

## **Venomous 421**

### **Chapter 421: The Luo Family**

The next morning, at dawn, Jingzhe and Gu Yu came over to help Shen Miao get up. When they entered the room, they saw Shen Miao sleeping on the couch. The blanket was gone, and she was covered in a fox fur coat.

The two of them were shocked. When they left yesterday, they did not see such a coat. Where did this fox fur coat come from? Jingzhe woke Shen Miao up. When Shen Miao woke up, she looked at the fox fur coat in confusion.

Although the aftereffects of the plum wine were strong, just as the farmer's wife said, it wouldn't cause hangover. Shen did not feel dizzy when she woke up the next day, but she could not remember what happened last night at all. She didn't even know why she insisted on staying in this room alone.

Gu Yu held the snow-white fox fur coat and said, "Miss, where did you get this fox fur coat?"

Shen Miao took the coat and shook her head.

"The boxes of clothes are all here. Miss, did you get too cold last night and took the coat out yourself?" Jingzhe asked tentatively, "But why do I feel like this is the first time I've seen this fox fur coat?"

They did not think of the possibility that someone might have snuck into the room because there were guards keeping watch outside. However, the appearance of this fox fur coat was too strange. Shen Miao said, "Take it and go out to ask the farmer if it's his."

When they brought the fox fur coat to ask the farmer, he shook his head and said, "I don't have such a high quality fox fur coat."

Shen Qiu took the fox fur coat and said, "This fox fur coat doesn't look ordinary. Sister, where did you get this? I'm afraid it's worth a lot of money. The workmanship looks masterful, but the tailoring is not good. I feel that it's too big for you."

Shen Miao took the fox fur coat and was puzzled. She really couldn't remember when she bought such a coat. However, when she heard it was worth a lot of money, she took it back and lied without changing her expression. "Now that you mention it, I think I bought it in the capital. Jingzhe, put it away."

Jingzhe was still thinking about when and where Shen Miao bought the coat. Hearing that, she immediately nodded and put the coat into the box. Shen Miao shook her head. No matter where the coat came from, she could exchange it for a lot of money when they needed it. Now that Shen Xin was not doing as well as before, they had to carefully plan their spending.

Time always passed especially quickly.

Although the road to Spring City was arduous, Shen Miao had never uttered a word of complaint.

They finally arrived at Spring City at the beginning of August. It had been almost six months since they set off back in February.

Spring City was located at the border of Ming Qi. It was a very small city. The largest official in the city was the general, General Luo Sui. All along, Luo Sui had been protecting the people of Spring City and maintaining peace. However, because it was too far from the capital, everyone knew that this general was not as glorious as it sounded. In addition, over the years, the Luo family's army had mostly dispersed.

When the guards at the city gate saw Luo Xueyan take out the Luo family's token from her pocket, they immediately felt a deep sense of respect and asked someone to send a message to the Luo family. Spring City was only so big, and when the Shen family marched into the city, it immediately attracted the attention of the surrounding commoners. When they found out that it was the daughter of the Luo family who brought her family over, the street immediately became bustling.

## **Chapter 422: Luo Family (2)**

Jingzhe quietly lifted the curtain of the carriage and looked outside. She said to Shen Miao, "Miss, we are here in Spring City."

Shen Miao also looked out.

Spring City was not as bad as the noble ladies in the capital made it out to be. Although it was a small place at the border, it was quite lively. It was just that the wind could be strong and sandy. Because of it, the skin of the girls here was a little dark, and they were not as delicate as the girls in the capital. There were vendors and small shops on the streets, and it was by no means short of goods.

As Jingzhe watched, she became happy. Her initial nervousness was swept away and she said, "Miss, Spring City is not much different from the capital."

"Jiaojiao, do you like this place?" Luo Xueyan asked uneasily. What she was most afraid of was that Shen Miao was not used to living here. Luo Xueyan had grown up in Spring City, so of course, there was no problem for her. Shen Qiu and Shen Xin were both generals who had been on the battlefield, so they would not complain about living conditions. However, her pampered daughter had never left the capital.

Shen Miao smiled. "This place is pretty good."

Only then did Luo Xueyan feel relieved. She smiled and said, "Let's go to see your grandparents. You also have two uncles, three cousin brothers, and a cousin sister. They're all good people. When you get there, they will definitely like you very much."

Mrs. Luo died young, and Luo Sui had been alone for many years. The Luo family had three children, and Luo Xueyan was the youngest sister. When Shen Miao was born, the Luo family came all the way to the capital to see her once. After that, because Spring City was really too far away, Shen Miao and the Luo family had never seen each other. In her previous life, Shen Miao had a very vague impression of the Luo family. Now that she heard Luo Xueyan say that, she was actually excited to meet them.

At this moment, there were already many people gathered in front of the Luo family. Some of them were commoners who wanted to join the fun, and of course, there were people from the Luo family.

Luo Sui stood at the front, followed by a middle-aged couple. Behind the couple stood three young men and a girl. The young men all had fine features and looked upright. Although they were still young, they had the bearing of a general. The girl's skin was a healthy wheat color, and she had a pair of almond-shaped eyes and a diamond-shaped mouth. She pulled the young man beside her and asked, "Brother, what kind of person do you think that cousin is?"

The young man had a good temper and said gently, "She should be a good person."

"What do you mean by a good person? Can you be more specific?" The girl wasn't satisfied with that answer. "Is she beautiful? Do you still remember the girls who visited Spring City? All of them are very beautiful, but they are so neurotic and annoying. Moreover, didn't that official's daughter who came to Spring City as a guest last year say that she knows our cousin?" She lowered her voice, but because of her clear voice, it could still be heard. "She said that our cousin doesn't have a good reputation in the capital."

"Tan!" A shout interrupted the girl. It was Luo Sui who spoke and glared fiercely at the girl called Tan. The girl quickly stood straight, stuck out her tongue, and stopped talking.

She did not speak, but another young man who looked more lively walked over and tugged at Tan's hand. "Grandpa is just biased. This cousin is not here yet, but he's already speaking up for her. I want to see what kind of person this cousin is."

Shen Xin fought in the northwest all year round. When he went to the northwest border, he had to pass by Spring City, so he came over every year. Shen Qiu and the Luo family knew each other. The person the Luo family was most interested in was probably Shen Miao, who they had never seen since she was born. The world was neither big nor small. Occasionally, some officials who were demoted or passed by would come to Spring City. They knew the rumors in the capital. From all the information the Luo family gathered over time, they didn't have a positive impression of Shen Miao.

### **Chapter 423: Luo Family (3)**

Just as the girl and the young man were whispering, a group of carriages slowly approached. The people riding in the lead were Shen Xin, Shen Qiu, and the others, followed by a group of soldiers.

"Father." Shen Xin got off the horse. Shen Qiu quickly followed and ran to Luo Sui with a smile. "Grandfather."

Luo Sui's gaze swept past the father and son before landing on the carriage. After all, who he wanted to see the most was his granddaughter.

A chubby madam smiled and said, "Jiaojiao should be in the carriage. They must be travel-worn after taking such a long journey."

As soon as she finished speaking, the curtain of the carriage was lifted. Jingzhe and Gu Yu helped Luo Xueyan out. Luo Xueyan reached into the carriage to help a little girl get down.

The little girl bent down and got off the carriage. She looked up, revealing a beautiful face. Luo Xueyan held her hand and said, "Jiaojiao, we're home."

The girl called Luo Tan opened her mouth but did not speak.

The wind in Spring City was strong and the weather was dry. It was rare for girls to have fair skin. Shen Miao, on the other hand, was very delicate, and because of her snow-white skin, she looked like a painting. She had dark eyebrows, black eyes, a small nose, and red and moist lips.

However, what was most eye-catching was her aura. Held by Luo Xueyan, she looked very delicate but by no means weak. Instead, she looked even more dignified and noble, as if she was the one in charge.

The surrounding commoners and the Luo family were a little dumbfounded.

For a woman, appearance was secondary. Compared to having a good appearance, temperament was more attractive.

She followed Luo Xueyan step by step and walked up to Luo Sui. Luo Sui was tall, with deep eyes and a high nose. Compared to Shen Xin's roughness, he looked even more serious and unapproachable. He frowned and stared at Shen Miao. With such a cold expression, if she was a timid girl, she would probably be frightened to tears. Shen Miao looked like a delicate and noble girl from the capital. Everyone thought that she would definitely be frightened out of her wits. Tan and the young man revealed a stifled smile, wanting to see the good show.

Shen Miao looked up and met Luo Sui's eyes. Her eyebrows were relaxed, and her body was at ease. Clearly, she was not nervous under Luo Sui's gaze. Her eyes were calm, and she even smiled slightly. The attitude of a superior to a subordinate actually stunned Luo Sui.

The attitude of a superior to a subordinate?

The Luo family was like a city lord in Spring City. How could there be a superior?

After being stunned for a moment, Luo Sui suddenly laughed out loud. His laughter shocked the people around him. Luo Sui patted Shen Miao's head and shouted loudly, "Girl, why are you not greeting me?"

"Grandfather," Shen Miao replied meekly.

Only then did Luo Xueyan heave a sigh of relief. Luo Sui was different from Shen Xin. Shen Xin doted on Shen Miao to the extreme, but Luo Sui had been a strict father. Even Luo Xueyan was afraid of him. Now that Luo Sui was old, he was not as stern as before, but his habit of intimidating young people did not change. She was afraid that Shen Miao would be scared. Fortunately, Shen Miao did not have a big reaction.

At the same time, Shen Miao's attitude surprised the people around her. She didn't seem to be a good-for-nothing and actually had some courage. Tan whispered into the young man's ear indignantly, "She must be pretending to be calm!"

#### **Chapter 424: Luo Family (4)**

The oldest and most good-tempered young man looked at Shen Miao thoughtfully but did not speak.

Luo Xueyan pulled Shen Miao forward to introduce her to the Luo family. The Luo family had two sons, Shen Miao's two uncles, Luo Lianying and Luo Liantai.

Luo Lianying's wife was Madam Yu, a gentle and honest woman. She gave birth to two sons, Luo Ling and Luo Sa.

Shen Miao's second uncle, Luo Liantai, was married to Madam Ma. Her family were merchants and were shrewd. She gave birth to a twin. The elder sister was called Luo Tan, and the younger brother was called Luo Qian.

Luo Ling was Shen Miao's eldest cousin. This cousin was now 18 years old and had a gentle and honest personality, just like Madam Yu. When he saw Shen Miao, he greeted her gently and politely. He was a very considerate person. As for the second cousin, Luo Sa, he was Luo Ling's younger brother. He looked like a violent person. He looked at Shen Miao and snorted, mocking, "Can a young lady from the capital withstand the sandstorm in Spring City?"

Luo Tan was 16 years old this year and looked a little wary of Shen Miao. Her attitude was not friendly, but she was curious. Luo Tan's brother was the same age as Shen Miao and had been sizing her up. He had a round face and was a little picky.

After Shen Miao greeted the people in the Luo family, Luo Sui asked Luo Xueyan to bring her to settle down in the mansion first.

The entire Luo family lived together and were quite harmonious with each other. The Shen family was arranged to stay in Luo Xueyan's original courtyard. When the servants went to tidy up the house, everyone was talking in the hall.

"Xueyan, what are your plans for the future after returning to Spring City this time?" Luo Sui asked.

Shen Xin retreated to Spring City because his military power had been snatched away. Previously, he had written a letter to inform the Luo family. However, at that time, he was too far away, so the Luo family couldn't get to ask questions. Now that he was here, questions were naturally unavoidable.

Luo Xueyan smiled and said, "Father, why do you ask? Since we're here in Spring City, of course we want to settle down here." Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin did not know how to tell Luo Sui about wanting to revive the Luo army. With Luo Sui's old-fashioned personality, they probably needed to persuade him for quite a while.

"Third Sister," Luo Lianying said. He glanced at Shen Xin and hesitated for a moment before asking, "But the Shen army was taken away just like that... Is there really no way to salvage the situation?"

They were generals and could understand the significance of the army to generals. Shen Xin had been in the military for so many years. If they were in his shoes, they would probably be furious.

Shen Xin cupped his hands and said, "Brother, instead of being indignant and resentful, I would rather come to terms with reality. Spring City is not bad either. I also want to live in the place where Xueyan grew up."

Hearing this, Luo Sui took a few more glances at Shen Xin, and the serious expression on his face softened a little. "It's rare that you've changed."

Everyone knew Shen Xin's straightforward personality. It was indeed beyond everyone's expectation that Shen Xin would compromise so easily.

Shen Miao looked at the Luo family members with different expressions and suddenly asked, "Grandpa, I heard that there are Turks at the border of Spring City. Is it true?"

#### **Chapter 425: Luo Family (5)**

As soon as she said that, the surroundings fell silent.

A moment later, Madam Ma reacted. She smiled and said, "Jiaojiao, don't be afraid. Those Turks are all outside the city and don't dare to come in. Even if they do, the soldiers will chase them away. We've been safe and sound for so many years. There's nothing to be afraid of."

Shen Qiu also thought that Shen Miao was afraid and comforted her softly, "Aunt is right. Jiaojiao, don't be afraid."

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. Spring City was a small place at the border. At the border, nomads had always been harrasing. The Turks in the east were one of them. These Turks had strong bodies and strong horses, and they were very brave in battle. If they really fought, Ming Qi might be the one at a disadvantage. However, because Spring City was easy to defend and difficult to attack, and the Luo family was famous, these Turks did not dare to advance and only caused small skirmishes at the border. Every August to October, the grassland where the Turks lived would be dry, and the Turks would enter Spring City to snatch things. The people were used to this, so they did not take it to heart.

However, Shen Miao remembered that this year, something big happened in Spring City.

She nodded and said casually, "Is the Luo army as brave as the Shen army? If that's the case, if the Turks attack the city, we'll definitely be able to resist."

Luo Sui's expression froze. Luo Lianying and Luo Liantai's expressions were not good either. The Luo family could not afford to maintain such a huge expenditure of running an army. In addition, Emperor Wen Hui did not care about Spring City at all. After so many years, the Luo army was no different from non-existence. The soldiers went home to farm and do business, and the Luo army that was left was no different from commoners. Other than deterring the Turks at the border every year, they did not have anything else to do. Comparing the Luo and Shen armies was simply slapping the faces of the Luo family.

Luo Sa immediately turned hostile. He looked at Shen Miao and said angrily, "What do you mean?"

Luo Ling quickly tugged at him and looked at Shen Miao. "Second Brother is being too harsh. Cousin, don't take it to heart."

"The people from the capital are indeed different." Luo Tan curled her lips. "They are easily frightened. We've lived here for so many years and have enjoyed peace. Cousin, don't worry. The Turks won't enter the city...."

Shen Miao smiled. "So what if they enter the city?"

Luo Tan did not expect Shen Miao to refute and was stunned.

Luo Sui, who was sitting at the head seat, did not say anything. This was how the Luo family educated their young descendants. They let them compete and argue on their own. Only by debating could they learn something new. The elders only watched quietly from the side. Some of what Shen Miao said just now was interesting. If Luo Sui did not speak, Luo Lianying and the others would not speak anything either. They just sat back and watched the juniors argue.

"How can they enter the city?" Luo Tan said angrily, "Those Turks only want food and tools. After October, when the drought ends, they will stop the harassment. If they enter the city, they have to fight our soldiers. Why would they take the risk?"

Shen Miao's expression did not change. She said indifferently, "Don't you think it's too easy for them to be satisfied with just food and tools?"

Everyone was stunned.

Luo Qian was about the same age as Shen Miao. He asked curiously, "Cousin, what do you mean?"

"If it were me, I wouldn't be satisfied," Shen Miao replied gently. "They have brave soldiers, strong horses, and an enormous grassland to retreat to. Compared to the scattered soldiers in Spring City, they have much better winning conditions. Why won't they take the risk? The only reason they haven't done anything yet is because they are not familiar with the layout of Spring City. However, after exploring it for more than ten years, even if they only come to this small city once a year, they'll still be able to come up with a rough map." She tilted her head and smiled. "As far as I know, there is no agreement between the Turks and Spring City to not invade each other. Am I right?"

#### Chapter 426: The Luo Family (6)

For a long time, no one in the room spoke.

Everyone took it for granted that the Turks had no ambitions for Spring City. Every time, they would only snatch something because they couldn't get it. Unexpectedly, Shen Miao talked about this matter through a different perspective and caught everyone off guard.

That was right. The Turks had everything. Why shouldn't they have ambition for Spring City? If the Turks wanted to take over Spring City, how could the people of Spring City resist?

Luo Sa's expression slowly changed. He glanced at Shen Miao. Although his tone was still not friendly, it was much better than his angry tone just now. He said, "Then what do you propose?"

"I think the Luo army is not as united as the Shen army," Shen Miao said politely. However, as a matter of fact, the Luo army was simply a mess. "When I was young, I heard from my mother that when Grandpa was young, he led the Luo army to war. Grandpa, have you never thought about restoring the Luo army back to its former glory?"

Everyone in the room gasped. Even Shen Xin and Luo Xueyan looked at Shen Miao in disbelief.

Luo Qian and Luo Tan's eyes lit up. The younger generation always looked forward to becoming a hero. The scene Shen Miao painted could at least satisfy the vanity of the younglings. Luo Ling and Luo Sa were older and did not show much enthusiasm, but a trace of hope still flashed across Luo Sa's eyes.

Luo Sui looked at Shen Miao for a while and suddenly said with a smile, "Little girl, you're quite ambitious. It's rare that a place like the capital can nurture a tough nut like you."

Luo Xueyan and Shen Xin immediately felt honored. However, after a moment, Luo Sui sighed and said in an unclear tone, "It's just that. Restoring the glory of the Luo army is not as simple as you say. The army and food require money, so how can the Luo family afford it? Do you want us to spend all the money of the Luo family on an army that has no use?"

"The emperor doesn't want to give the Luo family money to maintain the army because the Luo army is not outstanding. However, if the Luo army is famous and wins the war, His Majesty will take the initiative to send money here. As for the enemy..." Shen Miao smiled. "Ming Qi has never lacked enemies. When the army gathers enough victories, it will surely be put to better use by His Majesty. Grandpa, what do you think?"

Put aside whether what Shen Miao said was true or not, just the fact that she was analyzing the situation calmly with a smile showed her shocking ambition. Despite just arriving from the capital, she gave people an impression that she had gone through all the calamities life had to offer.

Luo Sui suddenly flared up. He stood up and flicked his sleeve, saying coldly, "There's no need to mention rebuilding the Luo army. I don't agree! Xueyan, bring them down to rest. There's no need to discuss this matter in the future." With that, he turned around and left without looking at everyone in the hall.

Luo Sui's fury came so suddenly that even Luo Xueyan was caught off guard. Shen Qiu rubbed Shen Miao's head and stood firmly on her side. "Sister, good job!"

Luo Sa glanced at her and whispered to Luo Ling, "This little cousin is not simple."

Luo Ling smiled and said, "Maybe."

Luo Tan curled his lips. "She's just glib-tongued. Even Grandpa is angered by her."

Luo Qian shook his head and stared at Shen Miao, who was talking to Shen Qiu. "Not only is she glib-tongued, but she's also very beautiful. Sister, she's prettier than you!"

Luo Tan glared at him.

#### Chapter 427: Attack of the Turks (1)

They settled down in the Luo family just like that.

Shen Xin and Shen Qiu weren't lazy people. Every day, they trained on the simple drill ground outside the Luo mansion.

Luo Xueyan was busy bringing Shen Miao to visit her old friends. Spring City was where she grew up, so naturally she had many friends here.

At first, everyone served the delicate young lady from the capital very well. She ate the most delicate food and wore the most delicate material. In the past, those daughters of officials who came to Spring City from the capital had a really bad temper. Everyone was afraid that they couldn't satisfy Shen Miao's demand. Unexpectedly, after living for a while, they realized that their worries were unnecessary. Shen



Miao had integrated very well in Spring City and did not need anything special. There would occasionally be hail here. When Shen Miao saw it, she was just a little curious and was not afraid.

As time passed, the younglings in the Luo family gradually let down their guard against this cousin. Among the four juniors of the Luo family, Luo Ling and Luo Sa had already started to take up their posts in the army. They rarely saw each other. At home, Luo Tan and Luo Qian spent the most time together with Shen Miao. When Shen Miao gave her a western mirror, Luo Tan shook hands with Shen Miao and made peace. As for Luo Qian, he was lively and was like a grown-up version of Su Minglang. He pestered Shen Miao all day long to tell him the stories that happened in the capital.

In Spring City, Shen Miao did not have to be wary of Fu Xiuyi. She was much more relaxed and treated Luo Qian as her brother.

On this day, Luo Qian and Luo Tan came to see Shen Miao. Spring City was not like the capital where one could spend years shopping around. Spring City was small. After shopping for a few days, they had pretty much explored every nook and cranny of this place. Shen Miao stayed in the mansion. Luo Qian and Luo Tan must be bored, so they came to talk to her.

As Luo Qian ate the snacks made for Shen Miao by the kitchen, he said, "Yesterday, I went to the drill ground to see Cousin Qiu practice. Cousin Qiu's martial arts skill is very impressive. Also, I can't even withstand a few moves from Guard Mo. Cousin, can you get Cousin Qiu to teach me a few moves?"

Shen Miao smiled. "If you want to learn, just ask him. He will be more than happy to help."

"Really?" Luo Qian immediately became happy. Most of the young masters in the capital were arrogant. However, Luo Qian was different. He was sincere and innocent.

"Cousin." Luo Qian was also very friendly to his good-looking cousin and had long treated her as one of his own and said, "Cousin Qiu's martial arts are really good. Is he the number one person in the capital? No, no, no, he should be the number one person in Ming Qi, right? Eldest Brother and Second Brother are both outstanding in martial arts, but they are not as good as Cousin Qiu."

Luo Tan, who had been flipping through the painting book at the side, finally couldn't stand it anymore. She bit the orange in her mouth and rolled her eyes at Luo Qian. "Are you stupid? You're so ignorant. Don't say that I'm your sister. How embarrassing."

Shen Miao was used to Luo Tan and Luo Qian bickering all day long. As expected, when Luo Qian heard that, he said indignantly, "What do you know? How am I ignorant? Do you mean that Cousin Qiu isn't the number one?"

## Chapter 428: Attack of the Turks (2)

"Xie in the south and Shen in the north," Luo Tan said slowly.

Shen Miao was stunned and looked at Luo Tan. She nibbled on her orange and continued, "Everyone knows that there are two major military families in Ming Qi. One is the Shen family, the mighty general who is my uncle-in-law, and the other is the Xie family, the Marquis of Lin'an. Cousin Qiu is a talent of the Shen family. I heard that the Young Marquis of the Xie family is also very talented. Back then, Grandpa was lucky enough to meet Young Marquis Xie once. Later, he commented that this child will be extraordinary and will one day be a figure respected by everyone."

"Grandpa... has he seen Young Marquis Xie?" Shen Miao asked hesitantly.

Luo Qian also said, "That's right, Sister. Why didn't I know?"

"Other than eating, what else do you know?" Luo Tan rolled her eyes at Luo Qian and continued, "I overheard that when I was in the military camp of the Xie army with Grandpa. After Grandpa saw Young Marquis Xie, he commented on him. Originally, I wanted to ask more about Young Marquis Xie, but Grandpa told me to stay away from him and said that Young Marquis Xie is a dangerous person. Don't provoke him."

Shen Miao lowered her eyes. She did not know that Luo Sui had actually seen Xie Jingxing before. However, Luo Sui could actually tell that Xie Jingxing was not simple. Luo Tan asked, "Cousin, speaking of which, you grew up in the capital too. You should have seen that Young Marquis Xie, right?"

Shen Miao paused for a moment and nodded.

"What does he look like?" Luo Tan grabbed Shen Miao's arm. "Is he as handsome as the rumors say? Is he even more handsome than Brother Ling?"

Of the three sons of the Luo family, Luo Ling was gentle, Luo Sa was violent, and Luo Qian was lively. They were all handsome. However, because Luo Ling was the gentlest, he looked the most "handsome".

Shen Miao said, "Not as handsome as Cousin Ling."

"What?" Luo Tan let go, her eyes filled with disappointment. "But I heard that Young Marquis Xie is good-looking and has the most flirtatious personality. If women take a look at him, they will be intoxicated. It turns out he's not even as handsome as Brother Ling."

Luo Qian looked at her gloatingly. "The most important thing for a man is ability. What does it have to do with looks? Besides, even if that Young Marquis Xie is really looking for a wife, he won't look for someone like you." Luo Qian smiled at Shen Miao. "Of course he wants to find a beautiful and gentle girl like Cousin."

Luo Tan and Luo Qian immediately started bickering again.

Shen Miao held her forehead and watched the siblings argue, feeling a little helpless. She did not expect Xie Jingxing to also be so famous in Spring City. At the thought of how Xie Jingxing was going to the northern border, she thought that he must have already arrived. This was the first time he led troops to war in the name of a young commander. When she thought of his tragic ending in her previous life, her heart skipped a beat.

Forget it. Shen Miao shook her head and chased away the messy thoughts in her mind. In the past, she thought that Xie Jingxing was best at using troops to set up formations. However, in this life, the more she interacted with Xie Jingxing, the more she realized that he was clearly best at hiding behind the scenes and playing the mastermind. That person was so calm and collected. He must... definitely be able to turn misfortune into fortune.

Time passed quickly. Luo Tan and Luo Qian sat with Shen Miao until evening. The sky began to darken. In Spring City, when it reached September, the grassland outside the city wall would start to dry, but it often rained heavily in the city. Unlike the rain in the capital, the rain in Spring City would also bring

fierce wind mixed with sand. Dark clouds almost covered the entire sky. In just a moment, it was as if night was coming.

Luo Tan looked at the sky and said, "Not good. I'm afraid it's going to hail again."

#### Chapter 429: Attack of the Turks (3)

"Why aren't Uncle and the others back yet?" Luo Qian also stood up and frowned.

Although the Luo army had scattered, the city still needed guards. Usually, Luo Lianying and Luo Liantai would work as guards at the watchtowers. After Shen Xin came, he brought Shen Qiu to help. In the evening, they were supposed to return to the mansion for dinner, but today, they did not.

Shen Miao glanced outside and suddenly thought of something, her expression changing drastically.

When Luo Tan saw that Shen Miao's expression was not right, she thought that Shen Miao was afraid. She said, "Cousin, are you afraid of the hail? It hailed a few days ago too, but at that time, you were not afraid. Why are you afraid now?" At this point, she patted Shen Miao's shoulder. "Don't be afraid. We've lived here for many years. Every year, at this time, it will often hail. It's nothing serious."

As soon as she finished speaking, she heard someone call out from outside. It was the servant of the Luo family. He shouted as he ran, even falling to the ground,, "Young Master, Miss, Madam wants you to go to the hall at once."

Luo Tan was stunned and frowned. "What happened?"

"The Turks are here to snatch things again. Old Master brought the two masters and General Shen to the grassland. The two young masters are still in the mansion. Miss, hurry up and go to the hall." Although the servant was a little anxious, he did not panic. Clearly, this had happened many times.

Luo Tan stomped her feet indignantly. "Damn the Turks!"

Luo Qian said to Shen Miao, "Cousin, follow us. It's fine." At this moment, he did not forget to comfort Shen Miao.

Shen Miao nodded. When they arrived at the front hall of the Luo family, there were already many people gathered in the hall. Madam Yu and Madam Ma were both in the hall. When they saw the three of them, they heaved a sigh of relief. Madam Ma was probably afraid that Shen Miao was scared, so she walked to Shen Miao's side and held her hand. "Jiaojiao, you've never seen such a big hailstorm, right? It's fine. Let's chat in the hall later. You haven't told us about the interesting things happened in the capital yet." However, she did not mention the Turks at all. Madam Yu was a little gentler and smiled. "That's right. Let's eat hot pot mutton tonight. I wonder if Jiaojiao likes it."

Spring City was adjacent to the grassland. When the Turks did not come to snatch things, they would use cows and sheep to exchange for some commodities. The cows and sheep were strong. After slaughtering the fresh sheep, they cut the mutton into thin pieces and set up a small pot. The thin and fat piece could almost be cooked by boiling water instantly. After dipping it in spicy sauce, it would be delicious. Previously, Luo Tan wanted Shen Miao to try the hot pot mutton, but she was afraid that Shen Miao would not be used to it. She didn't expect the dinner to be hot pot mutton tonight.

Obviously, they wanted Shen Miao to be distracted and not think about anything else. Shen Miao smiled at Madam Yu. The Luo family was always the most friendly.

The Turks' headquarter was located in the depths of the grassland. The Luo family did not have enough manpower now. They needed all the strong men of the Luo family to go out to chase the Turks. However, this year, with Shen Xin and his wife, it was better. Shen Xin, Luo Xueyan, Shen Qiu, Luo Lianying, and Luo Liantai went, and even Luo Sui followed. Originally, Luo Ling and Luo Sa wanted to go too, but since Shen Xin and the others went, they stayed in Spring City to protect the people.

It was already dark outside. Luo Tan bit his lip tightly, looking a little angry. Every year, his homeland would be robbed. No matter what, he hated Turks to the core.

#### Chapter 430: Attack of the Turks (4)

Most of the people in the hall were women, and there were also some maids and servants.

A pot had been set up in the hall, and the kitchen was cutting mutton. The boiling soup in the pot began to emit a fragrance, but at this moment, no one was in the mood to chat.

Luo Qian felt a little hungry. When he saw that there were some snacks beside Shen Miao, he walked over and sat down to eat a piece of the cake.

Shen Miao looked at him without blinking. Luo Qian was a little puzzled by Shen Miao's gaze. He scratched his head and asked, "Cousin, why are you looking at me? Are you afraid..."

The two of them were sitting far away from Madam Yu and the others, so they could not hear their voices. Shen Miao said, "Cousin Qian, why is Grandpa unwilling to reorganize the Luo army?"

Luo Qian was stunned.

"That day, when I proposed that idea, Grandpa immediately flared up. I'm afraid it's not just because we don't have money to maintain an army, right? Cousin Qian, can you tell me the reason?"

Luo Qian's eyes darted around as he stammered, "There's no particular reason... We just don't have money. Cousin, don't think too much. Without money, how can we build an army?"

Shen Miao looked at him quietly. Her eyes were bright and clear, without any excess emotion. However, being stared at by such a pair of eyes, one felt that lying was blasphemy.

Luo Qian was an honest young man after all and had a good relationship with Shen Miao. In the end, he gave in and said in a low voice, "Cousin, no one in our family dares to talk about this. However, you're one of us, so I'll tell you. Please don't tell anyone else. If my parents find out that I told you about this, I'll definitely be punished."

Shen Miao nodded.

"Actually, you're not the first person to mention the reorganization of the Luo army." Luo Qian said, "When the Luo army really began to decline, it was not long after your mother was born. At that time, the Luo family was already in decline, and Grandpa was down in spirits. Seeing that he was unhappy all day, Grandma suggested reviving the Luo army."

“Grandpa had this thought in his mind for a long time, so when Grandma brought it up, he immediately started preparing. However, at that time, we were still short of money, so Grandma said exactly what you said to Grandpa that day. As long as we win the war, His Majesty will naturally allocate money to the Luo army. Therefore, Grandpa took the initiative to request to go to war.”

Luo Qian sighed. “Little Cousin, I think you’ve already guessed the outcome. Grandpa was defeated and almost became a laughing stock. The Luo army was in decline to begin with, and after being severely injured, they couldn’t recover. Most importantly, when Grandpa led the army to war, Grandma was seriously ill. In order to not affect Grandpa, Grandma didn’t let the family tell him about it. When Grandpa returned from the war, Grandma had already passed away.”

“All these years, he hasn’t reorganized the Luo army because he doesn’t have the courage to face the failures of the past.” Luo Qian put down the snack in his hand and looked at Shen Miao. “Little Cousin, I know you want the Luo army to regain its glory, but our Luo family doesn’t want to be famous. My mother said that we have to cherish the people in front of us. For example, if Grandpa could go back in time, he would definitely not fight that war and would choose to stay by Grandma’s side. Therefore, as long as Grandpa is happy, it’s fine even if the Luo army is in a state of disunity.”