

A Snake 271

Chapter 271: Like a Mountain King

"We're husband and wife now, speak frankly," Yu Longting corrected, clearly displeased.

I had never questioned Yu Longting's decisions, so I cautiously responded, "As far as I'm aware, Tree Infants are very afraid of people; maybe it wouldn't barge into a stranger's house."

"Hmm, that makes some sense, continue," Yu Longting said, probably anxious not to have me stand too long, leading me to sit down on a stone bench.

I tilted my head up and blinked at him, "You and Zhang Shuying are considering that it could become extremely hungry and its evil nature could erupt. But there's another possibility..."

"Hmm," Yu Longting listened seriously, his timely response conveyed that he was genuinely attentive to my words.

My lack of confidence smoothed over by his touch, I articulated my thoughts fluidly, "The Tree Infant harmed the family that raised it, likely because it was startled, combined with its fear of people. It might seek out a place to hide, somewhere that can still satisfy its enormous appetite."

"The slaughterhouse... My wife, I've discovered you are a genius among women; I underestimated your intelligence before." Yu Longting instantly understood what I meant and lavishly praised me, his eyes filled with approving smiles.

The light in his clear, shimmering eyes was filled with brilliance, reflecting only my figure.

Basking in the praise, I clasped his hand, "That's what I think too. Now we just need to ask someone if there's a place like that in the village."

I wasn't exactly the most confident girl to begin with.

Getting the recognition of someone important by my side effortlessly built up a staunch confidence in me.

"The folks in the southwest are fierce; asking around is easy, but getting the cold shoulder is easier. It's best to ask that armless farmer." Yu Longting touched my cheek and walked into the farmhouse.

I knew he didn't want me to see the situation inside the farmhouse again, including the terrifying sight of the farmer's severed arm.

However, there was still a part of me that couldn't let go, so I followed him closely.

The farmhouse reeked of blood.

The fetid stench was beyond what normal people could tolerate, capable of inducing nausea in anyone who entered.

And even more so for a pregnant woman, but I couldn't show that, so I held back a little to avoid worrying Yu Longting.

The armless farmer was sprawled on the ground, his eyes empty and unfocused.

He clearly had sustained psychological damage, as if his soul had left his body.

"Hey, uncle, is there a slaughterhouse in your village?" Yu Longting walked in casually. Although he looked refined, the moment he spoke, his voice betrayed a bandit-like roughness, like some mountain king.

The armless farmer seemed not to have registered seeing Yu Longting before, crying out in fear upon hearing his words, "Slaughterhouse...blood...so much blood...don't kill me...help..."

"Hey, who's planning to kill you? Look carefully, I'm human, not a Tree Infant," Yu Longting said impatiently, grabbing the farmer by the collar.

The farmer grew even more terrified, spurring out blood, "Let go of me...help...wu wu wu...I don't want to die..."

"Why can't you make sense when you talk? Seems like you were scared into madness." Yu Longting noticed me beside him and retracted the charm that had already appeared in his hand, then switched to playing the victim, "Wife, this guy has gone crazy, we can't get anything out of him. Using a talisman would hurt the Earth Soul, potentially affecting his future intelligence and memory, which isn't very ethical. Let's ask someone else; we'll find someone willing to answer eventually."

As if I hadn't noticed the yellow Spirit Talisman in his hand.

If I hadn't followed him in, I doubt he would have cared about ethics at all.

He would've just used talisman paper to force the answers out...

"Two outsiders, a young man and woman, asking about the location of a slaughterhouse is too strange. Let me try talking to this uncle, and if that doesn't work, we can think of other ways." I tugged at Yu Longting and pulled him behind me, so the uncle wouldn't see his villainous demeanor and panic too much.

Chapter 272 Slaughter Chicken Field

I had thought Yu Longting might not take it well, but unexpectedly, he looked at me with a face full of tender pampering and even patted my head, "Go ahead, you have more affinity with people than I do."

"Alright, I'll go check on that uncle."

I approached the farmer and crouched down, "Uncle, you're safe now..."

Actually, this uncle was the most pitiable, with all his close relatives deceased.

Zhang Shuying was willing to help, but he was an outsider after all.

He was only concerned about whether the Tree Infant would bring severe consequences to the village, aiming to capture the Tree Infant to safeguard Ancient Water Village.

This man had nobody by his side to offer comfort or to bandage his wounds.

Not to mention, there was a mutilated corpse in the house waiting to be dealt with.

Regardless of how resilient someone is on the inside, it's hard to bear all this.

"Don't... don't come any closer..." the farmer trembled, showing resistance towards me as well.

I simply squatted down to keep eye contact at the same level, so as not to cause any psychological pressure, "I won't come over, take a good look, I'm not a bad person. I'm just an ordinary person, I was with Zhang Shuying just now, that's the Gu Sect's Third Master Zhang."

"Are you a friend of... Master Zhang...?" the farmer finally regained some sanity, looking at me in a daze for the first time.

As he saw my face, the terror on his own faded a bit.

I nodded, "Yeah, I'm friends with Zhang Shuying. May I ask, does your village have a market? Where is the beef and pork slaughtered in your market?"

"There is a market, the slaughtering place should be at..."

The farmer began to let down his guard and fear towards me, and under my gentle persuasion, he slowly named two places.

One was for slaughtering chickens to the east, and the other for pigs to the west.

I felt sympathy for the one-armed farmer in front of me, located his cellphone, and found the number for the health center in his contacts to call someone over to help.

I then took out a red ribbon, planning to give it to the uncle for self-defense.

Yu Longting handed me a blue Spirit Talisman, "Use mine, it's hard work for you to do Life and Death Embroidery."

"Oh, okay." Knowing he was worried about the difficulty of making the Life and Death Embroidery, I happily accepted and gave the Spirit Talisman to the farmer.

After explaining how to use it to him, I left the farmhouse.

Yu Longting was in charge of the east, so we went to Slaughter Chicken Field.

Slaughter Chicken Field was actually a slaughter point for free-range chickens run by a household in Ancient Water Village on Taobao.

It was nearing nightfall, around five-something.

At the entrance, there was only a Gatekeeper squatting down, eating, who saw us approaching.

The Gatekeeper was especially vigilant, "You two look unfamiliar, what are you doing here?"

"We've bought your free-range chickens on Taobao before, thought they were delicious, and we want to create a brand of Ancient Water Village saltwater chicken."

I took the initiative to make up the story, knowing that if we told him we were here to catch the Tree Infant, the Gatekeeper would surely drive us away.

Upon hearing the reason I fabricated, the Gatekeeper frowned, "Outsiders? Wearing a Taoist robe?"

"This Taoist robe was lent to me by Master Zhang who thought I was a person of fate. Look, doesn't it seem familiar? Especially this cuff, see the golden Silkworm Gu pattern? Isn't it very familiar?" I brought up Master Zhang.

His reputation indeed proved to be useful.

The Gatekeeper carefully examined the pattern on my Taoist robe, and his expression softened, "This has to be discussed with the boss. The boss and the chicken slaughter workers have finished for the day. You should come back tomorrow."

"Is that so? But this place is so remote, it took us so long to get here! Since we're here, can we take a look inside?" I had no money on me, naturally, so I relied on exploiting Yu Longting.

Yu Longting handed me his entire wallet, even saying to me, "There isn't much cash, just five or six hundred, but all my bank cards are in there. The cards don't have a pin, I'm giving it all to you..."

"Say less, don't flaunt your wealth in public, we don't need much to bribe a chicken farmer." I covered Yu Longting's lips and gave him a white look, lowering my voice to warn him.

Then I took all the cash from the wallet and bribed the Gatekeeper, "A little something, consider it tea money for you, sir."

Chapter 273: Turned All into Chicken Skeletons

"I can't take this money, according to the rules I can't let outsiders in," the Gatekeeper glanced at the money, greedy but didn't take it.

I consciously took a step back, "Sorry, I was being presumptuous. How about you go in and catch one for us to check its quality?"

"Sure, that I can do, but it's quite easy. Are you really giving six hundred?" The Gatekeeper asked, not so certain.

I nodded with certainty, "Yes, compared to the brand we're planning to develop, this money is nothing."

"City folks are so generous. I'll open the gate and catch a chicken for you," said the Gatekeeper, his face beaming with joy as he took the money.

He pulled out a key and unlocked the gate to enter.

As soon as the door to the Slaughter Chicken Field opened, a wave of the stench of blood emanated out.

I quickly reached into my pocket for a cloth strip, ready to face any sudden danger.

Before I could pull it out, my waist was suddenly gripped by Yu Longting.

He slightly bent over to protect me in his arms, his long legs moving us toward the chicken farm.

Inside, the air was damp, and the concrete floor was stained with blood, looking wet and sinister, very much like Asura Hell.

The Gatekeeper was already scared witless, sitting on the ground, unable to stand up, "What happened... what's going on..."

"Yu Longting, look, all those chickens have turned into skeletons," I raised my head to look at the cages where the chickens were waiting to be slaughtered.

Each one was stripped bare of flesh, even the innards were gone.

Yu Longting's eyes suddenly turned green as he scanned the room of seventy or eighty square meters, "The Tree Infant has been here, but it must have left already, or it wouldn't have left this lone survivor."

I didn't want to continue discussing this topic in front of the frightened Gatekeeper, making him even more terrified, so I chose not to respond...

But in my heart, I strongly agreed with what he said.

"What's a Tree Infant? What are you talking about?" The Gatekeeper swallowed his saliva, completely lost, but he seemed to be catching on, "The live one you mentioned, that's not me, is it...?"

"Clean the blood off yourself and get home quickly, otherwise, these chickens will be your fate," Yu Longting gave the Gatekeeper a Spirit Talisman for protection and left with me.

I was nearly ninety percent sure, "The Slaughter Chicken Field slaughters in the daytime and had already delivered its products. At night, only six or seven chickens remain, not enough to sate the appetite of the Tree Infant."

"So, we need to check the pig slaughterhouse; they usually kill pigs at night and deliver them to the market in the day."

Yu Longting frowned as he looked down at the blood on the sole of my shoe.

He bent over especially to clean my shoes thoroughly.

His own soles were already clean. Did he float when he walked?

Initially, I thought Yu Longting helped clean the blood off my shoes because of his cleanliness, but as we reached the western village and the crowd slowly grew...

I realized his foresight. If someone with bloody footprints were to walk by, they might be mistaken for a butcher or a serial killer.

Upon reaching the pig slaughterhouse, red light shone all around.

The place was brightly lit, and from the outside, you could see each pig split open and hanging overhead.

Everything seemed normal; no skeletons in sight.

But just the sight of all these dead pigs was enough to scare someone as faint-hearted as me.

"If you're scared, you can close your eyes at any time, and I will hold you tightly," Yu Longting said, and then like the wind, he entered the slaughterhouse.

I felt the air was very cold; I swallowed, "So strange, I haven't seen a single person who kills pigs... Where did everyone go?"

It was only when I suddenly found myself lifted into the air, held by Yu Longting's arm, that I realized something.

I looked down at the ground and nearly fainted on the spot...

Chapter 274: Boosting Combat Power by Throwing One's Wife

At my feet lay a pig, half-eaten.

The skeletal half was stark white, while the other half remained intact.

Behind the massive body of the pig, a pair of resentful, crimson eyes hid.

And all these things had happened right under my feet.

If it weren't for Yu Longting suddenly picking me up, I definitely would have stepped right on it.

"Yu Longting... what... is this?" I screeched in embarrassment, clinging to Yu Longting's body with both hands, wishing I could grow on him.

Yu Longting didn't immediately deal with the pair of eyes behind the dead pig. Instead, he helplessly stroked the back of my head, "Didn't I tell you not to look? Such scary things will leave a psychological

shadow on you, and if you get overly frightened, Dumpling might turn out to be a coward when he's born."

"But I felt like I could be somewhat useful, maybe even help you, right? If I close my eyes, I won't be able to help with anything," I said, wanting to help him, but my body was very honest.

I clung to Yu Longting like an octopus, trembling all over.

With him by my side, I don't need to be too strong; I can let go of the things I fear.

He wouldn't scorn me for being as timid as a mouse; he'd just stand in front and protect me.

Yu Longting held me with one arm and held a talisman paper in the other, "You really did help me a lot. Have you ever played Honor of Kings? When Gān Jiàng and Mò Yé work together, their attack power is incredible."

"So, you're planning to throw your wife into the fight when you combat? Is that what you're saying?" I couldn't believe my ears that Yu Longting, with such high emotional intelligence, would use such a metaphor to compliment me.

Yu Longting exploded into a hearty laugh at my words, "What I mean is, with my wife in my arms, it's like I've got both the red and blue BUFFs, and my combat power has risen more than one level."

With a casual flick of his wrist, he released the talisman paper.

The yellow talisman paper firmly stuck to the back of the Tree Infant, which was trying to escape.

On the spot, the Tree Infant seemed to be frozen, motionless.

Seen from the silhouette of its back, it was like a root carving that could run and move, wasn't it?

It was indescribably ugly, yet it was called an Infant.

Does the person who named it not understand how adorable human babies can be?

"Aaahhhhh—" The Tree Infant shrieked loudly, its voice extremely piercing.

It was almost as if my eardrums would rupture.

The hanging whole pig above our heads also started to shake.

I guessed that the Tree Infant had emitted a sound with a very unique Hertz frequency, which allowed its sound waves to have penetrative power and aggression.

Yu Longting let out a cold laugh, and dozens of fire charms flew out from his sleeve.

Great flames immediately encircled the Tree Infant, which was crying and screaming, engulfing it in an instant.

That thing didn't even have a chance to struggle...

I breathed a sigh of relief and pushed on his body to get down, "Having burnt it, it should no longer be able to harm anyone, right?"

"Hard to say. This creature belongs to invasive species," Yu Longting walked over, picked up the charred, smoking Tree Infant from the remains of the fire charms, "It can lie dormant for a few years, sprinkle a few drops of blood, and it could come back to life, reduced to ashes, huh~ The texture is too hard, usually it's untouchable."

"This isn't our responsibility anymore, we managed to temporarily extinguish it, and that's morally enough! Yu Longting, it's getting dark, let's get out of here," I knew that the Tree Infant was burnt to death and the only hidden danger was gone, but in this slaughterhouse full of live pigs, I still felt uneasy and wanted to get away quickly.

"With your legs this weak, I might as well carry you out."

Yu Longting, carrying the Tree Infant, moved to embrace me.

I ran faster than a rabbit and kept my distance from him, "I don't want to, your hands are holding that thing."

"Su Wan, you can... you despise me... you'll be calling me 'daddy' tonight."

"Uh... that doesn't seem quite right, does it?"

I want him to be my husband, yet he covertly wishes to be my dad, is that even acceptable?

Chapter 275 Dumpling's Dad

It had been dark outside for a while.

A cold, slender moon hung in the sky.

I saw a group of people approaching from not far away; leading the group were three members from the Gu Sect, followed by Old Man Gu, the village chief, and a few villagers.

Zhang Shuying, who had obviously been running around all day, had two large holes in his shoes. Seeing me and Yu Longting, he asked slowly:

"Why... are... you two... here?"

"Catching... a Tree Infant?" I answered uncertainly, glancing at the charred Tree Infant in Yu Longting's hand.

Zhang Shuying followed my gaze, staring at the thing in Yu Longting's hand for a long while before finally stammering out, "So it really was at this pig farm, but the village is so big, how could you two be sure the Tree Infant was here? Snake Lord, are you hiding some kind of tracking secret technique and didn't tell me??"

Bearded Man sighed, "Isn't it obvious, Third Master?"

Uncle Zhong said, "Inadequacy is the original sin."

"Shouldn't Yu Longting be blamed for screwing things up? It seems like I'm the only one getting played; like you guys have no part in it at all!" Zhang Shuying might have been walking too much in the afternoon, causing him to be a bit mentally unhinged now.

I tried to clear up Zhang Shuying's misunderstanding about Yu Longting, speaking tentatively, "Actually, it seems... it was me who suggested Yu Longting come here... to find the Tree Infant..."

"Spiritual Eye Sister? Did... your Spiritual Eye come into play?" Zhang Shuying's anger indeed turned towards me.

Then I carefully explained the whole process of deducing the presence of the Tree Infant and our activities to Zhang Shuying and the group.

Zhang Shuying turned pale, staggering back two steps, "Someone support me; I'm going to have a heart attack, Spiritual Eye Sister. You all went to just two places? A chicken slaughterhouse and a pig slaughterhouse?"

Uncle Zhong and Bearded Man, with sympathetic faces, steadied Zhang Shuying.

"Yes... that's correct..." I admitted with a dry laugh, "Don't get too excited; the Tree Infant has been removed, everyone's happy!! How it was done doesn't matter; the result is what's important, right?"

"Screw your granny's leg; why didn't you notify me? Why didn't you tell me? Are you still holding a grudge because Third Master held you hostage? Are you still mad??" Zhang Shuying complained like a scorned wife.

I thought about it and felt that it wasn't exactly holding a grudge. At that moment, it seemed inappropriate to speak up in front of two big shots, so I discussed it privately with Yu Longting, "That... wasn't it because I didn't know how to notify you? By the time I thought about it, you all had already left..."

"Add WeChat." Zhang Shuying said excitedly, "Now, immediately, right away."

I felt a bit awkward, "But my phone is out of battery; it was powered off when you gave it to me."

"No matter, let him add me." Yu Longting said.

Zhang Shuying finally tempered his excitement, his face stiff as he added Yu Longting on WeChat, then pausing when he saw Yu Longting's nickname...

"Dumpling's dad, what the hell is that... I've seen people flaunting their love for their wives, but you're outright flaunting your son, that's just too much~"

I was also surprised; initially, Yu Longting's nickname was just a dot. I added a note, but who would have thought he'd change his nickname to my note...

Dumpling's dad.

Just then, a yellow figure hurled itself at us.

Fluttering its wings, it was adorably chubby and crashed right into my face.

I pulled Xiao Yuanyuan off my face, noticing it was quite different from before; it had grown an extra pair of golden wings, but fortunately, it hadn't turned into the ugly moth I had imagined, "Xiao Yuanyuan~ you broke out of your cocoon? You seem to have gotten chubbier~ Feels even rounder~"

Chapter 276: Don't Believe I'll Bite You to Death

"Missy likes my chubby form, so Xiao Yuanyuan of course has to try hard to be like this," Xiao Yuanyuan twisted its bloated body in the palm of my hand, rolling around.

Suddenly, two pearly white, jade-like fingers pinched Xiao Yuanyuan's golden wings and lifted it up, "Oh? This is the very Silkworm Gu that voluntarily spun its cocoon."

"Let go of me, stinky snake, dead snake, bastard snake, don't you dare grab my wings, believe it or not, I'll bite you to death," Xiao Yuanyuan resisted fiercely, its body starting to emit a bit of golden light.

Attempting to break free from Yu Longting's demonic claws...

Yu Longting couldn't understand the Insect Language and raised an eyebrow to ask me, "What is this bug squeaking about?"

"It... it says that you're hurting it by grabbing its wings," I sympathetically conveyed Xiao Yuanyuan's message.

Yu Longting sneered, "Is that so? I thought it would want to bite me to death..."

Although Yu Longting's guess was completely right, I, of course, would never admit it.

"Xiao Yuanyuan, this is the Snake Lord, and he is my... boyfriend... To me, he is a very important person." I felt that it was more important to smooth things over between them, so I swallowed my saliva and introduced him to Xiao Yuanyuan.

Sure enough, Xiao Yuanyuan stopped struggling, its eyes like black beans fixed on Yu Longting, "So... He's my brother-in-law then..."

"Uh, you could say that," I said, rubbing my hands together.

Xiao Yuanyuan quickly changed its tune, "No wonder he's so handsome and dashing, as astonishing as a gliding swan, resembling a Snake Dragon, charming and debonair, possessing an overwhelming aura, with starry eyes and sword-like brows, the back of a tiger and the waist of a bear, a tall stature, standing on a Seven-Colored Auspicious Cloud..."

I hadn't expected it, just a little bug.

And yet it has such a large vocabulary...

"Yu Longting, Xiao Yuanyuan is calling you brother-in-law and praising you for being handsome and dashing," I nudged Yu Longting with my elbow, blinking.

Although Yu Longting couldn't understand the Insect Language, he was very perceptive. It seemed he could read the flattery in Xiao Yuanyuan's chirping and smiled slightly, "Quite clever, this little thing. I'll reward you."

The charred Tree Infant, black and particularly disgusting to look at, was handed to Xiao Yuanyuan by Yu Longting.

At the moment Xiao Yuanyuan's wings were released, it clumsily fluttered a few times, flying doubtfully around the charcoal before asking, "Really for me to eat? This is a tree demon of the finest quality~"

"If your brother-in-law says it's for you to eat, just eat it, don't be shy," I told Xiao Yuanyuan.

Xiao Yuanyuan cheered and pounced on it, gobbling up the Tree Infant in no time.

Its chubby body swelled to twice its size and wobbled onto Yu Longting's shoulder, belching contentedly and lying down comfortably.

It seemed to really approve of Yu Longting, hence it willingly got close to him.

Typical of a snake, sly as ever.

I had a headache dealing with the charred Tree Infant, and Xiao Yuanyuan helped me by gobbling it up.

As a result, in the end, Xiao Yuanyuan even felt especially grateful to Yu Longting.

"Holy crap, what's the Golden Silkworm Gu up to? Even Yu Longting got its approval..." Zhang Shuying sat on the ground, dumbstruck and questioning life.

The Bearded Man expressed sympathy for him, "Third Master, your wife flew away, and even your Life-bound Gu was seduced away, can things get any worse for you?"

"Might be having bad luck this year," Uncle Zhong chimed in.

Zhang Shuying gave a cold smile and suddenly stood up before kicking each of the two in their butts, "I can't beat Yu Longting, and I can't touch the Golden Silkworm Gu, but can't I beat you two up?"

"Third Master, we were wrong," the Bearded Man and Uncle Zhong begged for mercy in unison.

Just then, a group of slaughterhouse workers with flashlights approached from a distance.

These few people had arranged to go out drinking together that evening, which is why there was not a soul in the slaughterhouse.

They were lucky to have escaped disaster.

Soon after, thunder rumbled in the sky, and a downpour began.

Everyone rushed into the slaughterhouse to take shelter from the rain, and the villagers took out their cellphones, calling their families to bring umbrellas.

Old Man Gu, the village chief, turned to us, those who had helped with the Tree Infant, and said, "Masters, with it being so late and the rain so heavy, why not come to my humble abode and spend the night?"

Chapter 277: Staying Over

"Can your house accommodate so many of us?"

I wasn't too sure about that.

Zhang Shuying laughed in a drawling tone, "You're kidding, this old man is the village chief. Does he ever come up short? His house is the biggest in the whole village."

"Yu Longting, how about we stay at Old Man Gu's house for the night?" I put my hands together in a pleading gesture and earnestly suggested to Yu Longting.

When it comes to being thrifty, I'm no worse than Zhang Shuying. Naturally, I'd prefer to save money when traveling.

If we stayed at a hotel, we'd have to spend money.

The moment Yu Longting saw the look in my eyes, he probably guessed my little scheme. He playfully scraped his finger across my nose, "Okay, we'll do as the lady of the house commands."

Old Man Gu took out his cell phone, a feature phone, and called his children to bring over some more umbrellas.

Old Man Gu's house didn't have enough umbrellas, so he also borrowed two from the neighbors.

Our group arrived at Old Man Gu's house with a collection of colorful umbrellas. His house was one of those common rural cement bungalows.

Light shone from the bungalow, which housed Old Man Gu and his family of seven.

Because of the Tree Infant incident, we were delayed and had already missed the proper dinner time.

Considering everybody hadn't eaten, Old Man Gu's daughter-in-law was ready to cook.

I had nothing better to do, so I went over to help Old Man Gu's daughter-in-law, Tian Na.

Tian Na was a very gentle and industrious girl, and as she cooked, she kept asking me what the outside world was like.

I laughed and told her that I actually lived in a small town and hadn't really been to a big city.

However, Spring Wind Town could be considered far more significant compared to Ancient Water Village.

As I described Spring Wind Town to Tian Na, her face lit up with longing.

I had secretly learnt a few tricks from the master chefs at the restaurant, while Tian Na only knew some home-style dishes so I ended up taking charge.

I cooked stir-fried river snails with tofu, rice wine-marinated fish, spicy braised pork, deep-fried tofu glazed with sauce, plain-boiled greens, chilled wood ear mushrooms in dressing, and steamed a large batch of flower rolls.

"Everybody, try this out quickly. Su Wan's cooking is exceptional, on par with a big restaurant. I was so impressed in the kitchen, I almost took her as my master on the spot," said Tian Na as she handed out chopsticks to everyone.

In a modest and demure manner, I replied, "Sister Tian Na, you're too kind. My cooking skills are just average. Please excuse any shortcomings."

Yu Longting pulled me to sit beside him, showing helplessness on his face, "Even when we're guests at someone else's house, you can't sit still."

"Helping out was just an excuse," I confessed my true feelings to Yu Longting, "I just wanted to find an opportunity to cook for you. Try the stir-fried river snails, that's the best dish. I added a lot of chili peppers, it's so fragrant and flavorful."

"Okay," Yu Longting's gaze softened for a moment as he served a spoonful for himself and another for me.

While I sipped on the river snails, I watched Yu Longting's expression.

After he finished, he commented, "Hmm, spicy, fragrant, and delicious. And I'm not just saying that to please you—it's the truth."

"Aw," I saw a glimmer of a smile spread across his face, and I actually felt too embarrassed to keep my head up, so I silently continued to eat my rice.

Though I was the one longing for his praise the most, once I received it, I felt quite bashful~

The rain outside was pouring down heavily, the sounds of a torrential downpour dominating the atmosphere.

At the dinner table, the three members of the Gu Sect mingled seamlessly with the Gu Family, drinking, playing drinking games, and making a raucous noise.

After finishing my meal, I just wanted to sleep. I had no energy left for games and fun.

So, Yu Longting and I excused ourselves and headed to the room arranged by the Gu Family. I got out of my Taoist robe and burrowed under the covers, "Oh my, I'm dead tired. Finally, I can lie down. I feel like my bones are falling apart."

Chapter 278 I Really Want to Like You

"Why don't you come back to your master's side when you sleep at night?" Yu Longting's unruly voice entered my ears.

I barely opened my tired eyes to see, only to find Yu Longting somewhat helplessly pinching Xiao Yuanyuan's wings, staring into the little creature's glossy eyes.

Xiao Yuanyuan sounded a bit sad, "I don't want to be away from you and Miss."

I really wonder what Zhang Shuying would think if he heard this...

"Xiao Yuanyuan, your brother-in-law and I are going to do some indescribable things, so it's not suitable for kids; you can't stay here," I sat up and seriously said to Xiao Yuanyuan.

Xiao Yuanyuan cocked its bug head to the side, "Are you going to do things that make babies?"

"Yes, so you, as a little bug baby, can you leave for a bit?" I earnestly coaxed Xiao Yuanyuan.

Xiao Yuanyuan came over and pecked a kiss on my cheek, "Okay~"

Then, it flapped its wings and flew away melodiously.

Yu Longting firmly wrapped his arms around my waist, the whole person unsatisfied, "Darn bug, actually taking advantage of you."

"Even though, Xiao Yuanyuan doesn't have a gender," I said as I touched the back of his head like a child possessive over his beloved toy.

"Still, you belong only to me."

Yu Longting kissed the spot where Xiao Yuanyuan had kissed over and over, holding me even tighter, "Zhang Shuying really needs to rethink his life, even his Life-bound Gu doesn't want to follow him; I've never seen such an unpopular person."

"If Taoist Zhang heard what you said, he'd probably get so angry he'd question his life," I said, lying in his arms and closing my eyes, feeling every cell in my body relax.

Finally back by his side, I could now hold Yu Longting so purely again.

Without this experience of being taken hostage, I would have never known how much I longed to be protected by him.

Yu Longting said heavily, "I really like the excuse you used to send that bug away, but tonight... I might not be able to satisfy you..."

"I'm practically dead from exhaustion today, you'd want me to satisfy you too..." I suddenly realized something was wrong, he said he couldn't satisfy me, "You... are about to transform into a snake, aren't you."

"I'm sorry, Wanwan, am I useless for still not healing from my injury after all this time?" Yu Longting, such a headstrong and arrogant person, and yet, I detected a hint of inferiority in his tone.

I sighed in my heart, hugged him, and lay down, "Let's rest early; when you wake up tomorrow morning, you'll be a handsome guy who is loved by everyone and makes flowers bloom~"

"Wanwan, you've become very cheeky," Yu Longting caressed my back with his finger. His body suddenly convulsed a few times, then slowly became spineless, entwining around me helplessly and with a touch of sorrow.

I rubbed my cheek against his cool scales, couldn't resist being mischievous and gave him a kiss, "Even as a snake you have a pleasant scent, and a nice texture too..."

Lucky for the beautiful...

Not only does Yu Longting look peerless and unparalleled when he's human.

Even as a snake, he's the most handsome among them, with a sense of heroic and soft beauty coexisting, which I find very appealing.

Based on these looks, if he were taken to a pet market, the bidding would start at seven digits at least!!

"Wanwan," Yu Longting hissed in a snake's voice.

I, muddled with sleepiness, managed a reply, "Huh?"

"You really... aren't the slightest bit afraid of my serpent form..." Yu Longting's voice had a trace of a deep, cold charm.

I hugged his thick waist tightly, murmuring, "Not afraid, and I actually quite like it. Who wouldn't when your serpent form is also so handsome? You didn't just realize this now, did you?"

"Su Wan, tell me you love me!" Yu Longting's voice was exceptionally strong.

I finally woke up a bit, looking at him irritably, "Uh..."

What's with this sudden demand for me to say I love him?

Yu Longting's snake eyes were very resolute.

Thinking that he was sensitive and vulnerable at the moment, I abandoned the idea of brushing it off and softly said, "Yu Longting, I think I really like you."

Chapter 279 Can You Be More Certain

"Wanwan, having you as my wife in this life, what more could a husband ask for? Your words, they move me far more than if you'd said you love me directly."

My heart was filled to the brim, "Me too, I want to be with you for a lifetime."

In this life, the most intense desire within my heart was to love only him.

Even without the Love Soul, there wouldn't be the feeling of a heart-racing emotion.

But the only person I ever wanted to feel this heart-race for was Yu Longting.

"Ah..." Suddenly, a long sigh came from the next room, and Zhang Shuying spoke in exasperation, "Don't you two consider, country houses are... not! sound! proof?! I heard every single word clearly!! Crystal clear!!"

"I almost burst into tears," Bearded Man's voice followed.

Uncle Zhong: "Young people are just full of energy."

A drop of sweat trickled down from my embarrassed forehead.

This was definitely a major social death scene.

Just then, Tian Na, who seemed very gentle but now spoke in a fierce tone, said, "You three single dogs, keep it down! Blame the lovers for not finding a wife, blame the toilet for not being able to poop."

Single Dog Number One, Zhang Shuying: "Woof."

Single Dog Number Two, Bearded Man: "Woof~"

Single Dog Number Three, Uncle Zhong: "Woof..."

"Let the young couple say what they want, even if you hear it, pretend you didn't, why make it awkward by saying it out loud, what's the point?" Tian Na scolded.

Tian Na's husband urged, "Honey, calm down, they are all important guests of my father, we should still show them basic respect."

I was too embarrassed to talk, just curved my lips into a smile.

Yu Longting's snakehead came closer, and I instinctively embraced it.

His snakebody stiffened slightly, his head gently rubbing my chin.

It gave a feeling of being both well-behaved and adorably soft.

The next morning.

Yu Longting, who slept in my arms, had already transformed into his human form.

Seeing me open my eyes, he immediately turned over and pulled me onto him, "Wanwan... did you sleep well?"

"Pretty well," I lay on Yu Longting's chest, listening to his strong, resonant heartbeat.

Yu Longting sighed softly, "Wanwan, it seems like I finally... have your heart..."

"You could be more certain," I looked at his flickering gaze and smiled gently at him.

Yu Longting's eyes darkened, and he came over me slightly roughly, ravishing my lips. My lips got numb and sore from the kisses, yet slowly, they meshed with his, responding to his deep love.

Originally, I wanted to wake up early to help Tian Na make breakfast.

I was tempted by the beauty, and lazed in bed for quite a while.

After cuddling with Yu Longting for a while, I got dressed and went out.

After breakfast,

I helped Tian Na with the dishes.

Tian Na's husband joined in too.

Having just finished, I heard Yu Longting and Zhang Shuying chatting under the eaves.

Yu Longting: "The Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul in your hands, what's the status now?"

Zhang Shuying: "Damn, your wife really set me up, I struck it with a sword right in front of her, so decisively, and she didn't tell you?"

Yu Longting: "What are you so agitated about, a young girl got hijacked by you and went through so much shock, it's normal for her to forget to tell you, but you should know the intention of the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul, right?"

Zhang Shuying: "When that chic thing and Su Wan met, I figured it out, damn sinister, using a perfectly live young girl as a Cauldron Furnace."

Yu Longting: "All the Three Souls and Seven Spirits of the Ancestor of Foxes have been split out, there's still one Remnant Soul inside Lin Gang, you have deep connections with the Lin Family and know Lin

Gang. You once promised you owed me a favor, I only need you to go to Lin Gang and get the Remnant Soul, with your strength, it shouldn't be... too difficult."

Chapter 280: Parting Gift

Drip by drip, water droplets fell from the eaves.

When the sunlight hit them, the refracted light was somewhat dazzling.

Zhang Shuying sighed as he looked at the colorful water droplets, "For this matter, you involved Yun Hao and Immortal Liu? At the time, I wondered why Yun Hao, a dead snake, didn't just hide away and cultivate properly but instead chased after me for a lousy box."

"I'm not stupid. After the soul of the Ancestor of Foxes was split, it had Three Souls and Seven Spirits; I'd wear out my legs trying to find it all by myself." Yu Longting spoke of using others to his advantage with absolutely no guilt.

With his back to Yu Longting, Zhang Shuying pointed out constructively, "Don't think I can't see it. You're mainly worried that after you run out of fuel and your light goes out, no one will protect Su Wan, right? You're in a rush to solve problems that might occur down the line... that's actually quite deeply affectionate."

"It's just laziness, nothing else. Many people wish for my demise, but when have I ever been completely wiped out?" Yu Longting haughtily snorted.

"Damn, fate is too damn miraculous. I was originally the person guarding the Remnant Soul, and now I'm on the pirate ship, helping you destroy the Ancestral Fox's Remnant Soul. Lin Gang is still my drinking buddy, but now we have to turn against each other, damn... chicken..."

Zhang Shuying probably felt indignant, turning his head abruptly, hands on his hips, cursing.

But he stopped abruptly when he caught sight of me behind him.

I was caught eavesdropping, so I shrugged and turned to sneak away, "Uh, you guys are talking about me, so there shouldn't be anything wrong with listening, right?"

My collar was grabbed from behind, and I became a fish on the chopping block, unable to escape no matter how much I struggled, "Hey, let go, Yu Longting! If you keep holding on to me, I might get angry."

"Good, I've never seen my lady wife angry at me before, would love to see it happen," Yu Longting casually said from behind.

With Zhang Shuying by my side, I was being toyed with and clapped, my face flushing red, "You're truly hopeless, still hoping to see me get angry? You want me to get mad, but I won't! Let go already, what are you trying to do by holding on to me? You can't possibly want to... to abuse me at home, can you?"

I felt like a little mouse who had just stolen oil, caught by the tail by the homeowner.

I struggled furiously and embarrassedly, but it was as futile as an ant shaking a tree.

Yu Longting easily pulled me into his arms, "Really? Wanwan, if I were to abuse you at home, your delicate frame couldn't handle it."

"You... stop talking nonsense." I was so embarrassed I could hardly contain myself, almost scratching him on the spot.

Zhang Shuying, giving me a bit of dignity, didn't continue to watch my embarrassing situation but left nonchalantly with a wave, "Lin Gang is too cunning. Before meeting him, there's much to plan ahead. I'll take my leave; you two continue as a couple."

My clawing gestures slightly paused as I watched Zhang Shuying's departing figure.

I just felt that Zhang Shuying was truly honorable, having once unhesitatingly swung his sword to destroy the Ancestral Fox's Remnant Soul to save me.

Now, without a second word, he directly went to confront Lin Gang.

"Don't feel too guilty, I gave him a Snake Dragon Inner Pill, which could buy Lin Gang ten times over; Taoist Zhang definitely made a profit," Yu Longting whispered in my ear.

I silently nodded, my hand held by Yu Longting as he said, "Beichen's car is here."

"I haven't said goodbye to Old Man Gu and his family yet," I paused, saying to Yu Longting.

Yu Longting smiled, "You developed feelings after staying just one night? Go on then."

"It'll be quick, mainly to say goodbye to Sister Tian Na." I ran to find Tian Na who was in the kitchen steaming corn buns.

Seeing me come over, she happily took out the steaming buns for me, "Take these to eat on the road."

"Thank you, Sister Tian Na. I... don't have any proper presents to give you, but this sachet can keep you safe. Here, I'll give it to you." I only had one protective sachet left, hanging on my neck since getting it back from Zhang Shuying.

At that moment, I took off the sachet from my neck and hung it around Tian Na's neck.