

Daily Life 181

Chapter 181: Bandit Evil, Cold Wind and Teacher Killer

It had already been three days since the destruction of Shadow Stream's headquarters, and it had taken that long for Jiang Liuyue to adjust in that secret underground room before her condition finally stabilized.

This Master of Stream Shadow did some preliminary estimates; after this disaster, she had lost at least six hundred years' worth of cultivation.

Even if her spirit clay clone had been completely destroyed, she could have still retained her realm as long as she could call her clone back. Unfortunately, that damn cat hadn't given her the slightest opportunity to do so, and had straightaway blasted it apart.

Her headquarters was in ruins, her younger sister had been caught once again, and even her assistant Mo Li had been captured...

The Shadow Stream that had been world-shakers in the murder industry in the past no longer existed; at that very moment, Jiang Liuyue felt a little downhearted.

Now that Shadow Stream had declined, she was well aware that the killers on that ranking list would be doing what they could to track her down... whether it was One-Inch Gray ranked seventh, Steamed Bun Invader ranked eighth, Little Cold Hands ranked ninth, or Night Rain Kidney Menace ranked tenth, they all had the strength to kill her and replace her in the rankings as easily as turning their hands over.

Next, what on earth should she do?

Her eyes darkened suddenly.

Jiang Liuyue had already prepared much earlier on for the worst, but she had never expected this day to come so quickly and abruptly. Nevertheless, though the situation was terrible, she had at least

been able to protect her real body. In fact, if it hadn't been for her spirit clay clone, she would have already lost her final shot at turning the tables.

She was the one who had personally sealed up that mask chest in the headquarters. She knew that the stone ghost mask was one of twin weapons. Thus, the moment she had taken out that stone ghost mask, she had sealed it away in a void of chaos and cut off the resonant link between the two masks, exposing her location as a result.

She was well aware that she still had an opportunity to turn the tide.

That stone ghost mask was her final hand.

As long as she could stay alive...

...

Elsewhere, Old Antique was still going on with his theory of history class.

He was almost done introducing the top ten killers on the international ranking list, with three individuals left to talk about.

Old Antique rested both his arms on the lectern as he adopted the manner of a storyteller. "I've explained the killers ranked fourth to tenth on the ranking list. Next, I'll talk about the top three killers in the world."

When he said this, he narrowed his eyes slightly and his expression was calm and composed.

"To my knowledge, since the release of the list of the top one hundred killers in the world, the rankings have changed roughly three thousand and six hundred times. However, there are three positions that have always remained the same, and they belong to the top three killers on the list. Once, there had been no shortage of killers on the list who would challenge them publicly; back then, in just one year, these top three killers had received over three hundred challenges, but on one particular day, all of these would-be challengers were killed. Basically, every single person just went to their deaths."

Everyone: "..."

"Since then, in order to reduce the constant upheavals that were happening on the ranking list, the killers all signed a pact to agree that they could only challenge the person who was in the spot above them, and they were forbidden to skip ranks when issuing challenges. So for the time being, Elders Gold and Silver are the only people qualified to challenge the third killer."

"Excuse me, teacher, have Elders Gold and Silver attempted to issue a challenge?" someone couldn't help raising his hand to ask after hearing this.

"Of course they have." Old Antique nodded. "As far as I know, Elders Gold and Silver this couple have tried over twenty times but they all failed. This third killer's codename is Bandit Evil. He's world-famous for his supreme thieving skills. The rumor is that anyone who fights him will find all the magic treasures they have on their person missing, and they won't know when it happened."

"..."

"Before the killer's pact was enacted, Steamed Bun Invader had once challenged this Bandit Evil. The result was that all his bloody steamed buns were stolen on the day of the challenge, and in the end he had to run away without fighting."

"..."

"Little Cold Hands had intended to use the pengci routine on Bandit Evil, but in the end, all his clothes were stolen, even his underwear. Ultimately, he could only get up from the ground and run away without fighting. He was almost charged with pengci and indecent public behavior."

"..."

"The unluckiest person was One-Inch Gray... when he challenged Bandit Evil back then, he woke up the next day to find all his hair gone! What was more, Bandit Evil had even smeared hair loss ointment all over his head..."

"..."

"So I think everyone can already guess why Elders Gold and Silver failed," Old Antique said indifferently. "Every time they were going to poison Bandit Evil, they would always find that their poisons had disappeared. At the very beginning, they had even wondered if they had dementia..."

"..."

Old Antique was truly Old Antique; in succinct words, he had meticulously broken down the gossip on these terrifying killers on the international ranking list of killers.

At that moment, the atmosphere in class was already completely fired up. Seeing that he still had some time left on the clock, Old Antique finished with the third killer Bandit Evil, and prepared to continue with gossip on the final two killers.

Old Antique obviously enjoyed gossiping and didn't really want to stop. "The killer ranked second on the list is codenamed Cold Wind; his strength is widely acknowledged on the international list of killers. To the best of my knowledge, this killer was a special soldier trained by Huaxiu nation to execute state assassinations. He has helped our nation evade danger many times by preventing state secrets from being stolen by foreign spies, and he comes and goes like a shadow. Once, for an assignment, he single-handedly fought mercenaries sent by western cultivation nations and wiped them all out without sustaining a single injury."

When he said this, Old Antique couldn't help feeling deeply moved in his heart. "Most of the time, the killers on the list leave us the impression that they're cold-hearted. But there are some heroes among them who deserve our reverence... Cold Wind is one of them."

"One of them? Is there anyone else?" Someone noticed what Old Antique was implying.

"Of course there is." Old Antique nodded swiftly. "The next killer I want to talk about is the legendary figure who has been in first place ever since the list was created... Killer Taoist, codenamed Teacher Killer."

Hearing this renowned name, Wang Ling finally couldn't help raising his eyes.

Killer Taoist... once again he was hearing this person's name.

Third Saint, who had defected from Mo Immortal Castle, had previously mistaken Wang Ling as this Killer Taoist.

Chapter 182: Working With Gua Pi

It was still June 8th and around ten o'clock in the morning.

Old Antique was still conducting class; elsewhere, after taking three days to adjust to the injuries caused by the backlash from the destruction of her spirit clay clone, Jiang Liuyue came out of seclusion earlier than she had planned.

When she stepped out of the apartment basement, the harsh light of the sun shone on her face.

She knew that that bunch of killers on the ranking list were now all looking for her... she had to be especially on guard against that One-Inch Gray. Once she was eliminated, all the killers below her on the list would move up one spot.

However, trying to track her down in a sea of people was going to be far from easy.

The basement she had been using for seclusion was in the heart of Jinghua city.

This was an underground carpark, while its innermost section housed a convenience mart that had already been abandoned. When the mart's owner and his sister-in-law had run away with all the money, property management had rented out this space. After checking it out back then, Jiang Liuyue had decided to cultivate in seclusion here, and had directly rented the place by putting down a deposit and fifty years' worth of rent in one go.

This was the perfect plan. Cultivators were very picky when it came to choosing a seclusion spot to cultivate in, and many cultivators who had researched them would choose a "spirit eye." A spirit eye was where natural spiritual energy converged, and was equivalent to a natural spirit gathering array. It was far more effective than an artificially made spirit gathering array, as it could continually replenish the spiritual energy required when a person cultivated in seclusion.

Cultivators who were even more particular would, apart from looking for spirit eyes, even invite a Taoist diviner to assess the place... in short, it had to be a seclusion spot blessed with good feng

shui. Once they had settled on one, these cultivators would put the necessary defense measures in place in case they were disturbed while in seclusion.

However, this abandoned convenience mart which Jiang Liuyue had chosen didn't have a spirit eye, nor did it have anything to do with feng shui... she couldn't get any more low-key than this, squeezed as she was into this inconspicuous, out-of-the-way nook; absolutely no one would have expected the grand Master of Shadow Stream to hole up in such a small corner.

What she needed to do now was to waste no time in regaining her realm.

...

On the outskirts of Jinghua city flowed a river of sewage; all the city's waste water was ultimately channeled here, and then was filtered and purified in a recycling process to be reused once more.

By the time Jiang Liuyue hurried to this place, it was already noon. At this time, it was burning hot in Jinghua city and the river of sewage gave off an unbearably foul odor, so few people would come by here.

"This is the place..."

After she had originally taken out the stone ghost mask, she had gotten her younger sister Jiang Liuying to seal it in this river of sewage when she had had the opportunity to do so.

Her turtle-breathing skill in effect, Jiang Liuyue stood in front of this river and stared at it. It stank to high heaven here; if she had come unprepared, she definitely would have been knocked out by the stench, since a cultivator's five senses were far more sensitive than a normal person's.

She raised her hand, and with a hum, spirit light shot forth from the tip of her finger toward the water.

When her younger sister had sealed this stone ghost mask in this river back then, Jiang Liuyue had set up obstruction magic which worked using the same mechanism as for digital red packets 1 ; the seal would be activated after she injected her spirit energy into it.

After she pushed her spirit energy into the river of sewage, the river's initially calm surface instantly started to ripple.

Water gurgled.

The water started to rise in waves like a fountain, and in its center, Jiang Liuyue plainly saw a spirit pouch, which still had the Band-aid waterproof talisman which she had stuck on before.

With a wave of her hand, the spirit pouch on top of the fountain instantly flew to her.

After so many years, this stone ghost mask that she had obtained from a gang of grave robbers back then was finally seeing the light of day again.

There were a lot of rumors about the stone ghost mask, but Jiang Liuyue acknowledged that she was a very cautious person, and she had never been tempted to use the mask as a so-called cultivation shortcut. But now that things had come to this point, she had no other way left of turning the tide in her favor.

Her eyebrows knitted slightly as she untied the spirit pouch. Immediately a cloud of black smoke escaped the pouch with a hiss. It hovered in the air and gave a cruel, sinister laugh. "Junior, after you dropped my venerable self into the water back then, I thought you had already forgotten me. It has been so many years... why is it that your stage has regressed? Has your life been so poor?"

"As things stand now, I'm at the end of my rope," Jiang Liuyue said softly, her eyes dark.

"If that was going to be the case, you should have worked with my venerable self much earlier on. If you had made this decision back then, you definitely wouldn't be in the position that you are in now..." The stone ghost mask in the black smoke laughed non-stop. "So, have you thought it through? You should know what it means to cooperate with me, right?"

Jiang Liuyue: "Back then, Lord Devil Emperor was researching a way to counter the Great Evil Containment Wave, but in the end you screwed it up and caused yourself to be sealed away. The cooperation you speak of is nothing more than your desire to be resurrected by drawing on external forces."

Devil Emperor Gua Pi: "...F**k! How did you know?"

The stone ghost mask immediately blushed deeply; this was really too shameful!

Jiang Liuyue: "Lord Devil Emperor's deeds are already recorded in our history books; they're now compulsory test points every year."

Devil Emperor Gua Pi: "..."

After a short period of silence, Jiang Liuyue raised her eyes. "There is just one thing that I don't understand... in cultivation circles, countless people have attempted to obtain the stone ghost mask. Why didn't senior try to work with them?"

"Hehe, so what if they attempted to obtain me? I'll only work with someone whom I am compatible with. In the hundreds of years that I was sealed, you were the first person to find me. Unfortunately, before we could come to an agreement, you didn't even want to listen to my venerable self, and you sealed me away in this foul-smelling river of sewage..."

Devil Emperor Gua Pi laughed slightly. "I can help you accomplish two tasks. However, the condition is that you must allow me to use your body for a period of time, during which your soul will be confined to the stone ghost mask."

"Soul exchange?" Jiang Liuyue furrowed her brow.

"This is the only method I can think of for the time being," this Devil Emperor Gua Pi in the stone ghost mask said. "Of course, you can rest assured that if you help me, I won't toss you aside after everything is over. After I find a suitable body, I'll return yours to you."

"Of course this junior trusts Lord Devil Emperor." Jiang Liuyue smiled bitterly; she had already lost everything, what did it matter? "Also, I believe that given Lord Devil Emperor's glorious standing in the past, you won't stay in a woman's body for very long. Although, there is a particular community of cross-dressing men that is popular now..."

"Cross-dressing men? What is that?" Devil Emperor Gua Pi hadn't had contact with the outside world for so long, and was a little derailed by this piece of information.

Jiang Liuyue: "It's a group of men who like to dress up in women's clothing, and who are even admired and pursued by many."

Devil Emperor Gua Pi: "... " It had been more than a thousand years since he had been outside; had the world truly become that horrifying?

Chapter 183: Give You a Pair of Floral Shorts

"If you agree to work with me, you can request something of me. My venerable self can satisfy whatever you desire..." The voice of the stone ghost mask sounded from within the black smoke.

Jiang Liuyue furrowed her brow. Although she had said that she trusted Devil Emperor Gua Pi, she was still doubtful about this so-called "cooperation." Who the hell knew, after being sealed away for over one thousand years in the mask, maybe this Devil Emperor Gua Pi had become a pervert?

Right now, Jiang Liuyue had no other option but to choose to trust him. Moreover, she could use this opportunity to investigate the truth about this Devil Emperor for herself.

After all, this was the notorious monster who had shaken the world back then; it had taken all of Huaxiu nation's power to destroy him.

"Any condition is fine?" Jiang Liuyue asked softly after staring fixedly at the black smoke for a few seconds.

"Of course." Devil Emperor Gua Pi laughed. "There is nothing that my venerable self can't do."

"Then can you help me recover my former realm? Someone destroyed my spirit clay clone, which directly caused me to lose six hundred years of my cultivation..." Jiang Liuyue's eyes turned dark.

"As long as your cultivation wasn't lost due to internal factors, you can regain your realm; for those who lose their cultivation through internal deviation, even my venerable self can do nothing for them. Since your condition was caused by an external factor, I have a way to help you recover. However, it will take time — to obtain six hundred years of cultivation once more, it will take at least a year."

"A year?" Jiang Liuyue jolted. Cramming six hundred years into one would massively cut down the time needed for her to recover her cultivation realm!

"This recovery technique doesn't require you to go into seclusion; you can cultivate anytime you want. My venerable self will now pass it on to you. You can try it out for a month to test my words. After that, you can tell me your second condition." Jiang Liuyue heard enigmatic laughter from within the black smoke.

"Lord Devil Emperor might have guessed by now that as I've chosen to cooperate, I can no longer turn back. I'll learn this recovery technique and start cultivating immediately. During this period, I hope Lord Devil Emperor will help me with a second matter... I want revenge!"

"Of course. In fact, saving time will benefit both of us. But my venerable self is currently confined to the mask and unable to come out, so what is your plan for revenge?" Devil Emperor Gua Pi asked.

"I just hope that Lord Devil Emperor can help me 'persuade' several people." Jiang Liuyue cupped her fists in a salute toward the black smoke as she spoke slowly. "In the current list of killers, there are some people who have been looking for me. One-Inch Gray ranked seventh, Steamed Bun Invader ranked eighth, Little Cold Hands ranked ninth and Night Rain Kidney Menace ranked tenth..."

"Hehe, do you want to see them dead by someone else's hands?" In the black smoke, Devil Emperor Gua Pi laughed. "I never expected that the current cultivation world would actually set up a list of killers... but why don't you directly ask those above you in the ranking list for help?"

Jiang Liuyue: "Those people don't leave any tracks that can be followed, so I don't know their whereabouts for now. But I can bet that these four people are doing whatever they can to find me. As long as they kill me, they can move up one place in the ranking."

Devil Emperor Gua Pi: "So that's it... hehe, then, you just need to send out a message; you don't have to take the trouble to find them."

"Persuade some people and get them to do the work; are you confident you can do this?" Jiang Liuyue asked.

"They're just a few juniors. Back when I was engaged in 'cheerful conversation' with the ten founding generals of Huaxiu nation, those people were probably still drinking their mothers' milk. You only need to draw them here and leave the rest to me." Devil Emperor Gua Pi laughed coldly.

"Then I will have to trouble you." Jiang Liuyue cupped her fists in a salute.

"Why do you need to thank me when this is a mutually beneficial arrangement?" After saying that, the black smoke which surrounded the stone ghost mask suddenly coalesced, and the mask returned to Jiang Liuyue's hand.

"By the way, who did you want revenge on?"

"A school."

Jiang Liuyue gripped the stone ghost mask tightly. "I want the people in that school dead, every last one of them!"

...

Everyone had learned a lot from the history class today. Old Antique's understanding of these top ten killers was far beyond what they could imagine, and they couldn't help but wonder if he had once worked for a national intelligence agency.

When it came to gossip on Killer Taoist, Old Antique had had quite a fair bit of information; he had even talked about Killer Taoist's favorite color of underpants as if it was fact. The students in class had all thought that he was just full of hot air, but as someone who had seen the way Old Antique operated for himself, Wang Ling believed that everything the teacher had said was true.

This was the number one killer on the international ranking list of killers! He was a figure who had once turned the cultivation world upside down... but the way Old Antique slandered him with his words just made him sound like a weird old uncle.

Everybody's initial impression of Killer Taoist was that he was a brutal killer, but in Old Antique's mouth, he actually became a killer who upheld justice and punished evildoers. What was more, he had a unique fetish — he liked to wear floral underpants.

Now, Wang Ling truly didn't understand anything.

He had once suspected Old Antique of being Killer Taoist, but if that was the case, how could anyone be so careless as to reveal their unknown secrets to the rest of the world?

Wang Ling thus was once again lost in a haze of suspicion and doubts when it came to Old Antique's identity.

...

In the evening on this day after school, apart from some patrolling night security guards and several teachers who had stayed behind to mark homework and instruct students, an unexpected person had also stayed back today.

It was already getting dark when Old Antique's stout figure waddled up to the top of the school building to stare at the sky.

At this time, Old Antique should already have left school. His schedule always followed a routine, and he was always careful to go to work on time and to clock off on time. He wouldn't waste even one second... but today, it was his first time going up to the roof.

Suddenly, a black shadow appeared behind him. This black shadow raised a cold blade in its hand like a ray of light and stabbed directly at the back of Old Antique's head.

His lightning speed was too fast to see clearly!

But Old Antique's face was as calm as an old well. He twisted his hand and directly immobilized the point of the knife between his fingers, breaking the blade with a crack.

Old Antique turned around and clapped. "Mm, your accuracy has improved tremendously... however, you're still lacking a little in strength."

The man standing in the dark heaved a sigh. "Teacher, you're as powerful as ever!"

Looking at this man, Old Antique narrowed his eyes slightly. "I have a bad feeling that something big is going to happen soon."

"Indeed, the murder industry has been restless lately. A lot of people are looking for the Master of Shadow Stream," replied the man in the dark.

Old Antique's eyes narrowed slightly. "My students may be in danger, so I hope you and your senior brother will keep an eye on those people. If anyone tries to lay a hand on my students, get rid of them as soon as possible."

"Very well, teacher."

The man in the dark nodded, but looked a little embarrassed. "But teacher, eldest senior brother could be anywhere, and I'm afraid I might not be able to find him... and even if I do, I'm not sure if he would listen to me."

After the person said that, spirit light appeared in Old Antique's hand, and something was tossed to him.

The man in the dark was immediately startled. "This is..."

Old Antique: "This is your senior brother's floral underpants. I took them in passing back when he challenged me."

The man in the dark: "..."

Old Antique: "Hang them up on your clothesline and he'll show up straightaway."

The man in the dark: "..."

Chapter 184: Winner Winner Chicken Dinner!

On June 9th, Song Qingshu, who was now officially working as a housekeeper at Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's villa, discovered that the hawthorn seed had sprouted. Although it was just a sapling, it would grow ten times faster in spirit soil, or even more rapidly than that.

Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had researched and developed this spirit soil himself. Compared with soil from elsewhere, it was a hundred times more nutritious for spirit plants. This was spirit soil that could even bring a cooked broccoli back to life, to say nothing of a hawthorn seed.

Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had always felt that his spirit soil was the culmination and best representation of his research, and was also a pivotal step for him toward becoming the father of hybrid spirit grass in the future.

Despite the fact that no one knew what would happen after this hawthorn tree had matured, and whether that girl who had played in the mud with Boss Tan would keep her word, in the end, the person who created the problem should be the one to fix it. Judging from all the clues at hand, this girl was their only hope for a breakthrough.

Of course, even Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal could never have expected that as twin magic weapons, the other stone ghost mask would be in Master of Shadow Stream Jiang Liuyue's hand. In fact, things had become even more complicated. This was already no longer as simple as just sealing the stone ghost mask away... because the commander of the Gua Pi Army, Devil Emperor Gua Pi, had struck a deal with Jiang Liuyue and was about to return to the cultivation world.

...

In the past two days, a scene had flashed through Wang Ling's mind a couple of times, but it was always too short for even him to see much. It was the image of a man leaning against a wall and sitting in a pool of blood. His white clothes were soaked in it, and he had his head lowered and eyes shut as he gasped harshly for breath...

This was the Heavenly Eye's prediction ability at the highest level, which was more specific than the simple twitching of Wang Ling's eyelid. While they both functioned similarly as a warning system, the difference was that his twitching eyelid was directed at him, and foretold how he would be affected by a particular event. On the other hand, the visual omen which the Heavenly Eye showed him was directed at the people around him.

The Heavenly Eye's visual omen would usually flash through his mind up to three times, and each time the picture would become clearer. So far, the scene had flashed twice, and Wang Ling could

clearly see the man's surroundings and the blood that was everywhere. He likely would have to wait for the next time to truly see that man's face clearly.

The breeze from the bedroom window ruffled Wang Ling's hair. Raising his eyes slightly to look out the skylight, he felt a little uneasy.

Actually, at that very moment, he just knew that something had already happened.

...

Elsewhere, after Jiang Liuyue had made a deal with Devil Emperor Gua Pi, they had officially started their "cohabitation" in that strategic convenience mart which she had been using to cultivate in seclusion.

After a night of instruction, Jiang Liuyue had more or less grasped how to use the recovery technique. When she started using it, she could distinctly sense a current of cosmic power. It was only after she understood it more fully that she realized that this was a magic skill that drew directly on spirit energy from beyond the world to accelerate the recovery of one's realm. However, its drawback was that it would shorten one's lifespan, so it was a forbidden technique.

A year of one's life for a year of cultivation strength...

Jiang Liuyue couldn't help mocking herself in her heart. Although it was a forbidden skill, it unexpectedly still obeyed the law of spirit energy conservation.

A cultivator at the Soul Formation stage had a lifespan of two thousand years. After regaining her former realm with this recovery technique, her lifespan would be reduced by six hundred years.

However, she was well aware that she didn't have any other choice.

After running through the recovery technique's heart sutra twice, she felt that she had already become more skilled at using it than before.

Next to her, Devil Emperor Gua Pi was looking things up on Jiang Liuyue's wristwatch. It had taken her a pretty long time to teach him how to use it, since "old people" were usually slow to absorb new things.

Because he was trapped inside the stone ghost mask, Devil Emperor Gua Pi couldn't scroll through pages on the watch. At the moment, he could only release a cloud of black smoke to speak, so the watch's built-in voice function proved very useful. Through his non-stop vocal queries, Devil Emperor Gua Pi thus learned about current developments in modern-day Huaxiu nation.

"Nowadays, even an immortal sword requires a license plate, and under an odd-even license plate regulation 1 as well? Once my venerable self takes over the world, I'll immediately get rid of this lame regulation...

"Oh wow, this four-wheeled machine is damn cool, when will my venerable self get to drive some of them?"

Jiang Liuyue had already started to get used to his successive exclamations.

At the very beginning, she had wondered if she had brought back a country bumpkin... but after thinking about it again, she then felt that this Devil Emperor Gua Pi was also a pitiful person.

After all, this old devil who had been trapped for a thousand years was encountering the advanced technology of the human world for the first time.

As Jiang Liuyue was sighing in her heart, suddenly there was a knock at the door to the convenience mart, and she heard the voice of a strange man. "Hello! Is there anyone here? Your takeout is here!"

"Takeout?" Jiang Liuyue had a suspicious expression on her face.

In the black smoke, Devil Emperor Gua Pi laughed. "It was my venerable self who ordered it. Previously, I saw an app on your watch called Riceball 2 Takeout. There are so many things to eat on it!"

Jiang Liuyue: "I thought that at your current level, you wouldn't need to bother to satisfy food cravings at all..."

Devil Emperor Gua Pi: "Cultivators can survive without food or drink for several days since they can draw on natural spirit energy, but it's normal to want to eat good food. In order to cut down on

costs, those old-fashioned cultivation sects in the past tricked their disciples into enduring their hunger, which was wrong!"

Jiang Liuyue: "..."

Devil Emperor Gua Pi: "Also, weren't you injured? You must have nutrition to replenish your strength. Only then will you be able to recover from your wounds!"

Jiang Liuyue: "...But senior, it doesn't seem like you can eat anything in your current state."

Devil Emperor Gua Pi swiftly replied, "You don't have to worry about that, just help my venerable self open the door."

Suspicious, Jiang Liuyue went to the door.

When she opened it, she saw a young brother in white carrying four square delivery boxes and standing respectfully at the door. "Hello, this is the takeout you ordered: two hundred super-hot chicken wings."

"..."

She had just accepted the takeout boxes when she saw a stream of black smoke swiftly dash out of the convenience mart with a whoosh!

Before that young delivery brother could react, that stone ghost mask directly grabbed his face and stabbed into it with the two hooks on its sides.

Two minutes later, Devil Emperor Gua Pi completed the soul exchange and used the body of this young delivery brother to stand up.

He took off the mask and stretched out his arms as he felt a little moved in his heart; it had been too long since he could remember how it felt to own a body.

Unfortunately, this body had a very large flaw; it was only at the Foundation Establishment stage, and in half an hour at the most, he would have to return to the stone ghost mask.

Of course, he was indifferent to all of this.

At that very moment, all of Devil Emperor Gua Pi's attention was on those four boxes of super-hot chicken wings.

This old devil who had been trapped in the mask for a thousand years stared at the four large boxes of chicken wings in Jiang Liuyue's hands and couldn't help swallowing his saliva. His voice was even choked with emotion as he spoke. "...I was sealed away for more than a thousand years and couldn't even have a chicken leg. This time, I can finally eat meat again!"

Jiang Liuyue: "..."

Chapter 185: The Lurkers Are All Big Shots

It was June 10th, the seventh Friday of the semester.

The old man got up early in the morning to make his trademark dish — Chinese soup dumplings. This had been his specialty when he had become a star chef back then. At one time, his soup dumplings had dominated Breakfast Street, and because of it, he had been bestowed the title King of Dumplings.

An excellent soup dumpling usually had three special qualities: it had to have thin skin and generous filling, and it had to be juicy. Grandfather Wang's soup dumplings had a fourth, very special quality: it could very easily remind people of the taste of their mothers' cooking. Just one bite could cause a person to tear up uncontrollably, as if they had been hit with tear gas.

So this morning, when Father Wang saw the Chinese soup dumplings specially made by Grandfather Wang, he very conscientiously prepared two large wads of paper napkins well in advance on the table.

Of course, not everyone would shed tears after eating the old man's soup dumplings.

Wang Ling wouldn't — after all, tears would really ruin the cold image that he had built for himself. Thus, while he ate the soup dumplings, he used his spirit energy to seal off his acupuncture points and block his tear ducts.

During breakfast, the old man and Father Wang had a habit of watching the news.

When Father Wang turned on the TV, it just happened to be broadcasting the morning news. The female broadcaster had on a solemn expression as she reported, "Next is breaking news. As of six thirty-eight this morning, thirty-two Riceball Takeout delivery employees have gone missing since yesterday. This horrendous mass disappearance has caused widespread panic in takeout delivery circles. The cultivation police held an emergency conference last night. They suspect that there is a high probability that this mass disappearance of takeout delivery employees is linked to the Master of Shadow Stream, Jiang Liuyue, who is still at large. At the moment, this incident is still under investigation..."

When he saw this news, the old man sighed. "The world is so dangerous nowadays — you can lose your life even just by delivering takeout."

"Dad, you think this has something to do with the Master of Shadow Stream? Didn't the police say that they only suspected that she was involved? They still haven't found any proof." Father Wang took a bite of his soup dumpling, then wiped at his tears.

"I was just saying it casually. But if this had been in the past and the suspect had ordered my soup dumplings as takeout, it wouldn't have been unusual if this could help solve the case." The old man looked at the Chinese soup dumplings on the table and sighed at the unforgiving passage of time. "I've only been busy growing vegetables after I retired. My cooking skills are already no longer what they were when I was at my peak. In the past, the soup dumplings which I made could cause people to tear up just from its aroma."

Father Wang and Wang Ling: "..."

The old man: "In the past, my Chinese soup dumplings were like tear gas grenades; they were even used by the police who went undercover as deliverymen to send them to criminals. As soon as those criminals smelled my soup dumplings, they would be almost blinded by the tears in their eyes. This was the moment when the police would sweep in and apprehend them."

Father Wang and Wang Ling: "..."

...

This mass disappearance of Riceball Takeout delivery employees was probably the second major event to have happened in recent times following the Shadow Stream incident. Wang Ling thought that the police's suspicion made sense; from a criminal investigation point of view, it was indeed very easy to link these two events together.

Furthermore, Wang Ling knew that this Master of Shadow Stream was currently injured. He had blasted apart her spirit clay clone, causing her to straightaway lose six hundred years' worth of cultivation. Her real body would certainly have been injured by the backlash; this definitely would have affected her cultivation in seclusion, and she would require some time to heal.

During this period, nutrition would obviously be vital. Although a true cultivator could give up their food cravings and absorb the nutrition they required through natural spirit energy, an injured person had to eat when they needed to... this was the best way for their body to recover quickly.

To sum up, Wang Ling felt that this wasn't a simple matter, and in his heart he strongly agreed with the police's opinion that this most likely had something to do with the Master of Shadow Stream.

Although the Shadow Stream incident had come to an end, the final "tail" had ultimately still escaped, after all. She was an unpredictable element who made Wang Ling very uneasy. The view of the rest of the world was that there was already no way that Shadow Stream could make a comeback after this. Wang Ling, however, felt that until this Master of Shadow Stream was apprehended, this matter was not over.

As it turned out, it wasn't just Wang Ling who thought this way.

Great minds did think alike...

Opening his group chat, Wang Ling found quite a number of people discussing this matter.

Everyone knew that Shadow Stream this terrorist organization wasn't completely done for until its leader was caught. In cultivation circles, anyone with even the smallest sense of righteousness was looking into information on her.

Speaking of good people with righteous hearts, there were of course plenty of people in this group who wouldn't lose out to Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal.

When Wang Ling went online, Cailian Zhenren happened to be discussing this issue with the other people in the group.

Cailian Zhenren: "This incident is a little strange, what do you think?"

Bulang Blade Immortal sent a meme of a man pushing up his glasses. "I have a friend who works at the police station. They say that those deliverymen all went missing in the same area."

Cailian Zhenren: "Are there specific coordinates for the place?"

Bulang Blade Immortal: "Yes, and it's been determined that the delivery orders came from a convenience mart in the basement of a luxury apartment. But that mart has already been abandoned for a long time, and the people in the surrounding area have no idea who's living there. Because there aren't any surveillance recordings of the basement, the police currently can't confirm whether this convenience mart has anything to do with those missing deliverymen."

"That's easy enough to do, we can collect the evidence." Cailian Zhenren nodded before she swiftly replied, "I remember that Immortal Toya developed a soul-gathering incense which can collect ghosts from ten li around in half an hour. If these deliverymen died tragically, then these vengeful ghosts will act as evidence."

But after Cailian Zhenren said that, Immortal Toya didn't immediately reply. Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal specifically @-mentioned him in the chat. "Brother To, are you here?"

Very quickly, Immortal Toya sent a sweat meme. "I'm refining elixirs... I have a lot of soul-gathering incense. If you need any help, I can come back from Chrysanthemum Island at any time. I'm more familiar with how to use it and I can control the range for collecting souls. If someone else handles this and draws malicious spirits over, that'll ruin everything."

"Very well, then Brother To is in charge of collecting the souls. But even if we do collect evidence, from a lawful point of view, we still need to catch the suspect." Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal nodded and said, "I have something on today and I can't go myself, so someone else needs to come forward now. It would be best if they can disguise themselves as a delivery employee and go to that convenience mart to act as bait..."

A moment later, Cailian Zhenren was the first to volunteer. "How about I go?"

Immortal Toya: "Are you done with your period?"

Cailian Zhenren: "Not yet... but it only hurts a little, it's not a big deal."

Lightning Dharmaraja: "Then what about I go?"

Cailian Zhenren: "If Dharmaraja goes, there'll be a problem... he'll definitely lose control of his lightning power and fry the takeout. To put on a performance, your cover must be perfect, otherwise it'll be too fake."

Lightning Dharmaraja: "..."

At this moment, the group briefly fell into a dead silence.

After a few minutes, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal spoke again. "Then how about this, let me appoint a person!"

As soon as he said that, he straightaway @-mentioned Wang Ling. "Brother Ling, are you here?"

Seeing this, Wang Ling was silent at first, then he replied with an ellipsis. "..."

In front of his screen, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal smiled with satisfaction. "Hah! I knew it! Brother Ling, you were lurking!"

Wang Ling: "..."

Chapter 186: Too Bad He's Gay!

It could only be said that Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal was in the end Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal; as one of the few close guy friends that Wang Ling had in the cultivation circle, he had seen through Wang Ling's lurking behind the scenes. Of course, apart from Grenade-Throwing

Senior Immortal, all these people in the group chat were also kind of Wang Ling's friends in the cultivation circle, though few of them had actually seen him before.

The year that Wang Ling had turned ten, Cailian Zhenren had been lucky to have seen him once, but she didn't know that the Ling Zhenren in this group was that little boy whom she had encountered back then.

After carefully thinking this matter over, Wang Ling finally decided to agree to do it.

He felt that there was something strange about this incident and the image which his Heavenly Eye had shown him had been slightly unnerving. Reasonably speaking, this Master of Shadow Stream whose cultivation had been set back by six hundred years was already unable to save herself. If those missing delivery brothers were really connected to her, it was very hard to say exactly what was involved behind the scenes.

...

It was June 11th on Saturday in the seventh week of the semester.

Wang Ling and Immortal Toya had arranged to meet in a park not far from that luxury apartment. When Wang Ling arrived, he could already see from afar a thin, handsome man dressed in old-fashioned attire with a large gourd on his back standing in front of a park bench.

That big gourd on this guy's back was really too eye-catching, and quite a few girls who happened to be passing through the park couldn't help stopping.

"Hello, can I take a picture with you?" Before Wang Ling got any closer, he saw that a girl had already screwed up her courage to ask Immortal Toya the question. The man silently stared at the girl in front of him for three seconds before nodding.

Having gotten permission, the girl was ecstatic and took several selfies with him as she gave the "V" sign. The other girls nearby all watched with envious expressions.

The girl carefully scrolled through the pictures on her phone and flushed... the more she looked, the more handsome this man appeared! If she posted these photos in her WeChat moments, it would definitely make all the little sisters around her envious for a long time.

After the photo session, Immortal Toya saw a youngster approach from afar. The youngster was wearing a white shirt and had one hand tucked in a pants pocket. Immortal Toya immediately took out the picture which Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had given him and carefully compared the two... hmm, black hair, dead fish eyes and a natural poker face. This was without doubt Ling Zhenren!

The other girls were about to bustle over to take photos as well when they saw Immortal Toya suddenly move as he directly walked over to a boy.

Instantly, all the girls were stunned. Bloody hell! What was with the park today, that they could suddenly encounter two handsome men so early in the morning?!

The girls saw the two people speak to each other before they walked away shoulder to shoulder.

The girl who had taken the photos stared infatuatedly at the photos she had taken with Immortal Toya. Looking at the backs of Wang Ling and Immortal Toya as they drew further away, her heart couldn't help aching and she sighed deeply; he was so handsome... too bad he was gay!

...

Finally meeting the legendary Ling Zhenren in person, Immortal Toya thought... actually, this was probably the second time he was seeing Wang Ling. The last time had been several years ago, when Wang Ling and Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had been carrying out an assignment and he had seen Ling Zhenren from afar.

Actually, that time it had just been Wang Ling's clone, and even Wang Ling himself no longer had an impression of the moment.

At that time, Immortal Toya had already felt that Ling Zhenren wasn't naturally young, and he was even more convinced of it now that he was seeing the person up close in the flesh.

No matter how cultivators tried to retain their appearance, whether through medicinal baths or by taking youth-retaining elixirs, their youthful vitality would gradually fade with age or an increase in realm. On the other hand, Wang Ling was still able to maintain such incredible vigor!

How on earth had he done it?

Immortal Toya cupped his chin and stared extremely curiously at Wang Ling.

This luxury apartment in the city center cost twenty thousand per square meter. As a posh apartment, security was usually very tight and outsiders were not permitted entry. Such a large gourd on Immortal Toya's back was really a little ostentatious, so they were stopped by the security guard as soon as they reached the main entrance.

The security guard stared at them. "Who are you looking for?"

"We're looking for someone," Immortal Toya answered truthfully and straight to the point.

The security guard replied politely, "If you're looking for someone, the owner has to call us to let us know before you can enter."

"Then an owner can enter directly, is that correct?" asked Immortal Toya.

The security guard nodded. "Of course!"

"Oh." Immortal Toya took out his phone and his slender fingers tapped on the screen several times. Three minutes later, he held up the phone in front of the security guard; on it was a list of online purchases.

In the last three minutes, Immortal Toya had directly bought a unit at thirty million yuan...

Wang Ling: "..."

...

The two people walked through the apartment's main entrance and found the incline down to the basement.

"Soul-gathering incense works best when it's freshly made. I've brought all the materials I need, and it'll take me about five minutes to make it. If those delivery brothers were really murdered, I'll put their souls in this gourd, and the spirit water in it will ensure that the souls don't disperse." Immortal Toya put down the gourd that was on his back and looked at Wang Ling as he spoke.

Wang Ling nodded; at the same time, his gaze passed through several walls as he looked at the suspicious, abandoned convenience mart from afar. He was utterly sure that there was someone inside and that it was an expert.

He knew that a barrier had been set up outside the convenience mart, and it wasn't something that could be penetrated with ordinary spiritual senses. Of course, he could forcefully penetrate it, but that would inadvertently alert the other party.

It was impossible for that Master of Shadow Stream, who had lost six hundred years' worth of cultivation, to set up such a strong barrier.

"The people in the group were right; this truly isn't a simple matter." Immortal Toya was also staring at the convenience mart, deep in thought. An alchemist's five senses were more extraordinary than a normal person's, given that they were constantly exposed to the influence of drugs, so he could sense the foul aura coming from within.

"Senior, put on these clothes first and take a look around." As he spoke, Immortal Toya took out a delivery uniform which Cailian Zhenren had bought via express air delivery from Moubao. Although the tailoring was a little crude, it was on the whole still pretty much a perfect knock-off.

The huge "Mi" 1 character on the back of the delivery uniform in particular instantly reminded Wang Ling of his own No. 60 High School uniform.

He reckoned that these two uniforms had probably been designed by the same person.

After changing into the delivery uniform, he smoothed out the wrinkles in it.

Immortal Toya sized Wang Ling up carefully and felt that he was still lacking something. "Erm... did senior bring any food?"

Now that they had decided to put on this act, they naturally had to go all out. However one looked at it, it would be very suspicious for a person wearing a delivery uniform to be empty-handed.

Of course, Wang Ling had already prepared the takeout earlier on. A spirit light glowed in his right hand and a plastic bag instantly emerged.

The plastic bag contained tear-provoking, Chinese soup dumpling-flavored crispy noodle snacks which Grandfather Wang had made the night before.

"..."

Looking at the crispy noodle snacks that had been wrapped simply in plastic wrap, Immortal Toya became lost in deep thought.

Chapter 187: Stand Back, My Venerable Self Is Going to Put On a Show!

Inside the convenience mart, the old devil who hadn't eaten meat for one thousand years picked his teeth. Cracks then appeared in his flesh, which finally crumbled into specks that dropped off.

"As I thought, half an hour is already the limit." Devil Emperor Gua Pi sighed and had to return to the stone ghost mask once again, tearing out the delivery brother whom he had switched positions with earlier and throwing him aside.

This Riceball Takeout delivery brother trembled in one corner. Like the rest, his soul had been forcibly replaced by Devil Emperor Gua Pi when he had delivered the takeout earlier.

This was already the thirty-second delivery guy to suffer from this evil scheme.

However, these deliverymen were a little special. While each of them carried an insulated Riceball Takeout delivery box, this basically belonged to the merchant.

If they didn't return to their bodies within seventy-two hours, their souls would be completely dispersed.

But the crucial point was that their bodies had already been ruined by this old devil after he had had his way with them.

"Lord Devil Emperor, is this really alright?" Jiang Liuyue raised her eyebrows at this scene.

She knew that this matter had probably already attracted the attention of the outside world.

"It was their honor to be made use of by my venerable self." Within the black mist, Devil Emperor Gua Pi gave a strange-sounding laugh. "But I never thought that cultivation could be developed to such an extent through science and technology. The majority of these thirty-two delivery employees are actually Foundation Establishment cultivators?"

Jiang Liuyue answered, "Nowadays, education is compulsory for all cultivators at the Body Condensation, Qi Condensation, Foundation Establishment and Golden Core stages, so Foundation Establishment cultivators actually aren't rare. The difference lies in actual combat experience and abilities."

"Mm." Devil Emperor Gua Pi nodded and thought that these were all things that he could make use of as he recalled how that Gua Pi army which he had set up one thousand years ago had in the end been utterly defeated due to the difference in strength. But the world now had made it compulsory for Foundation Establishment and Golden Core cultivators to get an education; even delivery employees were at the Foundation Establishment stage. In the future, it wouldn't be as hard as it had been previously for him to raise an army — just conquering a few high schools or universities might already provide him with enough manpower.

In the black mist, Devil Emperor Gua Pi pondered deeply for a while before he stared at that delivery guy's soul in the corner. "Junior, my venerable self would like to ask, what is the proportion of delivery employees in your restaurants that are Foundation Establishment cultivators? How many of them are there?"

"Senior... we're just a branch store... but based on nationwide statistics, the proportion is about twenty percent, which is probably about three million people..." The little brother held his head as he huddled in the corner. He was just a deliveryman, and there were so many employees who were just like him — who the hell could have known what he would be going through today?!

"There are over three million Foundation Establishment cultivators in your restaurants? So many?"

Devil Emperor Gua Pi looked startled, then stared at him as he asked, "My venerable self ordered a bit too many things, it's a little hard to remember all of them. What did you deliver?"

"Yang's Braised Chicken Rice 1 ..." the little brother replied weakly.

Jiang Liuyue tsked. "So that's it, no wonder there were so many of them."

In the black mist, Devil Emperor Gua Pi had a disbelieving expression on his face. "Is this Yang's Braised Chicken Rice that mighty?"

Jiang Liuyue nodded. "Mm, it's probably the second largest restaurant chain in Huaxiu..."

Devil Emperor Gua Pi: "Then... what's the first?"

Jiang Liuyue: "Shaxian Delicacies 2 ."

"..."

Devil Emperor Gua Pi suddenly understood — their wonton and lo mein 3 were actually pretty good.

On the other side, Wang Ling was already approaching the entrance to the convenience mart in his fake Riceball Takeout uniform and a plastic bag of crispy noodle snacks in one hand.

He could sense something dark in the convenience mart, but couldn't quite describe exactly what it was. Even just standing at the door left him feeling deeply unsettled in his heart.

Just as Immortal Toya had anticipated, the foul atmosphere in here was really too heavy. With his Heavenly Eye, Wang Ling could see many spirits floating around the convenience mart; these were very likely the souls of those deliverymen.

Those missing deliverymen and this convenience mart were absolutely related.

Inside the convenience mart, Devil Emperor Gua Pi was also very vigilant; scarcely had Wang Ling started his approach when the former had sensed that someone was coming. "Hm? Another delivery employee?"

"Did Lord Devil Emperor order something again?"

Jiang Liuyue felt a little awkward and thought that this thousand-year-old foodie whom she had liberated was a little scary.

"Oh, no. My venerable self already ordered all the takeouts nearby, and there's nothing else novel to eat." Devil Emperor Gua Pi's smile in the black mist looked very strange. "This person is wearing a uniform and is carrying a bag in one hand. Perhaps he has the wrong place?"

"Perhaps..." Jiang Liuyue nodded as she sent her spiritual senses out through the convenience mart's tightly shut door. "But I suspect this man might be One-Inch Gray or Steamed Bun Invader in disguise..."

Disguise was a required course for killers. Making use of an appropriate disguise to lower the enemy's guard and then finally delivering the knockout blow... Jiang Liuyue had an innate sense for detecting this kind of trick. As Master of Shadow Stream, she had weathered all types of storms over the years.

Devil Emperor Gua Pi: "Can you be certain that this man is in disguise?"

Jiang Liuyue solemnly nodded. "I didn't dare to confirm it earlier, but now I'm certain that this man is definitely the Steamed Bun Invader that I told Lord Devil Emperor about before. This man is extremely proficient in the aura concealment skill and can easily give the impression that he's an ordinary man."

"Hearing you say this, I do feel that this man is a little suspicious."

In the black mist, Devil Emperor Gua Pi's expression darkened.

If it had been a regular aura concealment skill, it wouldn't have been of the least bit use in the face of this thousand-year-old devil. However, probing the person outside with his spiritual senses had resulted in a vague and abnormal impression. If this was the case, it was very clear that this man was deliberately in disguise!

"How confident are you that you'll be able to meet this person head on?" asked Devil Emperor Gua Pi.

"At my peak, he would have been completely far beneath my notice, but now... I can only rely on Lord Devil Emperor." Jiang Liuyue braced herself. "Before, Lord Devil Emperor said you would cooperate with me, right?"

Devil Emperor Gua Pi: "Since my venerable self has already promised to cooperate with you, I naturally won't back out. Even if it wasn't for your sake, my venerable self must still do it for the sake of Yang's Braised Chicken Rice and Shaxian Delicacies!"

Jiang Liuyue: "..."

"Go ahead and open the door!"

In the black mist, he took a deep breath and looked at her fixedly at the same time. "Stand back... my venerable self is going to put on a show!"

Jiang Liuyue: "..."

Chapter 188: Who Is the Real Boss in the Takeout World?

Before Wang Ling was about to fight Devil Emperor Gua Pi, a figure of an old Taoist in white appeared in front of this luxury apartment.

After a close encounter with "Killer Taoist" in Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's Wenxian Garden villa, Third Saint had been looking up a lot of information on the sly.

He had discovered that the killer reputed to be the most savage killer in the murder industry was actually a chivalrous man whose heart burst with righteousness. Everyone who had died violently by his hand had all been heinous ruffians. The more despicable they were, the more violent their deaths after Killer Taoist had caught them.

To his dismay, Third Saint realized that while he had been imitating this great senior in the murder industry for many years, there was unexpectedly a huge problem with the direction he had taken in his mimicry!

An idol was very powerful!

Thus, after officially skipping out on his job with Mo Immortal Castle, he had been looking for an opportunity to uphold justice as a way of wiping clean the crimes that he had committed all these years.

Following the location on his phone, Third Saint stood at the entrance to a Green Orange 1 luxury apartment in Jinghua city.

Based on the news on TV, he had investigated the location where the deliveryman had disappeared and had found himself here. According to the position given on his phone, the closest location to the coordinates was the convenience mart in the basement of this apartment building.

Third Saint was about to go in when the same security guard from before stopped him at the entrance and said, "Sir, if you are here to look for someone, the owner has to call our security office first before you can enter."

Third Saint scratched his head. "Then, can an owner enter directly?"

"Of course..." The security guard nodded and stared warily at him, thinking that this remark was familiar somehow.

Third Saint nodded, then took out his phone and tapped on the screen a few times before he showed the security guard a list of online purchases. "Can I enter now?"

"..." The security guard was completely dumbstruck.

Because this old Taoist in white had unexpectedly bought the entire building! This was the third phase of the Green Orange luxury apartments, and there were three apartment buildings in total. Before the second building had been completed, the first one had already been purchased!

The little security guard was utterly stunned... were the nouveau riche nowadays so common?! And yet he was still a single dog who didn't even have time to look for a girlfriend as he struggled on the bottom rung of society and served the people all day long!

Glaring at the receding figure of the old Taoist in white, the little security guard clenched his fists in extreme grief and indignation.

...

Immortal Toya crouched down in an inconspicuous little corner not far from the convenience mart. He had already ground the materials he had brought into powder, and he blended them in even proportions inside a transparent pharmaceutical glass receptacle. "Congeal!"

As he gave a soft shout, he generated a ball of spirit light in his hands. The powder in the glass vessel then visibly and rapidly congealed into a sticky substance; in this way, the soul-gathering incense was done.

Immortal Toya held the glass vessel in his right hand and slivers of flame emerged in his palm. After he was done, he released a soft breath. "It's been warmed up; all we have to do now is wait for the wronged ghosts to come. I wonder how Senior Ling is doing..."

This gray-haired youth lifted his beautiful eyes and looked in the direction that Wang Ling had gone in; there was still no movement from that side, so it was obvious that the fight hadn't started yet.

On the other hand, it was only a handful of seconds after the soul-gathering incense had been lit when it got a reaction. Immortal Toya opened his Heavenly Eye and instantly saw faint green wisps coming from every direction to gather in a cloud as they followed the scent of the soul-gathering incense.

Immortal Toya opened the big gourd on his back. "Little brothers, don't be nervous. Your souls may have already left your bodies, but as long as you enter my gourd, I can guarantee that your souls won't be extinguished, and you might be able to return to a corporeal body again in the future..."

Actually, he wasn't really very confident when he said this. Returning a soul to a body sounded easy, but it wasn't so simple to carry out. Each soul had a particular level of compatibility with a body. From a scientific point of view, it was just like finding a bone marrow match. If the compatibility wasn't high enough, it wouldn't be long before the body exploded — it wasn't as simple as legend made it sound like, that any body would do.

"Can Exalted Immortal see us?!" Instantly, ten or so ghosts nearby floated over, and when they saw Immortal Toya, who had opened his Heavenly Eye, they acted as if they had been granted amnesty.

Looking at these ghosts, Immortal Toya asked, "Are you all the deliverymen who were murdered recently?"

"Yes, Exalted Immortal... that evil demon in the convenience mart was too quick and knocked me down as soon as the door was opened. If it had been a one-on-one fight, how could the other party be my opponent?" said a ghost in a thick northeastern accent.

Immortal Toya: "...Why are there so few of you? The news outside reported thirty-two people in total missing."

"Exalted Immortal, you don't know, but in the last few days, quite a number of brothers floated out carelessly, and wound up being directly burned to nothing by the sun. These days, we've been floating around in the basement and we got to know one another. We've started calling each other by the takeout we deliver; it's easier to remember," the northeastern delivery ghost spread its hands and said.

Immortal Toya: "..."

"Exalted Immortal, can the gourd really preserve our souls?" a ghost asked. "I'm Power Chicken 2 . I only just delivered the chicken here when I was knocked down... sure enough, there are still perverts around nowadays who can't even afford to eat chicken. It's really impossible to defend yourself against this type of people!"

"..."

Immortal Toya sighed. "This gourd is a magic weapon which I have refined. It contains a small world inside, and everyone can stay in it for the time being. Wait for us to find a way to restore your bodies. Of course, in the meantime, we may need to trouble you to come out and point out your murderer."

"Since Exalted Immortal has said so, it won't be a problem!"

Immortal Toya nodded. "Mm, then everyone register first before entering my gourd in single file."

Ghost: "I have a question, Exalted Immortal!"

Immortal Toya: "Speak..."

Ghost: "Actually there is still one Yang's Braised Chicken Rice brother whose life now hangs in the balance. We think that he has probably been imprisoned by that demon in the convenience mart. Lord Exalted Immortal, if you can help us save him, we would be forever grateful!"

"I never expected all of you to have such close relationships with each other." Immortal Toya sighed. "Rest assured. The one standing at the entrance to the convenience mart is our great senior in the cultivation world whom we specially asked to come and deal with this matter."

"Thank you, Exalted Immortal! Thank you, Exalted Immortal!"

As soon as the ghost had finished thanking him, three more clouds of green mist immediately floated over from the side, and shoulder to shoulder, the four ghosts began to introduce themselves one by one.

"Hello, Exalted Immortal, I'm Lanzhou Hand-Pulled Noodles."

"I'm Shaxian Delicacies."

"I'm Guilin Rice Noodles."

"Exalted Immortal, may I ask, does your small world have a presidential suite? Give me, Chongqing Chicken Pot 3, some face..."

Immortal Toya: "..."

Chapter 189: Oh My...

Standing in front of the convenience mart with a delivery bag, Wang Ling saw a woman inside lift up the roller shutter; almost instantly, black smoke rapidly poured out from the opening created.

In the past two days, Devil Emperor Gua Pi had already used the same method on thirty-two people, and he had become increasingly practiced at it. A short distance away, Immortal Toya was stupefied by this scene; the black smoke was so fast that even he couldn't follow its movements with his Heavenly Eye open.

"Senior, watch out!"

Bzz !

In the next instant, a large cloud of black smoke enveloped Wang Ling, directly obscuring him from view.

Devil Emperor Gua Pi was very excited; he could sense that this was fresh, young flesh, full of vigor.

"It smells so good!"

He couldn't help exclaiming in admiration; the aroma which this body exuded was as addictive as drugs.

Wang Ling watched this scene indifferently. Surrounded by the black smoke, he couldn't see anything around him in the dark, and only heard an old voice murmuring to itself.

Then, he saw a mask suddenly appear in the black smoke.

The stone ghost mask?

Wang Ling narrowed his eyes to confirm what he was seeing.

But... why would it show up here?

In the dark, Devil Emperor Gua Pi couldn't help sneering. After all, this was just a junior. Did the boy already wet his pants the moment he had attacked? He was just standing there like wood, afraid to make even a single move!

"Junior, your body is mine..." Finally, the stone ghost mask covered Wang Ling's face precisely and the hooks that resembled crab claws along its sides stabbed ruthlessly at his cheeks.

However, completely out of Devil Emperor Gua Pi's expectations, that familiar sense of puncturing something never came... the hooks on the sides of the mask had actually been blocked!

From the moment he had begun manipulating the stone ghost mask, such a thing had never happened before! This mask was made of primordial black crystal, currently the hardest substance known so far in the universe!

What was going on?

A trace of doubt subconsciously flickered through Devil Emperor Gua Pi's mind.

It was at this moment that the young man's body suddenly glowed with golden light which pulsed through the black smoke. With a burst of invisible power, it directly dispelled the black smoke around him!

"Golden Body?!"

Devil Emperor Gua Pi finally understood why the hooks hadn't been able to puncture the face!

F**k! This guy was actually a master with a Sage Body?! Nowadays even someone with a Sage Body would come running to deliver takeout?!

After the black smoke was dispelled by the golden light, the stone ghost mask had nowhere to hide. Devil Emperor Gua Pi's phantom voice sounded in the air. "Your Excellency, who on earth are you...?"

At that moment, even if Wang Ling didn't say anything, Devil Emperor Gua Pi was well aware that this person definitely wasn't that "Steamed Bun Invader" whom Jiang Liuyue had spoken of; that was just a killer at the Soul Formation stage who was ranked eighth on the ranking list. A Sage Body, on the other hand, wasn't something that was easy to cultivate.

This was the ultimate body that countless cultivators had pursued for millions of years; it was impossible to count how many people longed to achieve this level.

This was the ultimate shield! Sage Bodies wouldn't break and couldn't be affected by any techniques.

Devil Emperor Gua Pi suddenly felt like Jiang Liuyue had deceived him... even he himself had never reached the level of a Sage Body!

He already knew that given the other party's Sage Body, there was no way he could be this person's rival if he had to rely purely on his current condition and whatever attacks he could carry out.

Now that it had come to this, there was only one final option!

Swiftly manipulating a cloud of black smoke, he dashed back to Jiang Liuyue. They had already established a contract; once they encountered a crisis, she would willingly give her body over to him at any time.

So before long, Wang Ling saw the stone ghost mask and Jiang Liuyue fuse together.

Borrowing Jiang Liuyue's body, Devil Emperor Gua Pi stood up from the ground once more. Wisps of black smoke seeped out of his eyes, like a corpse that had been resurrected from an ancient coffin.

"I never thought that after being sealed away for such a long time, I would be able to meet a master with a Sage Body..." Inside Jiang Liuyue's body, Devil Emperor Gua Pi narrowed his eyes.

He stretched out his right arm and shouted, "Blade, come!"

The air suddenly vibrated with a humming sound as a crack appeared in it. Then, a black dagger emerged from the crack and dropped into Devil Emperor Gua Pi's hand.

Back then, the entire Huaxiu nation had been intimidated by this old devil's powerful ability; he was actually able to hide his magic blade in a space only he could open, and he could summon it at will.

This technique was already far beyond the Soul Formation stage.

Wang Ling gazed at this black dagger; an odd pattern was etched onto the silver blade and its edge was clean and bright as snow, reflecting Devil Emperor Gua Pi's evil eyes.

When Devil Emperor Gua Pi opened his hand, this black dagger hovered directly in the air. He looked at Wang Ling and coldly said just one word: "Chop!"

In the blink of an eye, the black dagger vanished as it transformed into a black-colored sword shadow.

Flickering like static electricity, this sword shadow chopped savagely down at Wang Ling.

At the same time, a ray of light in Wang Ling's pocket swiftly responded!

A brown-colored sword light burst forth to meet the light from that black dagger head on.

Devil Emperor Gua Pi sneered. "It's no use. My blade is an ancient magic weapon which I acquired from an old tomb. It's a top-class holy weapon! Its biggest advantage is that it can destroy a Golden Body by attacking the acupuncture points. Currently, I can count the number of swords that can contend against it on one hand."

However, just as he finished speaking, the two sword lights collided. Light and shadow were tangled together until the brown sword light gradually engulfed the black light.

A moment later, it transformed into a strong current which smashed into Devil Emperor Gua Pi!

This backlash was immensely powerful; Devil Emperor Gua Pi stretched out his hands and gripped tightly onto this ball of brown light while his body shook violently with the impact. It took all of his strength to finally tear apart this powerful surge created by the backlash from Jingke.

However, it had left him drenched in sweat; he had practically almost died...

As the brown sword light returned to Wang Ling's hand, Devil Emperor Gua Pi stared disbelievingly at him — what the hell! It was a peach wood sword!

What kind of joke was this?!

"Today, one of us will die!" he roared furiously.

Calling back his black dagger, he advanced on Wang Ling himself.

Wang Ling's expression was calm; he didn't take the least bit notice of the other party's angry yell. He just stood there as he watched every move his opponent made, which in his eyes appeared extremely slow.

He could even see all kinds of minute changes in this raging devil emperor's expression as he launched himself forward threateningly, blade in hand.

Ten meters...

Eight meters...

Six meters...

Devil Emperor Gua Pi brandished his ancient magic blade aggressively.

Then, when he was just four meters away from Wang Ling, that body with its fiercely rocking boobs of mass destruction finally completely lost its balance.

Wang Ling suddenly noticed a hint of embarrassment flicker across Devil Emperor Gua Pi's face.

Then, with an abrupt "Oh my~," this ancient devil fell to the ground with a plop.

Wang Ling: "..."

Chapter 190: The No. 2 Scapegoat

The scene sunk into awkwardness for a time. His ancient magic sword in one hand, Devil Emperor Gua Pi fell down at Wang Ling's feet like a believer worshiping at Bright Summit 1 .

The spirit energy wrapped around the blade had yet to be released, and the moment this black dagger touched the ground, fissures instantly appeared in the earth as they spread out in all directions from the blade at its center.

But Wang Ling had sharp eyes and deft hands, and he reached forward to pick up the blade.

Wang Ling could feel the fierce magic pulse strongly in his hand. Lying prone on the ground, Devil Emperor Gua Pi raised his head and laughed coldly. "Even if you have a Sage Body, so what? My ancient magic blade was specially designed to destroy holy bodies. Now that you are holding the magic blade, its qi will invade your holy body and crack it open... my chance has now come!"

Wang Ling frowned slightly; indeed, he could feel traces of the sword qi enter his body, but it had little to no effect on him, so this really couldn't be the key to deciding the outcome of this confrontation.

Yet this old devil seemed to have misunderstood something. When he saw Wang Ling grab hold of the magic blade, he burst into wild laughter in his heart and was confident that everything was within his calculations.

In the next instant, he stood up from the ground, cradling the two lumps on his chest. "After the sword qi invades your body, it will remain in you forever unless the magic blade is destroyed! It's made of prehistoric materials and will only get harder with the passing of time; it's impossible for you to break it."

Hearing the old devil's words, Wang Ling was stumped for a bit. "..."

Then, he directly squeezed this ancient magic blade and snapped it with a crack.

Breaking a blade...

This was his special ability!

Wang Ling recalled how, as a one-year-old genius, he had taught himself to destroy a precious sword barehanded.

As the blade's power dispersed, this ancient magic blade abruptly lost its glow...

At the same time, dead silence reigned on the scene.

Some distance away, Immortal Toya was stupefied; even Third Saint, who had just arrived, was rooted to the spot as he stared blankly... what had they just seen?

Although they weren't close enough to know exactly what had transpired, they could tell which way the wind had blown in this battle from the possessed Master of Shadow Stream Jiang Liuyue's expression.

At that moment, the old devil was sweating profusely, to the point that his clothes were all soaked. He looked at the youngster in front of him as if he was seeing a monster and drew in a sharp breath.

Although he was very reluctant to admit it, Devil Emperor Gua Pi knew that given the current momentum, there was no chance at all of him winning.

Breaking an ancient magic blade barehanded...

Even at his peak, he had never met such a savage person before!

All this time that he had been sealed inside the stone ghost mask, what on earth had happened in this world?!

Wang Ling took off the yellow delivery helmet he had been wearing to reveal a head of tousled black hair. Half of his face had been hidden by the helmet's protective visor before, and it was only now that Devil Emperor Gua Pi clearly saw his face.

A string in his brain suddenly pulled taut — he had actually seen this person before!

Back when the stone ghost mask had just been delivered to the Wang family's small villa, Devil Emperor Gua Pi remembered that he had tried to sink his claws into a youngster, but in the end, the hooks had failed to pierce his face.

Now, he finally realized... this was the same person!

At that very moment, as the old devil fixed his eyes on Wang Ling, he was drenched in sweat. This was a fear that he had never felt before. In the thousands of years that he had faced down countless opponents, none of them had ever evoked such terror as he was feeling today.

"Your Excellency... who on earth are you?" The old devil stared fixedly at Wang Ling.

Furrowing his brow, Wang Ling didn't deign to reply.

But at this moment, an old Taoist in white suddenly popped up behind him. "The Master of Shadow Stream! To face off against Senior Killer Taoist... why don't you just give up?"

Wang Ling: "..."

"Killer Taoist, is it? The junior who is ranked first on the ranking list of killers? Hehe... I'll remember you!" The old devil's eyes darkened as he looked at Third Saint behind Wang Ling. "And you, I'll remember you as well!"

As soon as he said this, he suddenly released purple gold fog and his figure promptly vanished in its midst, leaving behind the words: Just you wait for this venerable self to get you!

Then, he disappeared without a trace.

...

"Ling Zhenren is too awesome!" Immortal Toya exclaimed in his heart as he came over. Even with his Heavenly Eye, he still hadn't been able to clearly see the confrontation between the two top masters just now. He was now deeply suspicious about whether his Heavenly Eye was real or not!

As that purple gold fog dispersed in front of Wang Ling, he felt it was a bit unfortunate.

For him, trying to catch this old devil alive was much harder than killing him; if the intent from the beginning had been to kill him, the other party wouldn't have had a chance to escape.

What had to be said was that Wang Ling had certainly experienced for himself how powerful this old devil was as someone who had once given the entire Huaxiu nation a severe headache. Wang Ling was clear on the fact that in terms of sheer strength, this old devil certainly couldn't rival him. But unfortunately, the old devil had hidden on his person a lot of magic treasures that Wang Ling didn't know about, and they were all in another space. He could reach into this space anytime and take out whatever he needed, which was as troublesome as a particular robot cat's space pocket.

This purple gold fog was one of Devil Emperor Gua Pi's magic treasures which he used as a means of escape.

Of course, the old devil had also left something behind on the ground, and that was the ancient magic blade which Wang Ling had crushed.

Wang Ling had already reduced the middle portion of the dagger to sand. Just by looking at it, one could tell that there was no way it could be restored, hence why the old devil had simply tossed it aside like cabbage.

Standing behind Wang Ling, both Third Saint and Immortal Toya opened their Heavenly Eyes to scan the air around them. It was only after they had made sure that Jiang Liuyue had truly disappeared that they sighed.

"What a waste to have let this person escape!" Third Saint shook his head regretfully, then turned his gaze to Immortal Toya and bowed. "I'm guessing that this is Senior Immortal Toya? I'm Third Saint!"

"Do you know me?"

"...Immortal Toya's name is so famous that it's impossible for this junior to not know you." Actually, these were just empty words; previously, when Third Saint and the other nine saints had planned to rob Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's house of the stone ghost mask, they had researched everyone whom he had a close relationship with.

If he told the truth, he would definitely be regarded as a pervert!

"I'm not that famous, right?" Immortal Toya scratched his head somewhat embarrassedly. He knew about Third Saint, since Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had mentioned before in the group chat that of the Ten Saints, there was one called Third Saint who had defected. He had never expected that they would actually meet here in this way.

In addition, Immortal Toya in fact knew that this Third Saint was under the assumption that Ling Zhenren was that legendary number one killer on the ranking list, Killer Taoist.

However, looking at the current situation, Ling Zhenren didn't seem to have any intention of clarifying this matter.

Immortal Toya immediately understood.

Hmm... since this Killer Taoist had already become the scapegoat, they might as well continue letting him be the scapegoat...