

Venomous 431

Chapter 431: Attack of the Turks (5)

Shen Miao looked at Luo Qian and was a little surprised. She did not expect to hear that from Luo Qian. The Luo family was indeed righteous and kind.

However, when she heard this from Luo Qian, she sighed in her heart. It was not that Luo Sui could not afford to lose this battle, but that he could not afford to lose his wife. No wonder when Shen Miao mentioned reorganizing the Luo army, Luo Sui's expression instantly changed. Shen Miao's words must have cut the general to the quick.

"But will Grandma be happy to see the Luo army collapse just like that?" Shen Miao suddenly said.

"Eh?" Luo Qian turned to look at her in confusion.

Shen Miao smiled. "If I love someone and he's a hero, I will definitely want him to wear the sword that he deserves to wear, ride the fierce horse that he deserves to ride, and lead the bravest soldiers to obtain the achievements that are his to obtain. I don't want him to be wronged. If Grandpa is wronged and Grandmother finds out, won't her heart break? If it were me, my heart would break."

Luo Qian was a little confused by Shen Miao's words. The fact that Shen Miao talked about love openly and unrestrained shocked him a little. Madam Ma even said that Shen Miao was a girl from the capital and would definitely be shy easily. Now, it seemed that... she was not shy at all. She was probably even more open-minded than Luo Tan!

Just as he was thinking, he heard a servant shouting outside, "Eldest Young Master and Second Young Master are back!"

Everyone looked at the door of the hall and saw Luo Ling and Luo Sa walking over. It was probably about to rain outside, so the air was a little humid. Their clothes were wet, and they looked a little travel-worn after coming back from the garrison.

Madam Yu first instructed the servant to pour tea for the two of them. Luo Sa drank it in one go. Luo Tan had already run up and asked Luo Ling, "Brother Ling, how is it outside?"

"It looks like there is going to be a hailstorm tonight. I've already asked the people to go back to prevent being injured by the hailstorm. Everything is ready outside." Luo Ling smiled and replied, "Second Brother and I will stay here for the night. Our mansion is sturdy, so we don't have to be afraid."

"What happened to Father, Uncle, and Grandpa?" Luo Tan asked relentlessly.

Luo Sa frowned and said, "They're not back yet."

Luo Tan was about to say something when Luo Ling saw Luo Qian and Shen Miao walking over. He quickly said, "It's fine. I think they're probably a little busy tonight and will be back tomorrow." He changed the topic. "It smells so good. Are we going to have hotpot mutton tonight? Cousin Miao hasn't tried it before. I don't know if she likes it."

Shen Miao walked up to Luo Ling. Luo Ling was 18 years old this year. He was as handsome as Luo Lianying, but his personality was as gentle and considerate as Madam Yu's. He was worlds apart from

Luo Sa, who was violent and difficult to get along with. Shen Miao said, "Cousin Ling, has the army of the city guards been deployed?"

Luo Ling was stunned. He did not expect Shen Miao to ask this. He replied, "It's all arranged."

"How many people are guarding the city?" Shen Miao asked.

This time, Luo Sa's gaze landed on Shen Miao.

When these juniors talked, Madam Yu and Madam Ma were far away. Luo Qian asked, "Little Cousin, why are you asking this? It's going to hail tonight. Probably no one will enter the city."

"Thirty on the west gate, thirty on the east gate, and ten on the north gate. That will be more than 70 people in total," Luo Ling replied patiently.

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"Are there usually so many people?" Shen Miao asked.

After a moment of thinking, Luo Ling said, "There are usually more people. It's just that Father and the others transferred them away today, so there aren't many guards left. However, if nothing happens in the city, 70 people will be enough. The weather is not good tonight. It's right. No one will enter the city."

There were only so many soldiers in the Luo army who could be used. If they wanted to chase after the Turks, they naturally had to take away all the soldiers they could. The remaining city guards were not many, but Spring City had been safe and sound for so many years.

Luo Sa stared at Shen Miao for a while and suddenly said, "Are you afraid that the Turks will attack?"

As soon as he said that, everyone was stunned. Luo Tan opened his mouth wide and Luo Qian asked, "Second Brother, what are you talking about? Why would the Turks attack?"

Luo Sa sneered and stared into Shen Miao's eyes without blinking. "Didn't you say on the day you came that the Turks are ambitious and powerful? Why wouldn't they attack us? Is this what you're afraid of?"

Luo Sa was a little aggressive. Facing his sharp gaze, Shen Miao nodded. "That's right. That's what I'm afraid of."

"How is that possible?" Luo Tan said, "Let's not talk about whether what you said will happen or not. Today, Father and Uncle went to the grassland to chase after the Turks. Why would those Turks split their main force to attack Spring City? If they really want to take down Spring City, wouldn't it be better for them to find a better opportunity?"

"The people of Ming Qi are not the only ones who know the tactic of luring the enemy away from his base," Shen Miao said indifferently. "Although the Turks are nomads, they are not fools. They have lived with the people of Spring City for so many years. Do you think they haven't learned anything?"

Shen Miao's abnormally cold attitude surprised them. After a moment of silence, Luo Ling was the first to speak. "Little Cousin, is this your speculation, or... how did you know this?"

Shen Miao had always been afraid that the Turks would attack the city. Today, she looked extremely abnormal. Everyone noticed this. Anyone who was not a fool would be able to tell that something was wrong.

“Intuition.”

“Intuition?” Luo Sa smiled instead of being angry. “Little cousin, this is not the time to joke.”

“Cousin brothers, after being in the city guard army for so many years, don’t you know that it’s better to be safe than sorry?” Shen Miao’s expression darkened, and the gentleness in her eyes gradually disappeared. She said, “If the Turks really attack, everyone will be safe if we’re prepared in advance. If they don’t attack, won’t it be a good thing that Spring City is spared from a bloody calamity? Do we only need to make preparations when we know something bad is going to happen? If you don’t even understand this simple logic, it’s no wonder the Luo family is declining day by day.”

“You!” Luo Sa was furious. Luo Tan and Luo Qian’s expressions were also a little ugly.

On the other hand, Luo Ling stared at Shen Miao for a while, his expression unchanged. He was still as gentle as before. He cupped his hands at Shen Miao and said, “Cousin Miao, you’re right. We’re not as insightful as you. However, there are only so many soldiers we can deploy. In your opinion, what should we do?”

Luo Ling seemed to be asking Shen Miao for an opinion, but in fact, he was throwing an intractable problem at Shen Miao and testing her. Shen Miao sneered in her heart. This gentle cousin of hers was not as gentle as he looked on the surface.

She said, “If my intuition is right, there isn’t much we can do as the Turks must be well-prepared. I’m just a little girl and don’t know much about military tactics. Instead of taking risks, it’s better to protect ourselves. Cousin Ling, why don’t you gather all the guards at the entrance of the Luo mansion to protect the Luo family? If something really happens, we can at least hold on for a while.”

As soon as she said that, everyone was stunned again. One second, Shen Miao spoke with the domineering aura of a commander, but the next, she humbled herself to that of an ignorant girl. The juniors of the Luo family did not understand what Shen Miao meant.

Luo Sa was the most frustrated. He looked at Shen Miao and wanted to flare up, but he could not find a reason to. He sat at the side in a sulk.

Luo Ling looked at Shen Miao meaningfully and said unexpectedly, “Then we’ll do as you say.”

Everyone sat down in the hall again. For some reason, the atmosphere became a little stiff because of Shen Miao’s words. Even Luo Qian and Luo Tan seemed to be nervous. Only Madam Ma and Madam Yu were unaware and were still instructing the chefs in the kitchen.

When the sky was completely dark, Luo Ling’s guard suddenly came to see him. Luo Ling asked him to come in. The guard looked anxious and whispered something into Luo Ling’s ear. Luo Ling’s expression suddenly changed and he looked at Shen Miao.

Shen Miao was sipping her tea leisurely.

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Shen Miao was sipping her tea leisurely. At this moment, the wind was blowing outside, and she sat in a corner of the hall, holding the teacup that Jingzhe handed her. She looked really like an innocent young lady who was waiting for the mutton slices to be ready.

Luo Ling's expression became a little serious. Luo Sa noticed that something was wrong with him and followed Luo Ling's gaze to look at Shen Miao. His expression darkened as he asked, "What happened?"

Luo Ling ignored him. Instead, he stood up and walked up to Shen Miao. "Little cousin, let's talk in private."

"Cousin Ling, if you have anything to say, say it here." Shen Miao put the teacup aside and smiled at him. "If anything really happens, you won't be able to hide it."

Seeing this, Luo Qian and Luo Tan walked over. This time, the commotion was a little loud, and Madam Ma and Madam Yu noticed it. They thought that there was an argument between Shen Miao and Luo Ling. At this moment, they naturally had to side with girls. Madam Yu immediately walked over and glanced at Luo Ling. She shook her head in disapproval and said, "Ling, don't scare Jiaojiao."

Luo Sa sneered and said, "Who's scaring who?"

"Brother, what exactly happened?" Luo Qian asked without thinking.

Luo Ling looked at Shen Miao. Shen Miao smiled at him, as if she knew what he was going to say next. That calmness made Luo Ling slightly stunned. A moment later, he sighed and said helplessly, "There's news from the city guards that the Turks... seem to be entering the city."

"What?" Luo Tan exclaimed. Then, she realized that her voice was a little loud and covered her mouth. The maids and servants were far away, so they did not hear the conversation clearly. However, the most taboo thing in this world was to have the morale of the army waver. At this moment, everyone was gathered here to avoid the hail. If others found out that the Turks had entered, they would probably panic.

Madam Yu and Madam Ma were both from ordinary families and did not have a tactical mind. When Madam Ma heard this, she immediately said in panic, "Ling, Sa, shouldn't we get someone to protect Jiaojiao and the others first? How long can we last? When will your father and the others come back?"

Even the smartest and most capable woman at home couldn't help but panic when faced with such a situation. As for Madam Yu, she was even more at a loss. She subconsciously suggested, "Why don't we hide somewhere first?"

Luo Tan and Luo Qian's faces were a little pale. They had lived in Spring City since they were born. Although they had heard Luo Sui tell stories about the battlefield in the past, they felt that those were things that were very far away from them. The Turks had never entered the city, but what would happen after they entered the city was often mentioned in the books. Even if Ming Qi's own soldiers took down a city, there would be times when they slaughtered the entire city, let alone the Turks.

"Little Cousin... was actually right..." Luo Qian muttered.

Madam Ma and Madam Yu were stunned. Madam Yu looked at Shen Miao. "Jiaojiao... was right?"

"Cousin Miao said before that the Turks might attack the city." Luo Ling looked at Shen Miao, and an inexplicable glint flashed across his eyes. "You must have a countermeasure too. If you don't mind, please tell us. Now is a time of life and death."

Chapter 434: He's Dead (2)

When Madam Ma and the others saw Luo Ling's humble attitude, they were extremely dumbfounded. Luo Ling was the most outstanding among the younger generation of the Luo family, but now, he actually wanted to seek the opinion of Shen Miao.

Shen Miao said, "Cousin Ling hasn't told me what's happening yet."

Luo Ling motioned for the guard who came to deliver the message to come over. When the guard saw that Luo Ling was going to ask an unfamiliar girl, he looked a little surprised, but he still replied honestly, "Miss, someone in the guard army saw the Turks gathering at the city gate. The general hasn't returned yet, and there are not enough guards!" At the end of his sentence, he was so embarrassed that he could not speak.

Shen Miao did not have the time to care about his embarrassment. Instead, she asked directly, "Do the Turks have a lot of people? Are they scattered or gathered?"

Luo Sa stared at Shen Miao with a burning gaze. The guard thought for a moment and said, "There are a lot of them. Although they're scattered, there's the sound of horses from the yonder. There should be their reinforcements coming soon."

The people present immediately gasped, and Luo Ling and Luo Sa's expressions instantly became extremely ugly. They realized the seriousness of the matter at this moment. Having horses meant having an army. At this moment, the Luo army that could usually fight against the Turks was fighting in the grassland. At this moment, Spring City had almost no real soldiers, but it had to defend an entire Turk army.

Shen Miao was right. These Turks had learned to lure the enemy away from his base and become cunning after years of interacting with Ming Qi. This branch of the army might not be as strong as the one Shen Xin was dealing with, but it was more than enough to massacre Spring City.

Madam Ma and Madam Yu also realized that something was wrong. Madam Ma said, "Why don't we call back all the soldiers we can use?" No matter what, we have to protect you juniors first."

When something happened, it was always the tradition of the Luo family to keep the younger generation safe first. Luo Tan's eyes immediately turned red. She grabbed Madam Ma's sleeve and said, "Mother, I don't want to leave!"

"If there's no other way, we'll fight them to the death!" Luo Qian gritted his teeth, his eyes flickering with anger. "We have the blood of generals in us. Why should we be afraid of those barbarians? Take the sword. At most, we'll die together!"

"Qian!" Madam Ma reproached angrily, "What nonsense are you talking about? Do you want us all to die with you?"

"How about this? Eldest Brother and I will cover your escape." It was Luo Sa who spoke. He said solemnly, "There are still carriages in the mansion. There's a mountain path behind the south gate. It's a safe place to hide."

"No." Shen Miao interrupted them.

Luo Sa looked at her. "You have a way?"

Shen Miao shook her head.

A trace of disappointment flashed across Luo Qian and Luo Tan's faces at the same time. For some reason, they felt that Shen Miao seemed to be very capable. Although she looked nothing different from a vulnerable young lady from the capital, every time Shen Miao spoke, she was calm and confident, making them feel safe and secure. However, at this moment, seeing that Shen Miao was at her wit's end, Luo Qian and Luo Tan felt a little hopeless.

"Then do as Second Brother says." Luo Ling said, "I'll take you all to the carriage first. All the guards in the mansion will follow you. Only Second Brother and I will stay in the Luo mansion."

This was to sacrifice the two of them to buy time for the others. Madam Yu's tears fell immediately, and she held Luo Ling's hand and almost fainted.

"How can I let the two of you stay here?" Madam Ma shook her head. "We're family. If we want to leave, we'll leave together!"

Shen Miao shook her head and said again, "No."

Chapter 435: He's Dead (3)

"Little Cousin, what exactly do you mean by no?" Luo Qian couldn't help but ask.

Shen Miao glanced at everyone and said, "In Spring City, the Luo family has the most soldiers. The leaders of the city guards are also Cousin Ling and Cousin Sa. The Turks also know this. If they really attack the city, in order to boost morale, the first one they will definitely deal with will be the Luo family. As long as they destroy the Luo family, the people of Spring City will lose their fighting spirit and surrender. If I'm a Turk, I will target the Luo family first no matter what. It's impossible for us to escape unscathed."

The brutal truth was revealed to everyone. Luo Tan couldn't help but tremble and look at Luo Ling. "Brother... is what she said true?"

Luo Ling stared at Shen Miao and said, "That's right."

Luo Sa was furious again. "This won't do, and that won't do. Since we can't escape and the Turks came prepared, why don't we just fight them to the death? Our Luo family has never had a coward. Why should we be afraid of them?"

"There's no hurry," Shen Miao suddenly said.

There was a moment of silence in the hall. Luo Ling looked at Shen Miao and said softly, "Cousin Miao, do you have a brilliant plan?"

"I wouldn't say it's a brilliant plan." Shen Miao's eyes were calm. Among the anxious crowd, only her expression was calm. Only then did everyone realize that from the beginning to the present, Shen Miao had not shown any signs of fear. When faced with the sudden attack of the Turks, she was supposed to be terrified. However, Shen Miao, a delicate young lady who had always been well-protected in the capital, acted as if she was not surprised.

"The Turks brought troops, but they haven't advanced into the city yet. Clearly, they are hesitating and have some scruples. I think after so many years, although the Luo army has already dispersed, their presence is still intimidating. We can make use of this."

Madam Ma and Madam Yu did not understand what Shen Miao said, but they felt that what Shen Miao said made sense. They did not speak and listened to her quietly. Luo Sa frowned and asked, "How can we use that?"

"Let's stall for time," Shen Miao replied indifferently. "My parents, Grandpa, and Uncles are not fools. I think they will soon realize that something is wrong and quickly rush back to Spring City. Before that, we just have to stall for time."

"But how can we stall for time?" Luo Tan was an impatient person. She couldn't help but ask, "According to what you said, the Turks are smart. They know that time is tight and will make a move soon."

"Whatever they are afraid of, just show them." Shen Miao smiled faintly. "What they're afraid of the most is that the Luo family has more soldiers than they anticipated. Then let's show them what the Luo family is made of."

"Little Cousin." Luo Qian said anxiously, "Where are we going to get more soldiers now?"

Shen Miao smiled. "I'll have to ask everyone to cooperate with me. However, before that... I wonder if my two cousin brothers will believe me." She looked at Luo Ling and Luo Sa. Her attitude was obviously humble, but there was a faint hostility in her voice.

Luo Ling looked at her seriously and said, "I believe you."

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The city tower of Spring City was already very dilapidated. Over the years, a lot of soil and dust had accumulated on it, and they were all marks of time. There had been generations of people here, and there had also been generations of heroic generals who protected the peace and quiet of Spring City.

However, just like how cracks would appear on the city wall, the once indestructible city gate gradually became rotten. At this moment, on the city gate tower, not many guards were pacing back and forth, staring vigilantly at the sound of hooves and torches that gradually became clear. Large drops of cold sweat flowed down their faces.

Chapter 436 He's Dead (4)

The Turks were cruel by nature. It was impossible for the city guards, who had been slacking for many years, to fight against them. From the sound of it, the Turks came in swarms. Fear was mutual. For a moment, the footsteps of the city guards were all shivering.

Just as the people not far away were getting restless, someone suddenly shouted, "What's that?"

Even the sound of the heavy rain could not drown out the surprise in his words. Everyone turned around and saw that torches of all sizes had appeared in Spring City. These torches densely packed the city streets, accompanied by the sound of horses and men shouting.

When the two armies faced each other, they would naturally infiltrate their spies into the city to gather information. The people guarding the city could see it from the city gate, and the spies of the Turks could see it too. The torches that appeared out of nowhere were especially bright in the rainy night, and the deafening shouts were accompanied by the sound of horses stepping on the ground.

"It's the Luo army! It's the Luo army!" Someone shouted and knelt down in joy. "The Luo army is coming back!"

The Luo family, the family of generals, had been in decline for many years, and the Luo army was also in a mess. The sudden shout reminded everyone of the unstoppable days of Luo Sui leading the army back then. It was as if they suddenly had a new hope. Their morale soared in an instant. The few people guarding the city drew their swords and looked around. The blood and heat in their bones seemed to have been ignited. They shouted with might, and together with the inexplicable troops in the city, they scared the Turks out of their wits.

The sudden increase in morale and the sudden increase in troops obviously shocked the Turks. They did not dare to approach any closer. After two hours of stalemate, the two sides were in a deadlock. Just as the Turks felt that something was wrong, deafening cries suddenly came from Spring City. This time, they thought that Shen Xin and the others had returned.

Although the Turks were well-built and had strong horses, they were not as experienced as Luo Sui and Shen Xin who had been fighting on the battlefield for many years. They were quickly defeated.

In Spring City, at the entrance of the Luo mansion, Luo Ling heaved a sigh of relief after hearing the report sent back from the city guard. He bowed respectfully to Shen Miao and said, "Thank you, Cousin Miao."

"Little Cousin is so smart!" Luo Qian exclaimed, "She actually thought of such a brilliant way."

Shen Miao asked Luo Ling to gather everyone in the mansion and then go to the street to gather the people. They lit up all the torches that could be used and asked the blacksmith to use the horseshoe to imitate the sound of hooves hitting the ground. The people of Spring City knew that this was a critical moment, so they shouted with all their might. In addition, with the blowing wind and rain, it was more than enough to deceive the Turks outside.

When the Turks saw so many torches, they subconsciously thought that there were many people. With the sound of hooves, shouts, and fear for the Luo army, the Turks were afraid and did not dare to go forward blindly. They wanted to try to probe and stall for time. As long as Shen Xin returned, they would be able to deal with everything.

It sounded like a simple strategy, but people tended to lose their composure in critical situations, so much so that they couldn't even think of the obvious.

Luo Sa's attitude towards Shen Miao changed a lot. He said, "It's all thanks to you this time."

Ever since Shen Miao came up with this idea, Luo Tan had been full of admiration for her. Seeing that this plan worked, she held Shen Miao's arm and asked, "Cousin Miao, tell me the truth. Did you read a lot of military books? I remember that this is what is written in the military book in Grandpa's study."

Chapter 437: He's Dead (5)

Shen Miao smiled. "I was just lucky."

"Jiaojiao, don't be humble." Madam Ma looked at her enthusiastically and said, "If not for you today, we would all be in trouble. Not only did you save the people in our family, but you also saved the people of Spring City. Thank you."

Shen Miao laughed in her heart. In fact, she was really not being humble. In her previous life, a similar thing happened. It was just that Shen Miao could not remember the exact date. She only knew that it was a rainy day. The Turks attacked Spring City. Although Luo Sui rushed back with his troops in the end and saved Spring City from being taken down, he also paid an extremely tragic price. Countless people in Spring City were killed or injured.

At that time, in order to please Fu Xiuyi, she was working hard to learn military tactics. She also used this matter to ask Pei Lang for his opinion. That day, Pei Lang answered her like this. Pei Lang said, "The Turks are wary and don't dare to rashly make a move. It's not a good thing to fight them head-on. Instead, it's better to create the illusion that the city is heavily guarded to confuse them. As long as Spring City can stall for time until the reinforcements arrive, they can solve the situation."

Shen Miao knew that she did not have a tactical mind, but she trusted Pei Lang. Over the years in the palace, she had consulted with many excellent trusted aides of Fu Xiuyi and learned many ways to handle a situation.

Those were all gifts from Fu Xiuyi.

"Little Cousin, you're so bad." When Luo Qian heard the good news from the guards, the uneasiness in his heart dissipated and he started to tease Shen Miao. "You were confident that your plan could work, but you still tried to scare us like that. You really scared me to death."

Luo Tan slapped his head. "How embarrassing! You're worse than a little girl!"

"Aren't you the same!" Luo Qian retorted.

Shen Miao smiled and did not comment. She naturally knew that everything would be resolved in the end, but she deliberately made it so serious to make everyone in the Luo family understand that it was difficult to even protect their loved ones, let alone the entire Spring City. Without enough strength, one could not protect people they wanted to protect. The Turks were eyeing them covetously, and sooner or later, they would make a comeback. When that day came, what would the Luo family do?

Only when they truly realized the danger would the people of the Luo family feel nervous. The juniors of the Luo family, Luo Lianying, Luo Liantai, and even Madam Ma and Madam Yu would do their best to persuade Luo Sui to reorganize the Luo army. As for Luo Sui himself, his responsibility was naturally to protect his family.

It was impossible for Shen Miao to persuade a stubborn person like Luo Sui alone. Moreover, because of her identity, it was inevitable that Luo Sui would be wary of her if she pushed too hard, but the Luo family was different.

Sometimes, when trying to achieve something, you didn't have to use the most direct method. You had to be tactful. In her previous life, Shen Miao would say whatever she wanted and do it. In the end, she lost miserably. On the other hand, Consort Mei used tactful methods. She hated Consort Mei, but she wanted to learn something from her.

The next morning, when the sun came up, Spring City returned to normal.

The Turks suffered a heavy blow and retreated to the depths of the grassland. It seemed that they would not have the energy to make a comeback for a long time.

Although they had won the war, the atmosphere in Spring City was not relaxed, especially in the Luo family. The Turks' invasion this time meant that Shen Miao's terrifying speculation from a few days ago was proven right. With such a terrifying neighbor eyeing them covetously all day, no one could sleep peacefully.

Chapter 438: He's Dead (6)

After knowing that Shen Miao was the one who saved Spring City, Luo Sui thought more highly of her. Shen Xin was naturally proud and praised his daughter for being braver than a man.

Two days later, Luo Sui announced to everyone in the Luo family that he wanted to reorganize the Luo army.

The entire Spring City was cheering and spreading the news. Even the juniors of the Luo family were excited. Only Shen Miao was calm, because she had long expected this. The invasion from the Turks would eventually make Luo Sui make up his mind. Instead of being bullied, he might as well strike back.

As for the money needed, Luo Xueyan still had some savings. As for the soldiers, Shen Qiu and Shen Xin were bored these days and couldn't wait to get the retired soldiers back and train them. The Luo family was filled with powerful generals. Once they made up their minds, they wouldn't give up. For a moment, Spring City became lively.

The days passed peacefully and meaningfully.

One day, Shen Miao was sitting at the table and reading when Luo Tan rushed in, almost knocking over the chair at the door. Gu Yu was shocked. Shen Miao looked at her. Before she could speak, she saw Luo Tan panting and rubbing her chest. "Cousin Miao, have you heard about it?"

"About what?" Shen Miao asked.

"That Young Marquis of the Xie family!" Luo Tan shouted excitedly, "He went to war."

Shen Miao's heart skipped a beat. She looked at Luo Tan and nodded slowly. "I know."

"You've heard the news before, right? Young Marquis Xie won battles after battles. The Xiongnu is forced to retreat to the edge of the desert." Luo Tan said, "Everyone is saying that when Young Marquis Xie returns to the capital, his official rank will probably be even higher than the Marquis of Lin'an."

Not long after Shen Miao arrived in Spring City, Xie Jingxing also led the Xie army to the northern border. The bravery that Xie Jingxing displayed on the battlefield amazed people. Whether it was arranging the troops or fighting alone with the leader of the enemy army, the ferocity and coldness he displayed made the enemy tremble in fear. Shen Miao thought that Xie Jingxing would not be able to lead such an enormous army, but the Xie army made extraordinary contributions in Xie Jingxing's hands, which finally dispelled people's doubt about his military capability. Everyone said that Xie Jingxing was the most outstanding man in Ming Qi and would definitely surpass the Marquis of Lin'an in the future. When Shen Xin and Luo Sui occasionally chatted about this, they were full of praise for Xie Jingxing, saying that he was a genius. Shen Miao knew about Xie Jingxing's ability in her previous life, so she was not surprised.

Seeing that Luo Tan's eyes were red, Shen Miao had a bad feeling and asked softly, "What's wrong?"

"He's dead." Luo Tan couldn't hold back her tears anymore. "Young Marquis Xie is dead!"

Xie Jingxing was a hero like Shen Qiu in Luo Tan's heart. She admired him very much. At this moment, she couldn't hold back her tears. "Yesterday, Young Marquis Xie was surrounded by the enemy. Ten thousand arrows pierced his heart, and his corpse was hung on the city gate tower and skinned." Luo Tan cried, "Little cousin, he's dead!"

He was dead!

The teacup in Jingzhe's hand fell to the ground with a bang. She immediately looked at Shen Miao in panic. Shen Miao and Xie Jingxing were friends. If Xie Jingxing died, how would Shen Miao react?

What was Shen Miao's reaction?

Shen Miao sat at the table and looked at the crying Luo Tan quietly. Her expression was terrifyingly calm, as if what Luo Tan said was not something strange, but something ordinary. However, the calmer she looked, the tighter she held the book in her hand.

Was Xie Jingxing dead? Was he shot in the heart by ten thousand arrows, skinned, and hung on the city gate tower for display just like in his previous life?

Shen Miao thought in a daze, as if she wanted to distinguish if this news was a joke or reality. However, what appeared in her mind was the young man dressed in ivory and white clothes with silver threads on the sides. He was handsome and arrogant as he walked towards her elegantly.

The corners of his lips curled into a mischievous smile. The faint smile in his eyes was very intoxicating.

"So it's you," he said.

Chapter 439: Two Years Later (1) 1

In late spring, the grass grew crazily and the birds were flying around. Wherever the drizzle passed, the flowers bloomed. The entire Spring city was filled with the fragrance of spring.

The raindrops dripped down from the eaves, making small puddles on the bluestone slab. In the birdcage hanging on the beam, the chirping of the yellow oriole and the crisp sound of the rain were even more beautiful than the music played by the best musicians.

At the end of the corridor, a young girl ran over in a hurry. This girl was wearing a peach-pink embroidered long dress. The color was bright and cute, but she held the corner of the dress with both hands and looked a little comical as she rushed over. Her skin was wheat-colored, and she looked lively and mischievous. As she rushed over, she shouted, "Little cousin! Little cousin!"

"Sister, slow down!" The young man behind her shouted, "The ground is slippery. Be careful not to fall!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the lively girl running in front staggered and almost fell down. Fortunately, she had some martial arts skills, so she stabilized herself with a light tap of her toes. She turned around angrily and complained to the young man, "Luo Qian, shut up, you jinx!"

Luo Qian stuck out his tongue. Behind Luo Qian, two slender figures appeared, and a dissatisfied voice sounded, "Luo Tan, if you behave like this, no one will want to marry you."

"Brother Sa!" Luo Tan stomped her feet anxiously. "If I can't get married, I'll marry Cousin Qiu!"

Luo Qian sneered. "Cousin Qiu won't like a tigress like you."

"Luo Qian!" Luo Tan raised her fist at him.

"Alright, stop fooling around." The gentle young man walking at the back smiled and said, "Aren't we here to talk to Cousin Miao? Let's go."

When they went to the innermost courtyard, they saw Bai Lu and Shuang Jiang moving the flowers outside. When they saw them, they quickly said, "Miss is waiting for you in the room."

Luo Tan lifted the curtain and shouted, "Little cousin!"

The entire room was filled with the fragrance of flowers. A girl sat in front of the window. She was wearing a purple dress with jade patterns. Though in an extremely dark color, she did not look old at all. Instead, her skin was made as translucent as jade. The rain was pattering in front of the window. When she heard movement, she looked up slightly, revealing a delicate face.

She tilted her head and smiled. Her eyes were bright, but they made people's hearts tremble. It was as if with a casual smile, this simple study became a palace made of carved jade, and she was the noble sitting on the high seat, looking down at everyone.

The people at the door were slightly stunned. Even though they had seen her many times, they were still occasionally shocked by this girl's unintentional elegance.

After being stunned for a moment, Luo Tan was the first to react. She waved her hand and ran in, saying, "Cousin Miao, your dress is really beautiful!"

Shen Miao smiled. "If you like it, I'll get the tailor to make one for you."

Chapter 440: Two Years Later (2)

Luo Tan pursed her lips. "I can't wear this color. I can only appreciate it." She sized up Shen Miao and sighed. "No wonder the young men in Spring City are asking Brother Ling and the others about you all day long. Little cousin, you're really getting better and better looking."

This was the 71st year of Ming Qi. Two years had passed, and in these two years, Shen Miao was also slowly growing. Her slightly childish face gradually revealed a delicate outline, and even her cute facial features looked more exquisite. However, her gentle temperament did not change. The more she was like this, the more noticeable her aura became. When she was on the road, people would throw a second glance at her. No wonder Luo Ling and Luo Sa's friends were secretly asking if Shen Miao was married.

Although there were beauties in Spring City, there was no one with such a unique and outstanding temperament.

Luo Qian went forward and placed one hand on the desk in front of Shen Miao. "Little Cousin, do you know that His Majesty sent money over again?"

"That's a good thing." As Shen Miao spoke, she put away the book on the table. Luo Qian's eyes were sharp. When he saw the name of the book, he asked curiously, "The Record of the State of Qin? What do you think about the State of Qin?"

"No comment. I haven't read much of it," Shen Miao replied indifferently.

Luo Sa's eyes flashed. Luo Ling stared at Shen Miao and said softly, "We've been allocated money quite a lot lately. Little Cousin, Why do you think that's the case?"

He asked Shen Miao for advice very naturally, as if he did not think it was embarrassing to ask a girl who was much younger than him for advice. Of course, the four juniors in the room would not laugh at him. How capable was Shen Miao? This was a question that was worth investigating. However, the four of them tacitly did not tell the elders of the Luo family about Shen Miao's hidden talent, as if they firmly believed that even if Shen Miao had any secrets, she would definitely not harm the Luo family.

"It's abnormal." Shen Miao said, "The emperor is extremely paranoid. The Luo army is gaining momentum rapidly, and the emperor will definitely try to suppress it. However, not only did the allocated funds not decrease, it even increased." She pondered for a moment and said, "I think His Majesty wants something from the Luo army, or he's deliberately putting the Luo army under the limelight. As for what he wants, well, it's about time to pay tribute to Ming Qi, right?"

Everyone was stunned. Luo Tan rubbed her chin and said, "I think so."

"The State of Qin and the Daliang Dynasty will send people to pay tribute to Ming Qi. The State of Qin and Ming Qi are evenly matched, and the Daliang Dynasty is far better than Ming Qi. His Majesty will have some fear," Shen Miao said indifferently. "The Shen army is not around. The Xie army is severely injured. Ming Qi doesn't have a formidable general. How can His Majesty accept that?"

"That's why His Majesty wants to use the Luo family to intimidate the State of Qin and the Liang Dynasty!" Luo Tan added.

Shen Miao nodded.

"I see..." As Luo Qian spoke, he looked at Shen Miao with admiration. She was clearly the same age as him, but every time, Luo Qian had a feeling that Shen Miao seemed to be much older than him and was even more mature and reliable than Luo Ling. Shen Miao had never avoided to analyze the situation in the imperial court. Compared to the elders who tended to use euphemistic language to discuss the state

matters, Shen Miao was much more straightforward. For example, the elders would never say anything like the emperor being paranoid. The juniors of the Luo family liked to play with Shen Miao and sincerely accepted her as one of them because there was something extremely attractive about Shen Miao. Perhaps the people in the capital were more knowledgeable than the people in Spring City. Shen Miao always knew something they did not know.

“That’s not necessarily a good thing.” Luo Sa frowned. “The higher we are, the more painful it will be to fall.”