

## Venomous 1111

### Chapter 1111: The Return of an Old Friend (19)

Shen Miao thought that after knowing the ending of the two of them, she would definitely be overjoyed. However, at this moment, she did not feel much. It was as if she had only done what she should do, and revenge was no longer part of the rest of her life.

This was because she had a future to look forward to.

Xie Jingxing and her unborn child helped her get out of the shackles of hatred. She did the last thing she could do for Fu Ming and Wanyu. Now, she had to live a good life for herself.

Luo Tan was looking at the flowers outside and said, "The lotus is really beautiful. Cousin, let's go for a walk later."

Shen Miao nodded.

The lotus flowers were very good. Empress Xiande liked to see lotus flowers the most.

Emperor Yong Le's health was getting worse day by day.

He had already discussed the edict with his trusted officials in private. Emperor Yong Le did not hide his illness from them. A few officials had already secretly arranged everything. If Emperor Yong Le really did not wake up one day, everything would go according to plan. The edict would be announced to the world. When Xie Jingxing returned, what awaited him would be the responsibility of the entire Daliang Dynasty.

Naturally, Emperor Yong Le's illness was also hidden from Xie Jingxing.

At this critical moment, Empress Xiande seemed to be the calmest. Every day, she still made tea, read, played chess, and wrote. She chatted with Emperor Yong Le casually and occasionally checked in on Shen Miao.

In Weiyang Palace, Empress Xiande looked outside and said, "It just rained today. At night, it will definitely be very cool. Let's drink the wine tonight, Your Majesty."

Emperor Yong Le sat on the chair. He glanced at Empress Xiande and chuckled. "Do you want to get drunk?" His words were very gentle.

"Who wouldn't want to be drunk and live in oblivion?" Empress Xiande muttered to herself. Then, she said, "A jar of wine is not enough to make me drunk. I can hold my liquor very well. When I was young, I often stole wine from my brother."

When Emperor Yong Le heard that, he looked a little interested and said, "This doesn't seem like something you would do."

"That's nothing." When Empress Xiande said this, she was a little smug. "I've never lost to my brothers in drinking. At that time, my father even boasted that he would definitely find an old wine that could

make me drunk after taking a sip. After that, I entered the palace and didn't dare to drink much because I was afraid of doing something inappropriate in my drunken state."

"One moment, it's tea, and the next, it's wine." Emperor Yong Le sighed. "Your hobbies are very different."

"Tea makes you sober while wine makes you forget." Empress Xiande smiled. "So tonight, Your Majesty, let's forget and indulge ourselves in it. I brewed the wine myself. Although it's not as good as nectar, it's very mellow." "Alright." Emperor Yong Le said, "I'll indulge in it with you this time."

In the late summer, the night wind was cool, and the lake was green.

In the pavilion in the middle of the lake, there was a small jar of wine, a few pastries, and two wine bowls on the table.

Emperor Yong Le looked at the round wine bowl in front of him and raised his eyebrows. "With this?" He and Xie Jingxing both had the habit of raising eyebrows when asking a question..

Chapter 1112: The Return of an Old Friend (20)

"If we take small sips, we won't be able to taste the mallowness of this snow brew." Empress Xiande smiled and said, "You have to drink it in big mouthfuls."

"Did you drink like this in the past?" Emperor Yong Le frowned. "How inappropriate."

"No one is watching when I drink. Why should I care?" Empress Xiande raised the wine jar and poured wine for Emperor Yong Le.

Emperor Yong Le wanted to say something, but he hesitated. He looked at Empress Xiande deeply and fell silent.

Empress Xiande made snow brew every year, but this was the first time Emperor Yong Le drank it with her. All these years, she had been making tea alone, brewing wine alone, and living cautiously in the harem. She did a good job as the empress, but people almost forgot that she was just a woman and would be lonely. Most of the time, she could only endure the bitterness of a lonely life.

Nanny Tao and Eunuch Deng stood very far away, as if they wanted to leave this rare time to the emperor and the empress. Empress Xiande handed the wine bowl to Emperor Yong Le and said with a smile, "Every time Jingxing comes to the palace banquet, he likes to drink from a big wine bowl instead of a goblet. You seem to be envious of Jingxing that he can always do whatever he wants without caring about what others think of him. Tonight, you don't have to care so much about the opinion of others either. Even if you get drunk and lose yourself, I won't criticize you."

"What a joke. What's there to be envious of?" After saying that, Emperor Yong Le picked up the wine bowl and took a sip.

Seeing this, Empress Xiande couldn't help but smile and say, "Your Majesty, what are you doing? You should drink like this." She picked up the wine bowl and drank it with her head raised.

Emperor Yong Le chuckled. His gaze was very gentle as he followed suit.

Empress Xiande poured herself another bowl and said with a smile, "When I was young, I read history books with my father. I was very envious of the heroes in the books. They were carefree and unbridled, eating meat and

drinking wine in big mouthfuls. I felt that only by living such a life would my time in the world not be wasted. I thought that I would definitely marry such a hero in the future. I would make tea for him in the day and drink with him at night." As she spoke, her eyes were bright, as if she had returned to the time when she was a girl and was asking her brother for wine.

"And then?" Emperor Yong Le asked.

"Later, I married Your Majesty. You won't eat meat and drink wine in big mouthfuls, and you are nothing like the unbridled hero I imagined. Instead, you are very indifferent. I regret it."

Emperor Yong Le narrowed his eyes at her. Her cheeks gradually turned red. It was unknown if she was drunk or not. Emperor Yong Le thought that she was definitely drunk. When she was sober, Empress Xiande would not say such rude words to him.

He said, "Didn't you say that you can hold your liquor very well? Why are you getting drunk so quickly?"

"I'm not drunk." Empress Xiande said, "I want to be drunk, but unfortunately, after so many years, I have no choice but to be sober."

Emperor Yong Le couldn't smile anymore.

"I'm really unlucky to be married to you. For no reason, I have to share my husband with countless women, and I don't even have a child of my own. This marriage is really not a good one." Empress Xiande smiled and said, "That's why I'm very envious of Princess Consort Rui. Her life is not easy, and she has a lot of things to worry about. However, she's luckier than me because she can choose. Jingxing treats her very well. He's not as heartless as you.."

Chapter 1113: The Return of an Old Friend (21)

Emperor Yong Le was silent for a long time, so long that he could almost hear the sound of frogs in the pond and cicadas on the willow tree. He said, "You can also choose. Qing Zhen..."

"I didn't have a choice from the beginning." Empress Xiande interrupted him. "I've invested everything in you. How can you ask me to choose at this moment?"

Emperor Yong Le was stunned. Empress Xiande had already raised her wine bowl and finished the second bowl in one gulp.

"Your Majesty, do you think of me any differently from other women?"

Empress Xiande looked at him. "Did you also choose me because you had to?"

Emperor Yong Le paused for a moment before saying, "You're very good. You're the best empress in the Daliang Dynasty. No one can do the job better than you."

Back then, my mother liked you very much, and I liked you very much too. You're smart, appropriate, generous, and stable. You've organized the entire harem very well. There's nothing wrong with me choosing you."

Empress Xiande smiled, and as she smiled, she almost burst into tears. She said, "As expected, between Empress Xiande and Qing Zhen, you chose the former. I understand." She looked at the moon in the sky, and the corners of her eyes seemed to be sparkling. When she turned around, she was back to her usual gentle and calm self. She said, "I've already thought about what you told me previously. I think you are right. After all, this is my life. I have to plan for my life in the future."

Emperor Yong Le stared at her and felt a lump in his throat. A moment later, he asked hesitantly, "Did you... already find someone?"

"Not yet." Empress Xiande smiled. "But there's no hurry. When that day comes, I'll let nature take its course."

Emperor Yong Le fell into silence.

Empress Xiande picked up the wine bowl and said, "Let's toast to our marriage.

We've been husband and wife for so many years. Over the years, although my life is not especially good, it's not bad either. Thank you, Your Majesty."

Emperor Yong Le also raised his wine bowl. If one looked carefully, they would notice that his fingers were trembling slightly, as if he couldn't hold it steadily. However, he hid it very well and immediately emptied all the wine in the wine bowl.

As a matter of fact, not only did the wine not taste sweet and mellow in big mouthfuls, but it also burned one's throat.

Empress Xiande stood up and said to him with a smile, "Actually, this jar of wine looks like a lot, but after drinking a few bowls, it's already empty. Without wine, even the moon becomes much duller. I'll take my leave first. Your Majesty, rest well. It's dark and cool. Be careful not to catch a cold." She left slowly.

She left briskly. Now that she had bid farewell and drunk the farewell wine, what was left to do was to leave his world step by step and never come back. Emperor Yong Le turned to look at Empress Xiande's departing figure.

She disappeared into the long corridor with firm footsteps.

His heart suddenly ached, and an indescribable pain slowly spread from his heart to his limbs. His heart was beating very fast and was almost twitching. He could not breathe and could not say a word.

He suddenly fell from the chair!

Eunuch Deng was waiting at the side. When he saw this, he was shocked and quickly walked over. He helped Emperor Yong Le up, but when he saw that Emperor Yong Le's face was terrifyingly pale and his lips were trembling, his heart skipped a beat. He immediately called the imperial physician and asked the guards to send Emperor Yong Le back to the Hall of Mental Cultivation..

## Chapter 1114: The Return of an Old Friend (22)

Empress Xiande walked in the night. The wind brushed past her face. The short dizziness from the wine was slowly gone, replaced by the annoying soberness.

She held the railing by the pond and let out a long sigh.

She knew that the words tonight were said in a fit of anger. However, she was extremely afraid at the thought of Emperor Yong Le's death. She wanted to avoid that outcome and refused to look or listen. However, Emperor Yong Le took the initiative to mention it every time they talked, forcing her to face what she did not want to face.

Nanny Tao said, "Your Majesty, it's cold outside. Let's go back first."

Empress Xiande shook her head. There was a string of prayer beads on her wrist. Every night, she would hold the prayer beads and chant the Buddhist scriptures, praying that the heavens would take pity on Emperor Yong Le and let a miracle happen.

She turned around, wanting to walk back. Unexpectedly, she heard a crackling sound. She looked down and saw that the string of the prayer beads had broken at some point. The prayer beads fell to the ground, scattering everywhere.

Why would the string of the prayer beads break for no reason?

"Nanny Tao..." Empress Xiande muttered, feeling inexplicably uneasy and suffocated.

"Your Majesty!" Nanny Tao was shocked and quickly came forward to help her. Empress Xiande waved her hand and squatted down in a panic. "Quick, help me pick it up.."

As soon as Nanny Tao squatted down, she saw a young eunuch run over in a hurry. He looked terrified and said, "His Majesty is not in a critical condition. Please go and take a look!"

Empress Xiande had just picked up a prayer bead. Hearing this, she subconsciously let go of it. The prayer bead rolled on the ground and fell into the pond. It sank into the water and was gone.

The Hall of Mental Cultivation was filled with the kneeling eunuchs and palace.

Eunuch Deng stood in a corner of the room with his head lowered, looking very sad.

When Empress Xiande entered, Gao Zhan had just come out. When he saw her, he shook his head.

Empress Xiande suddenly staggered. Fortunately, she held Nanny Tao's hand and did not fall.

After a while, she said, "All of you, leave."

Emperor Yong Le, who was on the bed, also waved his hand.

Everyone in the room left.

Empress Xiande went forward.

She walked extremely slowly, as if she was resisting to reach a destination that she did not want to reach. However, she had no choice but to walk forward. When she reached the bed, she half-knelt and looked at the person on it.

Emperor Yong Le also looked at her. After a while, he smiled and said, "Fortunately, before I go, I finally drank your snow brew."

"Your Majesty..." EmDress Xiande looked at him with tears in her eyes..

Chapter 1115: The Return of an Old Friend (23)

"Qing Zhen, I can't accompany you anymore." Emperor Yong Le said apologetically, "When you married me back then, I thought you would be protected. In fact, after so many years, you didn't get anything." He said it very slowly. With every word he said, he had to rest for a while, as if speaking was already a very difficult task for him.

Empress Xiande said, "Stop talking."

Only at this moment did the two of them talk like a normal couple.

He said, "Go and live your own life. You're a good person. You'll definitely live happily in the future. Marry someone else. Don't choose a selfish husband like me. Find someone who loves you..."

Empress Xiande cried uncontrollably.

She suddenly felt her hand being grabbed and saw Emperor Yong Le staring at her with bright eyes. He gritted his teeth and said, "But I'm unwilling. I don't want... I'm very selfish. You're my woman, so I don't want you to be with anyone else."

Empress Xiande was stunned.

"I've tried my best to endure the pain for the past year, hoping to live for a few more days. Actually, it's not because I want to see Xie Jingxing rule the world.

The world has already been stabilized. There's nothing else I need to do. I just... can't bear to..." He panted with difficulty. "I can't bear to leave you... As long as I can be husband and wife with you for half a day, I will try my best."

"Actually, it wasn't my mother's idea back then. It was me from the beginning. I was the one who told my mother that I thought you were good. I said that anyone could be the empress as long as they followed the rules well. Actually, that's not the case. It has to be you from the beginning. Those hurtful words...

were all lies..."

Empress Xiande covered her mouth and said, "Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

Emperor Yong Le's face turned even paler. His voice was so low that it was almost inaudible. He said, "Unfortunately, I'm not a long-lived person, and I'm guilty that I've made your life difficult..." He reached

out, as if he wanted to help Empress Xiande wipe the tears off her face. However, halfway through, his hand fell weakly.

He closed his eyes.

Empress Xiande covered her mouth and buried herself in the blanket, crying in pain.

After a while, Empress Xiande stood up. She gently tucked Emperor Yong Le in and kissed him. She tidied her hair in front of the mirror, wiped her tears, and slowly opened the door.

Eunuch Deng bowed and went forward. Empress Xiande said calmly, "His Majesty has passed away."

Eunuch Deng was stunned for a moment before falling on his knees and kowtowing.

Seeing this, the eunuchs and palace maids outside also knelt down and kowtowed, their wails and sobs echoing throughout the palace..

Chapter 1116: The Return of an Old Friend (24)

Shen Miao looked at Empress Xiande. Empress Xiande was wearing a plain white dress. Her expression was still gentle and calm, as if nothing could move her.

After a long period of chaos, the palace fell quiet.

Before Emperor Yong Le died, he prepared everything, including the edict to pass down the throne and the possible unrest in the imperial court. Although some people were tempted to make trouble, they were intimidated by the troops Emperor Yong Le left behind. Moreover, Xie Jingxing had been sending back good news recently. Everyone knew that Emperor Yong Le did not have a son and that his only brother would definitely take over the throne.

It was not that there were no dissenters, but the dissenters were dealt with by Emperor Yong Le. With the bravery Xie Jingxing displayed and the ruthless methods Emperor Yong Le used, the throne was surprisingly stable. Perhaps these people also knew that once Prince Rui returned, not only would he bring back victory, but he would also bring back the territory of Ming Qi and the State of Qin. This world would be completely unified, and the throne would no longer be that important.

It was better to be obedient and wait for this new emperor to return and ascend the throne.

What about the harem?

The women in the harem had lost the emperor they relied on, so they were naturally at a loss. Some wanted to kill themselves, but most of them were planning for the rest of their lives. Most of the consorts in the harem were the daughters of the court officials. He never took the initiative to take in any consorts. Moreover, Emperor Yong Le was born with a cold personality. Apart from doting on Lu Jing, he was not lustful. Therefore, he was not in a deep relationship with those consorts. After Emperor Yong Le passed away, these women asked their family for help, hoping that they could leave the palace.

Empress Xiande handled the funeral calmly. She buried Emperor Yong Le in the imperial mausoleum and didn't make any consorts to die with him.

Shen Miao came to visit Empress Xiande at night. Ever since Emperor Yong Le entered the imperial mausoleum, Empress Xiande had been behaving strangely calmly. Today was the Mid -Autumn Festival, and the full moon was hanging in the sky, but she was listening to a maid play the Guqin in Weiyang Palace.

Shen Miao asked the maid to stop and leave. Only then did Empress Xiande notice her. She seemed to be extremely tired. She smiled and said, "You're here."

"It's getting cold. Your Majesty, you have to put on more clothes," Shen Miao said.

Empress Xiande smiled faintly and pointed at the mooncakes on the table. "They're made by the royal kitchen. I wanted to get someone to send them to you, but since you came, you can try it."

Shen Miao smiled and said, "Your Majesty, eat some too."

Empress Xiande waved her hand. "I can't eat."

The edict had been issued. When Xie Jingxing returned to Long Ye, he would ascend the throne. At that time, Shen Miao would be the empress. Speaking of which, it was actually not appropriate to call her Empress Xiande now. However, the two of them did not mind.

"These days, I've been thinking about the past. I originally thought I would definitely get used to the fact His Majesty is no longer around. However, the longer I live, the more I'm not used to it. Every day, I feel empty, as if something is missing. Princess Consort, after Jingxing left, do you feel this way

Shen Miao was stunned.

Did she miss Jingxing? She naturally did. While they were together, they didn't feel anything. Only when they were separated did she realize how much she missed him. In times of separation, people could probably think more clearly. However... Shen Miao subconsciously touched her stomach. Perhaps because there was a life in her stomach, these long and torturous days were not so boring..

Chapter 1117: The Return of an Old Friend (25)

"You're probably different from me." Without waiting for Shen Miao to answer, Empress Xiande continued, "In the past, His Majesty asked people to gather information about you. As I listened to him telling me about you, I knew that you were a smart person. You dealt with the royal family of Ming Qi alone and protected the Shen family. As for meeting Jingxing and marrying him, it was all a coincidence. If you didn't meet Jingxing, you could also live a life you wanted, because you never aspired to be someone's wife."

"But I'm different." She looked at the ruby on her necklace and said, "When I met His Majesty, I felt that the most important thing in my life was to become his wife and be with him for the rest of my life." She rested her head on her elbow and spoke slowly, as if she was about to fall asleep in the next moment, but she was still talking.



“Perhaps it’s precisely because my life since I was young was so smooth-sailing that I didn’t know that being a wife was such a difficult thing.”

Shen Miao did not comment.

Empress Xiande had been suffering too much. Over the past few days, she had not said anything, but Shen Miao understood that feeling. This was because talking could not change anything, but sometimes, it was always good to be able to speak it. At least it was better for Empress Xiande to say it now than to keep it to herself.

“With His Majesty gone, I don’t know what to do now. The women in the harem have all been dismissed. The palace was originally noisy, but now it’s cold and desolate, making me feel a little lonely. I thought that if I hadn’t met His Majesty in the beginning, it would probably be better. I would rather fight with the royal family like you and protect my family than throw myself into a marriage I knew would not end well.”

Shen Miao could feel her despair and hopelessness. She comforted her. “It’s the same for me. Ever since I was born, apart from the time when my parents and brother were around, there had never been a moment when life was easy, so I’ve gradually learned to believe in myself. It’s my blessing to meet His Highness, but without His Highness, no matter how difficult my path is, I will continue.” After a pause, she said, “It’s the same for you. Even if His Majesty leaves first, you have to think about yourself and live for yourself. No matter how difficult the path is, you have to face it.”

Empress Xiande was silent for a long time. It was so long that Shen Miao thought that she did not hear her at all. Then, she suddenly said, “Princess

Consort, thank you.”

“I understand what you mean.”

“It’s just that this is too difficult.”

That night, Shen Miao and Empress Xiande sat for a long time. They didn’t talk much, but they seemed to have said a lot.

After Shen Miao left, Empress Xiande sat there alone for a long time. It was not until Nanny Tao came to urge her to sleep that Empress Xiande stood up and went to wash up. After Empress Xiande went to bed, Nanny Tao left.

After the door was closed, the person on the bed sat up again.

She lit the lamp and rummaged through the cabinets to find clothes. It was not the empress’s court dress, but a moon-white plain dress. She loved such a simple and refreshing color. However, after becoming the empress, she could no longer wear these clothes. If the dress was not exquisite and grand, she would “not be able to suppress” the other consorts.

She looked mature and calm, but in fact, she was just a quiet and reserved girl.

She put on a simple dress. She sat in front of the mirror and brushed her eyebrows lightly. With light rouge, she looked extremely beautiful..

## Chapter 1118: The Return of an Old Friend (26)

She took out a pen and paper from the drawer and started to write. Upon finishing, she put the letter into an envelope.

In the end, Empress Xiande took out an exquisite jade box from the bottom of the cabinet. The box was covered in a faint dust.

From the moment she married Emperor Yong Le, she knew about his illness. It took a lot of courage to marry a man who was going to die at any time.

However, she was the bravest young lady in her family and looked forward to marrying a hero the most. Emperor Yong Le was probably not a hero. He played with power and was scheming, but Empress Xiande still felt that he was her hero.

There was a small bottle in the jade box. She took it out and held it in her palm.

On the day she married Emperor Yong Le, Empress Xiande prepared this medicine bottle for herself.

If he died one day, she would go with him.

For so many years, every year, Empress Xiande would take out the medicine bottle to take a look at it. She would be glad that this medicine bottle didn't need to be used in the end and hoped that she also didn't need to use it the next

year.

Now, it was time to use it.

She was very weak, so weak that after Emperor Yong Le left, she did not have the courage to live the rest of her life.

She was also very brave, so brave that from the beginning, she knew that she might end up like this, but she still went ahead.

"Your Majesty, I'm coming to see you," she said softly and drank the contents

of the medicine bottle in one gulp.

The moon gradually rose from the clouds and hung high above the water, as if it was smiling at the joys and sorrows of the world.

Shen Miao didn't sleep very well that night. She had countless dreams, but she couldn't remember any of them.

It was not until Jingzhe woke her up that Shen Miao looked at the bright sky outside and got up. She touched her forehead that was covered in cold sweat, feeling a trace of uneasiness.

Luo Tan ran in from outside. Her eyes were red. She looked at Shen Miao and said in a low voice, "Her Majesty is dead!"

Hearing this, Shen Miao dropped the handkerchief Jingzhe handed to her to the ground.

In less than a month, Emperor Yong Le and Empress Xiande passed away one after another, and the world was in grief.

When the consorts who used to scheme against each other heard the news, they rushed over one after another. Empress Xiande was benevolent and kind. In addition, Emperor Yong Le was not close to her, so these consorts did not display much hostility towards her. When they found out about this, they even sighed with emotions.

From the beginning to the end, Empress Xiande's father looked very calm.

Perhaps he had already expected Empress Xiande to make this decision. Although he was sad, he could still accept it.

Empress Xiande and Emperor Yong Le were buried together in the imperial mausoleum. After this, they would only exist in the history of the Daliang

Dynasty.

What followed was many problems.

After Emperor Yong Le passed away, there was still Empress Xiande who could be in charge of the imperial court. After Empress Xiande passed away, who should be in charge of the imperial court now? Although Emperor Yong Le left an edict to pass down the throne, Xie Jingxing had not ascended the throne yet.

Speaking of which, it was not appropriate to call Shen Miao the empress now. However, Emperor Yong Le did not have any other siblings. The only one who was related to him by blood was Xie Jingxing..

Chapter 1119: The Return of an Old Friend (27)

NO stability was guaranteed in any dynasty, especially when there was no leader.

The imperial court, which had begun to calm down, began to stir again. There were always some restless court officials who wanted to do something. They were ambitious but cowardly. Now that a perfect opportunity had presented itself, how could they not seize it.

Shen Miao asked Eunuch Deng, "Is the court very unstable now?"

Eunuch Deng said, "That's right. Now, the officials want to recommend someone to supervise the imperial court for the time being until Prince Rui returns to Long Ye."

"How outrageous!" Shen Miao flared up. "They really want to steal the country!"

Eunuch Deng fell silent.

For some reason, he felt that this young Princess Consort Rui had an indescribable aura. This aura was very similar to Empress Xiande, but it was sharper. She usually looked gentle and easy to talk to and was not nosy. Once she pulled a long face, she always made people feel afraid.

Just like Prince Rui, Xie Jingxing.

However, before Emperor Yong Le passed away, he also instructed Eunuch Deng to help Xie Jingxing when he returned. Eunuch Deng had been living in the palace since he was young and could help with many things. Now that Xie Jingxing was not back yet, Eunuch Deng naturally had to listen to Shen Miao.

“Eunuch Deng, get ready. I’ll go to the court,” she said.

Eunuch Deng was stunned and said, “Princess Consort...”

“If news that the imperial court is in chaos spreads at this critical moment, people in Long Ye will inevitably panic. We have to keep these restless people in check first.”

“But.” Eunuch Deng looked at Shen Miao’s stomach and said, “You’re still pregnant. ”

“It’s precisely because of this child that I can confront them openly.” Shen Miao smiled. “My child has the royal bloodline. They won’t dare to be disrespectful to me”

Eunuch Deng thought for a moment and said, “This can indeed keep the situation stable for the time being, but this way, Princess Consort, your pregnancy will be made public.”

“I originally wanted to hide it because I didn’t want His Highness to be distracted on the battlefield. Now that the war is almost over, there’s no need to hide it.” She looked at Eunuch Deng, who was still frowning, and smiled.

“You’re afraid that someone will harm me, right?”

Eunuch Deng quickly rolled up his sleeves. “I will definitely protect you and the young heir with my life!”

Shen Miao nodded. “Thank you.”

After Eunuch Deng left, Shen Miao took a deep breath. She sat on the chair and looked at the fallen leaves outside the window.

Empress Xiande left too abruptly, and many problems were starting to emerge. The palace was huge and lively in spring, but at this moment, it was cold and cheerless. However, she knew that this matter was far from over. Before Xie Jingxing returned, she had to pacify this chaotic imperial court.

“Ever since I have you in my stomach, I haven’t had an easy time yet.” Shen Miao said softly to her stomach, “However, everything will be fine.”

Five days later, the imperial court was in an uproar when the edict to pass down the throne was announced. Before Emperor Yong Le left, he arranged everything appropriately.

Some troublemakers said that the imperial court was leaderless now and suggested nominating a few officials to govern it together. However, this suggestion was rejected, because Princess Consort Rui, Shen Miao, took over the imperial court..

Chapter 1120: The Return of an Old Friend (28)

For a moment, rumors spread everywhere. Everyone said that Shen Miao was clearly a spy sent by Ming Qi. Now that the emperor was gone, she wanted to usurp the throne.

This rumor spread very quickly and subsided very quickly, because Shen Miao appeared in the imperial court with a big stomach. Eunuch Deng, Nanny Tao, and the others also proved that Empress Xiande brought Shen Miao into the palace because she wanted to protect the only royal bloodline.

With this child, she had the court under control. People feel that if they caused trouble at this time, when Xie Jingxing returned, they would end up miserably.

Part of it was because they were afraid of Shen Miao, and the other half was because they were afraid of Xie Jingxing, so this crisis was quickly resolved.

However, Shen Miao did not have a lot of free time.

She had been reading the memorials over the past few days. After Emperor

Yong Le passed away, the memorials submitted to the palace from all over the Daliang Dynasty piled up in the imperial study. She went through the memorials one by one, sometimes until late at night.

Jingzhe and the others felt bad for her, but they couldn't persuade her, so they could only stay by her side quietly.

As Luo Tan dozed off, she asked, "Little Cousin, why do you have to read it yourself? If you don't trust the officials, you can always trust the trusted aides of the late emperor. Isn't it good to give these memorials to them and let them handle it? Why do you have to do it yourself? You're still pregnant."

Shen Miao shook her head. "People are capricious, and there are many variables. It's better to read it myself."

Perhaps Emperor Yong Le originally had trusted aides, but after Emperor Yong Le and Empress Xiande died, no one could tell if these people would have other thoughts. If she was in Ming Qi and knew these people well, she would naturally be at ease to leave the work to these people. However, she was in Long Ye, and she had not been in Long Ye for long. In a short period of time, she was not able to test the loyalty of these people.

In the end, there was no one she could trust here.

Fortunately, Shen Miao did a good job. Her handling of some matters could even be considered skillful. Although Eunuch Deng did not know anything about the imperial court, he was best at observing. At first, those court officials were against Shen Miao interfering, but recently, they had become less resistant. This meant that Shen Miao did not do a bad job. Otherwise, it was impossible for these people to not find fault with her from the beginning.

Eunuch Deng was a little relieved. The quality Shen Miao displayed was inferior to Empress Xiande's. Perhaps the Daliang Dynasty could really last for a hundred generations as the empress dowager hoped.

"But you will tire yourself out." Luo Tan said, "Yesterday, I heard them talking about how lucky you are and how the decisions you made all produced good results." Luo Tan said with a snort, "How is that because of luck? It's clearly your ability. Cousin, how come you know everything? You can even read these complicated memorials.. What do you not know?"

