

Venomous 501

Chapter 501 I'll Help You (2)

"You have a glib tongue. Of course I know you're very bold. Otherwise, you wouldn't have deliberately made a fool of me at the tribute banquet." At the thought of what happened at the tribute banquet, a trace of killing intent flashed across Princess Ming An's eyes. She was the most favored princess of the State of Qin. Even in the royal family of the State of Qin, everyone had to respect and fear her. She didn't expect to be so frightened by Shen Miao that she fainted at the tribute banquet. At the thought of how embarrassed she was, Princess Ming An wanted to kill the person in front of her. If not for the fact that she was still in Ming Qi and was warned by Huangfu Hao, Princess Ming An would have killed Shen Miao now.

She suddenly looked at Shen Miao and smiled. "Given how outstanding you are at archery, I want to suggest to Emperor Wen Hui to take you back. Do you want to go back to the State of Qin with me?"

Shen Miao almost smiled. In both of her lives, Princess Ming An seemed to be destined to be at odds with her. Now, hearing that, Shen Miao felt like she had returned to her previous life. When Shen Miao volunteered to be a hostage in the State of Qin, Princess Ming An said the same thing to Fu Xiuyi. She said, "Your Majesty, don't worry. Since she's the empress of Ming Qi, the State of Qin will naturally treat her well."

In the end, in the State of Qin, she suffered no less humiliation than when she was in Ming Qi. Later, after coming back from the State of Qin, Shen Miao was able to fight with Consort Mei for so long in the harem all thanks to the tricks she learned while in the state of qin.

"If Your Highness has such intentions, just tell His Majesty." Shen Miao smiled indifferently. "If His Majesty agrees, I will be obliged to go to the State of Qin with Your Highness."

Princess Ming An wanted to mock Shen Miao, but she did not expect Shen Miao to retort. Shen Miao was Shen Xin's precious daughter. Emperor Wen Hui wanted to keep Shen Xin, so he would not touch Shen Miao for the time being. She glared at Shen Miao. "You!"

Shen Miao smiled at her and did not say anything.

"Don't worry, I won't let you go back empty-handed like this." Princess Ming An smiled coldly, her eyes filled with malice. "Why don't you marry my brother and be a concubine? Or a consort? I think the emperor of Ming Qi will be very happy to see that happening."

Shen Miao frowned slightly. If Ming Qi wanted to be on good terms with the State of Qin, marriage was indeed a good method. If Princess Ming An really persuaded Huangfu Hao to marry Shen Miao and make her his consort, Emperor Wen Hui would agree. When the fate of an entire country was involved, no matter how unwilling Shen Xin was, he could not resist.

Seeing that Shen Miao was in a daze, Princess Ming An smiled coldly. Suddenly, she gestured to the maid beside Shen Miao. The maid suddenly reached out and pushed Shen Miao, who was standing by the pond, into the pond!

Shen Miao was caught off guard and fell into the pond. Jingzhe and Gu Yu screamed and wanted to come over to help, but it was too late. This was Princess Ming An's usual method. Since she could not really hurt Shen Miao today, she had to make Shen Miao suffer one way or the other.

Shen Miao fell into the water with a splash. She knew how to swim. Although the water in the early winter was cold, it was not enough to make her unable to move. However, she heard another splash beside her. At first, she thought that she had heard wrongly. When she surfaced, she saw Princess Ming An struggling in the water.

Princess Ming An's scream almost pierced through the sky. She seemed to not know how to swim and screamed, "Someone! Help!"

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Princess Ming An's maids panicked and went to look for bamboo poles to save her. However, the guards who could swim were all men. If they touched Princess Ming An's body, their heads would probably be chopped off the next day, and no one dared to come forward to save her. Moreover... The place where Princess Ming An fell into the water was really too far.

Shen Miao was pushed into the pond, so she wasn't far from the edge of the pond, but Princess Ming An fell into the middle of the pond out of the blue. Even a bamboo pole might not be long enough to reach her.

Looking at her comical face, Shen Miao actually found it a little funny. However, now was not the time to watch a show in the water. While everyone was flustered, she swam leisurely towards the pond.

When she swam to the edge of the pond, Jingzhe and Gu Yu were about to pull her up in panic when she heard an angry shout. "What's going on?"

Two men walked in from outside the garden. One of them was dressed in golden clothes and had a jade crown on his head. His expression was extremely dark, ruining his handsome appearance. The other person was wearing a golden purple robe and a black cloak. Half of his face was covered by a silver mask, but it still couldn't cover his handsome face. He followed Huangfu Hao over unhurriedly.

"Your Highness, the princess fell into the water!" The servants quickly reported. Looking at the flustered servants, Huangfu Hao took a deep breath and subconsciously looked at Prince Rui beside him. However, Prince Rui was wearing a mask, and his lips were slightly curled under the mask. No one could tell what he was thinking at this moment.

He shouted at the guard behind him, "Go, what are you waiting for?"

The guard's expression froze. He flew into the pond and immediately pulled the wet Princess Ming An to the shore.

Princess Ming An choked on a lot of water. The first thing she did when she came ashore was to scream and point at Shen Miao. "This b*tch pushed me into the water. Brother Crown Prince, kill her for me!"

Princess Ming An was so flustered and exasperated that she didn't watch her language. Huangfu Hao was shocked and warned her. "Ming An!"

Princess Ming An was stunned. Only then did she see Prince Rui standing beside Huangfu Hao. She was taken aback, and then her face turned red with anger. If there was a hole in the ground, Princess Ming An would want to crawl into it. Everything that she suffered today was because of Shen Miao.

Jingzhe couldn't help but retort on Shen Miao's behalf, "Princess, what you said makes no sense. My Miss was the one who fell into the water first. How could she have pushed you into the pond? My Miss is not a god. How can she be so capable?"

"Who do you think you are? How dare you speak to me like that?" Princess Ming An smiled instead of being angry. "Do you mean that I'm slandering Shen Miao? Guards! Arrest this b*tch who is talking nonsense!"

Shen Miao smiled coldly and shielded Jingzhe behind her. She said, "Your Highness, you are from the State of Qin, and Jingzhe is my maid. This is Ming Qi. Since when can the people from the State of Qin do whatever they want in Ming Qi?"

"How dare you!" Princess Ming An shouted.

"I don't think I'm being unreasonable." Shen Miao's aura was not weak at all. She was no longer the Empress Shen who needed to endure humiliation in the State of Qin. Moreover, if she could not even protect a maid, she might as well die.

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This was the mansion of the people of the State of Qin. Princess Ming An's servants had long brought over a cloak to cover her wet body. However, Shen Miao was still wet-through. The cloak was already drenched and almost stuck to her body. Huangfu Hao stared at Shen Miao intently, making her feel uncomfortable.

At this moment, Prince Rui chuckled and suddenly took off his black cloak. He threw it on Shen Miao and covered her tightly. This action stunned the people around him. Ever since Prince Rui came to the capital, he had been alone. He was not on good terms with Ming Qi's royal family and did not deliberately befriend the people from the State of Qin. However, strangely enough, he actually helped Shen Miao out.

Huangfu Hao looked at Shen Miao in deep thought, while Princess Ming An bit her lip enviously.

Jingzhe and Gu Yu helped Shen Miao stand up. Princess Ming An couldn't help but say, "You were the one who pushed me into the water. If not you, why would I fall into the water? Did my servants push me?"

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Shen Miao smiled. Although her hair was all wet, her calm expression was much more dignified and presentable than Princess Ming An's angry expression. She said, "My maid has already explained for me. I fell into the water first. How could I have pushed you into the water? Perhaps you accidentally slipped."

Princess Ming An said angrily, "If I slipped, how could I fall into the middle of the pond?"

“Well, that’s even more strange.” Shen Miao said indifferently, “I’m not a strong man. Do you think I can push you that far?”

A chuckle suddenly sounded. Everyone looked at Prince Rui who had his lips curled up. However, although he was smiling, they could not see his expression under the mask.

Princess Ming An gritted her teeth and looked at Prince Rui. “Your Highness, you’re not from Ming Qi or the State of Qin. Please be the judge and see who is lying.”

When Huangfu Hao wanted to stop Princess Ming An, it was too late. Huangfu Hao was furious. Princess Ming An was arrogant, willful, and brainless. Although he knew that Princess Ming An was dealing with Shen Miao today, he did not expect her to use such a stupid method. If Shen Miao went back and complained about it to her father, Princess Ming An would be in trouble. Coincidentally, Prince Rui suddenly came to visit today and saw this chaotic scene. Huangfu Hao wanted to strangle Princess Ming An to death.

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. Princess Ming An looked up at Prince Rui with hope. Huangfu Hao looked a little embarrassed, while Prince Rui said with a smile. “Why should I care about these trivial matters between you?”

Princess Ming An was stunned. Shen Miao rolled her eyes.

“Your place is quite lively.” It was hard to tell if Prince Rui was being sarcastic or not, but his calm tone suddenly made Huangfu Hao a little unhappy. He glanced at Shen Miao, who was wearing Prince Rui’s cloak, and suddenly smiled. “It was just a misunderstanding today. I just didn’t expect Miss Shen to fall into the water today. I apologize to Miss Shen on behalf of my sister. I hope Miss Shen won’t take it to heart.”

“Brother Crown Prince!” Princess Ming An did not expect Huangfu Hao to give in to Shen Miao. She was anxious and shouted unhappily. However, she was glared at by Huangfu Hao and did not dare to say anything else. She only looked at Shen Miao with jealousy and hatred.

Shen Miao looked at Huangfu Hao and said indifferently, “Since His Highness the Crown Prince has spoken, I don’t dare to disobey.” Her forgiving words sounded unwilling and forced, making Princess Ming An angry again. Huangfu Hao was also stunned and looked at Shen Miao meaningfully.

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Shen Miao lowered her eyes and suppressed the thousands of emotions in her eyes. Huangfu Hao looked generous and polite on the surface, but he was actually the most ruthless. This kind of ruthlessness was different from Fu Xiuyi’s ruthlessness. When she was in the State of Qin, there was once when Huangfu Hao was drunk and actually wanted to molest her. If not for Gu Yu protecting Shen Miao with her life, Shen Miao would probably be asked to hang herself to death by Fu Xiuyi after returning to Ming Qi. The Ming Qi Royal Family would not tolerate an unchaste empress.

Then, because Gu Yu offended Huangfu Hao, she was stabbed to death by his guard’s sword. Shen Miao would never forget that Huangfu Hao stabbed a few holes in the dead Gu Yu’s body with his sword. Blood kept flowing out, but Huangfu Hao ordered someone to throw Gu Yu’s corpse into the wolf pile.

She could not do anything to help her closest friend in the State of Qin, not even collecting Gu Yu's corpse.

Shen Miao hated Huangfu Hao to the core, but she couldn't make Huangfu Hao pay the price yet.

Huangfu Hao's gaze became more and more suspicious. The moment Shen Miao narrowed her eyes, he seemed to have sensed some hostility, making him feel a chill run down his spine. He did not understand why, but he instinctively wanted to find out.

Just as he was about to speak, Prince Rui suddenly turned his body to the side. He was extremely tall, and Shen Miao, who was petite, was completely blocked by him.

"Apparently, I came at the wrong time today." Prince Rui glanced at Huangfu Hao and Princess Ming An. They could not see his expression clearly, but the two of them felt that his eyes were a little cold. He continued, "I'll come by another day."

Huangfu Hao wanted to persuade him to stay. The current situation was still unclear. No matter what, the State of Qin did not want to be enemies with the Daliang Dynasty. If Prince Rui, who represented the Daliang Dynasty, could show any signs of wanting to form an alliance with the State of Qin, the State of Qin would naturally be happy to see it happen. He thought that he could get closer to Prince Rui today, but he did not expect Princess Ming An to ruin this opportunity. He glared at Princess Ming An and said to Prince Rui, "My apology for ruining your mood. When Your Highness comes again next time, I will definitely treat you with the utmost cordiality."

Prince Rui forced a smile. Just as he was about to turn around and leave, he suddenly stopped and looked at Shen Miao with a faint smile. "Miss Shen, since you're drenched, it's better for you to return home early. Do you want me to give you a ride?"

Shen Miao took a deep breath and said with an amiable smile, "Thank you, Prince Rui."

Huangfu Hao and Princess Ming An watched as the two of them left. Princess Ming An almost bit her lip open. She said, "Brother Crown Prince, that b*tch is seducing Prince Rui! She even pushed me into the water. We can't let this matter rest!"

"Shut up, idiot." Huangfu Hao glanced at her coldly and warned, "I'll let you off today. If there's a next time, I won't be able to protect you if Father gets angry!" He turned around and left.

After being taught a lesson by Huangfu Hao, Princess Ming An did not dare to retort, but her hatred for Shen Miao deepened. Especially when Shen Miao left with Prince Rui, it made her feel like her heart was being cut by a knife. She had always been willful and selfish, but because of her beauty and wealth, she had never met a man of an equal status. It was not easy for her to have a man she liked, but he seemed to be biased towards Shen Miao. How could she tolerate it? Princess Ming An clenched her fists and said hatefully, "Shen Miao, I will definitely make you wish you were dead!"

Outside the mansion, Shen Miao's carriage was still parked at the door. Seeing Shen Miao appear wearing an unfamiliar man's coat, Mo Qing immediately became anxious and said, "Miss..."

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"It's fine." Shen Miao waved her hand and said, "Let's go back first."

“Miss Shen, I helped you, but you didn’t even say a word of thanks. Isn’t that too impolite?” Prince Rui crossed his arms and said unhurriedly, making Jingzhe and the others stunned.

Shen Miao looked at him coldly and said, “Did Prince Rui have a good time today?”

“That depends on whether you’re happy or not.” He smiled. Even through the mask, Shen Miao could tell that the person in front of her had a teasing expression.

“You pushed Princess Ming An, right?” She leaned closer to Xie Jingxing and whispered, “Why did you do this?”

Xie Jingxing looked down at her. She was petite. If Xie Jingxing wanted to talk to her in a low voice, he had to bend down slightly. When their gazes were at the same level, he was a little too close to her. His voice was low and pleasant, with a hint of teasing. “Who does she think she is to bully you?” After a pause, Xie Jingxing stared at Shen Miao and said, “Am I not yours? It’s only right for me to help you.”

Shen Miao suddenly took a step back and distanced herself from him. She said indifferently, “Thank you.”

“Thank you is not enough.” Xie Jingxing curled up his lips. “I have to think about how you should thank me.”

Shen Miao couldn’t be bothered to talk to him. Without a word, she got into the carriage. Worried that Shen Miao would catch a cold, Mo Qing rushed back. Soon, the carriage disappeared from sight.

Looking into the distance where the carriage could no longer be seen, a tall man suddenly appeared behind Xie Jingxing. Xie Jingxing’s eyes turned cold as he said, “Go and investigate if Huangfu Hao has been to the capital before.”

The man bowed and left. Xie Jingxing turned around and glanced at the door of Crown Prince Qin’s mansion. He smiled, but his eyes were cold.

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On the way back to the mansion, Jingzhe and Gu Yu did not dare to speak. They didn’t expect that Shen Miao would suffer this humiliation. Princess Ming An was really too lawless. She even dared to push someone into the water in broad daylight. Jingzhe’s eyes were red from anger. At that time, in the critical moment, she did not care about Princess Ming An’s identity. Now that she thought about it, that person was the princess of the State of Qin after all, and she was just a lowly servant. If Princess Ming An really wanted to do something to her, Jingzhe would not even have a chance to fight back. Only now did she start to feel terrified.

Shen Miao, on the other hand, was calm. She had long known that Princess Ming An was up to no good, but since they were in Ming Qi’s territory, even if no one came to save Shen Miao today, Princess Ming An would still get someone to pull her out of the water. She did not expect a devil to suddenly appear and push Princess Ming An into the water.

This was naturally Xie Jingxing’s doing. Xie Jingxing was lawless and supercilious. He schemed against Princess Ming An in front of Huangfu Hao. Huangfu Hao would probably realize that something was wrong when he thought about it later. After all, Princess Ming An fell into the middle of the pond as

soon as Shen Miao was pushed. Xie Jingxing was the only outsider present who knew martial arts and had the strength to do that.

However... Shen Miao's eyes flickered. It was really satisfying to see Princess Ming An in such a sorry state. If not for Xie Jingxing today, she would have suffered a lot. However, seeing Princess Ming An suffer, she felt that this suffering was worth it.

Jingzhe and Gu Yu looked at Shen Miao worriedly, but they saw that Shen Miao seemed to have thought of something and the corners of her lips curled up slightly, as if she was happy. The two of them looked at each other, puzzled. They didn't know why Shen Miao would be happy about being pushed into the water.

When they returned to the Shen family's mansion, because Shen Miao was wet, she could only sneak in from the back door. Jingzhe quickly went to get a handkerchief to wipe Shen Miao's hair and change her into a clean dress. Gu Yu went to instruct the kitchen to make ginger tea. Shen Miao sat for a while and asked, "Where are Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang?"

Before she left, she asked Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang to wait for news in the mansion, but neither of them was around. As she spoke, she saw Bai Lu return from outside. When she saw Shen Miao, she said in surprise, "Miss, you're finally back. Just now, Madam asked me where you went and why you're not back yet."

"Why is my mother looking for me?" Shen Miao asked.

"I heard that the daughter of one of the old general's benefactors is here. Madam is chatting with that lady outside and wants you to go and take a look."

Shen Miao's hand that was holding the handkerchief paused, and her gaze was sharp. "What's that person's name?"

Bai Lu was stunned. She felt that Shen Miao's gaze was a little cold and subconsciously replied, "I heard that her surname is Chang."

Chapter 506 Chang Zaiqing (1)

This was the first time someone had visited Shen Xin's family in their new house since they returned to the capital. Luo Xueyan was sitting in the central room and talking to a young woman.

When Shen Miao arrived, Luo Xueyan was drinking tea with that woman. It was unknown what they were talking about, but Luo Xueyan actually looked very happy. The two of them chatted happily, not even noticing that Shen Miao was here.

When Luo Tan, who was eating snacks at the side, saw Shen Miao, she greeted her warmly, "Cousin, there's a new snack with milk today. Do you want to try it too?"

Shen Miao smiled and shook her head. She walked to Luo Xueyan's side and asked, "Mother, this is..."

The young woman quickly stood up. She was wearing bean-green clothes, and there was no extra jewelry on her body. There was only a wooden hairpin loosely inserted into her bun and a plain silver bracelet on her wrist. This could be considered a shabby outfit, but this woman had a faint scholarly

aura. Although she was only considered not bad-looking, she had a graceful aura that made people find her likable.

“She is the daughter of your grandfather’s benefactor. Her name is Chang Zaiqing. Jiaojiao, you have probably never seen her before.” Luo Xueyan smiled and said, “Sister Chang, this is my daughter, Jiaojiao.”

Shen Miao smiled and nodded at her. “Auntie Chang.”

Luo Xueyan pulled Chang Zaiqing to sit down and asked Shen Miao to sit down with her. She smiled and said, “Auntie Chang doesn’t sound right. Sister Chang is still so young. Calling her Auntie is not appropriate. If Sister Chang doesn’t tell me her age, I’ll think she’s not much older than Jiaojiao. Even if Jiaojiao calls you Sister, I don’t think anyone will find it strange.”

“Madam, don’t make fun of me,” Chang Zaiqing said with a smile.

Luo Tan looked at Shen Miao with a smile. “Cousin Miao, since Auntie Chang is in the capital, she can come over often in the future. I heard that she likes to play chess and read. I don’t know much about chess, but you will have a playmate in the future.”

Shen Miao smiled. Luo Tan had always been a straightforward person. Perhaps the people of the Luo family were all so straightforward. For example, Luo Xueyan and Luo Tan were all warm-hearted and hospitable. Shen Miao looked up at Chang Zaiqing opposite her. Although that was the case, it was not easy to please Luo Xueyan, especially because the Luo family were all generals. Generals and civil servants had never been compatible with each other. The more straightforward Luo Xueyan and Luo Tan were, the more impatient they were with people who liked to read and write. However, in less than half a day, Luo Xueyan and Chang Zaiqing called each other sisters and liked Chang Zaiqing very much. Shen Miao was alerted and her gaze turned cold.

Seeing that Shen Miao did not speak, Luo Xueyan held her hand and said, “Jiaojiao, why is your hand so cold? It’s been getting cold outside recently. It’s better not to catch a cold.”

Jingzhe and Gu Yu lowered their heads guiltily. After being informed that there was a guest, Shen Miao rushed over before she even had time to rest. Luo Xueyan did not know that Shen Miao had gone to Princess Ming’an’s place today.

“Winter is coming, so it’s naturally very cold. My hometown has a medicine pouch that contains some spices that can ward off colds. When I rest at night, I hang it at the head of the bed. If Fifth Miss doesn’t mind, I’ll make a few and send them over,” Chang Zaiqing said with a smile.

“Sister Chang, you can even make that?” Luo Xueyan smiled. “It’s said that the girls from Liuzhou are ingenious. I’ve never seen them before, but now that I see Sister Chang, I know it’s true. Unlike the girls in my family...” She glanced at Luo Tan and Shen Miao and sighed helplessly. “Not to mention medicine pouches, they don’t even know how to embroider a handkerchief. “

Chapter 507 Chang Zaiqing (2)

Shen Miao had never liked to do needlework. She felt that it was a waste of time, let alone Luo Tan. Luo Tan curled her lips. “Aunt, don’t talk about me and my little cousin. Aren’t you the same?”

Luo Xueyan was speechless and glared at Luo Tan.

“Auntie Chang, are you from Liuzhou?” Shen Miao turned to look at her and asked with a smile, “Liuzhou is far from the capital. Why are you here?”

Chang Zaiqing immediately looked a little embarrassed. Luo Xueyan quickly changed the topic and said, “Nothing. She just came to the capital to play for a few days.”

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Shen Miao smiled and said, “Then where is Auntie Chang staying now?”

Chang Zaiqing smiled and said, “I’m staying in the Shen mansion currently.”

Shen Miao said indifferently, “Oh, you are staying with Grandmother.” She said, “Since Auntie Chang’s father is Grandfather’s benefactor, I think Grandmother will take good care of you. That’s reassuring.”

Luo Xueyan thought that given what kind of a person Old Madam Shen was, she might not be very considerate towards Chang Zaiqing. However, hearing what Shen Miao said, Luo Xueyan felt relieved. She said, “That’s true.”

Chang Zaiqing’s smile froze slightly. Shen Miao continued, “I heard that Liuzhou is an interesting place, but unfortunately, I’ve never been there. However, when I studied in Guangwen Hall, a classmate’s hometown was Liuzhou. Perhaps you two know each other.”

“The Chang family is a small family.” Chang Zaiqing lowered her head and said, “I’m afraid Fifth Miss’s classmate doesn’t even know about the Chang family.”

“I don’t believe it. With someone as outstanding as you, the Chang family must be famous.” Shen Miao smiled casually and said, “But Auntie Chang, why isn’t your husband with you here in the capital?”

Chang Zaiqing’s expression became even more awkward. Luo Xueyan forced a smile and said, “Jiaojiao, don’t spout nonsense. Sister Chang is not married yet.”

Shen Miao was stunned. She glanced at Chang Zaiqing and asked, “I wonder how old Auntie Chang is this year?”

It was considered rude to ask about the age of an unmarried girl, especially when Chang Zaiqing was not young to begin with. Luo Tan stopped eating snacks and looked at Shen Miao strangely. Shen Miao usually knew the rules of etiquette the best. Why would she say such a rude thing today?

Chang Zaiqing said calmly, “I’m 26 years old this year.”

Shen Miao widened her eyes at the right time. As if trying to hide it, soon, she smiled and said, “Auntie Chang, if you didn’t tell me, I would think you were only 18 or 19 years old. How enviable.”

Chang Zaiqing smiled and stopped talking. Luo Xueyan said, “Sister Chang, you are such a considerate and talented person. I believe there will be lots of men wanting to marry you. I don’t know about the men in Liuzhou, but there are countless outstanding men in the capital. If you stay here longer, you might meet someone you like.”

Chang Zaiqing quickly smiled and waved her hand, telling Luo Xueyan not to tease her. After chatting for a while, Chang Zaiqing saw that the sky was gradually turning dark, and Shen Xin, Shen Qiu, and Luo Ling should be back from the Ministry of War soon. She stood up and bade farewell. Luo Xueyan urged her to stay. "My husband, Qiu, and Ling will be back soon. Why don't you have dinner together with us before leaving? If my husband sees you, he will definitely be very happy."

"There's no need." Chang Zaiqing smiled. "It won't be easy to find my way back when it gets too dark later. Thank you for your kindness. I will come and visit them in the future. Now it is already too late."

Chapter 508 Chang Zaiqing (3)

Luo Xueyan looked out and saw that night was indeed approaching. She held her hand and said, "In that case, I can't keep you, lest you get lost on the way back. It's just that I'm especially happy to see you today. You have to come back another day. It's been a long time since I've met such a like-minded friend."

Chang Zaiqing smiled and said, "Surely, Madam, when I have time."

Luo Xueyan instructed someone to prepare a carriage for Chang Zaiqing, and Shen Miao and Luo Tan followed behind. Luo Tan sighed and said, "Although Auntie Chang came from a small family in Liuzhou, her etiquette is even better than that of the noble ladies in the palace. She's gentle and kind. I really didn't expect her to be unmarried at such an age. I wonder who will be lucky enough to marry her in the end."

Shen Miao looked at Chang Zaiqing's back and did not speak. Seeing this, Luo Tan suddenly whispered into Shen Miao's ear, "Cousin, do you not like this Auntie Chang?"

Shen Miao was a little surprised. She did not expect Luo Tan to be able to tell that. She raised her eyebrows and said, "I have no grudge against her. Why would I not like her?"

"Hey, others might not be able to tell, but I know very well." Luo Tan said proudly, "You're normally very indifferent to everyone. However, today, you asked Auntie Chang many questions. Moreover, you were rude. You clearly did it on purpose. The way you looked at her is a little strange. It's different from the way you look at others."

Shen Miao laughed. "You're thinking too much."

"I'm not thinking too much. You obviously didn't like her." Luo Tan continued, "Although this Auntie Chang is good and friendly, I... feel that something is not right."

"What is not right?" Shen Miao asked.

"Think about it. Auntie Chang's father is Old General Shen's subordinate and benefactor. He must be a fierce general. As the saying goes, like father, like daughter. You look gentle on the surface, but deep down, you're like your father. You're very brave and not afraid of the Turks. However, this Auntie Chang is too gentle and mild. Why doesn't she have the aura of a general at all?"

Shen Miao sneered. No, Chang Zaiqing was more like a young lady from a general's family than anyone else. She studied the art of war to the point of perfection and strategized every move calmly. The reason she didn't have the aura of a general was because she was hiding it well.

Shen Miao looked at Luo Tan and did not correct her. She only said, "Who said that people from a general's family have to be brave? This Auntie Chang grew up in Liuzhou. Perhaps Mrs. Chang is from a scholarly family. Auntie Chang just takes after her mother."

Luo Tan curled her lips. "Maybe. Actually, I quite like her. However, if you don't like her, I won't like her either. I'm with you."

Shen Miao said, "Well, in that case, thank you."

"But why don't you like her?" Luo Tan asked curiously, "Are you jealous that she knows more than you?"

Shen Miao glanced at Chang Zaiqing, who was being put into the carriage by Luo Xueyan, and a trace of coldness flashed across her eyes. "Of course not. I'm more than happy to see such a smart person."

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Not long after Chang Zaiqing left, Shen Xin and the others returned. Luo Xueyan told them about Chang Zaiqing. Shen Xin was surprised at first, but then he sighed. When Old General Shen was alive, he often mentioned to Shen Xin that Chang Hu was a loyal and brave person. The Shen family took repaying kindness most seriously. However, after Old General Shen died, the Chang family moved to Liuzhou and there was no news of them for many years. Shen Xin did not expect someone from the Chang family to suddenly appear now. Shen Xin had seen Chang Zaiqing in the past. At that time, Chang Zaiqing was still a little girl. He told her that if she had any difficulties, he could help her.

Chapter 509 Chang Zaiqing (4)

Chang Zaiqing naturally had difficulties, but she did not want to say it in front of the juniors. After dinner, Luo Xueyan was in a hurry to pull Shen Xin back to his room, probably to tell him about what was troubling Chang Zaiqing.

Over the past few days, Shen Qiu had been busy dealing with the matters in the capital. Even Luo Ling, who had just taken a position at the Ministry of War, was very busy. When the two of them were free, they would gather together and talk. As for Luo Tan, she was tired after playing outside for the entire day and returned to her room to rest early. Late at night, only the light in Shen Miao's room was still on.

Seeing that Shen Miao had no intention of going to rest, Jingzhe and Gu Yu thought that she was worried about what happened at Princess Ming An's place today. After everyone left, Shen Miao rubbed her forehead, not turning a page of the book in front of her for a long time.

She was not worried about Princess Ming An at all. After being warned by Huangfu Hao, Princess Ming An would stop causing trouble for the time being. What troubled her was Chang Zaiqing, who dropped in on them all of a sudden.

That day, when she went to the Exiled Immortal Pawnshop to test Ji Yushu, she saw a figure on the way back. At that time, she was taken aback. When she looked closer again, the figure had already disappeared from the crowd. At first, Shen Miao thought that she was mistaken, but now that she thought about it, she wasn't. At that time, she saw Chang Zaiqing.

Some things had already changed, but due to perhaps fate, some people still showed up in the exact timeline as her previous life.

Shen Xin's official career started to go downhill not only because his military power was taken, but also because there were traitors in the mansion. His bravery on the battlefield made him fearless of any problems that might arise. However, in the end, he was forced into a desperate situation by Fu Xiuyi, and a large part of it was not just because of Fu Xiuyi cracked down on the Shen army.

Shen Qiu died because of Jing Chuchu, and the arrival of Chang Zaiqing would eventually cause Luo Xueyan to lose her life.

It was true that Chang Zaiqing was from Liuzhou. At this time in Shen Miao's previous life, Chang Zaiqing also dropped in on the Shen family all of a sudden. At that time, the Shen family had yet to split up. Chang Zaiqing was gentle and friendly. Everyone in the Shen family liked her, including Luo Xueyan.

Luo Xueyan was a general. In the Shen family, Luo Xueyan couldn't get along well with Ren Wanyun and Chen Ruoqiu because they were too scheming. However, after Chang Zaiqing arrived, the two of them became close friends.

Shen Miao used to think that Chang Zaiqing was a good person. At that time, she was already married to Fu Xiuyi. When she came back a few times, she saw Chang Zaiqing and chatted happily with her. Chang Zaiqing was very good at talking. With Chen Ruoqiu, she would talk about poetry, and with Luo Xueyan, she would talk about military strategy. She would also teach Shen Miao about how to win her husband over. She was considerate and could always come up with ideas. Shen Miao liked her very much.

Later, she found out that Chang Zaiqing had never been married until the age of 26 because a young master of a rich family in Liuzhou wanted to make her a concubine. That family was rich and powerful, and no one in Liuzhou dared to challenge them. No matter how outstanding Chang Zaiqing was, no man dared to take the risk to go to the Chang family to propose marriage. After so many years, that family became more and more overboard. Forced to a corner, Chang Zaiqing left home for the capital to seek refuge with her father's old friend.

Shen Miao was very sympathetic to what happened to Chang Zaiqing. She thought that Chang Zaiqing would continue to live in the Shen mansion as a guest until Chen Ruoqiu took out a marriage contract. It was actually a marriage contract between Shen Xin and Chang Zaiqing. It was probably written by Old General Shen and Chang Hu back then.

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However, this marriage contract changed some things.

It was unknown if Chang Zaiqing did not get married for so many years because of being threatened by the rich young master, or because she was keeping her chastity for Shen Xin.

Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan loved each other deeply, so the marriage contract became a little awkward.

At that time, Chang Zaiqing knelt in front of Luo Xueyan and said that she had no intention of marrying Shen Xin. That marriage contract was just a joke by their fathers, and she did not take it to heart. For the rest of her life, she only wanted to live a quiet life and did not want to think about anything else. As for getting married, she had long given up on it. If the Shen family felt that she was an eyesore, she would find a nunnery and be a nun. She would definitely not disturb the Shen family.

How could they turn a blind eye to the daughter of their father's benefactor? Everyone in the Shen family tried to persuade Chang Zaiqing to stay, especially Chen Ruoqiu and Ren Wanyun. In the end, for some reason, Old Madam Shen actually suggested that Shen Xin take Chang Zaiqing as his concubine.

Shen Xin naturally did not agree, and Chang Zaiqing did not agree either, but in the end, it was Luo Xueyan who agreed.

Chang Zaiqing had no choice but to accept the kindness. However, she added that she would not fulfill her duty as a concubine.

At that time, Shen Miao felt that Chang Zaiqing was really sensible. She had no ambition and only wanted to be a concubine. After marrying Fu Xiuyi, Shen Miao was often upset by the concubines sent by the officials, but Chang Zaiqing was nothing like those concubines.

Chang Zaiqing became Shen Xin's concubine in name. She did not have much of a relationship with Shen Xin, and they looked like siblings. However, she had a good relationship with Luo Xueyan. At first, Shen Miao was a little worried, but later, Shen Miao felt that it was good that her mother had someone to talk to.

Not long after, Luo Xueyan got pregnant, so Chang Zaiqing was by her side all day long to take care of her. For some reason, Luo Xueyan had a miscarriage. After the miscarriage, she became depressed and died shortly after.

Shen Xin was in extreme pain, and his hair almost turned all white overnight. As soon as Luo Xueyan died, Shen Xin seemed to have lost his vitality and quickly aged. Later, he was in no mood to fight. When he was set up by Fu Xiuyi, he did not even have the ability to fight back, which gave the second and third branches to take advantage of him.

Why would Luo Xueyan have a miscarriage for no reason at that time. She was a heroine who had fought countless battles. It was strange that she would die of depression. The only person who was with Luo Xueyan all the time was Chang Zaiqing. Shen Miao knew that Chang Zaiqing must have something to do with it.

At that time, Shen Xin had also sent people to investigate, but they could not find any clues. Chang Zaiqing was innocent. Ever since Luo Xueyan died, Shen Xin did not remarry. Chang Zaiqing was still a concubine. However, the first branch of the Shen family needed a woman to manage the household. Very naturally and gradually, Chang Zaiqing became the madam of the first branch. She was gentle and easy to get along with, which helped her rope in all the servants.

This was what Shen Miao felt was the most terrifying.

Chang Zaiqing was very smart. She knew that Shen Xin did not have any place for another woman in his heart, so she did not even attempt to win his heart at all. Instead, she made a move on Luo Xueyan to gain her trust and make her treat her as family. Then, she would stab Luo Xueyan in the back. Words could hurt. As long as a smart person like Chang Zaiqing said a few words "accidentally", she might be able to make Luo Xueyan suffer. When Luo Xueyan was bedridden, Chang Zaiqing had said countless "consoling words" that could kill Luo Xueyan.