

A Snake 551

Chapter 551: How Can a Man Cry?

"Wanwan... Wanwan... Don't scare me!"

As my body fell like a kite with its string cut, the sound of Yu Longting calling out to me beside my ear broke into a hoarse, cracked voice.

Something stirred inside my heart. Even though my head was heavy, making it hard to open my eyes, I still managed to muster a bit of strength to grasp his hand, "It's okay, don't... don't... be afraid, I'm just a little dizzy... "

Before I lost consciousness, my heart was full of thoughts of Yu Longting, fearing that he would worry about me.

I always felt as if I had fallen into a bunch of bizarre dreams, where the most frequent memories were of the people and events I encountered in the Serpent Domain.

But none of them were clear, the images contained countless gloomy stone tablets standing towards the sky, Qingyang's eye-catching white hair, and a blur-faced man in ancient attire.

I always felt I had seen him clearly, but his likeness had been forcibly erased from my mind.

Like a photograph that had been partially burned, my mind... must have had a lapse...

And because of some stimulation at the altar, I recalled a few fragments.

There was a burning heat falling on my cheeks, and also a cold liquid rolling down.

I touched the place where the liquid rolled and slowly opened my eyes, only to see a glimpse of dawn in the sky.

This is not Baiming Cave.

It seems like I am lying on a wobbly moving boat.

In astonishment, I touched a not so clear tear streak on the man's face, "This is the first time I've seen you cry... were you scared just now?"

"I didn't cry, don't accuse me wrongly, how could a man cry, you saw it wrong," Yu Longting defensively argued, though his body honestly leaned over, with his palm cradling my back, he tightly embraced me deeper into his arms, "Why did you suddenly faint? Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

"I'm not uncomfortable, I was probably... just influenced by the altar, perhaps Dragon Dad somewhere likes me, his daughter-in-law, quite a bit." I did not tell Yu Longting about the things I saw in the Serpent Domain in my dream, since he was clearly startled by my sudden fainting.

Telling him about my own unclear matters would worry him again.

Yu Longting looked stunned for a moment, then spoke in a somber and fierce tone, "Influence? When you fainted, I infused Spiritual Power into your body - your extraordinary meridians and other channels were sealed, and you even stopped breathing."

My goodness, no wonder Yu Longting was so scared, scared to the point of tears.

He almost... thought... I had died...

In his eyes, he truly, truly cares about me so deeply.

"But now I don't feel any discomfort in my body, the meridians are unobstructed, and even the Life Lamp... lit up a bit, although it's not fully recovered." I had a strange feeling in my heart, firmly believing that Dragon Dad must still be alive in this world.

Perhaps... my Life Lamp was partly healed by him...

Yu Longting grasped my pulse, carefully checking several times before he reassured, "It'll still be a while before we get to Barbarian Village, you should get some rest."

"I'm not sleepy, by the way, where did this boat come from? It looks kind of familiar." Somehow, this boat resembled the ramshackle, paper-mache straw boat that sank!

Yu Longting said, "This is the boat originally prepared for you for entering Baiming Cave."

"I see, the boat I and Bai Zhanhe sat on, was it swapped by someone else?" Thinking about it made me clench my fists in anger.

It was simply disregarding human life, fully intent on killing me and Bai Zhanhe.

Yet Yu Longting smirked with a wicked smile, "The old village chief did it."

Chapter 552: The Holy Radiance

"So it really was the village chief, why did he do that?"

"The Divine Oracle from the Dragon God Temple instructed him to, that old man never believed I was the Dragon God."

"Even so, what he did was too much, he shouldn't be easily forgiven."

"His head has already been kicked around like a ball by me."

I widened my eyes, "What?"

"I killed him on the spot when I discovered he had sabotaged the boat," Yu Longting said arrogantly and nonchalantly as he straightened my slightly disheveled collar.

Knowing Yu Longting's character, if he said he twisted off the head, he really did.

How could it be vague?

Perhaps he even kicked the head around like a ball.

Suddenly, a gory image formed in my mind, "You did that... in front of the Barbarian Villagers?"

"What else?" Yu Longting retorted as if it were obvious, a fleeting sinister look in his eyes, "Should I have lured the old man to a secluded place to kill him? Does he deserve that?"

I could almost envision Yu Longting's desperate, murderous posture at that moment, flipping over and pinning him down.

Taking advantage of Yu Longting being momentarily dazed, I leaned in and kissed his earlobe, "Thank you for avenging me and Sister Zanze. If Sister Zanze hadn't taught me to swim, I would have drowned. By the way, where is Sister Zanze?"

"On the deck," Yu Longting replied, his hands supporting my waist, his tone deep and filled with affection.

The covered boat was reportedly pulled by several laborious snakes raised by Yu Longting, all the way to Barbarian Village.

The shore was crowded with waiting Barbarian Villagers, their faces full of loathing.

When the three of them disembarked, the bright winter sunlight was piercing through the clouds, scattering down.

It really seemed like a divine glow, illuminating everything on the shore with bright clarity.

The villagers' emotions became very complex, gripping the farming tools in their hands tightly as weapons, yet none dared to act.

On one hand, realizing the weather had cleared up, possibly because of us.

On the other hand, feeling hatred from witnessing the old village chief being killed by Yu Longting.

"We need to stay one more night," Yu Longting said, holding my hand, his gaze unwavering as he walked through the crowd, "Anyone who dares to create trouble, dies."

The crowd instinctively made way, letting this murderous Evil Snake pass through.

Hearing the word "die," they gasped even more.

Back at our place, I sought Bai Zhanhe's opinion.

Although she resisted harboring the demon fetus, her pupils filled with terror towards the fetus inside her.

However, since Xuanjing had saved her grandfather and only requested her to carry the fetus for two months, she was willing to endure it.

Then, Yu Longting called over the two Taoists from the Zhang Family's collateral branch.

He had them take Bai Zhanhe back.

The two did not argue and respectfully bowed, supporting the raft to send Bai Zhanhe back to town via the waterway.

"With the troublemakers gone, we can finally get things done."

Yu Longting sat down on a chair and beckoned to me, "Wanwan, come here."

"I'm not going over, I'm exhausted, cold, and hungry, and you still want to exploit me?? Even bonded laborers under landlords aren't as miserable as this!!" I shrunk into the corner, adamantly refusing to approach him.

Suddenly, Yu Longting's face turned as dark as the bottom of a pot, "Su, Wan."

Obviously, my words had infuriated him.

"Coming, coming, calm down," I approached him with small, hesitant steps to see what he wanted.

Just as I reached his side, he pulled me onto his lap.

Yu Longting spoke up, "Come in."

A few women entered from outside, carrying buckets and heated water.

All of them wore faces of fear, quickly setting down their items and running off faster than rabbits.

"Uh, you want me to take a hot bath, why didn't you say so earlier, you scared me."

Chapter 553 Moon's Favorite

I patted my startled little heart.

Already lifted into the air, I was thrown into the hot water still clothed.

I splashed reflexively, water flying everywhere, "Yu Longting, don't rush like that, I haven't taken off my clothes."

"Do you think if you took off your clothes, I could still restrain myself?" Yu Longting's temples throbbed, threatening every word.

I looked down at my outer robe and undergarment made of soaked silk, "Are you sure wearing them... won't be more impactful?"

"Wanwan, if I become a beast, it will definitely be your fault." Yu Longting knelt on one knee beside the steaming wooden tub, pinching my chin, and delivering a punishing kiss.

My entire mouth was numbed by the kiss, and it especially hurt.

Yet my heart felt particularly warm, as if wrapped in warm water. Yu Longting must have wanted me to take a hot bath for fear I'd catch a cold after being in the river for so long.

Both my hands cradled his face as I gently responded to Yu Longting's stormy kisses.

Yu Longting's entire body stiffened suddenly, almost dragged into the warm water with me. Quickly regaining control, he pulled back with darkened eyes, pinching the bridge of his nose, "Are you wearing the embroidered cloth strip?"

"All taken off with my wedding dress, left in the cave." I wore an innocent face. Clearly, he kissed me first, and even bit my lip until it bled.

I didn't even retaliate...

With no other choice, Yu Longting tore off a strip of cloth from his sleeve and handed it to me, "Tie this on for me."

"Oh." I modestly rose to my feet and covered Yu Longting's eyes with the cloth.

Rising, the sound of water rippled softly.

Yu Longting listened to the sound, his ears twitching.

The veins at his temples bulged even worse, as if they would explode any moment, but his tone remained steady, "Center your mind on the Qi Sea, let's try Dual Cultivation again. We won't get greedy this time, just focus on repairing your Life Lamp. Recovering a bit is better than nothing."

"Okay." Taking his advice, I sat back down and centered my mind.

This time was different, he was wary of me.

Transformed into my little red figure, I didn't encounter the Little White Snake in the Qi Sea like the last time.

However, our Spiritual Powers flowed between us just as before, as if we had become one.

As I approached consciousness, I heard Yu Longting's voice, "I've added some herbs; it's barely extended your life by two years, but you only have five years left. If only we could consume that Ginseng..."

"Yu Longting, Xiao Shenshen is so adorable, we absolutely cannot eat him," I said, my first act upon waking, covering Yu Longting's lips.

It was pitch-black inside the room, but through the gaps in the curtain, I could see it had completely darkened outside.

Yu Longting had also entered the bath, his profile hidden within the shadows.

Yet the water glowed bright.

I reached out to grab.

Yu Longting hastily intervened, "Don't take it out."

"Uh, but I already did." My face bore a guilty expression.

In my palm lay Yu Longting's inner core, the size of a small watermelon.

The ruddy inner core was warm to the touch, slowly spinning in my hand.

My lower leg felt a gentle touch from the Snake Tail.

Only then did the buzz in my brain alert me to the fact that Yu Longting stayed in his snake form to help heal me.

His scales gleamed like pure silver.

They strangely reflected the increasingly bright moonlight coming through the window gap.

The moon seemed to favor him exceptionally, focusing all its radiance upon him through even a tiny gap.

Tonight, the moon was full.

I heard that Spirit Snakes would swallow their inner cores under the full moon, absorbing Spiritual Energy, and the essence of the sun and moon.

It had to be my chance to witness this.

"Burn that Demonic Snake to death, the Divine Oracle cannot be wrong. He killed my father, murdered our village chief and tribal chief," an irate young man shouted from outside. Through the thin curtains, countless torches flickered, being hurled toward this small house.

Chapter 554 Celestial Omen

"Burn those treacherous lovers to death, and avenge the village chief."

"Burn them to death..."

Flames engulfed the cabin as those outside, spurred by excitement, bellowed loudly.

Not even giving me time to fear the approaching fire disaster.

Yu Longting's inner core suddenly burst forth, breaking through the roof and flying out.

"How did your inner core run away?" I exclaimed in shock.

Yu Longting touched his forehead, "I don't know either; Wanwan, you're too mischievous. I specifically hid the inner core in the bathtub to avoid the moonlight, yet you still fished it out!"

"Why avoid the moonlight? The moonlight loves you so much, giving you its gentlest and brightest side."

I looked at the fierce fire growing more terrifying and suggested, "Shall we go out and take a look?"

"Dry yourself off, put on some clothes, and then we'll go out," Yu Longting said with a stern face, "Don't catch a cold."

He was remarkably nonchalant.

The inner core had run off; I wondered if he would start worrying if it couldn't be found.

Half a minute later.

I was wrapped up like a bear, my hair half dry, as we, together, pushed open the door.

The fire was intense enough to almost completely dry my hair.

Seeing Yu Longting and me walk out nonchalantly,

The villagers, who had been noisily jesting, were suddenly choked up.

At that moment, hanging above the roof was Yu Longting's crimson inner core.

The inner core shone brightly red, complementing the full moon's brilliance.

Subsequently, the moon's rays directly showered upon Yu Longting.

The light from the inner core was cleansed by the moonlight into a silver radiance, growing ever brighter.

It illuminated the entire Barbarian Village, including the dark depths where the flowing river became crystal clear under the light.

The fire eating away at the house had been extinguished.

"Lord Dragon God... has revealed himself."

The villagers looked up at this miraculous sight, then collectively prostrated themselves, "Only a True Dragon can be nurtured by the full moon's devoted energy and light up every corner of the village with glorious light. He... he truly is the Dragon God..."

Thud, thud, thud.

The heavy sound of head-knocking filled the air.

Such veneration and reverence couldn't be faked.

People knocked their heads until the ground was stained with blood.

I looked sidelong at Yu Longting, stunned, "They seem to have completely accepted your identity as the Dragon God."

By a twist of fate, Yu Longting had become established as the Dragon God.

Yet, he was clearly only at the Ying Long stage; how could he have the Celestial Omen reserved for True Dragons?

In the cultivation of snake species, the progression is: snake, python, viper, Transformed Snake Dragon, Snake Dragon, Ying Long, True Dragon...

Although both Yu Longting and Immortal Liu are Ying Longs, there's a vast difference between them.

Yu Longting is only one step away from becoming a True Dragon.

His strength is several times that of Immortal Liu...

It seems even within the Ying Longs, there's a hierarchy of power.

"Who cares about that," Yu Longting said with an indifferent face.

The next day, after a good night's sleep, I rose early.

Upon opening the door, I saw last night's villagers still kneeling there.

The walls bore the remains of charred marks, luckily extinguished in time.

The main structure of the house sustained no significant damage.

Hearing the noise of my opening the door, they all shivered in trepidation.

I figured these people had only come to set fire last night after witnessing Yu Longting kill the village chief and being incited by the chief's son, so I didn't hold a grudge, "Everyone, get up. Dragon God has forgiven you, and won't punish you."

Kneeling all night in the winter cold had nearly frozen many of them stiff.

They slowly raised their heads, exchanging glances, yet none of them stood up, "It's not punishment we fear, but rather the guilt is too much to bear."

"Yu Longting, come and say something. They are kneeling like this, and I can't even eat breakfast. I'll starve to death here," I called into the house.

In the blink of an eye, Yu Longting was by my side, "My wife is hungry, go prepare some food."

Chapter 555: Trespassers Will Be Killed

"Yes, we'll go prepare the food right now, and ensure that both you and Lady Dragon God are satisfied."

Only then did the crowd have a bigger reaction, with everyone repeatedly kowtowing three times before helping each other up and leaving.

I watched everyone walk away, resentfully turning to Yu Longting, "What do you mean by this? You make me sound like a glutton, needing the whole village to mobilize for a meal."

"If I didn't say that, how would they have left?" Yu Longting replied.

The breakfast was as rich as expected, with a long table set up, covered with dozens of different kinds of breakfast dishes, just like a banquet.

I stuffed myself, having only tried four or five dishes, then said as I got up, "Everyone, please sit and eat; I really can't eat anymore."

"Come walk with me to aid digestion." Yu Longting took me for a walk to help digest the food.

I had eaten too much, and kept belching along the way.

When we passed by the Dragon God Temple, the temple was the same as before.

Protected by a formation, it would need the formation removed to reveal its true appearance.

In front of the temple gate, several villagers were anxiously discussing something.

"What's going on?" I went over to ask.

Seeing us, the villagers hurriedly wanted to kowtow, "We greet the Dragon God, we greet Lady Dragon God."

"No need to kneel." Yu Longting didn't like others kneeling to him either and before they could kneel,

he raised his hand and invisible Qi Force lifted the people up.

The villagers looked astonished, then their faces showed sincere and fearful gratitude, "We were discussing how to enter the Dragon God Temple. The village head's death was sudden; there are too many restrictions set by the formation outside, and outsiders can't get in."

"Yes, Lord Dragon God stopped the rain and didn't blame us; such a grace, we must serve at the temple front."

"If we stop offering incense and worship, it would be a great disrespect to you."

Yu Longting listened, remained silent for a moment, then gave them a few talismans, "Stick these on the outside doors, and from now on the temple will stay visible."

"Thank you, Dragon God."

"Thank you, Lord Dragon God..."

After leaving with Yu Longting, I said, "We should probably head back, Beichen and Xiao Li must be worried by now."

"How is their relationship progressing? When are they getting married?" Yu Longting asked me.

I didn't expect Yu Longting to be curious about gossip; I smiled slightly, "It should be soon. They've been treating me like a child-giving Guanyin, coming to me to ask for children."

As we were speaking, we passed by a household.

A man from that household, reeking of alcohol, was clutching his shoe sole,

and chasing after someone from inside the house while cursing, "Whose little brat are you, daring to steal my pancake? I'll beat you to death."

"Ow, where did this kid come from? He couldn't be one of those missed Yellow Skins, could he?" A middle-aged woman wielding a hoe came storming out.

I took a close look and was overjoyed to recognize the thin figure biting into the pancake, "Yu Longting, it's Xiao Shenshen! Good thing we bumped into him here; otherwise, we would've left him on the island and gone away."

"This is embarrassing, faring even worse than Xuanjing, can't even feed himself when he's outside, has to resort to stealing pancakes," Yu Longting said bitterly as if he was disappointed, but he was already walking toward the household, to the fence surrounding the yard.

The little cutie clad in a red and yellow shirt and shorts suddenly vaulted over the fence to escape, only to end up crashing into someone else's embrace, "You... let me go... I didn't mean to bump into you."

"Don't you even recognize me now? Have you... lost your memory, you little thing?"

The man, dressed simply in a short-sleeved t-shirt and ordinary jeans appropriate for winter, but wearing an absurdly white mask, caught the little boy who had clumsily run into his arms, and spoke gently to the couple that had chased out after him, "Stop beating him; the poor kid, what harm is there in giving him something to eat?"

"Who are you? Since when is stealing right?"

The couple were taken aback, then both glared angrily. The woman was particularly fierce, raising her hoe to smash it on the masked man's head, "

Chapter 556: Wandering to Barbarian Village

"Outsiders are forbidden from entering Barbarian Village; intruders will be killed!! I'll kill you!!"

Following the woman's angry shout, the hoe in her hand smashed onto the masked man's head.

Blood slowly trickled down through his hair, flowing over the ivory-white mask, as the man stood there motionless.

Since the man's face was covered by the mask, his expression could not be seen.

For a moment, the atmosphere turned eerie and tense.

Even though the people in this place are known for their ferocity, the fact that the man neither dodged nor flinched after taking a blow to the head had both the husband and wife simultaneously stunned.

The man, with his refined demeanor, slowly reached for a handkerchief, wiping the blood from his forehead, "I wandered into Barbarian Village, penniless and starving, uncle, auntie, please, give me something to eat."

This person's words sounded too bizarre, there was a sense of discordance throughout his entire being.

Bashed on the head, bleeding so much, yet so composed.

His demeanor was extremely refined, yet his tone sounded so desolate, claiming to be a wanderer who hadn't eaten...

The village woman and her husband remained frozen in place, their expressions showing they had never felt so speechless in their lives, "..."

"Forget it, since you are so cold-hearted, I will just go beg for food at another house." The man said helplessly with a shake of his head, turning to leave in disappointment.

I had a peculiar feeling in my heart, tugging at Yu Longting as we quickly followed, "Hurry, catch up, he's going to run off with Xiao Shenshen."

"We won't be able to catch up, he can 'Teleport'." Yu Longting said we wouldn't catch up, yet he picked me up and swiftly caught up with large strides.

That retreating back moved exceedingly slow, as if strolling leisurely.

Yu Longting's velocity was like a gust of wind.

In the end, what we caught up to was nothing but an afterimage.

And that person's figure, completely vanished before our eyes.

Yu Longting's thin lips lightly uttered, "He left Barbarian Village."

"This... this quickly?" I stammered in shock.

Yu Longting said, "It was Teleportation."

"Uh... are you sure it's not a skill only found in novels?" I winked at Yu Longting.

Yu Longting's gaze returned from looking off into the distance, and looking at me, "This person, he is at least at the level of an Earth Immortal."

"He seemed quite familiar with Xiao Shenshen just now, could it be... Dragon Dad?" I hooked around Yu Longting's neck, tentatively guessing.

Yu Longting's eyes darkened, "I don't know, I couldn't see his face through the mask, but..."

"But what, don't keep me in suspense," I said impatiently, dissatisfied as I glared at Yu Longting.

Yu Longting slowed his steps, but within two or three, we were back near the house from before, "But his mask... it's exactly like the one my mother wore back then."

"Then it must be the same person, Dragon Dad is still alive, that's great, Yu Longting," I said, overcome with joy, completely forgetting that this was a sensitive subject for Yu Longting.

Seeing his face stiffen like iron, my heart shrank a little.

The exuberant emotions involuntarily subdued a bit, and the smile slowly faded from my face.

Yu Longting's expression turned gloomier than I had ever seen, his gaze drooping, "Do you know how long it has been since he died? Without seeing him in person, confirming his identity, everything is still unknown."

"I know, Yu Longting, I shouldn't have been so impulsive, making such arbitrary judgments based on a mere hint," I quickly admitted my mistake, feeling regretful for speaking out of turn and reopening Yu Longting's wounds.

From what Xuanjing told me, Dragon Dad had always adored Yu Longting from his childhood.

Yu Longting must have been truly heartbroken when he experienced the loss of his father.

My hand cradled Yu Longting's cheek, gently touching it with sympathy.

Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed a pair of statues, feeling obliged to remind Yu Longting, "Have that couple been sealed at their acupoints? They seem to have been maintaining one pose... without moving..."

"I hadn't noticed until you mentioned it, let me check."

Yu Longting set me down with a resigned pinch to his brow and casually snapped his fingers, "Their condition is likely due to being under a Charm Technique."

Chapter 557: Naturally Enchanting Bones

Crack, the couple seemed as if they had just woken from a dream, "Why ... why am I standing here? Why can't I remember what I came out for? Wife, do you remember why we were standing here?"

"I ... I also can't remember. Weren't we supposed to go water the vegetables in the field?"

From their conversation, it was clear that they had forgotten everything about their encounter with Xiao Shenshen and what happened before and after.

They forgot not only the man with the mask but also the existence of Xiao Shenshen.

Charm Technique ... truly a domineering and heaven-defying art ...

The couple, still dazed, exchanged a few words before slowly noticing Yu Longting and me and hurried over to greet us.

Yu Longting and I responded briefly before heading to the dock of Barbarian Village.

"Charm Technique ... isn't it only used by demon clans?" I looked up and voiced the doubt in my heart, "Was that person a demon?"

Yu Longting, seeming to have calmed down, there was a mysterious glint in his eyes, "More precisely, the Charm Technique is possessed only by the Four Great Immortal Clans and is innate. It's not about whether or not to use the Charm Technique, but rather... whether to restrain it or not."

"Whether to restrain it or not?" I mulled over Yu Longting's words, and it clicked, "So you've always been naturally charming, but you deliberately restrained it, and that's why I wasn't mesmerized?"

"I restrained it, and you weren't mesmerized?" Yu Longting asked with a raised eyebrow.

My heartbeat quickened slightly being questioned by him, looking into his deep, all-seeing eyes, I had to admit, "Okay, your appearance alone has mesmerized me. Hey, Yu Longting, the fact that we weren't charmed by that man just now, could it be because he specifically restrained his Charm Technique against us?"

"Still not sure how advanced his cultivation is, it might not be that he restrained it against us, but rather that we are immune," Yu Longting casually remarked, his steps suddenly pausing, his expression turning as dark and impenetrable as thick ink.

I thought something serious had happened.

Following his gaze, I saw a beautifully carved milk baby sitting quietly on the canopy of the black-covered boat we had stopped at the shore yesterday.

The milk baby, with its simplistic expression, saw us from afar, still looking utterly clueless.

It sat there, not attempting to escape, well-behaved beyond words.

"Xiao Shenshen, are you sitting up there waiting for us? Where's the 'brother' who held you earlier?" I asked, surprised and delighted as I reached out both hands to hold it in my embrace.

Yu Longting put out a hand to stop me, "He's surrounded by prohibitions, not to be touched for now."

"Prohibitions?" I squinted, only able to see through my Spiritual Eye.

A series of tight and transparent prohibitions trapped Xiao Shenshen within.

Yu Longting flung a talisman from his sleeve, which stuck to the invisible prohibition and self-ignited without fire.

Subsequently, a faint cracking noise arose.

The prohibitions shattered like dominoes.

Yu Longting, raising Xiao Shenshen with his long, ivory-like fingers, asked, "Who was the person who held you earlier?"

"I ... I don't know." Xiao Shenshen was terrified of Yu Longting, trembling pitifully in his embrace.

Yu Longting gently patted Xiao Shenshen's tender cheek, "You don't know but went with him? Try saying another lie."

"My respected... I didn't lie, young ... master ..." Xiao Shenshen, timid and now crying, responded, "I accidentally bumped into his arms. He was so strong, and I couldn't break free."

"Making that up, continue making that up. Your Spiritual Power is enough to remove all strength from my wife's arm, yet you couldn't break free from a beggar?" Yu Longting, with a mischievous smirk, vengefully said.

Chapter 558 Kidnapped

Surrounded by the terrible low air pressure emanating from Yu Longting, Xiao Shenshen wailed, "Wuwu... I really didn't lie, he is very strong..."

"Yu Longting, stop scaring Xiao Shenshen. Give him to me to hold."

I put my hands together in prayer, earnestly trying to charm my way out, "He's so cute, you definitely can't bear to bully him."

"Cuter than you?" Yu Longting turned his head away, giving me a deep look.

Without giving Yu Longting a chance to react, I snatched Xiao Shenshen from his hands and ran, burrowing into the canopy boat, "Then for my sake, be a bit nicer to Shenshen."

"Wife, aside from me, you're actually holding someone else?" Yu Longting followed in with a dark face, filling the cabin with the smell of jealousy.

Once he sat down, I pushed Xiao Shenshen into Yu Longting's arms, "But Yu Longting, I... prefer being held by you. Can you fulfill this little wish of mine?"

"You little thing, really... getting more and more... naughty."

Dusk enveloped the town as we approached the courtyard gate.

Intending to surprise Xiao Li and Beichen, Yu Longting and I happened to bump into Beichen just as he was about to leave.

"Snake Lord, Lady of the Snake Lord?" The usually calm Beichen's face now bore an expression of surprise as if he had just experienced an earthquake, "You... how... never mind, it's good that the Lady of the Snake Lord is okay."

The days I took Xiao Li's place in Barbarian Village must have really worried this young couple.

However, at this moment, my greater concern was...

"Is Xiao Li safe now?" My first words upon seeing him were to urgently inquire about Xiao Li's condition.

Beichen nodded solemnly, "Don't worry, she heeded your advice and safely escaped from the Corpse-Driving Inn and met up with me."

"And the Ice Silkworm? Did you find it?"

My second concern was about the whereabouts of the Ice Silkworm.

Beichen's complexion suddenly turned ashen.

I panicked immediately, "You didn't find it?"

The child who snatched the Ice Silkworm was from Barbarian Village.

Even if he ran, it's the case of the monk may run away, but the temple can't run with him.

If need be, I would return to Barbarian Village again, and at all costs retrieve the Ice Silkworm.

"We found it, but it was kidnapped by an old man." There was an indescribable expression on Beichen's face.

I was completely baffled by Beichen's words, "If the Ice Silkworm Gu was stolen, then it was stolen, why... use the word 'kidnapped'?"

"Ah, just follow me." Beichen sighed, taking the lead to show us the way.

Arriving at a bustling street, Yu Longting squinted irritably, "There's a stench of a nosy old ox."

"It's obviously the scent of pure Yang and supreme righteousness. What do you mean stench?"

I stroked the small head of Xiao Shenshen, who was sleeping in my arms, full of disagreement, "I have this scent on me."

Yu Longting patted the top of my head, hypocritically saying, "Mhm, on you it's a fragrance, on that busybody, it's a stench."

Me: "..."

"Miss Xiao Li,"

Sitting in front of a noodle shop, the white-haired elderly man grasped a brightly colored lollipop, "I want to eat that, go get it for me, it looks really tasty."

The old man's gaze fell on a small girl passing by, holding her mother's hand, and a cotton candy in her hand.

The cotton candy was colorful, fashioned into the cute shape of SpongeBob.

Xiao Li, exasperated: "..."

She walked up to the mother and daughter awkwardly, managing a strained, insincere smile, "Excuse me, I hate to bother you, but could you please tell me where I can buy that cotton candy?"

"Her father made it for her," the girl's mother replied.

Chapter 559: Even as a Mother, One Cannot Deprive a Daughter of Her Well-being

Xiao Li reluctantly looked back at the old man.

The elder gave Xiao Li an encouraging look, forcing her to bite the bullet and ask, "Um, could you sell me this cotton candy?"

"But my child really likes this cotton candy." The woman's expression changed, clearly displeased.

Xiao Li gritted her teeth, crouched down, and said to the little girl, "Little girl, do you see that elderly man? He's my grandfather and he suffers from Alzheimer's disease, which is senility. He really wants your cotton candy, could you sell it to me?"

"That grandpa does look rather foolish and pitiful. Mom, may I give the cotton candy to the elderly man?" the kind-hearted little girl asked her mother.

The woman, initially unhappy, showed a touch of affection upon hearing her daughter's innocent words and patted the girl on the head, "Yes, Nannan, take it to Grandpa, you're a good girl."

"Grandpa, this cotton candy is for you. I hope you get better soon," said the little girl as she trotted over and handed the cotton candy to the old man.

The old man with a youthful appearance despite his white hair was dressed in a gray Taoist robe with simple cloth shoes on his feet.

The shoes, worn for too long, had holes at the tips.

The old man's toes poked through the holes in his shoes as he took the cotton candy and handed the little girl a blue charm folded into a triangle, "This old man never takes anything for nothing. This charm is for payment, wear it and it will protect you until you turn eighteen."

"Thank you, Grandpa." The little girl thanked him and then ran back to her mother, "Mom, Grandpa exchanged this treasure for the cotton candy."

Seeing the old man's dirty, mud-caked fingernails, the woman grabbed the charm and threw it on the ground, "How can you touch something so dirty so casually? It's full of germs."

I furrowed my brow, an indescribable feeling welling up inside of me.

I walked over and, to the woman's astonishment, picked up the charm and dusted it off.

I turned back to Yu Longting and stretched out my hand, "Do you have something similar?"

"Yes," Yu Longting pulled out another charm from his sleeve, his eyes filled with curiosity.

I walked over to the mother and daughter and said to the woman, "This one should be acceptable, right?"

The woman was stunned.

My tone was cool, "This is for your daughter's well-being. As a mother, you shouldn't deprive her of that."

"I... I understand now, give it to me," the woman said sheepishly.

I handed the talisman paper to the woman, crouched down, and patted the little girl's head, "Take good care of this talisman paper and wear it until you turn eighteen."

"Oh." The girl was somewhat startled, and she nodded blankly and walked away with her mother.

I watched the mother and daughter as they left.

As soon as I turned around, I was embraced by a warm body.

Xiao Li hugged me tightly, her body trembling violently, scolding me with a sobbing voice, "Su Wan, you knew to come back, you big jerk, heartbreaker! You scared me to death, do you understand...?"

"I know, I know, I was wrong. I shouldn't have scared you." At that moment, I truly felt like a heartbreaker, with Xiao Li's tears and mucus smeared all over my clothes.

Instead, Xiao Li hugged me even tighter, "You know nothing. Ever since the day you left to get married in Barbarian Village, I haven't had a single good night's sleep. How could you only come back now?"

"I was taking care of some business in Barbarian Village. Haven't you noticed that the rain has stopped?" I rubbed the back of her head and whispered into Xiao Li's ear, "Xiao Li, how did you end up dealing with that old man, being bossed around by him?"

"No need to whisper, my dear disciple. No matter how quiet you speak, to your master, it's as loud as a bell,"

Chapter 560: How Did She Provoke Him

The elderly man held a lollipop in his left hand and a mouthful of colorful cotton candy in his right, sucking away with glee.

I immediately gave up on pressing Xiao Li for answers and approached the elder, "The devil is your disciple, Elder Zhang Zidao; has your wallet been stolen? How did you get yourself into such a disheveled state?"

In less than half a month, the same man who would sit in business class seats on high-speed trains worth over a thousand yuan.

The Zhang Zidao who wore custom-tailored Sun Yat-sen suits, exuding pride and strictness from every pore, how did he end up looking so pitiable?

If it weren't for his familiar calling of "good disciple," I would have thought I had encountered his twin brother.

"Realm of Simplicity, the heart of a rascally child."

Yu Longting slowly uttered eight words.

Not really understanding, I looked at him only to hear Yu Longting continue to explain, "He is about to face the calamity of ascension; this is the state of mind before the ordeal."

"So, it's the state of mind from cultivation that made him... become..." Like a beggar?

I never imagined that cultivation in the Mystic Sect could actually change a person's character.

It transformed Zhang Zidao from an aloof and upright elder of an Orthodox Sect into this.

However, it's quite reminiscent of Hung Chikung God from the Legends of the Condor Heroes.

Zhang Zidao suddenly lit up with excitement, staring at the Shenshen in my arms, "That looks really delicious, seems very nourishing."

"Young Madam... I'm scared..."

Xiao Shenshen, coveted all year round, came with a sensitive alertness.

He immediately woke up with apprehension in my arms, shrinking back.

I protected Xiao Shenshen, warning like a mother hen guarding her chick, "Don't even think about eating my Xiao Shenshen."

"Can't you take a joke? You, my good disciple, have become so unlovable," grumbled Zhang Zidao.

At this moment, two Taoists made their way hurriedly over, covered in dust.

One of the Taoists carried a beggar's chicken, while the other carried a piece of roast pork belly oozing with fragrance, "Elder Ancestor, we've bought the food you wanted, anything else you need?"

"Yes, indeed, we are at your full service, brother and I."

This familiar bootlicking scent.

I was taken aback, recognizing the two Taoists, "You two are disciples from a branch of the Celestial Master Sect."

"Good disciple, this one is Zhang Sanxia, and that's Zhang Sijin." Zhang Zidao grabbed the beggar's chicken, munching away with oil around his mouth as he introduced unbidden, "Ah San, Ah Si, call her Senior Sister, from now on, follow her and heed her commands."

Upon hearing this, both Taoists, Zhang Sanxia and Zhang Sijin, were also utterly baffled.

Under the threatening gaze of Zhang Zidao, they awkwardly greeted Yu Longting and me, "Greetings Senior Sister, greetings Brother-in-law."

At this very moment, Xiao Li and Beichen, who had clearly been put through the wringer by Zhang Zidao these past days, wore faces that spoke volumes.

"What 'Brother-in-law'? I haven't yet accepted Snake Lord as the man of my disciple," Zhang Zidao quickly finished off an entire chicken, leaving only bones strewn about.

He wiped his oily hands directly onto his Taoist robe, "I'm full, let's go, let's go home."

With that, he tossed a clay jar to Xiao Li.

Xiao Li's face went pale as she hurriedly caught it, and holding it in her hands, she could hardly believe it was true, "He... just returned the Ice Silkworm like that?"

"Girl, I'm giving you back your Ice Silkworm, aren't you happy?" Zhang Zidao looked back at her.

Xiao Li forced out a smile uglier than crying, "Happy, very happy."

Zhang Zidao then turned back, satisfied, and hummed a tune as he entered the small courtyard rented by Beichen, as though it was his own house.

It's like a real-life version of a cuckoo claiming a nest.

Seeing Xiao Li's struggle, I asked, "How did you guys manage to provoke him?"