

A Snake 1181

Chapter 1181: A Century Wedding

"It's me." Qing Li shifted his attention from the tiny scales on Dumpling's neck and looked at Xiao Li.

Her back felt as if it had been hit by an icy arrow; Xiao Li's back stiffened, finally noticing Qing Li, who exuded a queenly aura even while sitting on an ordinary stool.

She jumped down from Beichen's waist and walked over, "You?"

"Can't hear well?" Qing Li was a bit impatient, his gaze slightly fierce, "You're Xiao Li?"

"Ah, yes, yes, yes, wow! Sister, you are so beautiful and young and ethereal, you must be the Snake Lord's sister." Xiao Li nodded repeatedly, looking at Qing Li with a worshipful expression in a prayerful pose.

I swallowed a mouthful of saliva, my heart pounding with nervousness.

This flattery was rather overdone; Qing Li's attitude toward unfamiliar people was always unpredictable.

Xiao Li was a bit too bold, daring to act so freely at the first meeting.

Beichen walked over with a serious expression, pulling Xiao Li behind him, "Dra... Dragon Queen, Xiao Li is just an ordinary girl. She doesn't understand your status, you..."

"Tsk~"

Qing Li clicked his tongue impatiently, his sharp gaze cutting Beichen's words short, and he said slowly, "Is it your place to interrupt?"

Beichen silenced himself but still held Xiao Li's hand tightly.

This left Xiao Li at a loss, unsure of what she had done wrong.

"Xiao Li, what did you buy?" Qing Li suddenly asked.

Xiao Li perked up, withdrawing her hand from Beichen's grip.

She enthusiastically began taking out the things she had bought from shopping bags and introducing them to Qing Li, "Sister, here's the red quilt, red bed sheets, this is the Dragon and Phoenix Candles, and these are red dates, ginger, lotus seeds, and longan for blessings of a good marriage. These red ribbons need to be hung up later, and also handcuffs, a whip, leather boots, a Wolf Fang Club..."

"Pfft~" Qing Li couldn't help but laugh.

Xiao Li blinked and said sweetly, "Sister, you look so pretty when you smile."

Looking at the random things Xiao Li bought, I rubbed my forehead and then rubbed it again.

I pinched the bridge of my nose to stay calm, "When did I ever ask you to buy these things?"

What kind of preparations were these?

It started off okay, but then it ended with a Wolf Fang Club?

It's not like we're gangsters going out to start a fight; what's the point of that??

"You're getting married today, it's a joyous day, how could we not prepare anything? As your closest friend, I absolutely had to surprise you with a memorable wedding." Xiao Li exclaimed excitedly, giving me a sweet smile, "Congratulations on your wedding with the Snake Lord, happy wedding!"

Qing Li couldn't hold back anymore, laughing wholeheartedly, her cool image totally gone, "Nice preparations, Xiao Li. Don't you and Su Wan... have work today?"

"Work? Nah, taking a three-day break, we're all set to give Wanwan a wedding of the century." Xiao Li wrapped her arm around mine, giving me a loving wink, "See, am I more thoughtful than the groom or what?"

"Haha, truly thoughtful." I said with a dry laugh, feeling both touched and awkward.

Qing Li waved her hand, "Go decorate then."

"Alrighty." Xiao Li pulled Beichen to start bustling around.

Qing Li looked at me again, "You still haven't gone to buy the wedding outfit."

"How about I make one myself? Is it too late to buy one now?" I asked.

Qing Li enunciated clearly, "On a joyous day, it's unlucky for the bride to handle sharp objects, buy a ready-made one and get the tailor to alter it, do I have to tell you everything?"

"No need, no need, we'll go prepare right away." Originally, Yu Longting and I just wanted a low-key marriage registration, but somehow it's become such a huge affair, I quickly agreed to Qing Li.

Chapter 1182: Serving Tea

Before leaving, I glanced at the Dumpling in Qing Li's arms.

Dumpling was sitting obediently on Qing Li's lap, looking like he was saying, "Mom and Dad, you can go prepare the wedding with peace of mind, Dumpling will be good."

Seeing Dumpling being so sensible, I didn't know whether to be happy or worried.

I wrapped my arm around Yu Longting's arm, leaving the restaurant with him, "Yu Longting, I have a feeling."

"Oh?" Yu Longting opened the car door, ready to drive me to buy wedding clothes.

I sat in the passenger seat, looking up at him, "It's like our relationship is recognized, and the whole world is blessing us."

"Your feeling is correct, it is like that." Yu Longting leaned down and left a kiss on my forehead.

Then went to the driver's seat and drove off.

We were busy in the morning getting the marriage certificate, and in the afternoon busy buying wedding clothes.

When we returned, the entire Chen's Restaurant had completely changed, decorated like it was New Year.

Many people from the town passed by and stopped for several minutes.

Even my apprentice Chen Ahmao heard the news and asked if he could attend the wedding.

I just explained it wasn't a wedding, just some arrangements after getting the marriage certificate.

Qing Li doesn't like strangers, so she avoids unfamiliar people.

Aside from Xiao Li, even Chen Decheng and his wife temporarily left, making space for us to get married.

Not to mention this kid Chen Ahmao.

However, I've always felt guilty towards this kid, took him as an apprentice but taught him nothing.

I should find an opportunity to treat Ahmao well.

Late at night, the restaurant hall was set up as a wedding venue.

Red candles flickered on the table, and the room was decorated with festive characters and ribbons.

Xiao Li, dressed in a red cheongsam, acted properly as the host, "Let's welcome the newlyweds."

I thought there would be some ceremony like bowing to heaven and earth, and felt quite nervous.

Suddenly, Xiao Li bowed her head to listen to Qing Li, then spoke earnestly, "Please let the newlyweds serve tea to the elders."

Obviously, it was prearranged, Little Dumpling jumped out of Qing Li's arms.

The little chubby hands diligently poured tea on the low table, offering a cup seriously to me and Yu Longting.

"Thank you, Dumpling," I said with a smile.

Yu Longting only said one word, "Thanks."

Beichen brought out two cushions from the inner room and placed them in front of Yu Longting and me.

Without any need to be reminded, I naturally knelt down.

Yu Longting held the same red silk ribbon tied with a large red flower with me, so he could only kneel down with me.

Hmm, this might be Yu Longting's first time kneeling to his birth mother.

The laziness and recklessness on his face were collected to the extreme, and his whole person felt like a dark, harsh iceberg.

Making people feel cold and extremely hard to see through.

I sensed his mood was not very good, but couldn't figure out why.

I handed the tea cup over with both hands, "Mother-in-law, have some tea."

"What should you call?" Qing Li's voice was low and cool.

I dumbly raised my head, "Mother-in-law... huh?"

"Hmm?" Qing Li's dissatisfaction left me in endless confusion.

If I'm not supposed to call her mother-in-law, what should I call her??

Holding up the cup for a long time, my arm was sore.

Yu Longting couldn't bear it, he had already placed his tea cup on the ground, to take mine.

I suddenly had a flash of insight and cautiously tried, "Mom?"

Could it be that she actually wanted me to call her mom?

This...

Is it possible?

Although daughters-in-law do call their mothers-in-law mom, would Qing Li allow me to be so bold?

"Hmm." Qing Li finally responded to me.

My tense nerves slowly relaxed, my whole body covered in cold sweat, "Mom, have some tea."

"Is that all you understand? Kneeling and serving tea, shouldn't you change your way of addressing me henceforth?" Qing Li took the tea cup.

She stirred the tea lid, took a sip, and handed the cup back to me.

Yu Longting also offered his tea cup, "Mom, have some tea."

"You don't need to."

Chapter 1183: Lin Batian

Qing Li looked disdainfully at Yu Longting.

Xiao Li felt a bit awkward, "This Snake Lord... was he picked up?"

"Mom, it's my big day, can't you cut Longting some slack?" I crawled over, looking at Qing Li with a flattering face.

After staring at Yu Longting for a while, Qing Li sneered and said, "If I had known this day would come, would you have dared to burn my hair back then?"

"It wasn't just me who set the fire, your daughter-in-law did too." Yu Longting dragged me into trouble.

The sweat that just cooled down started heating up again, "Let me answer that, if I had known today, I would have regretted it immensely, to the point of being blue with regret. Luckily, your hair grew back, otherwise, we would be infinitely guilty."

This is digging up old grievances~

Really embarrassing, if one insists on delving into it.

Looks like tonight won't go smoothly, me and Yu Longting have done quite a lot of rebellious things.

"Be filial to me in the future, listen to my every word, I will reluctantly... tolerate you," Qing Li said.

I was dumbfounded when I heard this.

Qing Li actually said she would tolerate us??

Yu Longting was even more surprising, smiling faintly and saying, "Thank you, Mother Superior."

Calling her Mother Superior was truly priceless.

Qing Li leisurely picked up the teacup brought by Yu Longting, took a sip, "Is Dumpling planning to take the surname Lin?"

"Indeed, Dumpling himself likes this surname too." Yu Longting helped me up, declaring with a particularly firm head.

To tell your own mother that your son won't take your last name, and say it so righteously.

You probably can't find a few of such families in the world.

Qing Li lowered her head, asking Dumpling, "Do you like this surname?"

Dumpling seriously nodded his little face.

"Oh~" Qing Li appeared to understand, "Then let's call him Lin Yutuan."

"Mother-in-law, no, Mom!" I quickly asked, "May I ask, which 'Yu' is that in Yutuan?"

"The 'Yu' as in jade stone."

"This sounds like a girl's name, doesn't it?"

"If he grows up strong and imposing, who would care about the name?"

"You make a good point, I... can't refute that."

"What the elders say is the truth."

...

I was originally terrible at naming, so when Yu Longting asked me to name him, my mind went blank.

Even up to now, I haven't given Dumpling a name, and unexpectedly... Qing Li took the naming rights, could it be that Dumpling would really be called Lin Yutuan in the future?

Yu Longting and I, like defeated roosters, drooped our heads as we went back to our room.

Even someone as domineering and strong-willed as Yu Longting can't reason with Qing Li, and besides, Dumpling seems to really accept the name his grandma chose.

He didn't object at all...

Kept calling 'grandma, grandma,' and then his father gently coaxed him and he fell asleep.

"Wife, Lin Yutuan, it's still better than Yu Lintuan." Yu Longting consoled me to see the bright side.

I sighed, "Then if we have a daughter, what do you plan to name her? Actually, I had thought about this name, intending to use it when we had a daughter."

After all, with Yu Longting's surname Yu, combined with our name, there are only so few options.

"You want to give me a daughter? Not afraid of the pain anymore?" Yu Longting asked me with dark, deep eyes.

I rolled my eyes at him, "What do you mean give you? Women don't give birth for anyone else, only for themselves, Dumpling is mine, you're mine, the daughter is also mine."

"Looks like you really want one, willing to endure the pain." Yu Longting gently laid me down on the red silk quilt, his fingers traced down along the hair on the side of my face, "Tell you what, let's name the daughter Lin Batian, just to balance out with Lin Yutuan."

"Lin... what Tian?? Are you... joking or serious with me?" At first, I only thought Qing Li was hasty, now I think Qing Li's son is even hastier, my gaze fixed steadily on that faint scar over Yu Longting's eye.

Chapter 1184: Meeting You Was My Good Fortune

Yu Longting placed a kiss on my neck, "Call me Snake Brother, and I'll tell you."

"Snake... Snake Brother." As I utter the childhood name for him, I can't help but feel shy.

Yu Longting rather enjoyed it, "Suddenly feels like it's not enough, keep going."

"Snake Brother, Snake Brother, Snake Brother~" I leaned towards Yu Longting's ear, repeating word by word.

These three words, no matter how many times I say them, I'll never tire of them.

Every time I say it, I feel a tingling sensation all over, a stirring within.

As I recite it, my mouth dries out, though I'm not tired of it, I feel it's not quite right, "Isn't that enough? My voice is hoarse."

"Not enough, call me all night." Yu Longting's overpowering kisses rained down, leaving only tenderness and deep emotion.

I quickly covered his lips, "Besides these words, I have something more important to tell you."

"Hmm?" Yu Longting couldn't kiss me, so his fingers roamed restlessly around my waist, seeming to have lost patience listening to anything.

I took a deep breath, holding his cheeks, "The youthful, immature feelings were like seeds planted, stretched over the long years of baptism, they have now sprouted and grown into towering trees. How many people, in the most beautiful years, have emotions that continue until the end? Without a doubt, I am the luckiest one, Yu Longting, encountering you has been the greatest fortune in my destiny. I am so lucky to still have the original you in the end."

"Meeting you is also my good fortune." The dark fire in Yu Longting's eyes was about to burn through me entirely.

The next step of what he wanted to do was not hard to guess.

But I had so much to say, so I kissed the tip of his nose, "I still haven't finished talking, Yu Longting, thank you for your tolerance, thank you for enduring hardships, thank you for your selfless love. Without these, without your persistence, everything I have now would have turned to ashes."

"Su Wan... these words... have you been preparing them for a long time?"

"Yes, I've always wanted to fully express my feelings for you. You've done so much and have endured so much. The only thing I can do is cherish this love."

"Then... are you prepared... not to get out of bed for a week?"

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In the end, Yu Longting still went easy on me.

I only rested for three days before calling Chen Ahmao.

I gave Ahmao the Hand Seals Zhang Che had given me, along with my dad's notes.

I also gave Ahmao five inner cores of the Soft-shelled Turtle Spirit to deliver to Granny Wu.

Ahmao visited Granny Wu's house to get familiar, so in the future, when the Life and Death Embroidery is needed, he can go to Granny Wu's house for supplies.

I thoroughly considered the recent earnings from making clothes.

Actually, overall, the earnings are quite substantial, especially that one time dealing with the Vine Demon.

All profits were split equally, transferring a share to Granny Wu's grandson, Wu Zhenglin.

When sending Chen Ahmao downstairs, it was during lunch break when there was no one around.

Qing Li was sitting with Dumpling in the hall, feeling cozy while shelling beans under the ceiling fan's breeze.

She was down-to-earth to the utmost extent.

Perhaps Qing Li, in her past life, never thought there'd be a day she'd be working for you for free.

"Dragon Queen, this child only knows how to call elders by title, and can't say anything else. Could he be mentally challenged or a mute?" Liu Hongluan suddenly leaned over to Qing Li's ear, inciting with these words.

Just in time, Chen Ahmao and I were passing by, Ahmao, who was once a terror in town, immediately exploded with his fiery temper, "What are you on about? You don't want your tongue anymore, dare to suggest my master's son has issues?"

Chapter 1185:

"What are you doing here?" Qing Li raised her eyes, the coldness in them devoid of any warmth.

I have a terrible premonition that Chen Ahmao's forehead could be pierced by red spider silk at any moment, and I might not be able to save him in time.

Feeling a cold sweat for the reckless Ahmao, I said to Chen Ahmao, "You should go back quickly, don't cause trouble."

"But... that woman is slandering..." Chen Ahmao is a good kid, fiercely protective of his own people, angrily glaring at Liu Hongluan.

Liu Hongluan shrank her neck, hiding behind Qing Li, pretending and saying, "I meant well, the Young Master's Wife's reaction is too exaggerated."

I gave Chen Ahmao a warning look, and he dared not defy me, leaving angrily.

Once Chen Ahmao left, Qing Li took out a handkerchief and wiped the bean green juice stained on her finger pad, "What did you just call yourself? A cheap servant?"

"Mistress, I misspoke, I should have called myself a maid." Liu Hongluan was terrified, kneeling on the ground, trembling while groveling.

In this dire situation, she still wants to cause trouble.

I didn't even know what to say to Liu Hongluan, so I said to Qing Li, "Mom, Dumpling is just more reclusive by nature and doesn't like to talk."

"This time I think Liu Hongluan has some reason." Qing Li's eyes flashed with sharpness, "Wanwan, have you ever thought about why, despite Dumpling's happy family and so many people loving him, he just doesn't want to speak?"

"But I've heard, he can recite long curse words." I've already heard Dumpling speak especially complete and complex curse words, so I've never doubted Dumpling's language abilities.

"Able to recite curse words? It seems... maybe there's no problem with language functionality, but except for curse words, he probably hasn't said anything else."

Qing Li touched Dumpling's little head and asked, "What's really going on with you?"

Dumpling looked at us and gestured for us to come closer.

His clear big eyes signaled for us to lean in, so Qing Li and I leaned our heads in together.

His warm little hand touched our heads, and then a childlike voice echoed in our minds.

"Dumpling is very healthy, just too small to talk, when I'm a bit older, I'll be able to talk."

Qing Li and I exchanged a look, our gazes quite subtle.

Originally, I truly never thought Dumpling was unhealthy or uncomfortable.

But now I'm ninety percent sure...

Little rascal is clearly trying to cover things up.

Just like Yu Longting, he likes to shoulder things himself.

Only, he's still too young, hasn't learned his dad's knack for keeping things under wraps.

Qing Li probably knew that prying open the little guy's mouth to uncover the real reason was really not easy, so she deliberately changed the topic, "Wanwan, tomorrow is Yu Longting's birthday, what are you planning to give him?"

"His birthday?? It's... tomorrow??! I can't believe I didn't even know!" I was greatly shocked.

Playing with the Dragon Scale around Dumpling's neck, Qing Li lazily raised her brows, "It seems he never celebrated his birthday before, maybe because I wasn't competent, so he did not, associating birthdays with me, the person he doesn't want to think about. Now that you've found out, you can get ready."

"Actually, I have an existing surprise!" I thought for a moment, whispering softly in Qing Li's ear, "It's a stroke of luck, definitely substantial enough to be a birthday gift."

"What a good surprise, so substantial, it's enough to be a birthday gift." Qing Li asked with a smile.

I whispered slowly, "I've saved enough money to make a down payment on a small house with a vegetable garden in Spring Wind Town, the title written in his name."

"Marrying you isn't a loss, you really know how to do things, if I were Yu Longting, I'd be so happy I'd stay awake for three nights." Qing Li lazily propped her hand on her forehead, giving me an approving look.

Just then, Yu Longting returned, "What good thing? Could it make me stay awake for three nights?"

Chapter 1186: The Little Dumpling's Utmost Endurance

"Let Beichen take the child, boss, I have something to ask you." Qing Li gestured to Yu Longting. Over the past few days, as she adapted to working without pay, her relationship with Yu Longting also became increasingly harmonious.

Yu Longting complied and took out his phone.

Beichen, following orders, came over and took Dumpling away.

Then Liu Hongluan was also pushed outside by Qing Li.

Only the three of us were left in the hall.

"Have you noticed that your son is a bit strange?" Qing Li asked coldly.

Yu Longting went out to the Snake Sect to get a Peach and some supplements.

After handing me a Peach, he spoke in a low voice, "What's so strange?"

"It's that Dumpling can recite long and convoluted Curse Words, but he can't speak." I replied first, "I used to think he was just quiet, but after Mom asked, he said he couldn't speak temporarily."

"I knew about this long ago." Yu Longting felt both our eyes fixed on him and helped me sit down in a chair, "Wanwan, in the past, Dumpling had a Demon Qi Seed implanted in him, and you took a certain medicine, do you remember?"

"Yes." I felt a deep sense of unease inside.

Yu Longting said, "To prevent Qingyang from planting another Demon Qi Seed in Dumpling, to avoid repeating the past, I developed that medicine. But this medicine has side effects..."

"Lowers intelligence?" Qing Li asked.

I shook my head, "Dumpling seems quite clever. Except for not being able to speak, his mind is even sharper than mine."

"Wanwan, the medicine you took was made from the purified flesh of demon creatures." Yu Longting's expression grew more grave, "Dumpling was too young to absorb it, the purified mana in his body has been constantly tormenting him. He's enduring pain every moment."

"Such a serious matter, and you're only telling me now?" I just wanted to hit Yu Longting, glaring at him with eyes full of anger.

Yu Longting spread his hands, "I thought the pain might be very mild, so he never mentioned it himself. This kind of thing can't be detected even by feeling the pulse, can't blame me, right?"

The implication being, it's Dumpling's fault for not speaking up?

"Dumpling is just like Yu Longting, what he can endure on his own, he won't let it affect others," Qing Li sighed and asked Yu Longting, "Is his inability to speak because the pain has eroded his language center?"

"It should be quite intense pain, endured to the extreme, depriving him of the ability to speak." Yu Longting lowered his eyes and said softly, "Reciting the Curse Words might bring temporary relief from the pain during those few seconds."

"Do you... have any way to relieve Dumpling's pain?" I stood up, my heart tightening uncontrollably.

Yu Longting shook his head, "If there was a way, I would have used it already."

"I have studied the power of purifying demon creatures and the demonic Qi within them for years. Leave this to me, I will find a way to cure Dumpling." As Qing Li finished speaking, her aura suddenly became chilling, and Spider Silk quickly shot from her fingertips.

A cry of surprise immediately came from the door, followed by the sound of relentless head-banging.

I walked around the iron door pierced by the Spider Silk, went to the doorway, and glanced out. It was Liu Hongluan eavesdropping by the wall.

Liu Hongluan trembled violently, her heart pierced by the Spider Silk, and if it weren't paper-thin, she would be dead by now, "I was just concerned... about the Young Master's health... it was I who suggested the Young Master might have a problem, I... have no ill intentions."

"So I should thank you?" Qing Li looked down at Liu Hongluan with cold eyes, and then said to Yu Longting, "Why don't I have Yu Longting give you a gift."

"A gift? I actually have a big gift right here." Qing Li was probably just trying to scare Liu Hongluan, but Yu Longting had a gift ready to go, cooperating with Qing Li's words, he said wickedly, "I guarantee you'll be satisfied, Liu Hongluan."

Chapter 1187: Everyone Has Their Own Destiny

"No, no, no, I don't want... any grand gifts. The words you said today will rot inside me, I will always be your slave, never to betray." Liu Hongluan's face turned ashen, her eyes filled with immense fear, she pleaded miserably, "I only have this half-dead Primordial Spirit left, considering... I am also a part of the Snake Tribe, don't kill me... Snake Lord!! We are all of the same kind, why press so urgently?"

Yu Longting pulled out a talisman paper with a fox's shadow from his sleeve, mischievously saying to Qing Li, "What are you afraid of? I told you, you'd definitely like it. I wouldn't deceive you. I've found someone to accompany you, an old acquaintance who once pursued you."

As the talisman paper lit up, a sneaky Silver Fox slipped out from it.

The fox had just moved its paws to run when Yu Longting grabbed its tail and lifted it up.

"Yu Longting, what tricks are you playing again?" The Silver Fox suddenly dangled in the air, helplessly kicking its four paws.

Baring its teeth in a very ferocious manner.

Qing Li scanned with a bored glance, "This fox looks somewhat familiar."

"The one raised by the old man in the past, its name borrowed from the old man," Yu Longting reminded.

Qing Li recalled something and touched her palm, "Oh, I remember, it seems to have bitten me once."

"You... you're that woman!!" Xuanjing finally calmed down, looking at Qing Li in shock, "How is this jinx still alive??"

Xuanjing had always hated Yu Longting, all because Dragon Dad married a mortal back then.

As for Qing Li, Xuanjing felt she was unworthy of Yu Qingxiao, and the relationship between him and Qing Li was likely even more incompatible.

"Since I'm a jinx, of course, I am a disaster that lingers for a thousand years. If you die, I wouldn't die." Qing Li snapped her fingers, deciding Xuanjing's fate, "Wild fox, from now on follow Liu Hongluan and serve me."

At this moment, Xuanjing just heard Liu Hongluan's name, and his pea-sized fox eyes darted around searching.

Finally saw Liu Hongluan, who was kneeling at Yu Longting's feet, also looking stunned.

It seems Xuanjing did genuinely like Liu Hongluan, at least was particularly fond of her once. The fierce expression vanished without a trace, and there was warmth in his eyes.

Yu Longting lowered his head to explain to me, "Qing Li has this temperament, the bigger the grudge, the more she likes to keep them around to torment."

"Don't call mother's name anymore, call her mom." I sternly corrected Yu Longting, being a father, he should be more steady.

After a long, deep gaze exchange, Yu Longting finally yielded, "Eh, mom."

"Who are you calling mom??" Looking at Yu Longting talking to me, I always felt tricked by him, feeling awkward indescribably.

Yu Longting clicked his tongue and carried me upstairs, "You wouldn't think it was you, right?"

"Not serious, what about Dumpling's illness? We can't just let him suffer forever, can we? He's still so young." Knowing Dumpling's torment has disturbed my peace of mind.

Regardless of the pain, as a mother, I'm willing to endure it for Dumpling.

Several snakes emerged in the corridor, carrying basins of hot water into the room.

In the dormitory, Yu Longting gently helped me wash my hair like before, "Didn't Qing Li say she'd take care of it?"

"So... we won't think of any way?" I looked down at the ripples in the water, blaming my heart for being too lax as a mother.

Dumpling has been uncomfortable all along, yet I completely failed to notice.

Yu Longting rinsed the conditioner out of my hair, the tip of his snake tail twisted around a towel to dry my hair.

His body had already extended with the snake tail outside to pour out the water.

After a long while, he returned.

I helplessly stared at him, "Yu! Long! Ting!"

Being a snake has advantages, having an extra tail allows absent-minded multitasking.

"Let me explain it to you this way." Yu Longting's palm pressed on my half-dry head, "Everyone has their own fate, this is Dumpling's destined tribulation, if you insist on interfering, perhaps you can only try to ease his pain."

"Easing is good, aren't you thinking of any way?" I eagerly looked at Yu Longting, waiting for his answer.

Beichen stood at the door holding Dumpling, bowed slightly, "Snake Lord, following your instructions, I've brought Little Snake Lord."

"Give him to me, I'll hold him." Yu Longting reached out and pulled Dumpling into his embrace, looking at me, "There's a way, but I'm afraid you can't bear it, Dumpling probably won't agree."

Chapter 1188: It Doesn't Hurt That Much

I glanced at Dumpling apprehensively, somewhat puzzled why Yu Longting would say this in front of Dumpling.

Hesitating for a few seconds, I then asked softly, "What method?"

"Send Dumpling to a monastery to become a monk." Yu Longting said with a gentle mischievous smile.

It really felt like a refined scoundrel.

Little Dumpling was immensely shocked, never expecting his own father to suddenly say something like that.

He tilted his little head, staring speechlessly at his shameless dad.

I, too, was left with a head full of question marks.

Yu Longting asked me, "Dumpling's pain is because his body is too small, too weak to withstand the Art, right?"

"Do you want him to sever all emotions and desires, to be pure and reduce the pain?" I thought for a moment, finding it absurd, and I couldn't bear the thought of being separated from my little treasure, "People say a stable Taoist Heart requires cutting off emotions and love, but don't we also fall in love, and then there's Zhao Sihai and Madam Zhao."

Yu Longting's theory was to help Dumpling establish a strong Taoist Heart to alleviate the intense pain inside him.

The first thing Dumpling would have to let go of, was the parental bond between us.

How could he come up with such a lousy idea!

"Zhao Sihai and Madam Zhao are selfish people; even if they have feelings, they are very indifferent." Yu Longting watched Dumpling with a smile, explaining the Zhao couple's Taoist Heart to me, seemingly determined to persuade me, "Their emotions only developed after their Taoist Hearts were stable. Just like Zhang Zidao, he also severed emotions and love first, later achieved Physical Sanctification, and only then experienced familial affection with you."

"Then... what about us... aren't we doing just fine." The thought of sending away Dumpling, cutting off the mother-son relationship, tore at my heart, but I really couldn't bear to see Dumpling suffer.

What should we do to find a solution that works for both sides?

Yu Longting stroked my face, looking at me with an expression that seemed to say 'naive', and said solemnly, "We practice Dual Cultivation, darling, what are you thinking? If we cut off emotions and love, our skills would actually regress."

"Even serious talks can... go astray!! You shameless dad!" I wasn't in the mood to joke, and glared at Yu Longting accusingly.

Yu Longting kissed Dumpling on the cheek and hugged the little treasure tighter.

He wrapped his other arm around me, holding the two of us together, "I really am not a shameless dad. If there were any other way, I wouldn't bear to part with Dumpling either."

"Mmm~" A low animal-like whimper came from Yu Longting's embrace, looking down it was Dumpling, who had turned into a tearful mess.

I hurriedly reached out my hand to wipe Dumpling's tears, "Why are you crying, little treasure, don't cry, you're breaking mommy's heart."

"Waaaah~" Little Dumpling cried even louder, his little hands damp with tears touched my forehead.

Immediately, the scene when he was implanted with the Demon Qi Seed appeared in my mind, along with the memory of Yu Longting finding medicine for me to take.

This little thing is so tiny, yet he knows more than I do.

And he understands more, is steadier than me!

I held him tightly, my heart aching so much it could bleed, "If you have to bear everything, then what am I, as your mother, supposed to do?"

[Mommy, did you know that I'm actually not in that much pain? Dumpling is doing fine.]

"Waaaah..." I broke down and cried even more childishly than Dumpling, my whole heart felt sour and painful deep within.

Yu Longting was instantly dumbfounded, both his wife and child were crying.

Somewhat at a loss, he patted Dumpling's shoulder, and then my back, "Darling, what did Dumpling say to you, why are you crying too?"

"Dumpling asked me... if I already knew that he was enduring pain, but actually he wasn't in that much pain." As a mother, my heart was truly being shattered, crushed by wheels, going back and forth, the pain beyond measure.

Chapter 1189: You're Just a Child

Yu Longting kissed away the tears on my face one by one, and then lowered his head to help Dumpling wipe his tears with a tissue, "Is he really my child? People say I was a late bloomer, so how did I have such an early-maturing son? Lin Yutuan, there's no need for you to be so sensible. Isn't the joy of childhood all about being capricious and playful? When you grow up, there won't be any chance for that."

"Daddy, Mommy~" Little Dumpling spoke in his childish voice, instantly melting the hearts of both me and Yu Longting. Unfortunately, his words offered no further explanation.

He merely used his soft little hands to touch my and Yu Longting's foreheads, communicating with us through telepathy.

He told us that Dumpling didn't want to go to the temple to become a monk; he wanted to stay with Daddy and Mommy.

Yu Longting picked me up and seated me on the bed.

Then he cradled Dumpling in his arms, gently patting Little Dumpling's back to lull him to sleep, "Since you don't want to leave, we'll keep you by our side. You're just a child; there's no need to worry about so much. Leave it to us. It's time for a nap."

Raising his brow, Yu Longting happened to see Beichen standing at the door and asked, "Why haven't you left? Eavesdropping?? Ever since you got together with your wife, you've been learning bad habits."

If it were the old Yu Longting, he would have lost his temper and started scolding by now.

At this moment, he merely teased with a remark, so gentle now that he didn't seem like himself.

"Snake Lord, I wanted to say that you could actually use tonics to strengthen Little Snake Lord's Taoist Heart," Beichen reminded expressionlessly, "You returned to the Snake Sect and cave mansion to find medicine for Little Snake Lord, right?"

"What you can think of, I can too, but... the medicines I gathered seem precious but are rather rudimentary compared to the damage Dumpling has suffered. Their efficacy is as insignificant as pouring hot water on ice—they hardly make a difference." Yu Longting lulled his treasured Little Dumpling to sleep in his arms, gently caressing the red scales with his fingers, feeling much like a loving father consumed with worry.

This was the first time I saw Yu Longting having a soft heart for his offspring like a human father.

Not like the year I gave birth to Dumpling when he could even kill his own flesh and blood.

The expression on his face was so cold-hearted, making him seem heartless.

I always felt that Yu Longting was still the gentle person at heart; he was just less inclined to hide himself now.

Slowly, he learned to let others see his vulnerability, his gentle side.

They won't easily misunderstand him, able to touch the warmth deep in his heart.

Beichen said, "Actually, giving Little Snake Lord Ginseng should work immediately."

"We used to discuss eating Ginseng, but now she's not only the cherished treasure of the second senior, she's achieved Physical Sanctification, and I can't overpower her." Yu Longting shook his head repeatedly, a big victim's expression on his face.

Beichen suggested again, "Actually, he could eat Ginseng Beard. Given how powerful Shenshen is, her beard should be enough to alleviate some pain."

"This is feasible, but I need to discuss it with my wife about what to do. The Ginseng Spirit is no longer a little girl; to strip the clothes off a grown girl, leaving her bare, is somewhat embarrassing." Yu Longting looked at me with an 'I told you so' expression.

Although he entertained the thought of stripping Shenshen's clothes, which was a bit underhanded.

However, mothers across the world can become incredibly selfish for their children, so I nodded, "I'll propose it to Shenshen. She likely won't refuse."

"Another thing, Lady of the Snake Lord, your disciple is downstairs saying he wants to see you, but Snake Lord instructed that unless it's particularly important, you shouldn't be disturbed casually." Beichen reported another matter.

Chapter 1190: Demonic Qi Spider

I glanced at Yu Longting.

"Joking with Beichen, why does he take it seriously?" Yu Longting chuckled.

Too lazy to argue with him, I said to Beichen, "Let Ahmao come up."

Ahmao isn't cut out for learning Mysterious Arts, though he took the initiation charm Longting gave him.

His constitution was forcibly elevated to reach the threshold to learn Mysterious Arts.

But this isn't necessarily fortunate; those who practice these arts must refine a Three Corpse God before they die of old age to halt aging.

Refining two Three Corpse Gods allows the body to become young again.

After the Tribulation, the three corpses are completely transformed.

Currently, Chen Ahmao is at a beginner level, still a long way from refining the Three Corpse God.

He can embroider some simple sachets with Life and Death Embroidery and make some basic Hand Seals.

As for the more advanced painting of talismans, I've only learned it half way up with the charms given by Yu Longting.

I can only pass it on once I have the opportunity to learn it later.

"Yes." Beichen went downstairs to call Ahmao.

Chen Ahmao is straightforward, coming upstairs without beating around the bush.

In front of me and Yu Longting, he directly took off his shirt, showing us the red spots on his back.

On Chen Ahmao's back, there is a red spider tattoo mark.

It seems self-inked, but actually Ahmao just felt itchy.

He scratched to no avail, then removed his shirt and looked in the mirror.

In the mirror, he saw the red spider he had never seen before.

At that moment, he was almost scared to death and hurriedly dressed to come see me.

"Yu Longting, isn't this Forbidden Woman Witchcraft?" My thoughts were, Qing Li might be bored.

Not liking Chen Ahmao, she might have casually done this to him.

After all, Brother Ahmao is notoriously brave and once offended Qing Li.

Yu Longting nodded, touching the red spider on Chen Ahmao's back, "It is Forbidden Woman Witchcraft, but very basic."

"Isn't it my mom's Forbidden Woman Witchcraft?" I know Qing Li's witchcraft skills all too well, definitely capable of directly dueling with Madam Zhao or Zhao Sihai.

Previously, she was balanced by Yu Longting and me, purely because she was trapped in the attic, consumed by Demonic Qi.

Now the Demonic Qi is suppressed, and she can leave the attic in her true form; wouldn't she be strong?

As Yu Longting slowly nodded, his face gradually clouded, "You feel it, there's Demonic Qi on the spider mark."

"There really is Demonic Qi, but I disagree with you. Forbidden Woman Witchcraft with Demonic Qi, I think it couldn't possibly be done by our mom." My hand hadn't touched Chen Ahmao's back, yet was already corroded by the leaking Demonic Qi, forcing it back quickly.

Yu Longting frowned slightly, "Besides her, who else? The three Demonic Caves formed after seven or eight hundred years are filled in, Qingyang is taken away, there shouldn't be any Demonic Qi left in the world."

"Mom, despite absorbing the Demon Cave out of righteousness, is obsessed with cleanliness, never contaminated by Demonic Qi. Can't you believe my words?" I understood Yu Longting's assumption that Qing Li had absorbed the Demon Cave, thus carried Demonic Qi.

Actually, Yu Longting is too unaware of Qing Li; the Demonic Cave on her body was cleansed before leaving the attic.

Plus, the Demonic Cave connectors were destroyed, now Qing Li is free.

No longer influenced by the Demon Cave, it's a sure thing.

"How can I not believe my beloved wife?" Yu Longting whispered softly to me, "The world is vast, there could be another demon creature practicing Forbidden Woman Witchcraft and tainted by Demonic Qi."

"Never mind the demon creature for now, let's deal with what's at hand. You have a way to handle the Demonic Qi on Ahmao?" I whispered to Yu Longting.

Yu Longting shook his head, "To cleanse Demonic Qi requires sacred objects; mom has plenty of Magic Artifacts, we'll have to see her."

"Alright, let's find mom." Although I've dealt with Demonic Qi many times, my heart inexplicably trembles now; I always feel the red spider on Chen Ahmao's back isn't simple.