

A Snake 721

Chapter 721: Don't worry, I'm even more protective

"Don't forget, without my father's hard work in watering, you wouldn't have survived!"

Yu Rongling ignored Xiao Shenshen's resistance, threatening her maliciously as if he were rotten to the core.

Following Yu Rongling's scream, I went over and twisted his ear 180 degrees, "Ouch ouch ouch, sister-in-law, my ear is going to fall off, let go~ wuwu~"

Before I caused him any trouble, I slipped a coin between my fingers.

The coin, with Demon-Breaking Power stronger than that of Five Emperors coins, left him without the slightest strength to resist.

"Let go? Don't you like bullying people? Now it's time for you to taste what it's like to be bullied." Far from letting go, I intensified my grip.

Deep, bruise-like marks from a large palm were visible on Xiao Shenshen's wrists and neck, her beautiful eyes misted with a layer of wretched tears.

Her delicate and soft body was shivering in the corner of the wall.

When she saw me, she trembled and called out, "Young... Young Madam."

"What is she? Just a Ginseng Spirit. Without my father, she would've been plucked and used as medicine long ago." Yu Rongling argued vehemently, unconvinced, his face flushed red.

"You think you have a point?"

I, who doted on my palm-sized Shenshen, couldn't believe she had been bullied to this extent. I sent a bit of Spiritual Power into the coin, "I've never hit you before. Do you think I can't teach you a lesson like your brother does??"

"OMG, sister-in-law, you're serious!! My ear is going to twist off!" Yu Rongling cried out in pain, calling for his parents, "Brother, where are you? Stand up for me, sister-in-law is hitting me."

Me: "If your brother shows up, you'll only get beaten worse."

"Young Madam, don't hit." A flicker of fear crossed Xiao Shenshen's eyes.

She stumbled to her feet and grabbed my wrist.

I was determined to stand up for Shenshen, "Don't feel sorry for this dumbass, look at the state you're in."

"The young master is biased." Xiao Shenshen's galaxy-like eyes held a worried gaze as she looked at me.

In her eyes, the person she acknowledged as her master was her everything, her whole world.

She, who was willing to offer herself to Dragon Dad to be eaten, had volunteered herself in my moment of danger.

This proved she had acknowledged me in her heart, but Yu Rongling and Yu Longting most likely didn't feel the same way.

She was worried that Beichen, with his protective nature, would hold me accountable for hurting Yu Rongling.

I gave the little girl a reassuring look, "Don't worry, I'm even more biased."

"Young Madam!!" Emotions surged in Shenshen's eyes.

I replied with a smile, "Good girl."

After a lesson, Yu Rongling behaved a lot better.

Yu Rongling's cooking was simply too awful, and Shenshen was naturally afraid of fire.

So, I took on the task of sorting out everyone's dinner, but when I got to the kitchen, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Yu Rongling had really set up a huge pot, big enough to fit a living person.

The water inside was already boiling... ah...

I have no idea how he could be so heartless, one second treating Shenshen like some idol he adored, and the next wanting to stew the pretty girl.

"You're really not going to stew the Ginseng?" Even after being beaten, Yu Rongling didn't seem to hold a grudge against me.

Seeing me about to finish stir-frying the mushrooms, he actively took an empty plate from the cupboard, and obediently held it out to me, "Don't give me that dark look, it scares me. I'm not holding a grudge against that Ginseng Spirit, nor am I greedy—I admit I'm a little greedy, but Brother Chenn is running out of time, and even if Granny Wu's family sent the fabric, we can't wait for you to finish the clothes."

"Dumbass, have you ever thought about something."

I shoveled the fragrant cashew stir-fried mushrooms onto the plate, "Would your brother let Beichen die so easily? Whether you've thought about it or not, I just figured it out."

"Makes sense. Brother Chenn is the boy my brother painstakingly raised, he hasn't extracted enough value from him, he won't give him the chance to die." Yu Rongling got it right away, but then...

That sounded so strange...

What does "squeezing dry for value" mean?

Chapter 722: Throw You into the Pot First

I stroked my chin, thinking, "Before Beichen dies, your brother will definitely make a move."

It was when Yu Rongling caught Xiao Shenshen to stew her that I suddenly realized.

The three of us were busy rushing around, probably needlessly panicked, since Yu Longting's character was likely to have already calculated every move...

Damn it, after knowing him for so long.

I had once again fallen into the trap he set!

"Do you mean to say my brother will wake up soon?" Yu Rongling stretched out his hand, snatched a cashew, and popped it into his mouth, his eyes brightening, "But generally, digesting a large amount of Spiritual Power takes at least a day or two, right?"

I furrowed my brows, "I can't manage so much now, the point is you're not allowed to bully Shenshen, and if you think about stewing her again, I'll throw you into the pot first, since there's already a ready pot here, go, take the dishes out."

"Just protect this Ginseng then, since Brother Chenn isn't managing anymore, it all ends up being your pot anyway." Yu Rongling pouted and muttered as he carried the dishes out.

My fingers tightened, and despite feeling confident, I couldn't help but feel anxious.

The meal was ready, altogether four dishes and a soup.

With Yu Rongling around, Xiao Shenshen could hardly taste her food.

Her little face pale, her hands trembling as she clutched her chopsticks.

The problem was Yu Rongling, who kept giving her improper looks, scaring her so much that she almost dropped her bowl.

"Dumbass, go eat in the corner." I commanded authoritatively.

Yu Rongling's eyes widened as if he couldn't believe his ears.

Under my menacing glare, he obediently held his bowl and squatted in the corner.

We ate for a while.

Xiao Shenshen bit her chopsticks, occasionally looking in Yu Rongling's direction.

I was puzzled, Shenshen was very afraid of Yu Rongling, why would she stare at him? "What are you looking at?"

"Red eyes," Shenshen murmured.

I looked towards the window behind Yu Rongling, "Outside the window?"

At that moment, the night outside was dark as ink.

I saw no eyes.

"Hmm, big and round," Xiao Shenshen described, "staring at us."

Yu Rongling curled his lips and looked behind him, "Little liar, what big and round, only my sister-in-law would believe you, wow, my mom, ghosts."

With a roar, Yu Rongling fell on his butt on the ground, his body shaking uncontrollably.

The locked window was pushed open...

forcefully by a white, fluffy paw...

The window, along with its frame, fell to the ground.

A similarly fluffy big head poked in, "Little Cauliflower Snake, who are you calling a ghost? Still the same small courage, utterly useless."

"Rabbit, it's Little Rabbit Sister! How did you get here?" I hadn't expected that the big red eyes outside were rabbit's eyes.

She was the giant white rabbit kept by that sneaky old mouse, used as a mount.

Thinking about it was amusing—such a big thing coming to town.

If a passerby saw her, they'd definitely pee their pants.

I put down my chopsticks and walked over, "Did Yu Longting send you?"

"Yes, yes, a little snake came to grandfather's place, on behalf of Snake Lord, asking us to return the Cultivation Spiritual Garment." The rabbit hopped a few times, and the ground shook as if in an earthquake.

It seemed like something was about to fall off her body.

Although I was pregnant, I had been forced to exercise frequently outdoors lately.

My figure was still quite agile, so I climbed out the window, "Is the Cultivation Spiritual Garment on your back? Can you shrink down?"

"If I could shrink, would I come here as such a big lump?" the rabbit looked at me disdainfully, and after shaking for a long time without getting the Cultivation Spiritual Garment down, it ended up... stepping... creating several cracks in the ground... those were the tiles Chen Decheng had paid for...

To ensure quality, they cost over forty bucks each~

"Alright, alright, I'll climb up and look for it." I used my hands and feet, grabbing onto the rabbit's fur, and searched on her back for the Cultivation Spiritual Garment.

Yu Longting, oh, Yu Longting!

We agreed no more deceiving me, yet here you go, deceiving me again.

It was just plotting against Beichen, why did you have to deceive me too?

Chapter 723: I'll Treat You to Carrots

Once again duped by Yu Longting, the more I thought about it, the less I could stomach it.

After a bout of searching, I finally found the Cultivation Spiritual Garment I had lent to the Rat Spirit. My heart replaced with wild joy, "Is Rat Immortal Grandpa's illness cured?"

The rabbit said, "He's been better for a while, Grandmaster of the Lin Family, can the Rat Immortal Robe be returned now?"

"Certainly, certainly, I was just looking for an opportunity to return it to you."

I felt rather sheepish. If Yu Longting hadn't reminded me of this by calling the rabbit over...

Having fallen gravely ill as soon as I got the Rat Immortal Robe, I had long since forgotten about this matter after all the tumult.

Then, I went upstairs and put on the Cultivation Spiritual Garment for Beichen.

Next, I took the Rat Immortal Robe from the wardrobe and returned it to the rabbit, "Here you go."

"The figure sewn onto the robe is my grandma, Grandmaster of the Lin Family, you really are reliable!" The rabbit's red eyes almost sparkled with excitement.

With the Rat Immortal Robe on his back, he spun around in place.

The corner of my mouth twitched, and I quickly reminded him, "Hey, this isn't the mountains, don't jump around like that, the floor can't take it."

"As if I like coming to the places where you humans live. I'm off, next time you come to the mountains, I'll treat you to carrots." The rabbit said haughtily and then dashed off, disappearing into the night.

Although the evening was silent and dim, looking rather deserted, there were still a few passersby around.

Seeing a white shadow flash by, they were all stunned.

Most people took it for an illusion, murmured something and then left.

"I'm impressed, totally impressed with my brother," Yu Rongling stared in amazement, then started shouting excitedly.

He was so excited he was almost rolling on the ground, "What foresight and strategic brilliance, what far-sightedness and profound wisdom, a peerless talent for sure..."

Goodness, I'd underestimated the depth of his knowledge.

He rattled off more than thirty idioms in one breath, but this time, they were to describe his brother.

I silently scoffed to myself, he missed one idiom.

Being an onlooker!!

These four words were definitely more fitting than all the adjectives used by Yu Rongling, the brother-obsessed fanatic, put together.

Xiao Shenshen asked curiously, "What is a Cultivation Spiritual Garment?"

"It's for... healing beings other than humans..." I started to explain, but suddenly felt a twinge in my heart.

It hit me why the Blood Splendor Robe was ineffective for Beichen—it was because he wasn't "human."

Xiao Shenshen cupped her face, "Beings other than humans like what?"

"It's for healing creatures other than humans," I said, my mood heavy.

Xiao Li being able to accept that Beichen wasn't human wasn't a problem for him at all.

This couldn't be why her parents were opposed.

It's not like the young couple would be foolish enough to tell their elders about this...

So what was it really about?

The more I thought about it, the murkier it seemed. It looked like I could only wait for Beichen to wake up and ask him.

Under the effects of the Cultivation Spiritual Garment, the black, unhealing wound on Beichen.

The black necrotic flesh fell away, and fresh new flesh grew in.

The wound also completely healed, leaving only two unsightly scars.

If Beichen could continue wearing the Cultivation Spiritual Garment, maybe even those two scars would vanish.

"Shenshen, two ice packs are enough, you don't need to strain yourself. Go and rest," I said to Shenshen, realizing that Beichen's body temperature was under control.

Shenshen glanced at Yu Rongling, who was sitting bored in the corner, counting his hair.

Biting her lip, "Can I turn into a bracelet, please?"

"Sure." How could I refuse such an adorably soft request? I agreed, feeling heartache.

Shenshen disappeared, and a stylishly simple Ginseng Bracelet appeared on my wrist, "Sleepy, Shenshen is sleeping now."

Struggling to keep my eyes open, I leaned back in the chair and fell asleep.

I don't know how long passed, but I felt something being placed over me.

My body moved subconsciously, and the thick blanket that was covering me fell to the floor. Just as I was about to bend over to pick it up.

I saw a fair and slender hand pick up the blanket and place it back on me, "Sleeping in a chair? And not even covering yourself with a blanket?"

"It's fine, I'm tough. What took you so long?" Seeing it was Yun Hao, I had already grown accustomed to his caring gestures, feeling nothing out of the ordinary.

Yun Hao pursed his lips and opened his hand, "I went by Granny Mi's house, and they've all disappeared. The house was left with only a few rice grains with long black hairs. So, I demolished their storage, took some fabric."

"You demolished the storage?" I stared at the rice with black hairs, shocked.

Then I saw the Snake Servants filing in, each holding an armful of fabric.

Chapter 724: Muddy Lake

"Thank you, it must've been tough on you during this trip." My heart ached for Granny Wu's house while also appreciating Yun Hao's diligence, "As for these grains, they must be the result of Granny Wu's rice asking."

"This is Corpse Rice." Yun Hao poured the rice from his palm onto the table.

When the sunlight hit the black hairy rice, it actually emitted bursts of black mist.

I glanced at Beichen on the bed, whose complexion had improved and body temperature returned to normal. Reassured about Beichen's condition, I lowered my gaze to observe the Corpse Rice, "Rice

contaminated with corpse poison turns to Corpse Rice. The asking of rice ended up accidentally imbued with Corpse Qi, which doesn't feel very auspicious, especially this black hair, it looks like the kind that would grow on round-furred animals..."

"Sister-in-law, you don't know this, and you still claim to be a successor of the Su Family?" Yu Rongling, who was just awake in the corner, came over and picked up a grain, "After a body undergoes zombification, it can still grow hair - black, white, red, green, purple hairs~"

This is actually basic knowledge; red hair indicates a red fiend, white hair a white fiend...

Each has its own terrifying aspects...

But I just didn't think that the hair grown on these rice grains was like mold akin to what grows after zombification.

"The Corpse Rice is full of corpse poison, why are you picking it up? Have you forgotten the last time you were poisoned by the zombie demon..." I reminded Yu Rongling of the last time he was inflicted with corpse poison.

Unconcerned, Yu Rongling tossed the black hairy rice in his palm and interrupted: "Pfft, I'm not afraid of such toxicity, and besides, Big Brother Yun has already touched it, proving that serpentine creatures touching Corpse Rice is harmless."

Yun Hao: "..."

"I'll call Granny Wu again to see if she and Wu Zhenglin are alright and hope they haven't encountered something dangerous like Corpse Gu." I took out my cellphone, wanting to try contact Wu Zhenglin again.

Even though we no longer needed their help, I will forever remember Granny Wu's life-saving grace.

How could I possibly neglect their disappearance and disregard their safety?

My phone lit up, showing three missed calls.

All from half an hour ago.

I glanced at Yun Hao.

Yun Hao admitted, "I was afraid of disturbing your sleep, so I put it on silent."

"No worries, it was Ahmao who called, probably just regular check-ins." Knowing Yun Hao was sensitive, I reassured him.

Occasionally, I would receive friendly WeChat messages from Ahmao, who always stayed in touch quietly and dutifully, so I didn't take these three missed calls seriously.

My phone vibrated, and just then, Ahmao called again.

After a moment's hesitation, I answered, "Ahmao?"

"Master, you finally answered. Help... ah... do you have time? Can you come and save me??" Ahmao's voice was filled with terror, he spoke hoarsely, "The monsters are eating people; I'm about to kick the bucket, along with those three good buddies of mine, also together... ah..."

With a scream, the phone filled with noise, and Ahmao's voice abruptly stopped.

"What happened... where are you?" My heart tightened.

What exactly happened?

Just as one crisis abated, another arose.

Barely had Beichen been rescued when disaster befell Ahmao and Granny Wu's family.

There was a long silence on the other end of the phone, plunging into a terrible quiet.

I hesitated, then opened WeChat to see if Ahmao had sent anything during my nap.

After all, these days calls are rare; people usually use WeChat.

Only if WeChat was inaccessible would they resort to a call.

I opened WeChat.

Fortunately, Ahmao was clever enough to leave his location and a few pictures.

The pictures showed a school, which appeared to be in a village and looked somewhat dilapidated.

Next to the school's teaching building was a very deep lake.

The water in the lake had actually been drained completely, and then...

The black mud was filled with nothing but stark white bones.

[Master, are you busy? Are you feeling better?]

[Something terrible has happened, and I really had to reach you; several Taoists and monks have died, and none could handle it.]

[Help, something in the mud seems to have targeted me, I'm done for, please save me... sob sob sob...]

...

There were about seven or eight such desperate messages.

Each message more urgent and pressing than the last.

Unfortunately, because my phone was on silent, I only saw them now.

Though there was still no clue about the affairs of the Wu Family, Ahmao's situation was urgent, and I had to rush there immediately!

"Yu Er, I need to make a trip to Spirit Lotus Village. I'm going to leave you tied up at home, you're forbidden to go to the Lin Family. As for seeing Qing Li, Yu Longting and I will give you an answer sooner or later; you don't need to rush it." Without time to think further, I grabbed my crossbody bag and indiscriminately stuffed in some materials Yun Hao brought.

Using the red-thread-wrapped Yin Yang Scissors left by my dad, I cut the dead knot on my wrist and tied it to the doorknob of the room where Yu Longting stayed.

Chapter 725: Not Good, Sister-in-Law

As soon as I took a step, I felt a weight on my leg, and I immediately looked down, laughing and crying at the same time, "Why are you holding onto my leg? I'm in a hurry to get out the door!"

"Take me with you, I promise not to cause any trouble, sister-in-law~~ I've been cooped up at home for so long~~" Yu Rongling shamelessly clung to my calf, pleading with a whining coquettishness.

My heart softened for a moment, and fearing that he would cause trouble at home if left alone, I agreed, "From the photos, the situation in Spirit Lotus Village seems dire; I don't mind if you're not afraid of attracting danger."

"Together." Yun Hao naturally followed along, taking out his phone to contact the Snake Servant.

Within ten minutes, a Snake Servant arrived in a car.

It was an ordinary economy car instead of the usual luxury vehicle, so as not to stand out too much when entering the village.

Spirit Lotus Village was not far from Spring Wind Town, just a twenty-minute drive away.

The school gate position sent by Chen Ahmao was crowded with people, making it impossible to see anything but the crowd.

There was even an internet celebrity broadcasting the situation live with their phone.

Unfortunately, a blue police cordon had been set up at the school entrance, strictly preventing anyone from entering.

"This is not good, sister-in-law, they're not allowing us to enter," Yu Rongling whistled nonchalantly, as if it were none of his business.

He couldn't care less about whether Chen Ahmao could be rescued or not.

He came here just to watch the commotion.

Yun Hao cast a glance at a small gate, "Not necessarily, if you have credentials from the Mystic Sect, you can go right in."

The small gate was a rusty little iron door, tucked away in a hidden corner.

Two security guards were checking IDs, and they respectfully allowed a person in a white Tang suit to enter.

To the youth in the white Tang suit with great deference, "The master invites you in, please come this way!"

"Go away, go away, you can't come in here." When the security guards saw the new man and woman approaching, they waved their hands to shoo them away, their faces full of impatience.

The man had blonde hair and was dressed like a sharp young guy, "I'm the inheritor of the Su family's life and death embroidery, why can't I come in?"

"My son is very capable, and if you slight him, causing a delay in important matters, you'll have hell to pay," the middle-aged woman with the blonde echoed arrogantly and shrilly.

Yu Rongling touched his nose, chewing on a reed stalk in his mouth, "Sister-in-law, aren't you the only heir of the Su family? Are these two faking their identities as imposters?"

He turned his head, seeing me drenched in sweat and shaking like a leaf, his eyes changed to worry, "What's wrong? Sister-in-law, are you okay? Do you have a cold or a fever? Or is it time to give birth?"

"You're afraid of that man?" Yun Hao pushed aside the dumbass, his icy gaze falling upon me.

I swallowed hard several times, barely suppressing the immense subconscious fear; my dilated pupils fixed on the man and woman in front of the small gate, "Su Xiaomin... it's... him!! How did he appear here?" And my Second Aunt is here too!!

The cunning and spiteful middle-aged woman by Su Xiaomin's side was none other than his mother, my Second Aunt.

"He's just an ordinary person whose Vitality and Spirit have been drained by indulgence in wine and women, why are you afraid of him?" Yun Hao had seen me fight with Master Zhang Zidao, even with no experience in fighting anyone before.

Seeing how fearfully I regarded Su Xiaomin, skepticism filled his eyes, "Hmm? Why?"

"Su Xiaomin was once possessed by Xuanjing, and nearly...," my head was filled with a chaotic mess of terrifying memories, which took all my strength to keep at bay, "Let's talk about it some other time, this isn't the place to discuss it."

Even I couldn't accept that I could be frightened of Su Xiaomin, and even more afraid that he would notice me.

With my current strength, and Yun Hao and Yu Rongling by my side, I shouldn't be afraid of this scumbag.

Yun Hao's cold and stern aura suddenly exploded, "I'll kill him, then you won't be afraid anymore."

Chapter 726: Have You Found Su Wan's Whereabouts?

"No need for now, at least not yet, he probably doesn't recognize me," I said, touching my ugly face and whispering a warning.

Yun Hao's face was cold, and his lips pursed slightly as he sank into dark silence.

At the entrance, after checking a list, the security guard glanced at the badge in Su Xiaomin's hand.

The guard's attitude immediately turned solicitous, "Master Su, please come in, come in. You are one of the twelve councilors of the Mystic Sect from the Su Family, we are guilty of not recognizing your esteemed presence."

"Hold on, my sister hasn't arrived yet. The heir of the Su Family's Yin Yang Life and Death Embroidery came specifically to solve your problems, don't you have a cigarette to offer?"

Su Xiaomin puffed out his chest with a sense of superiority.

To curry favor with Su Xiaomin, one security guard offered a cigarette, while another helped light it.

They showered him with a barrage of flattery...

My mind was puzzled, wondering who Su Xiaomin's sister was.

Then I heard the sound of high heels clicking against the floor, and a woman appeared, dressed in a double-collared cheongsam.

Her swan-like neck accentuated her gracefulness. Her gaze swept over me and paused for a moment.

But she didn't linger, instead turning to Su Xiaomin, "Did you find out where that slut Su Wan is hiding?"

My hand clenched into a fist, sweaty with nervousness.

It was Su Qiang, who was supposed to be dead, appearing here!

"Not yet, sis. That damned girl has hidden herself well, and Chen's Restaurant is closed," Su Xiaomin offered his cigarette to Su Qiang in an attempt to please her.

Su Qiang's slender fingers elegantly gripped the Hongtashan cigarette, her smoking shrouded in mist, "That bitch caused me to lose my only son, I will make sure she watches with her own eyes... just what kind of state her son, who was harmed by the Snake Lord, is in now."

"Master Su, what is your sister talking about? We don't understand," the two security guards said, their faces ashen, utterly confused.

Though they seemed unable to comprehend what was being discussed, they could sense that the conversation's content was dreadful.

Su Xiaomin's face darkened as he said coldly, "It's none of your business."

"Sis, let's go. We absolutely can't let that little slut Su Wan get away. She killed Dad, I want her to go to Hell." Su Xiaomin cursed me viciously, but when he turned to Su Qiang, his face was full of sycophancy, though deep in his eyes lurked an imperceptible hatred.

Su Qiang held her head high with an arrogant tilt to her jawline, completely oblivious to this detail.

I caught a glimpse of the color in Su Xiaomin's eyes within a second, noting that there seemed to be a rift between the siblings.

After all, Su Qiang was considered disposable by her uncle's family.

I had never heard of her existence while growing up, which is why no one knew my uncle had a daughter.

It was none other than my uncle who had offered Su Qiang's eyes to Xuan Fanyin and her body to Xuanjing, selling her off completely, squeezing out every last drop of her use.

But what did Su Qiang mean by... the son I had with Yu Longting who had been done in...

What did that signify?

Seeing her terrifying eagerness for revenge, it was hardly possible that she was lying, but my and Yu Longting's son, Dumpling, was safe in my womb!

What crooked schemes was this Su Qiang playing at now?

The fearsome murderous aura surrounding Yun Hao hadn't faded, clearly a response to my fear of Su Xiaomin.

Nevertheless, he obediently held back, refraining from seeking out troublemakers.

He then gloomily said, "They've taken your Su Family's identity. If you can't find a proper reason to enter and try climbing over the wall, it seems it could trigger the inside Formation."

"There's no need for complications. I'll enter using the identity of the Lin Family." I walked straight up, calmly informed the guards of my position as a lady of the Lin Family, and asked them to wait a moment.

I made a call to my grandfather, requesting his help in smoothing things over.

Within less than three minutes, the guards received orders from their superiors.

Their eyes shone with enthusiasm that surpassed their earlier reactions, "So it's the Exorcist family, Celestial Master Lin from the Lin Family. Are you also the future head of the Lin Family? It is an honor to meet you, please come in. Your presence here brings glory and honor to us. I am an Outer Gate receptionist from the Arbitration Council; this is my business card. I hope for your support."

"Please honor me by accepting my business card as well."

In their excitement, the two guards disclosed their own identities and names, and handed over their business cards.

Chapter 727: Can You Handle It?

I took the two business cards and walked into the school.

From various clues around the campus, it was obvious the school had been abandoned for a long time.

The plants previously planted on the campus had all withered, content on the bulletin board was from ten years ago, and the basketball hoop on the field had rusted and collapsed to the ground.

"What is the Arbitration Council?" Yun Hao asked, furrowing his brow.

Yu Rongling replied, "Never heard of it."

"The Arbitration Council's full name is the Geomancy Arbitration Council, founded by my master, Zhang Zidao, when he was young, to unite the entire Mystic Arts Realm," I knew roughly that much, "I heard it consists of a president and twelve permanent directors."

It was only through a fight and subsequent acquaintance with Zhang Zidao, and by exposing Wang Heyin, the mastermind behind creating zombie demons and president of the council, that I had heard a bit about this organization.

Yun Hao's period of rebirth and silence had been too long. For him, completely integrating into this era hadn't happened, with part of his consciousness still lingering in the past.

Not knowing about the Arbitration Council was understandable.

As for Yu Er... it was simply a lack of exposure...

I smelled the increasingly strong stench of decaying mud mixed with the smell of corpses in the air and quickened my steps unconsciously.

My eyelid twitched rapidly, unable to help worrying that something might happen to Chen Ahmao.

"Just now, who was that woman you have a grudge against? Do you know her? Why did she say Yu Longting had killed one of your children?"

Yun Hao asked abruptly, as if voicing a deep-seated confusion from the bottom of his heart.

His words caught me off guard, nearly making me trip over nothing.

Thankfully, Yu Er steadied me just in time and gave Yun Hao a disdainful glance, "I didn't expect your IQ to be that low, Yun Hao. My brother loves my sister-in-law so much, how could he possibly kill their child? You believe the words of a dead woman?"

"What I meant was, the child my mother had before she met Snake Lord, with another man," Yun Hao said, "If it was another man's child, given Snake Lord's arrogant and domineering nature, eliminating that child would be understandable."

Yu Er stared at Yun Hao as if he were talking about a crazy deity, "Your mom had an affair with my brother too? Aren't you from the same era as my old man? How old is your mom? Could my brother handle being with her?"

Yun Hao: "..."

Listening to Yu Er's dumbass remarks, Yun Hao pinched the bridge of his nose repeatedly.

"Just spit it out, I was born late and don't know much gossip, hurry up and tell me," Yu Rongling nagged Yun Hao, insisting that he share the gossip.

Yun Hao's brow throbbed, "My mother, I meant Su Wan."

"What? You're calling my sister-in-law 'mother' ..."

Yu Rongling yelled, "My sister-in-law... is your mom? How does that make sense? You're thousands of years older than her, even older than my brother! Your brain must be fried..."

The dumbass's voice was very loud, standing out starkly.

It broke the silence near the lake.

The formidable crowd by the lake, all turned their eyes toward us.

My eyes caught sight of the lake from the WeChat photo, drained of water.

It was unclear what had happened, but the lakebed was filled with numerous bones.

There were human bones, animal bones, and even fish bones...

"Master... Master... I'm here," Chen Ahmao's strange shouts came.

I saw him, unscathed, hugging a large tree by the riverbank, just as I was about to sigh in relief.

Then I saw a very thick tree root buried in the ground.

Suddenly a force from who knows where powerfully pulled up half of it, causing the tree to instantly collapse toward the lake.

Chen Ahmao panicked terribly, "Mom! Someone save us, wuu wuu wuu... Am I really going to die here? I'm not married yet, I don't have a girlfriend, I haven't even been in love."

"Boss, stop howling, I'm right beneath you, if anyone is dying, it's me and Ah Qiang before you, hurry and let your master save me," underneath Chen Ahmao, another voice came through.

I jogged over and took a look, my legs instantly went weak.

The lake was very deep, at least five meters.

From deep within the lake, a thin and long green arm stretched out, easily three to four meters long.

The arm was tipped with green claws that had grabbed the ankle of a nonconformist youth, who in turn was holding another nonconformist youth.

And Chen Ahmao was pulling both of them, with one arm wrapped around the big willow tree, ensuring the trio didn't fall in.

Chapter 728: Lake Bottom Monster

In truth, Chen Ahmao could have saved himself by simply letting go, but deep down he was someone profoundly loyal and devoted.

I hurried over, but I was too late to intervene.

There I saw Wu Zhenglin, in his purple robe, carrying a pot of steaming rice milk.

He accurately doused the rice milk onto the arm in the lakebed silt. "If scalding doesn't kill you, with my granny and me here, we won't let a demon harm a single person."

"Ouch, it's burning me to death." The two trendy young men being pulled down couldn't avoid some of the boiling rice milk splashing on them and screamed in agony.

However, the thin, green arm just shuddered slightly and didn't budge an inch.

And due to the pain of being splashed by the rice milk, it became even angrier.

With a crack, it crushed the ankle of the young man at the very bottom.

Five long, green claws with sharp nails dug deeply into the young man's flesh and blood.

Blood dripped down the green arm, but in a second, it was all absorbed by the skin on the limb. The unknown monster was actually absorbing people's blood and bone marrow.

With a sound of spitting blood and the thick scent of blood,

I found Granny Wu in the northeast corner of the lake, suppressing the demon. She was sitting cross-legged with her eyes tightly shut, constantly performing a series of complicated hand seals.

She was dressed in a red robe, covered with all sorts of pockets.

Granny Mi is also known in the southern countryside as "Pocket Granny."

The more skilled the Granny Mi, the more pockets she has, each with a different function.

For example, to inquire about offspring, one only needs to put rice into the Child-Seeking Bag, which can be used for divination regarding future progeny and more...

At that moment, on Granny Wu's robe, which looked like a beggar's,

all the pockets had come undone.

A handful of rice fell out from each pocket, the rice stained with black qi and the fresh blood from Granny Wu's mouth. Once hitting the ground, it immediately took root and sprouted.

The sprouts that emerged were a dark black color, like living tentacles, burrowing into Granny Wu's body.

This was backlash from the divination, which was originally intended to quake the demon using the yang energy of the grains combined with Granny Mi's power.

Now that the demon was too powerful, Granny Wu was being backlashed by her own rice.

If this continued, Chen Ahmao and the other two would definitely be dragged down to feed the unknown filth in the silt.

"Granny! Dammit! How dare you hurt my granny?" Wu Zhenglin saw Granny Wu spitting blood and his eyes reddened with rage.

He actually pulled out his Peach Wood Sword and threw it at one of the trendy young men, "Cut off your leg, or all three of you are doomed."

The sword, thrown recklessly, could easily have been lost in the muck had they not been careful.

"What? Cut off the leg??" The young man caught the sword in a panic and upon hearing he had to cut off a leg,

he turned pale, how could he possibly bring himself to do it.

But the next second,

the claw pulled his body downward.

His knees plunged into the mud, leaving him no choice.

The blunt Peach Wood Sword, utterly incapable of cutting paper, managed to sever the green arm.

Green liquid sprayed out, unbearably foul-smelling.

"It's over, this shouldn't have been cut." Although I couldn't see what was underneath the silt, I knew it must be powerful, and wounding it like this was definitely a case of "trying to steal a chicken only to lose the rice used to lure it."

Wu Zhenglin was also stunned, "Why did you cut it, you should cut yourself."

But it was already too late.

The next second, the severed claw retracted.

Wu Zhenglin and I desperately pulled on Chen Ahmao, trying to pull the three up before the creature could strike again.

I had even released heavenly fire, in a flash.

Another claw shot up, crushed a tomato mid-air, and tore the body of the young man holding the Peach Wood Sword to shreds.

His soft belly was opened, and the contents of his body thudded into the muck.

The young man's head was still intact, his eyes open wide as he watched his body become... so horribly mutilated...

"Qiangzi, let go quickly, come up." I knew this person was beyond saving, and in a critical moment, we had to make the hard choice to sacrifice the few for the many.

Qiangzi was one of Chen Ahmao's close friends. As heartbreaking as it was, he still forcefully let go of his companion, who now resembled a squashed tomato, and with blood all over, was half-pulled up by Chen Ahmao and us.

But then...

With a ripping sound, a bloody claw pierced through his abdomen and emerged in front of us.

Chapter 729: Mom, Are You Going to Kill Me?

Qiangzi also died!!

A powerful visual impact, along with an inner flame of burning rage.

I didn't care about anything else, and I released the heavenly fire.

The heavenly fire instantly scorched the claw.

The claw's protective Corpse Qi immediately started to emit black smoke, and before long, it was reduced to ashes.

But then a sudden pain in my abdomen hit, and I collapsed to the ground in pain.

Cold sweat covered my forehead, and a faint, childish voice came, "Mom, are you trying to kill me?"

"Dumpling, is that you speaking? Are you okay? Don't... scare Mom." I raised my head, looking at the burning blue claw.

I felt as if the heavenly fire was not burning the unrecognizable monster from the mud but Dumpling inside my stomach.

Dumpling, having woken from a deep sleep, was unaware of what had happened outside, murmured groggily, "Mom, I'm fine; I've just been very sleepy lately, so sleepy that I can't even open my eyes."

After saying that, Dumpling fell back asleep.

He had faced too many hardships previously, and his development was slower than that of other babies, so he was now trying to sleep a lot to grow quickly...

So...

Dumpling... was okay...

Where did that voice just come from?

The severe pain forced me to withdraw the heavenly fire, and the fearful blue claw retreated back into the mud.

Strangely, as soon as I retracted the heavenly fire, the intense abdominal pain disappeared.

That kind of pain was not ordinary; it was as if a small life connected to me were being torturously peeled away.

My pupils dilated, and my body was already being supported by Yu Rongling. "Sister-in-law? Are you not feeling well? I can give you Spiritual Power."

"No need, your Spiritual Power and mine are not the same. It would be too draining for you," I pushed him away, refusing his kind offer.

Under the scorching sun, my body swayed unsteadily.

I had a severe stomach spasm and vomited everything in my stomach with a "wow".

But by then, Granny Wu had already retreated due to the defeat of the strange claw, relieving the pressure on me.

Waking from the meditation, she came over, "Zhenglin, bring the remaining rice syrup. Let her drink it."

"Yes." Wu Zhenglin ran to get the cooked rice syrup and handed it to me, "This is new rice from September, very rich in Yang energy. It should help to dispel some of the evil Qi from your body."

"Um, thank you." I took the bowl and slowly sipped the syrup.

The thick rice syrup had a clean, grainy fragrance and diluted the stomach acid in my throat, making me feel much better.

The surrounding Mysterious Art masters came over, bombarding me with questions, "Miss, are you alright?"

"What fire did you unleash just now? It actually made that monster retreat."

"Yes, yes, our Samadhi True Fire was useless against it. It's invulnerable to both blades and fire, it even dragged the Wang Family's expert into the mud and devoured him."

"I'm glad I didn't make a move, or I probably wouldn't have survived either."

I had recovered somewhat and began to explain softly, "I've practiced Demon-Breaking Art since childhood, so maybe that's how I was able to restrain that monster."

"So that's why."

"That's amazing, are you a Lin Family Disciple?"

"Can you do anything about that monster? As long as it lives, it will continue to harm living beings. It must not be allowed to survive."

...

I narrowed my eyes. Dealing with that unknown creature beneath the mud, I really wasn't sure.

It's not that I couldn't defeat it, but every time I fought it, my stomach would hurt.

If I forcefully fought with the monster, wouldn't that lead to both of us getting hurt?

I came here to save Chen Ahmao.

Save the person and leave...

"Master, are you sure you can handle that monster? I think I saw what it looked like earlier; it sort of resembles a Kappa from Japanese anime," Chen Ahmao scratched his nose, pretending to be casual.

However, his eyes were bloodshot as if tainted with poison, and his clothes and skin were spotted with a lot of blood, making him look very haggard.

The bloodstains on Chen Ahmao were all from Qiangzi and Huzi who had died.

The deaths of two companions were not a small blow to him.

Perhaps what sustained his clarity was the desire to avenge his fellows.

I asked him, "Why are you here?"

Chapter 730: Have you figured out who that ugly woman is?

"Speaking of which, those two goddamn fools... Qiangzi and Huzi told people I was your disciple, so I got called over to help. I don't know anything; I was just filling a gap. As soon as I arrived, a monster's hand grabbed Huzi, and Qiangzi and I tried to save him by holding onto him... but in the end... still..."

Chen Ahmao's voice grew softer and hoarser as he spoke.

I said to Chen Ahmao, "I don't plan on dealing with this matter. The monster in the mud is unfathomable. If you want to meddle, you can stay behind alone."

Right now, I'm about to give birth, and my connection with that monster in the lake is so delicate.

I don't want to complicate matters further, and I'm even more afraid that Dumpling will be affected.

I made a selfish decision at the bottom of my heart.

"Master, it killed my two brothers, just like that..." Chen Ahmao was full of reluctance yet suddenly seemed to understand something, "Alright, I'll go with you."

"You really want to leave, huh? Granny Wu and I were desperate just now. If you hadn't set fire to that creature's hand, Granny Wu and I would've been goners." Wu Zhenglin obviously didn't want me to go. He and Granny Wu had come for exorcism, out of a sense of social responsibility.

If the monster wasn't dealt with, how could they easily leave?

Granny Wu gave her grandson a stern look, "Do you really want to be so spineless as to have a pregnant woman protect you? Being able to save us and snatch back our lives just now was already fate."

"Granny Wu, I've been trying to reach your grandson's phone and couldn't get through. I thought something had happened to you all, and I was very anxious. It's good to see that you're both safe." Deep down, I was actually quite puzzled by the Corpse Rice representing the monster full of Corpse Qi in the lake.

What did the black hairs on that Corpse Rice signify?

At that moment, my keen hearing picked up on the conversation between Su Qiang and Su Xiaomin. The two seemed to be plotting something.

Su Qiang asked Su Xiaomin, "Have you figured out who that ugly woman is? Not only does she have two unfathomable Household Spirits guarding her, but one of them is Yu Longting's younger brother. Even the Wu Family ancestors and grandchildren are eager to show her goodwill."

"I went to the guard to inquire. Those two are tight-lipped and wouldn't say much, but I heard they're important," Su Xiaomin sneered coldly, "I don't know how the man who impregnated her stomach could stoop so low. Someone actually wanted that freak."

Su Qiang pondered over Su Xiaomin's words and spoke faintly, "Judging by the month of her belly, it seems similar to Su Wan's. Su Wan seems to have a pretty good relationship with the Wu Family and Yun Hao."

"Su Wan is taller and much prettier than her, just of lower status." The way Su Xiaomin spoke of my past appearance was full of a disturbing heat, and he was disdainful when mentioning my status, "How could the two of them possibly be connected?"

"If she is Su Wan, that would be even better!! Let her taste what it's like to be betrayed by her beloved, to lose a child like I did, to feel the agony of heartbreak! I really can't wait... to see..."

Su Qiang chuckled lightly, her laugh filled with malice and satisfaction, as if she was already reveling in the pleasure of taking revenge on me and Yu Longting, driving us into the abyss.

She walked up to a marble flag-raising platform by the lake, heightening her own stance, and suddenly spoke out loud to the Mysterious Art masters around, "Fellow colleagues of the Mystic Sect, do you know why the monster in the lake is so powerful? Because... that is the Snake Lord's... and my... shameless sister's... bastard spawn."