

# History's Strongest Son-In-Law - History's Strongest Son-In-Law Living With The In-Laws

## Chapter 11: Force Me to Slap You? Alright!

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

When he heard Shen Lang and Boss Lin's conversation, Tian Thirteen was both astonished and surprised.

Although his godfather, Tian Heng, had promised Shen Lang, he was not expecting anything at all. He was merely placing a bet since he promised the Xu family to kill Shen Lang in three days.

However, he did not expect Shen Lang to achieve it. His godfather really managed to get 1000 gold coins. In that case, the person who was responsible for this, Tian Thirteen, would naturally take the credit.

"That's amazing." Tian Thirteen gave Shen Lang a thumbs up.

Shen Lang came to the kitchen of the courtyard and shut the door as he began to make the dye.

"Boss Lin, please give me two hours," said Shen Lang.

"No problem, I will go and prepare the gold coins," said Lin Mo.

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The process of making the gold paint was straightforward. The magazine "Silk" from 2001 had a detailed description of the process, and there were related experiential classes in Hangzhou's silk museum.

First, boil the sophora in water to obtain the yellow liquid. After removing the impurities, the yellow dye would be produced.

Then, boiling it after adding potassium alum would turn the yellow color into a bright gold color.

Therefore, in less than two hours, Shen Lang made half a bowl of gold dye.

For the last step, Shen Lang cooked all the potassium alum and the excess sophora in the fire and ensured that no traces were left behind.

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Shen Lang pushed the door open.

Lin Mo, the boss of Silk Pavilion, and Tian Thirteen rushed forward with anticipation.

Shen Lang passed the half-filled bowl of gold dye over.

Lin Mo's hands shook slightly as he looked at the new dye under the bright sun.

He could not stop trembling. That was not only a dye—it was a critical factor that would help the Lin family rise in power.

“Not only is this gold color outstanding, but the color fastness on the silk is also excellent. The color will not fade after the dying process,” said Shen Lang, “Boss Lin, are the 2000 gold coins ready?”

Lin Mo pointed at the table. There was a box on the table with the lid slightly open. It was filled with gold coins.

Every gold coin was about an ounce in weight, so the 2000 gold coins were more than 20 kilograms.

2000 gold coins were a tremendous amount of money. After passing Tian Heng 1000 gold coins, he would have 1000 gold coins left, and that was enough for his family to live a good life.

In the modern world, Shen Lang had never earned so much money before.

“Where's the formula?” asked Lin Mo.

Shen Lang passed him the formula that he had written.

Lin Mo opened it and saw only a few dozens of words on it. He said in shock, “It's so simple?”

Shen Lang said, “Yes, it's so simple.”

Lin Mo said, “The cost price is quite low too.”

Shen Lang said, “Yes, it's very low. Many things on earth are elementary once you figure it out. Unless you think that these words are not worth your 2000 coins?”

“No, it's very worthy of it.” Lin Mo smiled.

Shen Lang said, “Boss Lin, you can go and verify this formula for yourself. After an hour, you will be able to make this gold dye yourself. After that, I will leave with the coins.”

Lin Mo did not ask his servants to do it and went to prepare the ingredients by himself. He went to the kitchen in the backyard to verify Shen Lang's formula.

After an hour, Lin Mo made the gold dye, and it was even better than the one Shen Lang had made.

"This is amazing. The Lin family is going to earn a lot of money." The patriarch of the Lin family laughed.

Shen Lang said, "Congratulations, Boss Lin, for defeating the Xu family. I shall take my leave first!"

He hugged the bag of 1000 gold coins and was about to leave.

"Hold on!" At this moment, a familiar voice rang from outside.

Then, two figures entered.

One of them was his ex-father-in-law, Master Xu, while the other was his ex-wife, Xu Qianqian.

Instantly, Shen Lang felt a shiver down his spine.

Master Xu looked at Shen Lang and said coldly, "Shen Lang, I chased you out of the Xu family, and I don't blame you for hating us. However, you shouldn't steal our new formula. This is the lifeline of the Xu family. Not only did you commit a crime of theft, but you also offended the monarch. That's a huge crime, do you know?"

Lin Mo, the boss of the Silk Pavilion, was shocked. "Master Xu, Shen Lang stole this formula?"

Master Xu said, "Brother Lin, you must have heard about Shen Lang in the past. He is stupid and lazy and can be considered as a useless brat. How would he be able to make this dye? This formula is invented by the Xu family after much effort and investment, and this thief took it? The reason why I chased him out of the Xu family was that he had stolen things and flirted with the female servants. He is the worst person I have ever seen. Yet now, he came to scam you, brother Lin."

Xu Qianqian said gently, "If I guessed correctly, he must have found the formula from my wardrobe and memorized it. Shen Lang, I know that you hate the Xu family, but you should not do this."

Lin Mo gave a bow and said, "Sorry, master Xu, I almost got fooled by him! Initially, I was wondering why a stupid person like Shen Lang has such a good formula. He had stolen it then. This makes sense; I will report it to the officials to arrest him!"

Master Xu looked at Shen Lang with a cold gaze and said, "Speak the truth, did you steal this formula from this Xu family? You only have one chance to speak!"

Xu Qianqian said gently, "Shen Lang, if you admit it. We will let you off. If you don't, then my father will be mad."

Shen Lang had goosebumps all over his body and only managed to regain his composure after a few seconds.

He had predicted that such a situation would happen, but it was still astonishing when it did.

The Lin family had always been the competitor of the Xu family. An enemy's foe was a friend. Moreover, the new formula that Shen Lang invented could bring about a massive blow to the Xu family.

However, why did this happen?

Shen Lang calmed down as quickly as he could and said to Lin Mo, "Boss Lin, can we have a word in private?"

Lin Mo nodded and said, "Sure."

Then, Lin Mo and Shen Lang went to the backyard.

Shen Lang went straight to the point, "Did you call master Xu and Xu Qianqian over?"

"Yes!" said Lin Mo.

Shen Lang asked, "Why?"

Lin Mo said, "I know this formula will be a huge blow to the Xu family. However, I still asked Master Xu to come over to put the blame on you."

Shen Lang did not ask further but waited for Lin Mo to continue.

Lin Mo said, "Shen Lang, for ordinary people like you, money is enough. However, for us, money is not the most important. Power is the most important. Without power, no matter how much money we have, we won't be able to keep it. We may lose it any day."

Shen Lang said, "If the Lin family became the supplier of the monarch, you would naturally get power."

"No, this power is too insecure," said Lin Mo, "My son is studying in the Martial Arts Institute of Tian Nan and is getting good grades. He is soon taking the Martial Arts examination. The results and the rank he would assume in the future is much more important than how much money we earn. Have you heard of the fiancé of Xu Qianqian, Zhang Pu?"

New fiancé? So fast!

The Xu family had just kicked Shen Lang out and had already arranged marriage for Xu Qianqian and Zhang Pu?

Lin Mo said, "The Zhang family is supported by the Zhu family. You should know how powerful the Zhu family is."

The Zhu family was the highest class in the Yue State, the family of the wife of the monarch. Moreover, Zhu Rong was the governor of the Tian Nan province and was extremely powerful.

However, Zhang Pu probably married Xu Qianqian because of her looks and the wealth of the Xu family.

Lin Mo continued, "Zhang Pu's father had recently assumed the position of the Prefectural Governor of Nujiang county. Zhang Pu's martial arts skills are good and have just assumed the role of the general of Xuanwu city. If I steal the business of the Xu family, I will have offended the aristocrat, the Zhang family. What about my son, then?"

Shen Lang said, "You could have just not bought my formula and pretended that nothing had happened. Why did you betray me?"

Lin Mo smiled. "You are just an insignificant person who has no value. The only value that exists here is the opposition of Lin Mo and the Xu family. I betrayed you to gain favor from the Xu family; it's a win for me. Moreover, now, the new formula is in my hands, I can share it with the Xu family, and both of us can make money together."

Shen Lang said, "The Xu family had never treated me as a human in the first place and did not have any reason to hate me. However, I sold you the formula to destroy them. Therefore, they will suddenly hate me more."

"That's right," said Lin Mo, "Therefore, the Xu family will owe me a bigger favor. My son's future is more secure now."

"Boss Lin, you are indeed cruel. I understand it now," said Shen Lang as he walked away from him.

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He returned to the living room.

A few bodyguards of the Lin family and the Xu family surrounded Shen Lang.

Meanwhile, Tian Thirteen closed his eyes at a corner as though he was sleeping.

Moreover, a few officials from Xuanwu City had also come.

One of the younger officials was the registrar of the jail of the Xuanwu city. Shen Lang looked at him in detail. He had some memories of him.

Xu Qianqian said gently, "Shen Lang, tell the officials, did you steal the dye formula? You did it because you hated the fact that I abandoned you. If you admit your mistake now, we won't

pursue the matter. We will take it as your foolish mistake. If you don't think it through properly, then don't blame the Xu family from being merciless!"

With the current situation, Shen Lang carefully thought through and looked at the officer once again as he tried to recollect his memories.

Yes, he was 60 to 70 percent confident.

"Hahahaha..." Shen Lang laughed immediately.

He initially wanted to sabotage the Xu family but did not expect it to end here.

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## Chapter 12: I Don't Want to Win!

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

Shen Lang looked at Tian Thirteen since he represented the will of Tian Heng.

Earlier on, when Shen Lang was making the dye, Lin Mo had betrayed him and informed the Xu family. Tian Thirteen must have seen it, but he did not stop them or remind Shen Lang.

Therefore, Shen Lang was facing three huge figures—the Xu family, the Lin family, and Tian Heng from the Black Clothes Gang.

Therefore, the smartest move would be to admit that he had stolen the formula and immediately try to make a comeback so that he could take revenge.

That was because Xu Qianqian had made a promise in front of the officials of Xuanwu City that if Shen Lang admitted his mistake, they would not pursue the matter.

She was a person who valued her own reputation. If Shen Lang admitted it, she would definitely not create trouble today. Instead, she was the kind of person who would spend money to ask Tian Heng to kill him secretly instead. In that case, Shen Lang would be saved today if he admitted to these accusations.

However...

... Asking Shen Lang to take the blame?!

Shen Lang couldn't do it. He was definitely not a wimp like that.

Shen Lang asked as he looked at Xu Qianqian, "You said that I stole this gold dye, do you have any evidence?"

Master Xu sneered, "You're just a useless and uneducated brat. Meanwhile, the Xu family had done decades of business in the silk sector and is very good with dyes. This golden dye is invented painstakingly by Qianqian and me. I wonder how much resources and manpower we need. It was worth a few years of hard work. We hid this secret initially since we wanted to give the fabric factor of the monarch a surprise. However, we did not expect you, this betrayer, to steal our money, flirt with the servants, and steal the formula." Then, Master Xu said coldly, "Qianqian, how important is this new formula? Why did you put it in the drawer?"

Xu Qianqian said, "Sorry, father, I trusted Shen Lang completely once. I didn't expect him to do this." Then, she turned to Shen Lang and said, "When you were bullied by servants in the Xu family, I whipped them and made an order to chase them out if they said anything bad about you behind your back. Nobody cared about you in the Xu family. I did not despise you because of your low IQ and talked to you every day. I was so nice to you, so why did you do this? Even if it is to take revenge on me for leaving you, you can just come at me, why the entire family? Moreover, if you have not committed such atrocious crimes, why would the Xu family chase you out?"

When she said that, the expressions of the officials nearby turned strange.

However, they believed some of what master Xu and Xu Qianqian said.

The Xu family was, indeed, good at making silk and dye, or else, they would not be the supplier for the monarch. Moreover, they have heard about Shen Lang's low IQ, and therefore, they concluded that Shen Lang had stolen the new formula that the Xu family invented.

Shen Lang said slowly, "Both parties don't have evidence, but everyone would believe that this formula is made by the Xu family. I cannot defend myself even if I want to."

Master Xu sneered secretly, "I'm glad you know."

This was an excellent thing. Not only did these families obtain a free formula for gold dye, but they had also sent Shen Lang into jail for a legitimate reason.

Instantly, Master Xu said coldly, "The truth is out. Catch him! I am sure he will admit everything if we use force."

"Why are you so impatient, Master Xu?" Shen Lang smiled. "Although I cannot defend myself, it is effortless to prove everything! How coincidental that I had foreseen this incident and purposely made some reservations in this formula. In fact, I have a better formula here with me." Shen Lang continued, "Master Xu, it is effortless to prove that I did not steal this formula from the Xu family. If I can make a gold dye better than the ones before, then that means I have proven myself, right?"

Xu Qianqian smiled. "Although you have stolen the formula from my house, you are too unprofessional. Therefore, if you were a little more serious, you would definitely be able to make a better dye."

Shen Lang said, "I am unprofessional, but your family must be professional. The so-called formula was stolen from your house. You can mobilize your entire family to make the gold dye and compare it with the gold dye I make. We can compare to see which gold is better and of a higher class."

Shen Lang had indeed made some reservations. The formula he had handed over initially was from the 17th century.

However, in his head, he had a revised formula of the 21st century. Even though the primary materials were identical, the ratio of fire was slightly different. Moreover, some additives were annexed.

However, the reformulated gold dye formula could only be better by ten to twenty percent.

The Xu family had already obtained his formula. Although Shen Lang could win, he could never defeat them.

Therefore, he wanted to compete using another method.

Therefore, Shen Lang said, "Of course, if I can only beat you based on the gold dye, then I would never be able to prove my talent. Your family specializes in dyes, so let me ask you this, what color is the hardest to make?"

Xu Qianqian said, "The hardest is definitely purple. That is the peak of the art of dye."

Indeed, in ancient times, the hardest color to make was purple, not gold.

Of course, they could make a purple dye. In ancient China, they used gromwell roots to make the purple dye, but the color was inferior. Then, the purple conch was used to make the purple dye to improve its complexion.

Duke Huan of Qi liked to wear purple clothes. In that era, one set of purple cloth was the same price as five sets of white fabrics. That showed how precious purple cloth was.

In western countries, escallops were used to make purple dye. The queen of the Ptolemaic Dynasty also loved the purple. She even painted her ships purple.

However, be it using the conch or the escallop to obtain purple dye, the cost price was extremely terrifying. One gram of dye required over 300 escallops.

At this moment, the Dayan Dynasty had yet to find escallops or conches to obtain the purple color. Therefore, how did they get purple dye? They mixed blue and red coloring to achieve a purple hue.

However, the effect was terrible. Firstly, the color was uneven and dull. Most importantly, the color rapidity of the two dyes differed, so purple silk faded in color very quickly.

Shen Lang asked, "Purple dye is harder than gold dye, right?"

Xu Qianqian said, "Of course!"

Purple dye was the hardest problem in this world's cloth and silk industry.

"To prove my talent in dyeing silk, we should not only compete in terms of the gold dye but also the purple dye," said Shen Lang, "you can mobilize the entire Xu family to produce these two colors. I am alone and moneyless. I will use the easiest and cheapest way to make the dye, and in front of the officials, let's see whose dye is the best." He then faced everyone around him. "I will prove to everyone that I, Shen Lang, can completely defeat the entire Xu family alone. I will make sure the accusation of theft becomes a joke."

"Shen Lang, you're really childish," sneered Master Xu, "why should we compete? It's a waste of time. Catch him immediately! I am sure you will admit to your crimes in jail if we punish you."

Shen Lang said as he looked at the few officials, "Sirs, what do you think of my suggestion?"

The few officials had been bribed by the Xu family and the City Lord.

Therefore, when they heard Shen Lang's question, they pretended to have not heard him.

Shen Lang looked at the youngest official.

The youngest official looked after the jail in Xuanwu City. He had the most significant say in whether or not they would arrest Shen Lang.

Meanwhile, the past events with the youngest official came flooding back in his mind, especially what he had said.

If his memory was accurate, the officials would be against the Xu family.

As he saw Shen Lang's gaze, the youngest official hesitated for a long while.

Then, he stood out immediately and said, "Master Xu, just let him try. If he can't win against the Xu family, then it means that he had stolen your formula, and we will arrest him immediately."

When the youngest official said that, Master Xu's gaze changed.

The officials were bribed and hence turned a blind eye to whatever happened to the Xu family. The official who was in charge of the jail had assumed his role recently. Although the Xu family hadn't bribed him yet, the City Lord had already told him what to do.

Why did he go against the Xu family? Did he not know that the Xu family would become in-laws with the City Lord?

Master Xu said coldly, "Sir Wang, are you sure?"

The youngest official said, "Yes!"

The youngest official was in charge of the jail, so he had the final say as to whether Shen Lang should be arrested.

Master Xu frowned and was about to use the City Lord's name to stop the youngest official. However, Xu Qianqian tugged his sleeves.

Nobody understood Shen Lang better than Xu Qianqian. How could Shen Lang know how to dye?

The formula for his gold dye came from nowhere, but the Xu family had already tried Shen Lang's method. They were more professional than Shen Lang and made a better gold dye than Shen Lang.

... As for the purple dye...

Shen Lang did not know that the Xu family had just found out a new formula for the purple dye. They used a new set of materials and were revolutionary enough to beat all the existing purple silk in the market.

Shen Lang would definitely lose, and it would only be a matter of time before he died. It was not wise to go against the youngest official because of this.

Having received his daughter's signal, Master Xu frowned and said, "Then we shall follow Sir Wang's instructions, let's see how long this useless brat can last."

Shen Lang said, "What would happen then if I beat you in both the gold and purple dye?"

Xu Qianqian said unhappily, "That means that you didn't steal the formula for the gold dye, and we wronged you."

Shen Lang said, "Then you guys should admit it and apologize to me."

Master Xu said coldly, "We will talk about that when you win."

Shen Lang said, "Great, then we shall set the time limit as six hours! After six hours, we shall compare our results to determine the winner!"

"Alright!" One of the officials said.

Master Xu said, "Immediately go home and get the best dye-makers. Qianqian, look after them personally and make sure they produce the best purple dye."

"Yes, father!" said Xu Qianqian.

This time, the Xu family was going to mobilize the entire family.

However, Shen Lang was alone. He said to Lin Mo, "Boss Lin, I have to borrow the kitchen in your backyard again."

"Sure," said Lin Mo.

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When Shen Lang entered the kitchen, he used sophora and potassium alum to make the yellow dye as usual.

However, this time, he used the 21st century improved formula. He added other supplementary materials and changed both the ratio and strength of heating.

Although the main ingredients stayed the same, with the improvement due to modern technology, the gold dye had a better effect and looked more like gold.

Of course, he only managed to improve the formula and was unable to rout the original method.

Therefore, the purple dye played an extremely critical role.

With the fastest speed possible, he made the improved gold dye and allowed it to boil.

Then, Shen Lang placed emphasis on the purple dye.

He used his secret weapon.

The best source for purple dye, litmus<sup>1</sup>.

This was a type of moss present everywhere and was not valuable at all. However, the purple that was made from it was the most vibrant and beautiful.

In 18th century England, Cuthbert unintentionally found out that a type of moss could make purple dye. Its effect was excellent too.

Ever since then, the purple dye made from litmus was used throughout the century until the chemical industry made a breakthrough, and the man-made purple color, which had a lower cost price, was invented.

However, why did Shen Lang prepare the litmus beforehand?

That was because he wanted to be prepared if the formula for the gold dye was not enough. Then, he would make use of the purple color too.

Shen Lang ground the dried litmus and brewed it with coal ash and urine.

Very quickly, pure shade of purple was obtained.

Then, he used potassium alum to brighten the color.

Soon, an economical but pretty and vibrant purple dye was made.

As compared to the purple dye in this world, it was much better.

Then, Shen Lang took a piece of colorless silk and dyed it in the purple dye. When it was thoroughly dyed, he placed it under the sun.

Soon, the purple silk was made.

What a beautiful purple. It was bright and vibrant.

It defeated all the other purples in this world.

Moreover, Shen Lang wanted more than just purple.

He could have won the Xu family with the purple dye, but the win would not be as impressive.

He made use of the time and Lin Mo's equipment to make seven different colors of dye. He planned to make the most beautiful, mysterious, and special rainbow silk!

It was equivalent to adding all the seven colors onto one cloth. Shen Lang made use of the division of parts of the silk to dye these different colors. If he was fast and precise enough, the rainbow silk produced would be gorgeous.

Although he was not a professional, he was a fan of dyes. However, when he was in the museum of silk, he stayed for more than 2 weeks and became completely immersed in the works of art.

Yet in the past, when Shen Lang entered the Xu family, he saw the workers dyeing the cloth every day and was left with the memory.

The most important thing was that Shen Lang had the information about every step and ingredient in his computer.

Therefore, although he was unable to do it the best way, it was still good enough.

After six hours, Shen Lang completed making all three dyes and dyed the cloths with the respective colors.

The purple silk was sufficient for him to win against Xu Qianqian.

Moreover, the rainbow silk was his trump card.

It had an unprecedented and astonishing effect that could crush the silk made by the Xu family into fragments!

## Chapter 13: Slap the Wife Before She Apologizes!

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

At this moment, Shen Lang had yet to exit the kitchen.

However, the gold and purple silk that the Xu family had made were already placed on the table.

At this moment, the entire living room was lit with dozens of candles and was as bright as daylight.

The gold silk that Shen Lang made previously was placed at the side too.

By looking at it with the naked eye, it was hard to determine a winner.

However, if one placed it under bright light, one could tell that the gold silk made by the Xu family was more pure and extravagant.

That was normal. The Xu family was more professional and had more resources and experience. Therefore, after getting Shen Lang's formula, they could make a gold dye of better quality.

However, everyone's attention was on the purple silk that the Xu family made. One could see that it was exceptionally eye-catching under the light of the candles.

The best dye artist of the Xu family bowed and said, "Master, Miss, this is our new purple dye. It is no longer made by mixing red and blue. It is extracted from a purple plant. We are still trying to improve the formula, so we have yet to push it out to the market yet. However, the effect is much better than that in the past."

Master Xu, Lin Mo, and the rest of the people around looked at the purple silk.

It was indeed much better than the purple dye in the past.

Not only was the color purer but also much more vibrant. It looked great. It seemed that the Xu family was going to make a fortune again.

This was Xu Qianqian's confidence; she wanted to win against Shen Lang.

The youngest official took the silk and sifted through it. He could not help but admit that the new purple was impeccable. Although he was not part of the royal family, his background was not shabby, either. He especially liked purple cloths and was able to judge their quality.

Xu Qianqian said, "Artist Xu, please tell the officials more about the new gold dye."

The dye artist said, "Dear officials, my entire family has been working on dyes in the past. Since young, I have liked to study dyes. Since gold is supplied to the monarch, I have been placing my attention on gold and purple. I have experimented with more than 100 materials. Sophora is one of them. This is the evidence from my records."

As he said that, he handed over a book.

The official took the book over and flipped it open. It was indeed filled with records about the trials. These included sophora, and based on the words, it seemed to have been there for a while. He was not faking it.

The artist said, "Shen Lang used to be the son-in-law of the Xu family. However, he was despised upon due to his low IQ. For some reason, he came to my dye room and saw it when I was experimenting with sophora."

He did not wholly lie. He had indeed used sophora to experiment while making the gold dye. However, he did not know that he had to add potassium alum into the mixture to bring out the brightness. It was a critical step that determined the success of the dye. Moreover, because of the procedures, the color he made using sophora was not the best. Therefore, he thought his experiment using the sophora was a failure.

It was true that Shen Lang used to go to the dye room often since he liked to see the colorful dyes.

Because of these reasons, Master Xu and Xu Qianqian had absolute confidence that Shen Lang did not invent the gold dye alone.

The two of them knew Shen Lang's capability too well. He was a person with a low IQ, a useless person who did not know how to do anything.

Master Xu said, "Sirs, with all the evidence here, you can arrest Shen Lang now."

Although he addressed all the officers, he was staring straight at the youngest official. If not for his comment, Shen Lang would have already been arrested.

The young official looked at the notebook and looked at the silk that was dyed with a purple tint. He had no choice but to nod.

"It seems like so," he said softly.

"Send someone to arrest Shen Lang!" shouted Master Xu.

Before the officials did anything, the guard of the Xu family ran into the kitchen.

Meanwhile, the door of the backyard was kicked open, and Shen Lang walked out of the room.

Master Xu said coldly, "Shen Lang, with all the evidence here, you shall be arrested!"

Shen Lang looked at the youngest official.

The official said coldly, "All the evidence shows that you have committed a theft."

Shen Lang looked at the gold silk that the Xu family produced. It was indeed bright and outstanding.

He was not surprised at all. After getting Shen Lang's formula, the Xu family would definitely make a better quality dye than him.

Shen Lang said, "Is this the best gold dye the Xu family can make?"

Master Xu said, "Yes, isn't it much better than yours?"

Shen Lang said, "Yes, it is indeed better than the one I made previously. However, I have mentioned before that I have had some reservations with my formula. Why not compare it to the new silk I have made with the new dye?"

Shen Lang took out the new gold silk dyed with the improved formula of the 21st century.

Everyone looked at it.

Xu Qianqian's eyes narrowed. She could tell by one glance that the gold silk that Shen Lang made had won. It was about 15 percent better than that of the Xu family's creation.

How was that possible?!

Shen Lang had really invented a gold dye of better quality?

The improvement was not huge, and the officials could not really tell. However, Xu Qianqian and the dye artist could tell at a glance that Shen Lang's gold silk was like real gold. It was much more vibrant and high-class.

Master Xu felt astonished and jealous.

He did not expect Shen Lang to have a better formula.

However, he did not believe that the officials could tell the difference.

Therefore, he said coldly, "I think it looks about the same; it definitely cannot win against our gold silk. Therefore, you can't prove that you did not steal the formula from us."

Shen Lang had predicted the shamelessness of Master Xu.

Therefore, the determining winning factor is not gold but purple.

Shen Lang looked toward the purple silk on the table. Was that the new purple dye of the Xu family? It was indeed outstanding, much better than all of the purple silks in the current market.

The shade was extraordinarily pure and bright!

No wonder, Xu Qianqian was confident of winning.

However...

It still paled in comparison with the purple dye that Shen Lang extracted using litmus.

The purple dye made from gromwell was too dull and slightly pale. It was lifeless.

Shen Lang smiled immediately. "Xu Qianqian, the purple dye you used to dye this silk in front of us is the best from your family, right? You guys are no longer hiding anything?"

"No," said Xu Qianqian, "Shen Lang, unless your purple dye is better than ours, you will still be considered a shameless theft. Not only did you steal our gold dye formula, but also the new purple dye formula. You stole from my family!"

Shen Lang said nothing and took out the purple silk he dyed, placing it in front of everyone!

Instantly, Master Xu and Lin Mo's eyes widened. Both of them looked in disbelief and in jealousy.

The most terrifying thing was the comparison.

Initially, when one looked at the Xu family's purple silk, one thought that it was not bad. However, after comparing it with Shen Lang's silk, the contrast became extremely apparent.

Although the purple dye that the Xu family made was already pure, it still looked too ugly and cheap.

Meanwhile, Shen Lang's purple dye looked extremely lively and was of a whole new level.

One did not even have to judge to decide on the results. Just a simple look would do.

Shen Lang sneered, "Master Xu, Xu Qianqian, tell me then, did I steal your family's purple dye again?"

Master Xu and Xu Qianqian exchanged gazes and were extremely shocked.

What was happening?

Shen Lang lived with their family for a few months; she understood him the best. He had a low IQ, uneducated, and skillless. He was a completely useless person who did not know anything.

How did he suddenly invent two of these outstanding dyes?

Gold and purple are two colors that can cause a revolution in the dye market.

This did not make sense. How could Shen Lang, such a stupid person, know this?

Initially, Xu Qianqian had the right idea. However, she ultimately did not know that the stupid Shen Lang from before had already died. The Shen Lang in front of them had transcended time itself.

Shen Lang sneered, "If my purple silk did not make an obvious win, then what about this?"

After that, he whipped out his trump card, the rainbow silk!

Under the bright lighting, the beautiful rainbow silk was magnificent.

Everyone took a deep breath when they saw it!

How was that possible?

It was too beautiful and lively.

Colorful and vibrant but not too exaggerated. The color was so natural.

If the purple silk that Shen Lang had taken out earlier on was an obvious win, then the new rainbow silk had thoroughly thrashed the purple silk that the Xu family made, making it look downright pathetic.

Shen Lang smiled and asked, "Master Xu, Xu Qianqian, don't say that the new dye formula for this rainbow dye was stolen from your family, too? I have already told you that I can thrash the entire Xu family alone. However, you still insist that I stole your formula? What a ridiculous accusation!"

There seemed to be the sound of face-slapping in the air.

Both Master Xu and Xu Qianqian looked at Shen Lang in astonishment.

What did they miss from their interaction with this son-in-law?

He was so skilled in dyeing, but why didn't Xu Qianqian know that?

Although this dyeing skill might not be useful for other families, to the Xu family, it was advantageous since it could bring their business up to another level.

In the past, silk was about the same across all families, and the dye was the one that mattered.

Once the color defeated the other opponents, one could definitely clinch a high standing in the silk and cloth industry.

Shen Lang said as he looked at the young official, "Sir, please do me justice."

The young official looked at Master Xu and said, "Please confirm if the purple and rainbow dye was stolen from the Xu family."

Instantly, Master Xu's face began to spasm.

The young official was really a hot-headed person. When he left the residence of the City Lord, didn't his higher-up give him a glaring reminder?

Xu Qianqian's fiancé was the son of the governor here. By offending Xu Qianqian, Shen Qian would definitely suffer a terrible consequence.

Master Xu silently cursed the young official and was tempted to sack him from his position.

However, that had to be done behind the scenes. That required the Prefectural Governor to take action, and as a businessman, he could not be rude to an official.

"No!" Master Xu said coldly.

The young official said as he turned to Xu Qianqian, "Miss Xu, what about you? Did Shen Lang steal the purple and rainbow dye from the Xu family?"

Xu Qianqian's gaze changed. She realized that the young officer was not only a hot-headed person, but he also viewed the Xu family as an enemy.

What did they do to him, or rather, what did Zhang Pu do to him?

How dare the young official go against the in-law of the Prefectural Governor?

"No," said Xu Qianqian.

"Since the answer is no, then Shen Lang is innocent," said the young official, "Master Xu, Miss Xu, please apologize to Shen Lang!"

Master Xu was boiling with rage. He sneered and left the place.

Xu Qianqian's expression changed several times before saying softly to Shen Lang, "Sorry, because of some misunderstandings, we wronged you, goodbye!"

Then, she left too.

She had already decided to ask Zhang Pu to take revenge against the young official. There should not be any officials who dared to go against the Xu family in Xuanwu City.

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When Xu Qianqian left, Shen Lang greeted the young official, “Thank you, official! Long time no see; how are you? How is Miss Jin doing?”

## Chapter 14: Fate

**Translator:**

Atlas

Studios

The young official of Xuanwu City was called Wang Lian. He was 21 years old and became the registrar of Xuanwu City after the provincial examination.

Of course, he did not give up on the imperial examination. He was still studying while working as an official and wanted to obtain a Jinshi degree[1.highest and final degree in the imperial examination in Imperial China].

This was actually not allowed in ancient China, and one could only continue studying if one decided to be a staff member. However, it was approved in this world.

He was not born in Xuanwu City. His hometown was Nanyuan County, but he was famous and well-known in Xuanwu City.

He had another identity—the distant-relative of the Earl of the Xuanwu city.

Therefore, did Shen Lang know the registrar?

He really knew him. Three years ago, he taught Shen Lang for two weeks.

Moreover, this involved a person—the most beautiful person in the region, the dream lover of all young men, and the daughter of the Earl of Xuanwu city, Jin Mulan. She was also known as the princess of Xuanwu City.

At that time, Jin Mulan was hunting and came to the rear mountains near Shen Lang’s residence. She bumped into a gigantic black bear, and her horse was astonished and charged out immediately.

Shen Lang was still a moron back then. He was in the middle of the road, reading a book while squatting.

Why did he have to squat in the middle of the road? That was because there was an army of ants that was relocating; instead of counting the ants, he was afraid that other people would

step on the command of ants. Therefore, he squatted there until the relocation process was complete. Whenever someone walked passed, he would remind them to avoid the ants.

Jin Mulan's horse charged toward Shen Lang. A gigantic black bear chased after them crazily, and it had more than ten arrows on its body.

Before the horse could stomp over Shen Lang, the daughter of the Earl of Xuanwu City quickly got down from the horse and stood on the ground. She used one hand to stop the gigantic horse on the spot and saved Shen Lang's life.

Besides that, the black bear continued to charge toward her, and its gigantic claw smashed Jin Mulan's head.

Jin Mulan caught the horse with one hand and waved her sword with her other hand, severing the gigantic bear's head. Her skills were incredible.

Meanwhile, Shen Lang fainted when the hoof of the horse brushed past the back of his head.

He was not severely injured, but he fainted because he was too scared.

Therefore, this part of his memory was extraordinarily well-ingrained in him but was also slightly blurry. Moreover, Jin Mulan was wearing full armor and had her face covered by a helmet. Shen Lang didn't know that she was the daughter of the Earl.

When Shen Lang was thinking back on this memory, he figured out that she was Jin Mulan because of her silver armor, the flag of the troop, and the emblem on the shield.

Jin Mulan had saved Shen Lang's life. However, Shen Lang was injured because of her horse. Therefore, she would be fully responsible for it.

Therefore, she sent a doctor and some herbs over to cure Shen Lang.

She even went over to pay a visit personally once. However, Shen Lang was still in a coma and did not see her.

Jin Mulan was considered the princess of Xuanwu City. She had a very superior position and was several times more superior than Xu Qianqian. Back then, Shen Lang was merely a villager, and dying because of the horse incident was something he deserved.

However, the "princess" did not only send a doctor over to check on Shen Lang but also paid a visit personally.

Therefore, it was a true statement that the Earl loved the people of the nation.

Meanwhile, Wang Lian had just ended his provincial examination and had yet to assume the role of a registrar. Since he was the distant relative of the Earl, he came over to the Duke's place as a guest.

Of course, although he was a distant relative, he had minimal opportunities to get in touch with Jin Mulan. Although he was a new scholar based on the examination, his status differed significantly from that of Jin Mulan.

He was fond of Jin Mulan. After hearing about how Jin Mulan went over to pay a visit to Shen Lang, he specially made a visit to Shen Lang and got to know that Shen Lang was still studying. He decided to become Shen Lang's teacher just in case Jin Mulan went to visit Shen Lang since he wanted to leave a good impression on Jin Mulan.

Of course, Shen Lang was as stupid as a stone, and Wang Lian was unable to knock any sense into him. Wang Lian was talented and brilliant and was able to complete the provincial examination at the age of 18. He had never seen someone as stupid as Shen Lang.

This tutoring session lasted for two weeks, and Jin Mulan did not appear because she went on a military mission.

Therefore, Wang Lian gave up and never went back to Shen Lang's house. It was a torture to teach a stupid person like Shen Lang.

However, he still had some connections with Shen Lang.

Now that they had met again, Wang Lian looked utterly different since he had shaved his hair and was wearing formal wear. Moreover, Shen Lang only had a clear memory of a few people. Therefore, he took a while to recall who Wang Lian was.

It was because of this fate that Shen Lang dared to request to compete with the Xu family and used his purple and rainbow dye.

That was because he knew that the young official had grudges with Zhang Pu.

When Wang Lian was teaching Shen Lang, he had cursed Zhang Pu for more than ten times.

Everything was part of the plan.

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When he heard Shen Lang call him "brother", the official frowned slightly and did not reply to Shen Lang. Instead, he said, "Why aren't you studying but fiddling with dye? Aren't you landing yourself in demise?"

This was not him prejudicing. There were two types of skills, which was the most prestigious in this world. One was studying, and the other was martial arts. They were similarly ranked.

When the Song Dynasty in ancient China had ended, educated people often won over those who were well-trained in the martial arts.

However, in this world, in the Dayan Dynasty, both were equally valued.

Martial arts competitions and imperial examinations were equally prestigious.

However, a dye artist was a lowly career.

The dye artist from the Xu family was relatively outstanding. However, he was only addressed as an “artist” instead of his name.

Of course, the young official was merely making a comment.

Initially, to please Jin Mulan, he taught Shen Lang for two weeks and could never forget Shen Lang’s stupidity. Shen Lang would never pass the competition even if he studied for a hundred years. Studying would be a waste of time and money for him.

“As for Miss Jin...” The young official turned around, looked at Shen Lang, and said, “She is the mistress of the royal family and has an extremely respectable status. Her name should not be mentioned by an ordinary villager.”

After saying that, Wang Lian turned around and left.

Before turning away, he looked at him in disdain.

Earlier on, he went against the Xu family because he had grudges with Zhang Pu. He wanted to take this opportunity to bring the Xu family down. He did not do it because of Shen Lang.

Although he taught Shen Lang for two weeks, he did not see that as a connection between the two of them.

“What a funny villager, he wanted to make connections with me because of this? Dream on, fool!”

Wang Lian sneered and rode his horse back to his residence.

Shen Lang could tell that Wang Lian did not view him significantly at all and did not want to make use of their past connections.

Of course, he was not surprised at all.

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When Wang Lian left, the boss of Silk Pavilion, Lin Mo, said, “Shen Lang, you won, you made the Xu family look bad. However, you would rather have lost; now, you are in an even more precarious position!”

Tian Thirteen said softly, “Shen Lang, you are screwed!”

Lin Mo said, “The official merely viewed the Xu family as an enemy. That was why he did that. He did not do that to protect you. Therefore, he would not be willing to help you with whatever problems you face in the future; you won’t be able to get his help.”

Shen Lang knew all of these!

Wang Lian was youthful and well-known. He would definitely not regard a lowly villager as anyone important. Based on previous memory, Shen Lang knew him well enough.

However, Wang Lian did enough by helping him defeat the Xu family. Shen Lang did not intend to establish any connections with him in the first place.

Moreover, Shen Lang would become Wang Lian's love rival soon.

Therefore, Shen Lang's family had yet to be freed from danger. Instead, they were in a more precarious situation. The Xu family was even keener to kill him.

He was merely fighting for time. He only needed one day to complete his plan of turning the tables around.

Once he succeeded, the entire situation would be turned around, and he would overpower everyone else.

By then, be it the Xu family, Lin family, or Tian Heng, none of them could hurt him. In fact, they had to be wary of Shen Lang.

Meanwhile, this time, he had depended on the value of the rainbow dye. That was why he made the rainbow dye earlier on.

The rainbow silk had to be impressive enough and extremely valuable. It had to make the Xu family look in envy.

If everything happened just as planned, Xu Qianqian would return to look for him soon.

Everything that happened today was precarious but within his plans.

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Indeed, soon after Shen Lang left the Silk Pavilion, Xu Qianqian's horse carriage appeared in front of him.

"Shen Lang, I underestimated you previously," said Xu Qianqian gently, "I didn't expect you to learn how to make dye because of me. Why didn't you tell me that in the past?"

It was usual for her to think this way. In the past, Shen Lang was madly in love with Xu Qianqian and could do anything for her.

Meanwhile, the Xu family had a business in the silk industry. To Xu Qianqian, it was normal for Shen Lang to learn how to make dye because of her.

Meanwhile, it was not easy for an intelligent individual to master this skill. One had to be stupid enough to conduct experiments repeatedly to discover the perfect formula.

"If you had said it earlier, I wouldn't have to chase you out of the house," said Xu Qianqian with an even gentler voice, "our marriage was fake, and I have to marry Zhang Pu. However, you can return to the Xu family and become a helper, how about that?"

Shen Lang did not comment.

Xu Qianqian looked at Shen Lang with her beautiful eyes and said gently, "Shen Lang, I will give you ten gold coins every month. It is sufficient for your family. As long as you can hand over the formula for the purple and rainbow dye, I can give you the best dye room and allow you to immerse in the art of dye, granting your wish of becoming an outstanding dye artist. Don't you love me? Aren't you willing to sacrifice everything for me? You can help me this way."

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## Chapter 15: Picked A Shen Lang Back Home

Translator:

Atlas

Studios

This Xu Qianqian sure felt good about herself!

"I can abandon and trample you, but you still have to be infatuated with me, as always. When you, Shen Lang, are of no use to me, I'll throw you out. When you are of use, you shall come into my home and be a slave for me."

Shen Lang didn't say anything. He turned around and walked away from her.

Xu Qianqian said, "Shen Lang, even if you know the art of dyeing colors, it won't change anything. You're still the same person as you were in the past. Please don't think that you're competent just because you've won against our family's dye artist! We have dozens of them who don't have a name for themselves."

This was the truth. These dye artists were merely lowly servants. Skills are considered primary productive forces and aren't uncommon in this world.

Thus, even if Shen Lang knew how to make dyes, he was still a meek villager in Xu Qianqian's eyes. Even if he was an extremely handsome one, he was still a lowly person.

"You can't read and don't know martial arts. You don't know anything. You won't be able to find food to fill your stomach other than entering my family's dye room," Xu Qianqian said, "and don't forget, you still owe Tian Heng 1000 gold coins."

Lin Mo didn't intend to buy Shen Lang's new dye formula while the Xu family plans on seizing it by force; naturally, those 1000 gold coins were useless.

At this moment, Tian Thirteen appeared before Shen Lang like a spirit and said, "Still the same sentence, if I do not receive 1000 gold coins before nighttime today, the Black Clothes Gang will deliver our promise to kill your family."

Xu Qianqian said gently, "Shen Lang, you already have no other path to take; it's less than a day left! Where will you go to earn this 1000 gold coins? The only way you could live is to rely on the help of my family and offer the formulas for the two dyes unconditionally. This way, I can make Tian Heng waive off this debt of yours."

Tian Thirteen added, "Dawn is breaking soon. We will be at your house to collect the money tonight. You do not have much time left. There are less than fourteen hours left."

Xu Qianqian said, "Shen Lang, it couldn't be that you were feeling a little hopeful with Wang Lian? He definitely won't be coming to save you again. Plus, he wasn't trying to help you today. He merely wanted to take the Xu family down because of the grudge he has with my fiancé Zhang Pu. He can't be bothered about your survival."

Xu Qianqian was right on this.

Tian Thirteen said, "Don't worry, Shen Lang, the Black Clothes Gang will definitely arrest your entire family openly in the name of a criminal charge. Then halfway, we will find an excuse to make you all vanish from the surface of the earth. Your family is non-native, just like floating duckweeds."

Xu Qianqian said, "Before nightfall, if the Xu family doesn't see the new formulas for the purple and rainbow dyes, I really do not dare to promise what will happen... The Black Clothes Gang have always been ruthless in the way they carry things out. Shen Lang, you're not smart, but you should be a little more clever in handling this matter."

Then Xu Qianqian boarded the carriage and left.

Tian Thirteen turned around and said, "We will go to your house to collect the money before the sun sets."

Then he placed the knife from his waist onto his shoulder and strolled off.

He didn't need to follow Shen Lang anymore. Since Shen Lang was exceptionally filial, he only needed to keep an eye on his family, and Shen Lang wouldn't be running anywhere.

In this entire process, Shen Lang didn't say a single word, merely watching this pair perform silently.

After traveling several meters, Xu Qianqian lifted the curtains of her carriage and looked at Shen Lang, who stood alone in the middle of the streets. She suddenly snorted.

"It's really a crime to be weak. He really looks like a dog." She continued, "Shen Lang, it's a great honor for you to be able to enter my house as a servant with your status. Otherwise, someone as helpless as you can only starve to death."

Xu Qianqian only said these inner thoughts of hers when no one was around. Otherwise, it would really be too damaging to her image—she would appear as a mean person.

...

Shen Lang stood in the center of the street.

Right now, earning money ultimately had no meaning to him anymore.

No matter how much he earned, without the power and influence to protect him, it would only bring disaster. This was a world where the strong fed on the weak.

The Xu family, Lin family, and Tian Heng's Black Clothes Gang...

Any of these three forces were giants to Shen Lang.

Tian Heng and the Xu family would definitely make their move tonight. They would use his family's life to force Shen Lang to hand over the dye formulas.

Even if Shen Lang handed it over, unless he stayed in the Xu family as a servant for the rest of his life, slaving away to invent new formulas ceaselessly, his family would not have any peace.

He had to solve this problem once and for all.

He had initially planned to wait for his plan of living off others for eternity to mature a little and build it up a little first.

It looked like it must be brought forward now.

Shen Lang rehearsed this plan in his head repeatedly.

Right now, the sky was starting to brighten.

It was almost time. Shen Lang had to seize the moment and head out to the most influential land a hundred li away.

The Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu!

However, at this moment, an intense clapping sound of hooves rang out from behind him, ripping the silence before dawn. The ground was trembling.

Shen Lang turned around and saw a troop of soldiers.

This was an elite troop with more than a hundred soldiers. Every single one of them was donned in armor, holding a massive sword in their hands and carrying an enormous shield on their backs.

Shen Lang could practically see how much money was used in creating this troop that had a unique look. A force like this was an absolute trump card, be it in ancient China or western history.

Who could have such an elite force and possess such grandeur?

Shen Lang quickly saw the flag of the troops and the emblem on their shields.

These were soldiers from the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu!

The Jin Family of the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu was a real royal family of a hundred years.

Three hundred years ago, the Jin Family had protected and guarded Xuanwu City. Xuanwu City got its name from the Jin Family clan. Thus, the Xuanwu Earl is the master of Xuanwu City to a certain extent.

The leader of this troop was donned in silver armor and had a lean body. Due to the leader's helmet, only the eyes could be seen.

However, this pair of eyes were icy cold.

This was a woman with stunning eyes.

Although her face hadn't been seen, this woman's identity was unmistakable.

She... was the legendary goddess, the princess of Xuanwu City, the dream lover of countless youths, and the pillar of the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu, Jin Mulan.

Shen Lang was a little stunned. He had initially intended to go to the Earl's Palace, but he had never expected to meet them right here.

"Move! Move!"

"Move aside! Move aside!"

"Clear the street! Clear the street!"

The two flag bearers at the front of the troops hollered loudly, trying to chase away Shen Lang who stood in the center of the streets.

With Shen Lang's frail and weak body, if he was hit by this troop, all the bones in his body were bound to be broken, and he would die tragically!

He quickly moved to the side of the street, moving out of the path of this troop of soldiers.

However, just as he was about to step off the street, he suddenly and intentionally stumbled, slowing his steps a few notches.

After all, he added a small plan at the last minute.

“Boom...”

A soldier on the edge of this troop brushed against Shen Lang, and the considerable impact sent Shen Lang flying out!

He... This was Pengci1.

“Wifey, you had knocked into me once three years ago! Why don’t you knock into me again and bring me home!” Shen Lang thought.

Then, his body flew a few meters before landing on the ground.

He was not professional at Pengci, but his force, angle, and timing was correctly handled.

Since his injuries were not severe after he landed on the ground, he even forcefully bit into his gums so that blood would flow out from the corner of his mouth. He definitely must act pitiful at this moment.

Jin Mulan’s eyes widened as she lifted her hand. Instantly, the soldiers quickly came to a halt.

The two ahead immediately got off their horses to check on Shen Lang’s injuries. However, who would have thought that Jin Mulan was even faster? She leaped off her horse and shot several meters across the air.

Shen Lang was stunned. “Amazing!”

Jin Mulan squatted down before Shen Lang, removed her gauntlets, and placed her fingers at Shen Lang’s nose to check for his breathing.

“This young man is really handsome! He seems a little familiar, too!” That was Jin Mulan’s first thought.

Shen Lang’s injuries were not severe; thus, his breathing was naturally stable.

However, he was a doctor! Thus, he quickly made it seem as if he was dying with weak breaths. With blood oozing out of the corner of his mouth, it really looked severe. This gave Jin Mulan a shock.

The people of the entire Xuanwu City were their people. Her father had taught her to love the people of the nation from a young age.

Even if a commoner died from being run over and deserved it for blocking the path of a troop, Jin Mulan absolutely wouldn’t allow an innocent person to die before her.

“General, I’ll bring him to the nearest clinic to be treated,” her chamberlain said.

“Please don’t!!!” Shen Lang prayed mentally. “Wifey! Please bring me home!”

Jin Mulan shook her head. “No. I’ll still worry if it’s a regular clinic. The doctors at the Earl’s palace are more skilled. Bring him back to the palace to be treated. We absolutely must not let an innocent commoner die under our hooves.”

“Wow! She had such a lovely voice, too, so bright and refreshing!”

“Yes!” Her chamberlain said. She then gently carried Shen Lang and got onto her horse.

Jin Mulan’s chamberlain was also a girl, but she was still more robust than the average guy. Shen Lang looked a little embarrassed for being carried like a princess, but he still had to pretend to be unconscious.

“Return to the palace!” Jin Mulan ordered as she led the troops back to the Palace of the Earl of Xuanwu.

The injured and beautiful pretty boy, Shen Lang, was picked back home by the princess of Xuanwu City, Jin Mulan.

“Shen Lang, the moment that decides your fate is coming.” Shen Lang repeatedly encouraged himself. “Whether you can save your entire family and screw the Xu family and Tian Heng over... and whether you will be able to live well and enjoy wealth shall all depend on your performance later!”