

A Snake 341

Chapter 341: Eyes Eaten

Outside the door on the ground, knelt a person bound with hemp rope.

The person's complexion was abnormally pale, one eye open, the other closed.

The head hung low, half-length hair messy and unkempt.

The fabric of his pants on his knees was worn through, revealing bloodied knees.

Clearly, he had been often mistreated and forced to kneel, and for a long time had not bathed, looking nearly as thin as a dried corpse...

I hadn't seen Lin Gang for a short period of time.

I hadn't expected him to be so wretched.

"Oh brother..." my mother murmured in a very low voice, her expression conflicted.

The person in front of her was Lin Gang, her once most beloved brother, yet also an accomplice in league with Xuanjing.

I immediately noticed something off about Lin Gang's skin.

There was a barely perceptible, very fine undulation moving under it, as if something was living beneath the skin.

I immediately reacted and shouted lowly, "Everyone step back, there's something wrong with Lin Gang."

The crowd hurriedly retreated.

They showed expressions of wariness.

Lin Gang suddenly raised his head, his lone eye reddened with blood vessels, "Su Wan!!"

Hatred surged in his eyes, as if a thousand horses were galloping towards me.

"Miss Wanwan, what's wrong with him?" Zhang Che asked me.

I took a breath, "I won't know until I check."

Approaching Lin Gang, I first bent down and twisted the hemp rope on Lin Gang's body a few times.

At the center of the hemp rope was a steel rod as thick as a finger, nearly as robust as a mountain climbing rope.

"Wanwan, I'm your uncle. The rope is hurting me badly. Can you help uncle untie it, please?" Lin Gang, seeing me approach, pleaded appealingly.

I glanced at Lin Gang and sighed, "Don't you know you've been poisoned by gu? This rope infused with sorcery can suppress the Gu Art. Once untied, you will die instantly."

Lin Gang looked puzzled, seemingly unaware that he had been afflicted, "I... have been poisoned? Why don't I feel anything?"

I pulled back Lin Gang's left eyelid to reveal a dark void beneath.

There was no eyeball to be seen, only the raw red tissue behind.

A hideously long black worm slowly crawled out, writhing.

"A worm, Gu insects! Everyone get away quickly! Don't get infected."

"Damn, Miss Wanwan is amazing, the young master really is infected."

"Miss Wan, be careful, don't get infected by gu. These insects are highly contagious; as soon as they touch your skin, you will be poisoned immediately."

The disciples of the Lin Family dispersed even further, reminding me.

With Xiao Honghong by my side, I'm not afraid of any gu insects harming me. I released Lin Gang's eyelid and told the people of Lin Family, "I'll be fine, you don't need to worry about me."

"Ah... Zhang Shuying! You dim-witted sinister, gut-spilling villain, you fucking poisoned me."

Lin Gang's remaining good eye was almost bulging out.

Staring intently at the long worm as it dragged its body down his cheek, "I'll catch you, and I'll flay you a thousand times."

If I hadn't pulled apart his eyelid and discovered one of his eyeballs had been consumed by a gu insect.

Lin Gang wouldn't even have known he was poisoned...

Doesn't it hurt...

"Indeed, it was Zhang Shuying who had Xiao Yuanyuan do it. Sigh." I muttered to myself, only Zhang Shuying could pull off such a bizarre stunt.

According to Yu Longting, when he found Lin Gang, he had him poisoned with gu and threw him back to the Lin Family.

Could a normal person come up with such an idea?

I waited for Lin Gang to calm down a bit, then bent down and asked him, "Why did Zhang Shuying poison you? What did you do to upset him?"

I thought Zhang Shuying only wanted the Remnant Soul of the Ancestor of Foxes; he wouldn't punish Lin Gang with a severe gu without another reason, hence I asked Lin Gang for the reason.

Chapter 342: Insanely Coming After Me

"I provoked him? He and I were good friends, drinking, eating meat, and playing Pai Gow! It's all because of you! Su Wan!! You slut, seducing Yu Longting and then going after Zhang Shuying, that's why he's been troubling me like a crazy person." Under the fury, Lin Gang spewed a faceful of foul-smelling saliva at me.

I hadn't even had the chance to get angry, or anything else.

A slap charged with a gust of wind struck Lin Gang's face, "Impudence! How dare you disrespect Miss Wan."

"Uh..." I stared at Zhang Che, whose strike was faster than lightning, in shock.

Impressive, my Uncle Zhang!

After being slow for a few seconds.

I regained my senses and immediately focused on Zhang Che's hand that had made contact with Lin Gang's cheek, "Be careful of being infected by the Gu Poison on Lin Gang's body."

The terror of Gu Insects is beyond what ordinary people can imagine.

Gu Insects nurtured by a Gu Seedling could infect someone with Gu Poison even after just one second of contact.

Not to mention the Gu Poison that Lin Gang was afflicted with, the Emperor Gu and Golden Silkworm Gu.

Once inside the body, they lay eggs in the bloodstream.

Continuously hatching larvae, which then rapidly consume nutrients to grow into adults.

Right now, Lin Gang's body was probably filled with both Gu Insects and their eggs.

"I have True Qi to protect me, it's fine," Zhang Che said calmly.

I almost burped, marveled by such prowess.

This air of nonchalance he had resembled that of a great hero from a martial arts novel.

Lin Gang's eyes were about to split with fury, his left eye, devoid of an eyeball and left with just an empty socket, looked even more ferocious and terrifying, "Su Wan, Zhang Shuying... threatened me. If I don't give him the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul, he'll throw me into the Lin Family's hands."

"Just give the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul to Zhang Shuying, and it'll be over. Seeing as you are friends, he won't make things difficult for you," I understood the kind of person Zhang Shuying was.

He really hated hassle. If Lin Gang handed over the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul, Zhang Shuying would certainly be too lazy to tangle with Lin Gang anymore.

Lin Gang let out a cold, sarcastic chuckle, "In your dreams, I'd rather die than hand her over. She is the woman I love the most."

"Then you might as well die," Lin Huan's authoritative voice wasn't loud, but it was like a thunderclap out of a clear sky.

The crowd kneeled down in unison, "Greetings, Sect Master."

"Grandfather," I said, without even seeing where Lin Huan was.

I followed suit and knelt as well.

Lin Huan walked up to me and lifted me up, "You're heavily pregnant, from now on, you're not allowed to kneel when you see me."

"Oh, oh, oh, oh," I verbally complied, but my mind was full of question marks.

Such obvious favoritism, isn't that a bit inappropriate?

Suddenly, Lin Huan grabbed the hemp rope on Lin Gang's body and abruptly lifted him up, "Three days from now, at noon, execute him by beheading."

Having said that, he carried Lin Gang away.

"Lin Huan, you dare!! I am your own son, your only son," Lin Gang struggled fiercely.

"Have you thought about it? If my mother finds out, she won't just let it be."

"Oh right, I have a grandmother, seems like I've never met her," I murmured to myself, curiously following behind Lin Huan.

Zhang Che followed and said, "Miss Wan wouldn't want to meet the old Madam."

"How so? Is my grandmother very fierce?" I asked Zhang Che, feeling both curious and a bit nervous.

Zhang Che, for some reason, couldn't help but chuckle upon meeting my gaze, "On the contrary, the old Madam is very teary."

"Oh," With his words, I suddenly felt like I had an image in my mind. What to do?

My mother seemed to want to accompany me, but upon hearing that we were going to meet my grandmother, she massaged her temples and said wearily to Zhang Che, "I don't want to see my mother right now. You go with Su Wan to her grandfather's place, don't let her be taken advantage of. I'm going back to the Waterside Pavilion."

"Alright," Zhang Che responded.

Me: "..."

What's this situation?

I don't need anyone to accompany me.

But having Uncle Zhang by my side.

Somehow it does feel safer...

Wait a minute.

Following grandfather, will I meet my grandmother?

The main house's tower was close to the back door.

While I was conflicted, Lin Gang had already been thrown into the dungeon.

The dungeon was actually just two secret doors on the floor, opening to reveal an abyss.

Cold drafts wafted up, chilling and terrifying.

Lin Huan, devoid of any trace of sympathy, personally used a Purple Gold Manacle Lock to decisively lock the dungeon doors.

He then affixed nine talismans, sealing it shut.

"Wanwan, it's good that you returned to the Lin Family on your own. If you hadn't come back, I would've had someone fetch you and bind you back to the Lin Family," Lin Huan put away his menacing demeanor and smiled at me.

Chapter 343: One Hundred Chicken Legs

I looped my arm around Lin Huan's and pleaded cutely, "I started missing Grandpa the moment I left the Lin Family, how could I bear not to return home? There was no need for you to have someone tie me up and bring me here, really."

"Wanwan, don't live outside anymore, come back and stay with the Lin Family," Lin Huan's eyes momentarily stilled as I grasped his arm, and the corners of his lips curled upwards.

I remembered what Lin Huan said when he took my mom away from Spring Wind Town, "But didn't you say that I shouldn't enter the Lin Family too early? You were afraid that people wouldn't accept me."

"Wanwan, I really want to bonk you, ah, your intellect, surely took after your mom." Lin Huan though lamenting my intellect, was laughing with his face all aglow.

"You've saved the entire Lin Family and have already established prestige, who wouldn't accept you now?"

"Then I'll just let Yu Longting know that I'm temporarily staying at the Lin Family," I stuck out my tongue, reaching for my phone on purpose and sent a voice message to Yu Longting.

On one hand, it was to inform Yu Longting that I was staying at the Lin Family, and on the other hand, it was deliberately mentioning Yu Longting in front of Lin Huan, to boost his presence.

As I expected, Lin Huan's face darkened, his expression full of disdain, "Where's Snake Lord? Why isn't he thick-skinned enough to come to the Lin Family?"

Although Lin Huan still doesn't like Yu Longting, with my relentless effort, there will come a day when Yu Longting will be accepted.

"He's gone back to his own sect." I said.

Lin Huan nodded in acknowledgment.

I rubbed my hands together, "Grandpa, could I ask for a reward?"

"Yes, say whatever you need." Lin Huan said indulgently with no bottom line.

I was thrilled, "I want a hundred chicken drumsticks, is that okay?"

Lin Huan: "..."

An hour later.

In the main house's dining room.

Two enormous bowls were placed on the table.

The chicken drumsticks in the bowls were piled high like little mountains.

All of them were braised chicken drumsticks, steaming and fragrant.

I took out Matchbox and touched Xiao Honghong who was sleeping, "Time to eat, Xiao Honghong, there are big chicken drumsticks."

I carried on my frugal nature, insisting on not spending money unless absolutely necessary.

With Xiao Honghong needing a hundred drumsticks, it seemed better to let the Lin Family foot the bill!

After all, with Xiao Honghong embodying Lin Qianshan, it was contributing to the main Lin Family too.

"Lady, I'm sleepy," Xiao Honghong said lazily, reluctant to get up.

"Then I'll have to eat it myself," I said helplessly as I picked up a drumstick.

After sniffing it under my nose, I waved it past Xiao Honghong.

Finally, I took a bite, and then I saw a fiery red centipede biting the other end of the drumstick.

Its bead-like eyes stared at me defiantly, guarding its food with a possessive look, "This is mine, my drumstick!! Don't you dare steal it."

"Aw, I won't steal, be good, huh." I stroked Xiao Honghong's back.

Enjoying the comfort, Xiao Honghong shivered and rubbed its head against my fingers, suddenly realizing it had broken its aloof insect facade.

Embarrassed, it stiffened for a moment before turning its head and voraciously tearing into the drumstick.

Throughout it all, Lin Huan stood with his mouth agape.

His jaw was practically hitting the floor.

Seeing his expression, I thought he was hungry, "Grandpa, if you're hungry, should I have the kitchen make some more?"

"No... no need... I'm not hungry." Lin Huan slowly sat down in the chair, staring at Xiao Honghong as it devoured its meal.

Xiao Honghong eating resembled silkworm babies munching on mulberry leaves.

Its mandibles moved at an incredibly fast speed, demolishing a drumstick in a matter of seconds.

Not a single bone or scrap was left...

Lin Huan asked me pensively, "Wanwan, do you also understand Insect Language? Or are you just talking to yourself?"

"Uh, I guess I know Insect Language," I said.

Lin Huan held his forehead, as if struggling to accept it.

I asked worriedly, "Is that a bad thing?"

Chapter 344: Gu Raising Prodigy

"Of course, of course!! It is a bad thing!! This is a once-in-a-millennium gu raising genius. If Old Man Yan from the Miao Village finds out, he will definitely fight with me for her..." Lin Huan realized he had said

something wrong and swiftly changed the subject, "Wanwan, it's too late today. I will take you to meet someone tomorrow."

It was already 10 PM when they arrived at the Lin Family's place.

It was already early morning.

I was actually very sleepy, and nodded at Lin Huan, "Once Xiao Honghong finishes eating, I will go back to sleep at my mom's. Hey, grandpa, when you were talking with Qing Li, did she tell you who Xintang's father is?"

After all, the woman upstairs is a madwoman, allegedly incapable of leaving the attic.

If we could find Xintang's birth father,

As he asked this, Lin Huan seemed to have seen someone. He suddenly stood up, sternly saying, "How come you are here?"

"Old man, you just find me annoying, don't want to see me, and get as tense as seeing an enemy whenever you see me."

A hoarse sobbing sound reached my ears, and as I looked up, I saw an old lady with a hunched back and white hair. Her long, compliant hair covered her face, making it unclear, as she sadly wiped the tears on her face with her sleeve, "Wuu wuu wuu... You... you horrible old man, to think you would kill your own son over two unprofitable good-for-nothings. How could I have been so blind to marry such a man..."

I was somewhat at a loss and touched my nose. Could this old woman possibly be my grandmother??

So was she referring to me and my mother as the two unprofitable good-for-nothings?

"Don't cry anymore, sobbing and wailing at your age, what kind of dignity is that?"

Lin Huan was frantically pacing, using his own hand to wipe the old woman's tears.

The old woman angrily slapped Lin Huan's hand away, "Don't touch my face with your dirty hands. If you want me to stop crying, release my son."

I noticed Lin Huan's hands were indeed quite dirty, so I took out a clean handkerchief I carried with me and handed it to Lin Huan.

Lin Huan gave me a grateful look as he took my handkerchief to wipe the old woman's tears, "Lin Gang has done too many wrong things; it's not that I can't allow him, but it's that the Heavenly Dao can't allow him."

"I don't want that vile girl's handkerchief; it's filthy, who knows if it carries diseases." The old woman snatched the handkerchief from Lin Huan's hand, threw it on the ground, and fiercely stomped on it several times, "We should have thrown Lin Xiangnan and Lin Xiangyue into the river like before and drowned them; we wouldn't be having these troubles now."

The once white handkerchief, embroidered with a floral pattern, now bore several ugly gray footprints.

Lin Huan's expression darkened considerably, as though a storm was approaching.

Zhang Che walked over calmly, picked up the fallen handkerchief,

folded it neatly and put it in his sleeve, then offered a pack of tissues to the old woman, "Madam, what era are we in that you still discriminate between genders?"

"You... you... acting all high and mighty because you're from the Zhang Family, now schooling your elders." The old woman's eyes widened, her long hair that covered most of her face slid beside her ears, revealing an extraordinarily beautiful but anguished face, tears adorning her visage like glistening dewdrops on a summer lotus, "Has Lin Xiangnan only returned a few days ago and started currying favor with her burdensome daughter?"

This old woman's face had been preserved using a special method.

Although her hair was completely white, her features remained as comely as a young girl's.

Filled with collagen and without a single wrinkle.

Zhang Che's expression remained utterly unflustered, "Madam speaks true; whatever Xiangnan cares about, I care about. From now on, I will protect Su Wan; I would ask that Madam refrain from disrespecting her."

Chapter 345: Grandmother, Yan Hua

This blatant, unadorned protection...

The man in front of me feels like a drifting cloud, elegant and detached, not lingering in the world for a moment, but his figure somehow appears tall and strong in my eyes.

It's downright... an imposing aura...

"Old man, your apprentice bullied me, wuwuwu... I don't want to live anymore!! A junior has climbed over my head." The old crone threw herself into Lin Huan's arms, pulling out the pack of tissues Zhang Che had given her and wiping away tears while sobbing.

Lin Huan subconsciously reaches out to steady the old woman's form and sighed, "Zhang Che simply doesn't like that you favor boys over girls. Nowadays, there is gender equality—having a son or a daughter is the same. You shouldn't have been so harsh to Wanwan."

"How is it the same? As a woman, who doesn't hope that what they give birth to is a son."

The old crone looks indignant and cries even harder, "When I gave birth to Lin Xiangnan, your dead parents... how did they... how they disliked me... you've forgotten..."

That is true, some families in the Yue region do place special importance on male succession.

If a daughter is born, they treat the daughter-in-law harshly.

I was originally appalled by the old crone's bias, but now I feel a sense of helplessness and sourness...

"That being said, your son is useless now, even a male heir is of no use!"

At this point in the conversation, Lin Huan neither agreed nor disagreed with the old woman.

The old crone stamped her feet repeatedly, "Useless he may be, but he is still your son!! He is the only direct line of descent in the Lin Family, useless or not, you need to accept him, need to put up with him."

"If he is useless, then he is no son of mine." Lin Huan flung his sleeves, his expression dark and uncompromising.

Immediately, the old crone rushed towards a pillar like a rhino, and slammed her head against it, "Lin Huan... you scumbag... you have such a cruel heart, you don't love me anymore, wuwuwu... my life is so miserable... I'm going to die, I don't want to live...."

My position was right next to the pillar, so I immediately gauged the height and cushioned with the palm of my hand, "Grandma, are you okay, did you not hurt yourself?"

"Dead girl, who allowed you to call me grandma, I do not acknowledge you." The old crone had a fiery temper; she hit the pillar too hard, and even though she didn't hurt her head, she was still dazed.

Her trembling form swayed, nearly unable to stand.

I lifted my other hand to steady the old crone's balance and handed her over to Lin Huan's arms, "I'm sorry, elder, it was a slip of the tongue just now, it won't happen again next time, please calm your anger. Getting angry is bad for your health; don't hurt yourself."

"Old man, I feel so wronged, can't you... let our son go?" The old crone didn't want to give me even a glance of attention, turning instead to bury her head on Lin Huan's shoulder and asked tearfully.

Lin Huan was quite resolute on the matter of dealing with Lin Gang, "It won't do. Apart from the shameful things he did to Wanwan, he has also offended Qing Li this time."

Lin Gang had offended Qing Li.

I couldn't help but prick up my ears to listen, eager to find out what Lin Gang had done to offend Qing Li.

Zhang Che had mentioned it as well.

After Qing Li was rescued from a suicide attempt in the attic, she lost control and furiously scolded Lin Gang.

"Qing Li..." The old crone became distracted for a moment, then soon mourned again, "Old man, we're at this age now, the big account is ruined, is there still time to work on a small account?"

"It should be too late, cough~" Lin Huan, ever since the old woman appeared, the dignity of the Sect Master had long collapsed into nothing and now he gave a stiff, light cough to cover up his embarrassment, "Alright, go back to Lvzhong Mountain, and stop having all these fanciful thoughts."

Ever since Lin Huan brought up Lin Gang offending Qing Li, the old crone seemed to have given up her determination to rescue her son, and at that moment she sniffled and nodded like a confused young girl.

The old crone, assisted by two young girls who entered from the door, left the Lin Family.

Later I came to know that grandma's name was Yan Hua.

She didn't live with grandpa and resided in Lvzhong Mountain to the west.

Chapter 346: Pressing Down on Me

So when the Lin Family encountered disaster, it didn't affect Yan Hua.

At that time, the Lin residence was full of String Killing Formations that even Yu Longting couldn't withstand, so Lin Huan didn't seek help from Yan Hua to avoid dragging his wife into trouble.

Unfortunately, Zhang Che was also out of town exorcising demons and wasn't in the Lin residence.

In the end, the main branch of the Lin Family was pushed to the brink, nearly leading to their destruction.

It wasn't long after Yan Hua left.

Zhang Che and I also returned to the Waterside Pavilion together.

Xiao Honghong had just finished eating and needed time to digest.

She was lively, flying around me.

Flying a bright red, glowing Centipede gu at night was actually quite scary.

When the Lin Family Disciples saw it, they all cautiously took a detour.

"Miss Wan, I've told you before, you wouldn't want to see your grandmother," Zhang Che consoled me, "Don't take her nonsense to heart."

In front of Zhang Che, I couldn't help but feel shy and hardly dared look him in the eye, murmuring an acknowledgment, "Oh."

Because I couldn't help but think wrongly, even though I knew I shouldn't.

But I can't control it, can't help but wonder if he likes my mom?

Does my mom like him?

If it's mutual, could he become my stepfather in the future?

Oh brain, can you not have so many messy thoughts? Could it be that deep down, I actually hope to have a stepfather?

I shook the hand that Yan Hua had bumped into, thickly packed with numbness and pain, unrelieved.

I had been enduring it, but now pain sweat dripped from my temples.

"If you hadn't stopped her just now, that old Madam's collision might have sent me to heaven. And you, you saved her, hurt yourself yet kept silent; she accused you, and you never retorted," Zhang Che grabbed my wrist, narrowing his eyes as he examined my palm as if X-raying my hand bones, "Several fractures in the hand bones, were you planning to endure it the whole time?"

"Because it's a minor injury, wrapping it with a healing bandage would do, but we've run out," I was embarrassed to have my palm injury discovered, "The Blood Splendor Robe has been used too frequently and isn't effective anymore, otherwise I would have treated it earlier."

Zhang Che said, "That's better, frequent use of Art to heal wounds isn't necessarily good, I'll put a plaster."

When we got back to the Waterside Pavilion, my mom had already gone to bed.

Zhang Che led me in and arranged my room for me.

He then brought some medical equipment, applied medicine to my hand, and put a plaster before leaving.

Only after he left the room did I remember I was still wearing his Taoist robe, hurriedly took it off to catch up and return it, "That... Uncle Zhang, your clothes..."

Zhang Che turned to take the clothes, instructing, "Miss Wan, rest early."

"Okay."

I watched Zhang Che's retreating figure until it disappeared.

Stretched lazily, and climbed onto the ancient-looking, massive Step-Out Bed in my room.

The Step-Out Bed was really large and intricately made.

It was carved on pear wood filled with ancient charm in the form of variant lotuses, and the canopy of airy muslin draped gracefully.

I indulgently rolled around on the bed with my plastered hand raised, basking in the feeling of sleeping in a grand bed like an ancient princess.

Then I took out my phone to send a message to Yu Longting, "I'm going to sleep, everything is fine here at the Lin residence, you can rest easy at the sect, good night."

Darling, I miss you, deeply miss you.

Yu Longting's message came back instantly, short yet imbued with deep affection.

Seeing it, my heart warmed suddenly, clutching my phone tightly to my chest, "Yu Longting, I miss you too, I hope everything is also going well for you there."

But such mushy words were only my silent mutterings; I didn't send them to Yu Longting, fearful that his wild spirit might disregard everything and return to the Lin residence to see me.

Soon after, I fell asleep, and the next morning, I turned over in a groggy state.

As I slept soundly, a chaotic noise near my ear exclaimed, "Woman, you're pressing on me, Master Hong's little body is nearly squashed flat."

Chapter 347: Break Up the Fight

"Xiao Honghong? You didn't go back to sleep in your Matchbox?" I turned over and found poor Xiao Honghong squashed beneath me.

Luckily, its centipede shell was quite hard; otherwise, I really might have squashed it to death. It explained with particular pride and as if it were the most natural thing in the world, "The bed is bigger and more comfortable to sleep on. What's the matter, woman? You don't allow Master Hong to sleep in your bed??"

"So last night... You slept beside me the whole night??? We shared the bed?" I exclaimed in surprise.

Xiao Honghong replied irritably, "Don't act like you're at a loss. I, a pure and innocent worm, slept with you, and I didn't complain."

"Uh, I was flattered, please see the truth, Master Hong." After teasing Xiao Honghong, I buttered it up, "You've gained a lot after eating the chicken leg, huh? The Matchbox must be too cramped for you now, the bed is more comfortable, right?"

The rotund Xiao Honghong couldn't fit into the Matchbox anymore, so it could only flap its wings and follow me around wherever I went.

I woke up late and didn't catch my mom and Zhang Che.

All I saw was the pig's feet soup my mom had made for me, and a note pressed under the bowl.

The gist of the note was this:

My mom had just started learning the Mysterious Art and needed to go to a specific place to study every day.

As for the pig's feet soup, was this because I injured my hand, and she was trying to heal like with like?

When we were less well-off, we couldn't afford expensive ingredients.

I'd never before had a proper soup boiled by my mom.

This was the first time.

I took a sip—it was really quite delicious.

Not long after,

As I was gnawing on the tender, stewed sinew of the pig's trotter, Lin Huan walked in, "Wanwan."

"Grand... Grandfather, why have you come? If there's anything... anything you need, you could have sent someone to call me, and I would have come to see you."

I quickly wiped my greasy hands clean, and took the chance to wipe my mouth as well.

That's it, my image as a well-behaved granddaughter in front of Grandfather is gone.

Lin Huan's gaze was fixed on my cast hand, his eyelids slightly reddened, his expression terribly solemn.

Covering my cast hand, I said, "It's nothing serious, it was... Uncle Zhang, he insisted on putting a cast on it, but it's really just a minor injury, Uncle Zhang is making a big deal out of it."

I'm sorry, Uncle Zhang, but to stop Grandfather from worrying further, I can only temporarily put the blame on you.

"I have to leave for an errand, I'm going to meet a distinguished visitor for you, I'll be back soon," Lin Huan said, his eyes sharp as a hawk's, glancing from my plastered hand and then turning to leave.

I had just heaved a sigh of relief, about to tilt my head back and gulp down the rest of the pig's trotter soup.

But Lin Huan turned back suddenly, just in time to see me lifting the soup bowl with gusto.

I nearly closed in on myself right there and then.

Too... too hasty... Careless!

"Wanwan, my dear granddaughter, always so kind-hearted. Even with such an injury, you haven't blamed anyone," Grandfather approached me, strongly rubbing my hair and making a mess of my strands, "If only I could have taken you back home sooner, it's my fault for being so stubborn, making you and your mother suffer so much."

"Grand..." Grandfather, I haven't really suffered.

I was just about to comfort Lin Huan when he strode away from the Waterside Pavilion, my words cut short after a single uttered syllable.

It turned out that deep down, Grandfather had always blamed himself for ignoring my mom, for not taking us mother and daughter back home.

Perhaps, if he had taken me to the Lin Family from a young age, my current circumstances would be different.

But I... really like... myself as I am right now.

I finished all the pig's trotter soup, washed my face, combed my hair, and only then did I leave.

The disciples waiting at the entrance to the Waterside Pavilion were nearly frantic, "Miss Wan, you're finally ready. The gentleman in the reception hall hates to wait more than anything. If you don't go now, he's likely to tear down the Lin Family's main residence."

Chapter 348: The Blind Date Partner is Third Master

"Who is coming to dismantle the Lin Family's main house? I can't think of anyone important enough that Lin Huan wouldn't meet them personally, letting someone whose name isn't even on the family tree, whose status is uncertain, to meet them instead."

If that person really is of a noble identity, the moment they see me, a mere shrimp, greeting them, they wouldn't hesitate to flip the table on the spot.

Wait a minute, my grandfather is not a foolish man.

On the contrary, he is an old but increasingly wise family head. His arrangement for me to meet that person must be deliberate.

The Lin Family Disciple said sheepishly, "Uh, Miss Wan, you'll understand once you go."

"Humph, my grandfather wouldn't have arranged a match with some noble family's son for me, would he?" I racked my brain but couldn't think of this possibility. The key was that Yu Longting had anticipated it earlier.

He felt that grandfather would play matchmaker. I was skeptical at first, but now, the secretive nature of this meeting made me somewhat believe what Yu Longting had said.

The disciple, startled, shrank back his neck, "Miss Wan truly is resourceful. It's no wonder you managed to save the entire Lin Family from difficulty by yourself. Everyone in the Lin Family looks up to you as an idol."

"..."

I raised an eyebrow. There's no need for flattery, especially when it isn't sincere.

If they really saw me as an idol, they wouldn't team up with my grandfather to trap me.

At that moment, my eyes caught Zhang Shuying, dressed in an immaculate cloud-patterned long robe, looking like a charming scholar, lounging with his legs crossed, cracking sunflower seeds and enjoying pastries.

"Old Man Lin, you finally arrived. Taoist Master has been waiting all morning. I've cracked open five pounds of sunflower seeds. Look, my lips are so salty they're peeling," Zhang Shuying complained as he touched his still gorgeous, but chapped lips upon hearing footsteps.

As he glanced up and saw me, he hesitated a moment before standing up and coughing, "Crap, crap, crap, crap... Spiritual Eye Sister... cough, cough, cough... what the heck are you doing here?"

Zhang Shuying bent over, coughing for a long time, hacking up sunflower seed shells.

Then, wiping the sweat from his forehead, he said with a shaken soul, "Whew~ my goodness, a peerless master almost choked to death on sunflower seed shells."

"My grandfather sent me here. He's busy with important matters and asked me to entertain you," I said upon realizing that the person Lin Huan wanted me to meet was Zhang Shuying, and my lips twitched.

Did Grandfather want me to have an arranged meeting with Zhang Shuying? Could it be?

This is so awkward, it makes me want to dig out an entire underground mansion with my toes right here on the spot.

Zhang Shuying stood up and paced in front of me, hand on his chin as if deep in thought, "Grandfather? Damn, are you talking about Lin Huan? How come I never heard Lin Huan had a granddaughter? Where did you come from? Did you pop out of a rock?"

"Uh, I'm not someone who popped out from between the rocks. Aren't you quite familiar with the Lin Family? Didn't you realize I was from the Lin family when we were at Gu Sect?" I wondered why Zhang Shuying was so surprised. It seems I should be the surprised one.

Zhang Shuying finally stopped pacing, reluctantly accepting the situation, "I did hear that Lin Huan had a daughter who was expelled from the family registry, but... Lin Huan is so conservative, he would never acknowledge his banished daughter, much less you as his granddaughter. It's so strange, Third Master was smart all his life, but to be stumped by something like this!!"

"Third Master, let me tell you what happened. Otherwise, you might die trying to figure it out." Seeing that Third Master Zhang seemed unaware of recent events at the Lin Family, I informed him about the upheaval in the Lin Family.

Chapter 349 Blind Life, you finally found the brilliance

"Hmm, exactly, unless there's some earth-shattering achievement, how could the people of the Lin family recognize you?" Zhang Shuying was as enthralled as if he'd listened to a riveting storytelling session, lounging with crossed legs and snacking on two pounds of our Lin Family's melon seeds.

After I found a place to sit, I felt too embarrassed to ask Zhang Shuying outright if he was here for a blind date, so I tried to ask indirectly, "Hey, Taoist Zhang, with your wandering swordsman lifestyle, you probably don't like visiting relatives and friends much, so, what brings you to the Lin Family?"

This fellow wouldn't visit the Three Treasures Hall without a purpose.

If there wasn't a reason, he absolutely wouldn't have come all the way to the Lin Family.

"Hehe, to my shame, after I caught Lin Gang, I used every trick in the book, but none made that guy spill the beans," Zhang Shuying scratched his nose, "I threatened to turn him over to the Lin Family, to face Old Master Lin's thunderous fury, if he didn't hand over the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul. The dumbass Lin Gang still said nothing, and I couldn't go back on my word, so I had no choice but to dump him at the Lin Family..."

"Look at me, totally slipped my mind, it was you who tied up Lin Gang and dropped him at the Lin Family's doorstep. You've been so diligent and responsible in helping find the Ancestral Fox Remnant

Soul, I really can't thank you enough." I slapped my forehead as I just recalled how I had forgotten that it was Zhang Shuying who captured Lin Gang.

Standing up from the chair, I smiled and made a grateful bow to him.

Zhang Shuying waved his hands, "No need for that, what's our relationship, after all? I've eaten your clay pot rice, pickled radishes, fried onion pancakes, and stir-fried snails. Plus, I promised your husband that I'd help you annihilate the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul in Lin Gang's hands. Hiss... wait... that's not right..."

Seeing the contemplative expression on Zhang Shuying's face, I waited quietly until he spoke up softly, "Old Man Lin didn't come to see me himself and sent you instead to attend to me, he shouldn't know we're acquainted..."

"Hehe, finally you notice something. I'm too embarrassed to speak the words 'blind date' outright, I can't bring myself to say it, so it's best if you figure it out yourself," I chuckled.

Zhang Shuying exclaimed with an "ah,"

"Motherfucker, don't tell me I'm here for a blind date? Ever since my first love ran off, the Lin Family has owed me a wife."

"Cough cough cough, Wanwan, how is your chat going with Taoist Friend Zhang?" Just then, Lin Huan cleared his throat and, pretending to be nonchalant, with his hands clasped behind his back, walked in.

The corner of my mouth twitched, "Fine, Grandfather... are you done with your work?"

"All done, Wanwan, how many times have I taught you the proper way to treat guests? Why haven't you poured a cup of tea for Taoist Friend Zhang?" Lin Huan asked with a hoarse voice, "Look, he's been eating seeds until his lips are starting to peel."

Whose fault is it if his lips are peeling after eating seeds?

Why not blame Zhang Shuying for eating too much when he had nothing else to do?

I responded with a full head of exasperation, boiled a fresh pot of tea, and poured it for Zhang Shuying, "Yes, Grandfather, it's my negligence, I didn't notice Taoist Zhang's lips peeling after eating four pounds of seeds."

Zhang Shuying, how can you be so lazy?

Too lazy to boil his own tea, even when he's that thirsty.

He was the same back in the Gu Sect, always taken care of by the Bearded Man and Uncle Zhong.

Otherwise, you'd have to hang a pancake around his neck, and he still wouldn't know how to eat it.

"You girl, how can you speak to me like that, with no sense of decorum?" Lin Huan scolded me, then sat down beside Zhang Shuying, explaining, "My granddaughter is not usually like this. She's always been sensible and well-read, perhaps she's acting out on purpose today because she's shy."

"Old Master Lin, no need to explain, to tell you the truth, I've known Spiritual Eye Sister for a while now," Zhang Shuying gave a dry laugh and took a sip of the tea I poured, "I'm well aware of what kind of character she has, sensible and well-read she says, if that's the case, pigs might fly."

Lin Huan was surprised, "You know each other?"

"More than just know each other, this guy Zhang Shuying even kidnapped me!! He locked me up in the Gu Sect and placed me under house arrest." I pre-empted with a strong move, to avoid continuation of the awkward blind date situation, and to prevent being forcibly matched up, I made my complaint to my grandfather.

Chapter 350 I Wash and Clean You

I dutifully poured Lin Huan a cup of tea and placed it before him.

Lin Huan's eyebrows tightened, and he adopted a serious expression to back me up as he asked Zhang Shuying, "Taoist Friend Zhang, what's going on here?"

Although Zhang Shuying had a perverse temper, he was incredibly straightforward and never told lies.

He immediately recounted our past grudges in detail, swirling his teacup nostalgically, "Initially, I was provoked by Lin Gang and thought that Yun Hao coveted the relics left by my deceased father, which led me to overreact and caused Su Wan to suffer quite a few grievances."

To my surprise, instead of getting angry, Lin Huan indulged in the notion that we were 'happy enemies, who wouldn't have met if we didn't fight,' and he was quite optimistic about it.

"Taoist Friend Zhang, you've known my granddaughter for a long time. You're a loner by nature, and if she didn't suit your temperament, you wouldn't possibly be so familiar with her."

Lin Huan began to chat up Zhang Shuying, a satisfied expression on his face.

Zhang Shuying, with his eyes half-closed, seemed enveloped in a strange, enchanting mist, nonchalant and bewitching, "Indeed, it's not that she suits my temperament. It's just that she looked so pitiful when she cried. I took pity on her, that's all. Women, indeed, are made of water; they cry at the drop of a hat..."

I was at a loss for words, struck dumb by Zhang Shuying's teasing. I didn't cry all the time, did I?

Only that time he forcibly took me away did I cry miserably.

Any normal person being rudely kidnapped by a thug would cry out of desperation, right?

"Sister, I've finally seen you again, Xiao Yuanyuan missed you so much." A chubby golden Silkworm Gu clumsily burrowed out from the neckline of Zhang Shuying's robe and plunged onto my cheek.

I took the chilly and squishy Xiao Yuanyuan off my face, "I missed you too, Xiao Yuanyuan. Did you gain another round lately? You're so round and cute~"

"I'm trying hard to make myself stronger, so I eat a lot, which makes me look a bit fat. When I become really strong, I'll be able to protect you, sister." Xiao Yuanyuan frolicked in the palm of my hand, its chubby body tumbling about.

Looking at its carefree, adorable antics, I felt my mood lifting.

At that moment, Xiao Yuanyuan suddenly paused, its beady eyes looking at me warily, "Wait, I can smell another bug. Sister, have you... gotten close to another bug behind my back?"

"Uh..." I was in disarray.

At one moment, I wondered how it found out I kept Xiao Honghong.

And at another, I pondered... was Xiao Yuanyuan feeling jealous?

Then Xiao Honghong flew over cold and stern, asking me aloofly, "Woman, what is this? Why is it in your hand?"

"Xiao Honghong, this is Xiao Yuanyuan, the Gu King Golden Silkworm! It's also a good friend of mine." Why did I feel the atmosphere chilling?

Xiao Yuanyuan sadly said, "Sister is naughty, you really have another bug, sob sob sob..."

"Besides me, you need other bugs for friends? You fancy it for its Golden Silkworm Gu strength?" Xiao Honghong was arrogantly disdainful, "I think it's nothing but a whiny weakling."

Xiao Yuanyuan: "You're the whiny weakling! I'm going to clean your clock!"

Xiao Honghong: "Come at me, I'm not afraid of you."

I had a splitting headache and hurriedly tried to break them up, grabbing one in each hand, "No fighting, good bugs don't fight."

Seeing the two bugs at odds, I knew a fight would surely leave one of them hurt.

Zhang Shuying was nonchalantly propping up his feet, completely unconcerned.

I wracked my brain for a way to mediate, "Er, can't you two be friends? Just do it for me."