

A Snake 251

Chapter 251: Are You Possessed by a Drama King?

The bearded man couldn't bear to listen, "Boss, why not let this girl swear an oath and let her go? Bullying a girl isn't too nice."

"What the hell, what business is it of yours? Do you want me to kick your ass?" Zhang Shuying cursed angrily.

Bearded Man made a zipping motion over his mouth and said dejectedly, "No, no, no, my apologies Third Master, I was out of line, I'll mute myself."

"You really got the wrong person... Kidnapping me won't threaten or control Yun Hao, can't you recognize who Yun Hao's wife is? It's Immortal Liu who you kidnapped..."

I frantically pulled at the window, trying to escape through the car window.

But Zhang Shuying casually grabbed the back of my shirt, and all my flailing was in vain.

"Who are you trying to fool? Back in the day, Yun Hao died with open eyes, betrayed by his own wife, which led to his reincarnation today. They are sworn enemies for eternity, could they really be lovers?"

Zhang Shuying nonchalantly said, "I advise you to forget about running away. Behave and follow me. I'll overlook the fact you tried to trick me, considering how pretty you are. You see, I'm quite magnanimous. You might as well accept your fate."

I realized there was no chance of escape at all and tears uncontrollably started rolling down my cheeks, "My boyfriend will wake up and worry if he can't find me, I need to go back..."

All I could think about was Yu Longting, wanting to be with him, wanting to hold his serpentine form...

The more I thought about it, the more aggrieved I felt, and the tears kept falling.

"Are you possessed by a drama queen? You're already pregnant with Snake Baby, yet you pretend to have a boyfriend. What man could accept his girlfriend after she's been defiled by a snake?"

Zhang Shuying probed his ear, visibly annoyed and mocking, and roughly wiped my tears with his sleeve, "You're being very noisy. Keep crying, and believe me, I'll... strip you naked..."

"Burp!"

Frightened, I belched violently, my eyes wide as saucers as I looked at Zhang Shuying, retreating inwardly at the sight of his incredibly seductive face,

wishing I could meld into the walls of the carriage...

Zhang Shuying slapped a Spirit Talisman onto my forehead, his lips curling into a malicious smile as he leaned in to watch my dazed expression, "You're so cowardly, crying like a simpleton with just a little scare, yet you dare oppose me, Third Master Zhang, and even send your lover to steal my things. Are you growing bold? If it weren't for your last bit of kindness in asking Yun Hao not to kill me, I really would have slaughtered you by now."

"What did you stick on me?" Though I dared not shed tears any longer, my voice was still choked up.

Could anyone be more unlucky than me?

My plan had been completely successful, Yun Hao had managed to reincarnate right under Zhang Shuying's watch, yet I ended up kidnapped by Zhang Shuying out of revenge...

Zhang Shuying sneered, "It's a calming talisman, do you feel less agitated and sad now?"

"I do feel calmer..." I sniffled, glaring at Zhang Shuying in annoyance, "I'm not trying to fight you, it was all a misunderstanding. Yun Hao came to you to retrieve Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul, which is kept inside an old-fashioned yellow pear wood dressing case..."

"Oh? Something about Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul... I didn't know that," Zhang Shuying spoke playfully, "But that stinking snake Yun Hao came demanding the dressing case as soon as he saw me. Even if it's trash, I won't let others get it cheap."

So this guy really didn't care what Yun Hao was asking for?

He was just irritated that someone coveted something of his, and just for that, he disabled Yun Hao's powers...

What an odd character!

I nodded vehemently, sensing an opportunity to convince him, quickly added, "Yes, that very dressing case containing the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul endangers my life, that thing... should be passed down by... by... by..."

Suddenly, the talisman on my forehead pulled at my soul, as if trying to absorb it, and before I could finish my sentence, I collapsed dizzily.

Chapter 252: Crossing Over~?

Birdsong rang crisply in my ears.

As I opened my eyes, the first thing I saw was the antique window lattice filtering the fragmented sunlight.

Outside the window, verdant branches stretched out, their bright sunlight shining through the overlapping leaves onto the lattice.

Beneath me was a particularly ancient and exquisite Step-Out Bed, and the surrounding furnishings were also very elegant and classic.

I inexplicably felt chills inside, a sense of unreality flooding my heart. I pinched my own face hard, "Oh my God, I...haven't time-traveled, have I? This is just too unscientific..."

The thought of not being able to return to Yu Longting's side brought an indescribable discomfort to the bottom of my heart.

"You want to time-travel, but I don't have that technology yet. Don't all girls fantasize about becoming a princess consort in ancient times?" The nightmare-like, sinister voice of Zhang Shuying reached my ears.

I shrank on the spot from fright, then looked up to see him holding a tray in his hand, with a bowl of white porridge steaming on it.

I couldn't care less, leaped out of bed, took the porridge, and gulped it down.

"You...you...are you still a girl? No man eats...as rudely as you...aren't you afraid that I, Third Master, might have poisoned your porridge?"

Zhang Shuying showed an speechless expression and kicked something hard toward my feet.

I drained the bowl of white porridge in one breath, not even having the time to taste the side dishes he prepared, "A pregnant woman fears hunger the most. I'm so hungry my front stomach is sticking to my back. If you wanted to kill me, why would you bother with poisoning, which is so boring? Just throwing me into the river on the way would have drowned me."

Looking down at what had bumped against my feet, it was a pair of bluish-gray cloth shoes.

Only then did I feel the cold chill of the ground beneath my feet, and in a rush, I slipped my feet into the shoes, "Thanks, do you have any clean clothes...I'd like to change..."

"You're...not welcome at all. Yes, I have clothes, but only a Taoist robe, and it's one I've worn. There are only three men in my sect..." Zhang Shuying handed me a piece of napkin.

I took the napkin and wiped my mouth, "Thanks. Having clothes to change is good; these clothes rolled around on the attic floor and got quite dirty. Your name is Zhang Shuying, the two characters that are about winning and losing, right? No wonder your competitive spirit is so strong."

I have no idea what this ghostly place is, but I certainly don't want to stay here.

But since I couldn't beat Zhang Shuying, I could only figure out a way to deceive his trust first and make a break for it once I've got a clear view of the situation.

"Literature and etiquette for 'Shu', and strategic management for 'Ying'."

After Zhang Shuying corrected my misconceptions about his name, he placed a Yellow Pear Wood box on the table, "My damn dead father, probably thought his son could be like Zhuge Liang, well-read in poetry and skilled at strategic management. This thing, it was also a gift from him."

The moment the Yellow Pear Wood box touched the table surface,

it suddenly shook violently on its own. The thing could smell the scent on me, and from inside the box, an extremely excited woman's voice emerged, "I have finally...waited for you...my reincarnated body...hehehe...after a thousand years, you've finally...arrived."

"In broad daylight, you can...come out too? Oh my god, I'm really seeing a ghost..." I could feel the chill from the box creeping onto my body, penetrating every pore without resistance, frightening me into quickly dodging to avoid being possessed.

But in my clumsy haste, I tripped over the chair beneath my feet, almost falling face-first to the ground.

I could only protect my belly to prevent Dumpling from hitting the ground and getting injured, then Zhang Shuying's quick reflexes caught me.

He was also genuinely shocked, his eyes wide as he exclaimed, "Damn, Spiritual Eye Sister, you've been made into a Cauldron Furnace, specifically for...this ghostly thing to possess...that's just too miserable!"

As soon as the words left his mouth, the purple gold lock on the Dressing Case suddenly unlocked itself, and a stream of black mist flowed out, assaulting my body.

Chapter 253: Stupid Subordinate

"In front of me, you seize the body? This Dumpling actually looks quite something." Zhang Shuying squinted his eyes and picked up the Money Sword that was slung behind him, casually dispersing the fog.

The Money Sword, carrying the fierce energy of Sharp Metal, effortlessly split the Dressing Case in two.

"Ah~ Ouch... so painful..." The black mist didn't even form properly before crying out and dispersing into the air.

The air then carried a scent of burnt charcoal, which was slightly nauseating to smell.

His formidable strength intimidated me so much that I shuddered, then quickly bowed gratefully towards him, "Thank you, I...I really didn't expect that you would be so decisive in helping me... destroy the Ancestor of Foxes' Remnant Soul."

Right after I bowed, I started retching awkwardly.

Zhang Shuying couldn't stand it and snapped, "Damn it, just a thank you makes you sick enough to vomit? You ungrateful little brat, do you want me to twist your head off?"

"No, it's my pregnancy reactions, the air is just too awful in here and it's making me want to throw up," I retched uncontrollably, with snot and tears running down, feeling utterly disoriented.

I could feel that the little thing in my stomach was probably exhausted from clashing with the powerful Zhang Shuying last night, and now it lay unconscious.

Right now, it felt incredibly weak, even a slight external stimulus could cause severe pregnancy reactions.

Zhang Shuying pinched my wrist, checked my pulse, then pulled me outside, "The Snake Baby in your belly picked a fight with me yesterday and got pretty hurt, overestimating its own strength."

"My Dumpling was only trying to protect me. You almost crushed my hand, and it still hurts like hell," I said, my broken hand stabilized with a splint but still very painful when moved.

Zhang Shuying pulled my wrist and directly took me outside to the courtyard, "Let's not stay indoors, let's walk around outside."

In the small courtyard, the ground was paved with green bricks, and emerald grass grew in between the cracks.

The vegetable patches with beans and loofahs were in bloom.

Butterflies and bees were bustling about...

This kind of rural, rustic life was something I had always longed for...

I breathed in some fresh air and chatted casually with Zhang Shuying.

After he betrayed the Zhang Family, he started his own sect.

The name of the sect was the Gu Sect, apparently this guy refused to use the ancestral Taoist Arts of the Zhang Family, and instead learned Gu Art to protect himself.

While we were talking, the bearded man from last night hurried over, "Third Master, the village chief of Ancient Water Village is begging for your help."

"They're begging again? They better not be asking me to find them a spot to dig a well again, or to cure their old ox!! I'm a Sect Master, not some village veterinarian," Zhang Shuying complained irritably.

The Bearded Man glanced at the hand Zhang Shuying used to grab my wrist, "Got her by the hand already? Sect Master is impressive, handling this little brat in one night."

"Handle my ass... I was forcibly grabbed by him. If I had resisted, my good hand might have been crushed," I was fuming.

The Bearded Man laughed, "Even if it's by force, it still counts. I used to think the Third Master wasn't interested in women. I'll go send that old man away."

"We're out of money on the books, if you send the old man away, what will we eat, drink, or wear?" Zhang Shuying kicked the Bearded Man's butt discontentedly, "You, Spiritual Eye Sister, come with me to have a look."

"Third Master, have you fallen for her? Why do you have to bring her everywhere?"

The Bearded Man stumbled from the kick but cheekily teased.

Zhang Shuying, his face covered in annoyance, kicked the Bearded Man's butt again and dragged me out of the courtyard, crossing through the majestic building like a dojo, walking down the stone steps toward the mountain base, "I prided myself on my wisdom, how do I end up with two imbecilic subordinates? Yun Hao has been trailing us all this way, yet didn't storm in to abduct her, which means he momentarily can't breach the grand formation of the mountain gate. If I don't keep this little brat under my eyes, she might be taken away by Yun Hao at any moment!!"

Chapter 254: Just a Joke in Your Eyes

"Then won't we encounter Yun Hao as soon as we leave the mountain gate?" the Bearded Man, lacking in cultivation, was struggling to keep up with Zhang Shuying, panting heavily.

Zhang Shuying noticed I was having trouble keeping pace and, with a long arm, scooped me up by the waist and lifted me off the ground, "If you're scared, just hide at home."

"Zhang Shuying, let go of me, put me down," I protested fiercely, suddenly pressed against a strange man's chest, so enraged that I began to flail and scratch.

Zhang Shuying's face and neck were covered in red scratch marks, but rather than letting go, he gripped my waist even tighter, "Not letting go, what can you do about it? Like a little wildcat showing your claws, are you going to scratch me to death? Hahaha..."

"I know I'm just a joke in your eyes, I can't beat you in a fight, nor out-curse you," I glared at Zhang Shuying, feeling like I was about to cry in frustration.

Zhang Shuying had a carelessly wicked smirk, "You're very self-aware, knowing you're bad with words, and your combat power is weak."

"How long are you going to keep me here? How is this any different from illegal detention?" I desperately wanted to return to Spring Wind Town, to be by Yu Longting's side.

Zhang Shuying lowered his gaze to look at me, his eyes brimming with teasing, "How long? Probably... ten thousand years. My laws don't apply here. Unless you can escape and call the police. But with your abilities, can you really get away?"

"..." I felt almost in despair. If what he said was true, I might really be trapped in the Gu Sect forever.

Zhang Shuying was far more powerful than Immortal Liu, so how could I possibly escape from under his watch?

It was just a three or four-minute walk.

Zhang Shuying then descended from the mountain, over two kilometers high.

At the foot of the mountain, there was a pavilion.

Two short horses were tied next to the pavilion, grazing on the grass with their heads down.

On the steps sat two plainly dressed people, one an elderly man with white hair, and the other a middle-aged man.

Upon seeing Zhang Shuying approach, they both stood up to greet him.

The elderly man trembled as he spoke, "Master Zhang, I have finally waited for you, I was worried you wouldn't come."

"We wouldn't dare to disturb you if it wasn't for something extremely urgent. My son is on his deathbed, please, you have to save him," the middle-aged man's eyes were red with bloodshot veins, and his brows were lightly furrowed, clearly in a constant state of anxiety.

Zhang Shuying was about to speak.

A biting cold wind attacked, aimed straight at Zhang Shuying.

Zhang Shuying, without hesitation, grabbed my shoulders and pushed me in front of him as a shield, "You even dare to launch a sneak attack when your sweetheart is in my hands? Yun Hao, it seems your love for her isn't genuine after all. Such an innocent girl, carrying a 'monster's' baby for ten months, and this is how you repay her?"

"Shut up," Yun Hao barely managed to withdraw his sword in time, forcefully pulling back his Qi Force, causing him to stagger backward several steps.

He stamped the ground hard, creating deep depressions before he could finally stop.

Zhang Shuying's smirk was insincere, "What's the matter? Did I step on your snake tail? I advise you to roll back to wherever you came from. If you try to take Spiritual Eye Sister by force, I'm ready to go all out and kill her if necessary."

"Don't make it sound so frightening, just hand me over to Yun Hao and turn a fight into a friendship, wouldn't that be nice?"

I could see Zhang Shuying was dead set on seeing this through to the bitter end. I felt helpless.

There were no deep grudges or great grievances, it was all a misunderstanding, and yet it had come to this.

Zhang Shuying cast a cold glance at me, "Yun Hao, if you keep pestering me, I have all the time in the world to waste. I have you as a human shield and can remain invincible. But if the Ancient Water Village matter gets delayed and people die, that won't be my problem."

Chapter 255: True Love for Your Son

The two from Ancient Water Village were desperately running in circles, and although Yun Hao appeared to be just a child, he was pressing Zhang Shuying so hard that it was clear he was no pushover.

Who would dare to provoke him?

In their desperation, the middle-aged man knelt down, incessantly kowtowing to Yun Hao, "Please, your Excellency, lift your noble hand, your feud with Master Zhang can wait... my son... doesn't have much time left..."

"Exactly, you look so respectable, you must be a good person, please help," the white-haired old man also pleaded, trembling.

Yun Hao coldly disregarded the two of them as if they were nothing, "What does this have to do with me."

"Yun Hao, maybe I should follow Zhang Shuying for now, and you don't need to conflict with him temporarily." I was also compelled to compromise.

Beyond pity for the suffering victim of Ancient Water Village, lingering here didn't seem likely to offer any progress.

Yun Hao was still able to listen to some of my words, "Falling into the hands of such scum, you could face danger at any moment."

"That won't happen. I'm his get-out-of-jail-free card; he won't have enough time to protect me," I reasoned with Yun Hao.

Yun Hao's frosty gaze skewered Zhang Shuying, stepping half a step backward.

Zhang Shuying was preening as if he'd returned triumphant from battle.

Under Yun Hao's watchful eye, he took me onto a small horse.

The old man and the middle-aged man rode another.

Yun Hao followed behind with a sullen face.

It would take about an hour and a half to get from Ancient Water Village to the gates of the Gu Sect.

On the way, Zhang Shuying gathered some details about the situation.

The old man was the village chief of Ancient Water Village, known as Old Man Gu.

The middle-aged man was named Gu Quansheng, and it was his son who was in trouble.

Gu Quansheng's son had been accepted into a university outside and had found a girlfriend from the Miao ethnicity.

The girl was particularly beautiful and was praised by everyone in the village when she was brought home.

But sometimes happiness leads to sorrow; recently, the girl had an argument with Gu Quansheng's son.

Upset, the girl left and has been missing ever since.

After that, Gu Quansheng's son fell ill, initially just developing some sores on his skin.

They would heal with skin cream, but would reappear a few days later, each time more severe than the last, until he was completely oozing pus all over.

Neither ingested nor topical medications had any effect, and he had been in a coma for two days straight.

The villagers all said the girl had inflicted him with a gu curse.

That's why Gu Quansheng had thought of seeking help from the Gu Sect.

When they arrived at Gu Quansheng's house.

Zhang Shuying glanced at the son and indeed confirmed that he had been poisoned by gu,

"It's a Love Gu; this kid has some romantic luck," he said.

"Is Master Zhang joking? He's about to die; where's the luck in that?" Gu Quansheng looked at his disfigured son with a face full of worry.

The house was filled with the foul smell of pus, and Gu Quansheng's son was so covered in festering wounds that there was hardly any healthy skin left.

Just one glance would unsettle anyone; it might even haunt them for days with nightmares.

The only ones willing to enter were Gu Quansheng,

Zhang Shuying, and myself, who was being held hostage, while even Yun Hao stood outside with a darkened expression.

"Geez, Love Gu is quite expensive; it requires a vast expenditure of human and material resources!"

Zhang Shuying said with envy, "I've thought about raising one myself, but I can't afford the cost. You don't realize how lucky you are. Many people can't even buy it if they want to, which shows that the Miao girl truly loved your son."

Gu Quansheng probably didn't expect that the master he sought would do nothing to help and would instead make callous remarks. He looked devastated, "What is a Love Gu used for? Why has my son become like this after being affected, and can you cure him?"

Chapter 256: My Little Darling That I've Raised

"Ancient Love Gu was rather terrifying, while modern ones are typically novelties, a sort of pastime for couples, hardly lethal."

Zhang Shuying's smile was cryptic, filled with disdain and a chilly air.

Gu Quansheng opened his mouth, wanting to say something.

Zhang Shuying cut him off directly, her tone playful,

"Considering how severely your son reacted, my guess is that after he was poisoned by the Gu, he cheated with other women, maybe more than one."

After hearing that, only two words came to my mind.

Served him right.

Then, I heard Zhang Shuying say, "In my opinion, Uncle Gu, your son got exactly what he deserved."

"Do you have a way to save him? I beg you, please save my son. He's my only child; if anything happens to him, how can I go on living?"

Gu Quansheng's complexion changed drastically as he knelt and clung to Zhang Shuying's legs, pleading.

A hint of coldness flashed through Zhang Shuying's eyes, as she paused and then spoke indifferently, "This Love Gu is child's play, not the real deal, I can cure it."

"Thank you so much! As long as you can cure my son, I've prepared some modest gifts, and there's a hundred thousand in cash," Gu Quansheng said excitedly.

Zhang Shuying spread open her palm, and from a crack that opened in the center, a golden bug flew out, "Although the Love Gu can be resolved, his other incurable disease, even deities can't heal."

The golden bug looked akin to a chubby silkworm.

With four pairs of golden wings, it flew swiftly as it fluttered its wings.

It landed on the man plagued with countless pustules, wiggling its plump body as it burrowed into the man's nostril.

The golden creature was so chubby that it stretched the man's nostril to more than double its size as it squeezed in.

I found its clumsily charming appearance so amusing that I couldn't help but curl the corners of my lips upwards.

Gu Quansheng, with his heart and eyes full of nothing but his son, anxiously questioned Zhang Shuying, "What kind of incurable disease?"

"Terrible character, too scummy," Zhang Shuying droned on without the slightest hint of interest.

Gu Quansheng was stunned for a moment but then breathed a sigh of relief.

About ten minutes went by.

The man's pus-filled, swollen cheek puffed out a few times, as if he was hiding something round in his mouth.

Gu Quansheng was so startled that his forehead was covered in sweat, "There's something strange in my son's mouth..."

"It's my little darling, don't be scared." Zhang Shuying walked over, entirely disregarding the man's disgusting face, and opened his mouth, "It got fatter, so it couldn't fly out of the nostril. Had to take the esophagus, poor little darling~"

The putrid smell from the man's mouth was dreadful, simply opening his mouth almost brought me to tears.

I then saw a round, golden, plump ball flapping its wings as it flew out...

Compared to the chubbiness from before, its appearance now looked absolutely mutated.

"Here is the prescription. Boil these for your son. He will vomit and have diarrhea for about a month, so be patient," Zhang Shuying said as she scribbled a prescription, its surface smeared with the pus from her hand.

I saw Zhang Shuying heading my way, and I was on the verge of a breakdown, "You... don't come any closer, your hands are filthy..."

"Your body is filthy too, all covered in the dust from the attic yesterday, and with Yun Hao's Stinky Snake Blood all over it. I haven't complained about you, yet you dare to find fault with the Taoist Master?"

Zhang Shuying must've been the ringleader of all troublemakers as a child, because she hasn't lost the knack for teasing others even after growing up. Seeing how repulsed I was by the pus, she reached out and wiped all the disgusting muck in her palm onto me.

Chapter 257: Probably Teasing Someone

My whole face turned green as I glared at Zhang Shuying, this childish ghost.

Zhang Shuying continued to joke around and said to Gu Quansheng, "The money in cash, and the gifts you brought, tie them to the horse and deliver them to my mountain sect."

"Sure, sure, sure, Master Zhang, I'll make sure it's done." Gu Quansheng was profusely grateful, going out to inform and discuss with the village chief, Old Man Gu.

Old Man Gu, knowing that Gu Quansheng needed to take care of his son, called a few young men to help with the matter.

In the house, Gu Jun began coughing and woke up, so Gu Quansheng went back to continue caring for him.

Back at the Gu Sect's mountain gate, Uncle Zhong and the Bearded Man waited at the entrance.

Cheerfully, they unloaded the cash and gifts from the horse and carried them up the mountain; those gifts weren't actually very valuable, just ordinary local products.

But considering the financial situation of the Gu Sect, it seemed they really needed those products to supplement their food supply.

It wasn't until then that I realized the Bearded Man really had been too cowardly to leave the mountain gate and hadn't gone to Ancient Water Village.

Zhang Shuying swaggered into the mountain gate, holding me hostage, and smugly said to Yun Hao standing at the gate, "Old Demon Snake, just stay out here and behave. From now on, I'll take care of your consort. If you ever have a son, who knows, he might even call me 'daddy'."

My head was full of black lines; Zhang's mouth really knew no gate, there was never a moment of silence with him.

"Zhang, you wait, within three days, this mountain gate of yours will fall," Yun Hao said, looking at me being taken up the mountain, his eyes dark and cold.

I turned back helplessly, "Make sure to come rescue me, I really want to go home."

"Su Wan... Su Wan..."

Yun Hao, hearing my cry for help, seemed moved for the first time in many years, and surged forward, only to be blocked by an invisible Formation.

Zhang Shuying was truly a genius gifted by heaven, having built such a large sect all by himself.

Proficient in the marvelous Gu Art, his Formation and Taoist Arts were even more unbeatable.

The Formation at the mountain gate that restricted entry was very complex. When I used the Spiritual Eye to see it, I could understand some of it, but I couldn't focus too hard.

If I did focus, I would get lost in the Formation, trapped and unable to wake up.

"Yu Longting, he..." I wanted to ask Yun Hao about Yu Longting's condition but alas, I had already returned to the sect at the top of the mountain.

Among the local products Gu Quansheng had sent were preserved meat, pork ribs, and pig's feet.

There were also loofah, Chinese cabbage and some fresh fish...

Uncle Zhong and the Bearded Man cooked a lavish lunch together, and I, feeling depressed, didn't eat a single bite.

"Hey, Spiritual Eye Sister, it's been three hours and five minutes since you last spoke to me," Zhang Shuying puffed up and glared at me.

I closed my eyes and remained silent, unwilling to deal with him.

The Bearded Man grumbled, "The girl had a good attitude just before leaving, why is she suddenly ignoring the Sect Master, did Third Master do something to her?"

"He might have teased her," suggested Uncle Zhong.

Zhang Shuying irritably put down his chopsticks, circled around me several times, stopped and said, "Spiritual Eye Sister, there's a new wooden tub in the sect you can use to bathe. If you want hot water, I can boil it for you."

"Well... thank you, and can you get me another clean Taoist robe to wear?" Hearing I could take a bath, the irritation I felt from being grimed by him naturally subsided.

Uncle Zhong and the Bearded Man seemed unable to comprehend my mood, showing bewildered expressions.

Soon after, Zhang Shuying moved a wooden tub into an empty room.

I took a quick bath in the tub, changed into a cheongsam, draped on a washed-out greyish hemp Taoist robe, and came out feeling refreshed and invigorated...

The cuffs of the Taoist robe were embroidered with healing patterns using a borrowed needle and thread.

Just after putting it on, the pain in my injured wrist subsided significantly, and I believed it wouldn't take too long to fully recover...

"Ouch, what's that?" I felt something bumped into my face, touched my face, and to my surprise, it was a golden, plump creature with wings, "It's you!! Xiao Yuanyuan! How did you end up flying onto my face??"

Chapter 258: Life-bound Gu

"I'm not Xiao Yuanyuan, I am the Golden Silkworm Gu."

The round Golden Silkworm Gu crawling from my face struggled to turn over in the palm of my hand, twisting its body laboriously.

I chuckled, "Haha, still saying you're not Xiao Yuanyuan, yet your movements are so round they can only roll."

"I... I'll go... pretty sister, you can understand what I'm saying." The Golden Silkworm Gu turned over and, fluttering its wings, took flight.

I reached out a finger to scratch the chin of the Golden Silkworm Gu, "I wouldn't have thought an insect's mouth could be so sweet, knowing how to flatter a girl like that."

"Master, master, big news, that pretty sister can understand what I'm saying." The Golden Silkworm Gu suddenly flew in one direction, frantically calling out to Zhang Shuying who was passing by.

Zhang Shuying flicked the Golden Silkworm Gu away with a snap of his fingers, yawning, "Even an insect can have delusions? Don't you have any sense in your little bug brain, in the Four Seas and Eight Wildernesses only I can hear your broken chatter, hurry up and do your business, return to my hand, just like the Golden Cicada Child, babbling nonstop, annoying to death."

"Sister, Zhang Shuying is bullying me, he hit me." The Golden Silkworm Gu flew back to me feeling aggrieved, and tattled.

I opened the palm of my hand towards the Golden Silkworm Gu.

It obediently landed, and I gently stroked the insect's back with my finger, "Good baby, sister spoils you, don't be sad~"

"Awoo~"

The Golden Silkworm Gu, particularly spiritual, adorably rolled around in my palm.

"You... you you you you!! Spiritual Eye Sister, you... you're seducing my insect!" Zhang Shuying, like a little overlord at this moment, came over in a rage, his nose crooked with anger.

I stroked the soft body of the Golden Silkworm Gu, "You bullied it, and that's why it came to me, Xiao Yuanyuan helps you heal people, can't you be a bit nicer?"

"You're actually not afraid of insects?"

Zhang Shuying touched his chin, squinting his eyes as he circled around me, "Are you even a woman anymore, aren't most women supposed to scream and run away at the sight of insects, then stomp them to death?"

"Just think of me as not, let Xiao Yuanyuan stay with me for a bit." I had been standing for so long my legs were a bit sore, so I sat down on the stone steps of the corridor.

Xiao Yuanyuan was especially spirited, happily rolling around in my palm.

Zhang Shuying's face turned slightly red, unsure if it was out of anger, "Do you know that the Golden Silkworm Gu is my Life-bound Gu... never mind, if you want to play with it, go ahead, it will do its business soon, you, being such a clean lady, better not get disgusted and scream."

"Xiao Yuanyuan, if you need to do your business later, let sister know, okay?" Reminded by Zhang Shuying and also worried about Xiao Yuanyuan making a mess, I leisurely cautioned it.

Xiao Yuanyuan nodded vigorously, appearing to understand.

How adorable~!

Zhang Shuying looked shockingly hit, listlessly walking away.

Given that Uncle Zhong and Bearded Man cooked terribly, and Zhang Shuying was like a do-nothing master.

My injured wrist had healed, so I took the initiative to offer to make dinner for them.

Dinner was simple: sweet potato porridge, a plate of stir-fried zucchini with ham, and a full dish basin of potato stewed with sword beans.

Uncle Zhong and Bearded Man both praised my cooking, seeing Xiao Yuanyuan always resting on my shoulder, getting close to me.

It was only after asking Zhang Shuying that they realized Zhang Shuying's insect...

Had defected.

Bearded Man looked curiously, "This insect chirping away, I thought only Third Master could understand it, never expected Miss Su Wan could understand it too."

"Eh? Is Xiao Yuanyuan chirping like an insect? I thought it could speak human language." At this moment I realized that Xiao Yuanyuan wasn't speaking human language but chirping like a normal insect.

Uncle Zhong stuffed a sword bean into his mouth, "This means Miss Su Wan and our Sect Master are quite fated, the Golden Silkworm Gu is the Sect Master's Life-bound Gu, it communicates with the Sect Master using telepathy..."

Chapter 259: Marrying Her to be the Sect Master's Wife

"Uh, Life-bound gu... what exactly does that mean?" I suddenly remembered that the Golden Silkworm Gu had emerged from Zhang Shuying's palm.

How far had they gone for a person and a gu to coexist so harmoniously as part of a symbiotic relationship?

Bearded Man took a sip from his chopstick tips, "Third Master split half of his soul with the Golden Silkworm Gu, which is essentially an extension of himself, hence the telepathy. Speaking of which, can this Life-bound even rebel? Truly, this world is full of wonders..."

"So when I touched the Golden Silkworm Gu..." I suddenly felt something was off, and I couldn't keep a straight face.

Bearded Man with eyes naturally rimmed with black eyeliner rounded his eyes, "You touched the Golden Silkworm Gu?"

"No no no, I didn't, I've never touched it." I immediately felt uneasy and firmly denied it.

Previously, Zhang Shuying was even planning to beat Xiao Yuanyuan, with a rather nasty attitude.

Who would have thought that in some way, Xiao Yuanyuan was just another Zhang Shuying...

Bearded Man's mouth was stuffed full, with yellow sweet potatoes sticking to his mouth and beard, "Actually, it doesn't matter if you touched it. After all, you're practically Third Master's chief consort now. He would even let you handle his Life-bound... Why fuss over it..."

"..."

Right now, I really wanted to find a hole to crawl into. Uncle, if you can't speak properly, better not to talk at all.

The Golden Silkworm Gu's voice was muffled and it seemed uncomfortable, "Miss, I need to poo~"

"This damn bug, always bringing up the wrong thing at mealtime." Bearded Man complained.

The result was that he was the most enthusiastic about eating.

I hurriedly took out a large green leaf that I had prepared.

As the leaf approached the Golden Silkworm Gu, it slowly climbed on.

Seemingly in discomfort, it immediately excreted a large blob once it climbed onto the leaf.

It was golden and about the same size as its body.

The Golden Silkworm Gu then appeared thinner, not as plump as before.

"Don't throw away the Golden Silkworm Gu's poop, it's a great antidote to snake venom, even the venom of king cobras isn't a problem," Bearded Man finished a bowl of rice and went to get another.

Looking at that blob of gold, I had an indescribable expression, "Xiao Yuanyuan really is a treasure all around."

It was hard to imagine that this stuff could also be used in medicine.

I replaced it with a clean leaf for Xiao Yuanyuan, my finger just about to touch its little head.

I slowly reacted and stopped just in time.

Xiao Yuanyuan hung its little head, looking somewhat disappointed.

It made me feel somewhat heartbroken.

"I'm done eating, you guys take your time," Zhang Shuying drifted off like a wandering spirit and floated out.

Bearded Man called out from behind, "Third Master, isn't it time for the Golden Silkworm Gu to return to your body after it's done pooping?"

Zhang Shuying seemed not to hear and didn't turn back.

From Bearded Man's remarks, it wasn't hard to pick up some common knowledge about gu raising.

Zhang Shuying's Golden Silkworm Gu was usually raised inside his body.

The Golden Silkworm Gu generally consumed the gu in its owner's body to alleviate the owner's ailments, hence it had grown plumper.

After it excreted, its body returned to normal size.

It could then return to its owner's body.

I didn't understand why Xiao Yuanyuan hadn't returned to Zhang Shuying but was instead looking at me with its pea-sized, begging eyes.

I might have been afraid of insects before, but such a cute insect...

Naturally, I didn't find it frightening in the least, and since it seemed unwilling to leave, it shouldn't be a problem for it to stay a bit longer with me.

"I'm done eating, you guys hurry up so I can wash the dishes." I'm not averse to cooking or washing dishes, and seeing that they were all burly men likely not detail-oriented, I made this suggestion.

Bearded Man and Uncle Zhong both waved their hands repeatedly, saying they had already done the cooking so they would handle the cleaning.

I thanked them for their hard work and left with Xiao Yuanyuan.

Just as I walked out of the dining hall, I could hear Bearded Man and Uncle Zhong murmuring, "Miss Su Wan's cooking is really delicious. Compared to what we used to eat, it's like comparing it to pig swill. Three Master, give it some effort and take Miss Su Wan down, marry her to become the Sect Master's Wife."

Chapter 260 It turned into a cocoon!!

My back stiffened, and I almost tripped over the threshold.

Because I was just around the corner, these two people didn't realize I hadn't walked far.

"Is it worse than pig's food? Hmph, you idiot, was the Sect Master's Wife brought here to cook for you?"

Uncle Zhong snorted coldly.

The Bearded Man chuckled awkwardly, "Heh heh, of course she's here to warm the Third Master's bed."

Do these two guys not know the saying 'he who takes the meal eats with short hands'??

They've been eating the food I cooked, and there they are, fabricating nonsense!!

I was full of exasperation as I hurriedly fled from the scene.

When I got back to the small courtyard where I had first woken up, someone had already lit the candles inside.

I thought there might be someone inside, so I knocked on the door.

When there was no response for a long time, I realized there probably wasn't anyone inside.

I pushed the door open and took a look – indeed, there was no one there, only the lit candles.

I guess Zhang Shuying must have been concerned that I wasn't used to using candlelight and came over to light them for me in advance.

The leaf where I had placed the Golden Silkworm Gu was carelessly set on the desk, and I leaned on the desk, lost in thought.

The shadow of Yu Longting lingered in my mind, impossible to dismiss even for a moment.

I was already missing him terribly, and by the quiet of the night, this longing was overwhelming, like a tidal wave I couldn't contain.

By now he should have woken up, if Yun Hao had followed all the way here.

Could it be that he hadn't found the chance to inform Yu Longting, and Yu Longting didn't know I was kidnapped by Zhang Shuying?

My cell phone and ID, they had all been snatched by Zhang Shuying.

Moreover, the mountain gate was full of traps and Formations; there was no possibility of me escaping at all.

This must be why Zhang Shuying didn't keep a strict eye on me but gave me some freedom instead.

As I was lost in thought, I noticed an extra strand of golden thread on the leaf and watched it with some surprise for a while.

I found that Xiao Yuanyuan was struggling to spin the thread, and all of it was golden.

"Wow, Xiao Yuanyuan, are you spinning thread?" I exclaimed with wide eyes.

Xiao Yuanyuan gave me a woeful look, its little form somehow reminiscent of a wronged wife from the deep palace, "Have you finally noticed?"

"Sorry, I was just thinking about home and got distracted," I apologized to Xiao Yuanyuan. "Why didn't you go back to Zhang Shuying?"

The spinning of thread paused, and a flicker of hurt seemed to pass through Xiao Yuanyuan's shiny eyes, "Do you... not like Xiao Yuanyuan anymore?"

I said discontentedly, "Don't jump to conclusions, a normal Life-bound Gu would usually like to follow its owner."

"But I want to follow miss," Xiao Yuanyuan said.

In the end, I couldn't resist and patted Xiao Yuanyuan on the head, "Alright, fine, you can do as you like."

"Mm, miss, I like you the most," Xiao Yuanyuan nudged its soft, cool little head against me, as adorable as a little kitten.

The next day, I woke up early.

When I saw the golden silkworm cocoon on the leaf, I almost went crazy.

Just a night's sleep, and Xiao Yuanyuan had turned into a cocoon??

Last night, when I saw it spinning silk, I should have expected this, but my mind was slow, and I didn't think that far ahead.

Now I believe Yu Longting's words; I might really be an idiot!

I'd never heard of a Gu insect that could spin silk into a cocoon. This couldn't possibly turn into a dusty, flapping moth after a few days, could it? The thought alone is terrifying.

If it becomes a fluffy moth, how is it supposed to return to Zhang Shuying's body?

I had originally woken up early to cook, but now I had to find Zhang Shuying first.

The Gu Sect was too large, and I had no idea where Zhang Shuying's room was.

Luckily he rose early and was fetching water from the well beside the kitchen; otherwise, I would have passed out searching through hundreds of rooms.

"Zhang Shuying, quick, look at your Golden Silkworm Gu, it... it's turned into a cocoon, and this... this isn't a problem, is it...?"

I asked Zhang Shuying nervously, holding the leaf in my hands.