

A Snake 681

Chapter 681: Painful, and mentally collapsed again??

"Yes, Master," She Dalì nodded mechanically.

I've heard this ancient Dian language so often that I can now understand it.

But that's the only sentence I can understand.

Auntie She stopped beating her son and said, "Miss Wan, Stronghold Master! Let me see you out."

"No need, you go on with your business," I said, taking a step out, but instantly regretted it.

Behind me came the crisp sound of a bamboo stick hitting a behind, "That's for being impolite, for talking nonsense!"

"Mama, I was wrong, I won't dare to do it again... wuu wuu wuu..." Little Turnip Head was being beaten and crying miserably, "Daddy save me."

"Wuru wuru wuru!" The Walking Corpse, She Dalì, made a low and somewhat muffled sound.

Little Turnip Head cried even harder, his heartbreak was beyond words.

After leaving She Dalì's home, I cleared my throat and asked Yan Bashui, "What did She Dalì just say that made his son cry like that?"

Even from behind a door, standing outside I could hear that Little Turnip Head crying...

So loudly!

It was obviously both painful and emotionally overwhelming??

"He said, 'Well done,'" replied Yan Bashui with a grin, "Since he sees you as his master and didn't join in beating the brat, you can say he's quite protective."

"It seems that Walking Corpses are only slow in action and thought, but still possess basic reasoning abilities," I pondered, stroking my chin, "They must still have their memories."

Yan Bashui nodded seriously, "The technology for creating Walking Corpses has been refined over thousands of years. Now, the Walking Corpses we make are nearly indistinguishable from when they were alive, except for being slow."

"Mm," I responded, my thoughts shifting. I couldn't help but remind, "Ten Thousand Poison Hall might strike again since they've long coveted the Immortal Gu."

Yan Bashui scoffed lightly, "They surely won't give up. They've harassed the village for years, all ending in failure. I've already instructed the whole village to be on guard! But, as the only Gu Speaker from Tianying Village in two hundred years, only you can inherit the Immortal Gu... so..."

"So unless I die, the main target of Ten Thousand Poison Hall will still be me?" I shrugged nonchalantly, mentally preparing myself for a relentless fight with Ten Thousand Poison Hall.

Following that, Yan Bashui and I sent the other Walking Corpses back to their respective homes.

Apart from eating a meal in the middle of the day, I spent the whole day moving around the village until dusk.

After a whole day of consideration, I had almost figured out the plan to find Dumpling.

I could try combining the Kin-seeking Clothes with the Soul-Seeking Garment and after improving them, wearing the clothes made.

Utilizing tonight's full moon on the fifteenth of the lunar calendar, I might be able to find the location of Dumpling's missing half of the soul.

Yan Bashui insisted that I soak in the Cold Moon Spring again, which was extremely precious.

The medicinal bath was made from top-grade herbs; otherwise, my Blood-weeping Syndrome wouldn't have healed so quickly.

Yan Bashui, as the Stronghold Master, had only soaked in it twice, but he hoped I could strengthen my body by soaking more in Cold Moon Spring, which would be beneficial for my future cultivation.

I tried to decline politely but ultimately couldn't resist Yan Bashui's persistence.

The moon rose in the east, and I leaned against the edge of the Medicinal Pool, embroidering the Life and Death Embroidery.

Having fallen seriously ill, I traveled light this time.

I actually didn't bring many materials for making clothes with me, so the fabric, needles, and thread were all borrowed common items.

The outcome would certainly be compromised, but I was lucky that tonight's moonlight could enhance the clothes' effectiveness.

Just as I was about to finish, a horn suddenly sounded throughout the village.

From below the mountain, came a hoarse child's shout: "Hey! Ugly woman, be careful, Ten Thousand Poison Hall is attacking the village."

Chapter 682: The fight can't happen tonight.

The bugle that had sounded within the stronghold was the battle horn signaling an enemy attack.

I had long anticipated that the Ten Thousand Poison Hall would resort to this tactic, so I quickly put on the cheongsam.

The moment I emerged from the water, the cheongsam dried on its own.

Glancing down the mountain, sure enough, the messenger was the Little Turnip Head who had been beaten earlier in the day.

He had taken quite a beating, even his standing posture was a bit off.

Yet, stubborn as he was, the little fellow still insisted on calling me an ugly woman.

Children speak without a filter; they're the most genuine, untainted beings in this world.

Just like the child who revealed the truth in "The Emperor's New Clothes," I naturally held no grudge against his thoughts.

I descended directly along the vines, "Walk two steps for me to see."

"Walk... two steps why? Are you making fun of me?" Little Turnip Head glared with eyes wide, filled with righteous indignation like a little beast, "Why did you... come down? I was just reminding you to be safe, what if you come down and encounter danger?"

I could see the light from torches moving chaotically inside the stronghold; it looked like a conflict had already started.

Quickly bandaging a strip of healing cloth around Little Turnip Head's wrist, "Never mind, you're just a toddler, it's best not to wander around. What if you run into bad guys? Stick with me."

"What did you tie on me?" Little Turnip Head looked down curiously at the cloth strip on his wrist, puzzled.

Holding his little hand, I said, "It's a healing cloth, your bruises from the beating will feel better after a while."

The little guy's hand noticeably tensed in my palm, but he didn't try to pull away, "Oh."

After walking a few steps with him, I realized he was limping terribly.

I simply picked him up, "Does it hurt a lot? I'll carry you."

"..." Little Turnip Head didn't utter a word, his body stiff and motionless, seemingly deep in thought.

I'll just assume he's shy~

It wasn't until we approached the area bright with torches and people that the slightly grubby Little Turnip Head finally mumbled, "I haven't taken a bath in a month."

"Pfft~" I couldn't help but laugh out loud.

This child, barely three or four years old, already knew shame.

His hot little face buried into my shoulder.

Yan Bashui had gathered a dozen of the stronghold's strongest to confront the men from the Ten Thousand Poison Hall.

Upon seeing me, he immediately tensed up, "Hey, Wanwan, why did you come? Did this little guy fail to deliver the message properly and tricked you into coming?"

The others also became annoyed, "I think this kid from the affluent family hasn't been beaten enough during the day."

"His bottom's already split from a beating, yet he's still so defiant."

"It's not about being defiant. Our Miss Wan is the future Stronghold Master. How can she afford to make mistakes on matters of such importance?"

Most people in the stronghold already knew me and spoke highly of me as the future heir of the stronghold; actually, everyone took great care of me.

"It was my choice to come, Little Turnip Head has nothing to do with it." I protected him like a mother hen, patting the back of Little Turnip Head's head, "Everyone, relax, there won't be a fight tonight."

"No fight? Su Wan, don't speak with such certainty, you might end up biting your tongue—the experts from all our four halls have arrived," said the man holding a torch, with two Vine Armor Zombie heads hanging around his neck.

Clearly, they had killed the guard at the entrance and barged in.

He laughed coldly, the hood of his robe concealing everything but his purple lips, "You have some skill, having evaded the trap of the Snake Devouring Stele and entered Tianying Village alive. But tonight, you're as good as dead!"

Chapter 683: If You're Not Ruthless, You Won't Stand Firm

"Xiao Honghong, it's time to work." I didn't even bother to acknowledge the person from the Ten Thousand Poison Hall shouting challenges, and I snapped my fingers.

Xiao Honghong "whooshed" out from strands of my hair.

Its transparent wings vibrated, keeping it suspended above my head, "You ignorants, Master Hong will send you off to the Western Heaven."

"You want to use gu on us? One Centipede Gu, we don't even take it seriously," the person from the Ten Thousand Poison Hall jeered, their face full of scorn in the torchlight.

Yan Bashui's eyes started blazing with urgency, "Wanwan, step back! If their Gu Insects target you all at once, your Centipede Gu won't stand a chance."

"Maternal Granduncle, I'm not fighting them with gu." I had just finished my sentence.

Cackling erupted from the Ten Thousand Poison Hall's ranks.

As the laughter began, a bizarre scene unfolded.

Half of the individuals in black robes suddenly pulled out their Miao Knives.

They swiftly used the sharp knives to slice off their comrades' heads and promptly stuffed them into oiled cloth bags.

Then they doused them with gasoline, gathered the dozen or so heads in one spot, and set them on fire... burning them!!

To avoid any mishaps, those who drew their knives drenched their bloodied blades in gasoline as well, burning the blood alongside them.

Suddenly, the flames flared brightly.

This area was illuminated by a fiery brilliance.

Watching such an eerie scene unfold, Yan Bashui's mouth gaped open, his jaw almost hitting the ground.

"What's going on, Stronghold Master...?"

"They are slaughtering each other!"

"Strange things happen every year, but tonight is particularly rife."

Yan Bashui turned his gaze toward me, "Did you... plant a spy inside the Ten Thousand Poison Hall?"

"Sort of like a spy. Some of their people were infected with my gu." I slightly tightened my hand into a fist, the cruel scene unfolding was actually executed by Xiao Honghong under my orders, "I then instructed those under my control to spread the Gu Poison as much as possible, so when they attacked the village, all we had to do was to kill those who weren't infected with Gu Insects."

Today I fully understood the saying, if you're not ruthless, you won't stand firm.

If we didn't act this way, the only ones to be wiped out would be Tianying Village and me.

If we didn't want to die, our only choice was to fight back.

Those in the forest who were infected with Xiao Honghong's offspring gu had their consciousnesses completely controlled by the offspring gu.

However, the offspring gu's ability to spread was limited, and its effect was greatly reduced on those with strong abilities.

To have infected half of the Ten Thousand Poison Hall's forces that came to attack was already incredibly fortunate.

They were fully prepared when they came to attack.

Each of them had their Life-bound Gu on them; if it came to a gu fight,

Not to mention the strength of their Life-bound Gu, the mere numerical advantage would be overwhelming.

Xiao Honghong wouldn't survive the approach without being beaten to death.

Our only option was to have them... kill each other...

We also had to prevent the spread of horseshoe crabs, immediately burning the severed heads to ashes.

The air was filled with the foul smell of horseshoe crabs incubating in the oiled cloth bags, being incinerated by the fire, thankfully a north wind blew tonight.

As the cool breeze blew in gusts, the odor quickly dispersed a great deal.

"How is this possible? The Ten Thousand Poison Hall is adept at Gu Art; how could they not detect being under the influence of gu?" A large retainer next to Yan Bashui exclaimed in shock after a long silence.

Yan Bashui stroked his chin, "The Centipede Gu is best at controlling the mind, and once possessed, one is immediately controlled. Otherwise, the Red Gate wouldn't be so powerful. This is like being blinded by the very eagle one has long played with."

I suppose this counts as my luck, Xiao Honghong isn't some famed Emperor Gu.

Yet, its ability to control the human heart is unmatched.

"Maternal Granduncle, the brains of those experts from the Ten Thousand Poison Hall were all infected with horseshoe crabs. Even if they're burned to ashes by the flames, it's best to dispose of them properly," I reminded Yan Bashui.

Yan Bashui's eyes narrowed, and he instantly ordered, "Bring gloves, gather these burned remains into the Stone Box for storage."

Following Yan Bashui's command, the stronghold bustled into action.

"Xiao Honghong, let them go." I spread out my palm, allowing Xiao Honghong to land on it.

After Xiao Honghong settled, it nodded, "No problem."

Chapter 684: From Now On, Let Me Take Care of You

The remaining members of Ten Thousand Poison Hall quickly got in line and filed out of Tianying Village.

For a moment, a crisis that could have led to the village's annihilation was averted.

Initially, only the men and some formidable Walking Corpses had come out to meet the battle.

But now, all those hidden weak, elderly, women, and children had come forth.

The whole village had gathered here, and their eyes on me were full of intense fervor, "Long live Miss Wanwan!!"

"Miss Wanwan is our brave warrior, our hero."

A crowd came over, snatched Little Turnip Head from my arms, lifted me up, and tossed me high into the air.

I was so scared I thought my heart would fail, being tossed up and down by the excited and enthusiastic villagers as I protected my belly.

Master Gu, upon seeing this scene, was fury personified, repeatedly pounding his dragon-headed cane, "Damnation!! You bunch of rascals if you harm the child in Wanwan's belly, my future grandchild, I'll kill you all."

His angry, out-of-breath scolding, though not loud, managed to quiet the boisterous celebration in an instant.

Everyone carefully put me down and shrank back, waiting to be scolded.

"Wanwan, how are you? Does your belly feel uncomfortable at all?" Master Gu hurried over with his cane, anxiously staring at my belly as if it were as precious as his very eyes.

So, before even taking over Tianying Village, he was already focused on the next generation?

I scratched my head, "No, my Dumpling is very sturdy, don't worry, Grandpa Master Gu."

At this point, my heart felt a twinge of pain.

The matter of Little Dumpling losing half his Soul was something I dared not tell anyone in the village, fearing their worry and anxiety.

"It's good that nothing's the matter. Wanwan, although you distinguished yourself tonight, you must be careful in the future. Make sure not to stress the baby and remember to soak in Cold Moon Spring every day to strengthen your constitution."

After Master Gu finished fussing over Little Dumpling, he wobbled over to the group that had been causing a commotion, landing a fierce blow to each person's head with his cane.

No one could escape, and no one dared resist.

Seeing things had settled down, I spoke, "Master Gu, Maternal Granduncle~ everyone, no harm done. Shall I continue on to Cold Moon Spring?"

I had arrived in such a hurry that the garment I had been embroidering was still abandoned in the spring.

But the people here were honest and kind, and since Cold Moon Spring was off-limits, I wasn't worried about it being lost.

I wanted to find out about Dumpling's whereabouts sooner, so I was feeling a bit anxious.

No sooner had Yan Bashui nodded than the crowd suddenly gasped, looking in horror in the same direction.

Everyone whispered among themselves, "Is there one who slipped through the net?"

"Looks like a master, even wearing ancient clothing."

"What's there to fear? We have Miss Wanwan here, plus so many of our own people. He's just one man."

Ancient clothing...

Could it be Yu Longting?

My heart surged as I followed everyone's gaze and saw a man dressed in Hanfu walking under the cold moonlight.

His stature was upright, his face stern.

Enveloped in the bright, frost-like moonlight, he seemed as if he descended from the deities.

But my heart sank in an instant, watching his approaching footsteps, I even took a few steps back.

How did he find me?

And he still recognizes me in this ugly state...?

Noticing that the surrounding villagers were ready for combat, some summoning Gu Insects, some heroically drawing their swords, and even the Walking Corpses roaring...

I realized they mistook him for an enemy.

"Don't attack, he... is one of us," I said.

Yan Bashui rubbed his chin, "Looks unfamiliar, quite handsome too. Is he... Wanwan's... man?"

"No, just a regular friend."

I watched wide-eyed as Yun Hao approached, "Why have you come? Is there something you need?"

Without warning, Yun Hao leaned in close, almost pressing against me, his cool breath near my ear, "Mom, from now on, let me take care of you, protect you."

Chapter 685: Without Yu Longting, What Joy is There in My Life?

"Mom...?! No, wait, Yun Hao, can you control your freeloading spirit??"

I held my forehead on the spot, feeling completely off the scale, and embarrassingly so at one-second intervals!!

Yun Hao maintained the same pose, one hand on his hip, "In the time I was away from you, I reflected deeply and I won't suppress myself anymore. I'm not going to remain calm and rational all the time; I want to do what I desire."

"So, you just let yourself go, heedless of anything else, and now you're calling me mom?? Huh??" My head was about to explode with ten thousand lines of black, yet I could feel the chilly aura emanating from Yun Hao.

Knowing all too well how stubborn the kid was, I sighed, "It's your choice to call me mom, but don't get so close. After all, I am a married woman; maintain some distance, okay?"

"Yu Longting is dead, he's not coming back. Let me be your support, to be your son, to be your man."

As he spoke, Yun Hao's fingers unexpectedly touched my leg, gently brushing against it.

I had no idea how he could say such cringeworthy lines with a straight face; after knowing him for so long, I never thought he'd turn out to be a pervert.

Not only was he creepily touching me inappropriately, he was creating taboos where there were none!

I bit my lip and kicked the delirious Yun Hao away, pulling out the hairpin in my hair and pressing it against his chest, "Even if you rot in the ground and become fertilizer, my Yu Longting won't die, Yun Hao!! I'm sparing you because you once saved me, but... please respect yourself!"

"Stab it in then, after all... it's not like I haven't been... betrayed before in my life," Yun Hao said with a hint of disdain flashing in his cold pupils.

My fingers trembled for a moment; I truly didn't want to poke at his painful memories, but he forced my hand. It was he who cursed Yu Longting first, "I'm not stabbing you in the back; I'm stabbing you in the front, in broad daylight! Yun Hao, better leave now, or I'll take your life!"

"I'm a snake, not a dog." Yun Hao coolly grasped my hairpin, seriously discussing the matter of his species with me.

Then, before the watchful eyes of all, he suddenly thrust it deeply into his own flesh, "He died in the Polar Abyss; I saw it with my own eyes. If you don't believe me... then just stab it in."

The people around us didn't dare to interrupt our conversation; the air was as silent as the deepest chamber of an ancient tomb.

"What was he doing in the Polar Abyss if he was doing fine?" At that moment, it was as though someone had slit my windpipe, filling it with a cold wind so painful that every word I spoke seemed as if uttered on the edge of a knife.

Yun Hao shrugged, his fingers staining with the blood oozing from his chest, and slowly pulled out a black cellphone from his belt, "I... took it from his body."

"Yu Longting's cellphone!!" I immediately took it in my hands, only to jerk away from the coldness on it.

This coldness seemed to have a life of its own, swiftly moving from the tips of my fingers and enveloping my entire hand in frost before finally stopping.

The cellphone was frozen and beyond starting up.

My mind buzzed, and suddenly everything seemed pitch black. Yun Hao's voice continued beside me, "As for why Yu Longting jumped, how would I know? I was just trying to cool off in the icy water, to restrain my longing for you. Out of nowhere, I saw him jump in, encase himself in ice, with all three Life Lamps extinguished."

All three... Life Lamps... extinguished??

Yun Hao is not the kind of person to lie. Yu Longting really... is gone...

The only thought in my mind was, without Yu Longting, what joy is there in life for me?

The feeling of utter desolation was only momentary. The Qi Sea within my Dantian surged like a tsunami, chaotically tossing everything around, leaving nothing but ruins...

Chapter 686: The Great Swindler, They're All Deceiving Me

Death, it turns out, isn't so bad after all.

At least I could be with Yu Longting...

It's just a pity for poor Dumpling to have such an unreliable mother like me.

I couldn't retrieve his lost soul and ended up severing myself from this world.

"Su Wan!" In the darkness, Yun Hao's harrowing low roar came, "Am I so unworthy of your trust? I could give everything for you, my dignity, my life, my all. Why won't you even...consent to be my mother!"

To sink, to continue sinking like this.

The tenderness and trust of anyone mean nothing.

All I want is him, I've always only ever wanted that one him.

Inside my soul, there was a severe pain, as if something was breaking through the earth, growing wildly.

But at that moment, my body was enveloped in a familiar biting fragrance.

A few drops of cold liquid fell on my face, and the corners of my lips curled.

Before death, could even illusions be this real?

To still feel like I'm being held in the arms of...the person I love.

Turns out, at the peak of sorrow, it truly is possible to die from a broken heart.

"Wanwan, don't be afraid. Don't let yourself sink; I'm still alive." When that familiar voice trembled hoarsely with sobs by my ear, my withered heart suddenly filled with vitality.

In the darkness, I searched blindly; although I couldn't open my eyes, my hand still tightly grabbed the arm of that person, "Yu..."

"I'm here." Just those two words, spoken with a calm, magnetic voice, became a beam piercing through the darkness.

Finally chasing that voice, I opened my eyes.

My vision was still blurred and couldn't see clearly, my throat was dry and I coughed hard a few times; he had already sent his Spiritual Power into my body, sorting out the chaotic Qi Sea.

He scooped up my back with his palm, pulling me tightly into his embrace, "Are you trying to scare me to death, Su Wan? Is your life so cheap that a few words from others can take it?"

"After all...who is scaring whom?" I weakly opened my mouth, the sound so faint I couldn't even hear it myself.

A voice of disbelief came from above, from Yun Hao, "You clearly died in the Polar Cold Region...I saw it with my own eyes...your Life Lamp had all gone out."

"I was merely weak from the Life Lamp and entered into Tortoise Breath, ignorant mutt. My wife is in this state, are you satisfied now?" Yu Longting cursed and then said to Yan Bashui, "Lend me the Cold Moon Spring."

Yan Bashui was dumbfounded, "Help yourself...to borrow, but...what the hell...happened?"

Feeling the real embrace of Yu Longting, my hand gently lifted, wanting to touch his heart, but I had no strength.

Yu Longting continued toward the Cold Moon Spring, holding my palm, letting me touch his heart.

Drops of cold liquid kept falling onto the tip of my chin.

He must have been terrified.

My fingertips felt the strong beat of his heart; finally reassured, it wasn't a ruse.

"Cough cough cough...Yu Longting, honestly, what were you doing in the Polar Region?"

Yu Longting, holding me, jumped into the Cold Moon Spring, "I was planning to silently heal in the Polar Region, what's there not to trust?"

"You were waiting to die, right? I've never heard that the Polar Cold Region is conducive to healing." I pointed out bluntly, my chin resting weakly on Yu Longting's shoulder.

If I didn't understand Yun Hao, then I wouldn't be so suspicious.

But Yun Hao is a very cautious man, one who doesn't lie frivolously, and he came running impulsively to Tianying Village to find me.

He must have been certain that Yu Longting was beyond saving.

Yu Longting paused, then hugged me tighter without saying a word.

"Big liar, talking about Life-Exchanging Lamps, it was all to deceive me, making me think you wouldn't die." I've never hated him so much, not even when he teased me, caused my pregnancy, I never loathed him as I do now, detesting his actions, "Blinding Method...you directly loaned your Life Lamp to me, and exchanging it with me...both are leading to the same end. With a piece of junk in your body...and you have suffered so many injuries, with so little cultivation left, how can you go on living?"

Chapter 687: Better Off Not Knowing Each Other at All

"Wife... you goddamn..." Yu Longting cursed, yet he sighed, "You're too clever, I just knew you love me so much that you'd choose to go to the pole."

"Yeah, the pole is deadly cold, it can freeze you solid and keep a faint heartbeat and breath to fool me... But who would have expected Yun Hao, this honest fool, to show up?" I sneered aloud, "Now, how much longer can you cling to life?"

Although he was right in front of me, he seemed like sand slipping through my fingers, the tighter I grasped, the faster I lost him.

I was going to lose him after all, he was sacrificing himself so that I could live.

But I, I couldn't accept that grace.

He was the pillar I lived for, my entire life.

He was the piece missing in my soul.

"For a long time, I can live for a long time, Wanwan, I'm not dead, all because of you."

Yu Longting stroked my hair, over and over again, his voice carried a hint of charm technique, "I was pulled back by your spiritual power, you gave me so much spiritual power, did you leave any for yourself?"

"Lying again? In your eyes, am I just a simple-minded amoeba?" I laughed helplessly as I leaned against Yu Longting, resisting with my remaining spiritual power the way he was combing through the Qi Sea in me.

Why can't the Su Family ever bring Yu Longting any luck?

It's always misfortune that follows him, I just want him to live, to properly be his Snake Lord...

But my father was the beginning of his misfortune, and I am the executioner who doomed him to plunge into the abyss, never to recover.

In the name of love, I killed him.

Yu Longting took several deep sighs, gently pushed me away, his lips met mine, "Wanwan, I never thought you, so compliant, would be such a stickler, always feeling that I'm deceiving you, so..."

So what?

On my heart, which was as still as death, a ripple surfaced, making me unconsciously listen closely.

"Relax your mind, enter my Qi Sea, let me show you my Life Lamp, see for yourself.

Yu Longting must have secretly used the Charm Technique. My mind went blank, unaware of what was happening.

I was already following him, just like our last Dual Cultivation, my entire Primordial Spirit and all the spiritual power in my body's meridians were connected with his.

Driven by the obsession deep in my heart, my consciousness instantly reached deep into his soul.

I saw three brightly shining Life Lamps.

At that moment, I was stunned for a second, "Really, you're alright."

"Of course I'm alright, you soaked in the Cold Moon Spring and cured your Blood-weeping Syndrome, and elevated your realm by several levels?"

Yu Longting pinched my ear, a bit angry yet helpless, "The Cold Moon Spring saved you and it saved me too, stop your wild thoughts. Because of all the spiritual power you gave me, all the Life Lamps have recovered."

"Whoo whoo whoo..." I've never felt so vulnerable and helpless in my life, clinging to Yu Longting as I burst into intense tears, crying until the world faded away.

I almost fainted in his arms, but because the two of us were in a state of Dual Cultivation, the spiritual power flowing into me kept me conscious, "How can you bear it? To leave me behind, to go off and die, and even want... to pretend to be missing... so that I would never find out... How can you be so detestable... how can you?"

Just thinking that I almost lost him by a hair's breadth, I couldn't bear the mental breakdown, unable to withstand such consequences.

Why did I have to meet him in the first place?

What was so compelling??

Was it worth it, to have known me just for over twenty years, to not only give up his life, but even his soul...?

This fear makes me feel like it would have been better if I had never met him at all.

Chapter 688: The Snake That Calls Souls

"I'm sorry, Wanwan. I won't dare to do it again, I'll never dare again. From now on, whether in the lofty heavens or in the depths of the Underworld, I'll bring you with me," Yu Longting soothed me like a kitten, his fingers gently combing through my hair, delivering kisses on my back as tender as if they could pop like bubbles at any moment.

My heart was brimming with grievance, resenting his deceitful words and actions, yet grateful for his reckless sacrifices; my emotions were a complex tangle.

"You're a wolf in sheep's clothing, a big liar. I... I don't believe your nonsense! Remember, the consequences of abandoning me... you... Yu Longting... won't be able to bear it..."

"Not just remember, it's etched in my heart. Wife, you're getting harder and harder to fool. I won't dare to lie to you anymore."

I had just experienced the turbulence of losing him and then regaining him.

It dealt a severe blow to my spiritual power, but although my body was full of Spiritual Power, the damaged Qi Sea Meridian was being healed and mended.

I was so mentally exhausted that I fell asleep on Yu Longting's body; the sleep felt like it was over in a flash.

When I woke up, the fear of loss was so intense that my hands were grasping about like an octopus's tentacles.

Finding that I was already clinging tightly to him, my anxiety and sense of loss relaxed slightly.

Dawn had already broken, good thing the cliff was on the shadowed side.

The sun couldn't reach it, but it made the view in front of us, a village of stone houses laid out in an orderly fashion, shine with a dazzling light.

"Wanwan, I love you. I really love you, Wanwan..." Feeling my slight movement in his arms, he began, like calling back a soul, to repeat the words tirelessly in my ear.

I gently bit into Yu Longting's well-defined shoulder and sighed softly, "Yu Longting, I... love you too."

With that, he not only stopped calling out.

His entire being stiffened completely, and he didn't respond for a long time.

After a while, he slowly asked me, "Wanwan, what did you say?"

"Before, I didn't have the right to say I love you, but now I finally can, so I wanted to tell you the moment I could," I finished speaking and felt a scale-like touch brush my leg. The white little snake tail had accidentally touched my back.

Feeling that he had offended me, he obediently moved away, yet restlessly swished around in the green liquid.

Yu Longting asked me with a bewildered face, "What do you mean... Now you can?"

As the saying goes, the intelligence of a man in love is like that of a primary-school child.

Even the crafty snake Yu Longting was no exception.

Staring at the cute, swaying snake tail of Yu Longting in the water, I was nearly lost in thought, "You can say it's whatever reason you like, but the fact is I can love you now."

"Wanwan, you... you have a Love Soul now, right?" Yu Longting asked me uncertainly, his fingertips touching my forehead to sense, and then he was overcome by an almost wild joy, "Where did it come from? You shouldn't have had the chance to interact with Ye Jiqing recently... It couldn't be... that it grew on its own...?"

"I think... it's very likely that it grew on its own. That's good; it means I won't have to take the one Ye Jiqing used."

I felt that I had caught a touch of Yu Longting's mental fastidiousness.

The thought of not needing to retrieve my own Love Soul that Ye Jiqing had used filled me with relief.

Yesterday, thinking I was going to lose him, my soul was in intense pain.

That pain... may not have been a tearing pain...

But rather a kind of... growing agony...

It was truly a miracle that the missing part of my soul could regrow on its own.

When it appeared in my body, it felt so natural, so placid, with no special sensation.

But at the same time, there was an illusion that the whole world was left with only him, that he occupied my entire heart.

So this is what liking someone feels like, this is the sensation of love...

Like a volcano erupting under a calm sea, it could appear tranquil on the surface, but also be as tumultuous as hot magma colliding.

"Wanwan, the idea of a person growing a new Soul... it's the first time I've heard of such a thing," Yu Longting remarked.

His cool, slippery snake tail wrapped around my ankle, slowly entwining deeper around my legs and my waist, "Can I do this to you, Wanwan... Wanwan...?"

With uncontrollable desire, he called out my name, his voice tinged with confusion and fear of loss.

"If I say you can't, will you stop wrapping your snake tail around me?"

Chapter 689: I Will Never Be Unwilling

My body, entwined by the delicate snake scales, went soft, and I leaned bonelessly against Yu Longting.

Yu Longting's curled snake tail stiffened slightly, and his voice was short, "Say it, accept me, I want to hear it."

"Yes, you can entwine me whenever you like, no need to ask, I will never be unwilling." My heart was filled to the brim, and I lightly tapped a fingertip on the snake scales.

Though the time we were apart was only a few days, it felt like an eternity spent amidst suspicion and longing.

I had almost never seen my Yu Longting again, making our reunion all the more precious, stirring the wish that time could stop indefinitely at this moment.

Yu Longting, moved by his feelings, slid two buttons of the cheongsam open and quickly fastened them again, "Damn, you're getting better at riling me up, but this place isn't right for what I want to do to you."

I looked up, silently watching my Yu Longting who was so restrained and cherishing.

Suddenly, I remembered the past, recalling his more aggressive side.

How could this Yu Longting, who cherishes me so much, ever have forced me?

Even if it was for revenge, by his values,

acting against an ordinary human girl like me, it was clear that he, the Snake Lord, would be the one at a disadvantage.

Could it be... that he had actually been secretly in love with me all along?

Or was there some other reason?

Since I'd known Yu Longting until now, I'd actually never considered this question before.

"Wanwan, come with me to the sect to care for our child, Dumpling will be born soon." Yu Longting, fighting irritability, held me gently despite his menacing look.

To his sect to care for our child?

That would be really good...

But now, half of Dumpling's soul is lost.

If we don't find it, the child would be born in a vegetative state, deeply comatose. What child to nourish then?

"Yu Longting, I have something to tell you..."

I snapped out of my deep thoughts, took hold of Yu Longting's large palm, and placed it on my belly.

Yu Longting sensed my inner turmoil in a second, "Bad news?"

"Yes." I felt particularly heavy-hearted, bracing for his anger, "Because of my negligence, Dumpling's soul... has lost half, I'm so... sorry, this mother isn't competent enough."

"This is what you wanted to tell me? And you... apologize to me?" Danger sparked in the depths of Yu Longting's eyes as he seized my chin.

He nibbled and kissed my lips fiercely, "I was wondering why there was a half-finished Soul-Seeking Relative-Finding Garment in the Medicinal Pool. You care about the little brat more than me, for sure it was an accident that caused Dumpling to lose half its soul, what does that have to do with you?"

"Yu Longting... it hurts... you're not mad at me, why are you still biting... it's so painful..." I pushed him away with all my might, pained, but the guy, as strong as bronze and iron, held me even tighter.

The biting softened, though, turning into gentle kisses, "I'm angry, how can I not be? I'm angry that you apologize so casually."

"Then do you have a way to find the other half of Dumpling's soul?" His kissing technique was so enticing, if it weren't for the fact that Dumpling was on my mind, I would have surely sunk into the softness of his kisses.

This guy must have mastered PUA techniques!

First biting, then the shallow, seductive kisses.

Confusing and wily like a bewitching Snake Spirit.

Yu Longting hooked over the Soul-Seeking Relative-Finding Garment that had been floating there, neglected all this time, "There is a way, but since you've nearly finished making the clothes, your hard work shouldn't go to waste. Finish it."

"Eh, aren't you being too calm about this? It's been lost for so long, and we don't even know if it's safe..." I took the garment, found a needle and thread, and began embroidering efficiently.

My heart was filled with guilt; last night I had misunderstood Yu Longting as being at the end of his strength, completely preoccupied with the life and death of Dumpling's father.

This way, I put aside the issue of Little Dumpling's soul loss, resulting in only telling Yu Longting this morning, and also missing the precious chance to search on the night of the full moon.

Chapter 690: Abducted by a Monster

Yu Longting played with my hair, absentmindedly, "Ever heard of the butterfly effect?"

"Huh?" I looked up and nodded mechanically.

So, what does that mean?

Yu Longting said, "If that lost half of the soul had met with misfortune, would the body react so calmly?"

"So, the half of Dumpling's soul that was lost is pretty safe, right? Oh, hiss~" I thought he made a lot of sense and nodded thoughtfully.

It caused me to lose focus, and the needle pricked my finger.

Yu Longting's eyes deepened as he grabbed my hand and stuffed my finger into his mouth.

Without him needing to speak, every microexpression between his brows and eyes accused me of being clumsy, hurting my own hand.

I hurriedly pulled my finger out, "It's just a needle prick, don't be so nervous."

Ah, this Overlord Snake's thought processes sure are strange.

I failed to protect his own son, yet he showed no sign of blaming me.

Getting upset over a needle prick?

After more than ten minutes, I had finished embroidering the clothes.

"That... tuck in your tail a bit, I'm putting on the clothes," I whispered to Yu Longting.

Yu Longting frowned slightly, showing a rather reluctant expression.

The tail tightened before gradually loosening.

He grabbed my waist with both hands and placed me on a piece of Quartz Rock at the shore.

Afterward, he climbed up himself, "Give me the clothes."

"You're going to wear them?" I asked uncertainly.

I made it in my own size~

Yu Longting snatched it impatiently, "I'll wear it, you can't be bitten."

"Oh, oh." I nodded obediently and compliantly to his irritable mood, it's written in my DNA, not caring whether he was right or wrong.

After agreeing, I then asked, "So, that's enough for you?"

"I'm male, losing a bit of blood isn't a big deal, you, a female, just need to be as plain as unsalted food," Yu Longting took off his outer robe, leisurely put on the clothes, which were only slightly too small.

I paused before realizing what Yu Longting had said.

Touching my extremely ugly face, I muttered, "Is that how you should put it?"

Shouldn't a female be charged with being as beautiful as a flower?

But with my face like this for life, indeed, it fits Yu Longting's description, plain as unsalted food.

Was his mocking because he too was disgusted?

"Wanwan, I really like how you look right now," Yu Longting suddenly leaned towards me, who was spacing out.

His lips curled with a mischievous smile, he kissed my nose, eyes, and mouth one after another, "Your husband here has quite the unique taste, if I had met you this ugly at the first sight, maybe... I would have fallen in love with you even sooner."

"You're so annoying, always running off at the mouth, never serious," I laughed and pushed him away, annoyed by Yu Longting's words.

Yu Longting stepped back half a step, the pure white clothing absorbing the blood, gradually staining it bright red exceedingly.

Slowly before him, a swamp outlined by a mist of blood appeared.

There was an extremely rundown wooden house in the swamp, crumbling badly from years of neglect.

Why are there only sceneries, no people?

Logically, I should be able to see my Dumpling?

As I was doubting this, a crimson eye suddenly appeared in the scene.

The eye was a typical snake's, full of cold blood and hatred.

It seemed to be spying on Yu Longting and me, then the claws formed by the blood mist actually tore through the scene formed by the mist.

I blurted out, "Dumpling was taken away by a master, one with anti-surveillance capabilities, they don't want us to find Dumpling!!"

"To be exact, it was a monster that took him away, a snake demon, the possessed kind."