

The Good 771

Chapter 771: Story of the Past (2)

"Of course, I will tell you everything!" Shen Yue looked at Shen Yanxiao with fear. He was still in great trepidation because of what had happened earlier. He could never foresee the shame of the Vermilion Bird Family, the idiot of the whole family could turn into a prodigy.

Shen Duan was defeated by her within one hundred moves.

Those mysterious archery skills and the strange curses made for a horrifying nightmare for Shen Yue.

"Since when did Shen Duan begin planning on taking over the Family Head position?" Shen Yanxiao questioned.

"I... I am not sure. Shen Duan and I weren't that close at the beginning. After you won the Inter-academy tournament and demonstrated that your strength has improved tremendously, Shen Duan and I became afraid. That was when I started to get close to him and that was when I learned that Shen Duan was plotting against the Vermilion Bird Family. But I once overheard what Shen Duan said to Ruan Yingzhe. It seemed that after you signed a contract with Vermilion Bird and went to Saint Laurent Academy, Shen Duan had begun to devise a plan." Shen Yue gulped and observed Shen Yanxiao's reaction.

"Go on."

"Back then, he already had the ambition to seize power. So, he sent Shen Yifeng to Ruan Yingzhe and claimed he would help Shen Yifeng increase his strength. About half a month ago, Ruan Yingzhe suddenly came to the Vermilion Bird Family with Shen Yifeng. Then I found out what Shen Duan was really after. I was surprised that Shen Yifeng had become a Great Swordsman and even Shen Duan had been promoted to a Great Swordsman from an Advanced Swordsman without anyone knowing." Shen Yue was honest.

"What do you know about the Broken Star Palace?" Shen Yanxiao frowned. It turned out that Shen Duan had figured out the entire plan very early on. No wonder Shen Yifeng did not go to Saint Laurent Academy.

"Shen Duan wouldn't talk to me about the Broken Star Palace and Ruan Yingzhe disdained me so he didn't tell me anything. But... but..." Shen Yue's voice died down gradually before he stopped.

"But what?"

Shen Yue shivered and went on, "But Shen Duan told me that he could help Jiayi and Jiawei increase their strength just like Shen Yifeng. I was intrigued so I agreed, so Shen Duan sent them to the Broken Star Palace too."

"You sent Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei to the Broken Star Palace?" Shen Yanxiao was surprised.

That explained why she could not find Shen Jiayi nor Shen Jiawei even after she searched the entire estate. She also didn't see them when she went to Saint Laurent Academy to pick up Ye Qing and Yun Qi. It turned out that they had been sent to the Broken Star Palace by Shen Yue.

“Yes... yes.” Shen Yue nodded. He hurried to explain himself immediately, “I can promise that as long as you let me live, I will tell my kids that they should never set themselves against you. They... they don’t know about my betrayal. They will still see the Vermillion Bird Family as their home just as before if I don’t tell them. They are good kids. They won’t do anything vicious!”

Shen Yue was afraid that Shen Yanxiao would worry about Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei’s retaliation in the future since they were sent to the Broken Star Palace. Therefore, he tried to make an excuse.

“How interesting...”

When Shen Yue was talking nervously, he heard a laugh coming from the side.

Shen Duan, who had scared everyone, had come back to his senses. With great effort, he sat up and laughed creepily at Shen Yue who was begging for mercy.

“Shen Yue, you are still a loser, a fence-sitter! Do you honestly think that your kids don’t know about our conspiracy? Why do I remember that after we captured Shen Ling, your daughter and son went to my son’s room to please him?”

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“You... stop this nonsense!” Shen Yue turned ghastly pale instantly. He pointed to Shen Duan’s nose and shouted.

“Nonsense?” Shen Duan leaned against the wall lifelessly. He knew there was no going back for him now.

“Shen Yue, you are such a coward. Don’t you remember how you begged me to send your son and daughter to the Broken Star Palace back then?” Shen Duan gave a sinister grin and went on, “But that does not matter now. I have always known for a long time that an idiot like you is not reliable.”

“What... what do you mean?” Shen Yue detected some hidden meanings under Shen Duan’s tone.

Shen Duan laughed out loud. “What do I mean? What I’m saying is, you don’t honestly think that I will send your stupid children to the Broken Star Palace, do you? Who told you that anyone could go to the Broken Star Palace? You fool! But you don’t have to worry. Your kids have gone to a good place. That being said, I am not sure if they can live long enough to see you again.”

“You jerk!” Shen Yue bellowed and pounced on Shen Duan.

Having been beaten by Shen Yanxiao, Shen Duan’s strength decreased significantly. So, he was now not a match for Shen Yue at all. Shen Yue pushed Shen Duan against the wall and gave him a good thrashing.

“Where did you send Jiayi and Jiawei? Where did you send them!” Shen Yue hit Shen Duan like a crazy madman.

Shen Duan’s mouth was covered in blood but he was still smiling.

Everything he planned for and every effort he had made went down the drain. He could never turn over a new leaf in his life again.

“Shen Yue, that is enough.” Shen Yanxiao was not in the mood to see those two jerks engaging in their bloody fight.

Shen Yue was just too dumb to have trusted Shen Duan, a devil that had killed three of his family members just to obtain power. Naturally, he would never help Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei establish a promising future.

“Jiawei... Jiayi.” Shen Duan collapsed to the ground in desperation.

He had sent his own children to Shen Duan’s hands.

“Shen Duan, look at you. I believe that you know I will not forgive you. Are you planning on hiding everything?” Shen Yanxiao looked down on Shen Duan who was lying on the ground, covered in blood. Even in such an embarrassing state, Shen Duan was still wearing that gruesome grin.

“Why do you ask when you know the answer?” Blood was oozing out from Shen Duan’s mouth. Shen Yue’s beating put him in an even worse state.

Shen Yanxiao raised his eyebrow. She pulled the door open, walked in, and dragged Shen Yifeng out of the corner.

“Let me go!” Shen Yifeng was still wounded, so he could not break free from Shen Yanxiao’s grip as she pulled Shen Yifeng directly to Shen Duan.

Shen Yanxiao took out a sharp dagger from her interspatial ring, kicked Shen Yifeng to the ground, and stomped on his left hand. She then crouched down and pinned the dagger to his finger.

The sharp blade left a deep cut on Shen Yifeng’s finger. In fear, he began to tremble.

“You are right that I will not show any mercy to you. But if you want to see me cutting out your son’s flesh bit by bit, I can grant your wish.” Shen Yanxiao looked at Shen Duan with a sinister smile. At this moment, she looked like a demon from hell.

“You are cruel!” Shen Duan struggled to sit up. He was aware that he and Shen Yifeng could not escape death. That being said, even with a heart of steel, he could not watch as his son’s flesh got cut into pieces right in front of him.

After all, all he had been doing for all these years was for the sake of his son!

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“Cruel? Compared to you, I’d say I am an angel.” Shen Yanxiao sneered. She then stared at Shen Yifeng’s trembling hand and went on with a chuckle, “There is study that shows that the fingers are linked to the heart. I wonder if it will hurt if I smash your fingers into meat paste.”

“Don’t you dare touch him! I will tell you everything!” Shen Duan was very clear about the current situation. To be killed was not a big deal. But Shen Yanxiao was pressuring him with the son he cared about the most. In the end, he would lose his life no matter what, but he did not wish to see his precious son suffer because of his stubbornness.

“How smart you are.” Shen Yanxiao smiled deviously. “Uncle, please tell me the truth about my parents’ death.”

Shen Duan took a deep breath.

“Back in the day, your grandpa loved your father dearly. At that point, I knew that if I let him live, the Vermilion Bird Family would become his sooner or later. I still remember back then when you were born that year. Your father planned to take your mother and you to the Lunar Continent, hoping to visit your mother’s family. When I got the news, I intercepted them on their way. I bribed your father’s guards and they drugged your parents’ meal. I took advantage of that night and killed your parents. I wanted to remove all sources of troubles—that means killing you as well. However, that night, a mysterious man protected you. I was not a match for him. He asked for you and I complied, although unwillingly. I just didn’t expect that five months later, you would be sent back to the Vermilion Bird Family. When you were taken away by the mysterious man, I thought I would never see you again in my life. How could I know that you would suddenly come back? However, after your return, Shen Qiu informed us that you were born mentally retarded. When I heard that, I saw no point in troubling myself with you anymore, so I left you alone.”

Shen Duan plainly told the story of the murder as if it were just an everyday occurrence to him.

However, for Shen Yanxiao and Shen Feng, every word Shen Duan said was like a knife that was slicing bits off their hearts.

“Mysterious man? Do you know who he was?” Shen Yanxiao suppressed her fury and asked.

Shen Duan shook his head.

“I don’t know. But I do know that he was an expert of the second class promotion. It was obvious that he was hiding his identity on purpose. On that night, he was under a disguise and his actions were prudent. I could not even tell what his profession was.”

Shen Yanxiao was baffled. Who was that mysterious man? Why did he take her away? Why would he send her back after five months?

Shen Yanxiao was sure that Shen Duan was unlikely to tell a lie at this time.

However, Shen Duan’s answer just gave her more questions than appeasing her doubts.

“Xiu, do you know who that was?” Shen Yanxiao asked in her mind.

“I only gained consciousness after you were two years old. I knew nothing before that.” Xiu gave an answer that surprised Shen Yanxiao.

“Before you were two years old, I was incapable of thought. After you turned two, I began to realize that I existed in you as a soul. As for before that, I have no recollection at all.”

Shen Yanxiao bit her lips. The Seven Star Moon Seal might have been added to her during that five-month period when she was missing. But no one could tell her what on earth had happened to her during that time period.

Shen Duan then went on, revealing everything he did to the other two brothers. Shen Feng almost passed out after hearing all the blood-chilling confessions. In the end, he was mentally and physically exhausted. Knowing that her grandfather had too much heartache for the day, Shen Yanxiao asked Shen Ling to help Shen Feng back to his room.

She knew the following event was not something Shen Feng could stand.

After that night, there would be no more Shen Duan, Shen Yue, or Shen Yifeng in this world.

Chapter 774: Story of the Past (5)

Deep in the peaceful night, Shen Yanxiao slowly stepped out from the dungeon. The cold yet bright moonlight spilled onto her whole body. She squinted her eyes at the chilly moonlight.

She had avenged her parents but there was no sense of happiness in her heart.

Why did she get taken away? Where did she go in that five months? Why was she sent back after five months?

Most importantly, who put that Seven Star Moon Seal in her?

Shen Yanxiao's mind was in a mess. Perplexed, she stood under the night sky and listened to the wind whistling in the silent yard around her.

"Xiu, Shen Duan said that I was sent back after five months. But who sent me back? When I was returned, the Seven Star Moon Seal was already in me. Moreover, at that point, I looked nothing like before. At that time, who could have recognized me? I find this very strange. Why was grandpa sure that I was the child of my parents?" Shen Yanxiao found out that she was missing a piece of the puzzle.

In fact, the Seven Star Moon Seal restricted her gift and intelligence and changed her looks as well.

Shen Feng might have seen her when she was born but there was no way that he could identify her as his granddaughter when her appearance was utterly different when she was returned. After all, before her seal began to undo, her looks were far from beautiful, very different from Shen Yu or Wen Ya. When she returned, she looked nothing like when she was born. Realistically, no one should be able to tell that she was Shen Yanxiao.

However...

Shen Feng never for a second doubted her identity. Before she got her looks back, Shen Feng had asserted emphatically that she was a child of the Vermilion Bird Family.

He was so sure about it. But where did his confidence come from?

"Grandpa must know something." Shen Yanxiao bit her lips. Shen Feng must have a reason to be so confident. It was likely that Shen Feng had met the person who sent her back!

"Are you planning on asking him about this?" Xiu asked.

Shen Yanxiao did not know the answer to Xiu's question. What Shen Feng experienced was traumatic for him. Plus, she had already asked Shen Ling to take Shen Feng back to rest. But given Shen Feng's

wisdom, he must know that she had executed Shen Duan, Shen Yue, and Shen Yifeng. She now had their blood on her hand. If she were to find Shen Feng now, Shen Feng would probably feel...

"Maybe tomorrow. Now is not a good time." Shen Yanxiao was eager to find out the answer but she cared about Shen Feng's feelings more.

"Miss." Shen Yanxiao heard a wizened voice from behind her.

Shen Yanxiao turned around to see Shen Qiu standing behind looking at her gently.

When Shen Duan and Shen Yue were staging their rebellion, they banished Shen Qiu from the Vermilion Bird Family. But he never strayed far away from the Vermilion Bird Family. Instead, he would stand guard outside of the estate every day and observe. He probably had just heard about the changes happening in the Vermilion Bird Family when he was outside. It also looked like he just came back inside not long ago and went to check on Shen Feng.

Shen Yanxiao was grateful to Shen Qiu. This kind old man had been treating her nicely when she was still considered a fool. He also did not leave the Vermilion Bird Family when it was deep in crisis. Even though Shen Duan drove him away, he still stayed outside the gate every day, hoping that one day, the Vermilion Bird Family would rise again.

"Uncle Qiu, how is my grandpa doing?" Shen Yanxiao secretly put her hands behind her back to wipe off the blood on her clothes.

"He is doing better but the sore point in his heart is difficult to remove. It will take some time." Shen Qiu looked at Shen Yanxiao with a smile. The girl that grew up under his watch had become someone he hardly could recognize.

"But she sure does look like Shen Yu," Shen Qiu exclaimed to himself.

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"Uncle Qiu, thank you in advance for taking care of my grandpa." Shen Yanxiao was afraid to stand too close to Shen Qiu, as the scent of blood on her was too heavy. She did not wish to pollute Shen Qiu's nose with her filthy smell.

Shen Qiu could not help but chuckle when he noticed her deliberately distancing herself.

"I am a doctor so I have seen many deaths and blood in my life. You don't have to avoid me. Besides, I have already picked up on the scent of blood when I first came into the backyard."

Shen Yanxiao scratched her head embarrassingly. She felt it was nice talking to Shen Qiu who was like another grandpa to her.

"Don't think too much about it. Life and death are destined to happen in nature. When someone does things exceeding what is proper for the sake of profits, they must pay the corresponding price for it. I have witnessed what Shen Duan, Shen Yifeng, and Shen Yue did to your grandpa. Therefore, don't let this bother you. It is just that at the end of the day, they were still your grandpa's son and grandson. As someone who cares a lot about his family, it is naturally that his heart is still in wrenching pain." Shen Qiu comforted her.

"I understand. But they cannot be left alive." Shen Yanxiao knew that if she were to try to execute them when Shen Feng was there, he would definitely beg for mercy for them like any caring father would. However, removing the source of the trouble was to ensure that no more mess like this would happen in the future. She was confident that people like Shen Duan and Shen Yue would not turn over a new leaf just because she forgave them.

Once they saw any chance to claim the Family Head position, they would continue with their untoward conspiracies behind everyone's back.

In her mind, people must either suffer in silence or be cruel.

To be merciful to enemies was to be cruel to oneself.

Shen Yanxiao would not allow herself to do something so stupid. To set free a tiger back to the mountains was to set off an endless flow of disastrous aftermath.

"Sweet girl, I understand that this is tough for you." Shen Qiu rubbed her head affectionately. In his mind, he sighed deeply, as he was just a doctor at the end of the day. When the Vermilion Bird Family was in distress, there was nothing he could do. But everything had returned to normal now, so he could finally rest his mind.

Shen Yanxiao thought of something. "Uncle Qiu, you have been staying beside my grandpa for years, right?"

"Yes, I knew him before he became the Family Head. My father was once a backbone of the Vermilion Bird Family, and I practically grew up here with your grandpa." Shen Qiu did not feel that it was strange that Shen Yanxiao would ask such questions. He just thought she was curious.

Shen Yanxiao smiled and asked another question. "Since you have been with my grandpa for so long, I want to ask a question."

"Do ask."

"Here is what I want to ask: when I was sent back to the Vermilion Bird Family, did you see who that person was? What did he look like? He saved my life and I wanted to thank him for that. I meant to ask my grandpa but he is in a bad mood now. I don't want to trouble him this late at night." Shen Qiu was Shen Feng's doctor and so, Shen Feng would take Shen Qiu almost everywhere with him. Shen Yanxiao guessed that Shen Qiu had seen that mysterious man.

"About that..." Shen Qiu was in a pickle. He was hesitant.

"I don't think you need to thank him. Your grandpa already did that when he sent you back." Shen Qiu was avoiding Shen Yanxiao's eyes. He did not wish to continue this subject with her.

However, Shen Yanxiao could already tell that Shen Qiu must have met that person, but for some reason, he could not tell her.

Shen Feng had never mentioned the person that sent her back before, and he didn't plan on explaining it, either.

Answering the question also seemed to be difficult for Shen Qiu.

Who was the person that sent her back to the Vermilion Bird Family?

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Shen Yanxiao supposed that Shen Feng and Shen Qiu were hiding the information because she had met that person and knew him. However, they had to hide his identity because of sensitive issues.

Shen Duan and Shen Yue could not have been that mysterious man, and Shen Ling did not know about this. When Shen Duan revealed that she was sent back to the Vermilion Bird Family, Shen Ling was surprised, and he could not have faked being that shocked.

Evidently, Shen Ling, just like her, thought Shen Feng had just found her somewhere.

If that man was not Shen Ling, who was it?

There were few people of the Vermilion Family that were still alive now at that time. Only a man that was alive now could explain why Shen Qiu and Shen Feng were holding back.

Who was that?

All of a sudden, the image of a refined man came into her mind. She gasped and stared at Shen Qiu in shock.

At her shock, Shen Qiu was visibly nervous. Shen Yanxiao's look made him ill at ease.

"D-Don't overthink it. You are tired today. Go to bed. I will check if your grandpa's medicine is ready." Shen Qiu was about to turn away and leave as soon as he finished.

But Shen Yanxiao stopped him.

"Uncle Qiu, where is Brother Siyu?"

For a second there, Shen Qiu looked stiff. He wanted to turn around and run away, but he couldn't. He was stunned on the spot.

"Young Master Siyu is on a mission your grandpa has assigned to him. He is not back yet..."

"A mission? What is it? Our family had just experienced a crisis. Why didn't grandpa send someone to inform him? Isn't grandpa worried that Shen Siyu would be prosecuted by Shen Duan when he comes back?" Shen Yanxiao squinted as she threw out a flurry of questions.

Shen Qiu was shivering as if the questions were frightening him.

"I don't know. Maybe everything happened too abruptly and your grandpa has not had the chance to let him know yet."

"Abruptly?" Shen Yanxiao stepped forward until she was right in front of Shen Qiu. She then gazed deeply at him. Looking at his reflection from her pupils, he could see that he looked very unsettled.

"Uncle Qiu, here something I always find strange. What is it in the Vermilion Bird Family that needs Brother Siyu to be busy running about outside in the world all year long without the chance to return for months? As far as I know, the Vermilion Bird Family has designated people managing our properties in

all locations. Every quarter, the books would be sent here. So, why does Brother Siyu have to leave the Vermilion Bird Family?"

"I don't know..." Shen Qiu dared not look into Shen Yanxiao's eyes. His heart was pumping quickly. Nervously, he turned to the side to avoid her piercing eyes.

"You don't know? Then, Uncle Qiu, you must know when grandpa adopted Brother Siyu as his grandson, right?" Apart from Shen Feng, no second soul knew when Shen Siyu became a member of the Vermilion Bird Family. Even Shen Ling found out in recent years that Shen Feng had adopted a grandson. As for the background of Shen Siyu or why he was adopted, Shen Feng made no reference.

Shen Siyu entered the Vermilion Bird Family just like that, as Shen Feng's adopted grandson.

In the entire Vermilion Bird Family, apart from Shen Feng, no one was familiar with Shen Siyu. He was in the Vermilion Bird Family for over a decade. However, the number of days he actually lived here was few and far between. Every year, he would come back for less than five times. Every time he came back, he would leave again in a couple of days.

Where did he go? What was he doing? No one knew.

Shen Feng just mentioned that he had something for Shen Siyu to do. But what kind of mission needed Shen Feng to avoid telling Shen Ling and his other sons for years?

Shen Yanxiao never thought carefully about this. She had just realized that she, the closest person to Shen Siyu apart from her grandpa, knew absolutely nothing about Shen Siyu's whereabouts.

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Shen Siyu never made unnecessary contact with others in the Vermilion Bird Family, except with her. He treated the little girl that was still a bit slow in the head with extra kindness. Every time he came back, he would give her food and fun toys. When he was around, Shen Jiayi and Shen Jiawei never dared to hurt her.

Without any ties of blood, why would he treat her so nicely and pamper her?

Once the can of worms was open, there was no stopping it.

Because of Shen Yanxiao's piercing questions, Shen Qiu became unsettled. He regretted coming here tonight to chat with Shen Yanxiao.

"Xiaoxiao, put away all those questions of yours. Your Brother Siyu has always been good to you, right? That is all you need to know. Don't ask too many unnecessary questions." Shen Qiu was at a loss. He tried to avoid Shen Yanxiao's questions. He was afraid that once Shen Yanxiao dug deeper about her birth, they could no longer hide the truth from her.

Shen Yanxiao looked into Shen Qiu's eyes and said in a low voice, "It was Shen Siyu who sent me back here."

Shen Qiu gasped. He looked at Shen Yanxiao, shocked and panicked.

“Brother Siyu is not my grandpa’s adopted grandson and he is away from the Vermilion Bird Family not to run some errands for grandpa. Am I right?” Shen Yanxiao squinted her eyes. She remembered Shen Siyu’s every twinkle and smile. That refined and gentle young man’s looks suddenly became all but a blur to her.

Shen Qiu bit his teeth. He did not know how to answer these questions.

“Did he come to the Vermilion Bird Family only because of me?” Shen Yanxiao began to speculate. When the Vermilion Bird Family was in crisis, Shen Siyu did not come. Even outsiders had heard about what was happening to the Vermilion Bird Family, so why didn’t Shen Siyu come if he really was a member of the family?

Shen Yanxiao had a feeling that Shen Siyu had stayed in the Vermilion Bird Family for her sake and would only come to resolve matters when she was involved.

“Alas, Xiaoxiao, there are some things you are better off not knowing.” Shen Qiu could no longer avoid Shen Yanxiao’s questions. He let out a deep sigh.

“Uncle Qiu, just tell me. I don’t want to stay as a fool who knows nothing. I must know who saved my life and find out who my true family is.” In this world, there were merely two people she valued, Shen Feng and Shen Siyu. Being ignorant of her family’s identity was not her wish.

Shen Qiu was still hesitating. He struggled with himself for a moment. Eventually, he made up his mind.

“Never mind. You have figured out most of the story so there is no need for me to hide it from you anymore. I know you. I know you won’t stop until you get to the bottom of this.”

Shen Yanxiao was happy that Shen Qiu was finally willing to talk.

Shen Qiu sat down on a stone stool and patted the one next to him. “Have a seat. I will tell you everything you want to know. But I hope that you can forget everything you hear tonight.”

Shen Yanxiao sat down next to him and faced him attentively.

Shen Qiu looked up at the cold moonlight and recalled the story that happened over a decade ago.

“The night 13 years ago was just like tonight. The moon was bright but there were few stars in the sky. I had slept early that day. But suddenly, your grandpa’s trusted subordinate woke me up and said that your grandpa wanted to see me urgently. In a mad dash, I hurried over to him.”

“When I arrived in your grandpa’s bedroom, he saw him cradling you. His eyes were misty. You were still in your swaddling robe, and next to him stood a handsome young man that looked very warm and gentle.”

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“That year, when your parents were murdered, we received the news months later. When we heard of the news, your grandpa immediately sent someone to bring your parents’ corpse back home. However, no one could find your parents’ corpse. We just heard that all of you were dead, so your grandpa thought you lost your life as well. That day, he almost cried his heart out. But that night, the young man brought you home.”

“When I took you over from your grandpa’s hands, I felt you were burning up. I tried to help you in a panic. But your grandpa was saying something to that young man then. I didn’t hear it clearly. I just thought that the young man saved your life and sent you home. After that night, the young man left. Your grandpa took good care of you and told the family about your return.”

“I thought I would never see that young man again. But three years later, an eight or nine-year-old boy suddenly came to the Vermilion Bird Family and became your grandpa’s adopted grandson, Shen Siyu. When I first saw that kid, I was stunned rooted on the spot. The kid looked identical to the young man who sent you back home. Even that gentle and warm he exuded was the same; the only thing different was the age.”

“I had thought that Shen Siyu was that young man’s relative. Maybe, the young man’s family suffered from misfortune so he asked your grandpa to take care of Shen Siyu. However, I just felt Shen Siyu was too much like the young man from that night. If it were not for their ages, I would think they were the same person. Then, Shen Siyu stayed here for two whole years. During the two years, he protected you constantly, not even moving a step away from you. When he was 10, all of a sudden, your grandpa claimed that he wanted Shen Siyu to learn about the businesses of the Vermilion Bird Family. Since then, Shen Siyu would seldom come back. But every time he came back, he would grow up and look more like the young man. Two years ago, he became exactly that young man, just like I remembered.”

“I thought I was thinking too much about it. In this world, no one could regain their youth. But, not long ago, Shen Duan and Shen Yue started their rebellion. I was worried about your grandpa so I asked him about Shen Siyu’s whereabouts so that I could find him to save us. But your grandpa stopped me. He did not tell me where Shen Siyu was. He just said that Shen Siyu would not come and that the Vermilion Bird Family was not Shen Siyu’s concern.”

Shen Qiu could not help laughing.

“That day, I was angry at Shen Siyu for not being ungrateful and for distancing himself from the Vermilion Bird Family. I argued with your grandpa until your grandpa finally confessed to me that Shen Siyu was never his adopted grandson. In reality, Shen Siyu has nothing to do with the future of the Vermilion Bird Family. Shen Siyu would only come when you are involved. He is not protecting the Vermilion Bird Family, but you.”

“Then all of a sudden, I realized that my doubts have always been right. Shen Siyu was the young man who sent you back to the Vermilion Bird Family that night. But mysteriously, he used some ways to turn himself a kid again and stayed with you for years.”

Shen Qiu looked at Shen Yanxiao.

“That is all I know. I believe you must be clever enough to determine the relationship between Shen Siyu and the Vermilion Bird Family. As for his true identity, I have no idea. I just know that I watched that kid grow up for years and still, he is a puzzle to me. Anyway, he saved your life. And I am sure your grandpa must have his reasons for not wanting to tell you, so don’t pressure him about the answers. Shen Siyu... will never hurt you.”

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Shen Yanxiao listened quietly. She had had some guesses but when she heard everything herself, even she found it unbelievable.

Her Brother Siyu was the man who sent her back to the Vermilion Bird Family that night.

Then, would Shen Siyu know about what had happened to her when she went missing for five months?

Where did he find her to send her back? How did he know that she was a child of the Vermilion Bird Family?

Shen Yanxiao was at a loss. She had always known that Shen Siyu was never a threat to her.

In fact, she treated him like her actual brother. But why would he stay with her to protect her for so many years without any complaints? Why didn't he say anything?

He turned a blind eye to the Vermilion Bird Family but cherished her.

Shen Yanxiao could not understand. The more she knew, the more confused she was. The brother she once trusted with her heart and soul turned out to be the person who saved her life when she was an infant. He protected her for years, and she knew nothing about it.

"Young Master Siyu is a good man. He was so nice to you that I had to admire him. When you were young, you were always sick. You would constantly have a fever, but Siyu would stay by your bedside for days and nights without eating, drinking or resting. He would only leave when you were well." Shen Qiu sighed. Shen Siyu was ultimately a stranger to Shen Yanxiao but he had treated her better and more carefully than anyone in her family. Shen Qiu, as well as Shen Feng, could tell how much Shen Siyu cared for Shen Yanxiao.

No matter who Shen Siyu was, to Shen Qiu, Shen Siyu would always be the young master of the Vermilion Bird Family, Shen Yanxiao's brother.

"Why would Brother Siyu be so nice to me?" Shen Yanxiao was baffled and at the same time, she felt her heart being filled with warmth. The seventh miss of the Vermilion Bird Family in the past was a fool that everyone looked down on. But Shen Siyu would spend so many years carefully looking after her.

If it was not for the fact that she had taken possession of the body, "Shen Yanxiao" would stay a retarded girl forever.

If that was the case, would Shen Siyu protect her for the rest of her life?

"I don't know. But few people can be devoted to another person like him, especially someone who is not related by blood." Shen Qiu commented.

"Anyway, no matter who Young Master Siyu is, he is your brother, isn't he?"

Shen Yanxiao looked at Shen Qiu in mild surprise.

Shen Siyu's identity did not matter to her. He stayed with a simpleton that he was not blood-related to and cared for her meticulously for so many years. No matter who he was, he would always be a brother to Shen Yanxiao.

“Yes.” Shen Yanxiao smiled. To her, knowing who Shen Siyu truly was would ultimately make no difference.

Shen Yanxiao understood that deeply. She chuckled.

“I don’t care about Brother Siyu’s identity. I just want to know where he found me and what had happened before I returned to the Vermilion Bird Family.”

Shen Siyu must know who she was before he sent her back to the Vermilion Bird Family. How did he find her? Where did he find her? How did he know her? These questions were what were bothering Shen Yanxiao. Shen Duan had said that the mysterious man that took her away was secretive, leaving no evidence behind.

Somehow, Shen Yanxiao felt that person was not Shen Siyu. Otherwise, Shen Siyu wouldn’t have to send her back in person.

To put himself in front of everyone was not that mysterious man’s style.

Chapter 780: Moving the Entire Family (1)

“If you are eager to find out those answers, I suggest you ask him when you see him.” Shen Qiu let out a deep sigh. For all those years, he witnessed how well Shen Siyu treated Shen Yanxiao. His concern and love for her were precious. Shen Qiu did not want to see Shen Yanxiao and Shen Siyu’s relationship get ruined just because of Shen Siyu’s identity.

“I will think about it.” Shen Yanxiao gazed into the sky, deep in thought.

Brother Siyu, when we meet again, will you answer my questions?

“It is late now. Go to sleep. Forget everything you heard tonight.” Shen Qiu stood up. He cast one final glance at Shen Yanxiao and left.

Shen Yanxiao went back to her room after staying in the yard for a moment longer. The yard slowly quieted down. No one knew in that yard, an old man and a young girl discussed a secret from a dozen years ago.

The next day, sunlight cast over the earth. The Vermillion Bird Family’s new future was unveiled.

Shen Yanxiao got up early to check on Shen Feng.

She went to his room. Shen Qiu was seated by the bedside, helping Shen Feng to drink his medicine. When Shen Qiu saw Shen Yanxiao coming in, he showed a natural smile to her, as if he had shared nothing with her yesterday.

“Xiaoxiao, why did you get up so early?” Shen Feng leaned against his bed frame. On his haggard face, there was a trace of a smile.

Shen Feng did not ask what happened to Shen Duan, Shen Yue, and Shen Yifeng. It was as if they had never existed in his mind.

Shen Yanxiao dragged over a stool and sat down by Shen Feng. He said nothing but his black eyes revealed the fact that he had a sleepless night.

“I want to discuss something with you, grandpa.”

For a second, Shen Qiu was scared but he recovered his calmness immediately.

“What is it?” Shen Feng asked calmly.

“We have eliminated Ruan Yingzhe but the Vermilion Bird Family has enraged the Broken Star Palace. Considering our family’s strength, I don’t think we can withstand their retaliation.” The Broken Star Palace would not leave Ruan Yingzhe’s murder at that. Not even the five aristocratic families working together could defeat the Broken Star Palace, not to mention relying on just themselves.

Shen Feng frowned. This issue had crossed his mind as well.

“What is your plan?”

“The Broken Star Palace has vast influence. That being said, certain areas are beyond their grip. Sun Never Sets, my place in the Forsaken Land, has come into being. I am thinking about moving the Vermilion Bird Family to Sun Never Sets for the time being.” Shen Yanxiao thought about the future last night, and this was the safest plan she came up with.

Demons ran wild in the Forsaken Land. Back in the days when the four countries were on a mission to exterminate the demons, the Broken Star Palace once offered a helping hand. Yet, with all the help they could get, they could not get rid of all the demons on the Brilliance Continent. They instead just drove all the demons to the Forsaken Land. The Broken Star Palace was truly formidable. However, the number of personnels they had was limited. At that time, there were about one million demons at the Forsaken Land and over ten thousand advanced-ranked demons. That was a force that not even the Broken Star Palace could contend against.

If the Vermilion Bird Family could move to Sun Never Sets, it was unlikely that the Broken Star Palace would sally forth in full strength to get back at them.

If the Broken Star Palace only sent out several second-class experts, Xiu would take care of them easily.

“Well...” Shen Feng was hesitating. The Forsaken Land truly had a bad reputation. To some degree, the Forsaken Land could help them fend off a full-fledged attack from the Broken Star Palace but at the same time, the demons of the Forsaken Land were frightening enough.

Shen Yanxiao had just gone to the Forsaken Land for less than half a year. Shen Feng was worried that if she were to take them to the Forsaken Land just to keep them safe, their presence could bring chaos to her unfinished city.