

A Snake 581

Chapter 581: The Tyrant Forces the Bow

Snake Lord got out of the car and carried me down, "Wanwan, I am training dumbass."

"..." The corner of my mouth twitched.

Are you sure... it's not because you're too lazy to bother?

The restaurant has been closed for a while now.

Ever since the boss, Chen Shufen, was poisoned last time and nearly had a miscarriage.

Once bitten, twice shy, the couple decided to close the restaurant temporarily.

They went back to their hometown, which is Z city where Xiao Li is, to wait for the birth.

The keys to the restaurant were left with Xiao Li and me for safekeeping.

I got down from Snake Lord's embrace and used the key to unlock the door.

Inside, it was cold and quiet, with a layer of dust on the tables and chairs.

I looked around with a sense of emotion, eager to return to my own little nest upstairs.

Flopping onto the bed felt like settling dust, grounding and comfortable.

This small dormitory room in the restaurant had somehow become a place where my soul found solace.

"You've been through a rough journey and haven't had a proper meal, do you want some porridge to warm up your stomach?" Snake Lord asked gently bending over.

I sat up with a start and blinked at the considerate Snake Lord, "Are you going to cook the porridge? I'll go, you've been taking care of me when I was bedridden on medication."

"Be good, you're not fully recovered yet. When you are better, I'll give you the chance to be the dutiful wife and mother," Snake Lord said gently, but a sharp look flashed through his eyes as many colorful long snakes slipped out from his sleeves.

As the snakes reached the ground, they quickly spread out in all directions.

They were to act as sentries.

I was indeed still weak and didn't refuse Snake Lord's kindness, "Okay."

While Snake Lord went downstairs to cook porridge, I lay in bed fiddling with the Begonia Hairpin repaired by Zhang Zidao, somehow feeling a trace of Sharp Metal Gang Qi emanating from the hairpin.

Old Taoist Zhang said it took him twenty years of cultivation to repair it, could it be that he infused twenty years of Sharp Metal Gang Qi into the broken hairpin?

For ordinary people, twenty years is but the passing of water in a stream.

But for Old Senior Zhang with profound foundations, being a transcendent being, one year of his could match a hundred years of others.

The Demon-Breaking Power and pure Sharp Metal Gang Qi transformed the hairpin, making it astonishingly strong.

Common demons and evil beings would be destroyed on contact with the hairpin!

Unintentionally, through the window, I saw a white light flying towards us from the northwest.

I sat up straight and hurried out of bed.

Rushing downstairs, I crept up stealthily as I neared the kitchen.

I saw Snake Lord receiving a new Jade Tablet, while Yu Er was still wailing, "Brother, could it be something happened to sister-in-law? Are you really going to ignore me? There's a female Snake Spirit who's taken a liking to me and has tried to force herself on me several times, I'm about to lose my innocence, sob sob."

How... how pitiful.

I hid by the kitchen door and eavesdropped, while feeling a minute of silence for Yu Er in my heart.

"Sister-in-law is fine. If you really can't stand it, just yield to it," Snake Lord casually formed some Hand Seals with his slender fingers, and then continued to chop vegetables. His tone shifted from frivolous to deep, and at this point, he actually resembled someone who was playing the part of a brother,

"Rongling... I've seen father's coffin. The coffin was stolen by Xuanjing. Father's corpse is missing, and without a means to suppress it, the Serpent Domain... might as well be purged completely."

Snake Lord spoke the most severe words with calm composure, his silhouette emanating a chilling frost that was so impressive that even I, eavesdropping outside the kitchen, was overwhelmed by his aura.

I leaned against the wall, feeling as if a heavy stone weighed upon my heart.

Even though Snake Lord never mentioned what terrible things the Serpent Domain would face,

It was clear that for thousands of years, it was Dragon Dad's body that suppressed the Snake Spirits.

The disappearance of Dragon Dad's body meant that the Serpent Domain would lose the power to suppress the Snake Spirits forever.

Once Yu Rongling's side falls, the Snake Spirits will escape the Serpent Domain.

Snake Lord, I always want to rely on you.

But I... am really too selfish...

I have never considered what, as the Snake Lord, you must bear.

Clenching my fists, I tiptoed back upstairs.

After a short while,

I heard Snake Lord entering the room and I quickly sat up from the bed, "Mmm, it smells good, did you make eight-treasure porridge?"

Chapter 582: Watching the Spring Festival Gala and Setting off Firecrackers Together

"The Eight Treasures Porridge is nutritionally balanced," Yu Longting said as he sat down to feed me.

He was born with a wicked, proud, noble, and cold beauty, having a perverse and troublesome temperament.

The least likely person to cook porridge, let alone consider balanced nutrition, but he happened to be such a meticulous and indulgent good husband.

Another streak of white light came from the north.

This time, it flew directly through the window. Yu Rongling's voice was transmitted directly, "Brother, if Madam is fine, come and save me. Don't talk without considering other people's difficulties. With so many Snake Spirits, all of them powerful, how can I handle them? With what can I handle them?"

In the Serpent Domain, Yu Rongling was truly in a pitiful state.

Sending three Jade Tablets, in the end, none could stir his brother into action.

Yu Longting was very calm and did not stop the voice transmission from the Jade Tablet, continuing to spoon-feed me porridge and small dishes.

"Yu Longting, you're not going to the Serpent Domain because you're worried about me, I know," I said as I opened my mouth to eat the Eight Treasures Porridge he fed me, just the right temperature as it entered my mouth.

The taste was fragrant, sweet, and glutinous~

After swallowing it down, I continued, "But my body is almost recovered now, I can run, I can jump, I can climb trees. I don't need you to look after me like a small child."

Besides porridge, Yu Longting had also made two side dishes.

Chilled beef salad and refreshing pickled radish.

Yu Longting picked a slice of each side dish for me to eat, still not showing any signs of being persuaded, "Although the poison has cleared, your body has been cleansed by vicious medicine for ten days, and your Life Lamp is still very weak, in need of meticulous care."

"I know all that," I countered, counting on my fingers, "but the New Year's about reunion, and... I promised Rongling to bring him along for the New Year's celebration."

At this, Yu Longting looked at me intently for a long time, then helplessly set down the spoon, "Our snake kind... doesn't have the notion of celebrating the New Year... Alright, I'll listen to you, at most three days, and I'll bring him back for New Year's Eve."

Originally, Yu Longting was likely planning to tend to my health before managing Yu Er in the Serpent Domain.

Seeing the hope and expectation in my eyes, in the end, he changed his mind.

I was in high spirits and cheered, "In that case, the three of us can dine together for the New Year's Eve dinner."

"Three people?" Yu Longting set the bowl aside, touching my cheek, "No one else? What about your own family? Won't you celebrate with them?"

"My mom's at the Lin Family, and it's not convenient for me to go back to the Lin Family now. So, naturally, it's just with you and Rongling. Oh, almost forgot Dumpling! There's also Dumpling!"

After finishing the porridge, feeling warm in my stomach, I straightened up and wrapped my arms around Yu Longting's neck, "Then we can watch the Spring Festival gala together, set off fireworks together."

"Wanwan, I... I haven't celebrated New Year's in my life," Yu Longting's subdued voice was a bit husky as he wrapped his long transformed snake tail around me involuntarily.

The fleeting sensation of the cool, smooth scales passing over my waist made my heart flutter, and Yu Longting's figure had vanished.

Sitting dazedly on the bed for a while, I glanced at the empty bowl on the table and stood up intending to wash it.

Two snakes crawled over the floor, managing to take the bowls and dishes on their backs before me, "Madam, you must not touch water or wash dishes; leave that to us."

"Exactly, exactly. If Snake Lord finds out you've been working hard, he'd definitely twist our heads off and kick them around like balls."

"So, the cooking is also done by you?" I asked playfully, just for fun.

Hurriedly, two larger flower snakes slithered out, their voices delicately feminine, "Cooking is a delicate task; those two with low cultivation can't do it, we're the ones cooking."

"Exactly, those two are venomous snakes. What if they accidentally spray venom into the food?" the other female snake said disdainfully.

Were these snakes sent by Yu Longting as jesters?

I bent down, stroking their heads and couldn't help laughing, "Alright, I got it, the food you two make must be delicious, right?"

"I... I want a pat on the head too~" the snake implored.

Chapter 583: Blood Handprint

Xiao Shenshen had his fill of sleep and poked his head out from the black Miao Embroidered Pouch filled with needles and thread, pleading to be petted.

With big eyes fluttering irresistibly, no one could refuse him.

Suddenly, many colorful, long snakes emerged from a corner, speaking in unison, "I want my head petted too."

Seeing so many different species of snakes, along with Xiao Shenshen's eager eyes,

I suddenly felt both helpless and amused, recalling how I used to be afraid of snakes.

If this many snakes had approached me a few months ago, I probably would have collapsed from fear before they even spoke.

The moment I heard them speak, I would have fainted from shock.

Since all the snakes Yu Longting sent to accompany me were female, I didn't have much to worry about.

I let them all come over and gently petted each snake on the head, fulfilling everyone's wishes.

Snakes prefer calm to movement, the crowd of snakes, once their heads were petted,

coiled contentedly around me, comfortably flicking their tails.

I'm someone who can't stay idle, so I had Xiao Shenshen fetch the sewing kit from the pouch, planning to make a new Cultivation Spiritual Garment for Yu Longting.

After all, the old one was lent to that big rat, and knowing Yu Longting's obsession with cleanliness, he likely wouldn't accept wearing something someone else had worn.

Unconsciously, my keen sense of smell detected a dreadful scent of blood, a stench not like that of a living creature, but like long-dead rotting flesh, "Save me... Yuanyuan... help... save me..."

The moment I heard the cries for help from downstairs, my needle slipped and pricked my fingertip, "hiss~"

Pain surged, and bright red blood oozed from the punctured spot.

"Does it hurt? Let Shenshen blow on it for you." Shenshen, who had been sleeping on my lap, woke up to see my hand injured, and came over to blow on it.

My fingertip, infused with the scent of ginseng, had the pain disappear in moments, and even the wound vanished.

But, a bad feeling inexplicably rose in my heart, and the hoarse cries for help echoed again, "Quick... open the door... I don't want to die, Su Wan... I... I am your Master Yang."

Master Yang, the head chef at Chen's Restaurant's kitchen.

He earned his chef's license at seventeen and could almost cook every type of cuisine; his knife skills were unmatched.

Most of my culinary skills were guided by Master Yang himself.

Sometimes, after making some money, I'd occasionally buy some fine wine as a gesture of respect for Master Yang.

When he was happy, he'd even share a few secret recipes with me.

I held great respect for Master Yang in my heart, so I immediately set Xiao Shenshen on the bed, slipped on my slippers, and went to the window to take a look.

The evening was dim.

Under a dim streetlight, a stooped yet strong man stood there.

He wore a dusty overalls, one of his arms was missing, blood still dripping from the wound, his body trembling like chaff.

His hand feebly knocked on the door, leaving a trail of blood handprints on the wooden door.

My God, how had Master Yang become like this!!

Without thinking, I hurried downstairs, opened the door, and said, "Master Yang, come in quickly."

The moment I opened the door, all the streetlights buzzed out with a flicker of electricity.

The entire road plunged into unprecedented darkness; even my Spiritual Eye couldn't see through it, as if everything but the restaurant had descended into the Netherworld.

From the darkness behind Master Yang, rustling, dense noises that resembled the crawling of many-legged insects sent chills down my spine.

If I only cared about my own life, I could have just pushed this blood-covered man out, closed the door tightly, and fortified it with the Spirit Talisman given by Yu Longting.

But I couldn't do that.

In a flash, I made my decision, grabbed Master Yang's wrist, and pulled him from the cold and the darkness into the warm room.

Chapter 584: Even If Madam Has an Affair

Last second, before the octopedal bugs from the darkest depths attacked like a black tide, I slammed the door shut.

It was spiders, all of them deadly Spider Gu.

As I locked the door, I felt a chilling air behind me.

A self-mocking smile formed at the corner of my lips, indeed proving the old saying true, "stick your nose into others' business and you'll invite trouble for yourself."

Yet, I didn't turn around to counterattack immediately, merely calmly placed a few protective Spirit Talismans on the door, and coupled them with incantations and Hand Seals to fortify them, "Use Townsphere Vajra to cure diseases, subdue monsters, and transform them into auspiciousness, act swiftly as the law commands."

"Is Snake Lord turning green? The lady has invited a man into her house, a single man and woman alone together," uttered a coquettishly from behind.

Another snake mocked, "The lady saved him, yet this man is ready to draw his knife to kill her, a thankless wretch. Even if the lady were to steal a man, she wouldn't blind herself by picking someone like him—"

What do you mean I'm stealing a man?

And Snake Lord turning green...

These little snakes start gossiping, and they don't have a door on their mouths.

Supporting my forehead, I turned around, "Master Yang, how... how did you end up like this?"

The Master Yang in front of me was left with only one arm, his head hanging low.

His body was covered with snakes, rendering him unable to move.

In the hand of his remaining arm, he clenched a sharp steel knife.

If it weren't for the snakes that bound him, I believed Master Yang would have successfully stabbed me in the back just now.

The human heart is unpredictable, full of twisting clouds and layers of defense.

Yet, I could fully trust my back to the snakes, they themselves would block the sharp knives directed at me, leaving no chance for anyone to harm me.

"Su Wan... don't blame me for being ruthless, I was forced," Master Yang slowly raised his head, this was the first time I saw his face tonight, as he had always been looking down before.

At that moment, my heart felt as if it was hanging upside down,

I took a small step back as I saw a spider-shaped mark covering his entire face.

Dark red corrupt blood dripped continuously from his injured arm.

Master Yang gripped the steel knife tightly, his hand's bones and veins bulging, "My family... and my own life, they are all controlled by those people."

He seemed to have fallen into a state of desperate madness, completely entangled by so many snakes, yet without a trace of surprise or fear.

His eyes were blood-red, staring straight at me.

"Are you poisoned by Gu?" Observing him, I found his skin seemed normal, but beneath it, one could barely distinguish round bugs writhing if careful enough.

Those without the Spiritual Eye could never notice such details.

Master Yang said, "My whole family is poisoned by Gu."

"Do you have any coins? The kind that are metallic," I paused for a second.

Master Yang appeared stunned, "These days everyone uses online payments, most people don't carry cash, let alone coins."

Ancient demon-subduing practices made good use of Five Emperor coins.

They were coins issued during the five great prosperous eras of ancient times, theoretically stringed together as five pieces.

In reality, Taoists who roamed the lands were often poor, and it was quite good to have even one.

In those times, it was considered the foremost prosperous era from ancient to modern times.

In reality, the current coin with a chrysanthemum patterned one yuan Steel Coin holds the strongest Demon-Breaking Power.

The power of my hairpin was too pure and overwhelming for an ordinary person to bear.

Thus, I ran to the cashier, "Wait here, I'll get the money."

Chen Decheng and Chen Shufen trusted me greatly, with both the key and the password to the cashier with me.

Opening the cash register, there was still a good amount of uncollected cash inside.

I only took one, one yuan coin, and ran back to Master Yang, seeing that he was still bound by snakes, I commanded the swarm, "All of you, back off."

Chapter 585: Save My Wife and Children

"Madam, this damn thing, it's gonna chop you down."

"If we leave, he's gonna chop at you again, what should we do then?"

The group of snakes entangling Master Yang clearly weren't ready to let him go that easily.

I said nothing, just silently watched them.

Soon, they sighed and quietly slithered off Master Yang's body.

"Clang," the knife in Master Yang's hand fell to the ground as he lost strength.

I placed the Steel Coin in his open palm, "Hold tight, it might hurt a bit."

"Ah... it hurts..." Master Yang screamed in pain, his forehead bulging with veins.

The round-shaped Gu Insects under his skin, agitated by the Demon-Breaking Power, caused his skin to bulge unevenly, looking particularly frightening.

Although I couldn't perform Gu Removal, I knew that the Gu following Master Yang were Evil Gu, and they were of a lower grade.

Compared to the Corpse Gu, which even Yu Longting couldn't handle, it's like heaven and earth.

So, I was confident that the coin could drive out the weak Spider Gu, "Follow my chant, Northern Emperor's Imperial Coin, Steel Coin defeats Evil Gu, those who disobey shall be sent to Incessant Hell to burn in hellfire, urgently as the law commands."

"Pfft..."

Master Yang spat out a mouthful of blood.

His body trembled like driftwood, falling to the ground, writhing in severe pain.

Yet, he held on to the coin in his palm as I had instructed, "Northern Emperor... Imperial Coin, Steel Coin defeats Evil Gu..."

Just a few sentences, yet it took Master Yang a full three minutes to recite completely.

By then, he was completely drenched in sweat.

From the wounds on his arms, a large group of spiders crawled out, fleeing his body as if running for their lives.

One can only imagine why Master Yang's arms were missing.

Clearly, it was gnawed away by the Gu.

In the past I could proudly say I wasn't too scared of bugs.

But at this moment, I was absolutely terrified.

I stepped onto a chair and escaped onto the table, "I knew I should have kept a rooster."

With so many spiders crawling chaotically around the shop, what should I do next?

Should I use fire?

What if some escaped into the dark corners, remaining unscorched? What then?

"We at Snake Mountain raise lots of roosters, they mainly eat centipedes," a cauliflower snake mumbled and gulped down a big clump of Spider Gu.

Other snakes criticized, "Why do you eat so much alone? Leave some for us!"

"Exactly, just a cauliflower snake and you hog all the food."

...

Under my astonished gaze, a swarm of snakes rushed over and cleaned up the mess of crawling, terrifying spiders.

One by one, they were stuffed and belched contentedly.

I finally gathered the courage to come down from the table and approached half a step away from Master Yang, "Master Yang... are you okay?"

"Why..." Master Yang whispered softly.

I was completely baffled by what he meant by 'why'.

Then I saw Master Yang lying on the ground, hammering it hard, "I was about to kill you just now, why did you save me?"

"If it were someone else, I definitely wouldn't have saved them," I poured a cup of water and handed it to Master Yang, "You were coerced, and also one of our own, you taught me many tricks of the trade."

"I held back when I taught you those dishes," Master Yang sipped the water, his face full of guilt, "What a... silly girl."

Seeing Master Yang nearly recovered, I helped him sit in the chair, "The recipes you held back are just right for home-cooked standard, which is good enough, I'm not running a Michelin-starred restaurant."

"Yuanyuan, you're so kind-hearted, even forgiving me for trying to kill you, you must help me, save my wife and kids," Master Yang had just settled down, then trembled as he knelt down.

Chapter 586: Not Wanting to Escape, Nor Will Escape

I looked down at Master Yang, this time not helping him up, "Then can you... first tell me how you were poisoned with gu?"

My feelings were complicated at the moment, as I didn't have much of a relationship with Master Yang.

Why would someone use gu on Master Yang to have him kill me?

With Master Yang's status, there was no chance for him to make a move, nor would he have succeeded.

"To tell the truth, I don't know either."

Master Yang spoke weakly, "This afternoon, I was at home whittling bamboo to make strips, using them to weave spider net frames."

Spider net frame?

What is that?

I had lived in the countryside for so long, but I had never heard of it.

The thought flashed through my mind and did not escape my lips.

I didn't need to ask about things unrelated to the gu poisoning.

"Then suddenly my arm began to itch terribly, and in the blink of an eye, it was eaten entirely by my own spiders." Master Yang still seemed horrified by the incident, "I was rolling on the ground in pain, and then I passed out. When I came to, all the people in my house were lying on the ground, and there were spiders everywhere."

"What? The spiders were raised by you?"

I had never imagined that the Spider Gu that Master Yang was poisoned with would be the ones he raised at home, "Why on earth would you raise gu?"

Ever since I realized Master Yang was poisoned with gu, I had assumed he was subjected to severe temptation or coercion by others.

It might have been a punishment to make Master Yang obey, allowing the one who put the gu to have them bite off his arm, but the truth was something I couldn't have guessed in a million years.

"These were supposed to be Heavenly Spiders for silk production, how did they become gu?"

With a pained expression, Master Yang sighed, "Who would have known that these spiders could be so aggressive? Everyone in our village raises them."

Later, Master Yang told me that after he discovered his family members had fallen,

a man wearing a cloak burst into his courtyard and said to Master Yang, "Your entire family has been poisoned with gu. If you want them not to end up like you, devoured by the insects, you will do as I say."

Not only did that man command Master Yang to try to kill me, but he sadistically let a swarm of Spider Gu chase after Master Yang.

And so Master Yang, injured and in despair, ran all the way to Spring Wind Town, to the front door of Chen's Restaurant.

The whole story sounded incredible and sinister.

Master Yang's eyes were grey and filled with defeat as he lamented, "I still don't understand what exactly happened!! Yuanyuan!! Could it be because of an enemy you made, someone who targeted my family because of you?"

"Because of me?" A twinge of guilt and self-doubt crossed my mind, then, dropping my gaze, I calmly asked, "How long has your village been raising this kind of Spider Gu?"

"For over a year, and not just our village, a few nearby ones as well."

Master Yang looked at me pleadingly, "My wife and my children have all been bitten and poisoned. That man in a grey cloak and hat said the poison would take effect after twelve hours."

Did they want Master Yang to kill me within twelve hours in order to spare his children?

This tactic was naive and malicious, completely opposite to the sharp and ruthless approach of using Corpse Gu, it was a distinctly different style.

So, could the person behind Master Yang be from Ten Thousand Poison Hall?

After contemplating deeply, I decided, "Since you think all this started because of me, of course, I have no reason to sit by and do nothing. I will go to your village."

Besides going there to see for myself, there was no other way to uncover the truth. I didn't want to escape, nor would I...

I had always been waiting for the people from Ten Thousand Poison Hall to make their move again.

I didn't expect it to happen so soon.

"Really...? You are willing to go to my village, I..." Master Yang became agitated, and feeling dizzy from losing blood for so long, he could not steady himself even with the support of a table.

I had a snake fetch the Blood Splendor Robe and draped it over Master Yang, "Wear this robe for half an hour. In half an hour, we will set off."

Chapter 587: Colorful Rooster

"Half an hour...? But the timing..." Master Yang's lips trembled, filled with worry for his family.

I glanced at the time on my phone, it had just passed seven in the evening, "Even if we call a car now, it would take time, just stay calm for now."

"Okay, I'll listen to you, your skills are superior... I'll listen to you," Master Yang spoke weakly, barely alive, leaning against the base of the wall.

The Spider Gu inside the body had drained all his Vitality and Spirit.

He could still seem strong on the outside, but now that the Gu Poison was removed.

The awakening of his numbed senses made him revert to his original state, making his body extremely frail.

I sent out a message.

Then I went upstairs and wore the Invisibility Clothes under my coat.

I entrusted Xiao Shenshen to the protection of the snakes, "Shenshen is easily coveted, everyone protect it well."

"Young Madam, take me with you, Shenshen alone... is scared," Shenshen sat on the bed, clutching the edge of my clothes dependently.

I pinched Xiao Shenshen's tender little cheek, "The place I'm going to is a bit dangerous, it's inconvenient to take you, and besides, I have a job for you."

Shenshen: "A job?"

"I'll be back soon. If your young master comes back first, pass him a message for me."

I gave Shenshen a slight smile, "I'm going to Master Yang's hometown, Happy New Year. Remember?"

"Remembered." Shenshen puffed up its cheeks, serious-faced.

In the upstairs room, I slung the Miao Embroidery bag I had brought back from Western Hunan over my body, packing what I thought I needed into the bag.

Everything was ready, and when I came downstairs,

Master Yang had fainted in the corner.

Pressing on my heavy stomach, I crouched down, "Master Yang, wake up."

"Don't... don't... come near, so many spiders!!" Master Yang also dreamed of many spiders in his sleep, woke up frightened by my call, his forehead sweating coldly.

Although his Spider Gu was resolved, the large Spider Mark on his face was still exceptionally clear.

Under the harsh white incandescent light, it looked particularly sinister.

Master Yang took a long while to recover from the shock, "Is it time yet? My... arm..."

"The wound on your arm has healed, and the hypovolemic shock has stopped too," I added, although the severed arm couldn't possibly grow back.

I pulled Master Yang up and headed towards the front door.

Just as I was about to open the door, he grabbed me, "Are you really going to open the door? There are so many spiders outside."

"Don't worry, I have a way to handle it." I gave Master Yang a reassuring look, and the grasp on my wrist slowly relaxed.

As soon as the door opened, the howling cold wind rushed in instantly.

The door was full of Blood Handprints that Master Yang had left earlier, and in the long crossing streets not far away, it was pitch black like bottomless abysses.

Soon, there were many rustling sounds, seeking the scent of living beings.

Surging out from the darkness.

The dark tide was overwhelming and terrifying.

Master Yang's legs trembled like wide noodles, shuddering severely.

I also have a fear of clusters, my knuckles tightened slightly.

In this densely packed state, it was impossible to see the shape of the spiders, only a dark, surging tide, the Arthropod's eight legs moved at an incredibly fast speed.

In the blink of an eye, they were up close. Sweat broke out on my forehead, my heart started to pound.

The moment of crisis had arrived, why hadn't they come yet?

There shouldn't be any... mistakes, right...

"Ooooh~" A clear rooster's crow came, a brightly-feathered rooster with a red thread tied around its leg quickly ran towards the direction of the mealhouse.

Chapter 588: Sister Yuan in Society

The rooster ran all the way, as if haunted by the Spider Gu.

Driven by the direction of the big rooster, it fled headlessly.

"Where... where did this rooster come from?" Master Yang had just finished speaking.

In the endless darkness, two more spirited roosters appeared.

These two imposing roosters ran, trampling with their iron claws.

With each step precise, a single foot could crush a dozen spiders.

The three brightly feathered roosters formed a triangle, driving the spider tide into that area.

They stirred restlessly but did not dare to flee the area.

"Meow~, it seems I won't get a chance to act."

A cat jumped down from the eaves, lazily stretching, "I saw the restaurant surrounded by a Barrier and worried something might happen to you."

"Thanks, Xiao Mi, I'm safe with these three roosters holding back the group of Spider Gu," I gratefully glanced at the big orange cat, which I had adopted in City B and had always been free-roaming.

I didn't expect it to come out at this time to ensure my safety.

Xiao Mi yawned and, following the water pipe, disappeared behind the house in the blink of an eye.

I pulled a hairpin from my hair, and my hair cascaded down.

Between two fingers, I held a fire charm, "He Hao Yin Yang, the sun rises in the east, receive this talisman, sweep away all evil."

The fire charm flew out and landed in the triangular area.

Fire sparked spontaneously, turning into countless sparks.

The sparks eventually gathered into a phoenix, sweeping towards the sinister and eerie spiders.

The roaring sound of a motorcycle suddenly erupted.

Three motorcycles burst through the darkness, their bright headlights illuminating the chaotic Barrier like daylight.

The spiders were annihilated by the blazing Fire Phoenix, and two streets reappeared in sight.

Although the streetlights were still broken, under the glaring headlights of the three impressively heavy motorcycles, the street scene was restored—much better than the horrific state it was in earlier.

"Damn, that's my Sister Yuan, so badass," the lead motorcycle rider, a street thug with a Mohawk, held a red string and whistled as he dismounted.

One end of the red string was tied to a rooster's leg.

The Mohawked youths on the other two motorcycles also held red strings, their ends likewise tied to a rooster's leg, "Sister Yuan, need a little brother? I'll be your man, you look gentle but play a mean hand, actually summoning Divine Beasts."

"Screw Divine Beasts, those are clearly Celestial Beasts! Divine Beasts!! It was a Fire Phoenix!!"

Obviously, these three had just witnessed the scene where I eradicated all the Spider Gu with the fire charm.

I, too, had not expected that after I could no longer use heavenly fire,

using the fire charm again would summon the Fire Phoenix, and moreover, I felt no anomaly in my body, lacking the unstable Inner Breath or internal injuries I sustained last time after extensively using heavenly fire, "This is just normal Taoist Arts, thank you for coming in time, borrowing your evening should be alright?"

"Is there even a need to ask? Just say the word, Sister Yuan, and we'd go through fire and water without hesitation," the leader of the thugs patted the back seat of his motorcycle, "Sit with me, my back seat is real leather, absolutely comfortable."

When the little zombie demon followed the actress Han Dai to Spring Wind Town, it had brought a tremendous surge of Demon Qi to the town.

Four notorious Local Bullies in the town were affected and witnessed horrifying scenes.

The Earth Soul was unstable, nearly driving them mad.

I had stepped in to help at that moment, and since then in Spring Wind Town, they were under my protection.

I had sent them a message just before, asking them to bring the roosters.

"Alright, Master Yang can help with a ride as well."

I readily agreed, casually tied up my hair with the hairpin, picked a large rooster to hold, "Master Yang, pick a chicken too, holding it on the road keeps the evil spirits at bay."

Chapter 589 Dark Night Bamboo Forest

After giving instructions to Master Yang,

I casually held a big rooster in my arms and seated myself on the back of the motorbike.

"Tsk, Uncle Yang, what are you spacing out for, light it up quickly,"

the diaosi youth said, clicking his tongue as he saw Master Yang standing there dumbfounded.

Master Yang's jaw almost dropped to the ground, "You guys... how did you get over here?"

"Nonsense, of course Sister Yuan sent us. Dillydallying, just wasting time," the diaosi youth said, urging impatiently, unlike the patience he showed me.

Master Yang mechanically picked up a rooster, shivering as he settled down behind a gang member's bike seat, "Where did you find a rooster in the middle of the night?"

"We have our ways. Why ask so many questions? Buckle up, old man."

The diaosi youth let out a yell and rode off on the motorbike, leaving a trail of dust behind.

The remaining rooster was tied to the bike by another diaosi youth, who also quickly revved up the engine and took off.

The leader of the gang was named Chen Ahmao, known as Brother Ahmao.

Considering I was pregnant, he was relatively less rough with me, and Brother Ahmao reminded me, "Sister Yuan, hold on tight."

"Okay," I said, gripping the metal on the motorbike, stabilizing my center.

Chen Ahmao drove off, maintaining a steady speed, "To think that there really are barriers in this world, we guys have really seen something new through meeting you."

"Aren't you afraid? After all... it's the unknown," I was somewhat embarrassed to trouble them.

But in an urgent moment like earlier, the only ones I could think of who would help run errands in the middle of the night in Spring Wind Town were them.

There were originally four of them, but I only called three over.

Usually, they're involved in cockfighting and dog racing.

They seemed incredibly unreliable, but in critical moments, they could be of great help with their enthusiastic spirit.

I hadn't learned the art to break barriers, so the barrier could only be breached from the outside.

These barriers were formed by the miasma of the Spider Gu.

People from outside couldn't get in; they could only tie red strings on the roosters.

The roosters, natural enemies of spiders, would lead the way, with their pure Yang and Vajra energy breaking the evil, forcefully carving a path to break through.

Once the Centipede Gu was eradicated, the miasma-formed barrier would also disappear.

Chen Ahmao chuckled, holding the handlebars with one hand, scratching his head, "Of course we're afraid, but it's also kind of exciting. Lucky for us, the auntie next door happens to sell chickens. The three of us... heh heh..."

"You bought them?" I already guessed that the three were into stealing, I just deliberately gave him a way out.

The auntie next to Brother Ahmao's house raised chickens and often sold them at the market.

She quite disliked Brother Ahmao and the others, chasing after them with a hoe whenever she saw them, let alone selling them three big, well-groomed, sleek-feathered roosters in the middle of the night.

Chen Ahmao chuckled a few times, "Sort of, anyway... uh-hum... I transferred the money to her through WeChat."

The village where Master Yang lived was called Zhuji Village.

It was once famous for producing various kinds of bamboo.

Bamboo, with its high Yin energy, was planted along the roads.

In the eerie silence of the deep night, it was exceptionally chilling and dreadful.

Moreover, the Yin energy from these bamboo groves was abnormally strong.

A cold breath assaulted me as if numerous ice needles were penetrating my skin and entering my marrow.

My every joint seemed as if it could freeze, and in front of me, Chen Ahmao's teeth chattered from the cold, the clattering sound incessant in my ears, "So... sorry, Sister Yuan, it's just... so cold."

"Don't talk. Don't let the Yang energy escape from your mouth."

I turned on the flashlight and shone it into the bamboo grove to check the situation.

Chapter 590 Ghost Bamboo

"You don't know until you shine a light, and once you do, it's a shock."

Under the beam of my flashlight, the roadside was all bamboo forests.

Every bamboo blossomed, the pale-white flowers resembling countless dead people's skulls, hanging atop the trees.

In my arms was a robust rooster, born under the sign of fire.

Now enveloped by Yin energy, it was fearfully tucking its head under its wings.

"Good heavens, this is so... ominous, so many bamboos flowering," Chen Ahmao shivered all over, his teeth chattering louder.

My heart pounded wildly, but I calmly comforted Chen Ahmao, "It's natural for bamboo to flower when it reaches the end of its life."

In many parts of the south, one would never see bamboos flowering.

Only when bamboos approach death do they bloom countless white flowers that hang from their treetops.

People consider it an ominous sign, foreboding disaster.

Near flowering bamboos, one would often find an unending series of funerary events.

Bamboos that have flowered are called Ghost Bamboo.

Therefore, it is customary to cut down the bamboos before they flower.

If a family fails to cut them in time, causing the bamboos to flower,

there would be collective punishment from neighbors and fellow villagers.

Who would have thought,

this entire village was filled with Ghost Bamboo.

No wonder the Yin energy was so heavy after dark, suffocating to breathe.

"I can't do this, I'm too cold... hiss..." Chen Ahmao was so cold that his joints had frozen up, unable to maneuver the motorcycle.

The bike slowed and suddenly tipped over.

As Chen Ahmao spoke, I became alert.

Clutching my stomach, I quickly jumped off the bike and wasn't crushed by it.

I tossed aside the rooster and pushed the bike up with one hand.

Chen Ahmao's face had turned a ghastly bluish color, like a zombie's.

I hurriedly pulled out a triangular fire charm and placed it in Chen Ahmao's hand, "Recite, Lord Lao Zi of the Great Monad, act rapidly as the law commands."

"Lord... Lord... Lao Zi..." Chen Ahmao opened his mouth, so frozen that no warm air came out, and he bit his tongue to speak clearly, "act rapidly as the law commands."

The triangular fire charm flickered in Chen Ahmao's hand, and it was as if he'd been granted a reprieve.

The Cold Ice Aura binding his body dissipated greatly, and he gasped for air while supporting the motorcycle.

I bent down to pick up the rooster, only to find its body had already stiffened, having frozen to death without my noticing.

A sense of foreboding struck me, and I activated my Spiritual Eye to survey our surroundings.

The chilling aura from the bamboo forest had frozen both Chen Ahmao and me like this; the other three were probably no better off.

Sure enough, my Spiritual Eye pierced through the dark night.

Not far from the bamboo forest, I saw two overturned motorcycles and three people.

I quickly called Chen Ahmao, and together we hurried over.

At the scene, the motorcycles had crashed into the bamboo forest and struck the bamboos.

All three men were unconscious, their faces bluish, their bodies stiff.

Chen Ahmao dropped his motorcycle and rushed to his two brothers, "Hey, wake up, wake up, what's wrong with you two..."

He was sharp-witted enough to stuff his fire charm into one of their hands.

I went over to Master Yang, who had recently been afflicted by a gu and was particularly weak.

Under his eyelids, a layer of frost had formed.

This was in the southern regions where it never snowed even in winter.

To have frost form on a warm human body was inconceivable.

What was this?

I quickly took off my coat and draped it over Master Yang, pulled the dead rooster from his arms, and pushed a fire charm into his hands.

Then I stood up, only to feel dizzy.

Chen Ahmao hurried over to support me, "Sister Yuan."

After steadying myself, I handed him two triangular fire charms, "Make sure each of you wears one; they should wake up within three minutes."