

## Venomous 831

### Chapter 831 Wedding Dress (2)

Hearing that, Luo Xueyan glared at Shen Xin and turned to Prince Rui. She said in a gentle tone that Shen Xin hadn't heard in decades, "Jingxing, did you specially come over to give Jiaojiao a wedding dress today?"

"The imperial edict came in a hurry. I don't think Jiaojiao has time to embroider the wedding dress herself. When I came to Ming Qi, my brother asked me to bring the best embroiderer in the Daliang Dynasty. If I meet a girl I like, when I marry her, I have to give her the best wedding dress in the world." He smiled faintly, and his eyes became as gentle as spring. "The wedding dress has been embroidered for three months and is now ready. Now, I'll bring it over for you to see."

Three months? Shen Miao was stunned. She suddenly remembered that a few days ago, Xie Jingxing hugged her and said that he wanted to measure her figure. However, since the wedding dress had been embroidered for three months, he probably already knew her size at that time. Why did he have to hug her then? As expected, he was spouting nonsense again, but she believed him and was taken advantage of! At the thought of this, Shen Miao glared at him angrily. Xie Jingxing smiled.

Luo Xueyan saw their secret interaction and was more and more happy. She couldn't change this marriage even if she wanted to, so she could only comfort herself in different ways. Unexpectedly, when she saw Prince Rui today, she felt that he was not a bad person, so she felt much more relieved. Her daughter had a mature personality unbefitting a girl her age. However, in front of Prince Rui, she behaved like a naughty young girl, and Prince Rui doted on her. Perhaps this marriage was destined by the heavens.

In Luo Xueyan's heart, Prince Rui was at least a thousand times better than Fu Xiuyi.

Just as she was thinking, Shen Qiu shouted from the side, "Three months? The imperial edict was issued not long ago. You're obviously lying. Don't tell me you already knew that you were going to marry my sister three months ago. Also, how did you know my sister's size? No matter how gorgeous the wedding dress is, if it doesn't fit her, she won't wear it!"

Shen Miao also looked at Xie Jingxing. She also wanted to hear how Xie Jingxing would deal with Shen Qiu's question.

Xie Jingxing replied in an experienced manner, "I happened to see Jiaojiao on the street three months ago. At that time, I caught a glimpse of her and made up my mind to marry no one but Jiaojiao. My brother only asked me to give the wedding dress to the girl I love, but he didn't say that I could only give it to her after I married her. Fortunately, in the end, I was able to marry her." At the end of his sentence, his voice was extremely happy. He glanced at Shen Qiu provocatively.

Shen Qiu was clearly not as eloquent as Xie Jingxing.

"As for the size..." Xie Jingxing smiled. "If I want to find it, I can always find it."

He gave Tie Yi a signal. Tie Yi jogged out. Soon, he ran in with a huge box and placed it on the table.

The box was made of incense wood. The faint fragrance of pear blossoms wafted out and smelled refreshing. Everyone couldn't help but surround the table, thinking that the wedding dress was probably inside.

Even though Shen Miao had always been calm, she couldn't help but look forward to it with excitement.

In her previous life, she embroidered the wedding dress bit by bit. She had always been especially meticulous when it came to her marriage with Fu Xiuyi. She also wanted to dress gorgeously. After all, the most beautiful moment in a woman's life seemed to be the moment she became a bride. However, at that time, Fu Xiuyi was still lying low and wanted the wedding to be simple. Therefore, she could only extinguish her desire to dress gorgeously and embroider the wedding dress in a simple style.

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However, she was a young girl who yearned to look beautiful on her wedding day after all, so she thought of a way to embroider a lotus with dark red thread. She also embroidered some peach blossoms in the gauze dress. Because the gauze dress was under the coat, no one could see it. The lotus was embroidered with red thread, so it blended in well with the color of the red dress and ordinary people could not notice it.

She was very proud of her embroidery skill. She thought that at night, in the bridal chamber, when she and Fu Xiuyi lie side by side, she would let him guess and see if he could tell what the pattern of the embroidery was. Fu Xiuyi would eventually see her ingeniousness and slowly like her.

However, in the end, she waited in the bridal chamber for the entire night. She waited until the candle burned out and her heart turned cold, but Fu Xiuyi did not show up. The next morning, she was told that last night, Fu Xiuyi was drunk and stayed in the study. She did not sleep the entire night, but the next morning, she had to enter the palace to pay her respects to the emperor and empress. She made a fool of herself while she was utterly exhausted, which made Fu Xiuyi angry.

Because of that, Fu Xiuyi only touched her after neglecting her for three months.

That wedding dress was the beginning of her pain. From the night of her marriage, countless grievances began to flood her.

Shen Miao had always felt that if one person was good to another, the other person would slowly be touched and reciprocate. Even if she was not reciprocated equally, she would at least receive some good words. However, there was such a person who enjoyed everything given to him by others with a clear conscience and still complained.

She wanted to ask, "Husband, look at this wedding dress closely. Did you find anything?" But in the end, she didn't ask him. The man for whom she embroidered the dress never cast a glance at it.

She was in a daze until she heard Luo Tan's exclamation.

Luo Xueyan reached into the box and slowly took out the dress for everyone to see.

She seemed to be very careful, as if she was afraid of damaging it.

The dress was a very bright red color, and the needlework was meticulously done.

The fabric of the dress was scattered with dazzling golden light. It was unknown if it was sprinkled with gold powder or something, but when these golden things were mixed in, the entire dress seemed to be sparkling.

The red dress was made of sea brocade. It was as thin as a cicada's wing and was scarlet. Outside the red dress that was emitting golden lights, there was a pattern of a dragon and a phoenix embroidered with 12-colored threads. The golden dragon was mighty, and the phoenix was imposing. If one looked carefully, they would find that the eyes of the dragon and phoenix were decorated with small black gems. The dragon scales and phoenix feathers were both decorated with thinly cut cat's eye stones.

There was no need to mention the cape. There were hundreds of pearls scattered on it, dazzling people.

The most attractive thing was still the phoenix crown.

The gold circlet on the crown was decorated with jewelry. The edges were inlaid with gold bars, and there were 12 gems embedded in the middle. Every gem was surrounded by six pearls, and the gems were separated by pearls. Shen Qiu even counted. There were a hundred colorful gems on the entire phoenix crown, and the rubies decorating the eyes of the phoenix were countless.

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Luo Xueyan held the heavy phoenix crown and felt an indescribable feeling in her heart. Even if Prince Rui was putting on an act, it was really beyond her expectations that he would go to such length. This phoenix crown was probably what all the women in Ming Qi dreamed of. It was not inferior to the empress's phoenix crown. She said in a panic, "Jingxing, isn't it a little inappropriate for Jiaojiao to wear this phoenix crown?"

Phoenix was the queen of all birds. Only the empress or princess could wear it. Although Shen Miao was married to Prince Rui and was Prince Rui's consort, she was not a princess. What was carved on the crown should be a colorful peahen instead.

Prince Rui smiled and said, "Madam, don't worry. My brother knows about this phoenix crown. If Jiaojiao marries me, she will be a member of the royal family. It's just a phoenix. She's worthy of it."

Shen Xin looked at Prince Rui thoughtfully. Luo Xueyan was about to say something when she heard Luo Tan shout, "What beautifully embroidered shoes!"

Luo Tan carefully took out an embroidered shoe from the bottom of the wooden box and held it in her palm.

The embroidered shoe was very small and red, but there was also a small phoenix embroidered on the top of the shoe. The surface of the shoe was small to begin with, and it was very difficult to embroider an entire phoenix. Moreover, the feathers of the phoenix were decorated with small gems. However, the soles of the shoes also had patterns. There was a lotus flower spreading out, indicating that lotuses would bloom with every step. At the top of the shoe, there were two round and big pearls.

Shen Miao was slightly stunned.

The pearls of the southern sea were very precious. Most harvesters could only pick pearls from the shallow sea, because it was very dangerous to salvage pearls from the deep sea. Only the most skilled pearl hunters could enter the deep sea. Even so, it was still not easy to find such pearls.

Shen Miao remembered that Consort Xu, who was the most favored now, only had one. She wore it on her head every day to show that she was different. If she found out that there were two such pearls embedded in a pair of shoes, she would probably be crazy with jealousy.

Shen Xin was silent for a moment before saying slowly, "It's very considerate of you."

This kind of extravagance and exquisite wedding dress was unseen in Ming Qi. Prince Rui did not have to do this, but he did. No matter what, with this outfit, on the day his daughter married, what she received would not be mockery but envy of everyone.

Prince Rui smiled. "As long as Jiaojiao is happy."

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. Looking at the exquisite phoenix crown and red embroidered shoes, she thought that wearing them, she would definitely look glamorous.

She had never worn such gorgeous clothes in her previous life.

In her previous life, when she married Fu Xiuyi, Fu Xiuyi had yet to make a name for himself. Simplesness was her usual style. Later, when Fu Xiuyi ascended the throne, she became a hostage of the State of Qin, so it was more impossible for her to wear gorgeous clothes. When she returned, there was already a beautiful and smart Consort Mei in the palace. Compared to Consort Mei who was charming, she was clumsy and dull. As the empress, she had to be solemn and no-nonsense. She was a young woman at that time, but compared to Consort Mei, she appeared to be many years older.

Her girlhood seemed to have ended the night she married Fu Xiuyi. What followed was pain and forced maturity.

Was Xie Jingxing sent by the heavens to fulfill her wish in her previous life? Shen Miao smiled.

Perhaps this was also fate.

After seeing the wedding dress, even the picky Shen Qiu had nothing to say.

#### Chapter 834 Wedding Dress (5)

To be honest, if it were Shen Qiu, he would not be able to make such an exquisite and expensive wedding dress. Although he would also give everything he had to the girl he loved, he could not do it. Prince Rui could do it because he was Prince Rui. That was it.

Shen Qiu couldn't help but look at Shen Miao. If Shen Miao followed such a person and lived a comfortable life, if Prince Rui's personality was really as good as he portrayed, then this marriage would probably be worth it.

After chatting for a while, Luo Xueyan warmly invited Prince Rui to stay for dinner. Prince Rui did not decline and said with a smile, "But I want to talk to Jiaojiao alone. I wonder if it's allowed."

Shen Qiu immediately said, "What do you want to say to my sister? You can just tell me instead. It's the same thing. Let's go out to spar while..."

Luo Xueyan grabbed Shen Qiu's ear and asked him to move aside. She said, "What nonsense are you talking about? Why would Prince Rui compete with a brute like you?" She looked at Prince Rui again with a smile in her eyes and said, "Then let Jiaojiao bring you back to the room. Don't talk for too long. It's about time to eat."

Shen Miao and Shen Qiu were speechless.

The more Luo Xueyan looked at Prince Rui, the more she found him likable. As a prince of the Daliang Dynasty, he actually asked her for her permission before talking to Shen Miao alone. It was obvious that he was good-mannered. Luo Xueyan also wanted to let Shen Miao and Prince Rui stay alone for a while longer. She had seen the secret interactions between the two of them just now. Women knew what women were thinking the best. Shen Miao clearly had some feelings for Prince Rui.

Luo Xueyan went to the kitchen happily. Shen Miao was a little speechless. She glanced at Xie Jingxing and said, "Come to my courtyard with me."

Shen Qiu also wanted to follow. Shen Miao turned around and said, "Brother, don't come."

Shen Qiu widened his eyes in disbelief. "Sister!"

"Cousin Qiu." Luo Tan grabbed the corner of his shirt. "Don't be the third wheel." She looked at the absent-minded Luo Ling. "If you want to spar, spar with Cousin Ling."

Luo Ling came back to his senses and smiled bitterly. He said, "Cousin, if you want to spar, I'm in."

Shen Qiu felt extremely aggrieved. He naturally had to test Shen Miao's future husband. How could he let his sister marry someone simply because of some sweet-nothings? Women were indeed gullible. He looked at Shen Xin and said unhappily, "Father, are we going to let that kid off just like that?"

With his head lowered, Shen Xin seemed to be thinking about something. When he heard that, he glanced at Shen Qiu. "After dinner, spar with him and test his martial arts."

Shen Qiu's eyes lit up. He rubbed his palms and said, "Yes!"

As expected, Shen Xin was on the same side as him. He had to show Prince Rui that the woman of the Shen family was not easy to marry!

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Shen Miao brought Xie Jing to her courtyard. Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang were taking care of the flowers and plants. When they saw Shen Miao return with a man, they were shocked. It was only when Gu Yu and Jingzhe greeted Prince Rui that the maids came back to their senses and bowed.

Shen Miao brought Xie Jing to the bedroom.

She was not afraid of people gossiping. After all, this was not the first time Xie Jingxing had come to her room. He came to drink tea and eat snacks every few days and knew the Shen mansion like the back of

his hand. When she turned around, she saw Xie Jingxing looking around. She couldn't help but ask, "It's not your first time here. What's there to see?"

#### Chapter 835 Wedding Dress (6)

"This is the first time I've entered through the front door." Xie Jingxing smiled and sat down at the table. He looked at her and said, "It feels good to enter through the front door."

Shen Miao mocked, "Are you complaining that I didn't invite you in from the front door in the past?"

"Smart." Xie Jingxing drank the tea.

"Because you came uninvited everytime." Shen Miao gritted her teeth.

Xie Jingxing smiled at her. "Madam treats me very well today, and so does Cousin Tan."

Shen Miao rolled her eyes. That was because they had never seen Xie Jingxing's cruel side. If they did, they would not be so nice to him.

She asked, "What do you have to say to me?"

"Regarding what you asked me to investigate last time, I found something," Xie Jingxing said.

Shen Miao had been so busy these days that she forgot what she asked Xie Jingxing to investigate. She asked in confusion, "What is it?"

Xie Jingxing's eyes flashed. "Pei Lang's news."

Shen Miao was enlightened. Thinking that there had been no news of Pei Lang for a long time, she became really anxious and asked, "What did you find out? Did something happen to him?"

"Are you very worried about him?" Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow.

"He works for me." Shen Miao frowned.

"Alright." Xie Jingxing shrugged. "He's not doing well now. Fu Xiuyi seems to have discovered his identity and locked him up in the dungeon of Prince Ding's mansion. He tortured him to force him to tell the truth."

Shen Miao's heart tightened slightly. She said, "Is he still alive?"

"Fu Xiuyi didn't get the answer he wanted. He won't let him die so easily," Xie Jingxing said. After saying that, he stared at Shen Miao and said, "You don't seem worried that he will betray you at all?"

"He won't," Shen Miao replied.

Xie Jingxing frowned slightly.

Shen Miao thought that although Pei Lang was sometimes too rational, his loyalty was not questionable. In her previous life, Pei Lang had been loyal to Fu Xiuyi from the beginning to end. Later, Prince Zhou and the others also wanted to poach him from Fu Xiuyi. At that time, Prince Zhou and the others had the upper hand and could give Pei Lang more than Fu Xiuyi, but Pei Lang had never wavered.

Pei Lang was a very principled person. Sticking to his principle was above everything else in his heart. In her previous life, he helped Fu Xiuyi secure the throne and did his best to make use of everyone Fu Xiuyi could use, including Shen Miao. Later on, in order to save Fu Ming and Wanyu, Shen Miao knelt down and begged Pei Lang for help, but Pei Lang was unmoved. He even watched the Shen family fall to their demise. Shen Miao couldn't think of a second person who was as loyal as Pei Lang.

From the beginning, Fu Xiuyi had been annoyed with her. After they got married, he was mostly cold to Shen Miao. Apart from the occasional concerned greetings to fulfill his responsibility as a husband, most of the time, Shen Miao lived alone in Prince Ding's mansion. Shen Miao wanted to please Fu Xiuyi and knew that Pei Lang was the person Fu Xiuyi valued the most. She asked Pei Lang to teach her, hoping to make Fu Xiuyi look at her in a different light.

Pei Lang taught her patiently and never showed annoyance. It was all thanks to him that she knew the situation of Ming Qi very well.

It could be said that Pei Lang was her teacher in both of her lives.

Therefore, Shen Miao did not suspect that Pei Lang would betray her.

"Fu Xiuyi is an expert when it comes to torturing people." Shen Miao revealed a rare trace of anxiety. "Especially for people who betray him. Once he finds such a person, he will never trust him and will kill him without mercy. In order to get an answer, Fu Xiuyi might keep his life for now, but that doesn't mean he won't eventually kill him. If he's chopped into pieces..." Shen Miao shuddered.

Shen Miao had seen with her own eyes how Fu Xiuyi treated people who betrayed him. She had also seen with her own eyes what kind of a place the dungeon was.

From that moment onward, apart from love, she also felt dread and fear towards Fu Xiuyi.

After all, it was really difficult not to feel a chill run down the spine to witness such a cruel side to a seemingly amiable person

Xie Jingxing's eyes darkened. "Why do you know so well how Fu Xiuyi treats traitors?"

If it were in the past, Shen Miao would have noticed that she said something she shouldn't. However, at this moment, she was hung up on trying to save Pei Lang, so she couldn't care less. She thought for a moment and looked at Xie Jingxing. "You have a way to save him, right?"

Xie Jingxing put the cup down and said, "Why should I save him?"

Shen Miao looked at him. His gaze was sharp and firm, making people tremble.

"Because there's no reason to stand by and do nothing."

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Xie Jingxing fell silent.

Shen Miao knew that this reason was not convincing. Before she worked with Pei Lang, she and Pei Lang basically had nothing to do with each other. Even in Guangwen Hall, they did not get to interact much.

The fact that she actually put so much faith in someone she barely knew made it hard for others not to find it strange.

Xie Jingxing was not a careless person. He was good at paying attention to all the details that were ignored and had a sharp intuition.

However, there were many things that Shen Miao couldn't explain. She could not possibly tell him everything about her previous life. Not to mention whether Xie Jingxing would believe her or not, even she would find it unbelievable.

Shen Miao thought that Xie Jingxing would continue to ask, but he nodded and said, "Sure."

Shen Miao was stunned for a moment before heaving a sigh of relief.

The most comforting thing about interacting with Xie Jingxing was that before they became friends, Xie Jingxing would think of a way to find out all the secrets about her. However, after becoming friends, he respected her and would not force her to say what she was unwilling to say.

Of course, perhaps he could figure it out through his own method.

"However." Xie Jingxing pondered for a moment and said, "There are many guards in Prince Ding's mansion. It's not that easy to save someone under Fu Xiuyi's nose."

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. "You want to do it yourself?"

"Otherwise?" His tone was neither happy nor angry, but it carried an inexplicable meaning. "I don't dare to let anything happen to the person you personally asked me to save."

Shen Miao looked at him worriedly. Xie Jingxing's identity was already discovered by Princess Rong Xin and Su Mingfeng. However, the two of them still had some feelings for Xie Jingxing, but Fu Xiuyi was different. If Fu Xiuyi discovered Xie Jingxing's identity, he would definitely use it to his advantage.

"You... be careful." Shen Miao said, "I don't want to become a widow right after marrying you."

Xie Jingxing said, "How can you curse yourself like that?" He smiled ambiguously. "Don't worry, you won't become a widow."

Shen Miao didn't know what to say. She thought that he must be bluffing her again. Xie Jingxing was a cautious person, so he probably wouldn't do it himself. She was thinking too much.

After chatting for a while, Luo Xueyan's maid came over to tell them that lunch was ready. Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing walked out and had lunch with the rest of the Shen family harmoniously. Back then, Xie Jingxing even managed to make the no-nonsense Princess Rong Xin laugh, let alone Luo Xueyan, who liked to smile. He was knowledgeable and polite. Even Luo Ling could not help but agree with some of his opinions.

Even a picky person like Shen Xin found it hard to not like such a talented man. Shen Qiu was eager to spar with Prince Rui. Halfway through the meal, he said, "I'm full. Brother-in-law, I'll spar with you later. We men can't sit all day long. We have to get some exercise."



Shen Miao put down her chopsticks. Luo Xueyan scolded, "Shen Qiu, are you itching for a beating? Do you want to spar with me?"

"Mother." Shen Qiu said aggrievedly, "Don't interfere with the matters of us young people." He looked at Prince Rui and suddenly thought of something. "Oh, I almost forgot to ask. Brother-in-law, you know martial arts, right?"

"A little bit." Xie Jingxing smiled at him.

Shen Qiu said seriously, "That's good. After all, you are from the royal family. I think the martial arts master hired to train you is not bad. Don't worry, I'll definitely go easy on you. However, I've been in the army for a long time and sparred with soldiers every day. If I accidentally hurt you..." He cupped his hands. "I hope you won't take it to heart."

#### Chapter 837 Saving Pei Lang (2)

From his expression and tone, one could tell that he couldn't wait to get moving. If not for the fact that the meal had yet to finish at this moment, he would immediately pull Prince Rui out to spar.

Luo Tan and Luo Ling watched silently. Luo Tan was also very curious about Prince Rui's martial arts. The world knew very little about Prince Rui. In the past, people only knew that everyone in the royal family of the Daliang Dynasty was beautiful, and Prince Rui was no exception. However, his martial arts were never mentioned, so he should not be outstanding in that aspect.

However, Luo Tan trusted her intuition. The last time she went to Prince Rui's mansion to ask him for help, she felt that Prince Rui was clearly a very powerful person.

Between Shen Qiu and Prince Rui, who would win? Luo Tan was excited to watch the show.

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Luo Xueyan was so angry that she wanted to beat up Shen Qiu now. However, Prince Rui was here, so she had to restrain her temper. She could only look at Shen Xin and say threateningly, "Aren't you going to do something?"

Unexpectedly, Shen Xin, who had always been obedient to Luo Xueyan, did not even look up. He took a bite of food and swallowed it before saying indifferently, "Let's not be a busybody. Let the young people settle their own matters."

Shen Qiu did not have the guts to provoke Luo Xueyan's patience time and time again. Shen Miao could tell that it was obvious that Shen Xin was backing Shen Qiu up. Did Shen Xin want to test Xie Jingxing's martial arts?

Shen Miao looked up at Xie Jingxing beside her. As if noticing her gaze, Xie Jingxing turned his head and smiled.

How could this person cause so much trouble every time he showed up? Shen Miao was really impressed.

With Shen Xin's permission, if Luo Xueyan stopped Shen Qiu this time, it would make her look unreasonable. Therefore, after lunch, Shen Qiu couldn't wait to pull Xie Jing to the empty space in the courtyard.

Luo Xueyan was afraid that something would happen, so she could only follow. Shen Xin naturally had to go and watch. Luo Tan pulled Luo Ling along to watch the show, and Shen Miao had no choice but to go. Therefore, a crowd gathered in the courtyard.

Afraid that Prince Rui would be hurt, Luo Xueyan warned Shen Qiu to go easy on him.

Shen Qiu nodded but didn't take it to heart. He excitedly instructed his subordinates to bring a row of weapons and asked, "Brother-in-law, which one do you want? Choose first!"

There were spears, halberds, iron rods, scimitars, whips, huge hammers, swords... and even a few huge axes.

The weapons looked extremely cumbersome and were not easy to wield.

Luo Xueyan was so angry that she wanted to beat Shen Qiu up.

Prince Rui narrowed his eyes.

Shen Qiu said proudly, "Brother-in-law, these weapons are extremely suitable. Feel free to choose."

Shen Miao was speechless.

For some reason, although Shen Qiu was a cold and unyielding general, compared to Xie Jingxing today, he looked so clumsy, almost like a child.

Shen Miao could almost guess how funny her brother looked to Xie Jingxing.

Xie Jingxing glanced at the weapons and casually picked up a short dagger.

"This?" Shen Qiu was stunned. He did not expect Xie Jing to choose a short dagger and say meaningfully, "Brother-in-law, you have good taste. Not many people dare to pick a dagger. Don't choose it because it's light. Why don't you choose this sword? Although it's a little rusty, it's not heavy. You can wield it."

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"Thank you, Brother." Xie Jingxing smiled. "Short dagger will do just fine."

Shen Qiu snorted. "Then don't blame me for not reminding you. The weapon you chose is really too lousy."

Xie Jingxing smiled.

Although he was wearing a mask, the smile on his lips always seemed to be mocking and could easily provoke people. Shen Qiu immediately picked up a spear and pointed it at Xie Jingxing.

Luo Xueyan covered her face.

"Let's not waste time, Brother," Xie Jingxing said politely.

"You sure can talk big. Let me see what you are made of," Shen Qiu rushed over with his spear.

Many years later, the mighty young general Shen became the mighty old general Shen. His life was filled with military achievements that made countless people envious. He had won countless battles and was known as the God of War. He was respected and admired by all martial artists... However, he still remembered this afternoon clearly. This would become an indelible memory... and humiliation for him.

Before anyone could see what was going on, Shen Qiu rushed over with his spear. The two of them quickly engaged in a fight and then separated. Shen Qiu's spear fell to the ground, and Prince Rui held the dagger between two fingers and placed it firmly on Shen Qiu's neck.

Everyone in the Shen family was dumbfounded.

Prince Rui let go and played with the dagger in his fingers. He looked at Shen Qiu with a faint smile and said, "Thank you for letting me win, Brother."

Shen Qiu's face immediately turned red from embarrassment.

Everyone in the Shen family looked at each other, not understanding what was going on. Luo Tan muttered, "Cousin Qiu... lost?"

Everyone was shocked.

Among the younger generation of Ming Qi, Shen Qiu's martial arts were ranked among the top three. Firstly, he had been personally taught by Shen Xin since he was young. The Shen family had been a military family for generations, and there were many martial arts books stored in their house. Shen Qiu had accumulated a lot of knowledge. Secondly, when Shen Qiu was young, he had been brought along by Shen Qiu to fight on the battlefield.

However, Shen Qiu's spear was actually knocked off by Prince Rui. Prince Rui's dagger was still pressed against Shen Qiu's neck.

Shen Qiu gritted his teeth. He was indignant, but he had no choice but to say, "I admit defeat."

Luo Tan was the first to clap and shout, "Brother-in-law, you're amazing! You can beat my Cousin Qiu. You're now the best in Ming Qi!"

Luo Ling quickly covered Luo Tan's mouth. Luo Tan was Shen Qiu's cousin after all, but she was cheering for outsiders. Shen Qiu would probably be even sadder when he heard that. He looked at Luo Xueyan uneasily, thinking that Luo Xueyan must be unhappy that her son had lost. Unexpectedly, when he turned around, he saw that Luo Xueyan had already walked quickly to Prince Rui's side and said, "Jingxing, are you so good at martial arts?"

"I've been practicing martial arts since I was young, but it's mostly for performance." Prince Rui smiled and said, "Unlike Brother Qiu who used martial arts in real battles."

"You don't have to be so humble." Luo Xueyan said, "If you have the ability to be proud of yourself, you should be proud of yourself. This is what a young man should be like."

Shen Miao was speechless, thinking to herself that Xie Jingxing was already the proudest person in the world. Humble was definitely not the word to describe him.

Luo Xueyan and Luo Tan asked Xie Jingxing many questions about martial arts. Xie Jingxing's attitude was just right, and he seemed to know everything. Luo Xueyan was pleasantly surprised. After Xie Jingxing left, everyone dispersed. Luo Xueyan even muttered, "Prince Rui is not bad. Not to mention his status, just his courage, talent, appearance, and character are outstanding in the world."

#### Chapter 839 Saving Pei Lang (4)

"How can you tell what he looks like with a mask on?" Shen Qiu said, "Mother, you're too biased. What if he has a scar on his face and is very ugly? Besides, how can you tell his character? I don't think he's a good person."

"What do you know?" Luo Xueyan said, "He's giving off a gentle and scholarly vibe. His bearing is good. Even if his face is really not that good-looking, his bearing can make up for it. Besides, I've seen more people than you have. I can tell his character just by looking at him. It's not something you can pretend."

Shen Qiu pouted. "You're just biased."

"Shen Qiu, have you had enough for today?" Luo Xueyan glared at him. When she thought of what had happened previously, she was immediately furious. "Why are you targeting him? If you have the time to be jealous of others, why don't you practice your martial arts? If word gets out that you lost to someone, what will your subordinates look at you?"

Shen Qiu quickly said, "I understand, Mother. I'll go and find Father to practice martial arts now! Immediately! Right away!" As he spoke, he fled.

Luo Xueyan looked at the wooden box on the table. Shen Miao's wedding dress was inside. She thought that she had to lock such expensive clothes before she could feel relieved. She picked up the box and was about to put it in the storeroom when she saw that there seemed to be a compartment on the lid of the box.

Suspicion rose in her heart. She opened the compartment and a small booklet wrapped in red cloth immediately fell out.

On the other side, Shen Qiu was talking to Shen Xin.

"Father, that Prince Rui has definitely been practicing martial arts for more than a few years. From the looks of it, he must have been practicing martial arts since he was young. Otherwise, it's impossible for him to defeat me in a few moves." Shen Qiu thought for a moment and said, "Besides, his moves are very ruthless, even more so than the soldiers. Logically speaking, a member of the royal family doesn't have to learn ruthless moves." After saying that, he said hatefully, "I let my guard down this time. Next time I spar with him, I'll definitely beat him up!"

Shen Xin waved his hand and said, "Enough, you're not his match."

"Father!" Shen Qiu was stunned. "Don't tell me you think poorly of me just because I made a mistake! I really let my guard down this time. I didn't know he was hiding his ability! I..."

"This is not all he's hiding." Shen Xin interrupted him with a complicated expression.

"Father?" Shen Qiu was puzzled. "What do you mean? Is he hiding something else from us? Is he a bad person?"

“Alright, just leave.” Shen Xin said, “Don’t let your imagination run wild. Practice your martial arts well.”

Shen Qiu didn’t know what to say.

He had only lost once. Why did everyone look at him like he was a weak scholar?

Shen Qiu left angrily. He planned to go to the drill ground to spar with others every day from today onwards. However... Before Shen Qiu left, he couldn’t help but glance at Shen Xin and saw that Shen Xin looked very worried.

Shen Xin was indeed very worried. At this moment, this worry was gradually magnified in his heart, to the point where he could not hide it. He wanted to do something to divert his attention, but the more he did this, the more he thought about it.

However, he could not tell anyone. If he told anyone, it would cause a huge change in the current situation.

He asked Shen Qiu to test Prince Rui’s martial arts because he wanted to see if Prince Rui was qualified to be the son-in-law of the Shen family. Before today, Prince Rui was just a name. The Shen family had no clue what kind of a person he was. They treated Prince Rui as an ambitious person with evil intentions.

#### Chapter 840 Saving Pei Lang (5)

However, today, seeing that Luo Xueyan and Prince Rui were chatting happily, Shen Xin, who knew his wife the best, knew that his wife was very satisfied with Prince Rui.

If Prince Rui wanted to become the son-in-law of the Shen family, he had to go through all kinds of harsh tests.

Martial arts was one among them. He did not need to be peerless in martial arts, but he had to be able to protect Shen Miao. As a husband, if his wife was in danger, at least he could protect her.

This was what Shen Xin thought. Unexpectedly, this spar revealed much more than they expected.

The juniors could not see it, but he and Luo Xueyan could, especially Shen Xin. He could even see the moves the two of them used when they were confronting each other. Shen Xin had once seen someone use the throat lock move Prince Rui did with his dagger.

It was Xie Ding.

The Shen family and the Xie family did not get along for generations. The Shen family believed in commanding the army by rules, while the Xie family believed that in war, one had to be flexible and unpredictable. They had been competing for many generations. In Shen Xin’s generation, it had become almost like a matter-of-fact thing. As for why the two families were at loggerheads with each other, no one actually knew.

The person who understood you the most was not your friend, but your enemy. From a young age, Shen Xin had been secretly competing with Xie Ding. The Shen family was good at using spears, while Xie Ding’s mastery of dagger was envied by many people. Dagger was the most suitable weapon used to assassinate the enemy general. Just think about it, when you were fighting with the enemy general on

the horse, if you could pull out a dagger suddenly and stab in the throat of the enemy. How terrifying was that?

With this move, Xie Ding won almost every battle.

Xie Ding did not pass this move on to anyone else. He only passed it on to his only legitimate son, Xie Jingxing, and never to his two illegitimate sons. When Xie Jingxing was in a confrontation with others when he was young, he also used this move. At that time, Shen Xin happened to see him doing it. He was surprised that Xie Jingxing could use this move so well at such a young age. Xie Jingxing even made improvements on this move to make it more ruthless.

Today, when Prince Rui confronted Shen Qiu, he used this move.

Or rather, Xie Jingxing used a move that had been modified by himself. The angle was exactly the same, but for some reason, it was slower than before. It was almost as if he was deliberately letting Shen Xin see it.

Shen Xin could not hide the shock on his face at that moment. Apart from remaining silent, he did not know what to do.

Xie Jingxing was already dead on the battlefield in the northern border two years ago. However, how could Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty use the throat-lock dagger move developed by Xie Jingxing in the exact same way?

Even if two people accidentally learned the same thing, there would still be some difference.

Therefore, a strange thought appeared in Shen Xin's mind. Could Prince Rui be Xie Jingxing?

But Xie Jingxing was already dead!

On the one hand, Shen Xin felt that this thought was unbelievable and laughable, but on the other hand, he could not help but think about it. He even felt that when Prince Rui was competing with Shen Qiu, Prince Rui was deliberately slowing down just so he could see it clearly.

Did Prince Rui want to tell him something?

Shen Xin was uncertain, and he could not tell anyone. He thought that it was better to investigate first.