

## **Venomous 1091**

### Chapter 1091: Campaign (5)

The days passed uneventfully, but everyone knew very well that they were just seizing the little time they had to spend with their family. Once the war started, separation was inevitable, and in those days of separation, they would have to carry on with the lingering memories of their family.

That day still came.

On a night in the autumn rain, Ming Qi crossed the border between the two countries and attacked the border garrison. On the other side, the State of Qin went ashore at the fishing village in the north of Daliang Dynasty, massacring the villagers and making it the stronghold to prepare to march deeper into the Daliang Dynasty.

As expected, Ming Qi and the State of Qin could not stay calm and took the initiative to declare war. They declared war openly, which meant that they were very confident they would win.

Should the Daliang Dynasty fight or not?

Naturally, they should.

Prince Rui submitted a request to be the commander-in-chief. Emperor Yong Le personally conferred him the title of commander-in-chief and gave him an army of 300,000 soldiers.

This was not only a counterattack against the aggressors, but also a determination to unify the world and push the wheel of history forward.

Bad times created heroes and heroes created good times. With Prince Rui leading the troops personally, morale was high and the soldiers were fearless.

Tomorrow, the Daliang Dynasty would go to war.

Luo Tan looked at Gao Yang. Over the days she had been with Shen Miao in the Daliang Dynasty, she had experienced many things. There was also a misunderstanding between her and Gao Yang, but it was resolved later. Although Gao Yang liked to tease people and was definitely not as gentlemanly as he looked on the surface, he... treated her well and was a good person.

Luo Tan originally wanted to return to Ming Qi with Gao Yang because she had secretly followed Shen Miao to the Daliang Dynasty. Now that such a long time had passed, and Fu Xiuyi had started to deal with the Shen family, he naturally would not let the Luo family off either. Luo Tan wanted to face it with her family.

However, in Luo Sui's letter, he asked her to stay in Long Ye. Firstly, even if Luo Tan returned, she would not be able to help much and might even be implicated. Secondly, Shen Miao had to stay in Long Ye. With Luo Tan around, they could take care of each other.

She could not return to Ming Qi, nor could she leave Shen Miao alone in Long Ye. Luo Tan could only stay here, looking at Gao Yang packing his things. He packed some herbs into the box and got someone to carry them out one by one.

Luo Tan sat on the chair and watched him silently.

After Gao Yang was done packing, he looked up and saw Luo Tan staring at him without blinking. He was a little puzzled and said, "Why are you so quiet today? Are you in a bad mood?"

"You're leaving tomorrow." Luo Tan said, "On the way, you have to protect Prince Yu."

Gao Yang chuckled and said, "I don't get to protect him. It's more like the other way around."

"You're his subordinate." Luo Tan said awkwardly, "Of course, you have to be more careful too."

Gao Yang was stunned. When he heard what she said clearly, he smiled.

The two of them were fooling around all day long, and it was very rare for them to talk seriously. Luo Tan was carefree to begin with, so it was very difficult for her to show concerns for others.

Gao Yang walked closer to her and deliberately asked, "Be careful of what?"

Chapter 1092: Campaign (6)

He was handsome to begin with and usually looked gentle. When he approached, his smile was a little mischievous. Luo Tan blushed for no reason and pushed him away, saying angrily, "Of course be careful not to die."

"Don't you think it's very good for you if I'm dead?" Gao Yang waved his fan. "If I'm dead, you can take over the entire Gao mansion. You can order the servants around, and you can squander my money freely, and those shops and lands..."

"Wait." Luo Tan quickly interrupted him and said, "Who wants your money?"

The Luo family doesn't lack money, okay? Besides, do you think I'm a fool? What does your money have to do with me? You're crazy."

Gao Yang said, "Don't you know why you'll be the one to inherit all my money if I die?"

"Why would I know?" Luo Tan was puzzled. Then, she asked tentatively, "Could it be... that the money is from my father? Are you actually my father's subordinate?" She covered her mouth and said in fear, "Did my father send you to spy on me?"

Gao Yang was speechless.

After a while, he let out a sigh and knocked Luo Tan's forehead. "You are usually quite smart. Why are you so stupid today?"

Luo Tan said, "Hey, explain it."

Gao Yang suddenly placed a finger on Luo Tan's mouth and made a shushing gesture. Luo Tan was stunned and felt that when Gao Yang touched her mouth, her body went numb.

"Think about what kind of relationship I have with you. Tell me when I come back." Gao Yang placed a medical book on Luo Tan's head. "Now, help me pack up." With that, he turned around and started packing up.

Luo Tan looked at his back, but unexpectedly, she did not flare up. She pouted and started to pack up obediently.

"Are you done or not?"

"I'm almost done. I'm almost done."

"Ouch, it hurts."

"Don't be afraid, I'll be gentle."

Outside the door, Cong Yang, MO Qing, and Jingzhe, Gu Yu, were red in the face. Jingzhe said, "Ah, I remember that the clothes are not dry yet. I'll go and dry them first."

Gu Yu quickly said, "I'll go and help too."

Cong Yang also said, "I'll go and dry the blanket too."

MO Qing noaaa vigorously.

The four of them instantly scattered like birds.

Only Tie Yi, who was squatting on the tree, was unmoved like a mountain.

In the room, Xie Jingxing held his forehead helplessly. Shen Miao finally tied the last string and clapped her hands in satisfaction. "Done!"

Xie Jingxing looked at the red strings on his wrist and felt a headache coming on. Why did she tie up so many red strings on him for no reason? Shen Miao held her cheek and said with a smile, "Even if one is broken, there are still many."

Before he could speak, Shen Miao stood up and sat on his lap, scaring Xie Jingxing.

The wine jars in the room were all empty, and the smell of alcohol filled the room. Shen Miao drank until her face was red and as beautiful as a flower. She held his face with both hands and kissed it.

Xie Jingxing was calm. From the time Shen Miao was drunk until now, she had probably kissed him dozens of times. As long as Shen Miao was drunk, he, he could basically see a completely different woman.

Prince Rui had lived for so long and had flirted with countless women, but there was only one who managed to flirt with him, and she would refuse to admit it after sobering up.

"You are indeed quite pretty." Shen Miao said, "You can be a courtesan."

Xie Jingxing stared at her expressionlessly for a while before saying, "Thank you for your appreciation, Madam."

Shen Miao was satisfied and said, "I'll reward you with some money. Take it to buy clothes." She took out something from her sleeve and threw it to Xie Jingxing.

It was the jade token Xie Jingxing gave her when she was in Ming Qi.

Before Xie Jingxing could see it clearly, Shen Miao waved her hand and said, "No, no, no, I gave you the wrong one. My husband gave this to me." She quickly took it back.

"Husband?" He raised an eyebrow. "You still remember that you have a husband."

Shen Miao looked at him. "Yes, my husband is better-looking than you." Xie Jingxing was speechless.

"But he's going to war." She buried her head in Xie Jingxing's shoulder again and found a comfortable position to snuggle up. She yawned and seemed to be a little sleepy. She said in a daze, "That's why I get drunk. This way, when he leaves, I won't be able to see him off."

"Why don't you want to see him off?" Xie Jingxing frowned.

Her voice gradually trailed off. "Because I don't want him to be tied down by love. If I watch him leave, I won't be able to bear to..." At the end of her sentence, her breathing was even and long. She was really in a deep sleep.

Xie Jingxing found it a little funny, but in the end, he gradually stopped smiling. He looked down at the woman sleeping in his arms and paused for a moment before saying softly, "Actually, you can be willful and ask me to stay."

Shen Miao did not answer him.

He picked up Shen Miao and placed her on the bed. He covered her with the blanket and reached out to hold her hand. He sat by the bed and did nothing. He just looked at her sleeping face.

In the second half of the night, Tie Yi knocked on the door. "Master, we can set off now."

He paused for a moment and leaned over to plant a kiss on the woman's forehead.

Then, he strode out of the door.

After the door was closed, Shen Miao slowly opened her eyes.

She couldn't bear to part with him.

She couldn't bring herself to watch him leave soberly, but she also couldn't bring herself to be drunk and sleeping when he left.

Separation was always a sad thing.

She wanted to let him leave without burden and return like a hero.

Footsteps sounded outside the door. They sounded light and steady. There were other people, but Shen Miao seemed to be able to tell which one belonged to her man.

When the footsteps passed by the room, the person stopped for a moment before continuing on.

The long night was about to end, and a new day was about to arrive.

She did not know how long she slept on the bed before waking up. After waiting for a long time, Jingzhe came in with a basin of water. Seeing that she was sitting on the bed and thinking, she said in surprise, "Madam, you're awake?"

"Yes," she replied. "I have to go to the palace.."

#### Chapter 1093: The Return of an Old Friend (1)

Xie Jingxing had only been gone for less than ten days, but the days seemed to have passed much slower than when he was around. Nothing much had changed, but Shen Miao felt like everything had changed.

Some people from the Black Feather Army were left to guard Prince Rui's mansion. Tie Yi and Cong yang left with Xie Jingxing. Madam Ji did not intend to let Ji Yushu go. After all, there was only one child in the Ji family. However, Ji Yushu had always been willful and unrestrained. He left a letter and mixed into the army. When Madam Ji found out, she wanted to chase after him, but she was stopped by Marquis Ji. Marquis Ji said, "It's good to let him experience some hardship to sharpen his mind."

Therefore, almost all the people who were good friends with Shen Miao seemed to have left overnight. After Gao Yang left, the Gao family sent someone to treat Ye Hongguang. Ye Hongguang was still asleep.

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Luo Tan seemed to have grown up a lot in a day. She no longer went out to fool around. Occasionally, she would discuss the situation of Ming Qi with Shen Miao. Shen Miao told her everything that had happened in Ming Qi while they were gone, including Fu Xiuyi, Emperor Wen Hui, and the crackdown on the Luo family and the Shen family.

The days went on as usual, and the people of Long Ye did not show any signs of panic. Perhaps it was because they were especially confident in the soldiers, or perhaps it was because they had enjoyed peace for so long that they forgot what a war was like, so they were not afraid.

Shen Miao had an extremely good relationship with the madams of the noble families. This was naturally because she had deliberately roped them in, and those madams were very smart. The greatest threat to the royal family, the Lu and Ye families, had already disappeared from the world. Now that the Daliang Dynasty was in charge of the royal family, and Prince Rui was also a member of the royal family, they naturally wanted to suck up to Shen Miao.

Shen Miao often went to the palace to see Empress Xiande these days. Shen Miao liked to talk to Empress Xiande. The two of them talked about history and the current situation. Their opinions were surprisingly compatible. Empress Xiande also liked her. Every time they talked, time seemed to pass quickly.

On this day, Shen Miao was going out again, planning to enter the palace to see Empress Xiande.

The closer it was to autumn, the colder it felt. Uncle Tang brought in a bowl of goat milk soup. It was probably because Xie Jingxing was gone, Uncle Tang had nothing to do all day long. Apart from occasionally being instructed by Shen Miao to deal with the matters in the shops, he had nothing to do most of the time. He had been inventing all kinds of dishes to let Shen Miao try, "When Master comes

back and sees that Madam has lost weight and become haggard, he will definitely blame me. I've made you something delicious. It's good for your health."

Jingzhe said, "This goat milk smells so good."

"This goat milk is especially sweet." Uncle Tang said, "Madam, after drinking this bowl, you will feel warm and won't catch a cold on the way to the palace." He glanced outside and said, "The weather has turned cold these few days."

Shen Miao smiled and said, "Thank you, Uncle Tang." She picked up the bowl and took a sip.

After taking a sip, she felt her stomach churn and she almost wanted to vomit. She put down the bowl and covered her mouth, frowning..

Chapter 1094: The Return of an Old Friend (2)

Gu Yu and Jingzhe were both shocked. Uncle Tang quickly asked, "What's wrong, Madam?"

Shen Miao shook her head. "I probably caught a cold last night. The flavor is too strong. I don't want to drink it anymore."

"In that case." Uncle Tang pondered for a moment. "I'll get the servants to bring some medicine back later. Don't drink it for now, in case you feel uncomfortable. Later, I'll go to the kitchen to make some light soup." Shen Miao nodded, grabbed her cloak, and said to Jingzhe and Gu Yu, "Let's go."

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MO Qing and Cong Yang had already prepared a carriage outside. The two of them did not follow Xie Jingxing to go to war. They stayed in Long Ye to help Shen Miao.

When she entered the palace, Empress Xiande was waiting for her in Weiyang Palace. She smiled and said, "You're a little late today."

"Something happened before I came out." Shen Miao smiled and asked, "Is His Majesty feeling better these days?"

"Not bad. Yesterday, he even walked around the garden with me. However..." Empress Xiande smiled sadly. "Perhaps he's putting up a tough front to deceive me. Anyway, he always likes to fool me and doesn't tell me the truth." Shen Miao said, "His Majesty is probably afraid that you'll be worried."

"Maybe." Empress Xiande smiled. "Let's not talk about this. I got new tea leaves yesterday and even made osmanthus cakes in the kitchen. According to the ancient books, the scholars of the previous dynasty put tea leaves in the osmanthus cakes to obtain the fragrance of the tea leaves. I think it's not bad. Today, I thought that since you were coming, I instructed the royal kitchen to make it."

"You're really flattering me." Shen Miao smiled. "I'm from a military family and have always been rough. I don't know anything about these elegant things."

"You must be joking with me." Empress Xiande said, "Even those civil servants in Long Ye who think they are well-read are not as knowledgeable as you. If you're rough, won't you be mocking all the civil servants in Long Ye?" She handed the teacup to Shen Miao. "Try it first."

Empress Xiande liked to make tea. She liked to see the tea leaves boiling in the water. The water temperature, the tea leaves, and spring water had to be just right. As the empress, she did not seem to be impatient with these trivial matters at all. It seemed that it was precisely because she had been practicing making tea consistently that her personality was so calm. Shen Miao liked to be with Empress Xiande because her calm temperament made people feel that time was peaceful and enjoyable.

Shen Miao said, "Thank you." She picked up the teacup and took a sip. The tea was very fragrant and slightly bitter, but the aftertaste was sweet. Just as Shen Miao was about to speak, she suddenly felt nauseous. Her hand trembled, and half of the teacup spilled. She covered her mouth and retched.

Empress Xiande was stunned and quickly took the teacup from her hand. Seeing that Shen Miao did not look good, she asked, "What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?"

Shen Miao felt that the churning in her stomach had subsided a little. Then, she shook her head and said, "I'm fine. I'm sorry, I probably have caught a cold and am not feeling well. When I went out today..." Her voice suddenly stopped, and a look of disbelief appeared on her face.

At first, Empress Xiande did not understand.. When she saw Shen Miao's expression, she seemed to have thought of something and said in shock, "Don't tell me you..."

#### Chapter 1095: The Return of an Old Friend (3)

Shen Miao clenched her fists and quickly let go. She said, "I'm not sure either." "Quick, call the imperial physician over!" Empress Xiande stood up excitedly and called Nanny Tao. "Summon the imperial physician!"

Shen Miao looked at the tea on the table and was shocked.

She had been pregnant before, but she was not all that certain if her discomfort was a sign of pregnancy. She only thought that she had caught a cold, but now that she thought about it, she felt that her appetite had indeed become a little strange recently.

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Shen Miao was actually excited. The word "child" was too far away for her. She was a little afraid that when the child came into the world, she would have to face the pain of losing her child because she might not be strong enough to protect them well. On the other hand, she yearned for the child to come.

If the child really came, it would be the best gift from the heavens in her life.

The imperial physician quickly rushed over. Empress Xiande looked even more excited than Shen Miao and asked the imperial physician to take Shen Miao's pulse immediately.

The white-bearded imperial physician took Shen Miao's pulse and pondered for a long time before standing up. He bowed to Shen Miao and then to Empress Xiande. He smiled and said, "Congratulations, Princess Consort. I'm afraid you've been pregnant for more than a month."

Shen Miao was still in disbelief. She asked, "Really?"

It was rare for Empress Xiande to see Shen Miao having such a strong reaction. She chuckled and pretended to be serious. "Princess Consort is asking you if it's true. If you make a mistake, you will be severely punished!"

The white-bearded imperial physician smiled and said, "I don't dare to lie. If Your Highness doesn't believe me, you can summon other imperial physicians over to take a look."

Shen Miao said seriously, "Alright, then I'll have to trouble you to invite them over."

The imperial physician was stunned.

Empress Xiande was overjoyed. She knew that Shen Miao found it unbelievable and insisted on confirming it again and again. However, when she was pregnant back then, she was also in disbelief. At the thought of her miscarriage, her eyes darkened. Then, she quickly came back to her senses and smiled. "Do as Princess Consort says. Go and invite a few more imperial physicians over."

The results were the same. Shen Miao was indeed more than a month pregnant.

This was really a coincidence. Just as Xie Jingxing left, Shen Miao was pregnant. Now, when she was alone, she would probably not be so lonely. Or perhaps, she would be even more lonely.

Empress Xiande was overjoyed. In the entire royal family, there were only two brothers, Emperor Yong Le and Xie Jingxing. Emperor Yong Le did not have a child, and the Xie family did not have any juniors. The one Shen Miao was pregnant with was considered the first junior of the Xie family. Empress Xiande asked someone to invite Emperor Yong Le over.

When Emperor Yong Le found out about this, he was also in disbelief. Empress

Xiande smiled and said, "In the future, won't it be very interesting if a little boy or girl calls you Uncle and me Aunt?"

"What's so interesting?" Emperor Yong Le was a little awkward. He really did not like Shen Miao very much because Shen Miao even had an argument with Xie Jingxing. He was afraid that Shen Miao would be a femme fatale.

"You." Empress Xiande glanced at him. "This is a joyous thing for the royal family. If Princess Consort could give birth to a few more children in the future.

it'll be lively." There was a hint of envy in her eyes. Clearly, Empress Xiande liked children very much..

Chapter 1096: The Return of an Old Friend (4)

Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that Empress Xiande was envious. Shen Miao paused for a moment. A trace of pain flashed across Emperor Yong Le's eyes. A moment later, he said, "Pack your



things and move to the palace tonight. Your pregnancy must be kept a secret now. You can be better protected in the palace.

Shen Miao was slightly stunned.

Empress Xiande quickly said, "That's right. Although Long Ye seems to be peaceful, at this juncture, it's better to be safe than sorry. As for Jingxing, send a message to him secretly. .

"Your Majesty." Shen Miao suddenly said, "I have a request to make."

Empress Xiande said, "Tell me."

"Please hide this from His Highness first." She said, "His Highness is on the journey to war now. If he finds out about this, he will inevitably be distracted.

It's better to hide it."

Empress Xiande and Emperor Yong Le looked at each other. Empress Xiande said, "You're right. But we don't know when Jingxing will return, and you have to endure a long period of loneliness. I've seen many women who hid the news of their pregnancy for various reasons, but the process was extremely aggrieving. Can you stand it?"

"I won't feel aggrieved." Shen Miao smiled and subconsciously placed her hands on her stomach. When she found out that she was pregnant, she immediately felt that there was a small life in her body. That was really a wonderful thing. She said, "If the outcome is good, no matter how aggrieving the process is, it's all worth it."

"Alright." It was Emperor Yong Le who spoke. He looked at Shen Miao and said, "In that case, we won't tell him."

Just as Empress Xiande was about to say something, Shen Miao nodded at

Emperor Yong Le and said, "Thank you, Your Majesty."

"Forget it." Empress Xiande sighed. "However, from tomorrow onwards, stay in the palace. I will announce that I want you to enter the palace to accompany me, in case anyone becomes suspicious."

This time, Shen Miao did not decline. It was indeed safer to stay in the palace.

For the sake of the child in her stomach, Shen Miao did not mind.

Seeing that she agreed, Empress Xiande immediately instructed Nanny Tao to find the side hall closest to the Weiyang Palace to let Shen Miao live there.

Because of this incident, when Shen Miao returned, it was already night.

Seeing that she was finally back, Uncle Tang heaved a sigh of relief. Luo Tan had also returned from outside. When she found out from Jingzhe and Gu Yu that Shen Miao was pregnant, she was surprised and happy.

Uncle Tang was so happy that he did not know what to say. Shen Miao told them not to tell Xie Jingxing. Now that he was fighting a tough battle, it was not good for Xie Jingxing to be distracted. Uncle Tang

nodded, but he still felt sad. He said that he would burn incense for Empress Dowager Xiao and let her know the good news.

Luo Tan was very curious. She wanted to touch Shen Miao's stomach, but she did not dare to. In the end, she carefully placed her hand on it and felt it for a while before saying, "Why don't I feel any movement?"

"It's only been a month. How can there be any movement?" Shen Miao laughed.

"However." Luo Tan looked at her. "Little Cousin, aren't you going to tell Uncle and Aunt? If they know, they will definitely be very happy.."

#### Chapter 1097: The Return of an Old Friend (5)

Shen Miao thought for a moment and shook her head. "Now that my parents and my brother are also confronting Fu Xiuyi, I'm their weakness. If they find out I'm pregnant, they'll be even more restrained. Moreover, Xie Jingxing will arrive in Ming Qi sooner or later. He has to meet up with Father, Mother, and the others. If Father and Mother know, Xie Jingxing will know too."

Luo Tan thought for a moment and felt that it made sense. She whispered, "Although I don't know if it's a nephew or niece, I will love him/her all the same."

"We haven't had such joyful news for a long time." Uncle Tang smiled and said, "We should celebrate it." Then he patted his forehead. "I almost forgot that I need to pay attention to the food. Madam needs nourishment now. I can't let anything go wrong. Also, the sharp edges of those furniture have to be wrapped in cloth."

He was extremely nervous.

Shen Miao laughed. In her previous life, when she was pregnant with Fu Ming and Wanyu, she had never been treated like this.

She had already calmed down from the excitement of her pregnancy, but the people in Prince Rui's mansion were all extremely nervous.

She smiled and said, "There's no need. Uncle Tang, pack up. Because I'm pregnant, the empress wants me to go to the palace. Leave some guards and some servants in the mansion. The rest of you, follow me to the palace." Uncle Tang nodded and said, "Alright, I'll make the arrangements now."

"Little Cousin, do I have to go too?" Luo Tan asked.

"Of course."

"But I... don't know the etiquette of the palace. Is that ok?" Luo Tan asked.

Shen Miao said, "Don't worry about etiquette. Everyone knows that you're skilled in martial arts. With you around, I'll be safe. My child and I are all under your protection."

"Little cousin, stop teasing me." Luo Tan blushed. "But you're right. If I'm with you, I can take care of you. I'll go to the palace with you." She stood up. "I'll go and pack up first."

After Luo Tan left, Shen Miao stood up.

She did not expect to be pregnant at this time, but she felt that everything was destined.

Opening the window, the autumn moon was very bright and gradually began to form a full moon. Soon, it would be the Mid-Autumn Festival.

At the Mid-Autumn Festival, she was separated from her family. Xie Jingxing, Shen Xin, and the others were not by her side. This year was destined to be a difficult year, but... Shen Miao touched her stomach. Because she had a child and became a mother, she seemed to be able to withstand the loneliness.

The heavens would not shut the door to a person forever. At least at this moment, the heavens opened the door and gave Shen Miao a new life and a

man she loved deeply.

The past was in the past, and this was a completely different future.

She asked the child in her stomach softly, "Look, you and your father are looking at the same moon."

Shen Miao moved into the palace.

Empress Xiande treated her extremely well and gave her the side hall next to the Weiyang Palace. Shen Miao still used her people, so it was not inconvenient. Usually, Empress Xiande would talk to Shen Miao and make tea. Luo Tan followed. Luo Tan had a lively personality, and Empress Xiande also liked her..

Chapter 1098: The Return of an Old Friend (6)

Life was very peaceful. If there was anything unexpected, it would be Ye

Hongguang.

Ye Hongguang was also brought into the palace because he did not wake up for a long time. One day, he woke up unexpectedly. However, when he woke up, he was like a three-year-old child and did not know anything. The imperial physician had checked him. The shock he suffered was probably so great that he almost went delirious.

Emperor Yong Le couldn't be bothered. It wouldn't take much to raise a fool. Ye Hongguang was happily catching crickets and butterflies in the garden every day.

Sometimes, when Shen Miao saw his face, she felt that Ye Hongguang's life was just as tragic as Fu Ming's.

Seeing the gloom in her eyes, Empress Xiande thought that she was sad for Ye Hongguang, so she patted Shen Miao's hand and comforted her. "Don't be sad. Actually, this might not be a bad thing. Now that the Ye family is no longer around, if he's sober and wakes up to realize this, he'll definitely be very sad. Even if he doesn't hate us, he'll definitely be in so much pain that he doesn't want to live. Now that he's like this, although he's stupid, he doesn't have to face the sad reality. Isn't that good?"

Emperor Yong Le had once suspected that Ye Hongguang was pretending to be stupid. However, the imperial physician had checked him and Ye Hongguang was also secretly monitored. It turned out that he really became a fool. Because he was injured this time, his health was deteriorating. It was unknown how long he could live.

Perhaps what happened to Ye Hongguang reminded Emperor Yong Le of himself when he was young. He was also heavily poisoned when he was young and did not know how long he could live. It was this similar encounter that made Emperor Yong Le pity him and spare Ye Hongguang's life.

However, not everyone in the world could live like a child and smile happily like Ye Hongguang.

Two months later, Xie Jingxing arrived at the border of Ming Qi and started to fight with Ming Qi's army.

Ming Qi and the State of Qin joined forces and started to officially confront the Daliang Dynasty army led by Xie Jingxing.

War was always brutal. Once it started, it would not be easy to end it. Moreover, the two sides were evenly matched.

Every day, Shen Miao would study the military defense map she had given Xie Jingxing. At first, there were no signs, but gradually, signs began to appear. Fu Xiuyi was advancing according to the plan.

Shen Miao knew that if she was not wrong, the defensive map should have reached Fu Xiuyi.

In the battle between the Daliang Dynasty and Qin Ming, no one could tell who would win. Xie Jingxing did not sweep through the battlefield like in her previous life, because in her previous life, the State of Qin and Ming Qi did not join forces. At that time, the Daliang Dynasty attacked the State of Qin first before destroying Ming Qi. However, Shen Miao knew that Xie Jingxing had changed his strategy. He was like a smart and cunning hunter, luring his prey into his trap.

Getting rid of the enemies in one action was indeed the style of the Xie family.

Fu Xiuyi was taking the bait. While Shen Miao was happy to see this happening, she couldn't help but admire Ye Mei's methods. Many things had changed, but one thing didn't Ye Mei could still win Fu Xiuyi's heart and make him trust her..

Chapter 1099: The Return of an Old Friend (7)

Not long after, Xie Jingxing's letter came.

In the letter, he talked about the situation in Ming Qi.

Emperor Wen Hui fell seriously ill and died, and the ninth prince, Fu Xiuyi, ascended the throne. As soon as Fu Xiuyi ascended the throne, he was on good terms with the emperor of the State of Qin. The two countries launched an attack on the now declining Daliang Dynasty together. The other princes of Ming Qi, including Prince Zhou and Prince Jing, were all locked up in the prison. Fu Xiuyi had never been merciful to his family.

The Shen family and the Luo family joined forces with the other old families that had been suppressed by Emperor Wen Hui and openly rebelled. They were labeled as “outlaws” in Ming Qi, but the commoners did not seem to buy it. The Shen family had existed for many years with a good reputation and was not so easily defamed.

Xie Jingxing’s men were secretly contacting the Shen family. Before long, the Shen family would surrender and form an alliance with Xie Jingxing.

At the end of the letter, Xie Jingxing casually added something.

It was said that there was a romantic affair in the capital. A beauty entered the palace. She was the distant niece of an imperial merchant. She was as beautiful as a fairy, smart, and eloquent. The new emperor loved her like a gem and gave her the title Consort Mei. In a short period of time, her momentum far exceeded the other consorts in the harem.

Shen Miao closed the letter and smiled.

Luo Tan asked, “Cousin Miao, it’s just a letter. You’ve read it many times and even smiled from time to time.” Suddenly, she looked at the side. “Hey, why did that cat climb up so high?”

On the garden tree not far away, a black cat was climbing up. The higher it climbed, the thinner the branch became. The branches swayed and almost could not withstand the weight of the cat.

“The faster and higher you climb, the heavier the fall.” Shen Miao smiled.

Another half a year passed.

Once the war started, it was not so easy to stop. This war involving the three countries was even more so. There were winners and losers, and some retreated while some advanced. The State of Qin and Ming Qi were fighting this battle at all costs, so they invested especially much.

In comparison, the Daliang Dynasty’s soldiers seemed scarce.

However, even so, Ming Qi and the State of Qin still could not gain anything from the Daliang Dynasty. It was destined to be a seesaw battle. The Daliang Dynasty took an unhurried approach that slowly chipped away his enemies’ patience, causing them to fluster.

Especially recently.

In the previous battles, Ming Qi and the State of Qin had always managed to gain a little, especially at the beginning. Although the gains were not plenty, they could greatly boost morale. The soldiers were in high spirits.

In the end, the advantages of Ming Qi and the State of Qin became less obvious. Although they also had victories here and there, the overall situation was leaning towards the Daliang Dynasty.

It continued all the way to Youzhou.

Youzhou was located at the border of Ming Qi, the State of Qin, and the Daliang Dynasty. However, it had always been the territory of the State of Qin. As for why it was the territory of the State of Qin, it was a long story that traced back to the founding of the State of Qin. For so many generations, Youzhou

had been standing steadily at the border, not because the Daliang Dynasty and Ming Qi had never been interested, but because its terrain was complicated. It was easy to defend and difficult to attack. If they wanted to attack, they would probably have to go through a lot of trouble.

This piece of the cake was not easy to snatch..

#### Chapter 1100: The Return of an Old Friend (8)

The Daliang Dynasty soldiers led by Xie Jingxing were about to attack Youzhou. This battle was extremely important, and it could even be said to be the key to determining the entire battle. If Xie Jingxing successfully took down Youzhou, he would be able to end this war in a shorter time.

On the other hand, if Xie Jingxing could not bite off this piece of the cake, the Daliang Dynasty would suffer a huge blow.

Therefore, in this battle, be it the Daliang Dynasty, Ming Qi, or the State of Qin, they all betted everything they had on it.

As Empress Xiande told Shen Miao about this, she joked with her, "After all, the person leading the army is your husband. Why don't you look nervous at all?"

Shen Miao smiled. "I naturally believe in His Highness." Xie Jingxing was really cunning. Ye Mei was very capable and could successfully give the fake defensive maps to Fu Xiuyi and make Fu Xiuyi trust her, but Xie Jingxing had also played a big role in it.

At the beginning of the war, Xie Jingxing had deliberately let Fu Xiuyi win a few battles. In fact, those few victories did not give Ming Qi and the State of Qin any substantial advantage, but it gave them the illusion that they were winning.

After Fu Xiuyi tasted the sweetness of victory, he trusted Ye Mei more and more. Even if the Daliang Dynasty managed to win a few more battles later, in Fu Xiuyi's eyes, it was just a coincidence. However, the battles Xie Jingxing lost were all unimportant ones, but the few cities he won back and defended were all extremely important.

However, Fu Xiuyi and the Emperor of the State of Qin probably would not notice this, because in the recent battles, they had won small victories. The morale of the Daliang Dynasty's army seemed to be gradually declining. They attacked more and more fiercely, as if they wanted to take down the other party in one go.

Therefore, Fu Xiuyi took Youzhou very seriously. From the looks of it, Fu Xiuyi seemed to have carefully arranged his troops according to the defensive map drawn by Shen Miao.

There was nothing more satisfying than this news. The more soldiers and resources Fu Xiuyi spent on this, the greater the blow he would receive in the end. It was as if Xie Jingxing was luring a gambler. First, he let the gambler win some money, making the gambler feel that he was lucky. In the end, the gambler went all in and lost all his money. At this moment, Xie Jingxing was slowly drawing in the net and catching them all in one go.

Fu Xiuyi was already starting to take the bait. As for the emperor of the State of

Qin, he was more cautious than Fu Xiuyi. Perhaps he had other plans for Youzhou. However, once Fu Xiuyi was defeated, the State of Qin alone would not be a threat to Xie Jingxing.

Luo Tan reached out and carefully placed her hand on Shen Miao's stomach. She said, "Unfortunately, we can only receive news from Youzhou through a letter. This little fellow is growing very quickly."

Shen Miao lowered her head and looked at her stomach. Eight months passed peacefully. Life seemed to be no different from usual. She faced the ongoing war calmly. Not only because she trusted her family and lover, but also because she understood that there was a small life growing with her in her stomach..