

Venomous 961

Chapter 961 Interrogation (6)

"Let me ask you one more time. Are you going to help or not?" Shen Miao asked.

Pei Lang pondered for a moment and said, "The situation the Ye family is in is very delicate now. The Daliang Dynasty's emperor wants to use the Ye family to deal with the Lu family. The Ye family has no children, so it's easier to control. However, if they have children, the situation will be completely different."

"The Ye family might change sides, or they might fight with the Lu family, or they might join forces with the royal family to deal with the Lu family. The appearance of Ye Mei and Ye Ke is an extremely unstable variable. The attitude of the royal family towards the Ye family will also affect the attitude of the Ye family towards the royal family. At this time, the royal family should not act rashly and should be even more polite to the Ye family. You are the princess consort of Prince Rui, and Prince Rui is the brother of the emperor. You are tied to the royal family. If you want the Ye siblings to die, the Daliang Dynasty's emperor will be the first to disagree."

Shen Miao stared at him. "I naturally know this. That's why I want you to think of a way to get the royal family to take the initiative to deal with the Ye family."

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"Whoever makes a move first will lose. The royal family is watching, and so is the Ye family. If you want the lives of the Ye siblings, you have to find fault with the Ye family first and get something on them. It's best if you can start a war between the Ye family and the royal family."

Shen Miao asked, "What about the Lu family?"

Pei Lang was stunned.

"What if I instigate a war between the Lu family and the Ye family?"

Pei Lang shook his head. "You... want to protect Prince Rui, right? However, I have to advise you that it's impossible to have the best of both worlds. The Lu family is not a fool. At this time, they won't take the initiative to fall out with the Ye family."

Shen Miao said, "I understand."

"Are you really going to risk falling out with the royal family just to deal with the Ye family?" Pei Lang frowned. "If you're really going against the royal family, then Prince Rui and you..." Pei Lang did not continue. Although he was also very puzzled by Shen Miao's attitude towards Ye Mei and Her brother, he didn't think the hatred was so great that Shen Miao was even willing to die with them.

What exactly did the Ye siblings do?

"I don't have a second choice." Shen Miao lowered her eyes. "Maybe I'm not fated to be part of the royal family." In her previous life and this life, she could not escape the fate of dying in the hands of the royal family. But so what?

"How do you plan to sow discord between them?" Pei Lang asked.

"That's what I want to discuss with you," Shen Miao said.

The battlefield in the Daliang Dynasty was different from the one in Ming Qi. She was not familiar with the forces in Long Ye. She could not consult with Xie Jingxing now, but she was unwilling to let her enemy live well under her nose. After thinking about it, she decided to rely on Pei Lang.

Pei Lang was strategically minded. He was best at analyzing the situation in the imperial court. Even if the Ye siblings had a huge backer behind them, she would still take them down along with their backer.

This discussion lasted until late at night.

When Shen Miao returned to her courtyard, it was already very late. She pushed open the door and entered the house. Just as she was about to take off her outer clothes, she suddenly paused and turned around. Xie Jingxing was sitting at her desk with his arms crossed, flipping through a book in boredom.

"Why are you here?" Shen Miao asked, "You... can get out of bed now?"

Today, Xie Jingxing went to see Li Mei and her brother. Shen Miao did not want to think about the siblings, nor did she want to go. She was afraid that as soon as she saw them, she couldn't control her hatred, but she did not expect Xie Jingxing to come looking for her.

Xie Jingxing smiled lazily and did not answer her. He said, "Why are you back so late?"

"I couldn't fall asleep." Shen Miao said, "So I walked around."

Xie Jingxing tossed the book in his hand on the table and said, "Oh? Didn't you go to have tea with Pei Lang?"

From the looks of it, he was here to question her.

Shen Miao was preoccupied with the matters of the Ye family. She asked with a frown, "What do you want to say?"

"Half a month," Xie Jingxing said.

Shen Miao stared at him.

He also stared at her with a complicated gaze that made Shen Miao's heart skip a beat. He said, "I've been awake for half a month, but you've only come to see me once."

"Have you forgotten that you're Princess Consort Rui and my wife?" he said.

Shen Miao did not speak because she didn't know how to explain.

However, Xie Jingxing stared at her, his gaze showing disappointment and anger. He said, "I waited for you here for the entire night, and you were drinking tea and playing chess with Pei Lang. Shen Miao, do you like that scholar?"

Shen Miao suddenly felt inexplicably angry. She couldn't sleep at night because Xie Jingxing was involved in this matter, so she couldn't make a move and let a good opportunity slip. When she was already

frustrated, Xie Jingxing accused her of things she didn't do. She said, "What does that have to do with you?"

Xie Jingxing pulled Shen Miao over in front of him. He pulled so hard that Shen Miao almost fell. Xie Jingxing held her chin and said word by word, "You are my wife. Remember that."

Shen Miao frowned and said, "Maybe we formed an alliance too rashly."

Xie Jingxing paused and looked at her deeply. "Maybe?"

He suddenly let go and stood up. With his back facing Shen Miao, he said indifferently, "Is your heart made of iron? Is scheming and plotting all you care about?"

"Perhaps, you've never liked me from the beginning to the end, right?" he said indifferently.

Chapter 962 Good Intention (1)

Xie Jingxing left.

Shen Miao sat alone at the table. Jingzhe walked in. Just now, the two people inside did not deliberately lower their voices, so she heard every word. She said nervously, "Madam, you're too cold to His Highness."

Shen Miao did not speak. Jingzhe continued, "Before Madam married His Highness, you treated His Highness better than now. These days, it seems like you are deliberately avoiding him. People who are sick are especially sensitive, especially His Highness, who escaped death this time. If you don't show concerns about His Highness, he will inevitably feel sad. When you go and talk to him for a while tomorrow, he should be fine. Madam, don't worry."

Shen Miao said, "I understand. You can leave."

Only then did Jingzhe leave.

After Jingzhe left, Shen Miao pressed her forehead. In all fairness, Xie Jingxing was innocent. The sentence "Actually, from the beginning to the end, you never liked me, right?" made her shiver.

Shen Miao could no longer remember when she fell in love with Xie Jingxing. Perhaps it was when he saved her life at Lake Wanli, or perhaps it was when he took off his mask in front of Princess Rong Xin, or perhaps it was on the day of the wedding when he reached out a hand to her on the horseback, or perhaps it was way earlier than that.

The feeling of being in love was too alien to her. In her previous life, she had only been in love with Fu Xiuyi, and the price she paid was heavy. After learning from the previous lesson, she did not dare to love anyone rashly. Even if she wanted to learn to love again, she was still very careful and calculated the gains and losses. However, Xie Jingxing was different. He was generous in giving his love. What the two of them contributed to make this marriage happening was not equal. However, Shen Miao thought that she had also done everything she could.

Now, because she was in love with Xie Jingxing, she couldn't deal with Consort Mei without scruples. Instead, she had to take Xie Jingxing into consideration.

As for Xie Jingxing? He was probably extremely disappointed in her.

She sat at the table. The herb that she had obtained from the Daoist priest was locked in a box and was casually thrown to the side. Because no one cleaned it these days, it was covered in a thin layer of dust.

In the next few days, Prince Rui's mansion was quite desolate.

Seeing that Xie Jingxing's poison had almost been removed, Gao Yang took Luo Tan somewhere.

Madam Ji and Ji Yushu also returned to the Ji mansion. As long as Xie Jingxing was fine, there was no point in them staying in Prince Yu's mansion.

For some reason, Pei Lang seemed to have caught a cold, so he rested in his room and did not go out.

Therefore, Shen Miao was suddenly left alone. The servants of Prince Rui's mansion could also tell that Xie Jingxing and Shen Miao seemed to be having a quarrel. For a moment, everyone in Prince Rui was on tenterhooks, and the atmosphere was even more tense than when Xie Jingxing was unconscious.

At this moment, someone from the Ye family came to pick up Ye Mei and Ye Ke.

The Ye family seemed to know that Shen Miao did not like Ye Mei and Ye Ke. From the beginning to the end, they did not mention this to Shen Miao.

Chapter 963 Good Intention (2)

However, as Princess Consort Rui, Shen Miao still had to go and see the Ye family.

In the main hall, Madam Ye was talking to Ye Ke. Ye Mei sat at the side and smiled. Ye Maocai raised his head slightly, as if he was saying something, and in front of him sat Xie Jingxing.

Xie Jingxing was wearing a silver-purple robe. Perhaps because his injuries were not fully healed, his sitting posture was lazy. He listened to Ye Maocai with a faint smile, but no one could tell what he was thinking.

When Shen Miao came in, the first person to see her was Ye Mei. Ye Mei quickly stood up and bowed to her, but Ye Ke did not move. Now that they were already the children of the Ye family, their statuses had risen, so they naturally did not have to bow to the princess consort like before.

However, when Ye Mei bowed, Shen Miao didn't even look at her. A trace of displeasure flashed across Madam Ye's eyes.

Shen Miao walked to the other side and sat at the head of the table beside Xie Jingxing. Ye Maocai stood up and said, "Princess Consort Rui, thank you for taking care of my children these days."

Shen Miao smiled. "Miss Ye and Young Master Ye are His Highness's saviors. I should be the one thanking them."

Just as Ye Maocai was about to bid goodbye, Shen Miao changed the topic and asked in confusion, "However, how did Miss Li and Young Master Li become Miss Ye and Young Master Ye? It's a little surprising that the family they're looking for is the Ye family."

When she said that, Xie Jingxing was playing with the teacup in his hand. He did not stop her, nor did he echo her, as if he just wanted to watch a show. Ye Maocai was a little uncertain about Xie Jingxing's attitude. He hesitated for a moment and said with a smile, "It happened more than ten years ago. At that time, my wife gave birth to two children, but the midwife was instructed by someone to steal my children and replace them with a baby girl who died prematurely. All these years, we've been investigating in secret. This time, the two of them entered Long Ye, and it was an accident that we found them." Ye Maocai had an honest look and looked like a scholar. When he spoke, people subconsciously found it convincing. He looked at Shen Miao and continued, "Although Mei and Ke saved His Highness, our Ye family are still grateful that we could reunite because of this."

"That's right." Madam Ye smiled. Ever since Shen Miao met Madam Ye, this was the first time she had seen her smile so happily, as if she was happy from the bottom of her heart. No one would suspect that Ye Mei and Ye Ke were her missing children.

However, Shen Miao didn't think so. How did two people from Ming Qi end up becoming people of the Daliang Dynasty in this life? The relationship between them was probably not that simple.

Ye Mei and Ye Ke sat at the side. Ye Mei was beautiful, and Ye Ke was smart. One look and one could tell that they were rare talents. What was even rarer was that they were careful and did not behave rudely and arrogantly simply because they were Prince Rui's savior.

That made sense. Fu Xiuyi was such a smart and cold person. He was so selfish that he did not even hesitate to kill his own children, but he doted on Consort Mei so much. It was obvious that she had tricks up her sleeve.

Chapter 964 Good Intention (3)

"What a coincidence." Shen Miao smiled and said casually, "Qinzhou is not far from Long Ye. The Ye family has been searching for them for more than ten years but to no avail. This time, you found them as soon as they entered Prince Rui's mansion." She looked at Ye Mei. "It's really coincidental, right, Miss Ye?"

Ye Mei smiled. "Indeed. Prince Rui's mansion is a lucky place." She did not seem to understand what Shen Miao was implying.

Shen Miao looked away and at Ye Maocai. "Lord Ye, what brought you here today?"

Ye Maocai quickly said, "I'm here to bring them back home." After saying that, he said in shame, "As a father, it's my fault for failing to take care of the two of them. Now that my family is finally reunited, we naturally can't let them live outside anymore. Today, we'll bring them back and put their names on the genealogy. From now on, they're the descendants of the Ye family." At the end of his sentence, he looked a little excited. Looking at Ye Mei and Ye Ke, his eyes were filled with tears.

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However, Shen Miao felt that this show was lame and boring.

Ye Maocai then exchanged a few words with Xie Jingxing, looking like he wanted to take this opportunity to befriend Xie Jingxing.

The Daliang Dynasty's royal family wanted to rope in the Ye family to deal with the Lu family. The Ye family was in an awkward position. They had always been neutral and did not express their stance. Logically speaking, after Ye Mei and her brother returned to the Ye family, the Ye family would have more confidence to outlast the Lu family and the emperor. However, at this moment, he was clearly expressing good will and his desire to side with Emperor Yong Le. After all, Prince Rui and Emperor Yong Le were close. If he pledged loyalty with Prince Rui, it would be no different from pledging loyalty with Emperor Yong Le.

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. This was naturally not something she wanted to see happening. Once the Ye family really sided with Emperor Yong Le, if she took down the Ye family, she would be undermining Emperor Yong Le's power. Not to mention Emperor Yong Le, even Xie Jingxing would not agree.

However, if she were to form an alliance with the murderer who killed her children, she would hate herself for the rest of her life.

On the other hand, Xie Jingxing's attitude was ambiguous.

He listened to Ye Maocai's words casually and replied indifferently, avoiding the question that would expose his attitude. Ye Maocai and Madam Ye talked for a long time and said everything they had to say, but Xie Jingxing still did not reveal any attitude.

The Ye family thought that if they pledged loyalty to the royal family, the royal family would accept them readily with gratitude. However, Xie Jingxing remained indifferent, as if he was just watching a show. It even made people wonder if he understood the hint in Ye Maocai's words just now.

Ye Maocai and his wife were anxious. It was said that Prince Rui of the Daliang Dynasty was very unfathomable and also very tricky to deal with. They originally wanted to put on airs, but in the end, they made a fool of themselves.

Shen Miao was also a little surprised by Xie Jingxing's attitude. On second thought, there was indeed something fishy about the Ye family suddenly expressing goodwill. Xie Jingxing was not a brainless person, so he naturally had to investigate thoroughly. Shen Miao heaved a sigh of relief. As long as Xie Jingxing did not express the intention to accept the Ye family, it was fine.

Chapter 965 Good Intention (4)

In the end, nothing came out of this conversation. It seemed to be the first time Ye Maocai had met a stubborn person like Xie Jingxing. Seeing that it was getting late, he gave up. He knew that he had come for nothing today, and there was no point in staying any longer. He was about to stand up and leave with Ye Mei and Ye Ke.

Just as Xie Jingxing instructed Uncle Tang to send them off and was about to leave the main hall, Madam Ye seemed to have thought of something and turned around to ask, "In a few days, it will be Prince Rui's birthday, right?"

Shen Miao was stunned. She did not know about Xie Jingxing's birthday. The birthday he spent in Ming Qi was definitely not real. As for his real birthday, she had never heard Xie Jingxing mention it.

Madam Ye, on the other hand, had sharp eyes. When she saw Shen Miao's slightly surprised expression, she smiled and asked, "Why do you look like you don't know?"

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Ye Mei and Ye Ke also stopped in their tracks. Ye Mei looked at Shen Miao with a strange gaze.

As a wife, she did not know her husband's birthday. This... was strange for a married couple.

Xie Jingxing drank tea, as if he did not hear Madam Ye. Shen Miao smiled and said indifferently, "Madam Ye, do you still remember Miss Ye and Young Master Ye's birthday?"

Madam Ye was puzzled. "This..."

Shen Miao did not give her a chance to speak. She smiled and said, "Madam Ye, you'd better think of a way to make up for Miss Ye and Young Master Ye's birthday first." In other words, she was saying "Don't be a busybody and mind your own business".

Madam Ye's expression turned ugly. Ye Maocai seemed to be a little embarrassed. Ye Mei pulled Ye Ke and bowed to Shen Miao before hurriedly leaving.

Looking at their backs as they left, Shen Miao took a deep breath.

In the end, Ye Mei and her brother succeeded. Before she made a move, the Ye family brought them away. From now on, if she wanted to make a move on Ye Mei and Ye Ke, she had to first deal with the Ye family. This was much harder than simply assassinating this pair of siblings.

She was indignant and unhappy.

As she thought about it, she hesitated for a moment before turning back to look at Xie Jingxing. She thought about how she was angry yesterday and took her anger out on him. Perhaps they should really have a serious talk. These days, she had indeed been behaving badly.

However, just as she turned around, she saw Xie Jingxing stand up expressionlessly and walk past her without looking at her. He didn't say a word, like a stranger.

Shen Miao wanted to stop him and say that she had something to tell him, but she couldn't bring herself to say it.

Seeing this, Gu Yu and Jingzhe, who were behind her, looked at each other. The two of them knew that Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing were having a quarrel these days. If the master and madam were not happy, the servants would naturally not be happy. However, just now, Shen Miao clearly wanted to reconcile but she was given the cold shoulder. Xie Jingxing's coldness probably hurt her a lot.

Jingzhe and Gu Yu had been with Shen Miao for so many years, especially in the past two years, they had figured out Shen Miao's personality. Shen Miao was stubborn. With Xie Jingxing treating her like this, she would not take the initiative to make peace again. Jingzhe said in a low voice, "This is bad. We can't let this continue."

Gu Yu also pondered and said, "We have to think of a way."

When Shen Miao returned to the house, the more she thought about it, the more uncomfortable she felt. Xie Jingxing's attitude towards her was really annoying.

Chapter 966 Good Intention (5)

With Xie Jingxing like this, she no longer wanted to talk to him. The two of them were both stubborn. When the two of them were in conflict, neither of them wanted to back down.

Just as she was thinking, someone knocked on the door from outside. It was Ba Jiao.

Ba Jiao placed a plate of pastries on the table with a smile and said, "This is a new pastry made in the kitchen. It's specially made according to the taste in Ming Qi. Madam, try it and see if it suits your taste."

Because Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing were having a quarrel, the servants in the mansion were not having a good time. The people from the Black Feather Army were naturally on their master's side, just like how Jingzhe and Gu Yu were definitely on Shen Miao's side. Ba Jiao and Hui Xiang had long gone back. Shen Miao did not expect Ba Jiao to come again.

Shen Miao looked at her and said, "Do you have something to say to me?"

Ba Jiao immediately smiled and scratched her head. "Madam, Jingzhe and Gu Yu asked me to come over to persuade you."

Shen Miao laughed. "How do you plan to persuade me?"

"They all say that you have a very cold personality. Master was injured and sick for so many days, but you were nowhere to be seen and didn't go to see Master. After Master woke up, you only went to see him once. Everyone feels sorry for Master, so they've been neglecting you these days. Please don't blame them."

Shen Miao shook her head. "What they said is the truth."

"But Madam, you don't have a cold personality." Ba Jiao smiled and said, "You are just not expressive. Otherwise, you wouldn't have brought us to the forest to find that hidden expert and beg for the herb to save Master. But Madam, why didn't you tell Master about this?"

Shen Miao said indifferently, "I'm not the one who saved him, and I didn't use the herb in the end. What's there to talk about?" She had also done many things for Fu Xiuyi in the harem. She practiced frugality and helped Fu Xiuyi win a good reputation. In the end, it still didn't make Fu Xiuyi show mercy on her.

Ba Jiao frowned and said, "But that's your good intention."

Shen Miao looked at her. "Good intention?"

Ba Jiao nodded. "Regardless of whether you saved Master in the end or not, even if that herb didn't come in handy in the end, your intention was good. How could Master know your good intention if you hid it? When you wandered in the forest for the entire night and insisted on walking forward, you did it with good intention. In my opinion, your good intentions are more precious than that herb."

Shen Miao was stunned.

Ba Jiao smiled and said, "Madam, your good intention is more useful than the herb. It can cure Master's illness."

"Do I have to say it out loud to let people know?" Shen Miao lowered her eyes. "If he wants to know, how can he not know?"

Ba Jiao shook her head. "That might be the case for others, but it's different for Master."

"Oh?"

"As you know, Master's life... is not smooth-sailing. The Black Feather Army was established by Master alone, and we've been with Master for a long time. Master has to face schemes every day and be wary of enemies. However, facing his own people, he wanted to let down his guard." Ba Jiao looked at Shen Miao seriously. "Madam, you're his wife, the person closest to him. Master might notice that you are concerned about him, but he won't be sure. He's not doubting you, but himself!"

Chapter 967 Good Intention (6)

He is not doubting you, but himself!

Shen Miao's heart suddenly skipped a beat. She felt as if a flower had bloomed in her heart because of this simple sentence.

"Master will also question himself. He will question if he's done something wrong and if you're dissatisfied with him. With all these doubts added together, he will question your feelings towards him. Do you still want to hide your feelings?"

Shen Miao lowered her eyes slightly, but her heart began to race.

Xie Jingxing was a proud person. He had survived the harshest battlefields and the nastiest schemes. At a young age, a heavy burden was thrown upon him. His family, brothers, and friends were distant and no one believed him. All this made him look like a cynic who didn't care about anything.

However, people tended to forget he also had the sincerity and naivety of a young man, just like how he treated Su Mingfeng, Princess Rong Xin, and even the Marquis of Lin'an.

He was so proud that he refused to tell people everything, but he was doing everything without people knowing. Such a person would not be involved with people like Li Mei and Li Ke in her previous life and this life. She should not have doubted him in the first place. Her distrust came from her lack of confidence in herself.

Shen Miao closed her eyes.

People would always become extremely sensitive when it came to things they cared about the most. She was in love with Xie Jingxing, which was why she was afraid that Xie Jingxing would be involved with Li Mei.

She seemed to have done something wrong. Fortunately, there was still a chance to make up for it.

Seeing the change in Shen Miao's expression, Ba Jiao suddenly smiled. "Madam, I hope you can calm Master down. Master has been very erratic these days. The people of the Black Feather Army are also having a hard time."

Shen Miao nodded and smiled. "I understand."

"But," Ba Jiao hesitated for a moment before asking, "Madam, do you... have a grudge against the siblings of the Ye family?"

Shen Miao was stunned. "Why do you say that?" Everyone in Prince Rui's mansion knew about her cold attitude towards the Ye siblings, and everyone was guessing. However, this was the first time they had met after all. Everyone said that Shen Miao was jealous of Ye Mei's beauty. Although it was ridiculous, they could not find any other reason. It was a surprise that Ba Jiao had a different guess from others.

"You're too cold to that pair of siblings. Master has been getting people to investigate their background these days, but they don't seem to have found anything. So... Madam?"

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. Firstly, she was surprised that Xie Jingxing was actually investigating the background of Ye Mei and her brother in private. Secondly, even Xie Jingxing could not find anything wrong with them, which meant that they might really be innocent.

"You are right." Shen Miao said, "However... This matter is very important. Let's not talk about it for now."

Ba Jiao nodded thoughtfully and looked at Shen Miao with a smile. "It's good that Madam has thought it through. Madam, don't hide your feelings. Master can't tell because he's in a fit of anger. However, when we accompanied Madam to look for the strange Daoist priest that day, we all saw it clearly. Anyone with a discerning eye could tell how concerned you were, so there's no need to hide it." She winked at Shen Miao. "Master's birthday is on the third day of next month. In the past, there would be a banquet at Bixiao Restaurant. It's the same this year. If Madam wants to prepare a birthday gift, you have to hurry up."

Before Shen Miao could speak, Ba Jiao added, "Master is very easy to coax. If you really don't know how, Madam, make a bowl of noodles yourself. I guarantee that Master will calm down! Of course, the most important thing is that you don't hide your feelings!" With that, she ran away.

Shen Miao laughed when she saw the door closing.

She felt much more relaxed than a few days ago.

Since there were some things that could not be avoided, she would face them head-on. For example, the blood feud that could not be reconciled, or... the feelings she had been hiding.

Chapter 968 Birthday (1)

The third day of July was Xie Jingxing's birthday. Everyone in Prince Rui's mansion was busy. It was said that although Xie Jingxing did not like it, Emperor Yong Le would still hold a banquet for Xie Jingxing every year. The more Emperor Yong Le valued Xie Jingxing, the more the officials respected him. The birthday was a day for the officials to curry favor with Xie Jingxing. Early in the morning, the courtyard was already filled with birthday gifts.

Uncle Tang made a name list of people who sent gifts today and showed it to Shen Miao. Although she had been in a conflict with Xie Jingxing these days, Shen Miao was still the princess consort. Shen Miao glanced at it. The list was densely packed with names. Be it high-ranking officials or low-ranking officials, they were all rushing over to curry favor with Xie Jingxing. The Lu and Ye families also sent people to send gifts.

Shen Miao sighed in her heart. Emperor Yong Le and Xie Jingxing were close, so a grand banquet was not unacceptable. If it were in Ming Qi, no official would hold such a grand birthday banquet lest the emperor felt threatened.

As Uncle Tang pointed out to Shen Miao which gifts were to be placed in the storeroom and which could be used directly, he asked Shen Miao, "Madam, don't forget to dress up early today. Tie Yi will send someone to take you to the Bixiao Restaurant."

Shen Miao was puzzled. "Me?"

Uncle Tang smiled and said, "Madam, you are the princess consort and His Highness's wife. You naturally have to go to the banquet." He hesitated for a moment and stammered, "His Highness is angry, but if you don't go today, I don't know when he will cool down, so..."

"I know. I'll go over," Shen Miao said.

Only then did Uncle Tang heave a sigh of relief. He reminded Shen Miao a few more times before leaving.

After he left, Shen Miao finished reading the gift list. Just as she was about to return to the room, Jingzhe came up to her and asked carefully, "Madam, you will definitely go to Bixiao Restaurant tonight, right?"

"Prince Rui's mansion is being watched by others. I've just come to the Daliang Dynasty, and there will definitely be people watching my every move. If I don't go, I will give people a chance to gossip. There is no reason why I shouldn't go."

Jingzhe nodded repeatedly. "That's right. Show them what the princess consort from Ming Qi is made of. It's not like everyone can be a princess consort."

Gu Yu pulled Jingzhe and glared at her. She whispered, "You're exaggerating."

Jingzhe pursed her lips. Seeing that Shen Miao was already walking into the room, she whispered into Gu Yu's ear, "It seems like Madam wants to make peace with Master. She's finally willing to give in."

Gu Yu said, "Don't be too gossipy."

When Shen Miao returned to her room, Jingzhe and Gu Yu followed her in. Gu Yu asked, "Madam, do you want to choose what to wear tonight so that I can do your hair?"

Shen Miao said, "I'll do that later. Grind the ink for me."

Jingzhe and Gu Yu looked at each other. The two of them did not know why Shen Miao wanted to write at this moment. Speaking of which, Shen Miao was not a person who liked to write and paint, but they

would naturally do as their master said. Shen Miao spread out the letter paper, and only then did Gu Yu and Jingzhe understand that she was going to write a letter.

Chapter 969 Birthday (2)

Shen Miao asked Gu Yu, "Cousin Tan will be back soon, right?"

Gu Yu said, "Young Master Gao asked someone to send a message back, saying that they will definitely be in time for the banquet tonight."

Luo Tan and Gao Yang had disappeared for the past few days. Shen Miao was not worried. She knew that Gao Yang would not do anything bad to Luo Tan. Today was Xie Jingxing's birthday. As Xie Jingxing's right-hand man and his friend, Gao Yang naturally had to rush back.

Shen Miao thought for a moment and started to write. She wrote a little hesitantly. After writing two or three sentences, she seemed to think that it was not a good idea, so she quickly crumpled the letter into a ball and threw it away. She started to write again. After writing for a while, she threw it away like before. In the end, she finished writing the letter and handed it to Jingzhe. "When you see Tie Yi later, give this to him and ask him to give it to Xie Jingxing at his birthday banquet tonight."

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Jingzhe widened her eyes. She did not expect this letter to be for Xie Jingxing. She thought that Shen Miao was writing a letter for Shen Xin.

Shen Miao said, "Gu Yu." She took out a piece of paper and wrote a few words before handing it to Gu Yu. "Help me buy these things."

Gu Yu quickly nodded.

The two of them left in a hurry. Shen Miao sat in the room and heaved a sigh of relief.

She rarely backed down to anyone, especially in this life. Her pride did not allow her to lower her head to others. However, this time, she was in the wrong. Moreover, Xie Jingxing was a proud person. Between the two of them, one had to lower their head first.

Xie Jingxing had received enough gifts, and he did not lack money. After thinking about it, she decided to do something simple. She hoped that as Ba Jiao said, Xie Jingxing looked picky on the surface, but he was actually very easy to coax.

Since the Ye family was also going to be present at the banquet, Ye Mei and her brother would also come. Whenever Ye Mei and her brother were around, Shen Miao had to be there to prevent the two of them from getting close to Xie Jingxing.

Time passed quickly. In the blink of an eye, it was evening. The people sent by Tie Yi had already come over to pick Shen Miao up. Jingzhe put the last pearl hairpin on Shen Miao's hair and smiled. "That's enough. Madam will definitely outshine everyone today."

"What difference does it make?" Shen Miao forced a smile and looked at herself in the mirror. Then, she pulled off the pearl hairpin and replaced it with a purple-red jade begonias.

Jingzhe blinked. "This one is indeed better than the hairpin just now!"

The image of the first time Xie Jingxing gave her this jade begonias appeared in Shen Miao's mind. At that time, they were wary of each other and were both suspicious of each other. At that time, Shen Miao did not know Xie Jingxing's background yet. She only felt that he was different from the arrogant young man he was rumored to be in her previous life.

There were too many magical coincidences in life. She and Xie Jingxing had actually become husband and wife and even came to the Daliang Dynasty together. She could never have foreseen this happening. Wearing this jade begonias might help Xie Jingxing cool down and remind him of how much they had been through together and how pointless it was to be in a conflict.

Chapter 970 Birthday (3)

Shen Miao stood up with a smile and said, "Ba Jiao and the others are still waiting outside. Let's go."

The few of them went out together and saw that the carriage was already prepared. Ba Jiao and Hui Xiang were guarding outside. Jingzhe asked curiously, "Is Master not going with us?"

Hui Xiang replied, "His Highness has already gone and asked us to come and pick up Madam."

This made people feel that something was wrong. The prince and the princess consort did not go out together, but one after the other. Anyone with a brain could tell that something must have happened. Jingzhe and Gu Yu were a little indignant for Shen Miao, but Shen Miao said indifferently, "Alright, let's go."

She knew what kind of person Xie Jingxing was. He was a proud person by nature, but at times, he was as stubborn as a child. She did not mind this, but at the thought of her "apology" tonight, she felt nervous.

Bixiao Restaurant was the largest and most expensive restaurant in Long Ye. Not to mention the commoners, even those high-ranking officials would face a lot of difficulty if they wanted to set up a banquet there. Today, the entire restaurant was booked, which was enough to show how rich Price Rui was.

At the head of the table, a young man sat diagonally, listening to everyone's compliments with a casual smile. His purple-gold robe almost covered the entire seat.

There were also women among the guests who came and went. Looking at the young man, they couldn't help but admire him. Prince Rui was young and handsome, and he was elegant and charming. Coincidentally, he was the kind that women were most infatuated with. In addition, he had a noble status and was rich.

Unfortunately, he was already married at such a young age. However... Although he had a princess consort, wasn't the position of secondary consort still empty? Even if they couldn't be a secondary consort, they would fight to be the concubine.

Lu Wan'er sat beside Madam Lu with her eyes fixed at Xie Jingxing. Two years ago, when she first saw Xie Jingxing, she had already fallen in love with him. The seat beside him should have been hers, but now it was occupied by that stupid woman, Shen Miao! At the thought of this, Lu Wan'er was furious

and wanted to tear Shen Miao into pieces. She wanted to go over and talk to Xie Jingxing, but now, those officials were all praising Xie Jingxing. No matter how bold she was, it was impossible for her to talk to him in front of so many people. She couldn't help but feel a little unhappy.

Turning around, she saw Ye Mei talking to Ye Ke. Lu Wan'er's expression darkened.

As a woman, she always found pretty women a threat. Lu Wan'er had been pampered since she was young and had the best jewelry and clothes. Therefore, she always looked down on the women around her. In the entire Long Ye, she thought that she was not much different from a princess. She did not even care about the Ye family, which was as famous as the Lu family, because the Ye family had almost no descendants.

However, when Lu Wan'er saw the long-lost children that the Ye family found, she was not happy at all.