

## A Snake 111

### Chapter 111: True Dragon?

"Qingyang... Master... this name sounds a bit familiar."

Wu Zhenglin thought for a moment, then slapped his forehead, "Didn't the old man ascend to immortality?"

Granny Wu glanced at Wu Zhenglin through the rearview mirror.

"Granny, I'll shut up," said Wu Zhenglin sheepishly, but he was obviously still curious.

"Yu Longting holds a grudge against Master Qingyang." I braced myself for Granny Wu to ignore me just like she did with Wu Zhenglin.

Granny Wu's expression softened, and she patiently explained, "It's not quite a grudge. Master Qingyang failed to ascend, and he cannot tolerate the existence of a True Dragon in this world."

"True Dragon... but none of us is a True Dragon..." Halfway through speaking, I bit my tongue and cursed myself inwardly for being a fool.

My finger brushed against the silver python on the cheongsam, and I said softly, "Could it be that by wearing this cheongsam, Yu Longting could have the potential to become a True Dragon?"

If that were the case, this precious opportunity.

Why hasn't Yu Longting ever mentioned it to me? Doesn't he want to become a True Dragon?

A cultivator who lacks ambition is no different from a salted fish.

"Miss Su Wan, you are the Spiritual Girl; by nourishing the Snake Lord, he is sure to become a True Dragon," said Granny Wu seriously.

I didn't know what to ask Granny Wu at that moment.

I was profoundly shaken on the inside; could Yu Longting really become a True Dragon because of me?

It felt like a cycle of samsara; my father killed him and cut off his path to becoming a True Dragon, but it might be possible for me to turn Yu Longting into a True Dragon!!

As we approached the Mass Burial Mound on the outskirts of the city, the distance was getting shorter.

I tried sending a message to Yu Longting.

Granny Wu glanced at it and said, "It's useless, there's no signal at the Snake Lord's cave abode."

"How lame is that?" I grumbled.

As the car entered the area of the Mass Burial Mound, there were tombstones all around.

Suddenly, the sky darkened as if covered by an eclipse.

How weird!!

Just now it was a clear sky and broad daylight.

How did it suddenly become night?

"Miss Su Wan, there's no need to be afraid, this is the Serpent Domain, it's very safe," Granny Wu had just finished saying it was very safe.

Wu Zhenglin hit the brakes hard and said, "Granny, you and your jinxing mouth."

"You little brat, how dare you talk to your grandmother like that~!" Granny Wu retorted.

I gazed at the white distant light in astonishment.

The visibility around us was extremely low; it was pitch black, and I couldn't see my own hand in front of me.

I could only see some of the scenery under the car lights at the edge of Mass Burial Mound.

At the end there was a Steles Forest that bore a distinct Buddhist essence.

We were just three or four meters away from entering the Steles Forest.

But I saw a person sitting on top of a huge black tombstone mounted on a stone Black Tortoise.

The person was bowing his head, cradling a golden sword with a dragon carved on it.

He wore a red brocade Taoist robe that was so fancy it didn't seem fitting for someone who practiced Taoism, with silver hair wildly flying in the night wind, and I could see his lips slightly raised.

Despite the white hair, the skin on his face and the rest of his body was so supple it seemed one could squeeze water out of it.

You could call him a young man of twenty-eight and plenty would believe it.

"Darn it, Master Qingyang has beaten us here, blocking the entrance to the Steles Forest," Granny Wu muttered in annoyance.

I was stunned, "He... looks pretty young..."

From Granny Wu and Wu Zhenglin's earlier conversation about Master Qingyang, I had imagined an old man with a white beard.

"Isn't the Snake Lord quite young too? Master Qingyang is the greatest master of past and present; he's my idol," Wu Zhenglin muttered.

The moment Granny Wu opened the car door, the night wind poured in. "Wu Zhenglin, drive through to the Steles Forest, I'll go deal with Qingyang."

"Granny, Master Qingyang has been cultivating for five hundred years, how can you possibly fight him..." Before Wu Zhenglin could finish, Granny Wu's frail figure had already gotten out of the car.

Wu Zhenglin clenched his teeth, shut the door, and decided to risk it all, "Su Wan, I'll get you into the Steles Forest, then come back to pick up Granny."

Granny Wu faced danger alone, yet Wu Zhenglin chose to follow her wishes and take me to safety first.

But in my heart, I clearly understood, "Getting to the Steles Forest might not be so easy."

Wu Zhenglin stepped on the accelerator, intending to break through.

In the blink of an eye, the man sitting on the tombstone slowly lifted his head, a smile filled with chilliness, "A mere Granny Mi dares to stop me?"

Chapter 112: Block for Ten Seconds

"Being able to block you for ten seconds is still blocking," Granny Wu removed her outer robe.

That robe looked dusty and worn at first glance.

Only after she took it off did one realize the immensity within; the interior was inscribed with many profound incantations.

The young man flicked his sleeve, sending a blue gust of slicing wind like knives towards her.

Granny Wu spread open her robe, effectively dissipating the blade's edge.

The young man's eyes narrowed slightly, his golden sword naturally unsheathed from his waist and slashed towards Granny Wu, "Just you, ten seconds?"

Wu Zhenglin cursed out loud, "Damn it, I took you for an idol, how dare you hurt my granny."

"No...!! Stop the car, Granny Wu is in danger!" I watched from inside the car, my heart racing as if it would leap out of my chest.

At the same time, Granny Wu's body flew out like a kite with its string cut.

Although the sword seemed to fly by in an instant, Granny Wu's body was covered with countless sword cuts.

It could only be said that the disparity in strength between them was too great; one was a mighty existence standing between heaven and earth, the other but a frail Granny Mi nearing life's end.

Wu Zhenglin's pupils dilated, and the steering wheel twisted sideways.

The car unexpectedly collided with a stele, but after a moment's pause, he chose to reverse, intending to continue driving into the Steles Forest, "The two of us getting out won't save my granny; we'd only be cut down in an instant. That's my granny. It hurts me more to see her injured! It's all because she was saving you that she... "

He resented me so much, yet he was still determined to fulfill Granny Wu's wish, risking his life to save me.

"I'm wearing the Blood Splendor Robe, put it on her, she'll be fine." I was still wearing the Blood Splendor Robe that was initially made for Wei Yao's mother.

The Blood Splendor Robe was not like other garments; it could heal any external wound and was likely to be used frequently.

That's why I usually wore it, just in case of emergencies.

Wu Zhenglin drove the car into the Steles Forest, breathing a sigh of relief, and snatched the Blood Splendor Robe from my hand, "You sit tight, I'll take it to Granny. I don't believe that Master Qingyang, a person of such high standing, would kill an ordinary man like me."

Instantly, countless colorful snakes emerged from the Steles Forest, guarding the van.

In the sky, a bright full moon appeared, casting a radiant, Qiong Hua glow upon the vast expanse of steles.

The multitude of snakes coiled and raised their heads to greet the moonlight, as if they were welcoming me.

"Su Wan, make sure these snakes don't hurt me; they'll listen to you," Wu Zhenglin reminded me.

I immediately rolled down the window and communicated with the swarm of snakes, asking them not to harm Wu Zhenglin and Granny Wu.

The snakes seemed to understand my words, hissing in response.

Suddenly, a handsome face under the moonlight appeared at the window, giving me a cold smirk, "Long time no see, Su Wan. Did you think the Steles Forest could stop me?"

His voice was as pleasant as the collision of jade, similar in its entrancing power to that of Yu Longting, but this person's voice had an added aggressiveness.

Yu Longting carried an inherent unruliness, whereas this man exuded a constant air of authority, as though he reigned supreme over all.

Every word resonated like a dagger, capable of captivating and piercing the human heart.

"What do you mean by long time no see? Do I know you?" I stared blankly at this being, whom all mortals had to look up to, completely baffled.

What did he mean by that?

"Playing dumb? We're old acquaintances." Master Qingyang's hand reached in in a flash, grabbing my throat, "You managed to kill one Snake Baby and got pregnant again? Even wearing the White Python Cheongsam now, seeking death!"

With a thunderous boom, a torrential downpour suddenly began within the Serpent Domain.

Master Qingyang stood outside, completely dry despite the rain.

The ground snakes bared their teeth, attempting to attack Qingyang to protect me, but any that drew near his Qi Force were pulverized into a bloody mess.

What kind of existence had I provoked...

He seemed capable of cataclysmic power with the slightest gesture, yet he was here to kill a pregnant woman, a weak and defenseless lady.

As if numbed, I felt almost no pain in my strangled neck, only a sense of hypoxia, a heaviness in my head and lightness in my feet, bloodshot eyes straining in discomfort, and a fiery burning in my lungs...

My vision gradually blurred, and my mind struggled to replay the words this person had spoken.

Had Yu Longting once lost a child...

Chapter 113 Dispersing One's Power

Suddenly, I felt my neck being choked, and at the same time,

a hand was violently tearing at the clothes on my body.

The Silver Python Cheongsam, which could not be burned, cut, or discarded, issued a ripping sound, mingled with the mournful hiss of a snake.

In my subconscious, I greatly valued the cheongsam. On the brink of life and death, I still couldn't help calling out intermittently,

"No... don't... destroy my cheongsam..." That was Yu Longting's life...

Clattering, the high-quality jade bead buttons scattered all over the ground.

My heart plummeted to the depths, and cool tears slid down from the corners of my eyes.

The cheongsam was damaged.

"It puzzles me, having an arm chopped off and fitted with a prosthetic as if not a disabled person, what courage one must have to trouble one's wife."

A rebellious and chilling voice, as if traversing time and space, entered my ears. I was embraced from behind, a cold hand pressing over the exposed area of my cheongsam.

The moment I opened my eyes, Yu Longting's fingers gently flicked the wrist of Master Qingyang's hand that was choking me.

Master Qingyang's entire arm, as if struck by a tremendous shock, rapidly retreated several steps.  
"Demon Snake, you've arrived just in time."

"How... how did you know we were in danger?"

I turned to look at Yu Longting, only to see Wu Zhenglin, who at some point was brought out of the car by Yu Longting, standing in the bleak cold wind with his arms crossed, completely baffled.

"You're wearing my true body on you, how could I not know if something happened? It's just that my abode is too far from here, and it took me some time on the road."

Yu Longting picked up the coat I had removed to take off the Blood Splendor Robe and draped it over my shoulders, zipped it up, and apologetically pressed a kiss to my forehead. He glanced at Wu Zhenglin outside the car, who stood there staring blankly like a statue, "Aren't you quickly taking the Blood Splendor Robe to save Granny Wu? Want to watch her bleed out and die?"

"Oh oh, I'm on it." Wu Zhenglin then sluggishly ran toward Granny Wu.

The wind howled fiercely as the golden sword suddenly charged at the van with unstoppable force.

Yu Longting kicked and sent the pitiful van door flying, wrapping his arms around me and leaping out of the van with incredible speed.

Almost simultaneously, the golden sword struck the van.

It turned the van, which had been bruised against a stele, into a pulverized mess with its Qi Force.

If Yu Longting had been half a step late in rescuing me, my flesh and blood body would probably have fared even worse than the van.

To think there is someone so formidable in this world.

"Yu Longting, compared to back then, I've become stronger!! And you, without your inner core, are just a useless snake. With me around, you can forget about becoming a dragon!"

Master Qingyang, swinging his sword, directed the golden sword to attack us.

Yu Longting, holding my waist, nimbly leaped up, evading the golden sword.

From his sleeve, a massive White Python flew out, charging at the golden sword, "I'm telling you, go have your head examined. When did I ever say I wanted to become a dragon? But since you've mentioned it, I'm set on becoming one just to spite you."

Master Qingyang held one hand behind his back, his handsome youthful face full of arrogance, his lips mockingly curling up, "With this Spiritual Girl nourishing your true body, if you eat her, giving birth to a spirit eye freak that's neither human nor demon, you could become a dragon in no more than three years. But with me here, you can forget about it!"

"Spirit eye freak... eat the spirit eye freak." I was momentarily distracted.

At that moment, the golden sword pierced through the White Snake's mouth and exited through its body, trailing fresh blood, but it didn't get off without paying a price.

The next second, the Snake Tail struck, sending Master Qingyang flying far away.

Master Qingyang's golden sword fell to the ground, now corroded and rusted from Snake Blood, shattered into pieces, seething with rage, "You... without your inner core, and with the robe that nurtured your true body destroyed, you still dare to harm me with your Primordial Spirit. You're insane! You'll die from dispersing your power!"

Chapter 114 Celestial Brother

"Pfft—" Yu Longting spat out a mouthful of blood, his lips curving slightly, "The barefoot are not afraid of the shod, it seems. I am but a crippled snake now, so to be buried alongside the one hailed as the hope of all humanity, the only mortal capable of reaching the pinnacle of cultivation, is well worth it."

"Then let's try it out, Snake Lord, Yu Longting."

Master Qingyang's eyes were filled with a cold, bloodthirsty chill, his aura so intense it hardly resembled that of a Taoist cultivator. He threw out two Divine Talismans capable of reducing this Steles Forest to level ground.

The Divine Talismans, soaring with a force that could shatter the old and decayed, hurtled toward the White Snake representing Yu Longting's Primordial Spirit.

Yu Longting was indifferent, "Let's give it a try."

The White Python bravely faced off against the overwhelming power of the two charms, and after shattering the talismans,

wrapped around Taoist Qingyang headfirst, the tremendous force of its gargantuan body unyieldingly strong.

Taoist Qingyang strained to break free from the White Python, coughed up fresh blood, and collapsed to the ground.

After the White Python landed, it was riddled with scars.

It feebly crawled back into Yu Longting's sleeve.

"Longting."

A vague unease filled my heart, and I softly called out to Yu Longting.

Yu Longting's forehead was tightly furrowed as he coughed up another mouthful of blood. The strength of his arm around my waist began to falter, and my feet, which had been hanging in the air, touched the ground. I caught him before he could fall.

Supported by me, his body was swaying unsteadily, "Qingyang timed his arrival to cause trouble. Give me one more day, and that old bastard wouldn't stand a chance against me. Sweetheart, if I don't make it this time... if I die, could I ask you not to forget me? Don't find another father for our Dumpling."

After he said this, his face paled, and he closed his eyes, falling unconscious.

"You're not going to die, Yu Longting. I won't let you die." I kept pouring Spiritual Power into my true body, the cheongsam, but it seemed as if it had been damaged, so the connection between us felt like it had been severed.

Before, when I infused Spiritual Power, it was merely obstructed. I could still manage to get some through.

Now, not a drop could enter.

I felt Yu Longting's body growing lighter, and my heart filled with increasing panic as I held him tightly.

How could I keep him with me, how could I protect Yu Longting's life...

"Su Wan, be careful." From afar, Wu Zhenglin, who was guarding Granny Wu, called out loudly.

I saw Qingyang actually get up, his eyes filled with furious rage. He staggered towards me while coughing.

I held Yu Longting tightly, on edge all over.

For the moment, Yu Longting was only gravely injured in his Primordial Spirit, not necessarily at the point of dispersing his power.

Another attack from Qingyang, however, would be the end.

My only mistake was the rushed departure from home without preparing any offensive garments; otherwise, at this moment, I could take on Qingyang myself.

"Don't come any closer, or... I won't be polite."

I clenched my fists tightly, and at this critical moment, the Spiritual Eye suddenly opened to its fullest on its own.

Spiritual Power surged from my body, forming an invisible yet substantial wall in front of me and Yu Longting.

"The Spiritual Girl is indeed powerful, able to turn Spiritual Power into substance. If you had learned the Mysterious Art, it wouldn't be hard to stop me, but... you know nothing." With a casual flick of his finger from Qingyang, the wall crumbled.

My body, bound by the Qi Force emanating from Qingyang, was completely paralyzed. I could only watch in despair as he hurt Dumpling...

"Mommy, Dumpling... can't move, can't protect you and daddy." Dumpling voiced sadly.

One step, two steps, three steps...

Qingyang drew ever closer, his sword finger shining with pure white light, aiming for my abdomen.

In the face of certain doom, I roared helplessly, "Back off, don't you dare hurt Dumpling or Yu Longting."

Immortal Liu had been right all along.

As a Spiritual Girl, I had to endure being coveted by countless different beings.

Yu Longting should never have kept me by his side, much less have let me bear a child.

This would only bring trouble to Dumpling.

Today, I feared that my life would end here...

Just as Master Qingyang's sword finger touched my abdomen, about to instantly kill Dumpling at that instant,

a faint white light appeared before my eyes.

Upon closer inspection, it was a hand glowing with white light, silently seizing Qingyang's wrist.

The aura was strikingly familiar.

I had thought it was Yu Longting, but when I looked up, I saw a person wearing a white veil. His eyes were identical to Yu Longting's.

However, his aura was gentle and sorrowful, and he smiled at me like blooming lotus flowers, leaving me completely stunned, "Fairy Sister, have you... come to save us?"

"Goodness, are you blind, youngster? I'm a man. What 'Fairy Sister'? Call me 'Celestial Brother.'"

The man spoke, and his voice was very similar to Yu Longting's, except he spoke with a distinctive Northeastern Chinese accent...

Chapter 115: The Man in White Gauze

"..." I stared blankly at the man in white gauze before me.

The Spiritual Eye automatically sensed his supremely powerful force, standing before me like a towering peak, looking down on the insignificant masses of the human world.

I felt completely dazed for a moment, as if I were dreaming.

Yet, the appearance of this man had freed my hands and feet from their shackles.

I unconsciously pinched my face, it really hurt.

It didn't seem like a dream.

The man in white gauze kicked Qingyang to the ground, bent down, and grabbed his chin, "Who told you there are no True Dragons in this world, am I not one?"

"You... are you Yu Longting's father? Why are you still alive? Weren't you supposed to have... died??"  
Qingyang's face paled in fear.

The man in white gauze hummed softly, his phoenix eyes unclear and elongated in his smile, patted Qingyang's cheek, yet Qingyang couldn't resist at all.

The man in white gauze asked outrageously, "Aren't you especially envious? To have such an awesome father to rely on?"

This exact same gesture was just like Yu Rongling's!

Qingyang's blood surged, he was not hurt but spat out blood from anger, "You want to kill me."

"True Dragons don't kill people, killing people would degrade one's status, then wouldn't I fall from a king to starlight? You're not worth it," the man in white gauze said somberly.

"Kid, make a vow, never harm my son and daughter-in-law, hurry up, my patience is limited! Make the vow with a Blood Curse, and if you break it, you'll explode and die."

"I, Qingyang, vow with my Cultivation, never to..." As he pricked his forehead with his fingertip, a blossom of red blood spread, but his words abruptly stopped.

Obviously unwilling to make such a vow, but confronted by the man in white gauze's mysterious and pure smile like a white lotus, he felt horrified and dared not defy, "Never to harm Su Wan and Yu Longting..."

"And my little grandson as well," the man added.

Qingyang gritted his teeth, "Nor trick Su Wan's child."

The man vanished with a smile, "Be gone."

Qingyang spat out another mouthful of blood.

I watched as he gritted his teeth in endurance, igniting his own Life Lamp.

Using the Life Lamp to restore his Cultivation, he barely managed to leave by sword amidst the rain...

"That... Elder... please save Yu Longting, he seems to be dispersing his power," I pleaded.

"What's this, no manners at all, not even a 'Father-in-law' and you want me to save your man?"

The man felt Yu Longting's pulse, "Hmm, he's indeed about to be done for, but he still has one breath left, so it's up to his fate."

What the heck, what is this...

He wanted me to call him father-in-law, so he must be Yu Longting's real father.

Why wouldn't a father save his own son, is there something wrong with his brain?

My mind was in disarray, only to feel a cold palm laid on my abdomen, "..."

Although he was a True Dragon, but I...

Could I call this harassment?

"Just now, that kid touched your belly and injected Demonic Qi into it, which is a bit troubling," the man in white gauze muttered to himself, then as if deciding, said, "Damn it, it's not my problem anyway, I can't be bothered."

My mouth twitched uncontrollably, "Could you... care just a bit? After all, he's your grandson."

"Children and grandchildren have their own fortunes."

Hearing the man in white gauze's irresponsible words, I only felt a cold jade touch my brow.

Upon closer inspection, it was the man's index finger on my forehead, he spoke with a shallow smile, pausing between words, "Forget."

Chapter 116: Something's Not Right

"What are you doing??" I felt as if something crucial had been drawn out of my brain, and I was powerless to salvage it.

My vision grew increasingly blurred, and I could only faintly see the man through the veil, rubbing his nose, "I didn't do much, just extracted some memories from your mind. It shouldn't affect you much. I can't help it; my personal charm is too overwhelming. If I don't erase these memories, I'm afraid your daughter-in-law might fall in love with her father-in-law..."

What kind of nonsense was this, with a daughter-in-law falling in love with her father-in-law?

I fell forward with a full head of black lines, plunging into darkness, aware that I had fainted.

I only felt the rain in the Serpent Domain was cold, soaking through my clothes.

But next to my ears, there came a sound of crying, and the crying was, unbelievably, coming from my own mouth.

That voice wasn't mine; it was a child's cry.

He too was in such a torrential rain, held in the arms of a man.

In the man's hand was a long sword that I found very familiar, carved with a giant python, its tip pressing against the tender chest of the child.

The child was just an infant, tears of sorrow continuously flowing from his eyes, yet he could already speak, "Dad, why do you want to kill me? Why...? Is it just because I have the Spiritual Eye..."

Through the curtain of rain, I saw Yu Longting's face.

The man who had killed his own child was Yu Longting, and was that child not Dumpling's face?

Could this be a horrifying nightmare?

Ask in my subconscious only to see a girl running out, kneeling in front of Yu Longting, clutching his legs, "Don't kill my child... Yu Longting... please, I beg you, take my life instead, I will give you the Spiritual Eye, anything you want, just don't kill my child..."

That woman's face startled me as well, it seemed to be mine yet not mine.

It looked much younger than my current appearance, around eighteen or nineteen, with naïve long ponytails.

Yu Longting acted as though he heard nothing, the sword tip slowly pierced the child's chest.

No!! Stop... don't continue...

Wake up, wake up!!

I jolted awake from the nightmare just as the sword tip pierced the infant's skin.

I sprang up to realize I was actually in a van.

Yu Longting, leaning his head to the side, pinched my wrist, "I'm the one seriously injured, why did you faint? You weren't injured, were you scared by Master Qingyang?"

"You... don't come any closer..." I shrank into the corner of the van, and despite the spacious interior, I could still hear the rain outside.

The images and sounds of the dream blurred with real memories, making me a bit confused.

I nearly mistook that vivid dream for an actual memory.

Yu Longting furrowed his brow, his face pale as he coughed twice, "Cough cough, Wanwan, did Master Qingyang say something to you?"

"He didn't really say much, just talked about how beings who haven't ascended to immortality through cultivation in several hundred years are not allowed to transform snakes into dragons."

I dove headfirst into Yu Longting's embrace, clutching his drenched body as if using all the strength of my life.

To save me, he had nearly dispersed all his powers.

Even I could easily kill him now.

How could I doubt that he would harm me and Dumpling just because of a dream?

"Cough cough cough cough... Qingyang... just said that? Cough cough cough..." Yu Longting's breathing became even more disordered from my impact, coughing more fiercely.

"Yes, he just wanted to take my life without much talk."

I was terrified and hastily released my tight embrace around Yu Longting, only to see a trickle of blood hanging from the corner of his lips, which left me panicked and at a loss for what to do, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to do this, the cheongsam is ruined, I couldn't take care of you, and your Primordial Spirit is hurt..."

"It's okay, you just fix the cheongsam, take care of my true body, and I will slowly get better," Yu Longting said nonchalantly.

"Yes, look at me, how come I did not think of fixing the cheongsam before?"

I looked forward, and driving was Beichen, who I asked, "Beichen, where are we going? Are we going to Granny Wu's house?"

"Eh, aren't we going to the restaurant?" Beichen asked in astonishment.

Yu Longting lifted his arm weakly and touched my head feebly, "Listen... to Su Wan."

"Yes, Snake Lord." Beichen made a U-turn at the intersection ahead and headed towards Granny Wu's house.

The inside of the car was very quiet, with Wu Zhenglin sitting silently in the back seat next to the unconscious Granny Wu.

The heavy rain hadn't stopped, beating loudly against the windows.

I was nestled in Yu Longting's broad embrace, his heartbeat was much slower than usual, and his breathing was very erratic.

Yet his fingers still tenderly caressed my stomach, completely unlike the brutal and cold-hearted person in my dreams.

Freud said dreams are a person's subconscious, is my subconscious that violent?

But I'm not afraid of him at all, I even find Yu Longting very gentle.

I looked up at Yu Longting, who seemed to be in a light sleep, his eyebrows slightly furrowed.

That dream was too realistic, realistic as though it had actually happened.

Was it a long-sealed memory?

Could it be an unlucky memory from a past life...

I unconsciously began to ponder and quietly asked, "That... Yu Longting, did we really not know each other in a past life?"

"Why do you ask this question again?" Yu Longting half-opened his eyes, somewhat surprised.

I touched his face, feeling slightly unreal, "I just can't figure it out, you've lived for thousands of years, why choose me? And I am the daughter of your enemy... Are you sure it's not fate from a previous life... Love across three lifetimes?"

"Are you writing a novel here? Such a big imagination, it's a waste not to be a screenwriter." Yu Longting caught my hand, raised his eyebrows and smiled, even his cough carried a smile, "Cough cough cough... Wanwan... cough cough... my feelings for you... are a millennial wait..."

His casual demeanor didn't seem at all like his Primordial Spirit was severely damaged, enduring excruciating agony.

Even if I had never experienced it, I knew it.

A damage to the Primordial Spirit was foundational, the pain endured was a hundred times more severe than physical pain.

"Alright, I believe you, don't talk, and don't explain, just rest," I covered his lips, but my fingers felt a warm surge, and they recoiled slightly.

I had touched the blood slowly flowing from the corner of his lips, and my whole vision went blank.

Yu Longting caught my hand and placed it over his heart, "Wife, I am fine, don't worry about me."

"Yes." I gently stroked Yu Longting's back, his body tense and rigid, gradually relaxed.

His breathing became even, his hands clasped around me like an octopus.

Beichen stopped the car in front of a simple farmhouse belonging to Granny Wu, "Here we are, Snake Lord, Lady of the Snake Lord..."

"Shh, Yu Longting is asleep!" I signaled for silence, trying to help Yu Longting up, he was light as a feather after being injured.

I could easily carry him, and just as I was about to help him into Granny Wu's house, I heard Wu Zhenglin cry out, "Su Wan, my granny... something seems off with my granny!!"

## Chapter 117: A Life of Little Value

"Granny Wu still hasn't woken up?" I paused mid-step and turned to look back.

Wu Zhenglin shook his head vigorously, "Not only that, but her complexion is getting paler. Are you sure the Blood Splendor Robe works?"

"This robe has saved a life before; there's no way it could be ineffective." I glanced in Granny Wu's direction. It wasn't just that her complexion was drained of color; her glabella was indeed pitch black.

This was a sign that a person was on the brink of a violent death, something that must not be underestimated.

At that moment, a crow flew out of the rain and landed on a branch in front of the small courtyard.

This was a commonly known omen of death by crows among the folks!

Granny Wu's life was hanging by a thread!

A chill ran through my heart, "Quick, open the Blood Splendor Robe and let me check the inside."

Wu Zhenglin did as I said and unfastened the Blood Splendor Robe from Granny Wu, only to reveal a body full of alarming sword wounds.

She had been wearing the Blood Splendor Robe for so long, yet not a single wound had healed.

Golden sword qi was seeping from the wounds, a fierce force that could even slice anything that came close.

Wu Zhenglin trembled as he touched one of Granny Wu's wounds, his fingers instantly sliced by countless tiny cuts.

"Are you trying to get yourself killed? That's the gang qi left by the golden sword in the wound." I steadied Yu Longting with one hand and grabbed Wu Zhenglin's wrist with the other to stop him, "Wu Zhenglin, first help Granny Wu into the room."

The rain outside was pouring heavily, and the five of us entered Granny Wu's small courtyard together.

Throughout the courtyard coiled the snake swarm Yu Longting had left behind, which now seemed to possess some intelligence and had gathered around.

They circled at my feet, seemingly very concerned about Yu Longting's injuries.

After we entered the room, the snake swarm didn't follow but quietly coiled outside.

I settled Yu Longting on the guest room bed in Granny Wu's house, looking at his gaunt handsome face; I really wanted to stay by his side.

Immediately, I went to Granny Wu's storeroom to fetch materials to mend the torn cheongsam.

Granny Wu's condition was far more serious; her life was in danger every minute.

I had no choice but to leave Yu Longting in Beichen's care.

I left the guest room to find Granny Wu.

"Granny, wake up, please. Don't scare me." Wu Zhenglin was frantically wiping the wet rainwater from Granny Wu's body with a dry towel.

Upon seeing me, he glanced my way, unable to contain his complaint, "Your Blood Splendor Robe, is it incapable of healing wounds that have been invaded by gang qi? If I had discovered this sooner, we wouldn't have lost so much time."

"You have cuts from gang qi on your hand. Try on the Blood Splendor Robe and you'll know soon enough." I frowned, focusing on Granny Wu on the bed, unable to make a good judgment on her wounds and why the Blood Splendor Robe was unable to heal them.

Had Yu Longting not been gravely injured and comatose, I could have asked him.

Reminded by me, Wu Zhenglin looked at his fingers, which were still oozing blood.

He hastily slipped into the gorgeous, deep-red Blood Splendor Robe.

The cuts on his fingers had been caused by the gang qi.

The gang qi hindered clotting, causing even the small wounds to bleed profusely.

Yet within less than half a minute of wearing the Blood Splendor Robe, the three or four cuts on his hands miraculously healed completely.

Wu Zhenglin looked at his hands, now as good as new, then back at the still-unconscious Granny Wu, his expression one of life-questioning doubt, "How can this be?"

My heart skipped a beat, worried for Granny Wu's life.

"The Blood Splendor Robe has three cases where it won't heal: It doesn't heal Demons and monsters, those with heinous crimes, and those who harbor thoughts of death," I slowly recited the three limitations of the Blood Splendor Robe and narrowed my eyes, "As for her specific situation, it's better to ask her herself. Others' blind guesses might never hit the mark."

"My granny is unconscious, how can we ask her?" Wu Zhenglin asked me.

My frown grew deeper as I checked Granny Wu's breathing, "Go to the storehouse and fetch two liang of Nether Silk. I can use the Life and Death Embroidery to temporarily protect her Life Lamp, and she will be able to regain consciousness."

Granny Wu's breath was very faint; she was like a lonely soul wandering on the banks of the Naihe Bridge, waiting to cross the river.

By forcefully sustaining the Life Lamp, I could temporarily pull her soul back.

"Alright, I'll go fetch it now." Wu Zhenglin ran to the storehouse and returned with the Nether Silk in less than three minutes.

Granny Wu suffered severe injuries while saving me and Dumpling.

I couldn't just watch her in trouble, so I used the technique of the Life and Death Embroidery as quickly as possible.

I wove the Nether Silk into a pure white cloth strip and tied it around Granny Wu's wrist.

About ten seconds passed, and Granny Wu let out a muffled groan.

Her eyes slowly opened, and she asked hoarsely, "Is this... the Underworld?"

"Wu Zhenglin, give her some water," I reminded.

Wu Zhenglin busied himself by feeding Granny Wu a sip of the warm water he had prepared in advance.

Sitting beside Granny Wu's bed, I said, "Granny, you're still alive, but... your current situation is very tricky."

"Miss Su Wan, you... you used the Life and Death Embroidery to hang onto my last breath? No wonder I didn't die..." Granny Wu lifted her arm, saw the white cloth strip tied around it, and her face showed sudden realization, "Don't trouble yourself for my worthless life."

I furrowed my brows, "Did you already know that the Blood Splendor Robe couldn't heal the sword wound on your body?"

"It's an old issue, been that way for a long time," Granny Wu said with a bitter smile, "Half a year ago, I calculated that these few days would mark the end of my life."

I didn't believe her words, "I can read a bit of physiognomy, and according to that, you don't look like someone who has a short life."

"Physiognomy can be off sometimes; it's not one hundred percent accurate," Granny Wu argued.

But I felt she was being evasive, as if deliberately hiding something, "Granny Wu, the cloth I used to protect your Life Lamp can only sustain you for two shichen, are you sure you want to keep going back and forth with me? If you don't tell me the reason and think of a solution, you really will die from losing so much blood!"

As I spoke, I became emotionally agitated, and my eyes started to redden.

It was all because of me that Granny Wu was gravely injured.

If I couldn't heal her, I would live with the guilt for the rest of my life.

"Miss Su Wan, don't blame yourself, thinking it's your fault," Granny Wu seemed to see through my emotions. After her life was hung up by a thread, she actually had the strength to sit up and hold my hand, "It's my time, my life has run out, and it has absolutely nothing to do with you."

"When you asked for rice, did you ever overcharge for it?" I am an expert in Life and Death Embroidery, belonging to the embroideresses.

Facial analysis is the job of the Hemp Robe Sorcerer; I only have a superficial understanding.

In my humble opinion, Granny Wu's Wealth Palace seemed very rosy and full, yet she lived in such a dilapidated house and dressed simply, as if she was just short of wearing patched clothes.

I didn't know Granny Wu before and had no way of knowing her previous sins.

I could only guess from the most visible and superficial aspects I could see.

Unexpectedly, Granny Wu's gaze flickered for a moment, "I've always been poor, and each time I asked for rice, I only charged twenty yuan. Miss Su Wan, don't guess blindly; let me go in peace."

"Miss Wan, my granny is not a greedy person; all these years I've never seen her take a single penny of wealth. Maybe it's some other reason," Wu Zhenglin's eyes were red-rimmed, and he rubbed the corners of his eyes forcefully, but the tears still fell uncontrollably. He urgently questioned Granny Wu, "Granny, I don't believe that your life has come to an end. What exactly is the reason for this? Tell me, please..."

#### Chapter 118: Risking My Life

I trusted my judgment based on the look in Granny Wu's eyes just now, "Granny Wu, if it's about money, after you pass away, and the money is still given to Wu Zhenglin, would Wu Zhenglin agree to use this money once he knows the truth?"

"Miss Su Wan, you..." Granny Wu immediately became anxious and tried to say something but choked up.

My words were sharp, deliberately provoking Granny Wu, "Wu Zhenglin would feel that he was responsible for your death, and no matter how much money you leave him, he wouldn't spend a dime."

"So, Grandma, can't the Blood Splendor Robe heal your wounds because of the money issue?" Wu Zhenglin was about to lose his mind, kneeling by the bed, clutching Granny Wu's hands, "What exactly is going on? Tell me! Otherwise, I don't want to live, Grandma!"

"Nonsense! How can you... just say you won't live."

Granny Wu, who adored her grandson dearly, finally couldn't resist Wu Zhenglin and reluctantly revealed the truth,

"It's all because I charged too much when I was young when I was divining for others." Granny Wu sighed, revealing the truth.

I pondered, "I remember my father once saying that every extra cent charged in this profession will turn into a reduction in lifespan."

"What should we do then? Is there a way to make amends?" Wu Zhenglin asked urgently, looking at me.

I answered, "Followers of Xuan Fanyin usually donate half of the money immediately after receiving it."

Many Mystic Arts Masters in prestigious circles charge exorbitant fees.

If they donate half of the money right away, they can recover seventy to eighty percent of the lost lifespan."

"So, Grandma didn't donate the money she earned before?"

Wu Zhenglin suddenly understood.

I took a deep breath, asked Granny Wu softly, "Granny Wu, when you were young, you must have accumulated a considerable amount of money."

"I wrote a will, originally planning to let Zhenglin know after I died. I've kept this passbook close to me at all times." Granny Wu took out a passbook from her body and opened it – it showed a series of zeros, amounting to eight million, "Because they were unearned gains, they did not belong to me, so I never spent a penny of it."

"Grandma, you were so foolish! How could you accumulate so much money and not donate any of it? No wonder the Blood Splendor Robe won't... heal your wounds!"

Wu Zhenglin was very angry, his eyes red-rimmed.

Like a wounded little beast.

Wu Zhenglin asked me again, "So if Grandma donates all the money, will she get well?"

"Given that so much time has passed, donating it can only provide temporary relief, and it's definitely impossible for her to fully recover," I told Wu Zhenglin truthfully.

Wu Zhenglin, like a drowning person clinging to the last piece of driftwood, said, "Temporary relief is still good, an extra day alive is worth it."

"Now that we know the cause, you're responsible for persuading Granny Wu. I'll make a trip to the storeroom to get some materials for repairing the cheongsam."

Seeing that Wu Zhenglin was sensible and very filial, I felt like there wasn't much for me to do, so I got up and offered to go.

Wu Zhenglin unhesitatingly gave me the keys to the storeroom, allowing me to find the materials myself.

With the keys, I fetched the materials from the storeroom and then went back to the guest room to repair the cheongsam, the tear in it.

Mending with Heavenly Silkworm Silk, it looked as good as new.

There was no visible trace of the repair, and I resealed the buttons to almost the original state before wearing it myself.

I tried to channel some Spiritual Power into the body of the cheongsam. Although I only infused a little,

I encountered resistance and couldn't continue injecting Spiritual Power.

However, this bit of Spiritual Power still made the silver python's black eyes light up brightly, shining like crystal clear ice reflecting light.

"Is the cheongsam repaired?" I was looking down at the silver python on the cheongsam when someone suddenly grabbed my wrist. I lost my balance and fell into a cool, warm embrace.

I fell onto Yu Longting's chest but did not struggle. Instead, I looked up at his face, "It's finished. Do you want to check it to see if there are any inadequacies?"

"My wife's craftsmanship is top-notch. How could there be any inadequacies? Wanwan, what am I to say about you? You just finished the repairs and immediately infused the cheongsam with spiritual power, as if it were free?" Yu Longting reproached discontentedly.

I returned a smile at Yu Longting. "It essentially is free. I have an abundance of spiritual power, more than you can handle."

"Your body is depleted like this, yet you claim to have abundant spiritual power? That battle between Serpent Domain and Qingyang, did you use your spiritual power to fight him?"

Yu Longting squeezed my wrist and checked my pulse, frowning severely as if I had intentionally deceived him about something.

I was so bewildered by his actions that I almost thought my memory was confused. After careful thought, I said, "No, every time I encountered Qingyang, you were there. You seriously injured Qingyang, then you passed out, and then I got caught in the rain and passed out too. I woke up in the car; there was no chance to use spiritual power."

"That's really strange. Your body is so severely depleted, yet nothing appears amiss when taking your pulse."

Contemplative, Yu Longting rubbed his temples with one hand and asked me, "What are the Wu family's grandparents arguing about that it's giving me a headache?"

"You don't know. The Blood Splendor Robe failed to heal Granny Wu's wounds. She has only an hour left to live."

I sat up straight and began to massage the other half of his temples.

Granny Wu was originally given four extra hours of life by me, but since I was making the cheongsam and wearing it infused with spiritual power, almost three hours had already passed.

Yu Longting shrugged, "Because of the ill-gotten wealth she's leaving for Wu Zhenglin?"

"Wow, you knew about that?" I exclaimed in surprise.

Yu Longting pinched my nose, "Wife, after all, I am the Snake Lord!"

"Yu Longting, come with me to persuade Granny Wu. Having you, the Snake Lord, there might be useful," I insisted, pulling Yu Longting to his feet.

But he was incredibly reluctant to get up. "Is this the time not to stay with your severely injured husband, but to visit some old lady? What are you thinking???"

Regardless of whether Yu Longting was willing or not, I had already dragged him to Granny Wu's room.

Granny Wu and Wu Zhenglin were in a heated argument.

Despite Wu Zhenglin's earnest persuasion, Granny Wu was very resolute: "This money can't be donated, not a single penny."

"Why on earth? Grandma, you won't spend a dime. Why keep it?" Wu Zhenglin knelt before the stubborn Granny Wu, overwhelmed and baffled as he looked at her.

Resignedly, Granny Wu, with her blood-stained hands, took Wu Zhenglin's arm, "Zhenglin, this money is left for you. After I die, you can use it and won't starve to death."

"Grandma, I'm capable and won't starve myself; don't fret over me." Wu Zhenglin's chest heaved violently, his face turning pale with frustration.

Granny Wu looked at her grandson tenderly, murmuring, "Zhenglin, I've always known that your academic performance was actually poor. You lied to make me happy, claiming you were among the best."

"So what?" Wu Zhenglin's face was pale.

Granny Wu, touching Wu Zhenglin's face with her rough fingers, spoke helplessly, "My biggest wish in life is for you to attend a good university, but since you can't, your future seems bleak. The least I can do is leave this money for you."

"You..." Wu Zhenglin stared complicatedly at Grandma Wu for a while before speaking, "After you die, I want to inherit your mantle and continue the family craft. Do I still need to go to university then?"

"Education is the right path. What's so great about inheriting this trivial thing of mine? My biggest wish in life is for you to get into a good university," trembled Granny Wu.

Yu Longting stroked his chin, listening with interest.

I couldn't listen anymore, "Granny Wu, I really don't understand how you think. You're literally risking your life over such a ridiculous reason as Wu Zhenglin's poor exam performance and not getting into a good university."

Is there nothing more important than being alive?

Chapter 119: Success Against the Grain

"Miss Su Wan, you don't know the whole story," said Granny Wu as I arrived, her tone softened slightly, yet she remained adamant. "Zhenglin's parents died early, and without any educational qualifications, how could he survive without this money? After I die, he will surely starve to death."

Zhenglin almost lost his temper, "Granny, I have both hands and feet, I won't starve myself to death even if I struggle, don't underestimate me."

If it had been me, I would definitely have lost my temper just like Wu Zhenglin.

But as Granny Mi, Granny Wu was obviously stuck in a dead-end.

She was wise when helping others with their fates, but irrationality overcame her when it came to her own grandson.

Unless Wu Zhenglin was indeed an academic prodigy, she would probably die before letting go of those millions in her savings account.

A flash of inspiration struck me, and I asked Granny Wu, "If Wu Zhenglin gets into a top university, would you be willing to donate all that money?"

"Miss Su Wan, you... are you trying to persuade me to cling desperately to life, to live a few more days, yet... yet deceive me?" Granny Wu glanced at me sheepishly.

At that moment, Yu Longting spoke up, "My wife is so full, she'd deceive an old lady like you, Wu Zhenglin is destined under the Wenqu Star."

"Snake Lord, are you awake? It's an honor to meet you, Snake Lord," Granny Wu finally noticed Yu Longting and made a gesture to get up to pay her respects.

Yu Longting gestured with his hand, "No need for formalities."

Granny Wu said blankly, "Snake Lord wouldn't lie, If you say Wu Zhenglin is under Wenqu Star, then he must be, but... but... his grades..."

"Wu Zhenglin, if you truly have the ability, you should tell Granny Wu right away to put her mind at ease. Do you really want to see your own granny die in despair?" I reminded Wu Zhenglin.

Wu Zhenglin gripped Granny Wu's hand tightly, speaking rapidly, "Granny, you're not donating the money because you're considering my future! I know your intentions are good, and I do have the capability to do well in university. Believe in me, whatever school you want me to attend, I agree to all of it."

"I want you to get into Peking University, and Tsinghua, can you do it? Forget it, think about your average academic performance, you couldn't even pass by cheating," Granny Wu said disappointingly, waving her hand as her eyes clouded over and her Life Lamp dimmed, causing her to spit out a mouthful of blood.

It's really pitiful, the heart of the elders under heaven, I couldn't help but think of my mother who worries about me constantly.

Granny Wu, willing to disown her reputation just to leave money for Wu Zhenglin, though it seems unbelievable.

But at that moment, I could empathize completely.

I saw the last support for Granny Wu's will to live was about to extinguish, I spoke on behalf of Wu Zhenglin, "Whether Wu Zhenglin is capable or not, let's speak with facts. If it proves he truly has the capability, then you should donate the money."

"With the college entrance exam still far away, how can we prove it?"

Granny Wu's words almost made me spit out blood in frustration.

I just wanted to spare her life, yet she treated me as if I were a class enemy.

I adjusted my forehead, "Zhenglin, don't you often have preliminary tests in your senior year?"

"Right, right, right, there's one tomorrow, Granny, give me a chance to prove myself, I beg you, don't always think about leaving that money for me," Wu Zhenglin finally caught on, painting a big picture for Granny Wu.

In Granny Wu's cloudy and gloomy eyes, a glimmer of light finally appeared, which then faded again, "But I only have one more hour of life left..."

Truly talented, only an hour left to live, yet still thinking of not donating the money to save her life.

Her suspicions were so severe, fearing that the fact Wu Zhenglin was pretending to be a poor student was just us deceiving her.

Oh well, having the will to live is already a significant improvement.

It seems Granny Wu, though a practitioner of Granny Mi's arts, holds educational achievements as dearly as any regular family elder.

"That's easy, I'll make you a Lamp Guarding Clothes, wearing it will allow you to live three more days," I said, my mood suddenly lightened as the words slipped out.

Before I knew it, I was suddenly pulled behind Yu Longting, like a hen protecting her chick.

Peeking out puzzled, what I saw was Yu Longting's face turning pitch black.

I blinked, "What's up?"

"Take this." Yu Longting handed me a pure red talisman, "Stop making clothes, do you want to work yourself to death?"

This talisman, based on red paper, had incantations outlined with ink lines in the shape of red lotuses amidst flames.

It was warm to the touch and brimming with vitality.

"This red lotus drawn on the talisman is exactly the same as the pattern on the Lamp Guarding Clothes that protect the Life Lamp." I held the talisman, lifted my head to look at him, and felt overjoyed inside.

Indeed, all Mysterious Art around the world is interconnected; Life and Death Embroidery seems unique, but many formations share things in common with other geomantic sorceries.

Yu Longting looked down at me, his expression still not very pleasant, "It shares the same underlying principle with the Lamp Guarding Clothes, it can protect Granny Wu's Life Lamp, prolonging her life by three days."

"Thank you, Yu Longting, you are truly a great person, no! A great snake." I excitedly clenched the talisman.

Yu Longting's expression suddenly turned even less friendly, "Are you giving me a 'nice snake' label?"

"No, you misunderstood, I'm just truly grateful." I stuck out my tongue and hurriedly handed the talisman paper to Wu Zhenglin, "Quick, give this to Granny Wu, let her hold it in her hand."

This definitely did not smooth things over, but rather rubbed him the wrong way!

And with my clumsy mouth, I once again offended Yu Longting.

In Granny Wu's hand, Wu Zhenglin forcefully stuffed the talisman, and she gave a wry smile, "Snake Lord, my broken body doesn't deserve such a fine talisman."

"Since fate has granted you these three days, you should treasure them well." Yu Longting replied indifferently.

Wu Zhenglin finally breathed a sigh of relief, "Granny, let me help you rest."

"No need, my body has mostly recovered."

Granny Wu stood up and respectfully bowed to both me and Yu Longting, "Snake Lord is injured, would you consider staying here for a few days?"

"I'll do as my wife wishes." Yu Longting said.

Immediately, Granny Wu's earnest gaze turned towards me.

I'm not used to staying in other people's homes, actually planning to go back to the restaurant, "This... wouldn't it be too much trouble for you?"

"Miss Su, it's getting late, if you go back to town now, it'll be around eight or nine o'clock at night, eating at that time can hurt your stomach, and also leave Little Snake Lord hungry," Granny Wu persuaded.

The thought of possibly leaving Dumpling hungry.

I immediately was swayed by Granny Wu's words, "Then alright, we'll cheekily accept your invitation to stay for a meal and perhaps also stay the night. But with your health..."

"It's no hindrance, Miss Su, don't underestimate the Snake Lord's talisman, he normally doesn't just give it to anyone," Granny Wu said gratefully then turned and went back to her room.

She changed into clean clothes, then busied herself in the kitchen.

I was amazed, this person who was supposed to be over-exhausted from loss of blood.

Mere survival hanging by Yu Longting's talisman, yet looking so lively.

Even if it was a fleeting resurgence, it was an incredible thing...

My Lamp Guarding Clothes, certainly could not achieve this.

Suddenly.

Wu Zhenglin knelt down with a thump, "Snake Lord, Miss Su Wan!! Thank you both, it's all thanks to you that we could save my granny's life this time."

Chapter 120: Snakes are afraid of Geese

"It's fine, the main thing is that you need to show some gumption. Otherwise, these three days will pass by in a flash." I stooped down to pick up Wu Zhenglin, sighing to myself.

I had only seen on Weibo trends how parents toiled over their children's grades.

It was the first time I had seen such concern for a child's well-being in real life.

I had no idea why this Wu Zhenglin was so heedless; he clearly had the makings of a top student, yet he chose to pose as a poor one.

Wu Zhenglin wiped his tears forcefully with his sleeve and nodded vigorously, "I'm going to help my grandma in the kitchen. You can go back to your room to rest, or feel free to wander around nearby—the scenery in this village is quite nice, very pristine."

I watched Wu Zhenglin go to the kitchen.

I turned to Yu Longting to ask for his opinion, "Are you well enough to go for a walk outside now?"

"What, you think I'm made of paper? The moment you finished repairing the cheongsam, I was already much better, wife, thanks to you." Yu Longting smiled at me, that dim, intoxicating smile was simply too beautiful, and the rising intonation was oh so soothing.

Flattered, I took Yu Longting's hand and walked out of the Wu family courtyard, "Come on, let's go for a walk."

The rain outside had stopped, leaving behind a perfect post-rain landscape.

The rural pathways were illuminated by the fiery red sunset.

The mountains and streams were also bathed in orange-red hues, looking very striking.

Before Yu Longting walked far, he waved his sleeve, and the menacing snakes coiled around Granny Wu's house all disappeared.

We hadn't walked far on the stone path when we encountered a flock of geese.

"Yu Longting, Granny Wu's place was surrounded by snakes before, so every household around here keeps geese to ward off evil spirits and prevent snakes." My heart tightened as I stepped in front of Yu Longting and picked up a branch from the ground to scare off the geese.

Yu Longting tightened his grip on my hand and only after a while, he spoke, "Oh?"

I could feel his fear and turned to tell him, "Don't be afraid, I'll chase them away. I won't let them hurt you."

"Alright." Yu Longting, the poor snake baby, must have been terrified, so his speech had become particularly brief. Really, it's pitiful.

Just taking a leisurely walk in the countryside and suddenly having to deal with natural enemies.

The geese in the countryside are extremely aggressive; even with a dead branch in my hand, they still rushed forward to peck at us.

I glared fiercely at the geese, snarling as I waved the dead branch to drive them off, "Back off, or the branch in my hand will come alive. If you get knocked out, you'll be carried back and end up in a stew pot!"

A few geese got hit by my branch and backed off quite a bit.

However, they were still fearsome combatants and seemed to have a keen sense for snakes, crowding in to bump their heads against my stomach.

Actually, dealing with these geese was easy.

They had long necks; I could just snap them and that would be it.

But that would be too cruel.

And if I killed them, I would definitely have to pay compensation.

I needed to save my money to buy my mom a house in town.

"Yu Longting, they have us outnumbered, let's make a run for it." I grabbed Yu Longting's hand and dashed off, with that stubborn flock of geese chasing after us incessantly, honking away.

Suddenly, my body was lifted into mid-air.

Astonished, I looked at Yu Longting who had picked me up, "What are you doing?"

"I have longer legs, I can run faster." A coldness touched Yu Longting's eyes, tinged with wicked charm as he held me tight and strode back toward Granny Wu's house.

I wrapped my arms around his neck for balance and patted his nape lightly a few times, "Yu Longting, don't be scared, don't be scared, once we reach Granny Wu's house and close the iron gate, these geese won't be able to get in."

"What if we encounter them again after leaving Granny Wu's house?" Yu Longting asked me with a deep voice.

I rubbed the back of his head, soothing him softly, "I will protect you. If they really get too aggressive, I'll make an enemy of the geese, snap their necks if I have to. It's just a matter of paying compensation."

"Wanwan, you must protect me well. I'm really afraid of geese. They're so quick to notice snakes and charge to bite them. It's terrifying." Yu Longting hugged me and ran into Granny Wu's house, then quickly kicked the iron door shut behind us, speaking to me in a somewhat delicate voice.

I quickly jumped out of his embrace, locked the door from the inside, and pounded my chest, promising, "I'll definitely protect you. I'm not scared of these flat-feathered poultry; we complement each other perfectly."

In the past, it was always Yu Longting who bravely protected me, but now that he had something he was afraid of, I had to protect him well.

Sounds of metallic clanging came from outside the door.

Those geese, their fighting spirit is too ferocious.

Yu Longting's complexion became paler and more distressed.

I went over and hugged him, "They'll go away in a bit. It'll be the geese themselves who hurt from head-butting the iron door like that."

"Yeah." Yu Longting rested his chin on my shoulder, very reliant.

Granny Wu, hearing the commotion, came over to ask, "What happened?"

"We encountered some geese on the way here that wanted to attack us." I blushed, quickly separating myself from Yu Longting.

Granny Wu's expression darkened, "Those geese really are reckless, daring to bully both Snake Lord and you. But it's understandable; in the countryside, geese and snakes are natural enemies."

"It smells so good. Granny Wu, what delicious food have you prepared?" I was instantly attracted by the aroma wafting from the kitchen.

Granny Wu said with a beaming smile, "Just some simple country dishes. I've finished cooking; you both can wash up and come eat."

"Okay, thank you Granny." I went with Yu Longting to the yard's washbasin to clean our hands.

After washing up, Wu Zhenglin had already set the table in the yard.

The dishes of authentic country cuisine were arranged on the table, their fragrance wafting through the air.

It made one's stomach rumble with craving.

"This dish of Grandma's cooking tastes so good." I tasted one of Granny Wu's dishes, my palate filled with the spicy and fragrant flavor, and I couldn't help but praise sincerely.

Granny Wu laughed, "They say cravings for sour means a boy, and spicy a girl. Why does Miss Su like spicy food then?"

"Wanwan, try this sour soup with carp." Yu Longting's slender fingers served me soup, bringing it to my front.

I held it with a delighted surprise, "This is also tasty. I feel like I really enjoy both sour and spicy foods."

"We've reached a conclusion, Su Wan is simply a food lover, regardless of whether the baby is a boy or a girl," Wu Zhenglin concluded.

I was at a loss for words, feeling his logic was sound and unarguable.

The spread on the table, regardless of taste preference.

I just felt that this was delicious, and that was delicious too.

Granny Wu immediately glared at her grandson, "You rascal, what nonsense are you spouting? No wonder you'll never find a wife."

"Granny Wu, actually Wu Zhenglin is not wrong, I'm really a foodie! Your cooking is indeed very delicious!" I scratched my head, embarrassedly trying to smooth things over.

Granny Wu prepared seven or eight dishes, all were those generous servings typical of country homes.

Being pregnant, my appetite was especially good.

We ate dinner until past eight o'clock.

It had gotten completely dark outside.

Granny Wu entered our room, making sure the heavy bedding was well laid out, "If you don't mind our simple home, why not stay a few more nights."

"Indeed, the countryside air is better than in town, and it's also conducive to Snake Lord's healing. Tomorrow, I'll get up early and grind some fresh soy milk for you," Wu Zhenglin offered hospitably.