

A Snake 541

Chapter 541: Big Pig Head

Having applied medicine and bandaged the wound on her leg, Bai Zhanhe expressed her gratitude with a thank you. "Thank you."

"Now, when you sleep, there should be no one to disturb you." I made the bed again, and this time, without having to scheme against Yellow Skins, I sprawled out on it directly.

Bai Zhanhe hesitated for a moment before lying down next to me, "Wanwan, we haven't known each other for long, why are you so good to me?"

"Perhaps it's fate, allowing us to meet in adversity and then help each other out." I tucked in the blanket and struggled to keep my eyelids open, succumbing to sleepiness.

Bai Zhanhe moved closer, her nasal voice softly acknowledging, "Hmm."

I don't know how long I slept, but I felt something cool and slippery touching my calf. My leg instinctively curled up, and my arms wrapped around it like it was a large stuffed toy, "This dream... it's quite... realistic... Yu Longting, you even feel good in my dream, slick and cool..."

Wait a second, could this dream be too realistic?

My lips were kissed gently, and as I sleepily responded to the kiss, I breathed in the warmth of the increasingly hot breath.

This skill of changing temperature is too realistic!

The body temperature of serpent-kind generally slightly exceeds thirty degrees, but they can control it to warm up.

Every time Yu Longting got close to me, he would deliberately raise his own body temperature because he was afraid I might feel uncomfortable.

"Ah, how dare you molest me?"

When I opened my eyes, I saw Yu Longting's handsome face.

Yu Longting's face darkened, his breath warm on my face, he said each word emphatically, "Su Wan, who exactly is molesting whom? Don't you know at all?"

"Uh, it seems to be me, but how did you get onto the bed, Sister Zhanhe is still here..." My toes gently curled and touched the playful Snake Tail.

Turns out, under the blanket, I had wrapped my legs around Yu Longting's serpentine lower half; what happened just now was not a dream, but reality...

Thinking of Bai Zhanhe still lying next to me, my head exploded into chaos, and I became distraught.

Yu Longting propped himself up with one hand, his long eyelashes casting a shadow over his cold eyes, appearing like an injured husband finding his wife caught in bed with someone else, furious, "After she saw me, she left on her own. Wife, you actually let her stay in our bridal chamber and continue to sleep in our marriage bed."

Yu Longting's Snake Tail tip swirled on the sole of my foot, tickling me intensely.

But my body was entwined by his serpentine form, rendering me immobile.

"Hehe... it's not that serious, it's just dressed up like a marriage bed. It's normal for girlfriends to sleep in the same bed, don't make a fuss over nothing." I touched his Reverse Scale, blinked, and blinked again.

I can't even imagine what Yu Longting must have thought when he barged in and saw me sleeping with Bai Zhanhe, with the wall adorned with festive decorations...

Poor Bai Zhanhe must have been scared to tears, right?

Yu Longting's Snake Tail quivered slightly, but this time it wasn't so easily smoothed down, "The room was still lit with Dragon and Phoenix Candles, and you just slept with someone else, doesn't that hurt your conscience??"

"It hurts, hurts a lot, definitely hurts. I know I was wrong, and from now on, I won't let anyone else sleep in our marriage bed." I wrapped my arms around his neck and earnestly promised, then, not forgetting the important matter at hand, I asked, "Is Xiao Shenshen back?"

"No, he managed to escape." Yu Longting showed a hint of irritation, "Ginseng can become invisible, no one can find him, or else how do you think he got onto the island?"

I nodded thoughtfully, "How did Yellow Skins manage to catch him then?"

"Yellow Skins lured him out with food, but do you think he'll fall for that again?" Yu Longting countered.

I shook my head in disappointment, "Ah, definitely not anymore."

In the morning, I invited Yu Longting to sample the Sticky Bean Bag I made.

I recounted to him the incident of deceiving Yellow Skins last night, "That's just it, this is still the first time I've done something so cruel."

"Well done, you've been influenced by the company you keep. It's my excellent guidance that made my beautiful wife also have a ruthless heart." Yu Longting boasted shamelessly, and I knew with his indifference to killing, he would not only not think of me as cruel but would actually take pride in it.

I was speechless and didn't bother to entertain him any further. I got up to open the door, intending to find the village head to arrange the marriage to the Dragon King.

But as soon as I opened the door...

I was confronted with the sight of a fat, dead pig's head with half-closed, unseeing eyes.

Chapter 542 Baiming Cave

The appearance of the pig's head was so sudden that I staggered half a step back.

As my gaze briefly faltered, Yu Longting covered the pig's head with a piece of red cloth, "Not covering the livestock sacrifice with red cloth allows malevolent energy to clash with the Dragon God."

"But... the one in Baiming Cave... isn't it a fake Dragon God?" the village chief followed up with a question.

Yu Longting's noble and cool lips lightly parted, "Putting on a show, you need to go all out."

"Yes, come on, cover it with red cloth," the village chief yelled.

Bare-chested, muscular men took red cloths and covered the heads of the oxen and sheep as well.

Outside the door, in addition to the table filled with lavish offerings, stood two rows of Wedding Matrons dressed in festive attire.

Each held a tray in their hands, on which lay bridal clothes and jewelry for marrying the Dragon God.

The Wedding Matron came over to me and said, "Lady Dragon God, we're here to help you change."

"Could I... change as well? I wish to join Wanwan," Bai Zanhe walked into the crowd and asked softly.

The village chief waved his hand impatiently, "Girl, what's this got to do with you? Since you've betrayed our village, just leave and never come back."

Bai Zanhe bit her lip, "It was Lord Dragon God who asked me to come."

"What the heck, Yu Longting... asked you to come?" I glanced sideways at Yu Longting, trying to find a trace of truth on his handsome face.

Yu Longting bent down and whispered in my ear, "Without her, the impostor wouldn't be willing to show up, you wouldn't want it to keep raining here, would you?"

A tightness gripped my heart, and my expression grew solemn.

Yu Longting said gravely, "Go inside."

"Let's go, Wanwan, don't delay the auspicious time to enter Baiming Cave," Bai Zanhe took my hand and we entered the house together.

We sat down together in the chairs while the Wedding Matrons bustled about, helping us with makeup and hair.

I had barely sat down when I stood up again, staring at Bai Zanhe as if she were a monster, "You were so opposed to becoming the Falling Cave Girl and marrying the Dragon God, how could you... could it be... did Yu Longting threaten you?"

"No, he said to follow you and protect me, and I agreed," she replied.

Far from showing aversion or fear, Bai Zanhe covered her lips and smiled faintly, pulling me back to sit down with a gentle grace, "The exact words of Lord Dragon God were, 'I've risked my wife and child to protect you. If you refuse, I'll have those two Taoists send you away, far from trouble.'"

I could barely accept this, "That's more like it, he's still somewhat reliable."

"Lord Dragon God also said that the True Dragon's arrival in Barbarian Village is causing a big stir. Even if you enter Baiming Cave, you won't meet the fake one, let alone lure him out," she explained earnestly.

Bai Zanhe calmly continued, "The impostor, taking a desperate gamble, issued a Divine Oracle; the wife he takes must have a great use. If there's someone matching the Divine Oracle in the bait, there's still a chance to draw out the fake."

"So, Yu Longting had prepared well in advance that someone besides me would be arranged," I said, becoming more displeased after hearing Bai Zanhe's many explanations, "You're being used as bait, bait! You could encounter danger at any moment, yet you seem so content with it."

Yu Longting had promised me not to involve other girls, and yet it turned out to be a deceptive trick.

This liar!!

Yet, deep down, I couldn't help but admire Yu Longting's high intelligence and his meticulous planning.

In fact, I had also anticipated that the impostor might not take the bait.

Still, deep down, I hoped that it might be an overconfident fake.

Even if the impostor dared not show up...

It was worth taking the opportunity to enter Baiming Cave, rumored to be the abode of the Dragon God, to look for possible clues.

"Isn't that why you're here to protect me? Ah, Lord Dragon God, this madman of spousal doting, has made such a great sacrifice by arranging for you to protect me," she said.

Unconsciously, Bai Zanhe, who hadn't gotten along with Yu Longting, had started to side with him and even praised him as some fanatic of spousal doting.

Chapter 543: The Paper Boat

With a fusillade of firecrackers crackling and popping.

The wedding matrons sent Wanwan and Bai Zhanhe onto a black-canopied boat decked out in red silk.
After we took our seats on the gunwale,

they handed each of us a red paper lantern.

Once the wedding matrons disembarked, the two hemp ropes mooring the boat were promptly severed
with an axe.

The swift current immediately carried us away from the riverbank, flowing downstream.

The sound of the flowing river was distant and melodious.

I wedged the handle of the umbrella under my chin, flipped up the red tassels of my head cover, and
looked back,

attempting to catch a glimpse of Yu Longting on the shore.

However, the moment the wind blew, the silver ornaments on my forehead started swaying wildly.

My eyes were instantly dazzled, and I saw nothing.

The boat then drifted to a bend in the river, completely obscuring the view of the opposite shore.

Feeling disappointed, I let out a dejected sigh.

Bai Zhanhe, sitting opposite me, lifted her veil upon hearing the sigh, "What's wrong, Wanwan?"

"It's nothing. Hey, Sister Zhanhe, can we really enter Baiming Cave by just drifting with the current?"
Worry suddenly gripped me, so I quickly hid my disheartened expression and asked Bai Zhanhe.

Bai Zanhe set the lantern aside and propped her chin with one hand, "We should be able to. Baiming Cave is downstream."

"Have you been to Baiming Cave? Do you know what it's like inside?" Since my arrival in Barbarian Village, I had only heard snippets about Baiming Cave in villagers' idle chats.

That place was said to be the abode of the Dragon God, shrouded in mystery.

Bai Zanhe shook her head, "No, the entrance of Baiming Cave is always protected by a Barrier and is off-limits to the people of Barbarian Village."

The boat drifted with the current for a while.

By evening, a sunshower began to fall unexpectedly.

The sparkling ripples on the water surface and the reddish hues diving into the water were more dazzling than the wedding dresses we wore.

This meandering river appeared as the sun's bride.

Bai Zanhe suggested that since Baiming Cave was still a distance away, we might as well stay inside the canopy to shelter from the rain.

That way, we could avoid some of the cold wind and rain.

Her advice seemed sound, so I followed her inside the canopy to take shelter from the rain.

"Zanhe, something's not right! Look under the deck, is water seeping in?"

After just a short time under the canopy, I felt dampness beneath my feet, and an ominous feeling welled up within me.

Bai Zanhe bent down to check the floor, touching the wood of the boat's base, "Could it be water from the rain outside seeping in? The black canopied boats of Barbarian Village are crafted by experts; they shouldn't have any problems."

"But... Sister Zanhe... I think I found a leak." I discovered an excessively damp corner where water was seeping through. When I touched the wood, it was loose.

My face turned pale, and I quickly eased the force in my hands, afraid to exert too much pressure.

It felt like applying any force would pierce a hole in the boat.

Bai Zanhe decisively lifted her veil and knelt down, tapping on a few innocuous spots.

She then dislodged two parts that should have been nailed together.

Our complexions turned green at the same time.

Bai Zanhe's voice trembled, "This boat hasn't been... nailed together, it's all... glued...assembled..."

"This boat is no different from a paper matchbox, it will fall apart after drifting for a while." Although I was calmer than Bai Zanhe, it was all an act; a fine sweat broke out on my forehead, "How could a good boat end up like this?"

Good heavens, I've never learned to swim since childhood, I'm completely land-bound.

If the boat falls apart before attracting the counterfeit, I'll drown.

Bai Zanhe slowly lifted her gaze, her eyes cool and complex as they quietly looked at me, "Actually, the boat for the Maiden of Luohua Cave to marry the River God is supposed to be like this. Only by drowning the Falling Cave Girl can the Dragon King be appeased."

Chapter 544: Give Husband Ten Minutes

"This boat was previously used for..." Sweat beads were forming densely on my forehead, and more and more water was seeping into the bottom of the boat.

Bai Zhanhe's face was pale with a deathly hue, "It was used to send me on my way."

"This is absurd, how can we still use that kind of boat under these circumstances?"

I was furious to the extreme, my mind filled with the village chief's detestable old face, "This is clearly trying to kill us."

"You... you might be right, could it be that the village chief has never believed in... Lord Dragon God from the beginning?" Bai Zhanhe's eyes, desperate to the utmost, stared vacantly at me.

At this moment, the only thought in my mind was self-rescue. I fumbled out the phone hidden in my belt, "Don't panic, I can still notify Yu Longting, we won't actually drown."

The phone felt oddly light. I looked and didn't know when someone had taken the battery out.

Thinking about it carefully, it happened when I was dressing up in the room.

Seven or eight Wedding Matrons bustling about dressing two brides, and I was especially lax, not suspecting anything.

Others had plenty of opportunities to remove the battery from my phone.

"It's really over... totally barbecued, they even took your phone's battery," Bai Zhanhe's eyes welled up with tears, ready to roll down any second.

This was simply outrageous.

The village chief was too good at playing the fool, not joining the entertainment industry as a movie star is a waste of talent.

The vein on my temple throbbed repeatedly, and in my heart, I had pinned down that old village chief and beaten him countless times, "Zanhe, where's your phone? We'll use yours to contact the outside world, get someone to save us."

"I... I'm from Barbarian Village, I don't have a phone."

Bai Zanhe's face was innocent, tears already streaming, "When I escaped to the town, I wanted to get a phone, but I didn't have enough money."

"It's okay, I still have a last resort." I reached through the wedding gown, touching the embroidered silver python on the cheongsam, "Yu Longting... can you hear me speaking?"

"I can hear you, but it's a bit unclear," Yu Longting's voice was very soft, as if it had risen in a gale of wind at level twelve.

I began taking off the thick wedding gown, layer by layer, "I took off the wedding gown, is this better now?"

At that moment, I was dressed only in a pure white material, embroidered with a silver python cheongsam.

The scales on the silver python shone like silver metal, emitting a fluid and eerily mysterious light, and in the moving ripples, it looked unbelievably beautiful.

With my care, even the appearance of it on the cheongsam had become increasingly vivid and lifelike, but the voice it emitted was increasingly indistinct, like bad telephone reception,

"Are you silly...? Who asked you to take off your clothes... The voice... it's hard to hear... you guys hurry to Baiming Cave Barrier..."

Bai Zanhe, who had gotten used to hearing the voice coming from inside my belly, now quite calmly accepted that a cheongsam could talk.

Her formerly pale frightened face, because of knowing that she could contact Yu Longting, now slightly eased in color.

I really couldn't hear clearly what Yu Longting on the other side was saying, feeling like I could lose contact with him at any moment. I quickly explained the situation using the fastest speed, "Sister Zanhe and I got the boat swapped, it's turning into mush, about to fall apart any moment."

"Don't enter... Baiming Cave, inside the barrier... set by my father..."

Yu Longting's voice was getting softer, but fortunately, I heard the last few words clearly, "Give husband... ten minutes..."

"Alright, alright, be careful, I'll wait for you." I cautiously walked over the precarious planks on the floor to take a look from the deck.

As soon as I stepped out, I was flabbergasted.

The pitiful, nearly disintegrating black-canopy boat, carried by the rapid currents, had already drifted toward a gigantic cave mouth covered with long stalactites.

The next second, everything before my eyes went dark, and the boat floated into...

Into...the cave...

Chapter 545: Red Lotus Soul Summoning Lamp

With a thunderous boom,

I felt as if struck by the Mystic Thunder from the ninth heaven, nearly crying myself into a faint on deck.

This must be what they mean by "when it rains, it pours"!!

"Wanwan, Baiming Cave is the Dragon God's own lair, so why would he be blocked by a Barrier?" Bai Zhanhe asked while steadying herself against the cabin wall, wobbling over to me.

The cave was pitch black, with only the weak light of two Lanterns in my hand and Bai Zhanhe's illuminating our surroundings.

The river was in an incredibly bizarre state, filled with whirlpools everywhere.

I tried to calm myself down from the panic, dizzy by the whirlpools, "It's a long story, I'll tell you about it if we get the chance, but right now we need to hold on until Yu Longting comes to save us."

"Wanwan, do you know how to swim?" Bai Zhanhe asked.

Seeing me shake my head, she seriously instructed, "If something happens to the boat, remember to hold onto the biggest log and don't let go."

With a slight creak, a misaligned plank made a noise.

In my heart, however, it sounded like the sky was falling and the earth was splitting, my heart skipped a beat violently.

The planks under our feet gave way, water flooding over our ankles.

In less than ten breaths, the entire covered boat disintegrated in the whirlpool.

I couldn't swim at all, the moment I fell into the water,

it was as if my spine was removed, immediately I became disoriented and lost my sense of direction.

How could I find a large piece of wood to cling to amid the jumbled parts of the boat?

Having swallowed several mouthfuls of water, I had no time to catch my breath and calm down, the more I struggled, the more I sank.

The icy river water soaked my body, freezing my joints as if they were locked in ice.

My joints were numb, unable to escape the pull of the whirlpool.

"Hold onto this plank, don't let go." Bai Zhanhe handed me a large plank, and the moment I hugged it I knew it was part of the gunwale.

Clutching the plank, I vomited several mouthfuls of water, "Thank you, if it weren't for you, I'd have drowned."

"I'm glad I could be of some use, having a chance to help you," Bai Zhanhe said, her face pale from the cold, a person who was very afraid of dying, but at that moment she showed a sweet smile.

I think this is the friendship that comes through life and death, previously it was me who reached out to help her, now it was her extending a hand of aid to me.

Even in dire straits, we could still support and trust each other.

"Sister Zhanhe, have you noticed, we can still see, which means there is light."

After finding support, my mind gradually began to think.

Searching for the light source, not far from a rotten plank, I saw a floating red lantern, "Look quickly, that's our Red Lotus Soul Summoning Lamp, if we get it, we might escape from the whirlpool."

It is said that Barbarian Village hasn't sent a Falling Cave Girl to Baiming Cave for one hundred years.

It wasn't like this a hundred years ago, they sent someone every ten years.

Each time someone was sent in, the custom was for the Falling Cave Girl to carry a Red Lotus Soul Summoning Lamp made of red paper.

The red paper had lotus patterns and incantations drawn on it, which I had looked at closely, and they were specifically to break certain special prohibitions.

"It's no use, I've tried, the resistance of the whirlpool is too great, constantly pulling us underwater," Bai Zhanhe had used all her strength, but each time she nearly reached the Lantern, she would be spun back by the whirlpool.

I knew the weight of the plank and me was too much, burdening Bai Zhanhe, "Teach me to swim, I'll swim over there with you."

I've never learned to swim before, and I don't know how hard it would be to learn.

Now, when life and death hang in the balance, there's only the option to clutch at straws and see if they'll work.

Ah, if I had learned a little swimming earlier, I wouldn't be such a burden now.

"We can try, you're so clever you might just pick it up quickly."

Bai Zhanhe taught me patiently, "This is the position for your hands, it reduces resistance, and you have to change your breathing rhythm too, exhale~ then take a big breath, slowly release~"

Following what she said, kicking and paddling together with her, we headed towards where the Lantern was floating.

Luckily, the Lantern was stuck by the wood, so it wasn't sucked into the whirlpool.

I was closer, grabbing the bamboo stick on top of the Lantern, "I've got it... hiss~" I couldn't help but gasp sharply.

A stream of cold surged from the Lantern to my fingertips, then pierced into my heart, the chill seemingly capable of freezing my entire heart, "Falling Cave Girl... Falling Cave Girl... come here... come here..."

Chapter 546: Nine Dragons Coffin Dragging

That instant.

I seemed to sink into a chaotic dream.

The only sound near me was this cold yet familiar voice.

But then, in an instant, I woke.

Vigorously embracing a large piece of wood, my legs awkwardly paddled through the water.

The red lantern, though emitting a faint light, was somehow able to dimly illuminate the vast cavern.

Ahead lay a seemingly bottomless waterway.

Wherever the light reached, every whirlpool in the water miraculously disappeared.

"Did you hear a voice?" Bai Zhanhe swallowed dryly.

My swimming was clumsy, but I gradually got the hang of it, feeling more adept, "I heard it. I'm not sure if I misheard, but it sounded like... someone I know."

"Come... Falling Cave Girl... come to this deity... come to this deity..."

The enchanting voice, remote and calm, came again.

Bai Zanhe looked around, "Is he... talking again?"

"Xuanjing, is that you? How did you get into Baiming Cave?"

Hearing this voice again, I finally confirmed the owner of the voice, "All along, it has been you impersonating the Dragon God? Issuing false divine oracles?"

The Baiming Cave was eerily quiet.

So much so that the echo of my voice lingered in the cave for a long time.

However, the voice coming from the depths of the cavern stayed silent.

"Over there... there's a coffin," Bai Zanhe suddenly exclaimed.

I focused my gaze and saw colors of the rainbow.

No, more precisely, nine colors.

I blurted out, "Nine Dragons Coffin."

Nine differently colored jade dragons emitted a soft glow, all the while dragging an immensely huge coffin.

I never imagined in my life that I would be so intimidated by a coffin.

Majestic, shocking, dazzling, a marvel of craftsmanship...

All words that represent the ultimate could be applied to this coffin without exaggeration.

The first time I saw the Nine Dragons Coffin Dragging Picture was in the old notes left by my father.

The image sewn on the garment is for those who have passed their tribulation, to wear to the Immortal Realm.

I had never taken it seriously, assuming it was a myth.

This moment, witnessing it with my own eyes, was like a waking dream.

"What a beautiful coffin," Bai Zhanhe too was captivated.

The two of us were pushed to the shore by the current, only then coming back to our senses.

I couldn't swim, so Bai Zhanhe helped me ashore first.

Once I had climbed up, I bent down and pulled her up, "Stay here and don't move. I'm going to check out the coffin."

Only the Immortal Clan could be afforded the luxury of a Nine Dragons Coffin. Xuanjing, being just a Nine-tailed Fox, surely couldn't enjoy such a privilege.

Could it be that the person lying inside this coffin was...?

Lord Yu Longting's father?

I thought of this and my fingers lifted a small jade buckle on the pure white jade stone coffin.

I had seen the design of the coffin before and was extremely familiar with the entire structure of the Nine Dragons Coffin, knowing that this jade buckle was the mechanism for opening it.

With the dull sound of jade rubbing against jade, the pure white jade stone coffin slowly opened, revealing a young man in black with a handsomely refined appearance.

The young man wore a pure black silk deep robe, with his feet in upturned Cloud-Ascending Boots.

The moment I saw his face, my first instinct was to flee, but I bit my tongue to calm myself and quickly tied a Mystical Thunder cloth strip around his wrist, "Xuanjing, it is you, indeed! You've moved your lair here!!" This guy was the source of all misfortunes!!

Indeed, a cornered beast will still fight, repeatedly suffering heavy damages from Lord Longting, yet time and time again stirring up trouble.

Xuanjing, lying in the coffin, suddenly opened his eyes, full of roguish charm, and tore the purple cloth strip with a swipe of his hand, reaching out to grab me.

In my panic, as I stumbled back, he seized my fishbone braid made of silver-red silk and pulled me toward the coffin.

Xuanjing's lips curved up in a sinister smile, his eyes swimming with the dreamy look characteristic of using the Charm Technique, "I've never tasted what a woman of the Snake Lord is like. Now that you've delivered yourself to me, I'm curious to try."

Chapter 547: Not Qualified to be the Dragon Emperor's Son

I bit the tip of my tongue, releasing the Breaking Evil Force within my blood that allowed me to withstand Xuanjing's Charm Technique effectively, preventing me from being bewitched into jumping into the coffin.

"Wanwan, be careful," Bai Zanhe grabbed my hand and pulled me a little away from danger.

However, Xuanjing's grip on my hair was tight as death.

I cursed my bad luck in my heart, wishing I had brought scissors with me; I was about to have my scalp torn off by this thing.

Just as I was preparing myself for a desperate fight, a white figure swooped down from the sky at an astonishing speed. He was truly magnificent, a Heavenly Being in appearance.

His face was enchantingly devilish, nearly demonic, and he was dressed in the wide-sleeved, ancient attire of the Wei-Jin period.

It made him seem as graceful as a startled swan or a leisurely dragon.

With the silver light suddenly shining from the long sword in his hand, I thought he was going to slice off my hair.

In the flash of lightning, I only heard Xuanjing let out a miserable scream.

Blood splattered, and a human hand was severed.

Cold, sticky droplets of blood landed on my face. Touching them in shock, I muttered, "Yu Longting, you... you broke the Barrier."

"Didn't I tell you to wait for me for ten minutes? Why did you wander in here?" Yu Longting wrapped one arm around my waist, pulling me into his embrace, while with his other hand, he pinched the bridge of his nose in frustration.

It made me seem like a disobedient troublemaker.

I felt indignant inside and retorted defensively, "It's not like I entered on purpose. The canopy boat had already been carried into the cave by the current when you told me; what could I do?"

"Still arguing, huh? With your abilities, you wouldn't need the Red Lantern to venture deep. Why not just wait for me where you were?" Yu Longting's voice vibrated with anger as he scolded me.

My eyes suddenly brimmed with the sourness of panic-driven grievances, but seeing his anxious and worried expression, I swallowed my tears and pretended to be cheeky to hide my own vulnerability, "Because it's cold in the water, and I would've been numb from the freeze if I stayed a bit longer. Do you have the heart to let Dumpling and I freeze? And you're scolding me for it!!"

"Alright, alright, my wife, I wronged you. Arguing over a dead fox is not worth it." Yu Longting quickly conceded, seeing that I was soaked by the river water, he not only took off his outer robe but even his inner garment.

He first wrapped me in the inner garment, then draped the outer robe over me.

My gaze inadvertently swept over the coffin, and I jumped in shock, "Yu Longting, the coffin is empty, Xuanjing is gone!"

The Nine Dragons Coffin Dragging, where Xuanjing had been lying, was now empty, leaving only a pile of bloodstains and a severed human hand.

Right behind me, an aura of malignant spirits emerged, along with Bai Zhanhe's cries for help: "Save... save me... let go of me... what are you going to do..."

"What am I going to do..."

As that bone-chillingly cold and gentle voice echoed, I quickly turned around and saw Xuanjing, who had somehow circled behind Bai Zhanhe.

The hand that wasn't severed was clutching Bai Zhanhe's slender swan neck, with his entire body pressing against Bai Zhanhe's back, and his lips were already kissing her cheek, "My son was not fully grown and was parted from the womb; he lacks a mother. Your family's graves are blessed and your body is exceptionally gifted, fortunate to serve as a mother for my son."

It should be black smoke billowing from a grave, shouldn't it!!

I had never seen such shameless audacity, presenting the role of carrying a revolting fox fetus as some grand and honorable duty.

Fury almost made my lungs explode, and just as I was about to lash out at him,

Yu Longting's long fingers covered my lips. He slightly curved the corners of his mouth in apparent admiration, looking at Xuanjing, "Tsk, Xuanjing, you've finally made some progress. You've got the nerve to impersonate my father, bluffing around. Not like that idiotic Ginseng, who only dreams of getting stewed for the old man."

"Shut up, what right do you have... the right to mention him, you are not fit to be the Dragon Emperor's son."

Xuanjing was furiously emotional, with the edges of his eyes terrifyingly red, as if smeared with fresh blood.

Yu Longting leaned arrogantly against the coffin behind him, twirling the end of my hair braid casually, the very picture of a cynical world-weary man, "Yeah, I'm not fit to be his son. Only you, a wild fox picked up from nowhere, have that right. If you love playing the son so much, I'll gladly cede you the role. Hey, you respect him so much, why did you dig up his coffin lid and bring it all the way from the Serpent Domain, even going to sleep in it yourself? Caused me a whole lot of trouble looking for you... do you even know?"

Chapter 548: Can I Be Blamed for the Old Man's Favoritism?

"Apart from fast talking, do you have any other real skills? Hand over His Majesty the Dragon Emperor's corpse, you undutiful piece of trash, a good-for-nothing snake."

Xuanjing even said Yu Longting had a sharp tongue, but when it came to cursing, he was just as articulate. The tirade he unleashed spared no insult and matched Yu Longting blow for blow.

Yu Longting's eyebrows knitted together, and his sinister dark eyes swept over Xuanjing several times, "The coffin was stolen by you, and you have the nerve to ask me for the corpse? Are you kidding me?"

"His Majesty's corpse isn't with you?! When I arrived at the place where the Dragon Emperor was laid to rest... there was only... only his empty sarcophagus." Xuanjing, sinister as he was, actually looked dumbfounded at that moment, but seeing Yu Longting's stern expression, it seemed he had no choice but to believe it.

I, standing to the side, felt completely lost, not grasping the situation. So it meant that the Nine Dragons Coffin Dragging belonged to Yu Longting's father.

So where did Yu Longting's father's corpse go?

Yu Longting, out of patience, lazily urged, "I can't be bothered with your nonsense, even if the old man's body isn't in the coffin, the Fixed Water Pearl definitely was taken by you. Hand over the pearl, and I'll leave you a Life Lamp and your whole corpse."

"Go hang yourself, thin and bony! Why should I give it to you? Just because of your sanctimonious and hypocritical act, pretending to care for the world with that snake's attitude?"

Xuanjing's face turned black with rage as he unleashed a tirade, venting frustrations pent up over hundreds of years, "When you were born, almost two hundred years ago, you couldn't even get the eggshell off your head, couldn't crawl, and His Majesty had to carry you every day. Now you strut around, playing the Snake Lord. Have you forgotten how you, the idiotic pig, ascended to heaven, causing His Majesty to lose face among the Snake Tribe?"

"I'm saying, you've been haunting me for thousands of years, always causing me trouble, getting killed by me in the Fox Coffin, and you still stubbornly continue your mischief because of these?"

Yu Longting couldn't help but laugh, his face showing an unprecedented level of speechlessness.

Not to mention Yu Longting, even I, a bystander half-understanding the conversation, was uncontrollably twitching at the corners of my mouth.

Poor Bai Zhanhe, kidnapped by a madman.

Her life hanging by a thread, yet she has to listen to a fox and snake bicker.

Xuanjing's eyes reddened, and he actually appeared somewhat aggrieved, "Originally, His Majesty picked me first to bring home, then he married, and you, this useless thing, came along, and after that, he never held me again, never gave me another glance. Where am I worse than you? I'm obedient, clever, and knew His Majesty first. But he, he only had eyes for you!"

"So you're saying, you've been holding a grudge for so long, that's why Xuanjing keeps troubling you?" I asked Yu Longting in a low voice, feeling indignant at the revelation of such a profound history between Yu Longting and Xuanjing.

Yu Longting lowered his gaze and met mine, nodding slightly. He opened his palm to reveal a pure white scale and said to Xuanjing, "Can you blame me for the old man's favoritism? Here, this is the last memento he gave me, the one that allows me to hear his voice one last time. In exchange for your Fixed Water Pearl, I'll count to three. If you refuse, I'll crush it..."

Before Yu Longting could count, Xuanjing, in a rat-trap dilemma, hurriedly interjected, "Don't... don't crush it, you unfilial snake, you don't appreciate the affection His Majesty had for you at all! Give it to me."

"The pearl," Yu Longting repeated slowly, his expression darkening and clearly not open for discussion.

Xuanjing's eyes flickered, and from his sleeve, he tossed a shiny pearl to Yu Longting, "Don't lose it, maybe... maybe he'll come back."

Oh my... that difficult and prickly... Xuanjing...

He was pacified by a single white Snake Scale??

Backing down??

"Understood." Yu Longting took the pure white pearl and tossed the Snake Scale to Xuanjing, "Dead fox, now release my wife's friend and get lost."

Then I saw Xuanjing's lips curve into a smile. With only one arm left, he still firmly wrapped his arm around Bai Zhanhe's waist, planting a kiss on her lips,

Chapter 549 Still Don't Know What to Do?

A cold and charming voice floated from Xuanjing's sinister lips, "Worthy of being the woman I chose, perfectly compatible with my son."

Kissed... kissed Bai Zhanhe...

This scoundrel Xuanjing, driven by lust, actually dared to violate an innocent girl right in front of me.

"Yu Longting, lend me your sword, I'm going to chop him down." I couldn't just stand by and watch Bai Zhanhe being bullied like that, I took the sword from Yu Longting's hands.

The moment I gripped the sword hilt, the sharp blade was instantly wrapped in a Qi force imbued with Demon-Breaking Power. As I raised it to strike, it emitted an exulted phoenix cry and directly charged towards Xuanjing's face.

Xuanjing glanced sideways from the corner of his eyes and finally let go of Bai Zhanhe's arm.

With a cold flick of his sleeve, out flew a silver fox with nine tails.

The Silver Fox, upon encountering the Demon-Breaking Power, shook violently and spat out a mouthful of fresh blood.

Its turquoise eyes remained firmly fixed on the point of the sword, like two burning Nether Flames, not giving way to me at all.

Good heavens, this guy Xuanjing was actually using his life-bound spirit to confront my Demon-Breaking Power, which is specifically potent against demons and evil.

The hit he just took must have caused serious injury; it would take him centuries to recover.

"Hiss—" My whole arm went numb, and jolted back half a step, fortunately, Yu Longting's palm supported my lower back.

Otherwise, with the momentum, I would have staggered back several more steps and fallen into the river for sure.

Yu Longting's palm was filled with profound Spiritual Power, which passed into my body through my waist as he shouted, "Calm your heart, pay attention to nothing else, and circulate the Small Heavenly Cycle within your Qi Sea."

"But..." I hadn't yet voiced my concern for Bai Zhanhe when Yu Longting wrapped his arms tightly around my body, his deep voice carrying an inexplicable sadness and tenderness, "Wanwan, I, beg, you."

My heart sank as I followed Yu Longting's instructions and circulated the Spiritual Energy.

He is the most important person to me; once he speaks, I can only unconsciously choose him.

"My stomach... my stomach hurts so much... what did you do to me?" Bai Zhanhe clutched her belly, writhing in pain, "You didn't plant a demon fetus inside me, did you? I don't... I don't want... don't want to bear your demon fetus..."

"Woman, you have two months to think about it."

Xuanjing wrapped his arms around Bai Zhanhe's waist again, deepening the forced kiss on the girl that carried a note of plunder, "If you still don't wish to be the mother of my child, I'll find someone else, but for these two months, you must obediently serve as the vessel for my offspring, understood?"

"I don't understand, I still... I'm still a virgin, why should I bear a demon fetus for you, get it out." Bai Zhanhe mustered all her strength to struggle, desperately pushing Xuanjing away, tears flooding her wan and gaunt cheeks, "Otherwise... I won't be kind to it..."

"Do you dare? Just obediently carry the demon fetus, and in exchange for two months, you'll have a lifetime of peace, you're making a profit." Xuanjing's lips traced the tear tracks down Bai Zhanhe's cheeks, slowly moving to her cheek, nose, and eyes, "Your grandfather isn't dead, I saved him. Don't you know what you should do now?"

With a splash, Xuanjing jumped into the turbulent river waters that, without a lantern's illumination, always churned with countless whirlpools.

Xuanjing's body transformed into a nimble and lightweight White Fox, quickly being drawn into the depths of the river by the whirlpool.

The injured White Fox spirit, became a streak of light diving into the water, following its true body.

Above the river, the color of fresh blood spread through the currents.

It was blood, Xuanjing's blood.

My attack must've left his life-bound spirit with only half of its strength remaining.

"Wife, shall I chase after him and slay him?" Yu Longting asked in a low voice, "Strike while he is weak."

Bai Zhanhe spread her arms, blocking the riverbank, "He didn't really commit any evil deeds, so... let's just let it be, there's no need to press for total annihilation."

Chapter 550: I Have Seen Dragon Dad

Yu Longting arched his brows coldly and irritably, "Get lost."

"But my grandfather is still in his hands," Bai Zhanhe bit her lower lip tightly.

Watching the Great Demon King Yu grow ominously, like a monster from a horror movie, it was almost tear-inducingly scary, I shook Yu Longting's arm, "For the sake of the fact that you and Xuanjing grew up together, and on Dragon Dad's face, don't be utterly ruthless."

"Dragon Dad?" Yu Longting's expression softened, as he easily cleared the mist and broke into a smile.

I was so mesmerized that I stared at him for a long time.

Yu Longting just patiently gazed at me, and I scratched my head, my face a blend of embarrassment and eagerness, "Calling him 'Your Majesty' like Xuanjing does is too silly, it's dead early in the morning! 'Dragon God' is too distant! Calling him... perhaps 'Dragon Dad' is more fitting, both warm and proper."

The main reason I pleaded for Xuanjing in front of Yu Longting was because I had just found out that Yu Longting and Xuanjing had always been childhood friends, pfft, besties.

Turns out Xuanjing was practically raised by Yu Longting's father and was an old fox even older than Yu Longting.

Secondly, it was because Bai Zhanhe's grandfather was in Xuanjing's hands, provoking Xuanjing might inevitably lead to a no-win situation.

Otherwise, given the deep hatred between me and Xuanjing, there really was no reason to spare him.

"Calling me Dragon Dad is good, I really like this nickname," Yu Longting, pleased, supported my waist and lifted me off the ground, holding me like one would hold a child, "This is for you."

Since there was no one else in the cave, I didn't resist this embarrassing hug too much, and I took the pure white Fixed Water Pearl that Yu Longting handed to me, "Hey, this... it's an inner core."

An inner core is the origin of a demon beast, upon touch one can feel the heartbeat's rhythm, mirroring the Small Heavenly Cycle circulating within one's Qi Sea.

"This is the only relic left by my father; it can control the winds, tides, and rains," Yu Longting walked toward the depths of the cave.

I felt something was off, thought for a moment, and realized, "The Dragon Scale you gave to Xuanjing, isn't that a relic of Dragon Dad?"

"That's my scale; I was tricking him," Yu Longting said lightly.

The corner of my lips twitched involuntarily, "You used your own scale to deceive Xuanjing into thinking it was a relic from Dragon Dad? Then... wouldn't Xuanjing go mad if he found out?"

"A Snake Scale can only store sound for single use; he wouldn't dare to activate the Snake Scale to hear the old man's last words. How could he find out?" Yu Longting was brimming with confidence.

Really... so scheming...

Calculative... blatantly... decisively...

In front of this scheming Black Snake, Xuanjing was merely a naive little rabbit.

At the deepest part of the cave, there was a huge square altar.

It was guarded by four imposing Divine Beasts on all sides, with various spells carved on the ground—Mystic Thunder, Ice Sky, Earth Fire, Wind Rain...

Yu Longting pushed the Fixed Water Pearl in his hand towards the center of the altar; it rolled along the unseen barrier in the air and finally settled atop the Formation," Who would have thought, two months ago, Xuanjing had stolen the old man's coffin, and Beichen and I only discovered it recently."

"So, you mean Xuanjing stole Dragon Dad's coffin, took the Fixed Water Pearl from inside it, and placed it on this Formation to pray for rain." Although Yu Longting didn't spell it out for me, I understood that this altar was used to control the weather in the vicinity.

No wonder Yu Longting said the coffin had been stolen two months ago, this place has been raining for two months straight.

Suddenly, I felt as though someone had struck my skull hard, and amidst the pain and dizziness, a man's voice gently spoke in my mind, "I'm male, forget Fairy Sister; call me Celestial Brother."

What... Celestial Brother... why would he call himself Celestial...?

Who exactly is he...?

No, he's Dragon Dad!!

I... I seem to have met Dragon Dad before...