

HAVING CHILDREN EARNS BENEFIT, START COMPETING FOR DOMINANCE IN THE WORLD BY MARRYING A WIFE

Chapter 2296 - 1986: I Suspect She Has Already Been Sealed

Since the mysterious entities arrived in the Spirit Ruins World, they have never used their own names.

How could a human possibly know their names? And he is even searching for them.

This caused Yun Yudie to feel a trace of unease in her heart. She suddenly felt that Lu Chen was even more dangerous than they initially estimated, posing a tremendous threat to them, the mysterious entities.

If only Zhou Youyou's name appeared on that list, she might regard it as a coincidence. But the list not only had Zhou Youyou's name, but also her own name, Xu Jingshu's name, and Zhou Xiaoxiao's name.

Four mysterious names appeared on the list, and all four were high-level members within the Heavenly Fate Sect. How could this be a coincidence?

Lu Chen must know something.

Therefore, Yun Yudie doubted that Zhou Youyou's true identity had likely been exposed when she met Lu Chen, and Lu Chen pretended not to know, luring her into Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Perhaps, at this moment, Zhou Youyou had already been suppressed and sealed in Zhen Nan Prince Manor, which is why the disciples of the Heavenly Fate Sect couldn't get any information about Zhou Youyou.

Thinking about this possibility, a hint of killing intent flashed in Yun Yudie's cold eyes.

Lu Chen must not be allowed to live any longer.

If he really could identify the identities of the mysterious entities, in the future they might no longer be able to continue lurking in the human world.

Thinking about this, Yun Yudie said to the maid at the entrance of the hall, "Go call the Right Protector."

The maid walked to the entrance, bowed in salute, and said, "Yes, Sect Hierarch."

Moments later, a woman in a red long dress appeared in the hall.

After arriving in the hall, Zhou Xiaoxiao first saluted Yun Yudie, "Greetings, Sect Hierarch."

Then Zhou Xiaoxiao proactively asked, "I wonder what orders the Sect Hierarch has for me?"

Yun Yudie said, "Your sister may be in trouble."

Upon hearing this, Zhou Xiaoxiao's mind shook.

Yun Yudie continued, "It's been almost two months. Ever since your sister entered Zhen Nan Prince Manor, there's been no news. I suspect she has already been sealed."

Zhou Xiaoxiao asked, "Does the Sect Hierarch intend for me to go to the Capital city to investigate her news?"

Yun Yudie said, "No, I intend to send you to gather intelligence on Lu Chen; find a way to uncover his whereabouts. He has the ability to identify mysterious entities' identities, so we must eliminate him."

Hearing this, Zhou Xiaoxiao's eyebrows slightly furrowed.

Currently, the Heavenly Fate Sect has only one Earth Realm Strange, and that's Yun Yudie, the Sect Hierarch.

And there are many Earth Realm Strong Persons in the Capital city, especially in Zhen Nan Prince Manor. Attempting to take action against Lu Chen may not be easy, and there must be Earth Realm Strong Persons protecting him.

Even if they uncover Lu Chen's whereabouts, with the current strength of the Heavenly Fate Sect, it's unlikely they can harm Lu Chen in the slightest.

Seeing Zhou Xiaoxiao remain silent, Yun Yudie guessed her thoughts and continued saying, "I know what you're thinking. This time, I plan to join forces with several other Earth Realm Strange and act together."

Zhou Xiaoxiao said, "Sect Hierarch, if we enlist their help, they will certainly make many demands."

Those Earth Realm Strange want to annihilate the entire Dazhou, turning all humans into their blood sustenance, while the Heavenly Fate Sect seeks to integrate with humans, raising them like livestock. If we seek help from several Earth Realm Strange, they might not agree. After all, they don't blend into human society, so what if Lu Chen can identify their mysterious identities? Once they gather enough power and launch a mysterious revolt, they could directly destroy Dazhou.

Of course, they might agree, but those Earth Realm Strange will certainly make many demands, like letting the Heavenly Fate Sect assist them in destroying several counties.

The Heavenly Fate Sect was created early and has the most mysterious entities, which those Earth Realm Strange have long wanted to control.

Yun Yudie said, "No matter; to eliminate the threat of Lu Chen, it's worth paying some price."

Seeing Yun Yudie's determination, Zhou Xiaoxiao did not speak further.

Yun Yudie said, "All right, then set out for the Capital city now."

Zhou Xiaoxiao bowed in salute, "Yes, Sect Hierarch."

As her words fell, she turned and left the hall.

The night was ink-black, spilling over the sky of the Imperial City.

The glazed tiles were covered with a layer of blood-red moonlight. The soaring eaves were hidden in the twilight, the long streets silent, and the bluestone ground emitted a faintly cold glow.

Occasionally, the patrolling Imperial Guard passed by on the streets, their armor clinking, but the sound quickly returned to silence.

At that moment, the sound of a signal flare erupted across the sky, and a red light exploded over the Capital city.

Next moment, dozens of shadows simultaneously headed towards a courtyard.

At this moment, the Wei Mansion was filled with the scent of blood.

In the large courtyard of the Wei Mansion, a wolf-headed, human-bodied monster was continuously slaughtering the servants of the mansion.

Within the Wei Mansion courtyard, limbs and broken arms were strewn everywhere.

At that moment, figures appeared atop the courtyard walls, each emitting a formidable aura.

Wu Feng from the Investigation Bureau said, "We've finally caught this evil spirit."

Ever since Zhen Nan Prince Manor took over the Deceit Suppression Bureau, its focus was on investigating the mysterious entities, paying little attention to the wolf demon. This allowed the wolf demon to wreak havoc in the Capital city, killing many people and causing great panic among the city's citizens.

Although mysterious entities are also terrifying, they haven't yet caused substantial harm to humans, whereas this evil spirit has caused multiple family exterminations, prompting more and more officials to draft memorials, impeaching Prince Zhen Nan for inaction.

Finally, under pressure from the Empress Dowager, Emperor Zhou issued a Holy Decree ordering Prince Zhen Nan to eliminate the wolf demon evil spirit within a month.

Prince Zhen Nan then instructed the Investigation Bureau to track the wolf demon.

Compared to mysterious entities, evil spirits are relatively easier to locate. The spiritual evil on evil spirits cannot escape the Pursuing Evil Disc's tracking.

To resolve this wolf demon, the Deceit Suppression Bureau dispatched three Earth Realm Strong Persons, led by Fan Yaodong.

In truth, the wolf demon's strength was not greater than Fan Yaodong's. Last time, Fan Yaodong was seriously injured because he wanted to quickly rid himself of the burden of the Deceit Suppression Bureau and avoid taking the blame, which was why he let the wolf demon escape.

If he were to take action, he wouldn't need three Earth Realm Strong Persons; Fan Yaodong alone could slay the wolf demon.

Of course, this time they dispatched three Earth Realm Strong Persons just in case. During this period, the wolf demon had already killed numerous people, so its strength was certainly enhanced.

Perceiving the aura on the courtyard wall, the wolf demon spread its claws, puffed its chest, and roared at Fan Yaodong and the others on the wall.

Perhaps sensing a threat, the wolf demon then turned and ran towards another direction.

Seeing the wolf demon trying to escape, Fan Yaodong coldly said two words: "Take action."

As his words fell, he gripped the Demon-slaying Blade tightly, took the lead by jumping down from the courtyard wall, then leapt forward, rushing straight towards the wolf demon.

Investigation Bureau's Wu Feng and Night Patrol Office's Zou Yi each dashed towards the other two sides of the courtyard, forming a triangular formation, appearing to intend to encircle the wolf demon.

Their speed far surpassed that of the wolf demon. In just a moment, the three of them formed into a triangular formation and encircled the wolf demon.

Chapter 2297 - 1987: So This Wolf Demon Was Really Once Human

The Wolf Demon realized it could no longer escape, and then raised its paw, striking toward Wu Feng.

Wu Feng was in the Early Stage of Earth Realm, making him the weakest amongst the three.

Clearly, the Wolf Demon had noticed this.

Seeing the Wolf Demon's paw coming for him, Wu Feng hurriedly lifted his sword and swung out Sword Evil.

The sword and paw collided, emitting a sound of clashing metal.

The Wolf Demon's paw carried a hefty Condensing Evil, and the impact pushed Wu Feng back six or seven zhang.

Wu Feng quickly stuck his sword into the ground to buffer his movement, bringing himself to a stop.

At this moment, the Wolf Demon kicked its hind paws on the ground; the bluestones suddenly shattered, creating a large pit on the ground.

The Wolf Demon's figure then dashed once more toward Wu Feng, and before he could react, the Wolf Demon was already before him.

The Wolf Demon struck out with its paw again, and seeing this, Wu Feng swung his sword to block.

Yet, as before, Wu Feng was once again pushed back by the force of the paw.

Wu Feng mobilized the spiritual evil within his body, attempting to counterattack.

However, the Wolf Demon's strength was tremendous; each paw that struck his sword caused Wu Feng's arm to ache as if it would break.

Fortunately, Fan Yaodong and Zou Yi joined the fray.

Fan Yaodong swung the knife in his hand, slashing toward the Wolf Demon, shouting, "Flowing Light Moon Slash!"

In the next moment, a crescent-shaped Sword Aura flew out, striking hard at the Wolf Demon's back, sending it flying with the slash.

Wu Feng quickly widened the distance between him and the Wolf Demon.

After being knocked to the ground, the Wolf Demon's back revealed a massive wound from which black-red blood continually flowed.

Fan Yaodong did not stop there; he slashed several dozen more times at the Wolf Demon.

A spiritual evil of the Earth Realm isn't so easily slain; as the dozens of Sword Aura neared the Wolf Demon's body, the Wolf Demon suddenly leaped up, emitting bursts of red spiritual evil.

The Wolf Demon let out a roar; the sound wave pierced through their minds, causing Fan Yaodong and the others to pause momentarily.

The Wolf Demon leaped into the air, soaring upward.

Then, the Wolf Demon opened its bloody maw toward the three once more.

In the next instant, a red spiritual evil spewed from its mouth, heading straight for Fan Yaodong.

Fan Yaodong did not evade; he tightened his grip on the knife, gathering all of his spiritual evil into it, and then shouted again, "Flowing Light Moon Slash!"

A formidable Sword Aura raced toward the Wolf Demon; the Sword Aura clashed with the Wolf Demon's red spiritual evil, and in a moment, the red spiritual evil was shattered.

The Sword Aura continued to slash at the Wolf Demon.

The Wolf Demon was in the air, unable to find footing, making it difficult to evade; Fan Yaodong's Sword Aura hit it directly, and the Wolf Demon's body plummeted from the sky.

Fan Yaodong once again swung countless slashes.

At this moment, the Wolf Demon lost the ability to resist; all those Sword Aura slashed onto the Wolf Demon's body; its wounds multiplied, and black-red blood flew everywhere.

When the Wolf Demon landed on the ground, it was entirely devoid of vitality.

Fan Yaodong and the others approached the Wolf Demon and examined its body.

Seeing the Wolf Demon was completely dead, Fan Yaodong directly split open the Wolf Demon's head.

Yet, unexpectedly, there was no Deceit Pearl within its head.

Fan Yaodong then cut open its body with the knife, only to find no Deceit Pearl there either.

Seeing no Deceit Pearl on the Wolf Demon, Wu Feng said, "It seems this Wolf Demon indeed transformed from a human."

Normally, spiritual evils transformed from humans do not possess Deceit Pearls.

Of course, this is generally the case.

If a human has been an evil spirit for a long time, decades or even centuries, it's possible for a Deceit Pearl to form within them.

Fan Yaodong flicked the blade, shaking off the blood stains from the knife, then sheathed it.

He then told the distant Deceit Suppressing Guards, "Carry the Wolf Demon's corpse back to the Deceit Suppression Bureau."

With these words, Fan Yaodong and the others prepared to return to the Bureau.

The Wolf Demon was just a small episode, not worth too much of their attention.

Their most important task now was still to investigate the whereabouts of the Earth Realm Strange.

As Fan Yaodong and the others were about to leave, a Deceit Suppressing Guard suddenly said, "Please wait, my lords; there's a mark on the Wolf Demon."

Hearing this, Fan Yaodong and the others stopped, and approached the Deceit Suppressing Guard.

There was a Other Shore Flower mark in the center of the Wolf Demon's palm; seeing this, Fan Yaodong and the others were momentarily stunned.

If they remembered correctly, this emblem should be the symbol of the Yellow Springs Sect.

In other words, this Wolf Demon was transformed from someone belonging to the Yellow Springs Sect.

Regarding the Yellow Springs Sect, they knew next to nothing, only that there was once such a force; it flourished for a time and then vanished.

Fan Yaodong gazed at the emblem on the Wolf Demon's palm in contemplation.

Then he instructed the Deceit Suppressing Guards, "We'll discuss this further back."

Here, Fan Yaodong turned to Wu Feng, "Go to the Zhen Nan Prince Manor and report tonight's events to Prince Zhen Nan."

Wu Feng replied, "Understood, I'll go immediately."

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Zhen Nan Prince Manor

Meeting Hall.

Wu Feng sat on a wooden chair on one side of the Meeting Hall, waiting for Prince Zhen Nan.

After a while, Prince Zhen Nan leisurely entered the hall.

Ordinarily, if there is no significant matter, the Deceit Suppression Bureau wouldn't disturb Prince Zhen Nan at night.

After all, Prince Zhen Nan's health isn't well these days; it's late, and he needs rest.

But Prince Zhen Nan had instructed the Deceit Suppression Bureau that if they eliminated the Wolf Demon, they should report it to him immediately.

Seeing Wu Feng coming to find him so late, Prince Zhen Nan proactively asked, "Is there progress with the Wolf Demon?"

Wu Feng quickly stood from the wooden chair, cupping his fists in salute to Prince Zhen Nan, "Prince Zhen Nan, greetings."

Prince Zhen Nan waved his hand and then took a seat in the main position.

At this time, Wu Feng spoke, "We have dealt with that Wolf Demon."

Prince Zhen Nan said, "Good riddance."

Suddenly recalling something, Prince Zhen Nan asked, "How strong was the Wolf Demon?"

Wu Feng responded, "Lord Fan slain the Wolf Demon single-handedly."

Hearing this, Prince Zhen Nan chuckled and then said, "The report cannot state it that way."

Last time, Fan Yaodong faced the Wolf Demon and not only failed to kill it but was heavily injured by it.

Now encountering the Wolf Demon again, and being able to slay it alone, if this spreads, it would surely draw the people's displeasure toward the Deceit Suppression Bureau.

Citizens would certainly speculate that Fan Yaodong intentionally released the Wolf Demon.

And by allowing the Wolf Demon to escape, it led to several massacres; the Deceit Suppression Bureau must be accountable.

Thus, when drafting the report, it's best to depict the battle as fierce and the process intricate to appease the Capital city's citizens.

Wu Feng understood Prince Zhen Nan's intention and said, "I understand, I will remind the Secret Storage Bureau once I return."

Prince Zhen Nan asked, "Is there anything else? If not, you may return."

Wu Feng responded, "There's one more thing. We found an Other Shore Flower emblem in the palm of the Wolf Demon."

Chapter 2298 - 1988: You Suspect the Wolf Demon Killed for a Specific Purpose?

Upon hearing Wu Feng's words, Prince Zhen Nan thoughtfully remarked, "The Other Shore Flower? If I remember correctly, isn't that the emblem of the Yellow Springs Sect?"

Wu Feng replied, "Yes, it is."

Prince Zhen Nan thought for a moment, then continued, "In that case, this wolf demon was transformed by someone from the Yellow Springs Sect."

Wu Feng said, "It seems so, for now."

Prince Zhen Nan lightly tapped his hand on the wooden table, as if pondering something.

After a long pause, he looked at Wu Feng and said, "You should head back tonight."

Wu Feng bowed and said, "Yes, I take my leave."

As the words fell, Wu Feng turned and exited the Zhen Nan Prince Manor.

After Wu Feng left, Prince Zhen Nan remained seated, continuing to contemplate matters regarding the Yellow Springs Sect.

He wondered whether this Yellow Springs Sect was a sect founded by humans or one established by the Mysterious.

Previously, their investigation had focused on the Heavenly Fate Sect, but now it seemed that the Yellow Springs Sect might also pose a problem. Otherwise, why would they have planted spies in the Deceit Suppression Bureau?

The news of the wolf demon's slaying spread throughout the capital city the next day.

Upon hearing that the wolf demon was killed, the citizens of the capital city finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Of course, it was only temporary, as there still was a larger threat that remained unresolved. So far, neither Zhen Nan Prince Manor nor the Deceit Suppression Bureau had discovered any traces of those Earth Realm Strange entities.

Deceit Suppression Bureau, discussion hall.

By the time Prince Zhen Nan arrived at the discussion hall, the high-ranking members of the Deceit Suppression Bureau were already present.

Today, Lu Chen also accompanied Prince Zhen Nan to the Deceit Suppression Bureau, intrigued by the matters concerning the Yellow Springs Sect.

The Heavenly Fate Sect suddenly had four Ancestors of the Strange surface. If the Yellow Springs Sect is also founded by the Strange, perhaps the Yellow Springs Sect also has such Ancestors present.

It's not necessarily true that just because a sect plants spies in the Deceit Suppression Bureau, it is related to the Mysterious.

However, judging by the conduct of the Yellow Springs Sect, this sect indeed seems to have some ties with the Mysterious.

This sect has been too low-profile in the past, giving the impression that they aim to blend into human society.

Prince Zhen Nan took the main seat, glanced at the gathered high-ranking members of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, and said, "Please sit."

As Prince Zhen Nan's words fell, everyone sat down in unison.

At this moment, Prince Zhen Nan turned to Fan Yaodong and asked, "There was no Deceit Pearl inside the wolf demon?"

Fan Yaodong responded, "Yes, our people dissected the wolf demon's body thoroughly, and found no Deceit Pearl. Furthermore, there wasn't any aura of the Deceit Pearl on its body."

If an Evil Spirit contains a Deceit Pearl within its body, the spiritual evil on its body would usually concentrate at one point after the Evil Spirit perishes.

A Spirit Martial Artist with slightly stronger capabilities can easily locate where the Deceit Pearl is.

Upon hearing Fan Yaodong's answer, Prince Zhen Nan pondered for a moment and then said, "It seems that the wolf demon was indeed someone from the Yellow Springs Sect who underwent transformation due to spiritual backlash."

Saying this, Prince Zhen Nan glanced at everyone in the hall and then asked, "How much do you all know about the Yellow Springs Sect?"

The high-ranking officers in the hall of the Deceit Suppression Bureau exchanged glances with each other.

They, like Prince Zhen Nan, didn't know much about the Yellow Springs Sect. Had Lu Chen not identified the Yellow Springs Sect's spy among the Deceit Suppressing Guards last time, they might have long forgotten about the existence of this sect.

Although the Yellow Springs Sect prospered for a brief period, the time of prosperity was too short, leaving little impression on people.

Seeing the expressions in the hall, Prince Zhen Nan knew they were equally unfamiliar with the Yellow Springs Sect.

He then said, "I suspect this Yellow Springs Sect is very likely a force established by the Mysterious."

Upon hearing Prince Zhen Nan's conjecture, silence fell among the group.

While such a possibility did exist, they hadn't found any evidence.

The spies from the Heavenly Fate Sect who were captured could clearly indicate their sect was a Mysterious force, but the captured spies from the Yellow Springs Sect couldn't be coerced by the Deceit Suppression Bureau to reveal anything about the Yellow Springs Sect.

At present, Prince Zhen Nan looked towards the Investigation Bureau's Wu Feng and said, "Designate part of your team to thoroughly investigate this Yellow Springs Sect."

Wu Feng bowed and replied, "Yes."

Following Wu Feng's words, the discussion room suddenly quieted down, with no one speaking further.

Lately, the atmosphere in the Deceit Suppression Bureau has been quite despondent, primarily because they haven't yet tracked down the Heavenly Fate Sect, nor have they uncovered the village massacre Mysterious.

For now, the only method they could think of to lure those Empirical-level anomalies is to have Lu Chen leave the capital, but the senior officers of the Deceit Suppression Bureau also knew Lu Chen was Prince Zhen Nan's only offspring. Prince Zhen Nan couldn't possibly allow Lu Chen to leave the capital and take such a big risk. Should anything happen, Prince Zhen Nan would be without heirs, so they currently don't know what to do.

Lu Chen, seated on a wooden chair on the right side of the hall, gazed at the high-ranking members of the Deceit Suppression Bureau, observing their lifeless expressions. He proactively broke the silence and inquired, "Has the Deceit Suppression Bureau obtained any clues about the village massacre Mysterious?"

Lu Chen's voice shattered the stillness of the discussion hall.

Lu Yu broke the silence, saying, "Not at the moment. The Mysterious can conceal its aura, unless we capture the perpetrator of the village massacre on the spot. Otherwise, once the Mysterious hides among the crowd, it becomes exceedingly difficult for us to locate them again."

As Lu Yu spoke, he glanced meaningfully at Lu Chen.

Currently, only Lu Chen could potentially identify the identity of the Mysterious. If Lu Chen doesn't lend his help, then the Deceit Suppression Bureau's endeavor to identify those five Earth Realm Strange figures would amount to nothing more than a pipe dream.

However, even if Lu Chen could recognize the Mysterious' identity, he alone might encounter them.

Considering how vast Dazhou is, the Mysterious could hide in any random corner, and Lu Chen might not run into them.

Therefore, the best strategy is still to use Lu Chen as bait to lure the Mysterious out, and capture them all in one sweep.

Lu Chen then remarked, "I heard over thirty villages around the capital have been massacred. If it was done by the Mysterious, it's impossible that there's not a single clue left behind; the handling seems too clean."

As Lu Chen's words fell, the hall once again plunged into deathly silence.

The current status is that the Deceit Suppression Bureau truly hasn't discovered any useful clues.

Up until now, they merely speculate that the culprit behind the village massacres might be the Mysterious; whether it is Mysterious or Evil Spirits, they are unclear, seemingly blind in their investigation.

At this moment, the high-ranking officers of the Deceit Suppression Bureau genuinely wished to propose using Lu Chen as bait to provoke the Mysterious into action.

However, considering Lu Chen's identity, they could only suppress this idea.

After a long time, Prince Zhen Nan spoke, "Since there are no clues outside the city, let's turn our attention to within the city. Focus the investigation on this wolf demon, try to ascertain its true identity."

Upon hearing Prince Zhen Nan's words, Lu Chen suddenly thought of something, then addressed Lu Yu, "Lord Lu, please compile the case files on the extermination incident that the wolf demon perpetrated."

Upon hearing this request from Lu Chen, Prince Zhen Nan asked, "Do you suspect the wolf demon has a specific purpose in killing?"

Lu Chen replied, "It's hard to say; we still need to see what kind of people it targeted."

Under normal circumstances, when humans transform into Evil Spirits due to spiritual backlash, they lack self-awareness for quite a long time. Hence, their killings lack purpose, merely killing for the sake of killing.

However, this is only typical; if the wolf demon deliberately targeted people with a common connection, it would indicate the wolf demon had awareness. Once the wolf demon's awareness is confirmed, it would substantially broaden what the Deceit Suppression Bureau could investigate.

Lu Chen returned to Zhen Nan Prince Manor from the Deceit Suppression Bureau, and the bureau sent files regarding the wolf demon's murders to the manor.

At this moment, Lu Chen sat in the pavilion of the West Wing Courtyard, perusing the files sent by the Deceit Suppression Bureau.

He glanced briefly at the people killed by the wolf demon, then closed his eyes, pondering deeply to see if these people had any commonalities.

However, after much contemplation, he still couldn't discern any similarities among them.

Their biggest commonality, if any, was that they all lived in the Capital city.

But this certainly couldn't be used as evidence of the wolf demon's self-awareness, since the wolf demon was originally in the Capital city, and of course, it killed people there.

Just as Lu Chen was staring blankly at a table full of files, Zhou Youyou emerged from the room.

Zhou Youyou wore a light gown interwoven with pale goose-yellow and moon-white hues, with the hem embroidered with delicate spirit butterflies and entwined lotus patterns, the gauze fluttered gently like streaming light.

A soft satin belt of matching tones was tied around her waist, accentuating her slender figure.

Her ink-black hair was styled in a half bun, with the remaining locks cascading like a waterfall, adorned with a small, exquisite jade hairpin, making her appear especially charming and lovely.

She glanced at the files on the stone table and asked, "Weren't you guys investigating the village massacre by the evil spirits? Why are you now focusing on the wolf demon in the Capital city?"

Zhou Youyou had been staying at Zhen Nan Prince Manor and wasn't particularly aware of external happenings, not yet knowing that the wolf demon had been slain. She assumed Lu Chen was reviewing these files to track the wolf demon.

Upon hearing Zhou Youyou's voice, Lu Chen snapped out of his trance.

Instinctively, he picked Zhou Youyou's petite and adorable body onto his lap, letting his large hands wander over her.

Zhou Youyou had grown accustomed to this and did not resist, allowing Lu Chen to fondle her.

Lu Chen gazed at Zhou Youyou's pretty face and said, "Are you sure the village massacre was not orchestrated by your Heavenly Fate Sect?"

Lu Chen had previously asked Zhou Youyou about this matter. Zhou Youyou mentioned she was unaware of any orders from their Sect Hierarch, indicating it likely wasn't their Heavenly Fate Sect's doing.

Moreover, their current target was to fully integrate into human society, secretly livestock humans, enabling them to unknowingly become blood food, rather than openly slaughtering civilians.

At this moment, Zhou Youyou said, "At least before I left the Heavenly Fate Sect, our Sect Hierarch never issued such orders for a village massacre, and he indeed wishes to integrate into human society. Besides, our Sect Hierarch desires more refined and perfect blood food, rather than mere mortals without spiritual evil within them."

Yun Yudie's primary purpose for livestock humans was to provide them growth space, continuously enhancing their strength before harvesting.

The stronger the humans, the tastier they are to her.

Those mere mortals without spiritual evil are unnecessary for harvesting.

Lu Chen believed Zhou Youyou wouldn't deceive him, indicating either the Heavenly Fate Sect is uninvolved in the village massacre, or certain mysterious figures from the sect are secretly slaughtering civilians, treating them as blood food.

Perhaps guessing Lu Chen's thoughts, Zhou Youyou continued, "The Heavenly Fate Sect's rules are strict; typically, the mysterious figures dare not defy the Sect Hierarch's orders. Since our Sect Hierarch has forbidden random killings, those figures indeed wouldn't cause trouble everywhere, so this matter might have been done by other Earth Realm strange figures."

Lu Chen asked, "Do you have intelligence on those other Earth Realm strange figures?"

Zhou Youyou replied, "Since our Sect Hierarch escaped, she parted ways with those other Earth Realm strange figures."

After all, their ideologies differ. Those Earth Realm strange figures wish to annihilate all of Dazhou, turning everyone into blood food,

If they were truly to act, Yun Yudie would certainly stop them. From a benefit standpoint, the Heavenly Fate Sect and those Earth Realm strange figures are indeed opposing factions.

Lu Chen fell deep into thought; Zhou Youyou made valid points.

If so, the Heavenly Fate Sect can basically be ruled out.

If the village massacre wasn't executed by the Heavenly Fate Sect, it's likely perpetrated by the other four Earth Realm strange figures, or by the Yellow Springs Sect.

But why would this low-profile Yellow Springs Sect commit such a massacre?

Don't they fear exposure to the public?

Or have they prepared themselves for re-emergence?

Lu Chen felt his thoughts were chaotic and decided against further baseless speculation.

With no leads, mere random guesswork would yield nothing.

But his gaze continued to scan the files on the stone table, and the courtyard fell into silence, occasionally punctuated by the chirping of birds.

Lu Chen's restless hands instinctively wandered over Zhou Youyou's tender body.

Seeing Lu Chen's attention on the files, and his hands not behaving, Zhou Youyou pouted, an incorrigible philanderer he is.

At this point, Lu Chen suddenly recalled something and asked, "Do you have any intelligence regarding the Yellow Springs Sect?"

Zhou Youyou thought for a moment: "I've heard of the Yellow Springs Sect, but we have no intersections with them. Whether there is specific intelligence on the Yellow Springs Sect within the sect, I don't know, as I don't particularly focus on such things."

Though Zhou Youyou is the Left Protector of the Heavenly Fate Sect, she doesn't attend to everything; perhaps intelligence-gathering disciples collected information on the Yellow Springs Sect, but since she doesn't handle such matters, she is unaware of relevant details.

Seeing Zhou Youyou knew nothing, Lu Chen sighed softly.

Given the current situation, he might just have to take the initiative as bait to lure out the other Earth Realm strange figures.

But if those four Earth Realm strange figures remain motionless, there's no urgent need to capture them straight away.

The later they are sealed, the more time Zhen Nan Prince Manor gains for strong development.

Currently, Zhen Nan Prince Manor's steward Wei Heng has headed to Guangling County and soon, Zhen Nan Prince Manor will be able to develop a 100,000-strong army.

Then, Zhen Nan Prince Manor will have sufficient strength to rival the Royal Family.

However, if things drag on indefinitely, Dazhou's common folk will suffer.

Near the Capital city, 30 villages' people have already been massacred, and in remote Dazhou areas, God knows how many villages have been annihilated by mysterious entities.

Lu Chen pondered that the pressing issue is becoming stronger.

The best way is to transform the other mysterious Ancestors of the Strange from the Heavenly Fate Sect into his women once more, though humans and mysterious figures are inherently conflicted, wanting them to become his women again requires his strength to surpass theirs.

Or like Zhou Youyou's one-sided attraction, albeit unlikely.

Zhou Youyou's infatuation likely stems from some special reason; other Ancestors of the Strange probably wouldn't develop sudden feelings for him.

Chapter 2300 - 1990: Don't Even Think About It—Why Should I Help You?

Lu Chen subsequently flipped through the records of families annihilated by the Wolf Demon many times.

Just as he was about to give up, a sudden flash of inspiration struck him: could these families all belong to a certain faction in the court?

Having been an Emperor himself for countless years, Lu Chen was very familiar with court struggles. It was no wonder he would think along these lines, especially with the increasing intensity of the struggle for the throne, and it was not uncommon for people to use despicable methods.

Upon considering this possibility, Lu Chen immediately summoned Zeng Shuo.

When Zeng Shuo appeared before Lu Chen, he cupped his hands in salute and said, "Greetings, Princely Heir!"

Lu Chen said, "Go and check whether the families annihilated by the Wolf Demon belong to the Imperial Faction or the Empress Dowager's faction."

Upon hearing this, Zeng Shuo was momentarily stunned.

Getting involved in the struggle for the throne could cost one's head.

The Deceit Suppressing Guards generally wished to avoid such matters, and Zeng Shuo was no exception.

However, since it was an order from Lu Chen, he had no choice but to comply.

Collecting his thoughts, Zeng Shuo cupped his hands and said, "Yes, I will investigate immediately." With that, he turned and left the West Wing Courtyard.

After watching Zeng Shuo leave, Lu Chen instructed the maid outside the pavilion, "Put away the dossiers."

With these words, he immediately stood up and carried Zhou Youyou horizontally toward the room.

Zhou Youyou glanced at Lu Chen speechlessly; this guy was at it again.

Moments later, sounds emerged from within Zhou Youyou's room.

At that moment, Lu Chen looked down at Zhou Youyou's cute little face while busily attending to his matters and asked, "Youyou, can you help me?"

Hearing this, Zhou Youyou weakly replied, "Help... help you with what?"

Lu Chen lifted his hand to caress her jade-like cheek and said with a smile, "I want your sister, the Saintess of the Heavenly Fate Sect, and your Sect Hierarch to become my women."

Hearing this, Zhou Youyou's heart shuddered. She had long predicted that Lu Chen was eyeing them, but for him to actually ask her to help him win them over left her somewhat displeased.

Perhaps sensing Zhou Youyou's dissatisfaction, Lu Chen softly whispered in her ear, "Don't you want sisters? Do you plan to serve me alone forever?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Zhou Youyou was momentarily silent.

Over time, she had developed a possessive desire for Lu Chen, yet she also felt overwhelmed.

If Lu Chen visited her courtyard only occasionally, she would be very happy.

But coming every day was too much for her to handle, even if she was Mysterious. She couldn't endure Lu Chen's relentless demands.

Pouting, Zhou Youyou reluctantly asked, "How do you want me to help you? They won't come to the Capital city unless it's something important."

Lu Chen did not answer directly and instead asked, "Haven't you felt it?"

Surprised by the sudden question, Zhou Youyou asked, "Felt what?"

Lu Chen smiled and replied, "Haven't you felt your realm improving?"

With Lu Chen's words, Zhou Youyou suddenly realized that ever since she entered the Zhen Nan Prince Manor, her realm had been slowly improving,

even without consuming blood food, and the deceitful evil within her had grown denser.

However, her focus had always been elsewhere, so she hadn't noticed it immediately.

Checking her own realm, Zhou Youyou realized she had reached the Mid-stage Xuan Realm.

When she came to the Capital city, her realm was at the Early-stage Xuan Realm; in just a few months, it had progressed to the Mid-stage Xuan Realm, faster than consuming blood food.

With these reflections, Zhou Youyou carefully recalled her time spent with Lu Chen.

She found that whenever she engaged in dual cultivation with Lu Chen, the deceitful evil within her always seemed stirred, flowing involuntarily toward Lu Chen's body.

But the deceitful evil would return to her body, becoming more refined each time. This was why her realm continued to improve.

Lu Chen not only helped purify her deceitful evil but also infused her with vitality. Hence, being close to Lu Chen thrilled her—not merely due to her feelings but also because Lu Chen’s vitality was abundantly intense.

With these thoughts, Zhou Youyou’s gaze towards Lu Chen grew increasingly radiant, as if she were beholding a treasure.

However, she was somewhat puzzled: wouldn’t Lu Chen’s vitality diminish after infusing it into her? Wouldn’t that significantly shorten his lifespan? Considering this possibility, the excitement in Zhou Youyou’s eyes vanished, replaced by a hint of concern.

She then asked, "By infusing your vitality into us for cultivation, won’t that drastically reduce your lifespan?"

As she spoke, Zhou Youyou wanted to push Lu Chen away. Despite desiring his vitality, she didn’t want him to die.

Seeing Zhou Youyou's worry, Lu Chen calmly reassured her, "I'm fine; this amount of vitality is nothing."

The deceitful evil entwined in Zhou Youyou would indeed deplete his vitality upon entering his body.

However, perhaps due to the presence of the Netherworld Evil Control Body, his vitality quickly restored itself.

Consequently, even with daily visits to Zhou Youyou, Lu Chen's body remained unaffected.

On the contrary, his realm and strength continuously advanced due to the Spirit Evil Body Refining Skill.

The cultivation method for a Spirit Martial Artist involves inviting the spiritual evil into the body, allowing its devouring power to consume one's vitality, damaging the cells to activate cellular activity, thus refining the physical body to make it stronger.

The deceitful evil's penetration is more severe, devouring more vitality. When Zhou Youyou's deceitful evil entered Lu Chen's body, the greater damage caused resulted in stronger cell activity, which accelerated Lu Chen's skill progression. Of course, the concept of cells doesn't exist in this world.

At this moment, Lu Chen leaned down, aligning their bodies completely, and whispered softly in her ear, "Youyou, help me, won't you?"

The deep, magnetic tone of Lu Chen's voice sent a shiver through Zhou Youyou's body and mind.

Zhou Youyou huffed, "Don't even think about it. Why should I help you?"

Though she had already decided to assist Lu Chen, seeing his confident reliance on her stirred a small feeling inside her.

Seeing that Zhou Youyou was still unwilling to help, Lu Chen refrained from speaking further.

He immediately captured Zhou Youyou's lips with his own, intensifying the experience; since she refused, she could endure it alone.

Startled by Lu Chen's sudden aggression, Zhou Youyou quickly lifted her jade hands to push against Lu Chen's chest. "Mmmmmm..."

She was only throwing a minor tantrum; how could this guy be so petty, getting angry so quickly?

Sobbing... she was about to be wantonly played with again by the jerk...