

A Snake 1161

Chapter 1161: You Dare to Plot Against Me?

"Blame me, I came late, making you waste these years in vain." Before the dagger hidden in Xiao Li's arms could stab me, I had already pulled out the Begonia Hairpin and pressed it against Xiao Li's Dazhu point.

The Sharp Gold Aura has a crushing power over Demon Qi. Xiao Li's spine shivered, freezing her in place, "You... how could you... do this to me? Su Wan, I'm your best friend, and you actually... want to kill me??"

"Your master has muddled through a thousand years and isn't enough for me to tidy up. Do you think you're qualified to sabotage me?" I pressed the Begonia Hairpin deeper, blood soaking into the apricot-colored cloth.

On the back of the thing disguised as Xiao Li, something like a pot lid emerged, swelling up from under its clothes.

From the angle of the sun, Wuyue and I arrived in the painting at noon.

In less than an hour, it was already dusk.

This explains that the length of a day here is at most two hours.

Though time flies quickly, there shouldn't be changes in the lifespan of those who enter from outside.

From the mountain, I looked down and saw a middle-aged woman resembling Xiao Li hanging clothes.

I was sure Xiao Li was disguised by a monster, so I came down specifically to meet it.

The monster screamed in agony, "Ah~ Immortal Clan, spare my life. I am only following orders, don't kill me~"

"Enough nonsense, where is Xiao Li?" I asked word by word.

That farmer's family had five members living there, from elderly to young children, including the middle-aged woman who opened the door.

At this moment, all exhibited fierce eyes, I figured they were all monsters transformed, wanting to attack me.

I wasn't even bothered to make a move against them.

I just slowly took out an extremely powerful Thunder Charm from my bag, showing it to them to intimidate them.

"I don't know, the official merely asked me to impersonate... impersonate only." The bastard spirit resembling Xiao Li's eyes darted around, upon seeing its companions trembling in fear at the sight of the Thunder Charm, it cried, feigning pity.

I gritted my teeth in anger, mobilizing Spiritual Power to activate the Thunder Charm, producing light, "At the brink of death, you still dare to play dumb with me, I'll ask one last time, was the person you impersonated captured by Piao Changji? Where is she... being held?"

While asking the second question, I paused briefly, nearly asking if Xiao Li was still alive.

But I truly couldn't face such a conclusion, and had to change the way of asking.

"I... I... cannot say, please have mercy on me. I have elderly and children to care for. If I die, none of my family can survive." The bastard spirit pretending to be Xiao Li was sobbing but refused to reveal Xiao Li's whereabouts.

The five members of the farmhouse seeing my Thunder Charm was Earth Immortal level, with one thunderstrike all five would be heading to the western lands.

They trembled fearfully amongst themselves, seeking an opportunity to stealthily slip away.

Suddenly, the blood-red sunset dimmed as Wuyue walked in, "Su Wan, where is the cleverness you used to deceive me? Being fooled by a few bastards, making them tell the truth is merely a wave of your hand."

The whole family of bastard spirits was blocked at the door, grudgingly squatting back in the corner.

Actually, without Wuyue blocking the door, I would have dealt with them beforehand, and today without knowing Xiao Li's whereabouts, not one of them could escape.

"If you have a solution, say it quickly!!" I was already frustrated enough to consider destroying a town, looking viciously at Wuyue.

Realizing that joking and teasing would gain no advantage from me, Wuyue narrowed his phoenix eyes, suppressing certain natural kingly arrogance, and straightforwardly said, "Doesn't your Taoist Sect have a Taoist art known as the Truth-Spitting Spell?"

Chapter 1162: Falling for You Bit by Bit

Wuyue had integrated part of Yu Longting's memories, and the remnant soul of Yu Longting remained within him, sustaining his life.

Compared to your vast experience, I truly feel inferior.

"I can't do it, draw one for me." I frowned slightly, speaking with a hint of teasing.

Perhaps surprised that I, a descendant of the Lin Family, didn't know how, Wuyue's deep eyes focused on me for a moment, then he bit his finger and skillfully drew a charm in my palm, "Am I good to you? Even though you're always so fierce with me, I still lend you a helping hand. After all, you once... claimed to be my wife."

In my hand was the Palm Talisman drawn with Red Gold Human Snake Blood, and immediately my palm felt searing hot, with power surging through my meridians. I promptly formed the Seal with one hand and performed the Hand Seals, "True Words clear, demons and spirits, quickly return to heart."

The charm drawn with the golden blood wielded immense power, its light dazzling as it shone from my palm.

Then it left my hand and rose mid-air, illuminating the entire room.

The six monsters who had taken human form in the room, and even Wuyue, suddenly had vacant eyes.

Their pupils were dilated, like soulless puppets.

The other six monsters being bound by the True Words, that's understandable.

The charmed blood was clearly Wuyue's, yet he seemed affected by the Art as well?

At this moment, I had no time for other thoughts.

Word by word, I asked again the question I had just pressed, to the Soft-shelled Turtle Spirit disguised as Xiao Li.

The Turtle Spirit no longer deflected or begged for mercy, his tone mechanical as he said, "Chen Xiaoli was taken in by the owner of White Lady Mountain."

"Who is the owner of White Lady Mountain? What is their relationship with Piao Changji?" I urgently inquired.

Clearly, the Turtle Spirit's resolve struggled for a moment, his gaze becoming unfocused.

But he was soon suppressed by the charm in mid-air, speaking the truth, "I don't know who she is, only that even Lord Piao is afraid of her. Lord Piao was initially going to kill Chen Xiaoli, but because that person from White Lady Mountain intervened and took her away, Piao Changji... could only hold his forces."

"Piao Changji guessed that I would go up the mountain searching for Xiaoli's whereabouts, but would certainly not find her, so he had you deliberately impersonate her, didn't he?" I saw through Piao Changji's scheme.

Xiao Li was on White Lady Mountain, and any casual glance at a mountaintop wouldn't help me find her.

So Piao Changji deliberately had someone impersonate Xiao Li, staying with a farming household to bait me.

Fortunately, I was cautious; otherwise, I would have been framed and killed.

The Turtle Spirit nodded repeatedly, "Never did I expect you to see through Lord Piao's plot at a glance."

"How do I get to White Lady Mountain?" I still didn't know whether the entity sheltering Xiaoli on the mountain was good or bad, my heart remained in anxiety.

I just wanted to find Xiaoli quickly and confirm her safety.

The Turtle Spirit readily disclosed the location of White Lady Mountain, and just as I was about to take a step forward,

the six monsters suddenly became petrified, falling stiffly to the ground.

Their bodies were like broken stone sculptures, shattered into pieces.

Such a bizarre method of killing, who else could it be but Wuyue of the Human Snake Clan, that demon? I immediately glared at Wuyue with malice, "What are you doing?"

"Eradicating the root." Wuyue's cold and arrogant eyes, for some reason, still contained a faint trace of vacancy, yet he wrapped one arm around me and pulled me into his embrace.

Before I could struggle, his form collided with the darkness, heading towards White Lady Mountain.

To me, Wuyue's actions were too abrupt, leaving me clueless as to what had gotten into him, "Why are you...? Have you been possessed? Or are you feeling unwell?? Why are you holding me? I can walk on my own."

"Because I have feelings for you and want more time to be with you, Su Wan." Wuyue stepped onto the stone stairs of the mountain path in the night, "I actually have no queen; it was only after being hypnotized by the Snake Lord that I subconsciously believed I had a wife, yet I do not hate him at all. It's not gratitude for awakening me or teaching me esoteric ways, it's because..."

Big brother, stop talking, even if these are your heartfelt words, don't tell me.

I am a married woman; I cannot develop feelings for any other male.

Rather than say it, it's better for me not to know!

"Because his series of actions led me to encounter you, and gradually fall in love with you." Wuyue's tone was deeply melancholic as he looked at the crescent moon in the sky, pausing in front of a Taoist Temple.

Chapter 1163: Request to Meet the Master of White Lady Mountain

I laughed helplessly and said, "Thank you for your flattery, I'm unworthy of it."

It seems like it's Yu Longting's psychological influence, leaving aftereffects on Wuyue, that's why there's still feelings towards me.

After all, although Yu Longting's Primordial Spirit has left, Wuyue hasn't forgotten any of those Mysterious Gate Taoist Methods he knew??

Oh heavens!

The karma Yu Longting created himself, can he deal with it himself??

"I am a king, of course my love for you is a high honor. It's normal for you to feel pressured, wouldn't it be a shame for someone like me, so charming and regal, to see you follow that incapable Snake Lord, adhering to traditional virtues~" Wuyue, still under the influence of the Truth-Spitting Spell, spoke openly with no filter.

In the past, he could hide such words in his belly and maintain some decorum.

Now it's as if he's spilling beans, revealing everything all at once.

When he comes to his senses, who knows how much regret he'll feel in his intestines.

I pretended that Wuyue never said those revealing words and with a black line on my face, I stepped forward.

Knocking on the copper ring on the Taoist Temple door, "Hello, is anyone there? I'd like to meet the master of White Lady Mountain."

After waiting for a long time, no one came to open the door.

Perhaps the Taoist Temple is too large, and people inside didn't hear.

So, I knocked several more times, each time politely announcing myself.

But besides the calls of lonely birds flying past, the silence was suffocating.

Could it be that the people inside went out, or are they deliberately not opening the door?

I thought about searching deeper into the mountain, but ultimately decided to wait in place.

"Su Wan, we should be dead already." Wuyue lay on the ground bored, looking at the stars with none of a king's dignity.

I found his words resonating deeply with me and blurted out, "Why do you suddenly express such a sentiment??"

Could it be that deep inside, Wuyue and I are thinking about the same thing??

"Piao Changji knows we're in the painting, he should have gone out and torn the painting." Wuyue leaned against the red wall overgrown with weeds, a cold and charming smile formed at the corner of his mouth, and his long snake tail coiled around my waist.

My fingers were about to break before I could pry off his tail, "But we're still alive, and he used such clumsy methods to harm me, there's only one possibility."

"The old turtle isn't coming out." Wuyue's tail coiled around my waist again.

Shaking my sore arms, I really wanted to take a knife.

Chop off a section of his tail to see if he would still be bored and constantly come to pester me, "It also means his avatars are probably all dead, or else he would have sent one out to tear the painting long ago."

"Interesting." Wuyue uttered his signature catchphrase.

Night amounted to just an hour, including the previous delay at the farmer's house, Wuyue and I waited in front of the Taoist Temple for more than half an hour.

Dawn broke, and crisp bird calls emanated from the mist-covered mountain.

The clear sound of a bell ringing in the Taoist Temple reached my ears, filling me with excitement.

Hurriedly, I scrambled from the ground and went over to knock on the door repeatedly, "Hello, is anyone there? I am here to see the master of White Lady Mountain."

After waiting a moment, a One-eyed Taoist Nun opened the door.

She was particularly lean, holding a whisk.

Yet she had an aura of Corpse Qi and dust, but it didn't make her appear sinister; instead, she exuded a sense of righteousness.

This is a dead person, but seemingly is from the Orthodox Sect.

"Are you someone from outside?" The One-eyed Taoist Nun looked me up and down, making a judgment.

I nodded vigorously, "Yes, yes."

The Taoist Nun looked at Wuyue again, "People from underground outside? Your kind should have been extinct thousands of years ago, how is there still vitality? Not scientific."

Chapter 1164: The Yu of Riding the Wind

"I was sleeping soundly, and someone forcibly woke me up, how can you blame me?" Wuyue said irritably.

The Taoist nun's eyes narrowed, "You were hit by the Truth-Spitting Spell?"

"Ha, it's my own blood, used by this girl to trigger the sorcery." On Wuyue's face, there was a look of helplessness and anger, "The golden blood talisman is too powerful. I shot myself in the foot, it'll take at least three days to recover."

Hearing that Wuyue actually knew he was cursed, and seeing his annoyed expression,

I almost couldn't hold back my laughter. With his solitary and proud nature, who knows how much he's fussing inside!

The one-eyed Taoist nun, unfamiliar with Wuyue, burst into unrestrained laughter, "Hahaha, this is also a kind of fate. It's rare for someone to come looking for Madam Zhao after so many years."

"What? Madam Zhao?? The owner of White Lady Mountain is named Madam Zhao?" I re-evaluated the Taoist nun.

The Taoist Temple was quiet, so I subconsciously assumed there was only the Taoist nun.

But when the Taoist nun mentioned Madam Zhao, I realized she might just be a servant.

After all, regardless of her celestial appearance, she was ultimately a deceased person.

Not enough to make someone as crafty and somewhat cultivated as Piao Changji wary.

But...

Who exactly is this Madam Zhao?

Living in this enchanted painting, and yet Piao Changji dares not provoke her.

The one-eyed Taoist nun laughed, "The young lady is joking. In ancient times, when a woman married, she took her husband's surname. Our madam's original surname was Yu."

"Which 'Yu'?" I still held onto a glimmer of hope in my heart, maybe it's a homophone.

Jade? Yu? Yu? Yu??

The Taoist nun said, "The 'Yu' as in 'riding the wind to travel'."

Me: "..."

It couldn't be as melodramatic as I imagined.

Yu Longting's relative, actually the wife of Zhao Sihai??

It couldn't be that...

Reality is always more melodramatic, maybe even more shocking than I think.

In the end, even my speculation might be shallow compared to the truth.

Then I heard a voice inside the Taoist Temple, neither loud nor soft, "Is there a guest to see me?"

"Almost missed the main event." The one-eyed Taoist nun slapped her forehead, cheerfully inviting Wuyue and me into the temple, "Please, both of you, I'll take you to see Madam Zhao. She's now practicing as a layperson."

The Taoist Temple was vast, and the statue of The Three Pure Ones in the main hall was imposing.

The Taoist nun led us as if walking normally for ten minutes before reaching a small courtyard.

In the courtyard, tea was brewing, and a woman with long hair in a gray Taoist robe was holding her chin.

She held a Tao Te Ching in her hand, appearing very absorbed, "Are you two a couple?"

Without even looking at us, she assumed we were a pair.

I couldn't tell if she was presumptuous or that this woman was deeply insightful, as if she had eyes on the top of her head.

"What makes Madam Zhao say that?? I and the person next to me are just ordinary friends." I bowed respectfully to the woman.

Perhaps due to my particularly polite demeanor, I received initial approval.

The woman stood up, placing the book behind her back, her bright eyes scrutinizing me, "I see you wear a Life Token of a snake. As long as you wish it, the token's owner lives; wish him dead, and he turns to ashes instantly... Such deep affection, yet he hasn't caught your attention?"

"Xiao... Xiao Li!!" I was startled to see this woman's face identical to Xiao Li's.

This woman's skin was fair, but her face was wheat-colored.

It was somewhat abrupt and a bit frightening.

Madam Zhao touched her own face and explained, "It's just a reflection of the heart, whoever you miss in your heart, that's who you'll see on my face."

"I see, you gave me a scare." I thought it must be some potent Mysterious Art, no need to make a fuss, raising the finger with the Life Token, "Madam Zhao, you've misunderstood. This Life Token belongs to my husband, not to this Human Snake."

Chapter 1165: Oh My Older Sister

"You're really lucky to have found a husband who loves you, unlike me who ended up with a faithless scoundrel that anyone can have." The woman's character was lively, not at all like an ancient relic secluded in the deep mountains for countless years, suddenly becoming sentimental and sighing.

She suddenly flashed a faint smile, her young face looking quite mischievous, "Aren't you going to ask what's important? Are you here to find Chen Xiaoli?"

"Yes, yes, yes, I came to find my good friend Xiao Li. Do you know where Madam Zhao has placed her?" I smiled warmly, not worried about Xiao Li's safety at all.

With my experience in reading people, Madam Zhao is definitely not a bad person.

Her Vitality and Spirit were intact, and she had a transcendent quality that detached from the mundane world.

So I didn't rush to inquire about Xiao Li's whereabouts.

Madam Zhao patted her belly, "She's in here."

"Ah?" I was completely at a loss, not understanding what she meant.

Wuyue teased me from the side, "She means Chen Xiaoli was eaten by her."

"Impossible, right? Madam Zhao, you're not that kind of person." I was suddenly anxious.

Could it be that I was too arrogant and misjudged her??

Madam Zhao gave a serene smile, picked up an Osmanthus Cake, and put it in her mouth. "You've only met me once; how do you know what kind of person I am? Do you assume I'm a good person?"

"Madam... please stop teasing me." My heart was suddenly anxious, and I knelt down to Madam Zhao.

Madam Zhao surely wouldn't hurt Xiao Li; otherwise, even if powerful, I'd avenge Xiao Li at any cost.

Right now, I'm extremely anxious, just wanting to see her.

Then, Madam Zhao showed a blank expression, scratched her head, "You've totally stumped me, why are you kneeling to me like a kowtowing bug? I'm most afraid of people kneeling to me."

"'Totally stumped' is a modern phrase, and 'scientifically impossible,' as the Taoist nun sister said just now, is also modern." I looked at Madam Zhao with sharp determination, "You must have spent a lot of time with Xiao Li, learning these phrases, please stop teasing me."

"I didn't expect someone who looks so innocent to be quite quick-witted and not easily fooled." Madam Zhao complained with her mouth, but her eyes showed admiration.

She suddenly opened her mouth wide, big enough to swallow an ox.

Yet, she spat out a person in front of me, that person was clean and tidy, wearing an ancient robe.

Her hair was styled in an ancient hairdo, rolled on the ground, and got up, "Oh my dear Older Sister, why did you use the Moving Position Technique again, you almost got me killed~"

"Boo~" My heart, repeatedly bracing to lose Xiao Li, collapsed, and I instinctively rushed towards her.

Xiao Li, seeing me so unreserved for the first time, was stunned on the spot.

Soon after, she chuckled and hugged my shoulders, "It's your first time jumping at me. Wanwan, how did you end up in the painting too??"

"I came to find you. It's a relief you're alright, appearing safely here. Otherwise, I'd never forgive myself." I was crying to the point of choking, even hiccuping.

In this life, apart from Yu Longting, no one had ever made me worry so much.

Xiao Li went silent, then gently uttered three words, "Good sister!"

Hearing this, I couldn't help but smile through my tears.

Releasing my hands from around Xiao Li's neck, I burst out laughing, "It's good to find you. Since you're safe, why haven't you left?"

"There's no exit in this painting. How do we leave? Once in, you're stuck here forever." Madam Zhao lightly tapped her fingers on the stone table, looking at Xiao Li and me, "Anyway, it's boring here. Why don't you become my apprentices? I'll teach you all the fun Arts I know."

Chapter 1166: Surrounded by Beauties, Living in Luxury

"Older Sister, don't lose heart, my friend is really smart." Xiao Li stuck close to Madam Zhao, giving her a massage, "The more dire the situation, the more Wanwan can come up with ideas."

"Really? Better not be boasting; I hate exaggeration," Madam Zhao said with a smile as she looked at Xiao Li.

"I can vouch for that," Wuyue chimed in, "Su Wan is mostly clever."

You guys sure you're not setting me up for a fall?

The Madam Zhao before us is clearly a seasoned senior, showing off in front of her.

Isn't it just like showing off your sword skills in front of Guan Yu?

I gathered my courage to think a bit and said softly, "Although I can't get out, I might be able to find someone who can figure a way out."

"Who?" Madam Zhao propped her chin with her hand, asking me.

"You might not believe it," I blinked, "Piao Changji."

"Hahaha~" Madam Zhao laughed heartily, teasing me, "He can't even escape from the painting himself."

She was so spirited, laughing for quite a while.

The laughter startled a large flock of birds in the empty valley.

I waited for Madam Zhao to finish laughing before I addressed her, "All three of us outside the painting have met Piao Changji."

Madam Zhao's smiling face suddenly became much more serious.

Her stern expression made her somewhat intimidating.

It felt like she suddenly turned into someone with supreme power and presence.

She raised her eyebrows and glanced at Xiao Li.

Xiao Li nodded.

Probably unable to confirm completely, she looked at the deceit-resistant Wuyue.

"We've killed four of Piao Changji's doppelgangers outside the painting," Wuyue said.

I furrowed my brows, analyzing softly, "Each of Piao Changji's doppelgangers share the same mind, greedy and lustful, yet none of them are the true self. It doesn't seem like the ones left outside; rather, they might be sent out by the true self trapped here. Otherwise, they wouldn't be so united or have such a unified goal."

"Sending doppelgangers out to serve the true self inside. What a strategy! Probably brought back a lot of women and delicacies, living a carefree life." Madam Zhao slapped the stone table, shattering it, and said angrily, "I said this guy loved to stir trouble back then. How could he be so quiet in the painting; turns out he went out to create mischief. While I've been meditating, that wretch surrounds himself with beauties, enjoying food and drink, truly infuriating."

With Madam Zhao's final word, she acknowledged my speculation.

Which implies Piao Changji does have the ability to send people from the painting to the outside world.

The only mystery is why he can't go out himself.

"Madam Zhao, why is Piao Changji's true self trapped here?" I asked solemnly.

Madam Zhao lowered her head, squinted, her long fingers flexibly tightening and relaxing, "My husband trapped him here."

Suddenly, I realized something, "May I ask... are you Zhao Sihai's wife?"

Thinking it through, this house is full of connections to Old Zhao.

Zhao Sihai has been trapped by reincarnation for thousands of years; the house is likely to have turned into a nest for the Soft-shelled Turtle Spirit during that time.

That dead turtle probably thought Zhao Sihai would never return...

So he felt justified in occupying the house!

"Tch?" Madam Zhao showed a hint of displeasure on her face, "You, an outsider, know his name, is that old coot still alive?"

Uh...

It seems the relationship between Madam Zhao and Zhao Sihai isn't very harmonious.

"He died once and reincarnated himself." I answered honestly, unable to help but sweat.

Old Zhao seemed generous and straightforward.

He has his own understanding of the Heavenly Dao, always repaying kindness.

The fact that he could trap his wife in a painting, seems I really misunderstood him before.

Madam Zhao nodded, not continuing the topic, "Little girl, you're just a step away from Physical Sanctification, killing Piao Changji is no problem. Head down the mountain to find that turtle, force him to reveal how to send a doppelganger out; I await your good news."

Chapter 1167: The Tortoise Spirit Takes a Wife

"Okay, I'll go find Piao Changji." I said decisively.

The ancient painting itself is a prison, who knows what trouble might come if we stay any longer.

Finding a way out sooner means leaving sooner.

Xiao Li cautiously asked, "Go now? No need to plan a strategy?"

"Absolute power is the strategy; don't worry, I won't do anything I'm not confident about." I was very confident in my strength, not worried at all about confronting Piao Changji.

Even if the whole town were monsters, they wouldn't pose a threat to me.

A single Thunder charm could wipe them all out without question.

Xiao Li then looked at Madam Zhao, "Older Sister, you have the Flying and Escaping Technique, why not help Wanwan?"

"Me? My vitality is weak today, I can't go." Madam Zhao coughed lightly and suddenly turned into a sickly beauty.

Xiao Li exclaimed "Ah!" in surprise, her face filled with disappointment, "Alright, alright, then I'll accompany Wanwan."

Actually, I knew Xiao Li didn't believe it at all.

But Madam Zhao had saved Xiao Li, and she was a master in the outer world.

Even if she was lying, we didn't have the grounds to expose her.

"You stay in the Taoist Temple, Wuyue will accompany me." I actually didn't want the Human Snake brothers to follow me, but since he was definitely coming, it was better to go with the flow.

Wuyue listened and seemed very satisfied.

With Snake Tail wrapped around my waist, he gently and glamorously took me down the mountain, "You actually don't want to avoid me anymore."

"Hehe, can I even avoid you?" In my heart, I cursed Yu Longting for a hundred times for bringing Wuyue here.

Currently, in a fit of anger, I've already forgotten the gratitude this matter once brought me.

I only remember the trouble Wuyue caused and the annoyance of his entanglement.

Wuyue charged straight ahead, rushing into Piao Changji's mansion courtyard.

The backyard was hosting a festive event, filled with the sound of drums and congratulatory voices.

Countless red paper pieces fluttered down like celestial flowers from the building above, covering the ground in red.

In the courtyard, there were no fewer than eight brides dressed in wedding gowns.

All eight brides had chains attached to their ankles, wearing red veils.

Each one was crying but didn't dare to run away.

"Let's invite our groom, Lord Piao, to unveil the brides." said the plump matchmaker in flowery clothes.

Piao Changji, in his red official robe, with a big red flower on his chest, said, "Little beauties, tonight in the bridal chamber, you all should serve me together."

He rubbed his hands eagerly, unveiling the veils one by one.

I've never seen someone so lustful, marrying so many wives in haste.

Even the big monkey Yuan Hong would be a lesser in front of Piao Changji.

"Let me go home, where am I?" one bride cried out, she was clearly an ordinary woman.

Probably abducted and forcibly married to this bastard spirit.

With not a hint of sympathy, the bastard spirit raised his hand and slapped the flower-like, young bride, "Insolent! This is your home now, whoever dares say no, whoever doesn't serve me well will be thrown into the well."

The girls were all modern women, yet they were pale with fear, trembling on the ground.

Beneath the heavy bridal clothes, signs of abuse could be faintly seen.

Likely they were punished before getting married.

The unfortunate girl who was hit suffered the most, her face was bruised.

Blood trickled from her lips; it was unclear if she fainted or was struck dead.

"Piao Changji, I thought your boast about having a hundred and eight wives was exaggerated, turns out it's true." Seeing the tragedy, I couldn't stop it in time, feeling incredibly remorseful.

Before Piao Changji could speak, I kicked him to the ground and stomped his back with a foot empowered by Sharp Gold Aura.

This scene was just like when I first saw his fire elemental clone, directly crushing Piao Changji's true form until he vomited blood repeatedly. He spoke intermittently, "You... killed my four... clones not enough? Me marrying... wives has nothing to do with you, your friend... was saved by that old woman on the mountain, we're even... Why... why are you hitting me??"

Chapter 1168: Killed with a Hairpin

"I'm hitting you, so speak! How did you send out your avatars??" I pressed harder with my foot, directly breaking three of Piao Changji's ribs without blinking an eye.

The courtyard was full of screams, the brides were all shocked beyond color and cried out incessantly.

The spectators who came to watch the ceremony mostly fled in panic, only Piao Changji's guards and some officials remained, their bodies emitting demon qi, glaring at me.

However, with Piao Changji's life in my hands, none of them dared to step forward.

Piao Changji laughed out loud, his teeth all bloody red from the bleeding, "Can't get out? Anxious now? I just won't tell you, Su Wan! If I can't get out, neither can you."

"If you don't speak, you'll die!" I coldly threatened, my whole being like a female demon god.

Thinking of how he slapped an innocent girl into a state of life or death, and harmed countless girls over the years, just makes me want to tear this wretched monster to pieces.

Only to hear Piao Changji snort lightly from his nose, this cowardly guy actually had a bit of backbone, "Even if I tell you, you'll kill me anyway, Su Wan!! I know you, with your meddling nature acting like you're a living Buddha, cough cough cough... Either way, I'll make sure you're trapped in this dead-end place forever... Why are you all standing still, set the mountain on fire for me."

"Burn... which mountain?" The officials and servants looked at each other, appearing quite dim-witted.

Piao Changji laughed shrilly, "Call everyone from the city, burn down White Lady Mountain for me, I've been locked up for so many years!! You even chased me into the painting for my life, if I can't have peace, neither will you!!"

"Damn, you're asking for death!" I've never been this furious in my life, my eyes nearly shooting out flames.

Watching as dozens of official servants swarmed out, yelling at the townspeople in the street.

Many of the townspeople were monsters, and upon hearing the orders, they picked up torches to set off to burn White Lady Mountain.

Of course, I had no means to stop so many people at once, after all, two fists are no match for four hands.

Stopping them was out of the question, but slaying monsters I could do, couldn't I?

"Piao Changji, you're forcing my hand." I gripped the flower hairpin, invoking the Mystic Thunder charm, "Ten thousand ghosts retreat, lightning summoned, hurry as the law commands!"

Piao Changji squinted his eyes, laughing coldly, "Cough cough cough~ you really have become an Earth Immortal, using the Purple Gold Mystic Thunder Charm, one stroke of lightning and the entire city will be destroyed, but the city is half alive, and these brides are also human."

A lightning bolt already struck down, destroying a building.

Then, wails echoed throughout the city.

This bastard Piao Changji, besides luring brides into the painting, likely captured a lot of able-bodied men outside, bringing many innocent people in, posing them as his citizens to satisfy his officialdom fantasy.

I could no longer bring myself to ruthlessly use it, forcefully retracting the thunder charm, "Withdraw!"

The immense backlash struck my chest, causing my blood to churn.

Blood rose to my throat instantly, but I forcibly swallowed it down.

In the distance, black smoke had already risen from the mountain.

The mountain fire had already been set!!

Seeing Piao Changji still sneering, murderous intent surged in my heart.

I couldn't be bothered to ask for a way out, the flower hairpin driving straight into his skull, pinning Piao Changji to death with one strike.

"Xiao Li." I looked at the growing fire on the mountain, breaking into a cold sweat.

Just about to rush back to save people, I bumped into the suddenly appearing Xiao Li.

Startled, I asked, "What are you doing here?"

"The older sister swallowed me whole," Xiao Li replied, "After swallowing me, I ended up here, that's how she used Moving Position."

The next second, the Taoist nun appeared on the deserted street.

I knew Moving Position couldn't move oneself, hurriedly asked Xiao Li, "What about Madam Zhao? Can she escape?"

Chapter 1169: Turned into Roast Pig

"She should be able to, Older Sister is quite formidable." Xiao Li had spent time with Madam Zhao and genuinely acknowledged her powers.

I hadn't even had time to catch my breath when the one-eyed Taoist nun sorrowfully said, "Madam Zhao can't get out."

"Why?" I asked urgently.

The one-eyed Taoist nun actually drew her longsword from her waist, ready to commit suicide in loyalty, "Madam cannot leave the Taoist temple."

"Don't...don't do anything rash, I'll rescue her, I'll rescue..." Based solely on the nun's brief words, I didn't understand why Madam Zhao was trapped, nor how to bring her out.

I simply felt that if everyone escaped, we couldn't leave Madam Zhao behind in the Taoist temple.

As I moved and stepped out, it took two or three minutes to quickly return to the Taoist temple.

The Taoist temple hadn't caught fire yet, but the entire mountain was surrounded by fire.

Madam Zhao was watering her lilies, and was stunned to see me.

The wooden watering can in her hand fell to the ground, and after a few seconds, she said in shock, "Did you leave something behind in the temple?"

"Yes, you! You haven't escaped yet, I'm here specifically to take you out." I grabbed Madam Zhao's arm.

Madam Zhao displayed a petrified expression, "Didn't the Taoist nun tell you?? I can't leave the Taoist temple."

"She did say that, which makes figuring out a way to rescue you even more important." In my heart, I despised and looked down on Zhao Sihai more—a truly vile man.

It's one thing to commit a crime, but what kind of marital rift would make one imprison their wife in a rundown Taoist temple.

Madam Zhao showed a helpless smile, "How do we escape? The mountain fire is so intense, and with the mountain wind blowing, we'll soon become roasted pigs."

"Before we become roasted pigs, swallow me whole and take me out, so at least I won't die." I gave Madam Zhao a reassuring look.

Madam Zhao's smile deepened, "You're more reliable than that scumbag. In a life-or-death situation, you wouldn't abandon your companions."

"Haha, did Xiao Li teach you the term 'scumbag'?" I rummaged through my crossbody bag, and sure enough, it only contained the Water Curse and Wind Curse.

To summon rain, we'd have to create a sacrificial altar like in the Barbarian Village.

In this situation, where could we set up a sacrificial altar??

Madam Zhao casually took my talismans, "It was my little sister who taught me. It's lucky I rescued her from the streets; these days, I've learned a lot about the outside world from her. Your talismans are drawn well."

"Give me back the talismans, I'll try to summon a water dragon to extinguish the mountain fire." I watched as she absently toyed with the charms, sweat breaking out on my forehead.

Dear Sister, the fire's already collapsed the Taoist temple's main gate, and you're still so leisurely.

Madam Zhao shook her head, "Even if you depleted all your Spiritual Power to summon a water dragon and extinguish the mountain fire, the monstrous villagers below would set it ablaze again. You won't be able to fight them."

After speaking, she casually tossed the charms back to me.

"We have to try." I used all the water talismans, summoning only a small water dragon.

It barely extinguished the fire entering the temple, and the water talismans quickly lost their effectiveness.

Moreover, the mountain fire seemed like something magical, incredibly, it revived quickly, burning even more fiercely.

Madam Zhao covered her mouth and chuckled lightly, "Let me send you down the mountain. I've been confined for so many years, suffocated long enough; I'd rather burn to death. I actually know how to use

talismans, but I'm aware that these water talismans can't extinguish this fire—it's Chaos Fire stolen by Piao Changji from that scumbag."

"Is that so? No wonder it's so ferocious; I feel like it's going to burn through the rock." I was actually contemplating retreating, unwilling to risk my life for someone I only met once, but watching Madam Zhao's carefree demeanor.

I couldn't bring myself to leave her facing the blaze alone, solidifying my resolve to get her out, "Good Sister, is there any cellar in the Taoist temple?? A cave would work too!"

Chapter 1170: A Scumbag's Relentless Ruin

"There is a cellar, but don't tell me you're naive enough to think you can hide from the Chaos Fire in it?" Madam Zhao's eyes, like shimmering water, looked at me with a hint of coolness in her expression, "This Chaos Fire, if mishandled, could burn down the entire mountain."

I smiled at her, "Or maybe, if things go wrong, the ancient paintings would burn as well. In that case, if you manage to send me out of the mountain, would I not be burnt to death?"

"Hahaha, I'm so incredibly delighted, I want to recognize you as my goddaughter. Your kind of personality suits me perfectly." Madam Zhao, throwing off her gentle and elegant demeanor, grabbed my hand and laughed boldly, "Come, let's go play in the cellar. At worst, it's just a big fire that will burn those lousy bastard's ancient paintings too."

This Madam Zhao, full of vigor and brilliance, was truly a heroic woman of the era.

Like Hua Mulan, like Mu Guiying!

Not wanting to die, I cautiously reminded, "Before we go in, let's prepare two large water barrels filled with water."

"One big barrel is enough, why do we need two? Neither of us is fat," Madam Zhao, like picking up a chick, lifted me by the back of my collar.

On the way to the cellar, we conveniently brought down a large barrel filled with rainwater.

In my mind, there was only one thought left: I was wrong!

Not Hua Mulan, not Mu Guiying at all.

This is the female version of Cheng Yaojin, the female version of Li Kui!

Being carried by her, I actually felt a sense of safety.

In the deep, dark cellar of the Taoist Temple, Madam Zhao and I shared a water tank.

We agreed that once the fire reached us, we'd dive into the water together.

To prevent the water from evaporating too quickly, we drew an Ice Curse on our palms.

Before the fire arrived.

I couldn't hold back my long-standing curiosity and asked, "Dear sister, why did Zhao Sihai imprison you in the Taoist Temple?"

"Who said he trapped me here?" Madam Zhao casually splashed the water with her fair hand. At this moment, her appearance was no longer that of Xiao Li; it was her own original beauty reflected in the water, "I chose to stay in the painting myself, never to see him again. I even made an Oath Curse, never to leave the Taoist Temple."

The corner of my mouth twitched: it turns out she cursed herself, locking herself in here as her own jailer!

"Alas, I regret it after staying here for too long," Madam Zhao murmured to herself, "It's not worth it for a scumbag. Alone in the mountains, while he's surrounded by others."

"Do you mean he married a mortal woman?" I asked.

Madam Zhao laughed coldly, "He's completely indifferent to his own status and doesn't care about the mortals' lowliness, sleeping with ten among the flowers, desiring a hundred, a thousand. In the end, he fathered so many children, I can't kill them all, one by one!"

"Ah, so that's it." I originally felt the water was warmed by the approaching fire, but now I felt it icy cold to the bone.

Who could have known this playful and open-minded Madam Zhao was a bloodthirsty fiend?

According to my values, indiscriminately killing innocent people is utterly unacceptable.

But a perfectly mild girl turning into a Demon Head-like existence, isn't it all caused by a scumbag?

Madam Zhao, word by word, whispered softly, "If I were to survive and get out, I'd definitely slaughter Zhao Zheng and her mother! Of his bastard children that I've killed, only that one daughter is left. Zhao Sihai adores that daughter the most, though she's a twisted calamity with impure blood, just like him, prone to perpetuate."

Uh, isn't your own character also twisted?

In our previous chats, it never showed; only when Zhao Sihai was mentioned, she turned into a different person.

He was simply a scumbag, utterly destroying a person.

"The fire's here." Madam Zhao suddenly turned gentle, her voice as soft as the persistent drizzle of Jiangnan.

She gently pushed my head into the water, sinking with me to the bottom of the tank, her demeanor serene and graceful, like a beautiful water lily.