

A Snake 831

Chapter 831: I Did Cover for Her a Little

Tingting?? Longting? Are you talking about Yu Longting??

Although these words were full of accusations, they instantly brought clarity to my conflicted mind.

The tangled mess between Yu Longting and me is complicated and fraught with unresolved issues. Judging who is right or wrong is merely a matter of different perspectives. Despite the myriad of accusations against Yu Longting, his mother, Qing Li, still resents me for seducing her innocent beloved son!

A moment of clear-mindedness!

I couldn't help but grip the flower hairpin in my hand, slightly channeling my spiritual power.

Then I opened my eyes and woke up, still maintaining the side-lying position from sleep, hugging Xiao Shenshen.

If it weren't for the dawn light outside, with spring rain drizzling.

I might have mistaken the brief closing and opening of my eyes for just a flicker.

The knot of emotions in me made it impossible to lie in bed any longer.

I gently covered Xiao Shenshen's thin little body with the blanket and quietly got out of bed.

Walking to the door, I spoke to the two Snake Attendants outside, "Could I trouble you to invite Liu Xianzhi over?"

"Madam, you don't need to use formal speech with us; I'll go right away." The Snake Attendant blushed, bowed, and turned to invite Liu Xianzhi.

Just as he turned, Liu Xianzhi appeared walking towards us, and the two Snake Attendants retreated together to fetch water for my freshening up.

"Uh, madam, what have you done to them? The usually arrogant and fierce Snake Ladies are suddenly so shy... running away like that??"

Liu Xianzhi looked at the two Snake Attendants walking quickly while covering their faces, his smile gentle and meaningful.

"I did nothing, okay? Let's sit at that stone table and chat." I shot Liu Xianzhi a glance, worried about disturbing Xiao Shenshen, and invited Liu Xianzhi to the pavilion at the end of the corridor.

After Liu Xianzhi sat down, his expression turned significantly serious, "Madam had Snake Attendants find me early; could it be you had nightmares again last night?"

"Yes, has the Nightmare Demon been caught?" I nodded gravely, then yawned sleepily.

Dreaming all night felt as exhausting as not sleeping at all.

Liu Xianzhi shook his head in regret, "No, Madam, there's no Nightmare Demon in the Snake Sect at all."

"None? Are you sure?" I queried, frowning.

It's impossible to truly believe that the strange dreams over the past two nights are just my subconscious at work.

Because my subconscious wants to recover the sealed memories, resulting in such self-reminding dreams, which is the outcome I find hardest to accept.

Liu Xianzhi's heavy-shaking gesture made my heart sink as he said, "If there was one, how could it be missed? The formations here ban so much you can't imagine. Once the prohibitions and formations are activated, it's impossible to overlook during the search."

It was precisely due to trust that, as long as Liu Xianzhi investigates.

There should be no way an outsider's mischief like a Nightmare Demon could hide within the Snake Sect, which is why I insisted Liu Xianzhi find the elusive demon.

"Is there any other anomaly in the Snake Sect?" Despite everything, I was reluctant to solely suspect Yu Longting, with no other leads to pursue.

Liu Xianzhi's eyes flickered as he hesitated, "If talking about anomalies... Liu Hongluan's Primordial Spirit came to the sect... does that count... Madam, don't look at me like a traitor, it's frightening... alright, I admit... I'm somewhat biased."

"Biased?" I cast a skeptical glance.

Liu Xianzhi guiltily fiddled with his fingers, lowering his head to admit fault, "Both Liu Hongluan and I bear the Liu surname, and within the Liu Family Clan's generations... she... counts as my niece. I did show her a bit of protection, sorry, Madam. I thought since she's already a Primordial Spirit, I'd turn a blind eye."

"No problem, I've already learned about Hongluan slipping into the sect by possessing a village woman. If she's the one causing trouble, I can only blame my own oversight." My mind busily weighed suspicions, but no clear idea emerged.

For an existence like Liu Hongluan as a lone ghost, could she possibly create the dreamscape so close to me?

The sense of loneliness and helplessness I experienced in the dream made me distinctly feel the presence causing the eerie dreams, whose power likely far exceeded mine.

However... so far... Liu Hongluan remains the most suspicious...

Yet, Liu Hongluan... is too weak now, lacking any power...

I pondered for a moment, feeling that the matter of the nightmare wouldn't reach a conclusion soon, thus decided against further probing, and asked, "I'll put the nightmare aside for now and investigate it myself, have you heard of a place called Liuyin Mountain?"

Chapter 832: Eighteen Levels of Hell

"Heard of it!! How could I not have? Just mentioning the realm of Liu Yin Mountain makes me so angry. Madam, are you planning to intervene in the war at Liu Yin Mountain?" Liu Xianzhi's almond eyes brightened with expectation.

I was momentarily unable to withstand Liu Xianzhi's fervent gaze, sweating slightly, "War? Is the Snake Sect at war?"

"Indeed, we've been fighting for over twenty years. Elder Chang Hao isn't at the sect, he went to the front line to cheer them on." Liu Xianzhi's face was still glowing, as if really hoping I'd also go to cheer.

I thought to myself, even if I didn't talk about my strength, going to fight while being pregnant would be too disrespectful to my status as an expectant mother. "Who are you fighting? Humans, demons, or ghosts?"

"Madam, you... really don't know??" Liu Xianzhi was shocked, looking at me dumbfoundedly and shaking his head, looking wistful, "Since over twenty years ago when the Snake Lord disappeared, a group of invaders have been bullying us, occupying our territory! They took over the land of Liu Yin Mountain, killed countless Snake Tribe people, we have a deep blood feud with them, Madam!"

"I see, the invaders you mentioned, are they the Yellow Immortal weasels?" I pondered, thinking that the Yellow Immortal was the food on the snake's menu in the food chain.

Probably taking advantage of the fact that the Snake Sect was leaderless, the Yellow Immortal had a certain advantage.

Upon hearing this, Liu Xianzhi became angry, shouting angrily, "What's a Yellow Immortal, just a bunch of stinky, hairy beasts!! Madam, do you remember Liu Hongluan went to your old place to find the Snake Lord, asking for talismans."

"It seems... there's a vague impression, she wanted talismans to resist the invaders' invasion?" My heart grew more complex, like a bottle of mixed feelings had been overturned.

I seem to remember the time Liu Hongluan jumped out of the mirror to scare me.

Appeared to be seeking a few talismans from Yu Longting, but I didn't hear the first part of their conversation because my five senses were sealed.

Could it be that the unheard content was about the invasion and oppression of the Snake Tribe by the invaders?

Liu Xianzhi nodded, responding to my inner doubts, "If not for the few talismans bestowed by the Snake Lord, our Liu family sect would be finished."

I put a hand to my forehead, just feeling the situation like a tangled ball of yarn, becoming more and more complicated.

I originally just wanted to inquire about what kind of place Liu Yin Mountain was, and where it was located.

Accidentally, I stumbled upon the conflict between the Snake Tribe and the invaders, which also included the survival of the Liu Clan within the Snake Tribe.

Thinking about it, essentially, there's no difference between the high-ranked Snake Tribe and the Human Race.

There would naturally be disputes among tribes as well...

"I have a rough understanding of our conflict with the invaders; if you need my help, I'll do my best." In my heart, I had long regarded myself as part of the Snake Tribe, especially since I never had a good impression of weasels.

If the weasels bullied the snakes too much, as Yu Longting's woman, I certainly wouldn't stand by.

Upon hearing this, Liu Xianzhi unexpectedly knelt down with teary eyes, bowing on the ground, "Thank you, Madam, I am deeply grateful."

"Please get up, I'm really hungry, you haven't had breakfast either, have you? Join me for a meal." I stood up, stretched lazily, and called Liu Xianzhi to have breakfast together.

For several consecutive days, I had nightmares every night.

But it kept repeating the second dream I had, though at the end of each dream, I could always see the disheveled Qingli in the attic.

Whenever she saw me, she would harshly abuse me.

Her eyes were full of hatred, hatred that seemed to penetrate to the bone. In today's dream, Liu Hongluan was mentioned, "Only Liu Hongluan is fit to be my daughter-in-law. She has beauty, she has family background, she's most suitable for my son!!"

Chapter 833: I'm Hard to Win Over

Every time the dream reaches the end, Qing Li would curse me with a variety of insults.

Then the dream would collapse instantly...

The steps are always the same.

This time I was mentally prepared and promptly traced the dream's spiritual power.

Emitting my own spiritual power, I stabilized the dream, "How can you be so sure that I'm not suitable for Yu Longting?"

Qing Li's expression froze, seemingly very surprised that I could salvage the dissipating, collapsing dream.

The next second, she disdainfully mocked me, "You're a jinx, only bringing harm to my Longting. You even caused Hongluan's death out of jealousy. Su Wan, you're a woman with a heart like a serpent and you'd deserve to go to the Eighteen Levels of Hell!!"

"You've always been staying in the Lin Family Loft, how do you know..." what happened in the Snake Sect?

Despite using all my strength to maintain the dream, it still shattered instantly like a fragile soap bubble.

My vision went black for a moment, and then I awoke.

I used so much spiritual power in the dream, making me feel dizzy and lightheaded.

After waking up, I sat in a daze.

The Qing Li in the dream didn't seem fake, but even if her Forbidden Woman's Technique is strong, she shouldn't be able to break into the heavily guarded Snake Sect.

Could it be that Qing Li and Liu Hongluan were working together, drawing me into a nightmare?

Thinking of this, I grew more convinced of the idea.

I informed the snake attendant outside not to disturb me today.

Then I sat cross-legged, silently reciting the spiritual gathering incantation that Yu Longting taught me,

"Dark water flows, fate is vast; those who aren't happy now, those passed away..."

I closed and opened my eyes, feeling as if only a moment had passed.

Yet outside the window, the scene had changed from morning light to evening dusk.

"Young Madam, you're finally awake." Xiao Shenshen lay beside me, concernedly resting her chin as she looked at me.

I touched the little flower on her head, asking, "Did you stay here with me the whole time?"

"Yeah, you've been entering meditation for a whole day." Xiao Shenshen nodded lightly.

I stretched and got out of bed, "Shall we go for a walk and stretch our muscles?"

"Okay~" Xiao Shenshen linked her arm with mine.

As I opened the door, I saw something sprawled on the ground.

I looked closely, "Baby Rongling? Are you recovering from your injuries?"

I hadn't seen him for many days; maybe he found a corner to lick his wounds.

Seeing him again now, he seemed recovered and back in full health.

"Yes, sis-in-law, I'm like an unstoppable cockroach! I swear I won't be a snake until I win over the Little Fairy!" Yu Rongling persistently declared.

I scratched my head, glanced at Xiao Shenshen hiding behind me, and signaled her.

Shenshen, gather your courage.

Use the snake-taming technique I taught you, or else this guy will be endlessly annoying.

After hesitating and holding her breath for a while, Xiao Shenshen's face turned red before she timidly poked her little head out, "I'm hard to pursue, Second Master."

"Don't call me Second Master; call me Rongling, or Brother Ling." Yu Rongling smilingly corrected, "You're unimaginably unique, unparalleled in the world, beautiful beyond compare... (500 words omitted), you should be hard to pursue, and only you are worthy of me."

Xiao Shenshen was dazzled by his endless compliments, and only after some time did she say, "I need to test you, is that okay?"

"Absolutely~! I'd love to, quickly tell me how you want to test me." Yu Rongling excitedly replied, as if seeing the light.

Xiao Shenshen seriously answered, "Whatever I ask you to do, you have to do it. No refusal, okay?"

"Yes, yes, yes." Yu Rongling nodded eagerly, itching to start.

Then Xiao Shenshen looked at me helplessly, "Young Madam, what requirements should I set??"

"Well~" Not just Xiao Shenshen, even I couldn't immediately think of something difficult enough to challenge Yu Rongling. Suddenly, inspiration struck me, "Rongling, have you played mobile games before? Honor of Kings?"

Chapter 834: Unintended Consequences?

"Honor of Kings? You're asking me what it means? I'm high-tier, Diamond!" Yu Rongling had a look that said, "What does this have to do with me finding a girlfriend?"

Very well, I've heard before that competitive games don't mix with love.

Seeing the snake has taken the bait, I cleared my throat and said, "You should take Shenshen to play online games with you, just get her to Gold level."

"Young Madam, what are online games?" Xiao Shenshen looked innocently at me.

I laughed and replied, "I'll lend you my WeChat. Let him teach you on WeChat. Um, do you know what WeChat is?"

"A chatting tool. I've seen Young Madam use it before," Xiao Shenshen said cleverly.

I saw Yu Rongling looked confused and whispered, "Isn't Xiao Shenshen afraid of you? Sister-in-law thought of a way to help you; you can start with an online romance."

Yu Rongling: "Online romance?"

Me: "Online romance lets you imagine the other person as the best version of themselves. It's the easiest way to eliminate fear?"

Yu Rongling: "Makes sense, Sister-in-law, you're so wise."

Me: "Even wiser; girls idolize strength. Take her to ranked matches, pull off five consecutive wins, and you'll capture her heart in no time."

Yu Rongling: "Sister-in-law!!"

Me: "?"

Yu Rongling: "You're like a second parent to me!"

Me: "..."

A simple Erha indeed, didn't realize I'm trying to reduce his appearances in front of Xiao Shenshen to avoid scaring her.

"Sister-in-law, quickly lend your phone to the Little Fairy, I'll teach her how to download the game," Yu Rongling said excitedly.

I handed the phone to Shenshen, coaxing Yu Rongling, "It's getting late, why don't you go back first, you can teach her remotely when you get home."

"How can that work? If I'm not teaching hand in hand, she won't get the hang of it." Yu Rongling insisted on teaching hands-on, his fingers already tapping the phone screen in Shenshen's hand.

In two or three taps, the game was downloading.

The Snake Sect's internet speed was too slow, downloading took time.

Yu Rongling then used his own phone to open the game and teach Shenshen how to play, "This is the interface of Honor of Kings, most girls like playing Yao, Daji, and Cai Wenji. I'll start by teaching you Daji."

"This sister is pretty, can I use her?"

Shenshen was deeply attracted by the dazzling game interface...

Forgot all about being afraid of Yu Rongling, concentrated fully on learning the controls from him.

Yu Rongling was so happy he was about to faint, an unusual flush appearing on his cheeks, "This one works too, this is Diao Chan, what skin do you like? Once it's done downloading on your phone, send me a purchase link, I'll get it for you."

"What's a skin?"

"This is a skin, what do you think, pretty?"

"So pretty~"

After a while, immersed in the happiness of teaching the Little Fairy how to play games, Yu Rongling gave me a very grateful look.

I sighed silently, lowered my head, and continued doing embroidery.

Is it going to be a case of "unintentionally planting a willow and it grows"?

Initially wanted to break up a troublesome relationship, but ended up matchmaking them?

Then, I thought of another more important matter, perhaps Yu Rongling could help with my nightmare situation...

If Liu Hongluan and Qing Li are colluding, I could send Liu Xianzhi down the mountain to find and capture Liu Hongluan, but it might be too high-profile.

Liu Hongluan might seek Yu Rongling again, making it easy to find her, I just don't know when she'll come looking for Yu Er again.

Just as I was thinking this, Yu Rongling's happy and peaceful smile suddenly changed.

He glanced at his phone screen, his eyes flickering with indecision.

Seeming to sense my gaze, his shifty eyes met mine.

He let out a dry laugh, put away his phone, "Er... Sister-in-law, it's late, I'm heading back to sleep. You and the Little Fairy, get some rest~"

"Since Xiao Shenshen's having so much fun, why not stay?" I deliberately laid a trap.

Yu Rongling's eyes flashed with vivid joy, then his expression turned conflicted, finally he anxiously said to me and Shenshen, "Really can't today, I have something to do, some other day... some other day... I'll come again for an all-nighter."

"Alright, since you insist on leaving, Sister-in-law won't keep you." I looked at him with a big smile, Yu Rongling, something's up!!

Yu Rongling seemed worried I might see through him, quickly said goodbye to me and Xiao Shenshen, then disappeared into the night in a blink.

So suddenly rushing off, there must be something fishy!

"Shenshen, turn into a bracelet." After letting Xiao Shenshen transform into a bracelet, I quietly followed Yu Rongling.

Let's see if he's really heading back or if there's some secret he's hiding.

Chapter 835: Take It or Leave It

The night was dim, and Yu Rongling sneaked to the back mountain.

"Brother Ling, you indeed have come." A voluptuous silhouette emerged from behind a rock and approached Yu Rongling.

Yu Rongling shivered from head to toe, "Don't call me that so intimately, or I'll ignore you."

"But you used to let me call you that. You even got mad when I refused." Liu Hongluan pouted with a face of grievance, then compromised upon seeing Yu Rongling's annoyance, "Alright, Rongling, where's the snake corpse I asked you to bring?"

"Here, take it! I scoured seven or eight mountain tops to find this freshly dead snake, it was no easy task." Yu Rongling handed Liu Hongluan a red snake's dead body.

Liu Hongluan's face turned blue, "But what I wanted was... Yun Hao's snake corpse. This... is too different. Such an ordinary little snake, I could catch on my own..."

"Damn it, stop dreaming. Who do you think you are that I should risk being killed by Yun Hao for your sake?" Yu Rongling's eyebrows furrowed, as he agitatedly continued, "This is all I have, take it or leave it."

"I'll take it, give it to me. It's more comfortable to possess the body of a similar kind, after all." Liu Hongluan, who was already having a severe rejection reaction with this village woman's body, had no choice but to endure it.

I took out my phone and sent a message to Liu Xianzhi, "Take action."

While tracking Yu Rongling, I conveniently shared my location with Liu Xianzhi, so he could have people ambush nearby.

I guessed that Yu Er sneaking to the back mountain was likely to meet with Liu Hongluan.

It was like just when I needed a pillow, someone handed it to me.

As I intended to catch Liu Hongluan to clarify things, she walked up the mountain herself.

Just as Liu Hongluan turned to walk down the mountain with the dead snake in her hand, rustling noises emanated from the surrounding bushes.

Within less than half a second, she was pinned to the ground by several Snake Sect disciples who appeared at the same time, "What are you doing? Let me go, Brother Ling, help!"

"Hey, what are you guys doing? She is Liu Hongluan." Yu Rongling, sweating profusely, stuck his head out and explained to the suddenly appearing Snake Sect disciples, "She's not an outsider intruding the Snake Sect, she's here to catch up with me at night."

Liu Xianzhi slowly emerged from the shadows, "Second Master, we are acting on Madam's orders to capture her."

"Ma...dam? My sister-in-law...?? Told you to stand by and capture Liu Hongluan?" Yu Rongling looked around in horror, searching for my silhouette.

I stepped out from behind the large tree behind Yu Rongling, patting him on the shoulder from behind, "Yes, I instructed Xianzhi to come over, I have some matters to discuss with Liu Hongluan."

"Sister-in-law, it's you." Yu Rongling flinched with a guilty shiver, then slowly turned his head, "Haha, I'm definitely not having a secret meeting with Liu Hongluan, we are innocent, you must believe me."

I observed everything, so I had no reason to doubt and nodded, "Okay, sister-in-law believes you, Liu Xianzhi, take her away."

"Yes, Madam." Liu Xianzhi obeyed the order, then instructed his men to take Liu Hongluan away.

I told Yu Rongling to head back first, "Rongling, your past relationship with her is significant, avoid suspicion and head back."

"Alright, I'm leaving right away! Did she do something wrong?" Yu Rongling asked inquisitively.

Curiosity killed the snake, you know, Xiao Yuer?

I sneered, "So curious, aren't you? Hoping to shield your old flame once you know the reason??"

"No, no, I'm not curious anymore, goodbye~ sister-in-law!" Yu Rongling, with his gossip-loving nature, ran away immediately when he heard I might accuse him of shielding an old lover.

"Su Wan... you wicked woman... I've already died, and now I'm but a humble primordial spirit, yet you still want to capture me... You can't let me go..."

"Release me, what exactly do you intend to do to me, only satisfied with my total obliteration? How could a brutal person like you be qualified to be the Lady of the Snake Lord?"

Throughout the journey, Liu Hongluan kept hurling insults at me.

Other snakes hissed in anger, but I remained indifferent, turning a deaf ear.

It was only after following Liu Xianzhi and delivering Liu Hongluan to the Snake Sect's dungeon that I spoke up, "It wasn't convenient to ask earlier due to the crowd, tell me now, what are you up to with Qing Li?"

Chapter 836: Am I Going to Be Silenced?

"What... Qing Li, I don't know... You're accusing me wrongly." Liu Hongluan said in terror, suddenly bending over and retching, "Ugh~"

The veins on her arm bulged continuously as she tightly squeezed her collar.

I noticed Liu Hongluan's abnormal state and said to Liu Xianzhi, "Xianzhi, take her pulse."

"Yes." Liu Xianzhi walked over and took Liu Hongluan's pulse.

He came over and whispered to me that the peasant woman Liu Hongluan possessed is pregnant.

The peasant woman, driven by maternal instincts to protect her child, strongly rejected Liu Hongluan, and Liu Hongluan was wrong for wanting a body so badly.

I slowly exhaled a foul breath, "Find her another body, and have your Disciples of the Horse Immortal safely escort the peasant woman back home."

"Alright." Liu Xianzhi complied once more.

After a full half-hour of screaming, Liu Hongluan finally adapted to the small red snake's corpse that Yu Rongling found.

She lay limp on the cold ground, without an ounce of extra strength.

Only Liu Xianzhi was left around; other disciples of the Snake Sect had left.

I sat on a nearby chair, silently observing her, "Do you really not know Qing Li? Or are you deliberately arguing?"

"I really don't know... Lady of the Snake Lord, I know you hate me, not even wanting to let me go in death, but if you want to convict me, you'll find a reason!" Liu Hongluan said in extreme angst.

For a moment, I even doubted myself, wondering if I had wrongly implicated Liu Hongluan in my nightmarish experiences.

I lowered my eyes, remembering the fight with Zhang Zidao, the piercing Sharp Gold Aura in his eyes.

That aura could shake the hearts of enemies and was especially effective against monsters and gu attacks.

At that moment, the same golden glow tinged my eyes, "Really? You've been in the Snake Sect for so long, liked Yu Longting for so long, and you don't even know Qing Li is Yu Longting's mother?"

"Wha... what? The madwoman in the Lin Family Loft is the Snake Lord's..." Liu Hongluan either slipped or was intimidated by the Sharp Gold Aura in my eyes and exclaimed out loud.

Then, realizing she blurted something out, her snake eyes flickered as she tightly closed her mouth.

A fire of anger burned within me; so she was playing dumb with me here, "I'll give you one last chance, tell me everything you know."

"I... I know nothing... Uncle, save me... Uncle Xianzhi..." Liu Hongluan stubbornly refused to speak, even crawling to Liu Xianzhi's feet, pleading.

Liu Xianzhi's elegant face turned dark as he said to me, "Madam, shall we use torture?"

Seeing her crawl to Liu Xianzhi's feet, hearing this, Liu Hongluan retreated a few more steps in terror.

It seemed she never expected her uncle to give such a dreadful order.

Now, she was utterly isolated, her closest ties severed.

"Torture?" I looked at the weak red snake on the ground, momentarily unable to think of any way to execute such a punishment.

Liu Xianzhi saw through my thoughts and said, "Madam, don't worry, I have experience in this area."

I knew I shouldn't, but my heart couldn't bear it.

Liu Hongluan, killed by her beloved, was already tragic enough.

Must she be tormented still?

The image of the headless baby and the man on Liuyin Mountain walking towards me with a coat flashed in my mind...

Though these memories were vague, I knew well enough in my heart.

The power sealing my memories is dwindling, signifying I'm on the brink of recovery.

And all I can do is protect my child.

The prerequisite is to uncover the truth behind all these mysteries!!

Only by knowing the truth can I determine my next course of action.

A moment's hesitation, and I said heavily, "Alright, I'll go back to sleep, let me know when there's a result."

"Madam, I'll escort you, um... by the way... I, I won't be silenced, right?" Liu Xianzhi casually formed a hand seal, trapping Liu Hongluan in a formation within the cell, cautiously helped me up, and timidly asked.

I was slightly surprised, seeing his ashen face, I realized he feared knowing too much about Qing Li, "What do you think?"

"Haha, I'm a bit scared, you know." Liu Xianzhi said, his face pale, clearly frightened out of his wits.

"No one else can know, I'll keep it from the Snake Lord for you."

"Alright, alright, I promise not to tell anyone, not even my own mother!"

Chapter 837: Mommy and Baby Cuddling

Sending me back to the Lotus Courtyard, Liu Xianzhi returned to the dungeon to continue interrogating Liu Hongluan.

After what just happened, I lay in bed unable to stop pondering.

The chaotic relationship between Liu Hongluan and Qing Li has some particularly contradictory points.

Clearly, Liu Hongluan has no idea that Qing Li is Yu Longting's mother, yet she knows there's a mad woman in the Lin Family Loft called Qing Li.

The Lin Family is deeply secretive about Qing Li living in the loft, with very few within the family knowing about it.

It's impossible for such information to be revealed to outsiders, let alone be leaked to the Snake Sect.

How did Liu Hongluan find out...

Even if Qing Li sought Liu Hongluan for cooperation, she wouldn't expose herself as a madwoman.

The clues gathered so far are riddled with doubts.

Unless Liu Hongluan has new confessions, it's difficult to make a breakthrough.

I couldn't sleep, so I got up to make clothes.

I've been working on this set of clothes for two days, making it for my unborn Dumpling.

Reflecting on the past makes me embarrassed, as I am a Yin Yang Embroiderer.

I've made clothes for others countless times, yet never a single garment for the baby with Yu Longting.

The one I'm making for Dumpling now is called the Longevity Clothes.

It's inspired by the Longevity Formation passed down through generations of the Lin Family.

Wearing it can ward off disasters, repel evil, avoid fire and poison, bringing blessing and longevity...

In short, it's a garment carrying countless blessings from a mother!

"Little Dumpling, mommy was so irresponsible before, from now on I'll make more clothes for you." I stroked my belly, already imagining how Dumpling would look wearing the clothes I made.

The deeply sleeping Dumpling sensed mother's hand gently caressing, reacting within the womb, stretching out a soft little hand, wanting to touch my fingertip, "Mommy~ Mommy~"

"Mommy is here~ Mommy's close to Dumpling." My fingertip, separated by the thin layer of skin, touched Dumpling's little finger.

Dumpling delightedly opened his eyes, "Like being close to mommy~"

"Then give mommy a kiss?" My face beamed with happiness.

Regrettably, Yu Longting isn't here; otherwise, father and son could also be close.

Dumpling squirmed closer, giving a little kiss on my fingertip, "Mommy, love you~"

"Mommy loves you too, very much~" Hearing the little one's tender voice, I felt energized as if invigorated, ready to spend the whole night making eight hundred adorable little outfits for Dumpling!

Then, there were faint noises coming from the corridor outside.

It sounded somewhat like the friction of scales against the ground; usually, the snake attendants avoid disturbing me at night, keeping it quiet.

"Madam is pregnant, it's not appropriate to wake her, what if she's startled?" A snake attendant's anxious voice came through.

Another snake attendant replied, "But, only Madam can oversee the situation, should we ask the Second Master instead? He's as useless as Liu Xianzhi."

"Hey, Madam's room light is still on; could it be she forgot to turn it off??"

A snake attendant noticed the light on in my room, slithering with their snake body to my door.

When she peeked in, probably afraid of startling me, she specifically turned into a human form, "Madam, are you still awake? It's already the Yin Hour!"

"I couldn't sleep, so I got up to sit for a while. If you have something to say, feel free to tell me directly, don't worry about disturbing me." I saw the snake attendants' faces as pale as gold paper, their expressions utterly bewildered, and I suspected something major must have happened within the Snake Sect.

Otherwise, these loyal snake attendants wouldn't dare disturb me in the middle of the night.

Chapter 838: The Manifestation of Guanyin

The two snake attendants shuffled in awkwardly, one of them stammering, "Mad...am, som...something terrible has happened. We are defeated, and Elder Chang Hao is seriously injured."

"Even the most skilled snake doctors are at a loss; no one in the Snake Sect knows what to do, so we came to you." The other snake attendant remained relatively calm, but his voice was hoarse and on the verge of tears.

The Snake Sect actually lost a fight against a bunch of weasels?

Even Chang Hao, an ancient master on par with Dragon Dad, got seriously injured. Unbelievable...

"Don't worry, I won't let anything happen to Chang Hao." I was momentarily stunned and put down the embroidery in my hand, searching the cabinet, "Wait a moment, I'll be there after I grab the Cultivation Spiritual Garment."

The Cultivation Spiritual Garment I made for Yu Longting fits him perfectly.

During the days awaiting childbirth, I alleviated my boredom by crafting various pieces of Yin Yang Life and Death Embroidery.

Coincidentally, I just finished making a Cultivation Spiritual Garment yesterday.

I took the Cultivation Spiritual Garment from the cabinet and asked the snake attendant to lead me to meet Chang Hao.

Chang Hao, an ancient sea snake, grew more massive with age.

At this moment, a black and yellow striped sea snake, as large as a hill, lay on the green slate floor.

He was severely injured, with arrow wounds all over.

The most critical, fatal wound was a strange green gem scepter lodged at his vital seven-inch point.

These wounds must be cursed by some sorcery, causing the fresh injuries to rapidly fester and ooze!

Dark green snake blood spread thickly over the surface of the green bricks, seeping into their depths.

Several top snake doctors were anxiously pacing around, unable to stop the bleeding.

No expert could approach to remove the emerald scepter and arrows from Chang Hao and staunch the bleeding.

If the blood keeps flowing, the blood vessels will eventually run dry.

No matter how strong an expert is, they can't withstand it...

The moonlight seemed to mourn this ancient being's passing, turning a pale red, casting a glow on his decaying, festering body.

The snake descendants knelt down, softly hissing in grief, "Elder Chang... Elder Chang..."

From a distance, I saw this scene under the moon, deeply shocked in my visual nerves.

A Golden Lotus flashed underfoot, bringing me beside Chang Hao in an instant.

"Avalokiteshvara... Bodhisattva!!" Among the snake crowd, a snake blurted out, "Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva has manifested, Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva has come to save Elder Chang."

The rattlesnake Liu Liulu slapped the snake on the head, "What nonsense about Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva, are you stupid? We are the Taoist Sect! How could Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva come to help us, that's obviously... Madam!! The Lady of the Snake Lord!!"

"It's the Lady of the Snake Lord; Madam has come to rescue the Elder." The snakes within the Snake Sect were wildly enthusiastic, erupting into instant excitement.

I never imagined that my reputation among the Snake Tribe would be so immense one day.

However, right now, I couldn't spare any thought beyond Chang Hao's condition, "Elder Chang, are you conscious? It's Su Wan."

Chang Hao, gravely injured and unconscious, had entirely lost consciousness, now nearing death.

I placed my fingertip on the center of Chang Hao's snake head, channeling spiritual power into the fingertip, "Awaken."

"I... Where am I? Ma...dam...??" Chang Hao weakly opened eyes larger than truck headlights, their yellow-orange hue full of terminal sorrow.

All things have spirits, especially the eldest elder of the Snake Sect.

He seemed to sense his life was reaching its end...

"Elder Chang, I am going to remove the demon scepter from your vital point. It will hurt a bit, but trust me, you'll be fine."

Chapter 839: Responsibility

Hearing my words, the mortally wounded Chang Hao immediately became anxious, "Madam... no, that staff carries an ancient Yellow Immortal curse... My life is worthless, not worth implicating... Madam..."

"What Yellow Immortal curse, to a descendant of the Lin Family, it's nothing but trifles and petty tricks," I gave Chang Hao a reassuring look.

Having heard my arrogant words, Chang Hao's snake eyes widened.

He stared blankly at me...

"You must believe that there's always something to restrain another in this world, I'm an expert in exorcising evil and breaking demons." I walked to Chang Hao's seven-inch point, bit my finger, and used the blood on my fingertip to draw a high-level Evil-Breaking Spell on my palm.

To be safe, I surrounded the staff's top, bottom, left, and right.

With a greenish-blue cloth strip of Mystic Thunder for Evil Subjection, preventing evil energy from spilling over.

I steadied my spirit and grasped the staff with the hand that had the Palm Talisman drawn on it.

As spiritual power surged into my palm, it transformed through the Palm Talisman into sharp Demon-Breaking Power, "Hao Hao Yin Yang, the sun rises in the east, sweeps away ill omens, Po Qi for Swift Vajra, subduing demons, transforming into auspiciousness, urgently as by the mandate of law!!"

With a burst of golden light, Chang Hao let out a low roar.

The staff was uprooted by me!

The arrows embedded in Chang Hao lost their support as well.

Like an autumn wind sweeping away fallen leaves, they dropped from the snake body to the ground.

"Be careful... pfft..." Chang Hao coughed up blood, yet barely cared for himself, sternly warning me, "Be wary of the Green Core Stone on the staff; it is the heart of an ancient Yellow Immortal transformed, once touched it'll entangle you for life, no end!!"

"The heart of an ancient Yellow Immortal, is it? It must be an extremely evil object, cannot be left!!" I removed the Begonia Hairpin from my hair, and the hairpin tip, imbued with Demon-Breaking and Sharp Gold Force, touched the green stone on the staff.

The stone shattered like glass with a crisp sound.

Chang Hao's snake eyes widened so much they almost fell out.

His snake mouth gaped wide, unable to speak for a moment.

The other snakes stared at me like looking at a monster.

The night was deep and all around was deathly silent.

At that moment, a figure rushed over from a distance, tumbling to kneel by Chang Hao's side, crying piteously, "Grandpa Snake, sob sob... my Grandpa Snake... you died so tragically, I haven't had the chance to fulfill my filial duty, how could you leave like this!!"

"Uh, Rongling ah, cough cough... I still have a breath left." Without the restraint of the staff, Chang Hao's gigantic snake body shrank countless times, turning into a withered old man lying on the ground.

Yu Rongling wiped tears with his sleeve, supporting Chang Hao, pinched his deeply wrinkled face, "Are you really dead? But... you've already dispersed your power, your blood has run dry, now it's probably the last flicker before death."

"Even if I die now, heh heh... this old man can die in peace, with the Lady of the Snake Lord caring for you, caring for the Snake Sect, I can rest assured." At his last moments, Chang Hao wasn't particular, not caring about Yu Rongling's simpleminded actions, his face full of loving-kindness. His gaze slowly moved to me, and he said warmly, "Madam, with you, the Snake Sect has hit the jackpot."

The night wind brushed across, and my eyes felt like they had a brick in them.

Sour and astringent, yet I forced myself not to let tears fall.

Now, as the support of the Snake Sect's serpentine members, there suddenly grew a sense of responsibility, unwilling to let my weak side be seen by others.

I knelt down on one knee, draping the Cultivation Spiritual Garment over Chang Hao's shoulders, "Elder Chang, I said I wouldn't let anything happen to you as long as I am here. Any last words can be saved for next time... besides..."

Chapter 840: Madam Fights If She Must

"What?" Chang Hao, with wisdom marinated over millennia, now finds his dying self led by the nose by a junior like me.

I shrugged, articulating powerfully, "You haven't seen the Snake Sect settling accounts with those Yellow Skins, an uplifting scene."

"Settle accounts with them? Is that possible? They have grown formidable." Chang Hao's murky snake eyes grew moist, steeped in despair, "And we have suffered heavy casualties... defeated, with the Snake Lord absent..."

I deftly pinned my long hair with a flower hairpin, "Tonight, I'll lead you back to fight. How they oppressed us in the past, we'll reciprocate in full measure."

"But, but Madam, behind the Yellow Immortal... they have strong backing! And until now, I haven't found out... what force supports them." Tears streamed down Chang Hao's eyes, mixed with two decades of repressed sorrow and impotence.

In his heart, he knew deeply why the Snake Sect had been oppressed for over twenty years.

The snakes of the Snake Sect knew it too, yet no disciple ever blamed me.

I myself emerged from the guilt the Su Family held against Yu Longting, yet to see the Snake Sect bullied to a dead end by a group of Yellow Skins.

Even their pillar, Chang Hao, was secretly cursed.

He was nearly severely injured and died miserably, not to mention the many other Snake Tribe members killed by the Yellow Skins, and the territory they seized...

If we don't rise to resist in such a situation, then there's not a drop of courage left in our veins!

I watched as the wound on Chang Hao, invaded by malevolent forces, healed inch by inch, even staunching the bleeding, "Elder Chang, how are your injuries?"

"My... my injuries, my wounds... are fine now, the internal injuries... are nearly healed." Chang Hao exclaimed in a low voice, his face more surprised than joyous, "I don't have to die?"

Yu Rongling sniffed with a reddened nose and interjected, "What you're wearing is the Cultivation Spiritual Garment personally made by my sister-in-law with the Yin Yang Life and Death Embroidery. Even if you've no breath left, it could snatch you back from the Hall of the Yama King."

"Uh, it's not quite that exaggerated. If there's no breath left, the Cultivation Spiritual Garment might not do, you'd need the Reincarnation Garment." I feared Yu Rongling might overpraise me, so I explained.

Chang Hao was in a daze for a moment, then heavily gave himself a slap.

Both Yu Rongling and I were startled.

I said, "Old gentleman, what are you doing? Why, why hit yourself?"

"Maybe... did he hit his skull during a fight?" Yu Rongling pondered, stroking his chin.

Chang Hao glared at Yu Rongling, then sighed wistfully, "I thought I was dreaming, turns out it's not a dream, I haven't died!! And I've healed from such grave injuries!! Not even in a dream would I dare imagine such a scenario, Madam's Life and Death Embroidery is incredible! Today I've seen it all, like a 'Small Knife stabbing my rear, it opened my eyes'!"

"That's right, no matter what backing those Yellow Skins have, our Snake Sect has my sister-in-law!" Yu Rongling proudly puffed out his chest, "With my sister-in-law here, we can exterminate them at any moment."

"Extermination is unnecessary, all things have spirits, heavy killing is unwise." I've always been more of a Buddhist temperament, and not very confident, yet without Yu Longting here.

The honor and decline of the Snake Tribe now rest on my shoulders, I must step forward courageously, "Just give them a taste of retribution, repay the blood debts from the past twenty years."

During this conversation.

Chang Hao's grievous injuries that nearly took his life were almost healed.

His spirit soared, he boldly knelt on one knee before me.

Clasping his fists in a martial salute, his words were sonorous and forceful, "Madam, if you wish to battle, then let there be battle, I willingly serve as your vanguard."

"Give me a map of Liuyin Mountain, consolidate the troops, depart before dawn, and brief me on the Yellow Immortal and their situation on the way."