

A Snake 661

Chapter 661 Suppressing the Snake Spirits

Isn't this the standard coquettish behavior of the Golden Silkworm Gu, Xiao Yuanyuan?

How come it's Xiao Honghong's turn to act spoiled?

I even doubted for a moment whether I was still in an illusion, as I grabbed the little Xiao Honghong on my face into the palm of my hand, "Uh, are you sure you didn't take the wrong medicine or something?"

This little critter is usually all about freedom, opposed to being claimed by someone, isn't it?

"You think I took the wrong medicine!" Xiao Honghong indignantly rubbed her head against my fingers while protesting, "After I acknowledge you as my master, no other insects will even think about targeting you."

"Fine, I'll let you become my Life-bound Gu, but now's not the time." I looked around, "Let's wait until we reach a safe place before discussing this."

Xiao Honghong grumbled dissatisfiedly, "They're just a bunch of weaklings, all under my control now, there's no danger left."

"Yes, Master Hong, you're the mightiest." I flattered her in agreement, "You've got these people under control, now make them go to a place."

As I spoke, I showed Xiao Honghong a map.

Zhang Zidao folded one arm behind his back, lost in thought for a while before speaking, "Dear disciple, you took my sword and summoned the gu, all just to save their lives?"

"I'm saving myself; they all have horseshoe crab eggs in their brains. Once a person dies, it would hatch and attack us." I explained.

Stroking his chin, Zhang Zidao looked even more skeptical, "Neither Lin Huan nor Long Xiangkui might know about horseshoe crabs, so how does a young girl like you know about this thing? And you know that these people from Ten Thousand Poison Hall... all have this inside their heads??"

Indeed, these doubts are not without reason.

If I were Zhang Zidao, I'd have my suspicions too.

"Heh, I had a dream where you wielded a bronze sword and chopped off their heads, then we were chased by the hatched horseshoe crabs." I tossed the sword in my hand back to him, unable to describe everything that had happened in the Illusion Realm, so I simply put it down as a dream.

What had just occurred was like Zhuang Sheng dreaming of butterflies in the morning mist.

Was it Zhuang Sheng who dreamt of the butterfly, or the butterfly that encountered Zhuang Sheng in its dream?

I couldn't even distinguish whether I was dreaming at the moment, being converted by the monk and a young Lin Huan with the Azarhan Sutra.

Forever trapped in slumber, and then having this dream.

Actually, everything that happened after I fell into the cave was what was real.

This thought was too terrifying, so I quickly suppressed it, refusing to scare myself further with such thoughts...

Zhang Zidao glanced at me, "Who are you trying to fool? Can you dream of things you've never seen before??"

"Putting aside whether dreams can show new species, let's say, did my dream reveal everything you wanted to do, Master?" I pulled a compass out of my cross-body bag, "Master, we can't leave just yet, I need to find a few things first."

Otherwise, we might not be able to leave at all.

Zhang Zidao asked, "What are you planning to find?"

"I don't even know if this thing exists, I just have a hunch. Let's try looking for it," I said, aligning the compass several times based on my understanding of the Fuxi sixty-four hexagrams' directions.

Zhang Zidao handed over his Brass Compass to me, "Use this, it's more professional."

"Thanks." With the Brass Compass, I could control my direction more precisely and slowly made my way to a patch of grass.

Crouching down, I searched bit by bit for any possible items that might appear on the ground.

Zhang Zidao murmured as he followed me, "The... Snake Devouring Stele!! Ten Thousand Poison Hall actually came up with this thing to kill you, they really are shameless."

"This thing is called the Snake Devouring Stele? What's it for?"

Following Zhang Zidao's gaze, I saw the Snake Devouring Stele on the ground. I pulled out the flower hairpin from my hair and stabbed fiercely at the stele.

Zhang Zidao stopped me, "Don't waste your Spiritual Power, let me do it."

Crack, as Zhang Zidao's Bronze Sword came down, the entire Snake Devouring Stele, including the White Python, was shattered to pieces.

The head of the White Python was the last to break apart, and green liquid actually flowed out of its eyes.

Only then did it turn into small fragments of stone.

"The Snake Devouring Stele is used to suppress Snake Spirits and evil spirits, as well as demon snakes that have fallen into madness. Moreover, there's usually not just one, but many steles that serve as the corners of a Formation, forming the eye of the array and facilitating the entire Formation,"

Chapter 662: The Primordial Spirit Left in the Dream

Zhang Zidao frowned and muttered, "According to what I know, Ten Thousand Poison Hall is an Evil Sect, and those from the sect reek of sinister and malicious energy. Only a high monk who has attained the Dao could erect the Snake Devouring Stele."

"If I'm not mistaken, there should be a total of seven Snake Devouring Steles. Maybe..." I continued my search while holding the Compass.

As I approached the range of the second one, I preemptively stopped my steps.

To prevent being tripped by the monolith, if I got tripped again.

I worried that I'd fall into that terrifying Illusion Realm once more.

The existence of these monoliths is meant to suppress me in this dense forest.

If they're not all destroyed, I feel I might not even be able to make it to Tianying Village alive.

Zhang Zidao pressed urgently, "Maybe what?"

At last, I found the moss-covered Snake Devouring Stele in the undergrowth, "Seeing that these Steles have been here for years, they might have been erected by someone from the past. The people from Ten Thousand Poison Hall, knowing that I'm carrying a snake fetus, utilized these ancient monoliths. They aim to kill me and Dumpling by means of the Steles to prevent me from entering Tianying Village."

"Those damn bastards, so vile and malicious!" Zhang Zidao cursed, admitting his acceptance of my speculation.

After he swung his sword and toppled the second monolith, he suddenly raised his hand to touch my belly, "You just said you had a dream? Did you dream about the Snake Devouring Stele?"

"I did, and a monk suppressed me with the monolith and the Azarhan Sutra. I nearly lost my life." Following the destruction of the second Stele, I inexplicably had a bad premonition.

Both my eyelids twitched, and my heart started beating faster for no apparent reason.

Zhang Zidao's broad and rough palm moved away from my abdomen, and he suddenly started pounding his chest in distress, "It's all the fault of this useless old man. Being by your side, I never knew you were drawn into the Illusion Realm! The one inside your belly... Dumpling, he..."

"What happened to him? He was tormented in the dream, but he has a steady breath, a normal fetal heartbeat, and is sleeping soundly," I said, looking at Zhang Zidao, who was overwhelmed with self-reproach, feeling even more panicked.

Zhang Zidao's eyes filled with sharp, cold anger, "Dumpling's body might be healthy, but... his Primordial Spirit and Soul are gone. I suspect they might have been left inside your dream, guarded by the Snake Devouring Stele!"

"What... what!!" My vision turned dark then bright, and tears of blood slowly trickled from the corners of my eyes.

The hairpin in my hand clenched tighter and tighter!

A sense of madness overtook me, and I desperately wanted to rush back to the cave that I had just made every effort to escape, solely to find my Dumpling.

Zhang Zidao was still composed, "Don't be sad. If we destroy these monoliths, Dumpling should be able to come back! Tell your teacher the secret to locating the position of the Steles."

"The high monk who erected these monoliths must have considered the Earth Veins as an underground Giant Python, so he placed the Snake Devouring Steles at seven locations corresponding to the 'vital spot' of the Earth Veins, thereby making the power of the Steles even more formidable and terrifying," I said, looking at the broken stones on the ground which seemed more and more glaring.

The big mouth of the Snake Devouring Stele is swallowing the White Python, which I once thought was aimed specifically at devouring Dumpling in my belly. But to my surprise, it was actually targeted by a high monk many years ago against another White Python.

Zhang Zidao squinted his eyes and pulled my hand right away.

With the Bronze Sword in hand, he destroyed the remaining five Snake Devouring Steles in the blink of an eye, "Good disciple, your understanding of the Mysterious Art is only a little less than what your teacher had when he was young."

"Thank you for the compliment, Master~" I scratched my head shyly.

Xiao Honghong scoffed, "Woman, are you an idiot? This old Taoist is PUA-ing you, eh? He can't even deduce the location of the Snake Devouring Steles with his own strength now, let alone when he was younger, duh!"

In the midst of the dense forest, I faintly felt the temperature was not so cold anymore.

Even some of the snakes that were lying motionless in the trees started to recover, lazily sliding about.

Since there are still snakes in the vicinity, it means that the Snake Devouring Steles are responsible only for suppression, and they don't harm the natural snake populations.

But tonight, they have all become petrified and motionless.

It can only mean that Ten Thousand Poison Hall has activated a special function of the Snake Devouring Steles, trapping me and, at the same time, the other snakes in this area as well.

I touched my stomach and called out softly to Dumpling, "Dumpling, have you come back? Mommy is very worried about you..."

Chapter 663: Catch a Zombie to Ask?

"Mommy..." Dumpling's murmur arose, and my tears brimmed in my eyes in an instant.

It's good, he came back, it's good that my Dumpling is fine.

Just at that moment, Zhang Zidao's hand touched my stomach, his grave expression unchanged, "Wanwan, don't... don't get too happy too soon. Dumpling's soul... only half has returned, the other half..."

"The other half is where? In Ten Thousand Poison Hall's hands? Or in that Illusion Realm??"

My heart took a heavy blow, and I was thrown into complete disarray.

The hairpin in my hand was gripped to the extreme, feeling like my state of mind could lose control at any moment.

"To tell the truth, as your master, I also don't know where your precious disciple's... other half of the soul has gone," Zhang Zidao stared at the blood tears on my face and sighed, "But what you need to do right now is to protect yourself, your Blood-weeping Syndrome is about to flare up."

"Master, I understand your meaning, let's go to Tianying Village first." I lowered my gaze and steadied my emotions in secret.

Although I wished I could sprout wings on my back and immediately go search for the other half of Little Dumpling's soul that was lost.

But rationality told me that if I don't preserve my own life first,

I won't be able to accomplish anything!!

As we continued on our journey with Zhang Zidao, by the time the sky faintly brightened, we came upon a densely packed stone village.

Surrounding mountains rose layer upon layer, like a giant embracing the beautiful hamlet.

Streams from several mountains converged into a small river that flowed through the center of Tianying Village.

Tranquil and harmonious, it didn't seem at all like a place that had encountered internal turmoil.

At the village entrance, two burly men dressed in vine armor stood guard, protecting the entire village through the night.

"Who knows who won or lost in the internal conflict, let's sneak in quietly," I suggested to Zhang Zidao.

Zhang Zidao glanced at the earthen wall covered in red vines, "Don't be deceived by these short walls; the Man-Eating Vines on them can drill holes through fine steel with their corrosive juice."

"Perhaps Xiao Honghong can use gu on those two guards," I stroked Xiao Honghong's little head, "It's up to you now, Master Hong."

Xiao Honghong split into two clones and quickly ventured forth, but they did not return, unable to enter the bodies of those two men.

Xiao Honghong: "Those two are dead, can't use gu on them."

Only Corpse Gu can reside in the dead; normal gu can only be used on the living.

"Master, Xiao Honghong said the guards are dead, can't use gu on them," I was at a total loss.

Zhang Zidao raised his eyebrows, seemingly excited, "Dead men are easier to handle, watch your master's skills."

I saw him drawing something in the air with two fingers beneath his wide sleeves.

Golden talismanic symbols formed from Spiritual Power appeared under his fingers, and with a gentle push from Zhang Zidao,

the talismanic symbols fluttered like leaves in the wind towards those two zombie guards.

They imprinted on the foreheads of the zombies, and the zombies shook, their eyes slowly closing.

"Master, how did you do that? Without even using talisman paper?" I was especially impressed by Zhang Zidao's method at that moment; even Yu Longting needed talisman paper as a medium when casting spells.

"Want to learn? This is an exclusive secret technique of our Zhang's Sect, other sects don't have it," Zhang Zidao gave me a mysterious smile, with his hands behind his back.

He walked over boldly, pushing open the two large wooden doors.

I followed Zhang Zidao like a tagalong, nodding my head, "I want to learn."

Once we sneaked into Tianying Village, we, the master and disciple, were both dumbfounded.

All around were patrolmen clad in vine armor; their helmeted heads made it impossible to see their faces.

However, their limbs moved with rigid motions, not at all like those of the living.

"Damn it, this is a disaster; with so many zombies on patrol, we'll surely be..."

Zhang Zidao's mouth had barely shaped the word "detected" when I tied a strip of invisibility fabric around his wrist, excitedly saying, "This is Invisibility Clothes... no, no, no, this is Invisibility Clothes MINI! The idea of putting Life and Death Embroidery on a strip of cloth is truly unique."

"Making a whole set of clothes is too much trouble, so I thought about embroidering Life and Death Embroidery on a strip of cloth; the function is halved, but it's much more convenient and easier to carry," I shared my novel concept of Life and Death Embroidery with Zhang Zidao, also tying a strip around my own wrist, "These zombies seem to lack vision and rely entirely on breath to perceive the outside world, let's go, we're heading to Cold Moon Spring."

"But there's one problem, your master doesn't know where Cold Moon Spring is, how do we proceed?"

Chapter 664: Merging with the Snake Corpse

I was so emotionally agitated, having just shed blood tears, that my vision was somewhat blurry.

I rubbed my dizzy temples, "What... what? You don't know the way? Then why didn't you say so earlier?"

"Cough cough~ How about we catch a zombie and ask?" Zhang Zidao coughed lightly.

"No, that won't do. Acting like that, it's too easy to startle the grass and scare the snake." I firmly rejected Zhang Zidao's suggestion, "I've observed that all the zombies have self-awareness."

This stronghold has an indescribable mystery and eeriness, where souls return to the Netherworld three days after death.

But the zombies strolling around the village... their souls are still intact...

Zhang Zidao: "Then what should we do?"

"What to do..." I regretted so much in my heart that I didn't ask Granny Long for the location of Cold Moon Spring when I encountered her.

Zhang Zidao came up with a lousy idea, "How about we search carpet-style?"

"To search every inch of such a huge stronghold?" I was restlessly uneasy, worried not about finding Medicinal Spring but about whether we would survive until the moonlit night.

Suddenly, a flash of inspiration struck me, "Master, I think I know where Cold Moon Spring is."

"You know? How is that possible?" Zhang Zidao was surprised, "Cold Moon Spring is the forbidden area of Tianying Village, hidden very securely, and only the Stronghold Master can enter."

As expected, the old Daoist was a huge pitfall.

Knowing full well that Cold Moon Spring was well-hidden, he still proposed the idea of a carpet search.

If we really searched blindly, God knows until when we would have to look.

My memory froze at the moment in the cave when the young man claiming to be Lin Huan took out the map, "I seem to have seen the map of the village; it marked the location of Cold Moon Spring, just... I don't know... if that map is real."

Who knows if the map from the Illusion Realm is real or not, I had no clue in my heart.

"Regardless of whether it's real, let's try our luck; maybe we'll hit the jackpot blindly." Zhang Zidao rolled up his sleeves and readily said let's do it.

I tried hard to recall the details on the map, leading Zhang Zidao around to avoid the patrolling zombies among the stone houses.

We wound up at the foot of a mountain and looked up at the cliff, "It's actually on the mountain."

"This height is no challenge for your master." Zhang Zidao lifted my arm, leaped more than ten meters, and effortlessly pulled me up onto the stone platform of the cliff.

Near the stone platform were shiny and translucent quartz rocks, with a pure green pool in the middle.

The pool was bubbling, filled with the decayed scent of herbs.

Me: "Why do I feel... this thing is for soaking zombies, for preservation?"

"Correct answer! Reward is your master's little heart." Zhang Zidao greasily made a heart gesture at me, "It uses Corpse Qi to suppress Demonic Qi, as for the herbs, there are all sorts of medicines in here that can treat various diseases."

"I... why do I feel it's so unreliable?" When I arrived at Cold Moon Spring, my attitude actually shrank back.

This green, rotten-smelling Medicinal Pool was too off-putting...

Zhang Zidao had already jumped down from the cliff, "After you're done soaking, send me a WeChat message, your master will stay away for now."

"Master... you..." Don't go.

I had no idea at the bottom of my heart what to do if this Medicinal Spring wasn't Cold Moon Spring, and it didn't cure my Blood-weeping Syndrome?

Then I wouldn't be able to search for the other half of Little Dumpling's soul!!

I hesitated slightly inside, then, one by one, I took off the thick clothes that I was wrapped in and walked into Cold Moon Spring.

The Medicinal Pool smelled foul from afar, but even more so once inside.

It was like being soaked in a cesspool, wordless, with the sticky medicinal liquid coating every inch of my skin.

I slowly closed my eyes, silently chanting the incantation to gather Spiritual Power, as the passage of time became quiet and slow.

After an unknown amount of time, heavy footsteps reached my ears.

Though there were only the footsteps of one person, there were the voices of two people talking, "Brother, we've finally found Cold Moon Spring. We can fully merge with this snake corpse and it won't reject us anymore!"

Chapter 665 Three-Headed Snake

The person speaking in front had a somewhat sharp and sycophantic voice, whereas the one behind spoke with a gloomy and cold intonation, "Joining Ten Thousand Poison Hall is quite profitable this round; soon the entire village will be our snack."

In a place where the vines crossed each other at an oblique angle, there was an inconspicuous cave, and from it emerged a tall and handsome figure.

If it weren't for the fact that the owner of this figure had three snake heads, I might really mistake him for some kind of handsome guy.

I was so scared that I dove deeper into the Medicinal Pool, it's too late to put on the clothes that are all on the shore.

I could only try to get closer to the shore, hoping to grab a piece of clothing to cover up.

Xiao Honghong was getting anxious, "Woman, you're about to be seen naked, I'll go slay that three-headed monster."

"Stay calm, Xiao Honghong, you need to stay calm." I wanted to grab Xiao Honghong and stop its impulsive action, but every time I raised my arm, it was easy to have a wardrobe malfunction.

The man claimed to be a Corpse Snake, so naturally, Gu Insects were also ineffective against him.

Xiao Honghong flew over and bit one of the snake heads on the face.

"Big brother, a bug bit me, it hurts!" This time, the voice that came out was a tender and coquettish one, causing listeners to get goosebumps all over.

Another sharp and sinister voice said, "It's just a bug, why are you making such a fuss, Second Sister? I'll slap it dead with one blow."

The man stood still, and slapped towards his own neck.

I saw this spectacle and my heart leapt to my throat.

Fortunately, Xiao Honghong, although unable to affect the Corpse Snake with gu, was agile in its movements.

It flew to another snake head, angering the one with the sharp voice, who raised another big palm and slapped itself, "You damn bug, dare to bite me, I'll smash you to death."

"Have you two had enough? There's someone in the Cold Moon Spring!" The middle snake head seemed to be the elder brother of the other two, angrily interrupting their low IQ behavior.

His limbs were immediately controlled by the central brain among the three snake heads, and he took large strides toward me, with a Snake Head Sword flying out from his sleeve.

I had already reached the edge of the pool, not caring if I'd flash anyone.

I tried to pull off a piece of clothing, but to my dismay, I grabbed the most difficult-to-wear cheongsam by mistake.

A wave of despair washed over me — am I really going to fight this three-headed snake bare?

If no one happens to pass by, it's all good; if I kill the snake, nobody will know I was exposed.

But if someone were to pass by from here, it'd be an absolute social death scene.

The thoughts in my head flashed by, and the spot on my wrist where the Ginseng Bracelet was worn felt slightly cool.

The bracelet fell into the pool and turned into a girl in white, floating gracefully.

The girl with her fragrant and soft body threw herself onto me, covering the exposed parts firmly, "Young Madam, you can't let others see."

"Good girl, now go down. I can't realistically fight while you're covering me up like this," I patted Xiao Shenshen's obedient long hair, the fresh scent of Ginseng among the strands was refreshing.

Xiao Shenshen touched my ear, "Clothing, Young Madam needs to wear."

After that, Xiao Shenshen's body was soft and smooth.

On me, there was a flash of white light, and I was clad in a pure white misty garment, the kind of beautiful ancient-style dress.

If it wasn't in this green and smelly pool, it almost felt as though I were wearing a Rainbow Feathered Robe fit for a fairy.

Facing the sculpted jade-like, smooth and fair shoulders in front of me.

My mind went blank for a moment, and hurriedly embracing the stark-naked little beauty, I dived down, hiding her beside me and pressing down, "You... you little girl, you!! Hide!! Yourself!! Well!! Don't let anyone see your body."

Chapter 666: Young Madam, Fierce

"People regard me as a medicinal ingredient, so I'm not afraid of being exposed," Xiao Shenshen said, not adapting well to the water in the pond as she tried to climb out.

I pushed her back in, "Afraid of what, get back in there."

"Young Madam, you're scary," Xiao Shenshen scolded me, and her little face instantly looked as miserable as a rainstorm.

Those pitifully adorable deer eyes gazed at me, softening my heart completely.

I almost broke down as I rubbed my temples, "Good girl, it's my fault. I shouldn't have scolded you."

"Big brother, there's a pregnant and ugly freak in the pond, the man who impregnated her really has bizarre tastes," reported the little brother among the Three-Headed Snake with a sharp voice.

The coquettish second child then smiled gracefully, scornfully saying, "Big brother, are you being overly paranoid? This thing isn't even enough to whet my appetite."

Third elder admired, "Looking this ugly, and you still could devour her, second sister, I'm impressed!"

"Devour, devour, devour!! You two just know about devouring. Did you see that piece of clothing?" the leader, Big Brother, his gaze fell on the cheongsam floating in the pond that I had just tried to put on, and he scolded in a deep voice.

The three serpent heads blurted out simultaneously, "Longting's true body!! This woman... is a caretaker nurtured by that thief Longting."

The next second, the towering figure of the three-headed man was suddenly enveloped in a fierce killing aura.

He brandished his sword at me, attempting to snatch the Silver Python Cheongsam from my hands.

I had already prepared the Begonia Hairpin in my hand, "Taiwei Xuan Palace, Central Yellow Beginning Blue, Inner Refinement of the Three Souls, Fetal Light Tranquility, Divine Treasure Jade Chamber, grow with me, no unwarranted movements."

From the moment I recited the first word, I felt the Spiritual Energy in me surge like a rising tide, continuously and endlessly coursing through my meridians from the Qi Sea.

The three-headed man had barely gotten close to me with his Sword Qi when he was thrown back by the powerful Sharp Metal Aura and Demon-Breaking Power on my hairpin.

He somersaulted through the air and was embedded alive into the cliffside.

The cliffside was full of cracks that had erupted upon impact.

"My power... has it returned? This pond..." its healing ability was beyond my imagination.

I shook my head to clear it, only to see the twin eyes of the three serpents suddenly turn a deep red.

An unparalleled evil and Demonic Qi surged through their bodies, saturating their Snake Head Swords.

As the three serpent heads emitted Sha Qi, they spat heart blood onto the sword from their serpent mouths, and the sword emitted a terrifying hiss, "Despicable woman, daring to harm the snake corpse we painstakingly found for possession, my three siblings and I will have you infected by the Demonic Qi. You will be unrecognizable and personally suppressed by Snake Lord Longting!"

Facing the overwhelming attack of the Demonic Qi, I knew touching it could lead to infection and dared not delay.

It was already too late to search for talisman paper in my coat pocket, and the power of the hairpin alone was insufficient.

I had no choice but to use the sharp end of the hairpin to slice open my palm, tracing out the familiar fire charm runes on it, "No sharpness without steel, no spirit in a talisman without Sha, Fire God Sha!"

Please work!!

This is my first time drawing a talisman, it must not fail!!

Otherwise, I'm done for!!

Phew!!

A roaring blaze erupted, as a vast flame burst forth from my palm.

The flame formed a barrier like a phoenix-shaped firewall.

"Damn it!! Nine Heavens Mysterious Phoenix!! Fuck, damn it all!!" Snake Head Third Elder's Snake Scales all stood on end as he collapsed screaming.

The flirtatiousness vanished from the second sibling as she bellowed, "Big brother, quick, use the Corpse Control Shadow Bell. If we're scorched by the heavenly fire, we're done for. Even the thousand-year-old snake corpse we're possessing can't withstand it."

"What's the rush, it's just heavenly fire, we have the Corpse Control Shadow Bell from Ten Thousand Poison Hall."

Chapter 667 Showing Her Off Together

The Snake Head Leader, with a face full of disdain, unhooked the brass bell that hung from his waist.

Before he could shake it, a tongue of fire struck.

It burned their clothes clean off, reducing them to a state that required pixelation, and their snake scales were charred black as well.

The two younger Snake Head siblings screamed several times before the leader, with a calm face, slowly began to ring the bell, "How embarrassing, it's just a few burns. Why the screaming??"

All three Snake Heads were vipers, their colorful scales becoming fewer and more charred.

After the Yin Bell produced a chilling crisp sound, Yin energy spread around.

Even the heavenly fire, metamorphosed into a majestic Fire Phoenix, was affected, its flames halved in size instantly.

However, the attack on the Three-Headed Snake did not cease, the two younger siblings dared not cry out in pain, merely groaning, "Big brother, easy for you to say without back pain, doesn't it hurt when you're burned?"

"Exactly, the Yin Bell seems useless, and at this rate, we're going to be burned to ashes."

Just then, a wild roar suddenly erupted from below the mountain.

The roar was deafening, carrying with it a stench of corpse odor.

Immediately after, countless roaring sounds, like thunder from a clear sky, reached up the mountain wall as a horde of zombies, following the sound of the Yin Bell and the gathering Yin energy, swarmed up.

Climbing up quickly using the vines on the mountain wall, albeit mechanically, the leader spoke unhurriedly amidst the fire, "Bite that pregnant woman to death! We absolutely cannot let Yu Longting's caregiver live!"

In less than half a minute, a dozen zombies had climbed onto the small stone platform.

Even if not killed by zombies, the stone platform would collapse under the strain, shattering completely.

"Are you Yu Longting's enemies?" I was truly helpless and could only redirect my Spiritual Power to encircle the zombies with flames.

The zombies, soaked in a medicinal solution, were attacked by the thousand-degree heavenly fire.

For the moment, they couldn't be burned to ashes and endured the heavenly fire as they attacked me, fortunately, their movements were significantly slowed by the fire.

I narrowly managed to dodge and continued to probe, "He is the Snake Lord, not everyone in the Snake Tribe trusts him, but he should not have such deep and serious enemies, right?"

The Three-Headed Snake gestured by raising their hand, releasing malicious aura.

The remaining bits of heavenly fire on their bodies extinguished instantly.

Second Snake was overly pleased, "Everyone trusts him, my ass. He's just a useless snake that can't learn to crawl even after three hundred years."

Third Snake mocked, "If it weren't for the Dragon Emperor who pressed us under the Serpent Domain for a thousand years, the Snake Lord wouldn't have had his chance!!"

This... the Three-Headed Snake had actually escaped from the Serpent Domain!!

Before I could react, the leader once again reprimanded and stopped the two Snake Heads from speaking, "You two idiots, why reveal our matters to this woman??"

Second Snake: "The three of us together dazzled her, then no one would know."

Third Snake: "Yeah, big brother, Second Sister is right, we can dazzle and silence her."

The horde of zombies burned in the heavenly fire for three to four minutes, their bodies gradually turned into char due to the strong protection of Corpse Qi.

I split my focus, slicing open the palm of my other hand, planning to draw another Palm Talisman to finish them once and for all, "Let's see who dazzles whom, I'm best at roasting snakes."

"Ugly woman, you wait, we three siblings won't forget today's humiliation!"

Seeing that I was about to turn the dozen or so zombies into ash, the Three-Headed Snake leader shook the Yin Bell to summon more zombies.

Then, with a flash, he escaped into a cave.

If my guess was correct, there should be another way out behind the cave.

"Thinking of running? No way!!"

Chapter 668: Don't Burn My Dad

I quickened my pace to catch up, finished sketching the fire charm in my palm, and pressed it towards the swarm of zombies, "Circle of Heaven and Earth, commandments of the nine Chapters, as I now put pen to paper... all spirits hide, expedite as commanded!"

Second Snake, "Here she comes again, this woman is relentless."

Three Snakes, "Are we destined to become roasted snakes?"

"The winds and clouds change, Yin Bell howls, swiftly!" The three-headed man turned around, following the lead snake head he shouted a lower order.

The Yin Bell in his hand flew out, colliding with the heavenly fire I had summoned.

"Bang," the flash of flames suddenly disappeared, and the Yin Bell melted, falling to the ground as molten metal.

Before me, the figure of the three-headed man had already vanished without a trace.

"Young Madam, where are you, Shenshen is scared," a tiny, frightened voice reached into the cave.

My spine stiffened suddenly, remembering that Shenshen was still in the Cold Moon Spring.

Ignoring the whereabouts of the Three Snakes, I dashed out of the cave swiftly.

I saw the young lady hiding behind a quartz rock, her pupils shrinking in fright.

A zombie, attracted by the herbal scent on Shenshen, moved towards her, and more zombies were climbing up the cliff.

Both of my palms had drawn Palm Talismans, so I could only bend down to quickly reach into my pocket for a fire charm, "Circle of Heaven and Earth..."

"Don't burn my daddy, you female Demon Head,"

Before I could complete the Curse Words, a tender voice came from the foot of the mountain.

Female Demon Head??

Was that directed at me??

Glancing in the direction of the sound, a small boy popped out from behind a large tree below the mountain, resembling Little Turnip Head.

He stood with his arms akimbo, glaring at me angrily.

A chill swept through my eyes, had such a small child also become a member of the Ten Thousand Poison Hall?

"Commandments of the nine Chapters," I argued internally. If I don't kill the zombies, they pose a threat to the lives of Shenshen and me, no matter whose father they are.

Seeing that I did not stop, Little Turnip Head started kicking and hitting the mountain wall, "Female Demon Head, did you hear me talking? If you dare touch my dad, I'll kill you!"

"Don't harm these Walking Corpses, my good, good disciple," Zhang Zidao rushed over with an elderly man with white hair, frenzied to the point of jumping on the spot below the mountain, "These Walking Corpses are treasures of our stronghold."

I hesitated for a second, then decided to grab my coat.

I jumped out of the Medicinal Pool, first wrapping up the trembling little body of Xiao Shenshen before shouting down the mountain, "I'm sorry, Master, I... acted out of self-preservation, I thought these were zombies from the Ten Thousand Poison Hall."

"Ah Shui, quickly think of something to prevent these zombies from hurting my dear, beloved disciple," My master Zhang Zidao clutched at the old man's sleeve with a desperate and shameless look, "Otherwise, I'll have to take matters into my own hands and burn them all."

So, he meant for me not to act, intending to handle these Walking Corpses himself.

A wave of emotion overwhelmed the soft spots in my heart; though this master of mine is sometimes unreliable, he really stands by his people when it counts.

"Zhang... Elder, after so many years, you... have changed so much," the elderly man in pure black ethnic clothing, his hair meticulously groomed, eyed Zhang Zidao's sloppy Taoist robe with an expression full of unspeakable thoughts. "The Yin Bell of our tribe was stolen by my good-for-nothing son, and only the Yin Bell can control these Walking Corpses. Perhaps the only solution now... is to burn them..."

"You are the villain, you're unfit to be the Stronghold Master or our tribal chief," Little Turnip Head ran up like a young calf and knocked over the elderly man, "No one is allowed to burn my daddy!"

"Little Amber, how can you treat the tribal chief like this, Grandpa Chief, I'm sorry, my child is really... it's all my fault for not disciplining him,"

A dark-skinned woman hurried over, trembling as she pulled her son away, trying to help the elderly man up.

But she was sternly pushed aside by two men who followed, "Daring to harm the tribal chief, you and your son will face the fire punishment tomorrow according to tribe regulations!"

Chapter 669: The Treasure, Yin Bell

"The two of you, step back. I'm fine. What would drive a man to assault a widow and her orphan?" The white-haired elder struggled to his feet, holding his aching back, trying to appear calm but couldn't help yelping in pain, "It's just that I've got a herniated disc, which is a bit too much to handle."

"I'm so sorry, so so sorry!! Elder tribal chief, it's my lack of discipline. You've taken such good care of our family, and yet my child has lashed out at you." The woman apologized profusely, tears streaming down her face as she hugged Little Turnip Head, bowing repeatedly to the white-haired elder.

I could only use the Binding Curse to temporarily immobilize the zombies.

To prevent them from attacking me and Xiao Shenshen.

Each of these zombies still retained their Living Souls within them.

Thinking about those I had just burned, I reckoned I had thoroughly offended everyone in the stronghold; I didn't dare set anything else on fire.

"Young Madam, you're hurt." Xiao Shenshen, initially scared, clung to me, not even daring to breathe heavily.

Seeing the zombies immobilized, she slowly relaxed like a small animal easing into comfort, poking her little head out.

She noticed my palm was cut, and held it, blowing on it tenderly and non-stop.

Her large, watery eyes were misting up.

I sighed inwardly.

Hey, this isn't about raising medicinal herbs or pets.

It's clearly like raising a delicate daughter, the kind who's sweet, cute, and a little silly.

Fearing even the slightest harm might come to her or that she'd be tricked by some jerk.

Zhang Zidao was getting anxious, "The Binding Curse only lasts three minutes, you need to make a decision fast, Ah Shui."

"We have no choice but to burn them. Their souls are controlled by the Yin Bell," the white-haired elder in black clothing sighed deeply, "Senior, rest assured, the one who stole the Yin Bell is my son. It's all my fault; it has nothing to do with you or your esteemed disciple."

The Yin Bell?

This elder had mentioned this item twice.

It seems to be the only thing that can control all the Walking Corpses.

Recalling the bell rung by the Three-Headed Snake, I gave my head a hard knock.

I must be possessed by a pig; why did I only just remember, "The Yin Bell... seems to be... in the cave. Master, don't act hastily."

"The Yin Bell... in the cave??"

Down the mountain, two white-bearded old men looked at each other in disbelief.

I checked the time; the Binding Talisman was about to lose its effect.

To prevent Shenshen from being bullied by the zombies, I scooped her up in one arm and entered the cave with her.

No matter how tall she looks, she weighs as much as Ginseng.

Xiao Shenshen is naturally very timid and also afraid of the dark.

In the cave, she huddled her little head, looking around cautiously.

After finding the Yin Bell on the ground, the corner of my mouth twitched.

After becoming molten copper...

The shape seems... well... not quite right...

Turning around, those Walking Corpses had broken free from the shackles of the Binding Curse.

I thought they would attack me, but instead, they knelt down half a meter in front of me. The leader, from behind the mask, made gurgling noises, speaking gibberish.

Xiao Honghong let out a whine, "Woman, you're a flirt, seducing even zombies!!"

"???" I felt like I was about to be unjustly accused.

Just a second ago, I nearly had my brain eaten by zombies, and now I'm accused of seducing them.

My Xiao Honghong, why don't you just ascend to heaven??

Braving it out of the cave, I lifted the Yin Bell towards the mountain below and asked awkwardly, "So, erm... what about this—do you want me to throw the Yin Bell down?"

"This shriveled piece of a Copper Block... your village's treasured artifact, the Yin Bell??" Zhang Zidao's eyes bulged like copper bells, more bell-like than the Yin Bell in my hands.

The black-clad, white-haired elder visibly twitched, "Judging by the material and... the surrounding Yin energy, it seems to be it... but the design... isn't quite right."

Chapter 670: She is Just So Ugly, So Ugly Wow

"It's easy to explain, they were taken by the people of the Ten Thousand Poison Hall to be burned and played with." True to being my mentor, Zhang Zidao immediately shifted the blame to the Ten Thousand Poison Hall on the spot.

The white-haired elder still wore a face full of doubt and mumbled in disbelief, "But... but... the Yin Bell contained a Meteorite from beyond the Sky, which not even Samadhi True Fire could harm... Could the Ten Thousand Poison Hall... really be capable of that?"

"Young Madam, the corpse touched my face." Shenshen, like a frightened little bunny, shrank into my embrace right then.

I turned my head and saw a zombie making a weird whooshing laugh and even stretched out its stinking, green hand to touch Shenshen's plump and adorably foolish little face, which immediately enraged me, "Get your filthy hands off, all of you back off, or I will not be polite!"

The zombies uttered incoherent noises that sounded like oohs and aahs from their mouths, unclear what they were saying.

But the impression they gave was one of extreme fear of me, retreating backward as if startled.

In the end, they even knelt down on one knee before me with devout sincerity.

Their posture as they knelt down resembled the highest form of ritual depicted in the Ancient Dian Kingdom murals, where subjects paid homage to the King of the Ancient Dian.

I had not expected my ferocity to be enough to repel zombies, "All of you, into the cave, then line up and head down the mountain, one by one, don't come too many at once," lest the small platform collapsed under them.

Then they all stood up together and obediently went into the cave.

I turned back around, and everyone at the base of the mountain.

All bore expressions as if their eyeballs had popped out in shock, and I scratched my head.

Was it because I looked too ferocious when I got angry, scaring the daylight out of them?

"Disciple... those walking dead... called you master? How did you make them recognize you as their master?" Zhang Zidao's mouth gaped open, almost dislocating his jaw, and it took a long while before he managed to speak.

I shook the Yin Bell, "Because of this thing, they listened to me. I'll throw it down to you after they've all gone down."

"There's no need to throw it down, just keep it with you for now." The white-haired elder, with his hands clasped behind his back, had a shrewd glint in his eyes, "Girl, the Cold Moon Spring is most useful when the moon comes out, you'd better stay up there and don't come down."

"Okay, then I'm sorry to say, I'll borrow your Medicinal Pool for a while." I had used too much Spiritual Power using the heavenly fire just now, and had calmed down.

A touch of fear arose in the depths of my heart, worrying that I might hurt the Life Lamp given to me by Yu Longting, so I thickened my face and agreed.

I cleared my throat, feeling a bit embarrassed as I continued to make requests, "Um, is the turmoil in your village settled down? I... when I soak, could you... not let anyone come close?"

"Absolutely no problem. You can use the Yin Bell in your hand to have these walking dead guard nearby. I'll go inform the village right away," the white-haired elder was unexpectedly generous.

He then exchanged a look with Zhang Zidao, holding his protruding lumbar spine with an 'aigh' as he turned and left.

The two strong men who followed the white-haired elder, as well as Little Turnip Head and Little Turnip Head's mother, also left with him.

As Little Turnip Head left, he curiously asked his mother, "Mom, why... why do daddy and the others all listen to that ugly freak, the Demon Head?"

"I don't know, child, don't talk nonsense, that is the esteemed disciple of elder Zhang Zidao."

"But she is really, really ugly!"

Standing on the cliff, my heart suffered immense hurt.

Really, really ugly...

Truly, children speak their minds, uttering nothing but the blunt truth.

"Young Madam, you are the prettiest." A cool little hand touched my face, and then kissed it with the fragrance of Ginseng.