

Venomous 971

Chapter 971 Birthday (4)

Ye Mei was too beautiful. There was no need to mention her beauty. She also had a special charm that attracted people's attention at all times. In her charm, there was also a hint of innocence unique to young women. Most importantly, Ye Mei was very glib-tongued. For example, this was the first time the siblings had seen so many rich madams today, but now, they were already chatting happily with them.

She was a beautiful, smart, and sensible woman. Now, she even became the daughter of the Ye family. Seeing that Madam Ye doted on her very much and that she was much better than her in terms of status and power, Lu Wan'er felt a strong sense of danger.

When she heard that Ye Mei had even saved Prince Rui's life, Lu Wan'er gritted her teeth in hatred.

All along, Lu Wan'er had always treated Xie Jingxing as her man. Even with Shen Miao around, Lu Wan'er had never given up on this idea. It was not difficult for the Lu family to make a woman who came from a foreign land disappear. Therefore, Lu Wan'er had never taken Shen Miao seriously. On the other hand, Ye Mei was different. The relationship between the Ye family and the Lu family was subtle. They weren't considered foes nor friends. If the Ye family wanted to have a marriage alliance with Prince Rui... Lu Wan'er shuddered at the thought of this and bit her lip without saying anything.

As she was thinking, Madam Ye said in surprise, "Speaking of which, I haven't seen the princess consort. Why isn't she here today?"

The madams started whispering again. In fact, they weren't stupid. They had naturally noticed it long ago. The reason why they did not say it was because no one brought it up. Now that Madam Ye mentioned it, they started to discuss without scruples.

Madam Ye continued, "Is she sick? A few days ago, when I went to pick up my children, she looked a little haggard when I saw her. I think it's probably the case. Prince Rui was bedridden, so as his wife, she should be terribly worried. It seems that at that time, her health was not good, so she couldn't even take care of Prince Rui."

As soon as she said that, there was an uproar. Madam Ye secretly mentioned that she had been to Prince Yu's mansion. She also belittled Shen Miao. When Prince Rui's life was on the line, Shen Miao actually didn't even take care of him. Even if she was really sick, she should stay by his side.

On the other side, Xie Jingxing was drinking a glass of wine his colleague handed to him. It was unknown if he heard Madam Ye's words or not, but he had a faint smile on his lips and did not even look over.

Someone said, "Could it be that they are quarreling?"

"I don't think so." Madam Lu smiled amiably. "Back then, didn't the princess consort personally say that Prince Rui won't take in anyone else? It can be seen that the two of you are very deeply in love. Otherwise, she wouldn't have said such a thing. Since they love each other so much, they definitely won't quarrel. Don't overthink." Madam Lu was still unhappy with what Shen Miao said to Lu Wan'er back then. The more she said that, the more it made Shen Miao look like she was arrogant and made a fool of herself.

When Lu Wan'er heard this, she felt a little better.

Ye Mei looked at Madam Ye slightly and said, "Prince Rui won't take in anyone else?"

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Madam Ye shook her head and said in a low voice, "Prince Rui never said that. It was the princess consort who said it."

Luo Tan was really angry. She rushed back but didn't see Shen Miao. She did not know any of the madams and ladies here, and she could not speak rashly, afraid that she would cause trouble for Shen Miao. Now that she heard these people talking behind Shen Miao's back, she really could not take it anymore.

"Is she really not coming?" A madam asked.

Just as Luo Tan was about to retort, she heard a gentle and smiling voice coming from the door. "I'm sorry, everyone. I'm late."

Everyone subconsciously looked at the door.

The young woman lifted the bead curtain and walked in with a smile.

She was young and extremely delicate-looking. Her eyebrows were like the crescent moon, and her eyes were clear like autumn water. She was wearing a purple lily dress with dark patterns and dark purple gourd earrings. Her outfit was not gorgeous and could even be considered simple. However, with her arrival, the hall seemed to have lit up. Not only did the purple color not dim her, but it also made her skin as fair as snow and her face as beautiful as a painting. As she walked over step by step, every step was elegant and beautiful.

Shen Miao raised her chin slightly and walked to the seat next to the head of the table. Her expression was proud. There were high-ranking officials and nobles in the room, but compared to her, they looked inferior.

She took the wine from Luo Tan and smiled. "I came late and will punish myself with a glass of wine." She finished it elegantly.

Luo Tan blinked. She felt that Shen Miao was especially good-looking today, and her aura was different. No matter what, Luo Tan was proud of her little cousin. She also raised her head and straightened her back.

Shen Miao smiled and glanced at everyone present. Jingzhe and Gu Yu had been busy the entire afternoon making her hair. She had to show all the high ranking officials her best side. More importantly, Consort Mei was also present.

She would not allow herself to be outdone by Consort Mei at all. No matter how badly she lost in her previous life, she would not allow herself to repeat the same outcome in this life.

Li Mei also looked at Shen Miao in a daze, looking surprised.

Shen Miao smiled at her, but her heart was cold. The two of them really dared to appear in front of her so openly time and time again... Did they really think that with the Ye family protecting them, they would be safe?

Luo Tan tugged at Shen Miao and said in a low voice that only the two of them could hear, "Cousin, did you quarrel with Brother-in-law? Why does it look like something is going on between the two of you?"

Shen Miao turned to look at Xie Jingxing. He was listening to a bureaucrat casually and did not even look over. Shen Miao was saddened by his indifferent attitude. She did not know if Tie Yi had given him the letter. If he already received the letter but was still like this, tonight... Shen Miao was not sure if she should explain it.

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As she was thinking, she heard an official say, "Since everyone is here, let's toast Prince Rui together."

Everyone raised their glasses to toast Xie Jingxing. Xie Jingxing smiled and finished the cup. A madam said, "Speaking of which, Madam Ye has just found Miss Ye and Young Master Ye. Miss Ye is so beautiful and talented. She's also Prince Rui's savior. Miss Ye, why don't you show us your talents to liven up the occasion."

It was a little disrespectful to ask a rich young lady to perform talents for others in front of so many people. Moreover, Ye Mei was raised by a merchant family. Who knew what kind of talents she was taught? This madam was obviously here to cause trouble. The Ye family had many political enemies in Long Ye.

Ye Ke looked unhappy. Just as Madam Ye was about to retort, she heard Ye Mei say with a smile, "I would like to, but I'm afraid my talents are too unpresentable, so I don't want to embarrass myself."

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The madam who suggested it couldn't wait for Ye Mei to embarrass herself. She immediately smiled and said, "Don't worry. No one will laugh at you. Prince Rui, am I right?"

Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow and glanced over. The corners of his lips curled up and he said with a faint smile, "Perform what you wish."

His tone was casual, as if he was instructing a servant.

Ye Mei stood up. She first bowed to Shen Miao and said, "Since everyone is in such a delightful mood today, I won't spoil the fun. I'm willing to make a fool of myself to make everyone happy."

"I once learned a water sleeve dance from my adoptive mother in Qinzhou. Please bear with me if my dancing is unskillful," she said.

Shen Miao lowered her head slightly, a cold smile flashing across her lips.

Water Sleeve Dance was the kind Ye Mei was best at. She was good at the Guqin, chess, calligraphy, and painting. There was naturally a reason why she was favored so much by Fu Xiuyi. When she danced, she would stain her sleeve with ink and draw on the paper. After a dance, the painting would be completed. It was elegant and unique.

Every time Shen Miao saw this dance, it hurt her tremendously.

Back then, when the Xiongnu came to ask for a marriage alliance, Fu Xiuyi wanted to marry Wanyu over. Shen Miao used both soft and hard methods and even used the Shen family to threaten Fu Xiuyi. However, Fu Xiuyi was unmoved. Wanyu thought for a long time and came up with an idea. She learned a song and played it for Fu Xiuyi.

Everything Wanyu wanted to say was in the song. She just hoped that Fu Xiuyi wouldn't be so ruthless as to give her away.

That day, Shen Miao invited Fu Xiuyi to the Palace of Earthly Tranquility and asked Wanyu to play for Fu Xiuyi. Just as she finished playing, she saw Fu Xiuyi seemed to be wavering. However, to everyone's surprise, Consort Mei came uninvited. She smiled and said as if no one was around, "Your Majesty, I learned a new dance today and want to dance it for you. Since Her Majesty is here, you can watch it too."

She danced charmingly, and Fu Xiuyi looked at her affectionately, completely forgetting about Wanyu and Shen Miao, who were still waiting. Shen Miao would never forget the disappointment in Wanyu's eyes.

The next day, Wanyu came to her and said, "Mother, don't waste your effort on me. I agree to the marriage alliance."

Perhaps Wanyu felt that even if she had to marry someone she didn't like, it was better than staying in the palace and being surrounded by schemes.

Shen Miao would never be able to let go of this hatred.

The snow-white sleeve on Li Mei's clothes fluttered, but Shen Miao felt that the sleeve was not stained with ink, but with Wanyu's blood.

Chapter 974 Cold Moon (1)

Li Mei's waist was slender, and her movements were graceful. Her eyes were sparkling, and wherever she looked, people were infatuated. She was like a butterfly, tickling people's hearts. They thought that the butterfly was about to stop in their hands, but all of a sudden, it flew away, making them want to catch it.

The women couldn't take their eyes off her, let alone the men. Men always liked good-looking things, and their eyes were almost glued to Li Mei. Madam Ye and Ye Maocai gradually revealed smug expressions. No family in the Daliang Dynasty had such a beautiful and talented daughter.

Lu Wan'er gritted her teeth in anger and jealousy.

Shen Miao watched coldly as Li Mei danced, her thoughts wandering back to her previous life.

The first time she saw Consort Mei was when she returned to the capital from the State of Qin. She only heard that there was an additional consort in the palace called "Consort Mei". Shen Miao heard that Fu Xiuyi doted on Consort Mei a lot. Although Shen Miao felt sad, she did not think much of it. She thought that with Fu Xiuyi's cold personality, no matter how much he doted on someone, he would not go too far.

Then, she went to the imperial study to look for Fu Xiuyi, wanting to talk to him about something serious, but she saw Consort Mei throwing Fu Xiuyi's paperweight in the imperial study. On the day she returned to the palace, Consort Mei said that she was sick and did not come to greet her. This was the first time Shen Miao had seen Consort Mei. Shen Miao saw that the woman was beautiful, and her smile was like a painting. However, she was arrogant and unreasonable. She actually threw a tantrum in the imperial study. Shen Miao thought that Fu Xiuyi would flare up, and Fu Xiuyi was indeed angry, but Consort Mei actually turned around and left.

At that time, Shen Miao thought to herself, What a fierce woman. How long could she live in the harem with such a personality?

At that time, she was busy asking about Wanyu and Fu Ming, so she did not pay much attention to Consort Mei. She only felt that that woman was extremely beautiful and arrogant.

However, even if Fu Xiuyi was so angry, the next morning, Shen Miao still saw Fu Xiuyi taking a walk with Consort Mei in the royal garden. His tone was quite doting.

Shen Miao was stunned. She had never seen Fu Xiuyi like this before, and Fu Xiuyi was never such a good-tempered person. Fu Xiuyi only showed his good sides to his valued aides. He had never been very patient with women. However, Consort Mei had just angered him yesterday, and she could make Fu Xiuyi smile from ear to ear the next day. At that time, Shen Miao suddenly realized that this woman was not only beautiful and arrogant, but also very dangerous, because she could wrap people around in her fingers. In short, she had successfully won Fu Xiuyi's heart.

As expected, Shen Miao gradually realized that this Consort Mei was really scary. She looked arrogant and rude, not restraining her temper at all. However, because of that, Fu Xiuyi found her difficult to tame and became more and more fascinated with her. When facing Shen Miao, Consort Mei was rude, mocking, and antagonistic. She had repeatedly tried to sow discord between Fu Ming and Fu Xiuyi.

What was Consort Mei's true motive? Shen Miao looked at the charming woman in front of her. In this life, Consort Mei had become the daughter of the Ye family. She was cautious, smart, and restrained. She no longer showed her arrogant side. However, was this really her true colors?

Having been in contact with Consort Mei for her entire life, Shen Miao knew how terrifying she was. She was a cunning woman who would fight for whatever she wanted using whatever means she had.

Chapter 975 Cold Moon (2)

What was her plan today? Did she want Xie Jingxing to be like Fu Xiuyi, fascinated by her at first sight and falling in love with her again? Shen Miao sneered in her heart. She couldn't help but look up at Xie Jingxing.

What caught Shen Miao off guard was that Xie Jingxing's gaze was on her. He probably did not expect Shen Miao to suddenly look at him. He paused for a moment before turning his head away and continuing to look outside as if he was hiding something.

He didn't seem to be interested in the person dancing in the middle of the hall at all.

Shen Miao was stunned, but an indescribable feeling surged in her heart. Although she hated Consort Mei to the core, she also felt a sense of inferiority deep in her heart. In terms of appearance and charm,

she admitted that she was inferior to Consort Mei, which was why Fu Xiuyi sacrificed her without hesitation in her previous life. Xie Jingxing was thousands of times better than Fu Xiuyi. If Li Mei also liked Xie Jingxing... Shen Miao thought that she would be abandoned in no time.

However, Xie Jingxing's gaze was on her and not on Li Mei.

If it were Fu Xiuyi, when Shen Miao and Consort Mei appeared at the same time, he would not even look at Shen Miao.

No two people were alike. Just like her and Li Mei, Xie Jingxing and Fu Xiuyi were also different.

Deep in thought, she did not even know when Li Mei finished dancing. Only when she heard the enthusiastic applause in the hall did she look up and see Li Mei standing there with a faint smile. There were some beads of sweat on her forehead, and her cheeks were pink, making her look even more charming and beautiful. Behind her, the ink painting was completed. It was a painting of a qilin stepping on the cloud.

"Miss Ye is really talented!" An official said, "Your painting is vivid and lifelike."

"She's also a good dancer." A madam quickly added, "Madam Ye, you're really lucky. Miss Ye is just like you. Not only is she beautiful, but she's also talented. Look at how well she dances and paints. You can find another girl like her in Long Ye."

Madam Ye accepted the praise with a smile, but Lu Wan'er clenched her handkerchief jealousy, her eyes filled with hatred.

Another person said, "Prince Rui, what do you think of this painting?"

Everyone looked at Xie Jingxing. Ye Mei also looked at Xie Jingxing and saw him looking out of the window with a wine cup in his hand. He was deep in thought and did not listen to the conversation at all.

"Your Highness?" Gao Yang recalled him.

Xie Jingxing came back to his senses and asked, "Yes?"

"They're asking you how Miss Ye's painting is," Gao Yang said.

Everyone felt bad for Ye Mei. Prince Rui was absent-minded and didn't pay attention to the dance at all. This was undoubtedly too disrespectful to Ye Mei.

When Xie Jingxing heard that, he glanced at the painting and said with a smile, "Not bad."

Everyone could see his perfunctory attitude.

Ye Mei's smile suddenly froze. When Shen Miao saw this, a trace of a smile flashed across her eyes. Xie Jingxing must have been "absent-minded" on purpose. Although she did not know why he deliberately embarrassed Ye Mei, Shen Miao was happy.

Ye Mei noticed her smile. She stared at Shen Miao and suddenly said with a chuckle, "Speaking of which, when I lived in Prince Rui's mansion, I heard that the princess consort was also talented."

Chapter 976 Cold Moon (3)

The attention was suddenly diverted to Shen Miao.

"I've only heard that you're very good at archery, but I've never heard of anything else. Since it's Prince Rui's birthday today, why don't you perform something to liven things up? I've admired you for a long time," she said humbly. Anyone who saw it would think that Ye Mei admired Shen Miao sincerely and wanted to see it with her own eyes.

However, Shen Miao was the daughter of a general. It was no surprise for her to be good at archery, but no one had ever seen her dance. If she danced, she might make a fool of herself. If she did not, it would be no different from admitting that she was not as talented as Ye Mei.

Everyone looked at Shen Miao.

Shen Miao smiled. "I'm the princess consort. How can I play and sing like a dancer?"

In an instant, the hall fell silent. Ye Mei's face turned red.

Originally, singing and dancing in front of the officials was already an unbecoming thing. However, because Ye Mei was the daughter of the Ye family and was beautiful and talented, everyone ignored this. However, they all realized this when Shen Miao mentioned it.

Madam Ye and Ye Maocai's expressions were ugly.

Madam Lu and Lu Wan'er were gloating. They were the most happy to see Shen Miao and Ye Mei fighting.

Xie Jingxing watched everything with a smile, as if he did not think there was anything wrong with what Shen Miao said. He did not intend to stop the fight.

Luo Tan felt that Shen Miao seemed to be targeting Ye Mei, but she also felt strangely satisfied. It was Xie Jingxing's birthday. Why was Ye Mei dancing here to steal the limelight? Moreover, she took the initiative to ask Shen Miao to sing and dance. Who was she to ask the princess consort to do this?

Madam Ji looked at Shen Miao and was anxious. Xie Jingxing's birthday was filled with court officials. If Shen Miao made the atmosphere so tense, others would only blame Prince Rui for not disciplining his wife and say that Shen Miao was a jealous woman.

Ye Mei stood rooted to the ground. She looked pitiful, making people feel sorry for her. The men in the hall felt indignant and wanted to stand up for her.

Shen Miao glanced at everyone in the hall and saw their expressions. Ye Mei was capable. Whatever she wanted, she never needed to do it herself to get it. She only needed to play the victim to get the people around her to fight for her. If Shen Miao went against Ye Mei today, everyone in Long Ye would probably stand on her side the next day.

How could Shen Miao let Ye Mei have her way?

She stood up and smiled under everyone's surprised gazes. "Miss Ye, I found it difficult to decline your suggestion, so I'll accept it with reluctance. Coincidentally, I learned a song a few days ago. I played it for you."

"Why are you playing it for Miss Ye?" Madam Lu smiled and said, "Shouldn't you be playing it for His Highness on his birthday?"

"This song is very sad." Shen Miao said indifferently, "It doesn't sound like a festive tune, nor is it suitable for a birthday. I heard it a few days ago and liked it very much, so I learned it. Since Miss Ye admires me, I naturally won't disappoint you." She smiled at Ye Mei.

Ye Mei also smiled gently. "Of course."

Shen Miao held her dress and walked to the middle. Ye Mei stepped to the side. Jingzhe quickly found a chair for Shen Miao. Shen Miao looked up and said, "Bring the Guqin over."

Chapter 977 Cold Moon (4)

After a long time, Gu Yu came out and said, "Bixiao Restaurant only has a Jiaowei Guqin, Madam..."

Gu Yu knew very well that in all the years she had been with Shen Miao, she had never seen her play the Guqin. On the one hand, she hated this daughter of the Ye family for harboring ill intentions towards Shen Miao. On the other hand, she was anxious for Shen Miao. If Shen Miao insisted, she would only be embarrassing herself. In this foreign land, no one would be polite to Shen Miao because of the power of the Shen family. Most of the people here had ulterior motives and wanted to hit her when she was down.

In front of Ye Mei's unique painting, it seemed like no matter what Shen Miao did, she would be outdone.

"It's fine. Bring it over," Shen Miao said.

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When the surrounding madams and young ladies heard this, they started whispering.

"Didn't they say that she was vulgar? Why does she know how to play the Guqin?"

"She probably wants to compete with Miss Ye. She's really competitive."

"Sigh, what a pity. I'm afraid Prince Rui will be embarrassed today."

"Ming Qi's people are really arrogant. They don't even know their limits."

However, Luo Tan was very confident. Although she had never heard Shen Miao play the Guqin, for some reason, she felt that Shen Miao was omnipotent.

Ji Yushu whispered to Gao Yang, "Sister-in-law really knows how to play the Guqin? According to the information the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop collected on her, the Shen family had never hired a musician to teach her. Was she self-taught? That's too amazing."

Gao Yang shrugged. "I'm not sure either. Let's wait and see."

Pei Lang was also among the guests invited. There was a Guqin class in Guangwen Hall, but Shen Miao never took it seriously. Pei Lang had also heard the teachers there complain, saying that Shen Miao was practically a tone-deaf. Now that Shen Miao agreed to perform, he could not hide his surprise.

Xie Jingxing frowned slightly, but his hand that was holding the wine cup was clenched tightly.

Shen Miao washed her hands and said indifferently, "This song is called 'Blood Chant'. It's a song made by a young princess who was forced to marry a leader of the enemy country who was in his fifties. She was at a loss about the future, but there was nothing she could do. She hoped that she could change her father's mind, which was why she made this song." Her voice was calm, like the dim moonlight, making people quickly calm down from the excitement of Li Mei's dance.

She swept across the strings.

The sound was heart-wrenching. At the beginning of the melody, the hall fell silent.

She opened her mouth slowly and sang.

"The Yangtze River is vast. The mountains are connected by mountains and rivers, and the towers are opposite each other. It's the arrangement of the heavens."

"A long journey under the moonlight, the worry on the horseback, the hometown I left behind, and the rest after death."

Her voice was usually gentle and clear like water, but at this moment, it carried a hint of pain, making people's eyes turn red and their hearts ache. With her singing and the sound of the Guqin, it was as if the young princess appeared in their minds. As a young girl, she was forced to wear a phoenix coronet and a robe to live in the desolate palace. The palace was majestic, deep, and heavy.

At such an innocent age, she had to face an arduous fate.

Chapter 978 Cold Moon (5)

She got into the carriage and said goodbye to her mother. The emperor was heartless. He sacrificed his daughter for the stability of his throne.

The journey was long. She lifted the curtain dejectedly and looked at the eagles flying past, the fish at the bottom of the river, the wind, the rain, and the clouds. Everything was freer than her.

Under the light, Shen Miao swept the strings with tears rolling down her face, as if she had countless grievances to utter. She looked like a flower in the rain, trembling, making people want to protect her.

She sang until everyone in the hall was speechless, their eyes were red, and they felt suffocated. They were no longer as joyful as when Li Mei was dancing.

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However, the sound of the Guqin suddenly became hurried, and her lyrics became sharper.

"The emperor is muddle-headed, and the treacherous officials are in control. The law is unjust, and the punishment is heavy. The thief became an official, and the official became a thief. The wise are suspected while the fool succeed. How pitiful!"

“Why don’t I just stand by and coldly watch how the dynasty of fifty years collapsed and became rubble?”

Her eyes were cold, and her voice was choked, as if she was crying and complaining about her past. Then, her eyes were filled with the killing intent, and her heart was filled with hatred. She threw a penetrating glance at Ye Mei and her brother.

Now, here, listen! Listen! Does this tune sound familiar? Is there a trace of fear?

Xie Jingxing put down the cup, his eyes as sharp as blades.

Ye Mei felt a little cold. What did that song have to do with her? But why did it seem to be directed at her? Why did she feel uneasy?

After the song ended, Shen Miao suddenly stopped and looked up.

The hall was silent for a long time.

Who would now dare to say that Princess Consort Rui was vulgar and did not know anything about Guqin?

Shen Miao said gently, “This song is not considered festive. It’s not supposed to be played on one’s birthday, but since Miss Ye wanted to hear it, I felt obligated to play it ‘specially’ for you.” She looked at Ye Mei. “Miss Ye, are you satisfied?”

Everyone’s gazes landed on Ye Mei.

Ye Mei was a little uneasy. It sounded like she was forcing Shen Miao to play the Guqin for her. However, she had to admit that Shen Miao was not vulgar. It was not difficult to play the Guqin, and it was even rarer that the song was moving.

“Princess Consort is really as talented as the rumors say.” Ye Mei smiled and said, “This song, Blood Chant, is impressive. However...” She was a little puzzled. “Why is the first half and the second half of Blood Chant completely different? The second half seems to have a different style.”

The second half was intense, resentful, and despairing. It was like the last cry of a trapped beast, making people shiver with fright.

Shen Miao smiled bitterly. The first half was naturally different from the second half. The first half was written by Wanyu who was sad and wanted to convince Fu Xiuyi to not marry her off, while the second half was written by Shen Miao who was locked up in the cold palace and could not get over the pain of losing her children.

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Shen Miao smiled. “The first half described the feeling of this little princess who was forced to marry, but the second half described the feeling of the mother of this little princess. The empress was in despair and grief over losing her daughter.”

“I see!” Everyone was enlightened. Someone asked, “This song is really touching. Where did Princess Consort Rui get this story? It’s really moving.”

"I heard a storyteller telling this story when I passed by a place." Shen Miao smiled. "I just felt that this story was too touching, so I remembered it."

"Oh?" A young lady couldn't help but ask, "Since it's a story, what's the ending of the story? What's the ending of that little princess?"

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Shen Miao said emotionlessly, "The ending of the story is that the little princess died on the way to the foreign land. The empress was also sent to the cold palace. Not long after, she was given a rope to hang herself to death."

The others sighed and said that this story was too tragic.

Madam Ye was a little unhappy. Shen Miao's performance was actually on par with Ye Mei's. Ye Mei was enchanting and charming, and her dance was passionate and moving. However, Shen Miao only sat there and played and sang for a while before attracting the attention of the others. Moreover, she told a story and stole Ye Mei's thunder. This way, Ye Mei seemed to have been outdone.

Women were always sentimental. After Shen Miao told such a pitiful story, everyone felt much closer to her.

Madam Ye said, "It's a joyous occasion. It makes us sad to hear such a story."

Shen Miao said, "I'm sorry for spoiling everyone's fun." She walked to the side and took out a wine bowl. The wine bowl was for men to drink. She poured herself a full bowl. The slightly yellow wine reflected her young face.

"A bowl of wine as an apology." She raised the bowl and drank it.

Xie Jingxing's eyes suddenly darkened.

Shen Miao raised her chin. This bowl of wine was emptied in a hurry. The wine that she did not have time to swallow flowed down her neck and wet a small piece of her clothes.

Her eyelashes were long, and her eyes were clear. She placed the wine bowl on the table and said, "It's your turn."

The guests all took the bowl of wine and smiled. "Princess Consort, cheers!"

Shen Miao smiled, but that smile was a little unfathomable. She glanced at Ye Mei and her brothers. The siblings were also staring at her.

This bowl of wine Shen Miao emptied sent everyone in the Bixiao Restaurant in high spirits. Shen Miao stood up and said, "I'll go out and take a breather."

With that, she left.

Ba Jiao and Hui Xiang were waiting for her outside and walking towards the pavilion not far away. Shen Miao felt a burning sensation on her throat from the strong wine. However, she did not feel drunk. Instead, the corners of her eyes were filled with tears.

That bowl of wine was for her daughter, the little princess who died tragically on the way. These listeners felt extremely sad just listening to it. What about her? What about Wanyu? When she left the capital alone, was she even more desperate?

She thought that she could hold it in, but in the end, she couldn't. As a mother, she would rather die a thousand times than let Wanyu and Fu Ming suffer.

Chapter 980 Cold Moon (7)

She walked step by step. The moonlight was as cold as water, but it could not blow away the desolation in her heart.

The wine and food basket had already been placed in the pavilion. Ba Jiao said, "Madam, the fireworks have been bought."

Shen Miao nodded.

Say it, say it out and you'll be freed, Shen Miao thought to herself. No matter what Xie Jingxing thought of her in the future and what she had to face, she would take it. Not being understood or being treated like a freak was nothing compared to what she had gone through in her previous life.

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Just as she was thinking, she heard a voice behind her. "Are you waiting for Prince Rui?"

She turned around and saw Pei Lang.

Pei Lang glanced at the things on the table in the pavilion and smiled. "I didn't expect you to do such a thing."

Shen Miao asked him, "Why are you out?"

"I'm not used to such an occasion." Pei Lang said, "I can't drink, so I planned to go back first. I didn't expect to see you preparing these." He said, "Are you planning to make up with Prince Rui?"

Shen Miao nodded.

"In the past, I used to think that there was probably no one that could make your heart soften. Now I know that there is someone and it turns out to be Prince Rui." Pei Lang's smile had an imperceptible sadness. When he looked at Shen Miao again, he was still calm. "Although it's surprising, I'm not all that surprised."

Shen Miao smiled.

At the same time in Bixiao Restaurant, Xie Jingxing glanced at Tie Yi and was about to get up and leave.

Ji Yushu tugged at the corner of his shirt. "You're the birthday boy today. Why? Are you going to run away?"

"Let go." Xie Jingxing glanced at him.

Ji Yushu let go obediently. "What exactly are you going to do? Why are you being so mysterious?"

Gao Yang said, "Why are you being such a busybody?"

Xie Jingxing glanced at the siblings who were talking to Madam Ye and couldn't help but frown.

Shen Miao's attitude towards this pair of siblings was really too strange. It was as if she had already abandoned her rationality and became a different person. The Ye siblings did not look all that harmless. It was precisely because the Black Feather Army couldn't find out anything about this pair of siblings that he found them suspicious.

He suddenly thought of the letter Tie Yi stuffed into his sleeve.

That letter was written to him by Shen Miao.

She did not mention apologizing. She only said that at the birthday banquet, she had something to say to him in the pavilion in an alley not far from Bixiao Restaurant.

It was already the biggest concession Shen Miao could make. Xie Jingxing had always doted on Shen Miao and was very easy to be coaxed. His indifferent attitude was just a front he put up. At this moment, he felt happy inside.

In the pavilion, after Pei Lang finished talking to Shen Miao, he was about to leave. As soon as he walked down the stairs, he bumped into an eight or nine-year-old child. Pei Lang was caught off guard and fell. Ba Jiao and Hui Xiang were waiting on the other side for Xie Jingxing to come over. Shen Miao thought that the child might be one of the young masters in Bixiao Restaurant who came out to play. Seeing that Pei Lang was moaning in pain on the ground, she planned to go over and take a look.

Just as she walked up to Pei Lang, she saw the child lying on the ground. Shen Miao squatted down and was about to speak when the child suddenly looked up with murderous eyes!

Shen Miao was caught off guard and saw a silver dagger stabbing at her. At this moment, it was too late to dodge. She saw Pei Lang suddenly hug her and turn her over, protecting her under him!

Then, there was a groan of pain.

However, he did not let go no matter what. He protected Shen Miao extremely tightly, but the child did not care. He kicked Pei Lang away and turned the knife to stab at Shen Miao!

Xie Jingxing was walking over with Hui Xiang and Ba Jiao.

Hui Xiang said, "Madam has been waiting for you for a while. She's afraid that you'll still be angry, so she's been waiting for you patiently. When you see Madam, you have to talk to her nicely."

Xie Jingxing was expressionless, but a trace of a smile flashed across his eyes.

After walking around the alley, he saw the pavilion. Before he got close, there was a strong smell of blood.

Xie Jingxing stopped in his tracks.

Ba Jiao and Hui Xiang were also stunned.

The moonlight was as bright as a lantern, illuminating the ground. It was supposed to be a pleasant scenery, but now, it made people feel a chill run down their spines.

There were large patches of blood and familiar people.