

A Snake 521

Chapter 521 Abandoned by You Ruthlessly

Surrounded by a line of enthusiastic Barbarian Villagers, Yu Longting and I entered the tidy and humble room that had been prepared for us.

The interior, though not luxurious, was simple and clean.

The chieftain repeatedly bowed deeply in reverence, only closing the door and leaving with the others after solemnly paying his respects.

All of this... why does it feel a bit surreal...?!

I stood in place for a full three seconds before realizing that this time I really was in Barbarian Village.

After so many Barbarian Villagers died and I was nearly sent to be sacrificed to the Dragon God, Yu Longting used his face, identical to his father's, to effortlessly turn the situation around.

Not only did he manage to enter Barbarian Village, but he also made sure I received respect from the villagers alongside him.

"Um, Yu Longting, can I ask you a question?"

I cleared my throat and shamelessly leaned into him, my hands mischievously grasping his, fingers sliding between his to hold firm, not giving him any chance to break free, "The treasure vault in your Snake Cave... was it... did you 'forget' to close it on purpose?"

"Why bring up the matter of my vault not being closed now? Did Beichen tell you?" Yu Longting's hand flinched as if shocked by electricity when I grasped it, but he did not resist.

The cool and towering figure, instead, seemed to lean discreetly toward me.

I suddenly realized that I had inadvertently thrown Beichen under the bus, "Hehe... he just mentioned it in passing... Eh... you..."

Yu Longting suddenly kissed me fiercely and violently, to the point where my entire lips went numb, and I could even taste a hint of blood, "Tell, the, truth!"

His dark eyes were suddenly filled with spiderweb-like red veins as he spoke in a low, hoarse voice, sounding terrifying, like a raging beast.

"Oh oh oh, I'm saying, the ginseng in your vault escaped, and... if Beichen went looking for the ginseng, he wouldn't be able to protect me. That's why I said I'd come with him."

I felt that if I didn't tell the truth, my bones would be cruelly crushed the next second, and even with all the courage in the world, I dared not speak any deceptions hoping to bluff my way through.

But Yu Longting was still unsatisfied. He sat down on the chair behind him, forcibly spread my legs, and pressed me onto his lap, his vice-like hand gripping my chin, "A mere ginseng plant running off is no big deal; Beichen had no need to chase it. You still haven't told the truth."

Indeed, he must have sensed I was in danger and came straight from the Serpent Domain.

As a result, Yu Longting had no clue about the real reason Beichen, Xiao Li, and I came to Western Hunan.

"And about the ginseng... it ran off with the Elixir from the Pill Furnace." My jawbone was nearly crushed by his force, the pain bringing tears to my eyes, "Yu Longting, it hurts..."

When Yu Longting heard the first half of my sentence, it was as if he was struck, completely stupefied.

After he heard me cry out in pain, he slowly relaxed his grip, looking distant.

But his fingers became stiff, and mechanically, as though his movement were automated, he began to gently lower me from his legs.

Why was Yu Longting reacting this way?

It didn't seem like he was blaming me, but he clearly intended to distance himself from me.

Yu Longting should understand the importance of that Elixir to me better than anyone. If it were lost, it would be completely justified for me to seek it desperately.

Wasn't there any room for forgiveness?

"Yu Longting, can we not give each other the silent treatment? When you're cold to me like this, I get scared," I refused to get off Yu Longting's lap and wrapped my arms around his waist, stubbornly holding on.

Yu Longting spoke emotionlessly, "You get scared?"

"Yes, you've never been this angry with me before. I feel like you could heartlessly abandon me at any moment," I had always taken for granted that Yu Longting was deeply devoted to me, and that he couldn't bear to be without me.

Yet, without realizing it, I had fallen deeply, and if he were to walk away now, I would lose myself.

The more I thought about it, the more fear and apprehension filled my heart.

"Abandon? You mean I would abandon my entire life??"

Chapter 522 Really think my self-control is so strong?

Yu Longting's eyes were veined with red, as he restrained extreme, beast-like emotions deep within his pupils.

My heart constricted in an instant, and I buried my head in his embrace, even placing his arms around my waist as if that wasn't enough, "I'm so important to you, so shouldn't you hold me tighter, not let go easily, and stop getting angry with me? I realize my mistake."

"Su Wan, I'm the one who made the mistake. What right do I have to be angry with you? I almost killed you." Yu Longting suddenly held me very tight, his body shaking as if I might disappear from his arms at any second, "If it goes on like this, you only have three years of yang life span left. Please, Wanwan, accept my Life Lamp."

"Yu Longting, there are many ways to restore my health. I can take the Elixirs cultivated by the Lin Family, I can strengthen my cultivation, but if you give me your Life Lamp, it's your entire Life Lamp. The consequences are irreversible."

My heart settled in despair as I came to understand the situation more clearly, whispering softly, "If... it was deliberate that you left the treasury open to let the Ginseng escape, to make you feel guilty, I forgive you. You didn't expect it, right? That Little Demon would run off with the Elixir you cultivated..."

Although I don't know his purpose, Yu Longting, this scheming Black Snake, always had meticulous and profound reasons for his actions.

"Wanwan, Wanwan, my Wanwan, you're too clever." Yu Longting sighed deeply, his body slowly transforming into a snake, entwining me into his coils, and kissed me deeply, "I found out that the old man's death in the Serpent Domain was not simple. There has been continuous heavy rain in the southwest, and that Ginseng... revered the old man, always wanting him to consume it..."

Now Yu Longting no longer treated me as an outsider, even when he wasn't injured.

If he was especially fond of me, he would also transform into his snake form to get close to me.

He exposed his sensitive, adorable side in front of me.

I too enjoyed Yu Longting's trust; it felt like he was being spoiled with me, "So, you knew that once the Ginseng had a chance, it would flee the Snake Cave and run to Barbarian Village to find your father? I see, the Ginseng's escape to Barbarian Village would be known to the Celestial Master Sect and Yellow

Immortal in advance, probably also because you... spread the news with snakes, intentionally muddying the waters."

Hearing this, I finally understood Yu Longting's strategy.

This guy's cunning is like a black hole; probably even Zhuge Liang from the Three Kingdoms didn't have his aptitude for intricate plots...

"But I hurt you, I almost lost my wife. If I hadn't been playing these games, you wouldn't have gotten involved in all this trouble looking for the Elixir." Yu Longting was filled with immense regret, his self-reproach evident in his words, "Wife, all I want in this life is you. Your Life Lamp is so weak now, so weak... all because of me."

Having known Yu Longting until now, it was rare to see him so vulnerable and discomposed.

He only became like this when it came to matters concerning me.

My heart ached as I grasped his hand and touched my swelling belly, "Your wife and child are still here; we're not beyond salvation. There's no need to resort to accepting your Life Lamp for protection. If you really feel guilty, you can repay me with your charms, which I will reluctantly accept."

My fingertips reached for the clasps, undoing them one by one.

"Wanwan, stop, I'm still in snake form." Yu Longting's Snake Tail coiled up skillfully, blocking the back of my hand.

Seeing him adhere to principles, and his barely restrained abstinent expression, I took the initiative to kiss his lips, trying to be as seductively scornful as possible while curving my lips into a slight smile, "So, are you intentionally in your snake form to avoid compensating for my emotional distress and my physical injuries?"

"Su Wan, you looked for this yourself. Do you really think I have such strong self-control? Again and again, you tempt me..."

Yu Longting seemed challenged by the curve of my lips, abruptly lifting me up and taking me to the bed, placing me down, his eyes ablaze, as he slapped his hand down on my waist.

All the clasps on the cheongsam popped open with a "snap," and he gripped my chin "ferociously," his strength much gentler than when he had gotten angry before,—

Chapter 523: I Will Never Use Charm Technique on You

"I hope you're satisfied with my service, Wanwan."

Hearing Yu Longting's lowered gentle voice, my heart almost stopped, overwhelmed by a mix of confusion and infatuation, "Did you... use your Charm Technique on me? Why can't I stop thinking about you?"

How is it fair? His looks were already the pinnacle of attractiveness.

And he's so skilled at seduction!

"No, Wanwan, I would never use the Charm Technique on you, to bewilder your mind and affect your judgment of emotions."

"Ok, I get it. You want my heart. Once I get my Love Soul back, I'll fill my entire heart with you."

"Wanwan, don't lie to me. I am not well-read and very naive."

...

Several hours passed and it turned dark.

In the light rain, a nearly full silver moon began to rise.

Feeling weak all over, I leaned back onto Yu Longting's arm, "I've really trapped myself..."

Why did I have to be so proactive! It's like asking for trouble!

"Wanwan, not used to it yet?" Yu Longting frowned slightly and leaned in to kiss me.

I panicked and pushed him away forcefully, "You... keep your distance, don't... don't come any closer!!"

He surely wouldn't want to...

"My wife, it's just because you're too cute. But Wanwan, I wouldn't do anything to hurt you. I'll restrain myself." Yu Longting saw through the shadow over my heart and kissed me, smoothly wrapping the cheongsam back around me while fastening the buttons with one hand. Suddenly, my stomach growled loudly, causing his fingers to pause in their movements.

Heat rushed to my face, "I'm a little hungry, I haven't eaten anything all day."

"Why didn't you tell your husband sooner?" Yu Longting stretched out his arm, scooped up my head, and buried it in his embrace, stroking my hair.

I really felt hungry and touched my shrunken stomach, "There's been too much chaos, I didn't think of it."

"Here." Yu Longting handed me a large Peach.

I gasped and took it with both hands, "You brought Peaches."

Thinking of the juicy peach flesh made my mouth water.

Just about to bite, I suddenly couldn't bring myself to do it.

"Why aren't you eating?" Yu Longting pinched my cheeks.

I instinctively clutched the Peach to my chest like a treasure, "This is a fruit from the peach tree planted by your father. Rongling said you kept them in memory of someone and never shared with others."

"Open the door, quickly open the door!! Snake demon, come out!!"

A sudden series of violent knocks echoed from outside, each hit so barbaric that it shook the door violently, "You killed my husband and pretended to be the Dragon God. I'm going to fight you."

"That damn snake demon, you're just capitalizing on your slight resemblance to Lord Dragon God to deceive the village chief. And now you want to frame the Yellow Fairies."

"Shameless, despicable! Kill this dog couple, and avenge Brother Chen, Uncle Wu, the High Priest..."

Bang!!

Several large stones shattered the glass and flew in.

Thankfully, there were curtains, otherwise, Yu Longting and I would have surely been hit.

Through the gap in the curtains, the flickering of torches could be seen outside, and the Barbarian Villagers had gathered, seeking an explanation from Yu Longting.

"Looks like those Weasel Spirits have turned on us." I hurriedly got up to find my shoes and struggled to put them on.

Turning around, I unexpectedly found Yu Longting exceptionally calm, leisurely slipping into a silk Deep Robe, his movements lazy yet elegant over his fair skin.

I squinted my eyes; being with a scheming snake like him, a moment's lapse in thought meant I wouldn't survive, "Did you know all along that the Yellow Skins would turn on you? No! You planned for them to do so, you intended to hand those two Yellow Skins over to the Barbarian Villagers right from the start."

Damn it, and he just had the nerve to claim how innocent he was!

Chapter 524: Rice Slurry Dragon Appraisal

"My dear wife is truly clever; I've made a fortune by marrying you," Yu Longting's eyes were full of appreciation as he deftly helped me into my cheongsam.

When it came to dressing himself, however, his carelessness was beyond mention.

I couldn't stand it any longer, pulling him off the bed and grabbing another piece of underwear. As I stood on my toes to help him put it on, I said, "Let me help you with that. If you were to do it yourself, it would take an eternity."

"Wanwan," Yu Longting's gaze looked as if it had been struck by something, deeply sighing out my name.

He immediately crouched down, opening his arms to make it easier for me to dress him.

The noise outside grew louder, filled with unendurable cursing and swearing.

Several burly men even joined forces to break open the door, creating a deafening bang.

A dark-skinned woman, agitated, screamed as she burst in holding a steaming basin of rice paste.

I knew what rice paste meant for snake species.

How could I let her truly harm Yu Longting.

I suddenly pushed Yu Longting back and stepped forward to shield him.

In the blink of an eye, my waist was gently encircled by a pair of strong arms.

My body spun around in place, switching positions with Yu Longting.

The entire process was executed in one fluid motion, both graceful and light.

But when the thick rice paste splashed on him, Yu Longting was covered head to face in a mess, as disheveled as one could be.

Yet his tall and sturdy body stood immovably, his gaze sweeping over all the troublemakers, "Satisfied? Since you think I'm a fraud, bring out whatever you've prepared."

As his chilling voice, laden with supreme authority, sounded.

The woman who had splashed the rice paste on Yu Longting trembled, the wooden basin falling from her hands and crashing to the ground, and she too fell down with a thud, "You... what are you going to do? Kill me too?"

The entire scene fell eerily silent, the villagers frozen as if they had been acupunctured.

Expressions stiffened, standing still where they were.

"He's just a fake Dragon God, nothing but a snake demon, don't be deceived by his pretense," one burly man holding a Yellow Skin sharply declared.

The Black Snake coiled around the Yellow Skin wasn't herbivorous either, and bit hard on the Yellow Skin, causing it to scream a pitiable cry, calling out for its father and mother in agony.

Before another Yellow Skin could speak, it too was bitten by the snake, wailing miserably.

I, however, clearly understood the mindset of these two Yellow Skins; they were suffering just by being alive and might as well bite back by dragging Yu Longting down with them.

But all this was actually calculated by Yu Longting himself.

"We've also prepared cinnabar, glutinous rice, garlic, and dog's blood," a villager mustered the courage to say, "If you're not a snake demon, let us test with these..."

"Who let you cause trouble here with Lord Dragon God. The matter hasn't been fully cleared up yet," the village elder hurried over, scolding the villagers while saying to Yu Longting, "Lord Dragon God, this...it's not their fault entirely. The Dragon God Temple has a Divine Oracle stating that you're an imposter, and these two Yellow Immortals claim... claim that the deceased were killed by you, framed for it, our relatives were murdered terribly, and hearing you were the culprit, it's natural to be agitated and offend you."

The villagers each wore skeptical looks, clutching their scythes and hoes tightly, some even accompanied by water demons.

The elderly village head seemed to be playing mediator, but his entourage was trailed by a large, dark mass of crows.

This indicated a readiness to turn hostile at any moment.

My heart sank slightly, the current situation was highly unfavorable for Yu Longting.

Did he really have a way to resolve it?

After all, his identity as a True Dragon... was indeed a falsehood...

"So, you're suggesting I use those trinkets you brought to prove my identity, are you?"

Chapter 525: Are You Worthy?

Yu Longting slowly asked.

The village chief cleared his throat to ease the awkwardness, but his gaze carried a hint of coldness, "If you feel that everyone's method is too offensive to you, you can also choose another way to prove your innocence."

This elder must have been initially driven by a surge of enthusiasm, his appearance solidifying his belief that Yu Longting was the legendary Dragon God, and after the excitement subsided, it was inevitable that he would feel he had acted hastily.

With the unconvincing evidence of two weasels at the front and the Divine Oracle as corroborating proof at the back.

His doubt about Yu Longting essentially reached certainty.

Now, there was only the last layer of paper to pierce through before both sides completely fell out.

Yu Longting looked down upon the village chief like an ant, "Troublesome."

"Snap."

A crisp snap of the fingers sounded, Yu Longting nonchalantly snapped his fingers, and the three-legged crows behind the village chief stirred at the sound, surging towards Yu Longting's side.

But they dared not get too close to Yu Longting, only daring to hover within a certain range around him.

They let out cries akin to mourning, some even excitedly spilling blood.

"These divine birds were left behind by Lord Dragon God, how could they listen to this impostor."

"Previously, only the High Priest who learned the Ancient Dian Language from a young age and mastered the Bird-Control Technique could control them, how could it still be an impostor?"

"Could it be that we've all been deceived? It's over, we have offended Lord Dragon God so grievously, he will surely punish our village."

...

The village chief was filled with shame, incessantly wiping the sweat off his forehead with a handkerchief even in the cold, "Sorry... sorry, Lord Dragon God, we have wronged and offended you... Please, we ask for your forgiveness."

I found a clean towel in the room, wiping off the rice paste from Yu Longting's face.

Although he was the Snake Lord, and his mana was strong.

But the rice paste was scalding hot, potentially fatal to a snake.

Burn marks reddened his pale skin, angering me so much that my fingers involuntarily clenched tight, "Key-cutting, three dollars per key, ten for three, do you make them?"

Yu Longting actually couldn't hold back and the corners of his mouth involuntarily curved in amusement, but his expression quickly returned to coldness, the dominating aura of a heavenly god as he spoke, "Then let the rain continue."

The village chief was dumbfounded, completely missing the moment Yu Longting smiled. Even if he had noticed, he probably would have thought it was an illusion, and he pleaded with a pained expression:

"Please no, Lord Dragon God. Our tribe has served you generation after generation. Even without merit, we've endured hardships. Give us a chance to atone for our mistakes and please forgive us this once."

The villagers quickly echoed in agreement: "Yes, yes, we just mistakenly believed in a false Divine Oracle, not meaning to offend you, Lord Dragon God."

"We are but mortals, how could we understand so much."

...

I felt that things had fermented enough and it was time to draw them to a close, "My lord, maybe we could give everyone a chance to redeem themselves."

The villagers once again quieted down, looking anxiously at Yu Longting for his reaction.

"I will spare the village for now."

Yu Longting slowly uttered, as if making a great concession.

The village chief wiped the perspiration of relief, "Thank you, Lord Dragon God, for your forgiveness, and thank you, Lady Dragon God, for interceding..."

He was pretty good at being a man of the people, thanking me as well as Yu Longting.

"I want to see the Divine Oracle." Yu Longting said.

Upon hearing this, the village chief's complexion showed a moment of hesitation.

I suspected that although he was very frightened of Yu Longting, he might still harbor some doubts about his identity.

After all, the compliance of a few Demon Birds could not completely prove the identity of the Dragon God.

When the chief's eyes met Yu Longting's cold, inky pupils, he jolted and dared not harbor any doubt, "Yes, I will take you to the Dragon God Temple to see the Divine Oracle right away."

Chapter 526: Shenshen is so adorable, how could anyone eat Shenshen!

The night was dark, and the moon was high.

The village chief took matters into his own hands, dispersing the Poison Barrier surrounding the Dragon King Temple.

The water demons nurtured by the poison turned into gusts of black resentment, temporarily diving into the dark river water.

The grandiose temple appeared before my eyes.

I initially thought the so-called Dragon King Temple was just a small temple with red walls and glazed tiles that one might find among the commonfolk.

But I had never imagined it would be so magnificent. Just standing at the entrance, I was stunned by the towering temple doors, and the painted divine statues I could glimpse from here.

One could only see their knees, which indicated the immense size of the sculptures.

Suddenly, a small shadow flickered from an angle.

With a slippery scamper, it charged towards the great hall on its short legs, stumbling along the way.

The creature exuded Demon Qi yet appeared small in stature.

Could it be that another weasel had sneaked onto the island?

The village chief's thoughts were probably similar to mine, his expression growing grave.

Pulling a bayonet from his cane, he curved his aged body like a warrior and dashed to chop at the shadow's master.

I grabbed the village chief's arm in time, preventing him from alarming the creature.

The village chief turned to look at me in astonishment, and I shook my head at him.

A unique, faint fragrance permeated the hall, entering the nostrils with a particularly pleasant scent.

Weasels always carry a rank odor; there's no way they could smell of fresh herbs.

Under the moonlight stood a child clad in a thin red and yellow garment.

The child was short and slight, dressed far too scantily for the cold weather with his thin arms and legs sticking out from his shorts and short sleeves, as pale and delicate as lotus roots, with a bit of cute baby fat.

He was rounded and resembled a chubby doll from New Year pictures.

He was running so fast that the high threshold of the great hall tripped him up.

As a result, the child fell into the hall, chin-first, and started rubbing his pitiful little chin, tears streaming from the pain, "Wuu, it hurts so much."

His voice was soft, warm, and glutinous, carrying the innocence of a child.

The village chief paused, apparently not expecting that the shadow belonged to a toddler.

Could it be a child from one of the village households, sneaking a peek at the Dragon God in the middle of the night?

While I was pondering, the child continued to rub his reddened eyes, pitifully climbing to his feet.

Brushing the dust from his body, he approached a cushion in front of the shrine.

He knelt devoutly, his hands touching the ground as he prostrated himself in the highest form of worship.

After performing these rites, he knelt and sobbed tearfully, "Master, where exactly are you? Is it true that I'll only see you on the day you take a wife? I truly miss you so much, wuuu..."

Uh...

Several black ellipses slowly floated above my head, heh, if I'm not mistaken.

This glutinous little thing, wailing before the image of the Dragon God,

is the very Ginseng Spirit over whom the weasel and the Taoist from the Celestial Master Sect fought tooth and nail.

He's just too adorable. How could anyone bear to eat him?

"Once cooked, it's just Ginseng, no need for a guilty conscience," Yu Longting saw right through my inner conflict and whispered to me with a very soft voice.

Demon, freak! Such a big baddie!!

How could someone even think about eating such an adorable child and even intend to cook him?

Shenshen is so lovable, how could anyone consume Shenshen!!

I glared at Yu Longting, my face screaming, "You're a big baddie."

Yu Longting innocently touched his nose, that unrestrained, roguish expression as if to say that Shenshen was meant to be eaten, wife.

By then, the child had touched his belly, curled up tentatively, forming a shrimp-like posture, and knocked his head again, "Master, I am very hungry. May I eat... just one of your cakes?"

Let him eat!! Give him everything he wants to eat!!

This little tyke had me utterly charmed.

Then I saw him slowly crawl to the offering table, climbed upon it, and secretly took a piece of peanut crisp from the red offering plate, filled with guilt, "I'm sorry for secretly eating your cake, master. But I'm so hungry. Aww, wow, it's delicious~ So sweet~ So yummy. Thank you, master."

Chapter 527: I Am Wearing a Wedding Dress for You

This little baby is so cute it's out of this world.

I could barely take my eyes off it when suddenly, I felt lighter and Yu Longting lifted me up in a horizontal embrace.

Yu Longting, carrying me in his arms, briskly walked away.

The village elder hurriedly followed us. "Lord Dragon God, aren't you going to look at the counterfeit oracle?"

"What for? That baby is inside, and if I entered, it would be scared," Yu Longting waved his hand, seeming unable to keep up the act of a high and mighty deity, reverting slightly to his mischievous persona.

The village elder found it odd. "We've never seen this baby in Barbarian Village before, where did it come from exactly?"

"It's a pet I used to have, didn't expect it to be so loyal," Yu Longting said nonchalantly without turning back.

The door of the previous house we stayed in was broken, so the village elder arranged a new one for us.

Before going to sleep, I asked Yu Longting a question, "What was your original purpose for sending the Ginseng Spirit here?"

"To use it to stir up conflict, muddle the waters, and draw out those hiding in the shadows," Yu Longting hugged my arms tighter, "On one hand, it was to flush out the old man in disguise, and on the other hand..."

"What is it?" I looked at him anxiously.

Seeing Yu Longting struggle to speak.

I swallowed hard and ventured a guess, "Is it because you discovered something in the Serpent Domain that made you think your father might not be dead? After all, he became a True Dragon; it couldn't have been that easy for him to die, right?"

"Wife, I don't feel wronged about falling into your hands, and I'm willing at that. My heart, soul, Life Lamp, inner core, all belong to you," Yu Longting chuckled softly and kissed my collarbone, which served as his answer.

But I was somewhat perplexed, actually guessing it correctly, "Then could your father's body have vanished from the Serpent Domain because he woke up and left on his own? If that's true, Master Qingyang would be infuriated. A True Dragon has always been in this world, and he has been troubling you, yet targeting the wrong person all along."

"Wanwan, it's just a hypothesis, don't have too high hopes," Yu Longting said with a heavy tone.

The next day, I accompanied Yu Longting to the Temple to take a look at the Divine Oracle.

The Divine Oracle appeared in the reflection of a bronze mirror held in the hands of a statue, a treasure known as the Heaven-Reaching Mirror, where two lines of text were clearly written:

The snake demon disguises as me, framing others for murder.

Truly heart-wrenching.

The reflection of the Divine Oracle in the bronze mirror was already hard to falsify, let alone corroborated by the testimony of two Yellow Skins.

No wonder the villagers turned against Yu Longting in an instant, their passions inflamed as they came swarming over to attack us.

"Tomorrow's Dragon King's marriage ceremony will continue, and I intend to lure the snakes out," Yu Longting himself was a snake, but he used the idiom with remarkable calm.

Upon hearing his plan, the village elder found it troublesome. "But the Falling Cave Girl chosen by our village has run away, and chasing her back might not leave us enough time."

"Pick another then, is that so hard?" Yu Longting asked in return.

The village elder shook his head vigorously, not daring to disagree, "Not hard, not hard at all. We will follow your orders."

"Why don't I go? The custom of the Falling Cave Girl is vulgar and cruel to begin with, and should have been abandoned long ago. Besides, the girl chosen also faces certain risks."

My words made perfect sense, leaving the village elder pale-faced, while Yu Longting's eyes smoldered with fury.

As Yu Longting's aura of malevolence expanded, the legs of the village elder trembled like noodles, as if ready to kneel at any moment.

I tugged at the hem of Yu Longting's clothes. "Don't you like how I look in a wedding dress? I'm wearing it for you, not for anyone else, let alone a counterfeit."

"Since you like it, there's no need to choose another. After all, with me here, no one can hurt you," Yu Longting frowned and unfrowned, finally compromising.

When we returned to the place we were staying, I almost didn't recognize it as the same room we had lived in before; the walls were adorned with a large 'happiness' character.

In front of the 'happiness' character on the incense table, there were even Dragon and Phoenix Candles laid out.

And looking at the bed, it was strewn with all sorts of dried fruits like lotus seeds, peanuts, and walnuts.

"Yu Longting, was this your idea, or did the people of this village take it upon themselves?" I turned around mechanically, looking at Yu Longting with a despondent gaze.

Chapter 528: When Shall We Two Cut the Candle at the West Window Together

"Although it looks like something I would do."

Yu Longting paused, his gaze fixing on the bright, double-happiness character, "but I've been waiting for you to marry me in a proper ceremony."

All this time, Yu Longting seemed arrogant, but in fact, he always respected me greatly.

He has been carefully guarding my heart, never doing anything abrupt without my consent, so how could he decorate our bridal chamber without my agreement?

I walked over, my fingertips gently brushing over the gold-embossed dragon and phoenix candles, "Is that so? I quite like it, though."

"You... want a traditional Chinese wedding?" Yu Longting's gaze finally shifted from the double-happiness character and turned toward me.

"Of course, I'm very traditional and have long yearned for the charm of ancient customs."

I had already picked up a pair of scissors tied with red string from the table and snipped at the candlewick, "Yu Longting, come here, stand behind me."

"Like this?" Yu Longting immediately understood.

He stood behind me, his cool palm resting on the back of my hand, "Do you want to cut the candlewick together?"

"I just wanted to try out the poetic setting, 'When shall we cut the candlewick together at the west window again, but speak of the night rain upon Ba Mountains?'"

I felt a bit shy and glanced back at Yu Longting, "Is it overly sentimental?"

"Focus." Yu Longting took control of my hand, attentively snipping the candlewick, cherishing the moment of cutting it together.

I immediately collected myself and looked at the wick beneath the flame, my heart leaping into my throat, "Oh."

"The fools of Barbarian Village finally did one thing right, begrudgingly, I suppose I'll consider finding a way to stop the rain," Yu Longting said as he cut the wick, the flame leaping up, growing much brighter.

My heart too seemed to be illuminated, filled with light and warmth, "You know the cause of the continuous rain?"

"I don't." Yu Longting scooped me up around the waist.

I pursed my lips, "Even you can't figure it out just like that?"

With Yu Longting's abilities and intelligence, he could usually see right through the nature of some odd events at a glance.

This time... after coming to Barbarian Village for two days...

He had yet to see through it...

It seems the ongoing rain wasn't ordinary.

"Don't worry blindly, there's nothing your husband can't solve." Yu Longting set me on the bed upholstered with a nut-sprinkled brocade of mandarin ducks, "Is it uncomfortable with these under you?"

I cleared my throat, "It's a bit uncomfortable, but... um... I like it."

"Just like you don't mind my stone bed?" Yu Longting asked with a faint smile, leaning in.

I became slightly flustered and pushed him away, "What... are you doing?"

"What else? It's our wedding night. Did you think I could restrain myself in our new room?" Yu Longting's look was akin to that of someone peering down at a fool.

I was helplessly annoyed inside, "What wedding night, in broad daylight... what on earth?"

"Knock knock knock knock."

The door was knocked from outside, and the village chief's voice trembled, "Lord Dragon God, I haven't disturbed you and the Madam, have I? I have a matter to discuss with you."

"No disturbance at all, I'll open the door for you right now." My eyes darted around as I quickly scrambled up from the bed.

My rear was sitting on all sorts of things like longan, lotus seeds, and peanuts, the discomfort making me break out in cold sweat, "Hiss~ Ouch."

He had placed me onto the bed so gently before, that I had only felt the painful impact of those nuts when I sat up forcefully.

Yu Longting pinched my waist and helped me down from the bed.

"Thank you." I thanked Yu Longting and hurriedly trotted to the door to open it for the village chief, "What is it, village chief grandpa?"

"Uh." The village chief's face went blank for a moment, seemingly not expecting me to be so cordial all of a sudden, and glanced at Yu Longting who looked unsatisfied, shrinking back slightly, "Well, if Lord Dragon God is busy, I can come back later. It's not anything urgent."

"Speak now." Yu Longting pronounced each word distinctly, a wicked, cold smile curling at the edge of his lips, a devilish grin that seemed to say if you don't convince me now, you're done for, "I want to see what's so important that you, at your age, felt the need to come tell me and my clumsy wife personally."

Chapter 529: Neck Bitten Off

Under immense pressure, the village chief seemed to be struck by lightning, "Bai Zhanhe, that girl has come back."

"What has she come back for?" I couldn't help blurting out, feeling an indescribable sense of crisis.

Seeing my expression, the village chief also grew tense, "She said she doesn't want any more girls in the village to be chosen as the Maiden of Luohua Cave, so she has decided to come back... to fulfill her duty... to marry the Dragon God."

"With her hatred for you and your son, do you think that's likely?"

Yu Longting saw me shivering slightly from the cold wind.

He took off his outer robe and draped it over me.

Immediately, my chilled body was wrapped in warmth, "Thank you."

"Is there a problem with Bai Zhanhe? Does she mean harm to the village?" The village chief seemed to recall something, his face turning dark all at once.

Though I knew there was little hope, I still harbored a sliver of luck, "Has Sister Zhanhe gone to the island?"

"She's... she has..." The village chief, aware of the disaster he had caused, nodded dumbly, "Then should I drive her away, or... or drown her in the river?"

"It's too late, the moment she set foot on the island you all were ensnared. Take us to see her." My heart opposed the village chief's words about "drowning her in the river," but I still stifled a breath.

Under the decay of feudal tradition, the lives of women are as dispensable as mere stalks of straw.

"Quickly lead the way, take the Dragon God and Lady Dragon God to see."

The village chief, who held a very high status in the village, beckoned towards the back.

The villagers who had come along spontaneously moved to the front to lead the way.

Many people expressed their dissatisfaction with Bai Zhanhe, "This wretched woman, refusing to marry the village chief's son and causing her own grandfather's death, and bringing disaster to the village as well."

"Ultimately, choosing her to be the Maiden of Luohua Cave wasn't enough to keep her settled, she ran away outright."

"To be a wife to a deity is such a great blessing, she doesn't know how to be content; she really doesn't seem like one of our people from Barbarian Village."

...

After hearing this, I felt quite upset. Seeing Bai Zhanhe, with her lips blue-purple, collapsed beside the horse stable, I ran up to her, "Have you been poisoned by the Poison Barrier?"

"Yes, when I passed through the Poison Barrier... even though I held my breath, the toxin still penetrated through my skin..." Bai Zhanhe looked up, her eyes also surrounded by dark circles.

The poison from the Poison Barrier is very fierce; it can intoxicate people not only through the respiratory tract but also through skin absorption.

I rummaged through and pulled out a packet of herbs made by Granny Long for her, "Smell this under your nose, Sister Zhanhe, why did you suddenly come back to Barbarian Village?"

"Thank you, I just don't want... any more Falling Cave Girls to appear; let this backward custom end with me." Bai Zhanhe smelled the herbs I gave her and said, her gaze flickering, deliberately avoiding my eyes.

She seemed to have an itch on her neck and reached back to scratch a few times.

With my Spiritual Eye, I detected Demon Qi on Bai Zhanhe; she was no longer the Bai Zhanhe from before, more likely directly controlled by Demon Qi, "You're not this kind of person; if given a chance, you would definitely stay far away from Barbarian Village, you are someone who especially longs for freedom."

"How... how long have you known me, and you think you know what kind of person I am?" After hearing my words, Bai Zhanhe's gaze intensified for a moment, then she loudly retorted.

The itching on the back of her neck seemed to intensify, making her scratch more heavily and frequently...

Just then, a woman holding a child hurried over, her skirt stained with dark red blood, "Something terrible has happened! Something terrible! All my poultry are dead, bitten to death, and my... my husband was bitten too..."

"Didn't your family have a water demon for protection? How could this have happened?"

Some incredulously asked, "The village has always been peaceful, with no wild beasts around; you must be talking in your sleep."

Most people looked skeptical, making the woman increasingly anxious, "If you don't believe me, you can come to my house and see for yourself, they really were bitten to death, all their necks broken."

Chapter 530 Symbiotic Relationship

"The livestock that was bitten to death in your family, were they all drained of blood?" I stood up straight and locked eyes with the woman holding the child.

The child, only two or three years old, nestled in his mother's arms, still oblivious to the world, "Dry and flat."

The childish babble, though innocent in tone, spoke of a method of killing that was exceptionally cruel.

The livestock must have been drained completely, not just of blood, hence why in the end, only a layer of skin was left.

"It's as my son just described," the woman hastily added.

I hung my head, slowly coming to understand the situation: "It was the work of a weasel."

"Impossible, those two weasels had fourteen Penetrating Nails in them and were bound by Black Snake of Lord Dragon God, how could they possibly escape?" the village head immediately rejected my words, but not feeling reassured, sent someone to check.

I pursed my lips and forcefully grabbed Bai Zhanhe's hand, which was frantically scratching the back of her neck, pulling it to the front, "It was brought in by Zhanhe. I told you before, as soon as Zhanhe comes to the island, you lose! Because the weasels hiding on the boat will slip ashore at the first opportunity. The weasels' misdeeds are mostly for revenge. No! They might... perhaps they wanted to rescue the two captured weasels."

Another thought clamored in my heart: the weasels went to great lengths to come to the island, more likely, it was for that thousand-year-old Ginseng.

Bai Zhanhe's hands were originally pale and clean, slender like wheat straws.

But now, they were contorted like chicken claws, smeared with purulent blood that seemed to fester.

The pus blood was incredibly foul-smelling, dripping drop by drop from her fingertips.

"I didn't expect to encounter a member of Lin's Exorcist Family here."

An eerie and cold voice arose; the voice came from Bai Zhanhe's body, but her lips did not move to speak, "Worthy of being a member of the Lin family, much smarter than those wastes from the collateral branches of the Zhang family. Let our ancestor go, and all will live in peace, without causing each other trouble."

"And if I don't agree?" I felt I had no reason to agree. Yu Longting could slap a Yellow Skin to death with a single palm, and we had two in our hands already.

Why should I agree to such an unreliable request?

In the midst of everybody's furious glares, Bai Zhanhe's face was filled with terror, turning a terrible pallor.

That voice again came from the back of Bai Zhanhe's neck, laughing with a coldness that was bone-chilling, "Then we have no choice but to perish together. This woman of the Bai family is bound to die, and we'll ensure that Barbarian Village is plunged into chaos."

"Overconfident! Under my watch, you still think you can turn the sky upside down?" I grabbed Bai Zhanhe's arm and turned her over, revealing a lump of flesh on her back.

On the lump, there was actually the face of a Yellow Skin, complete with eyes, nose, ears, and even a tongue and teeth inside its mouth.

The voice that had spoken was indeed coming from this bizarre mouth.

It was as if a Yellow Skin was growing inside Bai Zhanhe's body.

"Oh? A weasel has been implanted into this woman's body, creating a symbiotic relationship. It seems she must be killed," Yu Longting's voice—a chill breeze—suddenly rang out. He didn't know Bai Zhanhe, and naturally, he didn't care about her life or death.

Bai Zhanhe was truly miserable. She had finally gained her freedom,

But because the weasel needed to come to Barbarian Village, it forcibly established a symbiotic relationship with her. Escaping this fate might be impossible, even in death.

Even if Bai Zhanhe died, the weasel could still control her corpse.

But death could offer release; otherwise, she'd have to endure the torment of coexisting with a monster forever.

In the end, there was still a flicker of compassion in Yu Longting's heart.

I glanced at him and held out my hand, "Do you have a knife?"

"A knife will only provide temporary relief, not a cure; the pain might be several times worse than before." Yu Longting, after being glared at by me, shrugged his shoulders and drew his long sword from his robe.

In his hand, the long sword emitted a white light and transformed into a delicate dagger, which he handed to me.