

Venomous 401

Chapter 401: Confiscation of Military Power (6)

After Emperor Wen Hui finished speaking, he waved his hand in frustration and said, "Court dismissed!" He turned around and left. With this, it would probably not be long before Shen Xin, his wife, and Shen Qiu, who were detained, were released from the palace. However, at that time, Shen Xin and his wife would be deprived of their military power.

Emperor Wen Hui left, leaving the court officials looking at each other.

No one expected such a sensational matter to be handled so simply.

Su Yu patted the dirt off his knees and stood up. Seeing that Xie Ding had also stood up, he walked over to Xie Ding and whispered, "What was going on? Why did you suddenly speak?"

Although Su Yu agreed to impeach Shen Xin, he did not want to get his good friend involved in this mess. The situation the Xie family was facing was also dangerous. If he was not careful and implicated the Xie family, Su Yu would live the rest of his life in guilt. Therefore, Su Yu told his colleagues about this but did not tell Xie Ding. He did not expect Xie Ding to go along with him today and almost angered Emperor Wen Hui.

Xie Ding shook his head. "As soon as you said that, I knew what you were up to. Since you wanted to help Shen Xin, I didn't mind giving a hand. However, I'm just doing this for you." Xie Ding was an old fox who had been in the imperial court for many decades. Compared to Shen Xin who only knew how to fight wars, Xie Ding was better at dealing with the interests of the imperial court. He could tell that Su Yu was trying to help Shen Xin out by impeaching him, so he offered help.

Hearing this, Su Yu shook his head helplessly. He felt that his good friend's personality was exactly the same as Xie Jingxing. Thinking of Xie Jingxing, Su Yu suddenly remembered something and asked, "By the way, I heard from Mingfeng that Jingxing requested to go to war. Is that true?"

Xie Ding shook his head and sighed. "Yes, it's true."

"Is Jingxing crazy?" Su Yu said in disbelief, "The northern border is not a place to play... Old Xie, are you really not worried?"

"What's the point of me being worried? What's the point of me not being worried?" Xie Ding was very helpless. "I've never been able to control what he decides. Now, I only want him to be safe. This is all my fault. I'm the only one who should pay for my mistake."

"Actually... this is not your fault." Su Yu felt a little sad when he heard that. All these years, Xie Ding had been tortured by what happened in the past. His conscience was uneasy, and his son was not close to him. As an outsider, Su Yu felt sad, and Xie Ding felt even worse. He changed the topic. "I heard that the evidence against Shen Xin was submitted by the Ninth Prince, Prince Ding. Why don't I see him today?"

"I think His Majesty sent him to the Ministry of Works to inspect." Xie Ding frowned and said, "I wonder what he will think when he finds out about the result."

“What else can he think?” Su Yu sneered. “The royal family has taken back the military power, which is what they wanted the most. Whether or not the Shen family dies makes no difference.”

This was the first time Xie Ding had seen Su Yu like this. He was a little surprised and asked, “By the way, you haven’t told me why you wanted to help Shen Xin. When did you become friends with the Shen family?”

At this moment, there was no one around. Su Yu sighed and said, “It’s not me. It’s my son, Mingfeng. He told me last night that the Shen family is just the first target of the royal family. When the Shen family is gone, it will inevitably be the Su family...”

...

The news of what happened in the imperial court quickly spread throughout the capital. Emperor Wen Hui spared Shen Xin and his family’s lives, but he took back the military power. This made the commoners praise the royal family for being benevolent.

The commoners couldn’t grasp the whole picture, but the officials could. The Shen family, which had lost its military power, was like a toothless tiger. It was no longer as powerful as before.

In the Shen family, Shen Gui and Shen Wan were discussing this matter. Although Shen Xin was not punished as severely as they thought, the two of them were very satisfied with the emperor taking back Shen Xin’s military power. This meant that Shen Xin’s influence and power were now far inferior to theirs.

In the west courtyard, when Jingzhe told Shen Miao this news, Shen Miao had just finished lunch.

“Miss.” Jingzhe looked at Shen Miao’s relaxed expression and asked, “Miss, you don’t look worried at all. Is it... because the situation is not as bad as the rumors say?”

Shen Miao wiped her mouth with a handkerchief and said, “Don’t be afraid. What’s yours will always be yours. What’s not yours will eventually be taken away.”

Chapter 402: No Future (1)

On the day Shen Xin was released from the palace and returned to the mansion, Shen Miao personally went to the palace gate to pick him up.

The others in the Shen family were naturally unhappy with this outcome, especially Old Madam Shen. She thought that Shen Xin was doomed, but she did not expect him to be spared in the end. However, when she heard from Shen Gui what it meant to have no military power, Old Madam Shen was delighted again.

Shen Xin, without his military power, was no longer on par with Shen Gui and Shen Wan in terms of influence in the imperial court. Old Madam Shen was short-sighted. She didn’t realize that the Shen family was a whole. When the people thought of the Shen family, they first thought of Shen Xin. Once Shen Xin lost his power, the Shen family would no longer be as glorious.

However, Old Madam Shen probably did not care. In her heart, the two people she gave birth to, Shen Gui and Shen Wan, were countless times better than Shen Xin. If not for the fact that the old general was biased back then, Shen Xin would not be where he was today. She would take this opportunity to expel Shen Xin from the Shen family.

However, how the assets should be divided was also another matter worth thinking through.

Shen Miao did not take the assets to heart at all. At this point in time, she had to do as she had previously planned. Without the military power, the Shen family was indeed nothing to be afraid of. If the first branch continued to stay here, given how many enemies they had, the first branch would sooner or later be forced into a desperate situation.

At the end of the day, they still had to retreat.

For some reason, Shen Miao thought of Xie Jingxing's warning to her that day. The word "retreat" was indeed the only way out for the first branch of the Shen family.

The carriage stopped at the corner of the palace gate to prevent others from seeing it. Shen Miao knew better than anyone what kind of people the royal family were. They wanted to be benevolent on the surface, but secretly, they would still figure out ways to make people who offended them suffer. Now that Shen Xin was bereft of his military power, many people would definitely be happy to see him in such a miserable state.

Shen Miao had suffered a lot in her previous life. She could tolerate humiliation, but she could not tolerate her family being treated like this. She could only park the carriage here and wait for Shen Xin to come out to pick them up.

Just as she was thinking, she heard Mo Qing shout from outside, "Stop!" A strong wind blew in. Shen Miao's vision blurred, and the curtain of the carriage was lifted. In an instant, there was another person in the spacious carriage.

Gu Yu cried out in shock and her mouth was immediately covered by Jingzhe. Mo Qing said in a panic, "Miss!"

Shen Miao looked at the person opposite her.

On the carriage, the young man was wearing a dark red official robe. His eyes were flirtatious, and his thin lips were slightly curled. Even if he was wearing a dark red official robe, people still could not take their eyes off his face.

"Mo Qing, back off," Shen Miao reprimanded softly.

"But..." Mo Qing's voice sounded through the curtain of the carriage. That person was too fast, and he could not stop him in time. Letting a stranger inside the carriage with Shen Miao was by no means appropriate.

"You are not his match," Shen Miao said calmly to the outside. She looked at Jingzhe and Gu Yu. "You two go out, too. Guard the carriage."

Jingzhe and Gu Yu had seen Xie Jingxing before and knew that he and Shen Miao were friends, but they were confused about how close they were. The two of them were sometimes enemies, so why would Shen Miao be so friendly to her enemies?

However, with previous experiences, Jingzhe and Gu Yu were not worried about Xie Jingxing hurting Shen Miao. Otherwise, Shen Miao wouldn't allow Xie Jingxing to be in the carriage. Jingzhe and Gu Yu did not say anything and got out of the carriage.

Chapter 403: No Future (2)

In an instant, only Xie Jingxing and Shen Miao were left in the carriage.

"I heard that the Marquis of Lin'an spoke up for my father yesterday. Thank you, Young Marquis," Shen Miao said.

On the surface, Xie Ding helped Su Yu impeach Shen Xin, but in fact, he was giving Shen Xin a way out. Shen Miao believed that an old fox like Xie Jingxing could tell.

As expected, as soon as she said that, Xie Jingxing smiled and leaned back lazily. He loosened his arms and said, "What the Marquis of Lin'an did has nothing to do with me."

"Oh." Shen Miao looked at him and smiled. "Then Young Marquis, didn't you get into my carriage uninvited just to hear me thanking you?" She deliberately emphasized the words "my carriage", clearly very angry at Xie Jingxing for being rude.

Xie Jingxing stared at her and said, "Are you planning to make Shen Xin retreat to the northwest? To seek refuge with the Luo family?"

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. She looked at Xie Jingxing and did not speak.

This was indeed her plan. Xie Jingxing had pointed out a way for her to "retreat", but she did not want to retreat while at a disadvantage. She had not finished playing the game yet. Once she retreated, her opponent would gain the momentum. Her revenge had to be abandoned before it even started. How could she accept it?

It did not matter if the military power was confiscated. What Shen Xin had to offer was never the Shen army, but rather his ability to lead troops in battle. If he could nurture one Shen army, he could naturally nurture another one. Among the army that was confiscated, there were people planted by Shen Yuan and Fu Xiuyi. It was too tiring to lead such an army as he had to be on guard against anyone trying to stab him from behind.

The Shen family's military power was gone, but the Luo family still had soldiers. It was just that the combat power of the Luo family's army was not as good as the Shen family's, so it wasn't as well known.

Shen Miao wanted to use the Luo family's army and turn it into another Shen army as a trump card that no one knew about. Wasn't the royal family worried about Shen Xin rebelling? She would make their worry come true.

However... This secret thought could not be hidden from Xie Jingxing's sharp gaze. The moment her mind was seen through, Shen Miao panicked.

If Xie Jingxing knew what she was thinking... What would this person, the tragic hero who left a deep mark in the history of Ming Qi, do? Threaten her? Turn her in? Or... kill her?

However, he probably wouldn't have the chance to do so. Shen Miao had survived all the difficult times in her previous life. Even if she was temporarily shocked, she quickly suppressed the emotions in her heart. She thought that Xie Jingxing was about to go to the northern border. If this trip to the northern border followed the trajectory of her previous life, Xie Jingxing would die and be shot in the heart by ten thousand arrows. Even if Xie Jingxing was smart and all-knowing, he still couldn't escape this fate.

Shen Miao looked up at Xie Jingxing.

Xie Jingxing was really good-looking. In her previous life, she had seen many talented and good-looking young men. Even Fu Xiuyi, who she was infatuated with, did not have such a charm. He had long eyebrows, a tall nose, thin lips, and a rosy face. His smile always looked a little evil. He was handsome and a little domineering. His facial features were well-defined and he had a pair of dark and bright eyes. When he looked at people, his eyes were filled with coldness.

Chapter 404: No Future (3)

No one knew how cruel this person was under his cynical and arrogant appearance.

Xie Jingxing was still a young man and had the handsomeness of a young man. However, today, he was wearing a dark red court robe, making him look more mature. When Shen Miao's son, Fu Ming, was reading the history of the Xie family in Ming Qi, he sighed. "A young talent, a figure to be remembered by people for generations to come. He died young, and his death is the sorrow of Ming Qi!" It can be seen how high his evaluation of Xie Jingxing was.

In her previous life, when Shen Miao really noticed Xie Jingxing, she was already the empress. She had only seen him from afar at the palace banquet and vaguely had an impression of him being a very good-looking young man, but Fu Xiuyi did not treat him very warmly. Who would have thought that this handsome young man with a charming smile on his face would die on the battlefield before long?

There was a trace of pity in Shen Miao's eyes. She was not a kind person, but she still admired people who had been praised by Fu Ming and Wanyu.

Xie Jingxing was a little puzzled by her sorrowful gaze. He suddenly thought of the first time he saw Shen Miao at the door of Guangwen Hall. At that time, she also looked at him with such sadness. Xie Jingxing asked thoughtfully, "Do you pity me?"

This person is even better at reading people's expressions than me! Shen Miao thought to herself, but a smile appeared on her face. "Who am I to pity others?"

Xie Jingxing nodded, as if he felt that what she said made sense. However, he suddenly reached out and lifted the curtain of the carriage.

This place was in a remote corner, so no one would come over. Lifting the curtain of the carriage, one could see the high palace wall.

Shen Miao couldn't help but look into the distance.

Xie Jingxing smiled and said, "Do you want to live there?"

Shen Miao was slightly stunned.

"If you want to live there, I can help you," Xie Jingxing said. His tone was a little strange, but his smile seemed to hide something deeper. "When the time comes, how will you thank me?"

"Young Marquis, if you can burn this palace down, I might be grateful to you," Shen Miao replied.

Xie Jingxing raised an eyebrow in surprise. "I thought you wanted to be... a noble."

"I want to be a noble." Shen Miao turned around and looked at him with a mocking smile. "However, it's not the kind of noble you're talking about. It's a noble who's even more noble than a noble."

"You want to be the empress?"

The empress? Shen Miao was in a daze. She had once worn the empress's court dress and had a phoenix hairpin on her head. At the empress's coronation ceremony, it was glorious. The officials knelt down in front of her, and the people cheered for her.

At that time, she thought she had everything she wanted.

Now, it seemed that the higher she climbed, the more painful it was to fall. The empress? That was just an empty title.

"It's easy to be the empress, but it's difficult to be the emperor," Xie Jingxing said matter-of-factly.

In Ming Qi, the nine princes each had their own merits. Even the position of the crown prince was not stable. Who knew who would get the imperial seal in the future? Big families were all taking gambles by marrying their daughter to one of the princes.

Riches came from danger. Greed was a human's instinct. If they chose a wrong prince for their daughter, it would be equivalent to pushing their daughter into the fire.

Xie Jingxing said casually, "Who did you choose?"

Chapter 405: No Future (4)

He was asking her which prince she liked, which one she wanted to marry, and which one she supported.

"Young Marquis, who do you think has a better future?" Shen Miao asked.

"From the looks of it, no one has a future." What Xie Jingxing said shocked her. "What are you going to do?"

"Then I'll find someone with a future."

"Then what do you think of me?" Xie Jingxing raised his eyebrows and asked. This question was probably intended as a joke as the tone was quite teasing.

"Young Marquis has no future either." Shen Miao looked at him seriously.

Xie Jingxing was stunned by Shen Miao's words. Although he was not angry, he was a little unhappy. The women he had seen all liked him, and the men he had seen were all afraid of him, but Shen Miao neither liked nor was afraid of him. She even kept provoking him. Was he being too amiable to Shen Miao? Was that why Shen Miao thought he was a good-tempered person?

"Young Marquis, what exactly do you want to say? Please say it and leave." Shen Miao was already asking him to leave. "It won't be good if people see us together and misunderstand it."

"Misunderstand?" A smile flashed across Xie Jingxing's eyes. He deliberately said softly, "What will they misunderstand?"

"A lecher taking advantage of a young girl," Shen Miao replied without batting an eyelid. She could tell that Xie Jingxing was not a first time offender when it came to disregarding the rules of etiquette.

Even Xie Jingxing, who had seen all kinds of women, was stunned by Shen Miao's bold words. He cleared his throat and sat up straight. He did not tease Shen Miao anymore and only said, "Retreat to the northwest. The sooner the better. The longer you wait, the worse it will be for Shen Xin."

Shen Miao looked up at him, not expecting Xie Jingxing to give her this reminder. After all, she did not want to go against someone like Xie Jingxing. It was already very good that Xie Jingxing was not hostile to her.

"Thank you very much."

Xie Jingxing said, "It would be best if Shen Xin can leave the capital before I set off."

Shen Miao was a little helpless. "That is not up to me." Not everyone was as capable as Xie Jingxing. Shen Miao always felt that the background Xie Jingxing relied on did not seem to be completely the Marquis of Lin'an. However, in Ming Qi, what was more powerful than the Marquis of Lin'an apart from the royal family?

Shen Miao could not figure it out.

Xie Jingxing paused for a moment and suddenly lifted the curtain to rush out. Before Shen Miao could react, she heard someone shouting outside, "Madam, Master, Eldest Young Master!"

Shen Miao lifted the curtain and saw Shen Xin, his wife, and Shen Qiu walking over from the palace gate. When they saw Jingzhe and Gu Yu, they were stunned. Shen Miao looked around again but did not see Xie Jingxing. She thought to herself that this person was very vigilant and skilled.

When Luo Xueyan saw Jingzhe, she quickly walked over and saw Shen Miao jumping out of the carriage.

After only a few days, Shen Xin, his wife, and Shen Qiu looked much more haggard. Shen Miao had seen the royal family do this before. Sometimes, before they could decide how to punish people, they would detain them and wear them down. Shen Xin was a general and a martial artist, so his will was very

strong. However, Shen Miao was left alone in the mansion, so it was inevitable that he would be worried sick about her.

Luo Xueyan took a few steps forward and held Shen Miao's hand to size her up. "Jiaojiao, has anyone made things difficult for you these few days?"

Shen Miao shook her head.

Only then did Luo Xueyan heave a sigh of relief. Shen Qiu asked, "Sister, why didn't you stay in the mansion? Why did you come here?"

"I heard that Father and Mother are returning to the mansion today. I'm afraid you won't have a carriage, so I came to pick you up," Shen Miao said with a smile.

Chapter 406: No Future (5)

Shen Xin moved his lips, wanting to say something, but in the end, he did not say it. He knew that there were many people waiting to see him in this miserable state. Shen Miao was considerate enough to bring a carriage so that he wouldn't be seen. However, Shen Xin felt frustrated. He promised he would protect his family, but with his military power gone, he couldn't even protect himself.

He got into the carriage in silence. Luo Xueyan did not want Shen Miao to worry, so she pulled her into the carriage too. Jingzhe and the others sat in the carriage behind. In the first carriage, there was only Shen Miao and her family.

"Mother, what did His Majesty say?" Shen Miao asked.

Luo Xueyan hesitated for a moment before smiling and saying, "It's nothing. It's just a misunderstanding."

Shen Miao said, "If it's a misunderstanding, why did he take away your military power?"

Shen Qiu was stunned and subconsciously looked at Shen Xin. The person who was most angry now was Shen Xin. He did not know what went wrong, but the only possibility was that there were spies in the Shen army. Otherwise, no one would know about him disobeying the emperor to massacre the city.

"Actually, it's fine if the military power is taken." Luo Xueyan tried to comfort Shen Miao. She was afraid that Shen Miao would feel scared. She said, "Without the military power, we can still go to war. Your father is still a general. We're still the same as before."

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. Shen Xin and Shen Qiu looked at her worriedly. In the past, Shen Miao was a little arrogant because she had the backing of the mighty general. Once she lost her backing, it was normal for this noble young lady to not be able to accept it.

"Are you still going to war?" Shen Miao said softly, "Are you going to war with that small group of personal guards?"

Luo Xueyan and Shen Qiu were instantly stunned. These days, they were used to Shen Miao being gentle and obedient. When they suddenly heard such a sharp question, they were in disbelief.

Shen Xin's face turned ashen. The general's pride could not be trampled on by anyone. Emperor Wen Hui had spared his life, but he had also humiliated him deeply. This made Shen Xin feel worse than dying.

"Without soldiers, isn't the title of general empty?" Shen Miao looked up, her eyes extremely calm, as if she was talking about something normal.

Shen Xin clenched his fists. "Jiaojiao, I will try to clear my name, and I will eventually take back the Shen army. Don't be afraid."

Shen Xin had been relying on military achievements his entire life. He believed that other than Xie Ding, no one in Ming Qi was braver than him and no one had the ability to lead a large army.

"But how long will we have to wait? At that time, will the Shen army still be loyal to Father? There were spies in the Shen army when it was under your command. In the future... who can guarantee that there won't be more spies?"

As soon as she said that, Luo Xueyan's expression darkened and she asked, "Jiaojiao, who told you this?"

Shen Miao knew that Shen Xin's military power had been snatched, and she also knew that the Shen army had been integrated into the royal army because everyone knew about it. However, it was impossible for her to hear from outsiders about the spies being planted in the Shen army. The person who knew this must be an insider of the imperial court. Luo Xueyan was afraid that Shen Miao would be used by others.

Shen Miao shook her head. "I'm not a fool. I don't always need people to tell me about things."

Shen Qiu said, "Sister is very smart." Shen Qiu could tell what Shen Miao was capable of from Prince Yu's matter. He knew that Shen Miao's horizons were not that of a normal girl.

Chapter 407: No Future (6)

It was rare for Shen Qiu to say that. Shen Xin frowned and asked, "Jiaojiao, what are you trying to say?"

"Since the Shen army is no longer ours, let's abandon it. How about giving up?" Shen Miao said.

"Jiaojiao!" Luo Xueyan stopped her. Suddenly, she felt that her tone was too harsh, so she quickly softened. "The Shen army was nurtured by your father alone. There are countless trusted aides among them. How can it be easy to give up? They're all our comrades on the battlefield. This... is impossible."

"Then what are your plans, Father?" Shen Miao asked, "Are you going to endure it like this? If you endure it, you might be able to wait for a good opportunity, but if someone tries to bring you down, you won't even be able to fight back."

Shen Xin stared at Shen Miao, as if he couldn't recognize his daughter. He asked thoughtfully, "Jiaojiao, what do you think we should do?"

Shen Miao's eyes were shockingly bright. "Father, if you can nurture one army, why can't you nurture another one?"

Shen Xin was stunned at first, then he laughed out loud and stroked Shen Miao's head, as if what Shen Miao said made him happy. He said, "You are indeed still a young girl. Where are the soldiers needed to form an army?" At the end of his sentence, there was a hint of sadness in his voice.

The Shen army was like a child raised by Shen Xin. How could he explain the pain of losing his child?

Shen Miao smiled faintly. "Then, what about the Luo family?"

Shen Xin's smile disappeared. Luo Xueyan and Shen Qiu thought of something at the same time and their gazes immediately landed on Shen Miao.

Shen Miao said slowly, "Doesn't grandfather still have a group of soldiers under his command? Although they can't compare to the Shen army as of now, if you train them well, they might be the next Shen army."

The Luo family was also a military family, but they were declining day by day. It was true that they had soldiers under them, but later, when Shen Xin was stationed in the northwest, the soldiers of the Luo family in Spring City retired as they weren't needed. Over the years, they were no different from ordinary people.

"That won't do." The Shen family had been loyal to the emperor and patriotic for so many years. It was their instinct to serve the emperor. Shen Miao's words could even be considered treacherous. Raising soldiers in a place that the emperor did not know..." Luo Xueyan said, "Jiaojiao, this is not a joking matter." She did not know how to explain to Shen Miao how much the royal family hated generals who had soldiers. How could a little girl like Shen Miao understand?

Shen Qiu, who was very quiet, said, "Sister, do you want to replace the Shen army with the Luo army?"

"It's not really a replacement." Shen Miao smiled. "It's just that Father is a general after all. He can't have no soldier by his side. He naturally has to have followers. In that case, what's so bad about using the Luo army? With the Luo army, Father can protect us all."

Luo Xueyan felt that what Shen Miao said today was really unbelievable. When she looked up, she saw Shen Xin frowning, as if he was seriously thinking about Shen Miao's words.

Shen Xin looked at Shen Miao and deliberately asked, "Jiaojiao, you're right, but the Luo army is far away in Spring City. How are we going to get there?"

"That will depend on you." Shen Miao smiled at him. "Perhaps you can give it a try and tell His Majesty that you want to retreat to the northwest and volunteer to guard Spring City."

Shen Xin and the other two were stunned again.

Spring City was a small city at the northwest border, thousands of miles away from the capital. If Shen Xin really made this request, everyone would think that this mighty general was disheartened because he lost his military power and wanted to escape far away. As for his reputation as the mighty general, it would slowly be wiped off by time.

Shen Xin widened his eyes. "This is a retreat. No!"

“Father, what are you afraid of? The retreat is for the sake of advancing.” Shen Miao did not back down at all. For the first time, her eyes, which had always been calm and clear, looked like they were provocative. “Are you afraid of not being able to recover from the setback, afraid of retreating again and again and having no way to retreat, or are you afraid that time will pass quickly and you won’t be able to bring the Shen family back to its former glory?”

These questions made Shen Xin’s heart tighten. Not only Shen Xin, but Luo Xueyan and Shen Qiu were also stunned. Shen Xin stared at Shen Miao. He suddenly realized that this delicate and soft-looking daughter seemed to have inherited the tenacity and boldness in his bones.

“Besides.” Shen Miao chuckled. “In two years, His Majesty will definitely summon Father back to the capital. The day you are summoned back to the capital will be the day you win back the glory that is yours.”

Chapter 408: Brother Xie (1)

The lights in the west courtyard of the Shen family were bright all night.

Shen Gui and Shen Wan wanted to come in and ask, but Shen Xin asked his trusted aides to guard the entrance of the courtyard, not allowing anyone to enter.

In the room, Shen Qiu poured a cup of tea for Shen Miao and said, “Sister, take your time. Tell us your plan in detail.”

When it came to military matters, Shen Xin, Luo Xueyan, and Shen Qiu never discussed with Shen Miao. The military matters were so complicated and deep that even the officials couldn’t understand, let alone Shen Miao, a little girl who had never been outside the capital.

However, Shen Miao said it so logically that Shen Xin and his wife couldn’t help but look at her in shock.

“Give up the Shen army and retrain the Luo army.” Luo Xueyan said in confusion, “But the Shen army is all elite. The Luo army is...” At the mention of the soldiers her father used to lead, Luo Xueyan was still a little sad.” How can they compare to the Shen army?”

“Although the Luo army is not as experienced, it’s safer to lead them.” Shen Miao said, “There’s already spies planted by people in the Shen army. Who knows if they will try to stab Father in the back some day?”

As soon as she said that, the three of them fell silent.

Shen Xin said, “I’ve thought about what Sister said too.”

Shen Qiu and Luo Xueyan looked at Shen Xin at the same time. At this moment, Shen Xin no longer looked suspicious. He looked at Shen Miao with admiration in his eyes. “However, Jiaojiao, what did you mean when you said in the carriage that I will definitely be summoned back to the capital within two years?”

“That’s right.” Shen Qiu also turned to look at Shen Miao. “Sister, how did you know that His Majesty will summon Father back to the capital within two years?”

No one could guess what the emperor was thinking. When Shen Miao said this, it seemed to mean something. Luo Xueyan immediately became nervous. The person who could figure out the emperor's thoughts was definitely someone close to Emperor Wen Hui. Could it be Prince Ding? What Luo Xueyan was most worried about was that Shen Miao would also be involved in the power game between the princes.

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. Within two years, Emperor Wen Hui would naturally have to summon Shen Xin back to the capital because Ming Qi was under threat from the State of Qin. At that time, Emperor Wen Hui's health was already very poor. The crown prince was bedridden, and Prince Zhou and Prince Li were fighting each other to the death, and the net Fu Xiuyi had laid out was gradually spreading.

As a loyal official and general, Shen Xin would definitely be used by Emperor Wen Hui to deter the enemy country.

However, these were something Shen Miao couldn't speak out loud. Facing their gazes, Shen Miao smiled and said, "I just had a very realistic dream. In the dream, within two years, Father will make a comeback and win back the title of the mighty general."

Whether or not Shen Xin could be summoned back to the capital within two years was something that no one could say for sure. However, whether it was a year, two years, or three or four years, retreating to the Northwest at this moment was indeed the best solution. Not only was it to make a comeback, but it was also because the competition for the throne was now very intense. If the Shen family stayed in the capital, even if they did not have military power, they would inevitably be dragged into this mess. He had to make sure his family was safe before thinking about making contributions.

Chapter 409: Brother Xie (2)

This was what Shen Xin was thinking.

He smiled and looked at Shen Miao. "Jiaojiao, since you said that she knew it from your dream, then the dream will definitely come true. I believe you." He actually did not intend to ask further at all.

The words "I believe you" almost made Shen Miao cry. Back then, she insisted on marrying Fu Xiuyi. Shen Xin tried all he could to stop her. Later, when she threatened him with her life, Shen Xin finally compromised. The mighty general who had been giving commands all his life revealed a dejected and helpless expression and said, "Since you chose him, I believe you."

After that, Shen Miao slowly pushed the Shen family into the abyss.

Shen Miao closed her eyes, and those tragic memories disappeared. She said, "Father, if you really believe me, make a request to His Majesty to retreat to Spring City tomorrow."

"Tomorrow?" Luo Xueyan was shocked. "Why the hurry?"

"Only when we act hurriedly will His Majesty think that Father does it because he is angry about his military power being snatched away. That way, His Majesty won't be paranoid and think too much," Shen Miao explained.

Shen Qiu wanted to say something, but Shen Xin said first, "Let's do that."

"Shen Xin!" Luo Xueyan was a little anxious. Although she also thought what Shen Miao said made sense, it was an important matter after all. Making a decision so rashly was too risky.

Shen Xin shook his head. "You and I have been on the battlefield for many years, but we can't even see the situation as clearly as Jiaojiao did." He looked at Shen Miao with a complicated gaze. In the end, he reached out and rubbed Shen Miao's head. "If Jiaojiao is a man, how many people in the world can compare to her?"

Shen Miao looked at him quietly.

A young girl would definitely not be able to figure out all this alone. Shen Xin might be a boor, but that did not mean he was brainless. He had probably already seen through Shen Miao. However, Shen Xin did not ask. Even if he asked, Shen Miao would not tell him the secret of her rebirth. Perhaps this was the unconditional trust between a family.

Just like how Shen Xin had always been on her side in her previous life.

"The Shen family will be fine," Shen Miao promised.

"I will go to the court tomorrow morning to make the request." Shen Xin smiled and pulled Luo Xueyan up. "Let's go back and rest early."

Luo Xueyan wanted to say something, but when she saw Shen Xin's expression, she suddenly froze. She had been with Shen Xin for so many years and had never seen him so serious. He was supposed to be a hero respected by the people, but he was deprived of his military power and was now going to a small city in the middle of nowhere. No one was more aggrieved than Shen Xin at this moment. For the first time, her expression softened. She held Shen Xin and said, "Alright."

Shen Qiu, on the other hand, was left behind. He looked at Shen Miao and wanted to say something but hesitated. In the end, he couldn't help but ask, "Sister, do you... want Father to rebel?"

Among the people of the Shen family, Shen Qiu was most aware of how ruthless Shen Miao was. When Prince Yu coveted her, she would kill everyone in Prince Yu's mansion. The Jing family schemed against her and now, they all died. The emperor took military power from the Shen family. Was Shen Miao really doing this just to protect herself?

"We're the emperor's people, and we are loyal to the emperor." Shen Miao smiled faintly. "The Shen family has served the emperor for generations. How could that happen? Brother, don't think too much. If anyone hears us talking about this, I'm afraid we'll both be in trouble."

Shen Qiu paused for a moment before saying, "That's for the best. Sister... don't do anything stupid." Only then did he turn around and walk out of the room.

Shen Miao slowly sat down.

She really wanted to rebel, but she needed to find a good cause to justify her rebellion. The most important thing now was to avoid trouble. However, when she returned from the Northwest, she would definitely give the royal family a big gift

Chapter 410: Brother Xie (3)

She only hoped that the royal family could take it.

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The news of Shen Xin's military power being snatched only circulated for a day in the capital before it was replaced by new rumors the next day. However, the new rumors were still related to Shen Xin.

It was said that the second day after Shen Xin lost his military power, he handed a letter to Emperor Wen Hui in front of the civil and military officials during the morning assembly, saying that he wanted to retreat to Spring City with the remaining guards of the Shen family.

Others found it unbelievable that the once famous general would end up becoming a watcher of a city in the middle of nowhere. Shen Xin must be very disappointed with Emperor Wen Hui and feel aggrieved, so much so that he made the decision in a fit of anger.

The storyteller in the teahouse recounted the scene vividly. He said that Emperor Wen Hui's expression changed on the spot in the throne hall and he threw the letter at Shen Xin's face. Unexpectedly, Shen Xin remained stubborn and insisted on retreating to Spring City. The emperor was naturally not someone with a good temper. No matter how many contributions Shen Xin had made in the past, it was useless. Didn't you want to retreat to the border? Good, very good. Then go and guard that small city!

Therefore, the entire capital knew that the mighty general was leaving the capital for Spring city tomorrow.

Almost everyone in the teahouse was talking about this. Some people felt that Shen Xin had done the right thing. The mighty general had become a general without an army. Even if he stayed in the capital, no one would respect him. It was better to stay far away and avoid being talked about. Some people felt that Shen Xin had been given too much power and was arrogant. He was spared a life sentence after deceiving the emperor. But not only did he not show gratitude, but he even openly threw a tantrum at Emperor Wen Hui. If not for Emperor Wen Hui's benevolence, Shen Xin would've been beheaded a thousand times.

In the Pleasure Restaurant, Ji Yushu held his chin and looked at Gao Yang. "What do you think Shen Xin is doing? Is he going to abandon the Shen army just like that?"

"If that's the case, he's really decisive." Gao Yang sighed and said, "Not everyone can retreat peacefully after such a humiliation." After taking a sip of tea, Gao Yang said to Xie Jingxing, who was silent at the side, "Why aren't you saying anything?"

Xie Jingxing was interrupted. He came back to his senses and looked at the two of them. "The Shen family is too fast."

"Fast?" Ji Yushu was a little puzzled.

Xie Jingxing played with the teacup in his hand and smiled faintly. He pointed a way out for the Shen family to Shen Miao, but he did not expect the Shen family to take action so quickly. Yesterday, Shen Xin was stripped of his military power, and today, he went to court to request retreating to the far

northwest. Shen Xin was a person who wouldn't make a move unless he was confident. For Shen Xin to make up his mind in such a short time, Shen Miao must have said something to him.

Emperor Wen Hui asked Shen Xin to pack his things and leave the capital tomorrow. On the surface, he was making things difficult for Shen Xin, but little did he know that his thoughts were completely read by a little girl from the Shen family. Xie Jingxing had a feeling that in this chess game being played in Ming Qi, Shen Miao might play a crucial part. However... to him, who was about to leave the capital, this was meaningless.

"Yushu, leave the capital with me." He said, "Gao Yang, I'll leave the rest to you."

Ji Yushu rubbed his nose and looked a little excited. "Alright, Third Brother Xie. The pastries made by the chef here are really awful. Third Brother's chef is the best. At least I don't have to go hungry."

Gao Yang rolled his eyes at him and said coldly, "You've eaten everything in the capital. When have you gone hungry?" With that, he changed to a serious expression and said to Xie Jingxing, "Don't worry, leave the rest to me."