

## **Immortal 1071**

### **Chapter 1071: Great Snowy Mountains**

That evening, Zu An was starting to have a huge headache. Zhang Ji had come looking for him again, and he really couldn't resist those large and misty eyes. Objectively speaking, no man could refuse such a thing, but he knew he wasn't the real duke. He could only find a random excuse to send her off.

Fortunately, he had already survived the major trial. However, he had no idea what he was going to do about those things later.

Even Liu Ji and Chu Ji's expressions toward him were becoming a bit strange recently. The Duke Manor was only so big, and with his return, for the sake of winning the hearts of the people, he had to show himself. Thus, they were always around each other.

Chu Ji would lower her head while blushing whenever they met. Liu Ji always looked away when they made eye contact too, no longer displaying her usual enthusiastic and bold nature.

On several occasions, the two women had wanted to say something to him. In the end, their mouths would open, and yet they would always look away afterward while blushing.

Zu An knew they were feeling conflicted at the moment. So was he. If he stayed in the manor for a long time, wouldn't he have to endure such torment every single day?

While he was distracted, a knock suddenly came from outside. He was alarmed. However, he thought, People always say only widows fear knocking in the middle of the night; what am I so scared and on the edge for?

"Who is it?" he called out.

"Me," came the reply. The voice was gentle and sweet-sounding, like a willow tree swaying in spring winds, and like sweet and glistening honey.

Zu An quickly felt his restlessness calming. He sighed and quickly opened the door.

Yu Yanluo was standing outside, wearing a white cloak. The shaggy snow-white cape around her neck added an air of loveliness to her usual noble and elegant demeanor. "What is wrong? Why do you look as if you are about to face a great enemy or something?" she asked, smiling when she saw his expression.

Zu An gave her a look and replied, "You still have the nerve to smile? I really can't stay in the current Duke Manor anymore..."

"The fact that you think that way proves you are a gentleman. Otherwise, you would be enjoying this kind of life," Yu Yanluo replied as she went inside and casually closed the door behind her. At the same time, she blew into her palms, as if doing so would bring her a bit more warmth.

Zu An couldn't really say any more when he saw how much she feared the cold. He asked, "Are you wearing the Warm Darlings I gave you before?"

There was some snow outside at the moment. Yu Yanluo usually stayed inside and slept during such weather, and yet she had braved the cold and actually gone all the way to visit Zu An. Zu An wondered what she needed to tell him.

Yu Yanluo definitely feared the cold more than anyone. Even Chuyan's condition after she had used her forbidden technique in the past didn't seem that bad in comparison. Zu An thought, But everything else about her seems fine; she's not wounded either. It really is weird.

"I have a few inside my clothes, on my lower abdomen..." Yu Yanluo subconsciously replied, but her expression turned rigid halfway through. Why am I telling him something so personal? "Ahem, today, I came to tell you that you did well. You have already successfully confused Uncle Ming. Those two were hiding in their rooms and talking to each other for a long time. If my suspicions are correct, they will soon act the way we anticipated."

"That's good then," Zu An replied with a smile.

It was actually understandable. After all, the one they had sent to death had come back to life, and no matter how much they had tried to test him, they had failed. Anyone in that situation would be scared badly.

Zu An's smile suddenly froze on his face. When she noticed the change, Yu Yanluo asked him, "What is wrong?"

"Speak of the devil. I didn't expect them to be this impatient. They seem to have already set off," Zu An said with a serious expression.

Yu Yanluo had never heard of that phrase, but it wasn't the time to focus on those details. She quickly pushed open the window and looked in the direction of Jian Taiding's courtyard. However, she didn't see anything. She asked, "How do you know that?"

She had spies watching that area as well. She hadn't even received any news yet; how had Zu An found out first?

"I have my ways; there's no time to explain. They've already left the Duke Manor's courtyard wall. Should we get some men to chase after them?" Zu An suggested. Using the jade badge, he had gathered a large group of small creatures around the Duke Manor. No matter how careful Jian Taiding's forces were, how could they have known that the nearby small creatures were all surveillance cameras?

Even though Yu Yanluo was beautiful, Zu An wasn't the kind of person who would lose his head over a pretty girl. He still had to hide his trump cards, so he didn't explain further.

"It is too late for that. Once they get in contact with their partners, they will already be gone." Yu Yanluo shook her head. She continued, "Furthermore, their cultivation levels are so high, it would be easy to startle them. If they knew our objective, they would be on guard the next time around."

"Let's go, then. Just the two of us. They can't use it as proof even if they see anything," Zu An said.

He wasn't too worried about the other side's combat strength. Even though Jian Taiding was a master rank cultivator, Zu An's real fighting strength was no weaker than his. He could probably even hold back a bit and still win. As for Uncle Ming, he wasn't weak either, but he wouldn't be able to do much to

change the situation. He still had Yu Yanluo with him too, and her world art skills had almost done him in previously..

“That is not a concern either; I have this,” Yu Yanluo said as she took out a rock that was as glossy as a mirror. “With this recording stone, we can record everything that happens. They can keep refusing to admit things all they want.”

Zu An felt relieved. Even though the recording stone was rare and precious, Yu Yanluo’s clan managed the ki stone business to begin with. It would be stranger if she didn’t have something like that.

Thus, the two of them quickly chased after Jian Taiding and Uncle Ming.

It wasn’t too convenient for Yu Yanluo to move with the cloak on, and it would make her easy to recognize. As such, she left the cloak in Zu An’s room. Her outfit resembled both a dress and a coat, and yet was neither.

However, even though the cold had made her wear more layers, it still couldn’t conceal her impressive figure. That was especially true when it came to her incredible waist, her voluptuous chest, and her full bottom. Her curves looked almost like a work of art.

Back at the manor, Liu Ji’s chest had already been quite large, and Chu Ji’s waist was slender, while Zhang Ji had well-proportioned legs. All of them were top-level beauties, and they had their respective outstanding traits. But not even the three of them combined together could compare to Yu Yanluo. They didn’t have her natural charm and grace.

No wonder Cloudcenter Duke had never been able to forget about Yu Yanluo. When Zu An had been together with Zhang Ji, she had exposed the fact that Jian Yanyou would often have her dress like Yu Yanluo when they were together. Fortunately, Zu An was no naive boy and had quickly reacted in that situation, which was why Zhang Ji hadn’t noticed any gaps in his behavior.

Those were things Chu Ji and Liu Ji hadn’t taught him. It was probably because the two girls had been brought over from the Yu Manor, and Jian Yanyou had worried that news might reach Yu Yanluo’s ears, ruining the gentlemanly image he had maintained for many years.

Zu An actually understood that well. Even a monk trained in self-discipline might leave his monastic life if he met a stunning beauty like Yu Yanluo, let alone a mere gentleman.

The pair cautiously left the Duke Manor. Zu An followed Jian Taiding and Uncle Ming using the little creatures’ eyes.

After several turns, Yu Yanluo finally saw Jian Taiding and Uncle Ming. She couldn’t hold back her curiosity and asked, “How do you always know where they are going?”

“That’s a secret.” Zu An laughed and didn’t explain.

“Stingy.” Yu Yanluo harrumphed. But she was stunned soon afterward. Why had she been starting to act like a young lady recently?

A cold wind brushed past just then, making her shiver. She had always feared the cold to begin with. Now that she was rushing through the snow without her coat, not even the Warm Darlings she was wearing were enough.

A pair of large, warm hands clasped Yu Yanluo's hand, startling her. Because of her beauty, she was constantly surrounded by all sorts of men. She was exceptionally sensitive about protecting herself and subconsciously tried to pull her hand back; she was also about to criticize Zu An for being rude.

However, warm heat entered through her palm. She then realized Zu An had done so to keep her warm. She looked at him and saw that his gaze was clear and genuine. In the end, she didn't pull back her hand. Her cheeks reddened as she quietly said, "Thank you."

"Your constitution wasn't suited to this cold weather to begin with. Why don't you just go back? I'll chase them on my own," Zu An said. Even though he didn't know why Yu Yanluo was so terrible with cold weather, this was a snowstorm they were traveling through. She definitely couldn't feel good at the moment.

Yu Yanluo shook her head and replied, "I want to personally witness the truth about Yanyou, or else it will be hard for me to be at peace. Furthermore, those two are no pushovers either. I am worried that something might happen to you."

"It's fine. Jian Taiding is seriously injured, and Uncle Ming isn't anything special either. I can deal with them," Zu An replied. However, he was startled. Even though he had poured in so much heat for her, her hand was still freezing cold without a hint of warmth. Don't tell me she really has the so-called 'flesh of ice and bones of jade'?

"Do not worry; I am a cultivator after all. Even though I fear the cold, this bit of snow is still tolerable." Yu Yanluo moved her scattered hair behind her ear and showed Zu An a bright and beautiful smile. Seeing as she had already made her decision, Zu An didn't try to dissuade her any further.

The two followed Jian Taiding and Uncle Ming from a good distance behind. They left the city and entered the Great Snowy Mountains' wilderness.

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After tailing them like that for a long time, Yu Yanluo couldn't help but lean against Zu An. Her voice was shaking a bit too as she remarked, "Do you not feel that the temperature here is abnormally cold?"

Zu An nodded and said, "The temperature has been getting lower and lower the deeper we go, ever since we started approaching this place. The change is beyond what normal wind and snow could achieve."

## **Chapter 1072: Cold Pool**

The Great Snowy Mountains weren't called that because of the present snowstorm; that was what the towering and precipitous ridges were actually called. The elevation was high, the conditions were vile, and the mountains were permanently covered in snow; that was why they were called the Great Snowy Mountains.

The highest peak of the Great Snowy Mountains was called the Great Snowy Peak. Not only was it covered in snow year-round; at sunrise, only that peak alone would be bathed in sunlight and glow with dazzling golden brilliance. That was why the native tribes and fiend races all viewed the Great Snowy Peak as a sacred mountain.

There had been many legends related to the place since ancient times. For example, there were some tribes that believed a deity had been born there; some tribes' saints were believed to have received enlightenment there; some believed their god had descended there when they entered the mortal world...

There were many such legends and rumors.

Even though the cultivators of this world were much stronger than ordinary humans, the Great Snowy Mountains' biting cold blizzards were still not an environment humans could live in.

Together with the various beasts that roamed the area and the presence of certain mysterious forbidden regions, even though there were still some who wished to make a pilgrimage to Great Snowy Peak, very few returned alive.

The two of them had already been climbing the mountain for a while, but they were still only in the outer region of the Great Snowy Mountains. They hadn't reached the forbidden regions yet.

"I cannot help but feel that this place is a bit strange. We need to be careful." Yu Yanluo looked around and warned Zu An. The Great Snowy Mountains had too many mysteries surrounding them, so she didn't dare to treat the place lightly.

Zu An said reassuringly, "The fact that it is strange means we came to the right place. It seems we are getting closer to the truth."

Yu Yanluo was stunned. Then, she smiled and said, "You are surprisingly optimistic."

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The two of them chatted as they looked around. In the end, they stopped at a cave. Zu An remarked, "This was where they disappeared just now. This should be the place."

All that remained so high up in the Great Snowy Mountains were blizzards and snowstorms. It was difficult for Zu An to even find any smaller creatures to control. Fortunately, there were some faint footprints leading toward the cave, so it was likely the right place.

Yu Yanluo agreed, saying, "Be careful."

Even though they had the cover of the snowstorm, Jian Taiding and Uncle Ming were crafty individuals. It was hard to say whether they had noticed that they were being tailed, and thus set up an ambush inside.

Zu An nodded. He exercised full vigilance as he and Yu Yanluo snuck into the cave.

The howling wind and snow outside disappeared as soon as they entered. It was shockingly silent inside, as if they had entered another world. The stone walls of the cave were bluish-white like jade, but also like ice.

Yu Yanluo couldn't help but shiver. She hugged herself, grabbing her own shoulders tightly. Zu An couldn't hold her hands in that position, so he pressed his hand against her back. A stream of warmth entered her body.

A flash of redness entered Yu Yanluo's face. She had covered her chest before on purpose because she was worried that Zu An would see she was cold, then grab her hand to transmit heat again. Even though their relationship wasn't bad, old habits weren't so easily shaken. She still wasn't too used to physical contact with other men.

However, she hadn't expected him to still be so enthusiastic, putting his hand against her back. Still, Zu An had done it out of good intentions, and her back wasn't a sensitive and private place, so she couldn't really blame him.

She spoke to him through ki transmission in order to hide her embarrassment. "The strange cold we felt earlier should be coming from here. But this is so strange; I have resided in Cloudcenter Commandery for so many years, and yet I have never heard of this kind of cave existing here."

"The Great Snowy Mountains are so large; it's unsurprising that madam doesn't know about it." Zu An replied seriously. "This place is strange; there might be trouble ahead. Be careful."

Yu Yanluo nodded slightly, then took the lead. That way, she could free herself from the palm that had left her embarrassed. Zu An quickly followed along.

The further in they went, the colder it became. Yu Yanluo wanted to stay a bit further away from Zu An at first, but as time went on, even her long lashes were starting to be covered in a layer of frost. She found herself unknowingly leaning against him.

Zu An couldn't help but smile. This woman's body is surprisingly honest. He held her soft hand again, sending in heat. A bit of color quickly returned to Yu Yanluo's pale cheeks, making her already gorgeous face look even more tender and beautiful.

Just then, they heard a burst of intense coughing in the distance. It was followed by Jian Taiding's faint curses. "Damn it all! Why is this place so cold?!"

He was a master rank cultivator, so he should have been able to resist such cold. But he had been seriously injured not too long before, making it somewhat difficult for him to tolerate the place in his current state.

Zu An and Yu Yanluo's eyes lit up. They had found their targets after all.

"The duke insisted on returning here while at death's door. I have always found this place a bit strange. Second master, be careful." Uncle Ming clearly sounded cautious.

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Zu An was startled when he heard that. It seemed this was where Cloudcenter Duke had been buried after all! With Yu Yanluo's support, his act really had fooled them! He looked at Yu Yanluo excitedly, but saw that she looked dispirited. There was a hint of sadness between her brows.

Only then did Zu An remember that Jian Yanyou had been her husband. Even though it was only in name, they had worked together for so long that they were good friends. Now that it was confirmed that her missing friend had died, she would obviously feel grief.

Zu An patted Yu Yanluo's hand in consolation, and she snapped out of her daze. She collected her thoughts and continued forward.

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They passed through what seemed like a tunnel. The opening at the other end led to a spacious area. The voice had come from there.

Zu An felt conflicted. If they went in immediately without knowing the details of what was inside, they might be discovered by Jian Taiding and Uncle Ming. However, he wouldn't know what happened inside if he didn't go in. He tried to use the jade badge to look for little creatures, but once again, there were no such creatures present.

Yu Yanluo took out a sparkling and translucent stone. It was the recording stone from before. She gestured for Zu An to hide in a corner with her, then carefully extended the recording stone. It wasn't big at all, so unless the two villains focused on their direction, they wouldn't notice anything.

Then, she took out another recording stone carved with some complicated runes. She arranged the two pieces in a special manner, and a soft beam of light emerged from them and hit the wall on the other side.

The image displayed a clear scene. It was a spacious area the size of several soccer fields. Because of the surrounding light blue ice, there was good visibility in the cave.

Sharp icicles that were several meters long hung overhead. Some fell from time to time, dropping from several dozen meters above. Even a cultivator might be impaled to death if they were caught off guard. However, when the dangerous icicles hit the ground, they exploded into endless shards of ice, but the floor below took no damage at all.

The ground was somewhat rugged, with strange stones everywhere. However, there was a pool deep inside the area. Above the pool hung a giant icicle that was several dozen meters long.

Calling it an icicle wasn't all that suitable, however, because it looked more like one of the stalactites from the karst caves in the south. But the area was bitterly cold, so how could there be stalactites? The icicle was much larger than the others, weighing down on the area like Mt. Tai. It almost felt as if the entire place would be destroyed if it fell.

However, Zu An and Yu Yanluo were more curious about something else. How could there be a pool in such a cold place? It should have frozen over a long time ago.

Meanwhile, Jian Taiding and Uncle Ming were standing in front of the pool, staring at it in a daze.

"I really did not want to come back here again." Jian Taiding's voice was shaking a bit; perhaps it was because of the cold, or because of his guilt.

"I did not want to either," Uncle Ming added after having remained silent for some time. "But we have no choice because of that imposter."

"Then I will have to trouble you to go down. I am still injured, so I might not be able to endure the cold pool's power," Jian Taiding said as he looked toward the pool; he was clearly a bit apprehensive.

Uncle Ming was a bit hesitant, but he still nodded and replied, "Fine!"

He made some preparations, and after warming himself up, he jumped straight into the pool. A while later, he returned with a large chunk of ice. He was dripping wet, and the water began to freeze at a visible rate as soon as he climbed ashore.

He immediately used his ki while moving toward a bonfire that had already been prepared beforehand. Only then did he snap out of his daze and exclaim, "Second master, the duke's corpse is still here. That man was an imposter after all!"

### **Chapter 1073: Unrequited Love**

"A corpse!" Zu An and Yu Yanluo exclaimed as they exchanged a look. Zu An saw the bitterness in her eyes. They had finally found her husband's whereabouts, but he was already an ice-cold corpse.

Comparatively speaking, Zu An was a bit happier to hear that news. He hadn't been all that friendly with Cloudcenter Duke. Now that they had found out the truth, Cloudcenter Commandery's situation had been decided. His mission could be considered complete.

The two of them looked at the chunk of ice Uncle Ming had dragged out of the water. It was about the size of a person, and there was a man lying inside, sealed in thick layers of ice. However, the ice was clear and translucent, so one could still vaguely make out the face of the one inside. His complexion was pale, but his brows were thick and his face was broad. The hint of prestige he still gave off spoke of the brilliance he'd had when he was still alive.

It was the person Zu An had been impersonating, so how could he not recognize the man? It was Cloudcenter Commandery's Jian Yanyou!

"Why is he frozen?" Jian Taiding looked at the frozen sculpture before him in confusion. He even reached out his hand to touch it, but he immediately pulled his hand back after he felt its bone-chilling cold.

"This cold pool is extremely cold. It is not all that strange for him to have frozen over." Uncle Ming leaned against the fire, shivering as he spoke.

"But the cold pool itself has not frozen over..." Jian Taiding still couldn't dispel his doubts. It would be one thing if the corpse had frozen over when it left the waters, but it was far too strange for a layer of ice to have formed while it was inside the water.

"Do you think it might be due to the residual effects of Frozen Soul?" Uncle Ming remarked. He was practically touching the fire at that point. Only then did he feel a bit of warmth as his body slowly began to recover.

Zu An was alarmed when he heard that name. He had personally experienced Frozen Soul.

Previously, the Imperial Hospital's Commissioner Assistant Ma An had used that poison to scheme against him. At the time, he had been extremely confident, saying he could poison even master rank cultivators. Did the Frozen Soul their targets were talking about have anything to do with Ma An?

When he had interrogated Ma An, he had learned that the other party seemed to be someone from the Shadow Group. Were Jian Taiding and Uncle Ming connected to the Shadow Group?



Zu An sneered in ridicule inwardly. The power of this world's court had tremendous authority, and they had squeezed out most of the world's sects. But even though there were no more sects on the surface, there were still many organizations in the underground world!

For example, the Shadow Group and the Hub of Freedom were both extremely mysterious.

Just then, Jian Taiding's voice pulled Zu An out of his thoughts. "That is indeed a possibility. To be honest, that 'Frozen Soul' really is powerful. If we had not had the help of that poison, even all of us combined would not have been a match for my older brother."

Uncle Ming reminded him, "Second master, you need to be more careful. Since that person could give us the Frozen Soul to act against the master, there is a good chance that he will use the same poison against you too."

Zu An was confused. He thought, That person? Who is Uncle Ming talking about?

Judging from what they were saying, it seemed there was someone else hiding behind the scenes. Was it the same person as the true mastermind he had sensed before?

"Hmph; of course I know the danger of Hu Moupi's schemes. But as long as I can fully seize this duke position, I will be the emperor in Cloudcenter Commandery. What can he even do to me?"

"You will not have that chance!" a voice exclaimed coldly. Yu Yanluo was already walking over with a frigid expression.

How could she still hold herself back? The corpse of the one who had been her husband in name, but had actually been her good friend, was right before her; and yet, the killer was shooting his mouth off.

Zu An didn't feel that there was anything wrong with Yu Yanluo's actions either. They had already gathered the proof they needed. Hiding further was meaningless. It was already time to bring the two to justice.

Either way, Jian Taiding was seriously injured, while Uncle Ming only had eight ranks of cultivation. Having Yu Yanluo by his side would be more than enough to subdue them.

Zu An was about to offer his support when Yu Yanluo gestured toward him, indicating for him to not act too rashly. Zu An immediately understood what she meant. It seemed she wanted to see whether she could get more information out of them.

Jian Taiding and Uncle Ming jumped in fright. When they saw that it was only Yu Yanluo, however, they both sighed in relief.

"Sister-in-law, why are you here?" Jian Taiding greeted her with a smile. At the same time, he hid the ice chunk behind his own body. "Did you come here alone? It is extremely cold here, which is not good for your condition. What are Maid Xing and the others doing?!"

Yu Yanluo sneered and replied, "It seems you are worried that there might be others here with me."

Jian Taiding chuckled in embarrassment, saying, "Sister-in-law misunderstands me. I really am just worried about you."

"It is pointless for you to keep trying to hide things. I heard everything you said earlier. I did not expect you to have really been deranged enough to harm your own older brother." Yu Yanluo berated him ruthlessly. "Yanyou treated you so well over the years. Not only did you not feel grateful; you even harmed him instead. Do you have no conscience at all?"

When he heard her response, Jian Taiding naturally didn't feel the need to keep up the act anymore. He said, "My older brother treated me extremely well, but unfortunately, he did not give me what I wanted. What I wanted, he could not give me either."

Yu Yanluo frowned and said, "ThImpossible. Yanyou took care of you in many different ways and had already turned you into someone powerful and influential in Cloudcenter Commandery. So many people are jealous of your position. What else could he have given you?"

"He could have given me you, sister-in-law!" As he looked at Yu Yanluo's exceptional appearance, Jian Taiding's expression gave way to madness.

"Me?" Yu Yanluo exclaimed, momentarily stunned.

Jian Taiding gave his older brother's corpse on the ground a look, then suddenly felt the urge to talk. "My older brother could have given me anything else, but there was no way he could give you, his wife, to me. Sister-in-law, from the very first day I laid eyes on you, I had already fallen for you. I did not know there could actually be a woman so beautiful in this world. Not even the most gorgeous words can fully describe your beauty. Back then, I already vowed that I had to have you!"

Zu An was speechless as he watched. A famous quote from a movie in his previous world appeared in his mind. What the fuck? You love your sister-in-law?

Even Uncle Ming shook his head inwardly, muttering to himself, "A femme fatale, a true femme fatale!"

Yu Yanluo had suspected that was the case, but she was still so angry her entire body was shaking when she heard the words come out of Jian Taiding's mouth. She exclaimed, "You despicable being; I am your sister-in-law!"

"I know that!" Jian Taiding's beard moved slightly. His expression was somewhat warped. "It is precisely because I knew I could not obtain you through other means that I could only use force.

"But after I decided I had to have you, I realized just how powerless I was. I knew I was not strong enough, and so I could only watch as the woman I admired entered the arms of another."

Yu Yanluo was speechless.

"From that day forth, I studied with everything I had. Whether it was cultivation or politics, I soaked up everything I could get my hands on like a sponge." Jian Taiding's tone was grim as he spoke of his bitterness over the years.

Yu Yanluo sighed and said, "Yanyou was excited when he told me you were making progress to do better. You were clearly talented, and yet you remained a hedonistic son. Your older brother was so excited to see you return to the proper path, so of course he helped you without holding back at all. But who could have thought that you had such motives from the very start?!"

Zu An also cursed silently when he heard all of that. As expected, women were the driving force for change in men.

“What is wrong with me liking you? It was just that I met you after my older brother did!” Jian Taiding looked pained as he continued, “Do you know how it feels to see the woman you cherish to end up with another man?”

Zu An was stupefied. Jian Taiding really knew how to twist words around... You’re clearly lusting after someone else’s wife, so why does it suddenly sound as if that wasn’t what you were doing?

Jian Taiding’s attitude shifted just then. He looked excited as he continued, “Then, later on, when I went drinking with my older brother, he told me the two of you had not actually consummated your marriage. Do you know just how happy I was when I heard that? I almost jumped with joy! From that day forth, I became even more certain that the heavens still favored me. You were waiting for me! That is why I was only motivated by grief.”

Yu Yanluo’s expression only turned even colder. She spat, “Did you think I would feel moved if I heard that? No, I only feel that you are disgusting. You are a freak! Yanyou was blind to have been so devoted to you. You have completely let him down!”

Jian Taiding’s eager and hopeful expression immediately froze and gradually turned grim. He exclaimed, “I have let him down, but you have not?”

“What are you trying to say?” Yu Yanluo replied with a frown.

“Hmph, you have been married to him for so long, but have you even completed your duties as his wife?” Jian Taiding sneered. “Everyone was jealous of his fortune. They all thought that if they could have been the ones to marry the world’s number one beauty, they might never even want to get out of bed. How could they have known that he had not even touched a single finger of yours, that he was nothing more than a shield to stop the endless masses?”

“Your older brother and I were good friends. He was willing to help me. That is not something you should be concerned with,” Yu Yanluo said indifferently.

“Hah, I could turn those words right back at you. My older brother was so devoted to you; are your actions not letting him down?” Jian Taiding sneered. “Not only did you not fulfill your responsibility as his wife, you have even brought in some crazy stranger to impersonate him and let him sleep with my brother’s wives. Are you bringing any honor to him?!”

Right at that moment, unbeknownst to anyone, Jian Yanyou’s eyebrows trembled slightly.

#### **Chapter 1074: I Don’t Agree**

Yu Yanluo’s expression darkened when Jian Taiding brought up that matter. She said indifferently, “I have indeed let down Yanyou by doing this, but the reason I did so was to find out the truth about the scheme against him. I told Liu Ji and Chu Ji the truth back then, and when they learned what had happened, they were willing to get revenge for their husband...”

“Hah, you make it sound good. Are you going to say all of this was because of me?” Jian Taiding interrupted her. “Liu Ji and Chu Ji are your people, so of course they would listen to anything you told

them. But what about Zhang Ji? She was kept in the dark the entire time. She thought the one she was serving was her own husband, and did her best every day. And yet, she has no idea that it was a random man you took in who defiled her purity.”

He continued, “Zhang Ji has been smiling from ear to ear these days, so I am sure that random man you brought in has taken quite good care of her.”

Yu Yanluo’s face turned entirely red as she replied, “You keep calling him a random man, but my relationship with him is pure. Everything we did was for the sake of finding out the truth, to help Yanyou take revenge.”

Even though her personality was generally refined and calm, she was still someone who managed a great clan. She had witnessed countless filthy methods, so there was no way she would let mere words shake her conviction so easily.

“Oh? It sounds as if you care quite a bit about this random man. You are protecting him when I only said a few things?” Jian Taiding’s expression turned sinister as he exclaimed, “Who exactly is that random man?!”

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +444 +444 +444...

Zu An was amused. The Rage points system collected soul power after all! Even though they weren’t facing each other, he could still collect Rage points as long as he was within the vicinity.

Yu Yanluo said indifferently, “You will know soon enough.”

“I will know soon enough?” Jian Taiding was momentarily stunned, but he broke out into laughter immediately afterward, saying, “It does not matter. Either way, I have to take care of myself first. That fellow isn’t anything to be scared of.”

“Take care of yourself?” Yu Yanluo had a strange expression.

“Indeed. I treated you too well before, and yet you did not cherish it at all! In that case, do not blame me for using force.” Jian Taiding seemed to have thought about something extremely wonderful. He looked delighted as he said, “I have decided to obtain you first, then nurture things such as feelings afterward. Either way, familiarity breeds fondness, right? Hahaha... My older brother really was good in every other aspect, but he was just too indecisive. He worshiped you like a goddess, and yet never obtained a thing in the end.”

Yu Yanluo sneered, replying, “You seem sure that success is within your grasp.”

Jian Taiding’s expression turned serious as well. “Others believe sister-in-law is not a cultivator, that you are completely weak and helpless, but that is not what I believe. Anyone who can manage a clan as great as the Yu clan, and furthermore make so many men dance within her palm, is definitely mysterious and unfathomable. Today, I want to test sister-in-law properly!”

As he finished speaking, he rushed toward Yu Yanluo. However, because of his serious injuries, he was much slower than he would have been at his strongest. Yu Yanluo kicked off the ground lightly and her body floated aside.

Jian Taiding calmed down, remarking, "Is sister-in-law not going to pretend anymore? You were a cultivator after all, hahaha! How could a girl I like not be outstanding?"

"Stop calling me sister-in-law; it makes me nauseated," Yu Yanluo retorted.

Suddenly, a sinister gale rushed toward her side. Uncle Ming had made his move as well! Jian Taiding had said so much to her and even seized the advantage precisely to hide Uncle Ming's ambush.

Uncle Ming's eighth rank cultivation was actually quite high. Such a vicious attack from him was difficult to defend against. At that instant, his killing intent even exceeded that of many ninth ranked cultivators.

His attacks were strange. If the other party backed up at all, they would suffer an endless flurry of continuous strikes. His attacks would also become more powerful over time. If they didn't back up, his stored power would still catch his opponent off guard. Even opponents whose cultivations were higher than his might suffer bitterly.

Jian Taiding was waiting for an opportunity to attack too. As long as Yu Yanluo got injured, no matter how much she was hiding, she would still lose to the two of them.

However, Yu Yanluo didn't evade at all, nor did she choose to face them head on. With a wave of her sleeves, a scroll unfolded before her.

Uncle Ming stared blankly. Don't tell me even this flimsy scroll can act as a shield?

Still, he knew there was definitely something strange about it. However, he still had great confidence in his attacks. His killing intent and momentum had both reached their peak, so there was no reason for him to avoid the scroll.

He roared, his aura surging again. Because he didn't know what she was hiding, he didn't dare to hold back at all. However, he knew she definitely possessed some hidden strength. His attack would only seriously injure her at worst; the chances of him killing her weren't that high.

Afterward... There was no afterward. The vicious and ferocious Uncle Ming instantly vanished without a trace. It was as if he had never been there to begin with.

Jian Taiding was stupefied. He had wanted to call out to Uncle Ming and tell him to go easy on her, that he absolutely couldn't kill her; and yet, a second later, Uncle Ming had completely disappeared without a trace. He looked at the exceptionally gorgeous Yu Yanluo in alarm, exclaiming, "What kind of sorcery is this?"

Yu Yanluo looked back at him and remarked, "The two of you are quite coordinated; that did not look like the first time. Was this how you plotted against your older brother, too?" She continued, "Uncle Ming seems to know the Shadow Group's assassination methods. Is he from the Shadow Group?"

...

Zu An was shocked. The Shadow Group again?

What exactly was going on with that mysterious organization? Why did it keep showing up? What was the Shadow Group's purpose anyway? Why did they keep appearing around him?

Just the clues he had been exposed to so far were enough to make him feel apprehensive.

...

Jian Taiding snapped out of his daze. He asked, "Was that technique of yours the 'World Within the Sleeve'? No, you aren't at that level. You used a painting scroll earlier, so you probably created a world within a painting through some secret method, and Uncle Ming must be trapped inside right now. Huh? Could you have something to do with the libationer's mysterious sixth disciple?"

He was a master rank cultivator, after all, and furthermore, he was in charge of the Martial Affairs Manor. He knew more than most people.

Yu Yanluo didn't answer the question, instead replying, "Are you going to give in now, or are you still going to fight? You are seriously injured right now and not my match."

Jian Taiding laughed out loud and retorted. "Your cultivation was indeed surprising, but I have already seen through your methods. Even though that world painting is rather incredible, his real cultivation is only around the eighth rank. Even though I am wounded, I am not someone a trifling eighth rank can defeat."

A longsword appeared in Jian Taiding's hands after he spoke, and he thrust it at Yu Yanluo. However, Yu Yanluo remained completely composed, and a painting scroll blocked the strike.

Having learned from Uncle Ming's example, there was no way Jian Taiding would charge forward stupidly. His figure flickered and he instantaneously changed directions.

Yu Yanluo quickly changed the direction of the scroll. Unfortunately, she was slightly slower than Jian Taiding, missing him narrowly.

She began to feel somewhat vexed and took out a paintbrush, beginning to draw in the air. With just a few strokes, she formed a cage. However, Jian Taiding still managed to evade it by a hair's breadth.

"You are not at the master rank, so you do not understand how powerful the divine sense of a master rank is. You cannot target me properly, so there is no way you can drag me into that painting world," Jian Taiding remarked as he looked down at his chest. Because of his intense movements, there was a bit of blood coming out of his wounds. He continued, "But in my current state, capturing you will not be too easy either."

After a moment, he continued, "Forget it. I was somewhat hesitant before, but there is no need to hold back now." He took out a pill and ate it. Then, his complexion became rosier at a visible rate.

"What is that?" Yu Yanluo asked, feeling a bit shaken.

"This pill is called the Powerful Strength Pill. Even if one is seriously injured, one can quickly recover using it." Jian Taiding spread out his arms as he spoke, taking in a relaxed breath. "I am back! I can feel everything coming back to me."

Yu Yanluo frowned and remarked, "Is that not a fierce drug that will prevent you from reaching the next cultivation rank?"

That medicine was indeed miraculous, allowing one to quickly recover from their injuries. However, the price was great too. Henceforth, all future cultivation prospects would be sealed off, so it was something only those with no other choice would use.

"I understand my own aptitude well. Breaking through into the master rank is already my limit; there is no chance for me to reach the grandmaster rank. Compared to an illusory future, is it not better to instead grasp the present?" Jian Taiding replied. When he looked at Yu Yanluo, his eyes began to burn even more fiercely as he declared, "Sister-in-law, I will definitely obtain you today. We are in the Great Snowy Mountains right now, a place where no one will disturb us; it will be a perfect place to serve as a bridal room. My older brother is here as well, so he can be the witness to our bond."

In front of my older brother... He discovered that he was becoming even more excited when he thought of that.

"Shameless!" Yu Yanluo exclaimed. Her entire body was shaking. Her paintbrush quickly moved around. She wanted to restrain him before his strength completely recovered.

Jian Taiding didn't panic at all. Instead, he evaded leisurely while saying, "Sister-in-law, this time, you have bitten off more than you can chew. Even though your abilities are quite miraculous, you did not expect me to have such a rare pill.

"Sister-in-law, please do not throw a tantrum anymore. There is no one else here in the Great Snowy Mountains. No one will come to save you even if you shout yourself hoarse. Rather than being forced to do it, why not just happily accept it? Would it not be a much more wonderful thing if we joined together in harmony?"

He took out his xiao and was about to play a song. However, the painful lesson he had learned the previous time stopped him.

"Pah!" Yu Yanluo scoffed. She didn't pay him any more attention and instead focused on attacking.

"Sister-in-law, why do you have to be like this? I have already said I want you today, so not even the heavens above can save you now!" Jian Taiding exclaimed, beginning to breathe more rapidly. He was so impatient he hadn't even waited for his strength to completely recover before charging over.

But a second later, he felt alarmed and sensed an attack. He quickly dodged to the side, but the other party was too fast. Even though his soul had given him a warning beforehand, his strength hadn't fully recovered yet, making him just a bit too late.

Spurt!

Blood sprayed out from Jian Taiding's mouth as he was struck in the mid-back, sustaining a serious injury. He then fell to the ground in ruin. He stared at the person behind him in horror.

"What, did you really think you'd have her just because you said so?" Zu An gave him an indifferent look. "I don't agree!"

### **Chapter 1075: Marriage Due to Unintended Pregnancy**

"It's you!" Jian Taiding exclaimed, feeling horrified when he saw who it was.

Jian Yanyou's corpse was still there, so there was no need for Zu An to pretend anymore. As such, he had returned to his previous appearance. Even though he hadn't revealed his identity back then in the battle at the Zhenyuan Merchant Group, he had brought out the imperial edict, so it wasn't hard to guess who he was.

Jian Taiding hadn't believed he wasn't strong enough at the time; rather, he believed he had lost because Zu An was too cunning. And yet this time, he had once again suffered badly at Zu An's hands, and it was once again from a surprise attack. He almost vomited blood when he thought about how he had almost been done in twice in a row, and furthermore in the same way.

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +666 +666 +666...

Zu An pretended to have just recognized him, feigning surprise as he exclaimed, "Isn't this Second Master Jian over here? Why are you fighting with your sister-in-law?"

Jian Taiding stopped breathing for a moment, but he still endured his rage and asked, "There was a bit of a misunderstanding between me and my sister-in-law. We were just exchanging some pointers, we weren't really fighting. Right, when did Sir Zu arrive?"

"Oh, I've been here for a little while already. I heard everything you guys said just now." Zu An seemed as if he were talking about something completely insignificant.

Jian Taiding was stunned. His face darkened as he exclaimed, "Are you messing with me?"

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +233 +233 +233...

Zu An's smile faded as he replied, "Clearly, you were the one messing with me first."

"Since you already arrived a while ago, why did you not interfere earlier? Why did you wait until I took the pill before you attacked?" Jian Taiding looked gloomy. If he had known it was going to be like this, he wouldn't even have eaten that pill! He had ended up ruining his cultivation prospects for nothing. When he realized that, he was furious.

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +888 +888 +888...

"How could I have witnessed such an amusing situation if I interfered earlier?" Zu An replied with a shrug. "I might have kept watching for a bit longer if you didn't eat that powerful whatever pill."

Jian Taiding coughed intensely, spitting out quite a bit of blood. He knew everything was already over. When he realized that, however, his mind actually cleared up somewhat. He looked at the completely unsurprised Yu Yanluo and realized something, asking, "Sister-in-law, he arrived together with you, no?"

Yu Yanluo didn't reply, but she didn't refute Jian Taiding either. Seeing that, Jian Taiding thought things over for a while, then asked, "He is that imposter, right?"

Yu Yanluo opened her mouth, but she didn't know how to reply. However, Jian Taiding already had his answer even without her response. His expression turned strange when he looked at Zu An. He asked, "How do those sisters-in-law of mine taste?"

Zu An frowned and replied, "They're your sisters-in-law. Aren't you being really weird by talking about them with that kind of tone?"



"I am the weird one?" Jian Taiding roared with laughter. "You are right; I have always desired them, but those were only thoughts. I did not act on them. The one who really did that was you, so why am I the weirdo?"

Zu An sighed and said, "You killed your brother and wanted to possess your sisters-in-law; is that not weird enough?"

Jian Taiding looked as if he had gone mad. He retorted, "So what if I possess them? My older brother is my blood brother; is it not normal for the younger brother to succeed the older brother when he passes?!"

Yu Yanluo finally couldn't take it any longer. She berated him, "So you still remember that he is your blood brother? You killed your own older brother, and yet you still have the nerve to say you are succeeding him?"

"So what? The same blood flows through our veins. Even if I helped my sisters-in-law bear children, the blood that flows through them would be the blood of our Jian clan. Meanwhile, this man is merely an outsider; they would all end up as random mutts!" Jian Taiding roared, "If my older brother's spirit were still here, he would definitely rather accept me than some random man from outside the clan!"

Yu Yanluo was completely stupefied by those words. She said with a frown, "He has already gone completely mad."

"I have not. My mind is clearer than ever before now." Jian Taiding waved his hands in frustration; he seemed extremely unhappy to hear Yu Yanluo's remark. He continued, "This random man has defiled those three sisters-in-law; I am sure you will not be able to escape his clutches soon either! Honestly, I am really jealous of him. He ended up doing everything I wanted to do."

Zu An was speechless. Are you praising me or are you mocking me?

Suddenly, he seemed to see Jian Yanyou's fingers twitch in the block of ice out of the corner of his eye. And yet, when he stared at it, there was nothing strange at all.

Was it a trick of the light? Zu An thought. He was confused, but he assumed he had just been seeing things. The two of them weren't that far from each other, and he couldn't sense even a trace of aura from Jian Yanyou.

Furthermore, Jian Taiding and Uncle Ming had poisoned Jian Yanyou before, and he had been submerged in the cold pool for so long. How could someone in that condition still be alive?

Yu Yanluo said, "You should give up on trying to drive a wedge between us. We have proof of your scheme against your older brother, so I will now escort you back and leave you to the Imperial Envoy to deal with."

"You are going to hand me over to the Imperial Envoy? Are you not scared that all of these scandals are going to be completely revealed?" Jian Taiding retorted with a laugh.

Yu Yanluo frowned. Even though she didn't regret doing the things she had done with Zu An, there was a high chance that ordinary folk would start spreading all sorts of rumors and gossip.

Zu An suddenly exclaimed, "Be careful!" He grabbed Yu Yanluo's waist and dropped to the ground as soon as he spoke.

Yu Yanluo's entire body went taut. She quickly took out her magic weapon 'World Painting' to protect her. With their current relationship, she wouldn't misunderstand Zu An as taking advantage of her. The reason she had taken the painting out was to protect herself against the unknown enemy.

Sure enough, a dark shadow appeared where the two of them had been. Someone holding a long, narrow sword slowly appeared from the shadows.

"A dark elf!" Zu An blurted out. He had encountered those natural-born assassins back in King Wu Manor. Their ability to move through shadows had left him with a deep impression.

"Shadow Group?" Yu Yanluo exclaimed.

"Madam Yu's knowledge is admirable, as expected," a voice called out with a laugh. "Many dark elves have been turned into assassins by the Shadow Group, but not all dark elves belong to the Shadow Group."

Zu An and Yu Yanluo followed the source of the sound. Several people slowly emerged from the entrance.

The middle-aged man in the lead wore a feathered crest; his body was draped in a green cloak that glittered with multicolored light under the reflective ice walls. He was riding on a giant gray wolf, several times the size of the Amur tigers of Zu An's previous world.

The wolf's killing intent and the sharpness of its fangs were obvious even from far away. It released a suppressed growl, and wisps of smoke emerged from its mouth.

"Gray Wolf King!" Zu An exclaimed.

He was no stranger to those beasts. He had been purchasing Gray Wolf King Fangs for some time to use them for Daji's breakthrough. He had also fought against a pack of such wolves during the crown prince's exam as well, so he had a deep impression of them. Even though the Gray Wolf King wasn't small at all, it couldn't compare to the ones he had met before. However, its aura was definitely more powerful than any Gray Wolf King he had met before.

"Kong Qing!" Yu Yanluo exclaimed as she looked at the man on the Gray Wolf King's back vigilantly. She secretly warned Zu An, "He is at the late stage of the master rank at the very least, but he has never used all of his strength. I believe no one knows how strong he really is. Also, you have to be careful not to look into his eyes. He excels in eye techniques."

"Eye techniques..." Zu An wouldn't dare to lower his guard even without Yu Yanluo's reminder. The two of them had met before at the Zhenyuan Merchant Group. Back then, when he had run into Kong Qing and Jian Taiding, the two master ranks, as well as a group of ninth ranked cultivators, he had already been forced to flee for his life.

As the Gray Wolf King entered the cave, it revealed two of Kong Qing's companions who had been hidden behind its massive body.

One was a charming young lady who was dressed in red wedding clothes. She was clearly quite pretty, and yet the sensation she gave off was strange. Her figure was as light as a feather, as if even just a gentle breeze would knock her down. She was holding a child's hand; the child appeared to be around five or six years old. She was swinging her arm back and forth with an innocent and naive expression.

Zu An couldn't help but ask, "Are you in a rush to get married or something? No, wait, you guys must be getting married because you accidentally got her pregnant!"

Kong Qing initially had a calm and refined expression, but when he heard this, his smile couldn't help but freeze on his face.

### **Chapter 1076: Overexerting Myself for the Lord**

Kong Qing gave Zu An a look, then said in a profound and meaningful voice, "Sir Zu is young and outstanding after all. As expected, as expected."

Zu An had a confused expression. Why did Kong Qing's expression look so weird? Or was it his supposed eye technique?

Yu Yanluo was a bit surprised. She knew Kong Qing was famous among the fiend races for his fierce reputation. She had worried that Zu An had angered him just then, and that he would immediately lash out. She had even prepared to help him if that happened.

However, the other party had only replied in such a low-key manner, and there even seemed to be a hint of praise in his voice!

Jian Taiding was overjoyed, as if he had seen his savior. He exclaimed, "Sir Kong, you came at the perfect time! These two know our secret! Hurry and kill that bastard Zu! My sister-in-law is the clan leader of the Yu clan, so the consequences of killing her would be too great. It will be enough as long as you subdue her."

Zu An couldn't help but laugh when he heard that. He remarked, "Even now, you can't stop thinking about your sister-in-law."

Yu Yanluo blushed and shot Zu An a glare, clearly intending to chastise him for speaking so willfully. But in Jian Taiding's eyes, her expression looked more like flirtation. When had his sister-in-law ever looked at him like that? He felt envy and hatred toward Zu An.

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +233 +233 +233...

Kong Qing looked at Jian Taiding. He couldn't help but shake his head as he asked, "Commander-in-Chief Jian, how did you end up in such a sorry state?" His tone carried sympathy, disappointment, and some other indeterminate feelings.

"Hmph, I was injured to begin with. Then, that lowly person schemed against me," Jian Taiding said. Despite that, he still felt great regret inside.

In the end, it was still because he had been so shaken up by the imposter that he had to enter the cave to confirm things himself. But that matter was top secret, so he obviously didn't want anyone else to know about it. That was why Zu An had been given such an opportunity to exploit. Otherwise, he had a

lot of subordinates in the Martial Affairs Manor, and he had great strength. He could have gotten rid of Zu An without lifting a finger himself.

“Right, why did you suddenly show up here?” Jian Taiding asked, suddenly on his guard.

Kong Qing chuckled and replied, “Why else? We heard that Cloudcenter Duke had suddenly returned, and people all said he was just like the real thing. I was so curious that I just had to take a look, but I never expected to see such a spectacular scene.”

Yu Yanluo’s eyes narrowed. She asked, “Were you involved in the scheme against Yanyou too?”

“Commander-in-Chief Jian indeed requested my assistance, but their plan was so meticulously thought out that everything had already been decided before I had to do anything,” Kong Qing replied. He got off the Gray Wolf King and looked at Jian Yanyou’s body in the ice. A hint of surprise appeared in his eyes, but he didn’t think too much about it as he said, “I am not saying these things as an excuse. Cloudcenter Duke was unwilling to adapt to the times, and there were too many people who wanted him dead. If needed, I would have done the deed without hesitation.”

Zu An retorted coldly, “All of this was just because Cloudcenter Duke wasn’t willing to become corrupt along with the rest of you? That was why you eliminated him and replaced him with Jian Taiding, who was willing to cooperate with the fiend races’ smuggling?”

Kong Qing gave him a look, saying, “You know quite a lot, but do you really think Jian Yanyou was that clean and pure? He was the first one to work with us.”

“What?!” Zu An exclaimed. This was the first time he had heard about such a thing. He had always assumed that Jian Yanyou had refused to cooperate with the fiend races, and that it was out of lust toward Yu Yanluo that Jian Taiding’s ambition had grown.

Zu An had thought that Jian Taiding was the one who had sought out the fiend races and eliminated Jian Yanyou. Now, it seemed Jian Yanyou had been the first one to collude with the fiend races!

“Indeed. However, he made enough money over the years. After he obtained success and recognition, he wanted to wash his hands clean and cut things off.” Kong Qing sneered and continued, “But how can something so convenient exist in this world? There could be no going back after heading down this path. He wanted to go back, so we did him a favor and finished him off.”

“Why are you explaining all these things to him? Hurry up and get rid of him!” Jian Taiding exclaimed, dissatisfied.

Even Yu Yanluo found it a bit strange. She just felt that Kong Qing’s attitude toward Zu An was somewhat unusual. However, she still spoke up for her husband. “Ah Zu, do not be misled by him. I was aware of what Yanyou was doing for the past few years. He did have some dealings with the fiend races back then, but it was within a controllable degree. All of the world’s major clans have done underhanded things. If we really looked into them, we would be able to find something no matter which clan we looked into.

“But later on, the fiend races’ appetites only grew stronger. The smuggling reached a shocking scale, and even large amounts of military goods were leaving. Yanyou was worried that something bad would happen, which was why he ended the cooperation with them.”

Zu An frowned. Before he could say anything, however, Kong Qing smiled and remarked, “Sir Zu, I do not believe Madam Yu has told you about these things before, right?”

Zu An felt somewhat disappointed. Yu Yanluo indeed hadn’t said anything. He had even asked her before about that. Back then, when Yu Yanluo had been confronted on the subject of colluding with the fiend races, she had expressed extreme shock and astonishment. Now, it seemed her acting really had just been quite good.

Yu Yanluo was about to explain, but in the end, she didn’t say anything. Even though her relationship with Zu An was pretty good, it wasn’t on such a level that she would share all sorts of clan secrets. Furthermore, Zu An was a member of the Imperial Envoy, and he had come to Cloudcenter Commandery to investigate a case. How could she just tell him those things?

However, it would be completely meaningless to explain those things now. It would only cause more misunderstandings. She sighed inwardly, a hint of worry appearing between her brows.

Jian Taiding had been watching her the whole time, so he keenly sensed the changes in her thoughts. He was overwhelmed with jealousy. When has my sister-in-law, the number one beauty in this entire world, ever felt so conflicted over another man?

She has never even treated me like that before!

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +546 +546 +546...

Zu An suddenly asked, “Sir Kong, are you trying to drive a wedge between us? You aren’t really doing a very good job. Madam Yu and I weren’t even that close back then, and even now, I have many secrets I haven’t shared with her. How can you blame her for something like that?”

Yu Yanluo had been extremely worried, but when she heard that, a knowing smile appeared on her face. In that instant, she was so beautiful, it seemed as if it would melt the frigid cave.

Forget about the dumbstruck Jian Taiding, even Kong Qing was stunned. This woman really is ridiculously beautiful; I do not know if the clan lord can win against her.

Kong Qing had misunderstood, assuming Zu An had a relationship with Kong Nanwu because of the peacock feather he had sensed on Zu An’s body. It was perfectly reasonable. He had never seen his clan lord give a keepsake to anyone else, and it was a human man who was so handsome and confident, nonetheless.

But he wasn’t someone who easily lost his composure, and he quickly snapped out of his daze. He asked, “Then does Sir Zu know that this one at your side has also had some business dealings with us?”

Sigh, I’m really going the extra mile here for the clan lord... She had better properly thank me the next time we meet.

Zu An was surprised. He quickly looked at Yu Yanluo. Yu Yanluo nodded and replied, “We indeed had some business dealings, but they were just for some necessary goods and medicines, and the quantity was strictly controlled. There were no military goods involved.”

She couldn't properly explain the previous matter, but this matter was extremely important and she had to explain it clearly. She was also starting to feel somewhat annoyed. What was going on with Kong Qing today? It felt as if he kept speaking poorly about her. Was he trying to drive the two of them apart?

Zu An fell silent for a moment. He didn't know why Yu Yanluo had had to engage in any smuggling with the fiend races.

For money? But just the ki stone business alone is enough to make them the wealthiest clan in this world! There's no need to take that kind of risk at all...

Jian Taiding was ecstatic when he saw that Zu An had stopped talking. He exclaimed, "Sister-in-law, do you see now? You and I are on the same side! That bastard is nothing more than a dog raised by the court; how can he truly be of one mind with you?"

Zu An immediately retorted mockingly, "Aren't you a court official yourself? You can be a dog by yourself if you really want to; don't drag me down with you."

He then gave Jian Taiding a pointed look and said clearly, "The lives of humans are lives; are the lives of fiend race beings not lives too? As long as everyone can live better, who wants to keep fighting forever? The fiend races aren't all bad people; the human race has no lack of filth too."

Jian Taiding was speechless. What the hell?

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +110 +110 +110...

In the end, Zu An wasn't a native of this world, so he didn't carry the centuries-old grudge between the human and fiend races. He subconsciously felt that all life was equal. Furthermore, he knew Qiao Xueying and several others... Weren't they all from the fiend races?

Then, he said to Yu Yanluo with a smile, "Even though I don't know why you did what you did, after our interactions, I believe you had no choice but to do it."

Yu Yanluo covered her mouth in disbelief. Her pretty eyes flickered with brilliant colors. She had thought that Zu An might become hostile, and that he might even be a bit bitter even if he let the matter pass for the greater situation.

However, Zu An had actually spoken such sincere words! She had met all sorts of people over the years. She had a good grasp of when others were speaking truth or lies.

Kong Qing was stunned when he heard that. He thought, No wonder the clan lord views him favorably. This man really is different.

But he still coughed and said, "Do you know that what you have said today would be absolutely disgraceful if it reached outside ears? The slightest mistake, and you might not have any place left in human society."

## **Chapter 1077: Paper Bride**

Zu An was stunned, asking, "Is it really that serious?"

Yu Yanluo nodded and explained, "The human race and the fiend races have fought for so many years. The grudge they have established has been deeply entrenched within them by a sea of blood and bitterness. It is already too hard to say who is right and who is wrong. If you spoke these words publicly, not only would the court attack you as a political opponent, the people themselves would reject you. Saying good things about the humans to the fiend races would have similar results."

Zu An momentarily fell silent, but he still said, "I'm not so arrogant as to vainly try to dissolve the hatred; all I seek is merely a clear conscience. Those who see me as a friend, I'll greet with good wine. Those who see me as an enemy, I'll see them off with violence. Like hell I care if they're humans or fiends."

Kong Qing nodded inwardly when he heard that. According to Zu An's words, he could tell that Zu An's definition of 'friend' didn't discriminate. As long as someone from the fiend races could get along with him, they could become his friend as well. No wonder the clan lord favors this man; he isn't as stubborn or narrow-minded as most humans.

Yu Yanluo gave Zu An a few looks, as if she were getting to know him for the first time again. There was a hint of happiness in her eyes, but it was accompanied by worry. Such a nature was too easy for those with bad ulterior motives to exploit! Should the worst happen, he'd have no place left to stay among either the humans or the fiend races.

Kong Qing asked, "Then what is the issue here? Madam Yu has done business with the fiend races in the past, while this Brother Zu has no prejudice toward the fiend races, unlike most humans. There is no conflict between us at all. We should not be enemies and should instead cooperate as friends."

Zu An chuckled and replied, "You're trying to persuade the court's Imperial Envoy to do dirty things with you. Aren't you being a bit too optimistic?"

Yu Yanluo also said, "Those who walk different paths cannot make plans together. I will never work with you."

Kong Qing's face darkened and he remarked, "That makes things a lot harder."

Jian Taiding, who was off to the side, finally couldn't take it anymore. "Brother Kong, why do you keep chatting away with them as if you are their friend? Hurry up and get rid of them already; otherwise, the longer we stall, the more variables will be added to the mix. Who knows if they arranged for more reinforcements to come here?"

He had been seriously injured before, but the Powerful Strength Pill had helped him recover to his former strength. After that, however, he had been seriously injured again. Not only had he eaten the Powerful Strength Pill for nothing; the drug's vicious side effects, together with his serious injuries, had also made him weaker than ever before. He obviously didn't want to stay in this blasted place any longer than he had to.

When he saw that Kong Qing was even suggesting cooperation, his soul almost left his body. What if the two of them had agreed? What was he supposed to do then?

But he was completely powerless to change anything at the moment. Only by returning to Cloudcenter Commandery would he have resources at his disposal to use. Once that happened, he would have the confidence to cooperate with Kong Qing. That was why he urged Kong Qing to finish the two off sooner.

Zu An took the chance to send Yu Yanluo a voice transmission. “Madam, help me stall for some time; I will use the emperor’s power to deal with them.”

This Kong Qing was deep and immeasurable, and the ones who followed him also had mysterious and profound auras. Apart from the child, their cultivations were all higher than Uncle Ming’s. With such a lineup, he and Yu Yanluo were definitely not their match. That was why he wanted to subdue them all in one go using a single move.

Yu Yanluo replied, “Alright; I will do my best. You should hurry.”

Her pretty brows furrowed, and she felt a bit distressed. None of their opponents seemed to be weaker than her, and she still had Kong Qing, the late-stage master rank cultivator, to worry about. Even though she had her exceptional ‘World Painting’ magical weapon and her unique skill, she didn’t know whether it could stop the attacks of so many powerful cultivators. She suspected she could only stall for three breaths of time if they attacked at full force. Unless...

Kong Qing suspected that the two of them were communicating when he saw their lips move slightly. As such, he suggested, “Brother Zu, how about we make an agreement? I will not attack you, and you will not use that imperial edict. What do you say?”

Even though he had left ahead of time back at Zhenyuan Merchant Group, the summoning of the imperial edict had caused a huge commotion, so he had naturally sensed it. Later on, it was easy enough for him to find out what had happened.

Zu An was stunned. He had never expected Kong Qing to propose such a request.

Jian Taiding shouted, “Brother Kong, have you gone mad? Why would you make that kind of agreement?!” As a master rank cultivator, he naturally knew the power of the imperial edict well.

However, the precondition was that it took a long time to charge. For someone like Kong Qing, who was at the late stage of the master rank, the time it took to summon the imperial edict would already be enough for him to kill Zu An several times over. That was why the agreement was completely unnecessary.

Yu Yanluo was quite surprised too. She had felt Kong Qing’s attitude towards Zu An was strange from the very start. Now, she was even more certain of that.

When he saw the others’ surprised expressions, Kong Qing smiled and said, “Brother Zu, you are a good friend of our clan lord, and I do not want to ruin our relationship over something like this. If you do not use the imperial edict, I will not attack. If you can win against these subordinates of mine, I will immediately leave. If you lose, you will have to agree to work with us. What do you say?”

Jian Taiding was shocked and furious. He exclaimed, “Hah, so it turns out this little bastard was already colluding with the fiend races! And yet, he kept shouting and denouncing me. Do you have no sense of shame?!”

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +574 +574 +574...

He felt terribly wronged. He had always had to work with the fiend races in secret before, and these people had always criticized him from atop their high horses.



And yet after all of that, it turned out they had been working with the fiend races too?! And it was even with someone as high up as their freaking clan leader?!

What the hell is this?!

Yu Yanluo also gave Zu An a strange look. She muttered to herself, "Clan lord?" Never could she have imagined that this fellow would actually have something to do with the clan lord of a fiend race clan!

But ever since she had first met him, he'd always had all kinds of beautiful girls around him. Ji Xiaoxi by Brightmoon City's city outskirts, Chu First Miss... Now, even a clan lord of the fiend races seemed to be close to him! Even her own relationship with him was much closer than her relationship with other men.

Was he born for courting girls?

Zu An was a bit confused, but he quickly realized that Kong Qing was talking about Kong Nanwu. Kong Qing had probably sensed the peacock feather he carried when they last met. No wonder he seems so different today. Wait, is he misunderstanding something?

Kong Qing didn't pay any attention to Jian Taiping's clamoring and continued to look at Zu An, saying, "You are the clan lord's good friend, so we naturally cannot treat you like a commoner. Even if you lose and you have to cooperate with us, it will not be anything too terrible."

Zu An was still thinking to himself, but Yu Yanluo instead spoke up and said, "Fine, we agree."

"Madam!" Zu An exclaimed in alarm. How can you casually agree to this kind of thing?

Yu Yanluo shook her head and spoke to him through ki transmission. "The imperial edict would take too long. I might not be able to stop them long enough for you to use it. If Kong Qing does not get involved, we will still have a fighting chance. We need to get through this crisis first."

"Alright, we'll go with madam's suggestion," Zu An replied with a smile.

Yu Yanluo blushed a bit. No wonder this guy has such good luck with women. He really is good at teasing.

But with her appearance and reputation, it wasn't as if she hadn't seen even more brilliant methods. And yet, those methods had only made her feel awkward and guarded, and only this man could make her feel the way she felt at the moment.

"Hahaha!" Kong Qing laughed and said, "Madam Yu is a decisive woman after all. Please do be careful, however. My companions are quite extraordinary in their own right. You two might not necessarily be able to win against them."

The Gray Wolf King released a low, throaty and began to approach them, its eyes flickering with murderous intent.

The dark elf raised his long and slender sword. He licked it with his scarlet tongue, killing intent oozing out from his presence.

Meanwhile, the woman dressed in red wedding clothes first led the child to a corner to wait there. Then, she leisurely walked over to her companions' side.

Zu An and Yu Yanluo stood side by side too.

“Be careful!”

“Be careful!”

Both of them warned each other at the same time. They couldn't help but smile when they realized that.

Damn these adulterers! Jian Taiding ground his teeth in anger. However, his thoughts were preoccupied. What exactly is Kong Qing trying to do here? Don't tell me he plans to abandon me?

Both sides stood some distance apart for a long time. The dark elf was the first to grow impatient, however, exclaiming, “I will go first!”

Then, he disappeared into the shadow of the Gray Wolf King. He appeared next to Yu Yanluo a second later, thrusting his sword at her waist at a sinister angle without a shred of mercy for the fairer sex.

Yu Yanluo didn't panic at all, and instead took out her World Painting to protect herself. It immediately enveloped the dark elf, absorbing him into the painting. However, she didn't seem happy about that at all and instead voiced her surprise.

“Be careful!” Zu An suddenly grabbed her waist and evaded off to the side. At the same time, his finger thrust out, flicking away the slender sword as it came from a different direction.

Yu Yanluo quickly looked at her own drawing. There was a dark elf inside, but that figure's body began to ripple, eventually turning into a paper cutout.

Jian Taiding watched as the sister-in-law he was obsessed with let her waist be taken by another man's arm, without even being offended in the slightest, almost as if she had already gotten used to that level of bodily contact. He immediately vomited blood from anger.

However, he was still a formidable person in his own right and quickly set aside his jealousy. Instead, he looked at the woman in the red dress on the other side. Even though he was seriously injured, his sight as a master rank still remained. He could immediately tell that the woman had made that move just now.

“Familiars crafted through paper, and such a unique outfit... Could you perhaps be the rumored ‘Paper Bride’?” Yu Yanluo's expression turned extremely serious when she looked at that woman in the bridal clothes.

## **Chapter 1078: Heart Carved Out**

“Paper Bride?” Zu An exclaimed, stunned. Even though he had spent quite some time in this world, he still didn't know too much about many of its outstanding talents.

Seeing that Paper Bride wasn't in a rush to make another move, Yu Yanluo explained, “Paper Bride is an infamous killer who practices evil methods. It is rumored that on the fifteenth of each month, she finds another man to marry, then sucks his masculine energies dry. Many cultivators from the righteous faction tried to eliminate her in the name of public justice, but even though they had clearly killed her several times, news of her devastating men would reappear soon after.

“At first, people all thought it was just someone impersonating her, but they eventually discovered that it really was her. News of her being unkillable gradually spread, and people thus became more and more scared of her.

“Only later did they realize that she had a rather bizarre technique; she could use soldiers made of paper. The ones they had killed were just her paper substitutes, which was where her unkillable legend came from. However, she disappeared some years ago; I never would have expected her to have actually become a subordinate of the Peacock King clan.

“You have to be careful. Her technique is extremely strange, so it is rumored that she has strength comparable to a master rank.”

Even though Yu Yanluo spoke quickly, her voice was still melodious and gentle, her words clear and mellow. Listening to her voice really was a kind of enjoyment on its own.

Paper Bride laughed charmingly and said, “This pretty big sister really does know me well. Sigh, how great would it be if I looked like big sister? I wouldn’t have to find so many men to marry, I’m sure there would be countless men who would willingly throw themselves at me.”

Her voice was full of envy, as if she felt some self-pity. But even though she wasn’t some incredible beauty, she was still attractive. However, her strange outfit made her appearance seem somewhat eerie.

Yu Yanluo harrumphed. She clearly didn’t want to be compared to someone like Paper Bride.

The Gray Wolf King roared angrily just then, already impatient from waiting. It charged at Yu Yanluo and Zu An.

Yu Yanluo wanted to trap the vicious beast in the World Painting, but unfortunately, several paper cutouts fluttered around, flying in front of the Gray Wolf King and entering the painting in its place.

Seeing that the World Painting had been countered by Paper Bride’s technique, Zu An stood in front of Yu Yanluo to block the Gray Wolf King. However, the Gray Wolf King’s momentum made him stagger even with his cultivation.

This beast was definitely stronger than the Jade Moon Serpent he had met during the crown prince’s examination. Where did the fiend races even find such creatures?

The dark elf moved, appearing from the shadows again. He completely ignored Zu An and went straight for Yu Yanluo. He was clearly a bit upset that he had almost been sucked into Yu Yanluo’s painting not too long ago.

As Paper Bride continued to use her techniques, Yu Yanluo decided to just abandon her World Painting. Instead, she took out a fine brush to face her opponent. Zu An gave her a worried look, but her brush moved skillfully. She quickly drew a magical diagram that blocked the dark elf’s vicious attack.

Her clothes were as white as snow, her long hair fluttering behind her. Even while evading, her figure was graceful. Whenever she brandished her brush, she looked elegant and unhurried. She really looked like a beautiful woman who had come straight out of a painting, and even like a fairy from another world.

Even Kong Qing was a bit moved. This woman really was an exceptional beauty! No wonder she had driven so many men crazy over the years.

Jian Taiding's eyes were even wider as he was stuck in a stupor. My sister-in-law is a goddess after all...

This woman should have been mine! She should have been mine! Everything is that person's fault!

He looked at Zu An with an extremely malicious expression. It was because of that guy's appearance that everything had changed. He had lost his sisters-in-law, and the worst part was that Yu Yanluo's relationship with Zu An was also unclear. Now, everything he had in Cloudcenter Commandery was also about to slip away.

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +798 +798 +798...

He really wanted the others to kill Zu An as quickly as possible. As such, when he saw that Paper Bride was only standing in place, watching without doing anything, he couldn't help but feel irritated. He exclaimed, "Why aren't you doing anything?!"

Paper Bride gave him a look of disdain. This guy looks like he's already had his entire body hollowed out; there isn't even much masculine energy left in him. She wasn't interested in him at all.

Comparatively speaking, the young man who was fighting at the moment was flourishing with masculine energy. In her eyes, he was just like a blazing sun; just looking at him made her entire body go soft. She really wanted to take him into her embrace and bite down on him to suck out his life force.

As such, she didn't pay Jian Taiding any attention and instead fixed her stare on Zu An. A completely infatuated smile appeared on her face.

Jian Taiding was stunned. His authority in Cloudcenter Commandery had previously been unrivaled, and he was a glorious master rank cultivator. When had he ever been ignored like this before?!

The worst part was that she was ignoring him, but seemed much more interested in Zu An. Wasn't that equivalent to another woman thinking he was inferior to that bastard Zu? Is this woman f\*cking blind?!

Seeing how furious he was, Kong Qing explained with a smile, "She is a powerful cultivator who is known for both her technique and her personality. She naturally has her own pride and will not gang up on one person. Second master, please feel at ease. If those two cannot win, Paper Bride will definitely interfere."

They had still worked together for a long time, so he didn't want to offend him for no reason either. Even though Jian Taiding was in quite the sorry state at the moment he still had many resources at his disposal in Cloudcenter Commandery. Perhaps they would still have to work together again in the future.

Jian Taiding's expression eased a bit when Kong Qing personally explained the situation to him. He cupped his hands and said, "Then I shall wait and see."

Inwardly, however, he cursed them. The fiend races all loved to show off. Kong Qing wasn't doing anything, and even his subordinate looked incredibly arrogant. If he didn't know any better, he would have mistaken them for grandmasters from the righteous faction. Hello? Aren't you all from the evil and

nefarious factions? Aren't you guys supposed to be the ones who bully others with unscrupulous methods?

But he was seriously injured at the moment, so he had to act humble and bottle all of his resentment up inside. He looked back toward the battlefield and began to pray that the Gray Wolf King would bite that bastard Zu to death. At the very least, bite off his thing so he can't mess with my sister-in-laws anymore.

With his master rank sight, he knew the Gray Wolf King was around the ninth rank. Furthermore, beasts of the same rank were known to be more powerful than their human cultivator counterparts.

Even though this Zu An has some skills, he is only at the ninth rank. I was seriously injured because he schemed against me. I was hurt last time because I did not expect his body to be so hard...

His expression immediately stiffened as he had that thought. The rosy expressions of Zhang Ji, as well as Liu Ji and Chu Ji, appeared in his mind. Those women had definitely experienced that fact personally.

Suddenly, he imagined Madam Yu's soft body being ravaged by Zu An's iron-hard body, her entire face red as she moaned...

Aaaahhhh! Stop thinking about these things! It feels as if my heart is being carved out, f\*ck!

He looked as if he had just eaten manure; his expression was incredibly warped and twisted.

As if receiving Jian Taiding's prayers, the Gray Wolf King roared. It continuously swiped its claws toward Zu An. It was extremely fast. Only a few streaks of light blue claw marks slashing through the air were visible as it attacked.

Even though Zu An's body was tough, he wasn't stupid enough to face his opponent head on. He quickly evaded the attacks with his Sunflower Phantasm.

Fragments of ice flew chaotically across the floors and walls. The cave was extremely cold, making the ice in it many times tougher than normal ice. And yet, under the power of the Gray Wolf King, it was no different from tofu.

Even though Zu An's movement skill was extraordinary, the Gray Wolf King was too nimble. When he looked down, he saw that a faint mark had already been left on his clothes, right over his chest. His skin was also stinging somewhat.

He realized it wasn't the time to be holding back. He split up into several copies and rushed at his opponent. Every single Zu An looked exactly the same, and those watching couldn't tell the difference at all.

Kong Qing was astonished. Not even a master rank cultivator like him could see through the principles of such a profound movement technique. I wonder where he learned something like that from...

No wonder the clan lord views this human male so favorably.

Jian Taiding was momentarily distracted too. He realized that hatred had completely clouded his mind, and that he had underestimated this fellow. He is definitely not just thick-skinned; just this mystical movement technique alone makes him much stronger than other cultivators of his level.

The Gray Wolf King changed its previous leaping stance and instead spun its body several times. The powerful winds created by the force of its claws were no weaker than sharp sword ki. Its attacks struck everything around it; no matter which one was Zu An, it would just destroy them all.

Jian Taiding was happy to see that. The fighting instincts of high-level beasts made them more formidable than humans after all! The Gray Wolf King had easily dealt with its opponent's mysterious movement ability.

However, his smile quickly froze. Even though the illusions had been ripped to shreds by its sharp claws, there was no blood to be seen. None of them were real?

"Be careful!" Jian Taiding exclaimed as he suddenly noticed something and looked toward the ceiling. If it had been any other time, he couldn't care less if the Gray Wolf King lived or died. But at the moment, it was his best hope of killing Zu An, which was why he had to warn it.

By the time Jian Taiding spoke, Zu An was already dropping down on the Gray Wolf King from above, his fist smashing toward its head. Since Kong Qing had no plans to fight to the death, he didn't want to take out the Poisonous Prick. Otherwise, he might really end up creating a grudge between them.

"Awoooo!" The Gray Wolf King cried out in pain.

However, Zu An didn't have any time to admire his own attack. The wolf had turned into an ice sculpture, and his fist was freezing over at a visible rate too.

A foul smell swept over him. The ice sculpture was still there, but the Gray Wolf King appeared next to it. Its ferocious mouth was wide open, about to clamp down on him.

### **Chapter 1079: Desiring My Body**

Yu Yanluo had been paying attention to the battle the whole time. She cried out in alarm as soon as she saw that Zu An was in danger. "Watch out!"

She wanted to help save him, but that dark elf didn't give her the chance at all. His sword strikes were crafty and vicious, almost seriously wounding her due to her momentary distraction.

Zu An was also surprised. He quickly realized that in that instant, the Gray Wolf King had used the ice sculpture as a substitute, and had even used its ice powers to restrain him. The Gray Wolf King was an ice element beast; the frigid cave was the perfect place for it to display a hundred and twenty percent of its power.

Raging flames surged from Zu An's hand. The ice sculpture quickly began to melt, but it still took time. The Gray Wolf King's mouth was already almost within reach.

Jian Taiding was ecstatic. He clenched his fists and craned his neck, his eyes wide. Bite that bastard's damn head off!

Zu An's eyes narrowed. The Gray Wolf King's body suddenly froze, stopping for a moment. Zu An took the chance to melt all the ice around him before the Gray Wolf King freed itself from its momentary stupor. Both sides exchanged a blow, and were both blown back.

Jian Taiding was furious. Stupid dog! What the hell were you staring stupidly for? Just bite that f\*cker to death! Why did you give up such a great opportunity?

Kong Qing frowned, however. At that instant, he had felt a strange yet familiar spiritual pressure. When he had used his eye technique at the Zhenyuan Merchant Group, he had been stopped by a strange technique. He guessed it was probably a soul technique the other party was proficient in, and that was what he had used to stop the Gray Wolf King's advance.

The Gray Wolf King was definitely getting annoyed that its various attempts had failed again and again. It raised its head toward the ceiling and roared.

Its howls echoed through the cave, shaking the mountain walls. Then, cold winds swept through the entire cave. The previously dazzling cave suddenly became a lot darker. The icicles hanging above also snapped one after another, crashing down on those present.

Jian Taiding cursed and quickly dodged to the side. Just how tragic would it be if he ended up dying from one of the icicles? He might even be laughed at by the entire world. The master rank who had been killed by a falling icicle... That wasn't a title he could afford to have.

However, his eyes quickly widened, because not a single one of the icicles had been aimed toward him. Previously, the icicles had been evenly distributed throughout the cave; therefore, some of them should have fallen where he had been. However, the icicles all seemed to have eyes, flying toward Zu An as if they had wills of their own.

He realized it was probably due to the Gray Wolf King's skill. He sighed in admiration. No wonder beasts of the same cultivation rank are stronger than humans! It would even be hard for me to face it at my full strength.

Furthermore, he could sense that the icicles that had fallen were definitely not ordinary icicles. They carried the piercing cold killing intent of the Gray Wolf King. Anyone hit by them would be hurt quite badly.

However, Jian Taiding soon gritted his teeth in anger. Zu An didn't panic at all, and instead moved leisurely through the cave; the icicles were always just a split second too late to hit him. The shower of icicles had only served to make Zu An look better instead. Even though he hated Zu An, Jian Taiding had to admit that the fellow still had some skills.

Paper Bride's eyes shone even brighter when she looked at Zu An. She looked at Kong Qing with a big smile, asking, "Sir Kong, can you give this one to me to play with?"

Kong Qing's smile froze on his face. He obviously knew what Paper Bride wanted. He coughed and said, "Ahem, he is someone the clan lord favors."

"He has so much masculine yang energy within him; it's not as if I'll break him." Paper Bride licked her lips as she spoke, as if she hadn't heard what Kong Qing had said at all. Even though she was Kong Qing's subordinate in name, she was strong, so she didn't really fear him either.

Kong Qing's expression turned strange. Is this Zu An a human-shaped aphrodisiac or something? Why do these girls all keep falling for him whenever they see him? The always refined Yu Yanluo has been acting

this way too, and so has the clan lord. Now, even Paper Bride is itching to get her hands on him as soon as they've met.

Even though he had to admit that Zu An was quite a handsome young man, he couldn't figure out why so many women would act that way. Don't tell me his charm is something only girls can sense?

At that moment, however, Zu An was concentrating all of his attention on his surroundings. After the icicles had fallen, clouds of white smoke had surged all over the place. The temperature had also rapidly dropped. The Gray Wolf King was hiding in the mist, and Zu An could hear its footsteps all around him.

Suddenly, the wolf leaped out from a strange angle. Zu An leaned to the side, perfectly evading its attack. He was just about to retaliate when it vanished into the mist again, however.

An ordinary person could only follow the sound of the wolf's footsteps to guard against its attacks. There were still icicles falling, however, so it would be easy to become confused and disoriented. As long as there was even a slight hole in one's defenses, one would be caught by the wolf.

But Zu An wasn't an ordinary person. After thinking to himself for a bit, he decided to do more than just passively protect himself. Instead, he suddenly shouted, "Whatcha lookin' at?"

"I'm looking at you, shithead!" A cryptic reply quickly came from a certain direction in the mist. Its pitch was extremely strange, completely unlike that of a human.

High-level beasts had their own wills and could communicate with humans. The Gray Wolf King just hadn't felt like speaking with the humans earlier. But now that Zu An had used 'Whatcha lookin' at', it had no choice but to speak. It was stunned, not understanding why it would suddenly speak those words.

"I found you!" While the wolf was momentarily distracted, Zu An instantly locked onto his target. He used Grandgale to close the gap, and launched a barrage of fists at its chin.

Bang bang bang!

The sound of fists smashing into flesh made the onlookers grit their teeth in sympathy.

Why does he keep hitting its head? Those watching, including Yu Yanluo, were confused.

After all, it was common knowledge that a wolf's skull and bones were hard as steel, but its waist was weak like tofu. This guy wasn't hitting its waist, its weakest part, and instead just continued to strike its hard head.

The Gray Wolf King was initially happy to see that, because its skull was incredibly tough from all of its training, having become exceptionally hard. An ordinary human cultivator might just break their own fists from hitting it.

However, things turned out entirely different from its expectations. With each hit, its skull rang, as if a huge bell were leaning against its head and a hammer had repeatedly struck that bell.

The wolf roared in fury and frantically tried to retaliate. However, it had already lost the initiative. Any ki it managed to gather simply scattered again as Zu An's fists ruthlessly smashed into it.



When he saw the Gray Wolf King pressed against the ground, beaten until blood trickled out of its mouth, Jian Taiding swallowed with difficulty. Is he still human? How can he even be stronger than a freaking high-level beast?

He couldn't help but feel somewhat glad. Even though he had been seriously wounded by the man twice, at least it wasn't as miserable as the scene before him.

Kong Qing couldn't keep watching and said with a cough, "Brother Zu, please stop. It has acknowledged its defeat."

The worst part was that Zu An had never planned to kill it either, so he couldn't just stand there without saying anything. He could only speak up at that point. As such, he stopped when he heard Kong Qing and replied, "Sorry, I went a bit too hard just now. Oh my, it even lost some of its teeth."

He picked up four Gray Wolf King Fangs with an apologetic look, and yet he didn't have any intention of returning them. The four Gray Wolf King Fangs were of much higher quality than the ones he had gotten before. A single one was worth several normal fangs.

The Gray Wolf King gave him a resentful look. At its level, its intelligence wasn't low. It obviously recognized that the reason why Zu An had kept hitting its head was for those fangs. Bro, couldn't you have just told me earlier if you wanted them? I would've just pulled them out and given them to you.

Kong Qing caressed its head and said, "I will give you some spiritual medicines to help you recover when we return. Your teeth will grow back soon."

The Gray Wolf King was on the verge of tears. It rubbed its head against Kong Qing's leg in an intimate manner while whimpering, as if it were a husky who had just been mistreated. It might as well be shaking its tail too.

Paper Bride's figure swayed back and forth as she walked over and said, "It doesn't seem as if the two of them over there will be done anytime soon, so the result will likely fall to the two of us."

Zu An recalled Yu Yanluo's warning and became inwardly vigilant. But on the surface, he had a calm smile. He said, "The lady's clothes are really pretty. Which silk shop did you purchase them from? I should go and buy a few sets for my friend too."

Yu Yanluo couldn't help but shoot him a look even as she continued fighting. Like hell I'd wear such eerie looking clothes.

Jian Taiding felt even more dejected. Those are wedding clothes! He wants to just give them away willfully? Hmph, he is a womanizer after all. Why is sister-in-law not getting upset when she hears that, though?

Kong Qing was worried. This guy is clearly someone who does not know limits and cannot just have one girl at his side. The clan lord might be in for quite the headache dealing with him.

Paper Bride laughed so hard her entire body was rocking back and forth. She remarked, "Cute little brother, your mouth really is sweet. Come here and let big sis give you a taste."

After she spoke, she let out a terrifying laugh. She then turned into a red shadow before instantly reappearing next to Zu An. She pursed her lips and kissed him.

## Chapter 1080: Wedding Ceremony

The onlookers' eyeballs were about to pop out when they saw that scene. Is this motherf\*cker fighting or flirting?!

Yu Yanluo harrumphed inwardly. Hmph, what a witch! She had known of Paper Bride's infamous reputation, but she still hadn't expected the other party to be so... so wanton and unrestrained.

Zu An was surprised, but it only showed through his eyes. Paper Bride's line was something he might say to tease young ladies, so why had the roles been reversed? Even though he was no monk, that kind of preference was a bit too much.

Even though they were both monsters, the capital's courtesan Nan Xun was clearly gentler and more beautiful. Paper Bride's entire being radiated a sense of eeriness, like the scary movies of his previous world.

Wait, could it be because Nan Xun used to be King Qi's concubine...

Even though he was a bit distracted, Zu An still quickly moved to evade the kiss and replied, "Paper Bride, I'm sorry, but I'm rather reserved in nature and I'm a slow starter. How about we chat a bit to get closer first?"

Yu Yanluo nodded in satisfaction when she saw that Zu An hadn't let the other party kiss him. But when she remembered how they had been flirting mere moments before, she still couldn't help but feel a bit unhappy.

Jian Taiding cursed Zu An for his shamelessness. You, reserved? A slow starter? You?!

You have only been in the Duke Manor for a few days, and yet several of my sisters-in-law have already become your shape inside! How the hell are you slow?

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +236 +236 +236...

When Paper Bride saw Zu An move out of the way, she giggled and said, "How naughty~" She sped up even more and only a red shadow remained, making the atmosphere seem even more sinister and eerie.

Zu An wasn't slow either. The two competed in speed and exchanged more than ten moves.

Paper Bride's strength was quite strange. Compared to a master rank cultivator, she didn't have the mental insight that let them anticipate attacks ahead of time. And yet, compared to a ninth rank cultivator, her speed and skills were far above theirs.

"Oh my, how heartless of you. Am I not just asking for a kiss? Why are you treating me so violently?" Paper Bride exclaimed with a hint of resentment. The two of them exchanged a palm, but then Paper Bride quickly jumped back to widen the gap between them.

Yu Yanluo felt goosebumps cover her body when she heard that. Her pretty brow furrowed and she wanted to help Zu An first. The dark elf who kept jumping between shadows was just much too annoying, though.

However, after fighting for so long, she had already come up with a plan. Her brush casually moved around, and a delicate and refined lantern appeared out of thin air.

“You’ve already tried this several times. It’s useless.” The dark elf laughed sinisterly. It wasn’t the first time Yu Yanluo had drawn a lantern to fight him. But even the brightest lamp couldn’t erase all the shadows. As the saying went, when there was light, there was shadow.

He moved quickly and entered the shadows again, quickly reappearing behind Yu Yanluo. He gripped his sword with an evil grin, bringing it toward her bottom. Even though he wasn’t someone who cared that much about lust, he didn’t mind playing around a bit.

However, his smile quickly froze, because he discovered he couldn’t move at all. Half of his body was stuck in the shadow, while the other half couldn’t come out. He exclaimed, horrified, “What’s going on?”

A sweet scent swept over the dark elf as Yu Yanluo instantly appeared right next to him. Her fingers struck his major acupoint. A mouthful of blood gushed out of his mouth. His entire body became limp; he had clearly been seriously injured.

Yu Yanluo hadn’t only sealed off his acupoint; she had also taken the chance to cripple his strength. As the clan leader of a great clan, there was no way she would entrust her and Zu An’s safety to the other party’s proposed agreement. What if the two sides engaged in conflict again? Having one less enemy was always a good thing.

Kong Qing frowned, feeling that Yu Yanluo was going a bit too far. However, his own subordinate was quite ruthless as well, and his final attack had been quite underhanded. Being taught a lesson that way was still reasonable.

Instead, his eyes narrowed when he saw the lantern floating overhead. He exclaimed, “The Devil Sect Master’s Empress Lantern?”

The lantern had already begun disappearing by the time Kong Qing spoke. Yu Yanluo’s complexion was pale as she explained, “No, it is merely an imitation. It cannot compare to the real Empress Lantern.”

Kong Qing was greatly shocked, exclaiming, “Madam can paint these magic weapons that function as if they are the real thing? This ability is just way too miraculous. Even I want to learn how to paint now.”

Yu Yanluo revealed a faint smile. When no one was watching, however, she secretly wiped away blood from a corner of her lips.

It was clear that such a technique wasn’t something she could use at will. The rebound for painting something so miraculous had taken quite the toll on her. Her very soul might be destroyed if she tried to do so a few more times.

Of course, that wasn’t something she could just tell the other side. The situation was still unclear, so it wasn’t a bad idea to intimidate them a bit.

Her attention quickly shifted to Zu An. She was worried that he might be wounded by Paper Bride, so she prepared to offer her assistance at any time.

Paper Bride's movements were just far too strange. Together with her bright red wedding clothes, the sinister red shadows darting around her could easily leave her opponents disoriented and dizzy without even realizing it.

Fortunately, Zu An's movement technique was fast, so he was always able to just barely evade her attacks.

As he watched the exchange, Jian Taiding became more and more nervous. He really wanted to take Paper Bride's place, but unfortunately, he was seriously injured and couldn't do anything. He could only speak up to help come up with ideas.

"Attack him from behind!"

"Get him from below; give that area a nice surprise!"

...

The trash Gray Wolf King hadn't been reliable at all, so Jian Taiding had to place all of his hopes on Paper Bride. As such, he carefully watched how she moved. The woman's cultivation rank was a bit strange; she definitely wasn't just at the peak of the ninth rank.

It almost seems as if... she dropped from the master rank?

But with the strength she is showing, she does not seem to be any weaker than me at my prime. Furthermore, with so much ghastly energy lingering around her, her opponents would easily be corroded by it.

Once affected, her opponent would only be able to use seventy percent of their true cultivation. With such a disadvantage, it would be even harder to win against her, let alone if she used her mysterious and unpredictable methods.

He finally felt a little relief when he had those thoughts. That bastard Zu An has finally met his match.

Paper Bride, suck this guy dry! Once we return to Cloudcenter City, I will give you ten... no, a hundred strong men to express my gratitude.

However, he was seriously injured and couldn't send her a voice transmission. And if he said that out loud... So many people were watching. He still cared about his reputation.

While Jian Taiding was feeling anxious, Paper Bride suddenly screamed miserably and moved away from Zu An. Her palms flew back frantically, as if she had touched something that burned her.

Jian Taiding was stunned, thinking, What is going on?

Why are things going differently from what I expected? Should Zu An have not been corroded by her ghastly energy? Why does it instead seem as if Paper Bride is the one being affected by Zu An?

Kong Qing didn't understand it either. He knew Paper Bride's cultivation better than anyone else. It should have been enough to spare in order to defeat Zu An. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so confident in making his gamble.

But why was it that in this exchange of palms, a simple and direct exchange without any tricks, Paper Bride was the one at a disadvantage?

Paper Bride's miserable screams didn't end. Her palm was initially just scorched black at first, but then it began to produce smoke and eventually burst into flame.

The flames grew frantically, quickly spreading across her entire body, becoming a raging blaze. The flame was an unusual color, too; it was a sinister green. In just the blink of an eye, Paper Bride burned to ashes.

Jian Taiding blinked. Just moments before, Paper Bride had had the advantage; why had she been burned to ashes a second later? He couldn't help but doubt his own cultivation. Why had he made the wrong deductions so many times in a row? What self-respect did a master rank cultivator like him have left?

Yu Yanluo looked away, feeling disturbed. Even though Paper Bride was a little too flirtatious, such a death was still too tragic.

However, Kong Qing remained calm. Zu An also looked in another direction, where a small ice platform lay.

Terrifying laughter rang out from that direction, and a voice called out, "Little playboy, why are you so heartless? I went so easy on you, and yet you treated me so aggressively." A woman in red appeared on the frozen platform. She sat there with her embroidered shoes swaying lightly in the air.

Zu An chuckled and replied, "Didn't you want to get to know me better? How could I not properly test out your depths? Of course I have to go all out."

Just then, he had used the Primordial Origin Sutra. Its second layer had natural restraining effects on things such as evil spirits. He had encountered many such entities in the secret dungeons, and was thus extremely experienced against them.

Previously, he had felt that Paper Bride's entire body was full of ghastly energy, so he had imbued primordial ki into his attacks. Sure enough, the other party's body had been like snow before a blistering sun, quickly melting away.

But now, it seemed the one Zu An had fought against was just a paper puppet.

Paper Bride laughed out loud and said, "Little playboy, your mouth is sweet like honey. This big sister likes you."

Yu Yanluo frowned. Why did their conversation sound so weird?

"Ah, I can't resist anymore. This big sis has to give your little mouth a kiss today!" Paper Bride's clothes fluttered around, and the surrounding environment instantly changed.

The snow-white cave vanished without a trace. It was replaced by a scene of red lanterns and red cloth all around!