

Immortal 1081

Chapter 1081: Clash of Red and White

Yu Yanluo had been watching Zu An fight against Paper Bride. But suddenly, a burst of red light had flashed, and the two of them had vanished without a trace. It left her quite shaken. She quickly looked around, reaching out to sense the environment with ki. However, she didn't sense Zu An's aura at all, and even Paper Bride had disappeared.

She looked at Kong Qing and asked, "What did you do to him?"

Kong Qing replied seriously, "He was dragged into Paper Bride's special space. They will probably not come out for quite some time."

In the corner, Jian Taiding was elated when he heard that. The heavens do have eyes! That meddlesome bastard has finally disappeared!

He had heard about Paper Bride before. Countless experts had died because of her. They seemed to have been trapped within her personal fantasy land; once they were trapped, their very souls had been sucked dry, leaving behind only a hollow shell.

At that moment, he was praying that she would suck Zu An completely dry. That way, there will still be a chance between sister-in-law and me.

While Jian Taiding was in high spirits, Yu Yanluo was deeply worried. Her beautiful brows rose when she heard Kong Qing's explanation. She said, "I do not believe you. How can she possibly form her own domain with her cultivation?"

If it were just an illusion, Zu An's body should have still been present. And yet, his body had completely vanished! That meant he had been dragged into another space. Normally speaking, however, that was something only a grandmaster could do. The space was called a domain, and in their domain, they were the ruler.

To a certain degree, Yu Yanluo's World Painting was also the beginning of a domain. However, her situation was special. Together with the libationer's help, it was because of the World Painting treasure she had encountered in her earlier years that she had been able to create her own space. Even though it was miraculous, it was many times weaker than the domain of a grandmaster.

How had Paper Bride accomplished such a thing? How could she possibly have the qualifications to make a domain of her own?

Kong Qing shook his head and replied, "It is not a domain; rather, her skills are extremely special. That, along with some special encounters she had, is why she is able to create such a strange space of her own."

The reason why Paper Bride didn't fear Kong Qing, even though she was his subordinate, was precisely because she had that trump card. Even he felt some fear and restraint toward it.

Even though he was a fiend, Yu Yanluo was just too beautiful. When he saw her anger and worry, he couldn't help but say in consolation, "Madam Yu, please feel at ease. Brother Zu is the clan lord's friend, and Paper Bride heard that earlier as well. I do not believe she will truly harm him."

"If something really does happen to him, all of you will be buried along with him." Yu Yanluo's expression turned cold as she spoke with a frigid tone. Kong Qing frowned, but he didn't say anything.

The dark elf couldn't help but scoff mockingly, "Well, aren't you arrogant."

At the moment, Kong Qing had the advantage without even doing a thing himself. The dark elf thought, Where does this woman get the courage to say these kinds of things? Are pretty women all so unreasonable?

Yu Yanluo closed her eyes, not paying the dark elf any attention.

Jian Taiding's expression was completely ashen. He had still clung to his fantasy previously, but now, he was completely certain. His goddess-like sister-in-law, who showed disdain beyond contempt toward all men, did care a lot about that bastard Zu.

If she cared this much about me, even dying would be worth it. Jian Taiding leaned against the frozen wall, downcast. The cold coming from the wall made his body feel numb, but he felt even more numb inside. It was to the extent that he even forgot about his anger toward Zu An.

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Zu An obviously had no idea what was happening outside. He discovered that he was in a forest. There was red cloth draped across the trees, as if some clan were holding a wedding.

However, it was a barren wilderness. The red cloth seemed completely out of place amid the withered trees and the dead bamboo. A thick layer of dried yellow leaves covered the ground, and a faint mist covered the forest. There even seemed to be some tombstones in the forest depths. The pitch-black crows on the trees cawed, making the place seem even more desolate and eerie.

Zu An frowned. What the hell is going on? Wasn't I inside a frozen cave just now? Where is Yu Yanluo?

Right, I was fighting with Paper Bride just now...

He pinched his thigh, feeling a sharp pain. His flesh was clearly still there. He frowned. Don't tell me this is a domain?

No, it can't be. If this is a domain, wouldn't that mean Paper Bride has grandmaster rank cultivation? She would've been able to crush me with just a single finger; why would she go to such an extent?

Suddenly, he heard musical instruments playing in the distance. Upon closer inspection, it seemed to be the music of a wedding celebration. However, the music's pitch was unusual. Not only did it carry no sense of jubilation, it instead conveyed a sense of strangeness.

A thick clump of mist surged out from a path leading to the east. There seemed to be several red figures bouncing around inside the mist.

As the music grew closer and closer, Zu An gradually saw more clearly that the figures were an escort for the bride. Some of the escort soldiers raised boards, while some played instruments, as they slowly escorted a marriage sedan. From their clothes down to their shoes, and even their hats, every single person in the troop was completely clad in red. It was quite the eye-catching sight.

Is Paper Bride sitting in that sedan? Zu An thought, remaining on guard.

Just then, shrill waves of Chinese oboe music began coming from the west as well.

The Chinese oboe really was a powerful instrument. No other instrument could overpower its sound. Zu An was no stranger to the instrument; he had often heard it in his previous world's village funerals.

It was honestly quite laughable. Why did the bridal escort also have a Chinese oboe? They really did treat it as an instrument that could carry one from birth to death.

However, Zu An couldn't bring himself to laugh at all. He stared directly at the western path.

As the mist surged outward, the funeral procession slowly arrived. They were all dressed in mourning clothes, looking downcast and dejected as they carried a pitch-black coffin.

The ones at the front had a strange gait. Their bodies moved left and right as if they were holding some kind of soul-summoning ceremony.

Zu An turned around to look at the bridal escort. The ones at the front were singing and dancing in a festive manner. To some degree, their dance carried a shocking resemblance to the other group's. Neither side seemed to have seen the other, and they didn't show any intention of stopping as they moved toward the same spot.

Zu An felt his scalp go numb from the strange music. He had seen a similar scene before in 'Mr. Vampire'. He had already been covered in goosebumps back then, and yet today, he had actually personally experienced it. The stark contrast was simply exponentially greater than it had been that time!

He quickly moved to the side of the road. He had always mocked movie characters for being stupid. Why did they always stand stupidly in the middle of the road, waiting until both sides met? As such, he sensibly chose to hide off to the side.

However, he quickly discovered that he was still too naive. He felt his eyes blur, and saw that the two groups were actually both slowly moving straight toward him. He looked at his feet, and saw that he was once again in the center of the road.

Huh? Zu An jumped to the side again, but his eyes blurred once more and he returned to the center of the road. What the hell?

Zu An's expression turned grim. He kicked off with his toes and flew into a nearby tree. I'm not even on the road anymore; let's see what you'll do now.

However, his eyes quickly widened in disbelief, because he suddenly saw that the red and white processions had actually reappeared in midair. They were stepping on empty air as they marched toward him.

Furthermore, after he had tried dodging back and forth, the two groups had already gotten closer. He could even smell the incense and candle burning of the funeral procession and the cosmetics of the bridal escort from where he was standing.

The white-clothed individuals and red-clothed individuals seemed to be half-jumping, half-walking. Their figures gradually became blurry and indistinct.

The hair-raising music continued as well. Zu An couldn't help but hold his forehead, feeling a bit dizzy.

Damn it, this dance is a confusion formation! Zu An suddenly realized, becoming alarmed. He summoned Hundredwarble at once. With a burst of shrill cries, the processions' instruments all exploded. The vexing music also disappeared without a trace.

He felt relieved. The strange dance, the music, and even the incense and cosmetics had seemed harmless, so it had been difficult for him to be on guard against them. But added together, they would become a formidable bewitching formation. Once those trapped inside reacted, it would already be too late. If it weren't for the fact that he had poison immunity, which had made the last part of the meticulous trap fail, he probably would have already been caught.

When the funeral procession and bridal escort saw that, they all charged toward him.

Zu An sneered, and flames erupted from his hands. These were clearly Paper Bride's subordinates. Since they were paper, they would fear flames. As for the more precious primordial ki, he would save it for Paper Bride herself.

Sure enough, as the flame blade in his hands grew, the white-clothed and red-clothed individuals lost their heads. They were quickly burned away without a trace.

"Paper Bride, why haven't you shown yourself yet?" Zu An called out. He had been on guard the entire time. However, Paper Bride still hadn't ambushed him. As such, his eyes landed on the sedan chair at the very center.

However, no one came out from within. Zu An obviously wouldn't be so rash as to raise the curtains himself, though. Instead, he slowly raised his flame blade and brought it down on the palanquin.

Suddenly, the coffin behind him moved, and the cover flew at him ferociously.

Zu An turned his blade around. However, the coffin lid was made of an unknown material; it was actually not cut in half, and instead flew backward.

The coffin flew over to join with its lid again. Then, the pitch-black coffin opened up like a large mouth, as if it would swallow Zu An whole.

Chapter 1082: Breaking Out

Zu An snorted coldly and used primordial ki to send the coffin flying back.

The coffin was blasted to pieces with a loud noise, smoke and dust rushing in all directions. It could have been stone powder, or something like bone ashes.

Zu An didn't know whether the thing was poisonous either... Even though he was immune to most poisons, he wouldn't be so stupid as to stick his head in to give it a taste. He used the recoil force to back up some distance.

However, the marriage sedan was waiting behind him and took the chance to pull him inside.

Zu An stored up his power, intending to have a final showdown with Paper Bride. However, the marriage sedan was completely empty. It was just him inside. Everything around him was red. Unsurprisingly, he couldn't push the windows or curtains open.

He already had experience dealing with such things, so he used his primordial ki and charged straight through the sedan's roof. However, he was stunned to discover that the sedan was nowhere to be seen, and the coffin was gone. Furthermore, the forest was also gone.

He found himself in a peasant home; it was a small courtyard with a hedge around it, and it had a few simple and crude rooms. At the moment, however, the place was decorated with lanterns and colored banners. The words 'double happiness' were plastered everywhere. There was clearly a marriage ceremony ongoing.

There were more than ten dishes arranged on the table, with people of many different ages seated around it. Judging from their outfits, they looked like the neighboring residents of the village.

Zu An frowned. The people were probably more clones made from paper. Seeing that Paper Bride didn't plan to attack him, he didn't feel like attacking them either, however. He instead looked around for the main villain instead.

"The auspicious time has arrived. Please come out, bride and groom!" the master of ceremonies in the main hall called out after clearing his throat.

A burst of intense coughing followed. It sounded as if the person's heart were splitting and his lungs were cracking apart, as if he might cough them out at any time.

Zu An followed the source of the noise and saw someone dressed like the groom walk over. No, he didn't come over on his own, but was rather being supported by two other individuals. His entire body was weak; his legs moved feebly. If not for the fact that he had two people supporting him, he might have already fallen to the ground.

That's the groom? Zu An frowned. The groom wore makeup and was dressed up, but even so, his complexion was still pale like a sheet of paper, as if he didn't have much life force left at all.

You're already about to die, and yet you're still getting married?

The fellow villagers whispered among themselves.

"The Cai clan's kid looks as if he's already about to kick the bucket. Why is he getting married now?"

"Haven't you heard? The Cai clan purchased a child bride for their son precisely because of his illness. They originally planned to get married after a few years, but this son doesn't seem as if he can hold on for much longer anymore. That's why they're holding this marriage celebration now to see if it can save their son's life."

"Sigh, the Dou clan's girl really is unfortunate. She's pretty, and she's diligent in her work, but she had to marry this sickly guy. She might become a widow soon after she gets married."

"Shush, you came for the food and drink, right? You'll get chased out if you say such unlucky things!"

“What are you so scared of? The Cai clan’s master has already died. The only man in that clan is this sickly son; who’s even going to do anything to me?”

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Suddenly, there was a cry of alarm as the new bride emerged.

“Even though her face is covered, just her figure alone doesn’t look bad at all.”

“You’ve been away for a while, so you haven’t seen her. She’s definitely this entire region’s flower!”

“Sigh, what a pity...”

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Zu An’s eyes couldn’t help but narrow when he saw the bride who had emerged wearing bright red wedding clothes. The clothes she wore were exactly the same as Paper Bride’s. Unfortunately, her head was veiled, so he couldn’t see her face.

Zu An was getting a bit impatient from waiting. He prepared to rush out and seize Paper Bride.

But just when he was about to rush out, the villagers turned pale with fright and held him back, exclaiming, “Young master, you can’t! The bride’s cover can only be undone by the groom, or else it’ll bring much bad luck!”

Zu An was speechless. Are you all blind? Why are you treating me like some young thug who wants to tease the new bride?

He was just about to explain himself when a disturbance suddenly filled the main hall. The groom had vomited a mouthful of blood after an intense burst of coughing. Then, he had fallen to the ground.

Because they had been about to carry out the ritual kneeling, the groom’s helpers had temporarily let go of him. However, they hadn’t expected something to happen in that brief period of time. The two quickly dropped down to support him, but their expressions turned deathly pale. They said with trembling voices, “Brother Cai... is already gone!”

Madam Cai threw herself over to the body when she saw that and began to sob. “My son...!”

The entire place was filled with noise. In the end, the wedding became a funeral. The red cloth and words of celebration were torn off, replaced with white cloth and words of peace.

Zu An realized something. No wonder he had ended up encountering both a bride escort and a funeral procession at the same time, and the two had run into each other. It seemed they had been referring to this moment.

The bride also changed into new clothes, coming back out in mourning clothes. She didn’t wear a red cover this time, so Zu An finally saw her appearance.

Who else could it be but Paper Bride? However, she looked much younger. The hint of bashfulness between her brows would make it difficult for others to associate her with Paper Bride.

Zu An exclaimed with a snort, "Paper Bride, what the hell are you trying to do here? Did you think I wouldn't recognize you just because you changed your appearance a bit?"

Zu An rushed forward to grab her, but the girl shrunk back in fear. He felt everything before his eyes blur, and the scene quickly changed.

There were no more visitors in the courtyard. The funeral cloth strips were also gone. Instead, Zu An witnessed the lives of Paper Bride and Madam Cai, who had become mutually dependent on each other for survival. They would burn incense for the deceased son and husband every day.

But for some reason, Zu An felt there was something strange about the place. However, if one were to ask him how, he wouldn't exactly be able to say.

Zu An was just about to confront Paper Bride, but he ran into a father and son pair instead. The father and son resembled each other; they seemed to be surnamed Zhang. They were the local tyrants of the village. The Cai clan didn't have any men left, so they had set their eyes on the two ladies.

Madam Cai couldn't withstand the pressure, so she ended up giving herself to Elder Zhang. However, Paper Bride was unyielding. She refused to submit to Young Master Zhang. She was quick-witted. Furthermore, seeing as Madam Cai had become Young Master Zhang's stepmother, she made use of that status to protect herself.

But Young Master Zhang was furious, causing malice to grow within him. He sought out a poison. One day, when Madam Cai fell ill and wanted some sparerib soup, Paper Bride helped her make some. Along the way, young master Zhang poisoned the soup.

His original plan was to have Paper Bride poison Madam Cai to death, because with that, he would have all the leverage in the situation. Furthermore, without the protection of Madam Cai, Paper Bride alone wouldn't be able to prevent him from possessing her.

However, never could he have imagined that he had poisoned the wrong soup, instead causing Elder Zhang's death. News quickly grew out of hand. For fear that the investigation would be traced back to him, Young Master Zhang framed Paper Bride as the one who had poisoned his father to death.

Young Master Zhang bribed the county governor to torture Paper Bride into a confession. She was quickly escorted to the execution grounds.

Paper Bride suffered incredible injustice, swearing her grievances to the heavens. Six months passed after her death, as she harbored three years of resentment...

Zu An began to ponder to himself when he saw that scene. Why does this seem so similar to the 'Injustice to Dou E[1]'? He even seemed to have heard someone call Paper Bride Lady Dou before. Don't tell me this Paper Bride is really Dou E?

Suddenly, everything before his eyes blurred. Paper Bride, dressed in prisoner clothes and locked up in shackles, appeared in front of him. She stared at him with pitiful eyes and asked, "Young master, do you think Young Master Zhang should have died or not?"

"Of course he..." Zu An began. Even though Paper Bride was his enemy, after seeing her backstory, anyone would feel sympathy. However, he stopped halfway and suddenly became vigilant.

He had felt as if something wasn't right for some time. Now, he finally realized why. In the clan residence, and even in the main hall later on, he had never seen a mirror from start to finish! How could a normal family not have such a thing? No wonder he had always felt that something wasn't right.

A terrifying suspicion appeared in his mind. He quickly took out King Qi's Mirror of Souls and held it in front of himself. At that moment, he looked exactly the same as Young Master Zhang!

He immediately understood and replied to Paper Bride with a sneer, "This was your plan, wasn't it? You were going to show me your past, then use my feelings of pity to help you kill Young Master Zhang. And yet, those who entered this world would have no idea that they'd already unknowingly become Young Master Zhang. If they said Young Master Zhang deserved death, that would satisfy certain principles of this world. Then, you would be able to kill them."

No wonder those fellow villagers had stopped him. They had known that Young Master Zhang coveted the bride's beauty, because he was the one who wanted to remove the wedding cover.

The scene around him shattered when he said that, and he once again returned to the frozen cave.

The gentle Lady Dou was nowhere to be seen; instead, the flirtatious and sinister Paper Bride was in front of him again. At the moment, there was blood trickling out from the corner of her mouth; she had clearly suffered from an intense rebound.

"It's been so many years, and yet you were the only one who was able to see through the illusion." Paper Bride had a reluctant expression on her face as she stared rigidly at him. "There have been countless experts with cultivation greater than mine, but in the end, they still fell inside that world. Just how did you see through it?"

1. Dou E Yuan, commonly translated as *The Injustice to Dou E*, and also known as *Snow in Midsummer*, is a Chinese play written by Guan Hanqing (c. 1241–1320) during the Yuan dynasty. The full Chinese title of the play is *Gan Tian Dong Di Dou E Yuan*, which roughly translates to *The Injustice to Dou E that Touched Heaven and Earth*. The story follows a child bride-turned-widow, Dou E, who is wrongly convicted of crimes by a corrupt court official for actions perpetrated by a rejected suitor, Zhang the mule. After her execution, three prophesied phenomena occur to prove her innocence, including blood raining from the sky, snow in June, and a three-year drought. After a visit from the ghost of Dou E, her father eventually brings the corrupt court official, a doctor, and Mule Zhang to justice, thereby vindicating his daughter. Today, the phrase "snowing in June" is still widely used among Chinese speakers as a metaphor for a miscarriage of justice. The story was repeatedly used and modified by later dramatists and remains one of Guan's most popular works. 📖

Chapter 1083: Venom Child

Yu Yanluo was shocked and happy when she saw Zu An reappear. She quickly rushed forward to check his condition, asking, "Are you okay?"

Zu An smiled when he saw how concerned she was, replying, "Don't worry, I'm fine."

Jian Taiding was beyond jealous when he saw his sister-in-law grabbing Zu An's hands and the two exchanging a knowing smile. That Paper Bride is complete trash!

Paper Bride couldn't take her eyes off of Zu An as she exclaimed, "Answer me! How did you see through that situation?!"

Zu An replied, "You probably use your target's most unjust memory to create an illusion. That way, they'd feel even stronger emotions. But for me, that kind of mysterious feeling only became suspicious.

"It's because that story wasn't something I experienced, but rather my previous... Ahem, a story I read in a book. I refuse to believe there could be such a coincidence in this world."

Even though he had seen many famous people from his previous world in this one, such as Qin Shihuang, Zhang Han, Mi Li, and the like, this Paper Bride carried too much of a ghost story-like air. She didn't seem like Dou E at all.

Paper Bride had a bitter smile as she said, "I didn't expect that to be the reason for my failure. However, I have to admit that your will is firmer than most people's. Even though many who were competent in ability and wisdom entered that place, even if they were suspicious, they were still ensnared in the end."

Zu An wasn't in the mood to listen to her praise. He calmly asked, "Do you still want to continue this battle?"

"No, I've already lost." Paper Bride shook her head. She didn't wait for her companions to say anything and limped toward the exit of the cave. Along the way, however, she seemed to have thought of something sad. She secretly wiped away tears from the corners of her lips.

Zu An became suspicious. Were the things that had happened in that illusion really just fictional?

Suddenly, the child in the corner began to cry, "Mom, mom! Don't leave me behind!" He clumsily ran after Paper Bride, but he was still too young, still learning how to walk. He fell to the ground after just a few steps.

He could only reach out toward Paper Bride with tears in his eyes. Unfortunately, Paper Bride's mood was grim, and she didn't seem to have heard anything. She didn't turn around at all.

Yu Yanluo frowned. She gave Kong Qing and the others a look, but saw that they remained indifferent. They didn't seem as if they intended to do anything. She couldn't help but sigh. These fiends really are callous.

Her heart softened when she looked at the cute child, and she walked over to carry him. She said, "Be good; don't cry anymore. How about I bring you to look for your mommy?"

Now that the battle was over, with his status, Kong Qing likely wouldn't go back on his word. She was going to return the child to Paper Bride first. Surprisingly, however, her consolation didn't seem to matter at all.

Instead, the baby cried even harder. "I'm hungry, I want milk!" His eyes began to move toward Yu Yanluo's impressive chest, his little mouth also inching closer.

"Ah!" Even though Yu Yanluo was a married woman in name, she was actually completely pure. Deep down, she was more like a young girl. How could she stand something so embarrassing? She subconsciously pushed the child away and said in embarrassment, "Auntie doesn't... doesn't have any of that. I'm going to bring you to find your mommy."

"I don't care! I don't care! I want to drink milk! Waaaah..." The child began to bawl even louder. He began to shake his rattle, as if only then could he calm down a bit.

As Yu Yanluo listened to his bawling and rattling, she felt a wave of dizziness. Her eyes seemed to half-close, as if she had entered a complete dilemma.

Zu An frowned. Which mother would forget about their own child? Even if they forgot for a moment, they would definitely snap out of their daze when they heard their child cry. But Paper Bride had never turned her head around the entire time. Furthermore, the Paper Bride in the illusion hadn't seemed to have a child either.

Zu An felt that something wasn't right. He quickly rushed in Yu Yanluo's direction, exclaiming, "Madam, be careful!"

Once she heard his voice, Yu Yanluo became clear-headed again. She was a clan leader, after all, and quickly realized that something wasn't right. She quickly pushed the child away.

However, the child's hands gripped her wrist tightly like eagle claws. She couldn't break free at all. The child's naive and innocent appearance faded. His expression became mature and sinister.

He was about to go further when he saw Zu An approach rapidly. A hint of regret and annoyance appeared in his eyes. Out of helplessness, he could only avoid Zu An's attack. White smoke surged from his hand, and he quickly jumped back to safety.

Zu An quickly got in front of Yu Yanluo to protect her, worrying about her safety. However, he didn't chase after the child and instead jumped back with Yu Yanluo. "Madam, are you alright?"

"I'm fine. I just inhaled a bit of that white powder, but not too much of it. It shouldn't be too big of a problem." Yu Yanluo quickly examined herself with ki and saw that she wasn't poisoned. She then sighed in relief.

Zu An looked at the distant child. The child's face was incredibly malicious; it was clearly that of a fiend who had lived for a long time, not an innocent child at all.

Gu Long's words couldn't be ignored after all. There were four types of people one must be careful of when roaming the world of warriors, children being precisely one of those types.[1]

The child chuckled and remarked, "Madam is a woman, so how can you not have milk? After taking in my drug, even a bull would produce milk, let alone a woman."

Yu Yanluo was stunned, exclaiming, "This poison is 'Bull Cream'?"

The child was a bit startled. He replied, "I didn't expect the madam to even know of the drug's name. Your knowledge really is impressive."

Yu Yanluo instead subconsciously gave Zu An a look, a blush fluttering across her face. She had learned about it from him when he used it to threaten her. She hadn't expected to encounter it again so soon. Zu An released a dry cough, clearly a bit embarrassed by her look.

Jian Taiding's heart completely hit rock bottom when he saw that. He had thought that his sister-in-law was still pure, that she was only a little closer to this man than most.

But now, it seemed as if the two of them already had a physical relationship! They weren't even satisfied with a normal relationship, instead using such a vicious drug to add to the excitement!

Sister-in-law, sister-in-law... I did not expect you to have this kind of hardcore preference... You do not deserve to be the goddess I thought you to be all this time!

She was a woman he couldn't even touch a finger of, and yet Zu An had already ravaged his goddess like that, even using a drug like that. This is absolutely ridiculous, preposterous!

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +745 +745 +745...

Zu An gave him a confused look. What the hell is this guy going all crazy for?

Yu Yanluo suddenly groaned. Her body trembled, and she clutched her forehead, as if she were about to fall down. Zu An quickly supported her back up and asked, "What's wrong?"

Because Yu Yanluo feared the cold, her skin normally was ice-cold and extremely pale. And yet, at that moment, her skin instead flushed red she was burning up.

Yu Yanluo shrank back from him as if she had just felt an electric shock, replying, "I'm... I'm fine. Don't... Don't touch me."

The child laughed cruelly and remarked, "How can someone afflicted by the 'Bull Cream' I, Venom Child, have created be fine? Don't you feel as if your entire body is heating up, that there's something stirring within you? Your entire body will soon be dripping with sweat, and you'll feel like a mountain torrent that's about to erupt. Eventually, even virgins would be able to produce milk! I said I wanted to drink the madam's milk, so I'll naturally get my way."

Yu Yanluo's entire body was shaking as she exclaimed, "Shameless!"

Zu An suddenly looked at Kong Qing, saying. "Sir Kong, this competition has ended. Could it be that you all do not wish to honor this agreement?"

Kong Qing was also cursing Venom Child's viciousness inwardly, but since it was related to victory and defeat, he couldn't just give up. He said with a smile, "I told you two just now that if you could defeat my subordinates, you would win. At the time, I remember telling you they were all my subordinates. It was you two who ended up overlooking Venom Child, so how can you blame me for not honoring my agreement?"

Zu An was speechless.

Kong Qing smiled and added, "How about this? If you admit your loss and agree to our cooperation, I will have Venom Child give Madam Yu the antidote. What do you think?"

1. Gu Long is a Taiwanese wuxia novelist and screenwriter. 📖

Chapter 1084: Prescription

Zu An's expression grew grim. Things really were tricky now. There was no way they were going to admit defeat, but he couldn't just watch as Yu Yanluo fell victim to the drug. Ah... what a headache.

"Don't do it!" Yu Yanluo quickly shouted. "Don't concede!"

Zu An was stunned. The others' eyes also darted between the two of them.

Only then did Yu Yanluo realize that her words had double meanings. It sounded almost as if she didn't want the antidote. Her face flushed red as she quickly explained, "Cooperating with them is not in our favor. We might receive some benefits in the short term, but the court will find out eventually. When that happens, the entire Yu clan will be finished!"

The Yu clan's ki stone business already made them incredibly wealthy. There was no need for them to take such a risk at all.

Kong Qing smiled and said, "So that was what madam was worried about. You do not need to worry about that. Cloudcenter Commandery's skies are high, and the emperor is far away. The second master from the Martial Affairs Manor here is also one of us. When the time comes, even if the court interferes, they will not find out a thing. If the situation really is bad, we will just throw out a scapegoat or two. Madam will not be endangered at all."

Yu Yanluo didn't pay him any attention and instead looked at Zu An. She pursed her red lips, and her voice was trembling a little as she said, "Hurry and bring me out of this place." She could already sense that her body was feeling strange. Waves of warmth were running wild through her, leaving her rattled and flustered.

There were too many fiends present, and there was that freak Venom Child too. She obviously didn't want to remain in the cave after being poisoned, or else the consequences would be too horrible to contemplate.

"Okay," Zu An replied. He knew they couldn't stay either. He went over to support Yu Yanluo, and her entire body trembled when she felt his physical contact.

Suddenly, Venom Child leaped in front of them and asked with a cruel laugh, "Why are you in such a rush? We haven't even finished our competition yet." He gave Yu Yanluo's breasts a greedy look, as if he really wanted to drink from them.

Yu Yanluo's entire body broke out into goosebumps. She immediately hid behind Zu An, as if only then could she feel a bit better.

"Get lost!" Zu An exclaimed grimly.

"Oh my, I'm so scared." Venom Child jumped backward, shaking his rattle as he patted his chest with a startled look on his face.

Kong Qing coughed and said, "Brother Zu, please do not fret. However, since the competition has not ended yet, it will be hard for me to explain things to the others back home if we let you go just like this."

Zu An frowned. He gave Venom Child a look and asked, "Then all I need to do is to defeat that guy?"

Kong Qing nodded and replied, "Indeed."

Yu Yanluo had already lost her fighting strength after being afflicted by the poison. Zu An had fought multiple great battles in succession, so he was quite exhausted as well. Meanwhile, Venom Child was also a well-known cultivator of the evil dao, and his cultivation was high. He also excelled in poison, something that inspired fear in many experts.

"Fine. A fight it is," Zu An said. He turned around to console Yu Yanluo afterward, saying, "Madam, please feel at ease. I'll deal with this situation quickly."

Venom Child laughed and remarked, "Oh? Kid, you seem to be quite confident."

Zu An didn't pay him any attention. He helped Yu Yanluo sit down first, propping her back up against the frozen wall. He wanted to make use of the cold to at least slightly suppress the drug's effects.

However, Yu Yanluo's entire body trembled when she made contact with the frozen wall. She immediately nudged forward a bit. Her fear of the cold made it so that even in that state, she wasn't willing to touch the ice.

When Zu An saw that, he stared at Venom Child and yelled, "You're courting death!" As soon as he finished speaking, he instantly appeared next to Venom Child.

Venom Child was alarmed. Even though he had already been on guard because he had seen Zu An fight before, he was still startled when he experienced it himself. His rattle moved, then flew at Zu An while shaking.

Jian Taiding nodded, thinking, This brat at least has some skills. His control over that rattle is almost at the level of a master rank's flying sword.

Furthermore, he keenly sensed that as the two small spheres inside the rattle collided, waves of sound scattered, delivering a mental attack that would make opponents react sluggishly. Even he was getting a bit dizzy from listening to it, and he was already at the master rank. Although he was seriously injured, his soul had already fully formed, and yet he was still affected so badly; it was easy to imagine just how great the pressure Zu An faced was.

But he was also a bit hesitant. Zu An had somehow managed to survive all of the other opponents one after another. If Zu An really does lose to that Venom Brat, now that my sister-in-law had been affected by that vicious poison, will Venom Brat really go over and suck on her breasts?

Jian Taiding's face darkened when he imagined that perverted midget crawling all over Yu Yanluo's body. Compared to that guy, it would still be easier for Jian Taiding to accept Zu An in such a situation.

Pah pah pah! How can I have these kinds of thoughts? Once Venom Child wins, I will discuss things with Kong Qing to see if he can leave Yu Yanluo to me.

They had worked together for so long after all, and Kong Qing still had to rely on him for their business in Cloudcenter Commandery. He had to at least give him that much of a favor.

Sister-in-law always rejected me before. But this time, she cannot reject me anymore, right? He couldn't help but swallow when he thought of that wonderful situation.

However, his smile quickly froze. A draconic cry rang out as Zu An seemed to draw a sword from the void, and a vicious glint flashed. The rattle shattered on the spot.

Shatter... Shattered? Jian Taiding thought, stunned.

After all, that rattle was definitely a magic weapon. Furthermore, something that could serve as Venom Child's weapon would definitely at least be earth-grade, maybe even heaven-grade, right? How had it been destroyed so quickly?

His eyes landed on Zu An's longsword. Wasn't that the sword I was wounded by last time too? No wonder that wound was so hard to recover from. Is that sword an immortal-grade weapon?

Zu An didn't notice the lustful glint in Jian Taiding's gaze. There was only one thing in his mind at the moment, which was to get rid of the filthy bastard Venom Child.

When he saw his weapon shattering instantly, Venom Child was horrified. He quickly scattered a dark blue powder.

Zu An harrumphed. A wave of powerful ki spread out, instantly sending the powder flying back.

Venom Child hadn't expected Zu An's ki to be that much stronger than his own. He didn't dare to face the drug head-on himself, so he quickly dropped to the ground and rolled to evade it.

However, Zu An changed techniques extremely quickly. He didn't stubbornly persist with sword techniques and instead sent a palm at Venom Child's head.

Venom Child was starting to become angry. He was infamous in the outside world; when had he ever been put in such a miserable state before? This time, he didn't dodge or evade, instead raising his hands to meet Zu An's palm. A burst of pitch-black energy surged from his palm, clearly containing strong poison. Hmph! You can disperse my poison powder with ki, but what about my Viper Palm?

To his surprise, Zu An didn't avoid the blow at all, instead facing him head-on. Venom Child was delighted, thinking, Doesn't this mean you'll be poisoned?

When their palms met, however, his smile instantly froze. He could feel that his poison hadn't done a thing to Zu An. Instead, there was a mountainous pressure weighing down on his head.

How could his stubby arms and legs hold on? His knees immediately buckled, followed by the sound of two cracks. Spiderweb-like cracks extended out from the ice beneath his feet. He screamed miserably. His knees felt limp; they had clearly been shattered.

Kong Qing was shocked and quickly rushed forward, exclaiming, "Please be lenient!"

But Zu An remained indifferent. He demanded, "The antidote!"

Venom Child was shocked and furious, exclaiming, "Why weren't you poisoned?"

You have successfully trolled Venom Child for +467 +467 +467...

Whether it was his poisonous palm, or even at that moment when he was silently releasing all kinds of poisons, Zu An seemed completely unfazed!

Zu An didn't reply to him. His hand pressed down with even greater strength as he said, "I'm the one asking the questions right now."

Crack.

Venom Child became a few inches shorter again. Many of his leg bones snapped.

Yu Yanluo had rarely seen Zu An act so domineering. She knew he was probably acting that way to help her vent out her frustration. Her expression couldn't help but become somewhat gentler when she looked at him.

Venom Child said through clenched teeth, "Let me go first and I'll give you the antidote."

Zu An replied coldly, "Are you still haggling with me?" His Tai'e Sword was already moving toward Venom Child's head; he was clearly wondering whether he should cut off the midget's ears or nose first.

Venom Child was a well-known villain. Even though he was scared, he still said, "If I give you the antidote first, you might just kill me afterward to curry favor with that woman. Since I'm going to die anyway, we might as well all die together! Having the world's number one beauty go down with me doesn't sound too bad at all."

Zu An frowned and replied, "Are you threatening me?"

He was just about to attack when Kong Qing quickly said, "Brother Zu, please wait a moment. We have already lost this competition. Let him go; I will vouch that he will definitely give you the antidote."

Jian Taiding was alarmed. He protested, "Sir Kong, how can you give up that easily? Sister-in-law is poisoned right now, so no one can help him! As long as you interfere, there is no chance for him to use the imperial edict at all!"

Kong Qing said indifferently, "I have always kept my promises. Since I have lost, I must face the consequences. How can I go back on my word?"

He didn't pay Jian Taiding any more attention after saying that and instead looked at Zu An. "Brother Zu, honestly, I might not have done things the same way if it were anyone else, but you are the clan lord's good friend. That is why I am treating you with such courtesy. Please do not force me to do something I do not want to do."

Just then, Yu Yanluo spoke up in a trembling voice, "Just let him go for now."

Seeing that she had agreed, Zu An pushed casually with his hand, throwing Venom Child over. Kong Qing's sleeves swept out, receiving Venom Child with a gentle force.

Zu An said seriously, "I've let him go. Now where is the antidote?"

Kong Qing gave Venom Child a look. He said with a sneer, "The antidote is quite simple. Swelling and thirst, two dried orange peels. Through them, one long dragon bone to cure all fever and discomfort."

Chapter 1085: Unexpected

Those in the cave were all well-versed in various fields. They quickly reacted after their initial shock. Yu Yanluo's cheeks burned up and she harrumphed.

Zu An's expression grew grim. He stared at Venom Child and exclaimed, "Are you messing with me?"

Venom Child took out some medicine to apply to his legs while replying, "Hmph, we're all men here; what's so hard to understand? What the hell is the purpose of using Bull's Cream? To make girls horny

and want to reproduce, duh. You clearly could've used yourself to help her. Don't tell me you'd make an antidote to miss out on the chance to be with a beauty?"

Zu An was speechless. Even though Venom Child's argument was completely preposterous, he couldn't even object to that.

A meaningful smile appeared on Venom Child's face. He said, "You can drop the act already. That's the world's number one beauty; which man in this world wouldn't be tempted? I even gave you such a great chance, so you should be thanking me instead. By the way, be sure to tell me what the milk of the world's number one beauty tastes like."

Venom Child felt a bit annoyed when he thought of that. He had ended up doing all that work only to help another man reap the benefits. Not only had he not gotten any benefits for doing that, he had even gotten beaten up; furthermore, he had even gotten his knees shattered!

The expressions of those present turned strange. This fellow already brought up sucking on breasts several times earlier. Does he have some kind of obsession with them? But when they saw his childlike body, that seemed understandable too.

Kong Qing frowned. Is this guy courting death? Maybe it is my fault for not explaining things clearly enough. Does he not know the relationship between the clan lord and this man?

Sigh, he is trying to set up the one the clan lord favors with another woman! I wonder just how angry the clan lord will become in the future.

But with how things were, there was nothing he could do. He could only take things one step at a time.

Jian Taiding was shocked and furious. He exclaimed, "You bastard, how can you make a poison without making an antidote?! You are clearly wishing for the entire world to be in chaos!"

He was the one who didn't want to see that scene the most. Even though he thought his sister-in-law had already slept in the same bed as that man a couple of times, how could he let them do it again right in front of him?

Venom Child became unhappy. When he heard that, he sneered, "I'd advise you to mind your own business. Do a talented man and beautiful woman need your opinions? You're probably the one who wants to cure this beauty yourself, right? But look at how pathetic you seem right now, as if you could cure anything."

Jian Taiding almost vomited blood on the spot. He exclaimed, "Non... Nonsense!" Indeed, he obviously wanted to be the one to 'cure' his sister-in-law. But there was no way he would have a chance in the current situation.

Venom Child wanted to vent out some more of his frustrations on Jian Taiding, but Zu An couldn't take it anymore. He snapped, "Shut up. I'm not as despicable as you're making me out to be. A woman I want naturally needs to be willing as well. Why would I use something so filthy?"

"Yes, yes, yes, you're noble and virtuous, you're an incredible person. I already told you how to get rid of the poison, so it's up to you now. Don't blame me for not telling you. She's already been poisoned quite badly. If you can't get rid of the effects soon, she'll just burn up to death," Venom Child spat resentfully.

He had worked hard all this time; and yet, forget about having a taste of the meat, he wouldn't even get to drink a sip of the soup. He was even being portrayed as a villain! We're all men here; the hell are you still keeping up that act for?!

Afterward, he supported himself with his arms, then hopped out toward the cave entrance like a ball. He clearly didn't want to stay in such a depressing place for even a moment longer.

Kong Qing also coughed and said, "Since the competition is over, we will also bid our goodbyes."

Kong Qing was about to leave when Jian Taiding began to panic. He exclaimed, "Sir Kong, how can you just leave? What about our cooperation in the future?"

"Second Master Jian, the fiend races only work with the strong. We do not work with the defeated," Kong Qing said coldly before leaving with his subordinates.

Even though the business in Cloudcenter Commandery would become a bit troublesome without Jian Taiding watching over it, it wouldn't be too hard to find a replacement. Furthermore, he had established good relations with an imperial envoy like Zu An. With his relationship with the clan lord, I refuse to believe that he really will not do a thing for us later.

The group left one after another. The previously lively frozen cave now seemed a bit cold and lonely.

Just then, a moan rang out in a charming and sweet voice that was enough to make any man's heartbeat accelerate and their blood race.

Jian Taiding tried to move over to Yu Yanluo, but he was unfortunately injured. Together with the side effects of the ferocious drug he had taken, he fell back down as soon as he got up. He hit the ice-cold floor.

He wanted to cry, and yet there were no tears. Even if Yu Yanluo wanted him to help her get rid of the poisonous effects, he would still be powerless to do so.

Zu An didn't pay him any attention and quickly moved over to Yu Yanluo's side, asking, "Madam, are you alright?"

Yu Yanluo's entire body trembled. She shrank backward, saying, "Don't... Don't touch me." Her beautiful hair was already all over the place, covering her stunning features. However, her face being half-covered somehow made her look even more enticing.

"Alright, I won't touch you," Zu An said as he quickly took a step back. He raised his hands to express that he didn't have any intention of offending her.

As if realizing that her tone had been a bit too stiff, Yu Yanluo's voice became a bit gentler as she asked, "Bring me back to Yu Manor." Even though she tried to control herself, her trembling voice still revealed just how uncomfortable she felt.

Zu An shook his head and said, "The poison has seeped in too deeply. You won't make it in time if we go back now." Venom Child's warning was still fresh in his mind.

Yu Yanluo vigilantly brought her arms up to her chest. She asked, "What are you thinking of doing?"

Jian Taiding was in incomparable pain. It seemed that what was inevitable was going to happen after all. Maybe it's better for me to just die instead. But I'll still wait for a bit longer. Maybe I can at least get a glimpse of sister-in-law's body before I die.

This was something he had dreamed about day and night, but he had never expected it to be in such a situation, that it would be while another man possessed her.

Zu An knew that Yu Yanluo had misunderstood from her strong reaction. After thinking for a bit, he took out a pill and said, "Eat this for now."

"What is it?" Yu Yanluo asked somewhat hesitantly.

In her opinion, now that she had already been affected by such a drug, there was no reason for him to want to drug her further. Even so, she had been surrounded by flocks of wolves over the years. Her reserved nature made her still have some precautions against such a mysterious pill. Furthermore, this guy was definitely no angel. He had so many strange drugs on him.

"This is a Heart Calming Pill, something Ji Xiaoxi gave me. It can help one calm down, and it can neutralize this kind of drug to a certain degree," Zu An explained.

Yu Yanluo sighed in relief when she recalled Ji Xiaoxi's pure and innocent face. She didn't feel any more doubt and took the pill.

Jian Taiding was disappointed, and yet also grateful. He felt extremely conflicted at that moment.

"How do you feel?" Zu An asked while looking at Yu Yanluo worriedly.

"It seems to be of some help. There is a wave of ice-cold energy dispersing the heat inside me," Yu Yanluo said, beginning to use her ki to neutralize the poison's effects.

Zu An sighed in relief, replying, "That's good then; that's good."

Perhaps it was because things were taking a turn for the better that Yu Yanluo's mood improved. She blinked mischievously and replied, "Why do I sense a bit of disappointment in your voice?"

Zu An replied honestly, "I wouldn't be a man if I weren't disappointed. But I am really curious. If I hadn't just happened to have this pill, madam... What would you have done?"

Yu Yanluo's face turned red. She harrumphed and said, "I would return to the Yu clan of course. Even if I died along the way, so be it. What... Was I supposed to have you save me?"

Zu An sighed and responded, "In order to save madam, at that point, I fear I wouldn't be able to worry about whether the madam was willing or not anymore."

"Pah, scoundrel." Yu Yanluo looked away. She felt her heart pounding crazily. For some reason, she only felt that he was being more honest when he said that. It wasn't like the pretentious hypocrites who had all been itching to rip her clothes to shreds, and yet insisted on pretending to be upright and noble, not perverted at all.

"Look at the two of you flirting with each other. Did you forget that there was still someone else here?" Jian Taiding snapped.

When he had initially heard what they said, he had nearly gone wild with joy. After all, judging from their conversation, it sounded as if they hadn't taken that step yet. However, he quickly sensed the changes in Yu Yanluo's attitude. Now, it seemed that even if they hadn't done it before, it wouldn't be too far off with how things were progressing. At the same time, he was a bit regretful. That meant he would never have the chance to see his sister-in-law's body.

Yu Yanluo's expression turned cold. She exclaimed, "You still have the nerve to say that? Isn't all of this because of you? I..." She was about to say something more, but suddenly, she was stunned. An unnatural blush appeared on her face.

"What is it?" Zu An quickly asked.

"Your medicine... seems to have stopped working," Yu Yanluo replied, half-sobbing.

Chapter 1086: Detoxification

"It stopped working? How can that be?" Zu An asked with a frown. After all, Qin Wanru had also suffered from a similar drug, and it was precisely the Heart Calming Pill she had used to cure herself.

The drug wasn't a poison; it only greatly magnified the desires buried within one's heart. The Heart Calming Pill, which dispelled evil thoughts, was a perfect countermeasure.

"I don't know. I feel... as if that drug is starting to retaliate, and it's even stronger than before. Mmm..." Yu Yanluo suddenly couldn't control herself anymore and moaned.

Her voice was extremely sweet, and yet also charming and seductive. It carried a hint of suggestiveness and desire that would make any gentleman fall off their high horse, and drag any monk back into the secular world.

Jian Taiding stiffened. He was about to cry. What the hell is going on? Why do the heavens keep toying with my heart today?

He had originally already accepted his fate of having to watch his sister-in-law be ravaged by another man, and yet to his surprise, an antidote had suddenly appeared. As soon as he sighed in relief, however,, it turned out his sister-in-law still needed help with getting rid of the poison. He felt as if he were experiencing a mental rollercoaster.

Zu An walked over and grabbed Yu Yanluo's wrist, infusing his ki to examine her body. Yu Yanluo's body trembled when they made physical contact. Tears seemed about to come out from her misty eyes. This time, she didn't immediately pull her arm back like before.

Zu An was alarmed. He quickly shifted his gaze, not daring to look at her, or else he might not be able to hold himself back. He examined her condition through ki, discovering that her ki was surging chaotically. Inside her was a wave of restless heat, squirming randomly in every direction.

Zu An was a bit alarmed. He speculated, "This Venom Child is the creator of Bull Cream. The version he made is a bit different from the drug circling around. His drug is much more vicious, so the Heart Calming Pill alone isn't enough."

Yu Yanluo groaned, unable to help but lean closer to him. She asked, "Then what do you think we should do now?"

When Zu An had touched Yu Yanluo before, her body was always ice-cold. But now, it was burning hot.

Zu An was about to reply when Yu Yanluo tugged on her collar, saying, "I'm so hot right now; it's so uncomfortable. Hurry and think of something."

Then, her arms couldn't help but wrap around his. Her large misty eyes stared into his; her breath was sweet like orchids. "What do you think I should do, what do you think I should do..."

Her sweet voice seemed to possess a kind of mysterious charm, and a fatal suggestion. Her entire body was soft, as if she didn't have a single bone in her body. Most of her body was leaning into Zu An's arms.

Zu An wasn't like the Imperial Palace's Eunuch Lu; how could he not react at all? He instinctively held her tightly.

A flustered and exasperated voice exclaimed just then. "You adulterers! Are you really going to do this right here? In front of my older brother too? Sister-in-law, aren't you letting my older brother down? Aren't you letting me down?!"

You have successfully trolled Jian Taiding for +999 +999 +999...

Yu Yanluo finally recovered a shred of clarity. She cried out and quickly pushed Zu An away, then quickly sorted out her clothing. She was frightened, embarrassed, and experiencing many other emotions at the same time.

Zu An couldn't help but laugh out of annoyance. He replied, "Mister Jian, I can understand what you said about your older brother, but who do you think you are? Why the hell would we be letting you down?"

Jian Taiding roared furiously, "Bastard Zu, if you never freaking appeared, sister-in-law would have been mine! My sister-in-law and I are an ideal couple; we already had very good impressions of each other..."

Zu An rolled his eyes. This guy really was completely crazy. His confidence was already at an illogical level.

Yu Yanluo stood up. Her head was lowered, and her aura was all over the place as she said, "I'm leaving first."

She didn't wait for Zu An to reply and was about to leave. Fortunately, Zu An acted quickly and grabbed her.

Worry and disappointment filled Yu Yanluo's expression as she asked, "Are you really going to use this chance to bully me?"

Zu An sighed, saying, "The poison has already seeped in too deeply; you won't make it back in time. Where would you even go? What if you encounter some other men like Venom Child along the way? What will you do then?"

Yu Yanluo's expression changed when she thought of that. Compared to that despicable midget, it was a bit easier to accept Zu An... Aaah! What am I thinking about right now?!

Zu An asked, "Madam, do you trust me?"

Yu Yanluo bit her lip. In the end, however, she still nodded. Zu An walked over and picked her up by the crook of her legs. Yu Yanluo was shocked, but in the end, she sighed. She acknowledged her fate and closed her eyes.

She wasn't a young lady anymore. As a clan leader, she obviously wouldn't give up her life over preserving her purity. Compared to someone else, Zu An was still rather outstanding in various aspects. It wasn't that hard for her to accept him.

But there was no way she wouldn't have any ill feelings toward doing it where they were. After the matter, the two of them would be complete strangers. She would never meet with him again.

Jian Taiding was about to explode when he saw Zu An carry his sister-in-law that way. He exclaimed, "Bastard Zu, what are you trying to do?!" In the end, this bastard was still going to go after his goddess!

Zu An really was annoyed badly by Jian Taiding, but he didn't have the time to deal with him right now. Instead, he deliberately incited him and gave him a sinister smile, exclaiming, "What do you think?"

Jian Taiding was speechless. He obviously knew what Zu An was trying to do. He had originally still had some delusions, but now, he was already completely exposed.

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Yu Yanluo, still leaning against Zu An's arms, was incredibly embarrassed. This guy really is a rascal... She wanted to bite him, but she was also worried that might instead make him misunderstand something.

While she was conflicted, she discovered that Zu An had instead brought her over to the cold pool.

Does he want to do it in there?! Yu Yanluo thought, stunned. But she thought to herself, That's not too bad either; at least it won't be in front of Yanyou. Even though the two of them were only husband and wife in name, he was still her husband, after all. She couldn't help but feel strange doing such a thing with another man in front of him.

As for Jian Taiding, she felt an even stronger rejection toward letting him see her body. Doing it in the water was indeed not a bad method.

But how are we going to breathe? Our cultivation ranks aren't low, but inside the water...

What if we forget to hold our breaths at the peak of it, and choke on water?!

All kinds of random thoughts filled her head. Yu Yanluo felt as if she were about to faint.

Forget it; I'm not going to think about it anymore. I'll just leave it up to him...

Suddenly, Zu An jumped straight into the water with her in his arms.

Uncle Ming's entire body had frozen over when he jumped out from inside earlier. It was easy to see just how cold it was. Yu Yanluo naturally feared the cold, so she subconsciously leaned closer to Zu An. At the same time, she held her breath, waiting for the frozen water to surround her mouth and nose.

Even after a while, however, she didn't feel the cold pool's water touch her. She couldn't help but open her eyes. Her beautiful eyes immediately widened. She saw that they seemed to be in a transparent bubble that pushed all of the water away.

The dark blue waters undulated, giving off a strange and beautiful sensation. She could vaguely make out a few silvery white fish swimming around. They seemed to be drawn to the bubble the two of them were in, continuously swimming around it. From time to time, they even moved over to nibble at the bubble.

Yu Yanluo was alarmed. At that moment, she had actually forgotten about her poison. She reached out her hand out of curiosity to gently touch the bubble. It was soft, and yet also extremely elastic.

The small fish were alarmed and quickly swam into the water depths. However, when they saw that Yu Yanluo wasn't chasing after them, they stopped out of curiosity, once again swimming around the bubble.

"How are you doing this?" Yu Yanluo asked as she raised her head to look at the man beside her. Her beautiful eyes shone brilliantly.

Zu An was a bit stunned. Looks like women don't have much resistance against these kinds of scenes after all. Bi Linglong was also extremely excited last time.

Sigh, the entertainment in this world really is lacking. Even people at the top of this world like her are so amazed.

In his previous world, even common people could go to an ocean museum to see what the seabed looked like.

When he sensed the heat coming from the body of the beauty in his arms, Zu An said urgently, "Madam, now isn't the time to be worrying about this."

Only then did Yu Yanluo realize what kind of situation they were in. She blushed and didn't dare to look at him again, instead turning away. Her beautiful eyelashes were trembling as she said, "You can begin."

Zu An nodded and said, "I might have to remove madam's clothing first."

Yu Yanluo was ashamed and embarrassed. Why do you still have to ask about that? How can I reply to something like this? She could only vaguely mumble her agreement.

Only when Zu An saw her reaction did he help her undo her clothes. Yu Yanluo sighed inwardly when she sensed his care. However, she knew that in this kind of situation, there was no way she would accept another man.

In this instant, Zu An finally understood what the saying 'skin fine like jade' meant. The beauty before him was a complete work of art.

Because she had been poisoned, there was a hint of a red blush coloring Yu Yanluo's normally icy cold skin. Not only did it not tarnish her beauty, it instead seemed to bring the previously unreachable goddess down into the world of mortals, giving her some worldly charm.

Yu Yanluo waited for that moment to arrive. However, nothing happened even after she closed her eyes for a long time. Instead, her body cooled down, and it felt as if she were soaking in water.

She couldn't help but open her eyes out of curiosity. She discovered that the bubble was now half-filled with water, and she was lying in it. Her neck and legs were being supported, which was why she wasn't

sinking. At the same time, she noticed that even though most of her skin was exposed, her most personal pieces of clothing remained.

The piercing cold water made her entire body tremble. She looked at Zu An in confusion and asked, "There's... water leaking in?"

Zu An said with a smile, "Don't worry. I brought that water in on purpose."

The bubble still had a larger half that wasn't filled with water, which was why there was no need to worry about them running out of oxygen.

It was as if Yu Yanluo were in a bathtub, but it wasn't as comfortable as a warm bath. She had a strange expression as she thought, Does this guy really want to do it in water? However, when she saw the clear expression in his eyes, she knew she was the one who had been overthinking things.

Zu An said seriously "Madam, your poison is extremely serious right now. I plan to use the cold water together with the help of the Heart Calming Pill to deal with it. I'll also infuse my special ki to help you dissolve the poison. This process might be a bit uncomfortable, so I hope madam can endure it."

Yu Yanluo felt momentarily absent-minded. She stared at him as if she were meeting him for the first time again.

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Meanwhile, outside of the cold pond, Jian Taiding was furious and panicking. Unfortunately, his acupoints had been sealed by Zu An, so he couldn't do a thing. He felt as if his heart were being cut out as he imagined the goddess sister-in-law he had admired for so long being devastated by another man.

He couldn't help but feel a bit of sympathy when he saw the corpse of his older brother next to him. He began to bawl, "Big brother, if your spirit still lives on, take a look at sister-in-law! She is actually doing that type of thing right in front of you!

"Also, that Zu An impersonated you and returned to the Duke Manor; the entire place is in chaos! My little sisters-in-law Liu Ji, Chu Ji, and Zhang Ji have all been ruined by him!

"Those little sisters-in-law are radiant with happiness. That Zhang Ji especially struggles to even close her legs properly when she is walking! But they are completely in the dark; they all think that the one they are serving is you! They are doing their utmost to fawn over him day after day...

"You have not even been able to touch sister-in-law, but she might have already been trampled and ravaged by that brute today..."

Chapter 1087: Return of the Dead?

Jian Taiding didn't know why he was howling that way to begin with. His older brother was clearly already dead. But he felt incredibly awful being in the cave all by himself. He had no other ways to vent out his frustrations, and his older brother's remains were the only thing left in the room.

When he saw his older brother's appearance and recalled how well Jian Yanyou had treated him in the past, he couldn't help but feel sad. Everything he had done was for the sake of his sister-in-law, but his

sister-in-law was currently being ravaged under the body of another man. What meaning was there left in everything he had done?

It would have been a bit easier for him to accept it if Yu Yanluo had at least shown the tiniest bit of unwillingness. He would just hate Zu An alone. But Yu Yanluo had looked as if she really wanted it! Her 'do what you want' attitude made his heart completely break down.

She clearly wanted it!

However much love he'd had for Yu Yanluo before, that was how much hatred he had now. That was why what he said about her was also warped and smeared.

Of course, for him, those words weren't distorted at all. Rather, from his perspective, that was exactly how he felt. He was only instinctively choosing a target to vent out his frustrations to. His expression was absent-minded as he babbled nonsense.

He didn't notice that the ice around Jian Yanyou seemed to have fine cracks around it.

Meanwhile, in the cold pool, Yu Yanluo cried out in alarm. She subconsciously covered her chest, her entire face turning completely red.

Zu An was speechless, saying, "Madam was acting composed a moment ago. Why are you suddenly getting embarrassed?"

Yu Yanluo thought to herself, Is that the same thing? She had already acknowledged her fate earlier, becoming willing to let Zu An get rid of her poison. After the matter, neither one of them would talk to each other again, so it wouldn't matter anymore.

But now that Zu An was using such a method to cure her, she was extremely moved, and at the same time knew there was no way she could break all ties with him over such a thing. That was why she couldn't help but feel embarrassed.

"Be good; spread out your arms." Zu An just treated it as her mind becoming a bit befuddled from the poison, so he consoled her.

Yu Yanluo was speechless. I am not a little girl who wants a lollipop to suck on; do you need to talk to me like that? But even though she thought that inwardly, she still instinctively listened to Zu An and loosened her arms.

Ah... This is so embarrassing! It almost felt as if she were now completely exposing her body to him. Even though she had socialized with the most outstanding individuals in this world, making her a knowledgeable and experienced person with a powerful will, at that point, she was still extremely embarrassed.

Zu An didn't dare to have any delays either. He was worried that he really might not be able to hold himself back if he stared at her any longer. As such, his fingers moved at lightning speed, quickly striking several of her acupoints.

At the fourth layer, the Primordial Origin Sutra could be used to heal others. Even though Yu Yanluo wasn't injured, her current problem was related to an injury of sorts.

All of that was because Venom Child's personally concocted 'Bull Cream' was too vicious, making even the 'Heart Calming Pill' ineffective. Zu An was using the cold pool to suppress the unstable heat within her, then infusing his own primordial ki into her body. His primordial ki guided the Heart Calming Pill's medicinal effects, concentrating the unstable heat within her into one spot. Then, he used the primordial ki's treatment effects to completely expel the unstable heat out of her body.

Yu Yanluo's entire body was burning up and uncomfortable from Bull Cream, and the pool was too cold as well. The sensation of ice and fire simultaneously was utterly horrible. As Zu An's fingers tapped her body and strands of warm ki entered her, she felt as if she had finally gotten a sip of water while parched. She couldn't help but moan in pleasure.

Zu An was speechless. He trembled when he heard the sweet and charming sound, and his ki almost went to the wrong place instead.

"Heart as clear as eyes, calm even if the heavens fall..." He immediately focused his mind with a chant, continuing to help her expel the poison.

Yu Yanluo couldn't help but laugh when she heard him chant such strange incantations. This guy really is a dummy. I was clearly already okay with it, and yet he still chose to save me like this.

Is he really a dummy, or is he a gentleman?

As Yu Yanluo looked at Zu An's face that appeared as if it had been sculpted out of marble, her expression became gentler and gentler.

...

After a long time had passed, Yu Yanluo was already dripping with sweat. She was no longer as cool-headed as before.

She felt as if waves of power were repeatedly battering her body. Inside her were the cold pool's frigidity, the Heart Calming Pill's medicinal effects, the Bull Cream's heat, and also Zu An's special ki.

The other three types of power were all extremely uncomfortable. Only Zu An's strange ki was extremely comfortable. Such an intense contrast made it even harder for her to hold back her moans.

At first, she was embarrassed, so she tried her best to endure it. But as time went on, her willpower gradually broke down. He is focused on treating me right now and I m just quietly groaning; he probably cannot hear me, right?

As such, she secretly opened her eyes a crack to look at his expression. At the same time, she suppressed her voice and released a groan from her throat. Sure enough, Zu An didn't notice anything. She gradually sighed in relief. However, that kind of feeling quickly returned, so she could only do it again.

That cycle repeated again and again, but she escaped notice each time. Eventually, she became braver, and her voice became louder and louder. Normally speaking, she would realize there was no way he couldn't hear her. But in this kind of situation, how could she still think properly?

Eventually, Yu Yanluo got so out of control, Zu An finally couldn't take it anymore. His voice was extremely hoarse and cryptic, as if there were a fire burning in his throat. He asked, "Madam, can you

please stop moaning like that? Not even a saint can hold back if you keep doing that! I really don't want to fail at the last second."

"Huh?" Yu Yanluo finally realized what was happening. So he heard everything from the very start? She was beyond embarrassed now. She buried her head in the water, then gave Zu An a fierce bite.

Zu An sucked in air through the gaps in his teeth. The woman's small mouth normally seemed elegant and gentle, and yet it hurt this much when she bit down on him. He was worried that moving may worsen her condition, so he tried his best not to, just letting her bite down on him. He instead focused on treating her condition.

Sensing his consideration, Yu Yanluo felt a bit apologetic after biting him for a while. After sorting out her thoughts, she let go and surfaced above the water again. She gave him an annoyed look, exclaiming, "You really are a bad guy!"

At the same time, she rubbed her cheeks that felt a bit sore. Why is this guy's body so hard?

She was so embarrassed just then that she had actually bitten down with all of her strength. With her cultivation, even though it wouldn't be able to crush metal, she should at least have been able to create a bloody mess. But in the end, only her teeth had hurt, while his skin only had some light marks.

Zu An felt a bit unhappy, remarking, "I'm treating your poison out of kindness and have treated you respectfully the entire time. How am I the bad person here?"

"You took off all of my clothes, and your hands are touching me all over the place. Is that what you call respect?" Yu Yanluo exclaimed angrily.

Zu An pointed at her underwear and retorted, "Aren't you still wearing some? In my hometown, bikinis are even more revealing than what you're wearing right now. Also, I'm treating your injuries; a doctor doesn't distinguish between genders."

"Oh? If a doctor does not distinguish between genders, then why does Divine Physician Ji Dengtu like to collect women's underwear?" Yu Yanluo remarked with a sneer.

Zu An's eyes widened as he thought, This woman even knows about that? He could only explain, "Ji Dengtu is Ji Dengtu. I'm myself."

Yu Yanluo blushed and said, "You are even worse than Ji Dengtu. That ki of yours is so strange. It is even more uncomfortable than Bull Cream!"

Zu An thought to himself, You call that uncomfortable? You're clearly feeling so good you can't even hold yourself back from screaming in pleasure.

But he was stunned. Last time, when he had been treating Tang Tian'er, she had also seemed as if she couldn't stop herself from wanting more. Don't tell me primordial ki actually makes the one being treated feel ecstasy?

But that shouldn't be! I've never heard the first emperor say that before, and Mi Li never mentioned it either. If that really is a thing, there should be no way she doesn't know about it.

"You have nothing else to say, right? Hmph," Yu Yanluo said. However, she felt a bit guilty after reprimanding him. She knew that she was speaking nonsense as well, but she had just been too embarrassed earlier. It is not that I wanted to moan... Yes, it must be that rascal's strange ki! It's definitely nothing good.

Zu An could only say, "Alright, alright, I was wrong. Please keep enduring; we just need to make it past this final bit."

Then, his ki suddenly became stronger. Yu Yanluo released an 'ah', then used her entire body's strength to grip him while shaking. Zu An sighed in relief and said, "Most of the poison's effects are already gone. You should be fine as long as you take your time to rest and recover."

Yu Yanluo gave him a look of resentment. Now that she had shown him such a humiliating side, how was she even supposed to face him in the future? After shaking for a long time, she finally calmed down. She quietly pushed him aside. The water inside the bubble had already been pushed away by Zu An. She sighed inwardly. He saw nothing, right?

Because the poison had already been removed, the restless heat within her was already gone. But her cold-fearing body made her shiver soon afterward. She instinctively covered her shoulders with her hands.

"Your clothes are wet, so change into these clean ones," Zu An said. He had prepared many lifestyle goods in his Brilliant Glass Bead. He had Chuyan and Manman's clothes too.

But only an idiot would give Yu Yanluo another woman's clothes in such a situation. That was why he gave her a set of his own clothes to drape around herself.

Yu Yanluo's mind was blank for a moment. She subconsciously replied when she felt the warmth from his clothes, "Thank you..."

The two quickly fell silent. There was a strangely charming and gentle feeling inside the water bubble. Eventually, Yu Yanluo's red lips opened slightly and she said, "Ah Zu, just now, the two of us..."

Zu An said with a smile, "We had no choice because there was no time. I only did it to save you. Madam, please don't take it to heart."

"Oh." Yu Yanluo clearly wanted to say something similar, and yet for some reason, when Zu An said that as if nothing had happened at all, Yu Yanluo instead felt a bit disappointed.

Is he thinking about his own wife?

Brightmoon Duke's daughter was... Chu Chuyan, right? The two of them seem to be really close.

She couldn't help but feel a bit annoyed when she thought of that.

You have successfully trolled Yu Yanluo for +222 +222 +222...

Zu An was stunned. He thought to himself, Why is she getting angry?

Suddenly, a furious roar came from above. "Damn adulterers down there, get the hell out here right now!"

You have successfully trolled Jian Yanyou for +999 +999 +999...

Chapter 1088: Life and Death Trial

“Jian Yanyou?” Zu An exclaimed, rubbing his eyes. Then, he confirmed the words of the backend message. It really was Jian Yanyou! But how is that possible? Isn’t he dead?

Yu Yanluo was also shocked. She muttered to herself, “Yanyou?” She clearly recognized his voice too, but she didn’t dare to believe it.

“Let’s head out and take a look,” Zu An said, completely baffled as well. He wanted to take a look to see what was going on.

Yu Yanluo was also curious, so she naturally didn’t refuse. Even though most of the poison was already gone, she couldn’t move as effortlessly as Zu An with his Blue Mallard skill. As such, Zu An carried her to the surface.

The two quickly rushed out of the water surface and climbed ashore. When they saw the scene outside, they were both stunned. The huge ice chunk was gone, with only fragments remaining all over the ground. There was a man standing in the center, staring rigidly at the pool.

After having used Face of a Thousand Identities, Zu An couldn’t be more familiar with the man. Who else could it be but Jian Yanyou?!

Meanwhile, Jian Taiding was sitting stupidly to the side. When he saw his older brother, his jaw had almost dropped to the ground. He never would have expected such a thing either. His ‘funeral wailing’ had actually brought his older brother back from the dead?

Who am I? Where am I right now? Jian Taiding thought. Too many outrageous things had happened throughout the day. At that moment, he felt as if he were dreaming.

“Yanyou, you are still alive?” Yu Yanluo exclaimed, shocked and happy when she saw him. Jian Yanyou was her husband in name, but he was actually her friend of many years. How could she not be happy after seeing her good friend come back to life?

She was about to greet him when Zu An pulled her back. He warned her through ki, “Be careful. His current state doesn’t seem right somehow.”

Yu Yanluo was stunned. Only then did she notice that black smoke lingered around Jian Yanyou. There were some black patterns around his face as well. He looked completely different from his usual graceful and gentle self, instead looking more sinister and malevolent.

“Heh, of course you were wishing that I had died. That way, you two adulterers would be free to elope,” Jian Yanyou sneered.

Yu Yanluo’s pretty brows furrowed. She felt extremely uncomfortable under his look of contempt, replying, “You have misunderstood. The two of us are completely clean; nothing happened between us.”

“Hah, clean? The two of you?!” Jian Yanyou roared toward the sky, his laughter making the entire mountain rustle. Even the ice that had originally been firmly attached to the stone walls began to fall.

Zu An's expression changed. His cultivation is extremely high; he seems to be just a hair away from grandmaster rank.

After his outburst of laughter, Jian Yanyou's gaze returned to Yu Yanluo. He said through gritted teeth. "Do you take me for a fool? You were afflicted by an aphrodisiac, then stayed down there for so long with another man. You are telling me that nothing happened?"

Jian Taiding also snapped out of his daze. Only now did he realize that his goddess had already been trampled all over by that beast. His lips trembled. He almost didn't even dare to look at Yu Yanluo anymore, or else he would see her as a fallen woman.

But he still couldn't hold himself back in the end. He looked at her, and then he felt as if he were struck by lightning. Even her clothes are different!

Yu Yanluo was covered in male clothes at that moment. Who else could those clothes belong to? Just then, he felt like a man who had gotten out of bed and seen a woman dressed in a man's shirt. That kind of intensely clashing sight was simply incomparable to anything else.

Yu Yanluo really was beautiful. Her current outfit magnified her gentle femininity and enticement severalfold. But Jian Taiding wasn't in the mood to admire her at all. He felt even more distress.

What else needed to be said? He could completely imagine what had happened. The two of them had definitely gone so crazy down there that their clothes had ended up getting wet. That was why his sister-in-law had changed into men's clothes. She hadn't even had enough time to put on her clothes properly and rushed out.

Her clothes were too spacious, so he could vaguely make out her fair and exquisite collarbone and faint pink undergarments.

Jian Taiding had only ever dreamed of seeing such a personal side of Yu Yanluo. Never had he expected it to be in such a situation. Even though he had been completely infatuated with Yu Yanluo over the years, he had never taken any wives in order to pursue her. But as someone of high authority, he'd naturally had many girls in private. He immediately knew what the youthful expression and the blush on her cheeks meant.

Her satisfied expression was enough for him to recreate the scene of his most beloved being ravaged by that brute. That was especially true when he saw Yu Yanluo's body half-leaning against Zu An. That meant she didn't reject him at all.

Sister-in-law has obviously already been dominated by that man! When he thought of that, he felt as if the entire world were falling down around him.

Yu Yanluo obviously didn't know Jian Taiding was thinking such filthy thoughts. Instead, she said to Jian Yanyou, "It is not what you think. Just now, he used a special way to help me get rid of the poison. We are completely cl... We have not done any of those illicit things."

Even though he wasn't her real husband, he had helped her stop many pursuers over the years, which had helped her a lot. She felt there was a need to explain those things to him.

She wanted to say her relationship with Zu An was clean, but when she recalled what had just happened, how even her clothes had been stripped and his hands had touched every inch of her body, it did seem a bit unreasonable to say that their relationship was completely clean.

That was why she changed her mind and said that they hadn't done anything illicit. That was something she could say without any guilt.

Jian Yanyou harrumphed. "Do you take me for a three-year-old child? Do you think I would believe that?"

Yu Yanluo frowned and said, "I have already explained what I should explain. There's nothing I can do if you want to indulge in your flights of fancy."

She wouldn't even bother explaining it if it were anyone else. Jian Yanyou was someone who had been her good friend for so many years. However, someone like that suspected her even after she explained. How could she not feel upset?

Jian Yanyou's expression darkened. He shot back, "What are you getting all flustered for? Perhaps it is because of your guilty conscience?" The dark patterns on his face became even more apparent.

"The innocent know that they are," Yu Yanluo replied indifferently. However, she suddenly frowned and asked, "What happened to your face? Why did you come back after dying?"

Jian Taiding's attention had been drawn over too. He had clearly schemed against his older brother, so why had Jian Yanyou suddenly come back to life?

"You never expected me to revive and ruin your great plans, hm?" Jian Yanyou sneered, but he still explained, "It is because the technique I cultivate is special. It is called the Golden Silkworm Art. It is rumored that once you reach the highest level, you must die once. If you can break through and be reborn, you can enter the grandmaster rank. There is even a chance of reaching the earth immortal level."

"The Golden Silkworm Art?" Yu Yanluo's expression changed. She was well versed in many subjects, and she seemed to have heard rumors about such a technique. It seemed that once the technique was cultivated to its greatest level, one experienced a life and death trial. At that moment, one's entire body would turn into a cocoon. If the one inside could successfully transform into a butterfly, they would undergo a tremendous transformation.

But the chances of success were extremely low. She had never heard of anyone succeeding in the technique since ancient times. And yet, it turned out to have been the technique Jian Yanyou cultivated! Then, the ice sculpture from before had probably been his frozen cocoon lying inside the pool.

"Indeed. Those who have practiced this art have never completed the transformation. That is why even though I was already at the final juncture, I was never able to set my resolve to attempt this obstacle," Jian Yanyou said. He then turned around to look at Jian Taiding, continuing, "In the end, I must thank my good younger brother. If it were not for his rapacious designs to poison me, and even setting up a scheme to surround and kill me, I would not have been able to make the decision to challenge this bottleneck."

Jian Taiding's expression changed. He exclaimed, "I clearly checked your body back then. You had no trace of life force left! Why could I not sense that you were still alive back then?"

He was a master rank cultivator himself. If he couldn't even tell if someone had really died or if they were faking it, what did he have his cultivation for?

Jian Yanyou said with a sneer, "That is because the Golden Silkworm Art needs one to really die. Whether or not one can revive depends on their fate. That is why no one has been able to revive in all of history. Even with all of your scheming and plotting, you never expected this, so of course you did not notice anything."

"You ran here with everything you had back then so the cold pool could preserve your remains and hide the cocoon around you, right?" Jian Taiding asked, forcing himself to calm down. He was an outstanding cultivator himself. Even though he was defeated, he still wanted to know how he had failed.

"That is only one of the reasons," Jian Yanyou said, raising his head to look at the incomparably massive icicle. "The Golden Silkworm Art's final trial is too difficult. Untold numbers of outstanding heroes have failed at this point. Even though my aptitude is not bad, I never believed I could surpass all of my predecessors."

"In order to make it through this trial, I had to somehow increase my odds of success. Do you remember in the past, when his majesty and the Fiend Emperor fought bitterly? It was through relying on our clan's Milk of Purple Frost that he was able to recover!"

Zu An had just been watching the drama from off to the side at first. He was startled when he heard the words 'Milk of Purple Frost'.

His greatest objective in coming to Cloudcenter Commandery this time had been precisely to find the Milk of Purple Frost to treat Mi Li. When he had learned that its last appearance was related to Cloudcenter Duke Manor, he had immediately started secretly investigating it in the manor. Unfortunately, Cloudcenter Duke had already perished, and no one knew those private details.

He had been ready to give up, and yet now, there was suddenly a glimmer of hope.

Chapter 1089: Tragic End

"The Milk of Purple Frost!" Jian Taiding exclaimed. He was also shocked. He obviously had an impression of something as amazing as that!

Unfortunately, back then, he had been so busy scheming against his older brother that there was no time to get the secret out from his mouth. He had thought that the knowledge would go with his older brother to the grave.

His majesty was able to recover even after suffering such severe injuries. Does that not mean I have a chance now? Jian Taiding thought. After all, he had been injured, and then injured again. Together with the rebound of the fierce Powerful Strength Pill, his meridians were already a complete mess.

Even if Zu An didn't kill him and he was able to return and slowly recover, he wouldn't become a cripple, but he would still never reach his former glory. Forget about grandmaster rank, he might not even be

able to keep fifth or sixth rank cultivation. Furthermore, he would never have any hope of having a higher cultivation for the rest of his life.

For someone who had stood at the very top like him, there was no difference between a sixth rank cultivator and a cripple. Any random one of his subordinates would be stronger than him. How could he possibly still keep them under his control?

Just his family background? There was no way that would be enough to keep him in that seat of authority. He might just be quietly assassinated a few days later and thrown into some random sewer.

But now, with the Milk of Purple Frost, everything could be different. Not only would he have a chance of recovering, he might even be able to rise higher! His eyes burned intensely with passion as he exclaimed, "So the reason you came here is because the Milk of Purple Frost is here?"

Zu An suddenly looked toward the massive icicle after hearing the conversation. He had felt that the icicle was a bit strange ever since he first saw it. It didn't blend in with its surrounding environment at all.

Furthermore, the cave was exceptionally cold, far colder even than a snowstorm. There had been all kinds of runes protecting it from the outside, but when they had entered earlier, the runes seemed to have already been broken through. They had probably been destroyed when Jian Taiding and his companions chased the poisoned and wounded Jian Yanyou to the cave.

Everything pointed at the fact that the cave was strange. Never had Zu An expected it to hide something so extraordinary, however. He had heard that Milk of Purple Frost came from a special kind of stalactite; it seemed the icicle that was clearly different from the others was its carrier.

"Indeed. Only a single drop of the Milk of Purple Frost forms every ten thousand years. When my father first discovered this cave, he unexpectedly discovered two drops. One quickly formed, while one would form several decades later," Jian Yanyou said, beginning to reminisce about the past. "Even though several decades is a long time, for something that might easily take tens of thousands of years, it is but a fleeting moment.

"Father offered the first drop to the emperor, and waited patiently for the second drop. Considering the time, I believe it will form soon." Jian Yanyou harrumphed. "I was a bit hesitant at first, because even though the Milk of Purple Frost is miraculous, going through a trial of death was too dangerous. I was also the duke at the time, making me the emperor within Cloudcenter Commandery. Furthermore, I had the world's number one beauty as my bride..."

He gave the improperly dressed Yu Yanluo a look as he spoke and snorted. "My life was already quite perfect, so there was indeed no need for me to take such risks. However, never did I expect my younger brother to be so fantastic."

Jian Taiding chuckled in embarrassment, saying, "Big bro, I was wrong. But is the end result not good? If this had not happened, how could you have reached a level none of your predecessors could?"

He gained some confidence when he saw his older brother's expression ease up a bit. His older brother had always doted on him. No matter what kinds of wrongs he committed, he would always be forgiven.

Even though he had done some terrible things this time, Jian Yanyou hadn't died. It didn't seem as if Yanyou would punish him too badly.

As such, he tested the waters and asked, "Then did big bro wake up to use the Milk of Purple Frost?" He prayed repeatedly to himself, Please say no, please say no! That's my only hope left!

Jian Yanyou frowned. He suddenly clutched his head, exclaiming, "Why did I awaken? Why did I awaken? I shouldn't have. The Milk of Purple Frost hasn't fully formed yet; I shouldn't have awoken now!"

Jian Taiding's eyes lit up when he saw Jian Yanyou clutch his head in pain. Yes! The Milk of Purple Frost is still here! That means there is still hope for me to recover!

Zu An was also happy to hear that. Regardless, he had saved this man's wife, and he had been working so hard to find out the truth for his sake, even getting revenge for him. He had done quite a lot, so he was going to see if he could get the Milk of Purple Frost from him.

Even if he had to pay a huge price for it, he wouldn't hold back. If the other party absolutely refused, it was related to Mi Li's life, so he would fight for it if he had to.

Yu Yanluo was the only one who was concerned about Jian Yanyou. She asked, "Yanyou, what's wrong?" Jian Yanyou's appearance really was somewhat sinister, making her feel a strange sense of fear. She instinctively remained by Zu An's side, as he gave her the greatest feeling of security.

Jian Yanyou suddenly raised his head, his eyes full of madness and malice. A trace of black seemed to be spreading from his pupils as well, gradually turning his eyeballs completely black. He stared fiercely at Jian Taiding, growling, "I remember. Wasn't the reason I woke up because you were howling next to me like a freaking wolf?"

Jian Yanyou's eyes had turned pitch-black. There was no longer any trace of his former doting gaze; instead, there was only vicious killing intent.

Jian Taiding gulped, feeling incomparable fear. However, he reacted quickly as well and redirected the blame. He pointed at Zu An and Yu Yanluo, exclaiming, "Big bro, I was just crying out for your injustice! You worshiped that woman like your ancestor. Forget about her hand, she has never even let you touch a single corner of her clothes! Then, not long after you died, she immediately got together with another man, and he even did something so improper right in front of you!"

"Shut your mouth! It is nothing like what you are saying," Yu Yanluo snapped. She was so angry that her entire face was red. Unfortunately, she knew just how powerless she was to explain herself right now. She couldn't just call in a wet nurse to check if she was still a virgin, right?

Jian Taiding was happy when he saw that his older brother's attention had been redirected toward the other two. His words were effective after all! As such, he added fuel to the fire and said, "Big bro, not only did that woman do those illicit things with that man, for the sake of currying favor with him, she even gave him several of your concubines to play with! He has been pretending to be you for several days in the Duke Manor, while those sisters-in-law know nothing! They are humiliated by him several times every day, and even the way they walk is a bit different..."

As much as he had once loved Yu Yanluo, that was how much hatred he felt after she had given her body to Zu An. Furthermore, Zu An was the one who had wounded him, so he had hated the other man to begin with. If his older brother eliminated them for him, that would be a form of revenge in itself.

But Zu An's cultivation seemed to be quite good, and his sister-in-law had some trump cards too. If they and his older brother ended up destroying each other, that would be the absolute best result.

He added fuel to the flames while secretly looking at the giant icicle above the pool. There seemed to be a drop gathered on its surface. Could that be the Milk of Purple Frost?

Once they start fighting, I have to find a chance to seize it! Once I recover my former strength, I will no longer be in this state...

He felt his entire body lighten before he even completed that thought. Then, he felt the entire world spin around him. He was looking at everything from a different angle. His older brother, the damned adulterous couple, and a headless corpse. There was blood gushing out from its neck.

Huh? I don't recall there being any corpses left behind when Kong Qing and the others left.

Wait, why do those clothes look so familiar?

By the time he realized the horrifying result, his entire world sank into darkness.

...

"Ah!" Yu Yanluo jumped in fright. Even though she did indeed hate Jian Taiding, it was still mainly because he had harmed Jian Yanyou and planned everything that followed.

But they had known each other for so long, and he had always greeted her and treated her extremely politely. The two of them had reached a level where they were like friends. As such, she was still momentarily alarmed when she saw him die in such a miserable way.

She felt a bit unwell when she saw such a bloody scene. She subconsciously leaned toward Zu An, and only then did she feel a sliver of warmth.

Just then, Jian Yanyou leaned down toward Jian Taiding's severed neck, then gulped down the spurting blood. As he drank the blood, he had a rapturous expression.

Forget about Yu Yanluo, even Zu An's scalp felt a bit numb. They held each other's hands tightly.

Yu Yanluo calmed down a bit, then looked vigilantly at the other party, exclaiming, "You are not Jian Yanyou. Who exactly are you?!"

Chapter 1090: Bright Blackeye Parasite

Jian Yanyou stood up from Jian Taiding's headless corpse. He licked away the blood on his lips and replied, "Who am I? I'm Jian Yanyou, of course, your husband."

His eyes had long become pitch-black like ink, and his face was covered in black patterns. Because he had just drunk blood straight out of Jian Taiding's decapitated corpse, he looked extremely sinister and dangerous.

Yu Yanluo shook her head and replied, "No, you are definitely not him. Yanyou is honest and generous in nature. He would never wantonly kill the innocent."

"The innocent? He was the one who almost killed me, and he lusted after his own sister-in-law. How is he innocent at all?" Jian Yanyou sneered.

Yu Yanluo said coldly, "That is why you cannot be the true Jian Yanyou. You do not know just how much he doted on his younger brother. He would give him whatever he wanted. Other than giving him me, his wife, he pretty much gave him everything else. Furthermore, no matter what kinds of mistakes his younger brother made, he would at most lecture him a few times, but would always forgive him in the end.

"Furthermore, you even came back to life. His schemes to harm you did not result in any severe consequences. With your usual nature, you would at most scare him again, then issue him some small punishments. There would be no danger to his life."

Jian Yanyou gave the headless Jian Taiding a look. He grinned and said with a chuckle, "Humans always change. Besides, I've even walked along the borders of life and death."

Yu Yanluo immediately cut him off. "No matter how much you changed, you would not change into a mad, bloodthirsty demon. Not only did you kill your own younger brother so cruelly, you even drank his blood. The look of enjoyment on your face is not fake at all. Speak, what kind of monster are you?"

Jian Yanyou laughed cruelly, his voice horrifying. It didn't seem like a voice humans could make. He remarked, "Madam, should I praise you for being smart or stupid?"

Zu An stood in front of Yu Yanluo when he heard Jian Yanyou's voice. It was strange, clearly not belonging to the true Jian Yanyou anymore. The pressure coming from the other party was just a bit too strong, almost at the level Yun Jianyue and Yan Xuehen had exerted in the past. He was also worried that the other party would suddenly attack Yu Yanluo.

Fortunately, Jian Yanyou didn't seem to have any intention of making a move immediately. Instead, he continued with a sigh, "Madam, wouldn't it have been great if you played the fool? Why did you just have to keep fretting over trifles? The two of us could have peacefully continued being husband and wife, but aren't things much more difficult now?"

"This sound, this voice..." Yu Yanluo was alarmed, exclaiming, "You're Uncle Ming?"

"Madam's insight is indeed sharp. You were even able to recognize that?" Jian Yanyou exclaimed, a bit surprised. He no longer had any intention of hiding.

"How is this possible?" Yu Yanluo and Zu An exclaimed, both shocked. Hadn't Yu Yanluo already taken Uncle Ming into her World Painting? All those present had almost forgotten about his existence after everything else that had happened.

Zu An thought, After all of this, he was the real final boss?

Yu Yanluo took out her World Painting and took a look. Uncle Ming was clearly still inside, but he was already a corpse.

"Huh?" Only then did Yu Yanluo realize that something wasn't right. She had only taken him into her world, and hadn't planned to kill him. Normally speaking, with Uncle Ming's cultivation, he shouldn't have died inside. She suddenly looked up at the other party and asked, "How did you escape?"

Jian Yanyou... no, it was Uncle Ming now, smiled proudly. He said, "I never went inside. What you took into your painting was just an empty shell."

"An empty shell?" Yu Yanluo thought back to the prior scene. It did seem as if she had detained him a bit too easily.

Zu An was startled. He asked, "Did you enter his body when he went into the pool to bring out Jian Yanyou's remains?"

Uncle Ming gave him a look of surprise and replied, "Sir Zu's perception and thinking are meticulous, as expected. No wonder you were able to find out the truth of the plot against Jian Yanyou."

Zu An muttered to himself, "To possess someone so easily, and then abandon the flesh so conveniently... There's such an absurd technique in this world? Doesn't that mean you have eternal life?"

He had experienced the dangers of possession personally. Old Mi had wanted his body. But even that hadn't been as ridiculous as this! You can get rid of your body whenever you want, and you can change hosts whenever you want too?

Yu Yanluo's red lips moved as she explained, "I remember that there is an obscure branch of the Fiend race, the Parasite race. That race can lay their offspring in the bodies of their prey. During their growth period, they ingest the internal organs of the prey's body as food, and once they completely mature, they emerge from the body. The most powerful of the Parasites can even steal a target's flesh and take their place." She asked Uncle Ming, "Are you from the Parasite race?"

Uncle Ming was truly shocked and replied, "Madam actually knows so much about even the remote clans of the fiend races? Not even the other fiend races know about our race!"

"Are you admitting to it?" Yu Yanluo asked, looking serious.

"Indeed, I'm from the Parasite race. Furthermore, I'm the most prestigious Bright Blackeye Parasite," Uncle Ming said proudly. He didn't have any intentions of hiding anymore, clearly believing that everything was already under his control.

"No wonder you call yourself Uncle Ming," Zu An said with a sigh. This world really was quite mysterious. He had run into the bloodsucking Mosquito Daoist earlier, and now, he had encountered a Parasite that lived off another body. Both of them had ridiculous cultivations too.

"Did you already plan to earn the trust of the duke all those years ago?" Yu Yanluo frowned and said, "You've been quite cautious and conscientious. Your acting has been quite good."

"Why would I ever do something that stupid, to serve that fool for several decades?" Uncle Ming sneered. "Of course I found a chance to scheme against Uncle Ming, then took over his body. Then, I returned to the Duke Manor in his body."

Yu Yanluo nodded. She had found it strange the moment she learned that Uncle Ming was working with Jian Taiding. After all, it wasn't that easy to change one's character after so many years.

Jian Yanyou had been able to reach such a high level of cultivation, and furthermore occupy such a high position. There could be no way he hadn't at least had a sufficient level of insight to discover the plot. Now, they had finally obtained an explanation.

Zu An thought to himself, This Uncle Ming really is pitiful. He devoted his entire life to service, and yet all he got in return was having his body possessed by a parasite.

As a human, death wasn't all that scary. What was scarier was being treated as food by something else, or even having a parasite turn one into a being that wasn't alive or dead.

Uncle Ming couldn't help but sigh as he gave Zu An a look. "When I saw you appear in the Duke Manor in Jian Yanyou's form, and furthermore without any gaps in behavior, I thought there was another one of my kind who had similar motives. Fortunately, I didn't sense any familiar energy from your body, or else all of my hard work over the years would've been just for the benefit of another."

"Since you knew I wasn't one of your kind, why did you still have to come with Jian Taiding all the way here to investigate?" Zu An asked grimly.

"Because you were just too similar," Uncle Ming replied, giving him a deep look. "I even began to wonder if Jian Yanyou had revived ahead of time and was going to ruin my plans."

Yu Yanluo was stunned when she heard that, exclaiming, "So Yanyou really was still alive?"

"Indeed. Actually, I already knew he possessed the Golden Silkworm Art a while ago. If he hadn't attempted this trial, I really wouldn't have been able to do much to him with his cultivation," Uncle Ming replied.

Yu Yanluo quickly explained to Zu An, "Even though the Parasite race is bizarre, they are actually extremely weak. They can only scheme from the dark."

"Resourcefulness and strategies are a kind of strength," Uncle Ming replied, not too happy with her assessment. He harrumphed, "I was always lying in wait for Jian Yanyou to challenge this trial. But that guy was full of lingering attachments, and he had already enjoyed his high position and wealth for too long. He actually gave up on the chance to improve himself!

"Out of helplessness, I could only seek out Jian Taiding. That fellow just happened to have coveted you, his beautiful sister-in-law, so we quickly hit it off. You two know what happened afterward as well. Jian Yanyou was at the end of his rope, and I deliberately gave him the chance to flee here. He didn't have any other choice, so he could only attack his final trial. By then, everything was already moving according to my plans."

Yu Yanluo sighed and remarked, "The lowest level, lowest intelligence parasites love silkworms the most. Yanyou just happened to have cultivated the Golden Silkworm Art too. He really ended up facing his natural enemy."

"Indeed. When he turned into a cocoon, I infused a seed of my soul into the cocoon. Once he broke through the final trial and his strength greatly increased, I could then smoothly take over everything. His

body, his cultivation, his identity, even his women,” Uncle Ming said confidently. It was a plan he’d had to keep a secret for so long, so he really needed to have at least someone hear it now.

However, his expression quickly darkened. He stared at Zu An and said, “But I never expected you to have experienced everything that should’ve been mine ahead of time.”