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Chapter 79.1

Prelude (of The War)

Mu Yun Jun Courtyard

One could describe the winter at Lin Feng Guan border in one word and that was cold! The new year would come within a month and outside the manor, it was already covered with snow; even the trees were withering. Inside the manor, it was blessed with no wind or snow; only the fiery thorn flowers were everywhere, looking like a sea of fire that could expel the chilliness from the outside. But even as such, two stoves were still burning the charcoal within the study.

Lang Yue added more charcoal, picked up the medicinal soup that was placed on the desk about an hour ago and then walked back to the charcoal stove. The medicine would be more effective when it was still hot. As she prepared to warm it up again, she heard a helpless whisper from behind her say, "Alright, give it to me, do not warm it again."

Shang Jun surrendered; in this family, what he could not resist the most was Xiao Er's harassment and Lang Yue's perseverance. She had already warmed that bowl of medicine over four times, so if he did not say anything, she would definitely warm it up again. Even though she really did not say anything to urge him, he still could only drink the medicine obediently!

“Yes.” Lang Yue smiled and passed the medicine bowl over; she was secretly relieved in her heart as the Gentleman finally took the medicine.

Taking the medicine bowl, he frowned and then drank it all in one gulp. He was not sure if Little Uncle was actually messing with him or not, because this medicine was so bitter that it made him lose his sense of taste in an instant. Just as he put the medicine bowl back down, Lang Yue had already put a sugar candy into Shang Jun’s hand. Since it would be strange for a grown man to eat a sugar candy after drinking the medicine, Shang Jun only took a glance and rejected it softly. He grabbed the tea by the side and poured several mouthfuls in order to dilute the bitter taste in his mouth.

“Where is Xiao Er?” After his injury, it was even harder to see her.

Putting away the medicine bowl, Lang Yue answered in a quiet voice, “Miss is practicing martial arts in the backyard.”

Practicing martial arts again?! It seemed that Xiao Er got really scared after he got poisoned this time. That day, if she had not made Wei Xi look for him, it would have been difficult to go back to the manor since he and Little Uncle were both injured. Xiao Er had really grown up; looking at the sea of fiery thorn flowers blown about by the cold wind, Shang Jun’s heart was somewhat in pain, so he sighed and said to Lang Yue, “You go and see her. It is already late, do not let her injure herself.”

“Yes.” Taking the bowl with her, Lang Yue considerately retreated and left. This brother and sister were the same where they would not let one worry about the other; this was the conclusion she had come to after living at Piao Miao Manor for two years.

Pushing the window open that had been closed due to fear of him catching a cold, the chilly wind blew on his face and Shang Jun felt very comfortable in an instant. Inside the courtyard, Wei Xi quickly came over and stood in front of the side door as he reported in a low voice, "Master."

There were still snowflakes on Wei Xi's shoulders and it seemed that he had just come back from being outside when Shang Jun faintly said, "Come inside to speak."

Once inside the study, it was very warm and comfortable, so Wei Xi orderly reported, "The Murong family's third shipment of foodstuffs was delivered to the army camp last night. The delivered foodstuffs this time would be enough for one month."

Handing a cup of hot tea over to Wei Xi's hand, Shang Jun asked, "Did you investigate who burned the grains?"

When the army was marching and fighting, the army provisions went out first, but someone actually burned all of Dong Yu's 80,000 foodstuffs. This person's vicious intention and the critical results of this action could be seen very clearly, so could it have been You Xiao?!

Holding the tea cup, Wei Xi frowned and replied, "The opposing side's action was swift and they handled the matter cleanly. None of the people who escorted the foodstuffs were left alive and not a trace of foodstuff remained either. At this time, I could only find out that it was a person from Jiang Hu, but I do not have any clues as to who the specific person is yet."

The opposing side killed the escorts and burned the foodstuffs on an official road in Jia Du town about 500 miles outside of the Lin Feng Guan border. When they had arrived, only the remains were left on the ground.

A Jiang Hu person? Was is the white clothed man called 'Seventh' Gentleman who had met with You Xiao at the army camp last time?! Shang Jun continued to ask, "Has there been any unusual movements from You Xiao or Xuanyuan Yi?"

"Cang Yue's small offensives continue, but they are all small fights, as if delaying for time. Xuanyuan Yi really has a temperament of a top general; even when there was insufficient army provisions, he faced it calmly, and currently he has the upper hand. Perhaps, since he has not quite figured out the opposite side yet, he has not attacked and has only defended. Moreover, Miss Shu Qing has already set off towards Lin Feng Guan border."

Shu Qing was coming to Lin Feng Guan border? Was it because of Xuanyuan Yi?! In the last letter, Shu Qing clearly stated that she had already withdrawn her engagement with Xuanyuan Yi. If she was forced by the imperial court to deliver the foodstuffs, then why was she coming to Lin Feng Guan border in person now?! He just had to wait until she arrived before he could ask her.

Within recent years, Cang Yue's authorities had levied exorbitant taxes just for this battle! Shang Jun asked in detail, "What responses did the parties of the imperial court have with regards to this war?"

"Sixty percent of fourth level officials and above are criticizing the launch of the war at this time. Among these are the Minister of Ministry of Appointment, Li Ling; Prince Rui, Long Yi Hai, who oppose the most. Even the Empress' father and her maternal uncle who is the country general, are not in favor, but Long Qu Mu insists on going it alone. Under the suppression of imperial power, most of the officials do not dare to speak out."

No wonder the general this time is You Xiao. At this time, Long Qu Mu estimated that he could only place his hopes on his own son! This is actually better; if they lose this war, then it will surely cause some conflicting views. The more the situation changes, the better it will be for him. Thinking of Bi Xian's letter to him from six months ago, Shang Jun asked, "Has Bi Xian already gone to Hai Yu?"

"Yes."

Shang Jun chuckled; Bi Xian is really a brave man, and he admires him!

Sian's notes:

Remember that Jiang Hu is a society where the martial arts people are under this "umbrella". Jiang Hu people don't usually get involved with the Imperial Court. They don't have to submit to the rules from the Imperial Court since they live under their own Jiang Hu's rules. They're mostly consisted of the "good" and "bad" sects.