he will send to inform you once he carried out his plan?”

Ba Jiao and Hui Xiang were stunned. The two of them looked at each other and shook their heads at the same time. Hui Xiang said, “Master didn’t tell us about the plan this time.”

Shen Miao muttered to herself, “I wonder what’s going on now.” Looking at Lu Zhengchun, who was stretching in the distance, and Ye Maocai, who was on the other side, she felt a headache coming on.

Just as she was thinking, she saw a familiar figure walking over from the other side. Shen Miao couldn’t be bothered to eat the porridge. She placed the bowl in Ba Jiao’s hand and quickly went forward to catch up to him.

That person was Ji Yushu. Shen Miao pulled Ji Yushu to a corner and asked him, “Why are you back?”

Ji Yushu asked, “Sister-in-law, what do you mean?”

Shen Miao frowned. “Aren’t you with Xie Jingxing?”

Ji Yushu was surprised. “No, only the royal family can enter the inner venue. Although I’m half a royal family member, I’m still not qualified.”

Shen Miao was surprised. She thought that Ji Yushu came over to help Xie Jingxing. Could it be that Xie Jingxing and Emperor Yong Le were going to fight alone? She said, “Tell me, what exactly does Xie Jingxing want to do this time?”

Ji Yushu rubbed his nose. “Sister-in-law, you’re really asking the wrong person. Third Brother never brings me along when he wants to do anything big. The more dangerous it is, the more he won’t let me be involved. Back then, when I was in Ming Qi, I was only responsible for eating and drinking in the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop and was not allowed to be part of anything else. Yesterday at the hunting ground, Gao Yang was with him. No matter what it was, Third Brother would only bring Gao Yang. I wanted to follow him, but Third Brother didn’t allow it.”

“Gao Yang?” Shen Miao asked, “Gao Yang is also an official. How can he go?”

“Gao Yang disguised himself as Third Brother’s personal guard and went with him.” Ji Yushu said, “He’s smart and knows medicine. If anything happens, he’ll be able to help.”

Shen Miao panicked. Gao Yang knew medicine, so Xie Jingxing brought him along. Could it be that the situation was already so dangerous that he needed a doctor?

Ji Yushu looked at Shen Miao and asked, “Sister-in-law, did something happen to Third Brother?”

Shen Miao said, “No, I’m just anxious because he’s not back yet.”

Chapter 919 Going Down the Mountain (6)

"I don't believe you." Ji Yushu said firmly, "Sister-in-law, you're too strange just now. Yesterday, when I went to look for Gao Yang, he was also very strange. They're like this every time something happens. Once we returned to Long Ye, they never told me anything important."

Shen Miao looked at Ji Yushu's flustered and exasperated expression and sighed in her heart. Xie Jingxing was used to keeping the people around him out of danger and taking everything upon himself. Sometimes, it was indeed better and safer to not know.

She said, "I'm sorry, I can't answer you that, because I don't know what he wants to do either."

"Only the royal family can enter the inner venue. Could it be that it's dangerous over there?" Ji Yushu said, "Third Brother and the emperor are always strange. Sister-in-law, do you really not know?"

"Know what?" Before Shen Miao could answer, a female voice came from behind. It was Madam Ji. She looked at Ji Yushu and then at Shen Miao, her expression becoming strange. She said, "What happened to Jingxing? What did you mean just now?"

Madam Ji originally wanted to ask Shen Miao to go back to the city with her, but she happened to see Shen Miao taking Ji Yushu to an inconspicuous corner. Ba Jiao and Hui Xiang were busy watching Lu Zhengchun and Ye Maocai and didn't pay attention to Madam Ji. Madam Ji heard Shen Miao and Ji Yushu's conversation.

Ji Yushu said, "Mother, it's nothing. I was just messing around with Sister-in-law."

"Do you think you can fool me?" Madam Ji looked at Ji Yushu and said angrily, "Back then, I asked you to go to Ming Qi to find Jingxing, but you never came back. I don't know what you were doing in Ming Qi and I don't care what you did. You're the young master of the Ji family after all. Let me ask you again, what exactly do you know? Why did you say that? Are Jingxing and his brother... in danger?"

Ji Yushu looked at Shen Miao for help. Shen Miao quickly said, "Auntie, you've misunderstood. Yushu and I were just joking. It's just that His Highness isn't back at this time, so I was a little anxious. I asked Yushu if he knew anything. I was thinking too much. Auntie, don't blame him."

Madam Ji looked at Shen Miao again and said sternly, "Jiaojiao, this is not a small matter. I..."

As they spoke, Ba Jiao suddenly ran over. Without caring that Madam Ji was present, she said, "Madam, they're back! The emperor has left the mountain!"

Ji Yushu felt relieved. He quickly said to Madam Ji, "See! I told you that nothing would happen to Third Brother. Mother, don't let your imagination run wild. Let's go and see the lion Third Brother and the emperor hunted!" With that, he ran away.

When Shen Miao heard that Emperor Yong Le and the others had returned, she heaved a sigh of relief and smiled at Madam Ji. "Let's go too."

Madam Ji wanted to say something, but when she saw Shen Miao's calm expression, she swallowed her words and sighed, then followed behind Shen Miao.

A group of imperial guards walked out of the inner venue. The person in the lead was Emperor Yong Le. However, what was very strange was that Emperor Yong Le did not ride a horse but walked. Those with sharper eyes could see that the sword at Emperor Yong Le's waist seemed to be blood-red.

Emperor Yong Le's expression was as usual, and no one could tell if he was happy or angry. Consort Jing immediately went up to him lovingly. She said sweetly, "Your Majesty, you're finally out. I've been waiting here for the entire night."

Emperor Yong Le only glanced at her indifferently and did not speak. Shen Miao noticed clearly that Ye Maocai's expression was normal, but Lu Zhengchun was a little gloomy.

The guards behind Emperor Yong Le pulled the thing from the horse, immediately causing the surrounding women to cry out in surprise. It was the corpse of a huge lion. There was blood on it, and there were countless arrow holes on its back. It must have struggled hard.

Immediately, the bootlicking officials went forward to congratulate Emperor Yong Le. "Your Majesty is wise and mighty. It's the blessing of the Daliang Dynasty to have you." Everyone followed suit and knelt down to praise.

Shen Miao also knelt down. Emperor Yong Le gestured for everyone to rise.

However, Shen Miao did not see Xie Jingxing.

After everyone stood up, Lu Zhengchun suddenly said, "Your Majesty, why is His Highness Prince Rui nowhere to be seen?"

Only then did everyone realize that Prince Rui was not around.

Emperor Yong Le stared at Lu Zhengchun with a gaze as cold as ice and said, "Prince Rui is injured and has already returned to the city for treatment."

Everyone was in an uproar.

Chapter 920 Injury (1)

Shen Miao's heart tightened.

Madam Ji stood beside Shen Miao and immediately held her hand tightly. She was probably afraid that Shen Miao would be anxious, so she persuaded her, "There will inevitably be accidents on the hunting ground. He probably hurt himself. With so many guards protecting him, he should be fine."

Shen Miao did not want Madam Ji to panic, so she tried her best to hide the worry, but she did not think it was just an accident. Since Emperor Yong Le sent Xie Jingxing back to the city first, the injuries Xie Jingxing suffered must be deadly.

She looked around. Seeing that Tie Yi and Gao Yang were also not around, she was even more anxious.

Emperor Yong Le did not seem to want to say anything else. Even if he hunted a lion, he did not look very happy. Everyone was guessing Prince Rui's injuries, but they knew that Emperor Yong Le was unhappy this time. Everyone knew that Prince Rui and Emperor Yong Le were close. The two of them went to the inner venue together, but only Prince Rui came out injured. Emperor Yong Le would definitely not be happy. Therefore, no one dared to talk to Emperor Yong Le at this moment. Even Consort Jing lowered her arrogant attitude and served him obediently.

Since the lion had been hunted, there was naturally no need for everyone to stay in the hunting ground. Emperor Yong Le wanted to return to the palace, and the officials also returned home. While everyone was being quiet, Lu Zhengchun asked about the sacrificial ceremony. Emperor Yong Le usually had some respect for Lu Zhengchun. Today, he snorted and left. However, not only was Lu Zhengchun not angry, but he even smirked, making his fierce face look extremely terrifying.

Shen Miao also had to hurry back home. She was concerned about Xie Jingxing's injuries. Madam Ji and Ji Yushu also wanted to go. Shen Miao shook her head and said, "We still don't know what happened. I'm afraid it's not that simple. If Auntie and Yushu come with me now, people will make wild guesses. I'll go back and see what's going on first. You can come over when Jingxing is better." After a pause, she continued, "At this time, we can't panic."

Although Ji Yushu and Madam Ji did not understand the ins and outs of this matter, they understood what Shen Miao meant.

Shen Miao, Mo Qing, and the others immediately rushed back. On the way, Ba Jiao and Hui Xiang comforted Shen Miao. "Madam, don't worry. Master's martial arts are superb. Ordinary people can't hurt him. Perhaps this is Master's plan to confuse the enemy."

Shen Miao shook her head. "I don't have a good feeling." It was as if something was tugging at her heart. This feeling made her extremely uneasy. She wished she could appear in front of Xie Jingxing instantly to see what was going on with him.

Ba Jiao and Hui Xiang looked at each other and fell silent.

When they arrived at Prince Rui's mansion, Shen Miao got off the carriage and walked straight into the mansion. The guards at the door quickly let her in. Shen Miao stepped in and realized that the mansion was surprisingly quiet.