

Battle for China

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The Three Kingdoms War is well under way. Three warlords are now battling for control over China.

(I am aware it isn't historically accurate it isn't supposed to be that's the beauty of fiction :))

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1 - Preparations for Guan Du

It had been nearly three years now since Ling Xiang joined Wu, she had seen what the chaos had brought and vowed to help unite the land once more. It was a cool, clear evening when the preparations for the battle ahead were finally complete, the moon and stars were clearly visible, which somehow eased her worries slightly. They would be moving soon, for they had to reach Guan Du before Cao Cao's army to ensure their fire attacks would be ready.

As Ling Xiang leaned over the balcony, she watched the troops carrying various objects to the horses, and wondered how they could be in such high spirits, knowing what was coming the following morning. A few soldiers noticed her and gave a slight respectful bow; she smiled and nodded back at them.

Maybe I should get going as well she said to herself, turning and walking down the steps. She headed for the field where the horses were kept, carefully entering so as not to spook them. As she passed them, some of the horses whinnied as if greeting her she paused to stroke the neck of a light brown horse who nudged her then saw her horse and smiled. She approached the magnificent chestnut-brown stallion and stroked his neck, he whinnied to greet her as she said his name and ran her fingers through his beautiful, black mane.

Hello Spirit she said.

Fire Spirit had been her horse since she was 15 years old and had been her companion and friend ever since he was first given to her by her late father, Zhou Jing. She carefully put his saddle on his back stroking him and talking to him while she did, and then put his bridle on; he nuzzled her affectionately as she did up the last strap. Once he was tacked up she led him out of the field towards the generals already waiting, she said nothing to them as she led Spirit past them, and they too said nothing, equally both apprehensive and determined as she was. She saw the final supplies being put onto the pack horses and the supply captains leading them out in front, followed by a few guard troops. She knew she would be one of the generals going with the last few units, this was both honourable and unnerving; honourable as it meant she was considered one of the most admirable officers, but also unnerving as she was one of the generals expected to rush the enemy main camp, defend while the first officers rushed it or, in the event of a retreat, save as many allied officers as possible, cover the retreat, or to make sure Lord Sun Quan escaped.

As she saw the other generals move off, she too pushed Spirit into gallop, quickly overtaking the rest of them due to Spirit's brilliant speed.

2 - The Battle Begins

Guan Du was moments away. All the troops good moods had now completely disappeared, replaced with a nervous, scared but determined atmosphere. Everyone was generally silent, deep in their own thoughts about what this battle would bring.

Ling Xiang was equally nervous, she felt Spirit tense up underneath her, as he felt the sudden change of atmosphere. She looked towards the front of the group and saw something which lightened her spirits a bit. Ling Tong was in this battle too, in fact he was posted in the same place as her, and she felt happier knowing he was going to be there. She had liked him for a while now, but of course did not know how to show it.

They rode into Guan Du and stared at the devastation before them. Homes had been burnt to the ground; nearly all the buildings had been destroyed. The work of Wei. A few of the soldiers murmured something about making Wei pay while others cursed them.

We will make Wei pay for this& said a general next to Ling Xiang.

They stopped a distance away from the castle as, they were almost certain Wei were using it as their main camp. Sun Quan dismounted from his horse and turned to them.

This will be a difficult battle, but we mustn't give in to Cao Cao, he said trying to make it sound as reassuring as he could, you all know your orders, go and fight in the name of Wu!

The generals at the front nodded and headed towards their posts, Ling Xiang did the same, pushed Spirit into a gallop and sped off to catch up with Ling Tong. It would be their duty to secure the supplies and to take as many enemy bases as they could.

Wei made the first move, they sent out three units towards the front line, their troops vastly outnumbered Wu's forces but seemed to be less powerful. This of course was only the first wave, many more generals and troops were waiting inside for their chance to try to obliterate Wu. Despite all the reassurance there was nothing to worry about, everyone still knew that there was, in the form of Zhang Liao. He would of course be one of the last to attack.