

Doctor 851

Chapter 851: My Name is Alian

The little girl's cloth bag was bulging, stuffed with thick stacks of crisp hundred-yuan bills. Zheng Meng roughly estimated that there was almost one hundred and fifty thousand yuan.

For the wealthy, one hundred and fifty thousand is not a lot, but for a little girl of about ten years old, dressed in worn coarse clothing, it undoubtedly represented a huge sum of money.

"Little girl, tell uncle your name. Who gave you this money?"

Zheng Meng covetously eyed the wads of cash peeking out from the little girl's cloth bag. His eyes darted around as he squatted in front of the little girl with a smile and asked.

"My name is Shi Xiaolian, everyone in the village calls me Alian."

The little girl, Shi Xiaolian, was innocent and had no sense of wariness towards Zheng Meng. Tilting her head, she earnestly said, "A big brother gave this money to my grandpa. Not long ago, my grandpa passed away, so I took the money to find the big brother."

Upon hearing that, Zheng Meng was delighted to find out that the little girl named Alian indeed came from the countryside. He asked further, "What's your big brother's name? Where does he live?"

Little Alian replied, "The big brother said his name is Fang Bai, and he works at Yanjing Hospital."

A ten-year-old girl carrying more than one hundred thousand yuan all by herself, venturing to Yanjing thousands of miles away, was in danger of being deceived and losing her money along the way. Rather than letting others benefit from it, why not take the money for himself?

Thinking this, Zheng Meng rubbed his hands together and chuckled slyly, "Ah, little friend, Yanjing is a long way from here, and there are many bad people on the road. What would you do if a bad person tried to take your money? How about this, uncle is a good person, you can give the money to uncle for safekeeping, and then uncle will take you to Yanjing to find your big brother, okay?"

To make Alian trust him, Zheng Meng tried to squeeze out what he thought was a benevolent smile, but with his naturally fierce appearance, the smile looked worse than a cry.

Alian shook her head and said, "Alian is not afraid of bad people! If a bad person tries to take my money, I'll beat them away!"

A flash of viciousness passed through Zheng Meng's eyes as he sneered internally. He thought to himself that this little girl with her thin arms and legs could be blown away by a mere breeze. How could she talk so big? If I can't sweet-talk the money from you, I'll just take it by force. After all, you're just a kid from out of town; even if your money is stolen, no one will respond to your cries for help.

Zheng Meng persisted, trying to deceive her a few more times, but Alian insisted on finding her big brother by herself and was unwilling to hand over the money. Zheng Meng's patience finally ran out, and he resorted to his baser instincts, waving his hand and saying, "Alright, go and pick out whatever you'd like to buy!"

Alian wandered around the convenience store, picked up a few pieces of bread and some drinks, paid at the cashier, then politely said goodbye to Zheng Meng, and left.

No sooner had she left than Zheng Meng changed his jacket, locked the convenience store's door, and followed her from a distance.

Alian walked and ate the bread she had bought, then drank a few sips of her beverage. Feeling somewhat full, a small smile then appeared on her face.

"I'll rest here for the night and take the bus to Yanjing to find my big brother tomorrow..."

Seeing a large square ahead, Alian walked over and sat down cross-legged on one of the benches, casually placing the old cloth bag beside her.

Zheng Meng tiptoed to a tree not far behind her, quickly donned a hat and a large mask, then dashed towards Alian. He reached out for the old cloth bag beside her.

He thought it would be an easy grab, but when he reached out, he caught nothing but air. Looking closely, he saw the old cloth bag was already in Alian's hand, and Alian, who had been sitting, was now standing on the ground.

"Uncle, what are you trying to do?"

Alian's large eyes looked at Zheng Meng, her expression now mixed with a hint of wariness.

Clearly, even though Zheng Meng wore a hat and a mask as a simple disguise, he was still recognized by Alian.

Zheng Meng had intended to snatch the money and run, aiming for a clean escape unnoticed, but, having failed to get the money and having his identity exposed by Alian, he flew into a rage, dropped the act, and took a step closer to Alian. He stretched out his hand and threatened fiercely, "Give me all your money, or I'll make you wish you were dead!"

He towered over Alian by several heads, looking down at her with a menacing demeanor. Any ordinary little girl would have been scared to tears by now, but Alian showed no fear. Instead, she retorted angrily, "Uncle is trying to steal my money, so you are a bad man!"

"Stop the nonsense and hand over the money!"

Wanting to avoid any complications that could arise from drawing attention, Zheng Meng steeled himself and charged at Alian, determined to take the money by force.

He reached her side, his left hand reaching for Alian's shoulder and his right hand for the old cloth bag in her hands, believing that she couldn't escape his grasp now, but in a blur, Alian's slight figure moved with unbelievable speed to his back.

"If you try to steal my money again, I'm going to hit you!"

Clutching the cloth bag in her left hand, Alian swung her right fist around and warned in a slightly childish voice.

"Little girl, you've got some nerve! Believe it or not, I'll throw you into the lake!"

Seeing Alian now threatened him in return, Zheng Meng let out a laugh instead of getting angry. He pointed to a nearby sparkling lake and said sternly.

Alian snorted, "I'm not afraid at all!"

Zheng Meng was about to charge at her again when suddenly he was enveloped in darkness, as if something had blocked the moonlight.

He looked up and saw a shadow drop from the sky, landing beside him.

"Who?"

Zheng Meng jumped in surprise, turning to look at the shadow.

Alian's gaze also fell on the shadow, and her vision being much sharper than Zheng Meng's, she immediately recognized the figure—it was a creature covered in long green hair, with large eyes that popped wide open, betraying a trace of fear.

After landing, the shadow reached out and grabbed the stunned Zheng Meng, then bit into his neck.

"Ah... Help..."

Zheng Meng felt a sharp pain in his neck, followed by the sensation of blood rapidly draining from his body. He screamed in terror, a shrill and pitiful cry.

His screaming lasted only a moment before suddenly cutting off. His body twitched a few times, his head lolled, and he fell silent.

Although young, Alian already possessed considerable Martial Arts skills. She wasn't afraid of a bad man like Zheng Meng, but confronted by an unfamiliar green-haired monster, she was petrified.

Seeing the monster bite Zheng Meng dead and then leap towards her, Alian was panic-stricken. She turned and ran, using all her movement technique to flee, shouting behind her, "Don't... don't chase me..."

She was fast, but the monster was several times faster and was about to catch up to her in the blink of an eye.

Chapter 852: The Green Zombie Appears

"Big brother, where are you? Alian is about to die! Please come and save Alian!"

As Alian fled in terror, she felt a foul and filthy aura bearing down on her. A sharp pain grazed her back as if sliced by a blade, knowing that the monster that bit people was about to catch up to her. She couldn't help but feel a deep sense of despair; the face of the older brother who had helped her before flashed before her eyes.

Just as the green-haired monster was less than ten feet away from Alian, four figures rapidly approached from afar, appearing directly in front of her.

These four were none other than the core members of the "Dragon Guard" led by Long Da. They had been assigned to watch and track within this region. When they had detected the presence of a Green Zombie, they followed its trail and found it pursuing Alian.

The moment they saw Alian, a girl of around ten with surprisingly adept movement techniques, a look of surprise flashed across the eyes of Long Da and the others.

However, seeing that Alian was in imminent danger and would likely be captured by the Green Zombie if they didn't intervene immediately, Long Da and the others shouted and hastened their pace to rush forward. They positioned themselves between the Green Zombie and Alian, protecting her from the impending threat.

"Kill!"

Long Da and two other Dragon Guard members surrounded the Green Zombie, launching an attack.

Another Dragon Guard member took out a communication device and immediately signaled the other teams to come and join forces in encircling the Green Zombie, then joined the battle himself.

Long Da and his companions were seeing a Green Zombie, a creature of legend, for the first time. At first glance, it looked like a green-haired ape, but upon closer inspection, its eyes glimmered with a ghastly green light, its mouth was adorned with two long fangs, and its nails were black and sharp. There was no sign of life in it, and its appearance was extremely frightening.

Although the Green Zombie was terrifying, Long Da and his companions had gone through many life-or-death experiences. Not only were they courageous, but also resolute, showing no fear towards the Green Zombie.

Previously, Fang Bai had warned them that, although the Green Zombie's strength was only equivalent to that of a Profound Level Martial Artist, it was a very tough opponent in combat. Even an Earth Level Martial Artist would struggle to withstand its power. Therefore, Long Da and the others dared not take it lightly and went all out in their assault.

"Instructor Fang said to be careful not to get scratched by this green-haired monster, or else you'll be infected with its corpse poison, and things could get fatal!"

As they assaulted the Green Zombie, Long Da didn't forget to loudly remind his three teammates.

Their attacks on the Green Zombie weren't aimed at killing it but restraining it, preventing it from escaping until other teams could arrive to support them.

Fang Bai also told Long Da and his team that if they encountered a Green Zombie and couldn't contain it, they should prioritize their own safety and retreat if necessary.

Fang Bai had spoken of the Green Zombie's formidable defensive abilities, and now that Long Da and his companions witnessed it firsthand, they knew Fang Bai's words were true.

Though the Green Zombie's movement technique was somewhat clumsy, its body was harder than rock, and it felt no pain. When Long Da and the others' Essence Energy infused punches and kicks landed on it, its body merely swayed, showing no signs of injury. Then it lashed out with a ferocious counterattack.

The long, black nails on the Green Zombie's hands were like hawk's talons. As they swept through the night sky, they left behind a trail of dark glint, accompanied by a sharp sound of tearing air, displaying astonishing might. Trees it touched would split and collapse with a crash, and fake mountains and stones would be left with deep gouges.

Long Da and his fellow members were secretly alarmed, realizing that if their flesh were ever grazed by the Green Zombie's nails, they would undoubtedly be torn asunder and injured severely.

However, that wasn't the most terrifying aspect. The real horror was that once someone's skin was cut, the corpse poison from the Green Zombie would seep into the bloodstream and spread throughout the body, which would ensure a gruesome death.

So while Long Da and the others fought the Green Zombie, they also remained vigilant to protect themselves from harm.

Boom—

The Green Zombie was struck in the chest by a powerful punch from Long Da, staggering back two steps, and seemed to have its ferocity triggered. Its eyes flashed with a green light and then it fiercely lunged at Long Da, its attack even more ferocious than before.

Fed by the Heaven and Earth Origin Energy, the Green Zombie had developed a semblance of intelligence. It knew that among the four people attacking it, Long Da was the strongest. So it decided to take the attacks of the other three with its body while focusing its offensive on Long Da alone, as if planning to take him down first.

"This green-haired monster is incredible! Peach Wood Sword!"

Under the ferocious attack of the Green Zombie, Long Da was flustered and overwhelmed. To make matters worse, the attacks from his three companions couldn't restrain the Green Zombie. Out of

desperation, he remembered the Peach Wood Sword he carried on him and immediately drew it from his body, holding it in his hand.

Peach wood is a material for warding off evil and calming filth. With the Peach Wood Sword drawn, the Green Zombie indeed showed signs of fear, and its assault momentarily faltered.

"Haha, this green-haired creature actually fears the Peach Wood Sword!"

Elated beyond measure, Long Da recalled what Fang Bai had told him, that piercing a zombie's heart with a Peach Wood Sword could kill it. Clutching the sword tightly, he counterattacked, aiming every thrust at the Green Zombie's heart.

But in his excitement, he forgot another piece of advice from Fang Bai: if one's strength was not enough to defeat a Green Zombie, then the Peach Wood Sword should only be used defensively for personal protection. One shouldn't attack rashly, because if the sword broke, it would lose its deterrent effect on zombies.

"Die!"

In his moment of excitement, Long Da thrust fiercely at the heart of the Green Zombie. However, before he could even rejoice, he heard a "snap" as the Peach Wood Sword, imbued with his Essence Energy, didn't pierce the Green Zombie's heart—instead, it broke into several pieces in an instant, falling to the ground.

"Not good!"

The moment the Peach Wood Sword broke, Long Da suddenly remembered Fang Bai's warning. Horrified, he immediately dropped the sword and retreated backward with a movement technique.

The Green Zombie had apparently anticipated that Long Da would react this way. In the moment he was stupefied by the broken sword, the creature reached out its hands, which bore long black nails, and grabbed Long Da's shoulders, the nails piercing deep into his flesh.

"Beast! I'll fight you to the end!"

Long Da, wounded by the Green Zombie, thought he was doomed and, in a fit of unwillingness, let out an angry roar. He gathered all his strength and threw punches directly at the chest of the Green Zombie, sending it stumbling back a few steps.

As the Green Zombie's body was forced back, its nails dislodged from Long Da's shoulders, and streaks of fresh blood immediately gushed from the wounds.

"Long Da!"

Seeing Long Da injured, the other three members of the Dragon Guard were shocked. They almost simultaneously rushed to his front, each holding a Peach Wood Sword, and protected Long Da behind them.

"Don't attack, wait for Instructor Fang and the others to arrive!"

After Long Da said these words, he felt a wave of dizziness in his head and thought that the corpse poison was acting very fast. Perhaps in no time, he would end up just like the victims of the serial murders in the morgue of Anxi Hospital, rotting and dying from the poison?

Instructor Fang had incredible skills and exquisite medical knowledge. Long Da wondered if he might be able to save him?

Holding onto a glimmer of hope, Long Da thought to himself.

Chapter 853: Hidden Spirit Root

Under the bright moonlight, dozens of figures dashed through the air like electricity, swiftly converging from all directions of Anxi City towards where Long Da and the others were located.

These dozens of people were members of the "Dragon Guard," who had been concealed in every corner of Anxi City following Fang Bai's orders. Upon receiving the signal from Long Da's team, they rushed to the location without delay.

Meanwhile, at the same time, Fang Bai, who was strolling hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder with Tang Wenrou down a street in Anxi City, also sensed something, his eyes gleaming. He grabbed Tang Wenrou's hand and with all his might, displayed his movement technique to rush toward the location of Long Da and the others.

Fang Bai was aware of the ferocity of the Green Zombie and was worried that Long Da and the others would be unable to withstand it; therefore, he also gave his all, striving to arrive at the scene as quickly as possible to exterminate the Green Zombie.

Although his cultivation level was only that of a high-rank Heaven Level, his actual combat strength had already surpassed that of a Heaven Level expert. With his full effort in running, every step he took could propel him more than ten meters forward. He was practically flying, so fast that not even a shadow could be seen in the dark night.

And Tang Wenrou, whose hand was being held by Fang Bai and who was being pulled along with him, could only feel her clothes fluttering noisily and her hair flying wildly in the wind. The whistle in her ears was so loud that, not to mention distinguishing the surrounding scenery was impossible, she could barely even open her eyes.

This was the first time Tang Wenrou had witnessed Fang Bai's true strength. She realized that he was unbelievably powerful, which awed her immensely in that moment.

Of all the groups, their location had been the farthest from where Long Da and the others were, but they were the first to arrive on the scene.

"That little girl... Isn't she Alian from Shigong Village? How could she be here?"

Upon arriving at the scene, Fang Bai's gaze immediately fell on Alian, who seemed petrified by the Green Zombie. He was taken aback and then showed a look of surprise, thinking to himself, "Strange, when I met Alian, she wasn't an Innate Spiritual Root. How has she become an Innate Golden Spirit Root now? Could it be that she has a Hidden Spirit Root by nature and has had some adventure that activated it?"

The so-called "Hidden Spirit Root" refers to someone who, although born with an Innate Spiritual Root, has it in a dormant state, effectively rendering it useless for cultivation. This is as frustrating as owning immense wealth that one cannot access.

Of course, if a person with a Hidden Spirit Root could find some miraculous pill or receive help from an expert willing to assist, there was still hope that the Hidden Spirit Root could be activated, allowing them to shine on the path of Martial Dao.

On the contrary, if the Hidden Spirit Root remained dormant, then it was unlikely for that person to achieve any significant success in their lifetime.

When Fang Bai first encountered Alian in Shigong Village, he had not closely examined her potential, so he was unaware of her Hidden Spirit Root, otherwise he might have found a way to activate it for her.

However, Fang Bai saw that Alian's talents were much better than those of ordinary people, so when he left Shigong Village, he taught her a set of Martial Arts Techniques, leaving her to comprehend them on her own to see if she had the fate to embark on the Martial Dao.

To Fang Bai's great surprise, the Alian he saw now emanated faint ripples of Essence Energy and had become a Yellow Level Martial Artist, with her Hidden Spirit Root also activated.

Clearly, something fortunate must have happened to Alian after Fang Bai had left Shigong Village.

If the convenience store owner, Zheng Meng, who had been killed by the Green Zombie, knew that Alian was a Martial Artist, he definitely would not have conceived the idea to take the more than one hundred thousand yuan from her.

At this moment, Long Da and the others, wielding Peach Wood Swords, were confronting the Green Zombie.

The Green Zombie was somewhat wary of the Peach Wood Swords in the hands of Long Da and his group and dared not launch an attack; whereas Long Da and the others were also cautious of the Green Zombie's ferocity and did not take the offensive, simply surrounding it tightly.

"Big Brother!"

When Fang Bai arrived at the scene with Tang Wenrou, Alian, who had practiced the Martial Arts Techniques taught by Fang Bai, immediately sensed his presence. She turned her head and saw the Big Brother she had been longing to find in Yanjing. Overwhelmed with joy, she burst into tears and ran toward Fang Bai.

Alian's only family in this world was her grandfather. After he had met with a tragic accident and passed away, Alian, orphaned and alone, remembered the kindness Fang Bai had once shown her. The thought to seek him out surfaced in her mind.

Alian recalled that before Fang Bai left Shigong Village, he had mentioned working at Yanjing Hospital. So, after the villagers of Shigong Village helped her bury her grandfather, Alian, carrying the money Fang Bai had left for her and her grandfather, set out on her journey to find him, alone.

Having just arrived at Anxi Bus Station, Alian wanted to buy some food and drink and rest for the night before taking the bus to Yanjing the next day. Little did she expect to encounter Zheng Meng, the convenience store owner who was after her money, nor did she anticipate an attack by a Green Zombie.

If Long Da and the others hadn't arrived in time, Alian might have ended up like the convenience store owner Zheng Meng, another lost soul under the Green Zombie's claws.

Seeing that the Green Zombie was trapped and unable to escape, Fang Bai was in no rush to deal with it. Instead, he welcomed Alian, who was rushing into his arms.

Although Fang Bai had spent only a short time in Shigong Village, he had carefully taught Alian Martial Arts Techniques and left her and her grandfather a substantial sum of money, which touched them deeply.

Alian's grandfather had always told her to be grateful and to repay Fang Bai's kindness when she made something of herself. At that time, aside from her grandfather, Fang Bai had become another kin in Alian's heart.

So, upon seeing Fang Bai, Alian felt as though she had seen a family member. She threw herself into Fang Bai's arms, tightly wrapping her arms around his waist, and began to sob softly, as though she had infinite grievances in her heart.

"Alian, how did you get here? Where's your grandfather?"

Fang Bai gently stroked Alian's hair, seeing her cry so sadly and knowing she had come here all by herself, he guessed something might have happened to her grandfather.

"Grandfather is dead... Wuuwuu..."

Alian's crying grew louder when Fang Bai mentioned her grandfather.

Fang Bai frowned and said, "Wasn't your grandfather in good health? How could he have died?"

When Fang Bai had arrived at Shigong Village, out of a belief in fate from a chance encounter, he had helped adjust Shi Dashan's health. Barring any accidents, Shi Dashan should have lived for decades more without any issues. Yet, to Fang Bai's surprise, Shi Dashan had died in less than half a year.

Alian, sniffing, said, "When grandfather and Alian were herding sheep, we found a golden flower with seven leaves on the hillside. Grandfather saw that Alian liked it, so he climbed up to pick it. But then... then he was attacked by a snake while picking the golden flower and rolled down the hillside with it. He hit his head on a rock, bled a lot, and died on the spot... Wuuwuu..."

By this point, Alian was sobbing uncontrollably.

"Seven leaves... golden flower... I see, it must be the Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus..."

Listening to Alian, Fang Bai had a thought. The plant that Alian's grandfather was trying to pick must have been the main ingredient for refining Golden Essence Pills, the Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus, and it must have also been the Lotus that triggered the awakening of the Hidden Spirit Root within Alian.

Chapter 854: Battle the Green Zombie

The Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus made Alian successful, but it cost her grandfather his life; whether this was fate, no one could tell.

Fang Bai felt a pang of ruefulness in his heart.

After crying for a while, Alian might have felt that crying in her big brother's arms was not proper, so she wiped away her tears, straightened up, and continued, "Then that giant snake slithered down the hillside, trying to snatch the golden flower Grandpa had picked. Alian hated the snake for harming Grandpa, so I ate the golden flower in one gulp, not letting the snake have it..."

"After eating the golden flower, Alian suddenly felt boundless strength throughout my body, so I used the martial arts that big brother taught me to fight the giant snake, and I ended up killing it. After killing the snake, I carried Grandpa's body back to Shigong Village, and with the villagers' help, we buried Grandpa. Then I set out to find big brother..."

Listening to Alian's story, Fang Bai couldn't help but feel fortunate for her.

It was lucky that Alian had eaten the Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus in a single breath, which triggered the awakening of her body's Hidden Golden Spiritual Root, leading to a massive increase in power and enabling her to kill the giant snake guarding the Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus; otherwise, her fate would have likely been grim.

Fang Bai guessed that the Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus that Alian had consumed must have been of a high tier; otherwise, it would not only have been difficult to awaken Alian's Hidden Spiritual Root but also tough to help her make considerable strides to reach the Yellow Level Realm, becoming a member of the Martial Artists.

And now, Alian's strength had already reached Yellow Level Perfection, just one step away from becoming a Profound Level Martial Artist, a change that must have been greatly influenced by the Seven-Leaf Golden Lotus.

A ten-year-old girl reaching Yellow Level Perfection—if this news got out, who knows how many in the Ancient Martial World would be ashamed to the point of spitting blood.

"Big brother, Alian doesn't have Grandpa anymore, so let me follow you! I can sweep the floor, cook, wash clothes... I will be very good and obedient..."

Alian, blinking her large tear-filled eyes, looked up at Fang Bai with a pitiful plea.

Before Fang Bai could respond, Tang Wenrou, who was by his side, overwhelmed with compassion, said, "Little sister, if your big brother won't take you in, how about you come home with big sister, okay?"

Alian glanced at Tang Wenrou, then shook her head, "Thank you, big sister, I... I still want to be with big brother..."

Seeing her resolve, Tang Wenrou stopped persuading her, sighed deeply, and said somewhat resentfully to Fang Bai, "You really have a way with women, not only do you have so many female friends by your side, but even a little girl wants to follow you..."

Fang Bai smiled and said to Alian, "Alian, from now on, you're with big brother, we're family now!"

Alian was smart, cute, well-behaved, and understanding. Bringing her back home to Zhongzhou, where his parents, who always loved children, would definitely adore her.

Hearing Fang Bai agree to take her in, Alian's tears turned into a smile; she took off the old cloth bag she carried and handed it to Fang Bai, "Big brother, this is the money you gave me and Grandpa before. I don't need it now, you can have it back!"

Fang Bai took the old cloth bag, then put it back on Alian, saying with a smile, "Big brother has more money than he can spend, keep this money for yourself, Alian! When it runs out, big brother will give you more!"

Alian replied, "But carrying money around, bad people will rob you, just now someone tried to rob my money..."

"Alian is a skilled martial artist now, that bad person who tried to rob you must have ended up getting the short end of the stick, right?" Fang Bai asked with a smile.

Alian, being a Yellow Level Martial Artist, was more than capable of dealing with ordinary people, and since she was standing here safe and sound, with all her money intact, that would-be robber must have met with misfortune.

Alian pointed towards the Green Zombie and said, "That bad man was bitten to death by a monster! It's right over there by the small lake!"

"Another one dead... If this Green Zombie isn't dealt with, who knows how many more will die!"

Fang Bai murmured to himself, although he thought the villain who stole Alian's money deserved to die, many of the previous victims were innocently harmed. Only by getting rid of the Green Zombie could he restore peace to the people of Anxi.

"Wen Rou, watch Alian for me, I'll deal with the Green Zombie!"

Fang Bai handed Alian over to Tang Wenrou, pointed his toes on the ground, leveraged his body to leap into the air, and pounced toward the Green Zombie.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

In mid-air, Fang Bai kicked out three times in quick succession, his feet, infused with a great amount of Essence Energy, heavily striking the Green Zombie,

With Fang Bai's current strength, a light kick could shatter a huge rock, yet his almost full-force three kicks only sent the Green Zombie flying several meters away, creating three dents in its body, but the Green Zombie seemed completely unaffected, showing no sign of injury.

Upon seeing Fang Bai make his move, Long Da and the others drew back and, along with several other arriving groups of "Dragon Guard" members, formed a large encirclement, leaving the Green Zombie with no chance of escape unless it could sprout wings.

Perhaps angered by Fang Bai's consecutive kicks, the Green Zombie also became enraged, baring its long fangs, its eyes full of bloodthirst, and began attacking Fang Bai with astonishing combat power.

If it were a Profound Level Martial Artist, Fang Bai could easily kill him with a flick of his fingers, but the Green Zombie was different; Fang Bai's several full-strength strikes had little effect.

"You green-haired monster, just die!"

Seeing that he could not take down the Green Zombie with bare hands, Fang Bai stretched out his right hand into the air, the Space Ring flickered slightly, and a Peach Wood Sword appeared in his hand.

With the Peach Wood Sword in hand, Fang Bai's spirit soared, he pointed the sword blade forward and stabbed at the Green Zombie's heart.

The only weak point of the Green Zombie was its heart, and once pierced by the Peach Wood Sword, it would be seriously injured. Also, this particular Green Zombie had some intelligence due to its cultivation evolution to the current realm, so how could it allow Fang Bai to succeed?

Seeing Fang Bai's Peach Wood Sword stab toward it, the Green Zombie swung its right arm and slapped hard at the sword, trying to deflect the Peach Wood Sword that Fang Bai was thrusting.

"I know you're strong, but you're unlucky to have met me!"

Fang Bai snorted coldly, in his eyes, the Green Zombie's counterattack was both slow and unthreatening, knowing this was because his own realm was much higher than that of these monsters.

With a flick of his wrist, Fang Bai avoided the Green Zombie's palm that was slapping toward the Peach Wood Sword, shifted his body slightly, moved behind the Green Zombie, and silently thrust the sword forward, stabbing it in the back where the Green Zombie couldn't dodge in time.

The Green Zombie's body was as hard as steel, and the Peach Wood Sword was very easy to break. After hitting the Green Zombie's back, the tip of the sword suddenly met resistance, causing the sword's momentum to falter.

"Go in!"

Fang Bai's eyes widened, he infused the Peach Wood Sword with True Yuan, and his sword-holding hand suddenly exerted force, and that fragile Peach Wood Sword actually pierced into the Green Zombie's body.

The moment the Peach Wood Sword entered its body, the Green Zombie felt a lethal threat and twisted its body forcefully.

Chapter 855: Expelling Poison

Thump—

With a sudden twist of its body, the Green Zombie made the Peach Wood Sword that Fang Bai had stabbed into its back emit a light sound, breaking it in half unexpectedly.

What disappointed Fang Bai was that although the Peach Wood Sword penetrated the Green Zombie, it hadn't pierced its heart; hence, it couldn't cause substantial damage.

However, this sword strike, while not fatal, made the Green Zombie realize that it couldn't match Fang Bai's strength and thus began to retreat.

Boom—

The Green Zombie stomped forcefully on the ground, propelling itself into the air, and leaped high in a parabolic trajectory, clearing over four or five meters above the heads of Long Da and the others before landing ten-odd meters away.

No sooner had it landed than it leapt up again, repeating this several times. In the blink of an eye, it was a hundred meters away, so fast that even Fang Bai marveled at its speed.

Long Da and the others watched the Green Zombie flee in the blink of an eye, astonished by its incredible speed, and stood there, gaping.

Fang Bai was about to use his movement technique to chase the Green Zombie when he suddenly noticed something wrong with Long Da's complexion; glancing at the wound on Long Da's shoulder, his expression turned grave, and he said in a deep voice, "Long Da, are you injured?"

"Instructor Fang, I was scratched by that zombie... scratched..."

Long Da didn't finish his sentence; his body swayed, and he collapsed to the ground, limp.

He had just been wounded by the Green Zombie, and the zombie poison had infiltrated his blood. He had been persevering due to his strong will, but seeing Fang Bai come over, he felt a surge of hope for life, and his body relaxed. Consequently, his head spun more intensely, his eyes rolled, and he fell unconscious.

"Long Da!"

Long Er and the others, who were as close as brothers to Long Da, exclaimed in shock, crowding around to check on him.

"Long Da has been poisoned by the zombie. If we don't expel the poison promptly, he will end up like those victims in the Anxi Hospital morgue..."

Fang Bai walked to Long Da's side, checked his injuries, took a deep breath, and said, "Saving him is urgent. I will expel the poison from Long Da right now. As for the Green Zombie... once Long Da is cured, I'll go and finish it off!"

The Peach Wood Sword broken inside the Green Zombie carried a trace of Fang Bai's essence; later on, following this trace, Fang Bai could quickly find the Green Zombie.

In the brief confrontation with the Green Zombie, Fang Bai had gauged the depth of this green-haired monster's abilities and was confident that with his myriad of methods, he had a great chance of killing the Green Zombie.

"Fang Bai, why don't you stay and treat Long Da, while I lead some people to keep chasing and killing the Green Zombie? You've wounded it with the Peach Wood Sword, and its combat power must have been greatly reduced. This is a good chance to finish it off!"

Tang Wenrou, though shocked at the Green Zombie's strength, felt some reluctance seeing it flee and thus volunteered to Fang Bai.

Long Er and the others nodded in agreement, clamoring to kill the Green Zombie and avenge Long Da.

Fang Bai shook his head, his attitude resolute, "No! Let's not even talk about whether you can catch up with the Green Zombie, even if you do, who among you can stop it if it decides to escape?"

Tang Wenrou and the others had no reply.

Aside from Fang Bai, there truly was no one else on-site capable of subduing that green-haired monster. Tang Wenrou, Long Er, and the others thought about their own strength, not exceeding that of Long Da, and now even Long Da had been injured by the Green Zombie. If they went to intercept, they would not only waste their Essence Energy and strength—which was a minor matter—but if they also got injured, it would be a loss greater than the gain.

Fang Bai said, "You all just stay here, sincerely help me by acting as protectors! Leave the Green Zombie to me; rest assured, I am confident in eradicating it!"

Seeing Fang Bai's full confidence, Tang Wenrou said no more.

The Green Zombie had escaped this time, but there would be another chance to extinguish it. However, if Long Da died, it would represent a significant loss to the Dragon Guard, which was something Fang Bai absolutely did not want to see. Therefore, Fang Bai did not bother about the fleeing Green Zombie and instead, without hesitation, stayed to save Long Da.

In fact, given the choice between "pursuing the Green Zombie" and "saving Long Da," Tang Wenrou would have chosen the latter as well.

"Wen Rou, take care of Alian for me first!"

Fang Bai said this and then swiftly carried the unconscious Long Da to the grass in a nearby park. He took out the Five Elements Acupuncture Set and began to drive the corpse poison out of Long Da.

The Green Zombie's corpse poison was several degrees stronger than the most toxic of poisons in the world. Ordinary people infected with corpse poison could not possibly survive, but fortunately, Long Da was an Earth Level Martial Artist with an extraordinary constitution. Moreover, after being infected with the corpse poison, he had timely sealed the acupoints around his heart to prevent the poison from quickly invading it through his bloodstream. Additionally, with Fang Bai, the Divine Doctor, going all out to cure him, Long Da eventually passed through the life-and-death crisis.

With the aid of Fang Bai's Five Elements Needles and the Chaos Origin Energy, continuously, foul-smelling and contaminated blood seeped out from Long Da's pores, dripping onto the ground. The tender grass that came in contact with the blood withered in an instant.

It was said that for a long time after, no plant could survive in that area of several yards around where the event had taken place, a testament to the potency of the corpse poison.

Tang Wenrou, holding Alian's little hand, along with Long Er and others, kept watch around the grassy area to prevent any passersby from disturbing Fang Bai as he rid Long Da of the poison.

Alian, watching from a distance as Fang Bai used the Five Elements Needles to rid Long Da of the poison, was full of admiration in her big eyes. She thought to herself that big brother was so amazing, and she made up her mind to take him as a role model, to study hard and strive to become someone as impressive as big brother when she grew up.

The corpse poison was unlike other toxins. Once infected, it was extremely difficult to remove. Fang Bai was busy from the middle of the night until dawn was about to break before he finally put away the silver needles, having completed the major task. However, he looked extremely exhausted, clearly indicating that expelling the poison had taken a great toll on his spirit and vitality.

Long Da soon came to and, upon learning that Fang Bai had saved his life, was immensely grateful.

The group returned to the Anxi Police Station, and Fang Bai had intended to book two adjacent rooms at a nearby hotel for a temporary stay for himself and Alian. However, Tang Wenrou mentioned that there happened to be an empty villa belonging to the Tang Family in the downtown area and offered it for Fang Bai and Alian to stay in for a few days.

Fang Bai was not pretentious and, along with Alian, moved into the three-story villa. He then went out with Tang Wenrou and Alian for a stroll on the street, buying Alian several sets of clothes and shoes from head to toe, evoking both excitement and nervousness in Alian, who had never worn nice clothes or shoes before.

That day, Tang Wenrou's father, Tang Chongshan, and her mother, Liu Hongzhuang, arrived together. The couple's attitude towards Fang Bai could be described as extremely warm.

Especially Liu Hongzhuang, who looked at Fang Bai with eyes like a mother-in-law appraising a son-in-law, the more she looked, the more she liked what she saw.

Listening as her parents praised her endlessly in front of Fang Bai, Tang Wenrou understood they were "selling" her to Fang Bai to get a head start among his various female friends. She felt somewhat embarrassed and simply took Alian out to play to avoid any potential discomfort.

Chapter 856: If Love Lasts Forever

Despite the enthusiasm shown by the couple Tang Chongshan and Liu Hongzhuang, Fang Bai felt somewhat helpless but did not show any displeasure or impatience.

How could he, when he had fallen for their daughter Tang Wenrou?

As Tang Wenrou's parents, Tang Chongshan and Liu Hongzhuang's warmth towards their future son-in-law was only natural, and if Fang Bai allowed himself to become upset over this, not only would it displease the couple, but it would also hurt Tang Wenrou's feelings.

So, even if Tang Wenrou's parents opened a floodgate of what could only be described as "monkish nagging," Fang Bai just had to listen patiently.

"Dealing with your mom and dad is even tougher than driving away the poison for Long Da!"

Finally managing to see Tang Chongshan and his wife off, Fang Bai wiped the sweat beads forming on his forehead and said with a wry smile to Tang Wenrou.

Tang Wenrou snorted lightly and said, "You looked pretty happy talking to my mom and dad just now—it was all an act!"

Fang Bai hurriedly said, "It wasn't all an act. I really enjoyed chatting with my future in-laws."

Tang Wenrou's face flushed as she retorted, "Future in-laws... Stop talking nonsense!"

Fang Bai chuckled, glanced at Alian who was playing on the lawn nearby in her new clothes, and suddenly pulled Tang Wenrou into his arms, whispering in her ear, "Wenrou, what do you think about little Alian?"

It was the first time Tang Wenrou had been held like this by Fang Bai; her body stiffened as she felt Fang Bai's breath close up, the heat of his whispers warming her ear, sending a current through her body. She thought to break free from his embrace, but somehow her strength was gone.

"Alian, she's... sensible, obedient, clever, cute... I really like her! Why do you ask?"

Tang Wenrou, usually appearing cold, now snuggled against Fang Bai like a kitten, her cheeks flushed, her eyes shimmering, and her voice as gentle as a pond in autumn.

Fang Bai leaned in and softly pecked her burning cheek, chuckling lowly, "I was thinking... we should really try hard in the future to have a few children as lovely and clever as Alian..."

Tang Wenrou's body trembled slightly, watching Alian fluttering about the lawn like a butterfly, lost in thought.

"What, you don't like the idea?"

Seeing that Tang Wenrou did not respond for a long moment, Fang Bai asked softly.

Tang Wenrou sighed lightly, saying softly, "What about Linglong? And Chenyu? And Wumei? What about those other beauties you know? What will become of them?"

Fang Bai wanted to say "They are just like you," but he knew that this was not the Immortal Realm, and he was no longer the Invincible Immortal Emperor who once ruled there with a lifespan of tens of thousands of years, able to make Tang Wenrou accept other beauties in a short time.

For the other beauties too, most likely they shared the same thoughts as Tang Wenrou.

After all, no woman wants to share the man she loves with other women.

"I knew it, you can't let them go!"

Tang Wenrou's tone was laced with a tinge of melancholy as she gently broke away from Fang Bai's embrace and turned to face him, saying, "So... let's not talk about other things for now, maintaining our relationship like this is quite fine. Plus, you've said before, 'If love lasts for ages, it's not confined to daily meetings.' If we really live for thousands or tens of thousands of years or even longer, maybe then we'll find a solution..."

Fang Bai took a deep breath, nodded, and firmly said, "That would be good!"

If life were only a few decades short, Tang Wenrou, Su Linglong, Xia Chenyu, and the other women would definitely strive to be the only woman by Fang Bai's side, but if they and Fang Bai all had lifespans of millennia, perhaps their mentality would change, and they would no longer be troubled by the problem of 'being unable to accept sharing Fang Bai with other women.'

In the time that followed, Fang Bai temporarily entrusted Alian to Tang Wenrou, while he himself began searching for trace of Green Zombie around the outskirts of Anxi City.

Given Green Zombie's immense power, and having left a trace of his Essence Energy on it, finding it was much easier. To minimize unnecessary casualties, Fang Bai had Long Da and the others return to Yanjing.

The fact that Green Zombie had escaped previously did not mean it would not reappear. On the contrary, Fang Bai felt that Green Zombie might be at a critical stage of further evolution, otherwise it wouldn't have so frequently shown up to feed on blood.

If Green Zombie could not be eliminated in time and it evolved into the even more powerful Flurry Zombie, then getting rid of it would become doubly difficult.

Two conditions must be met to form a Green Zombie: first, the deceased must have been dead for hundreds of years; second, the burial ground must be located in a place rich in Essence Energy.

Accordingly, Fang Bai's investigation focussed primarily on several ancient burial grounds around Anxi City.

These ancient burial grounds, all located at the edge of mountainous regions, were said to be hundreds or even thousands of years old, and the entombed were either rich or noble ancients.

However, to Fang Bai's disappointment, he found nothing after visiting these ancient graveyards, so he expanded his search to include the nearby mountains.

"...Hundreds of years ago, there was a village in the northern mountains of Anxi City called Wei Family Village. The villagers there accidentally discovered several naturally formed caves halfway up a nearby mountain, one of which contained several coffins that had remained intact and uncorrupted for hundreds of years, as had the bodies within..."

"This news was brought back to Wei Family Village, and the villagers believed the mountain to be a feng shui treasure. Thus, many villagers chose to be buried there after their deaths... However, several decades ago, the only mountain path to that peak was completely blocked by a mudflow, and the villagers of Wei Family Village gradually moved away, never visiting that mountain again... Fang Bai, you might want to check it out..."

That evening, while chatting with Tang Wenrou, she handed Fang Bai a set of documents she had collected and casually shared some of the contents with him.

After taking the documents and reading them carefully, Fang Bai's brows relaxed, and he said with a smile, "Intact coffins, uncorrupted bodies, it must be the work of Essence Energy. Perhaps the Green Zombie we're looking for comes from there!"

"You... you're not going to Wei Family Village right now to search for the Green Zombie, are you?"

Tang Wenrou saw Fang Bai standing up as if to leave, and asked with a frown.

Fang Bai nodded and said, "Yes, I'm going right now! The sooner this matter is resolved, the better!"

Tang Wenrou glanced outside and said, "But it's already dark now..."

Fang Bai laughed and said, "To me, there's no difference between night and day. Besides, zombies usually move at night, so it's easier to find the Green Zombie now!"

Chapter 857: Raising a Zombie with Essence Stones

"Or... shall I go with you?"

Tang Wenrou was worried about Fang Bai venturing into the mountains alone and offered herself eagerly.

Fang Bai smiled, waved his hand, and said, "Let's not! If you come with me and we encounter a Green Zombie, not only would you be unable to help, but you would also distract me. Stay here and keep Alian company!"

After a pause, he added, "Just wait here with peace of mind! Maybe by tomorrow morning, I'll bring you some good news!"

"Then you must be careful!"

Tang Wenrou was aware of her own lack of strength and that she might hinder Fang Bai, so she reluctantly gave up the idea.

Fang Bai nodded, turned around, and strode away.

Upon leaving Anxi City, one had to travel dozens of miles north before entering the mountainous area, and Wei Family Village was deep within the mountains, dozens of miles further in.

The journey of nearly a hundred miles, more than half of which was through mountainous terrain, might take a common person a whole day to traverse, but for Fang Bai, it was a piece of cake.

Being night, he didn't have to worry about causing a stir, so once he left the urban area, he began to employ his movement technique and sped towards Wei Family Village. In about half an hour, he appeared before the village.

The villagers of Wei Family Village had collectively relocated out of the mountains decades ago, leaving only dilapidated, uninhabitable houses behind.

Fang Bai took a look around the vicinity of Wei Family Village, then cast his gaze towards a mountain peak to the northwest of the village.

That mountain peak, resembling a gigantic pine tree from a distance, was called "Pine Tree Peak" by the villagers and was the burial site for the villagers after they died.

Pine Tree Peak, less than ten miles from Wei Family Village and approximately two thousand meters in altitude, was the tallest among the surrounding peaks. It loomed in the night, exerting an invisible pressure.

"This Pine Tree Peak... could it be that there is an Essence Stone Mine inside the mountain?"

Even from such a distance, Fang Bai sensed a faint fluctuation of Essence Energy coming from the direction of Pine Tree Peak, making his heart leap with joy.

If an Essence Stone Mine truly existed within Pine Tree Peak, then it indeed was a rare treasure trove of geomancy, but such a treasure trove was meant for the living, not the dead.

Living people near Pine Tree Peak, nurtured by the Essence Energy, would be robust and enjoy longevity.

However, burying the dead there, if too close to the Essence Stone Mine within the mountain, could easily create zombies.

Though it was less than ten miles from Wei Family Village to Pine Tree Peak, the only mountain path had been blocked by a landslide, leaving no way through and causing ordinary people to merely sigh in despair.

With a leap, Fang Bai surged with agility, reaching the base of Pine Tree Peak in no time.

Upon reaching this area, the Essence Energy felt even more abundant, mainly constituted by the Wood Element Qi that could stimulate vitality.

"It seems that deep inside this Pine Tree Peak, there really is an Essence Stone Mine..."

Although the sky was dark, Fang Bai's vision was exceptional. Looking up, he saw a great number of low-grade Spiritual Medicines growing along the mountain. Such widespread growth would not be possible if there wasn't an Essence Stone Mine inside.

Fang Bai's Divine Sense Diffusion enveloped the entire mountain peak, and suddenly, there was a flash of sharpness in his eyes.

At the top of Pine Tree Peak, a green-haired monster stood there, facing the bright Mingyue, seemingly practicing breath control. On the body of the green-haired monster, there was a familiar aura left by Fang Bai.

Upon sensing that familiar aura, Fang Bai knew that the green-haired monster was indeed the Green Zombie that had fled after being stabbed by his Peach Wood Sword.

What surprised Fang Bai was that the Green Zombie actually knew how to meditate under the moon. It seemed to have gained a certain level of spirituality, using the essence of the moon for cultivation. If not eliminated promptly, it was very possible for it to evolve into a more advanced Flurry Zombie in a short amount of time.

Once the Green Zombie evolved into a Flurry Zombie, its strength would increase remarkably. Even though Fang Bai was confident he could still exterminate it, the difficulty would be many times greater.

"You might have escaped the first day, but don't think you can escape the fifteenth! Tonight, I will annihilate you!"

Thinking of the many innocent lives the Green Zombie had taken, a chilling glint crossed Fang Bai's eyes. He took a deep breath, and his figure suddenly shot up, like a cannonball, to a height of over ten meters, then he stomped his right foot against the mountainside and propelled himself another ten or so meters higher.

With repeated leaps, Fang Bai let out a clear whistle and in a moment, he landed on the summit of Pine Tree Peak, which only spanned several tens of meters in diameter.

The Green Zombie atop the peak, hearing Fang Bai's whistle, abruptly turned around, its eyes shimmering with a green light yet devoid of life, staring intently at Fang Bai.

Of course, zombies couldn't see anything; they could only distinguish their opponents by sensing their aura. After Fang Bai landed opposite the Green Zombie, it immediately knew that he was the one who had injured it days ago.

Clearly wary of Fang Bai, the Green Zombie, upon recognizing its opponent, turned and leapt down the mountain peak without hesitation.

"Where do you think you're going?"

Seeing the Green Zombie flee without even engaging in battle, Fang Bai was momentarily taken aback before he shouted out loud and, like Dapeng spreading its wings, followed by jumping down.

Halfway up Pine Tree Peak, there were over a hundred natural caves of various sizes and shapes. After the Green Zombie leaped to the mid-mountain, it darted into one of the caves and disappeared from sight.

"You think you can escape so easily?"

Fang Bai followed the Green Zombie into the cave and saw that it was an interconnected world inside, with over a hundred caves linked to each other. It was unclear if these connections were formed naturally or later carved out by the Green Zombie.

Some of the caves were quite deep, extending dozens of meters into the mountainside, and even some Essence Stones were exposed. Over time, almost all the Essence Energy in these exposed Essence Stones had dissipated.

Tracking the Green Zombie through the scent he had left on it, Fang Bai pursued it through the caves. Just as he was about to catch up, he suddenly heard a strange noise that seemed to come from the Green Zombie. Then, the coffins that were placed quietly around the cave started to shake on their own.

"These Essence Stones have nourished many zombies! And that Green Zombie is not simple at all; it can actually summon these zombies to do its bidding..."

As Fang Bai watched coffin lids being lifted one after another, lifeless zombies began jumping out and pouncing towards him, he knew these were all summoned by the Green Zombie. Even though he was brave and skilled, he couldn't help but feel a tingle on his scalp.

Fortunately, these zombies were mainly White Zombies and Black Zombies, whose attack power was probably equivalent to that of a Yellow Level Martial Artist from the Ancient Martial World. Although these zombies were weaker, their bodies were just as robust as the Green Zombie, making it challenging for Fang Bai to take them down with his bare hands.

At that moment, the Green Zombie stood at the entrance of a cave, "watching" Fang Bai trapped among the multitudes of zombies. It continued to make strange noises. With each sound it emitted, more zombies were summoned from their coffins, joining the zombie army besieging Fang Bai.

"You think these things are enough to trap me?"

Fang Bai's gaze pierced through the layers of surround Black and White Zombies, falling on the Green Zombie. With a sneer, he reached into the void with his right hand, and the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, flickering with bloody light and a stench of blood, was already tightly gripped in his hand.

Chapter 858: Flurry Zombie

With the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in hand, Fang Bai's entire demeanor transformed, the killing Qi instantly permeating the cave.

"Kill!"

Fang Bai roared as he swung the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade fiercely. Bloody blade lights detached from the blade, slashing out towards all directions in the space around him.

The third move of the Mad Blade, Soul Severing!

The Blood-Drinking Mad Blade had three styles: Bloodthirst, Soul Severing, and Annihilation, each more powerful than the last.

Although Fang Bai had mastered the essence of the three styles and cultivated them to the seamless realm of unity between man and blade, his own cultivation level limited him; he could only unleash one-thousandth of the techniques' potential. Despite this, they were still not something an ordinary opponent could withstand.

The zombies that leapt at Fang Bai had only their powerful bodies going for them, their attack power was equivalent to that of a human Yellow Level Martial Artist. When Fang Bai unleashed the third move of the Mad Blade, "Soul Severing", the razor-sharp blade light, like streaks of bloody lightning, cleaved through the zombies with the power to split mountains and destroy anything in its path.

Pfft—

Pfft—

Pfft—

...

In the unceasing noises, dozens of Black Zombies and White Zombies surrounding Fang Bai were sliced by the bloody lightning; some were bisected at the waist, while others lost their lower halves. None remained intact.

With a single move, dozens of zombies were slaughtered. The power of Fang Bai's "Soul Severing" was indeed terrifying.

"Now, it's your turn!"

Fang Bai's gaze fell upon the Green Zombie at the entrance of the cave. Clutching the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade and oozing towering killing Qi, he stepped towards it.

The Green Zombie clearly did not expect that the dozens of zombies it had summoned would be so fragile, unable to withstand even a single strike from Fang Bai.

Feeling Fang Bai's approach, the Green Zombie seemed to sense fear and turned to leap down the mountain base.

"Last time I let you off the hook because I was detoxifying Long Da! You won't be so lucky this time!"

Fang Bai gripped the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade and surged forward, beginning his chase after the Green Zombie.

After leaping from the mountain, the Green Zombie fled into the dense forest, with Fang Bai in hot pursuit.

Both the zombie and the human moved at astounding speeds. What difficult terrain for ordinary people was like flat ground for them. In the blink of an eye, they had traversed mountains and leaped over streams, covering dozens of miles.

Although the Green Zombie was speedy and tireless in its flight, Fang Bai was faster, and his abundant Essence Energy endurance was unmatched by ordinary martial artists. After a chase of forty to fifty miles, Fang Bai finally caught up with the Green Zombie at a small hillock, cutting off its escape.

Just as Fang Bai was about to strike the Green Zombie, it emitted a strange sound again.

"Is this green-haired monster calling for reinforcements again?"

As soon as this thought crossed Fang Bai's mind, he heard a thunderous explosion. The small hillock suddenly burst apart.

Amidst the flying debris of rocks and weeds, a zombie covered in long green hair, like the Monkey King making his entrance, leapt high out of the shattered hillock, landing across from the Green Zombie, and trapping Fang Bai between them—front and back.

"A Flurry Zombie?"

Fang Bai's pupils contracted slightly, and his eyebrows furrowed tightly at the sight of the Flurry Zombie that had just appeared.

From the Flurry Zombie's body, Fang Bai sensed an aura that was several times stronger than the Green Zombie he had encountered earlier.

If the strength of a Green Zombie could be considered on par with a Profound Level Martial Artist, with combat power comparable to an Earth Level Martial Artist, then the Flurry Zombie that had just appeared would be equivalent to an Earth Level Martial Artist, and its combat power could even be compared to a Heaven Level Martial Artist.

Flurry Zombies truly possessed copper skin and iron bones, with a physical toughness far surpassing that of Green Zombies. They could leap onto roofs and spring onto trees with agility, impervious to ordinary flames and unafraid of sunlight. Most Heaven Level Martial Artists found it difficult to subdue them.

Fang Bai silently felt fortunate to have Spiritual Artifacts like the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade and the Houyi Bow with him, otherwise, it would not have been easy to kill a Flurry Zombie.

Seeing that the Green Zombie and Flurry Zombie were ready to join forces against him in a well-coordinated attack, Fang Bai was not only unafraid but also somewhat excited.

Since his last advancement, Fang Bai had found it hard to encounter a match for himself in either the Secular Ancient Martial World or the Hidden Sects. What he lacked the most right now was real combat experience, and to him, the Green and Flurry Zombies were perfect targets to hone his skills.

Fang Bai knew that upon reaching the realm of a Flurry Zombie, there was no longer a need to consume blood for cultivation, but instead, the Flurry Zombie would utilize the Heaven and Earth Origin Energy and essence of the moon to elevate their strength. Otherwise, if the Flurry Zombie had appeared in Anxi City along with the Green Zombie, it would have caused a bloody storm, with the number of victims increasing by tens or hundreds of times.

"Come on! I'll have a good time with you!"

Fang Bai, having finally encountered two decent opponents, didn't want to resolve them with a single slash from a Spiritual Artifact. He thus put away the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade and prepared to fight them barehanded. The thought was to thoroughly enjoy the battle and then it wouldn't be too late to unleash the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade to eliminate them.

The Green Zombie and Flurry Zombie seemed aware that Fang Bai was not an easy opponent. They did not attack proactively and merely obstructed him from front and back, preventing his escape.

They weren't attacking, but Fang Bai wasn't interested in a boring standoff. He stepped forward with his right foot, performing the Divine Elephant Eight Desolate Steps, and rushed in front of the Flurry Zombie. His right hand formed a fist and he struck out with a Tiger Roar Thunder Fist.

Each step he took caused the ground within several yards to tremble incessantly, making it difficult for the Green and Flurry Zombies to maintain their balance. His punch unleashed, carrying the roar of a tiger and the peal of thunder within the punch wind, and the momentum was astounding.

As soon as he made his move, it was two ultimate moves from the Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique.

His cultivation level had increased greatly since his rebirth from possession, and when he exhibited the Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique again, the power was incomparable to before.

His steps were incredibly fast, his punches as swift as lightning. Although the Flurry Zombie leaped with great agility, it still could not evade his blow.

—Pfft—

Fang Bai's punch landed on the chest and abdomen of the Flurry Zombie. However, it didn't send the creature flying; it was like hitting a thick piece of leather, causing a dull thud. The Flurry Zombie merely staggered back a few paces before steadying itself.

"Good fellow! Such a formidable physique!"

Although Fang Bai's punch was merely a probing attack, he had exerted about sixty or seventy percent of his strength. Still, it hadn't caused much damage to the Flurry Zombie, which slightly surprised him.

The Flurry Zombie, seemingly enraged by Fang Bai's punch, no longer maintained silent confrontation and commenced its attack.

The Flurry Zombie's speed was not much slower than Fang Bai's Divine Elephant Eight Desolate Steps. Its claws, gleaming with a dark light under the moon, reached towards Fang Bai's neck from afar, emitting a sharp and piercing sound as they sliced through the air.

At the same time, Fang Bai heard the rapid swishing of air behind him—the Green Zombie blocking his retreat had also made its move, targeting his back.

"Bring it on!"

Being sandwiched between the two zombies, front and back, Fang Bai's eyes sparkled with brilliance, his fighting spirit surged, and his eagerness for battle intensified.

He countered the Flurry Zombie's attack with another Tiger Roar Thunder Fist, and without concern for his back, he endured the ferocious claw strike from the Green Zombie.

Chapter 859: Bloodthirst, Soul Severing

The Green Zombie's claws were highly destructive; even a sturdy rock would bear deep marks if scratched by them.

But when the Green Zombie came up against Fang Bai, it met its nemesis.

Fang Bai possessed the rare Chaos True Body, impervious to water and fire, and resistant to all poisons. The robustness of his body was not something the mere claws of a Green Zombie could damage.

So when the Green Zombie clawed at him, it only tore his clothes, leaving some shallow marks on his skin, which disappeared in the blink of an eye.

On the other hand, the Green Zombie broke three of its claws when they came into contact with Fang Bai's body, which was much harder than steel.

In contrast, the frontal attack from the Flurry Zombie did give Fang Bai a bit of trouble.

When the Flurry Zombie's claws met Fang Bai's fists, they actually made him feel a slight pain, causing him to take a small step backwards.

However, the Flurry Zombie fared much worse, being forced to retreat four or five steps before it could steady itself.

The two zombies teaming up against Fang Bai not only failed to gain the upper hand but also saw the Green Zombie injured and the Flurry Zombie at a disadvantage, a result that completely unleashed their ferocity.

The Flurry Zombie spat out a cloud of green smoke, which spread instantly over a distance of several meters, enveloping Fang Bai too.

The green smoke released a nauseating odor, and Fang Bai knew immediately that it was the Flurry Zombie turning its corpse poison into spores.

If it were a slightly weaker Martial Artist, inhaling the corpse poison from the Flurry Zombie would corrode their organs, leading rapidly to death. However, this poison had no effect on Fang Bai, who simply waved his hand to disperse the poison surrounding him without a trace.

In a general battle between zombies and humans, the zombies rely on three main advantages: their claws, their poison, and their invulnerable bodies. Beyond these, there isn't much to them.

However, Fang Bai's Chaos True Body was enough to counteract these three advantages of the zombies.

Fang Bai alone against the two zombies met them head-on with punches and kicks, fighting with exhilarating satisfaction.

In a matter of moments, most of the Green Zombie's ten claws were broken, while the Flurry Zombie, despite being struck repeatedly by Fang Bai, remained as combative as ever without suffering much damage.

"Eat my Furious Flame Fist!"

Excited, Fang Bai circulated the Nine Revolutions True Fire Art. His fists, which turned as red as fire, simultaneously struck at both the Green Zombie and the Flurry Zombie.

As his fist landed, a wave of heat swept through the air, instantly engulfing both zombies in near-flame temperatures.

Although Fang Bai's current power was still shallow, preventing him from turning the Essence Energy into real flames, the scorching air wave he condensed with the Nine Revolutions True Fire Art contained a thread of real Primordial Fire Qi. The Flurry Zombie, which was only immune to common fire, was extremely terrified of true fire.

As for the Green Zombie, it was afraid of even ordinary fire, let alone the Primordial Fire Qi condensed by the Nine Revolutions True Fire Art?

When Fang Bai released a fiery fist, the heat wave engulfed the Green Zombie, whose strong body couldn't withstand the high temperature of the air wave, emitting a burnt and unpleasant smell.

Seeing the effectiveness of his fiery fist against the two zombies, Fang Bai couldn't help but laugh heartily, realizing that the fire element in his Qi Sea was the greatest nemesis of the zombies.

"Immortal Incinerating True Fire!"

"Palm Burning Ten Thousand Immortals!"

...

Fang Bai used two zombies as targets for practicing his martial arts, launching successive attacks with his Fire System Martial Arts.

Under the assault of Fang Bai's Fire System Martial Arts, the Green Zombie's body was left with no intact spot; one arm was burned down to the bone, half of its leg vanished, a large hole appeared in its abdomen, and the left side of its face exposed two rows of teeth and stark white bones...

Despite suffering severe injuries and looking terrifying, the Green Zombie felt no pain. Its heart remained intact, so it surprisingly did not fall but continued to participate in the attack against Fang Bai, although the threat of its attacks had become negligible without its ten sharp claws.

Although the Flurry Zombie was much stronger than the Green Zombie, its long green hair had also disappeared in the high temperature, and several parts of its body were burned by the high heat. This was hard for the Flurry Zombie, who had trained step by step to reach this realm, to accept, and it launched a frenzied attack on Fang Bai.

Fang Bai and the zombies fought fiercely head-on for nearly two hours, seeing their attacks weaken more and more, he knew continuing the fight was pointless.

"It's time to finish you off!"

Fang Bai knew that killing the two zombies barehanded would not be easy, so he brought out his Blood-Drinking Mad Blade again. With a move, Bloodthirst, he slashed diagonally from the left side of the Green Zombie's body, directly cutting the Green Zombie's heart and its body in two.

He twisted his wrist, reversing the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, and with another move, Soul Severing, he chopped straight down from the top of the Flurry Zombie's head.

This blade was incredibly sharp and majestic in spirit, splitting the Flurry Zombie from the top of its head to the base of its feet in one stroke.

The blade moved so fast that the Flurry Zombie's body paused for a moment before a crack opened from between its brows, and then its body split in half, falling to the ground on either side.

He spared no effort with these two strikes, ending the lives of the two zombies with one blade each.

Afterward, Fang Bai cleaned up the scene, throwing the zombies' severed limbs and broken arms into a large pit at the scene and deeply burying them to prevent the residual corpse poison from the zombies from harming others after their death.

This time Fang Bai had come to Anxi with Tang Wenrou to assist in solving a series of murder cases. Now that the murderer had been dealt with and the case closed, Fang Bai felt pleased and couldn't help but let out a long howl to the sky.

At the end of his howl, Fang Bai put away the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, used his movement technique, and left the mountain area, sweeping toward the direction of Anxi.

Around two or three in the morning, Fang Bai returned to his temporary residence in Anxi City.

"Fang Bai, what happened to you? Are you injured?"

Tang Wenrou, who was meditating, heard some noise and hurried out to meet him, seeing Fang Bai's clothes torn and ragged and his body dirty, as if he had been through a fierce battle, she thought he might have gotten hurt and was greatly shocked.

Fang Bai smiled and waved his hand, saying, "I'm fine! I'm going to take a shower first, and then we can talk!"

Half an hour later, freshly showered and dressed in new clothes, Fang Bai appeared in the villa's living room and began telling Tang Wenrou about how he had eliminated the zombies.

Fang Bai's account was simple, but Tang Wenrou guessed that the experience was probably not as easy as Fang Bai made it sound, and the process of eliminating the zombies was surely full of danger and twists.

That was evident from the state Fang Bai was in when he returned.

Tang Wenrou didn't know that Fang Bai had been using the two zombies to practice, which had resulted in his torn and tattered appearance; otherwise, he would have returned without a scratch.

"With the zombies eliminated, the serial murder case is successfully closed. Fang Bai, on behalf of the entire investigation team and the millions of residents of Anxi City, I want to express our thanks to you!"

Tang Wenrou knew that without Fang Bai, not only would the zombie murder case remain unsolved, but more people might have died, leading to greater chaos in Anxi City. Therefore, by eliminating the zombies, Fang Bai not only completed the task assigned by the higher-ups but also brought a great benefit to the people of Anxi.

Chapter 860: The Little Princess

Fang Bai gratefully accepted Tang Wenrou's thanks and took the opportunity to ask her for a little "favor."

And this so-called "favor" was to cajolingly convince Officer Tang to willingly offer him a kiss.

Initially, Fang Bai thought Tang Wenrou would be very resistant, but to his surprise, the usually cold and distant Officer Tang, after hesitating and nibbling on her lip, actually agreed. However, when she bestowed the kiss, she insisted that Fang Bai close his eyes, and only then did she lightly press her lips against his, before fleeing like a startled rabbit.

Watching Tang Wenrou's somewhat flustered retreat, Fang Bai licked the lingering taste on his lips and couldn't help but laugh heartily, thinking that the most significant gain from his trip to Anxi wasn't helping Tang Wenrou solve a series of murders but rather that he and Tang Wenrou had made significant progress in their relationship.

The next day, Tang Wenrou returned to the Yanjing Police Station to report the case to Chief Wang Jingzhong, while Fang Bai brought Alian to his home in Zhongzhou City.

"Fangbai, who is this little girl?"

When Fang Gang and Yang Mei saw their son bring home an unfamiliar girl, they were both puzzled.

"Wow, this little sister is so cute! Bro, what's her name?"

Fang Yun immediately liked Alian upon seeing her big eyes, pert nose, and fair, tender skin, like a charming porcelain doll. She circled around the girl, examining her and asking with a smile on her face.

Alian seemed somewhat shy, hiding behind Fang Bai and tightly clutching the hem of his clothes, her big eyes timidly observing Fang Gang, Yang Mei, and Fang Yun.

"Alian, don't be afraid. These are my dad, mom, and sister. From now on you can call them uncle, auntie, and big sister!"

Fang Bai pulled Alian in front of him, pointed to his family members, and said warmly, "This is big brother's home, and from now on, it's your home too. Big brother's family is also your family, understand?"

Alian nodded, thinking that big brother's family must be good people, and the trace of timidity she felt vanished instantly. She obediently called out, "Uncle! Auntie! Big Sister!"

Seeing his parents' puzzled expressions, Fang Bai explained Alian's background to them.

"Such a pitiful child!"

Upon learning that Alian had lost her parents at such a young age, Yang Mei's compassion overflowed, and seeing how sweet and adorable the girl was, she liked her from the bottom of her heart.

"Alian, from now on you'll live here. Without your dad and mom, think of me and your Uncle Fang as your parents, and Fang Bai and Fang Yun as your brother and sister. Our whole family will cherish and love you, and we'll treat you like a little princess!"

Yang Mei squatted in front of Alian, kissed her chubby cheek, and then hugged her tightly, saying lovingly.

Alian saw the genuine sincerity and kindness on the faces of Fang Bai's family and felt the warmth she had missed for so long. Her large eyes quickly filled with tears, and she hugged Yang Mei, crying "wu wu."

"My dear child, don't cry... don't cry... Come on, auntie will show you around our home..."

After comforting Alian and drying her tears, Yang Mei took her by the hand and led her to the courtyard behind their family clinic.

"Bro, come help your sister with something!"

Fang Yun called Fang Bai over, handed him the work she was doing, and then followed her mother and Alian back to the courtyard with a smile, teasing Alian.

By eight o'clock in the evening, Fang Bai and Ghost Hand handed over their work to a few medical staff members they had recruited and also returned to the courtyard in the back.

To welcome the arrival of "Princess" Alian, Yang Mei cooked a full table of delicious dishes. The family sat around the dining table, opened a few bottles of liquor and fruit juice, and chatted while eating.

In just a half-day, Alian had become very acquainted with Mother and Daughter Yang Mei and Fang Yun, calling them "Auntie" and "Big Sister," which delighted them so much that they kept adding food and meat to Alian's bowl during the meal.

"Alian, big brother will have to go to Yanjing for work in a few days and won't be able to take you with him. Would it be alright for you to stay here from now on?"

After a few drinks, Fang Bai said to Alian with a smile.

"Okay... but big brother has to come back and see Alian often!"

Alian said with a hint of reluctance, blinking her big eyes.

Alian had chatted with Yang Mei and Fang Yun earlier and learned that Fang Bai was very busy in Yanjing. If she followed Fang Bai to Yanjing, he wouldn't have much time for her. With Yang Mei and Fang Yun in Zhongzhou, and the way they treated her so well, she was willing to stay in Zhongzhou.

"This is your Ghost Hand brother!"

Fang Bai pointed to Ghost Hand and said to Alian, "Ghost Hand, like you, practices the Golden System Technique. After I leave, Ghost Hand will supervise your cultivation. If you have any questions, you can ask Ghost Hand, or you can call me. Also, Ghost Hand is skilled in medicine, so you can learn from him when you have some free time."

"Oh... got it!"

Alian looked at Ghost Hand and sweetly said, "Hello, Brother Ghost Hand!"

"Hello to you too, Alian!"

Ghost Hand gave Alian a kind smile, thinking that Alian was another disciple Master had taken in, and from now on, she would be his little junior sister. Since the little junior sister was cherished and loved by the master's family, her future would be bright. He knew he needed to maintain a good relationship with her.

The Fang Family's house was now quite expansive and there were many vacant rooms. It could accommodate even a dozen more people, so after the meal, Yang Mei cleaned up the dishes while Fang Yun prepared the room next to hers for Alian to stay in.

The next afternoon, Fang Yun drove the newly purchased car, taking her mother Yang Mei and Alian out to the city for a good half-day. When they returned, they also bought a few new sets of clothes for Alian.

Fang Bai stayed in his Zhongzhou residence for three days. During this time, he supervised Ghost Hand, Fang Yun, and Alian in their Martial Arts Techniques practice, explained the Martial Dao Arcane to them. Although there wasn't much time and the content of the explanations wasn't extensive, it still immensely benefited the three of them, enough for them to contemplate and absorb over a long time.

On the fourth morning, amidst the reluctant gaze of his family and Alian, Fang Bai drove away from Zhongzhou and headed for Yanjing.

On his way to Yanjing, Fang Bai learned some news about Tang Wenrou through the Dragon Maiden, which made him secretly annoyed.

It turned out that Tang Wenrou had returned to Yanjing a few days ago, expecting to be commended by her superiors for cracking the Anxi serial murder case. However, her immediate superior, Wang Jingzhong, lost his temper, saying how could a zombie be the killer? There was no such thing as zombies in this world.

Lately when Tang Wenrou explained that the "Dragon Guard" had also been involved and could testify for her, Wang Jingzhong countered that even if it had been the work of a zombie, without the zombie's body as evidence, they could not claim the case was closed.