

Mountain Man 21

Chapter 21: Please ask me personally

She was thinking, what would he bring back to help clean her teeth?

She glanced at her fractured right wrist, with a hundred days to heal a fractured bone, normally, such an injury would take three months to fully heal.

In her previous life, she had studied traditional Chinese medicine, so she knew it quite well. With her medical skills, the healing process would be quick – only seven or eight days – but she would still need time to recuperate, taking around twenty days in total.

She lifted her right wrist, which was swollen and held in place by bamboo slices and medicinal paste. The tightness was a bit painful.

When the bamboo slices were initially binding her wrist, it hadn't swelled up yet, but now that it had, the binding had become too tight.

She used her mouth to bite open the rope knot, then loosened it a little with her left hand before tying it again – not too loose, not too tight. Her wrist finally felt more comfortable.

She wanted to check her pulse... but it was difficult.

On the right side, the pulse was blocked by the bamboo slices and her left hand couldn't do much.

Thus, she had no choice but to use her injured right hand to check the pulse of her left wrist. Due to the fracture, her fingers were swollen and less agile.

She looked at her left hand, palm up, revealing the thick calluses on both her palm and fingertips.

She raised her right hand, which was also calloused.

Shit, how much hard labor did her predecessor do? She must have been abused in the long term, or else why would her hands be like this?

Unfortunately, she didn't have her predecessor's memories and didn't know what her body's original owner had experienced.

Despite the thick calluses, she still had to check her pulse, right?

After a while, she finally determined that her body was suffering from long-term malnutrition, resulting in her being both thin and flat. She didn't need to check her pulse to know this. Additionally, her predecessor had suffered severe organ damage from a beating, causing her body to suddenly stop functioning and leading to an insufficient supply of blood and oxygen to the brain and auditory nerves, resulting in deafness.

If it were someone else, they might have been deaf for life.

She could cure it, but only after her internal injuries had healed and she could move her right hand freely. Then, she would use acupuncture to activate blood circulation, unclogging the orifices in her brain and allowing her to hear again.

For now, she couldn't use acupuncture as her internal injuries hadn't healed and doing so might cause side effects.

As for temporary deafness, she would have to bear with it for a while. There was no other solution at the moment.

After a while, Xiao Yuchuan returned with a load of water. He set the shoulder pole down in the yard and took out two chopstick-like willow branches from his mouth, handing one to Su Qingyue, "Wife, here!"

Qingyue looked at his swollen face and didn't understand what he was saying.

She stared at the willow branch in his hand but didn't take it, simply continuing to stare at him.

"Wife, can you really be so stupid that you don't even know how to clean your teeth?" Xiao Yuchuan looked at her dirt-streaked face and gave her a pitying look. "The Zhu Family is too wicked, not even allowing you to clean your teeth! If I get close to you, I'll nearly vomit from the smell! This isn't like you haven't brushed your teeth in half a year; it's more like you've never brushed them at all! How can you be my wife like this? Other people's wives are kissing their husbands, and your mouth... I... I... I... I'm afraid I won't dare to kiss it..." Qingyue saw only his mouth moving, not understanding his long, rambling nonsense, and received several looks as if she were some pitiful stray dog – as if she had just been abandoned by her owner.

Furious, she abruptly stood up, her round eyes shooting out sparks of anger.

Xiao Yuchuan saw her anger but was delighted, "Are you angry because you're afraid I won't want you? Fine, fine, I'll put up with your stench. In the future, if you're willing to brush your teeth every 10 to 15 days, it'll be enough. I won't hold it against you for being too smelly... If worse comes to worst, you can always beg me... If you beg me, maybe I'll close my eyes and endure the smell to kiss you..."

Chapter 22: I'm not easily tempted.

Su Qingyue saw his look of happiness turn into a calm acceptance with a sort of deathwish, thinking the pig-headed man had gone mad, and burst into laughter once again.

"Wife, you're overjoyed to hear that I grudgingly accept to kiss you, aren't you?" Xiao Yuchuan was very satisfied, "Look at you laughing like a...wild vegetable. I forgive you, you don't look like a flower, but at least calling you a roadside wild vegetable wouldn't kill a person. Wife, you don't know your appearance... alright, alright, I won't say you're ugly anymore, I'm afraid I'll hurt your feelings. As a generous adult, I said I won't sell you anymore, and I won't later either. You'll stay in the Xiao Family as my wife. Remember, if you want me to kiss you later, you must beg me. If you don't beg me, I won't even bother!" he said, handing over the willow twig.

This time, Su Qingyue took it. She knew that in ancient times there were no toothbrushes, so people used fresh, slender willow twigs, chewing on one end to soften it, as a toothbrush.

Earlier, she didn't take it because she was waiting for him to give her some sort of toothpaste-like substance. Of course, there wasn't any toothpaste here, but at least something to clean her mouth would be good.

Xiao Yuchuan carried two tubs of water into the kitchen and poured them into the water jar, then scooped up a ladle of water with a wooden ladle, took another willow branch, and walked into the yard. He had a mouthful of saliva and began to carefully clean his teeth.

Su Qingyue stared at the entire process, using only the chewed-up willow twig in water without anything else. Wasn't that a bit too frugal?

Well, this family was quite poor, so it made sense that they needed to economize.

She knew that some ancient people would use salt as a replacement for toothpaste.

"Wife, why are you staring at me like that? I know your husband is handsome, and you must like me a lot!" Xiao Yuchuan said after cleaning his teeth, smiling with a mouth full of bright white teeth despite his swollen pig head, looking quite neat.

Seeing his bright, white teeth, Su Qingyue thought of her own sticky teeth that hadn't been brushed for a long time and was filled with envy. She wanted to pull out all his teeth and put them in her own mouth... ah, gross!

Such thinking was not good. The thought of putting someone else's teeth in her mouth made her scalp tingle. She was just envious and had a silly thought.

Starting today, she would take good care of her own teeth.

Looking at the chopstick-sized willow twig in her hand, she realized that one wasn't enough, she'd need at least ten. She shouldn't have just sat in the yard waiting for this stinky kid, who only gave her one twig and wasted her time.

She turned and walked towards the courtyard exit. Xiao Yuchuan admired her swaying figure and said, "Yo! My dear, are you being shy? Look at how you're walking, swaying your little frame to seduce me. Let me tell you, I won't be easily seduced. You need to try harder!"

Su Qingyue couldn't hear him, otherwise, she would have definitely had a muscle spasm in her ears. She wasn't trying to seduce him; she was walking slowly and trembling due to her injury, which he deeply misunderstood.

Xiao Yuchuan placed the wooden ladle back in the kitchen and followed her,

“Where are you going? I'll accompany you.”

Su Qingyue stopped and raised her hand, pointing to the willow twig in her hand.

He thought she had stopped because of what he said, not knowing that she couldn't hear, and looking at her movements, he asked, “You're looking for this? Don't you have one in your hand? If you want to find more, there are plenty of willow trees by the river at the edge of the village. There's also a willow tree by the village well. You're injured, don't go too far. Let's go to the village well.. “

Chapter 23: Mountain Village Scenery

The thought of his wife being mute, unable to express herself, stirred a pang of sympathy in his heart.

Little did he know that she was now only deaf, not mute.

She understood that he wanted to take her with him. She nodded, letting him lead the way while she followed behind.

She surveyed her surroundings as she walked. This was an ancient village, and the home she was temporarily staying in was located at the southern foothill. Nearby were a few scattered houses.

This area was slightly higher in elevation than the others. Looking ahead, she saw clusters of houses on relatively flat land. This was the most populated area in the village.

Almost every household lived in adobe houses. Some homes had thatch roofs, while others had tile roofs, indicating better living conditions.

Some low structures covered with thatch were probably barns for livestock. A few houses were better built than most others. Although most of them were still adobe houses, the benefactor's house was rather run-down, suggesting that he was quite poor by village standards.

Fields surrounded the village. Crops in the fields were lush and green. Most fields grew rice, while some also cultivated wheat and other crops. Other general vegetables, sweet potatoes, corn, and the like were grown on the land.

Considering the weather and crop growth, she concluded it was probably early May, just after the busy farming season.

It was a village surrounded by mountains. The mountain peaks rose higher and higher, and the mountains were dense with trees. Some land at the foot of the mountains had been ploughed into vegetable fields where people were sweating bullets, weeding the fields.

A river ran to the south of the village. There were quite many willow trees along the river, but they were a bit far from here, on the other side of the fields. The village was actually closer.

Su Qingyue paused to appreciate the scenery.

The breeze was warm, flowers were slightly fragrant, mountains rose and fell in the distance, water flowed eastward, and the simple and rustic ancient customs still existed.

Used to the bustling high-rise buildings of modern times, she found this countryside scenery to be simply elegant.

The village roads meandered, made of hard mud mixed with stones. Three or two villagers sat under the shade of the trees, fanning themselves with palm fans, enjoying the cool. Children ran and played, their dirty faces filled with childlike innocence.

“Oh, Chuanzi, taking your wife for a stroll?” Shi Cai from the same village was sitting under a tree, chatting idly with a few other villagers. As soon as he saw Xiao Yuchuan, he quickly came forward.

“Yeah, my wife agreed to stay with the Xiao family.” Xiao Yuchuan had a smug expression on his face. “Of course, I will accompany her more.”

“Chuanzi, you are indeed good-looking, but paired with such a wife, it’s just like a beautiful flower growing out of cow dung.” Wang Qigu, a woman, shook her head.

Shi Cai put on a scholarly air, “You don’t understand, Aunt Qi. You can’t use a flower to describe a man. Flowers are for describing women.”

“Humph, how dare you correct me, you can barely read.” Wang Qigu didn’t buy it.

“At least I know that flowers are used to describe women.”

“Then what is used to describe men?” Wang Qigu countered.

“This...” Shi Cai rubbed his head, “The big trees on the mountains, I suppose trees stand for men...”

Wang Qigu burst into laughter. “No wonder they say, ‘A reliable man is as rare as a sow that can climb trees.’”

“Hehe...” A few ladies and girls laughed, albeit less exaggeratedly.

Shi Shanzao, sitting on the side, wasn’t laughing.. Staring at Xiao Yuchuan’s swollen face, dissatisfaction flickered in her eyes, “Brother Chuan, did you hurt your face yourself?”

Chapter 24: Maintenance

“Hehehe...” Xiao Yuchuan laughed, admitting it.

“Brother Chuan, as a big man, how could you slap your own face?” Shi Shanzao’s tone was somewhat sour, “Is it worth it for such a woman?”

“Yo, Shanzao, are you feeling wronged for Chuan?” Wang Qigu’s sharp eyes landed on her, “Could it be that you like Chuan too?”

“Who... Who said I like him?” Shi Shanzao’s face turned red, and she shrank behind a group of people sitting in the shade.

Shi Cai, Shanzao’s biological brother, didn’t like that remark, “Aunt Qi, my sister Shanzao is still to get married, so don’t spoil her reputation with such words.”

Aunt Qi had just made a wild guess. Since the other party didn’t admit it, she couldn’t continue, “I was just talking casually.”

Aunt Zhang, who had gone to the Xiao Family earlier to watch the excitement, was also present and spoke up with reason, “Aunt Qi, careless words can drown a person. We old folks can endure a few words, but an unmarried girl like Shanzao can’t stand rumors, so mind your words.”

Aunt Qi closed her mouth and said no more.

Shi Cai saw Xiao Yuchuan and Su Qingyue walking away, being a gossip, he ran over and blocked Su Qingyue’s path. He looked up and down, left and right at her, while fanning his nose with his hand, “It really stinks!”

With such a simple gesture and two words, Su Qingyue, of course, understood. She knew she smelled bad and was embarrassing to passersby, but this man was clearly looking for trouble on purpose.

She glanced at the protruding stone beside him on the ground, deliberately stepped forward to the left, and Shi Cai stepped back into the opposite direction to escape the smell. Unknowingly tripping on the stone, he fell into a starfish position, screaming in pain, "Hey yo, hey!"

"Hahaha... Hahaha..." The onlookers in the back roared with laughter.

Aunt Qi had already been rubbed the wrong way by Shi Cai just now. Seeing this, she said sarcastically, "Oh dear, I say Shi Cai, how did you become such a weak shrimp, unable to stand firmly? Your wife must have drained you dry and left you with kidney deficiency!"

Aunt Qi's words made everyone laugh even harder. Everyone knew that Shi Cai's wife was both fierce and lew-d, even having affairs with several men in the village.

Shi Cai's face turned red with embarrassment, he denied, "What nonsense are you talking about? I'm amazing in bed!" He glared angrily at Su Qingyue, "You stinky woman, you're both smelly and ugly! If it weren't for your stench, would I have fallen? Damn bad luck!"

Xiao Yuchuan grabbed his collar, "Watch your mouth! Who's smelly and who's bad luck?"

Shi Cai knew that Xiao Yuchuan often fainted, his body wasn't fit, so he wasn't afraid of him. Struggling to get up, he said, "What's wrong? Where was I wrong? Your wife stinks so much that people's noses are going numb! You really think she smells good? She's bad luck, otherwise why would she be sold around?"

It was one thing for Xiao Yuchuan to say his wife was smelly, but seeing others say so was unbearable, "My wife smells nice, my Xiao Family won't sell her anymore. It's you, a rotten stone, who stinks and disgusts after falling into an outhouse pit!"

"Ha! The Xiao Family's third son is now spitting ivory!" Shi Cai waved to the others, "Everyone, take a look at how ugly the wife of the Xiao Family is! It's bad enough that she's ugly herself, but hiding in the house to rot wouldn't hurt anyone.. Coming out and scaring people, that's her fault!"

Chapter 25: had another fight.

The tense atmosphere that was about to lead to a fight was once again defused by laughter because of this remark.

“I bet you’re trying to scare people!” Xiao Yuchuan threw a punch at Shi Cai’s face, his fist hard as iron, and Shi Cai was knocked back several steps, his eye swelling into a large black circle.

“Ah!” Shi Cai screamed. He got up and began to fight with Xiao Yuchuan, punching, kicking, and violently slamming... The two were fighting more and more fiercely.

Su Qingyue stood aside watching. She knew that the benefactor’s younger brother was helping her. It’s not that she didn’t help him, but judging by the fight, the man fighting with him was no match for him. That guy was kicked and trampled by him, even his crotch was ruthlessly kicked, but he himself didn’t seem to suffer much.

“Ah ah ah...” Shi Cai wailed in pain, his screams becoming more and more miserable. He originally wanted to teach a lesson to the useless Xiao Yuchuan, but didn’t realize he could actually fight so well.

Shi Shanzao was scared. She thought that Brother Chuan would be lenient towards her older brother because of her, so she quickly ran over to stop the fight, “Brother Chuan, stop! You’ll kill him if you keep doing this!”

Seeing the situation, other people also came over to intervene, “Stop fighting, why did this even start...”

Wang Qigu said, “What’s going on with Chuan? Now he has a thing for hitting people?”

Aunt Zhang said, “Can’t blame Chuan, though. Didn’t you see? Shi Cai started it by saying that the Xiao Family’s wife stinks and deliberately tried to stir up trouble. He deserves to be beaten...”

A few men stepped in to separate the two.

Seeing that Shi Cai was lying on the ground and couldn't get up, Xiao Yuchuan himself didn't have any issues, so to avoid being framed, he quickly pretended to be injured, "Ouch! It hurts so much! I must have a broken bone somewhere..." He screamed louder than Shi Cai.

"Are you okay, Chuan?" Aunt Zhang asked.

"Of course not! My whole body hurts..." Xiao Yuchuan grimaced and looked at his wife, "Wife, I was injured defending you. You'd better take extra good care of me later!"

Su Qingyue was standing on his side and didn't know what he said. She tilted her head, saw him groaning in pain, and dragged him away.

The villagers only gossiped behind their backs and didn't stop them.

"Didn't they say Chuan faints easily? Didn't expect him to be quite good at fighting." Someone said.

"Isn't that right? Chuan never used to fight with the villagers before. He fought with Zhao Shugen this morning, and now he knocked down Shi Cai. He doesn't look that weak..." Someone chimed in.

"He does seem quite strong. His swollen face will look quite handsome once the swelling goes down... It's a shame he married such an ugly wife..."

"It's already good enough that the Xiao Family's wife stayed. No matter how handsome Chuan is, the Xiao Family also has a crippled fourth son. The Xiao Family's second son is also scary enough. What's the use of Chuan being handsome? The Xiao Family doesn't have any land or property; which girl would be willing to marry into their family?"

Someone suggested, "In my opinion, Chuan's ugly wife still needs to be sold.

She can be sold for seventeen taels. After a few years, save some more money until it's thirty taels, and then buy a normal one..."

“That’s the idea...”

Shi Shanzao listened to the villagers’ words, her face turning pale. She helped her older brother, Shi Cai, who was constantly wailing in pain, and went back to their own house.

Xiao Yuchuan was dragged by Su Qingyue, feeling her warm little hand. The warmth seemed to have seeped into his heart, making everything doubly sweet. He decided that in the future, he would beat up anyone who bothered his wife..

Chapter 26: Can you bear it?

Su Qingyue pulled Xiao Yuchuan’s hand and walked a few steps, then saw a well in front of her with a vertical well frame, a windlass on top that could be rotated with a handle, and several coils of rope wrapped around the axis of the windlass, with one end tied to a water bucket.

A villager was turning the handle, pulling up a wooden bucket full of water from the well. When the bucket reached the top, he lifted and poured the water into his water bucket, then threw the wooden bucket tied to the well rope back into the well to fetch more water.

There were a few villagers behind him, waiting in line with empty water buckets.

Su Qingyue let go of the benefactor’s younger brother’s hand, and her gaze fell on a big willow tree not far from the well. She had thrown away the willow twig he had given her earlier.

It was his fault for carrying water with the willow branch in his mouth. Even though they were not a couple, she didn’t like the “toothbrush” soaked with his saliva.

She went up and picked about twenty willow branches of the proper thickness and chopsticks-like length with her left hand.

Xiao Yuchuan stood in place, stroking the hand his wife had just held with his other hand, feeling a little empty and sad, but also quite enjoying being led by her.

“Chuan, what’s your wife doing?” Li Cai, who was fetching water at the well, asked out loud.

“Picking willow twigs. Besides weaving baskets and dustpans, they’re also used for cleaning teeth. Judging by her choice, she definitely wants to clean her teeth.” Ding Er, who had also come to fetch well water, laughed and said, “Chuan, even if you clean your wife’s mouth full of yellow teeth, it’s useless.”

“Exactly. Look at her dark skin, and when she grins, showing those yellow teeth, it’s quite disgusting...” Li Cai teased, “Chuan, have you kissed your dear wife’s little mouth?”

“What are you all talking about!” Xiao Yuchuan blushed.

“Oh, are you shy now?” Ding Er said again, “Her yellow teeth look stinky. I don’t think you’ve kissed her, have you? Why not go over and kiss her, then spit it out, and Ding Er will fetch water from the well to wash your mouth for you...” “Hahaha...” Everyone nearby burst into laughter.

Originally, the Xiao Family was the poorest family in Wushan Village, with a lot of troubles. The villagers liked to gossip about the Xiao Family when they had nothing to do. Now that the Xiao Family had bought this wife, it made people even more eager to laugh at them.

Xiao Yuchuan was annoyed but had nowhere to vent his frustration. Instead, he just clutched his chest and pretended to be in pain, “If you keep laughing, I’ll faint from anger, and it’ll be all your fault. When that happens, I’m gonna ask your family for medical expenses, and don’t blame me...”

At this point, everyone stopped laughing. The Xiao Family’s third son was known to faint easily and had been doing so for several years now. In case he really fainted and blamed someone, it would be a real misfortune. The villagers worked hard to earn money, so they couldn’t let him take advantage of them.

Su Qingyue knew that these people were laughing at her but ignored them. She walked in the direction of the benefactor’s house, passing a few villagers along the way. Upon seeing her, they all used their hands to fan themselves, as if she smelled terrible.

Some even saw her coming and deliberately avoided her.

There were also some who exaggeratedly jumped three feet away when they saw her approaching, then yelled and complained.

If it were the original owner of the body, she would probably have been so ashamed that she would want to hit a wall and die. Su Qingyue, however, walked past expressionlessly, neither fast nor slow, trying her best not to shake her body while walking so as not to worsen her injury.

Xiao Yuchuan followed his wife and heard someone shout at him, "Chuan, other people's wives pass by with a fragrance, but your wife passes by with a stench. Can you stand to share a quilt with her at night?"

The one who yelled this was Ding Er, whose voice was so loud that the villagers who heard it along the road burst out laughing again..

Chapter 27: What are you looking for?

After returning to her benefactor's home, Su Qingyue went into the kitchen and scooped a bowl of water with a pottery bowl. She placed a handful of thin willow twig sections on the stove, picked one, bit one end to soften it, and brushed her teeth with a mouthful of water.

She brushed non-stop, front and back, left and right, inside and out...

After using nine willow twig sections, changing countless bowls of water, and brushing a few spots on her gums raw, she finally felt clean.

When she picked up the tenth twig, she took a pinch of salt from the seasoning pot on the stove, bit a twig section's end to soften it, dipped it in the salt on her palm, and brushed with saltwater. Her injured gums stung, but she didn't care, brushing until she'd used up all the salt in her hand. Only after rinsing her mouth with several mouthfuls of water did she feel her oral cavity was clean.

Xiao Yuchuan watched her actions, knowing that his wife had cleaned her teeth many times, and only used salt in the last round in order to save some for their household. He couldn't help but feel both guilty and touched, "Wife, although my body is sometimes not well, I will do my best to make money and give you a good life."

He had stayed home today intending to sell her. After deciding not to sell her, he had wanted to keep an eye on her for a while, but now it seemed she no longer wanted to leave.

"Fourth Brother's leg has been hurting for a few days, and he can't get out of bed. Second Brother went hunting in the mountains, and you're injured too. We can't have no one taking care of the house. Don't worry, in a few days when Fourth Brother's leg is no longer hurting so much, I'll go sell goods and make money..." he added.

Su Qingyue didn't look at him. In her world, it was so quiet that even firecrackers wouldn't be heard. Naturally, she didn't know what the man behind her was babbling about.

She moved the remaining ten willow twigs on the stove over to the wall and planned to use four of them in the evening, three each for tomorrow morning and night. Starting the day after, she wouldn't be so obsessive: she could brush her teeth just once in the morning and evening with a single twig each time.

However, she'd need to use some salt from this household every time.

Seeing that there was only a little less than half a pot of salt left in the jar, she knew this family was very poor and felt a bit reluctant to use it.

She never thought she, Su Qingyue, who had earned a high reward for killing in modern times and managed wealth well, had over nine figures in savings before she died and time-traveled to ancient times, would hesitate to use a little bit of salt. She must have done too many evil deeds and was being punished by heaven.

Well, she was already eating and living off others while consuming their belongings, which wasn't ideal.

Being injured herself, she could not earn money. She couldn't go and kill people for money, could she? Although she had medical skills, no one would believe her in her current situation.

Frankly, she was tired of killing and living a life on the edge. Now that she had a new vessel, she didn't want to repeat her past of living in constant fear and darkness. In the future, she would earn money honestly, just like the villagers, relying on her own abilities and hard work to make a living.

For now, she needed to recover her health first. Everything else had to wait. She could only do other things when her body was better.

She returned to the room she had slept in last night and searched it again. There was just one extra-large, extra-long sleeping bed and two old, large wardrobes against the wall. There wasn't much else to search.

She stared at the wardrobe doors, hesitating about whether to open them or not.

"Wife, what are you looking for?" Xiao Yuchuan noticed she was searching for something. Thinking back to her stealing all of their belongings before, which had left Fourth Brother unable to buy medicine, his voice involuntarily became

somber..

Chapter 28: misunderstandings

He glanced at her tranquil eyes again; although her face was still too ugly to look at directly, he felt that his wife wouldn't steal from the family anymore.

Following her gaze, he opened the doors of two wardrobes. Seeing her dirty and smelly appearance, he thought she was looking for clothes to change into.

When he had first brought her back from the Zhu Family, the fierce old lady from there hadn't allowed her to bring anything but herself and the ragged clothes she had been wearing for who knows how long.

He and his second brother had bought her a new set of clothes, but after she had stolen eight taels of silver and ran away, she had taken the new clothes with her. Now there was nothing in this house that belonged to her.

He handed her one of his own garments, but she just waved her hand. Confused, he asked, "You're not looking for clothes to change into? Then what are you looking for?"

Seeing that he had taken the initiative to open the cabinets, Su Qingyue simply searched through both of them. Disappointment flashed in her eyes when she couldn't find what she was looking for.

Observing her disappointed expression, Xiao Yuchuan coldly said, "You're looking for money, aren't you? All the money in this house has been stolen by you, and the only bit left I've already given to second brother. Our food is running out, so second brother probably took the money with him while hunting, to buy food on the way back."

Su Qingyue turned to look at his hanging face, not understanding what was wrong with him. Was he angry that she was going through his clothes? Hadn't he opened the cabinet himself?

With him present, she was just taking a look and didn't take anything from his cabinet. Would it really warrant such a stinky face?

She was getting a bit angry as well.

She left the room with a straight face.

Xiao Yuchuan was really annoyed this time. His wife didn't deny it, which meant that she was indeed looking for money. Thinking about her wanting to steal money and run away again, his anger shot up, "Su Qingyue, you stinky old woman, don't push your luck! If you try to steal money and run away again, don't blame me for tying you up, locking you in the house, and not letting you out!"

He yelled so loudly that the whole yard, and even a few passing villagers outside the courtyard, could hear. They all sighed that the Xiao Family's daughter-in-law couldn't change her thieving ways, and that the Xiao Family must have had bad luck for eight lifetimes to have bought such a wife.

No matter how loud the man in the room yelled, Su Qingyue couldn't hear him. She was also not feeling well. She simply wanted to find a mirror in the room.

Since she had time-traveled to ancient times, besides seeing her thin body, dark skin, and the sores on her face, she had no idea what she looked like now.

She thought that there must be a woman in this house, and where there was a woman, there would be a mirror.

She just wanted to borrow a mirror to have a look. Was it necessary to make such a stinky face as if she had dug up his ancestral grave?

She didn't know that there weren't any feminine things in the room. She guessed that the family's woman either died, ran away, or was sold.

Being fed and supported by others makes them feel indebted. She had to leave this house as soon as possible to avoid being affected by irrelevant people's anger.

Without a mirror, what could she use to have a look at her reflection?

Her brain slowly turned, not wanting to think too fast, lest she exacerbate her concussion headache.

Water...

Water could also reflect her appearance.

She immediately thought of the river on the other side of the field ridge.

It was a bit far, and she couldn't wait any longer.

The water jar in the kitchen!

Eagerly, she ran into the kitchen, stood in front of the water jar, and bent her thin waist to take a look.

Shit, was this even a human?

Chapter 29: Appearance

Her long hair, tangled like dried vegetables, was scattered loosely behind her and fell over her chest. Even without a cloth band to tie her hair, it didn't fray apart—possibly due to either sweat or some other liquid that evaporated—instead, it solidified into lumps, emitting a sharp sour smell.

The rough and ragged fabric of her clothes was patched up more than a dozen times, making her look even more like a beggar than actual beggars. She had noticed this long ago, but it didn't matter since she could change her clothes.

However, the face reflected in the water was so dark that it could be mistaken for charcoal. The face was covered in acne and pus sores, with thick pus even dripping from the broken skin!

To prevent dirtying the beneficiary's half-full water tub with her pus, she foolishly reached out to catch the drip.

The sensation of the pus on her hand was horrifying.

"Ah!" she screamed. In both her former modern life and her current one, she had never seen anyone so ugly and disgusting!

She couldn't help but curse. Prior to time-traveling, she was gorgeous—an exceptionally beautiful woman. How could she end up so ugly? After all, the desire for beauty is universal.

Crying.

Not a tear to spare.

Her face was just like that of a dead person.

Since first touching the pus sores on her face, she had a feeling she wouldn't be good-looking, but she had never imagined she could be so ugly that it would lead to her death.

The reflection in the water also touched her face.

Alas, the reflection was indeed her current face... so ugly that it would cause both humans and gods great indignation. No wonder the villagers had such extreme reactions upon seeing her.

Xiao Yuchuan was waiting in his room for Su Qingyue to explain, to tell him she didn't want to steal his money and that it was a misunderstanding. However, he heard her scream and immediately rushed over with lightning speed. "Wife, what happened?"

As Su Qingyue was still in shock over her ugly face, she didn't have time for him. She pushed him out of the kitchen, locked the door, and ignored his urgent knocking. "Wife, what's wrong with you?"

She couldn't hear his words; she could only see the door trembling from his knocking. He must be outside, desperately pounding on it.

Not responding, she continued to examine her face in the water tub.

She thought, "Well, I've already died once. So, it doesn't matter if I'm ugly. I still need to live my life."

Upon closer inspection, she found her facial features quite attractive; she had standard double eyelids, large eyes, and brows that could be shaped however one wished. Her nose was also quite delicate, and her small mouth was very gorgeous.

If she could heal her acne and pus sores, her skin would become lighter, and she would undoubtedly be a beautiful woman. Luckily, she was good at healing.

Her skin seemed to be so dark due to many years of sun exposure. She pulled up her clothes and glanced at the skin inside, which was indeed much lighter, confirming that it was sunburned and just needed to become fair again. What satisfied her most was that she had breasts – even though they were small due to being emaciated, they were more than just flat fried eggs.

When she had enough food and gained some weight, her breasts would become proportionally larger, and she would look much better at that time.

However, her skin was severely damaged, and it would take a long time to heal and regain its fairness.

Based on her face, she appeared to be around twelve or thirteen years old. However, it was possible that her age seemed younger due to malnutrition, and she might actually be fifteen or sixteen.. Regarding her height, she walked to the wall side,

Chapter 30: times stronger than the stench of death

He lifted his left hand against the wall, measuring the height, which was indeed not too high, about 1.6 meters.

“Su Qingyue, what the hell are you doing in there, stinky old woman? I’ve been asking you for half a day and you won’t answer!” Xiao Yuchuan was both worried and anxious, “If you don’t open the door, I’ll kick it open!”

He kicked the door a couple of times, stepped back, ready to deliver the heaviest kick, and charged..

Su Qingyue just happened to open the door, and if it had been anyone else, they would have been seriously injured.

Thanks to her quick reflexes, she instinctively stepped aside.

Bang!

Xiao Yuchuan kicked past the door, couldn't stop in time, and fell, injuring his buttocks and howling in pain, "Wife, you're too cruel! You knew I was going to kick the door open and deliberately set me up!"

Su Qingyue looked at his swollen face and grinned with schadenfreude.

"Hmph!" Xiao Yuchuan snorted, rubbing his nearly-split-in-two buttocks well, they were already two halves, but they hurt so bad it felt like they were splitting into four – and glared at her, "If I died, you'd be happy, huh." She understood what he was saying and nodded her head politely. "You..." he clenched his teeth in anger, "Stinky old woman!"

She knew he was cursing her, but she didn't care and flicked her hair; she indeed stank, and an honest person was innocent.

"You stinky old woman, apologize to me, and tell me you won't run away or steal anymore!" He didn't care about the pain of falling, but he was very concerned about this. As soon as he finished, he remembered that she couldn't speak.

Why did he always forget that she was mute?

It pained his heart again.

Su Qingyue didn't 'listen' to his ramblings and, under the sun that didn't dry things, felt even stinkier as the temperature rose.

She wanted to take a shower!

This morning, when she woke up covered in stench, she wanted to take a shower. The water jar was empty, and even though the benefactor's younger brother carried back a load of water with two wooden buckets slightly larger than ordinary ones, they only contained half a tub of water.

Considering her dirtiness and stench, she felt that two buckets — or even two or three tubs — of water wouldn't be enough.

Moreover, it wasn't good to take a cold shower; it would take a lot of time and effort to heat enough water. She feared that by the time one pot was heated up, the other would have cooled down already. Staying at someone else's house, it wasn't convenient for her to keep replacing the warm water.

So, seeing that the sun was shining brightly today, she decided to wait until the afternoon, when the sun would have warmed the river water a bit, and then go to the river and have a good wash.

As for clothes to change into... there were no women's clothes in the main bedroom's wardrobe, and probably not in the secondary bedroom either.

Earlier, the benefactor's younger brother had offered her some clothes by the main bedroom's wardrobe, but she didn't think about taking a shower just yet. Seeing his foul facial expression, she didn't feel comfortable and didn't take them.

When she passed by the window of the secondary bedroom, she caught a glimpse of the clothes of the person sitting on the bed inside, who was a man.

Asking a sick person for clothes wasn't polite, and the benefactor's younger brother was stingy even about lending her a mirror.

Now, if he asked her to lend him clothes, she wouldn't want to.

She could have borrowed clothes from her benefactor, but he wasn't at home.

Never mind, at worst she would go to the river to take a bath and find a secluded spot to wash these rags she was wearing, then spread them out in the sun to dry, or if that didn't work, wear them on her body to 'air-dry'. Even if she catches a cold, it's better than stinking to death..