

A Snake 351

Chapter 351: Wife, Where Are You?

Xiao Yuanyuan: "I want to be Sister's only one."

Xiao Honghong: "The only one, my ass. I'm Su Wan's Life-bound Gu."

Xiao Yuanyuan: "Wuu~ What if I want to defect? Master~"

"Mother clucker, you damn bug, I'm not even dead yet, and you're already thinking of being someone else's Life-bound Gu." Zhang Shuying was innocently implicated and was very frustrated.

Lin Huan frowned deeply, his face full of disdain as he sighed softly, "Ignoring the breathtaking, talented young lad and choosing to chat with a bug, that's some really twisted logic."

Therefore, utterly disappointed in me, Lin Huan decided to take matters into his own hands. He said to Zhang Shuying, "My granddaughter is like this, kind-hearted, loving, especially fond of little insects and animals. If you've been acquainted before, it saves you the trouble of getting to know each other again. I still owe you that marriage promise, and I've never found a suitable candidate. How about my granddaughter?"

"Pfft—" Zhang Shuying spat out his tea.

And it was on my face.

He hurriedly searched for tissues on himself to wipe my face, "I'm sorry, it wasn't on purpose. I clearly brought tissues out, just stuffed them in my sleeve, can't find them now."

"No worries, no worries, I have a handkerchief." I pulled out the handkerchief I carried with me, awkwardly wiped the tea off my face.

If it were me, I would have spat out tea too.

Can't really blame Zhang Shuying.

Grandpa really knows how to sell melons, praising his own.

Even treating a fondness for small animals as a selling point to Zhang Shuying.

Zhang Shuying pulled out two crumpled pieces of tissue paper from his sleeve, saw that I had a handkerchief, and stuffed them back, "Old Man Lin, don't scare me. Su Wan isn't my type, I don't like her like that."

"My granddaughter is so outstanding and good-looking too, and you don't like her?"

Lin Huan's face darkened slightly, "Is it because... Wanwan is pregnant, you despise her?"

Wasn't that question completely unnecessary?

I felt embarrassed for Lin Huan, my face burning up intensely.

Which man would be happy about suddenly becoming a dad?

He actually had the nerve to ask that.

But unexpectedly, Zhang Shuying denied it.

"Taoist Master despises a ghost, don't talk nonsense, I never said I despised her," Zhang Shuying waved his hand, "It's just simple dislike. My first love ran away with someone else, Old Man Lin, you don't need to keep worrying, feeling indebted to me. I, the Taoist Master, am devoted to the Tao, don't bother introducing me a wife anymore."

Lin Huan: "..."

Hearing Zhang Shuying's words, his former girlfriend was also from the Lin Family.

So, there was a marriage contract between him and the Lin Family, but since that girlfriend ran away, there emerged this notion of the Lin Family owing Zhang Shuying a wife.

He was also someone who had been wounded by love.

At that moment, my phone rang.

It was the distinct ringtone.

Zhang Shuying thought it was his phone ringing, fumbling around searching for his phone.

Seeing me pulling out the non-stop ringing phone, he smirked, "Geez, do we have the same ringtone, Spiritual Eye Sister?"

Lin Huan wore an auntie-like smile, murmuring a phrase, "Such a great match, indeed."

Then, Zhang Shuying noticed the nickname I had saved for Yu Longting on my phone, his eyelids twitched, "Daddy of the child... Damn, who took the Taoist Master's Green Dragon Crescent Blade? The Taoist Master needs to peel an apple for Xiuxiu. Spiritual Eye Sister, you're really damn showy! The Taoist Master has lived so long and never seen such a peculiar way of showing off love..."

Is that note so ordinary? Why did he think it was showing off?

Zhang Shuying's reaction was way too exaggerated!

Lin Huan, however, stared at me with a frosty gaze.

I felt like I really wanted to disappear right then, but how could I not answer Yu Longting's call, I was really missing Yu Longting, and avoiding his call would definitely upset him.

I told Lin Huan that I needed to take the call.

I walked to the corner and pressed the answer button.

Before I could even speak, the other end opened up ominously, "Wife, where are you?"

Chapter 352 Husband Comes to Inspect

"I'm at the Lin Family's place." I felt inexplicably guilty.

Why does this feel like a spot-check?

Yu Longting and I have always communicated via WeChat; he has never called me before, this is the first time.

He chooses neither to call early nor late but precisely at this moment.

Could it be... he knows something...

Yu Longting's voice was slightly cold, "On a blind date with Zhang Shuying?"

"Damn! You... found out so quickly? Did someone tip you off? Lin Hang??" I was angry.

That ten thousand yuan was like feeding a dog!!

Lin Hang kept on calling me 'loyal dog', 'cousin'.

Turns out he was Yu Longting's little inside man; he must have found out that Lin Huan arranged a blind date for me and secretly told Yu Longting...

Ah, it infuriates me to no end!

Yu Longting asked, "Swearing?"

"What? Can't I?" I asked, fuming.

This level of snitching and stirring up trouble, this dog-like betrayal of one's own cousin, doesn't it deserve a swear word?

From the other end of the phone came Yu Longting's clear, water-like chuckle, "It's fine, it's the first time I've heard it, quite cute."

Hearing his pleasant laughter truly brought a sense of joy and relaxation to both mind and body.

"Don't listen to Lin Hang's nonsense, Zhang Shuying caught Lin Gang and brought him back to the Lin Family, so he's at the Lin Family's place. There's no blind date or anything," I lied to Yu Longting in a hushed voice.

Once the matter of the blind date was settled as a fact.

I was afraid he'd drop everything and come back.

Yu Longting seized on the key point, "Why didn't you tell me about Lin Gang being at the Lin Family's place?"

"That matter isn't too important," I said evasively, "it just wasn't necessary to tell you specifically."

My main concern was that Yu Longting would be distracted at the sect for Lin Gang's sake, and would drop everything again to rush over.

Which is why I didn't mention Lin Gang to Yu Longting on WeChat.

"Not important?"

Yu Longting repeated the question, calmly stating, "Given Lin Huan's temperament, he would order Lin Gang's execution; with Lin Gang's life threatened, he would definitely become desperate. Who knows what he might do, and that's not important? You didn't say it because you were afraid of delaying my business? Wanwan, you're not being honest."

"Alright, since you've guessed it, I'll tell you everything." Seeing that Yu Longting guessed each point correctly, I told him about Lin Gang's scheduled execution two days later, "You're right about everything. As soon as Lin Gang returned to the sect, grandfather ordered his execution. With Lin Gang's cunning nature, he indeed wouldn't just sit and wait for death."

"In the future, you're not allowed to keep things from me."

Yu Longting warned, indicating that he would take care of the affairs at the sect before Lin Gang's execution and then come to the Lin Family.

He told me not to worry, that my affairs wouldn't burden his matters on his side.

Listening to him consider my situation so thoughtfully, my heart melted.

Embarrassed, I said thank you and hung up the phone.

Then, with a face full of apology, I walked back and said to Lin Huan and Zhang Shuying, "I apologize, grandpa, Third Master Zhang~ I was so rude to suddenly go take a call."

"Spiritual Eye Sister, why pretend to be polite in front of me?" Zhang Shuying propped his feet on the table, his long lashes obscuring his flirtatious peach-blossom eyes, looking somewhat gloomy, "Did Yu Longting ask about the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul on the phone?"

"No, your finding Lin Gang is already enough," I gratefully said to Zhang Shuying, not wanting to trouble him any further.

Zhang Shuying rolled his eyes, "Enough my ass. Are you saying that since I've caught Lin Gang, there's no need to look for the Remnant Soul anymore?"

"Pretty much," I replied, feeling a bit resigned after seeing Lin Gang's state this time, thinking that trying to get the Ancestral Fox Soul from Lin Gang was nearly as hard as ascending to heaven.

Chapter 353 Are You Embarrassed?

"The Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul will possess you as soon as it touches you, do you know the consequence of her possessing you?" Zhang Shuying furrowed her brow and asked.

I swallowed hard, "My body is the most compatible vessel for her. If she possesses me, I fear no one will be able to force her out again."

"Your understanding is one-sided; Yu Longting went to great lengths to destroy all the Remnant Souls for a reason."

Zhang Shuying tapped her fingers on the table, those bewitchingly deep eyes of hers showing an unusual depth of seriousness, "She can consume your soul in an instant, and from then on you shall never transcend after death. You will cease to exist in this world, understand?"

I felt an indescribable desolation and loneliness in my heart and nodded slightly, "Understood."

I had always known that my end would not be good, but I had never thought that I would be completely erased from this world.

Not even a fragment of my soul would remain...

Father, just how much did you detest me to set up such a situation?

"Where has Yu Longting gone? When will he return?" Zhang Shuying asked.

I replied, "He has gone back to the sect for some business. He will return before Lin Gang's execution."

"Perfect, Lin Gang, that cur, is most afraid of death. Perhaps it's an opportunity," Zhang Shuying said, stroking her chin and assessing.

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Two days passed in the blink of an eye.

The place where Lin Gang's head would be chopped off was atop a sacrificial altar.

The Four Symbols Soul Banners were hung high, fluttering in the wind.

All those present were people of the Lin family, including Old Madam Lin, Yan Hua, who also came, supported by two young girls.

My mother was somewhat fearful of Yan Hua and pulled me to stand a good distance from her.

Zhang Shuying came late, a blade of foxtail grass in her mouth, walking up beside me, "Who would have thought, Lin Gang, this fellow, has a pretty tough spine."

"He still refuses to hand over the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul?" From Zhang Shuying's words, I guessed the outcome.

With Lin Gang dead, the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul would have nowhere to be found.

She had sought Lin Gang for negotiations early in the morning.

Zhang Shuying, frustrated, bit fiercely on the foxtail grass, "I induced the Gu Poison to torture him until he cried for his dad and yelled for his mom. Then I promised to perform a Gu Removal, to let him go. Carrot and stick, both grace and might combined, yet he still wouldn't give in... Could it be that he is truly smitten... unafraid of death for the sake of the fox?"

"Did you search him?" I casually asked.

Zhang Shuying hissed, "No. Why search him? He stinks to high heaven, and this Taoist Master has a preference for cleanliness."

"Nothing, just a woman's intuition. I always feel that he carries some means of self-protection on him." I had witnessed firsthand Lin Gang's cunning, and even Yu Longting had said that Lin Gang would surely play tricks.

It was just unknown what means Lin Gang would employ to cause trouble...

In the front, Lin Huan personally brought Lin Gang up to the sacrificial altar, first confessing his own guilt to the crowd, "To not instruct one's child is the father's fault. The way Lin Gang turned out, it's all my responsibility. As the Patriarch of the Lin family, I hereby admit my failings to all present."

"Dad, don't kill me, I know my mistakes now, I will definitely change, please spare me, I don't want to die... I really don't want to die..." Lin Gang groveled at Lin Huan's feet, abjectly humbled to the dust.

His eye that had been spoiled by the Gu Insects was completely rotted away, and the hollow eye socket was exposed openly to everyone's gaze.

At this moment, with the dark red around his eye, he looked like a rotten apple eaten by worms, both horrifying and pitiable.

Lin Huan, however, was impartial and just, seeing his son in such a state did not soften him; there was only the bitter grief of disappointment upon his face, "Had you known today, why did you do it back then? You are of the Lin family, an upright and honorable Exorcist, yet you served Xuanjing. Aren't you ashamed?"

Chapter 354: The Gift for Su Wan's Niece

"It was Xuanjing who forced me, Su Wan's father, Su Chongwen, was under Xuanjing's command, he... he set a trap for me, forcing me to swear a blood oath of loyalty to Xuanjing." Lin Gang's pretense became more pitiful, his eyes bloodshot as he stared at Yan Hua in the crowd, "Mom, save me!! I admit my fault towards big sister, I schemed against her and Su Chongwen's daughter, but I do not deserve to die!! Dad, because he favored big sister... insists on my death..."

Many of the Lin Family Disciples showed sympathy on their faces, and whispered discussions began to arise among them.

They felt that although Lin Gang was at fault, it certainly wasn't to the extent that he deserved death.

"My dear Gang, it's all the fault of those two burdens, what karma have I created to give birth to... someone as shameless and vile as Lin Xiangnan? Since she already left the Lin Family over two decades ago, why did she have to come back..."

Yan Hua defended her son while her words assailing my mother and me pierced the heart.

My mom's lips were pale, and her figure shook, nearly unable to stand steadily in the wind.

"Mom, Old Madam Lin favors sons over daughters and has been confused by Lin Gang's nonsense, her words are inevitably biased, you shouldn't take it too much to heart." I held my mom's hand tightly, extremely worried that she would not be able to withstand the stress.

My mom's tears couldn't be controlled, falling in heavy droplets, "I'm fine... really fine... I'm used to her doting on my brother..."

Sometimes, the breakdown of an adult happens in an instant, and the pain from childhood takes a lifetime to heal.

My mom was middle-aged now, yet at witnessing Yan Hua's partiality, she still felt the injustice and pain similar to a child deprived of a mother's love.

As a daughter, all I could do was hold her tight to make her feel a little better.

"Lin Gang, you've thrown dirt on Wanwan and your sister; you've really outdone yourself. Today, I will make you die a convincing death."

Lin Huan spoke with powerful conviction, "When you were in Spring Wind Town, you attempted to kill your father; I nearly died by your hand. Now, you've even colluded with Xuanjing, providing the Formation layout of our Lin Family, which caused countless deaths and injuries within the sect."

At this, the voices of sympathy for Lin Gang were immediately quashed.

During the days I spent in the Lin Family, I've come to understand some of the sect's ancestral rules.

The very first one, Lin Gang's attempt on Sect Master Lin Huan's life, was a sin deserving of death by a thousand arrows.

This time, he nearly caused the annihilation of the Lin Family; there is no room for forgiveness.

"Proceed with the execution." Lin Huan commanded.

My heart skipped a beat, I stared intently at the executioner.

Was Lin Gang really going to die?

If he died, the clue to the Ancestral Fox Remnant Soul would be completely severed.

Yet for such a calamity like Lin Gang not to die, it would be against the natural order.

Old Madam Lin's cries were hoarse, "You old thing, Lin Huan!! Do you really want to kill your own son, if you dare touch a single... hair... on him... I will..."

Before Old Madam Lin could finish her hysterical shouting, she fainted due to the overwhelming emotion.

The executioner was a law enforcer trained by the Punishment Hall since childhood; he executed Lin Huan's command without any emotion.

"Before I die, I have a gift for Su Wan," Lin Gang said, no longer in the earlier panic, his smile inscrutable, completely ignoring the axe hanging above his neck.

Lin Huan dismissed him, "What could you possibly have to give to Su Wan? Continue!"

"This is also a gift for you, Lin Huan."

Lin Gang curved his lips, "My dear father, if you don't look, you'll regret it."

"For me?" Lin Huan's face showed a hint of doubt.

Fearing that Lin Gang's actions were deceitful, I gave my mom a few reassuring taps on the back and turned to Zhang Shuying, "Zhang Shuying, let's go up and take a look."

"Let's go." Zhang Shuying said.

Chapter 355: Severed Finger

Wanwan and Zhang Shuying both walked toward the ritual altar. Initially, Lin Family Disciples tried to stop us, but allowed us to pass with a glance from Lin Huan.

After ascending the altar, I said to Lin Huan, "Grandfather, I'm quite curious about Lin Gang's gift as well, so I came up to take a look."

"I am too," Zhang Shuying sneered, "Lin Gang, if your gift fails to impress the Taoist Master, he'll beat you until you're spitting up milk." Zhang Shuying spat on a piece of red talisman paper and stuck it on Lin Gang's forehead.

With a casual flick of his fingertips, the sorcery-bound ropes restraining Lin Gang easily fell away.

Lin Gang's face bore a malicious and hideous smile as he slowly pulled out a box from his chest and deliberately handed it to me, "My dear niece, Wanwan, do you recognize what's inside this box?"

As soon as Lin Gang finished speaking, I had a bad feeling in my mind.

But filled with malevolence, he opened the box, and as the wrinkled finger of a girl appeared, my head swam with dizziness.

"You... you..." I felt a surge of blood rush to my chest, nearly causing me to vomit blood.

It was simply... a loss of all humanity... heartless to the extreme...

Lin Gang knew all too well the soft spots in human nature.

He knew that I cared about Tangtang and couldn't stand anything happening to her.

That's why he deliberately showcased this severed finger to me, as though flaunting a war trophy.

Lin Gang tapped the lid of the box regretfully, "If it were reattached within twenty-four hours, it could have been restored perfectly. But it's been cut for three days now, and the finger has withered like this; it seems not even a deity can reverse this."

"What the hell is this? It looks like a child's finger. Whose unlucky child is it? I've had my eyes on you, so where did you get this finger from?" Zhang Shuying's eyes widened as he cursed nearly incoherently.

It was evident that he too could not stand it, desperately trying to conceal his heartache.

I could hardly breathe, "During the time Lin Gang was made to kneel in front of the Lin Family's gate, there must have been an accomplice... the accomplice gave it to him."

The Lin Family was exceedingly insular; it would be impossible for outsiders to approach the sect's gates.

The only possibility was that during Lin Gang's prolonged kneeling, the traitor had approached him and handed over the finger.

Lin Gang wore a look of disdain. The more shocked and devastated we appeared, the more pleased he was with himself for having grasped our vulnerabilities, "If you had been a bit kinder to me at the start, my heart would have softened, and I would have handed it over. You could have used the finger to reattach it, and Lin Xintang wouldn't have to live her life missing a finger."

"Damn it! You chopped off Tangtang's finger! I thought it looked pale and delicate, so familiar," Zhang Shuying erupted.

Zhang Shuying completely lost his composure; he leaped up, his shoes ejecting a sharp knife, as he aimed for Lin Gang's head, "I should kill you, should have killed you when I captured you."

This guy was as fast as lightning; I couldn't intercept him in time, "Don't, Xintang's life is still..." in his hands.

Before I could finish, Lin Huan swept through with a calm leg strike.

Meeting the whirlwind kick of Zhang Shuying, both men recoiled two steps backward.

Lin Huan: "Don't act rashly."

"How can I not be impulsive? Tangtang is such a treasure; she had her finger chopped off by this scum!" Zhang Shuying completely broke down, his eyes bloodshot as he roared like a wild beast.

"Lin Huan, out of everyone here, you most want to keep Lin Xintang safe," Lin Gang said with a faint smile, leisurely closing the box and tossing it toward Lin Huan, "As your son, of course, I should relieve you of your worries. Consider this severed finger a gift to you."

Chapter 356: Competing to Make You the Heir

Lin Huan hurriedly caught the box containing Tangtang's finger, holding it stiffly in his hands, "Enough talk, release Lin Xintang, and I'll let you go."

Lin Gang, who had been resolute just a second ago, was now easily spared over a single finger.

The atmosphere was tense and chilly among those present.

"No, no, no, considering Lin Xintang's background, she is worth much more." Lin Gang's bloodshot eye glared menacingly at Zhang Shuying, "You Zhang dog, remove the gu from my body."

I narrowed my eyes, carefully digesting Lin Gang's words.

Lin Gang's statement was loaded with hidden meanings; without spelling it out, he alluded to Lin Xintang's identity.

Lin Huan had said that Qing Li was the lifeblood of the Lin Family, hence as Qing Li's daughter, although of uncertain paternity, Xintang's safety was paramount to the Lin Family.

"Go ahead, Xiao Yuanyuan, and remove the gu for this little dog." Zhang Shuying, not wanting to damage his own interests, didn't bother with further idle talk and immediately let Xiao Yuanyuan do the Gu Removal.

Xiao Yuanyuan flew out from under my sleeve and burrowed into Lin Gang's nostril.

Lin Gang's eye widened in distrust, "Why did your Golden Silkworm Gu fly out from Su Wan's body? Zhang Shuying, what trick are you playing?"

"Don't be so paranoid, okay? My Tangtang is in your hands, what tricks could I possibly play? My family's Golden Silkworm Gu is more familiar with Su Wan -- is it any of your business?" Zhang Shuying said irritably.

Lin Gang sneered, "You know best but... isn't the Golden Silkworm Gu only supposed to respond to your commands? How could it be close to someone else?"

"Lin Gang, I speak the Insect Language, so the Golden Silkworm Gu is naturally closer to me," I stepped forward to quell Lin Gang's suspicions, "Not everyone is as vile as you."

"Insect Language... Not only do you have the Spiritual Eye, but you also speak Insect Language?" Jealousy was plain in Lin Gang's eyes, "Then wouldn't all the people of my mother's Miao Village treat you as a treasure and vie to make you the heir!! Su Wan, how can someone like you exist in this world... You should have been drowned at birth."

I narrowed my eyes slightly, my gaze briefly sweeping over Yan Hua at the base of the altar.

Yan Hua... turned out to be from the Miao Village...

Indeed, marriages within a large sect like the Lin Family would typically involve powerful alliances.

Otherwise, Lin Huan would not have set up a blind date for me with Zhang Shuying.

In the eyes of the Mystic Sect, my family background was comparable to Zhang Shuying's, making us a suitable match.

"Ah..." A sudden, agonizing scream from Lin Gang jolted my attention back to him.

For Gu Removal to work, the Mother Gu must devour all larvae and eggs in the bloodstream, a process that is incredibly painful.

Lin Gang lay writhing on the ground, his body's veins throbbing visibly beneath his skin, a terrifying sight.

Zhang Shuying bent down and whispered in my ear, "Is your husband Yu Longting still coming or not? Didn't you tell me the other day that he would be back today? We've been bullied to the point where Lin Gang is shitting and pissing on our heads."

"He should be here soon; even if Yu Longting arrives, we'd still face Lin Gang's blackmail. We need to cope on our own first." I had calculated every possibility, but never anticipated that Lin Gang would produce Lin Xintang's finger.

However, Lin Huan's behavior perplexed me; he'd always held deep prejudice against Xintang.

Even if he'd agreed to spare Xintang's life for my sake, it was only as a means to an end.

Why did he look more nervous about Xintang than Zhang Shuying or me earlier, agreeing so readily to let Lin Gang go in exchange for Xintang's life?

Finally.

Xiao Yuanyuan, twisting her chubby body, crawled out of Lin Gang's nostril and returned to me like a bird to its nest, "Sister, I've gotten fatter."

Xiao Honghong poked her head out from my collar, "Cut the crap, redundant."

Lin Gang's gu was removed.

He climbed to his feet with a sinister smile, "Lin Huan, there's one more thing I want -- the fox fetus birthed by Su Qiang."

Chapter 357: Why Steal My Child

"Insolence! I spared your life, and yet you dare to ask for more!"

Lin Huan shouted in anger.

Lin Gang's face twisted into a sinister smile, like a malevolent spirit crawling out of Hell, "Is such a small request considered asking for more? It shouldn't be. Lin Xintang is Qing Li and Snake Lord's daughter; isn't she worth a dead demon fetus?"

"Fine, fine! I'll give you both Su Qiang and the demon fetus." Lin Huan's forehead wrinkled so deeply, he could have trapped flies in them.

He waved his hand, signaling two disciples to bring the people over as Lin Gang had demanded.

I felt a bit dizzy, murmuring unconsciously, "What the hell? Yu Longting's... daughter...?"

"Lin Huan, you haven't told Su Wan about the relationship between Qing Li and Yu Longting? Afraid it would break your precious granddaughter's heart?"

Lin Gang burst into wild laughter, tears streaming down his grimy face, murky with filth, "You old fool, you're really biased, aren't you? On the surface, you favor males over females, saying you'll hand over the Lin Family to me, but actually... Ever since Big Sister left home, you've been thinking about how to bring her back every day, haven't you!"

Lin Huan remained calm, silent as if admitting it was true.

"What nonsense are you spouting. Qing Li is only thirty years old! Yu Longting has been trapped in the cheongsam for over twenty years. Tell me, how did Yu Longting get Qing Li pregnant?" To everyone's surprise, the only one standing up for Yu Longting was Zhang Shuying. Zhang Shuying leaped up with an agile motion and kicked Lin Gang's backside without hesitation, "Keep spouting nonsense and stirring up trouble all you want. Even if you have the Emperor's daughter in your hand, I will still beat you to death."

Lin Gang stumbled and fell face-first to the ground. Getting back up, he didn't dare to retort and half-squinted his eyes, "Ignorant. Don't you know that Qing Li has always lived in the Lin Family Loft, and that every generation of Qing Li is reincarnated?"

"That doesn't prove Xintang is Yu Longting's daughter," Zhang Shuying said.

Lin Gang: "I personally hatched Lin Xintang from the snake eggs. Anyone who has seen Lin Xintang can tell she bears an uncanny resemblance to Snake Lord, right? Isn't that so, Su Wan's little niece...?"

Me: "..."

Everything was too sudden, shockingly rich in information.

Yu Longting did bear some resemblance to Xintang, but not too much.

What was most astonishing was that the loft was actually where Qing Li had always resided, and that Qing Li, after reincarnating, would still be found by the Lin Family and continued to be raised in the loft...

By this calculation, Xintang might not be this life's Qing Li's daughter.

Xintang could very well be from the eggs laid by a previous life's Qing Li, which Lin Gang then managed to hatch...

It was all too chaotic!

I felt my brain's capacity was severely inadequate, unable to digest such a vast amount of information in a short time!!

"Spiritual Eye Sister, I can't help your husband anymore. Lin Gang's evidence is too convincing! When is your husband coming? Or is he too guilty to show up?"

Zhang Shuying backed down and babbled in my ear.

I replied honestly to Zhang Shuying, "I don't know."

At that moment, Su Qiang came slowly, wearing shackles.

She held a dead infant in her arms, and she, blind in both eyes, trembled uneasily.

Barefoot and disheveled, she looked utterly desolate and forlorn, "Where am I? What are you going to do to me now?"

"Give me the child." Lin Gang approached and forcefully snatched the dead infant from Su Qiang's arms.

Su Qiang immediately panicked, "Who are you? Why are you taking my child?"

"Your child? You're nothing but a vessel for the Xuanjing bloodline. Come with me, I'll take you to meet Xuanjing," Lin Gang declared brazenly in front of the Lin Family, leaving unobstructed, "Once we leave safely, Lin Xintang will naturally return to the Lin Family. The little girl is of no use to me in my hands anyway. I want to keep her around to irritate Su Wan~"

"Lin Gang, what are you thinking? Slandering me for having a child with another woman, trying to drive a wedge between my wife and me, and you just want to walk away like that?"

From not far away, a man in a green Hanfu with a Jade Pendant hanging from his waist came striding over.

His Cloud Brocade clothing, lavish and princely by itself, coupled with his innate Emperor's aura, made him appear as if an all-powerful monarch had arrived.

For a moment, his presence was so overpowering it was nearly suffocating.

Chapter 358: Abnormally Powerful

Yu Longting walked towards me with hurried steps, followed by Lin Hang, who was holding a seemingly asleep young girl in his arms, her lower body resembling that of a serpent. "Lin Gang, you black-hearted son of a turtle, your time is up, I'm telling you."

Yu Longting walked straight towards me as I looked up joyfully, "Did you find Xintang? And you rescued her? Why are you dressed in ancient attire... I'm still not quite used to it."

"I came in a hurry, so I didn't change out of the clothes I wear in the sect," Yu Longting explained anxiously as he grasped my hands, "Wife, listen to me, I've done nothing to betray you, nor have I touched another woman; you truly are the only one for me."

"You don't need to be so nervous; I've never doubted you. Do you think I'd be foolish enough to believe Lin Gang?" I contained my urge to hug Yu Longting, considering the crowd around us.

Yu Longting suddenly grabbed the back of my head, pulling me into his embrace, "I should have taken you to my sect; I miss you so much it's tearing me apart."

"Hey, don't get mushy at a time like this, Lin Gang... what if he runs away..." I used all my strength and nearly got a neck injury, just to lift my head and look in the direction of Lin Gang.

Lin Gang, cunning by nature, saw the bad situation and took off with a dead fox fetus.

This guy knew the Eight Trigrams walking technique of the Mystic Sect, covering what seemed like a hundred steps in one.

As Lin Gang was about to get away, Yu Longting's wide sleeves fluttered lightly.

Two Black Snakes shot out, resembling black arrows drawn taut on a bowstring.

One entwined Lin Gang's ankle, and the other constricted around Lin Gang's neck.

Lin Gang tripped and face-planted, yet he let out a cold chuckle.

With a slight toss, he threw the baby high into the air.

Such a fall to the ground would undoubtedly crush its brain.

Though it appeared lifeless, a dead fetus.

It bore features of a fox, giving it a rather eerie appearance.

I rushed forward attempting to catch the newborn, covered in purple bruises, but suddenly, a dark shadow flashed by, snatching the baby into its arms.

That person turned out to be Lin Gang, who had unexpectedly grown a fox's head; he emitted a strange purple mystical power and easily shook off the Black Snakes that bound him.

He stood on the pointed top of a pagoda-shaped stone lantern, his wide robes fluttering in the wind, "Long time no see, Yu Longting! Su Wan!! You and your wife had the audacity to harm my woman's fox fetus."

"Xuanjing! You are Xuanjing!" I blurted out, immediately realizing Lin Gang was possessed by Xuanjing.

"Xuanjing, how does it feel to have your cultivation powers greatly increased?" Zhang Shuying drew the Money Sword that he carried behind and also jumped on a stone lantern.

Xuanjing's greenish eyes tinted with a sinister gleam, he sneered: "Thanks to you, after taking Zhang Family's Three Treasures Heart Sutra and Su Qiang's pair of eyes, I wonder when else I would have broken free from that coffin."

I looked towards Zhang Shuying. Xuanjing was not only capable of invoking spirits into others but could even leave the Fox Coffin.

The reason he was still possessing Lin Gang was likely because the Lin Family's place was a critical location of the Mystic Sect, and he couldn't enter on his own.

"I must have been out of my mind when I allied with you and attacked on your behalf, and now I have to deal with a fox problem. I, the Taoist Master, will have to take care of it myself," Zhang Shuying regretted, sending countless talismans flying from his sleeve, coordinated with his Money Sword.

Striking through the air, his move was unstoppable, heading directly for Xuanjing's face.

Xuanjing stood still, flicking his finger invisibly, "Overestimating yourself."

A black Qi Force charged out, instantly crushing all of Zhang Shuying's preparations.

Caught off-guard, Zhang Shuying stumbled backwards several steps.

With severe tremors in his chest, he vomited blood frantically, nearly spilling his guts, and his Life Lamp dimmed suddenly.

Despite knowing that the Blood Splendor Robe had been used too many times and was almost ineffective,

I immediately took off my coat, quickly stripped off the Blood Splendor Robe I wore underneath, and draped it over the barely breathing Zhang Shuying, "You've sustained severe internal injuries; Xuanjing's power has reached monstrous levels."

Chapter 359: Bad at It but Loves to Play

"Taoist Zhang, it looks like you're as weak as you are playful. Rest and tend to your injuries, I'll handle this." Yu Longting appeared with a flash, standing in front of me and Zhang Shuying.

Zhang Shuying cautioned, "Be careful. Xuanjing is transforming into the Nine-tailed Fox, and with your cultivation damaged, I'm afraid..."

"Boosting others' morale while undermining one's own prestige," Yu Longting disdainfully interrupted.

From the wide sleeve of his robe, a pure white Giant Python suddenly emerged.

The python was as thick as a bowl, deceptively corpulent and bloated.

Yet in half a breath, it had struck near Xuanjing.

Xuanjing hastily retreated backward, his fox head's fur puffing up. "Snake Lord, have you gone mad?"

"The mad one isn't you, perhaps? Weak as you are, you still dare to conjure tricks in front of me, despite being beaten so many times. Haven't you learned your lesson yet, insisting on seeking death here?" Yu Longting's face bore a wicked smile as the pure white Giant Python aggressively chased after Xuanjing.

Having witnessed Yu Longting battle Qingyang with his Primordial Spirit before, my heart leaped to my throat as I tightly grasped the wide hem of his robe.

Xuanjing was right; Yu Longting was utterly insane.

When he went mad, even he was afraid of himself.

The injuries on his Primordial Spirit had just started to heal, yet here he was again, sacrificing it to fight to the death with someone.

But I... really couldn't stop him...

All I could do was fret!

"I'm seeking death? If the Lin Family hadn't taken my child, I wouldn't bother coming here! I will return today's grudge a hundredfold in the future." Xuanjing pulled the Hairpin from his hair, which transformed into a long sword and slashed towards the White Snake.

The moment the White Snake was repelled, the long sword also broke in half.

It all happened in the blink of an eye.

A dark mist flew out from Lin Gang's body, carrying the fetus and Su Qiang, and they escaped quickly.

The White Snake did not pursue the dark mist but instead pierced through Lin Gang's chest from behind.

Blood splattered out, leaving a huge bloody hole in Lin Gang's chest.

Yet the White Snake remained unstained with any blood!

"Gang! My Gang!" Yan Hua was the first to collapse to the ground in tears, her rage from witnessing her own son's death vented on me and Yu Longting. "Snake Lord! Su Wan! You two actually killed my boy! I, Yan Hua, swear not to coexist under the same sky as you! I will personally kill you and scatter your bodies into pieces!"

"Pfft—" Yu Longting arched his back, unable to control himself as he spat out a mouthful of blood, and the weak and slow pure white Giant Python crawled back and disappeared into his sleeve.

I grabbed Yu Longting as he staggered, glaring coldly at Yan Hua, "Lin Gang maligned Yu Longting, he deserved his death! If you seek revenge for your son, I, Su Wan, am always here. Yu Longting, I'll assist you back to my mother's Waterside Pavilion to rest. As long as I'm here, if anyone from the Lin Family dares to harm you, I will fight them with my life."

"Wanwan... you don't blame me? For killing... your uncle?"

Yu Longting, with a forced smile, spat out another mouthful of blood, his teeth stained red.

In his eyes, however, there was still an unstoppable arrogance.

"What uncle—he was nothing but a shameless villain. If you hadn't killed him, he'd surely have been a disaster."

I was almost beside myself with worry, tears flowing uncontrollably from my eyes. "Stop talking, let's discuss this after your wounds are healed. No matter what you say, I'll patiently listen."

"I can't hold this in... Wanwan... I love you..." Yu Longting leaned into my arms, the tall, graceful man now appearing fragile as he relied entirely on me, gently lifting his hand to wipe my tears.

"Granny, why wait for later to avenge? Yu Longting killed my father, and I want to kill him with my own hands now!"

A sickly-sweet voice echoed through the crowd. As everyone looked over in shock, my mother's inexplicably helpless voice also rang out, "Xin... Mei... let go of me, what are you doing to... your aunt..."

Chapter 360: Crushing the Life Token

"Auntie, how can you be so foolish? Of course, I want your life. Only by causing Su Wan immense pain can I feel even the slightest bit of joy." Lin Xinmei coldly sneered, her face still appearing pure and innocent.

Zhang Che drew out the Peach Wood Sword and shouted coldly, "Lin Xinmei, you're courting death! Let her go!"

Lin Xinmei had unexpectedly taken my mother hostage, her fingers tightly gripping my mother's neck, "Uncle Zhang Che, you've got it wrong. I'm already dead, merely residing in my sister's body. How can the dead seek death?"

My heart leaped to my throat, and I quickly stepped up to Zhang Che's side, whispering, "Uncle Zhang, Lin Xinmei has a Forbidden Woman's sorcery carved into her palm. No matter how fast you strike, she can instantly kill my mother."

"I see, I never expected the Lin Family to nourish a tiger to their own detriment, keeping a treacherous disaster by their side." Ice-cold frost filled Zhang Che's eyes, his tightly clenched knuckles turning ashen, reflecting his deep concerns.

I took a deep breath and said to Zhang Che, "Uncle Zhang, if you can trust me, let me handle this matter."

"Okay," Zhang Che nodded slightly.

My icy gaze fell on Lin Xinmei, "Lin Xinmei, you persistently claim to seek revenge for Lin Gang. Holding my mother hostage does you no good. Your target is me; let me switch places with her."

"Wrong, Su Wan, if my target was you, I wouldn't have waited until now to make a move." Lin Xinmei's face was full of mockery, "Over these days at the Lin Family, I had numerous chances to kill you, a weakling who knows nothing."

I struggled to suppress the tearing and anxiety in my heart, maintaining a calm demeanor, "So it is directed at Yu Longting. Since you did not harm me but were waiting in hiding for an opportunity. You were actually waiting for Yu Longting to come to the Lin Family, waiting for him to be gravely injured. That would be the perfect time for you to strike. Am I right?"

"I didn't want to reveal myself, but Xuanjing, Lin Gang, Su Qiang—those useless ones—couldn't even handle a dead snake with dispersed cultivation, forcing me to take action myself." Lin Xinmei seemed confident of her victory, her crimson lips curving into a seductive smirk, her laughter ringing out like sleigh bells, "Su Wan, I want to see you kill Yu Longting with your own hands, causing his soul to scatter and never find peace!"

I couldn't comprehend Lin Xinmei's approach. "What... what are you saying?"

"Crush Yu Longting's Life Token, obliterate him, and I will let your mother go. Do you really want to watch your own birth mother die for a Demon Snake?" Lin Xinmei's fingertips lightly traced my mother's face, her lips curling upwards.

I bit my lip hard, "I can't, I can't bear to see my mother die—not even at the cost of my own life." I lowered my eyes towards Yu Longting, gazing at his pale face, "Didn't you disdain me before, never considering me one of your own, wishing deeply for a death you couldn't meet? Let your wish be fulfilled this time."

"Yu Longting, perhaps this is fate, time and again letting you die at the hands of a Su family member."

Seeing this, Lin Xinmei's excitement grew, but she gradually tightened her grip, completely suffocating my mother, her eyes bulging out in pain.

Unable to utter a sound, tears continuously streamed down her face.

"To die at the hands of my wife, I am willing; you want to die at the hands of your beloved, but have no partner." Yu Longting's eyes overflowed with a mischievously gentle smile, his fingertips delicately brushing the ring finger of my hand, the hidden Snake-shaped Ring barely visible, "My wife, I am willing to die for you."

"I am about to kill you, yet you boast endlessly, not hating me at all. Is there a more foolish snake than you?"

I lifted my other hand to gently touch Xiao Honghong's little head peeking from my sleeve, my eyes steadfastly focused on my mother stepping towards the Ghost Gate, my voice trembling, "One last question, Lin Xinmei, how did you know the Life Token of Yu Longting was with me?"

Yu Longting had placed something so critical in my care.

This was supposed to be a deep secret, unknown to anyone else!

"I overheard your mother convincing Lin Huan to accept Yu Longting, mentioning Yu Longting had even given you his Life Token," Lin Xinmei sneered coldly, starting to count down, "I give you three seconds, one, two..."