

A Snake 191

Chapter 191 Geese and Cats, the Young Master is Afraid of Both

I saw Mingwen's face muscles twitching, so I quickly placed Yitian in the chair beside her, "We are of the same generation, we inevitably get closer, you know how children are—they just love being doted on."

The closer Yitian and I became in front of Mingwen, the more distant she would become with her birth mother, fearing that she would receive even less affection from her brother at home in the future.

All I could do was try my best not to get too close with Yitian in front of Mingwen.

"Anyway, thank you, Miss Chen, for saving our Yitian. Our family isn't well-off financially, here is three thousand yuan as a reward."

Mingwen put down a thick red envelope and left with Yitian in her arms.

I could tell she was very uncomfortable that Yitian had once mistaken me for her mother, and was also worried that it might happen again in the future, so she kept her guard up.

After Yitian left, my heart felt like it was missing a piece.

I told my mom to keep the money and went upstairs to rest.

My mom understood, "Go on, take a good rest. You might like that little girl, but there's nothing you can do, she's someone else's child."

"Yeah, I know, I know all that. Just give me some time," I said, supporting my stomach, as I hazily made my way back to the dorm.

My strength seemed to have been drained from my body, and I flopped onto the bed.

Thump, something heavy landed on the head of the bed.

I dazedly lifted my head and saw a black cat crouching at the head of the bed. It said, "Did you encounter danger last night?"

"A Snake Servant tried to attack me, but it's been taken care of," I couldn't control myself when I saw the furry creature and rubbed its ears.

A trace of embarrassment flashed in the black cat's eyes, then, unable to control itself, it nuzzled into my palm, "I'm sorry, I followed a Snake Servant to another place."

"What are you apologizing for? Did I ever say you have to protect me?" I brought Xiao Mi into my arms, stroking its back.

It purred contentedly and then suddenly jumped onto my shoulder, "Are you rejecting me?"

"No, what I mean is, by following me, you just have to do whatever you like," I said helplessly, turning my head to look at Xiao Mi.

She stuck out her tongue and licked my cheek, "From today on, I'll follow you every step of the way."

I hadn't expected to be so important in her heart, "Oh."

Before... I had hurt her, destroyed her cultivation.

"Sister-in-law, why do I hear a cat...ah... meowing..." Yu Rongling probably shrank back into the wardrobe to sleep in and was now waking up. He poked his head out of the wardrobe and screamed, "You Cat Demon, why are you clinging to my sister-in-law again?"

"Xiao Mi is my cat, I let her stick to me, you got a problem with that?" I glared at Yu Rongling.

Yu Rongling's face went from pale to flushed with anger, "Sister-in-law, you're too naive! Don't you know what happens when you keep cats? Keeping a cat is no good for you."

"Oh? I'd like to hear this. Just how is it no good?"

"You'll end up being a completely submissive cat slave, scooping poop!"

Yu Rongling cast a glance at Xiao Mi on my shoulder, "Spend enough time with it, and you'll have uneven shoulders, just ask if you're afraid or not!"

"You're so against me having a cat, could it be that you're jealous I have one?" I scratched Xiao Mi's chin, scrutinizing Yu Rongling.

Yu Rongling, as if hearing the world's biggest joke, "Me, jealous of you? Have I gone mad? Cats are the most terrifying creatures in the world."

"Don't geese count?" I raised an eyebrow at Yu Rongling.

"I'm afraid of both geese and cats, alright?"

Yu Rongling's loud voice rose, "Right, sister-in-law, when are you going to stew that goose of yours for me to eat?"

Chapter 192: The Slain Snake Servant

"Fatten it up a bit more, roasted goose tastes better," I said.

With a slurping sound.

I heard the sound of this guy slurping his drool.

Banter a few words with Yu Rongling.

I perked up a bit.

Went to the restroom to wash my face.

Went downstairs to the kitchen, prepared some chicken, and fed it to Xiao Mi.

Then, I let it roam on its own, planning to get some work done.

First outside, there was a thunderous roar.

Then cries of astonishment followed, reaching the back of the kitchen, "Thunder on a clear day, that's really bizarre."

"Exactly, not a cloud in sight."

"What's stranger is that it actually struck someone dead."

"Really bad luck, Chen Decheng's business is definitely going to suffer."

I heard someone had been struck dead by lightning.

Immediately thought of the Thunder Charm pasted at the door and hurried to the entrance.

I saw a person on the ground, smoking from a lightning strike, wearing a big baggy hoodie, and the hood covered his face making it unclear.

Yu Longting's talismans only kill demons and ghosts, how could it have struck a normal person?

I was somewhat panicked, but since I was wearing rubber gloves for work, I directly went to check on the person.

Someone kindly warned, "Be careful of electric shock, he was struck by lightning."

"No worries, I'm wearing rubber gloves, they're insulated," I said while turning the person face up.

I've heard that people struck by electricity have been revived with CPR.

Before I removed his hood, a gigantic snake head covered in scales shocked me to the core.

My eyes widened in disbelief.

How is this a person?

Clearly, it's a Snake Servant with a snake head and a human body.

Its body was colorfully patterned, enough to make one's skin crawl.

"I'm out," I gasped in shock.

But something seemed to stir in my belly, cold Demonic Qi rising from Little Dumpling.

I distinctly felt him waking up, his eyes opening a crimson red, even drooling, "Roasted Snake Servant... eat... I want to eat roasted Snake Servant... I'm hungry..."

Luckily everyone's attention was on the Snake Servant, nobody noticed the strange and hoarse voice of Dumpling coming from inside me.

The spikey sound of sharp intakes of breath surrounded me, someone uncertainly said, "Did this person fall? Wearing a snake head mask? That must be it!!"

"What happened?" Yu Rongling came out, poking his ears, saw the dead Snake Servant on the ground, narrowed his eyes, and chuckled coldly, "Isn't this the realistic Medusa I ordered a few days ago, it arrived so quickly, jeez, look how scared you all are, a bunch of bumpkins, haven't seen a realistic snake person before?"

This guy, with his pale hand, grabbed the Snake Servant by the neck, slung it over his shoulder, and walked back into the restaurant with many curious people following him.

However, Yu Rongling went straight into the back yard which is closed to outside visitors, threw the Snake Servant's corpse on the ground, eyes sparkling, "Where should I start eating? Truly a delicacy."

"Cough, are you sure you want to eat that? That's your kin," I coughed lightly, not understanding.

Yu Rongling sniffed the Snake Servant, "Isn't it common in nature for snakes to eat other snakes?"

"..."

My stomach cramped, feeling extremely nauseous.

Yu Rongling's fragile ego shattered, "Damn, Sis-in-law this is natural, why are you looking at me like I'm a freak, my image..."

"Crunch... Crunch..."

The crisp chewing noise began, Yu Rongling and I looked down simultaneously.

A tiny, slender black cat started crisply nibbling on the Snake Servant's head.

Yu Rongling immediately jumped up, biting into the other side of the Snake Servant, competing with Xiao Mi, frantically devouring as if afraid of falling behind and getting less, "This damn cat, have you no honor? This was clearly mine, why are you stealing it?"

Chapter 193 Mom, Kill Me Please

Xiao Mi nibbled much faster than Yu Rongling.

Seeing she couldn't match Xiao Mi's speed, Yu Rongling became protective of her food and said, "You can't eat anymore, this is mine, it's mine."

No matter how much Yu Rongling shouted, Xiao Mi did as she pleased.

In the end, Yu Rongling could only turn to me for help, "Sister-in-law, your cat lacks martial virtue, she's snatching my treats."

"Xiao Mi is a girl, after all, you should let her have some slack. Besides, she has lost her Cultivation and needs to eat more to grow again." I played the mediator in a conciliatory way, but to be honest, I was on the verge of feeling sick.

The Little Dumpling inside me, emitting a Demonic Qi, was crazily longing to feast on this Snake Servant meal.

Deep down, I felt a repulsion toward the flesh of the Snake Servant and the chilling Demonic Qi that was strengthening inside Little Dumpling, as if that Qi was going to freeze my stomach completely.

Sweat poured profusely from my forehead as I clutched my lips and hurried upstairs.

Once upstairs, I couldn't control the restless blood in my veins and the frenzy in my mind.

Surprisingly, I developed the same habit as Yu Rongling, seeking to hide in dark, narrow spaces; I knew this was part of Little Dumpling passed to me through the serpent nature.

I didn't crawl into a cabinet, but instead wrapped myself in a blanket.

"Sister-in-law, are you alright?" Yu Rongling's concerned voice reached me.

Hiding under the blanket, shivering coldly all over, I actually harbored thoughts of wanting to eat Yu Rongling, "I'm fine, you better leave... there's... something wrong with that Snake Servant, it seemed intentional... letting the Thunder Charm strike it."

"My brother's Talismans can only strike a powerful Monster nine times," Yu Rongling pondered.

Yu Longting's talismans were indeed very mighty; most serpentine, poisonous insects, Demon Monsters, and Devils would perish upon confrontation.

However, if they were to encounter a being too formidable, the talismans could only annihilate it nine times.

I held my stomach which was in pain from not being satisfied, "If they send nine Snake Servants, then we're in big trouble."

"I'll keep watch downstairs right now, even if my brother's Talismans fail, I can ensure that not even a fly gets in," Yu Rongling promised.

My body convulsed as sweat flowed like rain, "Thank you, I appreciate it."

The urge to feed on blood grew stronger, and in the instant when Yu Rongling's footsteps faded away, the Spiritual Power within me, contaminated by the Demonic Qi, burst through the bed planks.

A large hole, exuding Demonic Qi, appeared on the bed plank, and I hastily reached for my phone, hoping to contact Yu Longting.

But my vision was blurred, I could see nothing but crimson.

I could only feel that Little Dumpling inside me was still so tiny, yet it had grown long fingernails, and even though it developed teeth, they were the kind of fangs characteristic of a devil.

But I didn't feel his malevolence, only his sorrow, "Mommy... Mommy... I'm so afraid... will I become a Devil?"

"No, you won't, Little Dumpling. Daddy said he has a way, you'll be fine," I comforted, stroking my belly, yet I felt something cool on my cheek—turns out it was my tongue licking my own face.

Even though I trusted Yu Longting so much, I still felt things were veering towards the worst.

Yu Longting, where are you... Little Dumpling and I need you...

Little Dumpling sobbed, "After becoming a Monster, can't I turn back? Be a good baby anymore?"

"The notes say so." I couldn't lie to Little Dumpling; he was too precocious.

I wondered if he had secretly read them when I was studying the notes.

"If I really turn into a Monster, mommy, you have to kill me then." Little Dumpling tried to touch me with his small hand but realized he had very long, very dark, and very terrifying nails, and he kept crying out of sadness, "I don't want to be a bad guy; I don't want to be a Demon Head..."

Chapter 194 Dumpling Eroded by Demonic Qi

"Alright, we'll see about that when you become a demon, I definitely won't go easy on you," I said. I couldn't see anything, couldn't perceive anything; the only lucid consciousness I had was talking to Dumpling.

In my heart, there was only hatred for Qingyang and sorrow for Dumpling.

The seed of Demonic Qi that Qingyang planted in him was too terrifying. He intended for Dumpling to become a demon, to have us, as parents, face our child turning into a demon, with no way to bring him back.

In the end, we could only kill him by our own hands. Thankfully, Yu Longting had already gone to find an elixir.

I fell into a deep sleep, but the next day, I woke up in front of the kitchen's cold storage.

The ten-plus pounds of frozen chicken wings stored in the cold storage, all of them were gone, not even one remained.

I touched the splinters of bone at the corner of my mouth, then felt for the now quiet Little Dumpling in my belly, full and sated albeit brimming with Demonic Qi.

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry, "Did I really eat ten pounds of raw chicken wings, bones and all? My teeth..."

My teeth really hurt, but I couldn't believe this was real!!!

Little Dumpling said coldly, "Woman, I'm full for now, and won't crave human flesh. You'd better keep me fed, otherwise, I'll go out on the streets to eat people, understand?"

"Uh..." I touched my belly, feeling a chill in my heart. Dumpling's mind had been completely eroded by the Demonic Qi.

Dumpling didn't sound like Dumpling anymore, but like a stranger.

"Guest, it's not time to eat yet," Xiao Li's voice came from outside.

"I'll have a sip of tea. I'll pay whatever it costs."

The woman's voice was soft and high-pitched, reminiscent of my Second Aunt when she was younger. I thought it was most likely a coincidence because the voices were merely similar.

Second Aunt couldn't possibly know I was in Spring Wind Town, let alone come looking for me.

Still curious, I went out to take a look and had just stepped out of the back kitchen.

As soon as I stepped out, a whiff of sandalwood assaulted my nostrils, and a young woman in her twenties gracefully took a seat, "It's not proper hospitality to drive your guests away."

The woman had pale skin and delicate features.

Her hair was styled in large curls, and on her pale arms, there was a bright red fox tattoo.

I quickly stepped towards Xiao Li, blocking her from making eye contact with the seductive eyes of the fox, and faced the woman without changing my expression, "Of course, miss, are you alone? What kind of tea would you like?"

There was a certain chill in the woman's gaze, "Two people, you and me. As for the tea, I'm pregnant. A bit of black tea to warm my stomach will do, not too strong, just lightly brewed—it's not good for the baby otherwise."

"Xiao Li, go prepare the tea," I instructed Xiao Li, sending her away and giving her a look.

I signaled her not to actually bring the tea, to stay far away from me and this woman.

"You resemble my Second Aunt a bit," I observed the woman with my Spiritual Eye; she was heavily pregnant, and her slender hands caressed her swollen belly.

She had an innate charm about her, but not a trace of malevolence.

Otherwise, she would have been stopped by the Thunder Charm at the door.

Or, it's also possible that during the time I lost consciousness, the Thunder Charm at the door had been repeatedly broken by the relentless Snake Servants.

The woman covered her mouth and chuckled, her radiant and carefully made-up face leaned in towards me, "Not bad, you have good eyesight."

My body shuddered. I thought she looked like Second Aunt, but it was just intuition.

Could she really be related to my second uncle's family?

"Su Wan, my name is Su Qiang, your cousin whom you've never met before," Su Qiang's voice was cold and playful.

I staggered back several steps, "You are... you're the daughter that my second uncle sacrificed to... Xuan Fanyin?"

"Wrong, my dad only lent my eyes to Xuan Fanyin. When that old thing died, my eyes returned to Lord Xuanjing," Su Qiang declared, pride evident in her voice.

I stared straight at her seductive, fox-like eyes, "You're using a pair of fox eyes now, not your own!"

"Lord Xuanjing gave me a new pair of fox eyes," Su Qiang said with a slight smile, her eyes flashing a greenish hue for an instant.

They looked even more like the eyes of a fox on a nighttime hunt, filled with a fierce and malevolent light.

Chapter 195: Not Enough to Fill the Gaps in My Teeth

I felt an urge to flee, but in the end, I took a deep breath and calmed my heart, "Does Xuanjing know that I've taken shelter here?"

With the Snake Servants all around, and Su Qiang able to enter the restaurant, there was absolutely no escape.

"Lord Xuanjing has skills that reach the heavens and penetrate the earth, do you think you can escape his vision?" Su Qiang said with scorn.

Her words left me feeling irritated, "What kind of vision does Xuanjing have? If he had such powers, he would have killed me long ago. To find me now, he must be in cahoots with the master of the Snake Servants."

Xiao Li, having brewed the tea, came over, "Yuanyuan, is this your friend? You guys look...quite similar, you wouldn't be sisters, would you...?"

"We are cousins, and I'll take care of her. You go do your thing first." I hadn't expected Xiao Li to have zero understanding with me—I had hinted at her with my eyes not to come over, but she still did.

Now Xiao Li got the hint, set down the teapot, and turned to leave.

However, Su Qiang's actions were faster; she grabbed Xiao Li's wrist with a powerful gaze, her green pupils bearing into Xiao Li's light tea-colored eyes, "Look at me."

Xiao Li subconsciously looked into Su Qiang's green eyes and her gaze instantly became unfocused.

With a triumphant, sinister smile on her face, Su Qiang added two odd-looking insects into the teapot and poured a cup of tea for Xiao Li, "Drink it."

As if possessed, Xiao Li picked up the teacup to drink the insect-infested tea.

"Xiao Li, don't drink," I said urgently, my eyes ablaze as I lunged forward.

Wearing a nonchalant smile, Su Qiang pulled out a switchblade.

With the flick of her wrist, the blade pointed directly at my stomach and stabbed towards me.

I protected my stomach with one hand and attempted to knock the teacup from Xiao Li's hand with the other.

At that moment, I was resigned to the likelihood that the back of my hand would be pierced by the knife.

In the blink of an eye,

a black shadow flitted before me, biting down on the hand Su Qiang held the knife with, causing her to scream in agony, "Ah, it hurts to death, it hurts to death...you filthy cat, how dare you bite me."

The knife clattered to the ground.

Xiao Mi continued to clamp down fiercely on Su Qiang's hand, her bite drawing blood, "Get off! Anyone who dares to harm my mistress shall die."

I took advantage of the opportunity to spring forward, knocking the teacup from Xiao Li's hand.

The tea splattered all over the floor.

Once it hit the ground, the tea was no longer liquid; it transformed into crawling insects.

Although I had never dealt with gu, my Spiritual Eye could see the strong toxic nature and the formidable Spiritual Power within these insects.

They could only be Gu Insects.

They burrow at the sight of skin and had wings on their backs.

They had just taken shape, their wings damp and in need of time before they could fly.

Once they were able to fly, nobody in the restaurant would survive.

"This is bad, the insects will fly out and bite people." I looked all around for a lighter, intending to burn them all before they could attack people.

After struggling to find a lighter from the counter, I saw Xiao Mi extend her tongue with extraordinary speed, licking up all the Gu Insects from the floor, leaving not a single one behind, "Mistress, leave it to me, these insects aren't even enough to get stuck in my teeth."

"Xiao Mi, well done, Xiao Li! Calm down, you've just been hit by the Charm Technique. If you calm down, you will recover," I said as I hugged Xiao Li, stroking her back to soothe her.

Clutching her stomach, Su Qiang let out a chilling laugh, "It's useless...she's already had a sip. My Gu Poison, even a single drop is lethal...hehehe, Su Wan!! If you want to save her, do as I did, surrender your Spiritual Eye and offer it to Lord Xuanjing."

Chapter 196: Su Wan, You're Ruthless

"Cure Xiao Li of the gu poison, or don't expect to leave this restaurant today,"

I drew a bright red cloth strip imbued with a fire curse from my pocket and tied it around Su Qiang's wrist.

Blistering instantly appeared on Su Qiang's skin, but the flames tunneled into her body, leaving not a spark on the surface. "Su Wan! How vicious of you, using the Life and Death Embroidery for such cruel deeds."

"You forced my hand. I made these cloth strips to deal with the Snake Servant." Ever since I encountered the Snake Servant, I was constantly on edge, so I made a few cloth strips for self-defense.

Some with Thunder charms, others with fire charms.

If I had taken out a Thunder charm instead, Su Qiang would be dead!

Dripping with sweat and weakened, Su Qiang lay sprawled on the table, trying to untie the cloth strip but my hand pressed down firmly, as a cold smile spilled over her lips, "I won't hand over the antidote, I

want you to watch your good friend die, my dear cousin, I was trying to help you by letting you follow Lord Xuanjing..."

As I watched something moving under Xiao Li's skin, my anger and anxiety clashed. "I bound you with the fire charm cloth strip for your own good. Xuanjing harbors malice, always digging out your eyes, using you to have children. I'm urging you as your cousin to rein in at the brink of a precipice."

"It's you who should rein in at the brink of a precipice. The Snake Lord is using you! Using you!!"

Groaning lowly, Su Qiang's entire body was soaked as if she'd just been fished out of a pond, "Do you know... when you were eighteen, did you ever... have a child for Yu Longting? Su Wan..."

"Could your lies get any more believable? When I was eighteen, I had no interaction with Yu Longting."

I didn't believe a word Su Qiang said, "Hand over the antidote, and I'll untie the cloth strip and let you go; otherwise, it's your life and the lives of two others that stay here."

"If you kill me, Xuanjing won't let you off, you wouldn't dare! You've already angered him by destroying two of the Ancestor of Foxes' Remnant Souls. If you harm the child in my womb, he will stop at nothing to break out of the Fox Coffin and tear you to pieces," Su Qiang gasped in pain, yet stubbornly resisted.

I said indifferently, "Su Qiang, you're right. Xuanjing has just acquired your two Spiritual Eyes, and his strength must have greatly increased. I don't want to provoke him."

Yu Longting had just been severely wounded in his Primordial Spirit by Qingyang and couldn't face any more powerful enemies.

I had no reason to offend Xuanjing. All I wanted was to minimize making enemies and give Yu Longting time to recuperate in secret.

"I knew it, you wouldn't dare to offend Lord Xuanjing. Do you know why he sent me here?" Su Qiang sneered, "He warned me to tell you, if you dare destroy even a thread of the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul, he would utterly destroy you. A Cauldron Furnace should fulfill its role, facing reality obediently."

"If it were just me, I might indeed be reluctant to throw the helve after the hatchet, but you shouldn't threaten me with my friend's life, understand?" Unhesitatingly, I jabbed Su Qiang's belly half an inch deep with her own switchblade, "I'll say it again, hand over the antidote or I will have your and your child's lives accompany my friend in burial."

"You... Su Wan... you're ruthless..."

Staring at her bleeding abdomen, Su Qiang ground the words out between her teeth. A bit deeper, and the fox fetus would be doomed.

She took out a plastic bottle from her body and placed it on the table, "Your friend hasn't been poisoned for long, one pill will be enough."

I didn't move an inch, "You eat three first and show me."

Su Qiang's face turned ominously dark, "Medicine is always three parts poison."

"If you don't take it, you can only die here with your child today." I warned dispassionately.

The cloth strip on her hand was a piece of the ancient Life and Death Embroidery, specifically used for severe punishment of monstrous beings.

Wearing it was unbearably painful, and even harder to remove.

Angry and trembling, Su Qiang took out another bottle and shoved three pills into her mouth, then threw the bottle at me, "You're ruthless."

With a cold face, I caught the medicine bottle, poured out a pill, and fed it to Xiao Li, "Swallow this, Xiao Li. It's the antidote."

Chapter 197: I Paid for His Good Looks

"Okay..." Xiao Li's mind was no longer in her control. Her eyes were dull, a side effect of the Charm Technique's soul capture.

She did as I said, swallowing the pill.

Within three minutes, all signs of the gu poisoning disappeared from Xiao Li.

I glanced at Su Qiang, coldly removed the cloth strip from her wrist, and said, "Get lost, and don't let me see you again; otherwise, I won't be so lenient next time."

"Sister Wan, my cousin, please listen to my advice." Su Qiang suddenly grasped my hand, pleading sincerely, "You don't know you have a child because your memory has been erased. Your child was infected with Demonic Qi and was killed by Yu Longting with his own hands."

"What... what did you say?" I had never believed a word Su Qiang said, but her words momentarily dazed me.

A buzzing filled the air around me, as if I were trapped in a hallucinatory auditory vortex.

A barely perceptible smirk curled Su Qiang's lips, and tears welled up in her eyes like those of the most skilled actress, "The child you carry now is also infected with Demonic Qi, and he has killed it just like before. Think about it, what would Yu Longting's reaction be to knowing the child is infected with Demonic Qi? Would he pretend not to care? He's looking for an opportunity to kill your child. He is the Snake Lord, who doesn't tolerate any blemish."

"So what?" I said, expressionless.

Su Qiang coaxed gently, "Take off the cheongsam and come with me, then offer your Spiritual Eye to Lord Xuanjing. He will remove the Demonic Qi from the serpent spawn in your belly and treat it as his own."

"Even if Yu Longting is as bad as you say, even if the conditions offered by Lord Xuanjing sound so generous, I still choose Yu Longting over Xuanjing." I watched Su Qiang's tender expression crack bit by bit, then revealed a slight smile, deliberately asking, "Do you know why?"

Probably because all her earnest persuasion had been in vain, Su Qiang was annoyed and asked me word for word, "Why?"

"Because Yu Longting is good-looking, I'm willing to pay for his appearance," I answered leisurely, my fingers gently circling my abdomen.

To tell the truth, even if I trusted Yu Longting...

A crack had appeared in the trust between us because of Su Qiang's words.

But I could not afford to show any weakness in front of Xuanjing's woman.

Internal issues must be resolved internally; I would ask Yu Longting myself.

Not to give Su Qiang a reason to gloat.

Su Qiang sneered mockingly, "You're lying!! What kind of reason is that?"

"You won't doubt my words when you see him." My gaze shifted to the door, giving Su Qiang a silent signal to leave.

Even if Xuanjing was in possession of the Spiritual Eye, having just emerged from the Fox Coffin, his condition was probably no better than Yu Longting's.

As long as I didn't offend Xuanjing too terribly, he would not be driven to desperation and cause trouble.

Therefore, letting Su Qiang go was inevitable.

Suddenly, an extremely joyous voice came from outside the door, "Your cutie is back, are you happy, are you surprised? Eh, who is this woman?"

"She's a cousin of mine who sacrificed a pair of Spiritual Eyes to Xuanjing and is also carrying Xuanjing's child." While responding to Yu Rongling, I rubbed Xiao Li's cold little hands, using my body heat to help her regain mental clarity.

Yu Rongling, hand on his chin, looked at Su Qiang with a roguish examination.

"Is he the Snake Lord, Yu Longting?" Su Qiang looked astonished at Yu Rongling, who appeared youthful and unpolished, wearing a T-shirt and shorts.

Seeing the admiration in Su Qiang's eyes, I knew she must have been struck by Yu Rongling's charisma, "What do you think of his appearance?"

"Undeniably, he has an unmatched stunning appearance. Are you really willing to sacrifice so much for such a face?" Su Qiang's fists were clenched so tightly that the bones on the back of her hands protruded — her eyes dark and fierce — "You're really shallow, and very pitiable."

"He only resembles Yu Longting by about sixty to seventy percent; he's Yu Longting's brother." I revealed Yu Rongling's identity plainly.

Su Qiang immediately let out a low murmur and exhaled a breath of heavy air, "What?"

Chapter 198: Snakes are Indeed Venomous and Scheming

Yu Rongling seemed to have picked up on our topic of discussion with Su Qiang and smirked wickedly, "Did you mistake me for my brother, woman? You unsophisticated woman, my face only inherited about seventy percent of my brother's good looks, and that's already stunned you. What happens when you see my brother himself? Won't you be utterly infatuated and die?"

He smugly pulled out his phone and flashed Su Qiang a brief glimpse of the photo gallery.

It was merely a side profile of Yu Longting, and the details of his face were not clear, yet that perfect jawline, along with the smooth, noble bridge of his nose and the sinister yet alluring phoenix eyes shrouded in a smoky haze, were enough to profoundly shake anyone's heart...

"Pfft—" Su Qiang shuddered, stepped back half a step, and actually spat out a mouthful of blood.

Still, her eyes were glued to the phone, unable to move away.

Yu Rongling sneered, "Sis, look, she spit blood out of frustration! Doubting her life choices now? What is Xuanjing, some sort of botched fruit compared to my brother? Besides, my brother is earnestly asking to marry you properly, whereas your cousin here is probably just a foot-bathing maid chosen by Xuanjing."

I: "..."

Snakes truly are both venomous-tongued and dark-hearted.

Stung by his words, all color drained from Su Qiang's face, and she trembled violently,

Pfft, pfft—

She spat out several more mouthfuls of blood.

Yet her eyes still fixated on Yu Longting's side profile.

Her eyes filled with obsession and infatuation.

I knitted my brows, wondering if Su Qiang had fallen in love at first sight?

An unexpected love rival?

Yu Rongling is truly a disaster.

Realizing what he had done, the foolish Yu Rongling finally reacted, hurriedly putting away his phone and pressing it against his chest, "You must not be fantasizing and disrespecting my brother, right? That would be a huge loss."

Su Qiang, no longer daring to look at Yu Rongling, quickly headed toward the door.

"Sis, are you just going to let her walk away? The child in her belly is Xuanjing's evil spawn!" Yu Rongling clearly didn't want to let Su Qiang go easily and said fiercely.

Su Qiang's back stiffened, and her steps became more faltering, yet she ran faster than a rabbit.

I bent over to clean up the shards of tea cups on the ground, "The situation is unclear right now, messing with her will completely infuriate Xuanjing, who is already furious about the annihilation of two strands of the Ancestor of Foxes' soul by my brother and me."

"She came to see you on purpose, could it be as Xuanjing's messenger warning you?" Yu Rongling was speaking earnestly when suddenly something fluffy rubbed against his feet, making him jump onto the table to squat.

Xiao Mi was merely passing by.

Without even giving Yu Rongling a glance, it walked away with dignified cat steps.

Watching his exaggerated reaction, I was somewhat speechless. This table would need to be wiped again, "You're right."

"It suits his personality! He always likes to curse before he acts."

Yu Rongling touched his chin disdainfully, "Xuanjing is really an imbecile, doesn't he know that villains die from talking too much?"

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In the afternoon, the entrance of the restaurant was flanked by two Snake Servants struck by thunder.

Chen Decheng's face was scorched black, cursing his bad luck.

He asked me what to do with these two terrifying monsters.

I fed them to the cat.

Chen Decheng: "..."

According to Yu Rongling, while I was resting upstairs,

there had already been six snakes struck dead.

Thus, the Thunder charm had completely lost its effectiveness.

It could no longer stop evil monsters from entering the restaurant.

"Boss, maybe we shouldn't open for business tonight, it feels ominous." I remarked to Chen Decheng, sensing what might happen next.

More snakes gathered at the door, their tails slapping as they intertwined.

The air was filled with a strange odor, like earthy tang mixed with the sweet scent of rotting fruit...

The dark night sky held a high-hanging bright moon.

Its silvery light falling on the reflective snake scales looked eerie no matter how one saw it.

Chen Decheng, his teeth chattering with fear, exclaimed, "How are we supposed to do business now? No one dares come near the restaurant with these snakes around. They won't come inside, will they? Why on earth are they doing this at our storefront?"

Chapter 199: The Drained Yu Er

"Boss, we better not open for business tonight; there's something ominous in the air." I sensed what might happen next and warned Chen Decheng.

The snake swarm at the door had an abrupt change.

Their thrashing tails began to intertwine with each other.

The air was filled with an odd scent, like earth and blood, like the sweet fragrance of rotting fruit...

In the pitch-black night sky, the bright moon hung high.

The moonlight fell on the reflective snake scales, making them look all the more sinister.

Chen Decheng, his upper and lower teeth clashing from fear, said, "Who would do business at a time like this? No one dares to come near the restaurant; these snakes won't get inside, will they? Why are they doing this at our shop's entrance?"

"Don't worry too much; the ground has a formation drawn by me and Yu Rongling." I comforted Chen Decheng, as he was just an ordinary person; witnessing such a frightening scene must have already caused a psychological shadow.

Fortunately, Xiao Li fell ill with Gu Poison and is too weak to work, taking leave to rest.

Otherwise, she would have been scared to death by the scene in front of her.

Chen Decheng looked around in confusion, searching, "Formation?"

"Drawn with white vinegar and salt; once it dries, it becomes invisible." Yu Rongling and I could both be harmed by Snake Medicine, so we couldn't use Snake-Repelling Medicine inside the shop.

We had simply prepared a formation with white vinegar and salt in advance, invisible on the ground.

It could hold off the snakes for a while and also hide the formation, numbing the person who wanted to come looking for trouble.

Seeing that the evil-repelling formation made of white vinegar and salt truly worked, I was slightly relieved. "Boss, close the shop door quickly; I'm going to ask Yu Rongling upstairs," I said.

I turned and ran up the stairs swiftly.

I raced back to the dormitory.

The first thing I did was pull open the closet door.

Yu Rongling liked to rest in dark, cramped spaces, so the closet was the right place to find him.

At that moment, a pure green python was coiled up, sleeping soundly in the closet. However, it looked as if it was hibernating, its head tucked into its coiled body.

"Yu Rongling! How are you? Is there any discomfort?" I called out, and when I saw he had no reaction, I became anxious and pushed his cold, icy snake body. "Wake up, don't sleep now, the Thunder Charm has lost its effect."

His snake body was as thick as a bowl and was both firm and resilient.

Pushing him felt like pushing against a wooden post.

Realizing that Yu Rongling was still unresponsive, I knew something serious had happened.

I took out my phone and sent a WeChat message to Yu Longting.

I described the situation Yu Rongling and I were facing.

Then, with concern, I touched the snake body on the cheongsam and whispered softly, "Rongling... something seems wrong. He suddenly became unconscious while sleeping in the closet—are you able to come over?"

Although I had already informed Yu Longting, I couldn't just sit and wait.

I had some understanding of Household Spirits, so I used the Spiritual Eye to observe.

I found that his body seemed to be depleted of Spiritual Power.

The night of the full moon should be the time when snakes are most energetically vigorous.

But now, everything was the opposite.

Yu Rongling was not only lacking in spiritual power, but his Spiritual Power was rapidly and continuously draining, causing him to fall into a deep unconsciousness.

Moreover, if his Spiritual Power continued to deplete, he would have no choice but to die from dispersing his power.

I frowned, not having time to delve deeper.

I took out a green cloth strip embroidered to restore Spiritual Power from my pocket, and as if fearful it wasn't enough, I wrapped it around him in a circle, binding it to his body, "Don't scare me, Rongling. Wake up, you can't sleep; muster your energy to resist the loss of Spiritual Power... listen to me, wake up quickly..."

"Fuck, sister-in-law... that replenishment of Spiritual Power was just in time; I almost got drained by that beast..."

Yu Rongling's snake head lifted, cursing weakly, then hurriedly urged me, "You quickly call my brother, have him take you away; that beast is too perverted... Its Combat Power... is against the heavens..."

"You were in the closet, all fine and well, how could it have drained you?" Of course I wouldn't leave him behind, I asked, bewildered.

Suddenly, a chill swept over me from behind; turning around, I saw the window had been opened by someone at some point.

A pair of feet shod in white Cloud-Ascending Boots were perched on my windowsill.

Chapter 200 I am a snake, not a dog

My gaze slowly lifted, and I saw a man dressed in Hanfu, looking extremely refined and handsome.

This man had a pure white veil covering his face, his eyes cold as frost, and between two fingers, he held a charm, "Spiritual Girl Su Wan."

"Present, may I ask who you are? Do you have any guidance to offer?" I instinctively moved my body, shielding the weakened Yu Rongling.

The man who stood towering above on the windowsill, seemed like a towering iceberg, his face devoid of any expression, his voice cold with each word as though it carried frost, "I am Yun Hao, I have seen Miss Su, but I dare not instruct; I merely wish to have an audience with you to discuss a minor matter."

"If it's a matter to discuss with me, why did you drain Yu Rongling of his strength? If I'm not mistaken, you must be a Grandmaster of a Generation, and dealing with Yu Rongling for you is like an old man playing with a child; you are bullying a kid."

I said all this in one breath as swiftly as I could, then fixed my eyes on him straight, my strips for supplementing Spiritual Power had limited effect, unless the man before me was willing to spare Yu Rongling.

Otherwise, Yu Rongling was done for soon, he would be drained until only a snake skin remained.

"I cast a curse in advance to drain his Spiritual Power just because this child still has some abilities; I feared he would spoil things," Yun Hao leaped down from the windowsill, his toes lightly touching the ground, quite elegantly.

His gaze seemed flighty and empty, yet it exerted immense deterrence and pressure.

I braced myself, refusing to collapse, my eyes fixed on the charm he pinched between his fingers that absorbed Spiritual Power, "I can assure you, he will definitely not cause any trouble, I beg you, senior, to spare his little life."

"Fine, he is so weak now that he won't pose any threat to me."

With a flick of his hand, Yun Hao tossed the charm that was draining Yu Rongling into my palm.

I hurriedly tore the charm to shreds, "Thank you."

In an instant, Yu Rongling returned to his human form.

His complexion, however, was pale as if his face had been painted white with lime, his eye sockets sunken like those of a ghost from the smoke, coughing non-stop, but he still had that same stubborn defiance as he immediately started cursing, "Cough cough cough... you old beast, how the hell... how are you still alive... and dare use a Spirit Talisman, draining my Spiritual Power, my brother will kill you..."

"Oh, come on, besides mentioning your brother, what else can you do?"

My hair nearly stood on end from fright, and I covered Yu Rongling's mouth, timidly apologizing to the stern man, "I'm sorry, my little brother-in-law is short-circuited in the brain, he just likes to be confrontational, we have offended you, please don't take it to heart."

"I do not bother with fools."

Yun Hao, his face cold, showed a surprisingly accommodating nature, waving his long arm to indicate he would not hold a grudge, "But as for you, Miss Su, you are caring and loyal, quite protective of the Snake Lord, your brother."

"It's only right, we're all family after all, and thank you for your generosity," I politely nodded to Yun Hao, as before, I had never been presumptuous to the point of truly considering Yu Rongling my little brother-in-law, as Yu Longting and I had never married.

But right now, in order to show solidarity, of course, I needed a pretext; otherwise, could I truly let others bully Yu Rongling?

The moment Yu Rongling heard Yun Hao call him a fool, he became so angry that he was about to start cursing again, but I firmly covered his mouth, preventing anything but muffled noises of frustration from escaping.

Yun Hao bowed slightly, "May I ask for your help? You and the Snake Lord should not get involved in the matter of the Snake Servant summoning spirits."

"How could I not get involved when this has happened in Spring Wind Town and so many innocent children are entangled?" I asked Yun Hao back.

The depths of Yun Hao's eyes were infinitely cold, "If you wish to get involved, it would only cost you your life."

"May I ask you a question then?" I asked starkly, staring at Yun Hao.

Yun Hao raised his hand, smooth as the breeze after rain, "Speak."

"Why are you kidnapping these children? You possess such powerful mana, even if you cultivate evil arts, you shouldn't need to do this," I said.

A flicker of surprise crossed Yun Hao's eyes, followed by a slight smile on his cold face, "You actually... think I wouldn't... What makes you believe I wouldn't?"

"Would you?" I countered.

He shook his head, "Those on the righteous path see me, and their first reaction is to think I'm capturing these children to augment my power, treating me like a bloodthirsty demon, and they certainly wouldn't exculpate me. You're the only one who's considered that I might have good intentions. Truthfully, I only wish to prevent my descendant from dying..."

"Are you trying to save Immortal Liu and your blood relative?" I realized, then added, "They are performing the Reincarnation Array, and they can definitely bring your descendant back to life. You don't need to sacrifice so many lives... Eh... what are you..."

"Miss Su, I'll need to borrow your life for a moment."

Yun Hao suddenly teleported; I didn't even realize what had happened before his hand was gripping my throat, lifting me off the ground.

Suddenly, two tall and aloof figures appeared outside the window, standing there against the light, their faces indistinguishable.

One of them, with an unruly air, put his hand in his pants pocket and stepped forward. Despite the violent aura around him, he looked down and chuckled softly, "Yun Hao, remove your damn claws from my wife's neck. Leave her alone, and I'll allow you a whole corpse. Otherwise, I'm afraid you're about to repeat the fate of being torn into pieces like back then."

Yun Hao's grey eyes went cold, "Snake Lord is mistaken. I am a snake, not a dog."

"You're not a dog? Kidnapping my sister-in-law and my nephew to threaten my brother, I'd say you're the most despicable of us all. How do you even dare to claim the title of our snake?"

Yu Rongling was relentless with his sharp tongue, each word aimed straight for the heart.

"I should have drained that noisy brat of yours just now, and then I wouldn't have to listen to all this nonsense."

Yun Hao's grip on my throat tightened ominously, "Snake Lord, you and I bear no grudges. I merely seek a promise. Would you really disregard the lives of others for your own wife and child?"

The position of being held up in mid-air made it impossible for my body to find a foothold to struggle, and the feeling of oxygen deprivation made it seem as if my lungs were about to burst.

Unable to think clearly, my hand subconsciously moved to protect my stomach.

"Give it to me," Yu Longting's eyes suddenly turned blood-red as he extended his hand towards Beichen.

Beichen took a blue egg out of the cloth bag he carried, "Yes, Snake Lord."

"You... entered my lair!" The force Yun Hao applied on my throat increased, as if he was about to snap my neck the very next second.

Eighteen Thunder Charms flew out from Yu Longting's sleeves, along with twenty-six Fire Charms, all directed at the egg, "Release her, or the reincarnation body you've nourished for five hundred years will be reduced to ash."

Purple sparks interweaved with red flames like fireworks during a festival.

The magnificent spectacle illuminated the entire room, casting it in lavish splendor.

Two cracks appeared on the egg, looking as if it was on the verge of crumbling into pieces.

The pressure on my neck suddenly eased, and my limp body fell to the ground, while Yun Hao's pained voice rang out, "Snake Lord, you really have a way with strategies, even finding my reincarnation egg."