

A Snake 1211

Chapter 1211: I Choose No One

"Please... Madam, come with me to see the two family elders." The woman turned her head, inviting politely.

My mom cautiously asked, "Is there something the two elders would like to discuss?"

"Mainly it's about... ahem~ Miss Wan's marriage." The woman glanced at me.

My mom looked shocked, "Wanwan's marriage?"

"Since it concerns me, I should be present." I got interested, wanting to see what the Zhang Family's Elders were planning.

The woman's eyes hesitated for a moment, "If Miss Wan wants to come, you're welcome to join."

Thus, my mom and I followed the woman to meet the Zhang Family's Elders.

On the way, my mom seemed a bit nervous and kept murmuring to me.

Was the Zhang Family dissatisfied that the future family head's husband was the Snake Lord from the Snake Tribe?

If the Zhang Family wanted to break us apart as a couple, what should we do?

"If it weren't for my master forcing me to come, I wouldn't be here." I whispered to my mom, "Between the Zhang Family and Yu Longting, I would definitely choose Yu Longting."

"You... such a child," my mom scolded me jokingly, "If your master hears that, he'd be heartbroken."

We arrived at Elder Sheng and Elder Jia's place, but they were nowhere to be found.

Instead, it was a vast, empty pavilion, with people occasionally bringing tea and snacks.

After a long while, no one came in.

I felt quite bored, and suggested to my mom that we play Gomoku.

My mom found it amusing, saying that people from such families usually play Go.

But she had only played it as a child, and I only knew how to play Gomoku.

So we busied ourselves with the game to pass the time.

I said, "With this much time, I'd rather go to the prison and see Zhang Shuying."

I had no idea how Yu Longting was managing his eye change; for three days, he wouldn't be able to see anything.

If I messaged him, he couldn't read the content.

Calling him would disturb him, so we just had to endure this period.

"According to what Uncle Che said, he would find a chance to explain the reason to the old ancestor, and by then Shuying should be released." My mom was absent-minded and lost two games in a row to me.

Suddenly, a scent of sandalwood mixed with pear aroma wafted into the room.

I couldn't help but think that the two old men were quite particular, making themselves fragrant like top beauties.

A large group of young boys entered the room, all dressed in plain white Taoist robes.

Their faces bore simple makeup, and they held various musical instruments and floral vessels.

"Hello, Miss Wan, I'm Zhang Chuan."

"I'm Zhang Pan, Miss Wan."

...

Suddenly, they took turns introducing themselves and greeting me.

I finally understood, "Mom, are they... here for a match-making event?"

"Seems like it, but this is too absurd, having so many people come at once." Even though the match wasn't for my mom, she felt embarrassed for me.

Zhang Sheng and Zhang Jia, the two old men, then walked in, laughing and chatting, each bringing forward two young boys.

Zhang Sheng said, "Miss Wan, this is my grandson and this is my nephew. Are you satisfied?"

Zhang Jia said, "These two grandsons of mine are good looking and gentle by nature. If you like, both can accompany you."

"Elders, perhaps there's a misunderstanding. Wanwan is a girl; how can a girl marry two husbands?" My mom hurriedly stood up, rejecting the marriage proposal on my behalf.

Zhang Jia, still not fully recovered, coughed twice, "It's not Miss Wan marrying, it's my two grandsons marrying her."

"Miss Wan hasn't agreed yet, but you're talking like it's settled. Who knows, maybe Miss Wan prefers mine," Zhang Sheng retorted back at Zhang Jia with a puffed beard and glaring eyes.

"Elders, please stop arguing. I'm choosing none of them." I felt slightly frustrated, wondering what they thought of me to be pushing men onto me like this.

Chapter 1212: My Snake Lord Is Jealous

Zhang Jia's eyes were icy, "Not choosing a single one? The outstanding young men of the tribe are all here, and you don't like any of them?"

"It's fine if she doesn't like them, I have others. Although they're from collateral branches, as long as Miss Wan likes them, that's enough," Zhang Sheng said adaptively.

For a while, the two of them looked displeased with each other, and they actually started arguing right in front of me.

Zhang Jia's face turned red and his neck swelled, "Don't think I don't know what you're up to. You're just trying to curry favor with Miss Wan so you can stand out among the Six Great Clan Elders in the future."

"You say that as if you aren't trying to benefit from her, bringing along your most cherished grandson. The patriarch hasn't even ascended, and you've already taken his place. You deserved that one kick," Zhang Sheng retorted, unwilling to show weakness.

They argued back and forth, the quarrel showing no signs of ending.

At this moment, I seemed to understand a little why Zhang Zidao insisted on having an outsider like me take over the Zhang Family.

The Zhang Family was currently beset by internal and external problems, with fierce infighting among the major forces.

If any clan elder had the capability to manage and wield power, they wouldn't have invited Zhang Che to take charge.

I waited for them to finish quarreling and then slowly took out the marriage certificate I had on me, "Elders, please stop arguing. I'm already married, and I can't possibly accept someone you're introducing."

After I said this, most of the young men in the hall visibly relaxed.

In this day and age, even within grand families, not many people want their marriages controlled by elders. Who doesn't want to find love freely?

"Miss Wan, so young, already married?" Zhang Sheng looked incredulous.

Zhang Jia reached out to take the marriage certificate, "So what if you're married? It can end. No outsider, no matter how good, can be stronger than a descendant of the Zhang family..."

As he opened the marriage certificate, a mischievous face came into view.

The face carried a faint smile, and those long peach blossom eyes seemed to possess a soul-stealing, bewitching power, leaving Zhang Sheng and Zhang Jia with grim expressions.

"Yu Longting, this name, this appearance," Zhang Sheng said word by word, "is Snake Lord!!"

Zhang Jia sneered, "There have always been rumors, that Lin Huan's granddaughter willingly degraded herself and married into the Snake Tribe; it seems true."

"Whether true or not, old man, I didn't beg to inherit the Zhang Family's mantle; it was entrusted to me by my master," I said, noticing Zhang Jia's grip tightening on the marriage certificate. I took it back lovingly before storing it away like a treasure.

Zhang Jia looked at me coldly, "Stop pretending to be innocent. You clearly bewitched the patriarch into accepting you as a disciple."

"Miss Wan, we aren't being unreasonable," Zhang Sheng, unlike Zhang Jia, wasn't so overbearing, and he tried a gentle approach to persuade me, "With an outsider in charge of the Celestial Master Sect, how could it make sense not to intermarry with the talented within the clan?"

"Elder Sheng, I think we're wasting our breath no matter what we say," Zhang Jia gave me a contemptuous glance before leaving, "Not only has she gotten married, but to someone who's a demon, which is an insult to our Zhang Family."

Zhang Sheng, deeply scheming, still harbored some leniency towards me, and advised once more, "It's said that the Snake Lord closely resembles the Dragon Emperor. Both are peerless beauties in this world; mortals can't hope to look so good. We all appreciate beauty — Miss Wan, have you considered taking another husband?"

"I'm afraid that won't work. My Snake Lord is quite jealous." No matter what Zhang Sheng thought, he was at least polite and courteous, so I spoke kindly to him as well.

My mom chimed in from the side, "Yes, yes. Even though it's not ancient times anymore, where women had to obey three men, and the principle of one husband and one wife is advocated, getting Wanwan to find another wouldn't be appropriate."

Chapter 1213: Not Even Worth a Single Hair

"Madam, do you think I don't know all this?"

Zhang Sheng smiled and sighed deeply, "In the face of family rise and fall, traditional rules are worth nothing."

My mom was left speechless, unable to agree nor find words to refute.

Compared to Zhang Jia, Zhang Sheng seemed to favor me more for leading the Celestial Master Sect.

He earnestly advised me, "Miss Wan, I must remind you, if you don't marry into the Zhang's, your claim to the Celestial Master Sect will be illegitimate and fraught with difficulties."

"Now that my Uncle Che and Zhang Shuying have returned, it's not certain that the Celestial Master Sect will fall to me." I recalled when Zhang Zidao accepted me as his disciple, and his reasons for wanting me to take charge.

Actually, both of Zhang's two talented main lineages had left the Celestial Master Sect. Now that they are back in the Zhang Family, I feel there's no need for me to intervene.

Zhang Sheng didn't seem to realize I was genuinely uninterested in taking over the Zhang Family, looking deeply at me several times. "Over at Master Che's side, it seems he's not planning to have more children. Even if he takes over the family, eventually it would still return to Miss Wan. Not to mention Zhang Shuying... being the ancestor, the entire Zhang family cannot accommodate him."

"If that's the case, I'll consider your words." I nodded slightly to Zhang Sheng, not leaving an absolute answer.

Zhang Sheng was particularly delighted, thinking he had persuaded me, and said to his grandson, "Zhang Chuan, what are you doing standing there? Escort the Madam and Miss Wan back."

According to Zhang Zidao's words, Zhang Shuying was being treated like a death row prisoner.

No one would bring him food, possibly not even a drop of water to drink.

I specially prepared a bunch of good wine and food, using Zhang Sheng's connection to visit him in prison.

Zhang Sheng really saw promise in my future development, opening doors of convenience for me everywhere. If this were to reach Zhang Zidao's ears, there would be consequences to face.

"A last meal? So lavish." Zhang Shuying didn't even lift his head when he heard the iron door open, only using his sense of smell to guess that the meal was sumptuous.

The Zhang family's cells were solemn and frightening, a room bordered by walls on all sides.

Access required a combination lock, with not even a single window inside.

I set down the bag carrying insulated containers, taking a seat on a cold iron chair, "With me here, how could you possibly be having a last meal?"

"You... actually managed to get in!!" Zhang Shuying sprang to his feet upon hearing my voice, tidying up his open Taoist robe, "This place is heavily guarded with spiritual arts and modern high technology. How did you do it?"

"I didn't sneak in. Elder Sheng helped." I opened the insulated meal boxes one by one, the aroma of the food becoming more intense, "Sneaking in on my own ability would probably not work, unless by forcefully breaking in."

"I can tell you've become stronger and more pretentious." Starving, Zhang Shuying directly grabbed food with his long, elegant fingers instead of waiting for me to pass him chopsticks. "I remember more than a year ago I could easily catch you with one hand, reducing you to hard labor for the Gu Sect. Things have certainly changed..."

I watched him devour the food with relish, leaving the chopsticks on the lunchbox, not insisting he use utensils. "Don't choke, there's soup and drinks for you."

"If I'm not mistaken, you've refined two Three Corpse Gods, you're almost at the level of Physical Sanctification." Zhang Shuying stopped his ravenous action after downing a whole bowl of soup, gently wiped his mouth with the Taoist robe, "Though I don't know how you refined them, you're already so strong, how did someone still gouge out your eye?"

"That's... a private matter, don't worry about it." I touched my eyes, feeling a bit conflicted inside.

Even my mom, Zhang Zidao, and Zhang Che noticed, only Zhang Shuying realized my Spiritual Eye was gone.

Moreover, he was quite concerned, repeatedly asking me about it.

At this point, Zhang Shuying set down the chopsticks, pinching his chin while sizing me up, "Heh~ you're using Yu Longting's Snake Eye, and you don't care about your own eyes, even defending the person who gouged them out. Isn't it... Yu Longting who did it?"

Chapter 1214: That Really Was Blunt

"If it was him, then he wouldn't have blinded himself." I couldn't stand others slandering Yu Longting, and my expression inadvertently became serious.

Zhang Shuying chewed on peanuts and took a sip of cola, "Even if it wasn't him, the person who gouged your eyes has a deep connection with him."

In the past, I always thought Zhang Shuying was exceptionally intelligent; if the person he encountered wasn't Yu Longting, they would have been thoroughly manipulated by him.

Now, his perception of people and events seemed even more insightful.

Just by looking at the Snake Eye, he could guess the situation with almost pinpoint accuracy.

"Regardless, this matter is long settled. Bringing it up again is meaningless," I said.

Zhang Shuying nodded repeatedly, fully agreeing with me, and gulped down his cola. "It truly is meaningless; the Snake Lord gave you his own, what more is there to say?"

"Enough about me. Let's talk about you." I stared steadily at Zhang Shuying.

Zhang Shuying felt uneasy under my gaze, placing his cola can on the ground, "What do you want to say about me?"

"Let me ask bluntly, what was your reason for killing your father?" I asked directly.

"That's certainly... quite presumptuous!" Zhang Shuying's expression was exaggerated, and a hint of killing intent flashed in his half-closed eyes.

If I hadn't had some rapport with him, I reckon others asking this would likely get attacked.

He stared at me for quite a while, gradually suppressing his aggressive gaze, and slowly said, "It's actually nothing; I just found out he was going to have another daughter."

I held my breath, waiting for Zhang Shuying to continue.

With Zhang Shuying's character, it's impossible that he killed his father for such a shallow reason.

There must be more to the story...

"He chose the Shichen, and went into the bridal chamber with my first love." Zhang Shuying looked at me deeply, as though his gaze was about to bore a hole into my face.

As if I was the first love who betrayed him...

Then, I understood. "Were they trying to create a Cauldron Furnace for Ancestor of Foxes?"

"I didn't know that when I killed my damned old man," Zhang Shuying gave a sinister smile, taking out a dagger and lightly licking it with his tongue.

The dagger cut his tongue, filling his mouth with blood, like a bloodthirsty monster. "They were caught in the act by my mom, and not long after, she fell off a cliff. After you appeared and told me about the Ancestor of Foxes' Soul, I seemed to understand the Cauldron Furnace matter..."

"Why are you licking the dagger like that? Planning to cut your tongue off?" My gaze couldn't help but follow the slowly dripping blood on the blade, feeling inexplicably complicated.

The Ancestor of Foxes seduced men like Lin Gang, Su Chongwen, Zhang Shuying's father, and perhaps Sangsang's man...

The experiences of Medicinal Snake Sangsang and the Meishan Mountain Witchcraft she knew irresistibly reminded me of the Ancestor of Foxes' deceitful tricks.

These men were all seduced, but their inherent wickedness was undeniable.

It was merely awakened by Ancestor of Foxes...

Zhang Shuying stated deliberately, "At the time, I only killed my damned old man to avenge my mom. I didn't touch Lin Lu; she married into a good family."

"It shows you must have realized that girl was only involved with your father but... wasn't part of the exact plan." I thought inwardly that perhaps that girl was half a victim.

Just like Su Chongwen harmed my mom back then, he too harbored intentions.

He made my mom transfer her affections from Zhang Che, completing Su Chongwen's plan for her to give birth to me.

But Zhang Che differed from Zhang Shuying; Zhang Che's love was deep as the ocean.

No matter the past events, he remained where he was, waiting for my mom, never leaving.

Suddenly, in the silence, I heard footsteps, my tense back straightened, "Who is it? Didn't I say, I want to chat more with Zhang Shuying, and no one should disturb us?"

Chapter 1215: Miss You So Much

"Elder Sheng asked me to remind you, in half an hour, the guards will be replaced by Elder Jia's people," the person outside loudly reminded.

I deeply understood that though the Six Great Clan Elders of the Zhang Family were constantly in conflict, it was Elder Jia and Elder Sheng who fought the most fiercely. I said, "I know, I'll pack up and leave, I won't make things difficult for you."

"Hey, Su Wan, didn't you come here to stage a prison break and take me away?" Zhang Shuying bit a toothpick, looking surprised.

He sat languidly on the iron bed with a laid-back attitude, showing no sign of wanting to leave this place desperately.

I was just about to explain that Zhang Zidao was probably persuaded by Zhang Che.

Those things about Zhang Shuying, Zhang Che should also know, and after telling Zhang Zidao, there's a high chance he would forgive him.

But suddenly, several muffled grunts came from outside.

My heart skipped a beat, and I quietly asked, "Did something happen outside?"

There was no response for a long time, causing a drumbeat of anxiety in my heart, knowing something went wrong.

I immediately went to Zhang Shuying's side, pulled out the flower hairpin, and cut the chain on his wrist, "Be careful, the one who broke in is more likely an enemy than a friend."

"You... you..." Zhang Shuying saw a hairpin being imbued with the Sharp Gold Aura, reaching the level of slicing iron like mud, and he stuttered.

Then he hung his head like a defeated rooster, muttering, "Damn, your power has advanced too quickly, in this lifetime, I won't be able to catch up even riding a horse."

As soon as he stopped speaking, heavy footsteps echoed from outside.

A figure in a black robe walked in, with bizarre patterns on the robe similar to Corpse Clothing.

However, the patterns on Corpse Clothing were ordinary embroidery, merely representing the land of the dead, whereas the ones on this robe signified rebirth.

It was a totem I'd seen in Moonless City, absent from my dad's notes.

Under the black-clad man's long embroidered robe were slender, pale hands, with blood dripping from his fingertips, and the nails of all five fingers seemed to be dyed a bright red enamel.

"Did you... kill all the guards outside?" I swallowed dryly, aware that though the newcomer exuded no outward power,

there was a mysterious force surrounding him, forming an invisible aura, overwhelming in its intensity.

Previously, I'd only seen such a presence on Yu Qingxiao...

The black-robed man nodded slightly, fresh blood from his nails dripping to the ground, "Yes."

"You are Su Chongwen, right?" I asked, clenching my fists.

After a long silence, the black-robed man gently nodded, "Wanwan, long time no see."

"What do you want from me?" I probed cautiously.

The Ancestor of Foxes had been turned to ashes by Zhao Sihai.

Logically, I no longer had any value to Su Chongwen, yet he sought me out, suggesting there was something unknown still requiring my involvement.

Su Chongwen slowly lifted the black cloak, revealing a pale, thin face that bore a four or five point resemblance to mine.

He was emaciated to the extreme, with a dark cloud looming over his brow.

Signifying that he was not among the living but a resurrected dead carrying Corpse Qi, "I miss you and your mother very much, Wanwan. Through these years, it's been thoughts of you both that sustained me underground, amid rotting earth, until today."

"Hahaha..." Zhang Shuying, with his unrestrained and indulgent nature, couldn't help but laugh out loud, those enchanting peach blossom eyes filled with mischief, so exquisite they seemed almost magical.

Chapter 1216: I'll Come for You in Three Days

Su Chongwen awkwardly pressed his lips together, his brows tightly knit.

Even though I also thought Su Chongwen's words were the funniest joke I've heard all year.

But I still gave Zhang Shuying a look to stop him from laughing.

"You might not believe my words. After all, for so many years, I haven't been able to protect you and your mother by your side." Su Chongwen extended his hand, icy and carrying the scent of decay, to caress my cheek.

All I could think about was him being tormented by pain on his sickbed until he screamed.

Ironically, my family is particularly poor, unable to afford even painkillers.

All we could do was watch him wear a woman's cheongsam, harming his own dignity to preserve his life.

Seeing him entangled in sickness, yet still consorting with the likes of Xuan Fanyin.

I let out a low breath and softly said, "I thought you'd never know, never know how my mom and I went days without eating, how everywhere we went people bullied us, how second uncle plotted against us."

"I'm sorry, Wanwan, my dear daughter. Dad's back, and from now on, I'll protect you and your mother well." Su Chongwen pulled me tightly into his embrace.

A tear slipped from the corner of my eye, "I'm doing well now, nowhere needs your protection."

Perhaps the father-daughter sentiment before me was overly mushy.

On the side, Zhang Shuying's jaw nearly dropped to the ground in shock.

"Maybe you don't need it right now, but you can follow me, let me make amends for what I've lacked with you." Su Chongwen gently touched the back of my head, softly saying, "Wanwan, follow Dad in the future, okay?"

"Mm, sure, but not right now." I snuggled into his decayed-scented embrace, "Leaving suddenly isn't good, I haven't talked to Mom or Master. How about you tell me how to find you, I'll come find you after I settle some things."

"First, come with Dad, we'll take your Mom with us, and later you can say goodbye to your Master." Su Chongwen pulled my hand, trying to take me outside.

I looked up emotionlessly at Su Chongwen's bloodless face, calculating what purpose he had in taking me away.

Earlier, when I got close, I probed carefully; Su Chongwen himself had no real power.

All he relied on was the Rebirth Clothes, nourished by the spiritual power source from a famous master, which made him seem strong, but he was actually an empty shell.

Let alone Zhang Zidao or Yu Longting, even I could hit his weak spot randomly and defeat him.

Seeing that I was about to be taken, Zhang Shuying's playful demeanor vanished.

He blocked the doorway with his arm and laughed lightly, "Father-in-law, how can you take Wanwan without taking me?"

"Are you... Zhang Shuying?" Su Chongwen glanced at Zhang Shuying, his lips curled, and he grabbed Zhang Shuying's arm, "Fine, as you wish, I'll take you too."

At that moment, a carefree youthful voice came from outside, "Isn't my obedient disciple playing both ends against the middle, secretly in love with Zhang Shuying? First pleading with me, then bringing food to this wretch."

"Didn't I explain to you? There's a reason behind Shuying's patricide." Zhang Che said helplessly.

Zhang Zidao's voice drew closer, turning cold, "Something happened, someone broke into the house and massacred everyone!! Oh dear, where did this pale-faced zombie come from?"

"Father-in-law, it's a bit coincidental, you might not be able to take me and Su Wan away today." Zhang Shuying shook his leg, smugly smiling.

Su Chongwen seemingly didn't expect to face Zhang Zidao and Zhang Che directly.

He slowly released mine and Zhang Shuying's wrists, strutted past Zhang Zidao and Zhang Che using the Seven Stars Celestial Mystery Step, "Let's forget today, Wanwan, Dad will come to pick you and your mother up in three days."

Chapter 1217: How Did He Change Gender?

Su Chongwen's Mysterious Step is very impressive, on par with Old Zhao.

He walked past Zhang Zidao, who couldn't stop him.

With the Red Gold Longsword in his mouth, he chased him all the way.

Zhang Zidao said that the sword won't return unless it sees blood.

Then they saw the red gold sword fly back with blood, and Zhang Che said the blood on it was the heartblood spat out by Su Chongwen.

He used his heartblood to confuse the red gold sword and evade its pursuit.

"Who exactly is that person in the black robe?" Zhang Zidao, watching his continuously humming red gold sword, felt a bit depressed.

In a tone neither sad nor happy, Zhang Che said, "He is Su Chongwen; didn't you just hear him claim to be Su Wan's father?"

"Just a dead ghost, yet his power feels above mine?" Zhang Zidao was even more frustrated.

His youthful-looking face bore an expression of distress, like someone unable to solve a math problem.

I said, "Maybe he isn't Su Chongwen."

Zhang Che opened his mouth as if to say something, but in the end, he said nothing.

With his head lowered, he seemed like an icy mountain.

I've never seen Zhang Che so defeated before, and in his eyes, my actions probably seemed like I was purposely shielding Su Chongwen.

"Even if he's not Su Chongwen, he shouldn't be stronger than me." Zhang Zidao complained to me.

I pondered for three seconds and told him, "Perhaps he's not of this world."

"Dear disciple, do you know something?" Zhang Zidao's eyes lit up, as if I had raised another good son.

I shook my head, "I need to meet him next time and test the source of his strength again."

"Ancestor, can we release Shuying now?" Zhang Che asked.

Zhang Zidao glanced at Zhang Shuying, "You really have no ambiguous relationship with my dear disciple?"

"Well, no, we're just buddies," Zhang Shuying said, rubbing his nose.

Unexpectedly, Zhang Zidao smacked him on the head, cursing, "Useless thing, you don't look worse than the Snake Lord, you even have a marriage contract with Wanwan, yet you can't even get a concubine."

"Concubine...concubine...? Dead old man, do you dare say it again? You're crazy for trying to secure your disciple's position as head of the family, you want me to sell my body." Zhang Shuying retorted, going all out.

Zhang Zidao smacked the back of his head again, "I think you have no chance to sell your body, you just want to be my dear disciple's man so she can stay in the Zhang Family, too bad she's not buying it."

They're just fooling around, nothing to worry about.

I've been feeling uneasy inside, so I'm bowing my head to send a message to Yu Rongling.

Asking him if Yu Longting is still okay, and how Dumpling is doing.

Having waited a long time without a reply, I felt extremely anxious.

"Actually, I have an idea." Zhang Che suddenly spoke up.

Zhang Zidao listened attentively, "What's the idea? You want to have another with Su Wan's mother?"

"I..." Zhang Che seemed to recall what Su Chongwen said earlier, his face looking unusually somber, and after half a minute he said softly, "Zhang Shuying will soon be married, have a daughter to marry Lin Yutuan."

"Who is Lin Yutuan??" Zhang Shuying and Zhang Zidao asked simultaneously.

Realizing they said the same thing, the two of them exchanged disdainful glances.

Zhang Che explained, "It's the child Wanwan bore."

"Isn't it supposed to be a boy? How was it changed?" Zhang Shuying and Zhang Zidao once again spoke in unison.

I tolerated everything they said at first, but I couldn't tolerate the latter, and I gave each of them a disdainful look, "The child's name was given by grandma, and she felt this name more suited the gentleman's image."

Chapter 1218: Wouldn't You Miss It?

"How is this anything like a gentleman? It's more like a little girl." Zhang Shuying complained.

Zhang Zidao stroked his non-existent beard with a look of understanding, "Oh, you mean like a gentleman as precious as jade, right? Like the one who refines and polishes."

"I give up, I give up. It's a pity no one wants me, and I can't find a wife. Both Uncle Che and your wishes have fallen through!" Zhang Shuying lay down on the iron bed, looking resigned.

Zhang Zidao stroked his chin and smiled faintly, "Wanwan, you and Ah Che go back first. I'll come find you tomorrow; right now, I have something to talk about with this kid."

"Don't bother, I've got nothing to talk about with you. Just keep me locked up; lock me up for as long as you want." Zhang Shuying said, crossing his legs.

Both Zhang Che and I nodded and left this eerie prison.

Outside, Zhang Che and I walked side by side.

"Uncle Che, was the matter with Master handled smoothly?" I asked Zhang Che.

Zhang Che shook his head, "The gu couldn't be removed, and the old man suffered internal injuries, almost getting hit by the gu."

"What about you? Are you alright?" My heart tightened.

Zhang Che glanced at me, "I stood far away and ran fast."

Then, he explained the situation to me.

Actually, many people in the Zhang Family are poisoned by gu, so he understood the nature of the strange gu cast by Su Chongwen.

Gu insects generally are infectious and only target specific people.

If someone tries to remove the gu, they might get backfired and poisoned.

At the time, Zhang Zidao was removing the gu for the head of the Ouyang Family, and there were seven or eight people in the room.

Only Zhang Che managed to leave the room in time and escape, avoiding being poisoned; the others all got implicated.

After Zhang Zidao got poisoned, he used his cultivation to expel it.

If it weren't for him refining the Three Corpse God, he might have failed this time.

"An attack on the Three Corpse God's gu? It seems like something from the Immortal Clan." I casually remarked.

Zhang Che instantly got excited, "Something from the Immortal Clan? Su Chongwen died in his twenties; counting his lost Yin years, he's at most forty, where did he get such abilities?"

Before I could speak, he mulled over my words, "He's not Su Chongwen? Did you just say he's not Su Chongwen??"

"I can't be certain what he is now, but I have about seventy to eighty percent confidence; he's using Su Chongwen's body as a shell." I spoke my mind and added, "Uncle Che, he mentioned that he'd come over to take me and my mom in three days."

"Three days later, the ancestor won't be around anymore. He's actually afraid of the ancestor." Zhang Che clenched his fists so hard they cracked.

"Su Chongwen's calculations are sharp, though his abilities have reached a non-human state, a large part is due to the backing of the Rebirth Clothes."

Imposing in appearance but hollow inside.

If Zhang Zidao takes action, he wouldn't stand any chance.

I sighed softly, "Uncle Che, actually... to my mom and me, Su Chongwen no longer counts as a person."

"Wanwan..." Zhang Che stopped in shock and looked at me bewildered.

I bowed my head lower, avoiding his eyes, "He's not even considered human, let alone family. My mom fell into a trap once, she won't fall a second time."

"I..." Zhang Che was about to say something.

My mom saw us from afar and came running over, "Why did you come back together? How's Shuying? Is the ancestor pacified?"

"I spoke to the ancestor about Shuying; he should be able to return to the family tree." Zhang Che's gaze slightly avoided my mom.

My mom blushed slightly and took one of us by the hand into the house, "You two haven't eaten yet, have you? I've made some food. I know you two are handling big matters, but you need to eat your fill to have the strength to strategize against Su Chongwen."

Zhang Che had been out with Old Taoist Zhang for most of the day, and I hadn't eaten before bringing food to Zhang Shuying. Indeed, neither of us had had dinner.

"Alright." Zhang Che's eyes were deep, "You and Wanwan won't be reluctant, will you?"

Chapter 1219: Hostage

This conversation feels a bit awkward.

But it's straightforward, without any beating around the bush.

At least, for me, it's the way I think lovers should talk.

"Why can't you let go?" My mom turned back, looking at Zhang Che in shock.

Zhang Che's thin lips were tightly pressed.

After a moment, my mom came to her senses, "Except for being grateful to him for giving Wanwan life, there's no sentiment left between Su Chongwen and me."

"Yes, I should be grateful too, without him Wanwan wouldn't exist." Zhang Che said sincerely.

Beside them, I burped.

A sense of feeling full, like I could skip three meals and not feel hungry.

"Something's happened, I might not be able to have dinner." Just then, I received a reply from Yu Rongling, and my heart immediately flew to Spring Wind Town.

I called Yu Rongling back, "What do you mean your brother is missing?"

"Sis, don't worry, he might have just gone out for a walk." Yu Rongling explained, "He's just not in the room, the Little Dumpling and the two kids from the Chen family are healthy, everything is normal."

"Are you joking? Your brother will be blind for three days, and in such pain he won't be able to move, and you're telling me he's out for a walk??" I lost control of my emotions and yelled at Yu Rongling, not even bothering to explain things to my mom and Zhang Che before rushing back.

Yu Rongling finally became anxious and said, "Sis, I'll go search immediately, I'll definitely find him."

"Watch Dumpling, don't let him be alone." I had a bad feeling in my heart.

When I stopped in Spring Wind Town, I realized someone had been following me all along.

In the glow of the sunset, his eyes were deep like a well, "I'll go with you."

"Thank you, Uncle Che." My chaotic heart finally found a thread of peace as I stepped into the small building.

Inside was eerily quiet, with ice crystals sealing everything.

In the corner, four people were huddled and shivering, Chen Decheng and his wife holding their twin babies.

The building was filled with Kunlun Mysterious Ice, yet the people inside were unharmed.

So these...

Were marks left from a fight Shenshen had.

"What happened?" Zhang Che asked Chen Decheng and his wife.

The couple looked at me instead.

Before I could introduce, Zhang Che added, "I'm Su Wan's father."

At this moment, my heart felt as if bitten by a tiny worm.

The couple immediately understood and recounted what happened.

Yu Rongling received my call and left to find Yu Longting, while Dumpling was with Shenshen.

Then a man in a black robe came in carrying a silver cage.

The snake in the man's cage was a green snake; he entered and attacked Chen Decheng's twin children.

Dumpling and Shenshen each protected Chen Decheng's wife and the twins.

But the black-robed man actually diverted the tiger away from the mountain, abducting Dumpling.

Seeing Dumpling and Little Green Snake Yu Rongling captured, Shenshen's eyes turned red, switching to Ice Silkworm mode and attacking the black-robed man with Mysterious Ice.

Surprisingly, the black-robed man wasn't afraid of Mysterious Ice; although hit, he quickly melted the ice and escaped with Dumpling and Yu Rongling.

Shenshen chased after the black-robed man...

"Still a step too late." Zhang Che frowned.

I fell into a chair, dazed, "He's preparing for three days later, when Master won't be around, and he still has hostages."

"Wanwan, at this point, you must tell me the truth." Zhang Che kneeled before me, deeply asking, "What exactly does Su Chongwen need you to do? He has already taken over the entire Arbitration Council, ruling supreme, why does he still want..."

Because a tear fell from the corner of my eye, Zhang Che's words came to a halt.

"I don't know, just now in the prison, I should've gone with him. No matter what his goal is, it's only aimed at me, it won't involve others..."

I'm very worried about Dumpling and Rongling, but most of all, I fear for the blind Yu Longting, who can't see a thing and is still captured by such a powerful figure...

Chapter 1220: The Incense Lighting Ceremony

Large tears gushed from my eyes.

A tremendous fear filled my heart. I truly cannot bear to lose any one of them.

"At least we know Su Chongwen won't harm them within three days," Zhang Che knelt and wiped my tears, his eyes full of gentleness.

I shook my head vigorously, my voice hoarse, "No, it's not that simple, Uncle Che."

"What's wrong?" Zhang Che asked patiently.

Having someone to confide in gave me a faint sense of stability, "All three of them are incredibly important to me, yet he kidnapped them all."

When I was little, Su Chongwen was already dead.

I don't know anything about Su Chongwen, but I've seen plenty of his ruthless deeds.

Even if I had the slightest understanding of his temperament, I could predict the situation Yu Longting and the others are in.

The most terrifying thing is this unknown. Has Su Chongwen already started killing?

Zhang Che thought for a moment and asked me, "Do you think it's possible that Su Chongwen might kill one or two, just illogically?"

"More or less... I don't know if Zhang Che was trying to comfort me or discourage me.

Displaying such a bloody reality so plainly before me.

Zhang Che nodded in understanding and solemnly told me, "If he's really that kind of madman, at least one person will be alive after three days. We have to strive for that person."

"..." I stared blankly, with wide eyes, feeling my heart shatter.

Even before experiencing the outcome, I've already endured the greatest sorrow.

Zhang Che touched the top of my head, "What? You think I said something wrong?"

"You're... not wrong," I slowly uttered the three words.

Though his words were brutal, there wasn't a trace of fault...

No matter how insane Su Chongwen gets, he will definitely leave one person alive, to hold me at bay after three days.

Supposedly, Su Chongwen obtained the highest director position in the Arbitration Council.

He should stay in the council, but he planted Gu Insects in the bodies of the higher-ups.

Without having to show up himself, there will be people working for him.

Coupled with his extraordinary powers now, we can't possibly find him within three days.

Even if we did, he has hostages, leaving us at a disadvantage.

The only option is to wait until three days have passed, until Zhang Zidao leaves.

During these three days, Zhang Che will find ways to collect clues, then discuss with Zhang Zidao to pinpoint Su Chongwen's weaknesses.

The next day, the Zhang Family Celestial Master Sect held a mass incense ceremony.

Zhang Zidao brought me before the crowd, announcing that I was his final disciple.

He had me use a fire charm to summon a Fire Phoenix with Sharp Gold Aura, for everyone present to see.

And he made Zhang Shuying and me take a blood oath, that my offspring must be wed to one of Zhang Shuying's offspring.

Initially, I faced opposition from the entire family, but with Zhang Shuying's oath.

He deftly neutralized all opposition and turned Zhang Shuying into a prized catch.

No one dared to matchmake me with men anymore; instead, they found excuses to send women to Zhang Shuying.

The clan elders eagerly introduced women to Zhang Shuying and then started exchanging pleasantries with me, many astonished at how I managed to cultivate Mixed Yuan Sharp Gold Qi.

I said I didn't know how I cultivated it, while they responded with a knowing look.

They claimed to know the Inner Gate secrets, and that they were unqualified to ask more questions.

"Wanwan, I really didn't expect, the ancestor truly passed all his skills to you," Zhang Che said gravely, after I finished exchanging pleasantries with the clan elders, he whispered to me, "In these hundreds of years, those he chose as successors only learned the basics."