

A Snake 291

Chapter 291: A Woman's Life at Stake

"Okay." I obediently nestled down on him.

Yu Longting said, "Draw a divination stick, this is the easiest, Beichen."

"Snake Lord, please hold on a moment." Beichen fished in the sleeve of his Taoist robe and handed something over, "Here."

He pulled out a cyan jade container.

The container was filled with divination sticks, also made of cyan jade.

To the untrained eye, the jade appeared exceptionally clear and moist, with outstanding water quality.

It was indeed a top-quality Old-pit glass type.

If one looked with the Spiritual Eye, they could see a faint glow emanating from the cyan jade container.

Yu Longting took it and let me draw one.

After I drew one, he didn't ramble on about the divination in archaic language like a fortune-teller would, but told me directly, "It's an omen of great misfortune."

My heart skipped a beat and my face turned pale as I reached for my phone.

I pulled my phone from my pocket, and it took me three attempts to unlock the password.

I opened the recent calls and redialed my mom's number from her last call.

The phone was in an unattended state.

I dialed several times in succession.

Still, it was in an unattended state.

"She might be busy, so she didn't answer my call." I made excuses, though I was already panicking inside.

Yu Longting, considering my feelings, followed my lead, "That must be it. Try calling again after a little while."

"Mm." I nodded weakly and responded.

The village where Granny Wu lived.

The weather was actually not bad, although there were clouds in the sky.

But when the clouds were scattered by the wind, there were occasional bursts of sunlight.

Yu Longting fastened all the buttons on my coat before allowing me to get out of the car.

Wu Zhenglin was airing quilts and was startled when he saw me, "On such a hot day, you... why are you wearing such thick clothes?"

"Is your grandmother home?" I wasn't in the mood to explain my current state, I just asked Wu Zhenglin directly.

Wu Zhenglin shook his head, "Grandma went to the market, but if you're here to pick up goods, I can help. I'm quite familiar with the inventory in the storehouse."

"Okay, let's go to the storehouse together, I'll pick a few things and leave." I said urgently.

Wu Zhenglin gave me a glance.

He walked ahead to lead the way.

In the storehouse, I quickly picked a few items.

Wu Zhenglin sat at a small table, taking notes with a pen on what materials I had taken.

Seeing I was done, he was quite surprised, "Is that all?"

"That's all." I said.

Wu Zhenglin took out a white cloth bag.

He grabbed a handful of rice from the bag and put it in his pocket.

This guy was asking for rice divination.

I found it somewhat amusing, "I've never seen a man ask for a rice divination before."

"My grandma says my fate is suited for rice divination. Maybe... it's because I cultivated the Sword of Evil's Bane in my past life, which is why I seem to carry a feminine destiny in this life." Wu Zhenglin curled his fingers femininely as he joked with me.

If it were any other time, I would definitely have been amused, but now I could only manage a forced smile.

Wu Zhenglin also felt awkward and stopped being mischievous.

He escorted me to the door and met up with Yu Longting.

Yu Longting and I didn't linger, we placed all the materials for the Yin Yang Life and Death Embroidery in the trunk of the car and continued on to the airport.

When we reached the airport, my phone suddenly received a WeChat message from Wu Zhenglin.

[Wu Zhenglin: !!!]

He sent three exclamation marks.

Then, a long voice message followed.

Luckily, I brought my headphones. I took them out and put them on, then heard Wu Zhenglin's urgent voice from the headphones, "Damn, Su Wan, do you know what happened to the rice in my pocket? It turned red!! And it sprouted!! Do you know what this means?"

Chapter 292: A Newborn Baby is Born

Yu Longting must've heard Wu Zhenglin's voice coming out of my earphones.

He took my cellphone, his fingers flying as he typed a line of text:

If I knew, what would I need Granny Mi for?

Wu Zhenglin replied in a second.

But he only replied with six dots, all periods.

[Wu Zhenglin: ...]

Right after, Wu Zhenglin sent another voice message,

"Su Wan's style of speaking isn't like this; it must be Snake Lord replying."

Yu Longting swiftly replied with three words,

Any problem?

A black crow flew over my head.

I could imagine the look on Wu Zhenglin's face as he held his phone and saw the message.

Poor Wu Zhenglin, he probably just wanted to tease us a bit.

But he didn't expect to meet Yu Longting, who mercilessly shredded him without a word of protest.

Quickly, Wu Zhenglin sent a long voice message, "No problem, no problem, rice turning red, indicates a sign of great danger! Are you guys currently rushing to a perilous place?"

Yu Longting's replies were getting shorter each time, this time there were only two words,

Guess.

Quite a "guess" indeed.

If I were Wu Zhenglin, I'd have already smashed my phone and ignored it.

After all, we didn't even ask him to consult the rice; he was just kindly offering his help.

That's Yu Longting's attitude...

It's a good thing Yu Longting owes a big favor to the Wu Family, and Wu Zhenglin doesn't dare to neglect it. "I'll take it as yes, then. Rice sprouting has many meanings, one of which represents vitality. The place you're going to is not only a place of great danger but also is..."

Also what!

Wu Zhenglin, you had to pause at the crucial moment, didn't you?

But Yu Longting seemed very calm.

His dark eyes fixedly stared at the cellphone.

Another long voice message, "Spring has arrived, the season when all things awaken and begin to stir."

"What is this!!" Now even I have the urge to smash Wu Zhenglin.

Why did he suddenly start with a classic opening line from Teacher Zhao Zhongxiang?

Following that, Wu Zhenglin's voice sounded out like a charlatan's, "That place of great danger will give birth to a Divine Being who will drape grace over all beings. Ouch, Grandma, why did you suddenly hit me with an iron kettle... what if you knock me silly..."

I was completely puzzled and started to contemplate with a frown.

Was Wu Zhenglin getting a beating from Granny Wu while recording the message?

...Causing the message to cut off?

Did Granny Wu interrupt Wu Zhenglin because he was spouting nonsense, or was she worried about her grandson divulging the will of heaven?

So, was what he said true, or was he just messing with us?

"Don't worry, Wu Zhenglin's words are actually quite easy to understand." Yu Longting handed the cellphone back to me and patted my head.

I widened my eyes, gazing intently at him.

Then out with it!

What does it mean?

Yu Longting: "The Lin Family is a place of great danger."

I nodded repeatedly, I knew that, even my toes could have guessed it.

Yu Longting continued, saying, "The Lin Family has had a new baby."

"Could it be... is he talking about our Dumpling? Will I stay at the Lin Family's home until Dumpling is born??" I touched my belly in wonderment.

Yu Longting pinched my cheek, chuckling, "Wu Zhenglin said, it's a Divine Being that's being born, how could it possibly be Dumpling?"

"Oh," I replied dejectedly, and then couldn't help but frown, "But the Divine Being that's born should be closely related to me."

"If it weren't closely related to you, it wouldn't show up in your divination results. Even though we don't know who it is or what ties they have to you." Yu Longting narrowed his phoenix eyes, a trace of dark unease in their depths, which he quickly hid when he looked at me, "Once we get to City A, the truth will reveal itself."

Just then, the airport broadcast a message: due to heavy fog, all flights going to City A were delayed.

Departure time uncertain, we must wait for the fog to clear before returning to normal.

Chapter 293: The Foggy Day

In the waiting area, many passengers bound for A City were becoming restless.

People kept asking the staff about the situation.

A City wasn't known for its fog.

The flight attendants were optimistic, believing the fog would soon dissipate.

As long as the planes could take off smoothly on the A City side.

Once the airplane reached our airport, it would be able to take off at any time.

"Wanwan, we're changing our flight," Yu Longting decisively stood up.

Following behind him, I was a bit slow on the uptake, "How do we change it? All flights to A City have been halted."

"Find a connecting city, then we can bypass the weather problems in A City," Yu Longting's brows were furrowed with a heaviness that couldn't be dispelled.

I thought he was in a bad mood, probably because of the divination's result, "Your method is better after all. Grandpa told me to come back immediately, there must be something urgent. This is the biggest time-saver."

Three hours later.

The plane landed at the airport in the connecting city.

About two to three hundred kilometers away from A City.

We originally planned to take a taxi there, and I flagged one down.

The driver rolled down the window, and upon hearing our destination was A City, he shook his head repeatedly, "Can't go there, there's heavy fog on the highway, can't see anything."

"Hey, doesn't A City look like it's set for a zombie movie, with the fog lasting so long and still not clearing," another cabbie who hadn't managed to get a fare joined the conversation leisurely.

The two drivers chatted idly on the topic of a post-apocalyptic zombie scenario.

I was quite surprised, taking out my phone to check, "Hey, Yu Longting, the heavy fog in A City made the hot search. It's been four or five hours and the fog hasn't lifted."

The thick fog had descended over A City without warning five hours earlier.

Fog shrouded the city streets and alleys, but there was still visibility of one or two meters.

However, on the highways leading into the city, a dense white fog had formed.

All the passing vehicles were stuck, completely enveloped in fog.

High-speed trains, airplanes, ships—transportation by sea, land, and air was completely shut down.

"Abnormal events must involve spirits; this fog has appeared under strange circumstances," Yu Longting glanced at the photo of the white fog.

I sighed, "It's a good thing you were smart enough to change the flight, or else we'd still be stuck at the airport. It's just that I don't know how we'll get there now."

"Those taxi drivers are so stubborn. The fog isn't going to linger in A City forever. Maybe if we drive there, the fog will have cleared by then."

A voice with a heavy accent, slightly hoarse and dry, came from behind us, sounding like a middle-aged man who had consumed too much tobacco and alcohol.

I turned around and saw a bearded middle-aged uncle poking his head out from the window of the car behind us.

The bearded uncle flicked his cigarette ash, smiling, "So, what do you say? Going to take it or not? My price is cheaper than theirs."

"How much?" I eyed the white van the uncle was driving.

This man was running an unlicensed taxi.

He had even tampered with the license plate.

It looked perfectly normal, yet it wouldn't be captured by surveillance cameras.

The bearded uncle revealed his teeth, yellowed from smoking, "Flat rate, two hundred fifty."

I felt the uncle was unreliable and was a bit scared to take his car.

Just as I was hesitating, Yu Longting spoke up, "Ninety-nine."

How could I forget!! I have Snake Lord by my side!!

Even if the unlicensed taxi driver had any problems, there was nothing to be afraid of.

"Young man, that's not being fair. All of us are successful people flying here, and you're bargaining," the uncle said with a pained expression.

Yu Longting's face remained expressionless: "Economy class, discounted tickets."

"Ninety-nine won't even cover the cost of fuel," the uncle complained, "At least let me earn a little."

Yu Longting: "One hundred fifty."

"Alright, alright, get in then. I'm out of luck. Young people these days really are stingy," the uncle gestured resignedly for us to board the car.

Standing by the side, I was quite amazed, never would I have imagined, Yu Longting... he actually knew how to haggle...

Chapter 294: The Art of the Demon Fox

Yu Longting and I had just climbed into the minivan.

The middle-aged uncle hurriedly closed the door as if he was afraid we'd run off.

A few taxi drivers below started talking, "Those young guys are so unlucky, ran into Heiche Rong, they're going to be slaughtered."

"Look at their clothes, pretty ordinary, I bet they don't have much money."

"Can someone who flies be penniless? Heiche Rong has a deadly eye, always butchering fat sheep."

"Sometimes, I envy Heiche Rong, he works once every three years, and that one time feeds him for three years."

I heard all these conversations loud and clear.

I couldn't help but laugh and cry as I looked towards Yu Longting.

Yu Longting just shrugged.

Acting all calm and composed.

Forty minutes later,

the little minivan stopped in a remote area.

Heiche Rong got out to smoke.

After puffing away on two whole cigarettes, he walked over with a cold face, opened the door and asked, "Wanna keep going?"

"How much?" Yu Longting asked.

I guessed this was the first time in his life that he was being extorted.

Heiche Rong was stunned, seemingly surprised that someone was eager to pay up, "Five... hundred."

"Transferred it over," Yu Longting scanned a QR code inside the van.

Heiche Rong, biting on his cigarette, was stunned for a good half a minute.

A sinister coldness briefly flickered through his eyes, and suddenly he sneered chillingly, "I've changed my mind. You two fat sheep seem to have a thick wallet, eight hundred! Walk back if you don't pay."

Yu Longting transferred the money without even a furrow in his brow.

It made my heart bleed – someone like me, who'd hesitate to even spend fifty on a hostel, how could I tolerate being swindled out of eight hundred for no reason.

But seeing how Yu Longting took it all in stride, I figured he must have had some other motive.

So, I kept quiet and silently watched how things unfolded.

Heiche Rong must have never encountered someone so easy to rob, eyeing Yu Longting and me suspiciously several times, he finally asked, "You guys... you're not cops sent to entrap me, right?"

"No, we just want to avoid trouble, we have urgent business in A city," Yu Longting simply explained.

Heiche Rong, a deeply suspicious person, scrutinized us for a while, then he relented and flashed us a toothy grin, "Whatever, it's just eight hundred. If you're cops, consider it a bonus for your mid-year performance, at most I'd be locked up for a couple of days. It's not like I haven't been in jail before!"

After furiously spitting out the cigarette butt, Heiche Rong went back to driving.

Seeing how greedy and terribly fierce Heiche Rong was, I knew if he hadn't suspected Yu Longting and me to be cops, he probably could have extorted even more.

That suspicion made him pull back.

Heiche Rong turned on the car radio and played cheesy songs, bobbing his head as he drove onto the national highway.

I thought we'd be clear of fog on the national highway and make it to A city, but I didn't expect...

"Damn it, there's fog on the highway too. Guess we can only head..." back to the mansion.

Before Heiche Rong could finish his sentence, he saw the road behind the car instantly engulfed in white mist.

As I approached near the mist, I noticed something was off, "Yu Longting, there's heavy demon Qi in this mist."

"Fox Clan's demon mist," Yu Longting curled his lips, a trace of green light flashing in his eyes, somewhat mischievous and playful.

I asked him, not quite understanding, "A city is big, can a fox's spell really affect such a large area?"

"It means there are at least a thousand foxes. Since we're here, there's a way to deal with it, it's all trivial." Yu Longting flicked a charm from his sleeve, holding it between two fingers like chopsticks.

The white charm, with its gold painted incantation, radiated golden light.

It bathed the inside of the car in gold.

Heiche Rong, turning his head to witness this scene, saw it all too clearly, his body shook like a sieve, his teeth clattering wildly, "Are you... are you sure this isn't some... prop bought from... 'Taobao'?"

Chapter 295: Why Are There Such Cruel People?

"Since the props are bought from Taobao, what are you trembling for?" I couldn't stand Heiche Rong's bullying and cowardice, so I snapped at him.

With his sunglasses on, Heiche Rong, who loved no one, chuckled coldly, "I... I'm Heiche Rong, not easily frightened. You two little brats, playing ghosts and gods, you think I'll be scared... scared..."

The scene before his eyes made Heiche Rong stutter once again.

The talisman paper, shining with golden light, flew out of the car window and hovered in the thick fog, shining brightly.

Soon the light dimmed.

The talisman paper burned without fire.

Even more miraculously, visibility in front of us cleared up little by little.

The fog... was dispersing...

On the national highway, the sound of car horns honking was constant.

In less than fifteen minutes, everything cleared up.

All the vehicles began moving slowly, and soon they all entered the city without any hindrance.

Heiche Rong muttered, "The fog... was it dispersed... by you guys..."

"Yeah, we are indeed masters," Yu Longting said with an indifferent smile.

Heiche Rong, scared pale, wiped the cold sweat from his forehead with his sleeve, "Indeed... a master never shows his true face."

For the rest of the journey, Heiche Rong didn't utter another word.

But from time to time, he sneakily glanced in the rearview mirror, as if he had something on his mind.

"We're in the city now, masters... where... do you want to get off?" Heiche Rong didn't know where to stop the car, looking timid and apprehensive, he hesitantly asked me and Yu Longting.

Gone was his earlier arrogance when he was overcharging.

I originally wanted Heiche Rong to drive toward Green Cloud Mountain.

Yu Longting gave him an address.

Heiche Rong activated the car's navigation system and followed the given directions.

Did he think going directly to the Lin Family was too dangerous?

Given the current situation, we indeed needed to be more cautious.

"Click—"

Suddenly, a piercing sound of an emergency brake filled the air.

Before I could lean forward from the inertia, my waist was already caught by a strong arm and pulled into Yu Longting's embrace.

Everything happened so suddenly, I was completely stunned.

I didn't understand why Heiche Rong would slam on the brakes so abruptly.

"I... I think I... I might have hit someone..." Heiche Rong was stiff in the driver's seat as if struck by rigor mortis.

His face was as white as a sheet, staring straight ahead.

Although the minivan's chassis wasn't high, if we had hit someone, we definitely wouldn't be able to see a hair from this angle.

Frowning, I sternly shouted, "You hit someone, and you're not getting out to check?"

"Oh... I'll go check now..." Heiche Rong fumbled to open the door, "It looks like... she's a pregnant woman, with a very large belly."

What had just happened was too sudden.

And this spot was a blind spot.

I hardly saw anything.

But when I heard it was a pregnant woman...

I quickly wriggled out of Yu Longting's arms and opened the door to get out as well.

This was in the downtown area.

In just a few minutes, many onlookers had gathered.

The crowd murmured and discussed among themselves.

The pregnant woman on the ground, holding her belly in agony, moaned, "My baby, my baby..."

There was a lot of blood flowing from her lower body.

Most likely, the child could not be saved...

"Are you alright? I... I'll call an ambulance." Heiche Rong rushed up to inquire, not daring to touch the pregnant woman, he knelt halfway and took out his phone to call for emergency services.

But the pregnant woman grabbed hold of one of Heiche Rong's legs, "Murder! Hitting a pregnant woman! I was attacked by that couple, they hired someone... hired someone... to kill my child in my womb... this man is an assassin..."

"I didn't do it on purpose, you... you jaywalked, I only hit you because you crossed the road, I'm not an assassin... don't take pictures, I'm being framed... I won't kill anyone, I'm not an assassin, I'm a commoner! I'm a good person!!" Heiche Rong, a black-cab driver who extorted money like a fierce god, was now a bundle of nerves, waving his hands and explaining desperately.

The surrounding flashlights flickered ceaselessly.

Making Heiche Rong's dark face look ashen as death.

Chapter 296: Paper Man

The onlooking crowd was shocked, "Assassin? Pretending it was a traffic accident to commit murder?"

"In broad daylight, how could such a thing happen?"

...

The pregnant woman, her hand covered in blood, pointed at Yu Longting and said, "This man's name is Yu Longting, he's my... my husband..."

The crowd's attention shifted from Heiche Rong to me and Yu Longting.

Apparently, they hadn't expected the "scumbag" to be such a handsome man, and a flurry of gasps filled the air.

"So handsome," "Are all scumbags this attractive?" "If he looks that good, I want to be played too." ...

Listening to these whispered comments, I couldn't help but give Yu Longting a helpless glance.

Is this what they call 'looks are justice'?

The pregnant woman hooked her lips coldly, her words dripping with blood as she accused,

"He cheated on me while I was pregnant, had a child with another woman, and wanted to get rid of us both. How can there be someone so heartless in this world?"

The plot was so chilling that it would be unbelievable in a TV drama.

If it wasn't happening in reality, nobody would dare to write such a script.

The bystanders became indignant, "Please, those obsessed with looks, wake up! If your values follow your aesthetics, you're in big trouble."

"Exactly, if the person beside you is such a devil, you wouldn't even know how you died."

"What's the use of being good-looking? Hell is empty, and devils walk the Earth."

...

Yu Longting lowered his head and asked me softly, "My dear wife, do you need me to explain anything?"

"I know you too well for that. Your explanation would only be, 'This woman is too ugly, I have better taste than that.'"

I had been with Yu Longting for a long time, I was perfectly clear on what kind of person he was.

Yu Longting chuckled, "Yes, my dear wife knows me best."

I rolled my eyes at Yu Longting, "Something's off with that woman, she has no soul."

Interest sparked in Yu Longting's eyes as he asked me, "So? What do you plan to do?"

"I believe that we shouldn't be afraid to speak the truth about such things."

I walked over to the pregnant woman and grabbed her wrist, demanding coldly, "Who are you? Why are you framing me and my boyfriend?"

"Framing? Do you think... someone would use their own and their child's life to frame others?" The pregnant woman struggled to break free from my grip.

Her strength was surprisingly great; I couldn't hold onto her with my own strength.

I simply pulled out a green strip of fabric and tied it around her wrist, "I don't think so, which is why you are just a Puppet."

Whoever created this fake pregnant woman must have thought that Yu Longting and I wouldn't dare let the world witness the Mysterious Art, and would suffer in silence.

I refused to take that lying down.

"What... what did you tie to me..." The woman's face instantly changed from human to one drawn on paper with ink. It was as white as ash, with ridiculously rosy cheeks.

Her eyes and mouth looked pasted on; the more you looked, the more unsettling it became.

I said dispassionately, "The Life and Death Embroidery strip that reveals your true form."

Before the Paper Man completely lost consciousness, its frightening red lips touched together, emitting a confused and sharp noise unlike any human's, "You're ruthless, Su Wan... I... was doing it for your own good... you'll regret this..."

"You wouldn't say why when I asked just now, and now you're saying I'll regret it. You've had all the say." I was so irritated, I poked my finger through the Paper Man's forehead and pulled out an Ancient Coin.

Since Yu Longting and I planned to come to City A, strange things kept happening.

First, I had bizarre nightmares, then Yu Longting predicted that this trip would be highly dangerous, and there were also Wu Zhenglin's odd divination results.

Then there was the fox demon in City A, casting a fog to seal off the city and hinder our journey...

The pregnant woman, soaked in blood from being hit by a car, suddenly turned into a talking Paper Man; even the blood on the ground had vanished.

It was as if we were witnessing ghosts in broad daylight.

The accusations and curses stopped abruptly as the startled onlookers backed away, a sea of pale faces staring at where the Paper Man had collapsed, "Could that woman have been a ghost?"

"Am I seeing things? She was clearly pregnant, how did she... turn into a Paper Man?!"

Chapter 297: Rushing to Court Death

Taking advantage of everyone's diverted attention amid the clamorous discussions,

Yu Longting took my hand, "Wanwan, let's go."

"Oh." I frowned and glanced at the Paper Man on the ground before he helped me into the passenger seat.

Yu Longting took the driver's seat himself, painstakingly fastened my seatbelt, and planned to drive away directly.

Heiche Rong reacted, frantically knocking on the window, "My car... hey, are you robbing us?"

"Move to the back," Yu Longting commanded sternly.

Heiche Rong shrank his neck and obediently sat in the back seat.

I handed the Copper Coin I had dug out of the Paper Man to Yu Longting, "Can you find the person controlling the paper puppet behind the scenes?"

"Are you doubting your man's abilities?"

Yu Longting pinched the Copper Coin between his fingers and drove along the main road for two minutes.

He turned into a secluded alley.

The van was too big to enter.

The moment the car stopped, I saw a figure in a hoodie in the alley.

The figure had long flowing hair with a bit of a natural curl.

It seemed to be a young girl who appeared to be holding a few strings in her hands.

I hurriedly opened the car door and dashed out, "Did you control the Paper Man? Did you also release the phantom fog in City A today?"

"Guess, Su Wan," the girl slowly replied, turning her head back.

Her features seemed to be enveloped in a mist, but her bright, upward-curving lips were deliberately clear.

In her entire face, only her lips were visible.

Each of her fingers was wrapped with a thin red string, connected to a plump female puppet.

My whole body bristled as I continued to persistently question, "You know my name and deliberately planned to frame me, what exactly do you want? Are you... one of the people of the Lin family?"

The girl gracefully turned around and continued walking forward with hollow-sounding footsteps.

The alley was long, and she walked slowly.

I subconsciously quickened my pace to catch up.

In an attempt to catch her, I continuously accelerated.

My mind was entirely filled with concerns for Lin Huan and my mother!!

I always felt that the girl seemed to be connected to the Lin family and might know why Lin Huan had called me back.

But I didn't know why I couldn't catch up no matter how hard I tried.

Despite maintaining the original distance, I felt something was off in my heart.

"She knows the Taoist Sect's special stepping technique and has used an Illusion Technique; you can't beat her," Yu Longting grabbed my wrist, and several highly venomous pit vipers shot out from his sleeve to pursue the girl.

The pit vipers moved incredibly fast, quickly entangling the girl.

I saw the girl was in danger of being strangled by the pit vipers and worried for a moment, "Don't harm her life."

As soon as the words left my mouth.

The girl being strangled by the pit vipers suddenly twisted into a pretzel shape.

Seeing this made my heart skip a beat, but upon closer inspection, I realized that the body that had fallen was that of a Paper Man...

"I told you, she knows Illusion Techniques, and you still got deceived by her Art," Yu Longting beckoned, and the Black Snake brought the Paper Man back.

Another Paper Man used to mourn the dead appeared before us.

The pupils of the Paper Man were backed with gold paper, which refracted light, making it seem like it was glaring at me.

Stunned by the sight of the Paper Man on the ground, I paused before finally managing to let out a sigh, "She guessed we would pursue her, so she prepared a stuntman and Illusion Techniques in advance to... to toy with us. Her technique for creating puppets is entirely different from mine, yet the effect is the same, seemingly related to the Forbidden Woman's lineage."

"Exactly the Forbidden Woman; you didn't expect, wife, your knowledge... is quite extensive, even recognizing the Forbidden Woman. This Forbidden Woman is full of tricks, playing hide-and-seek with us, interesting!! It turns out someone dares to play hide-and-seek with Snake Lord, rushing to their doom," Yu Longting bent down to pick up a Copper Coin from the ground, adding it to the one I had given him.

With a gentle squeeze of his fingertips, he merged them into a single copper sphere.

An audacious thought crossed my mind, "The Forbidden Woman? The people of the Lin family are very xenophobic; they neither allow demons and evils to enter nor permit other medieval mystic arts masters from differing factions to come close. How could there be a Forbidden Woman in City A?"

Chapter 298 Forbidden Woman

"It might be one of the Lin family people who learned some crooked ways," Yu Longting's eyes darkened.

Upon hearing this, I felt his guess was plausible, "Very likely."

After getting back into the car, Yu Longting drove us to a hotel he had booked in advance.

Heiche Rong sat in the back seat, dazed throughout the journey, until we got out of the car.

When he saw Yu Longting pulling out his phone to pay the fare of one hundred and fifty yuan,

He suddenly became fully alert with a jolt and hurriedly rushed out to stop him, shouting for him not to pay the fare, "Master, boss! Please, please don't pay me anymore, it's my honor to have driven you this short distance; I, Heiche Rong, am so fortunate."

Not only that, but he also returned all the money Yu Longting had transferred to him earlier, his legs trembling as he pleaded pitifully,

"I only have one small request, I beg you magnanimous people not to hold a grudge against a nobody like me, please don't curse me with gu or anything. I'm just an ordinary worker, striving just for my daily bread..."

To many ordinary people, those of us who are experts in the Mysterious Art like Yu Longting and me,

would seem capable of causing someone's doom with just a flick of our fingers.

Thinking of this, Heiche Rong scared himself half to death.

Yu Longting pursed his lips, smiling without a word.

This terrified Heiche Rong even more, "What does your silence mean? Aren't you willing to forgive me? Wu wuu wuu... I'm bowing down to you two..."

When this crafty Black Snake smiles, he looks exceptionally elegant, yet countless times more terrifying than when he doesn't.

Seeing that Heiche Rong was about to faint from fright.

"Since you've returned the extorted money, naturally we won't do anything to you, rest assured," I couldn't bear to watch and sternly reassured Heiche Rong, then warned him, "Extorting money damages your yin virtue. If you wish for smoother fortunes ahead, you should stop this line of work."

"Yes, yes, yes, Fairy Sister, you're truly beautiful inside and out, the most gorgeous woman I've ever seen; you're absolutely right, I won't dare anymore, I swear I'll listen to you and reform..."

Heiche Rong nodded repeatedly, showering us with flattery and drove off faster than a rabbit.

After settling in the hotel with Yu Longting, I took a bath, came out, and then I called my mother's phone.

At that time, there was still no answer.

My heart inexplicably grew worried, and I redialed several times over and over.

"You should rest up in the hotel; I need to step out for a bit," Yu Longting suddenly picked me up and placed me on the hotel bed.

I grabbed his arm in a swift motion, "Where are you going? To the Lin family? Or to find that Forbidden Woman?"

"Neither. The Lin family estate is the Exorcist's territory; without an invitation, entering would offend them and not bode well for eventually marrying you and bringing you over."

Yu Longting explained logically, "I know someone from a related Lin clan. I'm going to catch up with him now, and if there's extra time, I'll capture the Forbidden Woman for questioning."

"Oh." I slowly let go of his hand; he had important matters to attend to.

I don't possess any powerful arts, following him would only be a burden.

Yu Longting kissed me on the forehead, "I'll be back before dawn. Don't leave the hotel easily, and in case anything happens, don't go back to the Lin family directly."

"I'll heed your advice, don't worry," I promised earnestly.

His deeply concerned and wary demeanor made me feel like I was Monk Tang, who never heeds warnings.

Sun Wukong placed him in a safe circle, yet he insisted on stepping out and fell into the monsters' traps.

Eventually, he was captured by the monster, and all three disciples had to take turns rescuing him...

Yu Longting gave a soft laugh, suddenly leaned close to my hair, took a deep inhale, and pinched my sensitive waist with his fingers, "Seeing you so obedient makes me not want to leave; I'd like to take you all night!"

"You... Yu Longting, you rogue! Get out..." I was so angered by his words that steam seemed to rise from my head, and I forcefully knocked his hand away from my waist.

In the blink of an eye, Yu Longting's figure vanished from my sight.

My heart inexplicably felt empty, and I stared blankly at the ceiling for a long while.

Pulling over the covers, I curled up on one side of the bed.

Blood, my dream was filled with blood.

The room before my eyes was stained deep red, and I could hear the low sobs of a little girl, "Grandpa... don't die... Grandpa..."

Upon closer inspection, the sobbing little girl was shockingly a snake with a human head.

Her snake body struggled slowly and painfully on the blood-soaked ground, her little face smeared with fresh red blood, looking very pitiful, "Grandpa, Tangtang wants a sticker, a hug..."

I suddenly opened my eyes, waking from the terrifying nightmare.

My heart raced extremely fast, as if I had just gone through an intensely exhausting exercise, and a sharp pain emanated from my abdomen.

My fingers pressed against my painfully swollen abdomen, my forehead covered in cold sweat, "Dumpling... Dumpling... are you okay, my Dumpling..."

Just then, my phone suddenly rang, showing it was my mom calling.

Chapter 299: Mysterious Call

"Mom, I'm fine, don't worry about me." The moment Little Dumpling's tender voice rang out, my heart completely settled down.

As I picked up the phone, I rubbed my belly a few times, "But why does Mommy's belly hurt so much?"

"Because of telepathy." Dumpling answered.

The fingers resting on my abdomen at that moment felt as if they'd touched Little Dumpling's palm.

I could vaguely feel him inside my belly, reaching out his little hands towards the outside world,

Dumpling continued,

"I could feel Mommy's heart is so sad, so I became sad too. That's why I accidentally made Mommy feel pain."

After hearing Little Dumpling's explanation, I thought back to the nightmare full of blood just now.

That inexplicable dream, for some reason, made my subconscious incredibly sorrowful, and I didn't even recognize the little girl that appeared in it...

"Dumpling really wants a hug from Mommy." Little Dumpling's milky voice was full of longing.

A tender smile spread across my face, and through the thin skin over my belly, I touched Little Dumpling's hand, "After you're born, Mommy will hold you all the time, and never let go, how about that?"

Little Dumpling was very satisfied, "Okay, Mommy, Dumpling really likes you."

By now, the phone had been ringing for a long while, and it was about to hang up automatically.

I finally answered, "Hello, Mom, you finally called me. Are you doing okay at the Lin Family's place?"

"It's me." Lin Huan's voice again came through on the phone call from my mom.

I had expected this and was neither surprised nor panicked. I indifferently replied, "Oh, Senior Lin."

"Su Wan, why haven't you returned to the Lin Family immediately?" Lin Huan questioned.

"There's a heavy fog in City A, the flights are delayed..." I paused, feigning fragility on the phone.

Strange, why is Lin Huan so anxious for me to hurry back to the Lin's but doesn't say there's anything wrong?

And why can I never get through to my mom's phone?

Why is it always Lin Huan who answers?

Lin Huan's tone was ice cold, "Now, return to the Lin's immediately!"

"Okay, no problem, I'll be able to get to City A by tomorrow morning at the latest," I sincerely responded.

Lin Huan let out a cold laugh, "You think I don't know? You're already in City A!"

"You're mistaken, I'm really not in City A." I still refused to admit it.

Lin Huan said, "The video of you in City A has been posted online."

"Fine, I admit it, I am in City A." I said, "But it's too late now; if I were to go to the Lin's, I'd have to wait until daylight at least."

I turned on the speaker and immediately started searching on Weibo.

There was nothing like that news in the trending searches.

Only after changing several keywords in the search bar,

did I find a video, under the term "con artist tricks," with only ten comments.

The video showed Heiche Rong hitting a pregnant woman, who then turned into a Paper Man, and out of the ten comments, nine mocked the fake-looking special effects.

The remaining one was actually an advertisement for weight loss pills.

If the story had developed according to what that pregnant woman said, the key to online trends might have been revealed, perhaps even making it onto the trending topics.

But since it was a nonsensical supernatural event that was ignored once released,

even with many witnesses, it turned into sheer nonsense.

"Su Wan, you're out of line!" Lin Huan burst into a rage.

I hung up the phone right away.

Five minutes of silence on the phone followed.

Then it rang again.

I answered with ennui, "Another matter?"

"You know I'm not Lin Huan." The voice on the phone was still Lin Huan's, but he revealed himself to not be Lin Huan.

I was completely uncertain before.

But at this moment, I was sure that someone had impersonated Lin Huan, tricking both Yu Longting and me into coming to City A.

"Lin Gang?" I guessed.

A cold, gender-neutral voice came through the phone, "Lin Gang is being hunted by Yun Hao and Zhang Shuying. Do you think... he has the time?"

"You're from the Lin Family, you know me, but I don't recognize you; do you think I guessed right?" I kept my cool, asking indifferently.

The person laughed for a while, then said, "I didn't expect that woman to be stupid as a pig, but her daughter is quite clever. Then you should be able to guess why I can call using your mom's phone number."

"My mom is in your hands." After coming to this conclusion, I could no longer maintain composure, my wrist trembling uncontrollably.

My nature is too emotional, and I am vulnerable through and through.

Especially my mom, who I see as the pillar of my entire soul.

That person seemed certain of this and said with a sinister laugh, "Before 3 a.m., return to the Lin's, or else I will kill her! Did you hear me clearly?"

Chapter 300 Little Bunny, Open the Door

A bucket of cold water poured down on me.

I was chilled from head to toe, yet my heart was burning fiercely, "Can I... video call my mom to confirm..."

Before I could finish, the phone returned a tone of disconnection.

The person had hung up.

Even letting me hear my mom's voice would have been enough!!

But the call was ended so abruptly. Wasn't the person afraid that I wouldn't believe my mom was in his hands, and his blackmail ineffective?

The time on the phone was two in the morning.

Only one hour left until three in the morning.

The journey to White Cloud Mountain took approximately that time, as if everything had been orchestrated in the shadows.

At this moment, I must rush to the Lin Family without stopping to make the time mentioned by the person on the phone.

"Yu Longting, where are you now?" After calming myself for half a minute, I sent a voice message to Yu Longting.

Yu Longting actually replied immediately, "Still not sleeping? If I say I'm miles away, would you believe me? Did something happen?"

"Nothing important, just not used to sleeping alone—a bit missing you. Did I disturb you?"

I sensed from Yu Longting's words that he seemed busy, so I typed quickly, trying not to delay him.

Sure enough, Yu Longting's instant reply was,

"I have some matters to handle, I'll keep you company when I get back."

I narrowed my eyes, staring at the text Yu Longting sent.

It was just a brief sentence, yet somehow it felt warm, as if bestowing me with great strength.

I got out of bed, turned on the table lamp, and took out the Kin-seeking Clothes from my suitcase.

The Kin-seeking Clothes were originally made for Wei Yao, a white fabric with silver thread woven into the Life and Death Embroidery.

Once I put it on, I immediately felt countless fine thorns protruding from the fabric, piercing into my skin.

The dense thorns drew blood, yet the pierced areas felt no pain.

Instead, my brain felt as if it lacked oxygen, splitting with severe pain.

I couldn't bear it, kneeling on the ground with the clothing only half-stained with red, my vision blurred and all the veins in my body bulging and visible.

The cold sweat soaked through my thin nightgown, and I almost lost my autonomy.

"Little bunny, open the door nicely, Ms. Su, are you asleep?" Just at that moment, a knock came from outside the door, a sweet and cute voice calling out.

Her mouthful of sweet nursery rhymes held no trace of childlike innocence, instead feeling profoundly eerie and unnerving.

I gritted my teeth, "Not asleep, what is it?"

Who was outside? Why did they call for my mom?

My mind was filled with questions, but under the torment of pain, my brain could no longer function...

I just hoped that the hotel room door was sturdy enough not to give anyone the opportunity to break in.

"I'm just worried about you, can you let little bunny in?" The girl's tone overflowed with innocence.

The Kin-seeking Clothes were completely dyed blood red, the Yin Yang Embroidery on them glowing with a blood-red luster, with red mist starting to rise.

While my body was weakened to the limits the human body could endure, I had to hoarsely say, "No... please... leave..."

"Ms. Su, your daughter is very worried about you. It's not very nice to leave her outside alone in the middle of the night. Why don't you open the door and let the child in?" Another voice, seemingly of a hotel staff, sounded convincingly from outside.

The girl then urgently said, "Miss, my mom has severe depression and has always wanted to commit suicide. She might be in danger inside. Can you... help me... help me open the door, little bunny~ please."