Farmhouse 811

Chapter 811: I Want to Be a Good Person

Jin Zijin's face looked extremely unpleasant as he fiercely glared at Xiao Jinyan and pursued him towards Lingnan.

Xiao Jinyan returned to the crowd and spoke loudly, "Thoroughly interrogate the nearby bandits and report immediately once it's clear."

It seemed that the nearby bandits were going to be unlucky.

After speaking, Xiao Jinyan hurriedly mounted his horse and chased after Jin Zijin.

At the side gate of the Lin Residence, a girl dressed in men's clothing cautiously stepped out the door with a backpack.

Once outside the city, she inquired at the post station about the incident that had occurred the day before.

A string of Copper Coins was placed in front of the tea stall worker, and she quietly said, "Young man, do you know about the bandit disturbance yesterday? The bandits who captured the doctor from Jisheng Hall."

The tea stall worker joyfully took the Copper Coins and said, "I know, it's caused a huge stir; even the Emperor has issued an order to suppress the bandits."

"Oh, then do you know where the bandits are located?"

"I'm not sure about that," the tea stall worker shook his head and said, "I've heard it's around Rucheng, but there are more than one gang of bandits nearby. The Governor's Office might need some time to investigate their exact hideout."

Searcy didn’t ask further, paid the tea money, picked up her bundle, and went to the renting stable opposite to rent a horse-drawn carriage.

"Sir, I want to rent a carriage."

A young lad, seeing business come his way, promptly came out to greet her.

"Alright, young master, where do you wish to go?"

"To Rucheng!"

"Ah...? Rucheng?" The lad shook his head like a rattle drum and said, "There’s a bandit disturbance near Rucheng, I won’t go. Please find someone more skilled."

Searcy looked around, the post station was only so large; besides this privately owned one, there was another operated by the Governor’s Office.

With her civilian status, it wouldn’t be easy to rent from the Governor’s Office.

She turned back to look at the lad, who ignored her and continued wiping the carriage, shook her head, and sighed, "I tried to be a good person, but you just don’t give me the chance. I offer you a toast, but you insist on the penalty drink."

Her tone was unfriendly, immediately triggering the lad’s displeasure.

"Look, sir, business is based on mutual consent—I don’t have to take your business, so what can you do... exactly?"

Searcy flicked her finger, and at the moment the lad opened his mouth, a grain of rice-sized object flew into his mouth, which he swallowed before he could react.

"What... what did you feed me?" The lad’s face changed drastically; he clutched at his throat while the other hand tried to dig into his mouth.

"Ah! Please don’t move at all," Searcy, not smiling genuinely, raised a hand in front of the lad and said quietly, "Take a look at your left arm."

The lad hastily lifted the sleeve of his left arm, only to be shocked to find a black stripe thick as a finger on his arm, looking like an ugly centipede crawling over it.

He went pale with fright and exclaimed, "What... what did you feed me? You dare to poison someone in broad daylight; aren’t you afraid of being thrown into jail?"

Searcy breathed a deep sigh and said, "Of course, I’m afraid, so I nicely asked you to rent me a carriage first. You refused to rent it to me, leaving me no choice but to drug you."

Inside, the lad felt a million #emotions thundering within him.

This was being left with no choice? He had never seen anyone so unreasonable.

The way he spoke, it sounded as if he was the victim and quite aggrieved by it.

But it was he himself who had been poisoned.

"What do you want?" The lad was scared, his face drooping.

Searcy swung herself onto the carriage, found a comfortable position, and said, "Drive the carriage, take me to Rucheng."

Chapter 812: Offending the Tai Sui

"You..."

"Hey, don’t test my patience; I’m incredibly impatient. If you delay my business, I might just delay your antidote."

She pointed at the young man’s arm, grinning as she said, "If you wait until it crawls up to your wrist, you’ll be poisoned and die, and even the Great Luo Immortals won’t be able to save you."

The young man driving the carriage was coerced, with no choice but to lead the horse out and hitch it to the carriage to take her to Rucheng.

It wasn’t far from Rucheng; they could arrive before nightfall.

But this area was notorious for bandits. They had planned to avoid any business to Rucheng lately, yet here they were, coerced by this strange man’s poison threat.

All along the way, the young man driving was trembling with fear, praying that they wouldn’t encounter any bandits.

"Stop!"

Before they had reached Rucheng, Searcy cried out for a halt.

The young man turned around and said, "It will be about half an hour more before we reach Rucheng."

Searcy said, "I know. I told you to stop, so stop. Do you dare not listen to me? Do you still want the antidote?"

The young man was so angry he was gnashing his teeth but didn’t dare to explode in anger; he could only obediently pull the carriage over to the roadside.

Searcy got down from the carriage, looked around, and then took a small bamboo tube out of his backpack.

When the bamboo tube was opened, a black bee flew out from inside.

The bee buzzed around, finally flying off in a specific direction.

Overjoyed, Searcy climbed back into the carriage and said, "Follow it."

The young man was very reluctant, but thinking about the poison in his body that still needed curing, he had to follow orders and continued driving, following the black bee.

But as they went on, he felt something was amiss; this route was taking them out of Rucheng's territory and getting farther away.

Seeing that it was about to get dark, he felt increasingly anxious and said, "Young master, where are we heading?"

Searcy, lounging in the carriage half-closed his eyes; hearing this, he lazily lifted his eyelids and asked, "What direction do you think we're going?"

The young man had been driving carriages for years. He knew the geography of Zhuzhao Country very well, and he had been to the East Sea in the far east, so he said, "It seems like we're headed for the East Sea, young master, but see here..."

"Then let's go to the East Sea!" Searcy interrupted impatiently, seeing that it was almost dark and then put the bee back into the bamboo tube.

With a face as bitter as a gourd, the young man said, "Why pick on me? With your skills, couldn't you just hijack a carriage that was actually going to the East Sea? For me, a trip to the East Sea means no business for a month, and I still need to make money to support my family..."

"Pathetic!" Searcy scoffed with a disdainful laugh, "It's your bad luck, running into the Tai Sui!"

"... " Indeed, he had run into bad luck, bumping into Tai Sui himself.

He (Searcy) was that life-threatening Tai Sui, and it happened to fall into his hands.

Feeling bored along the journey, Searcy had rested enough and then asked, "What's your name?"

"Me?" The young man driving at the front turned his head.

"Is there anyone else here?" Searcy said.

"I... my name is Gui Yunxi!"

"Oh?" Searcy raised his eyebrows and chuckled, "A coachman and yet you have such an elegant name? I thought it would be something like Agou."

That remark was downright infuriating. Gui Yunxi pulled the reins to stop the carriage by the roadside and retorted, "Don't push it too far; Gui is my surname and Yunxi is the name given by my parents. How dare you mock it?"

"Oh, getting spirited, are we?" Searcy clicked his tongue twice and raised his chin, gesturing for him to look at his own arm.

Chapter 813: Stay at the Hotel

Thinking about how he had been poisoned by her, Gui Yunxi had to swallow the raging fire in her belly.

Pulling up his sleeve, he saw that the centipede-like poison mark had grown a lot, startling him as he exclaimed, "How could this happen?"

Searcy tossed him a pill and said, "This medicine is your fare for taking me to Rucheng. Even though we didn't get there, I won't quibble over an hour's journey."

Hearing that it was an antidote, Gui Yunxi didn't hesitate to quickly swallow it. A moment later, he saw the poison mark on his arm recede a bit, but there was still a long stretch left on his limb.

Searcy said with a faint smile, "Don’t worry, I’ll give you the rest once we’ve arrived. Rest assured, I’m a woman of my word; as long as you obediently drive for me, you will not lack rewards."

... So my reward is to earn the antidote for myself?

But you’re the one who poisoned me.

Gui Yunxi was indignant but had no choice but to heed her words.

...

Gu Youyou and Jin Ziyuan switched to riding on horseback, not daring to rest even when it got dark.

Jin Ziyuan said, "Let’s press on a little longer. There’s a city ahead where we can rest."

What could Gu Youyou say? Could she admit she was tired and wanted to rest now? Of course, she thought about it but didn’t know how to broach the topic.

Well, being tired is better than being caught by Huo Li and taken back.

Eventually, they reached the city Jin Ziyuan had mentioned. When they arrived at the only inn still lit up, the inn was closing.

Jin Ziyuan hurriedly dismounted and raised his hand to stop them, saying, "We need lodging, for two."

The innkeeper, who was closing the door, glanced at them and, seeing they were not dressed like the wealthy, immediately looked disgruntled, yawning and showing extreme impatience.

"We only have one cheap room left, do you want it?"

One room? Gu Youyou and Jin Ziyuan immediately felt awkward.

Seeing their hesitation, the innkeeper grew even more annoyed, urging, "Make up your mind quickly if you want to stay. What are you two grown men afraid of? Our beds are big enough to fit you."

Uh...

Gu Youyou was in male disguise, and in the dead of night, no one could see clearly. Anyway, the innkeeper, judging by their attire, took them for two men; there was no mistake.

"We can't change inns now; they're all closed, aren't they? Let's just stay," suggested Gu Youyou.

Jin Ziyuan, with a strange look in his eyes, didn't refuse and said to the innkeeper, "That one room will do, and take good care of the horses."

I have to feed your horses in the middle of the night?

That was what the look on the innkeeper's face seemed to say now.

Jin Ziyuan threw a piece of silver into his hand, finally smashing away the innkeeper's resentful expression.

Alright, with silver in hand, one becomes the boss.

"Right this way, gentlemen!" the innkeeper said, leading them to the guest room on the second floor. The innkeeper happily took their horses to the stable and poured some black beans for them.

The two in the room felt somewhat awkward. Didn't the innkeeper say the bed was big?

It was bullshit; the bed was clearly a single and very simple.

Then again, this was a cheap room, the low-end option of the inn. How good could it be?

"Should I... go get an innkeeper to bring a brazier? It’s going to get colder towards the early hours."

Both of them were prone to the cold, not the best in this situation.

Gu Youyou said, "Let’s forget it. That innkeeper had a face full of reluctance earlier; he’s probably resting by now. We’re just staying for one night anyway; we’ll have to hit the road before dawn tomorrow."

Gu Youyou gave Jin Ziyuan a quilt and wrapped herself in another, turning herself into a cocoon.

She didn’t lie down to sleep but instead leaned against the wall, wrapped in the quilt, which was warmer, even if the position was uncomfortable.

Chapter 814: Treacherous Officials and Rebels

Jin Ziyuan hesitated again and again before wrapping himself into a cocoon as well, leaning against another corner of the bed.

In the moonlight, they saw that neither had fallen asleep.

The atmosphere was somewhat awkward.

Gu Youyou thought for a moment, then asked, "How much do you know about the Dao Family’s medicine people?"

Gu Youyou estimated that such a secret matter from the Dao Family would be either unknown to outsiders or known only in small bits.

As expected, Jin Ziyuan said, "Not much. There are... there are five others like you."

Gu Youyou’s eyes flickered slightly as she said, "So you know it’s six women and one man?"

Jin Ziyuan nodded, "Yes, I only found out about it recently. I also know that the other five women have all fallen into Yue Rujing’s hands and they’re all in Lingnan."

Gu Youyou hummed in acknowledgment, then said, "For you, the biggest enemy is Yu Jizi. The rest of us can be replaced at any time. He can simply spend more time to find others, but you’re different. You can’t be replaced. On the sacrificial stage, even if you don’t die, you won’t be yourself anymore. In the end, whatever you fight for will be wedding clothes for someone else."

Jin Ziyuan’s brows smoothed out, revealing a faint smile as he said, "You’re worried about me, not solely for yourself?"

Gu Youyou was taken aback and said, "You’re overthinking it. I simply can’t stand to watch you miss the point, and besides, I’m speaking the truth."

"So you know that the recent troubles were my doing?"

Gu Youyou did not deny it, saying, "You disrupted King Jin’s grand wedding and shifted the blame to Prince Qin, igniting a fight between them. Now they’re at each other’s throats, and you, Jin Ziyuan, have played a significant role. Yet, your biggest enemy is not the Emperor, but Yu Jizi. Yu Jizi wants your life. You should deal with him before you think about revenge."

But Jin Ziyuan said, "You’re wrong, to me there’s no difference."

"Hmm?"

"You’re thinking too naively. They all want my life. Dealing with Yu Jizi is to secure a chance for my own survival, for my own revenge. But how can I face those from the Prince Residence who died that year if I don’t avenge them while I still live?"

Gu Youyou disagreed with his thoughts, saying, "But they would rather see you live on. The deceased have passed, and they have returned to dust. Their wish is to see the person they protected live a longer life."

She still remembered back in those mountains, in that ancient tomb, how the wild man uncle took meticulous care of Jin Ziyuan despite barely being able to look after himself.

Without utter desperation, how could a father who loved his son so deeply have the heart to feed him those medicines?

Prince had dared to rebel, he must have been a wise man. He couldn't possibly have been unaware that those medicines were actually poison.

Jin Ziyuan didn't say anything, shadows from the moonlight cast upon his thick eyebrows. He hung his head, his thoughts unknown.

Gu Youyou sighed and said, "Forget it, whatever you do is your own decision. Just think of me... as a doctor who can't bear to see chaos in the world. Of course, nobody wants to see the world in chaos unless they're treacherous rebels, right? I'm just an ordinary person."

Jin Ziyuan let out a cold laugh and said, "That's right, I am a treacherous rebel."

Gu Youyou paused, then said, "That's not what I meant. You have your own helplessness too. Let's leave it. Although we are of the same kind, we are not on the same path."

"Yes, we're not on the same path!" Jin Ziyuan sighed. "But who wants to be labeled a treacherous rebel? Jin Moning was the usurper; he deceived the world and took my father's throne. I saw the Emperor's will clearly before they destroyed it and then used it as a pretext to label us as rebels."

Chapter 815: Searcy in Pursuit

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Who can make sense of such matters?

Gu Youyou fell silent, and after a while, she continued, "If your father had become the Emperor back then, do you believe that the current Emperor and his Princes would also utter such words? That their father was the rightful heir to the throne, that he was the Crown Prince, known to all under heaven, yet that Third Prince falsified the will claiming he himself was the true Son of Heaven!"

With this retort from Gu Youyou, Jin Ziyuan was once again left speechless.

These matters had passed so many years ago, now bringing them up, indeed, it was very difficult to clarify.

Especially, was it worth his while to argue with a woman like Gu Youyou?

It was already very late. Jin Ziyuan said, "Go to sleep, we must hit the road early tomorrow morning."

An unpleasant conversation, I hope, had heightened his vigilance.

...

At noon, Searcy, who had been traveling all night, caught up to the inn where Gu Youyou and her party had stayed.

By that time, Gu Youyou and Jin Ziyuan had left long ago, having been gone for most of the day.

Searcy grabbed a servant and inquired, "Did any strange people from out of town stay here last night?"

Strange people from out of town?

The servant scratched his head and said, "We get strange outsiders every day, I’m used to it."

At his words, Searcy’s expression darkened a few shades, but the corner of her mouth carried a cold, chilling smile.

Gui Yunxi, following behind her, shivered slightly. With that look in her eyes, he feared that if the servant wasn’t forthcoming, he’d be in trouble.

"Oh, right!" The servant suddenly remembered something and added, "There were two people last night who arrived on horseback. They came quite late, when we were about to close. Their clothes seemed rather shabby, but they were quite generous with their money, giving me a piece of silver worth ten taels."

He admitted somewhat sheepishly, "For a ten-tael silver piece, they stayed in a humble lower-grade room."

Searcy raised an eyebrow; that was indeed strange.

"Where are they now?"

The servant replied, "They left at the crack of dawn, seemed like they were in a huge rush to get back on the road."

In a hurry?

Searcy narrowed her eyes slightly.

A rush to travel was exactly right.

She tossed some small change to the servant and said, "Prepare some food that’s easy to carry, quickly."

Was this young brother Mo Yue chasing after the two individuals from last night?

The servant, not daring to delay, took the silver and quickly went to prepare food. In no time, he brought out some jerked meat along with some steamed buns and pancakes.

Additionally, he thoughtfully provided a bag of water.

"Guest, this bread can be quite dry, it’s better to have some water with it."

Searcy gave him a look that acknowledged his good sense and took the items before climbing onto the carriage.

Gui Yunxi silently regretted, why hadn’t he been as sensible as that innkeeper? If he had known earlier, he might have been more attentive, and maybe this venomous creature would have spared him and lashed out at someone else instead.

Gui Yunxi slowed the carriage down, wanting to negotiate with her about taking a rest after traveling all night.

As for the two people they were chasing, they were on horseback, far faster than their carriage. Even if he flogged the horses to death, catching up would be impossible.

Searcy ate some dry rations and drank some water, then noticed the coachman dawdling and spacing out. Not able to contain her annoyance, she sneered, "Don’t want your hard-earned fee, do you?"

Gui Yunxi shuddered all over and hastily replied, "No, it’s not that, I’m just a bit weary from driving all night."

Hunger pangs struck him just then; in truth, his stomach was empty enough for his back to stick to his chest.

Searcy’s expression darkened as she said, "Stop the carriage once we leave the city."

Gui Yunxi was a bit confused. Weren’t they supposed to find an inn in the city to rest? How could they rest after leaving the city?

Chapter 816: Falling into a Ditch

But he didn’t dare to ask more questions and earnestly drove the carriage out of town.

He found an empty spot and stopped the carriage, then turned to ask, "Is this place all right?"

Searcy leaned back in the carriage and hummed, "This will do."

After saying this, he tossed some dry food and water to him, saying, "Eat quickly, then we continue the journey."

Gui Yunxi took the food in surprise and exclaimed, "We have to continue traveling?"

He looked around, originally planning to nap under this big tree.

He thought to himself that Searcy wouldn’t pay for a lodge, but maybe napping in the wilderness would be fine? However, it turned out he had no intention of letting him rest.

Biting into the dry food, Gui Yunxi complained for a while, "Young Master Searcy, you got a whole night’s sleep inside the carriage, but I haven’t even dozed off. I’m human, not an animal, I can’t endure driving all night like this, look at me, my eyelids are fighting each other, if we keep going I’m afraid something bad will happen, and I might crash us into a ditch!"

While speaking, he forced his eyes open but couldn’t help closing them again.

Searcy chuckled, "Do you want me to grant you a pill that will make your eyes close forever once they shut?"

Ah...?

Gui Yunxi shivered all over, frightened and quickly got down from the carriage with his food.

Better keep a distance from him, blame my own blabbering mouth.

After finishing the dry food, Gui Yunxi fetched some black beans to feed the horse, and Searcy on the carriage became impatient again.

"Have you been dawdling all this time just to let this beast dawdle as well? If you cause any delay to my business, I will poison you all."

Gui Yunxi bemoaned his fate and said, "Neither sleep nor food is allowed, even a beast can't bear this torment. Why don't you just gift us a pack of poison and kill us? If it continues like this, if not poisoned, we'll die of sheer exhaustion anyway."

"Hm!" Searcy huffed from her nose, saying, "Just make this beast hurry up."

They say there's a thin line between genius and idiot, and though Searcy's intelligence was off the charts, it didn't mean she knew everything. She had been raised within the confines of a large compound and never went out, so how could she know that even a beast could die of exhaustion?

"Better not play tricks on me," Searcy threatened.

The overworked Gui Yunxi nodded repeatedly.

He wanted to tell her that this tired carriage couldn't catch up with those on horseback traveling light, but after hesitating again and again, he still didn't dare.

After all, he started and stopped on her command; if they couldn't catch up, it'd served them right.

Thus, they traveled for another half day, and by evening she still didn't let him rest, comfortably sleeping in the carriage herself.

Gui Yunxi stopped the carriage by the roadside, hoping to search her for an antidote while she slept, but just as he parked the carriage and was about to act, she woke up.

Searcy coldly stared at the unruly coachman, stating flatly, "Do you want to die?"

"I want to live, want to live!" Gui Yunxi hurriedly said, "I urgently need to relieve myself."

"Hm!" Searcy snorted coldly and closed her eyes to continue sleeping.

Gui Yunxi got the horse moving again, the beast nearly dead from exhaustion, its pace getting slower.

Gui Yunxi almost died from fatigue, feeling he might be the first person to die from it.

His eyelids kept fighting, so that midday prediction sadly came true soon enough.

Exhausted, the horse foamed at the mouth and fell into a ditch, convulsing, and the carriage also toppled into the ditch.

The cold water soaked him, instantly dispelling all drowsiness.

Searcy, furious, her eyes blazing with fire, staring at Gui Yunxi as if ready to eat him.

"You really dared to drive the carriage into a ditch?"

Chapter 817: Tearing Each Other Apart in the Ditch

Her lips curled up in a faint smile as she said with a chilling coldness, "Very well, it seems you truly wish to die."

Gui Yunxi, who had just been doused with cold water, broke out in a cold sweat, but seeing his horse that was so exhausted it foamed at the mouth, he suddenly felt fearless.

It would be better to die.

This person’s mind was cruel, and he had had enough of his treatment along the way.

Very well, to die is to die, but even if he had to die, he would fight with all his might.

An eye for an eye, if he could avenge himself before he died, then it wouldn’t be a loss.

He suddenly stood up from the ditch, anger in his voice, "You’re so vicious, my horse is dead from your torment, and I haven’t lost my temper, yet you dare to get angry? If I must die, so be it, I will fight you!"

As he spoke, he was already wading through knee-high water towards Searcy.

Searcy had just gotten up, preparing to climb out of the ditch, but was unexpectedly pulled back by Gui Yunxi. Just as she was about to erupt in anger, she was once again forcefully pushed back into the ditch by Gui Yunxi, who ignored everything else.

The water in the ditch was not deep, but with all the thrashing about, it had become incredibly muddy. Searcy choked on a mouthful of mud and sand, shaking with fury.

With a kick, she easily pushed away the hungry and tired Gui Yunxi.

Gui Yunxi was no weaker, struggling to his feet and lunging at her again.

The horse in the ditch finally stopped twitching and passed away, but the two of them were not done yet.

The ditch had become completely murky with muddy sludge as they continued to grapple with each other.

"You owe me for my horse, for my carriage, I will fight you to the end..." Gui Yunxi grabbed Searcy’s flying leg.

"Owe you? How about I owe you a pack of poison instead?" Searcy grabbed his ear.

"All you do is threaten me with poison, I don’t want to live, I’ll fight you!"

"You want to die? It won’t be that easy. If I let your black-hearted guts off the hook, then I am not a Lu..."

After a lot of struggles, they finally crawled out of the mud pit, panting and gasping on the roadside.

Covered in mud, they were a sorry sight.

Searcy said with a cold laugh, "Come, let me give you the antidote!"

A pill, coated with mud, was in her hand.

"Hmph, you would be so kind?" Gui Yunxi glanced at it and turned to the water ditch ahead, where the water was clean.

I knew you wouldn’t want it.

"Oh? You don’t want it?" Searcy tossed the antidote into the mud and said indifferently, "This is your own doing, not that I haven’t paid my fare. Ha, I’ll wait for you to beg me!"

With that, she walked in another direction, where, likewise, there was clean water.

After washing the filth from her body, she took some things out of the carriage and went to a nearby forest.

In the forest, she saw Gui Yunxi picking up firewood. Looking down at her own clothes soaked through, she gathered some wood as well.

She had been confined to a large household from a young age and knew in theory how to make fire, but she had never actually done it, so she did not know how to start a fire.

After collecting a pile of firewood, she took out a flint and tried to strike it as she had seen others do, but couldn't get a flame. Eventually, she could only stare blankly at the pile of firewood.

Searcy felt like she had been dealt a tremendous blow.

She considered herself to be supremely intelligent, believing there was nothing she couldn't do, it was only a matter of whether she was willing.

Something as simple as starting a fire, she would be able to do it just by watching once, so how could she not light it?

Could it be her flint was a fake?

Yes, that must be it.

So she threw her flint on the ground and haughtily made her way over to where Gui Yunxi was, looking down on him from above.

Chapter 818: Forcible Seizure

"What are you looking at? Don't even think about mooching off my fire," Gui Yunxi shifted his body a bit to block his warm flames with his body.

Searcy sneered coldly and pushed him to the ground with one shove.

Caught off guard, Gui Yunxi was pushed over, landing awkwardly on all fours, much to his embarrassment.

If he hadn't been so hungry and sleepy, he definitely would have been able to defeat this man who was clearly weaker than himself.

Searcy didn’t care about that; without saying another word after pushing him down, she straddled him and started to tear at his clothes.

Gui Yunxi was so shocked that he froze, temporarily forgetting to resist.

Feeling him fumbling over his body, tickling him, he couldn’t help but burst out laughing as he tried to push him away.

Searcy looked down at the man beneath her like he was an idiot and said, "Shut up, laugh like that again and I’ll cut your tongue out."

Damn it, he wasn’t even trying to laugh; would you stop tickling him already!

"What do you think you’re doing?" Gui Yunxi was both ashamed and angry, fiercely guarding his honor.

"A gentleman can be killed but not insulted!"

Searcy forcefully pried his hands away and continued to search him.

"Here we go." Searcy finally found flint from inside his clothes and held it up with a cold laugh, "This now belong to me."

Gui Yunxi finally exhaled a breath of relief.

Freaking hell, he was scared to death. He actually thought this person was a pervert, intending to perform a live, male version of an erotic display in these desolate mountains—it turned out to be just for the flint.

Having seized the flint, Searcy went back to her own pile of wood and began to try to light a fire.

Then she tragically discovered that Gui Yunxi’s flint still wouldn’t light the fire.

Impossible, this was exactly how to do it; she had seen others do it this way, so why couldn’t she get it to light?

For the first time in her life, she began to doubt her own intelligence.

Meanwhile, Gui Yunxi saw everything quite clearly.

Did this idiot really not know how to start a fire?

Ha, he had finally met someone even dumber than the neighbor’s simpleton.

Even the simpleton could light a fire and half-roast a stolen chicken to eat.

Searcy glanced sideways, just in time to see the man beside the fire pile laughing at her misfortune, mocking her face.

This really got to her.

She threw away the flint and, as forcefully as before, kicked Gui Yunxi away, sneering, "Your fire pile is mine now."

Why go after the flint when there was already a blazing fire to take?

Her intelligence had indeed dropped.

All because of this idiot.

"You... you’re going too far, I made that fire," he protested.

"It’s mine now," Searcy said indifferently.

So warm. She took out the set of clothes for a change from her pack to dry them since they got a bit wet when she had fallen into the water earlier.

Gui Yunxi was fuming with anger but was helpless, only able to sluggishly go over to her pile of wood, intending to start a new fire.

This person was more tyrannical than a bandit, and reasoning with her was futile.

Searcy, considering she still needed someone to add wood to the fire, called him back again.

"In consideration of your helping me start a fire, I’ll allow you to warm yourself by it," she said.

After speaking, she even moved over to make space for him.

"It was my fire pile, and you’re the one mooching off my fire," Gui Yunxi gritted his teeth.

He must have been cursed in his past eight lifetimes to meet someone so shameless.

Despite his words, he still went back to warm himself by the fire.

He was truly too tired and sleepy to make a fuss anymore.

Searcy glanced at him and threw her clothes at him, saying, "Dry these for me."

Damn, this was really bullying.

He was still wearing his own wet clothes.

"How about this, you can go gather firewood? Either gather firewood or dry my clothes for me—choose one."

Chapter 819: It Really is a Pervert

"..." That's freaking bullying, he's collected enough firewood for just himself.

"Fine, I'll roast the clothes." Gui Yunxi snatched Searcy's clothes angrily.

"Uh huh!" Searcy nodded and said, "Be careful with those, if you dare burn my clothes, I'll burn yours to ashes and make you drive the carriage naked."

Gui Yunxi: "..." He really is a pervert, even more twisted than giving him poison.

Carrying a dagger, Searcy cut down some thick branches in the woods and set up a rack so that the wet clothes could be hung up instead of being held by hand.

With the rack shielding her, it was convenient for her to change out of her wet clothes.

After setting up the rack and hanging the clothes, Searcy went to fetch the pile of firewood she had collected earlier, needing to make the fire bigger to dry the clothes quickly.

She dumped the firewood in front of Gui Yunxi and kicked his leg, saying, "Make the fire bigger."

Gui Yunxi had just fallen asleep when she kicked him awake and was still a bit groggy.

Seeing Searcy's ghastly smiling face, he shivered uncontrollably.

He hurriedly sat up straight, trying to sober up.

"Get the fire going!" Searcy reminded him again.

Gui Yunxi yawned and started the thankless task.

But these firewood...

Why do they still have leaves?

And some even have flowers?

Are you sure you didn’t just break them off a tree?

"Are you sure this stuff will burn?"

"Why wouldn’t it burn?" Searcy looked at her own firewood and threw a branch with blossoms into the fire.

After a while, the fresh branch began to ooze resin and made hissing sounds.

Gui Yunxi’s mouth twitched, and he finally resigned himself to enter the woods to find some proper firewood that would burn.

Searcy stared at the firewood for a long time, comparing it with what Gui Yunxi had brought back, then realized that the ones she picked really couldn’t be burned.

Is there a knack to picking firewood?

She hadn’t paid much attention and arranged the clothes rack in a triangular shape, then slipped inside to change.

Wearing wet clothes is uncomfortable.

By the time Gui Yunxi returned, she had already changed and come out.

His coat was dry, and he planned to take it off and put it on first, then change the inner clothes to dry.

But why did a red garment hanging on the rack look so strange? He picked it up and immediately his face turned crimson.

A bellyband?

Why is there a red bellyband?

He looked at Searcy, who was already asleep on the ground, breathing evenly.

Gui Yunxi couldn’t help but twitch his mouth again, damn, he really did encounter a pervert.

Disgusted, he threw the bellyband back and began to change his own clothes.

...

Jin Zijin had been chasing for two days and hadn’t found any traces of them, realizing only then that he had chased in the wrong direction.

At the same time, Xiao Jinyan captured two people impersonating Gu Youyou and Jin Ziyuan, handing Jin Zijin a garment, saying, "Along the way, people said they saw a man and a woman riding horses at full speed. When they caught those two, they found this garment. From afar, one of the men wearing this garment really looked like a woman."

Jin Zijin clutched the garment tightly, his eyes icy.

He recognized the garment, it was indeed what Gu Youyou had been wearing.

He turned his head and asked, "Did they find out where they went?"

Xiao Jinyan shook his head and said, "These two are diehards, can’t get anything out of them."

Since they were diehards, naturally, they couldn’t expect to hear anything useful from them.

Chapter 820: There Are Clues

Jin Zijin disgustedly threw the sweat-drenched clothes onto the ground, climbed onto his horse, and said, "Let’s head back to Rucheng first!"

While he was already seething with anger on this side, over there, Gu Youyou and Jin Ziyuan were still hurrying along on their journey. After several more days, they finally arrived safely at the border of Dongzhou.

The journey was quite smooth, as they hadn’t encountered any dangers along the way.

Upon entering the city, Gu Youyou noticed a familiar figure.

Jie Zhonglin?

Gu Youyou remembered him holding a post in Beijing. When had he come to the East Sea, and even become a guard in Fusang City?

Thinking how she had been fleeing for her life all the way here, Gu Youyou carefully led her horse by the reins, keeping her head lowered as she passed behind him.

Once inside the city, Jin Ziyuan asked, "You were so cautious just now, could it be that you ran into someone you know?"

Gu Youyou nodded and said, "Yes, the son of the Left Principal Minister. I have no idea why he's working as a guard in Fusang City."

"Jie Huanzhi?" Jin Ziyuan raised his eyebrows and said, "Jie Huanzhi's elder son has always been stationed in Dongzhou, serving under Che Xiangyuan as a high-ranking general."

"I meant his younger son, Jie Zhonglin," said Gu Youyou.

"Oh, Jie Zhonglin?" Jin Ziyuan understood and looked back, adding, "The one who divorced his wife?"

Had he become that well-known?

"Yes, Lord Jie has just those two sons," Gu Youyou said.

They said no more and found a modest inn to stay in.

At the inn, Gu Youyou started asking Jin Ziyuan about the matter of the meteorite.

"I've heard a legend in the East Sea about two mythical beasts, Zhuzhao and Youying. Have you ever heard of it?"

Jin Ziyuan looked solemn and said, "You're also talking about the Zhuzhao Pearl and the Youying Pearl?"

"Yes, we still need the Zhuzhao Pearl to cure the poison in our bodies, don't you want to find it as soon as possible?"

He replied, "I've been searching all along. I've even found some clues about the legend of these two beasts. It seems they fell on Fusang Island in Dongzhou, creating a huge crater where their inner cores emerged."

Overwhelmed with excitement, Gu Youyou had thought it would take more effort to locate the place. It was fortunate that Jin Ziyuan had also been searching and had already found some clues. She said, "Then let’s go to the island and see, perhaps there’s something to discover!"

Jin Ziyuan sighed in resignation and said, "It’s already been taken. The Zhuzhao Pearl isn’t there."

Uh...

Gu Youyou was quite embarrassed; she obviously knew it wasn’t there.

"Let’s go and see, I mean there might be other discoveries."

"It’s been a thousand years; there’s nothing there but a big pit."

"We still have to go and see," Gu Youyou insisted.

Jin Ziyuan sighed helplessly and said, "Alright, alright, we can go and check. But if we’re going out to sea, we need to consider the weather and borrow a boat from the fishermen. It would be best if we could persuade them to take us with them. We need to plan this carefully!"

Gu Youyou nodded and said, "Okay, let’s go this afternoon."

...

There were many fishermen by the seaside, and nearly every household there went out to sea to fish.

Since Jin Ziyuan said fishermen don’t take women to sea because it’s considered bad luck, Gu Youyou had been dressed as a man all along.

To make her disguise more convincing, she even applied a thin layer of pale yellow ointment to make her skin appear darker and rougher.

Gu Youyou and Jin Ziyuan each with a basket on their backs, approached a fisherwoman who was drying nets and asked.

"Ma’am, may I ask if you have plans to go out to sea soon?"