

A Snake 201

Chapter 201: The Reverse Stratagem

My back was tightly embraced by a pair of long arms, Yu Longting knelt on one knee beside me, caressing my long hair,

"Wanwan, don't be afraid... Hubby is here, it's all hubby's fault for not protecting you and Little Dumpling well."

That egg hindered his embrace, so he casually tossed it aside onto the ground.

The crack in the egg was large, about two centimeters wide, faintly revealing a colorful little viper coiled inside.

My neck hurt terribly, and each breath felt like tearing; after several attempts, I managed to speak hoarsely, "Yu Longting, I missed you so much, where on earth did you go?"

"I found out that Yun Hao was the mastermind behind these Snake Servants, so I went to his cave to seize his eggs and returned to the cave once more, I'm sorry, it took quite long." Yu Longting produced a white Jade Pill in his palm and directly stuffed it into my mouth, "Swallow it."

"Ow." I swallowed without thinking, feeling a cool sensation sliding down my throat, very soothing, "Is it to dissolve the Demonic Qi? Cough cough cough."

Yun Hao had choked me too harshly earlier, my neck hurt badly, and my throat involuntarily itched and coughed.

But after swallowing the Jade Pill, the heavy feeling in my stomach disappeared.

The cold Demonic Qi emanating from Little Dumpling also disappeared at the same time.

Everything was getting better.

"It is to dissolve the Demonic Qi, Little Dumpling is fine now, you don't have to worry all day about him turning demonic."

Hearing my coughing, the violence on Yu Longting surged instantly, his eyes filled with murderous intent glaring at Yun Hao, "Yun Hao, you are courting death, even a mere dead snake dares to rough up my woman..."

"Snake Lord, I was only forceful because it was unavoidable."

Yun Hao spoke coldly, "I've returned your woman to you, now return my egg."

"Once the egg is in my possession, it is mine, and I'm not returning it to you, what can you do about it?"

Yu Longting's fingers gently stroked the bruises on my neck, the coldness in his eyes undiminished.

Yun Hao angrily said, "Snake Lord, you have always been uninvolved with the world, and we have had a policy of non-interference with one another; had you and your woman not messed with my affairs, I would never have come to you."

As I reached out to touch the egg to see if it had been cooked by all the talismans that hit it earlier, my hand was fiercely slapped away by Yu Longting, "Your husband is right before your eyes, dare you touch another man?"

"Ouch, that hurts, you've even slapped it red." I stared at the large red mark on the back of my hand, in disbelief that Yu Longting would one day be domestically violent.

Yu Longting said irritably, "Your hands should only touch me."

Looking at my hand, gradually turning red, he picked it up with both hands, blowing and gently caressing it.

In fact, it didn't hurt much at all, yet he seemed countless times more distraught than I was.

"I just wanted to try and see if the egg was... bad..." I looked down, eyeing his expression that saw no one else but me, a smile lifting at my lips, "If it isn't bad, I would suggest that you return the egg to Yun Hao."

Across from me, Yun Hao's grey and icy eyes slightly dilated.

"Return it..." Yu Longting elongated the sound, a playful smile spread across his face, as if challenging me to justify, or he would roast the egg right then and there.

How did I never realize before that this guy is so jealous?

Such a deceiver?

Previously he deceived me saying he only wanted the person, not their heart, but now it seems he can't tolerate a speck of sand.

I helplessly leaned close, whispering in his ear, "Better to resolve grudges than to foster them, I think there's just a misunderstanding between Senior Yun and us."

This egg was to be used by Yun Hao for reincarnation and transmigration.

Yun Hao hid the egg in his own cave dwelling, but it was snatched away by someone inside Yu Longting's cave dwelling.

If it were someone with a worse temperament, they'd probably have blown up on the spot.

"A misunderstanding?" Yun Hao's expression also turned playful, his eyebrows slightly raised.

My strength had recovered somewhat, and leaning on Yu Longting, I stood up, "Senior Yun, Immortal Liu has already prepared the Reincarnation Array. Your great-grandson could have been saved. It wasn't necessary to harm other beings."

"Is the Reincarnation Array so easy to operate? Without sacrifice and death, where does new life come from... This is Heavenly Dao; this is an iron law!"

Yun Hao said coldly.

I patiently explained, "There are exceptions to everything, even iron laws can be broken. I am from the Su Family, I know the Yin Yang Life and Death Embroidery, and I can make the Reincarnation Garment. Immortal Liu chose Spring Wind Town to set up the Reincarnation Array just to seek my help."

Initially, I really didn't know what Immortal Liu wanted from me or why she insisted on staying in Spring Wind Town.

But I knew by heart the notes of my father and was aware that Immortal Liu had no intention of killing or harming any being.

Then I understood that Immortal Liu was pinning her hopes on me, not on crooked and evil practices.

"Is this true? You would tailor garments for my great-grandson?!"

Yun Hao, such a powerful figure, now staggered back two steps under the shock, his mind greatly disturbed.

It was lucky that there was a window sill behind him, where he stopped and stabilized himself.

I confirmed, "Willingly."

Yun Hao still did not dare to believe easily, "Do you know the price to pay for making this garment... "

"If it can help you and Immortal Liu, and save those children you captured, I think it's worth it." I replied with a dismissive smile.

Yun Hao exhaled softly, clasping his hands and bowing to me in a deeply respectful gesture of ancient times, "With these words of yours, I'll release that group of kids now. I apologize, Miss Su, for inadvertently hurting you earlier in my impulsiveness."

No sooner had the cold, sharp voice dropped, than the moon-like figure of Yun Hao vanished in the blink of an eye.

"Hey... your egg... the egg! Don't you want it?" I looked at the egg on the ground, calling out after him with effort. This guy is something else, appearing so cold and composed, yet he could forget something so important as his own egg...

Yu Longting, displeased, pinched the slightly fleshy part of my neck, silencing me, "Your throat hurts yet you scream so loud; he is a gentleman and intentionally left the egg for you, to let us force his hand."

"Brother, why didn't you stop sister-in-law? Making the Reincarnation Garment consumes a lot of spiritual power, and probably only by draining her completely will it be enough!!"

Yu Rongling, who had been silent until now, suddenly started yelling, "Just break the contract! Simply break it, since we hold the only hope for that guy's reincarnation in our hands."

"Rongling, it's better to resolve enmities than to create them. Wouldn't it be beneficial for Xuanjing to lose an ally?" Yu Longting slowly looked up, gazing at Yu Rongling who had just picked up Yun Hao's egg and was about to kick it away.

Yu Rongling's actions stiffened, looking at him as though he were mad, "You... are you possessed? Have you lost your mind?? You even fear making enemies now? Brother! You are a fearless giant who scorns heaven and earth, a uniquely talented destroyer I've never seen before! Why have you gone soft now?"

I looked at Yu Longting with starry eyes, full of joy, "Do you realize that I was deliberately aligning with Yun Hao? I noticed he was a gentleman, and if he could help the little snake Ah Li reincarnate, he would definitely release those children. Even if we can't become friends, he wouldn't be our enemy in the future."

This was equivalent to sabotaging the iron triangle relationship between Xuanjing, Ancestor of Foxes, and Yun Hao.

It seemed like conciliation, but it was more like a counter-espionage strategy.

"I've always been incredibly astute. I'm the worm in Madam's belly; how could I not understand your intentions!" Yu Longting's forehead bowed low, pressing against mine, placing my hand on his cheek, "Although I do not support it, I will cooperate with all your decisions."

Chapter 202: You Are Mine for Life

Yu Rongling let out an exaggerated scream of agony, "What sin did I commit to witness this scene... My snake eyes are blinded, I need to heal!! I am a snake, not a dog... don't feed me dog food..."

He covered his face and fled.

Once Yu Rongling had left, I tried to quietly channel Spiritual Power into the snake body of the cheongsam.

The Spiritual Power I poured in was like a clay bull entering the sea, and I watched as what I once thought was an unending stream from my body entered it, and still there was room for more.

It seemed that by intervening in Yitian's matters and accidentally saving many innocent children, I had accumulated quite a bit of good fortune.

I was overjoyed and couldn't help but push even more Spiritual Power into the cheongsam.

"Wanwan, keep some for yourself, don't give it all to me," Yu Longting's eyes moved as he seized my wrist and forcibly stopped me from infusing Spiritual Power.

I blinked, "But... all my Spiritual Power is yours, isn't it?"

"You..." Yu Longting, such a silver-tongued scheming snake, was left speechless by my words.

I pinched his chin, moved closer, and kissed his lips, "Yu Longting, let me look after you, help you form a bigger and bigger inner core, don't refuse me, otherwise, I'll feel like you're rejecting me."

After I kissed him, his body stiffened.

From a beast that once only knew conquering and plundering, he became as docile as a sheep, letting me kiss him, "Are you actually trying to atone for your father's sins? I've said it before, there's no need, Wanwan..."

"It's not just about atonement, Yu Longting, you're so kind to me, I also want to be good to you." I kept shamelessly initiating kisses to seduce him, and finally, feeling a bit embarrassed, dropped my head and rubbed it against his chest.

Yu Longting sighed, "Can't you change that part of you that doesn't want to owe others? For every bit of effort I put in for you, you want to repay it a thousandfold, how did I pick up such a treasure..."

"I can't change! You can still return the merchandise now!"

There was only a little Spiritual Power left in my body, but the capacity of the cheongsam was clearly far from full, at last, I felt content.

Then I quietly retracted it, waiting for the next time my Spiritual Power filled up before nurturing him again.

By that time, I should be able to fill the cheongsam completely.

While I was self-indulgent, Yu Longting suddenly became fierce, "Su Wan, still trying to trick me into a return? You're mine for this whole lifetime."

Yu Longting lay down beside me, tightening the arm around my waist, hugging me close as if to crush me into his body, "I'll take care of you, and you can nurture me however you want, but if you think of leaving me, no way!"

I knew this was this guy's true nature; he never intended to really let me go.

Looking back, he was always scheming to steal my heart at every moment.

Washing my hair, applying hand cream, cutting my nails, working as a helper in a restaurant...

All trivial things, yet they seeped into every pore of my life.

I was a person without a Love Soul, only interested in the host of the Love Soul, Ye Jiqing.

But he managed to break through that soul barrier, making me aware without a Love Soul that I could never possibly like Ye Jiqing.

Such ability in the game would rival any GM.

Thinking of the Little Dumpling in my belly, a wave of desolation washed over me.

Although the Demonic Qi in Dumpling's body had been cleared by Yu Longting's Elixir, it proved Su Qiang's previous claim that Yu Longting would kill Dumpling was a deliberate setup.

But Taoist Qingyang and Su Qiang both said I once had another child...

What exactly is going on?

Should I... ask Yu Longting about it?

Yu Longting saw that I was lost in thought and, touching my swelling belly, he asked in a soft voice, "Daydreaming? What's on your little mind? Tell your husband about it. Keeping it all to yourself is no fun, right?"

"My cousin Su Qiang came over. She has become Xuanjing's woman," I murmured my concerns to him. At this moment, my trust in Yu Longting was complete, "Yu Longting, Su Qiang said that I had your child when I was eighteen. Is that true?"

"Am I such a beast? To want you at eighteen? Impossible," Yu Longting stated with certainty.

I thought to myself that I knew Su Qiang was spouting nonsense.

Suddenly, Yu Longting's index finger touched my forehead, "Forget."

This scene overlapped with a moment in the Serpent Domain, where a person with an aura and voice like Yu Longting pointed at my forehead in the same way, erasing my memory.

I knew everything, I remembered everything.

But it was as if there was an eraser in my mind, wiping away my recent doubt and all memories related to the claim Su Qiang made about being pregnant at eighteen, completely clean.

What the hell, not a single one of them plays by the rules.

My father erased my memories, and now my son is still erasing my memories.

Damn it...

My consciousness was extremely chaotic, and my body felt weak, slumping downwards, I passed out.

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The next day was bright and clear.

The white goose raised in the backyard was fed well, it was simply too fat.

While Yu Longting and I were digging a pit to roast the goose, I didn't want to waste any leftovers, so I called over not only Yu Rongling, who was possessed by gluttony, but also Xiao Li.

Yu Longting simply took out his WeChat and invited Beichen over as well.

"Just for a roast goose, you made a whole pit and had your own husband dirty with soil from digging. Damn, that's quite the karma for the goose from its previous life," Yu Longting complained.

Yu Longting didn't want me to do too much, so he was the one who did nearly all the work, while I was responsible for assisting him a little on the side.

I put on heat-proof gloves, and we divided the work of slicing the roast goose between us. "You're enjoying eating it but still talk about karma. Actually, after raising it for so long, I've grown attached. If I hadn't promised to make it for Rongling, I really wouldn't want to kill it."

"If you like geese, we could buy a few more to raise," said Yu Longting, whose efficiency was otherworldly, finishing his portion before me and serving it to the others first.

I couldn't help but laugh and cry, "It's not that I like raising geese, it's that I grew attached to that particular one."

"Grow attached to a roast goose? Cut it out, when it merges in your belly, that's true love, isn't it?" Yu Rongling mumbled, and when he saw his brother approaching, he grabbed Yu Longting's sleeve, uttering in a whisper loud enough for me to hear, "Bro, your spring has arrived. Last night, sister-in-law personally admitted that I'm her little brother-in-law."

"Really?" To my surprise, Yu Longting also cared a lot, crouching down to whisper with him.

"Would I lie about this?"

Yu Rongling stuffed a piece of roast goose in his mouth, speaking indistinctly, "Although she did it to save me by bargaining with Yun Hao, it's still a big step forward. She's never admitted before that she is your wife."

"You little rascal are just a burden, always getting my wife into trouble, and still you act so smug," Yu Longting smacked Yu Rongling's head without any courtesy.

After getting smacked, Yu Rongling began to sulk, "Even though I always drag sister-in-law into trouble, I'm now completely her fan, worshiping her beyond measure, and I'll always report to you. I also have major intel on sister-in-law that I haven't reported to you yet~"

His tone was like that of a mischievous little spy.

"What intel do you still have?" Yu Longting asked, his demeanor unchanging and serious.

Chapter 203: Make It Just for Me

As I was arranging the roasted goose on the plate, I awkwardly lifted my eyes.

Suddenly seeing Beichen and Xiao Li straighten up, they pricked up their ears to listen to Yu Rongling's next words.

Yu Rongling gave a sly smile, raised his eyebrows, and said, "Of course there is. I'm the most qualified spy by your sister-in-law's side. That cousin of hers who followed Xuanjing suggested that your sister-in-law should follow Xuanjing too. Do you know how she turned it down?"

"How did she turn it down?" Longting actually indulged the guy in beating around the bush.

Yu Rongling chuckled, "Sister-in-law said she was captivated by your good looks. I showed that woman your photo, and it directly made sister-in-law's cousin spit blood in anger. Bro, doesn't that deserve a reward from you?"

"The inner core of the North Sea Snake Dragon, an extra one I took last time I went to the North Sea." Longting fetched a pure white pearl from his sleeve and tossed it to Yu Rongling.

I indignantly slammed the plate on the table. "I'm not dead yet, do you have to gossip right in front of the person involved? Don't I have any dignity?"

This brotherly duo, one singing and the other echoing, are really too much.

"Sister-in-law, don't be mad, next time we'll definitely do it behind your back," Yu Rongling cheekily said to me, while making faces at Longting, "Bro, you've got it tough, having a son already but haven't caught up with the wife."

Longting kicked Yu Rongling off his chair with one foot; Yu Rongling, caught off guard, fell flat on his face, a big footprint on his buttocks, furiously storming off, "Bro, you're just embarrassed!"

"Daring to expose my shortcomings, have you grown bold?" Longting said with a sinister smile.

Yu Rongling shrank his neck, still frightened, but nevertheless let out a defiant roar, "This is tyranny, a despotic rule; a tyrant! No dissenting voices allowed."

Xiao Li tugged at my sleeve and asked me softly, "Longting hasn't pursued you?"

I: "..."

Seeing I didn't respond, she turned to look at Beichen.

Beichen took a bite of the roasted goose and said, "He hasn't."

Xiao Li covered her lips, "I feel like I've learned some incredible secret."

"Someone is petty; be careful he might shut you up." Beichen spoke gravely.

Xiao Li: "That's terrifying."

Beichen: "Indeed, it is."

I: "..."

At that moment, I just wished I could find a crack in the floor to crawl into.

Seeing me turn to leave, Xiao Li grabbed me, "Where are you going? Sit down and eat with us, Yuanyuan, don't be shy. We're just joking."

"I also made soup with the goose carcass; you guys are eating so greasy, aren't you planning on something light?" I silently pulled her hand away, walking chaotically to serve the soup.

I treated the goose carcass as if it were Yu Rongling's snake bones, I scooped it out furiously, crushed the damn thing...

"Do you have a grudge against this goose carcass?" Longting walked over, chuckling lightly.

My lips twitched, realizing I had been too harsh on the goose carcass, I scooped out the scattered bones and ladled a big bowl of soup, "No grudge, I'm just venting my anger; you and Yu Rongling are deliberately tormenting me! You didn't leave any face for me!"

"Us two? We wouldn't dare. Madam, please, don't be angry."

Longting leaned close to my ear, his cool breath spraying on my face, just as I was about to say I wouldn't calm down so easily, he said, "You look too adorable when you're angry, I'm afraid I won't be able to resist..."

"..."

My hands holding the soup froze completely, my face turned a deep shade of red.

My brain felt like it had caught a virus, all scrambled inside.

Longting naturally took the bowl of soup from my hands and set it on the table across from us.

I slowly followed, sitting next to him.

"Yuanyuan makes killer soup, she learned from our kitchen's Cantonese master chef," Xiao Li stood up to serve the soup for everyone.

Beichen took a large ladle from her hand, "I'll do it, I have a steady hand."

"Oh..." Xiao Li's hand was touched by Beichen and, shyly lowering her head, it was filled with the purity of budding emotions.

Beichen first served Xiao Li a bowl, "It's a bit hot."

"Oh." Xiao Li's face turned even redder as she buried her head and drank the soup.

Beichen then served soup to me and Yu Longting, and finally to Yu Rongling.

Yu Rongling gulped it down quickly, "Delicious, sister-in-law's cooking is superb."

Beichen had just finished serving himself.

And he had already finished drinking.

So, with good temper, Beichen served Yu Rongling another bowl.

"If I had a wife who could cook like this, I'd stay home every day, just waiting to eat."

This time, Yu Rongling drank slower because there wasn't much left in the soup bowl, slowly savoring the flavor.

Yu Longting snatched a particularly good piece of goose leg meat from under Yu Rongling's chopsticks, "Stop dreaming, you're not that lucky."

Under Yu Rongling's envious gaze, Yu Longting placed the goose leg in my bowl.

"My goose leg, damn it, heartless..."

I tasted the roast goose, it really was delicious, and said to Yu Longting, "You didn't waste your effort digging so much soil, making a temporary deep well oven, you should try it too."

"Yeah, next time make it just for me, only for me to eat." Yu Longting's demeanor was meticulous, and his eating was extremely graceful.

The meal of deep-well roasted goose ended, and everyone started to clean up and went about their business.

Chen Decheng asked me to help with the accounts at the cashier's desk, and just as I was typing noisily on the cash register's keyboard, I smelled a hint of smoke.

I then saw Immortal Liu leaning against the shop door smoking.

She was extremely beautiful, even more glamorous than the most stunning top stars in the entertainment industry by a factor of three, and she was dressed very elegantly and appropriately.

Chen Decheng personally came out to greet her, "This guest, are you here to dine? Why not come inside, and I will introduce you to some of our signature dishes?"

"Your shop has hung this thing; your grandma here can't enter, aren't you going to take it down?" Immortal Liu said, tilting her head and pointing her sharp chin at Chen Decheng.

Upon hearing this, Chen Decheng was almost scared to pee, "You... you... you... are you... not human?"

"Tsk, smart," Immortal Liu said.

Chen Decheng's legs trembled, and he almost knelt down.

Yu Longting quickly stepped forward and said to Immortal Liu, "Why have you come by yourself? Is there something important?"

"I came to find you because it's important. Let Su Wan come with me," Immortal Liu said, a cold glint crossing her eyes.

Yu Longting instinctively stepped in front of me, "The Reincarnation Array will start in three days, why do you need her so early?"

"The Reincarnation Array has become unstable; it started earlier. Su Wan must come back with me to make the Reincarnation Garment," Immortal Liu explained.

"I and my brother personally helped you build the framework of the Formation; you can't stabilize it so soon, has your identity as Ying Long been watered down?"

Yu Rongling teased.

Immortal Liu took a deep puff of her cigarette, her long, slim fingers casually holding it, "My role as Ying Long isn't worth much; we still need your brother, the Snake Lord, to make a move."

"Immortal Liu, don't talk nonsense," Yu Longting's face turned cold.

Immortal Liu covered her lips with a hand, smiling seductively, "Oh, sorry, is your identity not supposed to be known to other mortals?"

"Wanwan is not feeling well; she needs to rest for three days. I and Yu Rongling will help you maintain it for three days," Yu Longting frowned but did not pursue Immortal Liu's deliberately provocative remark.

Immortal Liu glanced at me, seemingly just realizing my depleted Spiritual Power, "My god, has he drained you?? Although our snake kind tend to be more vigorous in such matters, Madam is a delicate young lady; be careful you don't cause any fatalities."

Chapter 204: Defying Heaven's Weaving

"Immortal Liu, if you keep on refusing, your grandson's life will be at stake," Yu Longting said, holding his chest with one hand, his smile playful yet laced with a hint of wickedness in his eyes.

Immortal Liu pouted like a little girl, "I was wrong, I won't refuse anymore, is that okay?"

"Wanwan, I'll teach you a Celestial Master's Incantation. Recite it during your evening prayers and it will help accelerate the accumulation of your Spiritual Power."

Yu Longting ignored Immortal Liu, leaned down, and softly recited the incantation in my ear, "Murky waters run deep, fate remains out of reach; joy is absent today, those gone are truly lost. The multiverse so vast, its breadth unfathomable; this is but the start, the journey's still long; among countless worlds, where lies our next home; chasing dreams so vivid, in search of that what gleams; beliefs of one's own, soaring through the skies."

"Okay, I've remembered everything you said. Now go with Immortal Liu, don't interfere with the great Formation," I urged him, giving him a push.

Yu Longting narrowed his eyes, "You've memorized it already?"

"Yes, although my memory is average, somehow I remember True Words that contain Art immediately upon hearing them," I told Yu Longting.

Yu Longting patted my head, "You're a prodigy in learning the Mysterious Art."

Having said that, he left with Yu Rongling, following Immortal Liu.

"Did that woman just call your boyfriend 'Snake Lord'?" Xiao Li's eyes shone brightly as she interrogated me.

How should I find an excuse to fend this off?

Lying to her doesn't seem quite right either...

I was left feeling torn.

"Forget it, I won't make it hard for you, you don't have to answer," Xiao Li said nonchalantly, waving her hand dismissively, seeming uninterested in my explanation.

Does she really not need my explanation?

I'm with a snake, my boyfriend is a snake.

Doesn't she find it scary? Or even disgusting?

Then I saw Xiao Li glare at Chen Decheng, threatening him, "You're not allowed to ask any more questions either, and you can't tell anyone about what happened today."

Chen Decheng looked at Xiao Li in disbelief, at a loss for words.

"Why are you looking at me? Are you considering spilling the beans?" Xiao Li growled even fiercer.

Chen Decheng looked wronged, "When did I ever say I was going to tell anyone?"

"Then I'll take that as a promise from you," Xiao Li said forcefully, as if she were Chen Decheng's boss.

Chen Decheng's glance was complex, a mix of shock and incredulity, yet he did not dare to say a word, struggling to give an affirmative grunt, "Mhm."

Perhaps due to the nerves, Chen Decheng made several trips to the restroom.

I looked at Chen Decheng, who was turning pale and about to enter the bathroom again, and said to Xiao Li, "You sure are calm."

"The boss is stupid for getting flustered," Xiao Li adjusted her hair using her phone's rear camera, "Yu Rongling is a Snake Immortal, and his brother's identity must be no less extraordinary. Either he's a sworn brother, making a vow with a human expert, or... he's also a snake... And there was that time Su Qiang came to settle scores with you; though I was under the influence of gu and not fully coherent, I still caught some words about 'Snake Lord'..."

"As long as you're mentally prepared, I was just worried it might scare you," I said, letting go of my concerns with a resigned smile.

Xiao Li, having checked her appearance, breezed past me to meet Beichen at the door, "I knew once the Snake Lord left, you'd come back to protect Yuanyuan. You really know how to create opportunities for us."

"Uh, you know about Snake Lord's identity?" Beichen was astonished.

Xiao Li nodded, "Someone called Immortal Liu let it slip."

"Well, you were bound to find out sooner or later," Beichen accepted it calmly.

Three days later, early in the morning.

Immortal Liu barged into my dorm, "Su Wan, have you made the Reincarnation Garment?"

"The Reincarnation Garment must be crafted near its owner, hence I haven't prepared it in advance," I looked at Immortal Liu and replied.

Immortal Liu nodded, then hooked her arm around my shoulder, "Come with me, Wanwan, are you... are you truly willing... to make the Reincarnation Garment for my Ah Li?"

"Of course I am, Yu Longting fetched the North Sea Snake Pearl just for this moment, if I didn't agree, wouldn't his efforts be in vain?" I said to Immortal Liu.

Immortal Liu looked at me surprised and glanced down, "Didn't Yu Longting tell you? From the start, he was firmly against you making the Reincarnation Garment, which is why he and Yu Rongling personally came to work for me. That Reincarnation Array, if run for two hundred years, might produce an egg, but this is an act against the heavens, and that egg may not hatch for a thousand years."

Without the Reincarnation Garment as a foundation, indeed it would be difficult for Ah Li to reincarnate.

Because there is a certain price to be paid to make the Reincarnation Garment, that must be why Yu Longting refused to agree to Immortal Liu's request.

After a moment of silence, I asked, "Senior, did you promise Yu Longting something?"

"You don't even know what I promised him?" Immortal Liu was surprised. "You should ask him yourself, anyway, everything he's done is for you."

For me...

From the beginning, I felt that Yu Longting's arrogant nature would never seek Immortal Liu without a reason.

How would he go out of his way to build a Reincarnation Array for Immortal Liu's great-grandchild for no reason? I also guessed that Yu Longting was probably doing it for me.

Suddenly, a flash of insight struck my mind.

Yu Longting once left, saying it was to resolve the issue of me becoming the Ancestral Fox's Remnant Soul.

My unfocused eyes gradually regained clarity, and I blurted out, "Could it be related to the Ancestor of Foxes?"

"Heh, it's good that you know, the Snake Lord dearly loves you," Immortal Liu couldn't help but sigh.

In a blink of an eye, Immortal Liu took me to the Mass Burial Mound in the suburbs.

This place is the entrance to the Serpent Domain, and where Immortal Liu had built her dwelling.

Two Snake Servants respectfully opened the gate.

As soon as Immortal Liu and I set foot inside, Beichen followed, panting, "I... I'll join too."

"Let this young man come in too," Immortal Liu said to the Snake Servants with a charming smile.

The Snake Servants nodded and let Beichen in.

The first floor was a very large hall, which seemed very spacious.

Above the hall was a Reincarnation Array constructed of pure red, its unceasing aura making it immediately apparent at first sight.

The Reincarnation Array was built with Spiritual Power, constructing countless red Spiritual Power threads, weaving the space of the Formation.

At the eye of the Formation, a Snake Dragon Inner Pill emitted a faint light, slowly rotating.

The pure white skeleton of the small snake I had seen before lay in the center of the Formation.

It coiled around its translucent body, as if it had fallen into a deep sleep.

However, if one looked with the Spiritual Eye, one could see that it had been forcefully kept in this world for too long.

All three of its Life Lamps were unstable, and as time went on, they could extinguish at any moment.

So if its reincarnation was to succeed, it had to happen quickly.

Before its Life Lamp went out, the garment had to be ready.

As we approached, Beichen handed me a large cloth bag.

Inside the bag were the materials I needed for this garment.

Among them was a special thread said to be spat out by Spirit Worms in the Three-Life Spring.

It was after learning I needed to make a Reincarnation Garment that I had Beichen go to Granny Wu's place to get it.

I took two strands of thread first, one to tie to the white skeleton in the Formation and the other to tie to a chicken egg prepared by Immortal Liu.

Then I took the rest of the thread and, like weaving cloth, integrated all the threads together.

This process would keep me busy for three days and nights, requiring great exertion.

It would drain not just Spiritual Power but also physical strength.

To save trouble, I simply sat on the carpeted ground and wove the fabric with a special technique.

Yu Longting sat behind me, gently pulling my body against his own, "Three days can be very long, and you should conserve your strength from the start. Leaning on me will be more comfortable."

"Yes," I didn't refuse him and calmly leaned against him.

During these three days, whenever I was hungry, Beichen would bring some food.

But I didn't dare eat too much, nor could I afford to eat lavishly.

Weaving such a fabric was against the natural order, and it involved a lot of delicacy and complications. The fabric couldn't be tainted with stains, and I couldn't afford to be distracted.

I just let Yu Longting feed me, managing to gnaw through two steamed buns.

Chapter 205: Healing

The enormous fabric in front of them resembled Cloud Brocade, precious as gold by the inch.

In ancient times, only the luxurious emperors could indulge in such materials.

At this moment, the fabric gleamed golden and ornate, catching everyone's eyes.

"Sister-in-law, is it ready?" Yu Rongling was nearby, responsible for guarding the Snake Dragon Inner Pill, and he swallowed hard.

Immortal Liu, guarding the most vulnerable egg, looked tired, "It seems that it should be finally done."

The process of weaving had actually faced several Heavenly Thunders, specifically striking at the egg.

There was also the overwhelming Spiritual Pressure leaking from the activated Formation, which could crush the egg at any moment.

If the egg shattered, the reincarnation ceremony would be a complete failure.

Over these three days, Immortal Liu had exhausted her own inner core to keep the egg intact.

Beichen, guarding the small snake skeleton, had a somewhat easier time, "Is the fabric meant to be made into clothing to cover the snake skeleton? But isn't the fabric too large..."

"Reincarnation Garment... it's different from real clothes; its fabric is the garment itself." I had been on the verge of burnout after three days, yet I forced myself to closely monitor the snake skeleton at the center of the Formation, "That little snake is getting dressed, once it does, the great accomplishment will be complete."

One second the snake skeleton was there, the next it had vanished into thin air.

Beichen rubbed his eyes, "How did the snake skeleton disappear?!"

"Damn, sister-in-law, are you performing magic?" Yu Rongling was utterly shocked.

Immortal Liu was very anxious and asked me, "Miss Su Wan, didn't you say it was getting dressed? Why did it suddenly disappear?"

"Immortal Liu... can you really not see it?" I was somewhat surprised, I thought Immortal Liu was on the level of Ying Long.

The scene that even my Spiritual Eye could see, she must be able to see as well.

A cracking sound followed, the sound of something tiny shattering.

Everyone's gaze simultaneously turned towards the egg Immortal Liu had almost exhausted herself to protect.

A crack appeared on the egg, from which a small snake's head peered out.

The snake was very small and hadn't even opened its eyes yet.

It writhed its body, struggling to crawl out of the shell.

"Ah Li." Immortal Liu's fingers neared the snake's head.

The small snake, sensing a familiar scent, naturally clung to her, "Granny Xuan..."

The moment that milk-sounding voice was heard,

everyone in the room, except Yu Longting, seemed healed by the expression on their faces.

Immortal Liu watched the small, vulnerable, yet endearingly awkward snake, tears continually streaming from her eyes, her lips trembling violently.

"I see now, it's a snake born from an egg, sister-in-law used the egg to help this little one reincarnate."

Yu Rongling slapped his thigh, having realized, "Is reincarnation this easy? Yun Hao has wasted an egg... which took five hundred years..."

A series of footsteps echoed in the spacious room, and Yun Hao walked over.

He stepped closer to Immortal Liu, hatred and iciness in his eyes, yet he gently touched Ah Li's tiny head with his finger.

Immortal Liu looked at Yun Hao but said nothing, her gaze again full of tender love as it fell back onto the little snake.

"This little snake was very young when it died, and it was saved just in time, so this method could be used." I told Yu Rongling, and glanced over at Yun Hao, who had just appeared, when suddenly a surge of emotion welled up inside me, and I spat out blood.

Only then did Immortal Liu notice my condition, "Su Wan, what's wrong with you?"

"Sister-in-law..."

"Lady of the Snake Lord!"

Yu Longting, who hadn't spoken a word until then, swiftly lifted my powerless body, his face full of a terrifying sternness, "Immortal Liu, Yun Hao! It seems you two are quite satisfied with this outcome? But I am not pleased at all. My woman has hardly eaten over three days, hasn't slept, and has been tirelessly weaving... Remember this well, you owe Su Wan a huge debt of gratitude, and you must repay it in full in the future!"

Chapter 206 Little Milk Snake?

"Miss Su saved my lifeblood, her kindness greater than heaven itself," Yun Hao stepped forward, his gaze sharp and determined. "From now on, I, Yun Hao, am at your command."

Immortal Liu glanced at Yun Hao, her willowy waist sinuous as if boneless, and bowed gracefully toward me, "Noble sister, your righteous act won my loyalty. I, Immortal Liu, am willing to serve you for a lifetime to repay this debt."

"Come see us in three days," Yu Longting commanded with his eyes sweeping across their faces before striding away from Immortal Liu's home.

I slumped in Yu Longting's arms, listening in a daze as Yun Hao agreed, "I'll come again in three days, I'm leaving now."

A sound of a powerful wind breaking through the air was heard; Yun Hao must have left.

Then came Immortal Liu's voice, seductive to the bone yet somehow frigid, "I have a deep hatred with the Cloud Viper, so it's best we don't meet often. This time we managed to coexist peacefully, but next time it might be a life and death struggle. I'll come again in four days; whatever orders you have, just say them."

"As you wish," replied Yu Longting nonchalantly as he walked past the graveyard filled with tombstones, heading toward the dining hall.

His face was entirely darkened, his presence exuding an oppressiveness that made it hard to breathe, his visage as if coated in Mysterious Ice for a thousand years.

I had never seen Yu Longting emanate such a terrifying aura before; my heart constricted, and I softly comforted him, "The Spiritual Eye is like an endless spring well, the Spiritual Power in my body that's been depleted will soon begin to recover bit by bit."

"Wanwan, I will nourish you with my Spiritual Power," Yu Longting said coldly, his usual tenderness and indulgence toward me absent.

I felt he seemed a bit unknown, somewhat intimidating, "It's said to waste twenty years of your cultivation. I don't think it's worth it."

"This time making the garment has damaged your heart meridian. Without the intervention of Spiritual Power, the damage will be permanent," Yu Longting said without veering his gaze, his eyes lowered straight ahead.

His gaze felt like sharp icicles piercing through my chest, making me comply obediently, "Is it that serious? Then use your Spiritual Power to heal me quickly. Once I fully recover, I can gather Spiritual Power for you more quickly."

Even as I said this, his already weakened and nearly depleted body would likely only get worse.

But what could I do?

Once Yu Longting decided to do something, it had to be done—no use even if the king of heaven himself came.

"Wanwan, close your eyes and don't open them," he instructed.

Following the sound of Yu Longting's magnetic voice, I was laid down on the bed.

After I closed my eyes, he suddenly vanished from sight.

Feeling around carefully, I finally touched the scaly body of a snake.

I remembered him mentioning he feared I might be frightened by his snake form and sighed softly, "It's not that scary. The texture is actually quite nice. Did you revert to your original form because you gave all your cultivation to me?"

"Wanwan..." His voice was hoarse, "You touched my Reverse Scale."

"It's forbidden to casually touch the Reverse Scale of a snake, isn't it?" I did not pull my hand away.

Yu Longting let out a deep sigh, "You are the first person to touch my Reverse Scale. Wanwan... please stop touching it, will you?"

He turned from a little wolf into a little milk dog in a second!

But that description felt a bit off.

He was more like a little milk snake.

"Is it that those who wanted to touch your Reverse Scale are all dead now?" My heart fluttered, and I withdrew my hand in time.

Yu Longting's snake head nudged my hand away, "You might as well keep touching it."

Me: "..."

My fingers once again found his cold scales, and I fell asleep next to him.

Chapter 207: What Are Your Feelings Towards the Snake Lord

Entwined by Yu Longting's serpentine body, I strangely felt comfortable and affectionate.

He carefully showed his vulnerable side, nourishing me with the spiritual power in his body.

I effortlessly developed a sense of belonging.

Like a bird to the forest, a whale to the ocean.

Although I was unaware, I remained in a deep sleep.

Still, I could feel a lot of time had passed, and after three days of exhausted energy, I needed plenty of sleep to recuperate.

Before waking up, I first heard the chirping of birds outside the window.

I even felt the touch of a snake tail on my face as Yu Longting's cool voice murmured into my ear, "Wanwan, when will you start to like me?"

When I started to like him...

I had always been perplexed by this question, but it seemed I could finally answer it, and I hurriedly opened my eyes.

Blinding white light filled my vision, and after a moment, I saw Xiao Li's surprised face, "You're finally awake, you've slept for two whole days and nights!!"

"Yu Longting... where is he...?" I asked anxiously, flinging off the covers, searching in the bed.

Xiao Li looked at me, speechless, "You're looking for your man by digging through the bedding?"

"Cough, cough, cough..." My movements froze for a moment as I started coughing awkwardly.

I had thought Yu Longting would still be in his snake form beside me, and I wanted to see what his serpentine form looked like—I accidentally exposed this thought in front of Xiao Li.

Xiao Li handed me warm water to drink, looking rather unhappy, "Hmph! I've been here with you, waiting for you to wake up, and the moment you do, you look for another man..."

"I'm sorry, Xiao... Li... ugh..." I drank water on an empty stomach, which diluted my stomach acid, making me retch.

Xiao Li patted my back in a hurry, "Does your stomach feel really bad? Do you need some medicine for it...?"

"No need... just really starving..." I felt so weak all over that I couldn't muster any strength, and after retching, I needed Xiao Li's help just to lie back down.

Xiao Li's wide eyes were filled with shock, "Holy shit, you... you're so pale, I'm going to feed you porridge right away! For goodness' sake, don't starve yourself sick."

She hastily poured porridge from the thermos on the table and fed me the warm and comforting meal, "Tastes good, right! This is the beef porridge your husband personally cooked. It's so delicious."

"He made it? But... he doesn't know how to cook!" I said in disbelief as I tasted the smooth, tender beef in the porridge. I couldn't believe Yu Longting could cook beef porridge, let alone make it so tasty.

It almost tasted no different from what you'd get at a Cantonese restaurant outside.

Xiao Li glanced at me with a sour look, "Hehe, if you saw the boss's face, you'd know! The kitchen nearly exploded; your bowl of beef porridge was built on the corpses of countless overcooked rice and beef..."

"..." I was touched and speechless. I cleared my throat softly and asked, "Did he waste too much of the boss's ingredients, and is now washing dishes in the kitchen to compensate for it?"

Xiao Li raised an eyebrow, "Beichen says Yu Longting is very wealthy."

"Beichen told you that?" I had vaguely felt this, but since he rarely flaunted his wealth, the idea faded gradually.

Xiao Li nodded, "He said that the Snake Lord has lived a long time and loves hoarding treasures, so he's as rich as a nation."

"Hehe... loves hoarding treasures... that really doesn't show usually. So, where did he go? Do you know?" I asked, gobbling down the full bowl of porridge like a starving ghost reincarnated.

Now I felt warm all over, as if fully revived.

Xiao Li tore open a packet of wet wipes to clean my mouth, "He went to the market to buy vegetables! Humph, Chen Yuanyuan, tell me the truth, what do you feel about the Snake Lord?"

Chapter 208: Having Seen the Gentleman, How Can One Not Be Happy?

"What... what feeling..."

I genuinely didn't understand Xiao Li's meaning, and I was a bit surprised as well.

Although Yu Longting usually behaved in a down-to-earth manner, I still couldn't imagine him going to the market to buy vegetables.

Xiao Li probably thought I was playing dumb and clicked her tongue in dissatisfaction, "Have you fallen for the Snake Lord?"

I paused for a moment, feeling a slight stir in my heart.

I remembered how he always whispered in my ear, asking when I would start to fancy him.

"You wouldn't deny it, would you? The way you look at him is full of love; it's almost drowning," Xiao Li muttered.

She was a very straightforward person; if she liked something, she liked it, if she didn't, she didn't.

I wasn't planning to hide it from her and play dumb, "Since I've seen such a gentleman, how could I not be pleased?"

"I... I... I'm going to..." Xiao Li suddenly stood up, "Damn it, you admitted it!! And you admitted it so easily... It's too sudden!!"

Her shock was so intense, her braids almost stood up on end.

But my gaze was fixed on the doorway, where Yu Longting stood with a serious expression, his narrow eyes slightly squinted, filled with an obscure light.

"Go wash the crabs in the kitchen," Yu Longting instructed Beichen beside him, then stepped inside.

Upon hearing Yu Longting's voice, Xiao Li turned back, "Your timing... is just perfect, Lord Snake!"

"Xiao Li, could you step outside for a moment? I need to speak with my wife," Yu Longting said to Xiao Li, using words that were uncharacteristically polite.

Xiao Li hurriedly ran out, "Of course, of course, boss, I'm your matchmaker, don't forget when you two get married... I..."

Yu Longting flicked his sleeve, and the door closed by itself.

He stared at me, taking deliberately slow steps.

I was on the bed, nervously swallowing my saliva multiple times.

As he approached the bed, I instinctively moved back again and again.

Yu Longting directly placed his knee on the bed, aggressively closing the distance, his fingers pinching my chin, "Wanwan."

"Eh, yes, what is it?" I looked up at him appeasingly, always feeling he was eerily frightening.

Aside from the matter of my heart vein being damaged, I shouldn't have offended him in any other way, right?

I had already agreed to use my cultivation to nurture the heart vein, and now I was completely fine; he should have calmed down by now, right?

He couldn't be that petty, could he?

My eyes darted around, trying to guess what he was up to; this guy was already leaning close to whisper, "Repeat what you just said."

"Since I've seen such a gentleman, how could I not be pleased?" My heart trembled, and despite feeling a bit shy, I couldn't bear to keep him in suspense and make him anxious, so I blurted it out directly.

Yu Longting wrapped his arms around me tightly, as if trying to crush my bones into his body, his tone heavy, "Have you fallen for me? Wanwan?"

"Although I haven't felt the kind of heart-fluttering sensation for you, that's due to objective reasons." I was a bit pained by his tight embrace, yet profoundly immersed in the feeling, my voice trembling, my chin knocking on his shoulder, "I can't be a hundred percent sure, after all, the Love Soul hasn't returned to my body... I ..."

"Without the Love Soul, you are already so helplessly in love with me, what about when you have the Love Soul? Wouldn't you love me to death? Hm?" Yu Longting chuckled softly, pinning me down on the bed and kissing me for a while before finally letting go, satisfied, "Wanwan, you should know, I've always wanted to marry you. Marry me, will you? Give me a title, and I'll give you everything..."

Chapter 209: I Marry Yu Longting...

"Um...this..." I felt everything was too sudden, I had slept for three days and three nights.

When I woke up and casually chatted with Xiao Li, I admitted that I might have fallen for Yu Longting.

Then, right after that, this guy proposed to me.

The speed is like catching a rocket...

Yu Longting's voice twisted, "Is it that hard to give me a status?"

"No...not hard..." I stammered, scared out of my wits.

For such a significant matter, he completely disregarded giving me any buffer time.

Yu Longting pinched the flesh at the back of my neck, rhythmically, with no intention of letting me go, "I've had my way with you completely, before you didn't like me, and I didn't trouble you, now you still won't marry me?"

"Well, listen to my explanation, this isn't something I can decide by myself, right?" My heart pounded wildly, ready to be driven insane by Yu Longting any second.

Yu Longting looked at me in confusion, "Who else needs to be consulted? Just agree, and I'll immediately go with you to register our marriage and hold the ceremony, our Dumpling will then be a child born within wedlock..."

Geez, is he a negotiation expert?

He hit right where it mattered in an instant...

Previously, I considered Dumpling a monster, naturally never giving much thought to it.

Now, deep down, I actually hoped that Dumpling would grow up little by little in human society.

"It's my mom, ah, she struggled to raise me on her own, I need her consent to get married," I almost blurted out my agreement, but ultimately considered the practical situation and told Yu Longting the truth.

Yu Longting propped his hand on the bed, those beautiful peach blossom eyes glistening as they stared at me, and after a long while, spoke faintly, "You're right, we should ask her. What will you do if she doesn't agree?"

I really hadn't thought about that before.

But it was also very realistic—I could love Yu Longting.

Yet, being with Yu Longting in marriage, if my mom was staunchly against it, life in the future definitely wouldn't be too happy.

She is the only family I have in this world, I need her recognition, her forgiveness, her support for me...

"Can we discuss this issue if she objects?" I scrambled to kneel up and blinked at him.

Yu Longting took off his jacket and wrapped it around me, "Sure, although the weather isn't cold, your body is weak, you need to keep warm until you have completely recovered."

"Oh." I noticed that I had indeed become colder after waking up, struggling to handle the chill away from the quilt, I looked down and started buttoning up his jacket.

Yu Longting's cool fingers traced over my jaw, "I'm going to make you lunch. If I go too late, the chef will have started, and there won't be any place for me to cook."

I had only buttoned two buttons before I looked up again.

All I saw was Yu Longting's retreating back.

At this moment, he was intent on marrying me, yet I still felt unworthy of him.

"Dad, why did you have to do that to Yu Longting back then? Sigh, it's really the Sky Pit!" I sat dazed for a long time before I couldn't help but let out a long sigh, "One day I will help him cultivate an inner core as big as the one from back then, and then I won't always feel like I'm not good enough for him."

In the evening, my mom got off work and came home.

As usual, I went to bring her the meal I had saved for her.

The difference was that this time Yu Longting was also there.

There was a subtle tension between my mom and Yu Longting.

Both appearing in the same space, Yu Longting didn't mind due to his thick skin, but my mom felt uncomfortable.

"You're both here to see me, is there something you want to talk about?" My mom still had sharp insight.

I felt that since we're all family, whether or not there's any preamble, we have to get to the point and the main topic, so with determination I blurted out, "If...I were to marry Yu Longting...what would you think?"

Chapter 210: My Dear Wife, You Can Be Even Fiercer

"Su Wan, did you take the wrong medicine?" My mom's face instantly fell, and she looked at me as if I were insane.

Sweat formed on my forehead, and I felt incredibly guilty, "I know it sounds ridiculous to bring this up."

"You know it's ridiculous too?" My mom furiously massaged her temples, trying to stay calm.

I was really worried she would get so angry it might harm her, but I could only brazenly say, "The last time we talked, you... didn't you accept that there are feelings... between him and me..."

"Su Wan, are you... trying to kill me?" My mom erupted in fury, raising her hand to slap me.

The palm wind was fierce, sweeping toward me, and I could see Longting's expression turn cold, obviously unable to watch me get hit.

He tried to pull me up, to get me behind him.

I grabbed his hand with mine and squeezed it.

Used to being arrogant, Longting actually stopped at my subtle hint, and he sternly said to my mom, "Su Wan just got seriously injured, don't hit her."

This man was always so unrestrained and carefree, treating everything in the world with disdain.

At this moment, his eyes flashed red like a wounded beast.

My mom's palm wind had actually already stopped a moment before hitting my cheek, her entire arm trembling, "Why won't you listen, child? Is this how you interpret your mother's words?"

"It was I who insisted on marrying Su Wan, she was coerced by me step by step..." Longting's voice was as cold as the calm before a blizzard.

What he faced was my mom's sharp, hateful gaze.

He was usually cunning, but now he was too personally involved to think clearly.

In this situation, no matter what he said, it would only make my mom dislike him more.

I had no choice but to rebuke him coldly, "This is a matter between my mom and me, it has nothing to do with you, back off."

"You... talk to me like this?" Longting's deep dark eyes glared at me.

My mom was also visibly shocked, afraid that I would anger Longting beyond redemption.

"So what?" I looked back at him.

Longting's previously drooping eyelids suddenly shifted from a fierce snake to a pitiful puppy, "My dear wife, you could be even harsher~"

"..." I was speechless at his cheesy demeanor in front of my mom.

I calmed myself down, poured a glass of warm water for my mom, and handed it to her, "I keep in mind our last conversation deeply. From your words, one could understand that I should be clear about myself, stick to my heart, and not impulsively get together with Longting. Or they could mean that you want me to truly and sincerely fall in love with him, never changing these feelings."

"What I obviously meant was the former, Su Wan, you need to understand yourself clearly." My mom didn't drink the water I poured. She was just looking at me as if I were an irredeemable fool.

I knew the negotiation had failed, and I sat down on the chair, disheartened and feeling exceptionally cold in my heart.

Before coming to tell my mom the truth, I originally only had a 30% certainty.

Now that she knew my inner plans, I had handled things into a complete mess.

Next, I didn't know what to do. I didn't want to go against my mom's wishes, but I also didn't want to let down Longting.

Is there really no perfect solution?

Longting stood by my side, his long hand silently landing on my shoulder.

My heart was bit by bit eaten up by pain, and my head felt a bit dizzy.

Although Longting had used his cultivation to heal me, I still needed to go through a period of weakness and properly recuperate to fully recover.

"Su Wan, whether you were deceived by the Snake Lord or you truly want to marry him, since you've decided, what use is there for me to stop you? You really didn't need to ask me."

My mom's words slowly rang out, icy as if she were dealing with a brainless daughter led astray by a scoundrel, wishing she could cut off relations immediately.