

## **Venomous 1081**

### **Chapter 1081: Murdering (6)**

Ye Hongguang fell to the ground, and the wheelchair was overturned. Gradually, the ground was wet with blood. He tried his best to crawl to the door to call for help, but it was easier said than done. The door that was inches away from him seemed to be endless at this moment.

Tie Yi and the others had just arrived at the Ye mansion, but they did not see Ye Mei. They thought that Ye Mei had escaped. When they arrived at the study, they were shocked. Ye Hongguang was lying in a pool of blood, on the verge of death.

Cong Yang asked, "What's going on? What should we do?"

MO Qing came out of another room and said, "Ye Mei and her brother are planning to escape. Brother Tie Yi, you are swift. You follow them."

Tie Yi nodded and jumped out of the window, disappearing into the night.

When MO Qing's gaze landed on Ye Hongguang, who was on the ground, he was shocked and said, "What's going on?"

"I don't know." Cong Yang scratched his head and squatted beside Ye Hongguang to check his breathing. He said, "He's still breathing, but I don't know if he can be saved."

"It seems like someone wanted him dead," MO Qing said. "Shout for help to attract people over."

"I don't think it's gonna help." Cong Yang clapped his hands. "The servants in this mansion can't even take care of themselves now. How can they have the time to care about this young master? Moreover, Madam Ye doesn't like him very much. Seeing him like this, she will probably clap her hands. It's unlikely that she will invite a doctor to treat him."

"Then bring him back." MO Qing walked to Ye Hongguang's side and picked him up. Ye Hongguang was weak, so it was effortless to pick him up. MO Qing said, "Madam treats this kid differently. I think Madam will make the same choice if she's present. Take him to Young Master Gao first. Whether he can be saved or not will depend on his fate."

Cong Yang shrugged. "I'll listen to you."

The young man suddenly opened his eyes and squeezed out a few words.

"Mei... stole... something... and ran..."

"What is he talking about?" Cong Yang was puzzled.

Ye Hongguang tilted his head and fainted.

"I don't know. Let's hurry up and leave. People will be here soon," MO Qing said. The two of them did not dare to delay and quickly left.

Shen Miao was sitting in the room, waiting for news. Emperor Yong Le's plan was executed so quickly that many things had to be brought forward.

Tie Yi and the others had been gone for so long, but there was still no news. Her heart sank, and she wondered if Ye Mei had already escaped.

Just as she was thinking, she saw Jingzhe rush in and shout happily, "They're back, they're back!"

Shen Miao stood up. Gu Yu asked outside the door. "What's going on?"

"Quick, call Doctor Gao over." It was MO Qing's voice.

Right on the heels of that, the door was pushed open and MO Qing and Cong Yang walked in. MO Qing carried someone into the room and placed him on the couch. Shen Miao took a closer look and was stunned. She cried out, "Ye Hongguang!"

"When we went over, we found him lying in the study. He seemed to have been harmed by someone. Ye Mei and her brother are about to escape. Tie Yi has been following them. I'll rush over to assist him. I've already ordered someone to invite Young Master Gao," MO Qing explained.

"Who in the Ye family is so cruel as to kill child?" Seeing Ye Hongguang's face, which was almost identical to Fu Ming's, Shen Miao was sad and angry. "Why would they kill a child?"

"Nlayoe was ye wno ma cong yang sama.

Shen Miao frowned. "Why do you say so?"

"This child woke up once and said a few words. He said that Mei stole something and ran." MO Qing said, "I guess what he wanted to say is that Ye Mei stole something and ran away. Perhaps when she was stealing, she was seen by Ye Hongguang, which was why she wanted to kill him."

"But what exactly did she steal?" Cong Yang said, "Gold, silver, and jewelry? If she attacked a child for these things, then she was really a savage." "That's not right," Shen Miao suddenly said.

The two of them were stunned and asked in unison, "What's not right?"

"This matter is not right." A thought suddenly flashed across Shen Miao's mind. Without hesitation, she immediately said, "Cong Yang, catch up with Tie Yi immediately. If you see Li Mei leaving Long Ye, don't stop her. However, you have to stall for time and make them slow down."

"Don't stop them?" Cong Yang was stunned.

"Yes, don't stop them," Shen Miao said. She looked at Ye Hongguang on the couch and called Jingzhe and Gu Yu in to take care of him.

In the end, she said to MO Qing, "MO Qing, come with me to the study."

Although everyone was puzzled, they did not dare to question when they saw her serious expression.

Shen Miao's eyes were as cold as a knife.

Consort Mei stole something and ran away?

What did she steal? Where could she run to?

## Chapter 1082: Swap (1)

Ye Mei and Ye Ke jumped into Jin Xinming's carriage. Speaking of which, Jin Xinming was quite capable. He even bribed the servants of the Ye family. Even so, Ye Mei and Ye Ke were still discovered by the guards outside when they were sneaking out. The carriage galloped through the street, and the guards chased after it.

Ye Ke leaned against the window of the carriage and looked out. In the dark night, the sound of hooves coming from behind was especially clear, making his heart tighten. He looked at Ye Mei in fear and said, "Sister, what should we do? If they catch up, we'll be finished." He urged the coachman, "Can you hurry

The coachman whipped the horse fiercely, causing the horse to giddy up. Ye Ke felt slightly relieved. Suddenly, he thought of something and said, "Sister, when did you prepare this? If not for the fact that you prepared the carriage in advance, I'm afraid we wouldn't have been able to walk far before being caught up."

"I naturally have to plan everything well." Ye Mei would not tell Ye Ke that this carriage was prepared by Jin Xinming, nor would she tell Ye Ke that they were going to escape with Jin Xinming today. Or rather, Ye Mei did not have Ye Ke in her original plan.

Seeing that the carriage was about to reach a street at the corner, Ye Mei looked outside and said, "The two of us are in the same carriage, so it will definitely be easier for them to chase after us. They might catch up if they speed up. Why don't we split up and meet up at Ba Jiao Street later?"

"Are we going to split up?" Ye Ke was extremely nervous. When he heard that they were going to split up, he immediately panicked. He said, "Let's go together. We can take care of each other on the way."

"If we travel together, we'll be easily caught up by the guards. Don't worry, you stay in the carriage. I'll get off first. This coachman will take you to Ba Jiao Street. When the time comes, we'll meet there. Everything has been arranged for us to leave the city. Nothing will happen."

Hearing that he did not have to get out of the carriage, Ye Ke was relieved and did not stop Ye Mei. Ye Mei asked the coachman to stop by the street while she grabbed the bamboo hat to hide her face. Only then did she jump off the carriage and disappear into the night.

The coachman continued driving the carriage.

Ye Mei looked at the disappearing carriage. The corners of her lips slowly curled up under her veil. She found a small house on the other side and knocked on the door. Not long after, someone came to open the door. Ye Mei quickly rushed in.

In the darkness, the person asked, "Is everything settled?"

Ye Mei nodded.

On the other side, Ye Ke sat in the carriage. After Ye Mei got out of the carriage, the speed of the horse became faster and faster. Gradually, the sound of the guards chasing after him gradually became

weaker. Ye Ke felt relieved. When he could not hear the sound of the guards chasing after him, the road became bumpy. He felt a little carsick, so he said, "You can slow down."

The coachman turned a deaf ear and continued to drive the carriage at a high speed. Ye Ke was a little angry. He lifted the curtain of the carriage and looked out, only to be surprised.

This was not the city anymore. He was in the mountains.

Ye Ke was shocked. Why did the coachman drive the carriage here? He said,

"Stop! Go back to Ba Jiao Street!"

The coachman ignored him and continued forward. Ye Ke was furious, but just as he was about to speak, the carriage gradually stopped..

Chapter 1083: Swap (2)

Ye Ke lifted the curtain and looked out at the coachman. He scolded, "What did you stop? Hurry up and take me to Ba Jiao Street."

The coachman glanced at him, and only then did Ye Ke see clearly that this coachman was stronger than ordinary people. He felt a little intimidated, so he did not dare to shout. Although he was also a young man, he was not as tall as this person and was not as strong.

The coachman took out something from his pocket. After fiddling with it for a while, he suddenly stabbed the horse's butt with it.

The horse was startled. It raised its hooves and suddenly ran forward!

Ye Ke did not expect the coachman to suddenly do this. The horse suddenly began charging forward, and he was sent flying back into the carriage. He was terrified. Ye Ke suddenly realized something and immediately lifted the curtain of the carriage to look out.

The last thing Ye Ke saw was a bottomless abyss and dense overlapping branches.

The abyss seemed to reach all the way to hell. Even if the carriage crashed down, one could not hear the sound of it landing in the mountains.

Shen Miao was writing non-stop in the study.

She wrote very quickly, her hands moving almost instinctively. Ever since she locked herself in the study, her hand had never stopped.

MO Qing stood quietly behind her. Not only was Shen Miao writing, but she also seemed to be drawing a map. Although he did not know what she was doing, he did not ask to disturb her. After Shen Miao finished writing one, she asked MO Qing to quickly dry the paper with the residual heat of the lantern. She was wearing a frown from the beginning to end, looking very serious.

At this moment, someone knocked on the door. MO Qing opened the door and let Cong Yang, who was panting, in.

Cong Yang said, "Tie Yi and I followed Ye Mei and her brother to the corner of the city. Tie Yi went with Ye Mei, and I followed Ye Ke. Ye Ke's carriage drove to the depths of the mountain by the cliff. The carriage fell off the cliff, and there is no way Ye Ke could survive it."

"A cliff?" MO Qing was stunned and puzzled. "Who is the coachman? What grudge does he have with Ye Ke?"

Cong Yang rubbed his nose. "I was in a hurry to come back and report, so I didn't continue to follow the coachman."

"There's no need to follow the coachman. The coachman is Ye Mei's man," Shen Miao said.

"Ye Mei?" Cong Yang was stunned. "Ye Mei asked the coachman to kill Ye Ke? But Ye Ke is her brother. Moreover, since she wanted to kill him, why did she bring him along when she escaped?"

"She needed a target to attract attention. Ye Ke is her brother, so he's the most suitable target. I think the coachman didn't just kill Ye Ke. He also put Ye Mei and Ye Ke's clothes on the cliff, making people think that the siblings fell off the cliff and died."

When MO Qing and Cong Yang heard this, they were stunned at first before coming to a realization.

Ye Mei did not want to live in the fear of being hunted down, so it was better to let the world think that she was already dead. No one cared about a dead person. Ye Ke was her brother. When the guards saw their clothes on the cliff, they would definitely think that the siblings had accidentally fallen off the cliff and died together..

#### Chapter 1084: Swap (3)

Ye Mei made Ye Ke her scapegoat.

"That's her biological brother." Cong Yang sighed. "How can a woman be so ruthless..."

"I'm afraid she has long treated Ye Ke as a useless pawn in her heart." Shen Miao said indifferently, "So she decided to squeeze the last bit of value out of Ye Ke." This was Consort Mei. In her previous life, Ye Ke could give her more power in the harem, so she had a deep relationship with him. Now, Ye Ke could not bring her any benefits and would even drag her down, so Ye Mei did not hesitate to kill him.

A snow-white pigeon flew in and landed on Cong Yang's shoulder. Cong Yang took out a slip of paper from the pigeon's leg and quickly unfolded it. After reading it, he said anxiously, "Tie Yi said that Ye Mei and Jin Xinming have already arrived at the dock and are preparing to take a boat." He glanced at the strong wind outside and said, "If it rains tonight, it will be very difficult for us to catch up with them. Should we go and catch them back now?"

"No." After saying that, Shen Miao finished writing the last piece of paper. She dried the paper above the lantern and put it into an envelope. Then, she said to Cong Yang and MO Qing, "Cong Yang, you're from the Black Feather Army. Find a few swift people from the Black Feather Army to carry this letter and follow Ye Mei all the way to Ming Qi."

"Ming Qi?" Cong Yang frowned. "Why would they go to Ming Qi?"

“MO Qing found out that Jin Xinming has a friend who is doing business in Ming Qi. They’ve been in contact with each other a lot recently. Clearly, he has the intention of going to Ming Qi. Moreover, only by going to Ming Qi can Ye Mei completely escape.” She said, “You two go with them as well. Be careful not to be discovered. Once you find that secret thing Ye Mei stole, swap it with this letter.” She handed the letter to MO Qing.

MO Qing took the letter and nodded.

“Be quick. Don’t be discovered,” Shen Miao instructed.

“But are we going to let them go to Ming Qi just like that?” Cong Yang said, “Madam, don’t you always hate Ye Mei?”

“I naturally won’t let her off.” Shen Miao said coldly, “On the contrary, I’m sending her to hell!”

“Go quickly. If possible, swap the things before they board the boat. It’ll be a little troublesome to swap it after they board the boat. Leave two people to continue to follow them and send letters back to keep in contact with us. If there are any other instructions, I’ll tell you.”

Seeing that Shen Miao was serious, MO Qing and Cong Yang did not dare to let their guard down. They took the letter and quickly left. Shen Miao placed one hand on the table and pursed her lips tightly, a trace of killing intent flashing across her eyes.

Before, she only wanted to take Consort Mei’s life, the sooner the better. However, now, she did not think that way anymore.

The Daliang Dynasty, the State of Qin, and Ming Qi all wanted to occupy a larger portion of the land in the world.

Fu Xiuyi would definitely think of a way to join forces with the State of Qin. At that time, if Xie Jingxing went to war, it would be a tough battle.

She would kill Ye Mei sooner or later.. However, before that, wouldn’t it be good to squeeze some value out of her?

Chapter 1085: Swap (4)

No one understood Ye Mei better than Shen Miao. If Ye Mei wanted to get something from the Ye family that was enough to compensate her, gold, silver, and jewelry were far from enough. What she wanted was eternal power. In all the years that Ye Maocai had been in the Daliang Dynasty, apart from the reputation and wealth of the Ye family, the most valuable thing he had was probably some dirty secrets of the Daliang Dynasty’s imperial court. Perhaps there were secrets of the royal family, or perhaps of the court officials. When one had secrets, one had weaknesses. These secrets were probably used by Ye Maocai to control the other officials, or they were evidence that he had carefully collected. However, one thing was certain. The secrets were very important, so important that they could ruin the Daliang Dynasty.

And this was exactly what Ye Mei wanted.

Ye Mei could use this as a way for her to enter the upper-class in Ming Qi. However, what Shen Miao designed for her was even better. She was going to send Ye Mei to Fu Xiuyi.

If Fu Xiuyi got the things, he would definitely be very happy, and a beautiful woman like Ye Mei would definitely seize this opportunity to win Fu Xiuyi's heart like in her previous life and then slowly but surely corrupt him.

However... What if all these things were fake?

The defense map, the secrets between the court officials, the discord between the royal family, and the defenseless cities that Ming Qi could take effortlessly. All of these seemed to be the key to Ming Qi's victory over the Daliang Dynasty, but what if they were all fake?

Ming Qi would make wrong judgments. They would set up their troops in the wrong place and attack the wrong cities. In the end, they would fall apart.

A nest of ants was enough to destroy an indestructible dam.

Of course, Ye Mei did not know that she was holding the wrong thing.

Of course, Fu Xiuyi could also suspect if what Ye Mei offered him was real or fake.

However, it did not matter. Shen Miao trusted Consort Mei very much. She was a very powerful woman, so in the end, Fu Xiuyi would definitely be convinced by her.

Therefore, the outcome of this battle was destined.

It was not that Shen Miao did not want to kill Ye Mei, nor did she deliberately want to let her go.

However, she wanted to see the woman Fu Xiuyi loved the most in her previous life walk towards him step by step and throw herself into his arms, bringing along with her the demise of a dynasty.

This was more satisfying than just taking her life.

Most importantly, this matter was beneficial to Xie Jingxing. Because of this small move, the world changed drastically.

It was all for the best.

That night, as Cong Yang had expected, there was really heavy rain. It was not until the next morning that Cong Yang and the other two returned. They were all drenched. Ye Mei and Jin Xinming had already boarded the boat to Ming Qi. Just as Shen Miao had guessed, Ye Mei had a box that she hid very well.

The people of the Black Feather Army changed the things in the box to the things Shen Miao gave them. Tie Yi took out a stack of things from his pocket and handed it to Shen Miao. Shen Miao flipped through it. It was indeed something that Ye Maocai had collected over the years to threaten and keep other court officials in check. There were even some secrets of the royal family. She thought for a moment and decided to wait for Xie Jingxing to come back to deal with these things.

The people of the Black Feather Army were following Ye Mei to Ming Qi and keeping an eye on her..

Chapter 1086: Swap (5)

Only then did Shen Miao remember Ye Hongguang. She asked MO Qing and the others to rest while she went to the room next door to see Ye Hongguang.

Gao Yang was still around. He told Shen Miao that Ye Hongguang's life was saved, but he had yet to wake up. No one knew when he would wake up. After all, he was seriously injured. If not for MO Qing and Cong Yang bringing him back in time, he might be long dead.

In the end, Gao Yang glanced at Ye Hongguang on the bed and asked, "What are you going to do? The emperor clearly wants to deal with the Ye family, but you brought the young master of the Ye family to your mansion. Are you going to raise him in the future?"

"What does the emperor plan to do with the Ye family?" Shen Miao asked. "Someone as smart as you surely knows." Gao Yang smiled. "Are you taking pity on them?"

"Of course not. The emperor did the right thing. If the Ye family and the Lu family are dealt with cleanly, the throne will be more stable. It's just that..." She glanced at Ye Hongguang. "This child is not involved in anything Ye Maocai did. The only thing he did wrong was being born in the Ye family. Let's wait and see. I don't know if he can survive. If possible, I hope I can ask the empress for a favor to keep him alive."

"You're really strange." Gao Yang was puzzled. "Why are you so benevolent to this young boy? Back in Ming Qi, I've never seen you so kind. What's so special about this young man that you treat him differently?"

"Because of his face." Shen Miao smiled.

"Face?" Gao Yang looked at Ye Hongguang's face for a long time but could not see anything special. He waved his fan and said, "I don't understand."

"It's fine if you don't understand." Shen Miao said, "It's not something serious anyway." She lowered her voice. "Xie Jingxing is going to launch an attack on Ming Qi, right?"

Gao Yang suddenly turned around and looked at Shen Miao. He opened his mouth and wanted to say something, but in the end, he did not.

"I knew that this day would eventually come, but I didn't expect it to come so quickly." Shen Miao sighed. "Is His Majesty... running out of time?"

"Actually, I should lie to you, but I don't think you are a gullible person. I'm afraid I'll even make you unhappy." Gao Yang said, "If I make you unhappy, Miss Luo will be angry with me. You're right. His Majesty's condition is getting worse. Prince Rui should have already told you about the edict to pass down the throne. Now, His Majesty is picking out some trusted people to go to Ming Qi with Prince Rui." He paused for a moment and said, "The spies in Ming Qi have already sent back news that Fu Xiuyi has already reached an alliance with the emperor of the State of Qin and took the initiative to attack the Daliang Dynasty. If they take down the Daliang Dynasty, the two countries will split it equally."

"Fu Xiuyi really has a big appetite. Isn't he afraid of getting choked?" Shen Miao sneered. Fu Xiuyi probably became more ambitious and greedy after obtaining the throne. Before that, he was very



respectful to the people of the Danang Dynasty and had a very neutral attitude. Now that he had formed an alliance with the State of Qin, he even dared to strike first.

"He's not only driven by arrogance." Gao Yang smiled. However, when one looked at him closely, they would find that his smile was a little solemn. He said, "In the previous battle between the Lu family and the royal family, although the Lu family was wiped out, the royal family also suffered a loss. At this critical juncture, the Daliang Dynasty's military strength is actually not much different from Qin Ming and the State of Win combined."

"But most importantly, Fu Xiuyi knows His Majesty's illness, so he can spread it and destroy our morale at any time. I believe in Prince Rui's ability, but this battle will definitely not be easy," Gao Yang said.

"I never thought this war would be easy." Shen Miao said sadly, "Fighting a war is always difficult."

"That's why Prince Rui will personally lead the troops. However, Ming Qi has already made a move. They're causing trouble at the border. Now, they are just testing the water. Before long, they will officially declare war. Prince Rui doesn't have much time, so he's been preparing recently. He doesn't want to tell you because he's afraid that you'll be distracted." Shen Miao was silent for a moment before saying, "I understand." "Then, will you go to Ming Qi with him?" Gao Yang asked. Shen Miao turned her head and said in amusement, "Can I?"

"Why not?"

Shen Miao looked ahead and said indifferently, "I don't know when this war will end. If anything happens to His Majesty, he will definitely step down and let Prince Rui take over the throne."

"At that time, I'll be the empress and will be restricted by many rules. I'm not that ambitious, and I don't want him to be criticized because of me."

"I'll stay and protect the Daliang Dynasty well for him while he's gone to war.."

#### Chapter 1087: Campaign (1)

Two days after Ye Mei and her brother escaped, Emperor Yong Le convicted the Ye family of colluding with Lu Zhengchun and participating in the rebellion. The entire Ye family was wiped out. It was easier to deal with the Ye family than the Lu family. The Lu family was the Ye family's backer. If the Lu family fell, the Ye family would not be able to cause any trouble. Even though Ye

Maocai had many connections and followers when he was alive, with Emperor Yong Le's ruthless methods, everyone was afraid of him and did not dare to be as rude as before.

Right after conviction, Ye Maocai was pulled out to be executed. Speaking of which, Ye Maocai was not all that innocent. From that stack of things Shen Miao obtained from Ye Mei, she chose something related to the royal family and handed it to Empress Xiande. In order to restrain the royal family, Ye Maocai secretly did a lot of things. This became important evidence to convict the Ye family.

After beheading the Ye family in public, the royal family had consolidated its authority.

The Black Feather Army, which followed Ye Mei and Jin Xinming, sent back news from time to time. Most people believed that the siblings of the Ye family fell to their death.

In the eyes of the outside world, everyone from the Ye family was dead, but apart from one person, it was Ye Hongguang. Shen Miao asked MO Qing to take care of him. However, Ye Hongguang had yet to wake up. Gao Yang said that whether he could wake up or not was up to fate.

Xie Jingxing returned on a rainy night.

The autumn rain caused the temperature to plummet. Shen Miao was reading under the light. The raindrops made a small sound when they hit the window, and the weather was gradually getting cold. The tea on the table quickly turned cold.

The door creaked open, and the wind blew in. Shen Miao turned around and saw Xie Jingxing closing the door and walking in. His clothes were a little wet from the rain. He took off his outer clothes. Seeing Shen Miao staring at him in a daze, he smiled. He walked to her side and pinched her face.

Shen Miao pushed his hand away. "Why are you gone for so long? Why didn't you even send a message?"

Xie Jingxing had been gone for a few days without a word. Even though Shen

Miao had a calm personality, she was still a little angry. He had to at least send a message back to tell her that he was safe. No one in the mansion knew where he went. It was really infuriating.

Xie Jingxing coaxed her. "My brother instructed me to do something urgent." He put his arm around Shen Miao's shoulder and said with a faint smile, "If I had known that my wife missed me so much, I would have come back earlier." "You might as well not come back." Shen Miao was still angry.

Xie Jingxing thought for a moment and said, "How about this? In order to make it up to you, I'll be at your mercy tonight and won't struggle."

Shen Miao couldn't help but chuckle and say, "Get lost."

Seeing her smile, Xie Jingxing said, "Not angry with me anymore? When I came back, I heard something." He looked at Shen Miao. "Did you let Ye Mei escape?"

"Not exactly." Shen Miao said, "She's going to Ming Qi with the things she stole from Ye Maocai. I think she's going to rely on it to seek benefits in Ming Qi. I swapped her things with fake secrets and wrong defensive maps. I think they'll be more useful to her. Who knows. She might even be able to become the empress with what I gave her."

Xie Jingxing was stunned for a moment before understanding what she meant. He blinked.. "Madam, this move of yours is so vicious!"

Chapter 1088: Campaign (2)

Ye Mei happily brought these "precious" things to the officials of Ming Qi. As long as the officials were not stupid, they would present these things to Fu Xiuyi to take the credit. However, no one knew that

the defense map was actually drawn by Shen Miao. If Fu Xiuyi followed this map, he would probably lose every single soldier he had.

Shen Miao raised an eyebrow. "I'm a vicious woman. So what?"

"Very good." Xie Jingxing said leisurely, "I like vicious women."

"I made a copy of the things I gave Ye Mei." Shen Miao said, "I'll give it to you later. Ming Qi and the Daliang Dynasty will eventually go to war. At that time, with this, you will always be able to know what Ming Qi is planning." She thought for a moment and added, "It's best to give Fu Xiuyi some benefits at the beginning to make him think that those things are real. After testing the validity, he will definitely go all in. At that time, it will be more cost-effective."

Xie Jingxing smiled and said, "You're quite smart."

"When are you leaving?" Shen Miao asked.

After a moment of silence, Xie Jingxing said, "You know?"

"Do you think you can hide it forever?" Shen Miao sighed. Seeing that Xie Jingxing did not speak, she said with a smile, "Here." She poured a cup of tea and handed it to Xie Jingxing. "I wish you a triumphant return."

Xie Jingxing was stunned for a moment before taking the tea and looking at Shen Miao.

"If you win, fulfill a wish of mine when you come back," she said.

"What wish do you want?" Xie Jingxing raised his eyebrows, his eyes filled with smiles.

Shen Miao thought for a moment. "I haven't thought about it yet. I'll tell you when I've thought about it."

"Sure." Xie Jingxing snapped his fingers. "I also have a wish. You have to fulfill me now."

"What?"

He carried Shen Miao on his shoulder. "Take a shower with me."

Shen Miao was speechless.

A lot of the flowers in Weiyang Palace had withered.

The flowers that were lush in spring and summer withered one by one in autumn, looking especially bleak. However, the palace maids found some chrysanthemums. Large purple, white, and yellow ones were already showing signs of blooming.

However, the bleakness of autumn could not be covered up by just a few pots of flowers.

The autumn rain drifted into the room. Nanny Tao closed the window and added some charcoal to the small stove before gently retreating outside.

Emperor Yong Le leaned against the couch.

He was actually very handsome, but he usually pulled a long face, so his handsomeness was compromised. What people saw was the coldness of an emperor. As for what the emperor was like after he took off his mask, no one knew.

Perhaps, there were two exceptions. One was Prince Rui, Xie Jingxing, and the other one was Empress Xiande. In the past, Empress Dowager Xiao was also one of them. However, she had passed away.

Empress Xiande was making flower tea.

The sweet fragrance emitted bit by bit from the small pot. Coupled with a stack of osmanthus pastries that had just been made in the royal kitchen, it was warm and sweet.

Empress Xiande poured a cup of tea and handed it to Emperor Yong Le..

Chapter 1089: Campaign (3)

Empress Xiande took a sip and smiled. "It's very sweet. This year, when it snows in winter, I'll go and pick some petals too. If Your Majesty likes it, I can make it for you again."

Emperor Yong Le looked at her and was silent for a moment before saying, "If I'm still around this winter."

Empress Xiande's hand trembled, causing the tea to spill on the back of her hand. She hissed in pain.

Seeing this, Emperor Yong Le took the handkerchief from the side and held her hand. As he wiped it, he reprimanded, "Why are you so careless?"

However, the water on the back of her hand could not be wiped clean. Instead, it became wetter.

Empress Xiande cried.

Her tears were also dripping on the back of her hand. They were even hotter than the boiling tea. She said, "Your Majesty, why do you have to say these words to make me sad?"

Emperor Yong Le paused and looked at her. "Qing Zhen..."

"Ever since I entered the palace, I've been very sensible as the empress. I have no complaints about what you do. But even at this point, you are still treating me like this." Her words were filled with accusation, but her tone was very calm, as if no matter how aggrieved she was, she could not flare up at Emperor Yong Le. She said, "You won't say anything sweet to make me happy, and you are expecting me to remain sober-minded at all times, but do you know how painful it is to be sober-minded?"

Emperor Yong Le was stunned

After a long time, he picked up the handkerchief again and wiped the tears off the back of Empress Xiande's hand. He said, "Qing Zhen, apart from my mother, you're the only woman I've let down in my life. You're the only person who can stand by my side."

"I know very well what it feels like to be sober-minded, but I have no choice."

Empress Xiande stared at the flower tea in her cup and said, "Have you already made up your mind?"

"I have. There are many heroes in the world, but I can't be one. I'm already satisfied with being able to keep the Daliang Dynasty peaceful until now. As for the rest of the road, Jingxing needs to walk on his own. I can't interfere in his future.'

"Qing Zhen." Emperor Yong Le sighed. "I don't know when I'll fall down, and I don't know when I'll wake up. If that day comes, you have to do what I tell you to do. Live the life you want and be happy."

Empress Xiande lowered her head and rubbed the edge of the teacup. After a while, she looked at Emperor Yong Le and said with a faint smile, "Your Majesty, do you still remember the first time we met? I made flower tea for you to drink."

At that time, Empress Xiande's mother brought her to the palace to see

Empress Dowager Xiao. Empress Dowager Xiao was choosing a wife for Emperor Yong Le. That day, there were also other young ladies who were showcasing their talents.

She sat alone in the corner, smiling demurely and looking at everything with a calm expression.

Empress Dowager Xiao asked her if she had any talent.

At that time, how did Empress Xiande answer? She said, "I'm slow-witted and don't have any talents. I sometimes make tea at home. My father and brother both like to drink the tea I made.."

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At that time, the other young ladies all snorted with disdain. Making tea was usually what the servants did. They couldn't believe that someone would actually be proud of being good at making tea.

Empress Dowager Xiao was very satisfied.

Later, Empress Dowager Xiao said to Emperor Yong Le, "I think Qing Zhen is a good girl. Making tea requires one to have a calm personality. She can assist you in the governing of this dynasty. No matter if it's a fortune or a misfortune, she can go through thick and thin with you. This is very good and rare."

Emperor Yong Le recalled what Empress Jingxian said and couldn't help but look at Empress Xiande.

Empress Xiande was gently blowing at the petals floating on the teacup.

Ever since Empress Xiande entered the palace, all these years, just as Empress Dowager Xiao said, she had indeed exuded qualities befitting an empress. She never asked much or caused trouble. She just sat there quietly, as if no matter how time passed, she would remain consistent.

Empress Xiande sensed Emperor Yong Le's gaze and smiled. "Your Majesty, let's not be worried about anything today. Let's walk away from all these troubling matters and just drink tea, play chess, and talk, ok?"

"Ok." Emperor Yong Le nodded.

He replied readily, and there was a faint smile on his usually cold face, which actually surprised Empress Xiande. She quickly stood up as if she was afraid that Emperor Yong Le would go back on his word and

said, "Then I'll go and get the box of jade chess pieces that Jingxing sent you. We've only used it once. What a waste of good chess pieces."

Emperor Yong Le chuckled. "Just get Nanny Tao to go and get it."

"She doesn't know where it is." Empress Xiande said, "I hid it well. Your Majesty, wait for me here." She jogged to the back.

Empress Xiande had always been calm and gentle, and it was rare for her to be like a playful young girl. Emperor Yong Le looked at her with a sad gaze.

He suddenly frowned and coughed violently. He grabbed a handkerchief and covered his mouth.

He held the handkerchief in his palm, a corner of which was stained with blood.

It was scarlet and very eye-catching.

He paused for a moment and put the handkerchief into his sleeve. He looked at Empress Xiande, who was running out with the chess box, and smiled.

It was as if nothing had happened.

The following days were unusually peaceful.

It was as if nothing bad had ever happened. It was as peace had always been the norm.

Xie Jingxing and Shen Miao had been in Long Ye for the past few days. During the day, they would walk around or play the Guqin and write in the mansion. Occasionally, when Xie Jingxing was in the mood, he would spar with Gao Yang, and Shen Miao would go with Luo Tan to shop. At night, she would discuss the military defense maps with Xie Jingxing. One of them was good at attacking and the other was good at defending. They complemented each other and were very compatible..