

The Savior 21

Chapter 21

Lost All Offspring

“Are you saying that we have to look for her ourselves?” Jiang Yubai frowned. He couldn’t bear to see the pale face of his brother, Jiang Yuqing.

“Even soldiers can’t get out of the fog, let alone a group of scholars like us,” Xia said softly while holding Jiang Huailu in her arms.

Jiang Huailu looked at her brother. She saw that he was making porridge for her with a small milk pot without anyone telling him to, and he wasn’t taking things on himself.

She immediately grinned as her eyes narrowed.

“People who have experience may still give it a go, but if we go in there, aren’t we digging our own graves?” Xia couldn’t help but whisper.

Jiang Yuqing was weak and he didn’t have many children, which was why Old Lady Jiang was biased towards him for so many years.

If the Jiang family really had to go, the family of their eldest son would be the first to take on the challenge.

When Liu heard that, she immediately turned around and looked at Xia with tears and hatred all over her face. “Look at her! Look at her! Look at your wife! She’s still so scared of dying right now. My poor unborn grandson!”

What Liu said instantly made Jiang Yubai a bit embarrassed.

The corners of Xia’s lips lifted, smiling on the outside but not the inside. She didn’t go over to comfort her mother-in-law like she did in the past.

“Mother, that’s not what she meant,” Jiang Yubai said and looked at Xia. He saw her lowering her head and avoiding him, so he could only comfort his mother himself.

Jiang Huaiying looked straight into Jiang Huaian’s eyes as she bit her lower lip gently. In her previous life, he was the only one who returned.

“I’ll not make trouble for all of you, brothers. Please just wait for a day. I’ll go in there to look for my sister-in-law and I’ll bring her back if I find her. She’s in labor right now. I think we can’t wait any longer,” Jiang Yubai stepped forward and said.

Liu finally looked better.

Jiang Huaiying glanced at her cousin.

“Uncle is old already. Should Brother Huaian go with him? Then, they can take care of each other. Unfortunately, my father is so weak, or he would have gone inside himself.”

Xia immediately sat up straight. “You’re quite calculating. You lost your mother and the baby, and you want all the men of my family to go risk their lives. I’ve really underestimated you!” Xia’s mouth was full of sarcasm and she didn’t even bother to hide it.

Jiang Huaiying’s eyes immediately turned red.

“I didn’t think so much. Auntie, don’t you know what kind of a person I am? I’m just worried that uncle can’t fight with the enemies alone. It’s a shame I’m a girl. If not, I would have gone inside myself and I’d never ask your family for help.”

She lowered her head and wiped her tears, as if Xia made her feel wronged.

This made Xia so enraged her face turned pale.

Old Lord Jiang frowned. His eldest grandson had one of the best characters and talents. He then said, “And how strong is your Brother Huaian? I’ll go with Yubai.”

Jiang Huaiying didn’t seem to hear him. She walked to the skinny young boy and said softly with a begging tone, “Brother Huaian, do you really want me to lose my mother and brother? Please.” Tears ran down her face and she knelt down after she spoke.

Jiang Huailu stuck out her head from her mother’s arms.

She showed her pair of sly eyes and said loudly, “Cousin, you want me to lose my father and brother because you lost your mother and your brother? What if the Jiang family loses all our offspring?”

What if the Jiang family lost all their offspring?

Everyone who was listening secretly was stunned.

This small baby, who looked naive and finicky, knew about losing their offspring?

And she was right!

“When grandpa and grandma die, nobody will be there to bury them.”

Then, she ignored Xia’s surprised look and asked in confusion, “Mother, what does that mean? Do we give them a temple? When grandma dies, I’ll give her a super huge one.” She then looked at Liu to ask for compliments.

Chapter 22

Shooting Herself in the Foot

“How loving!” the daughter-in-law of the Fang family said honestly.

She covered her mouth, which was about to overflow with a smile.

Jiang Huaiying still wanted to speak and was planning to kneel on the ground to arouse people's empathy. But now, she was so shocked that she couldn't react.

Liu lifted her hands and covered her chest. She finally survived the journey to exile and now she felt like she was going to die out of anger after hearing what Jiang Huailu said.

Xia tightened her lips and said quickly, "Don't say that, Lulu. Only boys can bury deceased family members."

Jiang Yubai thought, "Wait, is that the main point?"

Jiang Huailu let out a long "oh" and frowned as she looked at her father. "But father and brother are going to find auntie. If they don't come back, I'll be the only one who can bury them."

Liu was thinking to try to convince them together with Jiang Huaiying, but now, she had directly forgotten about this idea.

She loved her second son and his family, but if the Jiang family lost their eldest son and eldest grandson because of her while the second family had no male descendant, she would become the sinner of the Jiang family in the future.

"Alright, Huaiying, get up." Liu looked at Jiang Huaiying. Jiang Huaiying was looking down, knowing that her grandmother was enraged.

"Sister Huaiying, why aren't you going? My father doesn't know how to deliver a baby," Xiao Huailu asked in confusion.

Jiang Yubai immediately realized that. "Right, right, right, we must have a girl with us. After all, men and women are different." Not to mention he was Jiang Yuqing's brother.

Jiang Yuqing also frowned at this moment. No man didn't care about this. His heart was full of contradiction just thinking about it.

Jiang Huaiying inexplicably became anxious.

"Huaiying, go with your uncle. If your mother really has to give birth to the baby, you can help her with it. Girls are more careful. Besides, you're her daughter. It's more convenient for you to help her." Liu saw everyone's contemptuous gaze, so she didn't ask Xia to go after all.

After all, leaving the two children of the eldest son's family here would make people talk.

Everything in front of Jiang Huaiying darkened. After putting in so much effort, she had dragged herself in as well.

She immediately gritted her teeth and her fingernails cut into her flesh.

Old Lord Jiang also spoke immediately, "Your grandma is old. She'll slow everyone down if she goes in there. You should go. When it's time, come back quickly and you must protect yourself."

Jiang Huaiying really felt wronged this time and tears were about to drop from her eyes.

Before leaving with Jiang Yubai, she glared at Jiang Huailu fiercely.

Jiang Huaian seemed to have sensed something. He held his sister in his arms and caressed her fluffy hair as he smiled.

“When did you have such a sharp tongue? Am I that gullible?” Jiang Huaian almost made his sister laugh.

This little girl, who had been fooled around by Jiang Huaiying and being punished countless times by her father, now knew how to keep her wits about her.

To be honest, even if Jiang Huaiying really knelt, Jiang Huaian wouldn't go.

After being exiled, he realized that his mother and sister relied on him.

And he had nothing to do with those irrelevant people.

Jiang Huailu leaned on her brother's shoulders and pondered in her mind. Her brother turned out to be quite masculine. He was born to restrain the devil. He just hadn't grown up yet, so it wasn't obvious.

Avoiding this disaster, his future was limitless.

If he really went into the fog, he might probably still be able to come out alive and might just become disabled at most.

However, living in this world with a disability was enough to destroy his future.

Xiao Huailu thought about it happily. Her brother escaped from this disaster and Jiang Huaiying took his position. She just didn't know if Jiang Huaiying could survive it and if she would regret it.

When Xiao Huailu thought about the devil that destroyed the world, her head couldn't help but droop.

That man was truly horrible, really!

How could she kill him to save the world?

Chapter 23

A Weird Uncle with a Feather Duster

The night had fallen and fear started to spread among the group.

The white fog was already dense during the day and it was even more tumultuous at night.

It was all white in front of everyone's eyes and they couldn't even see their fingers when they stretched their hands forward.

Light disappeared in the dark, making people even more terrified. The chief of the Yamen officers understood this deeply.

Every time he was sent to Desolate City, the place where they had the most casualties along the way was the foggy forest.

“Everyone stays together back to back. If any one of you needs to go to the toilet, go with two other people and don't separate.”

The chief of the Yamen officers asked everyone to make a fire and gave them two crackers each. They grilled both sides of the crackers to golden brown with the fire and started eating.

The Jiang family was in low spirits. Old Lord Jiang was holding a cracker and he hadn't been talking for a while now.

Jiang Yuqing coughed. He was born with a weak body. His mother had found him a few concubines over all these years, but they didn't give him any children.

Only Yuan was strong enough to bear two children for him.

And now, he could only hope that his brother could bring Yuan and the child back.

Liu used to be superior and her maids and servants would comfort her, whenever something didn't go as planned. But now, they were either sold or exiled, so nobody was here to serve her.

The old lady's bad temper was immediately exposed.

"I want to eat meat..." Xiao Huailu held her face and squeezed it into a ball, making herself look chubby and extremely cute.

Xia felt bad for her child. She immediately hugged her daughter and said, "When we get to Desolate City, I'll make it for you. I'll make you squabs, stuffed chicken, sweet and sour pork ribs..."

This kid had suffered quite a lot since she was born. Perhaps she had stayed too long in her mother's womb, her brain didn't seem to work well after she was born.

She knew Jiang Huaiying always made fun of her, but she still liked to play with her.

She knew that the old lady didn't like her, but she still went to see her every day.

Nobody had thought that she would become smarter day by day after standing under the guillotine.

Even those clear and full eyes became brighter and the intelligence inside her eyes was about to flood out.

This was probably her only comfort.

"Eat, eat, eat, are you the reincarnation of a starving ghost? You only think about eating the whole day! Your father and aunt are still out there and all you can think of is food! Did the Jiang family not give you food and drink? How would there be meat for you to eat here? You're truly daydreaming!" Liu didn't have anywhere else to vent her anger. It was getting darker right now and she was feeling a bit regretful.

She shouldn't have asked Jiang Yubai to risk his life to look for Yuan.

However, this thought was gone in an instant.

Thinking her younger son would be lonely if he lost his wife and child, this thought gained the upper hand again.

Meanwhile, all the prisoners were sitting together. Xia's face turned pale, but she dared not to refute her mother-in-law. And yet, many of the exiles were straightforward. One of them said right away, "This old lady is so unreasonable. You already have one foot in your grave, but you still took a cracker from your daughter-in-law. That kid is just three years old. Why can't she want to eat? How embarrassing."

The fog was so dense at the moment, so nobody knew who was speaking righteously.

But everyone all laughed in disdain.

Liu's face flushed.

Jiang Huailu pouted. When she saw her mother tighten her lips and tears well up in her eyes, she immediately frowned.

She seemed to hear a clear sound of a bell in the fog.

Before Jiang Huailu could comfort her mother, she looked in the direction of where the sound came from.

She only saw some shadows faintly appearing in that white fog.

There seemed to be a black and a white shadow. One of them was holding a feather duster in one hand and an iron chain in the other, while a baby was looped behind the chain.

"Hm, why is that uncle holding a feather duster? His hat is so sharp..."

Chapter 24

The Savior Was Sucking Her Thumb

Everyone went silent.

The wind also seemed to have quieted down following what she said.

Xia was freezing cold, down to her bones, as if she had fallen into an ice cellar. Chatter, chatter. Her teeth were also trembling.

Her hands that held Jiang Huailu shook slightly.

The eyelids of the chief of the Yamen officers pulsed.

"What feather duster? What hat?" the chief of the Yamen officers asked with a deep voice. He didn't notice that his voice was shaking.

The chief of the Yamen officers quickly came over and saw that kid staring at the empty fog with her eyes, as if she was confused.

"The uncle in a white shirt is holding a white feather duster and the one in a black shirt is holding a black feather duster, like the one my father used to beat me with." Jiang Huailu saw that the two shadows seemed to be standing in front of her after a glance.

The chief of the Yamen officers turned pale and his hand holding the sword was also shaking.

He looked around anxiously, but found that it was still white everywhere and he couldn't see anything clearly.

The daughter-in-law of the Fang family suddenly touched her chin and said, "I heard that kids that age can see things adults can't see. Maybe it's true? Besides, I heard that the little girl of the Jiang family was born in mid-July when the Gate of Hell was open. Perhaps, there's something different about her?" The daughter-in-law of the Fang family didn't mean to ridicule, but Liu suddenly jumped up.

"I told you. I told you this girl is a bane! You didn't believe me! I knew she's a scourge. She may be the one who brings the Jiang family a disaster..." Liu's teeth chattered, but she gritted her teeth at Jiang Huailu again.

"Mother! Mind your words!" Xia suddenly got up.

She stared at Liu, as if she would rush forward and tear Liu's mouth apart if she said one more word.

"That's enough! Yubai is still out there. What are you arguing about? Huailu, the two men you talked about... Are they gone?" Old Lord Jiang looked at his youngest granddaughter.

The grandchildren of the Jiang family were all clever. Only Jiang Huailu seemed to have a problem.

Although Old Lord Jiang said he treated everyone fairly, who didn't love smart kids more?

Although Jiang Huailu was already three and a half years old, she rarely stepped out of the Jiang family.

The biggest reason was that he was worried she would embarrass the Jiang family.

Xia held her daughter even tighter. Even since her daughter was born, everyone in the capital had been saying that the youngest girl of the Jiang family would bring bad fortune. She was born in mid-July and was born a bane.

Xia gritted her teeth and lowered her gaze, hiding the anger in her eyes.

She knew that those words came out of Liu's mouth unintentionally!

How ridiculous! People outside still didn't say anything at first back then, but her mother-in-law and sister-in-law wagged their tongues in front of the outsiders. The rumors circulated around vigorously because of her daughter's grandmother.

Jiang Huailu didn't know this secret. She just stared at those two black and white uncles dumbfoundedly.

"They're standing right behind grandma." Jiang Huailu looked at Liu.

No, she wasn't looking at Liu.

She seemed to have seen through her and looked behind her.

This immediately gave Liu goosebumps. Her scalp was about to explode and her fingers shook, as if there was a pair of eyes watching behind her. She felt that her heart tightened.

“Argh!” Liu screamed.

The old lady was so scared that she fainted.

Hei Wuchang and Bai Wuchang frowned. Bai Wuchang even bent and got closer to take a look at Jiang Huailu’s eyes.

“This girl’s eyes are a bit unusual,” Bai Wuchang mumbled.

Hei Wuchang kept walking forward indifferently. “Let’s just take the soul of this dead baby back first. If it grows up here, there will be another round of killing. We’ll look for the savior when we have time.” Children who died right before they were born held an extremely great resentment.

Bai Wuchang nodded. He then nodded slightly at that child.

The little girl didn’t seem to be afraid of them. She even smiled so brightly that her eyes curved.

Over the years, there were always people who could see them because of a momentary opportunity, but these people usually couldn’t see them the second time.

The two of them could only try their best to catch the resentful ghosts to ease the suffering of the world.

But it wasn’t quite effective.

The laws of nature had been broken and the three realms were in chaos.

Hell was no longer what it used to be.

The Mythical Animal had predicted that before everything happened, a savior would appear in the world to stop the destruction of the world. The entire Hell had been closed. They were the only ones who had escaped.

Hei Wuchang and Bai Wuchang left without looking back. At this moment, none of them knew that the savior they were looking for... was looking at them with a childish face, while sucking her thumb in her mouth right now.

Looking back five hundred times in the previous life in exchange for a brief encounter in this life.

The ancestors were indeed right!

Chapter 25

The Debt Collector Returned

“There are really Hei Wuchang and Bai Wuchang? Then, why are there so many ghosts in the world?”

“Is she just talking nonsense to scare her grandmother?” someone mumbled. He felt the gloominess around him so he dared not to speak loudly.

The chief of the Yamen officers lit up three incenses and bowed three times to the outside.

“We don’t mean to disturb you both. Please forgive us.” He then took out a yellow paper he prepared earlier and knelt on the ground to burn it.

After burning the yellow paper, the chief of the Yamen officers got up and said, “Desolate City is different from the outside world. This is a very dark place. I heard that a miracle once happened here, so it isn’t strange if we see Hei Wuchang and Bai Wuchang. We just have to respect them.”

“You were born with a pair of opened eyes. How fortunate!” The chief of the Yamen officers looked at Jiang Huailu, then shook his head slightly. What was the point of it?

She had been exiled to the frontier anyways. He wasn’t even sure if she could survive in Desolate City.

Desolate City was the most unwelcoming for old people, women and children.

Besides, Prince Huaijiang was cruel. None of those who were exiled by him had ever returned.

“They’re gone.” Xiao Huailu leaned onto her mother’s chest as she blinked.

Xia bit her lower lip and gently covered Jiang Huailu’s eyes. “Don’t look. Don’t look.” Thinking about the rumors circulating around the capital saying that her daughter was a bane, she still felt her heart and scalp tingling.

His Majesty was sick, so sick that he became a dotard.

After hearing the rumors, he sent an eunuch to their mansion. The eunuch’s sharp fingernail

slid through Jiang Huailu’s skin and a drop of blood dripped out.

Luckily, Huailu was just six months old at that time. She looked cute and unthreatening.

Her eyes were so pure as well. She was also extremely courageous and she even gripped onto that eunuch’s finger with her hand.

Xia found out afterwards that His Majesty asked the eunuch to decide whether the child could stay depending on the situation.

When the eunuch was gone, her whole body softened out of fear. Since then, she dared not to take Jiang Huailu out, worrying that people would spy on them.

Xiao Huailu felt that Xia’s body was shaking slightly. She looked at her mother timidly and obediently closed her eyes.

The foggy forest at night was frightening.

The Jiang family was so anxious that they couldn’t sleep.

When Liu woke up, she stared at Jiang Huailu, but was also a bit scared of her. So, she immediately looked away after glaring at Jiang Huailu for a second.

“Why haven’t they come back? They’re making me so anxious.”

Liu was so anxious that she kept walking back and forth. Old Lord Jiang’s body also tightened. Even though he had never said a word, he kept looking into the white fog.

Jiang Huaian let his sister sit on his lap and he wrapped a few layers of clothes around her.

“You senseless piece of sh*t! You should boil some water. Then, they’ll have hot water to drink when they get back,” Liu scolded Xia. She respected her daughter-in-law in the house back then only because she didn’t want to tear her mask off.

But now, she didn’t pretend anymore.

A mocking laugh came from the Fang family again.

Lord Fang, who was nearby, shook his head slightly. Old Lord Jiang was talented and knowledgeable, but this kind of man rarely cared about what happened in his backyard. He had never thought the forecourt would be dragged into the chaos in the backyard as well.

After a night of silence, the hearts of the members of the Jiang family sank again and again.

“We’ll have to keep going after an hour.” The chief of the Yamen officers glanced at the Jiang family as he asked the Yamen officers to distribute the crackers. Then, he sat aside and didn’t say anything else.

Xia’s body swayed slightly, but she still stood straight in the end.

This former Lady of a noble family had a bit more determination in her eyes right now.

Liu couldn’t control herself anymore and started crying. When she wiped her tears off, she heard Jiang Huailu’s voice.

“Hey... The debt collector is back.”

After that, a clear jingling sound came from afar.

That was the sound of the things Jiang Yubai and Jiang Huaiying wore on them, before they left.

Chapter 26

Hurt Her Face

Before Liu could ask who the debt collector was, those Yamen officers had already stood up. “I smell blood.”

Liu’s heart immediately tightened.

As the jingling got closer, the smell of blood became heavier. Xiao Huailu directly sat up in her brother’s arms.

Her flushing face crumpled. “The smell of the debt collector.”

Jiang Huaian saw that wrinkles had almost appeared on the girl’s face and he asked as he laughed, “What debt collector? Look at your face. It’s like a bun.”

Xiao Huailu pouted with her watery eyes, looking sad.

Of course, she dared not to say that she smelled the weasel.

“It’s Yubai and Yingying!” Liu explained and quickly got up to greet them.

As anticipated, Jiang Yubai and the others walked out from the fog.

Jiang Yubai was helping Yuan, who looked like a drowned mouse. Her hair was messy and she was lowering her head. Nobody could see her face clearly.

Jiang Huaiying was covered in blood and her face was terrifyingly pale. She was also holding a child in her arms.

“Is it a boy or a girl? Is the baby hurt?” Jiang Yuqing immediately went over to Jiang Huaiying.

Jiang Huaiying paused for a second and replied, “Congratulations, father. It’s a boy. He was startled in mother’s womb, so he’s a bit weak, but he isn’t injured.”

Jiang Yuqing took the child joyfully and thanked Jiang Yubai again and again.

Liu also wanted to see the baby, but Jiang Yubai was still helping Yuan walk. After all, he was a man and it wasn’t very appropriate.

“Why aren’t you coming over to help? Are you sitting there, waiting for me to serve you?” Xia had just made some porridge, but Liu immediately scolded her loudly.

Xia remained silent. This wasn’t the time to make a fuss.

She just went forward and grabbed Yuan. Once she held Yuan with her arms, Yuan fell straight down.

Xia lifted her face and was shocked.

“Her face?”

Everyone quickly looked over. Half of Yuan’s face was covered with blood. Xia got some hot water for her to clean her face right away and she found that her face was full of scratch marks, as if something injured her.

“She was scratched by a weasel. Good Lord! That weasel must have become a monster. It can stand and walk like a human. If it wears some clothes, it’s as tall as a child.” Jiang Yubai was also scared.

Nobody noticed Jiang Huaiying’s slightly nervous look.

“The weasel kidnapped them. Huaiying and I went after them, but when that weasel saw us, it started to attack us. The baby was already born at that time. I was focusing on wrapping the baby, while Huaiying and Yuan were staying

together. I have no idea how it scratched them.” When Jiang Yubai went over to help, Yuan’s face had already been injured.

“Oh f*ck! There’s really a weasel that’s turned into a monster.” Some prisoners were stunned. They only found Desolate City even more terrifying.

Yuan finally collected herself after drinking some water. When she glanced at her daughter, her expression changed a bit.

“[...]”

“Mother saved me. That thing jumped on me and it was about to scratch my face with its claws. Mother pushed me away.” Jiang Huaiying suddenly started weeping softly. This messy girl stood on the side alone, looking pitiful.

Yuan looked at her and gently closed her eyes. She didn’t say anything else.

Liu cried with her heart broken. “You did well. I’m glad you’re back alive. When we get to Desolate City, we’ll find a doctor to help you. There won’t be any scars. You love your daughter so much. You know that she can’t hurt her face because she’s still young and still hasn’t married. Good job.”

Knowing that everyone was back, the chief of the Yamen officers didn’t want to be a bad guy anymore.

He let the Jiang family rest for a while before they continued the journey.

Jiang Huailu went to see her little cousin with her brother.

Chapter 27

Suffering from Karma

“This baby has been through a lot since he was born. God gave him quite a lot of challenges. He’ll definitely have a promising future.” Lord Fang came up and took a look at the baby, who looked pretty good.

“Thank you for your blessings, Lord Fang. I just hope he can grow up healthily.” Jiang Yuqing seemed very happy. He had always been cultured, but he still picked up the baby by himself.

People nowadays said they should only spoil their grandchildren but not their children. That showed how thrilled Jiang Yuqing was.

Jiang Huailu stood on tiptoe and had a look. Jiang Yuqing frowned gently and moved the baby away slightly.

Jiang Huailu didn’t notice that, but she was immediately shocked after taking a glance.

Wasn’t this baby the one whose soul was taken by Hei Wuchang and Bai Wuchang?

She saw the baby last night. It looked exactly the same as the one wrapped in the swaddling right now!

So, who was it that returned?

Jiang Huailu's eyes opened wide and her mouth became round.

Jiang Yuqing was inexplicably upset. He immediately lifted the baby. "Lulu, let your cousin sleep. He's too tired."

Jiang Huailu looked into his eyes deeply, then turned around and hopped away.

Jiang Yuqing mumbled in his mind, thinking the gaze of the bane was really unsettling.

"The Jiang family has offspring. We finally have offspring," Liu told the ancestors happily. Jiang Huaian looked at her while the corner of his mouth raised in disdain.

"Alright! Get up. We have to keep moving. We must arrive in Desolate City the day after tomorrow. I'm really unlucky to have met you people," the chief of the Yamen officers said. There was a specific handover time for the exiles and the day after tomorrow was already the last day for it.

Liu was so happy right now and she thanked the chief of the Yamen officers several times.

"What's going on? I always feel like there's a smell around here, like the smell of a weasel." Lord Fang moved his nose. The smell appeared indistinctly and had been following them. The daughter-in-law of the Fang family then covered her mouth and smiled. "Father, the Jiang family had just come back after they defeated a weasel, so there's a smell on them."

Lord Fang was then relieved.

Yuan had just had a baby, but she couldn't lie-in. She still had to keep moving and her face got darker and darker.

Liu was now delighted. She held her grandson joyfully, while Jiang Yuqing and Jiang Huaiying took turns to hold Yuan.

Jiang Yuqing was born elegant. After having a son, Yuan had been smiling beamingly along the way.

However, when Jiang Huaiying helped her walk, the two of them remained silent.

Nobody found anything unusual.

There weren't medicines for healing Yuan's face. The Yamen officers only picked some herbs along the road and mashed them for her to apply on the wounds. There was pain from time to time, which made her fearful and anxious.

Luckily, since Yuan had a child and Liu didn't want her grandson to suffer, most of the food for the Jiang family along the way was given to Yuan, so she could breastfeed the baby.

When they almost arrived in Desolate City, everyone's heart was full of fear and anticipation at the same time.

They thought it would still be better than the foggy forest, no matter how bad it was, right?

For a second, they were a little thrilled that they could finally settle down.

The chief of the Yamen officers noticed how they felt and he sneered. These people were truly... naive.

“Do you see that? That’s Desolate City. After going through the city gate, the handover will be complete. You’ll never be allowed to return to the capital without an imperial edict or special amnesty.” The chief of the Yamen officers pointed at the magnificent building far away. They could vaguely see some of its appearance through the fog.

That towering city gate was wide open like an enormous mouth.

When Jiang Huailu saw the evil and foul air in Desolate City, she frowned so much her eyebrows almost wriggled like worms.

Yuan held the child in her arms and gasped painfully.

The baby was just a few days old. Why did he always bite her so hard that it made her bleed? And yet, she was too ashamed to tell anyone about it.

Although Jiang Huaiying was breastfed by a wet nurse when she raised her, she knew that a baby of this age would only bite when he was close to teething.

Yuan couldn’t help but sigh.

Chapter 28

The Deserted Palace of Salvation

They were exiled in May and arrived in Desolate City in July.

There were a total of twenty eight exiles. Some of them died along the way and there were less than twenty left right now.

Meanwhile, the city gate of Desolate City was open. Everyone walked out of the fog and saw that there were already guards waiting at the city gate.

“When the handover is completed, we’ll be able to rest for a few days. Such a life is really not for humans,” the Yamen officers said with a smile.

“We must go to Chunxiang Tower to have some fun after we get back.” A few Yamen officers licked their lips.

Officers like them normally spent two months to come here for the handover and two months to get back to the capital for another order.

But if they returned quickly enough, they could at least have a month to rest.

“Look, look, look, what are you looking at? You’re lucky our chief is kind. If not, a few of you would have been flogged to death dragging your feet like that.” A Yamen officer glanced over everyone.

That was right. In general, if prisoners didn’t obey orders, they would be flogged.

People like them were rarely beaten though.

“After entering Desolate City, you’ll be on your own. Whether you die or live will depend on yourselves.” The chief of the Yamen officers glanced at the Jiang family. Old Lord Jiang had students all over the world and he might be able to go back.

However, Prince Huaijiang was cruel, so it would be extremely difficult.

Asking His Majesty to show mercy was no easier than making an iron tree blossom.

The guards in Desolate City soon came out. Although they were just soldiers that guarded the city, they all looked vicious and their gazes were like swords.

“They send everything to Desolate City. They really think Desolate City is a dumpster. But it’s still not enough for the evil ghosts to eat,” the guard murmured and completed the handover with the chief of the Yamen officers.

After two months of journeying to exile, the Jiang family was now in a mess. Even Old Lord Jiang’s back bent over quite a lot.

“Alright, come with me. I’m the guard of the city and I am responsible for settling the exiles. You can call me Brother Wang.” After the handover, Brother Wang took everyone into Desolate City.

The moment they entered Desolate City, they felt several degrees colder.

“Take off your cuffs. If you have the courage, you can try to run away. I guess the chief of the Yamen officers didn’t tell you that you can only go through the fog with something special on you. If someone goes into the fog, he’ll be buried in the stomachs of monsters and evil ghosts.” Brother Wang snickered. This group of weak scholars would be dead if they escaped.

Jiang Yubai had worked in court for many years. He came over and gave Brother Wang some money.

Brother Wang immediately looked much better.

“Now you’re talking. I’ll tell you the rules of Desolate City.” Brother Wang led them forward. Everyone around them was wearing ragged clothes. They seemed to be living in a poor condition.

“The city is divided into the inner city and outer city, and there’s the Palace of Salvation. The inner city is for the nobles. They can resist the invasion of the evil spirits and are the pillars of Desolate City. If you have some good men in your family, you can send them there. If they’re chosen, they’ll be qualified to get into the inner city in the future. And yet, not many people can come back from that place alive. As for the outer city, it’s for exiles who broke the law like you.”

Brother Wang looked at everyone mockingly.

“Don’t even think about what high officials you used to be. All of that doesn’t matter here in Desolate City. Even the father of the Emperor has to work in the outer city after entering the city gate.”

“There’s also a Palace of Salvation in the west of the city. The Palace of Salvation is not really worth mentioning. People said if the savior shows its presence, it can save the world. Unfortunately, the Palace of Salvation is already ruined. There are spider’s webs hanging everywhere. Only one gatekeeper is staying there. I’m not sure how many generations of idiots they’ve had.”

Brother Wang stopped in a dark and damp alley.

Chapter 29

Settling Down

When Jiang Huaiying saw the alley, she was full of resistance.

She looked extremely disgusted.

“Where’s our mansion?” Liu said with a gloomy face. She hadn’t looked well since she entered Desolate City.

It was even worse than the place where the bumpkins resided, in her eyes.

Brother Wang immediately laughed and said in disdain, “Your mansion? I’m afraid that’s wishful thinking. You were exiled. All the exiles share a bed with the others and sleep on straw mats. You also have to work during the day. And you want a mansion? You old lady must be still dreaming.”

“There are only mansions in the inner city and you must kill a certain number of evil spirits to get one. You old lady...” Brother Wang was extremely disdainful.

Old Lord Fang remained silent for a while and asked with a deep voice, “Brother, I saw that there are also some independent yards in the outer city. Could you tell me the price of those houses?”

Brother Wang glanced over this group of people and sneered in his heart.

“Things in Desolate City are extremely expensive. Do you see the house there? On the outside, you’ll be able to buy it with a hundred taels of silver, but here, a thousand taels of silver can only buy the worst houses.” The man pointed at a

house nearby. The wooden door was almost falling and the bricks and tiles had even shattered. When it rained, there would probably be water leaking.

The faces of the members of the Jiang family instantly turned dark.

Xia knew how much money they had. Their family had only four to five hundred taels of silver, which were given by those students before they left.

Each family had their own money as well.

Xia had around two hundred taels of silver in her hands.

Liu was instantly enraged and was about to rebuke the profiteer, but Old Lord Jiang frowned and lifted his hand. "Change!" There were men and women in his family and he was a grandfather. He could never let them sleep on a bed with some strangers.

Xia gave a hundred fifty. She didn't offer to give more and insisted that it was all she had.

Jiang Huaiying gave a hundred fifty, while the old lady took four hundred out from the family's money and offered three hundred herself.

The Jiang family was then brought to a small yard. There were puddles everywhere. If it rained, the ground would be covered in mud. Liu looked extremely bad and she was worried about their future.

"We don't have money. Let's go to the shared home. Please lead the way. Where can we sign up for what you talked about? Our family doesn't have anything, but we're all tough fellows." Old Lord Fang had two sons and a daughter. His daughter got married and stayed in the capital.

His two sons both married someone from a military family, so it wasn't hard for them to make a future here.

Desolate City advocated force. Brother Wang looked much better. He immediately took the Fang family to a cleaner house.

"Luckily, the old man has students all around the world. If not, it'll be embarrassing for us to sleep in a shared home at such an age." Liu sighed. Once she went into the door, she stepped in a puddle and her feet were covered in mud.

Jiang Huailu lay on her brother's back and looked towards the west of the city.

There seemed to be something calling her.

"I'll go to clean the house with mother. Rest for a while in bed first." Jiang Huaian quickly made the bed and put on the bedding he prepared earlier. The bedding was thin, but there was straw underneath.

The yard wasn't big and there was a house in the middle.

There were two bedrooms on the left, one for Jiang Yubai's family and one for Jiang Yuqing's family. Old Lord Jiang and Old Lady Jiang would sleep in the back room.

The kitchen was in the corner.

“Hey, I got this candy for you secretly just then. Hide and eat it. Don’t tell Huaiying.” Jiang Huaian touched the tip of her nose and went out.

Jiang Huailu put the candy in her mouth and she seemed to hear a faint cry from next door.

Xiao Huailu only pouted when she heard Yuan’s depressed cry.

Her eyelids drooped slightly as she ate the candy in her mouth. In a blink of an eye, she fell asleep.

Chapter 30

Visiting the Palace of Salvation at Night

When Jiang Huailu woke up again, she rubbed her eyes with a drowsy look.

She stepped on the freezing cold floor with her bare, chubby feet that had little round toes.

The ground was a bit cold. She slightly curled up her toes.

Jiang Huailu looked around. The floor was shiny and the big pillar next to her was carved with a dragon and a phoenix. The walls also had traces of the ancient times. After a glance, this wasn’t the cottage house.

Jiang Huailu felt this place was familiar. She then ran out of the hall.

She looked up at the main door of the hall.

The Palace of Salvation.

“The Palace of Salvation? Why am I here in the Palace of Salvation?” Xiao Huailu scratched her head in confusion. The two pigtailed on her head had become loose.

There seemed to be a sweeping sound nearby.

Xiao Huailu quickly rushed out and found that she went through the wall. She was startled again.

“These are for you. I’m so sorry.” Jiang Huailu walked to the altar. There was a teenage girl kneeling in front of the altar.

The girl was talking softly as she cleaned everything in the palace.

There were also two large red apples on the altar.

Unexpectedly, Jiang Huailu opened her palms and the apples were already in her hands.

Jiang Huailu almost cried when she got the apples. The unique aroma of the apples almost made her dribble.

“You liar, you liar. Boohoo. You said I’ll be able to eat and drink whatever I want after being reborn. You said I’ll be a female emperor and will be worshiped by the world. I was about to be beheaded once I woke up and I’m now exiled. Boohoo. You lied to me, liar.” Xiao Huailu started crying while holding the apples.

Oh god! What kind of a savior would be so miserable?

“The apple smells good and is really delicious.” Crunch, crunch. It was crunchy and sweet, which made her mouth full of saliva.

There were two apples in total. Her tummy had bulged out after eating one, so she kept the other one and was planning to take it back for Xia and her brother.

“But is this a dream?” Xiao Huailu mumbled.

“Ah, the Palace of Salvation has been deserted. Nobody believes in your existence anymore. You must have your own difficulties. Rumor has it that the savior has three heads and six arms, and is tall and fierce. It can repel the evil spirits with a stare. The Palace of Salvation can protect a hundred miles and maintain peace in a city. You haven’t shown up for many years,” the girl mumbled. She was the temple attendant of this generation.

The Palace of Salvation was also the Temple of Salvation.

Their family role had been passed down for countless generations, and by her generation, the Palace of Salvation had become more desolate.

Xiao Huailu lowered her head and looked at her round tummy and chubby toes.

“Well, I guess I’m kind of... tall and fierce.” Xiao Huailu rubbed her tummy without embarrassment. At least her belly was big.

“The Palace of Salvation is extremely huge. After three days, the City Lord will issue an order to tear down the Palace of Salvation. This will be the last time I worship you.”

The girl sighed. There was fog everywhere in Desolate City and places outside of the fog were invaded by the monsters.

The Palace of Salvation occupied a very broad area. These years, there were more and more people in Desolate City and everyone all had thoughts about the Palace of Salvation.

Xiao Huailu pouted gently. They wanted to tear down the Palace of Salvation?

“Ah, ghosts are everywhere. There are only places to stay in Desolate City. I don’t know when we can kill the evil spirits.”

The girl sighed again.

Xiao Huailu lifted her chin and raised her head. She was in a pretty confident posture right now.

“Everyone knows if you put your feet under your blanket when you’re in bed, you’ll not be afraid of ghosts.” This was how she had seen countless people resist evil spirits.

“Pfft.” Someone suddenly laughed from in the corner.

