

A Snake 131

Chapter 131: Nourishing the Inner Core

I chewed twice and swallowed the glutinous rice ball, "But I don't mind anymore. Say my values are all wrong, or that my brain's waterlogged, but I can't even bring myself to hate you, much less dislike you. On the contrary, it's you..."

Yu Longting's eyes were like the warm waters of a hot spring, enveloping me, "Hmm?"

"It's you, who only have this one relationship with me, I always feel like I owe you." After saying this, I felt a weight lifted off my heart.

Perhaps with Yu Longting's feelings for me, he was definitely able to accept it.

But it was a thorn in my side that I couldn't stand not to express.

"Wanwan, I'm really glad. I realized my feelings for you in time and didn't do too many things to hurt you." Yu Longting pinched my chin, suddenly bit into a glutinous rice ball, and shoved it into my mouth.

The one forced into my mouth made my eyes bulge, "..."

Neither swallowing nor spitting it out seemed right.

My whole body went soft inexplicably, and my heart nearly leapt out of my throat.

The glutinous rice ball stayed in my mouth for a good three minutes before I managed to swallow it with difficulty.

How could this guy be so shameless...

Feeding me with his mouth!

"Wanwan."

When my cheeks were burning hot with anger, Yu Longting called out to me.

I looked over instantly.

In the palm of Yu Longting's hand was a glowing red grain of rice.

"This thing is..."

"My inner core!"

"!!"

"No need to be so surprised. It was nurtured with your spiritual power."

"Can I touch it?"

"Yes."

In the afternoon, the restaurant needed cleaning.

I was responsible for wiping down tables and chairs, Yu Longting helped mop the floor, and Yu Rongling was washing dishes in the back kitchen.

The boss, Chen Decheng, was overjoyed to have two extra unpaid workers, "Yuanyuan's boyfriend is a good catch; not only did he bring his brother to help, but he also came over himself."

"Damn, this makes me afraid to get a boyfriend, who enslaves people like you do!" Xiao Li was cleaning the windows and angrily threw her rag onto the windowsill.

Chen Decheng sneered mockingly, "If you're so capable, go find one. Spouting nonsense without getting one, I say you are doomed to be single!"

"Fine then, boss, curse me! Yuanyuan, let's stop working with your boyfriend and strike!" Xiao Li came over angrily, pulling me into playing at striking.

After teasing Xiao Li enough, Chen Decheng brought three drinks from the refrigerator and handed them to us, "You've worked hard, have something to drink. My treat."

"That's more like it, Chen Decheng, you better stop making fun of me for being single," Xiao Li said, glaring at Chen Decheng with a tiger-like face.

Chen Decheng acted scared of Xiao Li, rapidly agreeing.

Then he pulled his wife aside, asking if she knew any suitable match-making candidates for Xiao Li.

Chen Shufen promptly sent a bunch of guys' photos into our WeChat group.

I glanced at them and couldn't help but grin.

Just now, Xiao Li had sneakily asked Yu Longting about Beichen's situation, and Yu Longting told her that Beichen was actually around every day.

He even told Xiao Li where Beichen's car was parked.

Xiao Li was so happy she jumped three feet high.

This girl must have taken a liking to him; it seemed unlikely she would go match-making now.

At dinner time, the head chef suddenly said there was something wrong with the soy sauce in the kitchen.

Apparently, the wholesaler had tampered with the expiration date; it was already moldy and unfit for use.

The restaurant dared not use it, fearing food poisoning.

Since I was relatively free, I took on the task of buying soy sauce.

At the nearby grocery store, I found they were selling the same problematic soy sauce as the restaurant's.

Other brands were available, but different soy sauces also have different tastes.

Some of the head chefs in the back kitchen are quite fierce and very strict.

Fearing they wouldn't be satisfied with another brand and give me trouble, I walked a bit further to a small supermarket in the center of town, "Do you deliver? I'll buy two boxes."

"Eh, aren't you that girl from the bus the other day..." The store's auntie had been watching a TV drama, but she turned around at my response and immediately recognized me.

Chapter 132: Helping the Destined Ones

"You were the auntie on the bus that day with a child and a cage of hens." I recognized her and smiled, "Hey, where's your son? I haven't seen him."

The auntie whipped out a calculator to tally up the price of three boxes of soy sauce and looked up at me with a smile, "Yeah, it's been a long time since I've seen you, you're just as beautiful. As for my son, my husband has gone to pick him up. Let me calculate the price for three boxes. I'll shut the store soon and ride the tricycle to deliver them to you."

"That's very kind of you, auntie. How has your son been feeling recently?" I remembered the lovely child's face marked by a trace of black air from Evil Disease Palace.

The auntie calculated the price and lifted the calculator for me to see, "He's in good health, eating really well, three hundred and fifty."

"That's great to hear, I'll transfer the payment directly through Alipay." I took out my phone, scanned the code, and transferred the money to the auntie.

Since the child didn't experience any issues, he must have been carrying my Peace Pouch.

I've found that although the Peace Pouch isn't as effective as the Disease-Expelling Robe, it can suppress the aura of latent diseases and imperceptibly remove some hidden risks.

The auntie received a phone call, and her smiling face suddenly froze, "How could this happen? Okay, okay, I'll come right away. Which hospital?"

"Is something wrong, auntie?" I asked proactively.

After hanging up, the whole aura of the auntie became extremely grim, "My son had an accident at school, and now he's been taken to the hospital. I might not be able to deliver the soy sauce for you."

"No worries, whenever you can deliver them is fine. I'll just take three bottles to tide me over." I told the auntie and then left the mini-mart.

The auntie quickly packed up and also came out, pulling down the rolling shutter.

As she crouched down to lock the shutter, I asked, "Hey, what exactly happened to your son at school?"

"Food poisoning. Blasted kindergarten, giving children unclean food," the auntie accused furiously.

I breathed a sigh of relief, relieved it wasn't a serious illness flare-up, "That must have been a collective poisoning incident, right?"

"Indeed it was. Over twenty children were poisoned and sent to the hospital," the auntie said, straightening up to leave.

I caught her arm, "About that Peace Pouch I gave you, has he been wearing it continuously?"

The auntie gave me a surprised and slightly embarrassed look, "Kids, you know, are fickle, quickly losing interest after a while. He was initially inseparable from it, but now I don't know where it's ended up. I'll look for it at home when I get a chance and have him continue wearing it."

After saying this, the auntie quickly walked away.

I was left speechless.

At that moment, I felt utterly helpless.

Deep inside, I felt uneasy, but I didn't know what the right thing to do was.

Three days later, I visited the mini-market again.

The doors of the mini-market were tightly shut, adorned with several black flowers.

It turns out the child of the owners of the mini-market had died after falling ill with food poisoning at the hospital.

The hospital diagnosed him with an inherent familial diabetes.

This illness is a genetic condition that is hard to detect unless it flares up.

And once it does flare, it can be life-threatening.

Despite the hospital's full efforts to save him, they couldn't preserve his life.

Now, the auntie's family is embroiled in a legal battle with the school, seeking compensation.

The school, being no easy adversary, is unwilling to pay for a genetic disorder, but the family believes the food poisoning triggered the disorder.

Now the child remains uncremated pending the conclusion of the lawsuit.

No wonder the black line in the child's Evil Disease Palace was so ominous, flashing briefly before my eyes.

It can stay dormant for a lifetime or suddenly claim a life.

Everything depends on a single moment of fate.

I looked at the black silken flowers swaying in the wind, symbols of mourning, and my heart numbed.

My eyes reddened as I thought of that day on the bus.

I didn't know he had diabetes and had given him candy.

Luckily, he was fine then, or else it would have been hard for me to escape blame.'

The child's lovely face is still vividly replaying in my mind.

Yet such a gentle and adorable child had to die so young.

"The Buddha saves those who have fate, moreover, Wanwan, you are just a regular person. It's merely that they had no fate with you."

Yu Longting's deep voice echoed in my ear.

Chapter 133: Protection

"I don't blame myself entirely," I said as I turned around and found him right behind me. I rushed into his arms, seeking a bit of comfort and security. "The child was really adorable. I feel a bit sad when I think about how he was that day."

"Mom, do you like other kids and not me anymore?"

At that moment, a tender and aggrieved little voice spoke up.

Every time I heard Dumpling speak, it felt incredibly surreal because he was just so very young. "Yu Longting, did Little Dumpling just speak?"

"Yes, he is accusing you of liking other children more than him," Yu Longting's slender fingers glided down my spine, seemingly soothing the slight ache in my heart.

I reached down to touch, feeling through the cloth the significantly swollen belly, "Silly boy, it's because I love Dumpling that I've grown to have a heart for every child."

Dumpling, it's been so long since I heard you speak.

Do you know how happy that makes mom?

Suddenly, I heard a burst of childlike, bell-like laughter. "Mom, can you say that again?"

"That I am patient with children?"

"No, not that."

"That you are a silly boy?"

"Mom, you're poking fun at me on purpose."

"I'm not teasing you anymore, my most beloved is you, Dumpling."

Suddenly, my fingers felt a vibrant and strong flutter, and I was incredibly excited. "Yu Longting, I think I felt the baby kick just now."

"Oh? Is that so?" Yu Longting also reached out his hand, his eyes showing a wash of warmth and gentleness.

I told him, "Let's go back, and in the afternoon I'll look elsewhere to see where I can buy this brand of soy sauce."

Suddenly, my body felt lighter.

I was picked up by Yu Longting and carried to a car parked by the roadside.

Yu Longting said, "Drive."

"Yes, Snake Lord," Beichen drove the car towards the restaurant.

Yu Longting said to me, "I've already bought the soy sauce; it's in the trunk."

"Oh," I replied, feeling a bit tired and leaning on him.

His hand stroked my lower abdomen, fingertips wandering over the area.

Feeling with his fingertips, the movement of Little Dumpling inside me.

I said in a low voice, "The first time was with Zhou Xiaobao from the Zhou Family, and now with this child, two children."

"Didn't you say you aren't blaming yourself?" Yu Longting murmured softly.

I nodded, "Although part of it is due to fate, my lack of experience also plays a role. Like this time, if I had known that the brief flash of black air indicated a latent disease, the outcome might have been different."

"Now that you know, just make sure it doesn't happen again."

"Yes, that's what I thought. I won't let it happen before my eyes a second time."

We returned to the restaurant, and Yu Longting left again.

Even Yu Rongling left with him...

Still not telling me where they were going.

It made me feel even more mystified.

At that moment, Beichen suddenly appeared at the restaurant's doorway.

Xiao Li approached him, "Brother Beichen! I knew you would come."

Me: "???"

I was completely puzzled, wondering how she could have known Beichen would return.

"Yes, I came to protect Yuanyuan," Beichen followed Xiao Li, both of them calling me Yuanyuan.

Did Xiao Li guess Beichen would come because Yu Longting and Yu Rongling had left?

I was utterly baffled. When had they progressed to this point...

Xiao Li even called him Brother, using such a coquettish tone.

Beichen walked up to me and rolled up his sleeves, "Miss Yuanyuan, is there anything I can help with?"

Chapter 134: Your Taoist Robe is Too Thin

"No... I've already finished everything..." I secretly guessed the relationship situation between Xiao Li and Beichen.

Are they in an ambiguous phase? Or just really good friends?

Or have they already cleared the air... and are boyfriend and girlfriend now...

Xiao Li said warmly, "You came at an unfortunate time, we've already finished the work."

From Xiao Li's demeanor, she wasn't upset at all; Beichen was here to protect me, or perhaps she knew Beichen's true identity.

Otherwise, she wouldn't have guessed that Beichen would come to protect me as soon as Yu Longting left.

This girl sure had many secrets!

"When you guys have work in the evening, I can help from start to finish," Beichen said accommodatingly.

Xiao Li nodded repeatedly, walked to the refrigerator, and took out a bottle of yogurt, "This is for you to drink."

"Thank you." Beichen didn't refuse.

"No need to thank me."

Xiao Li held her chin in her hand, quietly watching Beichen drink.

Her eyes shimmering like autumn waters, she almost seemed to embed her dear Brother Chenn into her eyes.

In the evening, the two of them were even more cloyingly sweet together.

Xiao Li fetched a men's jacket to shield Beichen from the chilly night air, "Brother Chenn, the wind is cold and the dew heavy at night, your Taoist robe is too thin."

"This jacket does fit me quite well." Beichen slipped into the jacket, bowing his head as he buttoned it.

Xiao Li leaned close to Beichen's ear and whispered, "It was bought specifically for you."

"Oh."

Beichen's cheeks faintly blushed.

It was the first time I saw, a straightforward and serious Beichen blushing like that.

However, they seemed more like they were in an ambiguous phase.

Although Beichen didn't reject Xiao Li's kindness, Beichen was a Taoist, and strict rules forbid a Taoist from engaging in romantic feelings.

I hoped that Beichen wouldn't hurt Xiao Li, who was both innocent and passionate.

"Chen Yuanyuan, it's finally your turn to be fed with 'dog food'!"

Probably noticing that I was staring intently, Xiao Li specifically skipped over to tease me in a low voice.

I rolled my eyes at her, pointing to my throat, "I'm stuffed."

"You're just stuffed now? I've been fed up by you and your man before! Just wait until I snag Brother Chenn, you'll have your turn~" Xiao Li had a face full of vindictive pleasure.

A wave of relief washed over me, seeing Xiao Li with someone she liked made her truly adorable, vibrant and radiant, like a dazzling sunflower.

In the evening, the snack business was unusually good.

Everyone was exceptionally busy, and I was frazzled serving dishes to customers.

Chen Shufen, on the other hand, took the opportunity to gossip, snagging my attention, "That guy called Beichen, the one helping with the plates, is he Xiao Li's boyfriend?"

"This, I'm not really sure." I replied uncomfortably.

Chen Decheng, carrying a case of beer as he passed by, chuckled and added, "Yuanyuan and Xiao Li have good taste, both of your boyfriends are incredibly outstanding!"

"Yeah, outstanding indeed, they both work as free labor for you." Chen Shufen sneered.

Suddenly, there was a harsh screeching of brakes from the roadside.

Immediately followed by the sound of a road post being violently struck, the metal road post broke off.

There was a crashing sound.

Chen Decheng dropped the beer case he was holding, bent over, and swiftly pulled his wife into his embrace, shielding her with his body.

Fortunately, the oncoming car stopped just in time, otherwise it would have been a disaster for everyone on the sidewalk.

Startled, the customers stood up, everyone plunged into a noisy state of shock.

I spotted the car plate was from the city where Ye Jiqing lived, quickly walked over, checked the person in the car, and asked, "Ye Jiqing, are you okay? Are you hurt? Do you need an ambulance?"

Chapter 135: Destiny of Life and Death

"Wanwan... save me, save me! Help me." Ye Jiqing pushed open the car door, stumbled out frantically, and nearly fell to his knees.

I grabbed his arm in one swift motion and steadied him, "What's wrong? How can I help you?"

Ye Jiqing, who always carried himself with dignity.

Now, he appeared so disheveled and desperate, even attempting to kneel before me.

What on earth happened?

"Chasing me... Xia Xi is chasing me... I've been fleeing, all the way here... A whole day and night..." Ye Jiqing's eyes were filled with despair, his stubble on his chin looking particularly pale and gaunt under the streetlight.

I sorted through his words and translated them, "You've been chased by Xia Xi and came to Spring Wind Town seeking my help. You drove here, escaping for a whole day and night? Did you hit the road bollard just now because you were too tense?"

"That's right, she was right behind the car just now, all covered in blood! Blood all over..."

Ye Jiqing completely broke down, his eyes scattered and his mind somewhat muddled.

I softened my voice, trying not to agitate him further, "I remember giving you a Peace pouch."

"Wanwan, your Peace pouch seems to only be able to ward off Xia Xi once." Ye Jiqing's emotions surged again as he shakily pulled out a Peace pouch with obvious signs of scorching,

"I pressed it against Xia Xi's face, and she suddenly couldn't move, so I escaped, and then the pouch got these scorch marks."

I showed no surprise, "For a fifty yuan item, you expect it to be that powerful?"

"..." Ye Jiqing was at a loss for words, staring blankly at me, then in terror he remembered something else and pleaded, "Do you have any more Peace pouches? Give me a few more! Wanwan, I know I was wrong before, I shouldn't have underestimated you so trivially, you indeed have real abilities, just like Wei Yao said."

"As for Peace pouches, I don't have any more, the last one I gave you was the last one I had." I spread my hands to show him, my tone calm.

Ye Jiqing's eyes turned bloodshot, like a wounded beast, he accused in a low voice, "Su Wan, you... you're still harboring resentment about the past, aren't you? That's why you refuse to help me!"

"I don't intend... to refuse to help, I really don't have any Peace pouches on hand. If you want one, I can only make it now, and the effects are limited."

I saw Ye Jiqing's misunderstanding and explained, furrowing my brows.

The quantity of Peace pouches I made last time was limited, and the one given to Ye Jiqing was indeed the last one.

In his situation, giving him another Peace pouch.

Would only be a temporary solution; we needed to address the root of the problem.

Beichen stepped in front of me without waiting for me to finish, "This gentleman... Mr. Ye, is it? Please comport yourself with dignity. Life and death are predestined, and one's fate is in their own hands. Su Wan is under no obligation to save you."

"Who are you?" Ye Jiqing looked at Beichen in bewilderment.

Beichen declared sternly, "The person protecting her."

"I didn't mean to coerce Su Wan, I just want to ask for her help." Ye Jiqing explained hurriedly, then yelled at me, "Wanwan, you won't save me because you still have unresolved feelings for me, and it's turned to hate because of love? If that's the case, then I have nothing more to say."

Having said that, Ye Jiqing slumped his shoulders and pulled open the car door, ready to leave.

Watching his retreating figure, I furrowed my brows, stepped out from behind Beichen, "How much are you willing to pay for my help?"

From the Demon Qi and resentment lingering on Ye Jiqing, I surmised that there must be a significant secret behind the trouble he was facing.

Perhaps I could earn a substantial amount of Yin Virtue!!

An opportunity to make money and accumulate great Yin Virtue at the same time, why not go for it?

"You... are willing to help?" Ye Jiqing's back shuddered, and he turned around abruptly.

Chapter 136: When Did You Become So Mercenary?

I quickly calculated my due fee for this matter in my heart and held up four fingers to Ye Jiqing, "Forty thousand."

"You... when did you become so mercenary, always talking about money." Ye Jiqing looked at me with a disappointed expression, probably disheartened by my pragmatism.

But he seemed to quickly remember his unfortunate situation and quickly took out his phone to make a transaction, "I'm sorry, Su Wan, don't be angry, I just blurted out in the heat of the moment, I... I'll transfer the money to you right now, right now!"

I turned to Beichen, "Beichen, I might need to take a trip with Ye Jiqing."

"Where are you going?" Beichen asked me.

I glanced at Ye Jiqing and observed the Demon Qi emanating from him with my Spiritual Eye, "Of course it's to Young Master Ye's house; it's in another city, quite far away."

The moment I received Ye Jiqing's money, I had been contemplating the issue at hand and had a basic solution in mind.

The real test would be once I arrived at the city where Ye Jiqing resided to see the effectiveness of the solution in practice.

"I'm coming with you." Beichen was straightforward.

I nodded, knowing it was his job, and then said to Chen Decheng, "Boss, Ye Jiqing's situation is somewhat urgent, so I must leave immediately. I'll be back in three days at the least, five at most."

"This matter sounds quite dangerous," Chen Decheng said with a hint of uncertainty on his face.

Even though Wei Yao had notified him, asking me to help Ye Jiqing,

nothing beats hearing it firsthand, and Chen Decheng was more worried about the risks I might encounter after hearing Ye Jiqing's description.

"Boss, you don't need to worry about me."

I had also meticulously considered the situation and felt confident I could handle it before agreeing to help Ye Jiqing, "The demon pursuing Ye Jiqing doesn't seem to have deep cultivation. If it's too difficult to handle, I'll refund the money to Young Master Ye."

"You must be cautious, and make sure you do not put yourself in danger," Chen Decheng instructed.

I nodded and then pulled Xiao Li's hand, whispering, "Sorry, but I might need to borrow your person for a few days."

"Shh, he's not my person yet, just take him and use him," Xiao Li said, her finger to her lips, a nervous expression on her face as she peered at Beichen, "Can you wait for me for a moment?"

I nodded in agreement.

After a while, Xiao Li brought over my coat and a blanket.

The blanket seemed to be wrapped around something, bulging.

I put on my coat first, saying, "Thanks."

I was just about to take the blanket.

Beichen took it from me, "I'll carry it."

"Fine," I said.

Beichen walked to the side of the car and pulled open the back door, "Young Master Ye, please."

"???"

Ye Jiqing looked confused.

Beichen frowned, "Don't want to be saved anymore?"

"It's like this, Young Master Ye." My patience stemmed from knowing who was footing the bill, so I explained to the bewildered Ye Jiqing, who Beichen had just challenged, "You're carrying a heavy evil aura, and you're probably cursed too. The source seems to be at your home, and we need to go there to deal with it, but with your current state, you're not fit to drive. So Beichen will take the wheel, understand?"

Ye Jiqing opened his mouth, then hesitated to speak.

Finally, he silently climbed into the car.

Beichen walked to the passenger door, "We might need to fill up the tank, I checked the fuel gauge, and it's almost out."

I entered the car, took the blanket from Beichen's hands, and placed it on my lap, then turned to Ye Jiqing, "Ye Jiqing, transfer the money for the gas."

Chapter 137 Some Deductions

"..." Ye Jiqing looked speechless, probably completely flustered by my cunning ways, yet he still bent his head and silently got to work.

After stopping at the gas station for fuel,

I handed the fuel receipt to Ye Jiqing.

I returned the extra two hundred yuan he had transferred.

I opened the blanket to reveal six transparent food containers.

Two boxes of strawberries, two boxes of baked buns, and two boxes of sushi.

The one with the heart sticker on it was definitely for Beichen.

I smiled and wrapped it back up.

"Cover yourself with the blanket. Keep these on my lap," Beichen said, pulling the car over.

He found a newspaper, wrapped the food carefully, and had me cover myself with the blanket.

Beichen said, "The north is not like the south; the temperature is quite cold here."

"Yeah." Being someone who is particularly sensitive to the cold, I accepted without playing tough and refusing.

A long silence filled the car until we reached the highway.

I smelled a trace of blood, along with something like pet food, inside the car.

On the seat cushion, I also saw a few white hairs but didn't say anything.

It'd be best to first get to Ye Jiqing's place and deal with the curse on him before considering the ins and outs of the matter. Otherwise, the guy could drop dead at any moment.

Ye Jiqing couldn't hold it in, peeking back from time to time as if worried about something. Unable to help himself, he asked me, "Su Wan, you said a demon is after me, so...what kind of demon is it? Do you know?"

"I don't know, but I have some suspicions."

"What suspicions?"

"The Demon Qi and resentment on you are strong; I initially think it must be a mammal with round fur. If you and Xia Xi have ever been cruel to cats, I'm sixty percent confident it's a cat, and not just any cat—a very spiritual nine-lived cat," I said.

I glanced at Ye Jiqing and continued somberly, "If what you've offended is a Household Spirit, I'm twenty percent sure it's a fox. Another ten percent says it's a mouse, and the last ten percent says it's a weasel. As for other mammals, they generally cannot conjure such an atmosphere, which narrows down our target and helps us tailor our response."

Before I encountered Life and Death Embroidery, I was just an ordinary person, without any ability to solve problems for others.

But with the experiences from Wei Yao and Granny Wu, I had accumulated quite a bit of knowledge.

My confidence in my own abilities grew, and while Ye Jiqing's situation seemed risky, deep inside me flared a fervor.

I wanted to resolve it with my own hands...

As I went over animals with round fur and potential spiritual essence,

Ye Jiqing turned pale as ash, his body trembling like a sieve. "What do you mean by 'tailor our response'?"

"Mammals typically have high intelligence and are very likely to seek revenge. Resolving the grudge is the only way to completely deal with this, understand?"

I shared my general thoughts with Ye Jiqing and didn't wait for his response.

I selfishly leaned back in my seat and dozed off.

When I woke up, Beichen was driving Ye Jiqing's luxurious car on the expressway.

The inside of the car was peaceful, and moonlight filtered through the windows.

Ye Jiqing, who hadn't slept for several nights, was now sound asleep in the back seat.

"Let's stop at the upcoming service area for a rest," I suggested to Beichen.

City B was too far away for Beichen to drive non-stop.

We had to take every opportunity to recuperate and gather strength.

Beichen, heeding my advice, drove the car into the service area. "The earliest hours of the morning are the most likely time to encounter danger."

"There are more people at the service areas, and Xia Xi won't show up there. On the other hand, it's easier to be hassled by Xia Xi on the expressway at this time," I said with conviction.

Beichen parked the car, rolled down the window to catch his breath, and asked, "How long should we rest?"

"Two hours should do. We both need some sleep."

I took out the food containers wrapped in newspaper from my lap. "Have something to eat."

Beichen tried the strawberries that Xiao Li had prepared for him.

A hint of softness appeared on his stern face.

I pragmatically chose a baked bun and took the opportunity to probe Beichen. "Hey, have you been in contact with Xiao Li a lot lately?"

Chapter 138: Let's Get Started

"Uh, yes," Beichen's expression stiffened.

I asked again, "How did you two get to know each other?"

"I sometimes stay in my car near the restaurant," Beichen confessed with a hint of shyness. "She just... came over to me on her own, and one thing led to another."

Xiao Li always seemed so boisterous...

But she's actually this flirtatious in a critical moment??!

It dawned on me that when Yu Longting wasn't around, Beichen was probably covertly protecting me, which is why he was often near the restaurant and had more opportunities to interact with Xiao Li,

"What did Xiao Li come to you for?"

"To... to bring food," Beichen actually sounded nervous.

Why does this feel like I'm interrogating a young couple?

I am just like a parent adamantly against early romance!!

This isn't good~

It seems I'm being slightly insensitive.

I shrugged and didn't continue to pry, switching the topic, "If only I had a driver's license, then I could take turns driving with you."

"It's okay, I can keep going," Beichen glanced at Ye Jiqing, who was not sleeping peacefully. "This guy is something else, drove himself all the way to Spring Wind Town."

My eyes darkened, "He must've stayed awake for a day and a night without any sleep or food."

"When it comes to life and death, people always manage to tap into extraordinary potential," Beichen summarized.

Two hours passed quickly.

The alarm on my phone vibrated on my leg.

I awoke and nudged Beichen, "It's about time."

"Hmm," Beichen was almost instantly alert.

Like a vigilant owl, there wasn't a trace of grogginess.

He drove the car out of the service area.

The night enshrouded the entire land.

The moonlight had already hidden behind the clouds, as if everything was veiled by a black curtain.

The quietness around was slightly unsettling.

"Thump—" Suddenly, a strong force hit the car from behind.

Despite being braced for it, I was still startled.

My fingers pressed tightly against my stomach, hoping that my Dumpling wasn't scared.

Behind me, Ye Jiqing jerked awake, "What's happening..."

Before he could finish,

He turned his head and saw what hit us from behind.

It was a young woman in a red dress with her hair in disarray.

The fresh blood soaked through her dress of similar hue, and her pale face was coldly smiling behind her black hair, "Ye... Jiqing... where do you think you're running to... your life... is mine..."

"Xia Xi... No...! Don't come closer!" Ye Jiqing was almost plastered to the back of the front seat, his voice filled with terror urging us, "Drive faster!! What are you dawdling for, Xia Xi is catching up, go faster!! Even faster!!"

Thump!!

Another loud noise.

The woman chased the car, her speed like that of a cheetah.

As if indestructible, she used her own body to once again slam forcefully against the rear glass of the car.

The immense force caused her face to be covered in blood, but she didn't mind, her pupil-less eyes hungrily and crazily fixed on everyone in the car, "Hahaha, so much... good food... ready to eat..."

Is she considering all three of us a late-night snack?

I suddenly saw such a horrifying thing, like a zombie, and I couldn't help but gasp.

My stomach felt as if it was being clenched, cramping painfully, yet I managed to distract Ye Jiqing, "Just don't look back! What's there to make a fuss about?"

Beichen can drive fast, and he certainly will drive as fast as possible!

If this guy kept urging him, causing Beichen to lose judgment, that would be the worst.

"But... she... she cracked the glass!!!" Ye Jiqing screamed in horror.

Chapter 139: Following the Burial Escort

At the sight, I too was startled.

Many fine, tiny cracks had formed on the glass that was almost one with the night.

One more collision, and it would surely be done for.

No sooner had this thought emerged.

Bang!

Our high-speed vehicle was hit hard once again.

A shard of glass was violently hurled out, narrowly missing my turned cheek.

The cold wind blew in through the small broken hole, magnifying Xia Xi's laughter vastly, "Hahaha..."

Xia Xi herself, covered in blood from the impact, her arm looking unnaturally twisted.

It seemed likely it was broken from the collision, yet she didn't show any sign of pain.

With a cold, frenzied laugh on her face, it was a laughter that sent shivers down the spine.

Fortunately, the hole wasn't big; otherwise, I believe Xia Xi could have leaped into the car within minutes and stuffed us all between her teeth as snacks.

"Beichen, can you free one hand?" I felt helpless, my instinct was to save Beichen first.

Beichen held the steering wheel with one hand and stretched out the other to me, "What's up?"

"Don't mind the pain," I said as I poked his finger with an embroidery needle I carried with me.

I quickly drew a Palm Talisman on his palm.

Beichen looked at it and laughed, "I can draw this thing too, but..."

"What is it?" I asked.

His smile grew wider, "Your drawing is more powerful; I've studied the Taoist Arts for many years, yet you have just begun to touch upon the Mysterious Art."

"Su Wan... Su Wan, draw a talisman for me, I'm begging you, I don't want to die, Su Wan..." Ye Jiqing kept calling my name, extending his trembling hand to the front seat.

Behind him was a precipice; Xia Xi laughed maniacally, using her arm to break open the small hole on the window.

Her whole pale arm thrust inside, her ten bluish fingers covered in mortuary spots, like ghastly claws, grabbed Ye Jiqing's collar from behind, "Where will you... run to..."

At this moment, Ye Jiqing's face was filled with despair.

"I can't draw an authentic talisman; this is the shape of an incantation used for embroidery on clothes, give it a try," I said, pricking Ye Jiqing's finger and drawing the incantation on his palm, along with a disclaimer.

In truth, it was excessive; if it didn't work, he was undoubtedly doomed.

That disclaimer didn't seem useful at all.

The moment I finished drawing, Ye Jiqing, taking a huge risk, turned around abruptly.

He pressed his palm with the incantation against Xia Xi's face, who had half her body through the hole into the car, "Get away! Xia Xi! Stop clinging to me, I don't owe you anything, follow me again and I'll have Su Wan obliterate you completely."

With this roar.

Xia Xi screamed and fell off the car.

We were driving too fast, all I could see in the night.

Was the girl's body lying on the ground, and the many cars behind running right over her.

Ye Jiqing gasped, "Is she... is she done for? Won't she follow me anymore?"

"I doubt it's that easy," I said.

Ye Jiqing, gasping for air, "But your talisman is so powerful, and she was hit by the car..."

These words choked in Ye Jiqing's throat, never fully emerging.

Xia Xi caught up again, her icy chill blowing on the nape of Ye Jiqing's neck, that coldness affecting the entire car.

I was completely stiff and cold; even Beichen's hand seemed unable to properly control the steering wheel.

Beichen said, "It's not looking good, that's not its real body, it's very difficult to hurt it with anything."

"That may be true, but if we can't shake it off, we're going to end up dead alongside Ye Jiqing," I said swiftly, motioning to Ye Jiqing, "Pull out a hair and give it to me, now."

Chapter 140: What Do You Want My Hair For?

"What do you need my hair for?" Ye Jiqing was clearly on guard against me; he feared I might betray him.

I didn't respond to him, just coldly stared at Ye Jiqing.

Rescuing him was a gesture of goodwill, not a debt I owed him; I wasn't eager to explain too much to him.

I had already started to consider ways to escape if he refused to give me his hair, as Beichen and I had no quarrel with this demon.

When the time came, we would just need to abandon the car and leave Ye Jiqing to him.

Beichen and I would probably be fine.

Even if the demon implicated Beichen and me because of Ye Jiqing, the two of us together.

should be able to fight the demon to a draw.

As malicious thoughts swirled in my mind.

Ye Jiqing, hesitating, gritted his teeth and pulled out his hair for me.

I quickly pulled out a human form patchwork from my pocket and threaded Ye Jiqing's hair into it.

At that moment, Ye Jiqing's neck was fiercely grasped by Xia Xi.

Xia Xi's face was full of hatred, her grip extraordinarily strong.

Ye Jiqing's face quickly turned purple from lack of oxygen, and he was minutes away from death.

I swiftly placed my palm on Xia Xi's skull and whispered a Taoist incantation, "Hurry, hurry like a decree!"

"Ah—" Xia Xi screamed in pain and let go of Ye Jiqing.

As I increased the force of my hand.

Xia Xi roared unwillingly and crashed out of the vehicle.

However, she quickly got up from the ground and chased us down again, crazed.

This time, she ran even faster than before, furious and embarrassed.

At that critical moment of life and death.

I threw the Patchwork Man threaded with Ye Jiqing's hair out of the car; it immediately took on Ye Jiqing's form in the darkness.

The Puppet stood frailly in the middle of the road; as my lips touched, it spoke, "Xia Xi, I'm right here, I'll go with you. Stop implicating others."

"Hehehe, you should have done this sooner, Ye Jiqing! You must die!!" Xia Xi pounced and began biting fiercely at the Puppet.

Inside the car, the wind whistled through.

All three of us were chattering our teeth.

Ye Jiqing, seeing another "himself" being devoured to the bone, was completely petrified: "..."

"Beichen, lower the barrier," I said, seeing Beichen still stiff, I suggested.

As Beichen lowered the barrier, he said, "Isn't this a bit unkind?"

"We'll get off the highway and switch cars," I said.

We exited the highway and reached the suburbs of city B.

It was already noon the next day.

Ye Jiqing, in the back seat, had frozen into a slumber.

After being awakened, he was still somewhat dazed.

I said to him, "If you're alright, we won't go to the hospital; just head to your house."

"I... should be fine, just a bit cold," Ye Jiqing said, shivering.

Now it was daytime, and the temperature was relatively high.

The three of us still went into a shopping mall and each bought a coat to wrap around ourselves.

Then we took a taxi to Ye Jiqing's house.

"Ye Jiqing, did you abuse cats?" I asked bluntly as I got out of the car.

Ye Jiqing, in a daze like a wandering soul, stiffened at my words, "No, how could I possibly do that..."

"You're still trying to deceive me now?" I glanced at the villa and said lightly, "Xia Xi moves so nimbly; she could only be a cat, not any other animal."

"Do you mean Xia Xi's body was... possessed by a cat?" Ye Jiqing began to tremble.

Seeing him so terrified, I didn't pursue further: "Let's just go to your house for now."

"Oh." Ye Jiqing went and pressed the electronic doorbell.

Seeing it was Ye Jiqing through the peephole, the servant opened the door.

Beichen and I followed Ye Jiqing into the villa.

As soon as Ye Jiqing entered, his parents greeted him, "Qingqing, you're finally back! What's been going on with you these past few days? Your phone was off, we couldn't reach you, and you didn't reply to any texts."