

Venomous 951

Chapter 951 Encounter (2)

Li Mei smiled and said, "Madam Ji, I told you previously that I saw the post by accident. At that time, I didn't think too much about it. This herb is used to detoxify the poison and save people's lives. The two of us don't need it and it will be a waste in our hands. If we can use it to save people, we will naturally do it. We are fated to give the herb to Prince Rui."

The other madams in the hall looked at Li Mei approvingly. She was beautiful and generous. On the other hand, Shen Miao made things difficult for her for no reason. She did not have the bearing of a princess consort.

Li Mei looked at Shen Miao and said apologetically, "I dirtied my clothes just now, so I borrowed your clothes. Please don't mind it. After I wash them, I will definitely return them to you personally."

Shen Miao looked at her fixedly.

When Shen Miao first saw Consort Mei in her previous life, it was after she returned to Ming Qi from the State of Qin. She had long expected that there would be many consorts in the palace, but Consort Mei was the only one who gave birth to a son. At first, Shen Miao did not believe that someone as cold as Fu Xiuyi could dote on a woman so much. Later, when she saw it with her own eyes, she had no choice but to believe it.

Consort Mei was favored by Fu Xiuyi, so when she faced Shen Miao from the beginning, she was never humble. Even though Shen Miao was the empress, it seemed that Consort Mei was above her in status.

At this moment, the woman who was always arrogant and held her chin high called Shen Miao "Princess Consort" in a humble manner.

The world was so small that in her second life, Shen Miao would still meet her enemy again.

Seeing that Shen Miao did not answer, Li Mei was a little embarrassed. She smiled and was about to pull Li Ke away. Madam Ji wanted to persuade them to stay, but Shen Miao was the princess consort after all. She had no reason to speak on behalf of Shen Miao.

"Wait," Shen Miao suddenly said.

Li Ke and Li Mei were stunned. The two of them turned around and saw Shen Miao smiling gently. She said, "If the two of you leave now, won't you make people think that Prince Rui is cold and ungrateful?"

"No, that's not what we mean." Li Mei shook her head and smiled. "It's our own idea to leave."

"You have to at least wait for His Highness to recover before leaving." Shen Miao smiled. "Otherwise, Prince Rui will blame me."

What she meant was that she was still suspicious of the herb. If the herb was actually fake and Xie Jingxing's condition worsened, where was she supposed to find this pair of siblings?

Madam Ji and Ji Yushu were a little embarrassed. Shen Miao was not an aggressive person. Why was she so aggressive with this pair of siblings? They were Prince Rui's saviors after all. No matter what, she should have a better attitude. Even if she had doubts, there was no need to say it out loud.

However, Shen Miao knew that this brother and sister might not stay if she thanked them, but they would definitely stay if she suspected them.

Because even if they did all kinds of bad things, they still wanted to have a good reputation and would not tolerate people slandering them.

As expected, as soon as Shen Miao said that, Li Ke looked angry. He said, "Don't worry, we will definitely stay until Prince Rui opens his eyes."

Chapter 952 Encounter (3)

Shen Miao smiled. "That's good. Prince Rui owes you a favor. If you don't stay, how can we 'repay' your kindness?"

One moment, she suspected them, and the next, she was talking about repaying them. Such an ambiguous attitude made people a little confused. Li Mei looked at her thoughtfully. Shen Miao noticed her gaze and smiled. "I still have something to do, so I won't stay any longer." She then said to Madam Ji, "Auntie, help me entertain the madams." Just as she was about to leave, she suddenly thought of something and stopped in front of Li Mei. She smiled and said, "I think this dress suits you quite well. It's as if it was made for you. Since it fits you, you don't have to take it off and return it to me. Just treat it as a gift from me."

Shen Miao talked as if she was not giving a gift to her but rather, she was doing charity. No matter how smart Uncle Tang was, he was a little confused by Shen Miao's strange behavior today. Only after Shen Miao left did he look at Luo Tan.

Luo Tan stuck out her tongue. "Don't ask me. I don't know either." She turned around and left.

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Madam Ji looked at Li Mei and Li Ke and said apologetically, "The princess consort has been worried about Prince Rui these days and is probably worn out. I hope the two of you won't take it to heart."

"Not at all." Li Mei smiled.

"Then let's talk inside," Madam Ji said with a smile.

Ji Yushu also looked at Li Ke. After a moment of hesitation, he said, "Brother Li, please."

When Jingzhe and Gu Yu saw Shen Miao return, they went up to her in surprise and said, "Madam, you're finally back! We've been anxious these days. I'm afraid something might happen to you."

When they saw that Shen Miao was in a sorry state, the two of them were stunned at the same time. Jingzhe asked, "Madam... What's going on? Did you get hurt?"

Shen Miao's clothes were dirty and she was disheveled, looking like she had suffered a huge blow.

Gu Yu was the smartest. She said, "Madam, I'll go and run a bath for you first. You can clean up and eat something. His Highness is fine now. After you take a rest, it'll be easier to think it through."

After the bath was prepared, Shen Miao dismissed the two of them and sank into the wooden bucket. The temperature of the water was just right, but at this moment, Shen Miao felt as cold as in an igloo.

How did Consort Mei appear in the Daliang Dynasty? How did she become Xie Jingxing's savior by a freak combination of factors? She endured all kinds of hardships to not kill Consort Mei the moment she saw her.

However, no matter how much she endured it, everyone still noticed her strange behavior today. She didn't know what others would think of her. These people were probably wondering if she was jealous. However, Shen Miao wanted to find out why Consort Mei came to the Daliang Dynasty.

In her previous life, Shen Miao went to the State of Qin to be a hostage. When she returned, Consort Mei had already entered the palace. It was said that Consort Mei was the daughter of an official Fu Xiuyi met on the way to the east battlefront. However, now that Fu Xiuyi had yet to go to the east battlefront, he naturally could not meet Consort Mei, and Consort Mei was now in the Daliang Dynasty.

Could it be that Consort Mei had also arrived at the Daliang Dynasty in her previous life at this point? According to the time, Consort Mei had already met Xie Jingxing before she met Fu Xiuyi.

Then why did Consort Mei end up becoming Fu Xiuyi's favorite consort? Why did she end up in Ming Qi... Could it be that this was also Xie Jingxing's doing? Shen Miao couldn't help but shiver.

Chapter 953 Encounter (4)

In her previous life, she and Xie Jingxing did not meet, nor did she come to Long Ye with Xie Jingxing. Xie Jingxing did not go to Ming Qi's tribute banquet either. Shen Miao was Fu Xiuyi's wife, and Xie Jingxing was unconscious in Long Ye at this very moment. Consort Mei and her brother, who were passing by, saved him. If Consort Mei was originally from the Daliang Dynasty, how did she end up becoming the favorite consort of Fu Xiuyi? Could it be that she was also a spy?

Just like how Xie Jingxing, the prince of the Daliang Dynasty, became the young marquis of the Marquis of Lin'an in the capital of Ming Qi. Could Consort Mei be a spy sent by the Daliang Dynasty too?

However, if that was the case, Consort Mei didn't have to give birth to Fu Sheng for Fu Xiuyi and even made Fu Sheng the crown prince.

She frowned more and more. What made her most afraid was whether Consort Mei and Xie Jingxing were allies in her previous life. If Consort Mei was sent to Ming Qi by the Daliang Dynasty's royal family, which caused Fu Ming and Wanyu to die indirectly, how was she supposed to live with Xie Jingxing in the future?

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As she was deep in thought, Shen Miao did not even know when the water in the wooden bucket had turned cold. Jingzhe was worried and came over to knock on the door to call her. Shen Miao came back to her senses with a start. When she touched the water again, it was surprisingly cold. She wiped her body, put on her clothes, and went out. The first person she saw was Luo Tan.

Luo Tan leaned forward and asked, "Little Cousin, do you not like Li Mei?"

Shen Miao said, "Why do you say that?"

"You've always been very polite to people, but you treated Li Mei very strangely, just like how you treated Chang Zaiqing back then." Luo Tan thought for a moment and said, "That Chang Zaiqing was not a good person in the end. Could it be that Li Mei is not a good person either? Speaking of which, I feel that compared to Chang Zaiqing, you disliked Li Mei even more."

As Shen Miao dried her hair, she said indifferently, "If I say that she's a bad person, will you believe me?"

"Is she really a bad person?" Luo Tan was stunned. "But she doesn't look like a bad person."

Shen Miao shook her head. No matter what she said, without evidence, no one would believe her. She said, "Go back."

Luo Tan was stunned. "Aren't you going to see Prince Rui?"

Shen Miao paused and said, "I'm very tired today and want to sleep early."

"Alright." Luo Tan nodded. "You've been tiring yourself out these past few days. You've lost a lot of weight. Rest well. I won't disturb you anymore." After thinking for a moment, she added, "If you think there's anything wrong with Li Mei, you can tell me. In the Daliang Dynasty, we can only rely on each other."

After Luo Tan left, Shen Miao's expression turned cold. She said to Jingzhe, "Call Mo Qing over."

It was rare for her to be so serious. Today, she actually had a faint killing intent, making Jingzhe and Gu Yu not dare to even ask. Without a word, they went out to look for Mo Qing.

Mo Qing quickly walked in. Shen Miao asked someone to close the door tightly. Without anyone around, she asked Mo Qing, "Where are the siblings living now?"

Mo Qing thought that Shen Miao had something important to instruct him. Hearing this, he was slightly stunned and said, "They live in an empty room in the side courtyard."

"Kill them for me," Shen Miao said.

Mo Qing was stunned.

Mo Qing knew better than anyone the situation Shen Miao was in. It was no exaggeration to say she was walking on thin ice everyday. From time to time, people would scheme against her and shoot arrows at her. In such an environment, Shen Miao had never let anyone take advantage of her. Many of the things she instructed Mo Qing to do were retaliative. However, this was the first time she said "kill them for me".

Chapter 954 Encounter (5)

Mo Qing looked at Shen Miao and hesitated for a moment before asking, "Madam, they..."

"If I don't get rid of these two people, there will be endless trouble in the future. Kill them for me," she said.

Before Mo Qing could answer, he suddenly heard a voice outside the window. "That's not a good idea."

The two of them turned around and saw that the window was open. Jingzhe had probably left in a hurry and forgot to close the window. At this moment, it was dark outside, so the two of them did not know that there was someone else standing outside the window. It was Pei Lang.

Shen Miao gestured for him to come in. Pei Lang walked in and glanced at Mo Qing. He shook his head at Shen Miao and said, "It's not a good idea to kill someone rashly."

Shen Miao stared at him coldly. Consort Mei's appearance reminded her of those dark days in the past, and she inexplicably found Pei Lang displeasing to the eye.

Pei Lang cleared his throat. He said, "That pair of siblings are living in this mansion now. If you kill them, Prince Rui will be implicated."

"Secondly, what you did in the hall today was too much. There are already rumors outside that you're jealous of Li Mei's beauty and deliberately made things difficult for her. I was wondering why you behaved strangely today, but now that I heard that you have a grudge against them, I understand. Since you have a grudge against them, you shouldn't show it. Once you show it, you'll be the first suspect if anything happens to that pair of siblings."

"Thirdly, the fact that you asked Mo Qing to kill someone for you means that you don't trust anyone else, including Prince Rui's subordinates. But is Mo Qing really a match for the other guards in this mansion? No matter how good Mo Qing's martial arts are, it's difficult for him to fight against two. If he's caught, Prince Rui will definitely ask you the reason. There must be a reason why you asked Mo Qing to do it but didn't tell Prince Rui. At that time, your secret will be exposed."

"Therefore, this is not a good idea," Pei Lang said in one breath.

Shen Miao stared at him for a while. After a while, she suddenly smiled and said, "Mr. Pei, are you always so rational?" Without waiting for Pei Lang to speak, she sneered. "That's right. If you weren't rational, you wouldn't have been where you were."

Pei Lang did not understand what she meant. Shen Miao continued, "You're right. I can't kill people rashly in Prince Rui's mansion. Moreover, death is too merciful a punishment for these two people."

Shen Miao said to Mo Qing, "Go out and investigate for me first. I want to know everything about this pair of siblings! Everything, big or small!"

Mo Qing left.

Shen Miao took a deep breath. Her enemy was right in front of her, but she could not do anything now. This feeling was really uncomfortable.

Mo Qing nodded and left. Pei Lang looked at Shen Miao and thought for a moment before asking, "You seem to be very resentful towards this pair of siblings."

Shen Miao sneered. "Why do you say so?"

He looked at Shen Miao inquisitively. "The fact that you want them dead so much means that you're afraid of them. Are these siblings... very powerful?"

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. She looked at Pei Lang in front of her and asked angrily for no reason, "Mr. Pei, you've always prided yourself on being insightful. Do you know what kind of deep hatred is driving me to want to kill them so much."

"Are you willing to tell me?"

Chapter 955 Encounter (6)

"They owe me two lives." Shen Miao said, "Even if I kill them ten thousand times, it won't be enough!"

Pei Lang was shocked by the obvious fierceness in Shen Miao's eyes. He said, "I can help you."

Shen Miao stared at him. "Why should I believe you?"

These words surprised Pei Lang. A few days ago, he clearly felt that Shen Miao's attitude towards him had softened, and she seemed to have let go of some things. He felt that the relationship between the two of them was not as tense as before. However, today, Shen Miao was like a hedgehog with thorns all over her body. She was sharp and wary, and her attitude towards him had returned to the past.

It was as if they were enemies.

Pei Lang knew that this must be related to the appearance of the siblings. He thought for a moment and asked, "I heard that the siblings are from the Daliang Dynasty. I don't think you have ever been to the Daliang Dynasty in the past and have ever seen the two of them. How can you have such a deep hatred towards them?"

"Mr. Pei." Shen Miao interrupted him. "I've already said everything I can say to you. You know very well what kind of attitude I have towards this pair of siblings. I don't expect you to give me advice, but I hope you won't interfere and tell anyone about this."

Pei Lang suddenly felt angry. He was originally lofty and unwilling to enter the officialdom. However, Shen Miao used Liu Ying to threaten him to become a spy on Fu Xiuyi's side. Because of that, he was later tortured and forced to leave his country. When his sincerity to help was not appreciated, he had the urge to turn around and storm out. However, when he saw Shen Miao's cold gaze, he couldn't bring himself to be angry at her.

It was as if the moment he saw her, he would feel an inexplicable sense of guilt towards her.

He paused for a moment and said, "You don't trust me."

Shen Miao said coldly, "I don't trust anyone."

After Pei Lang left, Shen Miao sat back at the table. She felt as if she had exhausted all her strength.

Shen Miao couldn't kill Li Mei and Li Ke at this moment, but she had to make sure they could not leave. She had to take revenge eventually. Otherwise, she was not worthy of being the mother of two children.

Just as she was thinking, Jingzhe pushed open the door and walked in. She said to Shen Miao, "Madam, His Highness just woke up and wants to see you."

Shen Miao was stunned for a moment before nodding.

Shen Miao had guessed all the possible connections between the Daliang Dynasty's royal family, Xie Jingxing, and Consort Mei. The more she thought about it, the more afraid she felt. If those terrifying guesses were all true, Shen Miao did not know how she should react.

Consort Mei's appearance disrupted her plan and emotions, and she found it difficult to even face Xie Jingxing. She was afraid that others would see the hatred in her eyes, and she was also afraid that Xie Jingxing would confirm her terrifying guess.

The bedroom was filled with a strong medicinal fragrance. The servants coming and going were all busy with their own things. Gao Yang was walking out with a medicine box. When he saw Shen Miao, he was stunned and said, "He just woke up. He woke up once in the morning and asked about you. His wound is not healed yet. Don't go against him."

Shen Miao nodded and pushed the door open.

Xie Jingxing was only wearing an inner robe and a cloak. He was leaning against the couch and reading. It was unknown if it was because he was injured, but he had lost a little weight these days, and his facial features became even sharper. When he was quiet, he looked like a scholar. He flipped through the book elegantly. It was impossible to tell that he had been on the verge of death a few days ago.

Shen Miao wanted to go in, but just as she took a step forward, she hesitated, knowing that taking this step meant facing a question she did not dare to face. She was afraid of the answer and instinctively wanted to escape this question.

However, there was no question in life that could be avoided forever.

Xie Jingxing did not look up and said indifferently, "Since you're here, why don't you come in?"

Shen Miao paused, clenched her fists, and slowly walked in. As she approached the bed, she sat down and said, "Are you alright? I heard from Uncle Tang that you're already awake. I thought you wanted to rest, so I didn't disturb you."

Xie Jingxing was probably not fully recovered yet and his voice was still hoarse. He suddenly smiled and said in an ambiguous tone, "Interesting."

Shen Miao looked at him. His gaze was still on the book, and his voice was a little cold.

"You don't dare to come?"

"Of course not." Shen Miao smiled. "Did the wound hurt your brain too?"

Xie Jingxing also smiled, but the smile did not reach his eyes. He closed the book and threw it aside. He turned around and looked at Shen Miao for the first time since she entered.

His gaze was sharp, and there was a hint of anger. He asked, "Shen Miao, if I didn't ask you to come, you would not come, right?"

Chapter 956 Interrogation (1)

The atmosphere in the room was tense. His gaze was as sharp as a knife. Although his face was pale, his aura didn't weaken.

Shen Miao said, "You're overthinking."

"Are you hiding something from me?" Xie Jingxing asked.

Shen Miao shook her head. "No." How should she put it? To be honest, this life was completely different from her previous life. Xie Jingxing might not really have anything to do with Consort Mei. However, because Fu Ming and Wanyu were also involved, she couldn't think rationally.

If she did not have any feelings for Xie Jingxing, it would be much easier. What she was most afraid of was that her relationship with Xie Jingxing was mixed with something else.

Xie Jingxing looked at her deeply. Shen Miao was afraid that he would see through her, so she said, "Since you've recovered, you should rest well. The night is long. After taking the medicine, sleep early." She stood up and turned to leave.

"Are you in such a hurry to leave?" Xie Jingxing's voice came from behind. He sounded like he was aggrieved. "I heard that you haven't come to see me for the past few days. Do you know what was on my mind when I first opened my eyes? I thought that you must be frightened." The corners of his mouth curled up and he lowered his eyes. "I was indeed overthinking."

Shen Miao did not say anything. She pushed the door open and walked out. After taking a few steps, she suddenly stopped.

Xie Jingxing would definitely notice her abnormality. He was such a sensitive person. If he found out, she would not be able to explain herself. Her dealing with Chang Zaiqing was justifiable because Chang Zaiqing posed a threat to her family, but she had never seen Li Mei and her brother, and they were Xie Jingxing's saviors. It was precisely because everyone in Long Ye knew this that Shen Miao could not kill Li Mei and her brother. Once they were dead and people suspected her, Prince Rui would also be dragged into this mess.

On one hand, it was a potential disaster for both her and Xie Jingxing, and on the other hand, she wanted to get rid of the enemies of her previous life as soon as possible. Shen Miao felt that after coming to the Daliang Dynasty, she was finally face-to-face with her greatest problem.

Ba Jiao carried the empty medicine bowl over. When she saw Shen Miao, she was stunned and said, "Madam, why did you come out so quickly? Aren't you going to spend more time with Master?"

"There's no need." Shen Miao said, "Take good care of him." She walked forward without looking back.

Two days later, Mo Qing came to Shen Miao with the information he had gathered.

He said, "This pair of siblings is from Qinzhou. They're the children of a merchant. However, they were adopted. The wife of this merchant died early. Before the merchant died, he told them that the two of them were not his biological children. After burying their adoptive father, they came to Long Ye to look for their relatives. However, there is no progress so far."

"Impossible." Shen Miao stood up.

Mo Qing said, "That's all the information I can get. I got someone to ask around in Qinzhou. All the neighbors said so. They watched this pair of siblings grow up."

"Are you sure Li Mei has never been to Ming Qi?" Shen Miao was so anxious that she dug her nails into her palms.

"She's never taken a long journey. This is the first time she's been outside Qinzhou," Mo Qing said.

Shen Miao closed her eyes.

"Over the past two days, Li Mei and Li Ke would go to the Ji mansion to talk to Madam Ji. Other than that, they didn't do anything special."

Shen Miao asked, "Then have they seen His Highness?"

"No. Without being summoned, no one can see His Highness in person, not even his savior," Mo Qing replied.

Chapter 957 Interrogation (2)

"I understand. You can leave. Continue to pay attention to this pair of siblings. If there's anything strange, tell me immediately," Shen Miao said.

Mo Qing nodded and left.

After Mo Qing left, Shen Miao sat back down and gradually lowered her eyes.

Mo Qing, who was meticulous, could not be wrong. Either this life was really different from her previous life or this pair of siblings was too good at hiding.

This way, even if she told Madam Ji that the two of them had ulterior motives, no one would believe her. The reason the siblings, who had grown up in Qinzhou, came to Long Ye was to look for their relatives. Who would believe that they wanted to harm Prince Rui?

She stood up and wanted to go and see Xie Jingxing, but at the thought that Li Mei and her brother were considered Xie Jingxing's saviors and that they might be related to the Daliang Dynasty's royal family, she felt that it was difficult to face him.

In the end, she gave up.

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Weiyang Palace.

When Empress Xiande heard the palace maid finish speaking, she heaved a sigh of relief and said with a relaxed smile, "It's good that he's out of danger. Someone, go and send the two hundred-year-old ginsengs to Prince Rui to nourish his body." She suddenly thought of something and added, "Does the emperor know about this?"

"His Majesty is already informed" the palace maid said with a smile.

"I'm going to see him." Empress Xiande was about to stand up.

The palace maid said hesitantly, "His Majesty is at Consort Jing's place... probably celebrating..."

Empress Xiande paused for a moment, then smiled gently and said, "In that case, I don't have to go." A trace of sadness flashed across her eyes.

"However, I heard that when Prince Rui woke up, some madams were saying..."

"Saying what?"

"Saying that the princess consort didn't seem to like the siblings who saved Prince Rui's life and made things very difficult for them, and that she was jealous of the beautiful woman. Some even said that Princess Consort Rui didn't want Prince Rui to be saved at all..." At the end of her sentence, her voice gradually trailed off, as if she knew that what she said was offensive.

"Nonsense!" Empress Xiande shouted sternly, "How can the princess consort not want Prince Rui to be saved!"

The palace maid was so frightened that she didn't dare to look up.

Empress Xiande calmed down after this shout. She said indifferently, "Are you trying to say that the princess consort is jealous? I think it's this simple."

Weiyang Palace was quiet, and no one spoke. Empress Xiande sat in the high seat, and her figure looked extremely lonely.

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For more than ten days in a row, Shen Miao locked herself in her room and carefully thought of a way to get the best of both worlds. However, no matter how she thought about it, she could not be sure that she could have done it perfectly without implicating anyone. The appearance of Li Mei and her brother had placed Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing in a very tricky position.

Over the past ten days, she had been deliberately avoiding Xie Jingxing because every time she faced Xie Jingxing, she would have countless doubts in her mind. If Li Mei and her brother were really related to Xie Jingxing in her previous life, Shen Miao really did not know how to face Xie Jingxing anymore. She was afraid that their fate as husband and wife would end just like that.

Chapter 958 Interrogation (3)

This morning, when Shen Miao woke up, her complexion was very bad. Jingzhe and Gu Yu could tell that something was wrong with her. They asked a few times, but Shen Miao only brushed them off.

Last night, she had a dream for the entire night. She dreamed that in the Palace of Earthly Tranquility in the capital, Wanyu and Fu Ming were eating fruits and chatting in front of her. As they spoke, blood started to flow from the corners of Wanyu and Fu Ming's mouths at the same time. She panicked and looked for the imperial physician. When she looked up, she saw Consort Mei and Fu Xiuyi walking over. Fu Xiuyi got someone to tie her and Wanyu and Fu Ming up. Then, he burned the Palace of Earthly Tranquility to the ground.

She screamed heart-wrenchingly and saw Consort Mei smile and say to her, "You lost."

Shen Miao suddenly woke up from her dream. The summer sun in the morning dazzled her eyes. Shen Miao broke out in cold sweat, and her entire body was covered in sweat. However, her mind was still filled with the pained faces of Wanyu and Fu Ming, making her feel uneasy.

As soon as she left the courtyard, she saw Li Mei walking out.

When Li Mei saw Shen Miao, she immediately stopped and bowed to her.

Shen Miao's eyes darkened. Every time she met the woman in front of her, she had to try her best to restrain her killing intent, especially after the dream last night. She almost couldn't help but reach out and strangle her to death. The fingertips in her sleeve stabbed her palm, making her feel a slight pain.

Shen Miao glanced at Li Mei and said, "Miss Li, where are you going?"

Li Mei smiled and said, "Prince Rui is awake. He summoned us over today. My brother has already gone over, and I'm about to go over too." He looked at Shen Miao with embarrassment. "After disturbing you for so many days, it's probably time for us to leave. Thank you for taking care of us."

Shen Miao sneered in her heart. She had never asked anyone to "take care" of the two of them. It must be Madam Ji's idea. In addition, everyone in the mansion knew that they had saved Xie Jingxing's life, so they were more polite to the two of them.

"Why do you want to leave?" Shen Miao said indifferently, "We haven't 'repaid' you yet."

Li Mei shook her head. "We're here to look for our relatives. Since Prince Rui has recovered, it's time for us to leave."

Shen Miao really could not believe that Li Mei was in Long Ye to look for her relatives.

Li Mei looked at Shen Miao and suddenly said softly, "Your Highness, did I offend you in some way? You don't seem to like me."

Shen Miao's attitude towards Li Mei was almost obvious. Apart from meeting Li Mei and her brother on the day of her return, Shen Miao had never gone to see the two of them again. It was definitely not that Shen Miao had forgotten that they were in the mansion, but she did it on purpose. As for why she did it, it was puzzling to everyone.

"I indeed don't like you." Shen Miao raised her chin. She could pretend to be polite to her enemy, but she could not do this to Consort Mei. She wanted to express her hatred blatantly. If not for Prince Rui, if not for the fact that she could not explain it to Xie Jingxing... She chuckled. "Do you want to know why?"

Chapter 959 Interrogation (4)

Li Mei looked at her in confusion, her charming eyes filled with confusion, as if she was a completely different person from the one Shen Miao remembered.

"Instinct," Shen Miao said coldly. Then, without looking back, she walked past Li Mei with Jingzhe and Gu Yu.

Li Mei stood rooted to the ground for a while, shook her head, and left.

Standing far away, Shen Miao looked at her back, her expression as cold as ice.

Jingzhe and Gu Yu did not dare to say a word. For some reason, they always felt that when Shen Miao faced this unfamiliar lady, she seemed to become very terrifying. That kind of terrifying look... was something they had never seen from Shen Miao in the past.

"You're leaving?" Shen Miao muttered to herself. Then, she said coldly, "Can you leave?" She turned around. "Call Mo Qing over."

Mo Qing quickly came to Shen Miao's room and said, "Madam, I have something to report."

Shen Miao said, "Put your matters aside for now. I have something more important for you to do."

Mo Qing was puzzled. "Madam, at your service."

"Kill Li Mei and Li Ke for me."

Mo Qing was stunned.

Shen Miao continued, "I've been thinking about it. Although it is not appropriate and might cause trouble for Prince Rui, if these two people don't die, it will be a variable I can't control. I'd rather be accused of than let these two people live and become an even bigger disaster in the future. These two wolves haven't sharpened their claws yet. Once they have, it won't be that easy to kill them."

"I'm not asking you for an opinion. I just want to ask you if you can kill them," Shen Miao asked in a low voice. Her voice lingered in the room, as if it came from hell, but it was filled with determination.

The dream of Wanyu and Fu Ming reminded her that she could not be indecisive. Since there was no way to get the best of both worlds, she would kill them first. She would think about how to clean up the mess later. Now that the siblings were just the children of merchants, killing them would be much less troublesome. If they found someone to rely on in the future, it would be even more difficult.

Moreover, Li Mei had also said today that they would leave soon. Where would they go after leaving? To a place that could protect them better? As long as Li Mei and Li Ke were alive, Shen Miao would not be able to get over it and would distance from Xie Jingxing.

In this life, she chose to kill Li Mei and Li Ke now. As for what role the Daliang Dynasty's royal family played in the death of her two children in her previous life, she did not want to pursue it. This was the biggest concession she could make for Xie Jingxing.

Mo Qing suddenly knelt down and said, "Forgive me for not being able to do it."

Shen Miao stared at him.

"I was about to tell you. I just heard that the family Li Mei and her brother are looking for is the current prime minister, Ye Maocai. Li Mei and her brother are Madam Ye's children." Mo Qing said, "The Ye family has already sent people over to pick them up."

Shen Miao staggered back and said, "What did you say?"

"I failed you, Madam. I can't kill the siblings. Punish me as you wish!"

Mo Qing did not dare to look up for a long time. For some reason, he could almost imagine the disappointment in Shen Miao's eyes. He was too ashamed to face Shen Miao.

After an unknown period of time, Shen Miao said, her voice desolate and tired, "It's not your fault. They came prepared, and I was too hesitant. I missed the opportunity because of my indecisiveness."

Chapter 960 Interrogation (5)

"However." Her voice suddenly turned sharp like a knife, dangerous and murderous. "Even if they are backed by the Ye family, I will still take their lives!"

Long Ye was different from the capital of Ming Qi. The capital was located in the north, so it was the most beautiful in winter when the mountains and forests were covered with snow. Long Ye was located in the south, and the best season was summer when the nights were cool and the sky was starry.

In a remote courtyard at the back of Prince Rui's mansion, the view was also great. With a pot of tea and a chessboard, the man in green drank alone under the moonlight like a hermit.

When Shen Miao came to the courtyard, she saw Pei Lang sitting at the stone table, drinking tea and playing chess. He was always like this. Back then, after he became the state preceptor, his personality remained unchanged. Shen Miao had always felt that it was not a good decision for Fu Xiuyi to let Pei Lang enter the imperial court. With Pei Lang's personality, he was more suitable to live a carefree life. He read books, admired the historical sages, liked to play chess, and liked flowers, bamboos, and everything unworldly. However, he was forced to be scheming and cunning in the power game.

"Mr. Pei." Shen Miao sat down opposite him.

Pei Lang looked up at Shen Miao and was a little surprised. That day, Shen Miao cut ties with him mercilessly. No matter how tolerant Pei Lang was, he was a man after all and had pride. He had not taken the initiative to look for Shen Miao these days, and Shen Miao was not someone who would take the initiative to seek reconciliation. Now that she appeared in front of him, Pei Lang's emotions fluctuate slightly.

"Mr. Pei, you said that you would help me. Does that still count now?" Shen Miao did not intend to beat around the bush.

"Help you with what?" Pei Lang put down the teacup in his hand.

"Everything. However, the thing I want to do now is to kill Li Mei and her brother."

"That's very difficult." Pei Lang smiled bitterly.

"It's actually more difficult than you think." Shen Miao said, "These siblings are related to the Ye family. They said that they're Ye Maocai's children. They'll probably become Ye Mei and Ye Ke soon. It's nearly impossible to assassinate them. However, I can't let them off."

Pei Lang frowned. "But why do you want their lives so much?"

Shen Miao smiled and said coldly, "Not every question has to have an answer. You wanted an answer to your question, but I also wanted an answer to my question. Since I don't have an answer, how can I give you an answer?"

Pei Lang looked at the chess piece on the table and smiled. "I understand. I won't continue to ask you why, but what do you want me to do?"

“You’re not good at killing, but I know what you’re capable of.” Shen Miao said, “Since they have already become Ye Mei and Ye Ke, then I’ll deal with the entire Ye family. No one knows better than you how to make a family collapse in the imperial court. I want you to be my advisor.”

Pei Lang was stunned and shook his head. “I don’t understand what you mean. I’ve been only with Prince Ding, and all I did was give him ideas on political matters. I’ve never caused any family to collapse. Why did you say that?”

Shen Miao smiled. She naturally knew. Pei Lang looked gentle and scholarly, but his methods were ruthless. When Fu Xiuyi just ascended the throne, Prince Zhou and the others tried to make a comeback, but in the end, they were all defeated by Pei Lang.