

A Snake 161

Chapter 161 Brother, Your Sister-in-Law Will Never Like You!

I rolled my eyes at Yu Rongling, "Didn't you say I was going to cuckold your brother? Don't change your tune now. Keep slandering me."

"Sister-in-law, I was wrong. I misunderstood you before," Yu Rongling said dejectedly, then slapped his forehead. "Turns out physiognomy can be wrong. Sister-in-law, your face showed affection for Ye Jiqing because your own Love Soul was in that guy!"

My heart skipped a beat when I heard this revelation. So that's why every time I saw Ye Jiqing, I felt that flutter, that sensation of being in love.

At one point I even thought I was insane, irrationally continuing to like that major jerk.

Yu Rongling, stroking his chin, clicked his tongue. "Brother, now that you mention it, sister-in-law lacks a Love Soul in her own Soul. Doesn't that mean she will only like Ye Jiqing and be incapable of falling in love with anyone else? Brother, you're doomed! Sister-in-law will never like you!!"

"There's another possibility," Yu Longting wasn't speaking to Yu Rongling but instead whispered into my ear, "You've liked me for a long time. It's just that because you don't have the Love Soul, you've lost the instinct to love and thus have been unaware all along."

"Could... could it be true?" I didn't dare to meet Yu Longting's eyes, feeling a burning sensation within me.

The vision that surfaced in my mind was of that huge White Python.

Although it was the snake I had once feared the most, now, just thinking about it made my heart as calm as a rippleless lake.

Very serene, very secure.

Yu Longting asked me in return, "What do you think?"

"I don't know. The thing about giving my Soul to Ye Jiqing must be man-made, right?"

"It has to be man-made. What else could it be?"

"It wouldn't still be my dad's doing, would it?"

"He's the prime suspect."

Yu Rongling, agitated by our whispering, paced back and forth. "What are you two whispering about? Not letting me hear."

"We're discussing strategies. Why? Do you have any ideas to offer?" Yu Longting asked.

Yu Rongling, nonchalant, said boldly, "That's easy. Just slaughter Ye Jiqing and take back sister-in-law's Soul."

"If Ye Jiqing dies, his Soul will disperse, and along with it, Wanwan's portion of the Soul will vanish from the world as well! Look at your brain, capable of nothing but rotten ideas," Yu Longting could not stand the bad idea and kicked Yu Rongling in the butt, sending him flying.

Yu Rongling yelped, clutching his butt. "Brother, go easy on me; I am your own brother, after all! Wait, I have another plan. We can just capture him and directly extract the Soul, then hand it to sister-in-law."

"It's already grown into his body, fused with his Soul. How can you separate it without any damage?"

After speaking, Yu Longting gave me another look. "Moreover, Wanwan can survive missing a piece of her Soul because she is the Spiritual Girl and also because her mana is strong. We can't see her Soul, so we don't realize she's missing a portion, but it's different for Ye Jiqing."

"Ye Jiqing, being an ordinary person, will inevitably die if he lacks a portion of his Soul. It's basic knowledge I'm aware of, unlike a certain dumbass snake whose head is empty and devoid of learning."

Just spouting terrible ideas, all of them!

Yu Rongling, undeterred, said, "If that guy dies, then he dies."

"That won't do. My wife would think me cruel, and after all the trouble to win her heart, I can't afford to be labeled as someone who deliberately harmed a romantic rival," Yu Longting said, concerned about his reputation.

Hearing him say that, I couldn't help smiling, leaning my head into his chest. He knew me too well.

If Ye Jiqing provokes his own death by messing with the Cat Demon, that's on him.

But if we were to act, how could my conscience be clear?

Yu Longting, holding his head, was in despair. He let out a mournful howl, "This won't work, that won't work... is sister-in-law's Soul supposed to stay with that guy forever? That's so disgusting."

Chapter 162: I'm So Outstanding, Yet You Haven't Fallen For Me

"Wasn't I just trying to figure things out? I have an appointment tonight at the Ye Family's house, to meet their people." Yu Longting picked me up and walked back to the bedroom, placing me on the bed.

I suddenly felt confused. What... what does this mean?

Just then, Rongling followed in eagerly, and Yu Longting threw a bank card at him, "Go buy a car, a large van."

"What do you mean?" Rongling didn't understand.

Yu Longting said, "Pets aren't allowed on the high-speed rail, so we'll drive back to Spring Wind Town."

"Pet, is he talking about me? I'm so adorable; surely I must be the most cherished pet to my brother and sister-in-law." Rongling, easily appeased, took Yu Longting's card and left cheerfully.

I, on the other hand, breathed a sigh of relief, clutching my chest, feeling somewhat dazed.

My mood today was even scarier than riding a roller coaster; there were times I doubted my life, thinking I liked Ye Jiqing.

It turned out it was because Love Soul had fallen on him that such a terrifying illusion occurred.

Yu Longting's Snake Eyes seemed to see right through me with their X-ray vision, placing my hand on his chest, "Wanwan, even if you don't like me, you couldn't possibly fall for Ye Jiqing. What are you worried about? I'm so outstanding; if even I don't capture your heart, how could Ye Jiqing stand a chance?"

At that moment, I actually didn't think he was narcissistic.

I was also grateful that Yu Longting was so wonderful that I wouldn't be confused by the illusion of Love Soul.

At least when that fluttering feeling approached, I doubted time and again whether these feelings were a mistake, without spending even a tiny bit of emotional energy on Ye Jiqing.

"Not having fallen for Ye Jiqing... that's really... great for me." I took the initiative, throwing myself into his arms and hugging Yu Longting's waist.

This was the best news I had heard all day.

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In front of the Ye Family's house.

Rongling, driving the newly bought luxury van, stopped, "Brother, sister-in-law, are you sure you don't need me to come along?"

"No need, you can't keep your mouth shut." I gave Rongling a stern look.

Rongling looked aggrievedly at his brother, "Brother, your wife despises me."

"I despise you even more. Stay put and don't run around," Yu Longting said, haughtily and coldly, and led me out of the car.

The Ye family's door was open, and the pungent smell of realgar drifted out from inside.

It was so intense that it made me feel slightly nauseous.

Yu Longting's expression darkened a bit.

They knew we were coming and came out to meet us, their faces showing no signs of negligence.

All three of them wore a black Jade Pendant on their chests.

Mrs. Ye's body trembled nervously, leaning on her son Ye Jiqing for support.

"Snake Lord gracing our humble home is an... an immense honor." Mr. Ye, forcing himself, greeted us proactively.

Yu Longting glanced down at Mr. Ye with disdain, "Tsk, your Ye Family has been naughty. I need to teach you a lesson."

With a flick of his sleeve, several Blood Snakes flew out.

The Blood Snakes weren't even as big as a child's pinky finger but moved very quickly.

They all burrowed straight into Mr. Ye's nostrils, causing his pupils to dilate in shock as he stood frozen, "Snake... a snake has crawled into my nostril."

"Snake Lord, what have you done to my husband? Our family has no grievances with you, why would you do this??"

Mrs. Ye screamed out as she collapsed on the spot.

"To prove to you that your broken Jade Pendants are useless," Yu Longting ignored the Ye family, leading me straight into the Ye house.

Ye Jiqing seemed to suddenly realize something, "Dad, Mom! What are these Jade Pendants for? Why would Snake Lord punish you upon seeing them?"

"They are supposed to protect us, and I feared he would harm you," Mr. Ye's voice grew weaker, "It's all my fault for creating this situation, trying to guard against Snake Lord, only to provoke him."

Chapter 163: Dumpling Behave

I looked at Yu Longting with a complex gaze, "The Ye Family also has the Jade Pendant of Xuanjing, Xuanjing has fostered quite a number of followers."

"That's why, dumbass was saying he wants to learn from Xuanjing in taking disciples, but we already have quite a few disciples ourselves." Yu Longting treated the Ye Family's home as if it was his own, striding into the Ye Family's dining hall with authority and pulling out the seat at the head of the table for me to sit down.

"What do you mean?" I was already feeling quite tense, but sitting down, I became intrigued by Yu Longting's words.

Yu Longting said, "Our sect has taken in quite a few snake apprentices, and Beichen is the only mortal, and he isn't even a disciple, but a slave."

"Er..." My spirits were immediately dampened.

What's with the slavery, it's so unequal.

All the dishes on the table were set in place, covered with lids.

Although the Ye Family was extremely reluctant, they had still prepared this meal.

It was just unclear whether they would poison the food or something similar.

The scent of Realgar was just too strong, but it had no effect on Yu Longting.

However, Little Dumpling was still small, he definitely couldn't withstand it.

My pregnancy reactions became extremely intense, as I covered my lips and began to retch dryly.

A sour sensation in my stomach made it feel like my head was swell.

Little Dumpling, more so, rarely woke up during the day, murmuring faintly, "Mommy, it's so hot, so hot~"

There was also a fire in my heart, even though Yu Longting insisted on visiting, which was definitely not right,

But what the Ye Family did to hurt Little Dumpling really angered me, I gently stroked my belly to comfort him, "Mommy's touch, Little Dumpling, stay calm and it'll naturally cool down, be good~"

"Okay, Little Dumpling will be good." Little Dumpling calmed down and obediently replied.

However, such an environment was truly unbearable for Little Dumpling, as if he were in the Pill Furnace of the supreme Laozi.

These people of the Ye Family were too hateful.

I had just saved Ye Jiqing, and they were playing such tricks.

"You have ten minutes to clean up all the Realgar and sulfur in the house." Yu Longting spoke with a cold voice, his devilish gaze shifting towards the Ye Family members who had just entered.

It seemed that Mr. Ye was experiencing a rather severe pain in his abdomen, as he clutched his stomach, sweating profusely, and the muscles on his face twitched with pain, "I'll go with my wife to clean up, right away, please excuse us, Snake Lord."

Following that, Mr. Ye and a resentful looking Mrs. Ye started cleaning up the Snake-Repelling Medicine in the house in a dejected manner.

"Snake Lord, my parents were just too scared, unable to suppress their fear, that's why they did some precautionary things," Ye Jiqing, not following his parents, stayed back to explain to Yu Longting.

Yu Longting gently patted my back, alleviating the sensation of my retching, "Go pour some lemon water."

"Oh, okay." Without any hesitation, Ye Jiqing ran to the kitchen to make lemon water.

I gulped down the lemon water Ye Jiqing brought me, and with the smell of Realgar in the house subsiding significantly, I finally got some relief, "Thank you, could you prepare some more? I feel like my morning sickness is quite severe."

After a while, Ye Jiqing came back with a whole pot of lemon water.

Mr. Ye and Mrs. Ye had also finished what they had to do and came back looking wary.

"Everyone, take a seat; don't be so formal, let's start eating," Yu Longting said.

The three members of the Ye Family had a look of dismay, but did not dare to oppose him, and they quietly sat down to eat.

Yu Longting served me a piece of black pepper beef and started talking to Mr. Ye, "You and Su Chongwen are old friends?"

"Ah, yes." Mr. Ye nodded obediently.

I was initially worried that the food might have been drugged, but since Yu Longting served it to me,

It must be fine, so I started to eat without any more concern.

Yu Longting's lips curled up slightly, "Do you know about the grudge between me and Su Chongwen?"

"I know a little," Mr. Ye's face was full of wretchedness, "But all those things were done by Su Chongwen alone, they have nothing to do with me."

"Do you think if it had anything to do with you, you would still be alive today?" Yu Longting's slender fingers moved to peel a lobster.

Next to the lobster's platter there was a special hammer meant for smashing the hard claws.

With a gentle squeeze, he cracked them and placed them in my bowl, his eyes mockingly fixed on Mr. Ye.

Mr. Ye did not dare to rebut and kept nodding, yet he couldn't restrain his curiosity and asked, "So, your visit today is...?"

Chapter 164 Wanwan, We Might Be in Big Trouble

"I'm here to inquire about something, and to get to know the place since I'll be coming by often. My wife left something with your son." Yu Longting's face was all smiles, akin to the warm breath of spring, giving the impression of a very good temper.

Yet, the entire dining room was filled with the sound of teeth chattering.

After much teeth gnashing, Mr. Ye finally spoke up, "What thing?"

My heart murmured, Love Soul, my Soul, love!!

"The secrets of heaven cannot be revealed," Yu Longting declared in a tone that could infuriate to death without compensation.

But Mr. Ye dared not get angry, "Then, what... what would you like to inquire about? I am but an ordinary person, and you seem to be omniscient. If there's something you want to know, I... I'm afraid I might not be aware of it."

"A trivial matter, one which you certainly know about," Yu Longting insisted, fixing Mr. Ye with his gaze. "Why did you arrange a marriage contract between your son and Su Chongwen's daughter?"

"That's because..."

Mr. Ye struggled to speak, but fear compelled him to continue, "Su Wan is the Spiritual Girl. Marrying a Spiritual Girl ensures family prosperity and a long line of descendants."

"Good, then the next question," Yu Longting continued, "Why did Su Chongwen agree to let you marry his precious daughter?"

"Marry off? That Su Wan, marry off? Pah! She's not even worthy of my son!" Mrs. Ye exploded with fury, her eyes brimming with resentment as she glared harshly at my abdomen.

It seemed she knew I was carrying Yu Longting's child and that I had tainted Ye Jiqing, yet she dared not say it in front of Yu Longting.

Seeing his wife so brazen, Mr. Ye was terrified and quickly interjected, "Don't interrupt, is this your place to speak?"

"Mom, didn't you hear Dad say that Su Wan is the Spiritual Girl? It is I who is not worthy of Su Wan," Ye Jiqing also tried to calm Mrs. Ye.

Mrs. Ye had always believed that her son was the best in the world and could not bear the term 'marry off.' Her gaze was filled with a wish to tear me to pieces.

With her husband and son's persuasion, she just managed to contain her rage.

Mr. Ye sighed deeply, and said gravely, "Now that it's come to this, I'll tell you everything, Snake Lord! Su Chongwen entrusted me with something, and in return, my son could marry his daughter."

"Where is this thing?" Yu Longting asked with half-closed eyes.

Mr. Ye stood up, "I've stored it in the attic."

"Bring it here," Yu Longting commanded succinctly.

I listened to their cryptic conversation, completely bewildered.

Looking at Yu Longting and then at Mr. Ye.

Could someone clarify for me, what is this thing that my father entrusted to Mr. Ye??

Overwhelmed by Yu Longting's presence, Mr. Ye did not even entertain the thought of defiance and quickly agreed, "Yes."

After ten minutes, Mr. Ye had not come down from the attic.

I felt something was amiss, "Yu Longting, go and have a look."

"Let's go," he said.

I ran after him, heading upstairs together.

Ye Jiqing and Mrs. Ye, though not understanding the situation, followed closely behind.

Upon reaching the attic, we found Mr. Ye collapsed on the floor.

Blood was flowing from his nostrils, and beside him lay the corpses of three blood-red little snakes.

"Dad, Dad... how are you, what happened!!" Ye Jiqing flung himself by his father's side.

Mrs. Ye cried out, "How could this be happening, quickly call 120, Su Wan, if anything happens to my husband, even with the Snake Lord to back you up, I won't let this go easily."

"Your husband will be fine, the Blood Snake on him from Yu Longting took the hit," I went to check and found that Mr. Ye's breathing and heartbeat were normal, and he was breathing steadily.

It was the three little snakes who died terribly.

In front of Mr. Ye lay a purple sandalwood box, the entirety of which was plain and simple.

With no patterns or designs, it exuded an evil aura, similar to the black mist I encountered that night when I stayed at Granny Wu's house.

It was in the attic, given by my father once again.

At that moment, all the clues came together, revealing the truth...

I suddenly clutched at Yu Longting's sleeve, "Inside this box is..."

"Another Remnant Soul of the Ancestor of Foxes," Yu Longting bent down to pick up the box, "Wanwan, we might be in big trouble."

Chapter 165: The Only Nine-tailed Fox

"The trouble you're referring to," is it that the Ancestor of Foxes' Soul was divided into many parts and given to different people, just to increase the chances of possession?" I felt as if I had peeled back layer upon layer of fog to see the truth and actually calmed down.

"Yes, your father was indeed meticulous in his planning."

Yu Longting's aura suddenly turned as cold as ice.

No sooner had he finished speaking.

A strange laughter echoed from the box, "Su Wan, my reincarnation... you've finally come... I will merge with you."

A wisp of black fog in the shape of a fox drifted out, identical to what I saw on the stairs that day.

My heart tightened, and I became immobilized.

This Remnant Soul was clearly much more powerful than the one at Granny Wu's place; I didn't have the slightest ability to resist. I was sweating profusely, only able to watch helplessly as it swooped down to possess me.

"Locked up for too long, brain's gone bad, dead fox. The master is here, and you dare to openly possess... assuming I am dead..."

From Yu Longting's sleeves flew several pieces of talisman paper.

The talisman papers were as light as feathers, silently pushing the black fog back into the box.

They then stuck to the seal of the box, igniting spontaneously.

The moment the box was burnt through, a woman's agonized scream came from inside, "Who are you... who has even managed to wield the Samadhi True Fire, it hurts... I will tear you to pieces, I am the Ancestor of Foxes!! The king of the Ancestor of Foxes, the only Nine-tailed Fox..."

"What? You don't even recognize me? Still talking about being a Nine-tailed Fox, your memory is worse than a fish's..."

Yu Longting's indifferent voice rang out, filled with a toxic tongue of mockery.

The woman inside the box, upon hearing his voice, recognized him, "It's you! Yu Longting, you're so cruel. Back then... I loved you so much... I was so good to you... Ah... and you still want to kill me... why do you treat... treat me like this..."

"You want to possess my wife, of course, I would burn you. Your affection, you slutty fox, only disgusts me." Yu Longting delivered another ruthless jab.

The already critically wounded Ancestor of Foxes' HP bar emptied in an instant, "I'm not satisfied... Yu Longting, you prefer a human over me just because she can give birth to a child who helps you become a dragon... a scourge, am I..."

Right then, the box was completely consumed by the fierce flames.

The woman's unwilling screams also vanished...

In Yu Longting's pale palm, only a pinch of black ash remained.

"Let's go, Wanwan." Yu Longting tossed the black ash away and took my hand with his other hand.

Having witnessed the destruction of the Ancestor of Foxes' Remnant Soul yet again, I felt somewhat dazed and followed Yu Longting downstairs in a trance.

He was quite fastidious about cleanliness, taking two disinfectant wipes to clean his hands before leaving.

Just as we were about to get into the car, Ye Jiqing came running out of breath, "Snake Lord... wait for a moment."

"Hmm?" Yu Longting turned around.

Ye Jiqing couldn't keep up with his pace and was far behind, so he had to shout, "Why... did you burn that box? What exactly was inside that box?"

Yu Longting glanced at Ye Jiqing with indifference and got into the car with me without saying a word.

Yu Rongling, who had been in the car eagerly awaiting our return, lit up with anticipation at our arrival. Just as he was about to speak,

I questioned Yu Longting before him, "Do you know the Ancestor of Foxes?"

"It's more than knowing; there's a lengthy and emotional... enmity and affection between my brother and the Ancestor of Foxes," Yu Rongling said with a mischievous smile. Intimidated by his brother's glare, he immediately corrected himself to say it was enmity and affection, and then eagerly asked, "Why all of a sudden mention the Ancestor of Foxes? Could it be... could it be... my brother encountered an old flame again? Has the Ancestor of Foxes appeared at the Ye Family?"

"It was the Remnant Soul of the Ancestor of Foxes." I opened the window to catch my breath; the Ancestor of Foxes' words earlier had been too straightforward, making it immediately clear that she had deep feelings for Yu Longting...

Yu Longting wrapped his arms around my waist, "Wife, listen to me explain, it was the Ancestor of Foxes who was infatuated with me. I particularly detest foxes. In this lifetime, I have fallen only for you and won't spare any other female a glance."

Chapter 166: Once Born, It's a Cauldron Furnace

"My brother didn't lie to you, he really hates the scent of foxes," I said. "Hey, that's not right. The Ye Family are ordinary people, so why would the Ancestor of Foxes appear?"

While driving, Yu Rongling rubbed his chin in confusion.

"Ye Jiqing's father and my dad are friends. The Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul was given by my dad. In the Ye Family, each of the three family members has one of the Xuanjing's Jade Pendants."

"Are you kidding me? Did Xuanjing wholesale these from the Yiwu small commodities market?" Yu Rongling exclaimed in frustration.

I too felt deeply worried, "Even the Ye Family has Black Jade Pendants, it seems that Xuanjing gave them to everyone linked to him."

The ultimate goal was naturally to trap Yu Longting...

Was Xuanjing excessively persistent?

"Wife, instead of worrying about me, you should worry about yourself," Yu Longting said to me. "The Ancestor of Foxes split its Three Souls and Seven Spirits into ten Remnant Souls. Each Remnant Soul can easily possess you..."

"I'm not doing too bad, now that two have been eliminated, there are only eight left," I optimistically said.

Yu Rongling was skeptical, "Damn, if that's the case, sis-in-law, aren't you screwed? I heard my brother say that your body is extremely receptive to the Ancestor of Foxes' soul. After possession, your soul will be devoured and eroded, and one slip could mean no coming back."

"What else can I do? I was born with a body meant to accommodate the soul of the Ancestor of Foxes."

My heart felt indescribably desolate and bleak, something I had previously refused to face at Granny Wu's house.

Even when Yu Longting's face looked so terrible, even though I had guessed the truth.

Nevertheless, I still didn't want to believe that my own flesh and blood would treat me like this.

After seeing the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul again at the Ye Family's, the gruesome truth became inescapable, leaving me with no choice but to accept and admit it.

After eradicating two of the Ancestral Fox's Remnant Souls and Spirits, there were still others left.

If I encountered them again, it was very likely I wouldn't be so lucky and could be easily deprived of my body by the powerful soul of the Ancestor of Foxes.

Yu Longting held my back and let out a cold chuckle, "Wanwan, what nonsense are you talking about? You're my wife, no one is entitled to use your body, least of all the Ancestor of Foxes."

His... wife...

I froze, feeling an inexplicable tightness in my chest.

"We just need to destroy those souls one by one, so their existence won't endanger you," Yu Longting paused before saying again.

Surprisingly, Yu Rongling didn't make trouble and agreed with his brother, "Sis-in-law, you're really lucky to have met my brother. Originally, you might have really become a Cauldron Furnace for the Ancestor of Foxes, but with my brother around, that's absolutely impossible."

My heart warmed with unspeakable emotion, "Thank you."

Soon after, Yu Longting had the business van stop at the entrance of the hotel.

I thought he might have left something in the hotel.

A dark shadow flew in through the window, and my shoulder suddenly felt heavy.

Looking down, it turned out to be that black cat.

So I'd left something very precious at the hotel.

Thank goodness Yu Longting was considerate, otherwise, this little creature might have been heartbroken.

I embraced the fluffy little black cat and leaned on Yu Longting, falling asleep before I knew it.

When I woke up, it was already the next morning.

My phone had many missed calls, all from Wei Yao.

I lifted my gaze to Yu Longting, who was looking at my call log with a smile that wasn't quite a smile.

To show I wasn't guilty, I promptly called back, "Hello, Wei Yao, were you looking for me for something?"

Chapter 167: The Baby Who Neither Cries Nor Laughs

"It's me, Chen Decheng. Last night, Wei Yao and I were drinking together, and he passed out. He's still asleep," Chen Decheng's voice came through.

Yu Longting sat me on a chair, "He called me several times without getting through, so I called him back."

"Last night, Wei Yao drank too much and kept regretting," Chen Decheng sighed, "I shouldn't have introduced you to Ye Jiqing. I guess it was then when he called. How are things on your end?"

I glanced out the car window and replied to Chen Decheng, "The issue has been resolved, Ye Jiqing is safe now, and I just arrived at Spring Wind Town. I'll be at the restaurant in a bit."

"You've been gone for these days, finally coming back?! That's great, I'll have the kitchen make some nice dishes right away to welcome you back. You've really been through a lot this time," Chen Decheng said very happily, "I've got some great news to tell you later."

"Decheng, make extra, my boyfriend is with me too," I replied with a lowered gaze, a smile unconsciously forming on my lips.

The car stopped in front of the restaurant, which was as busy as ever.

Xiao Li was bustling about, not noticing our car.

I got out of the car with the black cat and Yu Longting, and at that moment, the black cat woke up.

It stretched lazily in my arms and meowed.

Rongling was just about to get out of the car when he stiffened up, "Brother, oh brother!! Was that a cat's meow?"

"Yes, there's a cat meowing," Yu Longting said.

Rongling looked a bit scared, "Is it a stray cat? Quick, get rid of it!"

"No, your sister-in-law got a cat," Yu Longting replied.

Rongling turned his head stiffly to look at me, and his normally floppy hair stood up as if electrified.

"What the heck? Sister-in-law got a cat??"

In almost the blink of an eye, Rongling had disappeared without a trace.

I looked at Yu Longting, puzzled, "Are snakes still scared of cats?"

"Don't mind him, he's just crazy," Yu Longting said with clear disdain.

The black cat in my arms looked utterly bored, paying no mind to the fussing Rongling.

Yu Longting got into the driver's seat, "I'll go park the car."

"Okay," I said to him and went to find Xiao Li.

When Xiao Li turned around and saw me, her face lit up with joy, "Yuanyuan, you're back! Why do you look thinner?"

"Maybe I'm just tired, lost a little weight," I told Xiao Li.

Xiao Li frowned and pulled me aside seriously, "You're pregnant too! Have you heard of a pregnant woman losing weight instead of gaining? Be careful, your baby might become malnourished."

"Is it that serious?" I touched my stomach.

Last time in my dream, I saw Dumpling, round and fluffy, so cute.

Xiao Li nodded seriously and shouted towards the kitchen, "Bring a pot of black fish soup, a dish of pork with spinach, and a plate of stir-fried nuts. It's for Yuanyuan's welcome-back meal, make it a generous portion, the boss is treating."

The head chef in the kitchen called out, "Oh? Little Yuanyuan is back? Alright, I'll make it right away."

"How has my mom been these last few days?" I asked Xiao Li.

Xiao Li nodded, "Apart from not coming home the night before last, she's been good every day."

"She didn't come home the night before last?" I asked, surprised, putting down the black cat and rolling up my sleeves to help Xiao Li clean up a table left by customers.

Xiao Li paused in her wiping, looked at me and said, "It seems someone came asking for you to treat their child, you weren't here, so your aunt went instead."

"Treat a child..." I knew my mom had learned some tricks of the Yin Yang Life and Death Embroidery from my dad, but I was not aware that she could treat illnesses.

Xiao Li looked around, lowering her voice, "There was a woman who brought by a baby who wouldn't cry or smile, just stared with grey eyes, really creepy."

"That's autism," I said.

Xiao Li also said, "I told that woman it was autism, but..."

Seeing her raise my curiosity, I glared at her, "but Aunt said that the child's soul had been snatched."

Chapter 168 Beichen Picked Up at Mass Burial Mound

"Did my mom really say that?"

I had to look at my mom in a new light, as she had once had little understanding of Mysterious Art.

The earlier incident of the Taoist nun helping me with the abortion was actually due to my uncle Su Chongshun's connections.

As I was puzzled, Xiao Li said, "You can't trust my words? Although I also don't know why your aunt would say that and even go back and stay overnight at that woman's place. By the way, where's my Brother Beichen? Has he come back?"

"Hmm, I don't know about that either. Maybe I'll ask when Yu Longting arrives?" I cleared my throat, barely hiding a snicker.

It had only been four days in City B, and Xiao Li was already missing her sweetheart.

Bending over, Xiao Li wiped the table and said, "That's not necessary, I have his WeChat, I can ask him myself. Strawberries and sushi, did he... eat them?"

He had, indeed, Beichen really enjoyed the lunch Xiao Li made. I recalled the restrained yet uncontrollable smile on his face as he ate.

Xiao Li breathed a sigh of relief, "That's good to hear. Hey, what if I buy him some cherries this time?"

"That should be fine. I think Beichen isn't picky about food." Suddenly, I felt a bit envious of Xiao Li's loving gestures.

Giving food and drinks to a loved one must be very, very blissful.

My heart felt a stir of emotion.

Just then, Chen Decheng yelled, "Chen Yuanyuan! What are you messing around for? I invited you for a meal, why are you working? You just caught a demon and didn't rest at all, just working away! Do I really lack people in my restaurant?"

"We are short of people, okay? Chen Decheng, easy for you to talk without back pain!!" Xiao Li glared fiercely at Chen Decheng, "What's wrong with Yuanyuan helping me a bit?"

"Go hang this sign outside, 'business temporarily suspended.'" Chen Decheng glanced at the remaining customers in the store, motioned for me and Xiao Li, "Come on, let's all go eat in the private room. Yuanyuan's boyfriend, you come too."

The few customers actually didn't require much staff at that point; they could just scan the code and pay by themselves when they were done.

If there were customers uncomfortable with using QR codes, they could call on me or Xiao Li to help them check out.

"Right." Yu Longting had just parked his car and came in as Chen Decheng called him to join us in the private room for a meal.

In the private room, there were the boss lady Chen Shufen and Wei Yao as well.

Chen Decheng cheerfully announced that the boss lady was pregnant with twins, excitedly toasted everyone, and even gave a toast,

"I hope everyone has days filled with harmony, safety, and joy!"

Xiao Li kept offering me food, pushing me to eat more so that the little Dumpling in my stomach wouldn't be malnourished.

I was, of course, very concerned about Little Dumpling growing up well, so I accepted all the dishes Xiao Li offered.

After the meal, Wei Yao left.

He probably came just to congratulate Chen Decheng and also because he felt guilty for bringing Ye Jiqing.

Xiao Li glanced at her WeChat and sneakily asked Yu Longting, "Hey, when are you going to give Brother Beichen a holiday?"

"He's busy, has to be busy for a while." Yu Longting, with one hand in his pocket, had a bit of defiance, but he was very handsome, and his arrogance felt like a natural part of him.

Very free-spirited and captivating.

Yu Longting looked at Xiao Li and suddenly seemed interested, asked me for a pen and paper, and wrote down an address, "If you really want to see him, you can find him here."

"I won't go find him and disturb his work," Xiao Li said, though she took the piece of paper with both hands and pressed it against her chest.

Then she dashed off, disappearing to who knows where.

Yu Longting raised an eyebrow, his expression half mocking, half amused, "When I picked him up at Mass Burial Mound, I knew this silly boy was very fortunate."

"Yes, being liked by Xiao Li and picked up by you to stay by your side, he is indeed very fortunate. Wait, you picked up Beichen at Mass Burial Mound?!" I gasped in surprise, picturing Beichen being picked up in a graveyard.

Chapter 169 Don't Trust What You See With Your Eyes

"Yes, just two months old, still a boy, abandoned by his heartless parents," Yu Longting hugged my waist tightly, his smile glistening.

I looked up at Yu Longting, feeling a bit lost yet somewhat resolute.

His nature didn't seem like one that could adopt a child, but his tenderness towards me showed that he had a soft side deep down, which I could understand.

I thought for a long time before I realized something was off, "You've stayed in the cheongsam for so many years, how could you raise Beichen?"

"Do you think Beichen appears as young as he looks? It's not just about looks, it's about who raised him, Wanwan, don't easily trust everything your eyes see, think more."

Yu Longting and I returned to the room together, and yellow paper flew out of his sleeve.

The curtains and the door closed at the same time, sealed off by the yellow paper.

"Oh..."

I didn't think much of the door closing until his fingertip landed on the button of my cheongsam, then I realized something bad was happening and hurried to open the door, "I... haven't taken a shower yet, Yu Longting, we've just eaten."

"What's that old saying? Well-fed and thinking of what..." His cool body pressed against my back, winding around me, and without much force, he left me unable to gather any strength.

"Jerk, I still have to go downstairs to work later."

"I won't tire you out much, and will leave you feeling energetic, trust me."

"I trust you for nothing, you're such a bad guy."

...

Another fierce goblin fight ensued.

It turned out that a man's mouth could indeed deceive like a ghost.

I was really about to cry from exhaustion, dizzy and barely able to get up.

It was only after drinking the red date tea brewed by Yu Longting that I regained some vital energy.

I lay in bed, not wanting to move at all, "Yu Longting, you big liar."

"If you're too tired, take a little break, I have something to attend to and need to leave for a while." Yu Longting hugged me tightly.

My pupils dilated slightly, "Are you going to deal with the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul again?"

"Yes, sort of," Yu Longting's voice was still there, but his presence had already disappeared.

My arms suddenly embraced thin air as the warmth around me vanished.

For the first time, I felt a sense of loss.

I used to wish Yu Longting would go far away, but now that he had suddenly left, I actually felt a bit wronged.

I got out of bed wanting to change clothes, only to feel a substantial bulge in my abdomen, as though weighed down.

It felt like I was carrying lead weights, and a slight panic rose within me.

Something felt off, and I took a few steps to get my clothes.

A sudden, inexplicable pain struck me.

But that pain was fleeting and vanished in the blink of an eye.

I touched my belly, uncertainly calling out to Dumpling, "Dumpling?"

There was no response from Dumpling.

Actually, this situation often happened and wasn't unusual.

Infants mostly remain dormant in the womb to better develop and grow.

However, with the worry in my heart, I became a bit obsessive, "Dumpling, are you okay? If you are, respond to mom."

Like this, I repeatedly called out to Dumpling many times.

But there was no response.

That couldn't be sleep, it was more like...

Dormancy?

Comatose!

"Could it be that Yu Longting always goes too far, and it harmed Dumpling?" I muttered to myself, thinking that this matter couldn't be clearly explained through WeChat.

As soon as Yu Longting comes back, I'll have to ask him.

If anything truly was wrong with Dumpling, I'd have to find a way to heal him.

I rubbed my somewhat uncomfortable belly, changed into clothes, and put on light sneakers.

Despite feeling a bit weak, I still went downstairs on time to start work.

If Beichen or Yu Rongling were here, it would have been better, with one more person to help Xiao Li.

Now that neither of them were around, if I slacked off, Xiao Li would suffer a lot.

I was busy until around four or five in the afternoon when a middle-aged woman arrived. She didn't enter the restaurant but seemed anxious, pacing in front of the door.

People like her generally don't come to the restaurant to eat.

Xiao Li asked her if she was looking for someone.

The woman said yes, she had come specifically for my mother.

Chapter 170: The Belly Feels Heavy

Xiao Li said, "Aunt Lin works at the supermarket and won't be back until after nine o'clock at night."

"Then I'll come back later." The woman didn't mind that my mom worked the night shift and hurried off after speaking.

By the time I walked over, the woman had already gone far, so I didn't think much of it and just asked Xiao Li, "Is she the one who came looking for my mom with a child last time?"

"No, the one who was looking for your mom was younger; this woman is a bit older." Xiao Li said.

I pondered for a moment; the middle-aged woman's children's palace looked extremely thin.

She should have sons and daughters, but they all suffered from serious illnesses.

That's why I mistook her for the woman who came to my mom with a child.

At lunchtime, my pregnancy reactions were particularly severe; I felt like vomiting at the sight of any dish.

Surprisingly, I even had cravings for raw meat and the urge to drink blood.

This thought was so bizarre that I mentioned it only to Xiao Li.

Xiao Li said that many pregnant women develop strange cravings and that wanting to eat raw meat was not unusual.

She prepared various types of fruits for me, which I managed to eat with much difficulty.

Around nine o'clock at night, the restaurant was at its busiest.

There weren't enough bowls and chopsticks to go around, so I was assigned to wash and disinfect the dishes in the back kitchen.

"Wanwan, the kitchen is too hot and smoky; it's not suitable for you." Yu Longting gently embraced me from behind.

I blushed instantly and, looking around to see the chefs busy cooking and not paying attention to others, I breathed a sigh of relief and said, "You're back."

"With Yu Rongling holding the fort over there, I came back for a bit. You don't look very well," Yu Longting whispered.

The feeling of heaviness in my abdomen had worsened throughout the day, but the restaurant had been so busy that I didn't want to ask for leave.

I really wanted to tell Yu Longting about it, but there were too many bystanders around.

So I didn't say anything to him and just dismissed it with, "Maybe I've been cooped up too long."

"I'll do it," he said.

I didn't make a fuss and simply nodded.

Yu Longting helped me up and led me out of the back kitchen, "Get some fresh air and don't rush back to work."

"Okay," I answered quietly, my head hung low.

I felt a warm sensation inside.

I found a place to sit down and caressed my heavy abdomen.

The woman who had come looking for my mom at noon was now pacing back and forth anxiously at the entrance of the restaurant, holding a two- or three-year-old girl in her arms.

The girl had her hair tied in two buns and adorned with pink hair clips.

She looked plump and rosy, as if she should be lively and adorable.

But her eyes were dull and motionless in the woman's arms, as if she were a puppet.

A chill went through my heart. Why did the girl look like a doll?

Just as I was about to go over and ask what was happening, my mom arrived.

Having just finished her night shift, my mom hadn't even had time for a sip of water before she headed straight toward the woman, "When did this girl start to become like this?"

"Just this morning. I heard you could bring back a child's soul, so I came to give it a try," the woman said anxiously to my mom.

My mom touched the child's little hand, her expression darkening, "I retrieved Ming Jiaojiao's child's soul because her condition had only occurred for two hours; yours has been too long."

"But when I came to look for you, it was still early! It was... that young girl who told me to find you at night." The middle-aged woman glared at Xiao Li.

I hurriedly pulled Xiao Li behind me, protectively saying, "Mom, it's not Xiao Li's fault; it's all my fault."