

The Blessed - Chapter 21-30

21. Butchering the Black Wolf (1)

Translator: Guy Gone Bad

Father and sons, three labors cooperated with each other. The two buns picked wild grapes back and forth, while Ling Jingxuan bent over to look for medicinal herbs among the weeds. Since no one had ever set foot on this place, though a bit hard, it was really fruitful. He had found many useful herbs, and even some edible mushrooms, wanting to make a pot of mushroom soup for dinner.

“Daddy, those things are poisonous. Why did you dig them up?”

After picking a pile of herbs and ready to call it a day, Ling Jingxuan pushed aside the grass and saw another cluster of mushrooms. Without even thinking, he squatted down to continue picking, suddenly the big bun’s voice filled with disgust suddenly sounded. As Ling Jingxuan turned around, he saw the two buns, hand in hand, standing there, these two days very clean little faces were dirt all over again.

“Hehe... not all mushrooms are poisonous, these can be eaten. You finished picking?”

They were still too small, sometimes they still would not understand even if he explained it to them, so Ling Jingxuan calmly switched the topic. They would only know mushrooms were something good after they ate them.

“Really? Daddy, let me help you.”

On hearing they were edible, the small bun decisively rushed forward, while Ling Jingxuan hurriedly embraced him, powerlessly saying, “Some are not edible, you can not tell, so you’d better stay out of this.”

A penny-pinching money slave, and a foodie, the characteristics of those two were really... extinctive?

“But I want to help daddy.”

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Cocking his head, wearing the innocent face, big round eyes showing great concern of his daddy.

“Haha... no, daddy is not tired, you go to have a rest nearby, when I finish picking this cluster, we will go home.”

Heart feeling warm, Ling Jingxuan patted his butt, and signaled big bun with his mouth.

“Xiaowu, be good. Let’s go there and wait for daddy.”

Seeing him still unwilling to give up, the big bun came over and held his hand.

Ling Jingxuan helplessly shook his head, turned back and buried himself among those mushrooms again. He was not joking with the small bun. This cluster of mushrooms here was really a lot, some with dim color, some with bright color. Those that were edible and poisonous were all mixed together, but he picked all of them. Historically, cure and poison were together, poisonous mushrooms, although not edible, one can make poison with them. The three of them lived at the foot of the mountain alone, who were all as thin as a bamboo pole. How could they not have some defending methods?

“This is…”

A bunch of mushrooms were classified soon. As he was about to get up, he accidentally saw a red light among the grass cluster not far away with his split vision. Driven by his curiosity, Ling Jingxuan carefully brushed open the grass, a fist-sized, a blood-red umbrella-shape mushroom revealed. Ling Jingxuan had a thrill in the heart, without thinking, he cut a piece of his clothes with the sickle and wrapped it before digging it out.

Although he did not know the name of the mushroom, its reddish color and no grass within a few centimeters around made it a perfect choice for producing poison.

“Little buns, time to go home.”

After stuffing the red mushroom wrapped alone in the chest, Ling Jingxuan cut a few more pieces of his clothes to wrap those medicinal herbs, edible and inedible mushrooms, then went to the two little buns who were sitting on the ground not far away. The bamboo baskets they brought were totally full. Considering the big bun’s money slave characteristics, Ling Jingxuan couldn’t help but shake his head. He was thinking that if he can’t turn those wild grapes into money, big bun might even place righteousness before family loyalty. So nerve-racking! He should get the opportunity to help him correct it

“Daddy, didn’t you say to help second uncle pick some wild fruit?”

Though greedy for money, he did not forget the business.

“Hehe… isn’t that it? You wait for me a second.”

Pointing to the wild pear tree about ten meters away, Ling Jingxuan put down the packages and went over with his sickle. As early as they arrived here, he had noticed the existence of this wild pear tree. Ling Jingxuan illness was called tuberculosis in

modern world, which was not very serious, at least no symptoms like coughing blood yet. The reason he was unable to get out of bed was mainly because he was too small when he caught the disease, and did not get effective treatment. Actually the treatment for early tuberculosis was simple, stewed snow pear with rock candy, three times a day, and it'd be cured, and some anti-inflammatory drug, it could be cured in half a month at most.

Snow pear certainly wouldn't exist in this era, but the wild pears would also do, plus the air here was good, the wild fruit bred here tastes pure, the efficacy should be better than snow pears, as for rock sugar, he could go to the town to buy some. If there was not any, he can only decoct some with bare hands, although it was more troublesome.

22. Butchering the Black Wolf (2)

Translator: Guy Gone Bad

After picking four or five big yellow pears, Ling Jingxuan thought about cutting down a branch. On the way back, he also cut down a few wild grape branches. Their yard was too empty. He could plant these first, whether they could survive or not.

“Daddy, what fruit is this? It smells good.”

After taking it happily, the small bun took a hard smell on it, the corners of the mouth showing the trace of saliva. Seeing this, the big bun quickly grabbed it, “This is our second uncle's guiding drug. If you want to eat, we can come pick some next time.”

While saying so, the big bun rolled up the lower hem of his robes, tied a knot in the waist, then stuffed those big pears inside.

“I know, I was just asking.”

The small bun pouted, he did not say he wanted to eat them.

“Okay, we...”

Boom...Boom...

“Ow...ow...ow...”

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As Ling Jingxuan was about to say time to go home, deep in the jungle was heard a terrifying banging sound, mingled with clear beast's roaring. The father and sons were thunderstruck. Already having no heart to care about those fruit aside, the two buns grabbed Ling Jingxuan's thighs, fear crawling onto the face, and little body trembling.

“Don’t be afraid. I will go take a look.”

Feeling their fears, Ling Jingxuan patted their heads to soothe them, then picked up the sickle he just put down again. If he guessed correctly, the sound was supposed to be from a wolf, an adult one, his heart sunk. For the first time, he sincerely hoped he guessed it wrong. It wouldn’t be a problem if he was alone, even if he was not good in physical condition, with the ability from his previous life, to avoid a wolf’s attack was not a problem, but now, he had no confidence he can save three unscathed.

“Daddy... don’t go.”

“Daddy, I’m scared...”

Two buns, one left, one right, pulling him, identical big eyes full of tears, but they both held the tears in their eyes and did not cry out. Turning back to see this scene, Ling Jingxuan felt his heart skipped a beat, he turned round to embrace them and gently said, “Don’t be afraid, daddy will protect you. You forget daddy knows martial arts?”

“But it’s a wild animal. What if... what if something happens to daddy? What should we do?”

The big bun who had already performed sensible and mature finally exposed the fear a five years old child should have, which really made Ling Jingxuan distressed. He would rather let the son scold him every day than seeing him this way.

“It’s OK. It’s OK. Don’t cry. Let’s get out of here before the wolf comes.”

Here was clearly not a good place to slowly appease them, ling jingxuan respectively kissed their cheeks, then turned around to carry the bamboo basket.

Bang...

“Oh, wah-wah... daddy... I’m scared...”

“Ah... daddy...”

But, the heaven is like playing with them. Even before he could stand up, a body stained with blood fell from the sky and rolled to their feet. The two buns could no longer take it, holding his legs, wailing. Ling Jingxuan had to put down the basket again, holding them in his arms, “Don’t be afraid, daddy is here.”

Over their shoulder, his eyes suddenly shot at the person in blood not far away. Judging from his slightly up-and-down back, he should still be alive. As for how badly he got injured, it had nothing to do with him. Other people’s life or death, he was not interested to know. From past life to this life, his temper hadn’t had the slightest change. If it was

someone he did not care at all, even if he died in front of him, he wouldn't have the slightest sympathy, because, he had seen too many deaths, heart already been numb!

“Woo... daddy... daddy...”

Buried in his neck, the two buns were almost exhausted from crying, their weak and thin bodies shaking like sifting chaff.

“Boohoo...”

Suddenly, a giant wolf with a dark body all over while the top of its head and the limbs were dotted with color white landed before them, less than five meters away. Ling Jingxuan was a bit startled, reflectively pushing the two buns behind him, grabbed the sickle lying on the ground, launching ice cold murderous look from his narrow phoenix eyes, countless years' killing feel pouring out, but...

Bam!

Howling~

The previously mighty and strong black wolf fell to the ground suddenly. Through the gap between its tusks, the black wolf let out a painful growling. Ling Jingxuan looked at it intently and realized that it was covered with wounds all over. Soon it was all blood under its body.

“Don't be afraid. It's dying. I'll go and check it.”

Hiding behind him, tightly holding his clothes, the two little buns even forgot to cry already. Ling Jingxuan clapped their hands, gently broke away from them, this time, the two buns did not stop him, it was not that they didn't want to, but they already forgot what fear was.

Whining~

Like sensing his nearing, the dying black wolf suddenly roared, the originally dim eyes suddenly showed combativeness, sharp fangs suffused with cold light. If it were someone else, that person would have scared to death and slumped onto the ground, but Ling Jingxuan just sneered, holding his sharp sickle and jumping at it.

Howling~

Poo~

The thin sickle precisely stabbed into the black wolf's neck, blood fiercely shot out. Ling Jingxuan was dyed with the blood instantly, not far away the two buns were frightened and tightly embraced each other. That angular face stained with blood slowly raised with

a weird smile, like a real version of the killing god. Fortunately, he was holding his back to the buns, so neither of them saw it, otherwise, they must get frightened to death by him, because, at this time, he looked too horrible!

23. Picking up an Unknown Man (1)

Translator: Guy Gone Bad

“You think I’d give you a chance to stand up?”

Looking down at the eyes with a grievance of the dead wolf, Ling Jingxuan’s voice was very gentle, but unspokenly creepy, like the evil voice from the lowest level of hell.

Howling~

Howling~

Suddenly two dark round heads emerged among the thick grass, the next second, two black cubs, also with their heads growing a pinch of white hair jumped out of the bushes. The cubs that still could not run steadily stumbled onto dead black wolf, with the heads holding against its belly, meanwhile sucking its swollen tits.

This scene was inexpressibly touching and also sad, and only because of this scene, the sickle in Ling Jingxuan’s hand did not fall on them, because they remind him of his two little skinny buns.

“Daddy... are they...wolves?”

After making sure the adult wolf was dead, the two buns supporting each other moved over, trembling, the same big eyes firmly fixed on the cubs that were sucking milk, which mixed with fear, curiosity and exploration.

“Hmm, you like them?”

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Nodding, Ling Jingxuan turned around to give them a look, raised a hand to wipe the blood on the face in a hurry, the two buns gave each other a look, shook their heads at the same time, “no, we don’t.”

Who knows if they would bite when they grow up? Although they look really cute at this moment.

“Haha...take them back if you like them. We still don’t know if we would raise them up, hurry, the blood will attract other beasts. Let’s grab out stuff and go down the mountain.”

Speaking of which, Ling Jingxuan grabbed the two cubs and threw them one respectively. After a look at the she-wolf, he couldn't help feeling a little sorry. Although the fur was useless, the meat could be eaten. If it hadn't been that they got too much stuff, he really wanted to take it back to cook.

From the beginning to the end, Ling Jingxuan did not take a sweep at the person covered in blood.

"Daddy, what about that person?"

asked the big bun, frowning at the person in blood lying motionless on the ground, holding the cub in his arms.

Carrying a bamboo basket on his back and wringing a few big bundles on his hands, Ling Jingxuan gave a cold look and said, "Who knows? Don't worry. That person wouldn't die for now."

But he didn't know whether he would still keep alive later. Judging from the amount of blood he had lost, that person could last at most an hour, provided that the smell of blood didn't attract other beasts, so the conclusion was, he'd be so dead for sure.

"He's not dead yet?"

On hearing his daddy, big bun made a strange sound, and then bent over. The little bun also ran over. Ling Jingxuan pulled his face long, "What are you doing? We even can't save our own asses! Now you even want to save someone else?"

He had no intention of saving that person even if they were on an open road, not to mention in the jungle, where the wild beasts would come any minute.

"How can we just see him die? Come and help, daddy, he's bleeding a lot."

No one knew where he got the courage, a moment ago he was crying and scared, now he already put down the cub and flipped the man covered in blood, even the small bun went for help. Ling Jingxuan trotted over, standing in front, "My sons, think about your situation before you save someone else. Think about your own ability, do you think only the three of us can get him back?"

You could say he was cold-blooded or heartless. He was who he was, never asked for trouble, moreover, they were too weak to save others.

"But he'll die, daddy, let's save him."

However mature the big bun performed, he was only five years old. How could he understand his dad's meaning completely? He only knew that they couldn't watch him die.

“Daddy, can you save him?”

The small bun also looked at him with that pair of pure eyes.

Their eyes were full of requests to save lives and nothing else.

“All right, you got me. For the record, it is you who want to save him, don’t regret it. Let me check on him first.”

24. Picking up an Unknown Man (2)

Translator: Guy Gone Bad

Even if his heart was as hard as a rock, he still couldn’t resist their imploring. After gazing at them for a while, he helplessly exhaled a long breath, squatted down to put things down and then moved over. Seeing this, a bright smile instantly crawled onto their little face, and they obediently backed aside.

“This face... hmm...”

When Ling Lingxuan turned over the man’s body with all his strength, he saw his face stained with a little dirt, but having no scars, his whole body went stiff, and a few pieces of scattered scenes suddenly revealed in his head.

“No... please, no...”

“Ah...”

“Hmm...”

“My prince, are you all right?”

“Damn it! Finish him!”

“Yes...”

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Accompanied by the emergence of these scenes, there were two completely different voices, the former full of passion, while the latter was ruthless. The buried memories of the original owner was awakened. So the original owner, he was raped by a handsome but domineering man. That man dragged him into the woods of Xiaogong Mountain. He just got into his body against his will. And after that man finished his animal desire and he was about to faint, another few men came. He clearly heard a man told his subordinates to end him. As for why he did not die at last, perhaps because those

people didn't think he could survive, or perhaps they suddenly showed some sympathy. Anyway, when he woke up, there was no one around, physically and mentally wounded, he did not dare tell anyone, but could conceal his sadness and shame and went home, but a few months later, his belly became swollen, then...

No wonder he did not have that man's memory, it turned out...he had thought that the original owner was an easy man who got dumped...never expected...that man was a total son of a bitch! Fuck! If it were him, he also didn't want to remember anything about a rapist!

"Daddy, what's wrong with you? Daddy, his face...it seems I have seen this face before."

Seeing that their daddy froze there, the big bun holding the cub drew close, and as he saw the man's appearance, he suddenly wrinkled his brows tightly. He felt this man's face was very familiar, but he just couldn't remember.

Of course he had seen that face. That was the original version of those two buns!

Ling Jingxuan who finally came to his sense rolled his eyes. How unlucky could he be? He could even pick an unknown man when gathering herbs in the mountain! Fuck! The worst thing was he had no other choice but to save him, because he promised the two little buns he would find out exactly what happened in that year, and cleared the original owner's name, by the way, made clear of their background.

"Xiaowen, Xiaowu, you go back first to wait. When you see your little uncle, you bring him here, remember, don't let anyone notice."

This guy was still in a coma. It was useless however he was struggling in the heart. While tearing off the smooth fabric on the man's body, Ling Jingxuan told the two buns what to do. He had to stop the bleeding first. It'd be better if he can make him awake, but it should be very difficult since he had lost too much blood, also did not know if he had other deadly wounds. Besides, with those herbs he had just gathered, he had no other tools or medicine, the odds of waking him up was zero.

"No, what will you do when we leave?"

Compared with saving people, the big bun cared more care about his daddy's safety. Ling Jingxuan sighed deeply, looking up at him, "I have to stop the bleeding for him, you staying here is of no use. Besides, I myself can't carry him back, Xiaowen, you said we should save him, if you now regret it, we can leave him here and go."

Seemingly callous words, but in fact he was just trying to egg him on. After seeing the man's face and remembering those scenes, he could never leave this man alone.

"I...daddy, you wait for us. I will bring uncle here very quickly. Xiaowu, let's go."

Ling Wen looked at him and then at the unconscious man, gashing his teeth, then pulled up Ling Wen and turned away.

“But...daddy...”

“Little buns, be good. Return quickly, daddy is waiting for you here.”

The small bun who got pulled away looked back again and again. Ling Jingxuan tried to raise a soothing smile at him. Not until their shadows disappeared in the woods did he withdraw his smile, and then concentrated on saving the man. He swore in the heart that after this man woke up, he would definitely torture him. Holy crap! He had already raped him and even wanted to silence him! He was already cold-blooded enough! This guy was even more heartless!

25. Spending Money Is Like Cutting His Flesh (1)

Translator: Guy Gone Bad

“Jingxuan, how did you get a man back?”

With the help of the younger brother Ling Jingpeng, two brothers spent all their strength and finally got the man back home. This man was full of cuts all over his body, but all were not deep, should be some scratches when fighting the wolf. The only fatal wound was the head bumps. Ling Jingxuan help him apply the wound with mashed herba agrimoniae and stop the bleeding, and wrapped it with a cloth and then processed other wounds respectively. As Ling Chenglong and his wife heard that Jingxuan had saved a man, they dropped their work at hand and hurried over. Before they got into the yard, voice came in already.

“Don’t ask me. The two little buns insisted saving him.”

Ling Jingxuan who was dealing with herbs in the yard rascally shrugged his shoulders, decisively shifting all the responsibilities to the two buns.

“Look at you. What do they know?”

Mercilessly staring at him, Lady Wang was about to cross over him to go in, Ling Lingxuan took big strides and stood in the way, “Mother, nothing inside to see, he is still in a coma, after he wakes up, I’ll let him go, OK?”

If they saw that man’s face, he wouldn’t be able to explain it even if he got mouths all over his body.

“I just want to check on him, Jingpeng said he is badly injured, what if he dies in your...”

As she spoke, Lady Wang's eyes grew red again, and the eldest son finally went back to his normal state and ignored all the gossip. If it was known that a man had died in his place, what would people say in the village? What would happen to the children if he were gone?

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The more she thought, the more worried, and she could not help wiping her tears, next to her, Ling Chenlong obviously also held the same worry.

"Mother, come on, if he really would die, do you think I would bring him home?"

Seeing this, Ling Jingxuan hurriedly explained. He knew it would be like this, five years ago that thing had let the family become like a frightened bird. Even a tiny thing would let them panic for a long time. If it had been other people, to save people was a good thing. Why care so much?

"That let us go take a look. Jingxuan, we are old. We can't afford any more blows."

"But..."

It was not that Ling Jingxuan did not want to let them in, but the man's face was too much like the two little buns'. If they saw him, god knows what they would think of him. That damn bastard, can he do something else except making him trouble?

At this moment, Ling Jingxuan decisively shifted the hatred on someone.

"What's the matter? Is he ashamed?"

His refusal was so obvious, the old couple were not fools. How would they not see it? To this end, Lady Wang's tone became a bit sharp, looking at their son with naked suspicion.

"No, it's just..."

For the first time in his life, Ling Jingxuan could not help but feel awkward to open his mouth, unconsciously avoiding their exploring eyes. After quite a while, he bit his teeth and said, "Dad, mom, you promise me, no matter what you see later, don't make a noise, before the thing is made clear, I don't want to frighten the two children."

Forget it! Sooner or later it would be exposed. So why not let it come earlier?

"You kid, just an outsider. What does it have anything to do with Xiaowen and Xiaowu?"

After hearing him, the old couple became more suspicious. Ling Jingxuan exhaled a big breath, didn't want to say anything more, simply turned directly and led them to the sundry room. When they brought that man back, the two buns wanted to put him in their room, after all among the three rooms, only that room had a bed, but he disagreed, finally they made a bed in the sundry room and threw him in.

"Oh, my god, he's... he's..."

Holding doubts, following him into the room, the moment the old couple saw the man's appearance, they both jumped up, fingers trembling pointing at him, face written with fright. Ling Jingxuan said helplessly, "Now you know why I didn't want to let you in? He may be Xiaowen and Xiaowu's real father."

If the man who raped him did not have a twin brothers, no one would doubt their relationship by looking at their near-identical faces without the benefit of a sophisticated DNA test.

"What do you mean possible? Don't you know it yourself?"

When Lady Wang heard this, she lost control. Her voice was shrill and full of accusations that the man had caused great pains to her son. If she could, she would never want to see him in her life.

"Jingxuan, he... in those days your scandal spread all over the villages. If he were a man, he should have stood out to face everything together with you. Since he hadn't, he was basically playing with you, why do you...Alas..."

Ling Chenglong stopped at half of the words and could not help sighing helplessly. In his view, the reason their son would take such a big risk to save the man was he still had feelings for him.

"Dad, mom, what are you talking about? We are not like what you think, in those days I... Can we not talk about it? I don't want to talk about it anymore."

Hearing his father, Ling Jingxuan's tone became a bit angry. He can't tell them their son was raped, right? Now he had a family to support, no longer the original Ling Jingxuan. Whether the man was the father of the two buns, he was not going to accept him, this life, he had love from his parents, brothers and two lovely sons, and that was enough, as for other things, no need.

"You...you...you...Why are you so silly? Any discerning person could tell your relationship. If people know that he is Xiaowen and Xiaowu's father, how will those people say about you?"

No one whether it was anger or hatred, Lady Wang couldn't help shivering. Ling Chenglong, although, he stayed silent, from his slightly reproachful eyes, it was not hard

to tell his discontent about him. Ling Jingxuan held his forehead. Actually for himself, he did not care about what others would say, but they were his parents and brothers, and this also mattered the future of the two buns, so he had to care. Is heaven playing with him on purpose?

“Mom, dad, you worry about things I worry about, don’t worry, after he wakes up, I will let him go after I ask him something I want to know.”

In this case, he either let him go, or openly declared the identity of this man and got married with him. But the latter, he could never do it, so he had only one choice, but the premise was that he must find out the origin of the two little buns, otherwise all the previous things were done in vain.

“You send him away now, as far as possible, I will let your father and Jingpeng help you.”

“Mom...”

“Don’t call me mom, or would you marry him? Jingxuan, I won’t let him hurt you one more time.”

“But I...”

“Enough...”

26. Spending Money Is Like Cutting His Flesh (2)

Translator: Guy Gone Bad

This pair of mother and son argued over a man, so neither of them noticed the man lying on the straw bed was moving the eyelids. He slowly opened his eyes, washing away the moment’s confusing, with that pair of almond-shaped eyes which were exactly the same like the two little buns’ locking them. The more they said, the more agitated. The man showed an I-knew-everything-now look, then closed his eyes like he had never woken up.

“Xiaowu, what we just heard must never be known to anyone else, including daddy.”

Of course, they never knew that the two buns who just came back heard all their conversation. While they still didn’t notice them, the big bun quietly pulled the small bun to the backyard. At such an early age, he may not all understand the meaning of those words, or understood their concerns, but he knew two things, first, that man is likely to be their father, and second, daddy doesn’t like that man. Since daddy doesn’t like him, he doesn’t either. Although he was small, he was crystal clear that they had suffered so much all because of that man.

“Why? I want a father.”

Little bun lowered his head, rubbing his fingers, eyes with tears, the villagers cursed them that they had no mother, they were monsters, and now their father came back, their home should be better and better. Why hide it?

“Xiaowu!”

Ling Wen’s voice suddenly went high, giving Ling Wu a scare, this time those tears popped out of his eyes. Seeing this, Ling Wen hurriedly stretched out his thin arms to hold him, “Xiaowu, don’t cry, we don’t need a father, only daddy is enough.”

“Boohoo... um...”

Although he did not understand, little bun still nodded, moaning. Ling Wen used the way Ling Jingxuan used, gently patting on his back, with that pair of small round almond-shape eyes refracting a firm light, he would protect his daddy and little brother.

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Under Ling Jingxuan’s insistence, the man stayed, relatively, the old couple got very angry. Before leaving, they said they would never care things about him. But the next morning, Ling Chenglong still came to fetch the fish with Ling Jingpeng, after all, that was their own son. How could they really not care about him?

“Dad, Jingpeng, after the fish is sold, please help me buy twenty clay pots of this shape, and a few jars the size of salt shakers and two wooden barrels of the largest size, and finally ten jin of corn flour and two jin of pork.”

After his dad and little brother ate breakfast, Ling Jingxuan said while sketching the shape of the pots. Yesterday’s fish were sold 500 copper coins, equivalent to half a tael of silver. They could eat some meat for nutrition... But...

“Oh, daddy, we just earned a little money, you already want to spend it all? No, you can’t buy anything. You can’t let waste money like that.”

Big bun screamed, showing a I-don’t-agree-face. Ling Jingxuan held the forehead. speechless, and he didn’t say after quite a while with some patience, “Xiaowen, the clay pots are used for for the wild grapes, I told you we will turn them into a lot of money, but before that, a small amount of investment is necessary, and the corn flour and pork, you know, we do not have any food at home. Can we just starve? Look at you and Xiaowu, so thin, shouldn’t you eat some pork for nutrition?”

Now the most regretful thing in this life for Ling Jingxuan was to hand out the financial power. See? Spending some money was like killing the big bun!

“Daddy, you just don’t know how to sustain a family. How expensive are the small pots? Why don’t we buy two big ones? It is too luxurious to eat corn flour every day. Some black flour will do? Forget about the pork, too expensive, we can’t afford it for now. We still have no idea whether we can make money with those wild fruit. We should save money.”

After hesitating for a moment, the big bun shouted.

Ling Jingxuan felt so depressed, still wouldn’t give up, “Think about it, Xiaowen, a piece of cloth sold in the stalls and in the shop, how can the prince be the same? The rarer a thing is, the more expensive it is, you know? And expensive things usually should have exquisite and beautiful packaging. As you said, if we buy two big jars, even it’s some good stuff we make, it’d be wasted. We can sell it for ten taels of silver, however, due to the pots, we can only sell it for one tael of silver. Do you have any idea of the big gap? If you want to make a good money, we have to invest first, so the conclusion is, we have to buy little pots.”

He must be crazy to talk to a five-year-old about the rate of return on investment. Ling Jingxuan, at this time, only felt devastated in the heart.

“Are you sure you can sell the stuff made out of those wild fruits for ten taels of silver?”

After a long silence, Ling Wen opened his mouth trying to confirm what his daddy said.

He got a chance!

Seeing this, Ling Jingxuan’s eyes were shining, he hurried nodded, “If there’s no accident, at least ten, or more.”

“All right, we will buy small pots as you ordered.”

As if cutting his flesh, the big bun finally nodded, just...

“Grandpa, uncle, except the pots and the barrel, buy us some black flour, the cheapest kind.”

Before Ling Jingxuan had time to be happy, the big bun turned to Ling Chenglong and his son and said so. Ling Jingxuan immediately wanted to cry without tears. Can he have some rice to eat in this life???

“All right.”

Watching the whole scene from beginning to the end, Ling Chenglong gave a simple and honest smile, gently touched his head while turning to the depressed Ling Jingxuan, “So this is it. Xiaowen has lived a poor life for too long. Try to stand in his

shoes. How many fish are there in Yuehua Ditch for you to catch? You really should save money as much as you can.”

“I know, dad, sorry to trouble you and Jingpeng. Oh right, Jingpeng, you go to the grocery store to see if there is rock sugar to sell. If there isn’t, help me buy a few jin of white sugar. I want to use it as the guiding medicine for your second brother.”

What other choice does he have? Take it slow. One day he’d change his big son’s stingy temper.

“Ok, big brother, our fish was big and fat, easy to sell. When sold out, I will come to help you, yesterday you said you want to dig a pond in the backyard?”

Hearing that his second brother’s disease could be cured, Ling Jingpeng said with a sunshine smile while patting his chest, his wheat-color skin glowing with youthful splendor.

“All right, you go quickly, it will be hot later.”

“Got it!”

Ling Jingxuan sent his father and Ling Jingpeng out with the two buns. Not until their backs disappeared in sight did Ling Jingxuan turn around and went in. Today he still got tones of work to do. Those wild grapes, he intended to make wine. If there was any left, he planned to boil some jam. Even if it couldn’t exchange for money, he could let the two buns eat it.

“Huh?”

Feeling the bottom of the clothes was being pulled, Ling Jingxuan lowered his head, the big bun loosened it and said not so naturally, “Daddy, I know you want to eat something good, but we have no money, after we have money, I will definitely let you eat white rice every day.”

“Ha ha... Then I will wait for that day to come. Come on. Yesterday I taught you two words. You practice it with Xiaowu.

Hearing his words, Ling Jingxuan couldn’t help smiling. Whether he was just trying to comfort him, at least he has the heart, right? Since his big son is so afraid of being poor, he would only have the confidence when he got a lot of money in his hand, then he will try to make money, as much as they could never spend it all. Then he would no longer be so stingy.

Right now Ling Jingxuan still had no idea, some habits, once formed, it would never be changed. Even if they had a gold hill in the future, the stingy big bun would still be so stingy. He wouldn’t change a bit.

“Daddy, can I go to play with Tiewa after practicing calligraphy?”

“Certainly, but remember to come home before lunch. For the sake of your health, you must form the good habit of taking an afternoon nap!”

Indulgently rubbing his nose, Ling Jingxuan smiled and nodded. After the two buns obediently went to the backyard to practice, Ling Jingxuan turned to go to that man’s room.

27. Confrontation for the First Time, Who Are you?

Translator: Guy Gone Bad

“Stop pretending. I know you’re awake.”

After helping the man change the medicine, Ling Jingxuan stood side and looked at him coldly. The man lying on the straw with his upper body naked looked very strong, not the Mr. Muscle kind, but that kind of healthy and sexy way, like every inch of his muscles was so smooth, plus his knife-engraved facial lines, handsome features, this man is so sexy and charming. Even if his eyes were closed, they could still easily capture any woman’s heart. If it hadn’t been that ugly thing between him and the original owner, maybe he would also be tempted. Anyway, no one could say no to beautiful things, right?

“Who are you?”

He opened the eyes. Those dark deep peach-blossom-like eyes were glazing, and the pale face due to too much loss of blood did not weaken the sharpness under his eyes. Ling Jingxuan couldn’t help making a whistle. That pair of eyes undoubtedly added extra points to his handsome face. Under their ornament, this man’s momentum had sharply changed, strong, overwhelming, and noble.

“Shouldn’t you give your name before you ask me? Or is this how you treat someone who saved your life?”

Though amazed by his charm, Ling Jingxuan did not forget how cruel and cold-blooded he was, this kind of man could only be appreciated from afar, but to play with...never mind, he still wanted to live for a few more years.

Those beaming black eyes flashed a moment of confusion, then deep as the sea, and the man did not answer his question, only staring at him without moving. His blank head told him that he had forgotten everything, including his own name, but judging from the conversation yesterday, he knew that this thin and comely man who claimed to be his savior had a close relationship with him.

“Who are you?”

Asking again, perhaps even the man himself did not notice, his tone was mixed with the unmistakable commanding feeling. There was something, even he got amnesia, he wouldn't lose it-the inherent dominance!

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“Don't tell me you forgot who you are!”

Keen enough to catch the confusion flashing in his eyes, as well as the undisguised defense, Ling Jingxuan coldly swept the cloth on his forehead, sword-like brows slightly wrinkled.

“Yeah...”

“Damn it!”

Before the man finish speaking, Ling Jingxuan squatted down and grabbed his hand, thin handsome face full of cold sweat, after quite a while, he twitched the mouth and said, “There is blood stasis in the brain, may be short-term amnesia due to physical impact. This is your thing! You better get well as soon as possible and move your ass away as far as possible!”

Dropping his hand, Ling Jingxuan randomly grabbed a piece of broken fabric and threw on him, inside there was a jade pendant and a heavy pouch. The jade pedant was engraved with the word ‘晟 (Sheng) ’, which should be associated with his name, for the things in the pouch, he was not interested. Now he only hoped he could quickly regain his memories, answer a few questions, and then kicked him out his world.

“Wait, who are you? What's our relationship?”

Seeing that he was about to leave, the man instinctively held up his body, and if he remembered correctly, yesterday they said they had children, right?

Frozen there, Ling Jingxuan slowly turned around, the face interwoven rendering of chilly alienation and irony, “Look at the cloth in your hand. How could some bumpkin like me have any relationship with you?”

Only with an eye, one could tell the rags were of high quality, apparently he should have a high status, and his intuition told him that the future would be worsened if he got related to him.

“The kids...”

The man frowned and blurted out impulsively. Ling Jingxuan interrupted him with a cold snort, “It seems that you should have heard my conversation with my parents. No

matter whether you have lost your memory or not, I only said once, the children are mine and they have nothing to do with you. You'd better keep that in mind, otherwise..."

For the rest of the sentence, Ling Jingxuan did not continue to say, only threw him a murderous look and walked out. If he really dare to fight over the children with him, he really did not mind killing him. The two buns are his sons. He would fight anyone who tried to steal them from him.

It seemed the man was not affected by his threat. After he left, bearing the huge pains, he held up the body, slender fingers rummaging that lump of purple fabric Ling Jingxuan threw him. From its smooth texture, it wasn't hard to tell it was something pricey. But his eyes did not linger on it for too long. He fished out a dark green transparent jade pendant from inside, on one side of which was engraved the word "晟"(Sheng). With his fingers rubbing the words, scenes were playing in his head, but it was too fast. When he tried to see it clearly, those scenes were already gone.

His intuition told him that the jade pendant was closely related to his identity. The hand holding the jade pendant tightened. Then he dug out a seemingly simple but brimmed with gold thread purse, and pulled out a black tiger-shaped jade carving.

"Oh..."

The moment he saw the jade carving, he had a sudden headache like being pricked by numerous needles, so painful that he had to throw it away, growling while holding the head. At this time, Ling Jingxuan came back carrying a big bowl in each hand. He swept the jade pendant and the carving aside faintly, some speculation glided across his mind, but he said nothing, going to two "Wait!"

Just as he was about to get up and leave, the man in pain suddenly grabbed his wrist. The strength was so great that Ling Jingxuan felt like his wrist was about to break. The man did not realize his gaffes at all, but looked up and said, "Who are you? Tell me your name."

The deep and sharp eyes strongly locked him up, although he himself also did not know why he cared about this matter so much.

"Ling jingxuan!"

Shaking off his hand, Ling Jingxuan lowered his eyes and swept his own livid wrist, and the voice was as cold as hail, each word was enough to make people freeze.

"Then you are my..."

"Savior!"

Ling Jingxuan coldly interrupted his words again, ignoring his tight frown. After answering him, Ling Jingxuan turned to go. What he did not know was that the man's eyes had been following him, until his figure disappeared in his sight.

“Ling jingxuan...?”

After quite a while, the man drew back his eyes and mumbled his name, and a smile rose to his lips that even he himself hadn't even noticed.

28. Tell the Buns Who That Man Is (1)

Translator: Guy Gone Bad

If he saw it right, the dark, heavy jade tiger carving should be the legendary tiger seal, right? In his memory, someone once called him prince, and with the jade pendant engraved with the character Sheng, was he Prince Sheng who owned the title of general in the Qing Dynasty?

Eyebrows suddenly tightened, Ling Jingxuan touched his forehead, turned his heels and went to the backyard. Yesterday while he was not busy, he taught the two buns the three-character scripture. Seeing that they were kind of interested, he made some sand carving in the backyard. Now the two of them were practicing using the branches.

“Xiaowen, Xiaowu.”

Those immature and thin side faces vaguely disclosed seriousness and concentration. That little bit depression in Ling Jingxuan's heart completely dissipated. Is it that important who that man is? His sons were his blood and would always be his. Instead of having a bee in his head, why not think more about how to make more money and improve the economic situation of the family as soon as possible? They would be five years old at the end of the year, and it was time to send them to a private school for study.

“Daddy.”

Hearing his calling, the small bun, who had always been passionate like fire, threw the branch and threw himself into his arms. Big bun was a lot shyer, he just turned his head and called daddy, and then buried his head and started painting with great attention.

“What should I say? Look at your elder brother. Xiaowen, stop, I have something to talk to you.”

Rubbing the tip of small bun's nose, Ling Jingxuan held him up with a hand and looked over to the direction of big bun.

“What is it?”

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Glancing at him suspiciously, big bun dropped the branch, frowning. A long as it wasn't about money, everything could be negotiated.

Given Ling Jingxuan's experience, how would he not know what big bun was thinking?

For this, he could only shake his head except shaking his head. That was because his little buns had lived a poor life for too long.

"Xiaowen, Xiaowu, I know you are only five years old. If you were in any other ordinary family, I'm afraid you are still playing the spoiled children in the arms of your parents. It is dad's fault that you are burdened with too much pressure at such a young age. Don't say anything first. Let me finish, OK?"

Holding back those messy thoughts in the heart, Ling Jingxuan said while pulling the two buns to sit down under the eaves. Looking at their dry and thin cheeks, pains crawled out of his eyes. Seeing their little sword-shape eyebrows slowly wrinkled, Ling Jingxuan respectively smoothed them for them and then continued seriously, "The past is the past. It's not that I'm blaming myself, or begging you to forgive me. The reason I said so much today is because I think you are early-maturing, already can tell right from wrong, and you can use your brain to think. So after giving it some thoughts, I still think I should tell you now. The man we saved...it's quite possible he is your father."

29. Tell the Buns Who That Man Is (2)

Translator: Guy Gone Bad

After doing a series of foreshadowing, Ling Jingxuan finally got to the point, at the same time, observing them with his long and narrow phoenix eyes carefully, only fearing that they might collapse or couldn't accept it, after all, they were five years old, and the man had never appeared. It was only normal if they had any repulsive behavior, but, to his surprise, the two buns were very calm, one lips pursed, while the other mouth twitched, like they had already known it.

Thinking about the quarrel with his parents, Ling Jingxuan rolled his eyes, and then pulled their hands and overlapped, "I don't want to deceive you. His background seems not simple, it'd do you good if you know it earlier...If some day...in a word, you should keep this in your heart, now because his head got severe impact, he temporarily forgot who he is. You just take him as a new villager."

As for the future, Ling Jingxuan was not stupid, wouldn't swag. If the background of the man was as he expected, with his mere ability, it'd be hard to keep the kids by his side, but...a ruthless light flashed deep in his eyes. Everything was not absolute, as long as his little buns did not agree, he would never give up custody.

“I don’t want him. I just want daddy.”

Big bun threw his arms around his neck and sobbed.

“Neither do I, daddy, daddy...”

Seeing this scene, small bun also started to cry. Two buns, one on the left, the other on the right, sobbing on his shoulders.

“Boohoo~”

“Fuck...stupid dog...let go...”

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Ling Jingxuan was stoned, soon knew that they misunderstood him. As he was about appease them, the two cubs came from nowhere and bit the legs of his pant on both sides. Although not painful, Ling Jingxuan could not help but darken his face and kicked them away.

Yelp~

After rolling on the ground for two circles, the two cubs gambled at him again. Ling Jingxuan sighed helplessly. He didn’t know whether it was because he killed their mother, two cubs would howl every time they saw him, really a little annoying, but...

“Little Black, he’s daddy, don’t bite!”

“Big Black, let daddy go!”

Small bun who was immersed in the sorrows already forgot to cry, bent down to hold the little cubs. Under their appeasing, the cubs gradually quieted down. Ling Jingxuan exhaled a long breath and didn’t raise his head after quite a while, “Xiaowen, Xiaowu, I never meant to ditch you two, and you should know it. Daddy is different from others, I can bear kids. I gave birth to you after carrying you for ten months. In my mind, you are my struggling power. Anyone who dares bully you, I will get even for you.”

In the end, Ling Jingxuan’s breath suddenly turned, his thin body burst out with a surprising murderous look.

“Well, daddy, we don’t need a father. You’re all we need.”

Obviously he was giving a horrible sense, but the two buns were not afraid at all. In the eyes of big bun was refracting the firm light, while small bun holding the cubs pouted, “Me too, as long as I have daddy and elder brother.”

In fact, he really wanted his father, then no one would ever call him a wild bastard again, but... if he had to choose between father and daddy, he would always choose daddy.

“Hehe... I know. You also don’t think too much. I just didn’t want to hide it from you. Ok, you go on practicing your calligraphy, and I should go to work.”

Ling Jingxuan respectively touched their heads and stood up. In last life, he was born gay, and could not erect before women at all. Of course he could never get married and give birth to children, so he won’t take children. Of course he neither knew how to look after children nor how to get along with them. The two buns were precocious, very sensible, he basically took them as grown-ups, though he himself didn’t know whether it was right or not.

“Daddy, when...let him go when he’s all right.”

Holding the lower hem of his robe, big bun held out his neck and said so, and it was evident that he meant something.

“Hmm.”

It was not that he didn’t notice the resentment under his eyes, but Ling Jingxuan did not mean to straighten him out, because, even he himself did not know how to deal with that man, those things... Or let nature take its course.

30. Making Wine and Jam; Tiewa (1)

Translator: Guy Gone Bad

Their fish really sold well. Ling Jingpeng already came back before noon. Ling Chenglong didn’t come. He should have gone home to help with the farm work, after all, now was the busy farming season. It was already not easy for him to come to say hi every day. By the way, about Dawa’s thing, because Ling Jingxuan threatened to sue them, as expected, they no longer came to seek trouble. So this was over, and as for whether the village head or Dawa’s family would hate him or not, Ling Jingxuan did not give it a shit at all.

“What? Twenty copper coins for one? How could it so expensive?”

When big bun heard Ling Jingpeng say that those jars with long and big body and thin bottleneck cost 20 copper coins each, his small face turned all red, eyes staring at those jars. One could imagine his expression. It was twenty of them! Four hundred copper coins! Plus other things, today’s fish were sold in vain.

Ling Jingxuan twitched his mouth, secretly giving Ling Jingpeng a signal with his eyes. They hurriedly moved all the jars into the basement. Under the instructions of Ling

Jingxuan, the two of them stuffed the wild grapes they had washed clean yesterday into those jars, triturated them, and sealed with cloth coated with mud, letting the wild grapes ferment in the jars.

“Well, we can drink it in a month. Jingpeng, is the fair in the town open every day?”

Looking at the neatly stacked jars in the cellar, Ling Jingxuan smiled with relief. If it hadn't been that he was too short of money, he really wanted to pick more wild grapes to make wine, perhaps this would be the first bucket of gold he dug up in this world, although he did not know whether there was wine in here at all.

“No. It opens every three days. Tomorrow happens to be the fair day. Big brother, are you going to the fair?”

“Mm, I want to make the rest of the wild grapes into jam and sell it at the fair.”

Did not explain too much, Ling Jingxuan nodded and picked up the remaining wild grapes, estimated that he could boil two or three jars of jam.

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“Can these wild fruit really exchange for money?”

On hearing that, Ling Jingpeng curiously asked. He always thought that his big brother was only fooling Xiaowen.

“I suppose so. Tomorrow we will know. Oh right, don't dig the pool in the backyard. We can save more money and directly dig a bigger pond. Dad said right, the fish in Yuehua Ditch can not sustain us for long, so we should grow fish on our own.”

As they talked, both already came into the kitchen. Ling Jingxuan put the dustpan down and made fire, preparing to make jam and rock sugar. Ling Jinghan's illness cannot be delayed any longer. He planned to start the treatment tomorrow, which was also one of the reasons why he would go to the fair tomorrow. There were not too many medicinal herbs home, some of which he still need to fill the prescription in the drugstore.

“Jingxuan, you teach me to make jam? I want to make money too.”

No doubt about what he said, Ling Jingpeng said eagerly. Through Dawa's thing he already changed his attitude toward his big brother completely. Since he turned normal, he seemed to be omnipotent. He was convinced from the bottom of the heart, and, though many years had passed, he always remembered his big brother was very gentle and loved them very much.

“Hehe...OK. Today you watch how I do it. We don't have many wild grapes, and I'm not sure if we can get a good price for the jam. When I go to town tomorrow, I'll try it. If it sells well, we'll do it together.”

Having already planned to let him learn to do business, of course Ling Jingxuan did not refuse him. Isn't it a good thing that his younger brother is so enterprising?

“Well, when I get rich, I will buy a few more mu of land to build a house, then our whole family can live together.”

Ling Jingpeng's face spread a bright smile, but he still did not forget to help Ling Jingxuan to scoop water into the pot. But after hearing what he said, Ling Jingxuan stopped what he was doing, looking at him for a moment, and then said, “Our parents are living a bad life there, right? Do they still leave everything to our parents as before?”

“Huh?”

The movement of scooping water paused there, and the smile on Ling Jingpeng's face frozen, he lowered his head and said sullenly, “well, not so bad, because of my second brother, grandpa is not so harsh to us. But never expect he would take our side. And you know about grandma. She always disfavors our parents, let alone our uncles. The farm work of dozens of mu land is all left to daddy, and those housework to mom, while they themselves wear clean clothes and bum around...”

Here, Ling Jingpeng can not help but start to choke, after quite a while, he raised his head, fists clenched, firmly looking at Ling Jingxuan, “Ge, I will try to make money, and let our parents and you live a good life.”

The sufferings of his parents, the grievances of his big brother, the pains of his second brother, and the hardship of his two young nephews, at the age of fourteen, he knew everything, but he was too young to take care of all of them.

“Hmm, I know, I will work hard with you, but before that, you must find a way to let them divide up the family. I suppose they are already angry about you coming help me these days.”

Said Ling Jingxuan, patting him on the shoulder.