

A Snake 311

Chapter 311 The Corpse Formation

Under the bright moon.

A long sword swiftly chopped down, slicing off Lin Qianshan's arm at the shoulder as easily as if it were cutting tofu.

Under the pressure of a ruptured artery, blood sprayed half a meter away.

"Who? Who is it?" Lin Qianshan could never have imagined his arm would suddenly sever, and he shouted in anger while clutching his wound.

Yu Longting landed from the air with a cold and scornful sweep at Lin Qianshan, "Me."

"Snake Lord, Yu Longting..." Lin Qianshan, clutching his wounded arm, retreated half a step, then twisted to run towards the Lin Family's main gate.

I shouted sternly, "Xiao Honghong, lend a hand."

"I can help, but it will cost ten large chicken legs." Xiao Honghong flew over.

Within half a second, it divided.

The divided entity moved with a speed faster than thunder, boring into Lin Qianshan's nape.

He was just half a step away from entering the Lin Family's domain.

Yet he fell backward, landing on the ground.

Lin Qianshan's eyes were bloodshot, "Su Wan!! You are a descendant of the Mysterious Gate Orthodox, yet you dare to use Gu Art."

"What's wrong with using Gu Art? My wife can use whatever she likes. You're on your deathbed and still like to meddle in others' affairs."

Yu Longting glanced at Xiao Honghong, "I want him to suffer excruciatingly and to completely obey my commands, to become a slave."

"That... will cost a hundred chicken legs," Xiao Honghong said lazily.

I translated for Yu Longting, "Xiao Honghong wants a hundred chicken legs."

"Why not stuff it until it bursts?" Yu Longting chuckled.

Xiao Honghong began to chant again.

Lin Qianshan suddenly collapsed in agony, "Ah... Yu Longting... Su Wan... you'll not die a good death..."

The Centipede Gu took effect, and Lin Qianshan's eyeballs bulged out instantly.

Underneath his skin, it seemed as if something alive was burrowing around, causing chaotic swelling that resembled the contours of mountains and valleys.

The torment was easily a hundred times worse than when Lin Xinmei had suffered her attacks.

"Brother Qianshan, the wise adapt," Lin Xinmei squatted next to Lin Qianshan and whispered in his ear, "I was captured by Snake Lord and Su Wan. They also placed Centipede Gu on me. They are much cleverer than we thought. Su Wan, using the Kin-seeking Clothes, found out that Lin Huan and the others were merely trapped in the Alchemy Chamber. The couple even guessed that you had rigged the entire Lin Family home with mechanisms."

"I always knew you were the most ruthless in the Lin Family, Xinmei... 'The most poisonous is a woman's heart.' To survive, you would stop at nothing..." Lin Qianshan, having heard this, laughed rather than getting angry, rolling around in pain on the ground while laughing uncontrollably.

I spoke in a low voice, "Lin Qianshan, immediately shut down all the traps inside the Lin Family home."

"Okay, I'll shut them. I'll shut everything down. Spare me for now... this way I'll have the strength to do things for you." Lin Qianshan's teeth were stained red, bloody foam at the corner of his mouth, his laugh frozen on his face.

I frowned, "Yu Longting, this guy is not very reliable. I'm worried he'll be deceitful."

Even though Lin Qianshan was poisoned with Gu, I still didn't trust him very much.

I was on guard for him to use tricks inside the Lin Family home, potentially trapping us all.

"That's easy, let Xiao Honghong take over his body," Yu Longting suggested.

I nodded in agreement, "That's what I was thinking as well. Having full control over Lin Qianshan is the safest option."

"But the Red Centipede is your creation; I can't control it. Only you can issue such a powerful Gu command," Yu Longting said as he flipped the Matchbox between his fingers, showing off its many tricks, before placing it in my hand.

I was surprised to feel a searing warmth from the Matchbox, likely due to some special sorcery drawn inside. It appeared mundane on the surface, but its suitability for containing Gu Insects was no coincidence, "Xiao Honghong, could you help out? Take over Lin Qianshan's body?"

"You have the nerve to assign me such a disgusting task?? I refuse! I'm not your Life-bound Gu, Master Hong. I'm free, why should I listen to you?" Xiao Honghong retorted with arrogance and reluctance.

Chapter 312: Am I Going to BBQ Now?

"I've let you live a life unrestrained, loving freedom. I'm not asking you to be my life-bound creature, I'm just begging you for help. This matter concerns the fate of my family. You can have as many chicken legs as you want," I pleaded softly to Xiao Honghong, not feeling confident at all.

Even Gu insects can feel disgust...

Was Xiao Honghong disgusted by Lin Qianshan, or by the prospect of possession?

"Why are you suddenly being so gentle? I'm not used to this,"

Xiao Honghong muttered shyly, "You said it, you'll give me as many chicken legs as I want; no regrets."

"No regrets!" Although I'm usually tight-fisted, I never thought of being stingy with Xiao Honghong.

Since it's with me, I'll do everything I can to meet its demands.

The next second, Xiao Honghong zipped into Lin Qianshan's nostrils.

Lin Qianshan wanted to dodge, but it was inevitable. "Su Wan... Snake Lord... I'll cooperate, please don't... don't do this to me... don't let the insect possess my... ah..."

Suddenly, Lin Qianshan's eyes turned a deep red, as if bloodshot.

The pleading, ingratiating words stopped abruptly.

His expression turned cold, and an indescribable arrogance and fierceness emanated from him.

"Xiao Honghong, is that you?" I didn't expect that after Xiao Honghong possessed Lin Qianshan, he would become a completely different person.

Lin Qianshan pursed his lips, "Woman, don't disturb me; I'm accessing his memories."

This noble and cold pursing of lips.

It shattered the high-and-mighty filter that possessed Lin Qianshan had on him.

I pressed my lips together to suppress my laughter and nodded in agreement.

Waiting patiently for the results of Xiao Honghong's memory reading.

"Done reading. What a disgusting person, I'm so miserable," Xiao Honghong complained with a look of revulsion.

I couldn't wait to ask, "What's in his memory? Can you tell me?"

"Lin Qianshan's memories must be vast and complex, do you expect an insect to narrate them to you all night?" Yu Longting cut off my question, "Let's first get into the Lin Family's estate, let Xiao Honghong handle the traps and mechanisms, clear the way for us, and rescue the people in the Alchemy room."

"That's true, it's good that you reminded me, otherwise I would have been foolish," I said, tapping my forehead and embarrassedly asking, "Xiao Honghong, could you lead us into the Lin Family's estate?"

"Follow me."

"Lin Qianshan" led the way, moving with the stiff, jerky motions of a mechanical puppet, even stumbling somewhat.

Lin Hang touched his nose, "Why is Lin Qianshan so clumsy?"

"A centipede with many legs is trying to walk on just two for the first time, doing this well is already impressive," I defended Xiao Honghong.

Suddenly, Lin Hang cried out in shock, "What the hell, my face..."

Lin Hang stopped in his tracks, standing still with a rigid spine.

His wheat-colored handsome face was marred by a fine scar.

The wound was narrow but long, as if made by a scalpel honed to perfection.

There was a line in front of Lin Hang, finer than a fishing line, only a short red segment was visible because it was stained with blood.

As a distant disciple of the Lin Family, he had an innate sense of danger.

At this moment, he stood frozen, his body trembling instinctively.

I felt there was a fine line winding around us, so I reached out to touch it, to gauge the length of the line.

Although the line was very sharp, if touched lightly, it shouldn't matter.

Yu Longting gripped my wrist, "Don't move, wife, do you want to be sliced into sashimi?"

"Will the line move on its own if touched?" I quickly realized, looking at Lin Hang who was now trembling violently.

His eyes, wide with fright, seemed as if there were thousands of knives poised at his throat.

Two Black Snakes flew out from Yu Longting's sleeves, their speed was incredibly fast.

They dashed out ten meters in the blink of an eye, and I only saw a flash of red before the ground in front of us was littered with twitching flesh.

The snakes had been sliced, but it happened so quickly.

The nerves hadn't completely died, so the flesh was still twitching.

"I'm done for, Snake Lord, am I going to be BBQ now?" Lin Hang said in despair.

Chapter 313: Bro, I'm Almost Scared to Pee

I guessed Lin Hang must have triggered a wire just now since the instinctive vigilance of a Lin Family Disciple had allowed him to react immediately and stand still.

Thus, the trap only slightly injured him but did not fully activate.

But if he were to move even slightly,

the fate of those two snakes would have been his end.

"Why cry out for no reason? I went through all the trouble to bring you from the Shu region to the Lin Family; I didn't do it to bring someone disabled and an eyesore!"

Yu Longting mercilessly spat out his venomous words.

Sweat poured down Lin Hang's forehead, "..."

"Lin Hang, hang in there a bit longer, look at Lin Qianshan's position," I advised as I couldn't bear seeing Lin Hang's almost crying expression.

Lin Hang glanced at the "back of Lin Qianshan" and narrowed his eyes, "Is he breaking the mechanism?"

Suddenly, "Lin Qianshan" had already walked over two hundred meters away; each of his steps was exceedingly steady.

He seemed to be using the steps of Eight Trigrams, which was why he had covered such a distance without setting off any traps.

"Yes," I was not as distraught as Lin Hang, but sweat had indeed soaked my back early on.

If not for the specially made cheongsam I wore inside, the traces of my sweat would have been visible by now.

Lin Hang was slightly calmed down, but he still dared not relax, "Ouch, I hope Xiao Honghong arrives quickly, brother... is almost scared to pee..."

From the corner of my eye, I saw Yu Longting, who was helpless with his palm on his forehead.

So there you have it, birds of a feather flock together.

Yu Longting himself is a weirdo, so it's no wonder those around him are all clowns.

"Lin Qianshan" pulled out a dagger he carried on his person and cut two hidden red strings.

Swish swish swish, the sharp sound of metal slicing the air erupted suddenly.

Yu Longting immediately released more than a dozen snakes, and the cannon fodder Black Snakes flew out without any getting sliced...

"It should be safe now," Yu Longting decisively stated.

"Damn..."

Lin Hang, exhausted, fell to the ground, "I can't take this anymore, I thought I was dead just now. Lin Qianshan, this psychopath, how could he set up so many String Killers?"

"He set up these String Killers to target Yu Longting," my face was ashen, and the hand that was holding tightly to Yu Longting's sleeve gripped even tighter.

If I had called Yu Longting last night to join me in breaking into the Lin Family,

with so many invisible String Killers, it would have been very difficult for us to detect and even harder to break through, and the outcome is almost imaginable...

Yu Longting glanced at my pale knuckles and held my chilled hand in his, "Lin Qianshan and that madwoman in the attic think too highly of me. To deal with the current me, two strings would've been enough; such a waste of materials."

"Oh my god, what is this..." Lin Hang suddenly screamed.

Sitting on the ground, he seemed to have touched something out of thin air, and his entire face turned green, "I... I seem to have touched a hand... but it has no warmth at all... there seems to be a body on the ground..."

"What a brilliant Forbidden Woman's formation, even my wife's Spiritual Eye can't see the hidden corpse." Yu Longting released two pieces of talisman paper from his sleeve.

After the talisman paper soared into the sky, they ignited spontaneously without fire, casting a blood-red light onto the ground.

Suddenly, many corpses appeared haphazardly on the floor.

"It's the Thousand Corpses Formation! The Forbidden Woman's Thousand Corpses Formation," Lin Hang abruptly stood up, turned around on the spot, and surveilled the bodies, "Big Senior Brother, Third Master!"

He seemed to recognize someone and lunged at two corpses.

Distraught, he hugged the corpses and screamed fiercely, "Lin Qianshan! Lin Gang! Lin Xintu! The madwoman in the attic! Return... the lives of the Lin Family disciples."

On the ground, there were at least twenty bodies, all dead from bleeding from their seven orifices.

Chapter 314: Spirit Snake Sacrifice

"How... how could this happen..."

I looked at the devastation before me, my eyes sore and unable to hold back the moisture.

Even though I had not spent a single day at the Lin Family, nor received a day's grace from them.

Yet my heart was bleeding, as if pierced by a sharp awl.

No matter what, the blood of the Lin Family flowed in my veins, and the surging anger, hatred, and sorrow in my heart were no less intense than those of Lin Hang.

"Sect Master Lin... what kind of monster did he actually... actually shelter in the Lin Family!" Lin Hang cried out to the sky, tears streaming down his face.

Lin Xinmei, seeing her kin dead, also knelt on the ground, covering her face and weeping.

At that moment, "Lin Qianshan" returned.

"Lin Qianshan" said to us, "I've dealt with all the traps, I'll take you to the Alchemy Room."

"No rush," Yu Longting pointed to the corpses on the ground and asked, "Do you have any memory of the Thousand Corpses Formation in your mind?"

"Lin Qianshan" furrowed his brows deeply, as if trying hard to remember something, "Thousand Corpses Formation? What is that? This guy's brain doesn't contain such a thing."

"That settles it then."

Yu Longting lowered his head and said to me, "The Thousand Corpses Formation might have been conjured by that woman in the attic."

"What is this formation used for?" I had an ominous feeling.

A formation brewed from so many lives must have terrifying power and effects.

Yu Longting pressed his brow, the world actually had issues troubling him, "Once inside the Thousand Corpses Formation, don't think about getting out. If you try to break through, the formation will immediately drain your blood. If you wait passively, by Midnight, the blood of everyone within the range of the formation... will be drained to nourish the formation."

"My father's notes mentioned a similar formation, it's a forbidden technique from the Life and Death Embroidery." I thought of a "Thousand Floating Garment," nourished by the blood of previous beings to sustain a woman's complexion, generally, the Nine-tailed Spirit Fox is used, "In this forbidden technique, a live Nine-tailed Spirit Fox is needed as the core of the formation, by killing the Nine-tailed Fox, the effect of retaining beauty from the Life and Death Embroidery will be invalidated."

"You're right in your analysis, these two formations are of the same origin. To break the Thousand Corpses Formation, we need to find the spirit snake being sacrificed in the core," Yu Longting agreed, "Kill the Spirit Snake, and the formation will be broken."

I narrowed my eyes.

The core wasn't using a human, but a Spirit Snake!

It's good that it's a snake, so taking action won't harm human lives...

But I subtly felt something was off, that woman in the attic with such sinister and cunning plots, Yu Longting and I have been walking into her calculations all along, would she truly let us break the Thousand Corpses Formation that easily?

Lin Hang checked his watch, "There's only half an hour until Midnight, we can't go to the Alchemy Chamber, we must break the core first."

"Hurry up and break the core, finish the job, and go to sleep, Master Hong is tired," "Lin Qianshan" said yawning.

I comforted Xiao Honghong, "You've worked hard, Xiao Honghong, we only have half an hour, we'll definitely race against time. Just hold on a little longer, and you can sleep soon."

Right now.

If we don't break the core, our entire party,

Including everyone in the Alchemy Chamber, will all be refined.

The woman in the attic is certainly a ruthless character of the highest order.

She had long designed everything to capture us all at once, Lin Qianshan might just be an ordinary sacrifice, a pawn...

But is her real purpose truly just for the position of Lin Family heir?

Her use of the Forbidden Woman's Technique was incredibly powerful, embarrassing to behold, capable of founding a sect and crushing the entire Mystic Arts Circle within minutes.

I kept a stern face, my mind utterly baffled.

Yu Longting had already conjured two guiding charms, leading us towards the location of the core.

"Eh? Isn't this the way to the Lin Family Ancestral Hall?" Lin Hang walked and realized something was off, "I come here to this ancestral hall every year during Qingming to pay respects... could it be... the core is also inside the ancestral hall? How could that be possible?"

Yu Longting countered, "Why not...?"

Chapter 315: Deep in the Ancestral Hall

"The Lin Family Ancestral Hall contains prohibitions left by the ancestors from generations past. Only those of the Lin bloodline can enter; not just outsiders, even a fly can't get inside."

Perhaps because of this anomaly, Lin Hang grew wary and fished out of his pocket...

A mini Peach Wood Sword!

That Peach Wood Sword was just the size of a pinky finger, truly very mini.

After hearing what Lin Hang had said, it was like the fog in my mind had been lifted, revealing a corner of the truth, "None of you should enter the ancestral hall later. I will go in alone to take a look."

In my dream, it was also in the pitch-dark ancestral hall. I saw my mom and Lin Huan, both beheaded inside the hall.

I saw... that helpless... snake-bodied... girl...

If this dream had just been a normal nightmare, that would have been the end of it.

But the dream coincided with reality, and that snake-bodied girl looked at least about 40 to 50 percent similar to Lin Xinmei...

"You want to go in alone? You, of all people, with such a timid nature, willing to take the lead??"

Yu Longting felt something was amiss and stopped in his tracks in front of the huge outer gate of the ancestral hall, pulling me to his side, "Su Wan, something's off with you. Do you know something?"

"I... what could I possibly know? I'm just..." I found that I couldn't even tell a convincing lie in front of Yu Longting, but before seeing the truth for myself...

I didn't want to tell Yu Longting about this thought, this idea was too absurd, too cruel.

I could only hope that my guess was wrong...

Yu Longting narrowed his eyes, his expression amused, "Let me guess, is there an old lover of yours inside? Lin Huan's old lover? Or your mother's old lover..."

"..." I was utterly speechless, his speculations getting more outrageous by the second.

There wasn't much time left, the moon was about to rise to the highest point in the sky.

I quickly kissed Yu Longting on the corner of his mouth, "Nobody's lover, just trust me this once. I'll go in first to have a look."

"Stay safe," Yu Longting murmured, only uttering four words.

Then, as if by magic, he pulled out a thick stack of charms from the narrow sleeve of his shirt, giving them to me, "Throw these out if you encounter danger! Do not allow yourself to get hurt!"

"Uh, okay." I felt as if I was holding a stack of toilet paper; those powerful talismans that were now in my hands as if they cost nothing.

Even if I threw out only half of them, they could blow up the entire thousand-square-meter ancestral hall.

I glanced at my watch. Just walking to the ancestral hall had taken fifteen minutes, and there were only fifteen minutes left!!

Standing at the entrance of the ancestral hall, I took a deep breath.

I pushed open the heavy door adorned with brass studs with all my strength. Inside, the light of candle flames flickered, and a solemn aura rushed over me.

The threshold was unusually high; even at my height of a meter sixty-seven, I had to lift my legs high to get over it.

After clumsily clambering in, the faintly trembling shadow on the floor tiles caught me by surprise, making my heart suddenly contract.

It was indeed a person... truly a person...

My legs turned to jelly, but I scrambled over there as quickly as I could, "You... you..."

When I could see the face of the person on the ground, my voice got stuck in my throat, unable to make a sound.

"You... who are you?" A girl around seven or eight years old was crawling on the ground, her eyes, wide with pure terror, looked up; she could only lay flat on the ground in the manner of a fish because she didn't have legs, her lower body was a snake tail.

I tried to calm my rapid breathing and knelt beside her, bending down to ask gently, "You... are you Tangtang?"

Chapter 316: A Difficult Choice

"My nickname is... Tangtang." The girl's breathing was labored, and her pupils had already lost focus.

Isn't this the very scene from my dream?

Except for the pool of fresh blood that should be covering the floor of the ancestral hall.

The girl was like she was stuck in a quagmire, weakly extending her small hand toward me, "Save Tangtang... Tangtang is not the snake demon... Big sister..."

It was only after a closer look that I realized the Spiritual Power within her body was completely fused with that of the Formation beneath her.

I reached out toward her, then withdrew my hand.

If I attempted to pull the girl out of the Formation, her body's Spiritual Power and blood would be instantly drained.

"Wait for your sister, don't hurry, don't hurry, I'll come back to save you soon." My entire body was trembling, yet I couldn't delay and ran out, "Yu Longting... Yu Longting..."

Yu Longting had been standing on the outskirts of the ancestral hall, but at that moment, he moved swiftly, climbing up the Ninth Level steps to the front door.

Only a tall threshold separated us, and I clung to his arms for support, "Is there a way to stop the Thousand Corpses Formation without killing the sacrifice trapped in the Formation's core?"

"Wanwan, do you think that's possible?" Yu Longting looked at me intently and countered with a question.

The last sliver of hope in my heart was buried, my eyes grew increasingly sore as I babbled in response, "I knew it... I knew it was impossible, that woman in the attic is so malicious, how could she allow for any turn of events?"

"Cousin, we're running out of time, what are you hesitating for? Hurry up and kill the sacrifice in the Formation's core." Lin Hang walked over, clutching a Peach Wood Sword in one hand and lifting his wristwatch with the other.

I almost immediately envisioned myself committing murder, and my inner world was on the verge of collapse, I said heavily, "I can't do it, you go in and do it."

"It's just killing a snake, what's so hard about that? But it's normal for you girls to be faint-hearted and afraid of taking life. If I furrow my brow, I'll call you daddy."

Lin Hang strode into the ancestral hall, his bloodline linked to the Lin Family.

Recognized by the hall's restrictions, he could come and go freely.

Less than half a minute later, Lin Hang's screaming could be heard from inside, "What the hell, what is this, Xintang, how is it you, damn it!! How did you turn into a snake? Help, someone tell me what's going on?"

"Yu Longting, the Spirit Snake being sacrificed at the core of the Formation is Lin Xintang."

My heart was unbearably heavy, my voice uncontrollably hoarse and trembling, "She's a living and breathing girl, looking very cute, really... is there truly not a single way left?"

"Wanwan, you have to understand, if it was a purely human being, she could have never been used as a sacrifice for the Formation's core."

Yu Longting stated matter-of-factly, seeing tears in my eyes, he reached out and wiped the tears from my face, "You had guessed earlier that the person at the core of the Formation might be Lin Xintang, which is why you insisted on going in to see for yourself first, right?"

I looked at Lin Hang, who was scrambling out, pale-faced, and said softly, "I had a nightmare once... In the dream, there was a girl lying on the floor of the ancestral hall, her lower body a long snake's tail... I

never thought that the dream could be real, so I wasn't certain, and that's why I wanted to go in and see for myself..."

I so wish that everything in the dream was false... but the reality is this cruel!

Lin Hang had confidently gone in, but ultimately, he couldn't bring himself to do it either.

The madwoman upstairs just wanted to kill us all, or force us to commit beastly acts for self-preservation.

To survive by sacrificing a girl's life would mean living in remorse for a lifetime.

"That's the way it is, but if we must find a way, there is a risky method." Yu Longting held my ice-cold, completely warmth-less hand and tucked it into his arms, "Don't panic, we have plenty of time, it's just that the price to pay is quite high. But now that we're seemingly out of options, I suppose it doesn't matter anymore..."

Chapter 317: The Art of Empowerment

"What method?" A vague unease stirred in the depths of my heart.

Yu Longting's palm rested against my cheek, "This method is called Dharmakaya Impartation, where a large amount of Spiritual Power is infused into an ordinary snake's body to elevate it to a Spirit Snake and exchange it for Lin Xintang."

"Use my Spiritual Power, great Snake Lord, I beg you to use my Spiritual Power." Lin Hang, who lay on the ground like a dead dog, suddenly sprang up and rushed in front of Yu Longting, "Even if it drains me dry, it doesn't matter, don't let Tangtang die, she's still so young."

At this moment, he was in tears like rain, like a helpless child.

"With that little drizzle of Spiritual Power you have, forget it. You have the talent, but you're unwilling to train properly. At a critical moment, you're just a worthless dim sum."

Yu Longting provoked Lin Hang with a statement, then lowered his eyes to look at me, who wore a stunned expression, "Wanwan, I also want to use your Spiritual Power, but you just used the Kin-seeking Clothes. If I drain your Spiritual Power again, you'll die for sure."

"You can't consume Spiritual Power, and I can't agree." Hearing his coaxing tone, I knew what he was after and immediately rejected the idea. My eyes narrowed, "Why not use the Spiritual Power from Lin Qianshan? Since he's currently controlled by Xiao Honghong, he won't be able to disagree."

Yu Longting laughed with a hint of indulgence, "Wanwan, I would've never thought you had such a scheming side. I knew my wife loves me the most."

"Burp!"

Just a second ago, Lin Hang was wailing, but now he suddenly let out a satisfied belch. "For some reason, I feel oddly full."

Yu Longting continued, "However, Lin Qianshan's level is just above average. We'll need to get some from Lin Hang, probably just enough to make do."

"Why do I feel so pitiful?" Lin Hang covered his face, full of black lines, and continued his wailing, "Ying ying ying, a single dog unloved and uncared for, only to be oppressed."

Yu Longting released a small Black Snake.

I summoned Lin Qianshan, who was possessed by Xiao Honghong.

The impartation process was very straightforward—directly cramming Spiritual Power into the Black Snake's body.

The Black Snake was filled with Spiritual Power by both great masters, Lin Hang and Lin Qianshan.

Its body suddenly grew larger, and a slight bulge appeared on its head.

Having learned the technique of Shifting Shadows from Yu Longting, I used my own blood to draw another Formation and directed the little Black Snake into it.

My hands formed special Hand Seals, my mouth muttering incantations: "The heavens are clear, the earth is spiritual, heed my command, change thee to divine, divine speed is of the essence, hurry as law dictates!"

Twin whirlwinds sprang up in the spacious hall, and in the blink of an eye, the girl with the snake's body exchanged places with the small Black Snake.

I immediately hugged the girl's soft and cold body, completely separating her from the Thousand Corpses Formation, and tied a green cloth strip around her wrist to supplement her Spiritual Power, "Don't be afraid, Tangtang, your big sister has already rescued you."

The event was so sudden that Lin Xintang seemed to have no mental preparation at all, completely bewildered as she leaned against me.

She did not move or speak.

At the same time, Lin Hang's reaction was just as quick as mine, brandishing the mini Peach Wood Sword in his hand.

He severed the Spirit Snake at the Formation's focal point into two pieces and then stabbed it twice more.

Piercing through its skull and heart to ensure that the snake was thoroughly dead.

"Cousin, I've slaughtered the Spirit Snake, so the Thousand Corpses Formation should be gone, right?" No sooner had Lin Hang's words fallen than, as if to confirm what he said,

The Blood Array on the ground steamed upward, along with all the Spiritual Power fluctuations related to the Formation within the entire Lin Residence, which instantly crumbled to dust.

At this moment, there were only three minutes left until the Hai Hour.

I gently stroked the girl's hair, soft and fragrant like black satin, "It's gone, we've all clawed back a life."

Chapter 318: I'm Your Brother Hang

"Damn, damn, damn, damn... it's like another lifetime."

Lin Hang lay sprawled on the ground, arms and legs outstretched, as if drained of everything.

Lin Xintang managed a weak response, "Big sister, are you holding me?"

The little girl's eyes were big and round, resembling water-filled black grapes.

When she stared at me without blinking, I was irresistibly charmed into a smile.

It was a relief, such a cute little girl didn't have to die.

Alive and spirited in my arms.

"Aren't you scared of Tangtang looking like this?" Lin Xintang asked, sorrowful and confused, glancing at her long snake tail.

I kissed the small, fair, chubby cheek of the little girl, "Why should I be scared? Tangtang is so, so adorable."

After I kissed her, I regretted it. It was my first time meeting Lin Xintang, and I kissed her. Wasn't that too presumptuous?

Ah, facing such a cute and soft little girl.

How could that woman in the attic bear to do such a thing to Tangtang?

"Big sister, you kissed me, now Tangtang wants to kiss sister back." Lin Xintang blushed ever so slightly on her previously pale cheeks.

She leaned in and gently planted a kiss.

Lin Hang suddenly sat up, crawling over to Lin Xintang and me, "Weird, why did Xintang turn into a snake? Could it be the Forbidden Woman's demon art again?"

From all of Lin Hang's reactions, I decisively inferred that the usual Lin Xintang had absolutely nothing to do with snakes,

so I gently stroked Tangtang's small head and softly asked her,

"Tangtang, do you know how you turned into a snake?"

"I... I don't know. I woke up and found myself in the ancestral hall like this," Lin Xintang, bringing up the matter, felt incredibly wronged, her eyes quickly turning red, "Grandpa would definitely hate Tangtang if he saw me like this."

I pulled her small head into my chest and gently patted her thin back to comfort her, "Lin Hang."

"Here, what would you like me to do, cousin?" Lin Hang asked with a loyal dog-like expression.

I seriously instructed, "You stay here and take care of Tangtang, and also keep an eye on Lin Qianshan. Although Lin Qianshan is now useless, we still need to be careful. Yu Longting and I will go to the Alchemy Chamber to save someone."

Drawing spiritual power from Lin Qianshan was different from drawing from Lin Hang.

Yu Longting and I had first drained all the essence from Lin Qianshan, and where it fell short, Lin Hang filled in a bit.

The drained Lin Qianshan now lay on the ground like a dead body.

Even if he woke up, he could no longer practice the Cultivation Mystic Technique in this life.

"No problem, cousin, I promise to complete the task," Lin Hang seriously agreed.

I slowly let go of the very dependent and slightly frightened Lin Xintang in my arms, "Xintang, big sister has some things to do, can Brother Hang take care of you for now?"

"Who is Lin Hang?" Lin Xintang looked cautiously at Lin Hang, who was smiling kindly beside her, "Tangtang doesn't know him, his smile looks weird."

Pointing to himself, Lin Hang grew somewhat angry, "You little girl, you don't recognize me? I've given you yo-yos, pushed you on the swings! How could you not remember me? I'm your Brother Hang."

"Brother Hang... oh, I think I remember something. You're the big brother who stole the offering fruits during the Qingming festival and got pantsed and whipped ten times, right?" Tangtang tried hard to remember sincerely and finally squeezed out a bit of memory about Lin Hang.

Lin Hang's face stiffened, "Hey, you remember the part where I was pantsed and beaten in public vividly. Can't you remember something good about me...?"

"I'm leaving Tangtang with you, take good care of her." I handed Tangtang over to Lin Hang, digging through my pockets and finally pulling out a White Rabbit Creamy Candy usually used to prevent hypoglycemia, handing it to Tangtang, "Here, eat this. You've been trapped here quite a while, have some sweets to replenish your energy."

Chapter 319: The Rat on the Clothes

"Thank you, big sister." Lin Xintang took the candy with great politeness.

I looked toward the spot where Lin Qianshan had fallen unconscious and motioned with my finger, "Let's go, Xiao Honghong."

"Woman, this time I really sacrificed a lot," Xiao Honghong crawls out of Lin Qianshan's nostril, shaking its wings vigorously.

It shook off the mucus sticking to it and flew towards me.

Hearing Xiao Honghong's aggrieved tone, I opened the Matchbox, "I know everything, and I remember your contributions. Xiao Honghong, come in and rest. You must be really tired by now."

"You do have a conscience." Xiao Honghong crawled into the Matchbox, and its vibrant, shiny body stopped moving.

I closed the Matchbox carefully, tucked it away, and went to meet with Yu Longting and Lin Xinmei outside the ancestral hall.

Under the moon, Yu Longting stood tall and still, waiting quietly.

"Cousin, how is Xintang? She's not hurt, is she?" Lin Xinmei came up immediately, asking with deep concern.

Although I hadn't expended any spiritual power, the emotional roller coaster left me somewhat exhausted, "She's okay now; Lin Hang is taking care of her."

After speaking, my gaze met Yu Longting's eyes, thankful for his method that allowed us to accomplish our goals tonight.

Right now, I wasn't sure what the situation was like in the Alchemy Chamber.

"I was so worried, Xintang must have been scared," Lin Xinmei patted her chest, asking about Lin Xintang's condition.

My gaze moved away from Yu Longting and I replied to Lin Xinmei, "Tangtang was a bit startled. If you're worried, you can go in and keep her company."

"I'd better show you the way. Without Brother Qianshan, you're not familiar with the Lin Family residence and could easily get lost."

Lin Xinmei offered understandingly.

I nodded in agreement.

Together, the three of us headed towards the Lin Family Alchemy Room.

On the way, Lin Xinmei spoke up carefully, "Now that my innocence has been proven, could you please remove the gu from me? Even if the Gu Insects aren't active, having them feed on nutrients in my blood is quite painful for me."

"How can you assure me that your sister won't come out and take over?" I looked down at Lin Xinmei, asking a very practical question.

Lin Xinmei held out her hands, palms up, "If cousin-in-law could grant me a talisman, I could suppress my sister's soul, so she can never come out."

"Yu Longting, give her a talisman," I said to Yu Longting.

Yu Longting raised an eyebrow, "You think I just give out my talismans for free? Just say the word and it's given?"

"Don't be so stingy, Yu Longting~" I said, tugging on the sleeve of his arm.

Yu Longting snorted lightly and slapped a talisman into my palm, "You win."

"Here, take this." I handed the talisman to Lin Xinmei.

My fingers brushed the Matchbox, and I whispered,

"Xiao Honghong, remove the gu from Lin Xinmei."

Lin Xinmei was nearly moved to tears, "Thank you, cousin. I won't let you down."

Yu Longting arched an eyebrow, the corner of his mouth curving into a mocking smile.

The Lin Family's Alchemy area was especially large; from a distance, you could see the spacious square.

Several enormous outdoor Pill Furnaces were placed on the square, their bronze surfaces aged with the traces of time.

They looked quite old, maybe even antique.

"Ahead is the Alchemy Room," Lin Xinmei said, playing with a lock of her hair.

In her prime, every move she made already had a graceful charm.

Specially her act of twirling her hair exuded an undeniable allure.

"Let's not rush over there yet." I stopped Lin Xinmei.

Lin Xinmei obediently halted, "Okay, cousin."

Yu Longting too stopped in step, intuitively understanding my intent, his gaze landing on a piece of Taihu Rock, "That piece of Taihu Rock is big enough to hide a person."

No sooner had the three of us hidden, than we saw a woman in black, elegantly climbing the stone stairs leading to the Alchemy Room.

Embroidered with silver thread on her black garment was a lifelike grey rat with eyes as red as blood, brimming with murderous intent, as if ready to burst forth from the fabric at any moment.

Chapter 320: Want to Praise My Wife for Being Beautiful

The woman was wearing high heels, and with each step, the sound of the heels hitting the ground was especially crisp.

"This woman looks unfamiliar, just an ordinary person. How could she appear near our Lin Family's Pill Room?" Lin Xinmei narrowed her eyes.

A chill touched my heart, and I softly said, "She is Su Qiang, my cousin."

"Your cousin? But she doesn't have the Spiritual Eye." Lin Xinmei's mouth fell slightly open, even more astonished.

I controlled my expression, "She belongs to the Fox Immortal Mysterious Mirror, her eyes were sacrificed."

"No wonder her eyes look like those of a fox, so bewitching." Lin Xinmei stared at Su Qiang's teal eyes, licking her lips, "Her belly is so big, could it be she is carrying a fox fetus?"

I pressed my lips together in silence, carefully watching every move Su Qiang made.

A cold breath swept past my ear, and Yu Longting came close, chuckling softly, "Both born of the Su family's blood, how can there be such a difference in appearance? One beautiful as a deity, the other too ugly to behold."

"What has Su Qiang done to you that you suddenly call her ugly?" I was annoyed that Yu Longting suddenly came close.

Yu Longting's smile was ambiguous, "I clearly meant to compliment my beautiful wife. Perhaps, wife, it's because you were influenced by the Lin family's bloodline that you are so unique?"

"I don't need Su Qiang to compare with me. Her sudden appearance here indicates that the Mysterious Mirror is also involved in this matter." A dull pain throbbed at my temple, and I rubbed it forcefully.

The clothes Su Qiang wore were none other than my Su family's life and death embroidery; moreover, they were the Grey Immortal Clothes that Xuan Fanyin had worn to control rats.

Currently, Su Qiang, besides being able to control the Fox Clan, could also manipulate rats.

Just then, Su Qiang walked to the grand entrance of the Pill Room, slowly parted her lips, "Lin Huan, do you still plan to stubbornly resist? Tomorrow night is the Ghost Festival; when the yin energy of my Fox Clan is at its strongest, and the art reaches its peak, it will be the end for you, old man."

"Scram, what are you? How dare you be so presumptuous in front of Sect Master Lin?" Behind the thick door of the Pill Room, my mother's voice rang out.

My heart tightened, followed by the mocking and teasing of several Lin Family Disciples, "Just a worn shoe that passed through the Mysterious Mirror, and yet you dare to be arrogant in our Lin Family."

"Even if the Mysterious Mirror himself came here, he isn't worthy enough to carry our Sect Master's shoes."

...

Su Qiang quietly smiled, completely indifferent to the taunts from the disciples inside the Pill Room.

On the staircase, four little foxes struggled, carrying a mahogany official's hat-chair up to the entrance of the Pill Room, placing the chair behind Su Qiang.

Su Qiang lifted the hem of her pure black embroidered mouse robe, revealing her slender and shapely legs, and gracefully sat down on the chair, "Looking at your spirits, you think the Longevity Formation forged with elixirs can suppress tomorrow's Ghost Festival, but you overlook one thing... Hehe..."

Her words suddenly stopped, and she let out a cold, mocking laugh.

"What is it?" My mother's voice came out again, apparently sensing the dreadful truth behind Su Qiang's words.

Su Qiang stretched lazily, "Nothing much, you hide inside, so obviously none of these disciples outside will survive. Hence, I cooperated with Lin Xinmei and tested the waters with a minor effort: I created a Thousand Corpses Formation!"

The three words 'Thousand Corpses Formation' fell, and dead silence engulfed the area near the Pill Room.

The cold moonlight fell, suddenly casting silver light.

The ground seemed to be covered with a layer of glittering, icy frost.

Behind the Taihu Rock, Lin Xinmei anxiously explained to me, "Sister, it wasn't me; it was my twin sister..."

"Hmm," I responded nonchalantly.

In fact, I had never fully trusted Lin Xinmei from the beginning; many of her explanations were just one-sided.

Conversely, her misdeeds were witnessed by everyone.

"You... Can you say that again?" Finally, my mother spoke, her voice choked and stuttering.

Su Qiang half-squinted her eyes, "I'll say it the same way again—unyielding Lin Family Disciples have nearly all died. With the Thousand Corpses Formation, just by flicking my fingers, all of you—tones tonight will be refined."