

A Snake 561

Chapter 561: The Tainted Well

"I don't know what happened, but suddenly someone popped up, took the Ice Silkworm Gu from me and Beichen, and now we have to take care of him and fulfill his wishes." Xiao Li tried not to cry, her face twisted in distress, "Must be the retrograde messing with us, why else would such bad luck befall us?"

Beichen interjected, "I think he might be here for Su Wan."

In front of Yu Longting, Beichen would address me as the Lady of the Snake Lord.

Privately, he still uses my name, treating me as a friend.

That has always been comforting to me.

"You're absolutely right, we notified the sect, and three of our brothers were killed by Yellow Skins," said Zhang Sanxia, "The elder ancestor has learned that you're in Western Hunan now."

Zhang Sibin added, "The elder ancestor came specifically to find you, since he couldn't enter Barbarian Village, he met your friend first."

Me: "..."

Xiao Li: "..."

Beichen: "..."

"Wife, give me Xiao Shenshen," Yu Longting said affectionately, now influenced by me to call the Thousand-Year Ginseng by its intimate name, Xiao Shenshen.

I looked at him warily, "I just finally got him to sleep, don't wake him up."

"Doesn't your husband deserve your trust?" Yu Longting said with a smile.

My heart melted, trusting him completely as I handed Xiao Shenshen over, "I might distrust anyone, but never you."

However, once Xiao Shenshen was in the hands of the Big Bad Snake,

Yu Longting swiftly stripped Xiao Shenshen of his garments and handed them to Zhang Sanxia and Zhang Sibin, "Thanks for your significant help in Barbarian Village, this is the reward I promised."

"Thank you, Snake Lord, you truly keep your word, a true gentleman indeed."

"We'll definitely speak highly of you in front of the elder ancestor to have him accept you as our brother-in-law," they flattered and thanked profusely, brown-nosing to no end.

I always knew that these two men from the Orthodox Sect would cater to Yu Longting's whims; they must have had some deal with him.

So Yu Longting had promised them that.

After their flattery, they joyously handed over the red and yellow garments to Zhang Zidao, presenting them like precious treasures.

"Give Xiao Shenshen back to me." I demanded, regretting everything, feeling completely let down.

It was my fault for trusting Yu Longting too much, which led to Shenshen not even having clothes to wear.

This guy certainly didn't go back on his word, waking Shenshen up,

But stripping the poor child bare, how could there be such a heartless young master?

Before long, Xiao Shenshen rubbed his eyes and woke up.

As soon as he woke up, he nervously curled up, "My... my clothes, why are they gone?"

"Uh, Yu Longting borrowed them." I tried to wrap Xiao Shenshen's petite body with my own coat, but his body repelled all other fabrics except his own clothes.

Seeing his own bare body, Xiao Shenshen's tears flowed again, "The young master is bullying me again, Shenshen has no clothes, how am I to face others."

I consoled him for a long time before I could get the little poor thing to stop crying, "There, there, I'll make you a new, better-looking set of clothes, and I promise you won't have to hide from anyone."

Xiao Shenshen: "Really? But... normal clothes don't fit me."

Me: "Of course it's true, I promise, the clothes I make for you will definitely fit."

Xiao Shenshen: "Lady... you're the best~"

I curled my lips slightly, feeling a surge of emotions. Initially, Shenshen didn't like me getting near him, even biting me.

But after getting to know each other better, he had become increasingly dependent on me.

"Don't draw water from the well, there are evil spirits in there," came Zhang Zidao's voice from the courtyard.

Upon hearing the word "evil spirits," I immediately rushed out with Shenshen to investigate.

We saw Xiao Li holding a half-filled bucket dripping with water, "Evil spirits? But... it's just that the tap water is cut off, and we have been drinking well water for several days."

"It's been contaminated just now."

Chapter 562 Physical Sanctification

At a stone table in the courtyard sat the old Taoist Priest Zhang Zidao.

He toyed with something resembling a root in his hand, "In this peaceful and prosperous age, who would have thought that such evil creatures still exist."

"My... my clothes, my pants," Xiao Shenshen pouted, her watery large eyes fixed on that root-like thing.

I gently patted Xiao Shenshen on the back, just about to utter some comforting words.

Beichen, who came out from the kitchen, delivered an unexpected sarcastic blow, "It's a pity they already belong to someone else."

His indifferent face was practically emblazoned with the words "Face the reality."

"Wuu~" Xiao Shenshen buried her face in my chest, letting out a suppressed whimper.

My mouth twitched, hardly believing this was something Beichen would do, "Why are you bullying Shenshen, too?"

"Different standpoints," Beichen replied in a measured tone.

So, the men of Yu Longting's group are supposed to gang up on a little kid?

Men are all big pig's trotters!

Beichen went up to Xiao Li, set down the wooden bucket she was holding, and asked Zhang Zidao, "Old senior, what is the filth in the well? Does it need to be fished out?"

"If my poor Taoist assumption is not wrong, it is a Corpse Gu, commonly found inhabiting the bodies of dead chickens and ducks," said Zhang Zidao confidently, "If you want to fish it out, go ahead, I'll have your back."

"You didn't touch the well water, did you?" Beichen, upon hearing the words Corpse Gu, quickly checked Xiao Li's hands.

Xiao Li's face turned pale for a moment, "How is it possible not to get a bit wet when drawing water... Is it also bad if only a little touched me?"

"I don't know much about Gu Poison, but you should... be fine," Beichen hugged Xiao Li, trying to console her.

I hugged Xiao Shenshen and had already gone inside to fetch the fishnet scoop.

It was the kind with a long pole and a net at one end.

In the southwest, water systems are well-developed, and many families have one, used for fishing in ponds.

When I came out, Beichen had taken the scoop, "I'll do it."

"Sure," I said. My belly was getting bigger month by month, and my body was becoming heavier and movements more inconvenient.

When Beichen offered to help, I had no reason to refuse.

By the well, Beichen dipped the scoop in to fish.

Xiao Li, who was scared after the fact, stood by his side, "Brother Chenn... be careful, don't... touch the water, after all you..."

"Don't worry about me, even for your sake, I won't make any mistakes," Beichen said as he fished with extra care.

Only then did I remember to regret letting Beichen do this.

He was a Living Dead; Corpse Gu likes to lunge at lifeless corpses.

I was also filled with unease, my brow furrowed tightly.

Only Taoist Zhang Zidao was leisurely resting with his legs crossed, solid as a rock.

He even picked up a tea cup, stirred the water with the lid, and drank it directly!!

He drank the tea water?? He actually drank it!!

"Old senior, you..."

Remembering Xiao Li's words about his senility, I now thought it might actually be a possibility, "You know there's something wrong with the well water, and you still drink tea brewed with it?"

"This is where your master shows off, I have achieved Physical Sanctification, no poison however venomous can harm me," Zhang Zidao's gaunt gaze sparkled with light.

As if continuously showing off, come and take me as your master, come and take me as your master!

I gave a thumbs up, "Impressive, impressive, worthy of being the old senior."

"No good, the thing in the water is too big, we can't scoop it out," Beichen concluded after a few turns with the scoop net in his hand.

By then, a foul smell was emanating from the well.

I sniffed and felt extremely nauseous, pinching my nose, "Why don't we give up and move to another place?"

If it's not removed, the Corpse Gu will spread throughout the town and even contaminate the southwestern water system," Yu Longting led Ah San and Ah Si, two Taoists, back and directed the two men to work, "Get the White Feather Chickens you bought tied up with ropes and lowered down."

Chapter 563: The Leader of the Six Livestock

"Yes, Snake Lord."

The two of them worked together to find a thick hemp rope.

One end of the rope was tied to the White Feather Chicken, and the other end was thrown into the well with a splash.

Yu Longting walked towards me, his eyes deeply fixed on me, "You didn't touch the well water, did you?"

"No, but Xiao Li seems to have accidentally touched a bit." I was somewhat worried about Xiao Li.

Yu Longting frowned slightly and grabbed my wrist, "A little bit should be fine."

"Oh." My wrist was firmly grasped by Yu Longting, so I gave up on the idea of looking for Xiao Li. "Did you buy the White Feather Chicken just to catch the Corpse Gu? Since you knew already, why didn't you tell us?"

"The well water is very deep, I didn't see any problem when I left." Yu Longting's eyes were deep and impenetrable, not allowing a single ray of light. "I was out buying groceries."

The town's night market was even busier than the morning market.

As the hanging lanterns lit up, the market was bustling with people.

"Those two Taoists... following us... was it because..." I looked towards the two Taoists standing by the well.

Yu Longting whispered, "Needed two more hands to carry things."

"Heave ho, heave ho!" Initially, Zhang Sibin was pulling the rope alone.

The space by the well was narrow, and it was cramped with more people around.

Later, Zhang Sibin exerted all his strength, veins popping on his forehead, yet he still couldn't pull up the thing in the water.

Wasn't that supposed to be a gu? I thought it would latch onto the lively White Feather Chicken, but now it just couldn't be pulled up.

Zhang Sanxia then went to help, and together, they pulled, shouting in unison, "One, two, heave ho, one, two, heave ho..."

Each of them had a red forehead, sweat pouring down their bodies, and even though it was cold, steam was rising from their heads.

Suddenly.

The Yin energy in the well surged.

Yu Longting and Zhang Zidao both narrowed their eyes simultaneously and rushed to grab the rope, forcefully pulling it outwards.

The moment the object in the well came up, both of them were on high alert as if facing a formidable enemy.

One grabbed a Taoist and quickly retreated backward.

With that retreat, the murky water splashed by the object they pulled up didn't land on anyone.

With a heavy thud, a decayed bull's head was pulled up.

The bull's head was immensely large, weighing at least a hundred pounds.

Thankfully, it was severely decayed; otherwise, it couldn't have been pulled up from the well.

The eerie thing was that the bull had clearly been dead for some time.

Otherwise, it wouldn't have been so heavily decomposed.

But still, its mouth was tightly clenching the White Feather Chicken that had fallen.

At that moment, a putrid smell filled the air.

Ah Si and Ah San, the two Taoists, looked at the scene and sat down hard on the ground, "Wasn't it supposed to be a Corpse Gu? Why is it a bull's head?"

"Go get the axe." Yu Longting ordered emotionlessly.

Beichen responded immediately, entering the house and coming out with a heavy axe.

The axe fell on the bull's head, carrying the immense force of Beichen's body, immediately splitting the skull in two.

A white, slippery, long worm twisted its body amidst the sticky brain matter and blood.

I swear, this was absolutely the most disgusting scene I had ever seen in my life.

I took a step back, my entire head spinning, and rushed out of the courtyard into the outside, retching, "Ugh~"

Next to me, sounds of retching filled the air.

I looked around, and Ah Si and Ah San were vomiting even worse than me, bile included.

Even Zhang Zidao couldn't stay in the courtyard; he too ran out and threw up.

Xiao Li vomited so hard tears and snot were all coming out, "Brother Chenn, I'm going crazy! How could there be worms in that bull's head?"

Beichen said, "I seldom deal with gu, so I can't tell why."

"Normally, blood-eating Gu Insects are raised with chickens and ducks. A bull is the foremost among livestock, and to raise a Gu King, a bull's head is essential."

I knew some things about gu and answered Xiao Li's question, my heart pondering, not all gu are as adorable as Xiao Yuanyuan and Xiao Honghong.

Chapter 564 Disgusting thing, how dare you touch my woman?

Xiao Li supported Beichen, who vomited until he could no longer stand firmly, "Wanwan, can't you communicate with Gu Insects? Did the Corpse Gu say anything?"

"This... I didn't pay attention; I'll go check." I was too preoccupied with feeling disgusted. If it weren't for Xiao Li reminding me, I would have forgotten I had this skill.

Pinching my nose, I walked back to the courtyard.

I found Yu Longting still in the yard, holding a Thunder charm.

As he chanted incantations, the Thunder charm responded, "Summon the Five Thunder Generals, may their dazzling light cut through darkness, protecting life and binding spirits and demons alike, all living and dead under my eternal command, swift as the enacted law."

Ever since I knew Yu Longting, I had rarely seen him use talismans and chant spells unless he faced exceptionally tricky matters.

The Thunder charm was affixed to the ox-head door, which disgustingly dripped with corpse water.

Several streaks of purple Heavenly Thunder split from the talisman paper, shattering the ox-head into tiny fragments as tendrils of black qi rose.

Shortly thereafter, the Thunder charm burnt up without flame, turning into ash.

The repulsive white worm, under the onslaught of Heavenly Thunder, writhed unscathed.

Yu Longting's face, grim and filled with a malevolent air, flung another fire charm, "Wanwan, are you done vomiting?"

"Done. I just came to see if I could talk to the Corpse Gu." I stood still, not wanting to interrupt him.

Yu Longting glanced at me and motioned me over, "Come."

"Oh." I walked over to him, looking up at him with confusion, "What's wrong?"

Yu Longting lowered his eyes; his face was pale, but his voice was extremely gentle and patient, "Wife, look, those Gu Insects with cold and heavy Yin energy are likely not from the world of the living. Don't try to communicate with them; be careful not to have your soul snatched away."

"That's scary. I'll obediently listen to you and keep away from these worms." I grabbed Yu Longting's sleeve, hiding behind him and nodding emphatically with compliant force.

Every time Yu Longting softened, I felt like I would drown in his gentleness.

Xiao Shenshen also lifted his tiny head, looking at Yu Longting in surprise, "Am I seeing this wrong? Young master... so tender~."

At that moment, Yu Longting's attention was focused on the Corpse Gu burning in the flames, his eyes filled with a terrifying chill, as if ice spears were flying out to pierce the dreadful worm to death.

His fingers clenched too tightly, the bones protruding on the cold, pale back of his hand...

The Corpse Gu let out a cackling laugh, like a resentful female ghost, "You want to kill me... hehehe... Snake Lord!! Ever since you were stitched into a cheongsam, you lost the right to do so... You can't save her... you can't save her..."

"Cover your ears, don't listen to it," Yu Longting barely finished speaking when he didn't wait for me to cover my own ears.

He was already behind me, hands firmly covering my ears as his chin gently tapped on top of my head, silently protecting me like a mountain.

I nodded fiercely and leaned back into his embrace.

From the sleeve of Yu Longting emerged nine streaks of Heavenly Thunder, and nine fire charms.

In theory, the Corpse Gu should have turned to ash in an instant.

But it was only writhing in pain without a sign of injury.

What do we do now?

Ordinary Yang Fire and Mystic Thunder couldn't kill the Corpse Gu.

Although my heavenly fire might work, I couldn't use it recklessly anymore.

"Su Wan... I want you dead..." The Corpse Gu's voice was piercing sharp, suddenly breaking through Yu Longting's barrier over my ears and exploding beside me as it lunged at me.

My heart thumped wildly, controlled by its piercing cry.

I didn't even have the strength to muster my Demon-Breaking Power and resist it.

Yu Longting was right – the voice of such a Netherworld thing could manipulate the heart and hinder actions.

Suddenly, an idea came to me.

This Corpse Gu kept screaming for my death, was it actually targeting me?

Did Xuanjing send the Corpse Gu?

Impossible, Xuanjing had been seriously hurt and had sunk to the bottom of the river.

Any use of Spiritual Power would cause his body to explode, leaving him to maintain his true form and recover quietly at the riverbed, unable to go anywhere.

Could it be Qingyang seeking revenge?

All these complex thoughts surged through my mind in the blink of an eye.

As Yu Longting bent over to shield me with his body, Xiao Honghong suddenly darted out from under my collar, colliding with the Corpse Gu.

Xiao Honghong was enshrouded in a fierce red glow, like being wrapped in flames, "Back off! You filthy thing, dare to touch my woman?"

Chapter 565: The Insect Corpse Is Also Disgusting

"It's not your Life-bound Gu, so why are you selling your life, are you sick!" The Corpse Gu broke into two pieces, yet was desperately writhing, trying to piece itself back together.

Little Honghong's thumb-thick body had shrunk several sizes, but she didn't retreat half a step, her bean-sized eyes full of murderous intent, "None of your damn business."

With each curse she flung out, it was uttered vehemently.

The Six Syllable Mantra, "Om", "Ma", "Ni", "Pad", "Me", "Hum"!

Each word was deafening, like a huge tremor that purified one's heart and soul.

The Corpse Gu, being a creature of yin and evil, simply couldn't endure such torment.

The two halves of its worm-like body dried up like they lacked water, twisting as they withered, and turned into two dry segments.

Even as it dried up before dying, it could still let out a curse,

"Su Wan... you think you can escape... nobody can save you..."

A Black Snake flew out of Yu Longting's sleeve, zipping past like lightning, swallowing the Corpse Gu in one bite.

In the blink of an eye, it returned to the safety of the wide sleeve and disappeared.

Little Honghong flew back to the palm of my hand, her body convulsing a few times, weakly spitting out the deep red centipede bead, "Woman, am I cool or what?"

"Very cool, super cool, but... are you okay, you even threw up your centipede bead..." My hands, cradling Little Honghong, trembled, as tears began to fall.

With weary eyes, Little Honghong glanced at the tear drops shattered in my palm, "Stop crying, Master Hong's not dead. Just got beaten to the point of throwing up milk, that's all. Take good care of my bead."

"I will, I'll take really good care of it. You won't have any problems, right?" I asked, worried.

"Tch, women are such a hassle." Little Honghong complained, then her head drooped down.

She curled up into a Michelin tire, rock hard and motionless.

My heart clenched tightly, "Little... Little Honghong..."

She looked exactly like a centipede that had died of rigidity.

"She's just in a state of Tortoise Breath, though it might seem like death." Yu Longting comforted me softly, "Once she's fully rested, she'll wake up again."

"Okay, I understand, Yu Longting, I'll go get the Matchbox to put Little Honghong in."

There was an indescribable pain in my heart as I spoke softly to Yu Longting.

This little proud creature, truly risking life and death for me.

Even after being beaten to the point of vomiting its inner core and still being stubborn, what's most commendable is that she has always been free.

In people's minds, only a Life-bound Gu has mutual benefits tied to life itself.

Only then would a Gu Insect fight to the death and obey every command for the sake of its host.

But everything Little Honghong did was out of her own volition, which was even more touching.

Yu Longting kissed my forehead and said only two words, "Go ahead."

I had always kept the Matchbox I used for Little Honghong; after all, it was a gift from Sister Tian Na, and it had a special Formation drawn inside.

Little Honghong, who had eaten herself plump with great difficulty, was beaten back to her original svelte state.

Now staying in the Matchbox, she probably even found it spacious.

I went inside to find it and carefully placed Little Honghong inside.

I placed the deep red centipede bead beside her.

"Pretty bead," Xiao Shenshen liked shiny things. While I was closing the Matchbox, he touched it with his plump little hands.

The centipede bead suddenly seemed to grow a bit bigger and even flashed.

Looking at Xiao Shenshen, I wondered, "Your touch..." Could it turn things into gold?

"Roar~" However, Xiao Shenshen was completely unaware of what he had done.

He yawned, turned over in my arms, and continued to sleep.

Returning to the yard, Taoists Ah San and Ah Si were filling the well with rocks and chunks of earth using spades, it seemed like they intended to seal off the well.

Beichen, from somewhere, got pomelo leaves and mineral water, poured them into a wooden tub for Xiao Li to wash her hands, "I hope it's just this well that's contaminated, so we can still go out to eat."

"I think... it's better to buy canned eight-treasure porridge to eat," Xiao Li pouted, then looked at me, "What do you think, Wanwan?"

Lost in thought about the words the Corpse Gu had uttered before its death, wondering to whom this Corpse Gu was a Life-bound Gu and how severely its master must have been injured.

Hearing Xiao Li's words, I snapped back to reality, "With the Mother Gu dead, all its offspring will die for sure. Even if the water source is contaminated, there won't be any living insects in it."

"Even if we can't be poisoned by the Gu, eating food with dead insects in it is pretty gross... Bleh..." Xiao Li was speaking when suddenly, without warning, she vomited a mouthful of fresh blood.

Chapter 566: Brother Chenn, I Didn't Cuckold You

The sweet scent of blood dispersed in the air.

Xiao Li's face suddenly turned ashen, like wall plaster, and her body slumped to the ground.

"Xiao Li." Beichen felt as though his soul was scared away as he hurriedly caught the falling girl.

Xiao Li struggled to open her eyes, her teeth stained with fresh blood, "It's so strange, my belly... my belly hurts so much..."

She had no strength left, and a large amount of blood gushed from her throat.

She didn't even have the strength to vomit and was choking and coughing continuously.

Blood trailed down the corner of her lips.

It stained her pretty white rabbit fur dress red.

"Could it be Gu poisoning?" Beichen took Xiao Li's pulse, but his expression grew more and more complicated.

I went over to Xiao Li and Beichen's side, sweat beading on my anxious forehead, "How is it? Corpse Gu? But the Corpse Gu's Mother Gu is clearly dead, how could it still... hurt someone?"

"I can't diagnose it. From the pulse, I can't determine Xiao Li's condition at all." Beichen bit his teeth in annoyance and looked at Yu Longting for help with his eyes.

Yu Longting walked over without any hesitation, "Let me."

"Alright." Beichen moved his fingertips away from pressing on Xiao Li's pulse, allowing Yu Longting's fingers to take over.

Yu Longting touched it lightly, and in less than three seconds, turned and gripped my wrist hard, "Do you feel unwell anywhere?"

"I... I don't feel unwell anywhere..." No sooner had I finished speaking than I contradicted myself, "Hiss~ Wow~ Ouch, my belly hurts, quite a bit too~ It's strange, I didn't touch the well water, could I also be poisoned by the Corpse Gu?"

"Chen Xiaoli is pregnant. The fetus inside her has been struck by Gu poison, Corpse Gu, my wife, you too," Yu Longting's eyes were filled with a tangle of emotions, and his fingertips gripping my wrist turned deathly cold, "But, I can't diagnose the specific cause."

That is to say, without going through the well water, the Corpse Gu could infect the Dumpling in my belly?

This... this is too unscientific!!

The two Taoists stopped their efforts to fill in the well, watching the situation develop with suspicion.

Yu Longting glanced at them, "You two continue, don't let us distract you."

"Alright." The Taoists touched their noses and continued the work of filling the well, mumbling to themselves.

Worried that being so close to the well, they too might become poisoned by Gu.

But I feel that, currently, the Corpse Gu seems to target only the fetuses in pregnant bellies, "It seems like the Corpse Gu targets only fetuses. Xiao Li, you're pregnant, why didn't you tell everyone?"

"Ugh, what pregnancy, Su Wan! Snake Lord! Don't you two talk nonsense, I... I've only been with Brother Chen," Xiao Li, half-dead, immediately began to protest vehemently upon hearing Yu Longting's words, "Cough cough cough... cough cough cough..."

The result was that the poor girl choked even more violently, her entire face turning paler without a trace of blood.

Beichen held Xiao Li tightly around her waist, as if clinging to the last ray of life, "Snake Lord, could you have diagnosed the pulse incorrectly? I'm sterile."

"Brother Chenn... I didn't cuckold you..." Hearing this, Xiao Li tried to sit up in alarm, despite being on her deathbed.

I was dumbfounded, feeling as though the Gu poisoning was secondary, and the important thing was to clear up why Xiao Li was pregnant.

Taking advantage of the fact that my belly wasn't hurting so much and I still had some ability to move and think...

I fished out the jar containing the Ice Silkworm Gu from Xiao Li's pocket and opened the sealed lid, "I think the reason might be here. When did Old Senior Zhang snatch the jar?"

"What do you mean 'snatch'? He just borrowed it to play with for a bit," Zhang Zidao had been looking serious since Xiao Li began spitting blood, stroking his chin thoughtfully. The moment he heard my words, he became displeased like a child.

Xiao Li was about to speak but was silenced by the sharp look Beichen gave her.

He didn't want Xiao Li to speak and waste her strength needlessly.

Beichen spoke indifferently, "The jar was taken by the Elder the third day we retrieved the Ice Silkworm."

"That's it then. The Ice Silkworm was bored in the jar and spun a lot of silk, which had a similar effect to the Combined Silk Garment." I shivered as, after opening the jar lid, the natural refrigerant Ice Silkworm chilled the entire yard to an icy tundra.

Icicles even formed under the eaves, and damp places started to freeze over gradually.

I quickly closed the lid; any longer, and the entire yard would have become as cold as the polar regions.

Xiao Li realized, "So... Ice Silkworm cured... the infertility for me and Brother Chenn?"

"It cured me, you had no problem at all," Beichen openly admitted without shame, acknowledging what would be the most embarrassing aspect for a man; he bowed his head guiltily, caressing Xiao Li's face, "I'm sorry, it was all my fault I couldn't hold back."

Chapter 567: Killing to Intimidate, Attacking the Mind is Supreme!

"How could I... blame you... cough cough cough..." Xiao Li's spirit was fading, but a smile still lingered on her face, while worry clouded her brows, "Doesn't that mean the baby was exposed to Gu Poison just after conception? Being so small and poisoned, it might not survive, right? I can't bear the thought..."

Beichen furrowed his brow, "In times like these, you still worry about this? With the Ice Silkworm Gu, you can have more children in the future."

Hiss~

The pain in my abdomen was getting worse!!

A cry of pain roared in my mind as my forehead was covered in cold sweat.

It felt like a pair of scissors stabbing and stirring inside my belly, the pain was so intense that I gasped for breath. I didn't even have the strength to shout; enduring the pain, I reached over my belly towards Little Dumpling, fearing the icy coldness of my abdomen,

"Little Dumpling... Are you alright?"

The pain in my stomach grew more severe over time and was not intermittent but continuous, pushing one's willpower to the brink of collapse.

"Mommy, I'm... fine, don't worry... I..." Little Dumpling suddenly began to suffer in my belly.

A mother's connection with her child is deep. I not only empathized with Little Dumpling's pain, but I also inwardly saw him floating in the amniotic fluid.

His fair skin was covered in many strange blue spots, and his tiny body, curled like a shrimp, trembled violently.

Those blue spots... really looked like... livor mortis on a corpse...

My throat itched, and I constantly felt a fishy sweetness rising up.

It seemed like I might vomit blood at any moment, just like Xiao Li.

Yu Longting cradled the back of my head, soothing me, and placed a hand on my abdomen to infuse Spiritual Power, "Wanwan, accept my help, I'll channel Spiritual Power to you and Little Dumpling to fend off the effects of the Gu Poison."

"Snake Lord, this method only treats the symptoms, not the root. You're just wasting Spiritual Power. It appears that we still need the Old Taoist Priest to step in."

Zhang Zidao, who had been observing for a long time, now stood up, dusting off his butt in an aloof and sage-like manner.

Yu Longting's face was grave, "You understand Gu."

"At least more than you do. Snake Lord, you haven't had much involvement with Miao Gu, have you? My useless junior sect member, Zhang Shuying, was first taught Gu Art by me, then went to learn from Old Man Yan in Miao Village, and that's how he got where he is today," Zhang Zidao explained.

Yu Longting pursed his lips, actually showing respect to Zhang Zidao, "Elder, you are a person of high integrity and broad knowledge and have always treated Su Wan as your disciple. Seeing her in such pain, you suffer too. Moreover, there's also your disciple's grandchild in her belly."

To kill someone, aim for the heart, attack the mind first!

He knew well that these ancient sects of the Mysterious Gate Orthodox greatly valued their lineage.

By mentioning that Zhang Zidao considered me his disciple, he also highlighted Little Dumpling's status as a grand-disciple.

With one sentence, he completely grasped Zhang Zidao's emotions.

The Old Taoist Priest frowned deeply, his steps quickened as he approached, inserting a Demon-breaking Hairpin into my hair, "Oh dear, I was actually intending to keep this a surprise, but I truly can't bear to see my dear disciple suffer."

"This is the Demon-breaking Hairpin made by my grandfather, and you took it?"

I touched the hairpin on my head, recalling the events that had taken place at Bai Yinman's house.

Back then, Zhang Zidao's arrogance led him almost to kill Yun Hao inadvertently.

Pushed to a state of fury at that time, I used the hairpin as a Magic Artifact to severely injure Zhang Zidao, and the hairpin was damaged.

In my haste to leave then, the hairpin was left at Bai Yinman's house.

When I returned to Bai Yinman's house later and searched high and low, it was nowhere to be found.

So it turned out that the old man had taken it that day.

Zhang Zidao sniffed, "Stealing, my foot! Girl, do you have no conscience at all? I spent twenty years restoring it! Have you ever seen such a benevolent thief???"

"I... I... wronged you, elder, but when you took it, you could have at least said something." I touched the hairpin, feeling guilty.

The hairpin was much more potent in its Demon Breaking Power than when I had carried it from Lin Family's house.

Not only had he restored it, but he had also made it more powerful than before.

Fearing that the hairpin might not stay secure in my hair, I undid my original hairstyle and used the hairpin to tie a simple Taoist nun bun.

Zhang Zidao spoke in a deep and resonant voice: "Wasn't I just trying to surprise you? It was meant to be a birthday gift, but before I could give it, my grand-disciple was afflicted with Gu."

The Old Taoist Priest seemed to think he had been too emotional, coughing twice to cover it up,

"Cough cough, little disciple, has your stomach pain eased a bit?"

Chapter 568: I Will Give You Many Children

"Much better, Dumpling. Are you alright?" I touched my belly, asking Dumpling.

Although Dumpling was no longer in as much pain as before, he still seemed listless. "Much better, mommy."

"Quickly thank Old Senior Zhang." My heart filled with gratitude toward Zhang Zidao, I thought about doing something to please the old man.

In a milky voice, Dumpling called out, "Old Senior Zhang, thank you for fixing mommy's hairpin and saving both me and mommy."

"Call me Great Grandmaster," Zhang Zidao corrected, dissatisfied.

Xiao Li was clutching her belly, a look of suffering on her face, "Then... what should I do... my belly also hurts a lot..."

"For now... Let the Taoist take your pulse, girl, don't rush. With me here, everything will turn out fine."

Zhang Zidao touched his nose and walked unhurriedly to Xiao Li, taking her pulse, "My dear disciple's body has a natural gift uncommon among regular people. Corpse gu has a hard time getting close, which led to the fetus becoming infected with gu poison, you... this girl..."

"What... what's wrong with me?" Xiao Li worriedly blurted out, and then spat out another mouthful of blood.

Beichen also grew anxious, "Old Senior, why are you hesitating?"

"This girl has good physical constitution too and also possesses the Little Heavenly Eye. Corpse gu can't infect you, but you're just a regular person, not like someone who has practiced Mysterious Art, yet your body's fitness is almost similar..."

Zhang Zidao stroked his beard, falling deep into thought.

Beichen straightforwardly revealed, "My wife has consumed the Snake Lord's Jade Marrow Light Spirit Nascent Soul Pill."

"Wife..." Xiao Li's pale face flushed with a touch of red.

Zhang Zidao sighed, "No wonder then. This elixir consumed by cultivators can even result in the forming of a nascent soul on their own, the corpse gu can't harm her, so it followed the mother's body into the fetus's."

"If we don't keep this child, will Xiao Li be fine?" Beichen's eyes darkened.

Zhang Zidao furrowed his brows, "A fetus infected with corpse gu, how do you suggest we abort it? Even if medication kills it in the womb, it won't leave the body. Surgery isn't possible either; the fetus is too small..."

"Isn't there any other way??" My family's Dumpling, whose body had reacted to the gu poison but was nearly recovered due to the suppression by the hairpin, "How about, I give the hairpin to Xiao Li to wear temporarily to suppress the gu poison outbreak and ease her suffering?"

"If it was useful for her, I would have suggested it myself; it's a Lin Family artifact and useless to her."

Zhang Zidao, with a pained expression, took out a bottle, "Inside are two pills, both concocted from Ginseng roots, initially for my dear disciple. First, let Miss Xiao Li use it to temporarily suppress the gu poison... but remember, only one pill; otherwise her delicate body won't cope."

As Ah San and Ah Si nearly finished filling up the well, wiping sweat off, they approached, "Elder, these Ginseng clothes were meant to replenish your health; why are you giving them away?"

"Indeed, you are facing Heaven's Tribulation soon; you need these heavenly treasures."

It turned out these two Taoists were trading with Yu Longting not for themselves, but to help Zhang Zidao face the Heaven's Tribulation.

Zhang Zidao waved his hand, "I appreciate your concern, but my body has already reached its limits; no medicine will be of any use now."

Limits, that probably meant the peak of cultivation.

This elder looked shabby and unremarkable.

But he had reached the highest point of cultivation among all beings...

"Xiao Li, it's all my fault." Beichen fed Xiao Li a pure white pill as smooth as cow's milk.

After swallowing it, Xiao Li's pain was relieved, and she slumped into Beichen's arms, relieved, "I only wish one thing, that the baby is safe, Brother Chen, it's our child."

"Snake Lord, there's one more for the Lady of the Snake Lord."

Beichen tossed the bottle to Yu Longting, then lowered his pitch-black eyes, tucking the girl's little hands into his own palm, "If we can't save it, don't be too heartbroken; I'll give you many children."

Chapter 569: Ten Thousand Poisons Hand

"Brother Chen... you've never been a mother, you don't understand,"

Before Xiao Li fell asleep from exhaustion in Beichen's arms, she murmuredly whispered, "Every life is worth fighting for."

Beichen was momentarily lost in a trance, his eyes flecked with shards of light, "I understand... such emotions."

"The priority now,"

Zhang Zidao's long eyebrows furrowed in deep thought, "is Gu Removal. Unfortunately... my obedient disciple's Centipede Gu has suffered a heavy blow, and that good-for-nothing sect member of mine, Zhang Shuying, is thousands of miles away."

"I can think of someone."

I blurted out, instinctively exchanging glances with Yu Longting.

We said the name of this person in unison, with an obvious understanding, "Long Xiangkui."

"Seeking out Granny Long would certainly be of help," Zhang Zidao nodded in agreement, "She is well known in Miao Border as the Ten Thousand Poisons Hand; there's no Gu poison she can't cure."

"I want to personally ask Granny Long for help. Can you stay here to look after Xiao Li?" I asked Yu Longting.

Yu Longting raised an eyebrow, "Wife, you want me to take care of another woman, while you go off on your own?"

"Isn't it that I'm here, you two can go with peace of mind," Zhang Zidao waved his hand, "Miss Xiao Li hasn't been neglecting looking after this old Taoist priest these past few days. I will ensure her safety."

With Zhang Zidao staying put, I was absolutely reassured, "Alright, thank you, Old Senior."

"Master, don't insist on calling me Old Senior; it's infuriating," he would always blow his top whenever I called Zhang Zidao Old Senior.

The nature of Gu poison was horrifying, somewhat akin to how a plague spreads.

Once a Gu insect enters the body, it rapidly lays eggs in the blood.

The egg-laying Gu doesn't take long to hatch into larvae, which feed on a person's essence blood and grow into adults.

Elixirs made from Ginseng's clothes, no matter how precious, could only suppress the Gu poison temporarily; it could erupt at any time.

It could be several hours, maybe only one hour, or possibly less than half an hour before the effects resurfaced.

Before leaving, I left Xiao Shenshen with Zhang Zidao for safekeeping and headed out with Yu Longting to the Corpse-Driving Inn, silently apologizing to Zhang Zidao in my heart.

If Zhang Zidao weren't the first family of Mystic Sect, the forebear of the Celestial Master Sect.

With such grace, I would have accepted early on, given my personality.

Those unworthy of their position will ultimately suffer harm; I couldn't bear the responsibility for the growth and legacy of such a grand sect like the Celestial Master Sect and had to harden my heart to refuse the Old Senior.

The night was dark and windy as Yu Longting and I made our way through the Ghost market toward the locked doors of the Corpse-Driving Inn.

"Hey, girlie, long time no see, back at the Ghost market again, I thought you might have died at the hands of those Barbarian Village brutes in the Corpse-Driving Inn, today you're looking for... what the fuck!"

The ghostly white-faced, beanpole seller, likely intending to give me a scare and make a joke, hadn't finished his sentence when he encountered the glacial periphery of Yu Longting's gaze, causing his legs to tremble and drop to his knees, "Lord Dragon God... Lord Dragon God."

"Oh? You recognize me?" Yu Longting stopped in his tracks, a devilish smile curling at the corner of his mouth.

The skinny stall owner was sweating, rubbing his hands and smiling obsequiously, "The Four-Fruits Soup I specialize in is for feeding water demons. Who raises more water demons than the Barbarian Villagers? That painting they use to worship the Dragon God, it's you, right?"

"You've got some discernment. Dare to scare my wife again, and I'll snap your neck." Yu Longting's sharp, cold gaze swept over the trembling stall owner, leading me up to the door of the Corpse-Driving Inn and knocking on the firmly shut wooden doors.

Chapter 570: Not Even Half the Capacity to Accommodate People

Behind me was the sound of the stall owner swallowing nervously after the fright, "I didn't know... she... is your... daughter-in-law..."

This stall owner was probably terrified by Yu Longting...

Yu Longting knocked on the old door panel for a while, and finally, it creaked open from the inside.

The man who opened the door was middle-aged, clad in a dusty work jacket over a faded set of thermal underwear, "Do you guests wish to stay for the night?"

"Hello, sir, we need to see Granny Long for an urgent matter," I nodded politely to the man.

The middle-aged man lifted a lantern to illuminate our faces, "Granny Long is out on an errand, please come back another day."

"Where has Granny Long gone? When will she be back?" My heart burned with urgency. It couldn't be such a coincidence that we needed Granny Long's help and she was nowhere to be found.

Could we really be encountering such unfortunate luck?

The man's face remained expressionless, "I have nothing to disclose."

"We truly have an urgent matter to discuss with her, it's a matter of life and death, is it possible..." I felt a faint pain in my abdomen, and the hairpin on my head vibrated slightly.

Using Demon-Breaking Power to suppress the outbreak of the Gu Poison and slow down the hatching speed of the eggs in Dumpling's blood, I still felt uncomfortable as cold sweat beaded on my forehead.

The man scanned me from top to bottom, eventually his gaze settling on my abdomen, and scoffed, "So, it's Gu Poison, hoping to find the old woman for Gu Removal, wait for death then."

"Did you eat shit? If you won't help, then don't help, but cursing my wife, you deserve to die," Yu Longting retorted sharply.

Yu Longting's palm supported my waist, stabilizing my center of gravity, as his sleeve lightly wiped the sweat from my forehead.

Suddenly, more than a dozen Black Snakes sprang from his sleeve, tightly coiling around the middle-aged man from head to toe.

The man's screams of agony arose, making me feel inexplicably uncomfortable, "Maybe we should let it go, disturbing people in the middle of the night can understandably irritate them, his crime does not warrant this."

"Wife, you are too forgiving, but I am petty and narrow-minded, not having the slightest tolerance. He should not have said that word," Yu Longting was touched on his Reverse Scale, and nothing I said could calm him.

I sighed in my heart, although I could not bear the middle-aged man being dragged into this innocently, what pained me more was Yu Longting's state of mind.

Having finally returned safely from Barbarian Village, now Dumpling was affected by Gu Poison.

Yu Longting, who cared so much for his family, was only outwardly calm while his inner turmoil was unimaginable...

The stall owner from the Ghost market, probably because it was close to the Corpse-Driving Inn and he was somewhat acquainted with the middle-aged innkeeper, jogged over to plea, "Brother Zhuzi is a good and honest man, he thought you were going to disturb Granny Long, that's why he spoke offensively, Brother Zhuzi, quickly apologize to Lord Dragon God and Lady Dragon God."

"Dragon God... he... is the Dragon God..." The middle-aged man was bitten all over by the snakes, his thermal underwear stained and punctured with blood-splattered holes.

My expression turned serious, "Yu Longting, I know you're upset, but this punishment is enough. It's merely my misfortune to be poisoned by the Gu, it's unnecessary to vent your anger on others."

"Wife, are... are you scolding me?" Yu Longting narrowed his eyes, looking somewhat fierce.

He then smiled resignedly, "Even when you're fierce, you're adorable. He can be spared now, but if something happens to you, he must accompany you in death."

As his words fell, the Black Snakes orderly crawled back into the sleeves of Yu Longting's clothes.

Yu Longting has always had a bad temper, only slightly restrained when he is with me, but recently I've encountered too many misfortunes.

This has caused his temper to become increasingly violent...

"Brother Zhuzi, hurry up, tell Lord Dragon God where Granny Long has gone," the stall owner urged the middle-aged man called Zhuzi, "The Long Family has served Lord Dragon God for generations. Even Granny Long herself would have to bow down before Lord Dragon God."

"He? The Dragon God? Hah... Ridiculous..." The middle-aged man, Zhuzi, kneeled on one knee to balance himself, heavily injured and unable to muster the strength to stand, "The Dragon God died a thousand years ago. What Dragon God could there be in this day and age? Only the dull villagers of Barbarian Village could be fooled by a fake dragon god."