Farmhouse 151

Chapter 151: A Complete Mess

He patted Gu Lao San's shoulder and said, "Ah, Lao San, I think we should listen to what urgent matter Shunzi has to say, if we delay the urgent business of father, you wouldn't be able to bear that responsibility."

"Second brother, this is none of your business!" Gu Lao San's eyes flashed with a fierce light, shooting out an undeniable ferocity!

Wang Shun, with an anxious look, hurriedly said, "Uncle Gu San, I came here for Sister Youyou's matter. After you left, I saw Sister Youyou being carried away by a wild man into the mountains!"

"Ah...?"

Everyone at the scene was stunned into silence.

Gu Lao San had thought that Wang Shun had come about his issue with Gu Xiaoqing, but now, hearing that it was something else, his tension relaxed, yet he was astonished!

Gu Lao Er had a vague understanding of what was going on between Gu Xiaoqing and Wang Shun, and his intention was to enjoy the spectacle. Now that Wang Shun had spoken up, although it wasn't about Gu Xiaoqing but Gu Youyou instead, he was still keen on watching the excitement.

As long as it wasn't a matter concerning his own Gu Lao Er's household, it was all the same to him.

Gu Feng's heart tightened, and his face turned deathly pale as he staggered a step, urgently asking, "Shunzi, what are you talking about? What do you mean Youyou has been taken away by a wild man."

Wang Shun said in a hurry, "Ah, it was... it was in the back mountain, I'm sure Sister Youyou was picking mushrooms in the back mountain when she caught the attention of a wild man. I heard noises and chased after them, and I saw a wild man, pitch black all over, carrying Sister Youyou off. I chased after them, but that wild man moved like a monkey, leaping and bounding away until he disappeared without a trace."

The women from behind also came out, with Old Mrs. Huang and matchmaker Zhang Luo at the forefront. When Old Mrs. Huang heard this, she stopped in her tracks and said, "There are many hunters in our back mountain, but I've never heard of any wild men there. Are you sure you didn't see wrong?"

Wang Shun thought for a moment but then nodded with certainty, saying, "I can't be wrong, it was definitely a wild man. A monkey isn't that big, and a human... can't run that fast!"

"Ah!" Matchmaker Zhang Yi exclaimed, "It's really possible there are wild men. I remember a few years ago, people from the neighboring Li Family village also said that when their hunters went hunting in the mountains, they encountered wild men with long body hair, pitch black, able to leap up and down in trees, and running incredibly fast. Old Master Gu, your Youyou might really have been taken by that wild man!"

"What?" Gu Feng's head buzzed, overcome with anxiety, he couldn't catch his breath and fell straight backwards.

"Ah, old man, what's happened to you again? At your age, you can't afford to be so agitated!"

With Gu Feng's fall, the Gu family was thrown into chaos, rushing to help the old man on the ground.

Old Mrs. Huang was so anxious that she didn't know what to do, while it was the outsider, matchmaker Zhang Luo, who took charge in the situation.

"Shunzi, you're young and fast, go quickly and fetch a good doctor, Old Master Gu is elderly, let's hope nothing serious happens."

"Yes, I'm heading to the town right now!" Wang Shun was also startled, not expecting Old Master Gu to be so fragile; if something bad really happened because of the shock, it would be even harder for him to marry Erya from their family.

"Gu Lao Er, Gu Lao San, you two help your father into the house first. Da Shuang, Xiao Shuang, go inform the village head, say that there is a wild man in the back mountain and that he has taken away a living

person, see what he has to say. Sister Huang, you help Old Lady Gu! Oh my, Old Lady Gu, you're also not young, don't get too upset, what will we do if you fall ill too?"

Old Mrs. Huang was crying her eyes out.

"That's a debt collector, oh, cursed her parents to death, and even troubled our family for so many years, now she may well have worried the old man to death. I tell you, my old man is likely to lose his life because of her one of these days!"

Chapter 152: The Main Force Enters the Mountains

"Madam Gu, please don't say that. No matter what, Youyou still bears the Gu surname. She has been taken care of through many years of illness, and now that she has recovered, you will still enjoy her blessings in the future!"

"Humph... enjoy blessings? Forget it, this old woman doesn't have such luck. I just hope that debt-collecting ghost stops plaguing us!"

After a good deal of bustling, everyone finally settled down.

The village chief arrived, and the villagers who had been working in the fields also returned.

For Lotus Village, this was not just about Gu Youyou being kidnapped by the wild man; it also concerned the safety of everyone in the village.

The village chief was a man in his fifties, who spoke with a strong and powerful voice.

"Now it's one person who has been taken, but this wild man, though he carries the word 'human,' is much like the beasts in the mountains—wolves, tigers, and leopards—he lacks humanity. After taking one, there will be a second, a third, countless more. This wild man in the mountains threatens the safety of our entire village. If we don't take action now, he will surely intensify his actions and come to kidnap more people.

So we must form a team to comb the mountains, and even if we can't catch that wild man, we need to scare him, right? We can't let him think we have no way to deal with him. Isn't that right?"

Below, a hunter quickly responded: "Yes, many men from our village go hunting in the mountains during the slack farming season. If there's always a wild man snatching people there, how can we continue to hunt?"

Organizing a hunting party to deal with the wild man was met with unanimous response, and soon several teams of men from Lotus Village were ready to head into the mountains while the sky was still light.

Jin Zijin was in the mountains and only realized something had happened when he heard the collective shouting from below upon his return.

He hurried down and grabbed a villager to ask, "Why are so many of you heading into the mountains? Has something happened?"

The villager quickly replied: "Oh, Hunter Jin, you don't know? There's been trouble. Your wife was taken by a wild man, Shunzi saw it with his own eyes. That's why we're all going up to help you search!"

Jin Zijin's expression darkened, and his face showed little change as he simply asked, "Where's Shunzi?"

"At the Gu Family's house. Old Master Gu fainted when he heard about it."

"Hmm, thank you!!" Jin Zijin gave a nod of thanks and continued to head down the mountain with his gear.

The group of villagers he encountered along the way was secretly amazed; they shook their heads and sighed as they watched him walk away.

"I told you, Hunter Jin didn't marry that sickly girl for love; he was after her dowry. It's said that everything Gu Youyou brought into Jin Zijin's thatched hut as a dowry has been sold by him."

Another person added, "That's right, that's right. It's rumored that he even grabbed the silver the Lin Family brought, and when the old lady from the Gu Family went to ask for it, she got a good scolding!"

"Sigh, what a shame for Gu Youyou, having recovered from her illness only to end up with such a heartless man. Look at him, hearing that his wife was taken by a wild man, he had no reaction at all, just keeps going down the mountain as if nothing happened. I bet he wishes Gu Youyou were dead!"

"Exactly, it’s really disheartening!"

"Come on, let’s hurry up the mountain while it’s still early!"

...

Gu Feng had already woken up, and the rest of the Gu Family had been called away by him, leaving only Jin Zijin.

Worried, Gu Feng’s already aged face seemed even older now. His eyes had begun to grow cloudy, making it difficult to discern objects right in front of him, let alone make out Jin Zijin’s face.

Chapter 153: Licked Again

But he knew that Jin Zijin had arrived.

Tears streaked the old man’s face, and his lips trembled as he said, "Zijin, although I don’t know why you came here or how you figured out Youyou’s illness, I know you’re no ordinary person. You told me not to ask, and I haven’t. As long as Youyou is well, I’ll listen to anything you say. But this time Youyou has been taken by that wild man, and I hope you can tell me the truth. Is that wild man you spoke of related to you?"

Jin Zijin’s resolute face always bore an inch of stubble, his skin color no different from the local farmers, making him appear like any ordinary hunter.

Yet it was those eyes, the deep color within them, that contrasted starkly with his simple and unpretentious appearance. It was as if his eyes held an expansive sea of stars, concealing secrets unknown to anyone else.

Gu Feng could not see his face clearly, but he could distinctly feel the unique light emanating from those extraordinary eyes. He tightened inside, not asking about his own matters, for his duty was to rescue Gu Youyou. That was the agreement they had made initially.

Gu Feng knew his question was overstepping, and it might displease Jin Zijin, yet he still longed for an answer!

"Yes!" After a long while, a faint word finally echoed in the room from Jin Zijin.

"Then..." Hearing Jin Zijin's affirmative answer, Gu Feng's expression became agitated.

"What about Youyou? You promised me, you would keep Youyou safe."

"Yes, I promised you!" Jin Zijin turned his head slightly, looking out the window. There, a black-haired head seemed to sense something and quickly darted aside. He coldly curled his lip and said in a low voice, "You take care of the Gu Family, and I will be responsible for rescuing her."

Gu Feng was startled and followed Jin Zijin's gaze toward the door, his face slowly darkening.

...

Gu Youyou had another dream where she fell into a mud pit that exerted enormous pressure on her, leaving her struggling in vain to escape as the air in her chest was slowly compressed. The sticky substance around her covered her face, causing tremendous discomfort, and when she woke up with a start, she found someone lying on top of her, their cold tongue licking her face again and again as though savoring some delicious treat.

Gu Youyou rolled her eyes, disgust making her want to smash her head against a wall.

Why was he licking her again? Hadn't they agreed not to cross that line? Now she couldn't even sleep peacefully in her coffin.

The person on top sensed her awakening and paused, his profound gaze emitting a captivating light in the darkness. Gu Youyou clearly saw him.

She turned her head and noticed that the coffin lid was slightly ajar, allowing a faint light to seep in. This sliver of light was enough for Gu Youyou to clearly see the face of the man so close to her.

In that moment, he looked like a normal person, his eyes not vacant and lifeless.

Gu Youyou was briefly taken aback.

But it was only for an instant; the man reverted to his foolish state. That brief moment of lucidity seemed but an illusion.

The position was indeed uncomfortable. Gu Youyou pushed at the man, but he remained as immobile as a rigid stone. Annoyed, she glared and shouted, "Get up, push the coffin lid."

Hearing Gu Youyou’s command, the man indeed got up, knelt in the coffin, and stretched out his hands to push against the coffin lid.

Chapter 154: Missed the Opportunity to Escape

The man looked much weaker than an ordinary person; due to his thinness, the bones of his face were unusually prominent. However, he still seemed somewhat better than Gu Youyou when she first emerged from that dark room.

Gu Youyou, observing his frail appearance, was very doubtful whether he could push open the heavy coffin lid.

While she was holding her doubts, to her surprise, he moved it.

The coffin lid made a heavy muffled sound as it slowly slid to one side under Gu Youyou’s astonished gaze, and within a short while, it had already been moved a third of the way.

A gap of that size was enough. Gu Youyou waved her hand at him and said, "That’s good, you can rest now!"

With an ecstatic struggle, she climbed over the edge of the coffin and laboriously crawled out.

Gu Youyou looked around but did not see Uncle Wild Man. She didn’t know if he had not returned or if he had come back and left again.

Finding the man in the room easy to fool, Gu Youyou was delighted and hurried towards the tomb door.

Standing in front of the tomb door, she turned back to look at the man in the coffin; he was still standing there, his clear eyes watching her.

Gu Youyou paused for a moment, thought, and then said to him, "Whether you understand me or not, I still have to say this. Do not drink that medicine!"

Having said that, she began to carefully search for the mechanism of the tomb door!

Within this tomb chamber, there were intricate murals extending from the ceiling onto the walls and down to the floor. Gu Youyou took quite a while to find an abstract painting of a tree signifying a connection between heaven and earth. One of the leaves on that tree seemed cleaner than the others, smoother to the touch among the rough stones, as if it had often been touched!

Yes, that was it.

Gu Youyou joyfully pressed her hand onto it, and before she could even touch the stone leaf, the tomb door started rumbling again.

Startled, Gu Youyou hastily retreated and, turning around, bypassed the tomb door to squat dutifully in a corner of the chamber.

The tomb door opened, and Uncle Wild Man came in.

Gu Youyou rolled her eyes and muttered to herself about her bad luck, having encountered him both times she had tried to leave.

Upon entering, Uncle Wild Man first glanced at the man standing in the coffin, then followed his gaze to Gu Youyou, who was sitting obediently on the ground.

Though there was no sound, Gu Youyou distinctly saw him snort dismissively.

In his left hand, he carried a dead wild mountain chicken, while in his right, he held a whimpering wolf cub.

But Gu Youyou quickly realized that the creature wasn't a puppy; it was a wolf cub. The mountain did have wolves, that much was true, although they typically lived in packs. She wondered how he had managed to catch one.

The wolf cub looked much like a typical puppy and was quite endearing, especially since Gu Youyou had been a dog lover in her past life, having raised quite a few dogs.

Looking down, Gu Youyou noticed its leg was injured, staining its white fur red. The Uncle Wild Man held it in his hand, and it struggled ineffectually from time to time, seemingly growing weaker.

The two mute men, one standing outside the coffin and the other inside, faced each other, engaging in a silent exchange.

Naturally, Gu Youyou couldn't understand and just treated it as a spectacle.

She observed Uncle Wild Man holding the wild chicken and the wolf cub, gesturing back and forth—she guessed he was asking which one to eat.

Seeing the pitiful little wolf cub, and wanting to save a living creature, Gu Youyou suddenly wanted to rescue it.

Not knowing how long she would have to stay in this tomb chamber, keeping another living being, one that could make noise, might alleviate some of the loneliness.

Chapter 155: The Wild Man Uncle with Manic Syndrome

Gu Youyou saw the man in the coffin shift his gaze to the live wolf cub, and her heart skipped a beat.

Is he going to eat the wolf cub?

Suddenly, she stood up, ran in front of them in a few steps, split her mouth into an ingratiating smile, and said, "Today, we should eat the mountain... The pheasant is dead, and it won't taste good if it sits for too long. This wolf cub is still alive, keeping it a few more days will keep it fresh!"

The wild man Uncle squinted his eyes slightly, scrutinizing Gu Youyou with a gaze so piercing it felt like it could see through one's heart, sending shivers down her spine.

She stepped back, but then she shockingly discovered that this wild man Uncle's eyes somewhat resembled Jin Zijin's, both of which had the kind of pupils so dark they seemed to suck one in!

Thud, the wild pheasant in the wild man Uncle's left hand dropped to the ground.

The awkward smile on Gu Youyou's face could no longer be maintained. So he's still going to eat the wolf cub, isn't he?

She looked at the injured wolf cub with sympathy, suddenly feeling a sense of sorrow for the doomed. Here she was, already meat on the chopping board, uncertain of when her turn would come.

Unable to save herself, she couldn't save this poor little fellow either.

"Fine, young master, eat it if you want! Just leave me a wolf leg!"

However, wild man Uncle also cast the wolf cub aside, and with a snap, the cub whimpered pitifully from the pain.

Then he grabbed Gu Youyou and gave her a hard push, causing her to fall unsteadily next to the dead pheasant.

Gu Youyou tensed up, warily watching the wild man Uncle.

"What are you going to do?"

Don’t tell me he’s not eating the pheasant or the wolf cub but contemplating human flesh now?

At that thought, she shuddered in disgust, fear apparent in her eyes.

The wild man Uncle stood with a stern face, taking two steps toward Gu Youyou, looming over her.

Gu Youyou’s heart leaped to her throat as her hand quietly reached behind her back to where she had her sleeping drug. Last time, she had used this method to knock out the wild man Uncle.

It was the only way she had, and she had to rely on it for now.

The wild man Uncle seemed to see through her plan, his split mouth showing a disdainful sneer.

Without making a sound, Gu Youyou could clearly see that his mouth had no tongue!

She was once again startled but discreetly held a needle in her hand.

Knowing he had been fooled once and wouldn’t let her succeed again, she still pinned her last hope on that medicated needle.

If he dared to bend over, she would stab him with the needle.

Unexpectedly, the wild man Uncle had no intention of bending over. He kicked the pheasant with his foot, then grunted threateningly at Gu Youyou.

Now Gu Youyou understood and also let out a sigh of relief. He wasn't planning to deal with her; he wanted her to handle the pheasant!

Picking up the pheasant from the ground, Gu Youyou managed a wretched smile, her heart filled with infinite desolation!

Eating the pheasant would be nice, but she didn't know how!

"Uncle, I..."

Gu Youyou looked toward the wild man Uncle, but before she could finish speaking, she was frightened back by his cannibalistic stare.

He glared at her as if warning her, then restlessly slapped the coffin lid, acting completely manic.

After several encounters, Gu Youyou felt the wild man Uncle was quick-tempered and easily irritated, best not to be provoked without reason.

She couldn't help but feel a certain sympathy for these two individuals, both mute, one a fool, and the other suffering from mania, hidden away in these deep mountains and remote ridges, surely having their own compelling reasons.

Resigned to her fate, she grabbed the pheasant and went to a corner of the tomb chamber to pluck its feathers, a task that was far from easy when it was done dry.

Chapter 156: A Pile of Bones

If you don't use enough force, you can't get the feathers off; but if you use too much, you tear the skin and flesh apart, which is both disgusting and terrifying, not to mention it affects the taste.

As two mutes were expressing their affections by the coffin, Gu Youyou was left alone to pluck chicken feathers. She plucked them one by one, disdainfully tossing each one aside after pulling it out, and it took her half an hour just to pluck both wings of that wild chicken!

Finally, the two opposite her completed their emotional exchange and turned their heads to find that Gu Youyou still hadn't finished plucking the chicken clean. The wild man uncle's restlessness instantly flared up.

He strode over to Gu Youyou with a dark face, grabbed her arm, and forcefully threw her aside, causing Gu Youyou to cry out in pain.

I'm not a punching bag!

The wild man uncle glared fiercely at Gu Youyou, picked up the pitiful wild chicken, and strode towards the tomb entrance.

The entire process happened in one fluid motion, leaving Gu Youyou stunned for a moment, unable to react.

Did the wild man uncle get so mad that he went outside to eat alone?

Gu Youyou smiled at the man in the coffin and said, "I was thinking that you guys love chicken skin, and I was afraid of damaging it, so I was going a bit slower."

Obviously, the fool opposite her wouldn't give her any response, just staring at her dumbfounded.

However, the wolf cub that might be put in the pot tomorrow was bravely, though limpingly, attempting to approach Gu Youyou.

Its cautious demeanor mirrored her own, didn't it?

Perhaps it was a sense of shared suffering, but Gu Youyou felt a pang of pity. She sighed, crouched down, gestured to it, and whispered, "Come here, I'll take a look at your leg!"

Sensing her goodwill, the wolf cub, after a few tentative attempts, indeed drew closer to Gu Youyou.

Gu Youyou smiled, gently stroking its head, just as she would pet the big dogs at her modern-day home.

The wolf cub gradually lowered its guard with Gu Youyou, rubbing purposefully and inadvertently into the palm of her hand, its pair of wet, amber eyes nearly brimming with tears.

Gu Youyou knew its leg was in pain and that it was scared!

Her heart softened, and she picked it up to examine the injured foot. Even if it was to be eaten tomorrow, it deserved to be treated well today!

The skin was torn, and the bones were somewhat misplaced, but it wasn't too serious.

Setting the wolf cub down, Gu Youyou softly said to it, "I'm going to find something to stabilize your leg, so just sit here and don't move. If you move, your leg will really become crippled."

It was unclear whether the little wolf cub understood her words or whether it was simply too tired to move, but it truly stayed put, without stirring. However, those amber eyes followed Gu Youyou's movements as constantly as the man in the coffin did.

Perhaps the wolf cub saw Gu Youyou as a lifeline, fearing she would ignore it, so it kept its gaze fixed on her. As for why the man in the coffin was watching her, that was a mystery.

There were two ear chambers in the tomb, and Gu Youyou headed towards one of them, stepping down the stairs, only to discover several decaying corpses turned into white bones.

The sudden sight caught her off guard, and she instinctively let out a shriek.

As a doctor, she had seen her share of dead bodies and more.

But this was the first time she had come across a pile of bones.

It was unclear which of these skeletons was the original owner of the tomb, who ended up naked and discarded like trash here after having their coffin stolen by others.

While Gu Youyou was not superstitious, she also felt the two mutes outside had been somewhat indecent. After taking over someone's resting place, the least they could have done was to dig a pit and bury these bones properly; didn't the ancients value a peaceful resting place in the earth? Just leaving them here, what was that about!

Chapter 157: Eat You Tomorrow

She sighed and whispered to the several ferocious skulls baring their white teeth, "Grievances have heads, debts have owners. The ones who stole your territory are the two mute guys outside. I was captured by them, just like you, a victim as well. If you have any awareness beneath these springs, please bless me to leave this place alive. If I can ever return, I promise to properly gather your bones again!"

Gu Youyou rambled on for a while, then bent down to pick and choose a arm bone of suitable length and said, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend; we, after all, share a common enemy and can be considered friends. So I'm looking to borrow a bone from you to save another one of our allies; you wouldn't object to that, right?"

"Ah, if you don't speak up, I'll take that as your agreement, and I'll come to see you again another day!"

Returning to the main chamber, the four eyes, belonging to the man and the wolf cub, fell back on her. Gu Youyou straightened up and went over to help the wolf cub stabilize its leg bone.

The wolf cub was very small, looking to be about two or three months old; the bone was somewhat long for it.

But there was no other way; this was the shortest one available. She certainly couldn't use someone's rib, as those ribs weren't straight.

Gu Youyou tore off a strip of cloth from her clothing, bandaged the wolf cub's wound, and then secured it.

"It might hurt a bit soon, so you can cry out, but you must not bite me! Otherwise, I'll let them eat you today," Gu Youyou warned fiercely.

The dislocation of the little wolf cub's leg wasn't too severe and was easily set right.

Indeed, it was painful, and the cub howled with pain, tears welling in its eyes as it turned around, yet it obediently refrained from biting Gu Youyou.

Gu Youyou smiled with satisfaction, her mouth just parting when she heard a booming sound from the direction of the tomb's entrance.

Her smile vanished, and her heart started to tense up again.

The unpredictable savage had returned.

The roasted chicken he brought back smelled delicious; a famished Gu Youyou couldn't help but swallow her saliva.

Trapped in the chamber with no sight of day, she didn't know if it was day or night outside, nor how long she had been held inside.

Up to now, this was only the second meal, so it didn't seem like a long time had passed.

This time, she didn't get the chicken leg; the savage uncle weirdly grinned, rewarding her with a pair of chicken wings.

Gu Youyou felt so frustrated inside. Had she known, she would have plucked the feathers from the chicken leg first.

It wasn’t that the chicken leg was especially tasty, but rather that it had a lot more meat than wings, which were mostly bone and skin and were thus less filling.

Gu Youyou morosely retreated to a corner to eat her chicken wings, while the wolf cub lay beside her, yearningly watching.

After a painful internal struggle looking at the not-so-meaty wing in her hand, she decided to give one to the little wolf cub.

The cub enjoyed the wing immensely, having never eaten cooked meat before; it devoured it voraciously.

Gu Youyou mumbled under her breath, "Today you’re eating its meat, tomorrow we may be eating yours."

The wild man noticed the bandaged leg of the little wolf cub and a complex expression crossed his face. He glanced at Gu Youyou but said nothing before heading out again.

Before long, another jar of medicine came in; he handed it to the man in the coffin, who downed it without a word.

As bitter as the medicine was, he drank it as if it were water.

Gu Youyou sniffed hard, feeling that this medicine was somehow different from yesterday’s.

She didn’t know if it was a different batch or if he had changed the medicine.

The wild uncle left with the empty jar, and this time, she waited a long time without seeing him return.

Chapter 158: Carrying Watermelon Rind in Mouth

Gu Youyou wasn’t sure if the wild man uncle was still outside guarding, so she didn’t dare to open the tomb door. Instead, she idly teased the wolf and lay beside the coffin chatting with the idiot.

"Hey, what's your relationship with him?"

The other party ignored her.

She asked again, "When did you start taking this medicine? Let me tell you a secret, I've also taken it, but ever since I knew it was poison, I stopped drinking it. Look, I'm all better now!"

The man still didn't react!

It was not until much later that the wild man uncle finally came back.

This time he didn't have any meat with him, but he was holding a big watermelon.

In the sweltering heat of July and August, eating watermelon could cool you down.

Gu Youyou watched eagerly, but didn't dare to make a sound.

Even if it was for cooling down, it certainly wasn't meant for her. It must be for the man in the coffin. She and the little wolf cub could only watch enviously.

A human and a wolf, both starving, listened to the slurpy noise coming from the two silent figures eating the watermelon—this added to the discomfort. She could only try to take the little wolf cub and squat a bit farther away.

When the wild man uncle finished eating, he threw the watermelon on the ground and gestured to the little wolf cub, which immediately betrayed its own integrity and scampered over to nibble on the watermelon rind. Gu Youyou felt a surge of frustration inside her!

There's no difference between a wolf's leg and a dog's leg—go to whoever offers you food!

Gu Youyou spent many anxious days in the tomb, always at the brink of survival with just enough food to hang on to life. During this time, she was locked in the coffin to sleep three times; she reckoned it must've been three days.

The man in the coffin still took advantage of her sleep to lick her face like it was jelly, so these past three days, she had barely slept properly; now she could almost fall asleep standing up.

Without daylight, the wild man uncle would always appear in the tomb chamber unexpectedly. His routines were a puzzle, and Gu Youyou had thought several times about trying to open the door when he wasn't around, but she never dared.

At least now she could keep her life; if the wild man uncle found out she wanted to run, whether she could stay alive was another matter.

Gu Youyou sat in a corner, staring at the stone door and sighing over and over again. She was torn between whether to open it or not.

The little wolf cub dragged its injured leg over to Gu Youyou with a small piece of dried-out watermelon rind in its mouth and dropped it at her feet, as if offering her the watermelon rind to eat.

Gu Youyou's face was full of dismay.

Why didn't it bring her some when the watermelon was fresh a couple of days ago?

Of course, even when it was fresh, she wouldn't eat it; she wouldn't eat watermelon rinds nibbled by others.

"Come here," Gu Youyou gestured to the little wolf cub, and the little guy, very understanding, dragged its lame leg over to her.

Gu Youyou picked it up and while pulling its leg said, "Be good, okay? I'm going to see if I can take off the bone that's been tied on."

She gently moved the leg and seeing that the little thing wasn’t in too much discomfort, she figured the leg was mostly healed.

Since the injury wasn’t severe to begin with, and she had corrected it in time, it naturally healed quickly.

After removing the human bone, she put it back in the ossuary room, warning the little wolf cub, "You must not eat the bones there, okay? No matter how hungry you get, you have to endure. You can’t eat them."

Gu Youyou had thought that the little wolf cub would sacrifice itself in its hunger, but it turned out the wild man uncle ignored it, without any indication that he wanted to eat it, and it simply survived.

The little wolf cub looked at Gu Youyou with its big watery eyes, tilting its head, not quite understanding, perhaps.

After removing the bone, its foot was still slightly limping due to the wound on its thigh not being fully healed, but it was no longer a significant problem!

Chapter 159: Escape

Gu Youyou replaced the cloth wrap for it, even tying a beautiful bowknot.

Seeing it, Gu Youyou suddenly had an idea, her eyes lighting up.

"You..." She started to speak, then quickly silenced herself, glancing over toward the coffin.

Seeing the man was still standing there in a daze, she mustered up the courage to whisper to the wolf cub, "When that wild man uncle comes in later, run outside as soon as the door is about to close. Do you remember the way home? Run as far as you can, as fast as you can, understand?"

Well... regardless of whether it understood or not, Gu Youyou sighed, picked it up, carried it close to the door, and then set it down.

She crouched down, pointed toward the door, and said, "Remember, wait until it’s about to close before you go out, just squat here and don’t move!"

She wouldn’t be able to escape, but there was still hope for the wolf cub. It had a bowknot made from her own clothes tied around its leg, and if it was lucky enough to encounter Jin Zijin, perhaps she would be saved.

With this thought, excitement was hard to hide on Gu Youyou’s face. She didn’t know if the wolf cub would succeed, but she crouched on the ground, gently smoothing its fur, repeating the gestures over and over as if she were training a puppy.

"If you don’t want to be stewed and eaten, you must run fast!"

The wild man uncle had been gone for quite a while, and Gu Youyou estimated that he was about to return. She waited both excitedly and nervously, too hungry to feel her rumbling stomach.

Time seemed to pass exceedingly slowly, feeling as though a century had gone by before the tall tomb door finally began to open with a rumble.

To get the wild man uncle’s attention, and to make him overlook the wolf cub running out at his feet, she hurriedly climbed into the coffin along with the man in it, standing together.

The moment the stone door opened, the wild man uncle saw Gu Youyou standing in the coffin, smiling cheerfully and waving at him. He was truly taken aback.

After all, she had been thrown in by someone else these past few days. How could she willingly climb in herself?

Gu Youyou chuckles and said, "Uncle, you must have a special hobby of keeping people in coffins, don’t you?"

The wild man uncle had caught a half-grown roe deer today, carrying it on his shoulder. The roe deer was already dead, a bloody hole in its body, fresh blood dripping from that hole to the ground.

The starved wolf cub's eyes darkly watched the drooping head of the roe deer, hardly able to resist the urge to pounce and take a bite.

Watching the door slowly close, Gu Youyou felt her heart go cold, thinking to herself: You can't blame Little Beast, in these mountains full of jackals, wolves, tigers, and leopards, who could withstand such a temptation!

The wild man uncle's attention was indeed captured by Gu Youyou, completely unaware of the wolf cub at his feet, salivating at the sight of the roe deer.

He walked a few steps forward, dropped the roe deer from his shoulder, and began gesticulating to Gu Youyou.

Gu Youyou could clearly see that he wanted her to help deal with the roe deer, which was too large for them to eat in one day.

The heavy stone door made a dull sound as it closed.

Gu Youyou glanced in that direction, only to discover that the wolf cub was gone.

She was both alarmed and delighted in her heart. Had the little fellow ultimately resisted the great temptation and run out at the last moment the door closed?

It is most difficult for humans to be self-disciplined, yet for a wolf to do so, this creature must have a limitless future ahead!

Chapter 160: The Mechanism Holds the Universe

The wild man uncle seemed to have noticed something as well. He turned his head abruptly and saw that the little wolf cub, previously squatting by the tomb entrance drooling over the deer, was gone. His expression changed instantly.

The tomb chamber was large yet empty, and could be surveyed in a single glance.

Without the Little Beast in the tomb chamber, he turned his fierce gaze towards Gu Youyou, baring his teeth with an expression more hideous than that of jackals and leopards.

Gu Youyou felt fear in her heart, but still stood calmly opposite him.

With an innocent face, she shook her head at the wild man uncle, "Maybe it ran out, this wolf meat soup... Ah!"

Before Gu Youyou could finish her sentence, the wild man uncle had already pushed her into the coffin and, with a swift move, had lifted the coffin lid to cover it.

He was in such a hurry that he didn't seal it completely, leaving a gap the size of a finger.

Dim light shone through that tiny gap, and Gu Youyou stared at those beams of light, speechless for a long moment.

The wild man uncle had already gone to chase after the little wolf cub, whose legs were not yet fully nimble. It was uncertain if it could escape.

But she couldn't just sit there waiting to die!

She tried to pry at the gap with her hands, but the heavy stone coffin lid weighed at least several hundred pounds—is this something someone with her meager strength could move?

Obviously not.

But the man locked in the coffin with her, since the first time he opened the lid under her seduction, hadn't opened it again.

No matter what she did or said, he wouldn't open it. She thought it must be because the wild man uncle didn't allow him to.

Gu Youyou looked at the dazed man and let out a long sigh, then whispered lowly, "Do you like the wolf cub?"

The man remained bewildered, only staring at her.

Gu Youyou, not understanding why, felt irritated and cursed, "Can’t you even nod or shake your head? You’re both freaks! Here, let Granny teach you."

She pushed on his head, perhaps to vent the unhappiness in her heart for the past few days, insisting that he nod several times.

She continued to grumble, "This is for bullying me, for your dad bullying me, you old pervert. I’m bullying your son now, how about that? If you dare, come kill me!"

After forcing the man to nod several times by grabbing his hair, Gu Youyou didn’t expect the man to get angry and resist.

He shoved her away and turned to look at the gap in the coffin lid. His slender, pale fingers reached in and firmly pulled—it moved the lid.

Gu Youyou was both shocked and overjoyed.

For the past two days, she had tried every means and failed to make him lift the coffin lid. Yet today, in a burst of anger at him, he had done it, a surprise indeed.

She thought to herself: You’re angry, aren’t you? If you dare, throw me out! Hurry, throw me out!

Sure enough, the man obliged her wish. After opening the coffin lid, he scooped her up and tossed her straight out.

Joy came so suddenly that Gu Youyou couldn’t help but burst into laughter.

The man glared at her with a fierce expression, which, compared to his typically dull appearance, seemed almost endearing.

Gu Youyou quickly scrambled up from the ground and ran towards the stone door.

This was her perfect chance to escape.

She immediately spotted the distinct leaf and without hesitation pushed hard on it.

However... the door didn’t open right away. Instead, there was a thunderous noise as a round stone the size of a washbasin emerged from the other side.

It was carved with the Five Elements and Eight Trigrams Plate, and in Chinese medicine, everything is classified by Yin and Yang and the Five Elements. This was not something unfamiliar to Gu Youyou.

But what she didn’t understand was why, when others pressed a switch to open a door, she ended up with this thing instead?