

A Snake 971

Chapter 971: Cursed with Rotten Luck for Eight Lifetimes

"Am I wrong? Old Zhao lives so far away, whether it's Shenshen or Dumpling! Once they're taken away, we'll never see them again!" My eyes turned red with anger, an outburst of accusation.

Even a terrifying thought arose in my heart. Actually, Old Zhao isn't very strong now. If we all work together to eliminate him, it might be possible!

It's ridiculous. He previously begged us to help find the Colored Glaze Immortal Vase.

Now seeing the Celestial Omen, discovering the differences in Dumpling and Shenshen, he blatantly makes such unreasonable demands.

Old Zhao's face was calm, no joy or sadness appeared on it. "If the physically sanctified do not go where they should, they are fugitives. Even without Qingyang, if it were someone else from above, they would have been taken away long ago. Only because we have a connection, I haven't immediately done so."

"You old fool, who do you think you are, to think you can just take Dumpling away? I'll cut you down!" Yu Rongling pushed his Spiritual Power to the limit, finally freeing himself from Old Zhao's suppression.

The Spirit Snake longsword had just been drawn from his sleeve, pointing straight at Old Zhao's face.

Clang! Old Zhao flicked his finger lightly in the air.

The virtually indestructible Ying Long level longsword shattered directly into several pieces, scattering remnants all over the ground.

Yu Rongling suffered a massive shock and recoil, causing a trickle of blood to flow from the corner of his mouth.

Fortunately, he focused on protecting Dumpling with most of his Spiritual Power, so Dumpling remained unharmed in his arms; otherwise, he wouldn't have withstood Old Zhao's fierce move.

My pupils shrank suddenly, recalling the memory of fighting Lan Shaotang alongside Old Zhao.

Secretly channeling some Spiritual Power within my body, indeed it seemed Lan Shaotang had committed too many sins; even though I didn't personally eradicate him, I had gained a lot of Yin Virtue benefits.

Old Zhao and Yu Longting joined forces to kill that scoundrel Lan Shaotang, and even wore the Cultivation Spiritual Garment for healing together. Their strength must have taken a significant leap!

What bad luck, at this critical moment, Old Zhao's strength greatly increased.

"Ancestor, if Sister Wanwan and the Snake Lord help you find Master Qingyang, will you refrain from choosing to take either this girl or Sister Wanwan's child?" Bai Zhanhe took a glance at me, lowering her head slightly, and asked Old Zhao softly.

Old Zhao spoke frankly, revealing his true thoughts. "I will pretend I didn't see them."

Upon hearing this, the spikes that had risen all over me finally retracted.

Fortunately, Bai Zhanhe's words not only guided Old Zhao to relax the conditions but also indirectly soothed my anxious heart.

"Thank you, Old Zhao. In the next six months, the Snake Lord and I will do our utmost to help you find Master Qingyang." I softened my stance, bowing ninety degrees in respect to Old Zhao.

There is no choice but to soften now; if I confront Old Zhao head-on at this moment,

not only would I betray Bai Zhanhe's goodwill towards me, but I would also prematurely break ties with Old Zhao, which could bring great harm.

Even Yu Longting, with his proud nature, acted like me, bowing respectfully. "In six months, we will present both Qingyang and the Immortal Vase to you. Please await good news with patience."

"Hmm, it's not my intent to trouble you; I have my difficulties too," Old Zhao finished speaking and left with Bai Zhanhe in tow.

As Bai Zhanhe was dragged away, she helplessly looked back at me.

I felt immense sympathy for Bai Zhanhe's plight, and at the same time worried about the six-month deadline, "It's truly selfish and self-serving. Old Zhao's difficulty is simply that Qingyang is difficult to find; he couldn't find him within six months and needs our help to search, doesn't he?"

"Though the approach is somewhat abhorrent, for us it's not an impossible task." Yu Longting glanced at Qi Yaogang.

Qi Yaogang immediately took his leave, "This old man will depart now. I can swear an oath that today's events will never be spoken of."

After speaking, he quickly made his escape.

"Wife, Qingyang is Qing Li's younger brother; with this connection, are we really afraid we won't find him?" Yu Longting continued the previous topic, staring into my slightly panicked eyes, his lips curling into a cold, alluring smile.

Chapter 972: Learn from the Chrysanthemum in Autumn

Yu Rongling finally emerged from his recent fright, his expression like thunderstruck once more, as he plunged into a peculiar shock about recognizing an uncle.

Given his relationship and understanding with Yu Longting, he certainly knows some of the grievances between Qingyang and Yu Longting.

Upon hearing this layer of kinship at this moment, how could he not be dumbfounded?

Yu Longting gave his brother a calm look, "You should be like the autumn chrysanthemum, take it easy."

"Oh my, so does that mean we're supposed to treat a thief as an uncle?? Qingyang is our actual uncle, why can't he see it clearly and always wants to kill you?? He even said if you die, there will be no True Dragon in the Snake Tribe to overshadow him?"

How could Yu Rongling let it go so easily? He eagerly asked a series of questions, but unfortunately, no one answered him.

Yu Longting reached over to carefully take Dumpling from Yu Rongling's arms, who was a bit startled by Old Zhao, with a blank expression.

His long fingers lightly stroked Dumpling's little head, his magnetic, deep, and gentle voice seemed to have a magical power, "Don't be afraid, Daddy is here. No one can take you and Little Ginseng away. If you're tired, just take a nap, good girl."

My chaotic heart was soothed at this moment.

Looking up at such a gentle and fatherly Yu Longting, my heart was only filled with the desire to spend a lifetime with this man who gives me a deep sense of security!

"Daddy..." Little Dumpling no longer babbled, lowering his little head onto Yu Longting's shoulder, learning to say a word.

The arm with which Yu Longting was holding Dumpling's small head slightly stiffened.

Then, seeing more and more media gathering downstairs, he said to me, "Wanwan, this place is getting more chaotic, it's not suitable to stay any longer, we need to leave quickly."

"Okay, Shenshen, turn into a bracelet quick." I instructed Shenshen.

Yu Rongling snatched Shenshen's delicate wrist, "Sister-in-law, let me take her, I can protect Little Fairy. She keeps turning into a bracelet, always becoming your appendage!"

"Shenshen, are you willing?" I was seeking Shenshen's consent.

Already being led by Yu Longting's hand, in the blink of an eye, we walked far away, leaving Yu Rongling's house.

Though I felt a bit uneasy about leaving Shenshen with Yu Rongling, facing a bunch of gathered media and influencers filming the celestial spectacle, there was no choice but to roll with it.

I followed Yu Longting step by step, weaving my fingers through his, intertwining my hand with his, "Are we going to the Lin Family?"

"Yes, I want to see Qing Li immediately, and find out Qingyang's whereabouts." Yu Longting's expression was icy and mischievous, his tongue licking his sharp teeth, exuding an indescribable coldness and wildness.

I observed Yu Longting for a while, then softly said, "In fact, just now, you almost made a move to kill Old Zhao."

"With our combined strength, taking down Old Zhao is not difficult." Yu Longting replied noncommittally, "However, you might not know, if Old Zhao dies, a Celestial Omen might appear, which would alert his superiors."

"What? I thought you were afraid that if the three of us killed him together, it would bring about backlash, and it turns out to be because of this!! If a Celestial Omen occurs, won't Old Zhao's superiors send someone more powerful down?" I suddenly understood Yu Longting's concerns.

Yu Longting glanced sideways at me, showing a knowing smile, "Honey, we are really becoming more connected, even our thoughts are in sync. This time going to the Lin Family, I am going to propose to Grandpa."

"Pro... propose?? At a time like this??" I thought Yu Longting was really being imaginative, how could he be thinking about proposing after such a big event just happened??

Is his heart too wild, is he too bold, or is he just joking with me??

Chapter 973: Is Grandpa Hard of Hearing?

Yu Longting furrowed his brow, his lazy snake-like eyes both mischievous and defiant, "What time is it now? Well, tell me?"

"It's the crucial moment when Old Zhao has taken a liking to Dumpling, and if things go south, we might be separated from our child!" I started answering firmly, but under Yu Longting's gaze, I began to feel guilty.

What, am I wrong?

"It's just a small matter." Yu Longting tightened his arms around my waist, "We've already had a child together, don't you want to marry me?"

Looking at Yu Longting's domineering gaze from which I had no escape, I smiled wryly, "Alright, I'll marry you, but I can't guarantee grandfather will agree."

"Send grandfather a message and tell him we're heading straight to the attic to meet Qing Li." Yu Longting called him grandfather so smoothly, smiling gently when he lowered his gaze.

He's so confident, sure that he can handle my grandfather.

When he hits a snag, let's see how smug he gets!

Hmph!

I leaned my whole body against Yu Longting and took out my phone, "I'll notify grandfather right away."

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About half an hour later, Yu Longting and I arrived at the entrance of the Lin Family Sect.

Because we informed them in advance, we entered smoothly and without any obstacles.

"Grandfather, why are you waiting for us outside? The sun is so harsh!" I saw Lin Huan waiting at the main house door, so I ran up and put my palm out, standing on tiptoe to shade Lin Huan's forehead, "Is your health better now?"

Lin Huan, tall and imposing, looked barely over forty after recovering.

Amused by my actions, he said, "I've almost recovered, no need for a little girl like you to shield me from the sun. Have you... given birth?"

"Yes, I just had Dumpling not long ago. Yu Longting, let grandfather hold Dumpling." I promptly gave way, allowing Yu Longting to come forward so Lin Huan could see the newborn Dumpling right away.

Yu Longting held Dumpling as he strolled over, handing Dumpling personally to Lin Huan, "Grandfather, I've come today specifically to propose."

"Cough... what did you say??" Lin Huan, who had just taken Dumpling into his arms, was so startled by Yu Longting's words that he choked on his own saliva.

Yu Longting's thick skin is comparable to a durian's, that kind of thick and prickly feel.

He said without a change in expression, "Grandfather, are you hard of hearing? I've come to seek Wanwan's hand in marriage, hoping for your blessing, though it doesn't really matter if you agree or not."

Of course, this is so like Yu Longting!!

That seemingly cultured sentence, although very polite, coming from Yu Longting's mouth...

It truly feels so out of place.

"Hehe, Snake Lord, don't call me that, I still want to live a few more years, don't want to lose my lifespan! I'd rather you call me Lin Wogua." Lin Huan paused, "As for your marriage..."

"In the past, I was immature and didn't show enough respect to you, grandfather. I hope you can forgive me." Yu Longting reverted to an articulate and well-mannered person that I hardly recognized, "If you have any requirements for the marriage, just let me know, grandfather."

"Snake Lord, no need for formalities, I only have two conditions for you marrying my granddaughter." Lin Huan's face turned stern, leaving no room for defiance, "The wedding banquet must be held at the Lin Family, and you and Wanwan must have a second child because Dumpling needs a Lin surname."

When facing Yu Longting, he was all sternness, but when he looked down at the crinkly little Dumpling, his eyes were full of doting love, and even the corners of his tightly pressed lips involuntarily lifted.

"Grandfather, could we negotiate? Childbirth is too painful, and I don't want Wanwan to endure it again." As Yu Longting spoke, Lin Huan's face turned as cold as iron, but then Yu Longting continued, "No need for a second child, we'll give this only child to the Lin family. What do you think, grandfather?"

Chapter 974: My Treasure, My Sweetheart

Upon hearing the latter part of Yu Longting's words, Lin Huan's gloomy expression turned to astonishment.

After pondering for a long time, he asked confusedly, "Doesn't your line need bloodline inheritance?"

"My family doesn't have a throne to inherit, so what's the point of arguing over the surname? I just want my wife not to suffer." Indeed, Yu Longting's refined demeanor couldn't last long; he broke character and resumed speaking plainly.

Lin Huan couldn't help but chuckle, and he looked at Yu Longting with much more favor.

Still pretending to be picky, he said, "Wanwan just gave birth not long ago; she's at a time when her energy and blood are depleted. Why aren't you holding her?"

"Can't wait for it, thank you, Grandfather-in-law, for fulfilling my wish." Yu Longting's lips curled up wickedly as he pressed his palm against my lower back and lifted me up.

I felt like I was sold out by the closest person, somewhat protesting to Lin Huan, "Grandfather, didn't you dislike Yu Longting? Why... so easily marry me off to him?"

"The child is born, who else would you marry if not him? Besides, who told you I don't like the Snake Lord?" Lin Huan changed his doting attitude towards me, surprisingly defending Yu Longting and glared at me with a stern look.

I instantly felt abandoned, my mood dropping to the bottom.

Deep inside, however, there was a hint of indescribable joy. I wrapped my arms around Yu Longting's neck, "Since Grandfather has already said so, I can only marry a snake to follow a snake, right, Snake Brother."

"You!! Uh, wait until we get home, then I'll deal with you!" Yu Longting didn't feel happy seeing my affectionate gaze; instead, he was infuriated.

He carried me up the stairs, always walking at a steady pace.

Lin Huan followed behind, delighted to have a chance to be alone with Dumpling, "Dumpling, why don't you call me Great-Grandfather? Didn't you already know how to talk when you were in your mom's belly?"

"Gra...Gra..." Dumpling babbled, wanting to say 'Good Great-Grandfather,' but couldn't get the words out after trying for ages.

He was so anxious that his eyes turned red, and could only start crying out "ah ah ah."

Lin Huan looked somewhat puzzled but remained very patient, "No rush, Great-Grandfather! I'm the Great-Grandfather; do you remember? You saved Grandfather when you were in Spring Wind Town."

"Grand...pa!~" After holding back for ages, Dumpling almost burst into tears but only managed to pop out these two syllables.

What a grandpa, but he couldn't call out Great-Grandfather.

Calling him this ambiguous title...

Yu Longting, not one to easily restrain himself, chuckled merrily.

Immediately, Lin Huan's face turned as black as the bottom of a pot.

From his suspicious look at Yu Longting, Lin Huan probably thought Dumpling was being misled by his own father.

"Grandfather, I was poisoned by Vine Poison before. After drinking the antidote, there were some side effects, and Dumpling just..." I hurriedly explained for Yu Longting, choosing my words carefully, while Lin Huan stared at me sharply.

I felt like he could cut my throat with his gaze at any moment, quickly saying with the fastest speed, "It's nothing, Dumpling just temporarily lost his memory, and he will recover in half a year. It won't affect inheriting your legacy, so you can rest assured."

"Yu Longting, treat my granddaughter well; it was because she saved your mother that she got poisoned by Vine Poison." Lin Huan finally spoke up to educate Yu Longting after hearing this.

Yu Longting hugged me tighter, kissed my forehead, "Even if she hadn't saved Qing Li, Wanwan is still my treasure, my sweetheart. It is because I wasn't good enough that she had to step up and risk herself to save Qing Li..."

"At least you have some conscience; Wanwan didn't save you in vain." Lin Huan grumbled.

I just felt so embarrassed that I wanted to find a hole in the ground to hide in. It genuinely felt like I was seeking credit from Yu Longting.

Really made me feel awkward, since every single thing seemed like it was meant to be done by me, "Hmm, put me down, my... legs are a bit numb, Yu Longting~"

"Is it because you're afraid Qing Li would see and get upset?" Yu Longting's eyes were fierce, as if piercing through me from skin to soul, seeing right through.

Chapter 975: Why Do People Love Their Own Children?

I was mercilessly exposed, and with an awkward laugh, I said, "Haha, I'm just thinking about the bigger picture. Could you try to understand my good intentions, please?"

Wasn't it agreed to come to Qing Li for news about Qingyang's whereabouts?

Showing off love only angers Qing Li. Aren't you afraid of everything falling apart?

"But I'm just someone who doesn't know how to consider the bigger picture." Yu Longting lowered his willow-like brows, looking very troubled.

I looked at Yu Longting with that trademark, infuriating expression of his.

Feeling utterly helpless, I decided to slack off, "Do whatever you want. I just don't believe you'd joke about Dumpling's future."

"Yes, that's right. Trust me, your husband can handle it." Yu Longting pressed heavily on my back, not giving me the slightest chance to escape.

I was forced to rest on his shoulder, gritting my teeth in frustration.

Just wait a moment. When Qing Li gets angry and loses it, I'd like to see how you plan to handle it.

Lin Huan, holding Dumpling, said, "You two go inside. I won't get involved."

"Yes, grandfather." Yu Longting slightly bowed to Lin Huan and went into the attic.

In the attic, Qing Li was staring blankly out the window.

Upon hearing footsteps, she didn't turn around, "If you dislike me, then why bother coming?"

"I don't dislike you; I'm just confused about why you don't love your own child." At this moment, Yu Longting seemed to let go of all his glory and dignity, appearing just like an ordinary child who couldn't get his mother's love.

He lowered his eyes, quietly gazing at Qing Li's back.

My face buried in Yu Longting's neck, my heart tightened.

Gently, I kissed Yu Longting's collarbone, not knowing what his childhood was like.

But I only want him to be happy, to heal the wounds of the past.

Under my gentle kiss, Yu Longting's body slightly tensed; his long fingers gently brushed through my hair.

With simple and gentle body language, he told me about the calm state of his heart at this moment.

Qing Li slowly turned around, her glass-like eyes hollow and thin, "Why must people love their children? Just because the laws of nature make women, after giving birth, possess maternal instincts?"

"I understand. You only love Yu Qingxiao, so there's no need for your attention to stay on us." Yu Longting knowingly lifted his lips.

Qing Li gathered herself and suddenly stood up.

Her thin, frail figure slowly approached, "But in recent years, my thoughts have changed somewhat."

Her enchanting almond eyes were gradually covered in a light mist.

No longer was she in a state of neither joy nor sadness, as she was earlier.

My heart stirred slightly, and I pinched Yu Longting.

This time, Yu Longting finally let go of the force restraining me, and I leapt out of his embrace in one swift move.

Hiding behind him, I tried to make as much space as possible for the long-separated mother and son.

"Oh?" Even though Yu Longting allowed me to leave his arms, he still held my wrist tightly.

Perhaps to him, I was the last straw he could grasp.

The support for his stability.

He, like Qing Li, is not as strong as he appears!

A tear rolled slowly down Qing Li's cheek, "Perhaps I've reincarnated too often, repeatedly becoming human and a woman again. It seems I've slowly developed this thing called maternal instinct, even though I find it quite redundant."

"Well, I don't need motherly love anyway. From a young age, Yu Qingxiao fed me, carried me on travels, told me stories to coax me to sleep, and that was enough." Yu Longting's eyes were mischievous and carried a mocking, half-smiling expression.

The tone was devoid of emotion, yet the smooth pad of his finger gently wiped away Qing Li's tear at the corner of her eye.

Chapter 976: She's My Wife, Only She Has the Right to Dislike Me

Qing Li stepped back uncomfortably, her beautiful eyes like a startled deer, "You... what are you doing?"

"Helping you wipe your tears, huh? Why do they keep falling?" Yu Longting finally let go of Qing Li's hand and used both hands to wipe her tears.

Qing Li's tears fell even more, even her lips trembled with grievance.

Suddenly, Qing Li fiercely jumped into Yu Longting's arms.

Like an injured little beast, she whimpered painfully, but still stubbornly said, "I'm not relying on you, nor do I have any maternal love for you, it's just that you resemble... Yu Qingxiao... Boo~"

"I reluctantly allow you to think of me as Yu Qingxiao, as a way to repay the debt of giving birth to me." Yu Longting's eyes slightly showed a glint of red, his palm hovering over Qing Li's head but hesitating to lower, "Humans are really troublesome, so emotionally fragile."

Qing Li suddenly raised her head, glaring at Yu Longting, then at me, "No matter how fragile I am, am I as pampered as Su Wan? In these thousand years, the times I cried can be counted on one hand."

"But she's my wife, only she has the right to despise me, I only coax her, other women aren't so lucky." Yu Longting made every effort to provoke his own mother.

Three black lines formed on my forehead, and I smirked inwardly.

Yu Longting, so this is how you coax your wife, by crazily stirring up hatred towards me!!

But honestly, I'm quite relieved, the mother and son are just as proud and aloof.

No matter how stubborn they are, they can't hide the tenderness in their hearts.

Qing Li pouted and buried her face in Yu Longting's chest, crying like a child, "Then comfort me too, I've been staying at this lousy Lin Family and suffered so much grievance~!"

"Oh? What grievances?" Yu Longting asked with great interest and a good temper.

Qing Li hugged Yu Longting tighter, "Lin Gang bullied me, he defiled me, sob sob sob..."

"It's just a reincarnated body, there's always the next life, then you'll be whole again." Yu Longting's voice was magnetically low as he comforted.

Qing Li couldn't reconcile herself, her weak sobbing was heart-wrenching, "No matter which life, I belong only to your father."

My heart also felt sour, feeling sorry for the humiliation she suffered, she is the wife of His Majesty the Dragon Emperor, temporarily dwelling at the Lin Family, yet she met a scoundrel and suffered such great harm...

"Lin Gang is dead, turned into a zombie, got his retribution." Yu Longting's voice gradually became unstable but still tried to gently soothe Qing Li.

Qing Li gritted her teeth, "It's not enough. Longting, kill all the Lin family!! Bathe the Lin Family in blood!! Revenge me."

"Just your bad luck, my wife is a member of the Lin family, otherwise I really could've done it, you'll have to ask for something else." Yu Longting casually refused, shifting slightly in his standing direction.

From this angle, with a downward gaze, he could meet my eyes.

He subtly sent a sideways glance from his half-squinted phoenix eyes.

I knowingly made an "OK" gesture and quietly withdrew from the loft.

Qing Li has suffered enormous grievances, with a stubborn and unyielding personality, unwilling to easily let go of such humiliation and hatred, "If you don't agree, I'll have your father take action, he can't let my chastity be stained for nothing."

"Hey, speaking of which, why haven't we seen Lin Gang's daughter lately?" Yu Longting seemed to mention casually.

I just happened to reach the door and heard Yu Longting bring up Lin Xintu.

Only then did I realize, it seems that I haven't seen her since returning to the Lin Family this time.

My steps slowed slightly, and Qing Li cursed from behind, "What? Su Wan, still want to eavesdrop on our family matters? You saved me, which is good, but don't forget, the one who stained my purity is your dear uncle."

Chapter 977: Nebulae on the Azure Sparrow Platform

"No, no, you misunderstood me. I just slipped." I awkwardly turned back to explain, quickly fleeing.

Although Qing Li's attitude is still very poor, at least she called my name instead of cursing me as a low-life...

I'm the type of person who is quite content, feeling that compared to before, this is already a huge improvement and progress!

At the stairway corner, Lin Huan was waiting there with Dumpling in his arms, "Wanwan, come with me."

"Yes, Grandpa, what do you want with me?" I followed Lin Huan down the stairs.

Lin Huan led me only one floor down, and then through an old wooden door, into the floor beneath the attic, "You'll know once you follow me."

I had never been to this floor, only passed by a few times before.

Following Grandpa inside, I was instantly stunned.

The sight was filled with countless solemn and majestic Buddha statues standing in their shrines.

The air seemed to be permeated with a solemn aura.

Even though the Lin family is clearly a sect of the Taoist Sect, how come there is a whole floor dedicated to so many Buddha statues?

Following Grandpa further in, I saw bookshelves several meters high.

The shelves were filled with all sorts of booklets, the characters on the booklets ancient and complex.

From some of the identifiable traditional Chinese characters, it was clear that these were all scriptures.

Lotus Sutra, Shurangama Sutra, Sutra of Perfect Enlightenment...

My steps became increasingly cautious, to avoid desecrating this sacred place.

Lin Huan stopped in front of a window, turned around, and without warning, tossed a white Jade Hairpin to me.

I hurriedly raised my hand to catch it, slowing my reaction by half a beat.

If I had been any slower, the Jade Hairpin would have fallen to the ground and shattered, "Grandpa, what do you want with a Jade Hairpin?"

"Originally, it was only the Patriarchs of the Lin family who could know the secret of the attic." I saw Lin Huan's face was solemn as he spoke to me, "But since Qing Li is Longting's mother, there are things that no longer need to be concealed."

"So this Hairpin belongs to Qing Li?" I saw Lin Huan nod, carefully observing the carvings on the Hairpin, and asked, "Grandpa, what is the design on this Hairpin? It's so strange, not like an animal or a plant."

Lin Huan replied, "It's an ancient abstraction. It's hard to recognize using modern thinking; it seems like a star cluster from somewhere."

"Yes, yes, isn't this the stars and drifting clouds on the Azure Sparrow Platform?" I studied it for a while, recalling the night with Yu Longting, watching the stars on the Azure Sparrow Platform.

That night the drifting clouds were boundless, the Milky Way splendid, an expanse and magnificence lacking in other places' night skies.

Isn't this precisely the scene depicted on the Hairpin?

Lin Huan didn't know where the Azure Sparrow Platform was, so I explained it to him.

After knowing that the Azure Sparrow Platform was located on a high peak within the Snake Sect's domain, he nodded understandingly, "Since Qing Li is the Snake Lord's mother, it's not surprising her belongings would be closely tied to the Snake Sect.

Our Lin family has a legacy spanning a millennium, and every few generations, the Patriarch would use this Jade Hairpin to find the reincarnation of the Hairpin's owner. She is always named Qing Li in each reincarnation, and she possesses memories of her past lives, so it's easy to find her."

"Then who gave you this Jade Hairpin, and why do you obey their instructions?" I already have half the answer in my mind but just wanted to confirm it with Lin Huan.

Lin Huan's breath settled, sensing Dumpling's unease.

Lowering his head, he affectionately nuzzled Dumpling, comforting the little one, "The Lin family has never known who has demanded this task from generation to generation, only knowing that if we don't do it, the Lin family would face destruction."

"Is it truly that severe? So many years have passed, and that person might not even exist anymore. Haven't any of the Lin family's Patriarchs ever resisted?" I'm not hoping for the Lin family's Patriarch to resist and stop finding and caring for Qing Li's reincarnation.

It's just that it's human nature to have a spirit of resistance, otherwise, it wouldn't make sense.

Especially a sect as proud as the Lin family, could they allow themselves to be puppets, doing such disgraceful tasks that the Mysterious Gate Noble Family would scoff at?

"Our Lin family's Blood-weeping Syndrome, do you know where it comes from?" Lin Huan took a long breath, his body weakly leaning against the door frame, "Wanwan, the direct descendants of the Lin family have had a disease planted in them by that person, which not only can cause the Blood-weeping Syndrome at any time but also..."

"What else?" I pursued the question.

Lin Huan glanced at me, "Once pregnant with twins, only one can survive."

"What..." I was shocked, Dragon Dad actually did such cruel things to the people of the Lin family.

This kind of thing, when looked at deeply, is quite a curse.

Lin Huan gently stroked Dumpling's fluffy hair, his eyes both complicated and cautious, "Under such great pressure, most past Patriarchs chose to quietly accept, the only one who resisted, brought disaster upon us; that person served as the Sect Master during the Republic of China era..."

Chapter 978: Swallowing Broken Teeth and Blood?

Lin Huan recounted to me a grievous case of blood feud from the Republic of China era.

During the Republic of China period, there was a Lin Family head, gifted with exceptional talents, who developed an overbearing temperament.

After succeeding, he did not take the Jade Hairpin to find Qing Li's reincarnation, ultimately leading to the annihilation of two collateral branches of the Lin Family overnight.

Over a hundred bodies were even piled up into a mountain of corpses, placed outside the Lin Family Sect.

With the lesson of blood, no one dared to defy this legacy again.

"It's over, Dragon Dad's methods are so ruthless, knowing Qing Li was defiled, won't he blood-wash..." the Lin Family!

After hearing this, I was utterly distressed, worried for the future of the entire Lin family clan.

I glanced to see Dumpling staring at me with curious, wide eyes, seemingly deep in thought.

I reckoned the little one might understand the conversation between Lin Huan and me; I didn't want him to know such complex matters at his young age.

I covered his little ears with both hands, preventing Dumpling from listening.

Dumpling puffed up his cheeks, trying to push my hands away.

But his tiny arms couldn't make a dent, and his anxious appearance was unbelievably adorable.

Lin Huan, as the Sect Master, was astute and experienced; he immediately picked up on the clues from my words, "Dragon Dad? If Yu Longting's father is the Dragon Emperor, does that mean the person who ordered the Lin family to care for Qing Li generations after generations is... His Majesty the Dragon Emperor??"

"It should be..." I felt a chill down my spine, forced to face a reality.

The one who blood-washed the Lin family was Dragon Dad; does that mean the Lin family and Dragon Dad have a deep-seated blood feud.

Will Grandpa... still agree to me being with Yu Longting...

Lin Huan was silent for a long time, "Wanwan, you must not harbor any resentment towards His Majesty the Dragon Emperor, our Lin family is willing to swallow the pain and bear it silently."

"Grandpa... you..." I was shocked. Originally, what I most feared was Grandpa learning of this.

And opposing Yu Longting and me because of the grudges of the previous generation.

Who would have thought that someone as proud as him would actually choose to silently endure the suffering.

Lin Huan glanced at me and let out a long breath, "His Majesty the Dragon Emperor gave our ancestors a new lease on life; that's why we agreed to care for Qing Li for generations. The bond between us was as close as fish and water. The events from the Republic of China, including Lin Gang's defilement... of Qing Li, were our mistakes. We only hope His Majesty the Dragon Emperor acknowledges the hardships the Lin family has endured over the years... and forgives us..."

"Grandpa, speaking of which, His Majesty the Dragon Emperor compelling the Lin family to take care of Qing Li, while Qing Li continually reincarnates, actually has a deeper reason. It's because Qing Li... merged with the Demon Cave, for the salvation of the world." My throat felt somewhat bitter. Looking at the room filled with Buddha statues and scriptures, it seemed clear why the Dragon Emperor went on a rampage against the Lin family back then.

Qing Li's reincarnation staying in the attic was for purifying Demonic Qi, and once we ceased seeking her reincarnation.

No one knew what harm she would suffer if the Demonic Qi lingered within her and couldn't be purified!

My heart felt very heavy; it was hard to imagine what the Lin family would face if Dragon Dad directed his wrath towards us again. I could only hope for his graciousness, praying such a disaster wouldn't happen,

Speaking softly, "And when you were young, bitten by a snake, it was Dragon Dad who, in the guise of a monk, chanted to detoxify you."

Dragon Dad was once so kind, so kind. If one day he stirs up storms against the Lin family for Qing Li, as a part of the Lin family,

I truly don't know what the future holds with Yu Longting...

"That monk... was..."

Lin Huan was startled, then his expression softened, "It seems there is a destined fate guiding us, Wanwan, keep the Jade Hairpin safe and serve Qing Li well."

"Don't worry, Grandpa, even without your words, I would do the same." I tried to cast aside the heaviness in my heart, shrugging my shoulders to ease my mindset, gazing earnestly into Grandpa's eyes, "Qing Li is Yu Longting's mother; no matter how she feels about me, I must, must make her like me. I really want to give Yu Longting a happy, fulfilling home."

"Then Grandpa will give you a tip; when Longting comes out after chatting for a while, bring Dumpling in and let Qing Li hug him, better yet, let her take care of him."

Chapter 979: Where's the Old Man's Prescription?

The usually stern and old-fashioned grandpa, Lin Huan, surprisingly gave me advice on how to win over my future mother-in-law.

I was surprised and a little reluctant, "But Dumpling just got born. How can he be without me? I still need to breastfeed him."

"You can come to the attic to feed him on schedule. Are you afraid of the hassle? Don't you want a happy family?" Lin Huan's soul-piercing question made me suddenly have a moment of enlightenment, as if my soul had been elevated.

They say grandparents are always fonder of the next generation!

With such a cute little grandson like Dumpling as an ace, the influence on Qing Li is bound to be multiplied!

I jumped over and gave Lin Huan a big hug, "Grandpa, you're so smart!! Muah!"

"You little rascal!" Lin Huan was caught between laughter and tears by my antics.

*

In front of the attic door.

I patted Dumpling's little head, "Little Dumpling, the heavy responsibility of maintaining our family harmony is in your hands now!"

"Ah!" Dumpling nodded with an air of understanding.

"Been standing here waiting for me? Aren't your legs tired? Where's Grandpa?" Yu Longting came out of the attic, reaching out to hold Dumpling.

I twisted my body, not letting him get to Dumpling, "I'm not tired, you're not allowed to take my Dumpling. Grandpa went to work on something, did you finish chatting with... mother-in-law?"

"Mother-in-law~" Yu Longting chewed over these words, then saw right through me, "Wife, something's off with you. Suddenly not letting me hold Dumpling—are you using him to bribe Qing Li?"

"What Qing Li, that's our mom." I shamelessly retorted to Yu Longting.

As the saying goes, as long as you have thick skin, you can grind an iron rod into a needle!

Yu Longting let out a clear and refreshing laugh, put his arm around my waist, and headed back into the attic, "Be careful of your warm face being met with cold unfriendliness, and working in vain to be the good person."

"Su Wan, what are you whispering to my son, stirring things up between me and him?" Unluckily, Qing Li happened to overhear what Yu Longting said, and her cold gaze, full of anger, was directed at me.

Yu Longting smiled, spreading his hands.

With a look that said he had already warned me.

I really wanted to give Yu Longting a good punch—not only is he not helping, he's causing more trouble!

Damn it~

What use are men, if all they do is create chaos.

"Um... Dumpling was born, I thought I'd bring him over to show you." I cautiously moved closer to Qing Li.

Qing Li sneered disdainfully, "I don't even acknowledge my own son, why would I acknowledge his son?"

"Little Dumpling, this is grandma." I patted Dumpling's baby hair, teaching him.

Dumpling cooperatively reached out his little chubby hand towards Qing Li, babbling non-stop.

The frost on Qing Li's face deepened instead.

She stared dazedly at Dumpling's little hand and his not yet fully developed little face, "This little thing..."

"Ah?" I feigned ignorance, but I knew in my heart that Qing Li, just like Yu Rongling, judged a baby by appearance at first glance.

Qing Li must have gone through several reincarnations as a human—her emotional intelligence must be higher than Yu Rongling's.

No matter how much she clashes with me, she wouldn't take it out on Dumpling.

Qing Li awkwardly asked, "Why is he... like this (not good looking)? Is he sick?"

"When I was pregnant, I had a difficult labor, took medicine to alleviate it, and as a result, he was born very small." I lowered my head, saying with a sigh, "It was because of the Vine Poison from last time, which made me eat a lot, hey?"

I hadn't finished speaking when Qing Li already grabbed Dumpling's little wrist, seemingly taking his pulse.

Qing Li took his pulse for a moment, her face as black as charcoal, "Ha, it must be that charlatan Qi Yaogang who prescribed the medicine for you."

"Yes, yes, mother-in-law, you truly are a divine doctor, just by taking a pulse, you know who treated me." Holding Dumpling with one arm, I raised my thumb with the other.

Qing Li's gaze on Dumpling turned incredibly gentle, "Have you breastfed him? Breastfeeding will help him recover faster."

"Not yet, Elder Qi gave a prescription, I drank it so it would be... convenient. But I haven't had time to drink it yet." I blushed slightly, feeling a bit too shy to talk about this.

Qing Li's elegant brows knitted into a frown, displeased, "Can his medicine be trusted? Don't end up harming my grandson, where's that old guy's prescription? Let me see!"

Chapter 980: Blackhearted Little Sweetheart?

"Yu Longting, your mother-in-law asked you to bring the prescription, could you give it to me~" I reached out both hands to Yu Longting.

Yu Longting looked into my eyes and took the neatly folded prescription from his sleeve, "Not even married yet, and already so affectionate?"

Calling her mother-in-law is affectionate? Then what should I say when you keep calling me "wife"?

I took the prescription from Yu Longting and handed it to Qing Li.

Qing Li pinched a corner with long fingers and glanced at it casually, "What is this writing?"

"Do you have any changes you want to make?" I glanced at the pen holder on the desk, found a pen that could write, and was about to hand it to Qing Li.

Qing Li's picky expression changed a bit, slightly raising her chin, "Do you want me to write it?"

"Uh, you say, I'll write? But I'm holding Dumpling." I said, troubled.

Qing Li looked more disgusted, "Holding a child, and you can't write? What's the use of my son marrying you?"

"Qing Li, you ought to..." stop!

Yu Longting's eyes flashed coldly, a warning.

I turned to look at him, trying to act cute to get Yu Longting to help me.

Yu Longting met my gaze, shrugged, and teased, "You asked for trouble yourself, if you cry from being bullied, don't blame me for being ruthless and tearing your face apart."

"Isn't it more like, 'if your wife cries from being bullied, she deserves it'? How did it become ruthless?" Qing Li's eyes reddened with anger, glaring at her eldest son.

Yu Longting brushed non-existent dust off himself and said nonchalantly, "You could have your husband come and side with you."

"..." Qing Li was so choked up her face turned green, if she weren't young she'd have been angered to high blood pressure, she took a breath to calm herself, "Su Wan, remove the willow branches, laurel, and lycium chinense, add codonopsis, astragalus, peony..."

I needed to hold Dumpling with one hand and bend down to write with the other.

My handwriting was already ugly, and now it was even more crooked, "Mother-in-law, say it slower, I can't keep up writing."

"Have Yu Longting hold your son for a while." Qing Li finally couldn't stand it anymore.

I looked at Yu Longting, sighed, "Well, it has to be this way."

Dumpling, Dumpling, you must behave yourself.

Be a well-behaved little steam bun, my future relationship with mother-in-law depends on you.

Even though he's not in my belly connected by the umbilical cord, he seems to hear my thoughts.

Turning away from Yu Longting, he reached his small hands out to Qing Li, "Hold!"

The childish voice was so cute it could make someone faint.

"Um, Dumpling seems to want you to hold him, hehe." I chuckled awkwardly at Qing Li.

Truly a little sweetheart, a genuinely heartfelt one!

So warm.

Yu Longting's face had already darkened, "Just this short while and he's tired of me, doesn't want me to hold him? Didn't they say a son is supposed to be his father's little sweetheart?"

"Hold!" Dumpling still ignored his hurt father, eagerly looking at Qing Li.

His father remarked, "Wanwan, did you give birth to a little black-hearted sweetheart for me?"

One second, two seconds, three seconds... passed.

My heart was pounding wildly, afraid Qing Li would really refuse him heartlessly~

Qing Li lowered her gaze, her face showing no emotion.

Their beautiful, glass-like eyes just gazed at Dumpling.

Just when I was feeling discouraged inside.

Qing Li finally extended hands as delicate as mutton fat jade, gently gathering Dumpling into her arms like holding a weightless cloud, "Are you called Dumpling? Is that your official name or just a nickname?"