

A Snake 171

Chapter 171: Proving Innocence

"Chen Yuanyuan, you really are confused! Seeing this situation, if you didn't want to handle it, you could have had someone find me at the supermarket!" My mom was very angry, but then something occurred to her, and with a stern look, she pulled me aside, "The way these two kids lost their souls is quite peculiar; the one I found had traces of a snake's scent. I think... it might be the Snake Lord. Do you know where he is right now? Is it possible for him to release the child's soul?"

"It was my negligence. I'll try to find a way to make up for it," I admitted with guilt and lowered my voice, "Yu Longting tends to keep to himself. It's unlikely he would do such a thing, but... should I go to the kitchen and ask him?"

"Kitchen...? What is he doing in the kitchen?" My mom expressed disbelief.

I said, "Washing dishes."

"Snake... Snake Lord... washing dishes in the kitchen..." My mom stammered, and it looked like her jaw could hit the floor, "How is that possible... with his status... how could he... wash dishes..."

She could never have dreamed that Chen Decheng would one day have the guts to enslave the Snake Lord to help in the shop.

I cleared my throat, "I saw him being harassed by female customers upfront, so I had him switch with Yu Rongling, who was originally washing dishes."

"Yu Rongling? Who is that?" My mom usually operated early till late at the supermarket and had never seen Yu Rongling washing dishes in the kitchen.

"That's the Snake Lord's brother, a pretty decent kid who also helps out in the restaurant when he's free,"

I explained.

My mom frowned, hesitated for a moment, and said, "Then call him over."

I came to the kitchen and glanced at Yu Longting's back.

I slowly approached him, crouched down beside him, "You've been washing all evening, why don't you let me do it?"

"There are only about a dozen plates left; it'll be done soon. Why did you suddenly come to the kitchen? I'm not stopping you from entering, but the kitchen is too hot and greasy." Yu Longting glanced at my mom, seemingly realizing something, his lips curving up, "Or did you come here for something?"

"There are two kids in town whose souls got snatched by a snake demon, and since you're the Snake Lord, I came to ask you," I put on gloves, brought over a chair, and sat next to him to wash dishes together.

Yu Longting's movements paused, his eyes grew cooler, the smile not reaching his eyes, "Nice way of putting it. I guess you thought it was me and wanted me to spit out these kids' souls; otherwise, given your personality who least wants me using Mana, why else would you find me for such a matter?"

"Heh... don't expose me so thoroughly, can't you leave some face?" I felt like Yu Longting's eyes were as terrifying as X-rays, piercing through me, knowing exactly what I was thinking.

I quickly arranged the washed dishes into the cupboard, acting very obediently.

Yu Longting took off his rubber gloves, pinched my cheek, "Seeing how obedient you are, where is the child? I'll go have a look and prove my innocence, rather than being wrongly accused of kidnapping."

"Mom, how did you get into the kitchen?" I was at the kitchen's doorway and nearly screamed when I saw my mom's figure.

My mom didn't answer me, seeming entirely dizzy.

Still likely in shock from seeing Lord Snake Lord wearing rubber gloves to wash dishes, she completely missed Yu Longting's affectionate gesture towards me.

"Mom, I'm having Yu Longting check on the little sister's condition; what do you think?" I walked up to my mom, softened my voice, and tentatively asked.

Chapter 172 Symbiotic Snake

"It's good that Snake Lord is willing to help, but later, it would be best to conceal his identity." My mother finally relaxed, her expression unexpectedly gentle, not the usual nervousness she had around Yu Longting.

I nodded and reached for Yu Longting, following my mother out, and whispered, "My mom has already told that aunt that a snake spirit took away the little girl's soul. If we reveal your identity as Snake Lord, it might frighten her and easily cause a misunderstanding."

"Whatever the wife commands, I shall do," Yu Longting's soft voice flowed from his throat, smiling at me, not caring whether or not my mother was there, the cheesy love talk just kept coming.

The restaurant was full of customers, swarming with people.

The woman hugged the little girl the whole time outside.

Yu Longting walked out, his lean, tall figure bathed in moonlight, wrapped in a layer of silver glow.

That simple white shirt he wore somehow gave him an air of immortal aura.

No matter what he wears, he always manages to carry a special kind of elegance, which could be considered a unique talent.

My mother spoke a few words with that middle-aged woman, who looked at Yu Longting as if he were a living bodhisattva, repeatedly saying, "This young Taoist priest has the appearance of a deity, for sure he can help us. My daughter will be saved, thank you so much, Sister Lin."

"We don't have to be so definitive in our words, just let him have a look first. If there's a way, he will surely help you," my mother said sternly to the middle-aged woman.

Seeing that the middle-aged woman and my mother had reached an agreement, I went over and extended my arms, taking the small girl into my embrace, bringing her before Yu Longting.

The touch of the girl in my arms felt a bit cold, her body very soft.

When Yu Longting saw the girl, a trace of coldness crossed his face. He picked up the girl's wrist to feel her pulse and said, "Help me undo these cuff links."

"Okay." Noticing how meticulously he was dressed today, with every button on his white shirt fastened, I figured he might have some difficulty unleashing talismans and snakes.

I quickly helped him with the buttons, and he said:

"Chen Yuanyuan, stand back a bit and cover your eyes."

Yu Longting was very emotionally intelligent; he knew I was using an alias to protect my identity.

In public, such a proud character of his would also change his way of addressing me.

"I've stepped back, but there's no need to cover my eyes."

I retreated several steps backward, pulling both my mother and the middle-aged woman back with me, maintaining a distance from Yu Longting.

The corners of Yu Longting's mouth hooked up as two yellow paper talismans flew out of his sleeve, "If you're not afraid of being disgusted, then watch. I guarantee you won't be able to eat for three days, crying for your parents in revulsion..."

After the talismans flew out, one pasted on the pallid forehead of the girl, the other on her clothing near the belly button.

Suddenly, the little girl's stomach began writhing as if something terrifying were inside her.

Her pupils turned a ghastly combination of red and silver, very eerie to behold.

When she opened her small mouth, a pair of sharp fangs that resembled those of a venomous snake appeared, and her tongue became forked, hissing "Sss!"

She glared fiercely at the sky, issuing a sinister hiss.

Immediately, an extremely long, bright red venomous snake emerged from her mouth. The snake's red scales were covered with a sticky mucus, which smeared everywhere it slithered.

For a moment, the gooey tail of the snake brushed against my arm.

I nearly vomited on the spot, but held the girl tighter, watching as tears of blood streamed from her eyes and she gradually seemed to regain consciousness, whispering in a panicked nightmare, "Don't... don't come closer... Mommy..."

"Don't be afraid, don't be afraid, sister is here, be good, no need to be scared." I gently stroked her soft hair, waiting for that red snake to completely slither off her body to the ground.

The length of the snake was about two to three meters. Once it reached the ground, its tail was still coiled around my leg, which was adorned with the Bare Leg Artifact, half of its body on me, half on the ground...

Chapter 173 The First Glimpse of Mother

"Wrapping around my wife, do you find it particularly enjoyable, do you think it's a great pleasure?" Yu Longting's eyes held flecks of icy chill, that terrifying pressure made him seem like a deity, effortlessly suffocating others.

The red serpent, swelling with two bumps on its head, had bloodthirsty glints in its equally crimson eyes. Astonishingly, it spoke the language of humans, "Snake Lord, you must release me tonight, or else, I'll drag your woman down with me in death... you... don't go too far... What kind of ability is it to enslave your own kind with the Snake Lord's pressure? You're such a useless Snake Lord, marrying a human..."

It seemed to be dominated by some uncontrollable force, as its cool body coiled around my legs began to twist and struggle.

I was tightly entwined, my legs losing blood circulation, while a surge of Yin energy from the serpent's body invaded mine, causing my entire leg to become numb and excruciatingly painful.

Unable to control myself like a kite with a snapped string, I fell to the ground.

However, I made sure that not a single part of the girl touched the ground, firmly protecting her in my arms, and also shielding my own stomach from injury.

"Submit."

Every word from Yu Longting was deliberate, and as the resonance of these two words fell, the scales from the serpent's body began to flake off inch by inch, its body covered in bloody wounds where the scales had been forcibly removed, then gradually the snake began to peel away from me.

Like a blood-soaked rope, it lay messily soft on the ground.

A piece of yellow paper flew out of Yu Longting's sleeve and affixed itself to the serpent, a blue flame instantly igniting and consuming the snake's body.

It writhed and struggled like meat sizzling on a grill, the flames toasting it to a golden, crispy hue, and the air was filled with the scent of roasting snake flesh.

I witnessed a snake being roasted, and my entire legs went weak.

More terrifyingly, as it gave off a fragrant scent while still being able to speak, "Snake Lord, your heart is so cruel. I'd hardly managed to evolve into a python... why... why needlessly harm your own kind... I will not accept this..."

Yu Longting, watching the burning flames, clicked his tongue, "Still able to speak, it seems the heat isn't enough. I'll add a couple more spells for you, guaranteed to make both sides golden and crisp, enough to make the kids next door cry with envy."

Accordingly, two more talismans flew out from Yu Longting's sleeve.

As the charms landed on the blood-red serpent, the flames grew more intense and fierce.

In almost the blink of an eye, it was reduced to charcoal.

The burning scent was mixed with that of grease and was revoltingly foul.

Yet in my heart stirred a terrifying agitation, leading me to crave consuming the charred snake, despite my pregnancy making me lose my appetite and unable to eat anything, I strangely found myself wanting to eat a scorched snake...

What was happening?

At that moment, many patrons, drawn by the smell, gathered around to gawk at the serpentine char on the ground, all wearing faces of bewilderment, "Is this a snake that has been overcooked?"

"What kind of snake is this, to be so long?"

"How revolting, I feel nauseous. I can't eat anymore, I can't eat anymore, manager, what's going on today? I'm not eating, let's settle the bill."

The customers lost their appetites and started asking to pay their bills.

The cashier, Chen Decheng, was distressed and kindly offered everyone a fifty percent discount.

Terrified, I turned to Yu Longting, "Longting, I... I don't feel the same as them, I... actually find this scent appealing, I..."

Yu Longting didn't seem to expect me to say such a thing either, he turned his head down and his deep black eyes darkened.

Just then, Yu Rongling emerged from nowhere, "Brother, are you grilling snake meat here? What a disgusting smell?"

Chapter 174: Blood Sacrifice Snake

"I accidentally burnt it." Yu Longting smiled faintly.

Aside from Yu Longting, who could still smile, the rest of us standing next to this snake corpse all had indescribable expressions on our faces.

I was completely bewildered and regretted not listening to Yu Longting.

If I had known, I would have just closed my eyes. Witnessing a snake that could talk being roasted alive made me nauseous. I really wanted to vomit.

"The cat isn't around, is it? This snake is mine, I'll study..." Yu Rongling was about to say he would take the snake for research when he suddenly stiffened.

He spun around violently, and there was a black cat standing behind him. In an instant, he jumped three feet high, "Ah... cat... brother, help..."

Yu Rongling, seeing my Xiao Mi, once again got so frightened that his hair stood on end.

He clung to his brother, who was nearby and had a cold expression, seeking protection.

Xiao Mi, with her elegant cat walk, approached; she didn't even glance at Yu Rongling, who was freaking out, and leisurely picked up the snake corpse from the ground.

Just like eating a spicy snack, she swallowed the long charred snake.

After eating, her belly swelled up a bit.

She burped contentedly and gracefully strolled away.

Yu Rongling's mouth hung wide open like an egg, almost dumbfounded, then shouted, "Brother, brother!! Look how terrifying she is, treating our snake like a spicy snack."

"If you don't let go now, I'll treat you like a spicy snack and feed you to it, 1, 2..."

Before Yu Longting could utter "3," Snake Immortal hastily retreated three feet back, bitterly waiting for Yu Longting, "Are you still my brother... sob, sob, sob... to treat your own little brother like this..."

His crying was so noisy that it confused both my mom and that middle-aged woman, leaving them clueless about what had just occurred.

"Mommy."

A childlike, tender voice broke the awkward silence.

My heart melted; I looked down.

The little girl seemed to have woken up, her previously lifeless eyes now sparkled vividly.

They shimmered like a clear spring; her cherry lips curved upward, her smile as soft and sweet as cotton candy.

She reached out her little hand, placing it warmly on my face, "Mommy, mommy."

Ah, how wonderful, she had regained her body temperature.

It was all thanks to Yu Longting, willing to take action himself...

I didn't think too much; I assumed the little girl was going to find her own mother, so I carried her over to the middle-aged woman, "Your daughter has awakened..."

"Thank you."

The middle-aged woman hadn't yet taken the little girl back into her arms when the girl, deeply shocked, turned her head, clung tightly to my neck, and buried large tears into my collar, trickling along the lines of my neck into my shirt.

The wet, scorching tears that soaked into my clothes threw my heart into disarray, "Why are you crying, you little girl, huh? No one is bullying you."

"Mommy, you're bullying me, you want to send me away, mommy bad!" The little girl felt utterly wronged, her body trembling uncontrollably, crying breathlessly, her milky voice hoarse and heart-wrenching.

I gently patted her frail back, a bit at a loss, and looked towards Yu Longting, then again at Yu Longting, "Well... what... what's the situation here?"

"Can't you see what's happening? Or are you blind?" Yu Longting retorted.

I glared at him and observed the little girl crying pitifully on me, "Is her soul only halfway recovered?"

"The snake earlier was a Blood Sacrifice Snake, actually not a malevolent creature. After the girl lost her soul, her body would rapidly wither, likely within two or three days at most. It was a Symbiotic Snake,

which could delay the withering of her body," Yu Longting explained, "However, the Symbiotic Snake, while maintaining symbiosis, also drew nutrients from this child, eventually draining the person dry, so I roasted it. This girl still has half of her soul, probably in the hands of the person behind the scenes, and we must find it within two days."

Chapter 175: Mom, Can You Not Give Me Away?

"So, the half of her Soul she lost contains the Earth Soul that represents wisdom, which is why she has no memory? But why does she call me mom?" I asked.

Yu Longting neither confirmed nor denied, "Yes, her body was once occupied by the Symbiotic Snake, so she's taken on the snake's scent and traits. Snakes born with Mana instinctively treat the first thing they see as... their mother..."

"What do we do now? How can we retrieve the other half of her Soul? And with her memory loss making her so reliant on me, how do we return her to her mother?"

Seeing the little girl about to cry her heart out, I hurried over to comfort her, "Don't cry, sister will play with you, let's play a game..."

She cried even louder, her little voice about to break, it was heart-wrenchingly painful to hear, a tight knot in the depths of my heart.

To console her, I had no choice but to resign myself to her notion, "It's mom, not sister, I misspoke, mommy will play with you, okay? No more tears, a girl ruins her eyes when she cries too much, they won't look pretty, here, that's better, mommy will wipe your tears and buy you something tasty to eat."

"I don't want something tasty, I just want to be with mommy." The little girl's tears continued unabated, completely unswayed by my words.

With no other options, I could only deceive her for the moment, "Okay, I'll be with you, be a good girl."

At last the little girl stopped crying, burying her little head in the crook of my neck.

Her docile affection was so touching it made my heart reluctant to let go.

"Mom, what do we do now?" I carried the little girl over to my mom, lowering my voice to ask her.

My mom and the little girl's biological mom were both completely dumbfounded.

After hearing my question, my mom slowly regained her composure, "I don't know what to do, is there no way to restore Yitian's memories?"

"It seems we need to find the person behind stealing her Soul to do that," I said awkwardly, tugging at the corner of my mouth, then asked, "Is the girl's name Yitian?"

"Her surname is Li, she's called Li Yitian." My mom answered somewhat irritably, casually stroking the little girl's head.

She then went to discuss with Li Yitian's mother.

Li Yitian's mother clearly hadn't understood what Yu Longting and I had discussed earlier.

She was extremely excited about Li Yitian's revival, thanking my mom and me profusely, while casting grateful glances at Yu Longting and me.

My mom had to throw cold water on her, telling Yitian's mother the harsh truth.

Upon hearing that only half her daughter's Soul had been recovered, the middle-aged woman started crying again.

I sat gently stroking the small head of Xiao Yitian in my arms, soothing her little emotions.

Fearing that she would understand our conversation and have her heart broken again.

It seemed she didn't understand and simply lay there quietly.

Some time passed.

After my mom had finished talking with Li Yitian's biological mom, she came over to me and said, "A child's memory loss and mistaking someone for her parent shouldn't be a big issue. We'll just need to correct Yitian's thinking a bit and let Auntie Li take her home."

"Alright, the child is so well-behaved, I'm sure she'll be easy to communicate with if we talk nicely."

I held Yitian and pointed at the middle-aged woman, telling her, "Yitian, that's your real mom, you've mistaken me for her, I'm not your mom."

"Who's Yitian? Are you talking to me? Mommy," Li Yitian looked at me curiously.

I patiently explained, "Your name is Li Yitian."

"I have a name, mommy named me Li Yitian." The little one planted a happy kiss on my cheek.

My heart's softest spot quivered lightly as I patiently corrected, "I'm your sister, not your mom, your real mom is her."

Li Yitian followed the direction of my gaze, staring at the middle-aged woman with complete unfamiliarity, "She's not my mommy, mommy, can you please not give me away? Yitian will be good."

Chapter 176: Fate Is Not Strong Enough

"Listen, she really is your mother. Be a good girl and go home with Mommy. Big sister has things to do." I kissed Yitian on the forehead and handed her over to the middle-aged woman.

The middle-aged woman hugged Li Yitian tightly, overwhelmed with emotion, "Xiao Tian, come home with Mommy, you've finally woken up, Mommy is so happy. Do you know how scared Mommy was, seeing you like that before?"

"Let go of me, you're not my mom, help... Mommy... Hug... me..." Li Yitian's eyes suddenly brimmed with tears as she stretched her little arms out toward me.

My mom waved at Li Yitian's mother, "Take her home quickly, she'll get used to it, and it's not safe with the strong night winds."

"I'll go ahead then, my husband and younger son are waiting at home for me to take care of them." The middle-aged woman carried Li Yitian hurriedly toward a place in the dark of night.

Li Yitian looked back at me from afar, suddenly bursting into loud sobs, her voice becoming hoarse, "I don't want to leave Mommy, you are a bad person!! Mommy, Mommy, I want my mommy..."

Suddenly, Li Yitian bit the middle-aged woman's shoulder angrily.

The bite was driven by a desperate instinct to survive, causing the middle-aged woman to cry out in pain and then slap Yitian's face hard, "What's wrong with you? Biting people randomly, let go at once."

"Mm—"

Li Yitian had taken a slap square on her small, now-swollen and bloody face, but she continued to cling to the middle-aged woman's shoulder, refusing to let go.

She clung on with all her might, as if her life depended on it.

The middle-aged woman, even as the natural mother, had to defend herself, only able to repeatedly slap Li Yitian's cheeks, trying to make her release her grip.

The scene unfolding before me made it seem as if a real mother trying to take her daughter home was no different from a child trafficker abducting a child.

I just couldn't stand by idly. I hurriedly stepped forward to block the middle-aged woman from hitting the child, "Stop hitting her, she's still little, and she only hurt you out of panic from her amnesia. Please, stop hitting her."

"But she bit me very deeply, I... I'm in so much pain..." The middle-aged woman said, her forehead veins bulging and her body covered in cold sweat.

Fortunately, the little girl's teeth were delicate; otherwise, she could have ripped off a piece of flesh.

I wrapped my arms around Li Yitian's little head and brought her into my embrace, "Mommy's here, be good, don't just bite people."

Hearing me claim to be Li Yitian's mother, the middle-aged woman looked at me with scorn.

But as soon as I finished speaking, Li Yitian obediently let go and snuggled into my embrace, her voice filled with utmost grievance, "Mommy... Mommy... Wuu wuu wuu..."

"Ma'am, I'd like to discuss something with you," I said, gently patting the back of Li Yitian's head.

"Half of her soul has been taken away, and she only has two days left to live. If you let me take care of Yitian, I will try my best to help take care of her and attempt to retrieve her soul. Is that okay?"

"What... what if you can't find it?" The middle-aged woman's expression was complicated.

Yu Longting couldn't bear to listen any longer, stepping beside me with a cold demeanor, "What does my wife have to do with your daughter losing her soul? If it can't be found, are you planning to blame and punish her?"

"..." The middle-aged woman was left speechless, staring dumbfounded at the tall man who looked down at her disdainfully.

Yu Longting's eyes lifted at the corners with a roguish and arrogant air, and he exuded an almost divine oppressive force with a cold smile, "Considering the girl has a connection with my wife, we'll try to look for it. If we find it, it's her good fortune. If not, it's her own fate for not being strong enough, understand?"

Chapter 177 That Woman Morally Kidnaps You

"Understood, understood! Then... I'll leave Yitian with you for now. Please take care of the two of you." This woman is soft on the inside but tough on the outside, and was quite intimidated by Yu Longting's aura. She handed Li Yitian over to me, covering her own shoulder wound with a somewhat desolate look before she left.

I gave Yu Longting a glance, "She didn't do anything terribly wrong, she's just overly protective of her daughter and spoke too harshly. Why be so overwhelming and arrogant about it?"

"What? Are you taking her side? That woman emotionally manipulated you, and your husband steps in to protect you, yet you think I'm bullying her?" Yu Longting pinched my face and kissed the tip of my nose.

Li Yitian's eyes had swelled up like peaches from crying, but now she stopped and curiously looked at Yu Longting, "Are you my daddy?"

"Tsk, this little girl sure knows how to talk. Because of your sweet mouth, you've just saved your own life. Call me that again," Yu Longting said wickedly.

I was speechless. This guy, even when facing the daughter from the lady next door, could find the urge to act like a father, so bewildering.

But my heart was actually very warm. He suddenly took the initiative to care for this little girl, all because she inadvertently acknowledged him as my partner with just a few words.

Considering she rejects her own biological mother, Yitian's thought processes are indeed peculiar.

She didn't have the slightest resistance to Yu Longting and sweetly confirmed, "Daddy."

"Sensible," Yu Longting remarked, as a purple Spirit Talisman flew out from his sleeve and landed in his palm.

I watched him effortlessly fold it into a triangular shape with a few movements of his fingers, and then he handed it to Li Yitian, "Wanwan, I'm busy now, you should get more familiar with this little girl."

I stared blankly at him as I went about picking up the bowls and chopsticks "Oh."

"Daddy's working so hard, go daddy, I'll be really, really good next to mommy," the little girl quickly adapted to her role, cheering Yu Longting on with full energy.

I glanced at the utterly innocent, carefree little one.

I sighed in my heart, sat down at an empty table, and talked with my mom for a bit.

My mom mentioned that Li Yitian's mother is named Mingwen and that she only met her once.

Ming Jiaojiao's son had an accident and came to the restaurant to seek my help.

I was in City B, so Ming Jiaojiao couldn't find me.

It just so happened that my mom was off that day and used a set of Soul-summoning Clothes left by my dad to call the child's soul back.

The Ming Family was extremely grateful and they all brought gifts to thank my mom, which is when she met Mingwen for the first time.

If we had taken Mingwen to the supermarket to see my mom at noon, then Li Yitian's soul would certainly have been called back too.

There wouldn't be this chaos, nor the risk of seeking out the person behind the scenes.

After all, this has nothing to do with me or my mom; there's no need to get involved without reason.

"Chen Yuanyuan, have you fallen for Yu Longting?" Just as we were discussing how my mom knew the Ming sisters, she suddenly asked me.

I spat out the tea I was drinking, "..."

That was... so sudden...

This question!!

"Actually, I only truly met Yu Longting today. Though he is the Snake Lord, he turned out to be surprisingly down-to-earth," my mom said, watching his busy figure with a deep look in her eyes as he cleaned without despising the dirt and fatigue.

Is that a form of acknowledgment and affirmation for Yu Longting?

I coughed a few times and asked softly, "So, mom, do you think he's quite a good person in your heart?"

Chapter 178: Has Qingyang Touched Your Belly?

"That's not necessarily true; to prove your judgment isn't wrong, you need to observe for a while longer." My mom looked at my funny, spouting antics with the corners of her lips raised slightly.

Li Yitian pulled out a paper towel and wiped the water from the corner of my mouth.

Her big eyes looked at me, so adorably behaved that it was heartbreaking.

As for me, I was petrified, gazing at my mom, unable to utter a single word, even doubting if I understood Chinese anymore.

My judgment?!?!!

My judgment... ah...

What on earth is she talking about...

Seeing how shocked I was, my mom looked at me with a bit of disdain, "I'm your mother; how could I not see what you're thinking? Wearing that cheongsam, you were probably more than willing to protect him with your own body."

"Heh heh... you could see through that... Totally befitting of a mother, eyes like torches, huh." I gave a thumbs-up and awkwardly chuckled.

Yet, my mom sighed with worry, "Even if he turns out to be a good man in the future, it's still going to be quite troublesome. After all, he's a snake, and you're human; how will you be together? That's an issue to consider, plus, will you regret it one day? Or if one day you fall out of love, the lover's filter fades away, and you start to fear his serpentine true form, what will you do then? You've got to think about all these things."

"..." I was at a loss for words, with just one thought left in my head.

When parents love their children, they plan for their long-term welfare.

All these things she mentioned, I had never considered, nor had I had the time to.

It was only after the incidents in City B that I'd started to face my feelings. Now, just as my feelings were beginning to surface, my mom had seen right through them.

Ah, indeed there's no one like a mother for her daughter.

My mom has work tomorrow and shouldn't stay up too late.

With that, the conversation ended, and we headed upstairs to rest.

I held Li Yitian, sitting still until Yu Longting had completely finished his work. He walked over, a self-mocking smile on his face, "Aren't your arms sore from holding her this whole time?"

"Shh, Xiao Yitian's fallen asleep; keep it down." I put my index finger up, feigned a stern face, and stood up, "The little missy is just a baby girl, how heavy could she be? There's no way my arms could be sore."

It was already eleven o'clock at night, and Xiao Yitian had accompanied me in waiting.

Unable to fight off sleep, she had dozed off in my arms.

"You sure do stick up for this little girl. Once your own child is born, you're going to spoil them to death. What were you and your mom talking about? Were you badmouthing me?" Yu Longting took off his apron, tossed it aside casually, and embraced my waist as we headed upstairs.

I widened my eyes at him, "You don't know? You're the Snake Lord, and you were so close. Couldn't you hear anything?"

"It seems your mom might have cast a sound Barrier to block the noise specifically; I didn't catch a single word, and could only fret helplessly." Yu Longting spoke casually, not particularly bothered, just teasing.

This was the first time I learned that my mom could cast a Barrier, which seriously refreshed my past perception of her.

However, I didn't feel like delving deep into it. It's normal for her to have some experience at her age. I teased back in the same vein, "Badmouth you? She told me that you're very down-to-earth, and she really likes how you accompany me in such a warm and low-key manner."

"Is that true or are you teasing me? She'd probably want to flay and eviscerate the scum who defiled her daughter, yet she appreciates me? I'm not well-educated; don't fool me." Yu Longting wore a carefree expression, clearly taking my words as a joke.

Entering my dorm with Yu Longting, I gently closed the door, "Do I need to lie just to please you? Hey, Yu Longting, there's something I need to talk to you about."

"Hmm?" Yu Longting pinned me against the wall softly kissing me.

I pushed his face away, "Hey, listen, it's serious. After what you did to me today, my stomach has felt really heavy. Didn't you go too far and hurt Dumpling?"

"Would I do something so unreliable? Although I was quite demanding, I was very careful, how could I hurt the Snake Kid?" Yu Longting didn't believe me and touched my abdomen, his face growing somber as he felt me, "It's indeed a bit abnormal. Has Dumpling woken up at all today?"

"No, and no matter how much I called for him, he wouldn't wake up. I'm really worried." My hands were sweaty, clutching at the hem of my own clothes.

Yu Longting was still not serious even at a time like this, suddenly kissing my lips unexpectedly, "Aside from discomfort in your stomach, is there anything else?"

"Also, I've been craving raw meat, thirsting for blood!! If it wasn't for my self-control, I would have truly gone to eat meat and drink blood." I said miserably.

"If that's the case, you haven't eaten much today, right?" Yu Longting stroked my head, seeing my woeful nod; he caressed my stomach soothingly, "I cast a satiation curse on you, which can temporarily substitute food with my Mana. You won't feel hungry, nor will you have to suffer and force yourself to eat. Honey, that day when you were seized by Qingyang, did he touch your stomach?"

Chapter 179: Very Hungry, Want to Eat Me?

"No, my only contact with him was those few minutes when he was choking me," I told Yu Longting.

Yu Longting frowned, "By what you're saying, Qingyang shouldn't have had the chance to harm Dumpling, but he did meddle with him secretly."

"Master Qingyang meddled with Dumpling? How exactly?" I asked nervously.

Yu Longting seemed unconcerned, smiling lightly, "The old trick, planting a Demon Qi Seed in a child's body. Since it starts off very small, it's difficult to detect by checking the pulse or inspecting the stomach. By the time it's discovered, the child might already be demonized."

"Then our Dumpling is doomed, right? According to my father's notes, any creature that is demonized must be eliminated, otherwise, they become senseless Demon Heads," I was nearly going mad.

Yu Longting: "No need to worry, you just need to resist the urge to eat raw meat and blood lately. Don't look like that, it's not for any other reason, I'm worried about you contracting parasites."

"Really, no need to worry?" I was skeptical.

Yu Longting lowered his eyelids, hiding his serpent-like, gleaming eyes behind his thick, elongated lashes. A cold, shallow smile played on his lips, "I will handle it. I've already temporarily sealed Dumpling. He will remain unconscious, and thus the Demonic Qi will not grow."

"That still doesn't solve the problem. Once the Seal is lifted, won't it..." just continue to grow the Demonic Qi, what then?

I hadn't finished speaking when Yu Longting pressed against me, sealing my lips with a deep kiss, "You can't handle this. Worrying is pointless, leave it all to me."

"Oh."

His kiss left my mind in utter disarray, but I quickly came to my senses and started to struggle, "Hey, you're squishing Yitian, don't get so close."

The Xiao Yitian in my arms stirred from the pressure and struggled to poke her small head out from between us.

Her sleepy eyes looked at me and then at Yu Longting.

All confused...

"Mommy, Daddy, what's going on..."

"Pacify." Yu Longting's palm rested on her forehead.

Li Yitian closed her eyes again and sweetly fell asleep.

With Li Yitian staying with us in the same room, we definitely couldn't sleep as we used to.

I suggested that I would sleep in the bed holding the little girl, while Yu Longting could sleep on the couch.

Initially, Yu Longting disagreed, planning to either let the little girl sleep on the couch by herself or throw her out the window.

I was so scared that I almost conceded, just as I placed her alone on the bed.

The little girl's lips puckered, her eyes reddened, and the corners of her eyes magically moistened.

She was about to wake up.

I had no choice but to pick her up again, begging Yu Longting, "Just for tonight, I will make it up to you later. Can you just accommodate this once, please?"

"Make it up? You said it, just tonight, no exceptions!" Finally, the snake was soothed – no, his scales smoothed – and he hugged his blanket, heading to sleep on the couch himself.

The night was cool as water, I was exhausted, and I fell asleep the moment I lay down.

I slept deeply for a while, then began to feel groggy, as though I were asleep but somehow sensing that I was about to wake up.

I could feel that the room seemed exceptionally cold, as cold as a freezer.

The curtains were blown up, something drifted in.

"Mommy, mommy... wake up..." In my dream, I heard a soft, sticky voice of a little girl.

I opened my eyes, and the little girl in my arms also woke up, looking at me with her big, round eyes, "Something's happening, mommy."

"What's happening?" I wasn't fully awake yet, yawning as I asked.

"Just now, someone spoke from inside mommy's belly, saying they're very hungry and want to eat Yitian," Li Yitian told me.

Chapter 180 The Demon Wants to Eat People

"The baby in Mommy's belly spoke, don't be afraid, he's just playing with you." I anxiously touched my stomach, finding it extremely cold as a trace of evil qi actually dissipated from it.

Yu Longting sealed Dumpling, but he still woke up.

Just as I was looking towards the sofa for Yu Longting, I discovered that he had disappeared, leaving the sofa empty.

My heart started to feel uneasy, cold sweat breaking out on my forehead, fearing that Dumpling might truly stray from the right path, "Dumpling, did you just say you wanted to eat Sister Yitian? That is not right, quickly apologize to Sister Yitian."

"What's wrong with that? I am a snake, a demon, and demons are supposed to eat humans, it's only natural." Dumpling's voice came out, chillingly unfamiliar to me.

I trembled slightly at the tip of my finger, continuously rubbing my belly to try to warm him with my own body heat, "Dumpling, listen to Mommy, only bad snakes eat people, say sorry to Sister Yitian."

"Why should I say sorry? I did nothing wrong!!" Dumpling said angrily, but suddenly he started to struggle in pain, his small voice growing weak, "Mommy, I... I didn't mean to... be a bad kid and make Mommy angry; Dumpling feels so awful, it's like being set on fire... Sister Yitian, sorry, Dumpling... said some really bad things just now."

"It's the Demonic Qi disturbing Dumpling, but don't worry, Mommy is here, Sister Yitian is here too, we will stay with you." I took Yitian's hand and gently placed it on my belly.

Yitian might not know what was happening, but she showed a warm and sweet smile, "Can the little baby talk while still in the belly? It's okay, Sister isn't mad at you."

"Sister, I'm ticklish, could you please not touch me?" The Demonic Qi on Little Dumpling completely dissipated at this moment, as if purified by Yitian's gentle touch.

I breathed a sigh of relief and inwardly lamented Yu Longting's unreliability!!

It was one thing to ignore that Dumpling had been infected by the Demonic Qi, but to also not know where he ran off to in the middle of the night.

Xiao Yitian withdrew her hand, covering her lips, "Little brother, did I touch you? Ticklish? Is that why you feel itchy?"

Little Dumpling completely embarrassed, curled up into a ball.

Even his little head was buried against his chest, unable to utter a single word.

Li Yitian looked at me, "Mommy, why isn't brother talking anymore?"

I hugged Xiao Yitian's small head and chuckled, "He's shy."

"Oh." Yitian, "Brother is really shy~"

Suddenly, a strange cold air crept in through the crack of the window.

I hugged Xiao Yitian tightly and whispered a warning, "It seems like bad people are watching us, Yitian, pretend to sleep from now on, and don't open your eyes until Mommy says so."

"Okay." Xiao Yitian gave me a big-eyed glance, curled up obediently in my arms, and closed her eyes.

Her eyelashes were exceptionally long, and even pretending to be asleep, they continued to flutter gently, like a pair of delicate butterflies.

I too closed my eyes, my nerves taut to breaking point, and the Spiritual Eye opened on its own, allowing me to see everything in the room even with my eyes closed.

A white, long, shadowy figure slithered in through the narrow window gap, climbing up the bed from the foot of it.

As it crawled, its scales rubbed and contracted, making a rustling noise.

I plucked a hair from Xiao Yitian's head, she flinched in discomfort but did not open her eyes to expose herself, pretending to sleep obediently.

I was ready to use the Patchwork Man to create a stuntman as a decoy, tricking this sneaky intruder snake and then grabbing Xiao Yitian to jump off the bed and flee through the door.

"Hiss—"

Suddenly, there was a hissing scream near my ear, and my face was splattered with a liquid carrying the scent of blood.

I touched my face and found it to be a drop of icy Snake Blood.

The very next second, I urgently got up with Yitian in my arms.

Upon looking at the bed, there was a large, colorful viper, but its body was already severed into two pieces, charred black at the point of separation, with signs of burning.

"Who are you people? Why do you have Snake Lord's charms?" The bisected White Snake was not completely dead and spoke human language from its snake mouth, questioning fiercely and ominously.