

A Snake 491

Chapter 491 The Number One Expert

"What's not normal about it, you quack."

Yu Rongling pulled his wrist from Beichen's grasp and took his own pulse, excitement written all over his face, "I don't have a single problem with my body now, I'm back to my best condition, full health. Wow, I'm at my peak again!"

"That's exactly what's not normal, given Second Master's health condition, it would take at least thirty to fifty years to fully recover."

Beichen bowed his head, a thoughtful look on his face as he stroked his chin, "Moreover, his Primordial Spirit was out of his body for so long, his body should have sustained significant damage, but Second Master isn't hurt at all, and even his past injuries are healed. In short, there's definitely something fishy going on when there is such an anomaly."

I slowly exhaled a breath of turbid air, my mind already as clear as a mirror, "There are rumors the Rat Immortal is skilled in medicine, it must have been that senior Rat Immortal who stepped in to heal Yu Rongling's injuries."

"Sister-in-law, that old rat spirit wouldn't be so kind-hearted! He wouldn't hesitate to threaten my life over a disagreement, sister-in-law, did you agree to something with it?" Yu Rongling was never confused when it mattered, he asked me with a clear head.

I neither confirmed nor denied, "I did agree to some things with the elder, but they're all things I can do with a flip of my hand; you don't need to feel pressured about it."

"Now that it's proven Grandpa is fine, I should be able to leave, right?" Little Rabbit Sister was getting restless.

A thin layer of snow covered her fur, and her snowy white body seemed to blend into the winter scene.

"Little sister, just give me a little more time; it won't be for nothing."

I comforted Little Rabbit Sister, and instructed Rongling, "Rongling, since you've completely recovered, you won't need the Cultivation Spiritual Garment. Take it off and lend it to Elder Rat Immortal."

"Lend... lend it to that old thing??"

Yu Rongling opened his mouth wide, holding his chest with both hands, his face covered in deepening cracks, "That was made for my brother by you, how can you lend it to someone else, and to a disgusting old rat spirit at that. It's going to get dirty and stink... My brother is a cleanliness freak... Sister-in-law... don't mess around, I'll accuse you of indecency..."

"When the time comes, I'll make another one for your brother; that'll solve it. I'll make clothes for your brother for the rest of my life, ensuring he'll never be able to wear them all out." Ignoring Yu Rongling's squeals like a pig being slaughtered, I stripped off the weightless, snowy white Cultivation Spiritual Garment from him and tossed it directly onto Little Rabbit Sister, "Take this to your grandpa, Little Rabbit Sister."

"What's this for?" Little Rabbit Sister asked me, surprised as she glanced at Yu Rongling.

Yu Rongling, with his upper body bare, huddled his arms around his chest like an abused little wife, sneezing pitifully in the snow.

I appreciated Little Rabbit Sister for carrying me twice in the snowy weather, so I patted her little head, "After your grandpa wears it, you'll understand."

"So there are good people among humans after all, Grandmaster of the Lin Family, you're a good person." Little Rabbit Sister murmured these words, then suddenly turned and hopped away, disappearing into the snow.

On the way back to the hotel, I gave Beichen an overview of what happened.

Yu Rongling's Primordial Spirit was abruptly pulled away in his sleep, taken by the rat spirit to its wooden hut and locked up.

Many things he was also kept in the dark about, even unaware why he was abducted. After hearing what I told Beichen, he understood, "Damn! Sister-in-law, that damn rat spirit wants to get back that Grey Immortal Cheongsam, so it kidnapped me!! It doesn't dare to touch the Lin Family's territory, but it kidnaps my Primordial Spirit, isn't this bullying?"

"Isn't the real issue that Su Wan made a blood oath to return the Rat Clothes? If the Lin Family refuses, what then?" Beichen was much more mature in his thinking than Yu Rongling and immediately saw the predicament I was in.

Chapter 492: The Treasury Door Is Unlocked

Yu Rongling's face turned pale all at once, and she looked at me nervously, "Sister-in-law, the Rat Clothes are a treasure of the human world; the people of the Lin family despise me so much, how could they possibly hand it over for my sake? You made a blood oath, and if you don't keep your promise, you will... you will die."

"Crack—"

The off-road vehicle emitted a harsh braking sound in the snow, and Beichen turned the steering wheel intending to turn back, "Let's go, find that rat to break the blood oath."

"Don't rush, listen to me, I don't have to fulfill the oath right away."

Seeing how worried they were about me, I was touched and spoke in a softer tone, "When I made the oath, I left a loophole; I didn't specify the exact time for handing over the Rat Clothes."

"Phew~ You scared me, but you're clever, sister-in-law. I thought you were really bound by that dead rat's oath." Yu Rongling patted her chest and lay back in her seat, continuing to laze about.

Beichen narrowed his eyes, not so optimistic, "Even if there's a loophole in the oath, it can't simply be ignored. Su Wan, do you know who that old rat is? He's probably much older than Snake Lord."

I shook my head, completely clueless.

Among the Four Great Immortal Clans of the fox, the yellow weasel, the white marten, and the grey rat, I was actually unfamiliar with almost all of them.

It was because of Yu Longting that I got to know a few beings from the Snake Tribe among the willow spirits, and because I was hunted by Xuanjing, I knew that Xuanjing was the head of the Fox Immortal.

"It's just Qi Yaogang, the old progenitor of Grey Gate, once the top expert among the Four Great Immortal Clans. Who else has had their wife sewn onto a cheongsam?" Yu Rongling muttered carelessly, "But that was the past. He's nearing the end of his days now, and my brother could squash him with one finger."

"Not necessarily, Snake Lord's cultivation is not as good as it used to be," Beichen stated the truth, "In a fight between Qi Yaogang and Snake Lord, it's hard to say who would win or lose."

Yu Rongling was unconvinced, "Beichen, are you still one of us or what, boosting someone else's morale and crushing our own prestige?"

Beichen: "That's a foolhardy courage you're showing."

Yu Rongling: "Who are you calling a fool? Want to fight?"

"Alright, stop arguing, this isn't so serious." Seeing that others hadn't bothered me yet, but these two were about to start bickering, I hurriedly shared my thoughts to lighten the mood, "According to Elder Qi's wishes, as long as he can see his first wife once more before he dies, he won't trouble me. With the Cultivation Spiritual Garment, his life can be extended."

The two who were at loggerheads finally calmed down after hearing what I had to say.

Yu Rongling had a sudden realization, "So, you're using the Cultivation Spiritual Garment to extend the old man's life, and that's an intention behind it too?"

"Yes." I nodded.

"Su Wan, there's something else I'm concerned about."

While driving, Beichen pondered, "Not many people know you're from the Lin family, not even Qi Yaogang. It's very likely you were being watched when you were going in and out of the timber yard while staying at Yun Hao's place."

"I've thought about that. Are you saying that the incident at the Serpent Domain... could be related to Elder Qi?" I too had some suspicions about the old rat's motives for stealing Yu Longting's father's body from the Serpent Domain.

The old rat had less than seven days left to live. It was too much of a coincidence that the incident of dispatching Yu Longting just happened within these seven days. It might have been planned in advance.

Beichen said approvingly, "We've come to the same conclusion. The missing sarcophagus of Snake Lord's father is likely related to him. I want to go to the Serpent Domain to inform Snake Lord of this and remind him to be more vigilant."

"You go to the Serpent Domain to find Yu Longting quickly, don't worry about me. It's good timing since Yu Er's strength has recovered; he can protect me on the way back to Spring Wind Town." I felt vaguely uneasy, and my hunches about these things were usually accurate; I hoped that Yu Longting wouldn't run into any trouble at the Serpent Domain."

Chapter 493: Barbarian Village

Beichen frowned, clearly not very trusting, "He protected you?"

"What? Look down on me? I would risk my life for my sister-in-law!" Yu Er puffed up his eyes angrily, resembling a bulb-eyed goldfish.

Beichen seemed touched by his words and changed his tune, "I didn't mean any disrespect, protecting Su Wan is good."

People who disliked each other now temporarily shook hands and made peace.

After returning to the hotel and tidying up briefly, Yu Rongling drove me back to Spring Wind Town.

As soon as I got back I was so tired I lay flat and rested, sleeping for a whole day and night; I awoke groggily to the sound of knocking.

I casually threw on a jacket and shuffled over in my slippers to open the door.

Seeing the person standing at the door, I said, "Beichen, have you come back from the Serpent Domain?"

"Yes." Beichen nodded solemnly, "Snake Lord encountered some trouble in the Serpent Domain..."

Suddenly, the wardrobe door burst open and a tall man tumbled out, "Ouch, that hurt, my butt... Hiss~~"

"Dumbass, you're healed now, so why are you sleeping in my wardrobe?" I regretted so badly, why did I blurt out and let him sleep in the wardrobe.

Yu Rongling lazily got up from the wardrobe door and stretched, like a maggot, "Sister-in-law, I was hibernating, of course, I needed to find somewhere comfortable, and your and brother's wardrobe smells like mom."

"Mom..." I thought of Qing Li and was suddenly lost in thought.

I had not yet told the dumbass about Qing Li who's his mom, and in City A, it seemed only he sensed that his mother was in the Lin Family, thus he had brashly entered the Lin Family Sect regardless of life and death.

This child, probably more attached to his mother than anyone else.

When Yu Rongling saw Beichen, he finally perked up, "Where's my brother? Has he come back yet?"

"Not yet, you better go help out a bit. Snake Lord is suppressing those restless Snake Spirits alone," Beichen furrowed his brows.

The previously half-dead looking Yu Rongling suddenly brightened, "Those Snake Spirits have been restless for a while; if it wasn't for dad suppressing them, they would have rebelled long ago! Finally, it's my turn to be of use, sister-in-law, I'm going to support my brother now, bye-bye."

Before his words were finished, he dashed out and disappeared in a flash.

This unfortunate child is indeed simple-minded.

Even a tricky issue for Yu Longting excites him.

I asked Beichen, "How is Yu Longting doing in the Serpent Domain?"

"He's just finding it a bit troublesome, and needs some time," Beichen said.

Seeing something off about Beichen's expression and that he hadn't stayed in the Serpent Domain to help but had come back, I proactively asked, "Beichen, do you have something else to discuss with me?"

Beichen nodded gravely, "In the Serpent Domain, Snake Lord instructed me to fetch some tonics for you from the treasury. But..."

"But what??" I asked seriously.

Though he was usually cold and decisive, it was rare for him to hem and haw like this.

Beichen pursed his lips, his complexion as dark as the bottom of a pot, "When you and Snake Lord left the treasury, did you notice... the door to the treasury wasn't closed."

"It seems... it wasn't closed. What's the problem? Is leaving the treasury door open a big deal?" I carefully recalled, at that time Yu Longting didn't close it and I didn't care either, his Snake Cave's defensive formation and prohibitions were way better than Lin Family's, "Could it be that the Snake Cave has been robbed?"

Would someone dare to steal from Snake Lord on Snake Mountain? Could it be?

But even if it has been robbed, it wouldn't be Beichen's fault. Beichen's complexion doesn't have to be this troubled.

Chapter 494: Dragon King Marries

"It's not exactly a case of theft, but it's pretty much the same."

Beichen took a deep breath, his expression exceedingly complex, "A ginseng has run away, but that's not the main issue. It... it took the elixir from the Pill Furnace."

"Wait, did I hear that wrong? What do you mean... a ginseng has run away?" I scratched my head, not understanding what Beichen was talking about.

Xiao Li suddenly piped up, having overheard Beichen and me, "How can you not understand that? I get it. The ginseng has turned into a spirit! I've heard old folks say that a ginseng that becomes a spirit turns into a child, so Ginseng Harvesters tie a red thread around the young ginsengs, right, Brother Chenn?"

"Yeah." When confronted with the lively and pretty Xiao Li, Beichen's cold gaze softened, and he gently patted her head.

Just as I was about to revel in the sweetness of this couple, I suddenly realized something earth-shattering, "Wait a minute, in Yu Longting's Pill Room, there seems to be only one elixir made so far, right?"

It truly is a world where wonders never cease, even a ginseng can become a spirit...

What is this all about?

"The elixir that the ginseng took with it is the one that Snake Lord crafted for you, and the ingredients were very precious. Crafting a new one would take two hundred years."

Beichen nodded gravely, sharing another piece of bad news with me, "What's more troublesome is that, according to the Compass, it has hidden itself in Barbarian Village."

My heart skipped a beat. That elixir was my only chance to get Love Soul back. No matter what, I had to find a way to retrieve it. "What is Barbarian Village?"

"It's a Living Miao Village in Western Hunan, extremely hostile to outsiders. If I go there to look for the ginseng, there will be no one to protect you," Beichen expressed his concern.

All I could think about was getting back the elixir that Yu Longting crafted for me, and without a second thought, I said, "That's not a problem; we can go to Barbarian Village together."

Beichen said the ginseng that had turned into a spirit was exceptionally clever.

It was only second in intelligence to a zombie demon, likely hiding in remote mountains to avoid capture.

Having fled from Snake Mountain, it had incredibly managed to hide itself in Barbarian Village in Western Hunan.

Xiao Li didn't want to part with Beichen any longer, so she cajoled and pleaded until we both agreed to accompany her.

Barbarian Village was located in a particularly unique place, on a small island in a large river.

Year-round isolation from the world; since it's a Living Miao Village, only a geographic location appears on maps, with the island's details remaining a blank.

In the past, Miao Villages were divided into 'raw' and 'ripe,' the former having minimal contact with the outside world, reflecting a primitive lifestyle.

On the other hand, those who had embraced Han culture and had less primitive lifestyles were considered 'ripe.'

Typically, primitive tribes are very exclusive and not easily accessible.

We didn't cross the river to Barbarian Village hastily but decided to stay in a small town closest to the village.

There was no airport, no high-speed train here.

There was only a crude train station, and as soon as we got there, it began to drizzle relentlessly.

"No, I won't go with you, and I never want to go back to Barbarian Village again... Help..." As soon as we arrived at the homestay Beichen had booked, we encountered a girl being dragged out of the homestay.

In the dead of winter, she was wearing just a thin floral dress, nearly clinging to her body as she was soaked by the rain.

Drenched and shivering cold, she kept crying for help.

Three burly men were dragging her along the street as if she were a dead dog, and the few passersby quickly avoided them.

Xiao Li's face darkened, tugging at the corner of Beichen's clothes, "Why are they kidnapping a girl in broad daylight, and why isn't anyone doing anything about it?"

"This girl is originally from Barbarian Village. Perhaps she was going to be sent to Lord Dragon King as a consort, got scared, and ran away from the village. And now, she's being dragged back by the villagers,"

the middle-aged woman laundering under the leaking eaves of the inn spoke cheerfully, showing no pity for the girl's plight.

Chapter 495: High Priest

"Become the Dragon King's beloved wife? This is a sacrifice... of the living..."

I never imagined that such savage and cruel customs still existed today.

The old man who came out of the guesthouse, smoking his dry pipe, interjected, "To marry the Dragon King, the bride must first be drowned."

I was instantly speechless, a chill spreading throughout my body.

Xiao Li's pupils contracted, her body visibly trembling.

Clearly, the mention of sacrificing a living person had frightened her greatly.

Beichen's thin lips parted slightly, uttering only two words, "Save her."

"Alright." I couldn't just watch an innocent girl be taken away to drown; I agreed subconsciously.

Beichen moved gracefully like the wind, catching up in a few steps and blocking their path, "Let her go."

"Who's this wild brat? Daring to obstruct the way of the Barbarian Villagers?" the leader, a brawny man, roared coldly, clad in a small ethnic-patterned vest despite the freezing weather.

His thick arms, exposed in the rain, didn't seem cold in the slightest, his body radiating an astonishing heat.

Before Beichen could reply, the brawny man, with cold derision, glanced at the girl dragged on the ground and lifted her emaciated, pale chin with the tip of his boot, "Couldn't be that she's a lover you met outside? How utterly shameful."

"Bullshit, his lover is me, alright? You're blind," retorted Xiao Li, catching up with me, and upon hearing the brawny stranger insinuating romantic connections, she immediately let go of my hand and latched onto Beichen's.

The brawny man's eyes turned icy, "Since she's not your lover, why meddle in our affairs?"

"Seeing injustice and not speaking out, just because this girl is from your village doesn't mean you can disregard human life and send her to be sacrificed to the River God," Xiao Li argued righteously. The murderous aura on the man was heavy, his face with thick-set muscles frightening enough to ward off evil spirits at the door, which scared her into leaning closer to Beichen.

Beichen's face remained impassive, but his arm naturally drew Xiao Li closer to his chest, "Hand her over."

He made it sound too simple, not even offering a reason.

It would be strange if the people of the Barbarian Village agreed to hand her over; they all took him for a troublemaker and looked exceedingly displeased.

"Kill these three meddlesome outsiders!" someone in the crowd shouted. Each of them carried a silver knife inlaid with gemstones.

As three brawny men drew their knives, a person wrapped in a grey cloth, dressed like a mop, spoke up, "Wait, this woman... her fate... is more suitable to marry Lord Dragon King."

The voice was hoarse yet sharp.

It turned out to be an elderly woman.

Had this 'mop' not spoken, I would've assumed all those in the group were men.

"High Priest, is it the woman with the big belly? Could Lord Dragon King be interested in her?" the leading brawny man scrutinized my stomach and frowned.

A withered hand emerged from the grey robe, lifting a long-nailed index finger to point at Xiao Li, "Her."

This person already resembled a mop, but being drenched by the rain made her look even more like one that had just mopped the floor and not yet been cleaned.

"You must be the High Priest of the Barbarian Village, right? It's said that the High Priest can communicate with the gods, so you should be a reasonable person," I addressed her.

The moment the High Priest pointed at Xiao Li, my heart tightened, and I stepped forward to shield Xiao Li, "True Dragons have vanished from this world; where then does the Dragon King come from? There's no need for him to take a wife."

Master Qingyang is the number one expert in the Human Realm; if he says there are no True Dragons in this world, then there certainly are none.

Yu Longting was targeted by Qingyang precisely because he's the closest thing to a dragon in this world.

"Young lady, you can eat shit indiscriminately, but you can't talk nonsense," the High Priest said.

Her hoarse and sharp voice sinisterly articulated each word, "Daring to question the Dragon King, you're seeking death."

Suddenly, her cadence ended in a piercing screech that split the air as countless water bugs, flapping their wings, flew out from her damp sleeves.

But these water bugs weren't targeting me; they attacked Xiao Li from the side.

Chapter 496: Tian Family's Red Gu Woman

"Xiao Honghong, help me!" In my urgency, I touched my collar.

Beneath the collar, Xiao Honghong had been sleeping for a long time.

The moment my words ended, she suddenly woke up.

Without any delay, she flew out, creating a red whirlwind as she went, "Squeak squeak squeak."

After just a few chirps to drive them away, those low-level Gu Insects, the water bugs, fell to the ground in large numbers.

The rest retreated en masse, not even escaping back into the High Priest's sleeves.

Frightened and losing direction, they scampered in all directions.

"Pfft—" The High Priest, as if struck by some invisible heavy blow, clutched his chest and staggered back several steps.

The burly men looked shocked but still rushed over to support the thoroughly drenched High Priest like a mop, "High Priest, are you alright?"

"Gu Woman, such a powerful Gu Woman, I failed to recognize her, and she's from the Tian Family, the Red Gu Woman!! Very good!!"

The High Priest trembled with fury, the eyes revealed from under his hat and mask swept a venomous glance at me, "Bring... bring Bai Zhanhe back, I'll hold them off here."

Several men hurriedly dragged the injured girl to a van, but no longer did she cry out, instead, she stared blankly at me and Xiao Honghong, "Sister Tian Na's... Gu Insects..."

Beichen, with a stern face, was about to pursue, but I held him back.

I could deeply sense that the High Priest was actually quietly burning his own blood, ready to fight us to the death at any moment. I whispered to Beichen, "Don't chase the poor, besides, we're going to Barbarian Village soon, so we'll solve it all then."

Provoking a frenzied enemy is the last thing to do as it could easily lead to mutual destruction.

For us, the most advantageous strategy was still to outsmart them.

"Okay." Beichen approved of my words and halted.

Seeing us not taking any action, the High Priest had a moment of astonishment.

He then cast a malicious glance at me and boarded the van.

"Let's go, back to the guesthouse to rest for a while; traveling by train all this way is tiring." I gestured to call back Xiao Honghong, who obediently lay on my shoulder.

Our group then returned to the guesthouse.

At the entrance of the guesthouse, the three of us looked seriously concerned.

The guesthouse was unexpectedly locked from the inside with a chain and an old-fashioned copper lock.

"What happened? There were people washing clothes at the entrance just now." Xiao Li walked up to the front door and peered into the guesthouse through the crack.

I already understood the situation at hand, "They probably don't welcome us staying here anymore and have issued an order to evict us."

At that moment, a few hundred-yuan bills were stuffed through the door crack.

A voice of an old man coughing a few times came from inside, "This is your room money; you all should leave the town early and stop troubling us anymore."

"Troubling? When did we ever trouble you?" Xiao Li, enraged, banged on the door a few times, "Old man, at least make it clear!"

The old man paused, and said coldly: "It has been raining for more than two months non-stop. If no one is sent to marry Lord Dragon King soon, I fear a great flood will occur... You people understand nothing and almost ruined everything, killing us all!"

"Old man, do you know when Barbarian Village will marry off a bride to Lord Dragon King?" I ignored the old man's hostility and asked through the door crack.

My tone was very polite. After a moment of hesitation, the old man looked through the crack of the door and informed me, "It's said to be in five days. Do you people even think you can stop it? A bunch of outsiders, you probably can't even find the water path to Barbarian Village."

"We will prove that the rain is merely a natural weather phenomenon, that there is no such thing as Lord Dragon King, and there is no need to sacrifice the lives of ordinary girls to appease him." After speaking, I picked up the luggage on the ground and said to Xiao Li and Beichen next to me, "Let's go. When one place doesn't keep you, there will be another that does."

"Yuanyuan... no, Su Wan, you... are so domineering." Once Xiao Li left Spring Wind Town, she stopped using my pseudonym and almost called me by the wrong name accidentally.

She looked at me with admiration and excitedly hugged me.

Chapter 497: Poison-Resistant Medicine Pouch

Beichen cleared his throat, "Cough, Xiao Li, didn't you say you would only hug me?"

It turned out that Beichen wasn't just being sullen, he was slyly flirty.

In short, slyly flirtatious.

"Brother Chenn, are you hitting on me?" Even Xiao Li felt shocked.

Beichen's eyes suddenly softened, "Yes."

"I love you to death, Brother Chenn, I'm going to hug you right now." Xiao Li was initially holding an umbrella, but now she discarded it.

She casually threw it to the ground and lunged toward Beichen.

Beichen wrapped his arms around Xiao Li's soft body, rubbed her cute nape, and said to me, "Su Wan, I have another option for a place to stay, it's nearby."

"You're reliable in your dealings, I've known this for a long time." I was not surprised at all, as Beichen has always been a dependable person.

Beichen's backup plan was nearby.

It was a whole courtyard rented out, about the same size as the guesthouse we saw earlier.

The purpose of staying in the guesthouse was obviously to quickly integrate with the locals.

To understand the local customs and casually inquire about the situation in Barbarian Village.

After the turmoil earlier, we had to abandon that idea.

The next day, it was still raining.

Although it was just a drizzle, it was still inconvenient for travel.

"Beichen, the weather here is indeed strange." I got up early and noticed it was still raining outside, so I attentively used the Spiritual Eye to sense it and dimly perceived a kind of evil energy in the cool rain.

Beichen used a brass compass to sense the rain outside the window, "The compass shows no reaction."

Generally, the compasses used by geomancers have a needle that indicates the heavenly stems and earthly branches.

The brass compass was especially sensitive, but now it firmly pointed backward.

"Maybe it's just the natural climate acting up." Xiao Li came in carrying a basket of hot buns.

Beichen put down the compass and went over to take the basket, "That might be possible, with global warming in recent years, abnormal weather events have been frequent."

I didn't say what I sensed with the Spiritual Eye to avoid unnecessarily adding to everyone's stress. Looking at the plump white buns, I cheerfully said, "Xiao Li, your steaming skills are getting better."

"How can that compare to you going to the market early in the morning to buy beef, and then making the buns yourself? I just handle the steaming," Xiao Li sat down and couldn't wait to grab a bun and take a bite, "Wow, so delicious, your cooking skills you learned from the master chef are indeed better than blue from indigo."

The little girl was too hasty, and she accidentally burned her fingers on the hot bun.

Quickly, she dropped the bun into the bowl and pinched her earlobe.

Beichen silently took Xiao Li's burned fingers and squeezed them in his cool palm.

Feeling the coolness in Beichen's palm, Xiao Li widened her eyes and looked at Beichen.

After a moment, a shy expression appeared on her face, "Thank you, Brother Chenn."

"No need to thank, just eat more slowly."

"Yes, Brother Chenn, when we get married in the future and become husband and wife, we'll be family, no need to say thank you."

Me: "..."

This sweetness could almost give you diabetes.

After breakfast, the three of us discussed for a while.

We decided to leave Xiao Li at the rented courtyard and wait for our return while Beichen and I went to check out Barbarian Village.

If we brought Xiao Li along, she would have almost no ability to protect herself in case of danger in Barbarian Village.

What's worse, the High Priest of Barbarian Village took a fancy to Xiao Li at first sight and wanted to marry her off to the Dragon King.

It's better to keep Xiao Li away from Barbarian Village to avoid throwing her into the wolf's den.

After discussing Xiao Li's situation, we needed to plan how Beichen and I would enter Barbarian Village together.

Beichen said there was a Poison Barrier at the entrance of Barbarian Village protecting the village, so we needed to get someone to prepare a Poison-Resistant Medicine Pouch in advance.

Luckily, Yu Longting knew someone here who could make a Poison-Resistant Pouch. If Beichen made the request, that person would give Yu Longting a favor by helping us out.

So, before Beichen and I went to Barbarian Village...

The three of us together went to meet the person who makes Poison-Resistant Medicine Pouches.

"The elder lives in the Corpse-Driving Inn, the yin energy is strong inside. I'll go in myself; you two wait outside,"

Beichen told Xiao Li and me before walking into the eerily gloomy Corpse-Driving Inn.

Chapter 498: Ice Silkworm Gu

"That inn is so eerie. Brother Chenn is going inside. Is that really okay?" Xiao Li, having waited barely two minutes, already had a look of anxiousness climbing her brows.

I was actually quite cautious myself, with a heart hanging in suspense, yet I comforted Xiao Li, "Of course it's okay. After all, it's someone Yu Longting knows, and your Brother Chenn's physique isn't afraid of Corpse Qi."

"That's true. My Brother Chenn is a Living Dead, quite formidable indeed." Xiao Li, reassured by my words, immediately stopped worrying.

The inherent inferiority that had seeped into the Beichen family over the years was something Xiao Li took pride in.

She loved him to death and back, even wanting to bear Beichen's children.

As a result, Beichen now seemed to not mind this aspect at all.

So, what can change a man is probably only a woman.

The Corpse-Driving Inn was built on a bustling small-town market, even though very few people stayed at the Corpse-Driving Inn.

Generally, only Corpse Drivers passing through, needing to carry bodies, would stay there.

But the market itself was very lively, selling an array of various items.

"Wanwan, come check this out. These flower umbrellas all look so lovely, they're all handmade oil-paper umbrellas," Xiao Li was immediately attracted by a bustling umbrella stand, the umbrellas' patterns bright and colorful with a gorgeous ethnic flair.

I walked over, took an umbrella from Xiao Li that was adorned with Miao Embroidery peony flowers, "Buy whichever you like. I'll pay for it."

"Will you buy everything I have my eyes on?" Xiao Li's eyes filled with little stars.

I folded away my original umbrella and twirled the floral umbrella Xiao Li had chosen, "Yes, not just oil-paper umbrellas, whatever you like, I'll buy for you."

"I want this one, and that one too." Xiao Li, excited, picked two more flower umbrellas.

I took out my phone and scanned the QR code to pay, "Perfect, three umbrellas, one for each of us."

"Do you want to eat eight-treasure porridge? There's some over there."

"Yes, seems like it's even brewed with medicinal herbs, smells especially good."

"Let's go, let's go and give it a try."

As a result, Xiao Li and I both had two big bowls, our stomachs round from being so full.

When paying, I didn't forget to pack a bowl to leave for Beichen.

"There's Miao Silver over there, let's go buy some handmade accessories," Xiao Li pulled me toward the accessory stall.

But I pulled her to stay beside the porridge stall at a snake charming stall, "Hold on, let's look here first."

"Oh right, you're Snake Granny. These little snakes are being bullied. Aren't you going to stand up for them?" Xiao Li asked me in a hushed voice.

I answered, "These snakes really are quite pitiful, but the three stall owners here are bona fide folk artisans. How could I possibly ruin their livelihoods?"

It was even less likely that I would save these snakes; all had their fangs pulled out and were forced to perform.

Their lifespans are almost never more than half a month, even if I bought them all now, they wouldn't live much longer.

Before these snakes died, they were generally turned into snake wine by the artisans to sell.

That's why there were so many colorful bottles of snake wine displayed in front of these snake baskets and baskets.

"So what are you planning to do? Buy snake wine, or maybe?" Xiao Li was even more puzzled by my lingering, "Your husband is a snake, you can actually drink this?"

My gaze fell on the snake wine, then on the six sealed pitch-black clay pots, I asked the stall owner, "Excuse me, are you selling Ice Silkworm Gu in these clay pots?"

"Woman, are you stirring up trouble with other little insects again?? You're so... fickle..."

Xiao Honghong grumbled dissatisfiedly, angrily trying to peek out from under the collar but I pushed her back.

The three stall owners, hearing my words, all showed shocked expressions.

The one who was playing the flute put down the instrument at his lips, furrowed his brows and said, "Indeed, it is Ice Silkworm Gu, but all six of these pots contain gu insects, and the pots are still sealed! How do you know this pot contains Ice Silkworm Gu?"

Chapter 499: Combined Silk Garment

I looked at six identical sealed ceramic pots and furrowed my brows, "The Ice Silkworm Gu is extremely cold, capable of turning everything within a hundred meters into a frozen snowfield. Only a lead lining can block out the cold."

"But how did you know the inner lining of this pot is lead? Do you have Perspective Eyes?" The Snake Tamer opened the pot I had chosen.

The inner wall of the pot indeed had a thick layer of lead, with thick frost condensed on it.

The moment the lid was opened, a white chill emerged from the pot, and I could vaguely see a white insect crouching at the bottom.

I really do have Perspective Eyes, sensing the unique chill inside the pot, I realized that it likely contained a rare Ice Silkworm Gu.

In this mixed and unfamiliar environment, I didn't want to reveal my identity easily. I bluffed, "Lead is dense and heavy, so this pot should be much heavier than the others."

"The girl really has a good eye." The Snake Tamer picked up another similar pot, weighing it in his hands, and did not doubt my words.

Xiao Li came over and hugged my neck, "Wanwan, You are so smart!! You apply physics in real life, your high school physics teacher would be laughing in their dreams."

"Just so-so." I blushed when I saw Xiao Li hadn't spotted such an obvious flaw.

The power of the Ice Silkworm was extraordinary, soon, the water on the ground near the stall all froze into a smooth ice surface.

The Snake Tamer closed the lid of the pot, "The girl is interested in the Ice Silkworm Gu."

"Yes, I want to buy the Ice Silkworm Gu. How much is it?" I was prepared to spend a lot of money.

The Ice Silkworm Gu is known as the Gu Queen, only second to the Golden Silkworm Gu of Emperor Valley.

It is generally impossible to buy an Ice Silkworm Gu in the market; it is something any Gu Breeder would be lucky to encounter.

It seems that someone had consigned this Ice Silkworm Gu here, perhaps encountering some insurmountable difficulties, which led them to reluctantly sell it.

The Snake Tamer smiled meaningfully, "The lowest price is this amount."

"Ninety thousand?" I guessed cautiously, interpreting the Snake Tamer's gesture.

The Snake Tamer raised his eyebrows, "Nine hundred thousand."

"That expensive?" My heart sank as I calculated all my savings.

All together, they weren't even half of nine hundred thousand.

This price was unexpected yet reasonable.

I tentatively asked, "Can it be cheaper?"

"Not even a penny less." The Snake Tamer was very resolute.

I knew the Ice Silkworm was precious and hard to find, nearly impossible to haggle over, but I couldn't give up this chance and tried to bargain anyway.

According to the local customs here, I was rejected.

To try bargaining again would be seen as looking for trouble.

What should I do now?

The market stalls were temporary; if I didn't buy it today, I might miss the chance forever.

It would become a permanent regret if I could never get the Ice Silkworm Gu again.

Seeing that I was at a loss, Xiao Li couldn't help but ask, "What do you want the Ice Silkworm for? Is this insect very important to you?"

"I was thinking of buying it for you." I unwittingly spoke my mind, surprised Xiao Li, who opened her mouth, then I quietly explained, "The silk spun by the Ice Silkworm Gu can be used to make a Combined Silk Garment, which can help you and Beichen have babies."

"Have... have... babies..." Xiao Li probably longed so much to have a child with Beichen that at that moment, she suddenly covered her lips, her eyes slowly filling with tears.

At the same time, her eyes shimmered with hope, mixed with a touch of loss and bewilderment.

Xiao Li was just a young girl in her early twenties, how could she possibly come up with so much savings all at once.

Yet faced with such an unattainable opportunity, she couldn't give up.

Just then, a young man's deep voice came from behind, "I'll pay for it."

Chapter 500: The Three-Legged Golden Crow

"Chen... Bro." Xiao Li mechanically turned her head and looked at the clean-cut youth.

The youth was dressed in a Taoist robe, with a Copper Coin Sword casually slung at his waist.

At a glance, he seemed to transcend mundane life, but his eyes were filled with indulgence when facing the girl.

The marketplace was bustling with people, all within a small enclosed space.

In his eyes, there was only the pretty girl before him, "Since it's something bought for us, it's only right that I pay for it."

Xiao Li dumbly nodded her head, completely spellbound.

Beichen transferred the money in several transactions to the Snake Expeller.

The Snake Tamer took the money without showing any pleasure and, feeling like he made a big loss, said, "You're lucky, getting the Gu Queen so cheaply."

"Woman, I have wronged you. It turns out... you were buying the Ice Silkworm Gu for someone else," Xiao Honghong chimed in from somewhere near my ear, speaking in a huffed tone.

With one hand holding a flower umbrella and the other petting the jealous Xiao Honghong, I said, "I have you, this one little bug is enough for me. Rest assured, I won't mess with other bugs."

"Don't you lie to me." Xiao Honghong rubbed her head against my ear pleadingly.

It had always been a little haughty, with actions belying its words.

But it had never admitted its wrongs before, or shown such a clingy side.

It seemed my recent attempt to purchase the Ice Silkworm Gu genuinely threatened Xiao Honghong.

After purchasing the Ice Silkworm Gu, Xiao Li held it lovingly in her hands as if she could never let it go.

With ecstasy written all over the girl's face, the smiling Beichen holding the umbrella couldn't help but chuckle. Yet soon, a trace of worry flitted across his brow.

"The herbal medicine pouches that protect against poison, Granny Long made three of them for me." Beichen gave one herbal pouch each to me and Xiao Li, which he had brought from the Corpse-Driving Inn.

I took it in hand and instinctively sniffed it, "It smells wonderful."

"Wait, don't just sniff it willy-nilly."

Xiao Li, normally careless, released a rare vigilance and seriously asked Beichen, "Wanwan is pregnant, there's no musk in it, is there?"

"No, I made sure to tell Granny Long to leave out many ingredients that are unsuitable for pregnant women," Beichen said, glancing at me and then resting his gaze on Xiao Li's childish yet solemn face, gently ruffling Xiao Li's hair.

All of a sudden, his eyes narrowed and he hissed, "Who's there?"

"What's...." gone.

Before I could finish speaking, several black crows burst out of the rain and attacked us.

These crows were quite unusual, with their feathers tipped in gold.

Upon closer inspection, each actually had three legs.

As they swooped down, they brought a terrifying Demon Qi with them. I had no usable weapon on me to fight back, so I immediately condensed heavenly fire.

The heavenly fire blossomed into a Begonia, knocking one of the crows far away.

Upon contact with the heavenly fire, the crow instantly turned to char.

Hitting the damp cobblestone floor added a chilling effect to the sight.

Beichen drew his Copper Coin Sword and struck down a crow.

"Ow, my forehead..." Xiao Li's forehead was pecked by the sharp beak of a crow, drawing blood.

Beichen's eyes narrowed with sternness, rushing over to protect Xiao Li.

But the crows kept coming in greater numbers, forming a group of over twenty and quickly surrounding Xiao Li.

These dull-feathered beasts were full of grey Demon Qi; united, they could knock a person far away, leaving us able only to kill one at a time.

"Xiao Li!! Damn it, you annoying birds."

Out of anger, I released all the heavenly fire within me irresponsibly, and for a moment, the heavenly fire transformed into a phoenix with the call of 'Phoenix Cries to the Nine Heavens.'

The phoenix, with its clear cry, charged towards the dense flock of crows.

The crows, intimidated by the phoenix's cry, scattered in panic.

But they all failed to escape completely; a spark landing on their feathers immediately spread and engulfed them, leaving none spared.

Xiao Li lay on the ground, her back covered with peck marks.

Her thick cotton coat had actually been pierced through by beaks as sharp as metal.

My heart clenched, and I rushed over to check on her.

Beichen had already picked up Xiao Li, "How are you?"