

A Snake 141

Chapter 141 Qingqing, You've Lost Weight

"My phone is out of battery," Ye Jiqing was clearly lying.

Both Beichen and I were watching him, as he made the transfer to me by hand.

Ye Jiqing's mother, different from the strong presence she showed to outsiders, was exceptionally gentle, "Qingqing, you've lost weight, even your stubble has grown out. What have you been doing these days?"

"These two behind me, are they your friends, Qingqing?" Ye Jiqing's father noticed Beichen and me.

A flicker of embarrassment crossed Ye Jiqing's face as he was about to introduce me.

I spoke up first, "My name is Chen Yuanyuan, and the person next to me is my friend Beichen. We're both from Spring Wind Town."

"Oh, we recently had some issues at home. I don't know if you two are here to visit or for something else?" Ye Jiqing's father apparently didn't want to entertain guests at his home at this time.

The death of Xia Xi must have had some impact on the Ye family.

Ye Jiqing told the truth, "Didn't I tell you? I've been entangled by Xia Xi, and they're experts I invited from Spring Wind Town."

"So the two of them are... Taoists...??" Ye Jiqing's father's eyes widened, then he scrutinized the Taoist robe on Beichen.

Ye Jiqing, looking weary, said, "Pretty much, they should be... like Taoists... Dad, could I go upstairs to have a talk with them alone?"

"There are many swindlers out there these days. Xia Xi has already passed away; how could he possibly be pestering you, Qingqing? I think you should go get checked out at the hospital. What you've seen is likely just an illusion..." Ye Jiqing's father clearly believed that Ye Jiqing wasn't dealing with an evil spirit, but rather was suffering from a mental disorder.

Ye Jiqing saw an illusion—could Beichen and I also have seen an illusion?

All three of us were chased by Xia Xi.

It was evident that Mr. Ye was a very obstinate man...

Ye Jiqing's face crumbled, "I'm an adult now, I can manage my own affairs. Moreover, they were introduced by Wei Yao; it was them who resolved the issues at Wei Yao's family. There won't be any problems."

"Wei Yao? The newly famous Young Master Ou, right? Weren't they said to be two highly skilled experts who resolved his family's issues?"

Mr. Ye sized up Beichen and me, "Indeed young... I can only say that the new waves push the old ones forward..."

It was not easy to gain Mr. Ye's recognition.

Ye Jiqing's mother looked at me, seeming to recognize me, she muttered, "Chen Yuanyuan? It's the first time I've heard the name, but your face... looks somewhat familiar..."

"Just an average face, so it looks somewhat similar to everyone," I said calmly.

I only wanted to quickly resolve this trouble and head back to Spring Wind Town.

I dropped out of school back in the day and had direct contact with Ye Jiqing's mother.

Enduring the discomfort in my heart, coming to the Ye household and staying under the same roof as Mrs. Ye, was all for the merit that was about to fall into my hands.

Ye Jiqing's mother not so kindly glanced at Beichen and me, and without further engagement, reached out to touch Ye Jiqing's forehead, "Qingqing, you're burning up. Let mom and dad take you to the hospital!"

"Some fever medicine should do, I don't need to go to the hospital," Ye Jiqing said in a low voice.

Mrs. Ye's face became stern, "How can that suffice? You look to be in poor shape."

"Enough, stop using your concern for me as an excuse to interfere with me over and over again. I'm already exhausted," Ye Jiqing retorted.

Ye Jiqing, normally so good-natured, had a complete emotional breakdown after what he went through last night,

Chapter 142: Whatever You Do, Don't Let the Snake Lord See It

"You guys don't know what I've been through. Last night I was chased by Xia Xi!! Chased all night!! I didn't have time to go to the hospital, if I don't deal with Xia Xi soon, I will be dead."

Ye Jiqing was also desperate, if he went to the hospital now.

Xia Xi would definitely pursue him to the hospital, then he would have only one way out—death, so he had to resist Mr. Ye and Mrs. Ye's arrangements.

The Ye Family seniors were all stunned, clearly unable to comprehend these words.

Ye Jiqing said to me and Beichen: "Don't mind my parents, they can't understand what I'm saying at all, follow me upstairs!"

Beichen and I silently followed behind him, into Ye Jiqing's room.

"Ye Jiqing, let me tell you, aside from being hunted by Xia Xi, which is dangerous, there's also a trace of a curse on you." When I saw Ye Jiqing in Spring Wind Town, I felt like he might have been cursed.

However, I didn't have experience in this area, I only used my Spiritual Eye to see the power of the curse, and I couldn't fully confirm this conclusion.

When I arrived in front of the Ye Residence and saw the black aura above the house,

I was certain that there must be an object bearing a curse inside the Ye Residence.

"A curse?" Ye Jiqing was slightly taken aback.

I explained patiently, "Your pupils are cloudy, and your sclera has blood spots—a typical sign of being cursed. This curse will slowly drain your Essence Blood, and tonight at midnight is the final deadline."

"What? After midnight, I..." Ye Jiqing was startled, "What will happen to me?"

Seeing him like this, it was clear that he had never realized he had been cursed.

I said with certainty: "You will die. The Monster possessing Xia Xi is seeking revenge on you, and you must find the cursed object before midnight."

"Then you must find it, quickly find it, I will pay whatever you ask." Ye Jiqing's face turned even paler in an instant.

I nodded, "Show me everything Xia Xi gave you."

"Alright, I'll find everything right now." Ye Jiqing began rummaging through his belongings, finding a lot of items.

There were diamond rings, watches, shoes, necklaces, bracelets, and the like...

It was evident that Xia Xi had really put her heart into the gifts she gave him when she was alive.

Using my Spiritual Eye, I surveyed the area and my gaze settled on a purple amethyst bracelet emitting black energy.

I was about to pick it up to see what exactly was going on, but Beichen stopped me.

Beichen took out a handkerchief and wrapped the amethyst bracelet in it, "The evil energy on this is too great, don't touch it directly."

"Is this bracelet the thing that's cursed?" Ye Jiqing asked.

"Yes, we must dispose of this bracelet." I nodded.

Beichen stroked his chin, "The curse on this is strong, and the crystal is sturdy; it can't be burned away or smashed, it was deliberately chosen as a medium by the one who cast the curse."

"I might need to make a Thunder Summoning Garment." I said.

As the name suggests, wearing a Thunder Summoning Garment grants the ability to control thunder and lightning.

"You didn't bring any materials, how can you make it?"

Beichen asked, skeptical.

I asked Ye Jiqing for paper and pen, and directly sketched a sample of the Thunder Summoning Garment on the paper, "The materials for the Thunder Summoning Garment have been lost, Granny Wu doesn't sell them. I can only use ordinary fabric, that should work to make a temporary one."

Before coming here, I had already planned to use a temporary Thunder Summoning Garment to deal with various difficulties.

This garment would probably be the most powerful attacking garment in the Yin Yang Life and Death Embroidery, in terms of attack power.

If I had worn it when encountering Qingyang, I wouldn't have been so brutally beaten."

"Since you've already decided, then I must remind you of something."

Beichen, who had only slept a while in the taxi, rubbed his temples, looking a bit weary, "After making the garment, you must not let the Snake Lord see it, understand?"

Chapter 143 Heavenly Thunder

"May I ask the reason?" I cautiously asked Beichen.

In Beichen's pitch-black eyes, there was a trace of complexity, "..."

I almost instantly understood the implicit message in his gaze,

"Is it related to my father?"

It is said that Yu Longting was killed by a mortal, and that mortal was my father.

He attacked Yu Longting at his weakest moment, causing the Purple Mysterious Heavenly Thunder to strike.

Otherwise, even a hundred of my father would not have been his match.

Beichen paused and nodded.

I remained silent for a while, then told Beichen, "I'll be careful."

The Ye Family belonged to the elite class, and Ye Jiqing's parents actually believed in metaphysics.

But they looked down on local Taoists from small places and took me and Beichen for swindlers.

Although they did not embarrass me and Beichen publicly, they constantly sent servants to knock on the door, inviting their beloved son to come out and negotiate.

To protect himself, Ye Jiqing was responsible for communicating and explaining.

He prevented them from popping out and disturbing me and Beichen.

Beichen and I agreed on our respective tasks in the guest room.

Because Xia Xi was merely distracted by a puppet, he could return at any moment to seek vengeance on Ye Jiqing, aiming for his life.

At any time, either Beichen or I had to be vigilant.

I spent over five hours making a Thunder Summoning Garment with the fabric provided by Ye Jiqing.

Beichen used this time to take a short rest.

"If Snake Lord sees you looking so worn out, he wouldn't hesitate to kill me," Beichen said gloomily, observing my complexion.

I yawned, handing the Thunder Summoning Garment to Beichen, "He's not here right now, no need to worry unnecessarily, just put it on."

Beichen did not hesitate and wore the purple Thunder Summoning Garment.

His skin was a healthy wheat color, and wearing purple clothing, he exuded an air of profundity.

"Let's go." Beichen took the Amethyst bracelet wrapped in a handkerchief and joined me to find Ye Jiqing.

Almost the instant the door was knocked, Ye Jiqing opened the bedroom door, "Are you done?"

"Done, Beichen is wearing it, has your fever gone down?" I casually inquired about his condition.

Ye Jiqing, looking somewhat dazed as if he hadn't woken up fully, spoke in a faint voice, "The private doctor came and gave me a fever-reducing injection, it's gone now."

"Alright, find us a place like a terrace," I pinched the bridge of my nose, trying to curb my fatigue.

Ye Jiqing led us to a spacious terrace on the second floor and said to me, "This should work, right?"

"It will, I need a few drops of your blood." I slashed his hand with a blade.

With his blood, I drew a demon-breaking formation on the ground, placing the Amethyst bracelet from Beichen's hand on it.

Crouching and then standing up can cause a bit of dizziness.

Ye Jiqing came over and supported me, "Wanwan, what's wrong? Are you alright?"

"Don't touch her! Otherwise, if Xia Xi doesn't kill you, I will," Beichen suddenly snatched me from Ye Jiqing's arms and placed me against the wall.

I leaned against the wall, shaking my head, "I'm fine, you'd better deal with that thing, it's almost midnight."

"So what if it's midnight, Ye Jiqing is the one who will die, what does it have to do with us?"

Beichen's tone was frosty to the extreme.

I pursed my lips and remained silent, as Beichen was loyal to Yu Longting; the brief contact when Ye Jiqing helped me had touched his Reverse Scale.

Not daring to offend him, Ye Jiqing explained, "Taoist Master Beichen, I was just worried about Wanwan, don't think too much about it."

Beichen coldly opened his mouth, "Stay in your place, understand?"

Ye Jiqing nodded frantically, "Understand, understand, I get it."

"Keep your distance, step back," Beichen commanded.

Ye Jiqing obeyed and stepped back, his expression uncertain, "You... are you about to summon... Heavenly Thunder?"

Chapter 144: I Got Her Expelled from School

"Have a little insight," Beichen said coldly.

Suddenly, Beichen raised his arm high.

From the rolling thick clouds in the sky, a streak of lightning actually descended.

When the lightning reached Beichen's palm, it behaved like a toy he could manipulate at will, not harming him in the least and moving in the direction he guided.

He directed the lightning towards the bracelet, and thousands of tiny electric sparks fell upon it.

The crystals on the bracelet instantly burst and turned to dust.

I squinted my eyes, witnessing the scene of the Thunder Summoning Garment, harnessing Heavenly Thunder for his own use.

Although my face remained utterly calm, a giant wave surged inside my heart.

What kind of Formation is on this garment that allows it to be so powerful using ordinary fabric?

At first, I thought it would at most break the curse on the bracelet.

Who knew the entire bracelet would be destroyed.

If my father had an authentic Thunder Summoning Garment back in the day, its power would probably have been...

These thoughts flashed through my mind in an instant.

I heard the painful howls of Ye Jiqing falling to the ground, Ye Jiqing agonizingly rolling around on the floor.

His face contorted to the extreme, his upper and lower teeth tightly clenched, emitting a muffled groan.

The veins on his neck protruded, distinctly visible.

Moreover, clouds of blood mist drifted from his body.

Suddenly, Ye Jiqing's parents rushed out.

Mrs. Ye shielded her son with her body, "Qingqing, what's wrong with you! Su Wan! What exactly did you do to my son!"

"Su Wan? Isn't this girl called Lin Yuanyuan?" Mr. Ye said, clearly surprised, his expression also somewhat grave.

Mrs. Ye was gritting her teeth in fury, glaring at me with eyes that wished they could tear me into pieces, "Didn't you hear Qingqing call her Wanwan? I felt she looked familiar the moment we entered, it turns out it's that little slut Su Wan who seduced Qingqing back then!"

"Back then, Ye Jiqing was completely fooled by Su Wan, how come he's entangled with Su Wan again now?" Mr. Ye's face was filled with anger, "Security, get them under control for me, and later take them to the police station."

"Watch your mouth, it was Ye Jiqing who chased after me, I never seduced him," I said coldly without courtesy.

"Don't offend them, I beg you," Ye Jiqing, covered in sweat, barely articulated the words from his mouth, "I'm begging you... Su Wan conducted the Thunder Summoning to help me break the curse on me, offending them means Su Wan won't care about me... even if it's for my life, don't go against them."

"Isn't Mom worried about you being deceived? They are just run-of-the-mill swindlers, using a Blinding Method to deceive others," Mrs. Ye softened considerably after hearing her son's words, pleading earnestly.

Ye Jiqing's face showed extreme sadness and anger, "Deceived... heh heh heh... I was deceived? So even now, you still think everything I said was just an illusion?"

"They must have fed you some drug that clouded your mind, you're not even listening to me now," Mrs. Ye asserted fiercely.

Ye Jicling trembled with anger, "What about you? Did you also take some drug? You appeared just in time, you must have been hiding and watching the surveillance! Did you not see the scene just now when they destroyed the cursed bracelet with Heavenly Thunder?"

"I think typical con artists absolutely couldn't summon Heavenly Thunder. The words of our son actually hold considerable credibility," Mr. Ye spoke solemnly, "Even if it might have been some kind of illusion just now, let's temporarily believe it. We can't joke with our son's life."

Mrs. Ye's eyes flickered with emotion, "But Qingqing is in so much pain, suffering so much on the floor and even bleeding all over, it's hard not to think Su Wan did it deliberately!! To retaliate for when I had her expelled from school!"

Chapter 145 A Family of Ingrates

"What? Su Wan was expelled from school? And it was your doing?" Ye Jiqing was utterly shocked.

Mrs. Ye knew her words were inappropriate and covered her lips.

Mr. Ye was stunned, clearly unaware of the matter. "How could you do such a thing?"

"I've already done it, what do you father and son want now? To criticize me for her sake?" Mrs. Ye said assertively, then her tone softened with concern for her son, "Qingqing, how are you feeling? Are you better now?"

"I am much better now, the curse is being peeled away, it's a process of adjustment, the blood mist that drifted out of me just now should just be the dispersal of the curse."

Ye Jiqing was indeed lucid, not muddled like Mrs. Ye. He took a breath, gradually regaining his strength as he stood up.

Mrs. Ye glanced at me, deep suspicion in her eyes, "Are you really okay? Will she still help you? I'm not being narrow-minded, but what kind of family does Su Wan come from? You broke up with her before, and now who knows how much she resents us."

"Even if Wanwan harbors resentment against me, she would not harm me; she came to City B to save me."

The protective words of Ye Jiqing reached my ears, sounding very blurred.

No, I'm here to accumulate Yin Virtue.

To help Yu Longting solidify his inner core...

It's really not for you, don't flatter yourself, brother.

I just felt my whole body go limp, tilting softly towards one direction.

Although caught in time and not falling to the ground,

I had completely lost my sense of direction, everything was spinning around me.

My eyelids felt glued shut no matter how hard I tried to open them.

Beichen coldly said, "Move aside, I'm taking her to rest."

"What happened to Su Wan?" Mr. Ye's voice reached my ears, full of inquiry.

Beichen mocked him, "Isn't it all for saving your son? Draining her energy, and you're all nothing but ingrates."

"Is it that serious?" Mr. Ye's voice was full of surprise.

Ye Jiqing felt very guilty, "It's all my fault... I caused the trouble and dragged Wanwan into this..."

Then, my world went silent.

Waking up from my sleep, I lay on an extraordinarily soft bed.

It was the kind of latex bed I had never slept on before, and the room was filled with a light scent of aromatherapy.

No wonder people strive so hard to earn money, to improve their lives.

The luxuries of the wealthy are indeed corrupting.

I lay in bed, almost unwilling to get up, seeing the neatly folded Thunder Summoning Garment by the pillow.

A wave of emotion stirred in me, and I propped myself up with effort.

I stared at the Thunder Summoning Garment, my eyes inevitably moistening.

In my mind, scenes I had imagined of Yu Longting possibly being struck by Heavenly Thunder played out.

He had said he was struck by lightning, and that was when my father killed him.

"Miss Wan, you're awake. I'll go notify Young Master Ye; he will definitely be delighted to know," said a servant entering the room and seeing me awake, hurrying out.

I quickly wiped away the tears from the corner of my eyes, my expression returning to calm, looking at Ye Jiqing who walked in, "Young Master Ye, how long have I been unconscious?"

"Just seven or eight hours, you can sleep a bit more if you'd like," Ye Jiqing said gently.

I rubbed my temples, trying to keep my mind clear. "Didn't Xia Xi come to you last night?"

"Fortunately, she didn't come over," Ye Jiqing replied.

I sighed, "Still, we need to be careful. On the highway, she was deceived by a puppet, and the curse she placed on you, which I broke, must have left her raging."

"You've done enough for me. Whether I live or die, I'll leave it to fate. I'm not so obsessed anymore," Ye Jiqing said, having seemingly come to a lot of realizations over the night.

A servant brought porridge into the room, instantly filling the space with the fragrance of rice porridge.

Ye Jiqing wanted to feed me the porridge. I said nothing but gave him a cold look, watching his hand hanging in midair with the spoon.

He moved the spoon closer to my lips, and I pushed it away directly, "Young Master Ye, when did your emotional intelligence become so low that you can't even understand such a simple rejecting look?"

"I just feared you wouldn't have the strength to eat after just waking up. Here's the spoon, Wanwan," Ye Jiqing said good-naturedly, holding the bowl of porridge beside me.

Chapter 146: Was I a Snake in My Previous Life?

I exhausted too much energy yesterday, at the moment my body needs replenishment, "Thank you for the concern, but I still have the strength to eat."

Too lazy to be angry with him, I took the porridge and started drinking it in large gulps.

Ye Jiqing softly instructed, "Drink slowly, no one is competing with you. Wanwan, are you treating me harshly on purpose? I can tell that you care about me a lot, otherwise you wouldn't have risked coming to B City. You still like me, right?"

My back tensed up suddenly, and my porridge-drinking motion stopped.

My body started shaking uncontrollably, and my heart clenched fiercely.

A voice inside me said I couldn't possibly like Ye Jiqing, but what was that heart-racing feeling?

It was as if a part of my body was attached to Ye Jiqing.

What is this strange feeling?

Ye Jiqing became excited and reached out to hold my hand, "Wanwan, your reaction clearly shows that you like me a lot, that you miss me."

"Ye Jiqing, don't make me use force." I grabbed the fruit knife from the bedside, my emotions running high, my chest rising and falling slightly.

The moment our gazes met, it wasn't high school memories that returned.

Instead, an image of a White Snake appeared in my mind.

I was resting my head against the Giant Python...

Ye Jiqing was persistent, confessing to me, "Su Wan, the more you hate me, the more it shows you care about me. Let's start over, I will love only you for the rest of my life and treat only you well. If you hadn't suddenly and inexplicably dropped out, we might have been married by now."

"Ye Jiqing." I couldn't tolerate it any longer.

Ye Jiqing asked, "Does that mean you agree?"

"If you keep talking nonsense, I'll go back to Spring Wind Town. You don't want to live anymore, and you don't care about your parents' lives either?" I calmed my spirit, suppressing the chaotic feeling I got whenever I faced him, and looked at Ye Jiqing with cold eyes, "After what happened yesterday, once Xia Xi finds you, she will vent her anger on everyone in this house."

It's strange, just looking into Ye Jiqing's eyes...

In my mind, the image of the White Snake coiled in front of me keeps replaying.

I leaned on the White Snake as if it was a support, giving me a strong sense of security.

Could it be... Ye Jiqing... was a snake in his past life?

No no no, that's not right, that White Snake had horns on its head.

It looked ready to turn into a dragon, how could it be reincarnated as Ye Jiqing...

While I was lost in wild thoughts, Ye Jiqing clenched his fist and apologized, "I'm sorry, Wanwan, I won't talk about it anymore, please don't abandon me."

I was still thinking about the White Snake and didn't respond in time.

Ye Jiqing spoke again, "Su Wan? Say something, what does this intense staring mean?"

"I'm looking at your pupils. The curse has receded, the murkiness in your eyes is gone, which is good." I lied, "Ye Jiqing, you've had a cat before, and you abused it with Xia Xi, right?"

"I did have a cat, but I have never abused any, Wanwan. Don't you know what kind of person I am?" Ye Jiqing asked me.

I thought to myself what kind of person he was none of my business, too lazy to argue about it,
"Whether you abused the cat or not, you know in your heart. Was the cat you had bought, adopted, or found?"

"Xia Xi and I found it in a corner next to a nightclub," Ye Jiqing answered.

I sternly told Ye Jiqing, "I'm going to change clothes, call Beichen over, we'll go check out the nightclub area."

To go to the nightclub, Ye Jiqing drove in front while Beichen and I sat in the backseat.

Beichen glanced at me, "Didn't you have good taste back then?"

"Who hasn't encountered a few jerks when they were young?" I replied, a bit embarrassed, sighing as I tried to cover it up.

Beichen rested his head to the side, "I never have."

Me: "..."

Brother, there's no way to continue this conversation.

Worthy of being someone by Yu Longting's side, just as poisonous with words.

It wasn't until later that I found out, this guy was raised by Yu Longting himself.

No wonder there are some traits that are so uniform~

"Hey, why are you helping him now?" Beichen asked me.

I glanced at him, "I'm helping him for my own reasons."

In the rearview mirror, Ye Jiqing furrowed his brows.

Discussing him while he's here must be quite annoying for him, yet since he's relying on us to save his life, he can only seethe in silence.

"What reasons?" Beichen rarely showed curiosity.

I looked at the scenery outside the window, "For those cats, I feel like there are several cat lives involved in this matter."

From the resentful aura on Ye Jiqing, he really owes quite a bit.

I have a premonition that the one who really needs help this time is not Ye Jiqing, but that...

Cat Demon.

"Su Wan, you really are different. In the eyes of many, the lives of animals are inconsequential."

Beichen raised his eyebrows, leaning back with his arms crossed, "No wonder you can see eye to eye with Snake Lord."

"..." I was rendered speechless.

I dare you to talk like this in front of Yu Longting.

Soon, we arrived in front of the nightclub.

Ye Jiqing led us to a cat's nest in a corner of the wall, a nest that had been abandoned for a long time, with not a single cat inside.

"Xia Xi and I found a litter of kittens here. Xia Xi said they were adorable, and we each picked three to raise," Ye Jiqing pointed to the place where the cat's nest was, "Later on, all three that Xia Xi took care of died, and she complained about the kittens being too weak. She asked me for another one, and soon that one died as well. So one by one, my kittens were taken by her, Wanwan, I'm innocent... I really didn't do anything bad."

"You call that not doing anything bad? Raising the kittens here means the mother cat is nearby. You stole her children, don't you have a conscience?" I couldn't hold back and blurted out what was on my mind.

Beichen echoed my sentiments, "It looks like the one after Ye Jiqing is a mother cat that has lost her children. Ye Jiqing, you stole her kittens, and now that there's a problem, the mother cat is seeking vengeance. There's nothing for you to feel wronged about."

Ye Jiqing really felt aggrieved, retorting discontentedly, "I'm being hunted and cursed just because I took six kittens? That's too harsh. If there's really someone abusing and killing cats, it would be Xia Xi's doing."

"There's no talking sense into someone like you. I can't be bothered with you."

Beichen took the Compass from his waist, "Su Wan, the mother cat has definitely left the nest by now, with no idea where she could have gone."

"She must be somewhere nearby. You'll know if you look at the Compass," I said while staring at the Compass in Beichen's hand.

The needle on the Compass was spinning wildly, making it seem like the magnetic field all around the vicinity was in disarray.

"The needle is spinning so fiercely on the Compass, is it broken?" Ye Jiqing got out of the car and, upon seeing the wildly spinning Compass, asked.

A chill came over me as I spoke somewhat nervously, "This is the Compass being influenced by Demon Qi, causing the needle to lose direction."

By rights, a Compass is also known as a magnetic needle.

It should always point to the backside.

Unless the surrounding magnetic field is disturbed by Demon Qi causing it to spin out of control.

"That Cat Demon's true body... is it really hidden inside the nightclub?" Ye Jiqing swallowed dryly, his expression filled with shock.

I nodded gravely, glancing at the nightclub's firmly shut door, "It might require you to step forward, contact the owner, and let us into the nightclub."

"That's easy, I'll just make a call and let them know," Ye Jiqing said.

Immediately, Ye Jiqing made a phone call.

Within five minutes, a person dressed like a waiter appeared.

He went over and opened the electronic door for us, "Do you need me to show you inside?"

Chapter 147 The Woman in the Red Dress

"No need, if there are other people inside, they should come out for now," I politely said to the waitress.

The waitress nodded and spoke a few words into the walkie-talkie.

The nightclub staff, who were making preparations, all filed out.

The three of us walked in; the interior was rather enclosed.

There was a large dance floor and a stage.

The ventilation fans spun, the outside sunlight flickering through intermittently.

Ye Jiqing introduced, "This is the public area, and there are highly private VIP rooms inside."

"To the VIP room, this area seems quite clean," I scanned with the Spiritual Eye and detected nothing unusual.

Ye Jiqing led Beichen and me in search until we reached the dilapidated door on the third floor.

The needle of the compass in Beichen's hand suddenly stopped and pointed steadfastly in that direction.

The surrounding Demon Qi was dense, making it oppressive even to breathe.

The three of us exchanged glances, seemingly understanding the complexity behind that door.

Beichen was the first to ask Ye Jiqing, "Ye Jiqing, what is behind this door?"

"It seems to be a storeroom," Ye Jiqing pulling out his phone, "Let me call the boss."

Beichen looked at Ye Jiqing as if he were a fool, "In a place filled with Demon Qi, there's no cell signal."

Sure enough, Ye Jiqing's phone had no signal at all, displaying 'no signal' as he tried to dial.

"Then how do we open the door? It has two locks," Ye Jiqing murmured.

Beichen glanced at me and asked, "Can you give me your hairpin?"

"Sure." I had two thin hairpins in my hair to manage stray hairs after tying it up.

Beichen rubbed the hairpin on the step, bending it into a handy shape, and inserted it into the keyhole.

With both hairpins working simultaneously, it took only two minutes to unlock one of the locks.

Ye Jiqing and I both displayed admiration; we truly hadn't expected Beichen, a Taoist, to know how to pick locks.

Then he moved to the other lock. Just as I focused intently on the movements of Beichen's hands, a chilling, cold laugh came from behind, "Hehehe, the three of you, are you here to die?"

In an instant, my entire spine stiffened abnormally.

I felt a cold wind strike the back of my neck, pouring down inside my collar.

The hands Beichen used to pick the locks, formerly stable, now trembled.

He cursed softly, "Damn."

"Are we screwed? Is Xia Xi behind us?" Ye Jiqing blurted out.

Beichen grabbed my hand and shoved me against the wall, "Don't ever look back, and don't call out that woman's name."

I huddled against him on one side.

That left Ye Jiqing alone and isolated, and he seemed to have called out Xia Xi's name just now; at this moment, Ye Jiqing was terrified to the extreme, "Beichen, why didn't you say so earlier..."

The temperature in the corridor plummeted as if entering an ice cellar.

Behind us were bursts of cold laughter and footsteps approaching step by step.

"Save me... don't ignore me, save me!" Ye Jiqing cried for help as something fiercely gripped his neck, "No... don't... kill me..."

Before my very eyes, a living person was hoisted by the neck by a woman in a blood-colored dress.

Ye Jiqing's legs initially kicked a bit in struggle, but gradually they grew weaker.

I said to Beichen, "We can't just ignore him; if Ye Jiqing dies, we're done for."

"This is indoors, the Thunder Summoning Garment isn't effective!" Beichen continued picking the lock, but his actions were frantic, now lacking the earlier speed, his temples completely drenched.

I too was scared stiff, but Beichen had come to this place because of me, and I had to protect him, "Listen to me, stay calm, and unlock the door as fast as you can! Did you bring the Money Sword when you left home?"

Chapter 148: Abandoned Warehouse

"I almost forgot, it's strapped to my back." Beichen reached behind him and drew the Money Sword to give to me.

Then he continued to fiddle with the two hairpins, sweating as he picked the lock.

The moment I gripped the sword's hilt, I suddenly felt my blood boil with heat.

It felt as if strength surged through my entire body, and without needing any fancy moves, I thrust the sword toward Xia Xi's abdomen, "Swift as a decree!"

The Money Sword was bound with coins, making it blunt without any edge.

Yet, it pierced through Xia Xi's body like splitting bamboo, clean from front to back.

"Puh," Xia Xi spat out blood unexpectedly, spraying Ye Jiqing's face with foul-smelling blood.

I had turned around in time to avoid it, with only a few splatters on my clothes.

The Money Sword, hence, was pulled out from Xia Xi's body.

Xia Xi, who had been frenzied just moments ago, stiffened and collapsed.

That hand was still clenching Ye Jiqing's neck, and I hurried over to try to pry it off.

Touching her hands felt like touching cold stone, devoid of any warmth and terrifyingly hard.

I used all my strength to break Xia Xi's finger bones and finally freed Ye Jiqing.

"Huff huff huff... huff huff..." Ye Jiqing gasped for air fiercely after being choked for less than a minute; he seemed completely drained as he lay on the ground, shaking.

Out of responsibility, I asked him, "Are you alright? Your neck isn't broken, is it?"

"Wanwan! If my neck were broken... I'd be dead..." Ye Jiqing's face showed a trace of helplessness as he reflexively touched his neck.

His neck was covered in hand-shaped bruises, hardly a spot without injury.

"Click," the sound of the lock opening came.

Beichen turned around with a sigh of relief, "Are you guys okay, the lock I opened..."

Seeing the blood dripping from the Money Sword in my hands and the bloody wound on Xia Xi's abdomen.

Beichen's lips twitched, "Ha~ worthy of the Snake Lord... People you choose are really too fierce! Let's go! Xia Xi is waking up!"

"Waking up so soon? Does she have an indestructible body?" I also felt a chilling, far more intense coldness from behind than before.

I hastily helped Ye Jiqing off the ground, picking him up into the dilapidated, dusty warehouse.

After I threw Ye Jiqing down, I immediately turned back to help Beichen.

Beichen had already closed the warehouse door, bolting it from the inside.

I helped him secure the heavy wooden bolt, listening to the banging noises outside. Through the door's glass window, I saw that grotesque, shattered face.

The expressions on our faces were of sheer panic as we hurried to move cabinets and boxes to block the door.

"She will get in eventually; we are trapped in a dead end," Beichen gravely said.

I shook my head, looking up at the dome, "No, I checked online while on the bus; this nightclub's dome can be opened."

"Are you sure?" Beichen looked up, joining me in gazing at the steel skylight, "It might be possible to open it, but how?"

I said to Beichen, "Skylights like this are usually remote-controlled, but there is a button on top too. I can climb up there and operate it manually. I'll go up, you stay below to keep guard against anything trying to break in."

"You climbing? No, you are pregnant!" Beichen said sternly.

Chapter 149: They Must All Have No Place to be Buried

I touched my slightly bulging stomach, also hesitant to climb high, "Then I'll have to stay down here, you make it quick."

"Leaving you down here is also very dangerous." Beichen showed a hint of a devastated expression, pinching the bridge of his nose.

He glanced at Ye Jiqing, who was completely useless at that moment, probably realizing that there was no other choice with the urgency of the situation.

He took all the protective charms, the protective jade pendant, and the like off his body and said to me, "Wear all of these, the compass has the Thirty-Six Trigrams of Fuxi, it can protect you too, and it might just save you in a critical moment."

"Got it, don't worry, if you're fast enough, we may not even need these." While I was comforting Ye Jiqing, I moved the piano and cabinets to stack them higher.

Beichen was even more anxious than I was, "Don't hurt your back, be careful."

"Don't worry, Dumpling is very well-behaved and will protect me too, I won't get hurt with him here." I touched my belly, just to put Beichen at ease.

However, I didn't expect to hear a child's immature yet haughty voice, "I will definitely protect Mommy well."

"You child, I was just joking with Beichen, who would bear to let you protect me." My expression immediately softened a great deal.

The storeroom was filled with all sorts of junk, making it relatively easy to stack a path to a climbable height.

Amidst the noise of the massive storeroom door being struck, Beichen's figure agilely climbed upwards.

The switch for the skylight was easy to find, and with a press, sunlight poured in.

I quickly took off my coat, revealing the Thunder Summoning Garment I had prepared underneath, and recited the incantation for summoning thunder from the notebook,

"I beseech The Three Pure Ones of the three realms, Lord Lao Zi of the Great Monad, the Five Stars and Twenty-Eight Constellations, may a thousand calls be heeded, may ten thousand calls bring forth spirits."

After the incantation, the sky suddenly became overcast with dark clouds.

They obscured the scorching sun overhead, and a fierce wind began to blow on its own.

I squinted at the dust-laden, old stage, circling around the entire stage step by step.

White bolts of lightning fell from the sky, then into my palm.

I felt an intense burning heat in my palm, and with a light toss.

The lightning was released according to my will, turning into thousands of electric currents, striking down upon the entire stage.

In an instant, countless dark auras emerged from the stage, accompanied by mournful and horrifying cries, and seven or eight black figures floated out.

I found all these figures unfamiliar, except for one girl who looked remarkably like Xia Xi.

But she flashed by so quickly that I didn't get a clear look.

The warehouse door had already been smashed open, and even the two-meter-tall heavy cabinet was knocked over onto the floor, accidentally crushing Ye Jiqing's leg.

He furrowed his brow, holding his leg and crying out in pain.

But Xia Xi just stood at the doorway, as still as a piece of wood, motionless.

In her unfocused eyes was full of sorrowful hues, "They killed my child, I hate them so much, why is heaven so unfair..."

From below the charred and blasted-open round stage, I picked up a fluffy, soft, and gentle black cat, and walked up to Xia Xi. "I know, you're a victim, Xia Xi is already dead, Ye Jiqing is just an accomplice, his leg is broken too, and his body has suffered a curse, it'll take a long time to recover. They have all received their retribution."

"You... are also a mother, you too are a mother..." Her bloodshot eyes fixed on my stomach, her face full of grief, "You must understand the pain of losing a child the most, all six of my children died, even if my anger at Ye Jiqing is completely unreasonable, what of it? Those two dogs, male and female, are dead, my children won't come back to life! I want them to die unburied."

Chapter 150: I Am Inferior in Skills, I Admit Defeat

"What about you? Have you considered yourself? Punishing yourself for someone else's mistakes?" I angrily questioned Xia Xi.

Slow tears of blood streamed down Xia Xi's eyes, her body like a weathered statue that would no longer move, and from her decayed lips came a bizarre laugh, "Hehehe, are you talking about divine

punishment? I failed to protect my children, so I deserve the divine punishment. I've long wanted to join them anyway."

"When you kill, you accumulate resentment, which will invite divine retribution during your 'Tribulation.' When that time comes, death won't be so simple—you'll be utterly annihilated." I saw her eyes filled with resentment, obstinately unenlightened, and my tone became suddenly stern,

"Then let me tell you another fact, Ye Jiqing's crimes are not worthy of death. I saved him also out of my own selfishness. You can't defeat me, so you might as well accept your fate."

"Ye is the father of your child? Is that why you are protecting him?" Xia Xi asked through gritted teeth, as if I had intervened on her behalf out of nepotism.

I shook my head, my voice a bit weak, "No, he has wronged me before, and he certainly isn't my child's father."

"Then it's because... what?" Xia Xi's eyes showed a hint of confusion.

Feeling there was no need to hide, I told her the truth, "He harbors a certain secret. Until I figure it out, I can't let him die."

"Good, good, good..." Xia Xi said 'good' three times, her eyes' stubborn obsession gradually dissipating, "I'm not as skilled as you, I concede."

With her final words, her body stiffly fell down.

A loud crashing sound erupted, lifting clouds of dust.

A flash of white light swept before our eyes, and the black cat in my arms sprang up, darting into a corner and disappearing.

I stared at where it had vanished, dazedly stunned.

Had I convinced her just like that?

In my mind, I had prepared several different arguments to persuade her to let go of her obsession.

Perhaps it is just the nature of feline creatures to bow to the stronger.

Feeling inexplicably lost, I couldn't shake the feeling that there was some indescribable regret in my heart, yet I couldn't pinpoint what it was.

It was like a fleeting ribbon in my hands, always slipping through my grasp.

A moment later.

I walked over to Ye Jiqing; he had already passed out from pain.

I searched his body a bit, pulled out his cell phone, and called Mrs. Ye, "Ye Jiqing is at the XX nightclub on the third-floor warehouse here; his leg is injured, you might want to come and see."

"Su Wan!! You are Su Wan, you little wretch, did you deliberately hurt him? Did you kidnap him? I knew it, I've always known that a country bumpkin like you approaching my son was up to no good..."

Insults from Mrs. Ye blared through the phone, her voice loud and grating; I directly hung up.

Next to me, Beichen furrowed his brows, "The Ye family, what fine people they are."

"After today, we won't have any more contacts with them; let them be whoever they want to be." I put the cell phone back in Ye Jiqing's hand, picked up my coat from the ground, draped it over my arm, "Let's go; let's find a hotel to rest a bit, you really got dragged into this mess."

"My duty is to protect you," Beichen followed behind me and said.

I had been physically drained the past few days; as I descended the stairs, I felt dizzy for a moment and nearly fell.

Beichen tugged at my arm, preventing me from tumbling down the stairs.

I didn't know how many times he had saved me already.

I steadied my mind, cautiously watching my step, "Thank you, you saved me and Dumpling again. It's precisely because it's your duty that I feel uneasy. If I hadn't come to City B, you wouldn't have had to follow, nearly facing danger."