

A Snake 281

Chapter 281: Centipede Gu

Tian Na picked up the sachet, lost in thought, "Yin Yang Life and Death Embroidery..."

"You... recognize the Su Family's embroidery?" I was quite surprised.

Tian Na smiled faintly and handed me a matchbox, "This embroidery is precious; trading it for a few buns feels terribly unfair to me, so this is for you."

"What are you giving me?" I shot Tian Na a questioning look.

Tian Na was very gentle, "Open it and see."

Sometimes, friendship seems to be all about fate too.

Tian Na and I resonated well.

Though we had known each other for only about a day, there was some unspoken understanding between us.

"Okay, is this... gu?" I vaguely guessed Tian Na's identity.

In the matchbox was a completely red centipede.

The centipede seemed to be in deep slumber, its long body motionless.

Tian Na put her finger to her lips, "Seeing that you can communicate with gu, I'm giving you a tamed little trinket to play with. If one day..."

I watched her intently, listening for what was to come, and ended up making Tian Na laugh, "If one day you encounter an opportunity, you might receive even more powerful gu."

"Thank you, Sister Tian Na, shall I go now? I'll miss you." I bowed to Tian Na and handed her a slip of paper with my cellphone number, "Call me when you have time."

She really trusted me, enough to reveal her identity as a Gu Woman.

Tian Na's smile was full, "Yeah, you better go now, don't keep your boyfriend waiting."

I left reluctantly, looking back three times with every step.

Tian Na just stood there.

I met up with Yu Longting outside and we walked together to the main road.

As we walked, my cheek was suddenly hit by Xiao Yuanyuan.

I took it down, Xiao Yuanyuan's eyes shiny like those of black beans, seemingly filled with reluctance,

"Miss, are you going to part ways with my master?"

"It's just a temporary farewell. We will meet again in due course of nature..." I stroked Xiao Yuanyuan's head.

Xiao Yuanyuan suddenly became very alert, flying around me, "You smell like another bug."

"Uh..." Busted!!

I actually felt a sense of jealousy from Xiao Yuanyuan.

Xiao Yuanyuan made a pitiful chirp and rolled around in my palm, "You want to part ways with my master because you like another bug, don't you? You don't like Xiao Yuanyuan anymore, do you?"

"Of course not, I just... temporarily... with your master..." are on different paths.

I hadn't finished speaking when Xiao Yuanyuan already ran away crying, its round body getting smaller and smaller.

It tugged at my heart, filling me with a bit of melancholy.

The notion that all gatherings must come to an end must be just like this—other than my closest loved ones, everyone else is merely a passerby in the journey of life.

I held Yu Longting's hand and fixed my gaze firmly on him, looking him deep in the eyes.

On the narrow road, there was a jeep parked.

It occupied the entire road.

Beichen got out and helped open the rear door of the car.

I greeted Beichen, "Beichen~"

"I'm here too." Yu Rongling came down from the passenger side.

I waved at Yu Rongling too, "Hi."

"Why are you here?" Yu Longting frowned with dissatisfaction.

Yu Rongling grinned, "Coming to pick up the sister-in-law is a big deal, how could I miss it?"

Once in the car, Yu Rongling indeed didn't stay quiet for a moment, turning around to inquire, "Brother, did you rescue the sister-in-law from Taoist Zhang? Did you beat him up severely for me? That damned bastard broke eight of my ribs."

Chapter 282: Why Has It Come to This?

"You're so noisy, it's annoying..." Yu Longting had been in a sour mood ever since leaving Old Man Gu's House, and now he was on the verge of a minor outburst.

I pinched Yu Longting's hand, stopping him from scolding his younger brother, and smiled at Yu Rongling, "Do snakes have ribs?"

"Snakes don't have ribs, but I've turned into a human. Can't I be anthropomorphic?" Yu Rongling seemed to realize his brother's current state was teetering on the edge of rage, his lips pouting slightly in grievance,

I handed Yu Rongling a strip of cloth to replenish his spiritual power, "Did your snake bones break?"

"Several of them broke, it hurts like hell, and I've got internal injuries." Yu Rongling still glanced at his brother's expression before daring to accept the cloth strip, "Thanks, sister-in-law."

I guiltily said, "I haven't apologized to you for using you all to lure Zhang Shuying away and save Yun Hao."

"I don't mind, no need to apologize," Beichen unexpectedly spoke up.

Yu Rongling, not to be outdone, said, "I don't mind either. Sister-in-law, with just a word from you, I'd climb to the heavens to capture the moon or dive into the five oceans to catch turtles."

"Cough cough, you are indeed magnanimous, I'm ashamed, truly ashamed." I scratched my head, feeling very embarrassed.

Although Beichen and Yu Rongling aren't mad at me, it's a different story with Immortal Liu.

Not only did I not inform her, I used her as well.

The one we were saving is even Immortal Liu's ex-lover, an arch-enemy she absolutely despises.

Right now, Immortal Liu probably hates me to death...

While my mind was busy with these scattered thoughts, Yu Longting's large hand clutched mine and pressed it against his chest, "Su Wan, you're just an ordinary person, you've done well enough."

"Oh." My chaotic heart settled in an instant, and I quietly leaned against him.

The return trip to Spring Wind Town took a full two days.

We would usually find an inn to stay overnight once the majority of the journey was over.

All along the way, my heart was subtly restless. Even though I didn't show it, I couldn't help but tightly grip Yu Longting's hand.

Fearing that in the blink of an eye, he would disappear.

"Have we arrived?" I had unintentionally fallen asleep as we neared Spring Wind Town.

When I opened my eyes, it seemed very dim.

But the space was still incredibly cramped, as if we were still in the vehicle.

The vehicle was, however, very quiet.

Yu Rongling and Beichen had both left...

The sky outside had also darkened, appearing to be deep into the night.

Yu Longting was still holding me, but his face looked a bit upset; he had been wearing a scowl for two days now.

At that moment, he furrowed his brow and opened his palm, "Su Wan, can you explain this? How did it come to this?"

"You... don't like it?" I struggled a bit, my mind gradually clearing, and looked at the large inner core in his hand, feeling a great sense of accomplishment.

I'd dealt with the Tree Infant and even accrued a lot of merits.

All this while, I had been channeling spiritual power into the cheongsam, nourishing the cultivation of my snake form.

Although the inner core had grown, the injuries had only healed a little.

Eventually, it would require a gradual and progressive recovery...

Yu Longting spread my legs apart and forcibly made me straddle his waist, "During the three days at the Gu Sect, you were desperately cultivating. Even on the vehicle for two days, you didn't stop. All the spiritual power you cultivated, you gave to me. Good gracious, the more I look at it, the more unbelievable it becomes. You've grown my inner core so large, why don't you just ascend to the heavens, Su Wan!!..."

Every time he called my name, it made my skin crawl.

It's either he's deeply moved, or he's angry...

"It's not all of it. I knew you had a temper, and I was afraid my body would be hurt, so I kept a lot for myself. Why are you... still angry..." I didn't understand why he was losing his temper. Could it be his time of the month??

Yu Longting stared at the spot where I was holding his hand, "Then can you explain why, for these past two days, you've been holding onto my hand, almost taking me with you to the bathroom?"

"Did I? You must be mistaken. I wouldn't be so immodest. Clearly... you're the one who's been clingier," I flatly denied.

Yu Longting gave a cold laugh and grabbed my hand, "Then why haven't you let go?"

"I... I put glue on my hands..." I would rather he question me, tolerate the humiliation, than let go, because I couldn't bear to.

Chapter 283 Gu Raising

"Is it because you heard Zhang Shuying say that I was on my last leg and it scared you?" Yu Longting pressed down on the back of my head, forcing me to look into his face.

I pursed my lips and remained silent.

Yu Longting's unruly smile curved up, his tone teasing and seductive, "Zhang Shuying's words are nonsense, don't believe him."

"Are Zhang Shuying's words really nonsense?" I asked, word by word, clutching his hand tighter.

Yu Longting kissed my earlobe, his cold breath tickling me, "What? Are you going to trust the words of others and take mine as nothing but the wind by your ear?"

"Yu Longting, don't think you can fool me, I'm not that easily deceived." I glared at Yu Longting; Zhang Shuying's eyes had been cruel and sharp, it was nearly impossible he was wrong, especially not in that context.

Yu Longting laughed instead, "Isn't Zhang Shuying just displeased because he found out I had been killed once, severely weakened, and even lost the last two hundred years of my cultivation? He looks down on me, thinking I'm spent."

"Was he wrong?" I countered.

"But you knew all this, didn't you?" Yu Longting's finger tips traced over the buttons of my cheongsam, all of them silently came undone, "Wanwan, I admit, at the beginning when I was planning all of this, I was worried that if I got hurt again I would end up dispersing my power, and if by then the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul wasn't eliminated, you would be devoured, but..."

At this point, my body trembled slightly.

Yu Longting kissed my collarbone, his movements extremely gentle, "But later on, the situation changed. You like me so much, if I were to die, with your fiery temper, what if you followed me in death?"

"Follow you in death... nonsense, you... don't flatter yourself... I never said such a thing!" my stubborn refusal was mixed with sobs, my heart aching intensely.

The idea that "I would die for love if he died" had never crossed my mind.

But now that he mentioned it, it felt like a thousand arrows piercing through my heart.

I had not considered it before because I thought he was powerful and I never believed he would face any danger.

Now, thinking about it, I felt completely unable to accept it, unable to imagine how to spend the rest of my days without him...

Yu Longting leaned in closer, his eyes and eyebrows filled with a playful lasciviousness, "Oh? You wouldn't die for love? Then I... seem to have worried for nothing..."

"Stop talking, if you keep spouting nonsense, I... I'll die together with you." I covered Yu Longting's lips forcefully, glaring at him fiercely.

After a tumultuous night in the car, when I opened my eyes the next day, I was already on my dormitory bed, feeling sore and uncomfortable all over.

Yu Longting was no longer by the pillow; I put on the cheongsam and got down to drink some water. Standing still for a while, the memories of yesterday flooded my mind.

I felt dizzy, as if hungover.

The buttons of the cheongsam were such a hassle; I was lying on that piece of fabric.

The moment I loosened my grip, the fabric looked like it was about to fall to the ground.

But my body was so slow and weak, I couldn't manage to fix it.

Suddenly, a hand lifted to hold the fabric in place, expertly fastening the buttons for me with one hand. Yu Longting, holding the matchbox Tian Na gave me, asked, "What is this? I smell insects inside, is it gu? Can I open it?"

"Tian Na gave it to me; you'd better not open it, the thing inside might scare you," I warned Yu Longting.

Yu Longting gave me a look as if seeing a fool, then pushed open the matchbox, "Is this it?"

"Uh... aren't centipedes the natural enemy of snakes?" I asked uncertainly.

Yu Longting tapped my forehead with his knuckle forcefully, "I am the Snake Lord, how could I possibly be afraid of such an insect, you are underestimating me!! Do you want to keep it?"

Chapter 284 Gu Raising

"If you're not scared, of course I want to raise them, but I don't know how to raise gu insects." I guessed that Yu Longting, worldly and wise, might be able to, looking at him with a face full of modesty.

Yu Longting looked at me with a smile brimming with anticipation, "You're just waiting for me to say, to teach you gu raising, right? Luckily, I have some understanding of the Gu Art, and teaching you is no problem, but..."

"But what? Yu Longting, don't just say half of it." My curiosity was piqued, and I urged him eagerly.

Yu Longting's expression turned serious, "Raising gu requires the gu insects to recognize their master, which is essentially a process of taming them."

"I understand, during the process of them recognizing their master, will I keep having diarrhea?" I touched my slightly bulging belly, which had already taken shape.

I wonder if being pregnant and always having diarrhea, Little Dumpling inside my belly would feel uncomfortable.

Yu Longting lowered his gaze to my hand stroking my belly, his eyes warmer than moonlight, "You even know this, did Zhang Shuying tell you?"

"Zhang Shuying said that he was almost tormented to death by Xiao Yuanyuan at first, it seemed pretty miserable."

While talking, Yu Longting's arms gently encircled my waist, his palm resting on my abdomen, "It's not just miserable, it's extremely dangerous. His expertise was hard-earned. But you have me as your support, you don't need to take such risks."

"Do you have a shortcut?" My belly tickled as he touched it, and I shifted slightly, only to have my shoulder gently bitten and restrained by him.

Yu Longting has a bad habit, if there's a place he wants to touch, he must do it, and he must keep going until he's satisfied, "Normally, you would drop your blood into it, and tame it yourself, but if I drop my

Snake Blood into it first, it will wake up in advance. You can speak Insect Language, get familiar with it, then it won't hurt too much when you tame it personally, right?"

"That is a good idea, hey... don't be so gentle, it really tickles." I've always been very ticklish by nature, I'd rather he rubbed my belly than touch it so carefully and tenderly.

Yu Longting didn't take my words to heart, his hand became even more unrestrained as he spoke in a temptingly soft voice, "We're fostering our child in your belly, Wanwan, bear with it a little, let me touch for a bit longer, okay?"

"Then... can we sit down? My... legs are weak." My face flushed with embarrassment, he could be so shameless, yet I couldn't bring myself to reject him.

Yu Longting seized the opportunity to push his advantage, "Sit on my lap."

"Ah." I could only admit defeat.

After another good session of affection, Yu Longting and I went downstairs to have dinner at a restaurant outside, then went back to the inn to find something to do.

After wiping the tables and chairs for a while, I started to feel a backache.

Leaning against the tabletop, I rested, holding my back.

"Sister-in-law, you're carrying my precious nephew, don't overexert yourself doing so much."

Yu Rongling came over with a cup of hot milk, "If my brother saw this, he would be so distressed."

"I'm not that delicate, your brother would support me if he saw this," I said, though I still accepted Yu Rongling's kindness.

I took the hot milk and sipped it gently.

Yu Rongling, who was already huge, with big European-style double eyelids, now widened his eyes, which were simply bigger than a bull's, "Sister-in-law, you... have an insect crawling on you..."

"Don't you dare hurt it, it's a Centipede Gu, after it absorbed your brother's blood, it just... hey why are you on the table, a moment ago you were concerned that I was working too hard, and now you've dirtied the table I just cleaned..." I looked at Yu Rongling jumping on the table, my hands on my hips, my face full of speechlessness.

Doesn't he know to respect the fruits of someone else's labor?

Chapter 285: Return to the Lin Family Immediately

"My brother... is he really even my brother?" Yu Rongling roared in frustration as if the whole world owed him something.

Hearing this wail, I was somewhat annoyed, "How is your brother helping me considered adding fuel to tyranny? Stop talking nonsense."

"Sister-in-law, even if you lack common sense, you must have seen 'The Legend of the New White Lady' at least," Yu Rongling actually started to cry pitifully, his eyes red, looking like a bullied little thing.

I was startled by his pitiful expression, "I have, I have, Baby Rongling, dear, are you scared of centipedes?"

"Since you've seen it, you know full well that snakes are terrified of centipedes... and you... you actually want to raise it as your Life-bound Gu..." Yu Rongling glared at me furiously as if I was the biggest villain in the world.

It was simply too bizarre; our roles seemed to have completely switched.

In the past, I was the weak one he looked down upon, my life hanging by a thread.

Now, he seemed to have become the fragile one.

I wanted to raise the gu but didn't want to scare Yu Rongling. My eyes darted around, searching for a solution, "Look, it might have dripped a drop of Yu Longting's blood, but it's still in the hibernation stage. You can't possibly be afraid of a hibernating bug, right? It... it won't wake up so soon..."

"So, sister-in-law, you still want to keep it!" Yu Rongling crossed his arms, his face showing an expression of exasperation as if it was either the bug or him, "why do you always have to be against me? You know what snakes fear, and you keep raising them; first, it was cats and geese, and now... you won't even spare centipedes..."

"Uh..." It seemed he was right. Hearing his tear-inducing accusations, I felt guilty, "Baby Rongling, don't worry, when you are around, I will definitely keep it well hidden, and not let you be even slightly... troubled..."

Just then, the centipede on my shoulder shook its head.

It had two pairs of extremely transparent wings on its back that would be invisible unless looked at closely.

They trembled a few times, as if it had sensed something about the outside world.

"Xiao Honghong, are you waking up?" I was somewhat excited, recalling earlier in the dormitory.

Yu Longting had dripped blood onto the Centipede Gu, but it had shown no reaction.

I was quite disappointed at the time, hearing Yu Longting say his connection with the Centipede Gu was shallow, so it was normal for the Centipede Gu to wake up slowly.

I hadn't seen any response from the Centipede Gu for a while, but then I heard a teeth-clattering sound, and I looked up helplessly at Yu Rongling.

Yu Rongling was so frightened that his teeth clattered, "Such an ugly centipede, and you give it such a cute, pleasing name, what are you trying to do? And you, a girl, aren't you scared of centipedes?"

"I used to be really scared, but now I've even accepted you, what else is there to be afraid of?" I teased Yu Rongling verbally while I actually reached for the Matchbox, planning to put Xiao Honghong back inside.

Yu Rongling was nearly in tears, "Sister-in-law is the big villain!! Comparing me with the Centipede Gu~ The centipede is much scarier than me~ waah..."

"Alright, the centipede is scarier than you. Isn't it already put away?" I saw Yu Rongling was on the verge of throwing a tantrum on the floor, so I quickly put the Centipede Gu back into the box.

Just then, my phone rang, showing my mother's number, I answered, "Hello?"

"Come back to Lin Family immediately, don't ask why, it's an order," Lin Huan's voice spoke from the phone.

Chapter 286: Thousand-Year Snow Ganoderma

"Okay, Senior Lin," I blurted out, immediately regretting it. Why couldn't I just call him Grandpa?

Before I could react, the call was already disconnected.

I stared at my phone, dazed for a few seconds, then looked up at Yu Rongling and said, "Coincidentally, I need to go back to the Lin Family right away. You won't see me for a good while, let alone the Centipede Gu."

"Which Lin Family? Don't tell me... it's the Lin's Exorcist Family?!" Yu Rongling jumped down from the table, his face full of hostility towards the Lin Family.

Yu Longting emerged from the kitchen, wearing yellow rubber gloves, and methodically took them off, "Lin Huan is your sister-in-law's grandfather."

"What the hell? What's this all about, brother, are you kidding me?"

Yu Rongling exploded in disbelief, muttering to himself, "Damn, the Snake Lord married a daughter from the Lin's Exorcist Family, that's just too bizarre."

Yu Longting removed his apron and let down his rolled-up sleeves, "There's something even more bizarre, Lin Huan has chosen your sister-in-law as the Lin Family's future heir."

"Heh, are you sure Lin Huan isn't just fishing for a catch?" Yu Rongling scoffed with full mockery in his eyes.

Without a word to me, Yu Longting had already called Beichen to send a car. Though he hadn't communicated a single word with me, I knew he would definitely accompany me to the Lin Family.

After all we've been through together, we had developed many unspoken understandings.

No matter what, he would always choose to protect me first, and all I could do was to accept his kindness and do everything in my power not to let him down.

After hanging up the phone, Yu Longting spoke indifferently to Yu Rongling, "Whatever the motive, if they dare to lay a hand on my wife and child, the entire Lin Family will be buried with them, Lin Huan can't afford that price..."

As a member of the Lin Family, I couldn't help shivering, the aura was too powerful, too fierce...

"Wife, when I talk about wiping out the entire Lin Family, it doesn't include you," Yu Longting, noticing I was a bit shaken, softened his tone and gently added.

Is there a difference?

In the people of the Lin family, there's my mom, my grandfather, cousins I've never met, Seven Aunts and Eight Aunts...

They are all my relatives!

My lips twitched badly, "I'm going upstairs to pack. I don't even know what this trip to the Lin Family is about, let alone how long I'll stay."

"You go first." Yu Longting didn't ask further. Whatever Lin Huan had said over the phone, he spoke calmly, just telling me to go upstairs first, "I'll come up and help you in a bit."

"Okay." I took small, quick steps, running upstairs thump, thump, thump.

After a while, Yu Longting brought up a bowl of dessert or something of the sort.

A shimmering and completely transparent bowl, it looked a bit like lotus root starch.

He said, "Drink it."

"Okay." I didn't even ask what it was while drinking.

If Yu Longting said to drink, I drank.

The stuff tasted sweet.

Pretty tasty, like coconut juice, but even more refreshing.

After finishing, I was left wanting more, "What did you give me to drink? It was really good."

"My brother personally stewed it, Thousand-Year Snow Ganoderma." Yu Rongling, popping up, proudly introduced, "In my brother's treasure vault, among the rare medicinal herbs, it's one of the top ten treasures, all in that little bowl you just had."

I was almost at a loss for words, looking at the few drops left in the bowl and carefully drinking every last bit before I looked at Yu Longting, filled with incomprehension,

"Big brother, why did you give me this? And such a precious herb at that, it's a waste to give it to me. Are you sure I won't get a nosebleed from being overnourished?"

Chapter 287: Passionate and Pure Emotions

Yu Longting's face was stern at the moment, "Call me husband."

"Husband," I obediently complied.

It was my fault for calling him 'big brother' by mistake.

What Yu Longting cared about the most was how I addressed him.

Only then did Yu Longting look satisfied, his expression slightly softened, "Waste? Snow Ganoderma might as well be a rotten mushroom to me if I don't give it to you. Do you still dare say it's a waste?"

"I wouldn't dare, I wouldn't dare! From now on, I'll eat whatever you tell me to eat." I behaved very obediently. Why would I let down someone who wants to treat me well?

The reason for my earlier reaction was still the character ingrained in my bones, subconsciously making me feel undeserving of anything.

Yu Rongling teased, "If my brother gives you arsenic, would you eat that too?"

"That... How could... Don't flatter yourself, I'm not that infatuated with your brother." Although I denied it with my words, my heart was not certain.

If one day Yu Longting really gave me arsenic.

Maybe... in my confusion... I really might... swallow it...

It was then that Yu Longting explained to me: "Dumpling has been injured many times and needs a lot of nourishment, or else... she might not make it through childbirth."

"Dumpling has been injured again? Brother, I'll contribute all my treasured medicinal herbs in my collection, all for sister-in-law to eat!" Yu Rongling immediately offered with concern.

Yu Longting nodded, saying nothing.

He picked up my suitcase and went downstairs with me.

Downstairs, the car driven by Beichen was already parked at the curb.

Coincidentally, on the sidewalk by the car door.

There was a couple embracing and kissing intimately, their actions sweet and affectionate.

I recognized them both quite well...

Beichen and Xiao Li!!

"Yu Longting, let's not disturb them for the moment," I tugged at Yu Longting's sleeve.

Yu Longting stopped in his tracks upon hearing my words, his dark eyes brooding.

I, with a face full of gossip, whispered lowering my voice, "I've only been taken away for a few days, how did things progress so quickly? They're already kissing?"

"Beichen was struck by the Blood Curse, and then they ended up together," Yu Longting said, "Many relationships can't withstand the test of life and death, but there are also many that transcend through it."

Although most of the time Yu Longting has the image of being carefree, his extensive experiences have actually made him a person with great depth and composure.

There was nothing out of place about such profound reasoning coming from his mouth.

It was particularly convincing, and thought-provoking.

"Xiao Li's unwavering presence at his sickbed touched Beichen?" I was still a bit worried, concerned if Beichen wasn't sincere about his feelings.

Xiao Li's emotions were like those of a young girl, passionate and pure.

If the other party does not share the same purity, Xiao Li could end up getting hurt in the future.

Yu Longting smiled, "Beichen has long had feelings, but he's slow to warm up, that's why he was slow to express them."

"Oh, so him being struck with the Blood Curse was just a catalyst?" I felt like Yu Longting was like a love expert, his insights were so clear!

Yu Longting leaned closer and whispered in my ear with a volume only the two of us could hear, "Let me tell you something else, when I picked him up at the Mass Burial Mound, he was actually already dead. When I picked him up, his body was stiff, and there was even a centipede crawling out of his nose. I forcibly brought him back to life..."

"Wha...t." I was profoundly shocked.

Yu Longting smirked, "To evoke true feelings from someone who is fundamentally to the core self-deprecating, the emotions have to be genuine. Don't think your sister is at a disadvantage, I'm more worried about Beichen, heart newly awakened to love, getting hurt."

"..." What's with this paternalistic attitude you're putting on? It's so unusual and hard to get used to!

With a full head of black lines, I felt defiant inside, thinking that Xiao Li would never let Beichen be heartbroken.

At that end, Beichen seemed to have noticed us.

He let go of Xiao Li, a faint blush spreading over his cold, angular face, "Xiao Li, the Snake Lord and Lady of the Snake Lord... and also Yu Rongling, are watching us."

Chapter 288: He's My Boyfriend Now

"Lady of the Snake Lord... what's that?"

Xiao Li obviously wasn't used to this awkward title. She rubbed Beichen's red cheeks with both hands, "Brother Chenn, you look so cute when your face turns red."

Even Beichen's ears turned red, "Did... did my face turn red?"

"It did." Xiao Li said seriously while pinching Beichen's flushed ears.

Beichen, losing his usual cool demeanor, blushed shyly like a young boy, "I tend to blush easily when I'm nervous."

"I just love to see you blush, Brother Chenn~"

Xiao Li, lost in bliss, inadvertently glanced at me and Yu Longting, and her reaction was as if she had seen a ghost.

"Brother Chenn..." Xiao Li lowered her voice to whisper to Beichen, "I think I just saw Yu Longting and Chen Yuanyuan. The 'Lady of the Snake Lord' you just mentioned, is that Chen Yuanyuan?"

"She has the Spiritual Eye. Besides good vision, her hearing is really strong too," Beichen reminded Xiao Li.

Xiao Li's mouth visibly twitched, "So when I whisper to you, she can hear us even from that far away."

"It's almost like setting off firecrackers next to her ear," Beichen concluded objectively.

Me, who heard their conversation loud and clear, immediately facepalmed.

Beichen's analogy was on point. It really was like setting off firecrackers.

Yu Longting glanced at me, my hair tousled by the wind, "The youngsters these days are really getting brasher."

"Heh, a little," I chuckled awkwardly.

Not far away, Xiao Li, like a jubilant deer in the forest, bounded over to me.

She jumped up, hugged my neck with both arms, "Yuanyuan, I was so worried about you. Why didn't you come to see me when you got back?"

"Because..." I hadn't finished speaking.

Xiao Li suddenly bent down with a start and reached for my belly, "I didn't hurt the little one, did I?"

"No... With how careful you are, how could you possibly bump into her?" I instinctively stretched my hand to Xiao Li's lower back to stabilize her, preventing her from falling.

Suddenly, from the direction of Yu Longting, there seemed to be an invisible chill aimed my way.

Stealing a glance, I saw Yu Longting's eyes darkening as if he were brooding.

It made my heart tremble, worried he might be jealous of Xiao Li hugging me. But Xiao Li is my best friend, my best friend!!

However, oblivious Xiao Li held me even tighter, "As long as you're not hurt. When Zhang Shuying kidnapped you, it scared me to death."

"I'm fine now. Yu Longting made a trip and rescued me," I softly soothed her weeping back.

A strange wet sensation came from my shoulder, and a faint sobbing sound emanated from where she buried her head.

After crying for a while, Xiao Li spoke, annoyed, "You didn't come to see me right away. Is it because you... value love over friendship?"

"Umm..." I felt shamefully exposed.

Xiao Li pushed me away, her tear-filled eyes looking at me as if I were a heartbreaker, "I knew it. You were busy with him, being all lovey-dovey, and you forgot about everyone else."

"I was wrong, I was wrong. It won't happen again," I said, genuinely remorseful. From the moment I left Tian Na's place, my mind was fixated on what Zhang Shuying said about Yu Longting's distress.

So much so that I had ignored everyone else around me. Xiao Li had seen me being abducted by Zhang Shuying with her own eyes.

Perhaps the first thing I should have done upon returning to Spring Wind Town was to reassure her.

Seeing how guilt-ridden I was, Xiao Li broke into laughter through her tears, "I'm just teasing you. I'm relieved to see you're safe... I have some good news to tell you. Beichen and I are officially together now. He's... my boyfriend now."

Chapter 289: Living Dead

"I've been rooting for your CP, and finally, you guys made it." I teased jokingly.

Xiao Li blushed shyly, "Chen Yuanyuan, your mouth is getting naughtier."

"I really always ship your CP, I'm a fan of your CP," I said sincerely, "After all, whenever you sweeten the deal, I might get lucky and snag a bite of the lunch you make with love."

Xiao Li's face was so red that capillaries were visible, her palms continuously fanning to cool down.

Longting came over, his cheeks still flushed. "Can we set off now?"

"Let's go," Yu Longting said indifferently, as if he was indifferent to the matters at hand.

He seemed like the family elder just now, the one protecting Longting was not someone else.

Longting approached Yu Longting, "Why the rush? We just came back from the Gu Sect."

Given Longting's worried look, he probably feared something might happen to the Lin Family.

"The Lin Family didn't mention any issues, just asked me to come back immediately," I told Longting.

Longting's gaze darkened slightly, and he nodded at me.

After he saw Yu Longting and me into the car, Longting briefly apologized to Xiao Li, "Sorry, I can't stay with you again."

"It's okay, when you're free, we can still video call," Xiao Li said with a very understanding smile, pushing Longting into the car herself.

Just then, a shadow darted onto the car.

Yu Longting was sitting by the side and coldly lifted his foot.

A cry of pain, "Ouch," was heard.

The shadow rolled off the car like a tumbling calabash.

Although he had taken a tumble.

The shadow quickly got up with a frisk, clinging to the car door, not letting the car drive away, "Brother~ Big Brother~ take me with you~"

"Do you know where we are going?" Yu Longting dusted off the creases on his trouser leg, his mischievous dark eyes lifting, seeming ready to kick Rongling at any moment.

Rongling, looking like he wanted to crawl into the car but not daring to offend his brother, pleaded sorrowfully, "I want to go and visit relatives with sister-in-law."

"Why didn't you say that the relatives are from Lin's Exorcist Family? Are you scared?" Yu Longting scoffed contemptuously, "It's laughable, a snake demon keen on sneaking into Lin Family territory."

Rongling, not relenting, "Aren't you a snake demon yourself? As if the people of the Lin family are fond of you."

"I'm asking you one last time, leave or not." Under Rongling's incessant pestering, Yu Longting's last bit of patience finally ran out, a sinister aura enveloping the whole car.

Rongling's expression stiffened, and he obediently backed off.

The car finally drove off smoothly.

I felt that Yu Longting's decision to not let Rongling come with us was correct, ever since I picked up that call from Lin Huan, my heart had been unsettled.

I felt that this trip back to the Lin family was not going to be simple.

Intuition told me... the fewer people going, the better...

Yu Longting is the person linked with my fate, not just this time.

For the rest of our lives, we will be together...

As for Longting...

"Longting, how long have you and Xiao Li been apart this time?" I asked Longting.

"About a week," Longting replied while driving.

I pondered, "You came back yesterday, how come you didn't go to see her?"

This separation has been long enough.

From when Yu Longting woke up and searched for me, Longting followed along.

The two of them hadn't seen each other ever since, and just when they returned, they had to leave with Yu Longting and me again.

It's no wonder Xiao Li rushed to kiss Longting regardless of the situation.

They have been apart too often.

"I instructed Longting to take care of something and he didn't have time to see his loved one," Yu Longting glanced at me, his eyes lowering to my hand which he was now used to holding, and he said with a light smile, "Longting, once you drop us at the airport, that's all you need to do. Being the Living Dead, your status is ambiguous, and it's not suitable for you to step onto Lin territory."

Chapter 290: The Auspiciousness and Perils of This Journey

"Yes, Snake Lord," Beichen strictly complied with the command.

The words "Living Dead" plunging me into deep thought.

Although I didn't know what Living Dead meant, it was also the first time I had heard the term.

But from what could be seen thus far,

it should be a life longer than that of ordinary people and not accepted by the Lin's Exorcist Family.

In fact, a long time ago, Yu Longting had revealed Beichen's true identity.

He had disclosed that Beichen's age was not what it appeared to be, and he had just told me again,

that Beichen had already died when he found him.

Without understanding Beichen's circumstances,

If I had known this aspect of his background, I would definitely have broken out in a cold sweat.

At the moment, Beichen and I were familiar with each other,

and I knew the nature of Beichen well.

So, his background really doesn't matter at all.

What's important is the person he is.

With Beichen's loyal and affectionate character, once he had started this relationship, he would definitely make proper arrangements and wouldn't let Xiao Li suffer the slightest harm.

It was this trust that, although I had many thoughts, I did not go to Yu Longting to ask outright.

Spring Wind Town was relatively remote, about thirty kilometers from the nearest airport.

I fell asleep in the car without realizing it.

The weather today was a bit humid and stuffy,

which was hardly comfortable in itself and even my dreams became sticky.

The entire dream was chaotic and made one feel extremely heavy.

I woke up in cold sweat, the last scene in a temple where Lin Huan's and my mother's heads lay bloodied on the ground, deeply engraved in my mind.

I couldn't remember anything else.

Maybe that was all I dreamed about?

I was very confused, my eyes completely unfocused, my fingers subconsciously pinching the brow, "Yu Longting...how long did I sleep?"

"Ten minutes." Yu Longting, noticing my discomfort, opened a bottle of water and fed it to me. "What's wrong? Suddenly you're in such a bad state, you're pale enough to directly play a female ghost."

"I had a strange dream, and I only slept for such a short time."

Even after drinking the water, my state did not recover.

My right eyelid kept twitching.

Yu Longting frowned deeply, "People usually have nightmares because of evil spirits; as a Spiritual Girl, you are the least likely to have nightmares."

"I have my own spiritual power for protection, and with you by my side, ordinary evil spirits cannot get close to me."

I couldn't help but repeat the bloody scene in the temple in my mind, the two severed heads on the ground staring at me with wide eyes, "So, what I've had may not be a common nightmare, Yu Longting. I might have a whimsical request."

"Say it, let your husband hear it. How whimsical can it be?" Yu Longting adjusted my position so I leaned completely against him, enveloping my slightly stiff body completely.

I was genuinely cold from fear, "I want to change our route and go to Granny Wu's."

"That is indeed whimsical, it's over fifty kilometers from here to Granny Wu's,"

Yu Longting curved his lips slightly and commanded, "Beichen, change our route to Granny Wu's."

"I always feel that this trip back to the Lin Family might not be peaceful, so I thought of getting some materials to make a Divination Robe, just in case," I said, my heart racing, unsure how to express myself to Yu Longting, curling up my body and seeming very insecure.

Yu Longting had already taken his coat from the luggage, wrapping it around me from behind, "I'll cast a divination and see the fortune of our trip."

"That's exactly what I was thinking! I wanted to make a Divination Robe," I said excitedly as I straightened up, the coat wrapped around my body almost falling off.

Yu Longting pressed down on the coat, ordering discontentedly, "Stay down."