

A Snake 321

Chapter 321 A Key

"How dare you, cough cough cough, the Lin Family's century-old foundation will not be destroyed in the hands of you rats!"

Violent coughing resounded from the Pill Room as Lin Huan suddenly grew furious, casting aside his Sect Master status to sharply rebuke Su Qiang outside the door.

Su Qiang covered her mouth and let out a light laugh, "Tsk ts, still acting the Sect Master when you can't even accept reality. Let's make a deal, Lin Huan."

"Father, don't bother with her. With her despicable pride, she'll only take the opportunity to humiliate you. Let me handle it for you." My mother pleaded loyally to Lin Huan.

"Out of my way! Don't meddle in affairs that don't concern you." Lin Huan's authority was unshakable as he refused.

"Yes, Father." My mother's voice grew much weaker.

Lin Huan spoke gravely to Su Qiang, "Let's hear it, what's this deal you propose?"

"If you agree to summon Su Wan and Snake Lord here, I'll leave you with an intact corpse. Everyone else in the Pill Room will have their roots destroyed but their lives spared," Su Qiang arrogantly declared with a sense of superiority.

Lin Huan spat furiously, "You just want me to trick Su Wan into coming here so you scum can bully her."

"Wrong, we do not intend to bully Su Wan," Su Qiang's eyes grew sharp and cold.

Lin Huan looked shocked, "Then what do you want?"

Amidst these words, the Pill Room buzzed with murmurs of disquiet.

Underneath Su Qiang's feet were four or five foxes vying for her attention, their paws carrying a tray.

The tray was laden with a variety of pastries and fruits.

Su Qiang picked up a segment of orange, popping it into her mouth, "We want Su Wan to serve as the Cauldron Furnace for the Ancestral Fox Lady. Lin Huan, you have a fine granddaughter, don't you?"

"Scoundrel!! Scoundrel!! My granddaughter, how could... how could... huff huff huff... let you.... huff huff huff..." Lin Huan choked with rage, breathing with difficulty and speaking in gasps.

Listening to the breathing inside, my heart clenched.

We must quickly find a way to rescue the people in the Pill Room.

Su Qiang scoffed disdainfully, "Can't tolerate it already? You can keep resisting stubbornly, but do all the sect members by your side wish to die with you? Lin Huan, you may find yourself abandoned by everyone today."

I broke out in cold sweat. Su Qiang was actually trying to incite the Lin Family Disciples inside the Pill Room to betray us.

Anyone could falter, and at this moment, my mother and Lin Huan were likely caught between internal strife and external threats.

My insides were burning with agitation.

I deeply regretted not having killed Su Qiang last time.

Now, allowing her to swagger through the Lin Family, humiliating my grandfather.

"Wanwan, what's there to worry about when I'm here?"

The crisp voice of Yu Longting reached my ears, and my chin was seized by him, turning my face toward him, "Two paths lie before us—one is a direct assault, the other a subtle, coordinated one."

"A direct assault is definitely not advisable. Su Qiang may be a mortal, but she controls the fox and rat clans." I felt slightly calmer, "I've checked; the area outside the Pill Room is covered with complex Formations and seals, which is also why Lin Huan and the others chose to retreat to the Pill Room. What do you mean by a 'subtle, coordinated approach?'"

The Lin Family's most formidable trap Formation, the String Killing Formation, had been broken already.

However, that woman in the attic had a meticulous mind and was now in cahoots with Xuanjing.

They had also set an intricate web around the Pill Room...

Though not as fierce as the String Killing Formation, it was extremely perilous nonetheless.

"I'll take care of breaking the trap Formation outside the Pill Room. You'll wait for the opportunity to sneak inside and act according to the situation," Yu Longting declared.

He slapped a piece of talisman paper onto my hand.

I had never encountered such a heavy talisman paper; it seemed thin, but it was heavier than metal. "What is this thing?"

"A key," Yu Longting said with a smile that wasn't quite a smile.

Chapter 322: Hidden Dragon Pattern

"I was asking for Lin Hang, don't be fooled by his carefree attitude, he belongs to the Lin Family's Key Faction, highly valued," Yu Longting said as I, moved by impulse, tiptoed to kiss his cheek.

Suddenly, Yu Longting's expression turned blank, words squeezed through his clenched teeth, "Su... Wan...".

He was annoyed with me for flirting with him under these circumstances.

Given our tight schedule, I definitely had no time to respond to him.

"I'm so grateful to you, Yu Longting, you think so far ahead! At that time, I hadn't even used the Kin-seeking Clothes, how did you know they were trapped in the Pill Room and went to find Lin Hang in advance!"

I said with a face full of admiration, nearly worshipping Yu Longting completely.

Before I met him, I had always been unlucky, having to shoulder everything myself.

Since meeting him, no matter the trouble, he had faced it with me.

In my past life, I must have done countless good deeds to have met Yu Longting in this life!

Yu Longting paused, then flashed a wicked smile and leaned in to nibble on my earlobe, "Su Wan, the best gratitude you could show me is to let me take good care of you, for a lifetime."

"..." Cold sweat formed on my forehead, chilled by the breeze.

Yu Longting turned me around, his hands on my shoulders, pointing in a direction, "Let's sneak through the tunnel. The alchemy process produces a lot of waste water and gases, there are ventilation ducts above and drainages below, you can try to sneak into either, but I'm worried about you climbing up."

"Oh." I was just about to crawl out from under the Taihu Rock, when Yu Longting grabbed me, "Wait, let me disable the formations along the way first."

"That's unnecessary." I proudly pulled out a pure white cloth strip embroidered with a hidden dragon from my pocket.

Yu Longting smiled faintly, "Hm? The embroidery from the Invisibility Clothes?"

"The Invisibility Clothes are too bulky, and I'm already wearing the Blood Splendor Robe and the cheongsam, so I could only bring a cloth strip. Let's go, Yu Longting, and you must take good care of yourself~" I tied the cloth strip around my wrist. Though it wouldn't render me invisible, even the foxes with their keen sense of smell wouldn't be able to detect me afterwards.

If I encounter an attack formation, as long as I don't step right into it,

the formations wouldn't be able to detect me and therefore, couldn't attack me on their own.

The Pill Room was situated up high, I followed the tall wall below,

slowly searching for the drain along the base of the wall.

I had just spotted a manhole cover,

when it suddenly flipped open slightly.

I quickly hid behind a tree and took a peek from behind it.

Two black foxes crawled out from under the manhole cover.

The somewhat fatter one said, "Damn, we wanted to sneak into the Pill Room from underground and sweep up all the Lin Family's direct descendants in one go, but damn it, we encountered a lightning formation."

"We used to be White Foxes, and now we're scorched black, so unlucky," the thinner one complained.

The fatter one sighed, "It was the Purple Gold Lightning Formation, we're lucky to be alive."

"Lucky? My two hundred years of cultivation are gone."

"If we hadn't run fast, we might have been completely annihilated on the spot."

The two foxes walked away arm in arm, almost like humans.

I was almost stunned; these foxes had become spirits, indeed...

They didn't look like ordinary foxes at all.

After hesitating a few seconds, I snapped out of it.

I lifted the manhole cover, climbed in, then closed it again.

Beneath the cover, it was dark and eerie, with a strong smell of sulfur. A strange feeling of heaviness filled my stomach, and the stench made me cough, "Cough, cough..."

"Did you hear that? There's a coughing sound in the well."

I was on the ladder under the well, a sudden cold sweat breaking out, hearing the voices of the two foxes returning to check.

Terrified, I immediately stopped coughing, no matter how itchy my throat.

No matter how uncomfortable it was in my lungs, I dared not make a sound again.

If they came down to check and discovered me, just one shout,

and I would be found and subsequently surrounded...

Then I would have to face the traps set by Lin Qianshan and a whole bunch of fox monsters directly, that would really be the end of me.

Suddenly, a pair of eerie green eyes appeared, like two bright neon lights, shining through the crack of the manhole cover.

Chapter 323: Statement of Surrender

I hurriedly climbed down.

To avoid being chased and caught by the two foxes.

At that moment, I suddenly felt a psychic connection with the Dumpling inside my belly.

It seemed that he also felt the tense atmosphere outside, nervously gnawing on his hand.

As I descended, I gently touched my lower abdomen.

Poor Little Dumpling, nestled in my stomach.

Why does it feel like we're living a bungee-jumping thrill every day~

"I don't see anyone," said one of the foxes from above, their voice reaching the bottom of the well.

I nearly slipped and fell off the iron ladder.

Are they acting, or did they really not see me?

The other fox said, "What does this tell us?"

The fat fox asked, "Tell us what?"

The skinny fox: "The people of the Lin family wanted to escape through this well from the Pill Room but retreated after seeing us."

The fat fox: "Makes sense, definitely. Let's wait here and catch them like sitting ducks."

The skinny fox: "Definitely. We'll just guard this spot, and as soon as someone shows their head, we'll grab them immediately."

The fat fox: "We're going to earn great merits."

After listening to them, I greatly admired the intelligence of these two foxes.

And I was convinced that they indeed hadn't seen me.

I crept down and followed the long passageway in search of a direction.

To the side was the sound of babbling water, all carrying the scent of herbal medicine.

"Hang in there, Dumpling. Mom knows these smells are unpleasant, just hold on a bit longer~" I touched my belly, very concerned for Dumpling's health, and covered my mouth and nose with my sleeve.

Coming to a place like this, one really should have prepared a gas mask.

Dumpling replied with particular vigor, "Mom, Dumpling is very strong, don't worry about me, I can even protect you."

"My dear little heart, touch hands." I touched Dumpling's hand through my belly, encouraging each other.

Soon, I reached the area right beneath the Pill Room.

The floor of the Pill Room was made of iron sheets, making footsteps particularly clear.

Through the gaps between the floorboards, light shone down below.

From within, I could faintly hear voices arguing.

It seemed my mother was already arguing with a disciple whose resolve was faltering, "At times like these, we should be uniting against a common threat, not infighting. With the Sect Master here and the Mysterious Heavenly Formation protecting us, there won't be any problems."

"Easy for you to say, Sister," said a female disciple sarcastically. "That woman outside said we're surrounded by the Thousand Corpses Formation. No matter how powerful the Mysterious Heavenly Formation is, it's useless against it."

"What kind of crappy senior sister is Lin Xiangnan? She defected from the Lin family over twenty years ago. And right after she comes back, this happens. She's bad luck incarnate."

"I think she's just trying to protect her daughter, Su Wan, treating our lives as if they don't matter."

...

Some disciples with stirring hearts were criticizing my mother with various accusations.

And there were loyal disciples retorting, "You people are too afraid of death. The Sect Master has spoken not to collude with that woman. Are you trying to stage a coup?"

At this very moment, internal strife had fragmented the Lin Family Disciples in the Pill Room.

I had by then climbed up using a rope, where there were many Alchemy Furnaces, all emitting fumes from the alchemy process.

I moved back and forth among the Pill Furnaces, and surprisingly, no one noticed me.

Lin Huan's cough grew worse and worse, almost as if he was hacking up his lungs, and with a casual wave, he dismissed them, "Enough, enough. Those who wish to surrender, those who fear death, go on, get out, be gone..."

"Sect Master, we would undoubtedly die if we go out rashly. Please relent and allow us a Statement of Surrender." Those disciples with traitorous thoughts, already having lost all reverence for the sect in their desperation to live, pressed on aggressively, "Please, make a call to Su Wan and ask her to return to the Lin Family with Snake Lord."

Chapter 324: Yu Longting and I Have Come to Save You

"You... you..." Lin Huan was so infuriated by the unscrupulous disciples within the sect that he couldn't catch his breath and suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood.

In any sect, there will be a few rebellious and defiant individuals, but loyal ones are not in short supply.

Those disciples loyal to my maternal grandfather stepped forward to confront them, only to be stopped by the rebels.

The two sides faced off, leaving Lin Huan isolated in front of the Pill Furnace in the corner.

Lin Huan, unsteady on his feet, swayed back and forth but still raised his hand, "We must not... turn on each other, or else we'll fall right into that woman's trap outside the sect, cough cough cough..."

"But Sect Master, they are showing you disrespect," the loyal disciples said, eyes brimming with tears.

Seeing my maternal grandfather, who looked like he had aged in an instant, and hiding next to the Pill Furnace behind him, how could I bear to just watch?

Lifting my hand to support Lin Huan's back, I steadied his shaking form that was almost collapsing.

Without drawing attention, I drew out a strip of healing cloth and tied it around his arm.

Lin Huan's body gave a slight tremor, about to turn around.

I softly said, "Grandfather, it's me, Su Wan."

"Wanwan," Lin Huan murmured in a volume that only the two of us could hear, confused, "How could you possibly be here... "

Although the two sides did not fight upon hearing Lin Huan's words, they still confronted each other.

The standoff between the two was tense, with swords drawn and bows bent.

One side rebelled to survive, while the other side was filled with loyal fervor and righteousness.

"Yu Longting and I have come to rescue you," I said, keeping my presence hidden and trying to keep my voice as low as possible.

Lin Huan's large robe covered half of his face as he coughed in anger, "Nonsense, the Lin Family is... very dangerous right now... do you have any idea... and you are pregnant!! Cough cough cough..."

"Grandfather, don't get excited, the Thousand Corpses Formation and the String Killing Formation outside have been broken," I explained as quickly as I could, anxious and turning in circles, as Lin Huan's cough wracked me, "Yu Longting is outside right now, breaking the Formation around the Pill Room."

"What?" Lin Huan clearly did not expect such a dire situation to be resolved so easily.

I took a deep breath and said solemnly, "Yes, the worst is over. Now only the matter in the Pill Room remains. Do you need me to come forward and persuade them first?"

There was internal strife among the sect disciples in the Pill Room, a matter of great Importance.

In truth, most of them did not really want to rebel; they were only trying to save their own lives.

"Wanwan, hide well behind the Pill Furnace, and don't get discovered," Lin Huan said seriously and calmly.

At this moment, he seemed to regain his usual demeanor, with a composed and authoritative presence.

I nodded vigorously, "Grandfather, I will listen to you."

Then I saw Lin Huan tidy up his somewhat disheveled beard and hair and dust off the folds in his Taoist robe.

Taking a few firm steps forward, he commanded, "Stand aside."

"Sorry, Sect Master, we can't let you," the leader of the rebels turned around, "The lives of over thirty of us should not be wasted here for your own interests."

"How dare you!! Lin Yan, you have always been the Sect Master's favorite, how can you be so disrespectful!"

"By betraying your master and ancestors like this, you are forgetting the teachings of our forefathers. After death, you deserve to suffer in the Eighteen Levels of Hell, sentenced by the Judge to have your tongue pulled out."

...

Facing the scolding of his fellow disciples, Lin Yan's expression was extremely dark, with veins bulging on his forehead, "All of you are so foolishly loyal even when death is upon you. We're in the 21st century, not the Qing Dynasty. There's no need to sacrifice your lives for the so-called sect."

"Lin Yan is right, I don't have the right to have you all stick with me and ultimately, perhaps lose your lives because of it," said Lin Huan, standing tall with one hand behind his back, like a deity who had descended to the earth, "I agree with what Lin Yan said, call my granddaughter Su Wan, back to the Lin Family."

Chapter 325: Good Thing I Saw the Light Early

"Sect Master, did you really agree?" Lin Yan couldn't believe it, suspiciously saying, "You won't be playing some tricks, right?"

Lin Huan scoffed contemptuously, his superior gaze looking down on Lin Yan, "The Pill Room is isolated from the outside world; only by shutting down the Longevity Formation can I contact Su Wan outside."

"Good, Sect Master, that's decisive! If you've even shut down the Longevity Formation, what reason do I have not to trust you?" Lin Yan clapped his hands, his tone mocking.

The disciples loyal to Lin Huan immediately panicked, "Sect Master, you mustn't do this, once the Longevity Formation is shut down, we will be completely vulnerable."

"Exactly, you bring Miss Wan back, but that woman will still want to kill you."

"As your disciples, many of us are not the kind to fear death; I am willing to live and die with the Sect Master."

"We are willing to live and die with the Sect Master! Please retract your order!"

What those disciples truly cared about wasn't luring me back, but even if Lin Huan complied, Su Qiang would still kill him.

If they kept the Longevity Formation running and held their defenses, there would still be a glimmer of hope.

Lin Huan became solemn, "Enough, I won't easily change the decision I've made."

Having said this, he issued three Talisman Commands to Lin Yan.

The operation of the Longevity Formation inside the Pill Room relied on continuously produced Elixirs to maintain it.

Every hundred Elixirs could sustain it for one Shichen, which is two hours.

If relying on manpower, all the people here combined wouldn't be able to keep it running for a full day.

The consumption was enormous, hence I sketched out the scene using the Kin-seeking Clothes.

It was actually them continuously performing Alchemy, maintaining the Formation.

Lin Yan handed the three talismans, colored green, blue, and purple, to two others.

All three of them simultaneously stopped the whole Formation at their respective sections powered by Elixirs.

Instantly, a hundred luminous Elixirs suspended in the air all fell to the ground, the Spiritual Power fluctuations that pervaded the entire Pill Room vanished.

The Formation officially became inactive.

A hint of madness flickered in Lin Yan's eyes, then he subdued it and looked at Lin Huan, "Sect Master, forgive my impertinence, will you leave on your own, or shall we escort you out?"

"I can walk by myself." Lin Huan flung his sleeves and strode ahead confidently.

Though he was now destitute, the dignity of the Sect Master still lingered.

Even though Lin Yan and others had rebelled, they did not dare touch Lin Huan.

As Lin Huan held a sword gesture to his lips, his aged lips murmured a few phrases of the Formation, the dozen or so seal talismans on the grand wooden doors started to peel off.

Excited, Lin Yan and his group hurried after Lin Huan, waiting to exit with him.

My mother and a number of loyal and direct disciples of the Lin Family were utterly shocked.

They stared blankly at Lin Huan's retreating figure, faces filled with indescribable sorrow.

The sect's master had fallen into such a pathetic state, risking his life to protect the others in the sect; anyone unaware would think it was a time of turmoil.

In peace times, such shocking internal strife within a sect is truly hard to come by.

As the doors slowly opened at the push of Lin Huan's hands.

Su Qiang, sitting on a throne-like chair, gracefully stood.

She traced a smile across her lips, her fingers bedecked in water diamond nails lightly twirling the teacup she held, "Well, Lin Huan, how did this old turtle come out? Weren't you afraid of the Forbidden Woman's Thousand Corpses Formation? I thought I'd have to refine all of you tonight."

"I've agreed to your proposal, but everyone has been trapped here for four days, and all our phones are dead; I need a phone to contact Wanwan," Lin Huan said somberly as he walked out of the Pill Room, followed by a group of Lin Family Disciples.

Chapter 326: Unable to Retain Hearts

Su Qiang threw the teacup in her hand to a fox and sat down disdainfully, slinging an arm over the chair's armrest and lounging askew, "Ha, you've been so devoted to Su Wan for so long, and now you suddenly see the light? Is it really because you're scared of the Thousand Corpses Formation?"

"Lady Fox Immortal, it's a good thing I abandoned the darkness for light early on. I pledged allegiance to Lord Xuanjing two years ago. How could the small Lin Family Sect compete with the grand Fox Clan?" Lin Yan walked over quickly, bending at the waist beside Su Qiang while fawning over her.

"Lin Huan has probably truly surrendered. Facing your String Killing Formation and Thousand Corpses Formation, he was so scared he shut down the Longevity Formation. Right now, he's just a frail old man, not to be feared, let alone likely to play tricks."

"Me too, me too, Lady Fox Immortal, I also defected to you and Lord Xuanjing early on. Please don't forget to credit me with a little merit and give me some support."

"I pledged my loyalty to Lord Xuanjing half a year ago, with unwavering sincerity, as clear as day and night."

As Lin Yan went up to suck up and offer his allegiance proactively, two other people sidled up to Su Qiang, buttering her up.

Su Qiang's vanity was greatly satisfied, and her eyes shone with pride, "You three are very loyal, not only do you not have to be stripped of your roots, but you will also be heavily relied upon by Lord Xuanjing."

The three of them kowtowed repeatedly, overflowing with gratitude.

The dozen or so who had rebelled with those three were in turmoil, never having anticipated this early betrayal by the trio.

Although they were spared death, they had to have their roots removed.

Once stripped of their roots, they could no longer cultivate the Mysterious Art for the rest of their lives.

"If anyone among you now wishes to abandon the dark and seek the light, your treatment will be the same as these three," Su Qiang said with a sly smile, extending an olive branch.

The Pill Room was already empty; I had emerged from behind the Pill Furnace long ago.

At this moment, I hid by the large door of the Pill Room, watching Su Qiang's every move.

Lord Xuanjing had sent her here, probably to completely dismantle the Lin Family.

Moreover, more than two years ago, Xuanjing had already turned Lin Yan to his side.

What strategic foresight, what meticulous planning.

"Me! Me! And me, I want to abandon the dark and come into the light." Following this, a disciple with faltering resolve stepped forward.

Half of the dozen or so who had followed the rebellion went over to Su Qiang's side.

Su Qiang wore a look of regret and said with a sigh, "Lin Huan, it seems you really are useless. Such a large sect as the Lin Family can't keep people's hearts."

As she spoke, a few more went over to her, one by one.

"Whether the Lin Family can keep people's hearts is our business, and it has nothing to do with you."

Contrary to everyone's expectations, Lin Huan remained unmoved.

Su Qiang's eyes turned cold, and she cursed under her breath, an old fool, before tossing a mobile phone at Lin Huan, "Call Su Wan right now, this very instant. If Su Wan dares not to come, I'll skin your daughter first, then cut the flesh off this old carcass of yours, piece by piece, to feed to the dogs."

Lin Huan ignored Su Qiang completely, expertly dialing my number on that mobile phone, and then my phone rang.

Feeling the vibration in my pocket, my eyes moistened without reason.

Grandpa knew my number by heart; he's never used it before.

Yet, he could dial it without a second thought in such a moment.

He must be extremely familiar with it...

I lead a very simple and monotonous life, with no favorite songs or music; my phone ringtone is just a standard alarm.

The crisp sound of the alarm echoed in the Pill Room, and all eyes turned to look.

I pulled out the "ding-ding" sounding phone and slowly walked out from the Pill Room.

Su Qiang, with her pregnant belly, stood up abruptly.

But she stood up too suddenly and seemed to have sprained her back, her face pale with pain as she slumped back down.

She rubbed her eyes incredulously several times and burst into flames with rage, swearing, "Su Wan! Su Wan, you bitch... why... why are you in the Pill Room? Heh, did you know you were going to die, so you came to throw yourself into the net, huh?"

Chapter 327: Is That Miss Wan?

"Cousin, since you think I've walked straight into a trap, and killing me would be as easy as crushing an ant, why are you so agitated?" I clenched my fist and cast my cold, indifferent gaze towards Su Qiang.

My mother was completely shocked, standing still as if she were a wooden chicken, "Wanwan... is it really Wanwan?"

I gave her a reassuring look.

Instantly, tears welled up in my mother's eyes.

"Sister, is that Miss Wan whose cell phone rang?" A Lin Family disciple stepped forward and asked my mother.

The other Lin Family disciples all looked on with a probing gaze, waiting for my mother's answer.

Just as my mother was about to reply, a female disciple murmured hesitantly, "I've seen Miss Wan in Spring Wind Town; it's definitely her. But how could she possibly be in the Pill Room? The Pill Room is so small, we've been staying there for four days and have never seen her. Could she have transformed herself into someone else?"

Su Qiang sneered coldly, regaining her composure, "Even if you sneaked into the Pill Room early on, you'll still be refined by the Thousand Corpses Formation! Su Wan, don't try to act tougher than you are. Since you're here, it saves me the trouble of having to bring you to the Lin Family."

"Oh? The Thousand Corpses Formation, are you sure it still exists?" I teased Su Qiang with a taunting look.

Su Qiang's face darkened, "Stop acting pretentious. You've been in the Pill Room all along; you couldn't possibly have broken the Thousand Corpses Formation."

"Who told you I've been in the Pill Room the whole time? I only entered the Pill Room a moment ago, and I can even tell you that the heart of the formation is in the Lin Family Ancestral Hall." I don't like keeping people in suspense, so I succinctly pierced through Su Qiang's illusion.

The moment Su Qiang heard that the formation's heart was in the Lin Family Ancestral Hall, her complexion turned completely purple, she clutched her stomach and furrowed her brows, "You... you even knew about the formation's heart. You surely couldn't have... for the sake of breaking the formation, you couldn't have killed Lin Xintang... could you? With your overly sympathetic dog-like nature, I know you too well, you couldn't bear to do it, you couldn't possibly have done it..."

As Su Qiang continued, she became more and more certain, eventually bursting into a loud, deranged laugh.

I looked at Su Qiang with cold eyes, lips pursed, too lazy to waste my breath on her.

At this moment, in this place, Su Qiang was like a turtle in a jar—there was no need for me to argue about anything with her.

"Someone, come here, activate the Thousand Corpses Formation now!! I want Su Wan dead!! I want her and the monstrosity in her belly to die this instant."

Having lost her composure, Su Qiang's eyes reddened, her fingernails deeply embedded in the armrest, she stubbornly ordered her subordinates to activate the Thousand Corpses Formation.

There were numerous foxes lurking nearby, and at Su Qiang's command,

They scattered instantly to activate the Thousand Corpses Formation.

Lin Yan and the others immediately panicked, "If you activate the Thousand Corpses Formation now, we don't have protective inscriptions on our bodies, we'll be refined as well."

"Drag them away. You are mere cannon fodder; being refined into nourishment for Lord Xuanjing is a privilege for you."

Su Qiang was as emotionally unstable and irritable as the first time I met her, single-mindedly wishing for my quick death and the demise of the Lin Family's main line.

She had no time to care about the fate of those traitorous Lin Family disciples and uncontrolledly ordered the refinement of everyone.

For a moment, Lin Yan and the others, powerless against the powerfully magical foxes, were pushed back without any ability to resist,

Maintaining a distance of more than a yard from Su Qiang.

This left them dumbfounded.

The Lin Family disciples who hadn't rebelled sneered and mocked them in their looks.

Not long after, the foxes sent to activate the formation came running back in a panic,

"Re... Lady Fox Immortal, the formation... the formation has been sabotaged; we can't activate it."

Relieved, Lin Yan and the others exhaled but were also shocked as they glanced at me and Lin Huan, fearing reprisal from the Lin Family come autumn.

Now, they were truly in a no-win situation.

The other Lin Family disciples, however, had gleaming eyes, intently focused on me.

I still stood in place, silent.

Clutching her stomach, which seemed to be in severe pain, Su Qiang bent over with much of her weight lowered, her breathing heavily labored, "Fine! Su Wan, you're seeking death. Even without the Thousand Corpses Formation, I still have... String Killer. You will be executed by lingchi tonight."

Chapter 328: Fox Fetus, Offered to You

"Don't try anymore, the String Killing Formation has been destroyed too." I felt my spirit, like a cold weapon devoid of emotion, filled with a sharp intent as I honed in on Su Qiang, "All the formations here have been broken by me, Su Qiang, you've run yourself into a dead end."

Just thinking about the price the Lin Family had paid for this matter.

Thinking of those loyal souls who were killed in defense, my heart felt as cold as if it had lost its temperature.

When Xuanjing targeted me, all I wanted to do was fight to the death in resistance.

When Xuanjing's demonic claws harmed so many people, all I wanted was to dismember him and his accomplices completely.

Su Qiang, in a rage, kicked over snacks and fruits laid out like offerings on the ground, and growled, "How is that possible? Su Wan, even though you're a Spiritual Girl, how could you possibly destroy so many... formations and restrictions... overnight?"

"I couldn't, but Yu Longting could." I coldly observed Su Qiang's helpless fury.

This time I wasn't going to let her go, the Lin Family couldn't tolerate her either.

Su Qiang's malicious energy weakened in an instant, and she wavered like duckweed in the wind, whispering softly, "You... Are you saying... the Snake Lord is also here? Did he help you break those formations?"

"Yu Longting, how far have you gotten with breaking the formations and restrictions?" I sent a voice message to Yu Longting on WeChat, barely lifting my finger off the voice key.

A gentle breeze came from the high sky, and a young man in white descended in front of my eyes.

That person was simply a favorite creation of the Creator, with a dreamlike beauty surpassing that of the fallen Qiong Hua, his face as flawless as jade.

His face was perfectly chiseled, without a single flaw.

His lips curved with a hint of wickedness, appearing in front of me like a wicked immortal, among so many others, he only had eyes for me, "Wanwan, were you looking for me?"

"Uh... yes..." In the presence of so many people, I felt quite cramped but couldn't escape the fate of being captivated by his gaze.

Can we switch to a more low-key entrance? It is really too conspicuous, shockingly eye-catching, Mr. Snake Lord.

"I solved those formations in just a quarter of an hour." Yu Longting still ignored everyone else, especially the hostile and cold look my grandfather was giving him, which seemed like it was directed at someone else.

He didn't care about anyone else.

I laughed awkwardly, "That fast, huh?"

What was he doing with the remaining time?

"Wanwan, I didn't show up because I was afraid of stealing your thunder." Yu Longting bent down and whispered with a smile.

I felt so embarrassed, I wanted to push him away and flee the scene.

But he didn't do anything in full view of the public, and if I ran, it would seem like I was guilty of something.

Su Qiang, clutching her stomach, had already walked up to me and Yu Longting without me noticing.

But she didn't glance at me; instead, she stared at Yu Longting with fascination, "Snake Lord, I was given to Xuan Fanyin by my father, and later fell into Xuanjing's hands. If I had met you earlier... I definitely wouldn't have aided the tyrant or done these things for Xuanjing..."

Seeing Su Qiang's eyes filled with vulnerability and a hint of seductiveness, my heart burned, and I even wanted to stand in front of Yu Longting directly, shielding him with my body.

Damn, does she have to use such a brazen look?

It was like she was visually assaulting Yu Longting, stripping him naked with just her eyes.

"Get lost, keep staring at me and I'll gouge out those eyes of yours." Yu Longting's expression turned cold, and he spoke icily.

Su Qiang's face paled in a flash, still refusing to easily give up, timidly reaching for Yu Longting's sleeve, "Mr. Snake Lord, don't be like this to me. Whatever Su Wan can do, I can do too. I'll offer you the fox fetus in my womb."

Chapter 329: Snake Lord, I Truly Admire You

"What do I want that piece of junk for?" Yu Longting's brows furrowed tightly, his usual air of playful mischief replaced by an aura as dark and heavy as if countless dark clouds loomed over his head.

"The Xuanjing actually intended to use this child as nourishment, and he will become your nourishment," Su Qiang's lips uncontrollably trembled as she spoke, "Snake Lord, your appearance is truly exceptional. I was astounded the first time I saw your picture, thinking you resembled a Heavenly Being, but in person, you are even more... Ah... My eyes... My eyes..."

Before Su Qiang could finish expressing her feelings, Yu Longting swept his sleeve icily.

Two colorful vipers flew out from within his sleeve, shooting like arrows into Su Qiang's eyes, "Your fox-like eyes are simply too... pollutant to the environment. Keeping them in your eye sockets makes you akin to walking hazardous waste. As a man of integrity and kindness, let me help you out. Do you feel even more enamored with me now?"

This counter endorsement was truly more terrifying than a demonized Demon King.

All the Lin Family Disciples around inhaled sharply in horror.

"It hurts, my eyes... Why would you do this to me, Snake Lord? I truly admire you," Su Qiang fell to the ground in pain, covering and caressing her bleeding eyes, "Why can Su Wan do it, just because you met her earlier? Fate is not within our control. I wanted to meet you earlier too... Snake Lord..."

Yu Longting ignored Su Qiang's wailing, his gaze falling on me as he explained, "Wife, don't listen to this nosy woman's nonsense. If I had met her sooner, upon seeing that coarse face of hers, I'd have been nauseous for three days and nights. How could I possibly have fallen for her?"

"Su Wan! What's so great about you? The Snake Lord has admitted it himself, he likes your skin. It's just that you're better looking. With today's medical advancements, anyone can look better than you!" Su Qiang, blind and cornered, still continued to lash out, using Yu Longting's words to attack me.

Yet I sighed softly, thinking that if Yu Longting loved me for my face, that in itself would be enough.

Every single thing he had done for me was real.

Besides, Su Qiang hadn't seen Liu Hongluan's face, which was even more beautiful than the stunningly beautiful Immortal Liu.

Even Xuanjing had once been infatuated with Liu Hongluan's appearance, but Yu Longting chose me.

A flicker of murderous intent briefly passed through Yu Longting's eyes as he saw Lin Huan approaching with his disciples, and he concealed his lethal intent, "To lay hands on you would sully my hands. Better to leave you to Old Man Lin."

There, Lin Huan personally disabled the cores of the three disciples who had already betrayed the Lin Family in favor of Xuanjing, expelling them from the family.

The remaining dozen or so traitors, while not crippled, were also expelled.

Their style of dealing with matters was swift and decisive.

Seeing Lin Huan coming, I gave a cough to remind Yu Longting.

Then, I obediently knelt and kowtowed, performing the grand gesture of respect, "Grandfather, I'm late; I have let you suffer."

"Wanwan, get up," Lin Huan said kindly as he bent down to help me, his voice warm and tender, "If it weren't for you this time, the Lin Family would have been completely annihilated."

I stole a glance at Yu Longting, "I couldn't have done such a big thing alone; it was mainly thanks to Yu Longting's efforts. The String Killer and Thousand Corpses Formation were both broken by him."

"The Snake Lord's contributions will be remembered and cherished deeply by everyone in the Lin Family; we won't hesitate to die in gratitude."

As I listened to Lin Huan's grateful words and was pleased to have successfully won recognition for Yu Longting's deeds, I saw Lin Huan cast a very dark and sinister look at Yu Longting, "However, my way of repaying a debt of gratitude will definitely not involve sacrificing my granddaughter."

Chapter 330 Human-Snake Hybrid

Grandfather, you're not selling out your granddaughter.

It was your granddaughter herself who wished to follow Yu Longting willingly.

But I also didn't dare to bump into the gun barrel of Lin Huan just after the Lin Family had encountered a disaster, so I shifted the topic, "Grandfather, you've been toiling in the Pill Room for four days, you must be exhausted. Why don't you rest a bit earlier?"

"Can't rest yet; things haven't been handled. Wanwan, if you're tired, go rest." Lin Huan patted my shoulder, then immediately commanded the disciple beside him, "All fox demons, kill."

An overwhelming and terrifying aura of deadly force suddenly emanated from him.

"Yes, Sect Master." Each Lin Family Disciple was highly skilled in cultivation and was accompanied by powerful Taoist Magic Artifacts.

The foxes, although somewhat cultivated, had lost the protection of the Formation as well as the strong support of Lin Qianshan and Su Qiang.

As vulnerable as infants without the power to fight back, they were picked out one by one and slaughtered.

In an instant, mourning filled the air, and the atmosphere was heavy with the smell of blood.

"Take her away, the fallen demon fetus." Lin Huan glanced indifferently at Su Qiang's swollen belly, his brows not even furrowing, then turned and left.

Dragged along like a dead dog, Su Qiang followed Lin Huan's steps, and her agonizing screams pierced the air, "Snake Lord, save me... I will be more... loyal, more empathetic, and care about you more than Su Wan... "

I stared at Lin Huan's retreating back, slightly dazed.

The decisiveness of my grandfather's killings was shocking, but not repulsive.

Not just grandfather, I myself had experienced a family bloodbath.

My heart had suddenly hardened, growing cold-blooded, showing no mercy or compassion to enemies.

"Did the Lin Family's methods frighten you?" Yu Longting's hand rested on my shoulder, turning me slightly so that my gaze moved from the bloody scene to him.

I smiled faintly, "To be kind to an enemy is to be cruel to oneself."

Compared to the bloody scene of scattered fox corpses, the sight of the people of the Lin family dead when I first arrived at the Lin Residence truly pierced my heart like a thousand arrows.

"Then what are you daydreaming about?" Seeing the night breeze was a bit strong, Yu Longting pulled my collar closer and covered my hands.

My stiff, frozen hands warmed up, and I sighed softly, "Worrying about Xintang. Could Xintang be a Human-Snake Hybrid?"

Yu Longting stroked my nose, "Yes, otherwise she wouldn't share traits with both humans and snakes and be able to be used in the Thousand Corpses Formation."

"If she is a Human-Snake Hybrid, why did her legs only now turn into a Snake Tail?" I had determined through my contact with Lin Xintang that she was no different from a normal person before.

Yu Longting spoke casually, "Previously, the snake traits were recessive. They were later activated by the Forbidden Woman's Technique."

I lowered my eyes, even more concerned about Lin Xintang's future, "So you're saying, Xintang might not be Lin Gang's daughter, and she has no blood relation to Grandfather anymore..."

The air was filled with the pungent odor of Snake Blood, a clear testament to how intolerant my grandfather was toward Different Races.

"Lin Huan won't spare her, but what does that have to do with you? It's not because you find her cute and want to protect a demon right under Lin Huan's nose, is it?"

Yu Longting pinched my chin with one hand, his brow and eyes filled with a playful and wicked charm. His enchanting appearance was shrouded in a bewitching mist, stunning and almost surreal.

Fearing that meddling would upset Yu Longting, I tugged at the fabric around his waist and lightly rubbed his flank with my fingertips, flattering, "I knew I couldn't hide my thoughts from you. I do want to protect Tangtang. Yu Longting, in this world, only you understand me best; even my mother didn't understand me this much."

After speaking, I blinked, then blinked again.

A look on my face that begged for the great Snake Lord's mercy.