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Ch 115.1

Shu Qing's Death (Part 1)

Victory day seeks the fragrance of the Si Shui river shore,

The boundless scene is a new time.

Waiting for leisurely knowledge to gain from the east wind,

For the always flourishing spring.

Another winter had passed and spring had come. Shang Jun was leaning against the window looking outside at the bright sunshine through the thin gauze curtain; it looked so dazzling. This spring was really strange because it came pretty late, but it was unusually hot. Who would have thought that half a month ago it was still covered with ice and snow, but now spring was already fully blooming?!

They travelled every day and night; even after Xiao Zong Qing replaced a few good horses to drive his carriage, it was still bumpy and his chest was occasionally in pain. Shang Jun took out a silk handkerchief from his sleeve and coughed miserably, while he covered his lips. It took a long time for Shang Jun to get over his breathing and slowly put aside the handkerchief. The dark blood stains on the white handkerchief looked particularly dazzling, but Shang Jun was accustomed to this sight and gently placed it in his palm.

Continuing to lean against the wall of the carriage, Shang Jun squinted his eyes and closed his ferret robe with a wry smile on the corners of his mouth. He never thought that one day he would become weak like this! He did not know what kind of poison was in him. He tried to force it out with his internal strength, but it did not work at all. The poison was attacking the veins of his heart and it was getting more and more fierce. If he could not reach Tian Cheng city within ten days and wait for Little Uncle (to come and meet him), it could be considered that God was exterminating him.

The carriage gradually stopped beside the official road and Xiao Zong Qing's gentle voice came from outside the curtain, "Jun, the sun is very good today. Would you like to come down and walk for a bit?"

Seeing that the sun outside the window was really warm and showed a scene full of spring, Shang Jun hesitated for a while, but then he softly replied, "Alright."

Shang Jun sat up straight with some effort, took off the long mink cloak he was wearing and walked to the door of the carriage. Shang Jun thought for a while, took another plain white coat and put it on, then opened the door curtain and walked out.

Outside the carriage, Xiao Zong Qing was already waiting and when he saw Shang Jun coming out, he smiled and reached out to help him. This time, Shang Jun did not slap his hand away and with Xiao Zong Qing's strength, Shang Jun stepped out of the carriage. Looking up, it was around noon and they could not find the small tea hut for a while, where a group of people rested on the side of the road. They really looked quite at ease in the warm sun day.

The sun outside was more dazzling than what one saw from inside the carriage. Shang Jun slightly narrowed his eyes, and Xiao Zong Qing, who had been observing him carefully, softly asked, "Is it too dazzling? I'll find you an umbrella."

Shang Jun shook his head and replied, "No need, it's alright to get some sun."

Since the fight in the inn that day, Shang Jun had either stayed in the carriage or rested in the guest room. Long Yi Hai rarely had the opportunity to see him, so watching him getting off the carriage, he deliberately walked over to greet him. But when he saw Shang Jun's haggard and bloodless face more clearly, Long Yi Hai could not help but ask with some worry, "Shang Jun, you don't look good. Has the injury worsened?!"

Shang Jun turned his head and looked at him while he raised a smile and replied, "I'm alright, I'm just a little tired."

This kind of perfunctory remark naturally would not convince anyone; he was afraid that his injury was actually worsening. Long Yi Hai smiled and nodded to Shang Jun's tranquil and calm eyes, and stopped asking.

Long Liu Li who was standing beside him, did not understand the hidden secret (conversation) and only treated him as if he had just been overworked, when she gently said, "Gentleman Shang, you are too tired from travelling and are in poor health, so you must take care of yourself." She had never seen a man so thin, and watching Xiao Zong Qing who was holding on to Shang Jun's arm, a flash of contempt flickered in Long Liu Li's beautiful and lively eyes.

Shang Jun smiled; how did he offend this Princess?! With a comfortable chuckle, Shang Jun bowed slightly and replied, "Thanking Liu Li for your concern, Shang Jun will take care of myself."

Long Liu Li leaned her body slightly, which could be regarded as a return greeting. When she was about to turn back to the carriage, she heard Shang Jun whisper, "Xiu Zhi, please accompany me to walk over there." Long Liu Li's body stiffened and this time she looked at Shang Jun's eyes with a look of disgust.

"Alright." Qin Xiu Zhi had always been worried about Shang Jun's body and now it would be better to have a chance to talk to him alone.

Feeling Xiao Zong Qing's hand holding his slowly tightening, Shang Jun said softly to him, "I'll be back in a while." Because of Shang Jun's insistent eyes, Xiao Zong Qing finally compromised as he stepped back and let go. Releasing Shang Jun's hand, he whispered back behind his ear, "Don't move too much."

Shang Jun smiled and shook his head, and walked slowly into the woods beside the road. Qin Xiu Zhi walked beside him, so one could see the two figures of plain white and green ink in the mottled shadows. They did not walk very close, but still walked side by side and they looked so harmonious and compatible, as if they were going to walk away slowly like this.