

## **Divine 1311**

### Chapter 1311 Biggest Issue

Zhou Huaijin started to head towards the border.

Due to the constant losses, the 50,000 soldiers arranged by the Saint Divine Land were reduced to 20,000. Zhou Huaijin was not going there alone.

After thinking for a while, the King made the decision the night before, ordering 10,000 people to follow Lord Huai to Xinzhou. Lord Huai's mission was to keep Xinzhou so that the enemies would not go further into the Saint Divine Land.

It was a very small number of soldiers for the Saint Divine Land, but no one countered that order by the King.

It was still snowing a little on the day when Zhou Huaijin left.

He was riding on a black horse, well-armed and looking strong. Next to him was Gu Chaoyan who was riding a date-color pony.

Gu Chaoyan was dressed as before, nor was she hidden. Zhou Huaijin chose to take Gu Chaoyan to the border openly.

Well...

Zhou Huaijin believed that Gu Chaoyan was qualified enough to go shoulder to shoulder with him!

Neither of them had any expression, but those who were watching felt quite amused. Despite the King's presence, Zhou Huaijin still laughed. "Eighth Brother is so childish. I thought that he was just ambitious to take the mission, but it seems that he is still taking his unmarried Princess Consort! He is just like a child who can not live without his mother. He has been so spoiled."

The officers and ministers all laughed after hearing what Zhou Huaijin said.

They understood that men should never take women with them when they were working outside. Women, in their eyes, were just things for them to have fun with after victory.

Lord Huai was the first one that did so. He just could not live without his mother!

He should watch out not to get captured at Xinzhou!

The officers were all looking quite disdainful, but Zhou Huaijin added. "Eighth Brother is still young and it is the first time for him to do a mission. He will grow, so don't be too strict with him."

What he said amused the officers more.

The King shook his head. He was very displeased by this son of his. Hopefully, he will grow up.

The King left directly.

When the King was gone, those officers laughed even more loudly.

It was such a rare opportunity to tell a joke about a lord.

The gang was dismissed after the joke.

Zhou Huailing was in a good mood. He had laughed all the way back to his mansion.

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Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan were both out of the capital. The road to the border was very far, and it was still snowing inside the capital. The situation was very serious, so Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan both looked serious.

The King only gave them 10,000 soldiers and the snow would reduce a lot of support by the time they reached Xinzhou.

That was what pestered Zhou Huaijin most.

#### Chapter 1312 Expedition

His goal at Xinzhou was to hold it, yet the King had bestowed too few forces and if they were cut down due to the terrible weather and long trip, they were definitely going to be in a terrible position.

Zhou Huaijin was also frowning and had been really worried even when they reached Tongzhou.

On the official path from Tongzhou to Bingzhou, the road had been bumpy. So when they reached Bingzhou, they slowed down obviously.

When they slowed down, Zhou Huaijin had some time to exchange a few words with Gu Chaoyan.

“Lingzhou is around the corner and we still have a long way to go after that. Look at the snow right now. We have to arrive at Xinzhou as soon as possible, but there will be at least 200 people who will have to stay behind due to the weather and sickness.”

“...”

“We are in a very terrible situation, especially against the North Qi. Everyone is important to us, and reducing the number of soldiers will be a huge loss for us!”

“...”

“We have to walk some extra distance today, even overnight, otherwise we will lose a lot of people on the way there,” Zhou Huaijin said to Gu Chaoyan.

Since he already took Chaoyan with him to Xinzhou, he was telling her what was going on here directly.

He would like to hear her opinion.

Hearing what Zhou Huaijin said, Gu Chaoyan could not help but frown.

There were quite a few people who had been injured, so what they needed to do right now was not to lose anyone on the road.

They would spend the whole night continuing, since the situation at the border was not looking good, but in the meanwhile, Gu Chaoyan hoped that they would not lose anyone on the road.

She thought for a while and said, "Let's continue to walk, but we should take a few more breaks during the day."

"..."

"And during the break, me and Li Qing as well as our team-members will make some medical soup, so that they could drink one bowl each. In this way, they could feel better and no one would get sick."

"..."

"I can promise that when we reach Xinzhou, we will not lose more than 20 people due to sickness!"

Hearing what Gu Chaoyan said... Zhou Huaijin's eyes sparkled.

He had estimated that maybe they would, conservatively speaking, lose hundreds of people, but what Chaoyan said was that they would lose no more than 20.

That was a huge gap between their guesses, but for them, that was a thing worth being happy about.

And according to how Chaoyan put it, the whole thing should work!

Zhou Huaijin was really delighted. He smiled and said, "Okay, Chaoyan, we will do as you say – we rest a few more times within the day!"

"..."

"When we go past Bingzhou, we will have Lingzhou waiting for us. Lingzhou is a very smooth area, so when we reach the end of Bingzhou, we can take a break and prepare some medical soup," Zhou Huaijin said with a smile.

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

Then they continued forward.

Chapter 1313 Unsatisfied by Gu Chaoyan

As they reached the border of Lingzhou, Zhou Huaijin ordered that everyone should take a break.

Everyone let out a sigh of relief, feeling less annoyed.

They were not talking on the road, but as they were heading to the destination, they were holding a grudge. They were well aware of what was going on at the border, and they were worried that half of them were going to get themselves killed, which was relatively an okay thing.

Since they chose to become one of the soldiers, they were not afraid of death on the battlefield, but... They were not very satisfied by the chief being Lord Huai.

They were prepared to die on the battlefield, and yet Lord Huai was taking his future wife, a woman! They were sacrificing themselves for the war, yet the imperial family were out to have fun!

They were very unconvinced! All of them were annoyed. And they had been moving for so long and were not treated well at all.

They let out a sigh of relief and gathered together, all chatting in small voices.

They were all complaining about Lord Huai.

Then some people in the front noticed that they were making something, and Lord Huai as well as the woman he had with him was the leader.

Someone asked curiously, "What are they doing?"

It was Lord Huai's staff who heard that question.

He explained. "It is June, but the weather is still terrible. You are all going forward in bad weather so you can get cold easily. Lady Chaoyan and her men are making medicine for you to drink, so you can drink some before continuing forward. We are going to go through a lot of difficulties, but we should avoid what we can avoid."

"..."

"The King has not arranged many forces, nor has he arranged any doctors to go with us, but Lady Chaoyan is a good doctor and she has her disciples with her."

"..."

"You can take a break and soon you will be able to drink the hot medicinal soup," the man said before going to help with the brewing.

The soldiers exchanged a look between themselves.

So they were preparing the medical soup for them so that they did not have to suffer from a cold, but they had just bad-mouthed Lord Huai and that lady.

At this point, they looked extremely embarrassed.

They had not thought about doctors, because they were aware of this fact – if any of them got caught on the expedition, they would have to get through it themselves. They would never be served any medicinal soup.

They had thought that Lord Huai wanted to have a lady with him on the expedition, but they had not expected this kind of arrangement.

By this point, everyone got to drink very hot medicinal soup and felt quite warmed inside, thus not saying anything else.

Those were just simple-minded soldiers, so when they understood what was going on, they were quite grateful.

Having drunk the medicinal soup, they continued forward on the easy official path of Lingzhou.

Three days later, they reached the border of Xinzhou.

Since everyone was motivated, they arrived at the border of Xinzhou ahead of time.

As they reached the border of Xinzhou they started to do a count.

Gu Chaoyan had promised that at most 20 people would be cut off by this point...

## Chapter 1314 At Xinzhou

Fu Bao did the count.

He could not help but smile. He came to them and said, "Lady Chaoyan, you said that we would have 20 people cut off, but we, who have been through a blizzard, have no one cut off, only five who have suffered a little from a cold, but they just need to rest and come to the battlefield in a couple of days."

"..."

"That is just a miracle! And we have arrived ahead of our plan!" Fu Bao said.

Honestly, people from Shadow Door were well-selected and they were well trained too, but they were not all necessarily going to make it, let alone the ordinary soldiers.

It was a miracle!

Fu Bao respected and admired two people in his life, namely the Head and Lady Chaoyan.

Gu Chaoyan nodded calmly.

That was better than she had predicted. It was indeed a miracle.

Also, she could notice that everyone was fully motivated.

A war required, above all, motivated soldiers. When they were motivated, she would feel more assured.

After they passed the border of Xinzhou, they would soon come into the town.

They headed directly onwards.

Far in the distance, Gu Chaoyan seemed to have seen a familiar figure heading towards them. It would probably be some minor figure who came to greet them.

As the figure approached them... Gu Chaoyan became totally assured after she saw that it was General Huangpu!

They had met back in the capital, when General Huangpu and Yinghan got married and came to the border. She had forgotten about this, but they ran into each other here at Xinzhou!

Gu Chaoyan felt rather confident if General Huangpu was the chief for the troops here. If they worked together, they would definitely guard Xinzhou well.

Gu Chaoyan smiled brightly.

General Huangpu came off the horse and greeted. "Greetings, Lord Huai!"

"No need for formalities, just get up, General Huangpu!" Zhou Huaijin said straightforwardly. If he was not sitting on the horse's back, he would definitely help him up.

Zhou Huaijin let out a sigh of relief when he saw that General Huangpu was the chief for Xinzhou.

He had met him before and understood him.

When General Huangpu met them, he headed shoulder to shoulder with Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan.

“How is the situation in Xinzhou?” Zhou Huaijin asked.

He had already learned from the hidden guards from Shadow Door regarding how Xinzhou was doing now. The reason why he asked right now was because he would like to hear what General Huangpu thought of Xinzhou and how he had planned things.

With this in mind, he could come up with a solution.

“People from North Qi attacked us suddenly the night before, but we were alert enough to avoid big losses. We have managed to maintain Xinzhou, yet we lost 3,000 people which is not a very optimistic thing.”

“...”

“I am afraid that they will continue to attack us, and they should be fully-armed.”

“...”

“We are humans, so we need to pay a lot to counter those monsters, also...”

Chapter 1315 Duke North

“Also, we did manage to get away from the invasion, yet we lost so many people whilst the North Qi lost very few. That is extremely bad for us. We can’t afford to sacrifice so many people all the time!” General Huangpu looked very worried, as he spoke in distress.

True...

The civilians were all very happy when they managed to get rid of the North Qi’s invasion the night before. They assumed that Xinzhou could be saved, but he just could not show a smile, because he was thinking about the future.

They didn’t just need to get over what was going on in front of them, they also had to think about what was happening in the future.

General Huangpu let out a deep sigh.

They continued to walk as they exchanged looks between themselves.

General Huangpu was an excellent general, and he had understood things, but because he had understood it, he was worried about those things that could not be solved.

Zhou Huaijin was looking worried as well.

They just could not say it because they could not possibly make the troops feel distressed. That would make everything worse.

They stayed silent as they arrived at Xinzhou.

The civilians were all greeting the supporters.

They knew that if Xinzhou was saved, they would be able to live a steady life. However, if the city was lost, they would have to be humiliated by people from North Qi. So they were earnestly welcoming the troops.

And civilians had offered their resources for the soldiers.

Gu Chaoyan looked at the civilians on the way and still was not that happy. She hoped that they could help the civilians continue to smile.

As they went into Xinzhou General Huangpu arranged the soldiers to settle down whilst Gu Chaoyan and Zhou Huaijin went into the camps. Zhou Huaijin needed to have a discussion with them regarding how they should defend Xinzhou.

Gu Chaoyan suddenly thought of something. She asked, "Where is Yinghan?"

"The doctors are always tight in numbers. Huang Xuan and a few local doctors were in charge. So Yinghan took up the job and has started to work as a doctor. She is skillful, so she is in charge of medical treatment. Yinghan is treating those soldiers now." General Huangpu said.

He was very concerned about his wife, but that was all they could do now.

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

She understood what was going on.

She glanced at Yu Feng and Li Qing, saying, "You can take them to help Yinghan out."

General Huangpu did not turn it down, but asked his men to take the two doctors to where they should be.

Then the three of them went into the camp.

General Huangpu had already sorted out the specific situation of the terrain and some information about North Qi. They just needed to come up with a solution.

Gu Chaoyan was listening for a long time next to them, but at that moment she had no proper solutions.

She got up and asked, "Where is Duke North being treated?"

Chapter 1316 About Duke

"When Duke North was injured, Yinghan and I were not yet at Xinzhou. So he was transported to the clinic at Xinzhou for treatment. He has been stabilized, and transported here the day before. Yinghan checked on him and still has no idea what to do. He is still in a coma!" General Huangpu said, sounding helpless.

However, compared to the fact that Duke North could have been captured, it was already a relatively positive situation.

General Huangpu sighed.

Gu Chaoyan nodded and suggested that they should continue their discussion whilst she would go and check up on Duke North.

Duke North survived because of her, so she was very worried about this man whom she spent effort curing.

General Huangpu's men took Gu Chaoyan to the tent where Duke North underwent treatment.

Many things were simple at war, like right now. General and ordinary soldiers could only stay in the same shabby tents.

Gu Chaoyan opened the tent.

There were some basins with coals put in the tent, giving out warmth, but that was just a little better than the ordinary tents. The conditions at the border were really bad, and there was only one basin with coals for Duke North, so that he could feel better.

Duke North looked very pale, and was still in a coma. His wounds had been handled by Yinghan.

His external wounds were fine by this point, but he had been in a coma for a long while, which was really bad.

Everyone knew about Duke North's situation except for Duke North Mansion.

Only two women guarded Duke North Mansion so if they heard the news, they would become miserable.

The King arranged for Zhou Huaijin to come to the border so she could come along. If not for this arrangement, Gu Chaoyan had had the intention of coming to the border to check up on Duke North.

"Duke North has been in a coma since he was injured. Doctor Yinghan checks on him and feeds him some medicinal soup to drink. Duke North is still alive, but he just can't wake up." The guard in the tent narrated.

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

She felt his pulse, then she checked his wounds.

He was badly injured, just like how General Liu was injured, but the reason why he was still in a coma was not because of the wounds... but... but because he was poisoned!

The blade had been laced with poison, so Duke North's wounds allowed the poison to seep into his body.

She could heal him.

It was not a very fatal poison, because the enemies did not intend to kill Duke North, but tried to take him as their prisoner.

Gu Chaoyan brought out her silver needles.

"Lady Chaoyan, can Duke North be healed?" The guard asked discreetly and expectantly.

"Yes," Gu Chaoyan said with determination.

She heard a sigh of relief.



Instead of caring about anything else, Gu Chaoyan took up her silver needles and was about to drive out the poison.

She had just removed the blanket on him, when Gu Chaoyan saw a book tightly clenched to his chest. She found it quite familiar and as she took a closer look at it, she found that the book was called the Anecdote of Saint Divine.

Gu Chaoyan's mind went blank instantly.

#### Chapter 1317 The Anecdote of Saint Divine

She had one book titled the Anecdote of Saint Divine as well. Madame Jiang lent it to her when she was visiting her at the Jiang Family when she took leave.

In the book some stories about the Saint Divine Land were written, they were fun and interesting. She enjoyed it and often read it whenever she had time and she had not been done with it.

For some reason, the book went missing and she could not find it.

She, Qing and Sword One once looked around and still did not find it.

Gradually, she accepted the fact that the book was gone, but what she had not expected was that at this moment, she would find the exact same book in Duke North's hands.

Well...

Gu Chaoyan was not very certain if it was hers. Maybe there was a copy at Duke North's Mansion and he enjoyed it too.

Anyway, she could ask about it when Duke North woke up. She could even borrow it from him to finish the remaining contents.

Gu Chaoyan thought for a while and unintentionally, she removed the book out of Duke North's hands.

However, the moment she had it in her hands, the guard became shocked. "Lady Chaoyan! How amazing! Duke North let go of the book! He has always held it tightly in his hands after he got injured, and we couldn't remove it. Doctor Yinghan tried to remove it from him but failed too, but he let it go when you tried!"

The guard found it amazing and was delighted. It was not a good thing for Duke North to have it in his hands all the time.

Gu Chaoyan looked confused – could this thing be so important for him, that he did not want to let it go even when he was badly injured?

She put the book down neatly next to him.

However, the moment Gu Chaoyan put it down, Sword One saw it too and said with surprise, "Elder Miss, that is your book!"

Gu Chaoyan turned to Sword One in confusion, and the guard also got confused as he looked at Sword One.

Gu Chaoyan also had a similar book, but she was not sure if that was hers, so what made Sword One think that?

Sword One explained after seeing Gu Chaoyan's confusion. "Elder Miss, you remember that when Duke North was still a young master, he was badly injured and almost passed away at the imperial hospital? You went to check on him and he woke up, but he could not move off the bed, so he asked me if there was a book that he could borrow. Duke North did not like the medical books at the hospital, so I took this one from your collection and lent it to him!"

"..."

"Duke North said that he would return that back to you when he went through acupuncture. I did not remember it, so the book went missing. I thought that I dropped it, but it was Duke North who never returned it to you. Here is the book, look!" Sword One said with a look of amazement.

No one would have expected this to happen.

It was just a matter of a book, which Duke North should not forget, but...

Duke North had not yet returned the book to Elder Miss after such a long while.

That was amazing and strange.

Duke North even had it with him, even though he was away from the mansion.

The more Sword One thought about this, the more confused she became.

Suddenly, it became quiet in the room, and Gu Chaoyan lost her words.

#### Chapter 1318 Forbidden

Gu Chaoyan was extremely smart, but she was slow about some things. For example, when it came to someone else liking her. She would not understand romance unless Zhou Huaijin told her about it personally. She was not aware of how differently she was treated by someone who adored her.

However, when it came to the book, everything seemed so clear and straightforward, so even Gu Chaoyan realized that something wasn't right.

If he just forgot to return the book, then it was probably because he did not pay much attention, but Duke North was holding the unimportant book to his chest even when he was deeply injured, it basically meant that the book was of great importance to him.

Gu Chaoyan was engaged, and Duke North was engaged too.

So the whole thing started to become very embarrassing.

Sword One was very surprised and amazed by what happened, so she just said it frankly without realizing what was going on, but when the atmosphere suddenly turned so quiet, she seemed to realize that she must have said something or done something wrong. She seemed to realize that she should not have just said it like this. It would be very embarrassing for both Duke North and Elder Miss in the future.

However, she had not thought about that a while ago.

Honestly...

Who would be able to understand what Duke North was thinking?

Embarrassed, Sword One had no idea how to change the topic.

The guard in the room finally realized what was going on. He had been working for Duke North for a long while and knew Duke North well.

Duke North had had the book with him all this time, and he had no idea when Duke North got hold of it.

He did not dwell on that before – he assumed that it was only because he liked reading this book.

It was not until now that he realized that the book belonged to Lady Chaoyan.

Everything seemed to make sense now. Duke North seemed to behave so unnaturally in front of Lady Chaoyan, that was because... but he was forbidden to like her. There was no possibility between them.

If they kept the whole thing quiet there would be no trouble later.

The guard said with a smile, “Duke North loves reading this book. It’s probably because he loves it so much that he has it with him all the time. Duke North has read a lot of things since childhood, but those books are all too traditional for him to like, and this kind of book attracts him more.”

“...”

“When Duke North wakes up, we can ask him about this.”

“...”

“Also, when he first got injured and had nothing to clench to, he had to grab this book instead. He was calling his wife’s name too.”

“...”

“I thought that it was given by his wife, but it turns out to be a borrowed book,” the guard said with a smile.

Gu Chaoyan, who had a cold look on her face, could not help but throw an appreciative look at this guard after hearing what he said.

She nodded. “Yeah, it is just a book.”

Without showing any expression, she continued to work on the needles.

The poison in Duke North wasn’t serious, and the acupuncture went well.

One hour passed, and Gu Chaoyan put away the needles. “Done, he should wake up tomorrow.”

Chapter 1319 Situation

“After he wakes up, he can continue to eat the medicinal soup Yinghan makes. As for his wounds, Yinghan’s cream works as well. No more acupuncture is needed, but he has been seriously injured again, so when he wakes up, he needs to return to the capital for rest.”

“...”

“That is all I needed to say. I am off now,” Gu Chaoyan said calmly. She had already put away the needle bag properly, so she got up and left with Sword One.

The guard thanked Gu Chaoyan with a serious greeting from behind her. The guard did not get up until Gu Chaoyan was gone for a long while.

Lady Chaoyan was someone they needed to thank after all, since she treated Duke North twice, but Duke North was thinking about something else...

No one had known about this until today. The guard hoped that Duke North would forget about this and not allow this unlikeliness to bother him constantly.

As he thought about this, he let out a sigh of relief and returned to the side of Duke North who was still in coma.

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Gu Chaoyan headed directly back to General Huangpu’s tent after she left Duke North’s.

On the way there, she received some looks, which she ignored. Few women were seen in the military camp, so it was totally understandable when there were curious looks.

Gu Chaoyan never cared about those looks.

They had just walked for a while when Gu Chaoyan heard the sound of arguing.

The sound was getting louder and louder as she approached the source.

She had been a hitman in her previous life, so she was very sensitive towards the sound. As the sound grew louder as if a fight had broken out, Gu Chaoyan just could not understand what was going on inside this quiet military camp.

Gu Chaoyan thought for a while and headed towards the source of the sound.

Many people were all already gathered at the pitch.

It was a temporary pitch, so it was quite empty. They were settled here for the time being, so the pitch was segmented.

Yu Feng and Li Qing were checking on the patients, and Gu Chaoyan only had Sword One with her, so one of General Huangpu’s men was guiding them, in case they failed to find their way.

He went forward and checked it out, then returned.

“What is going on?” Gu Chaoyan asked.

“Lady Chaoyan, two groups of people are in a fight, arguing with each other. I’m not sure what is going on. General Huangpu will soon be here to deal with it, don’t worry about it,” the soldier said.

Gu Chaoyan nodded, but General Huangpu was not yet here, and Gu Chaoyan could not simply ignore it. She thought for a while before she went forward.

Gu Chaoyan looked cold and intimidating, and with General Huangpu’s soldier next to her, everyone made a path for her.

The two groups in the fight stopped their moves too, but they were tugging at each other, refusing to let go.

Gu Chaoyan remembered one of the groups.

They were from the capital.

What were they arguing for here at Xinzhou?

“What is going on?” Gu Chaoyan asked.

Chapter 1320 Not in Comparison

Gu Chaoyan asked and before that group answered her, one of the men said casually, “You don’t even know what is going on?”

“...”

“They are fighting for you!”

“...”

“Women are always trouble. How can such a ridiculous thing happen at the military camp? Women like you should not appear here at the camp!” that man said disdainfully.

They kept losing battles at the border. The ordinary soldiers were losing their lives, and the generals and chiefs all got injured or died. The Crown Prince was fine, but he was called back to the capital for an emergency.

And the battle came once again and the ferocious battles caused large casualties. It was good that Xinzhou was kept.

Many people became rather confident.

They gradually thought that the situation was getting better.

And another chief was coming with 10,000 people here from the capital.

Many people were quite earnest, hoping to fight even more. However, the new chief, namely Lord Huai, had brought his woman with him!

That was not a proper thing during a war! They would not win in this way!

They were so annoyed about this and felt irritated about their deceased brothers, but those people from the capital were defending that woman and started a fight with them. He got even more annoyed – what was going on? How could they win the war in this way?

He was so annoyed that he spoke sarcastically.

Lord Huai's woman? He was not afraid of her. He was going to die anyway on the battlefield so he did not bother to hide what bothered him.

Gu Chaoyan looked at the man.

She was not angry about what he said to her.

Women were not seen in the military camp.

And women should not remain in the military camp for long, so it was quite understandable why he thought so.

Since the issue was raised, she could solve it properly.

Gu Chaoyan was about to speak when a resolute and loud voice arose, "Who said that women should not appear in the camp? I am also a woman, so should I not be here either?"

Xia Yinghan looked very serious as she walked towards them.

She knew about Chaoyan's arrival here at Xinzhou when Li Qing and Yu Feng went to help her, but she was delayed because of some emergencies. Now that she was done with her patients, who were taken care of by Li Qing and Yu Feng, she decided to exchange a few words with Chaoyan.

However, on the way to see her, she saw those people giving Chaoyan a hard time.

She had to step forward and speak for her.

When she asked this question, the soldier became a bit uncertain. He had forgotten about Doctor Yinghan, but Doctor Yinghan was a special woman and she was not in comparison with any other women. She never complained and she always cared about soldiers. On the other hand, this woman was Lord Huai's fiancée and she was from the capital.

"Doctor Yinghan, you are a special woman, and you are a skilled doctor who never complains about bitterness in the camp, she is not a match against you!" the soldier said with a natural tone.