Farmhouse 871

Chapter 871: The Entire Army Annihilated

The earthen stove had been in Brother Zhuo's room all night, and then he had died; she had only begun to feel unwell after entering this side chamber.

Regardless, she needed to leave here quickly.

She pressed the mechanism to open the door, but found it malfunctioned, and the door wouldn't budge at all.

Gu Youyou picked up a rock and completely destroyed the mechanism, thinking, 'If I'm going to die, I'm not letting it out.'

The others watched Gu Youyou with nervous and fearful eyes. Having killed Zhuo Qing and making such a mess—if she succeeded, it would be fine, but if she failed, they were surely doomed.

That was when two men in black emerged from the other side chambers, hearing the commotion. Seeing Gu Youyou holding a rock and knocking on the door, they quickly crossed over and asked, "What are you doing?"

Gu Youyou, looking terrified, said, "The two Daoists inside are trapped, the door won't open."

The two men checked the stone door, seeing that she had destroyed the mechanism; obviously, it wouldn't open.

Furious, one began, "You—" Seeking death.

But as soon as he uttered "You," his words stuck in his throat, unable to continue.

Searcy, holding a silver needle, accurately inserted it into the backs of their necks.

This was Gu Youyou’s defensive silver needle, tipped with an anesthetic that could instantly incapacitate someone when it hit an acupoint.

Only Searcy could locate each acupuncture point with such precision here, and he wouldn’t falter given his psychological resilience.

With all four men down, everyone finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Especially Gui Yunxi, whose incompetence made Zhuo Qing unguarded.

They collapsed on the ground, asking, "What do we do now?"

Gu Youyou said, "The two inside are definitely dead, these two are just unconscious. Find some rope and tie them up."

But Searcy drew a sword from one of the unconscious men in black and said, "Why bother with such trouble? Killing them ensures they won’t be a problem ever again."

Before her words even finished, her blade had already sliced one man’s throat.

Blood instantly spurted out, a shocking sight.

The women screamed in fright at her action, and even Gu Youyou was stunned.

At that moment, Searcy stabbed the other man in the neck, causing blood to pour freely.

It took Gu Youyou a while to recover her composure, then she said, "Since they’re dead... let’s leave them dead. We need to move quickly and get out of here."

The group successfully escaped the ancient tomb, traversed the tomb’s passage, and finally saw sunlight.

The morning sunlight was remarkably clear, sweeping away the moldy smell that had accumulated on them from days inside the tomb.

Facing the mountain sunrise, they were all in awe.

Thinking that they might never see sunlight again in their lifetimes, they relished the moment.

"Let’s hurry!"

Gu Youyou helped Searcy, who was limping a bit.

Searcy, seeing Gui Yunxi still dazed, said, "You fool, lead the way. We were all blindfolded when we were brought here; only you know the way back."

"Ah? I...I was terrified at the time, I didn’t remember it." Looking around, there were mountains everywhere. He wasn’t a dog; how could he remember where?

"You’re this stupid?" Searcy uttered irritably.

Gu Youyou softly said, "Don’t blame him. The mountain paths here are complex; it’s normal for him not to remember. Besides, we shouldn’t go back the way we came, in case that old pervert comes back. What then?"

Hearing Gu Youyou say this, Searcy refrained from blaming Gui Yunxi further.

"So, which way do we go?"

Gu Youyou looked around at the mountain terrain, thinking that if it weren’t for the need to flee, this was actually quite a good place.

Chapter 872: Escape

The air was fresh and pleasant, and those mountains...wait, why do these mountains look familiar?

Gu Youyou always had a good memory, that collapsed valley ahead, wasn't it the ancient tomb where Jin Ziyuan used to live?

It turned out there were more than one ancient tomb here, there was another situated directly opposite.

No wonder they looked so similar, it seemed that making these two tombs look the same was done intentionally.

Since the tomb was here, then... if one continues walking south, would the end of the continuous mountain range be Lotus Village?

Lotus Village?

Gu Youyou felt delighted at the thought of Lotus Village.

It had been a long time since she had returned to Lotus Village, and since she had the chance...no, she couldn't.

Upon thinking this, Gu Youyou immediately negated the idea.

She couldn't return to Lotus Village now. The old pervert knew she was born in Lotus Village, and if she brought the medicine people there, wouldn't that be bringing trouble to the villagers?

She should run in the opposite direction.

They had come from the east, so they should run north.

Seeing Gu Youyou’s changing expression, Searcy couldn’t help but ask, "Which way should we go exactly?"

Gu Youyou pointed in a direction and said, "North, this way."

...

Yu Jizi led Jin Ziyuan up the mountain, moving into the burial chamber.

He opened the burial chamber’s mechanism, and there were no living persons inside. His two disciples were lying inside beside one of the chamber doors, with blood spread all over, that had dried up and turned dark red.

It seemed they had been dead for several days.

The disciple beside him was startled and quickly crouched to look at the two fellow disciples.

After a while, he stood up and said to Yu Jizi, "Master, both senior brothers were stabbed through the throat with a sword and died. The swordplay was clean and precise, it seems they were killed by a master swordsman."

Yu Jizi’s normally compassionate face transformed completely into a ferocious expression, scaring his disciple into retreating several steps.

"Master!" The young disciple called out softly.

The sight of Master being so angry was truly terrifying, yet understandable, seeing the tragic death of his fellow disciples.

Yu Jizi’s expression gradually calmed down, and after looking at the long-dead bodies, he said, "Being directly stabbed in the throat after being drugged obviously results in accuracy, useless things, dying by their own swords."

The young disciple opened his mouth, didn’t dare to speak again, and just lowered his head and stepped aside.

Jin Ziyuan stood behind Yu Jizi like a piece of wood, his gaze blank, without any expression.

Yu Jizi looked at the stone door, his eyes deepened. A moment later, he lifted his palm and fiercely chopped at the door, which shatteringly collapsed into a pile of rubble.

The young disciple fanned the dust with his hand and followed Yu Jizi into the side chamber.

Inside the side chamber were two more people, one peacefully sleeping on a bed, the other lying face down by the doorway, eyes wide open and face twisted into a fierce expression, seemingly having suffered great pain before death.

"Master, it’s Senior Brother Zhuo."

The young disciple’s face went pale.

Senior Brother Zhuo was also dead, and judging by his appearance, he had died in his sleep.

"How could this be? Master, who killed them?"

Yu Jizi ignored him and turned to leave the burial chamber.

It appeared he had been mistaken. Gu Youyou was not an ordinary girl, he had misjudged her when she was a child. Had he known she would be so troublesome, he would have dealt with her the same way he dealt with Jin Ziyuan. There was also another woman, a descendant of the Ghost Doctor, such dangerous individuals should not have been allowed to live.

But no matter, no one could escape.

However they had run, he would make sure they obediently returned.

That woman was somewhat strange, initially, he wanted to spare her life, but it seemed even that was a misfortune.

Chapter 873: The Escape Path

Gu Youyou had been leading them through the mountains for five days now, and luckily, she had a good knowledge of plants. Plus, the season was such that many fruits could be found, so they hadn't gone hungry.

But now, they had wandered into a primeval forest and seemed to have lost their way, turning twice only to end up back where they started.

Gui Yunxi was getting anxious and said, "We can't even tell directions in this forest. Where should we go? It seems we just passed here not long ago."

Gu Youyou also recognized the problem. Escaping was important, but as most of the group were women with limited physical strength, they could not afford to waste their energy like this.

The trees here were dense and tall, and during this season, when the branches and leaves were lush, it was difficult for sunlight to penetrate.

After looking around for a while, Youyou pointed in a direction and said, "Let's go this way."

Searcy reminded her, "We just came from that direction."

"I know, just follow me," Youyou replied. After running for several days, everyone was in a poor mood.

The group of drugged women ranged from teenage girls to women in their mid-thirties, with one thing in common: even those in their mid-thirties had never been married and were virgins.

If one thought Gu Youyou was unfortunate, then what about these women?

Three of them had been sold by their families due to poverty at a young age and were bought by Yu Jizi to be raised separately.

One was sacrificed by her own family hoping to secure a future for their son.

Another was kidnapped on her wedding day, a decision that affected her for a lifetime.

For years they had been taking mysterious drugs, leaving them especially fragile in spirit, and Youyou had to encourage them to keep going.

Searcy pursed her lips and directed her irritation at Gui Yunxi, "Be more proactive when we pick fruits later. You climb the trees."

Gui Yunxi: "..."

After walking for a while longer, they finally found a big tree that had been strangled by parasitic vines, and above that tree, the sun was shining down triumphantly.

Youyou took out her dagger and stabbed it straight into the ground, marking its shadow.

She told everyone, "We're all tired. Let's rest for a while."

Half an hour later, Youyou found the correct direction.

"Everyone who's rested, get up," she said. "This time we'll definitely find our way out."

But the forest seemed anything but peaceful. The drugged women, with their sensitive ears, heard something approaching through the trees, and immediately they became agitated like startled birds.

"Doctor Gu, there’s something over there."

"Could it be they’ve come after us?"

"It’s not them," Youyou said. "Listen to that sound; it must be an animal."

Soon enough, a leopard appeared in their field of vision.

The leopard wasn’t big, but to a group like theirs, even a not-so-large leopard was a significant threat.

It seemed that the leopard had seen the large number of people and didn’t immediately pounce, but was sizing them up from a distance.

It must be said, the leopard was quite bold. Normally, in the face of so many people, a leopard of its size would not dare to consider them as prey.

Youyou whispered to Searcy, "Get the needles I gave you ready. With animals, if you can’t find the right spot, just pierce them with a few more."

All of them were frail women, and the only man, Gui Yunxi, was almost like a woman himself, so he could also be counted as a woman.

It was obviously irrational for a group of women to fight against a fierce beast like a leopard. Not to mention being killed, even a bite would be a heavy blow to them since they still had a long way to go.

Chapter 874: Beast Fight

Everyone was equipped with sticks for probing the path ahead, which could also serve as their weapons against the leopard.

Searcy held the silver needles Gu Youyou had given her, while Gu Youyou herself wielded a small dagger, a gift from Jin Zijin for self-defense, which she always carried.

Gui Yunxi casually picked up a rock from the ground, ready to throw it at any moment.

The leopard merely watched them from a distance, not launching an immediate attack.

But such a standoff was no good for them; their time was limited, and they couldn’t afford to waste it.

Gu Youyou said, "Let’s try to get closer to it. Since the beast sees us as food, it won’t let us off easily. It’s waiting, waiting for us to become exhausted before pouncing."

"Okay, I’ll follow your lead," Searcy whispered in response.

Gu Youyou, holding the dagger, led the way. She was actually very scared, but it couldn’t be helped; she was the only one among them with a bladed weapon. She couldn’t expect the others, armed only with sticks, to take the lead.

Searcy felt some regret; she should have brought the sword that could kill.

As Gu Youyou and the others took a few steps forward, the leopard retreated a few steps.

They continued to advance a few more steps, and the leopard kept backing away.

The situation was more dangerous than if the leopard had attacked directly because they didn’t know when it would charge, and they had to remain in a constant state of heightened tension.

"We can’t go on like this, my hand is going numb," Gui Yunxi complained, his face twisted in discomfort as he held the rock.

Searcy glanced at him with annoyance and said, "That’s your own fault, dumbass, for picking up such a big stone. Didn’t you think to choose a smaller one?"

"What should we do then? This leopard is constantly watching us," asked a girl from behind.

Lowly, Gu Youyou suggested to them, "This isn’t going to work, we’ll collapse from stress before the leopard bites us to death. Here’s what we’ll do: I’ll draw its attention; you guys be ready."

"What? You can’t do that!" Searcy tried to stop Gu Youyou, but she was already moving forward with the dagger in hand.

"Hey, you—oh no!" Searcy hurried after her, both anxious and angry.

Seeing Gu Youyou approach alone, with another person several steps behind and the rest even further, the leopard hesitated no longer and, kicking off the ground, it fiercely pounced toward Gu Youyou.

As the leopard leaped, Gu Youyou suddenly bent down, and due to the leopard’s high jump, it awkwardly cleared her entirely.

Now, the leopard was between Gu Youyou and Searcy.

Gui Yunxi, pale with fright, howled as he hurled the rock he had been holding for so long at the leopard.

The leopard, hesitating whether to attack Searcy in front or turn back to Gu Youyou, was caught off guard by the stone descending from above.

So it had to dodge the stone first.

The leopard was nimble, and it could have easily avoided the rock, but in that moment, it gave Gu Youyou and Searcy the perfect opportunity.

Gu Youyou charged, stabbing the dagger toward the leopard.

The leopard, having just avoided the rock and attempting another dodge, was too slow; it avoided vital injury but still took a stab to the rear.

In its pain, it lunged for Gu Youyou’s dagger-wielding hand.

Gu Youyou immediately released the dagger and withdrew her hand.

Simultaneously, Searcy’s silver needles aimed for the leopard’s neck.

She wasn’t sure if she hit the target but, with five needles in hand, she swiftly drove them into the leopard’s body.

Chapter 875: The Onset of Poison Gu

Everyone pounced at once; the leopard was held down firmly, being beaten and smashed with whatever they had in their hands. In no time at all, the leopard was bloodied all over.

The final fatal blow was delivered by Youyou who pulled the dagger out from the leopard’s rump.

At that moment, the dagger was deeply embedded in the leopard’s neck, blood pouring out like a fountain.

The group sat collapsed on the ground, their tense nerves gradually relaxing.

Having eaten only fruit for several days, Youyou wiped her face, her smile still shaken by the encounter.

"We can finally eat meat," she said.

After surviving such an ordeal, everyone was both tense and elated.

However, it was too dangerous to start a fire in the woods, so they could only cut some meat from the leopard and wait for a more open area to eat.

...

Meanwhile, Yu Jizi was also not idle.

If Youyou were there, she would find that Yu Jizi was performing a ritual outside the ancient tomb.

Holding the Peach Wood Sword, setting up an altar, he used the tip of the sword to write with some vermilion-like substance on yellow paper.

But the vermilion seemed to be alive, tiny granules moving gently.

One paper done, he started on the second, and then the third, until he had written six in total.

More than an hour had passed before he finished writing on the six papers.

Then, he set those yellow papers alight on the candle on the altar. The yellow paper and living vermilion burned with blue flames, not ordinary ones.

At the same time, a few people deep in the mountains suddenly felt a sensation.

Despite the scorching sun overhead, despite sitting beside a fire laughing and roasting the leopard's thigh meat...

They should have been sweating profusely... yet frost formed on their faces.

The women dropped the meat they were roasting and curled up in agony.

Youyou fared a bit better than the others, perhaps because she had consumed more medicinal herbs over the years, reducing some of the substances inside her body.

Even so, she shivered with cold; it was as if her consciousness was about to vanish.

Searcy and Gui Yunxi, who had never seen anyone affected by poison react this way, were terrified.

When Searcy touched Youyou’s hand, she exclaimed, "Why is it so cold?"

Youyou told her, "Zijin once said that a type of Gu poison had been planted inside us, I guess it’s taking effect now. I don’t know how much longer I can stay conscious. Remember, you must survive, find Zijin, and tell him... Ah..."

Unable to bear the pain, Youyou screamed.

"Don’t talk, let me check on you," Searcy grabbed Youyou’s hand.

Youyou was suffering immense pain, an insidious chill spreading within her, trying to control her mind. Gradually, she felt the cold become less unpleasant and instead quite comfortable.

This feeling was not unfamiliar to her; it had been like this the other two times, slowly, she began to immerse herself in her own world, becoming a vessel for the cold Gu.

In a daze, she saw the other five affected women rise and start running frantically in one direction, their speed far beyond their limits.

Gui Yunxi was holding onto a woman, who gave him a cold smile before throwing him forcefully. Gui Yunxi crashed onto a tree branch, caught halfway.

Searcy was both angry and anxious as she tried to get him down, but returning her attention to Youyou’s condition, she hurried back.

Youyou thought, soon she would be like them. Clinging to her last bit of sanity, she said to Searcy, "It’s no use... you must go quickly..."

Chapter 876: They All Came Back

No matter how disheveled she was, she did not want them to see her.

It turned out that those Poisonous Insects, or the viruses inside their bodies, were the things controlling them. So, in reality, no matter where they fled to, they could never escape.

...

Yu Jizi, clad in a black robe and holding a Peach Wood Sword, moved in the deep mountains where shadows leaped.

The junior Disciple driving the carriage had just come out of the ancient tomb, having just fed the person in the tomb's coffin their medicine. Now, that person had fallen asleep.

The Master still stood there, having already been standing for two days and a night.

He could not help but say, "Master, the wind is strong on the mountain. Why don't you go inside to rest first, and your disciple will keep watch for you."

Yu Jizi glanced at his junior Disciple, squinting his eyes. He suddenly asked, "What is your name?"

With so many disciples in the Dao Sect, he did not know each disciple's name. This disciple was one he had picked at random before leaving.

The junior disciple, ecstatic to be asked his name by his Master, hurriedly bowed with hands held together and said, "Replying to Master, this disciple is named Zhiqiu. When my mother was giving birth to me, a golden ginkgo leaf floated in through the window, landing right upon her belly. Thus, my father named me Zhiqiu."

"Zhiqiu?" Yu Jizi nodded slightly. He cut a leaf from a tree with his sword, looked at it carefully in his hand for a moment, then placed it in Zhiqiu's hand, and said indifferently, "A fallen leaf heralds the coming of autumn, it is a good name."

Zhiqiu did not understand why his Master had given him a leaf, but since it was given by his Master, he cherished it greatly, holding it with care.

After a short while, Yu Jizi pointed to the road leading down the mountain and said to him, "You should leave the mountain from here. After you depart, never come back."

While Zhiqiu was still overjoyed with the leaf in his hand, upon hearing this, he quickly looked up, confused, and asked, "Master, my fellow brothers have all been killed, how can I leave? I must serve you, Master, and also... brew medicine for that person inside."

Yu Jizi looked at Zhiqiu with a smile, "No need, he will not need to drink the medicine tomorrow. Go now, and heed your Master's words."

The kind smile from his Master made it difficult for him to refuse. His heart warmed, he knelt down to kowtow to Yu Jizi, and said, "I will heed Master's words. Master, your disciple takes his leave."

After Zhiqiu descended the mountain, the first medicine-fed person came before Yu Jizi, eyes coldly fixed on the writhing cinnabar in the dish on the table.

Naturally, the dish did not contain actual cinnabar, merely something that looked similar.

They were the eggs of the Poisonous Insects—once ignited, the mother bodies miles away would sense them, furiously releasing the coldness within their bodies, then controlling the host to come to the side of the eggs.

Soon, two, then three, then four... all the medicine-fed people arrived.

Gu Youyou was the last one.

Yu Jizi watched the disheveled women indifferently, finally setting his gaze upon Gu Youyou.

She actually took so long?

Not a few of the Poisonous Insects inside her body had been killed by her. If it were not for the control of the Youying Pearl, she might have truly managed to free herself.

It seems that choosing to place the Youying Pearl inside her was the right decision.

The women, expressionless, followed behind Yu Jizi, entering the ancient tomb together.

Gu Youyou felt blank inside, looking at the ancient tomb before her feeling both familiar and strange. Her heart had been drifting in a cold world, something within yearning to break free, yet it seemed unable to find an outlet.

The coffin in the tomb chamber was opened, and the person inside opened their eyes and stood up.

Chapter 877: The Blood Sacrifice Begins

Yu Jizi glanced at him, said nothing, but took out all the tools he had prepared in advance and set them up, and began to draw something on the ground bit by bit.

The cinnabar he used for drawing was precisely the poisonious insect eggs previously sketched on the paper.

Jin Ziyuan’s eyes were lifeless, yet his gaze lingered on one of the women.

Gu Youyou could not see him; her eyes moved slowly alongside the papers around the coffins, yet for some reason, a tear found its way out of the corner of her eye.

Seeing that tear, a sealed place in his heart clenched tightly, as if a sharp, thin silver needle had touched his heart, aching and sour.

Who am I?

Who is she?

Why are we here?

An eerily familiar scene unfolded, and after a long time, some dust-covered memories seemed to awaken.

Then, he also seemed to be standing in a coffin, only able to show the upper half of his body in the large coffin.

She stood outside the coffin, looking at him, surprised and saddened.

Then, she showed a pitying look towards a bizarre outsider.

She spoke a lot to him, but at that time, he couldn't hear or understand anything. He didn't remember, but now, he suddenly remembered.

Back then, she approached the coffin cautiously, taking a while to muster the courage to speak to him.

She asked if he could understand, but back then he didn't, and when she asked what his name was, he couldn't reply. She had guessed he was either a fool or a mute.

They had been locked in that coffin together, her cursing and swearing all night long, tricking him into playing games, not allowing him to get close to her...

Immense agonies struck, his head felt as if it was going to explode.

Jin Ziyuan broke out in a cold sweat, almost at the verge of screaming.

Uttering that name seemed like it could grant him solace.

In the ancient tomb, Yu Jizi, rapt in his writing, finally sensed something amiss; he looked up at Jin Ziyuan, struggling bitterly, and furrowed his brow ever so slightly.

He stood up, retrieved a small vial, and forced a pill the size of a thumb into Jin Ziyuan’s mouth.

Jin Ziyuan slowly calmed down, and soon his gaze returned to its vacant state.

Yu Jizi turned nonchalantly, and six medicated figures now stood across from him; there Gu Youyou was, tears streaming down her face.

He sighed, "The last thing I worry about is you."

Then, shaking his head and sighing again, he made Jin Ziyuan lie flat in the coffin before returning to continue drawing an ancient formation.

...

Jin Zijin had already entered the mountain, yet with the mountain’s vastness, it was not easy to find the peak harboring the ancient tomb.

He first took Tian Jizi to the previously destroyed mountain, and then, pulled out a bamboo tube.

Tian Jizi glanced sideways and said with a flicker in his eyes, "It seems you already know how to find them."

As Jin Zijin opened the bamboo tube, he said, "When Jin Yan gave me that pouch that day, I didn’t take much notice at first. Only later, when I recalled that Searcy had managed to find Youyou before I did, did I realize she must have had an extraordinary method. Afterward, I discovered this bee."

"The Ghost Doctor Family’s item?" asked Tian Jizi, glancing at the bee.

Jin Zijin nodded and released the bee.

The bee circled in front of them a few times before quickly choosing a direction and flying off.

But it did not fly along the mountain path; instead, it flew directly from one peak across to another.

Amongst the clouds, both peaks should have been visible above the mist, but because this particular mountain had collapsed, it didn't appear quite natural.

Chapter 878: Gathering Together

Sunlight cast a golden-red hue over the drifting mist, and a formation of birds soared across as if sent from a distant horizon.

The bees could fly across, but humans couldn't—not even Tian Jizi.

However, moments later, Tian Jizi laughed and declared, "It's in that mountain right there, where the green hills face each other, a lone sail arrives from the sun's edge. This is Tianmen Mountain!" (Purely fictitious, do not confuse it with Li Bai's Tianmen Mountain!)

Seeing the shimmering glow, Tian Jizi felt a trace of unease. He calculated with his fingers, and suddenly his expression darkened as he shouted, "It's not good—the ritual has started."

...

The mountain paths are challenging, more difficult than ascending to the heavens.

You Jiang and his group guiding women and children up the mountain was not a rational decision.

But as Madam insisted, he had no choice.

Well, the Prince had tragically died; no matter how challenging it was, could he refuse to let Madam retrieve his body?

Yet the woods today seemed unsettling.

Standing atop a hollow, You Jiang noticed the abnormal flurry of birds in the distant undulating forests and the panicking animals scampering as if fleeing for their lives. What was happening to them?

"You Jiang, quickly take out the map and see if we took a wrong turn."

The mountain path was unsuitable for horses or sedans, and Madam, sweating profusely, insisted on walking herself.

You Jiang averted his gaze and pulled out a simple map.

This was something he had acquired with great difficulty. Although crudely drawn, it was sufficient for You Jiang.

With this simple map, he could find the location where the Prince’s remains were buried.

"Madam, we are heading in the right direction, but soon we must..." he squinted his eyes towards the restless opposite mountain. Years of experience and intuition told him not to go in that direction.

"What is it?" Madam, seeing You Jiang suddenly stop speaking, asked with concern.

You Jiang said, "Madam, the route drawn on this map is a bit circuitous; I think we should take another route. Over here, this way should be closer," he suggested, pointing to another path.

Madam, a northern lady raised in sheltered upbringing and climbing a mountain for the first time, had no opinions and listened to You Jiang.

She said, "You were the most trusted by the Prince when he was alive; I will listen to you."

You Jiang led them on an alternate route, narrowly missing a skirmish.

...

Another group arrived, Huo Li leading a host of Xuanzong's black-clad figures speeding through the forest, opposed by Yue Rujing and her Tianzong cohort.

After many years, Tianzong and Xuanzong have never mobilized this wholly.

Their destination was the same: Tianmen Mountain.

At this moment in Tianmen Mountain, an ancient formation in the old tomb had been completed.

Six women lay around the sides of a coffin, forming a circle. Yu Jizi rolled up his sleeves, his face twisted with madness.

"It's finally going to happen; it's time to discard this aged husk."

Seeing the vibrant young body inside the coffin, he couldn't help but tremble with excitement.

Yu Jizi, thrilled, touched the young and handsome face with his withered fingers, nearly bursting into ecstatic laughter.

This body would soon be his, the legitimate heir of Zhuzhao Country. With his deep-rooted influence in Dao Sect and his strategies, once he assumed this identity, he would completely merge Dao Sect with the imperial authority, becoming the supreme power of Zhuzhao Country.

Chapter 879: The Young Body

This was his lifelong desire, and as long as he made it through today, he would certainly achieve it.

"Fantastic," he said excitedly.

Yu Jizi stepped down from the side of the coffin and looked at those women, cutting their wrists open and watching their cold blood flow out.

And around the coffin, the formation and the eggs of the Poisonous Insects hatched continuously upon contact with the blood of the women, sucking their blood dry.

Yu Jizi's eyes were filled with madness. Yes, that's it.

He shouted excitedly, "Yes, suck, suck that blood dry, and you will grow, haha..."

The insects scrambled to the meandering flow of blood, and those filled with blood quickly grew several times larger than when they had just hatched, as big as a fingernail.

After feeding, they began to crawl towards the coffin, mixed with Yu Jizi's maniacal laughter. The scene was utterly terrifying.

Probably because of the massive loss of blood, and the poison being carried away with it, Gu Youyou finally regained her senses.

She turned her head with difficulty, only to witness the frightful scene that would haunt her for a lifetime.

At that moment, she wished she could pass out again right away.

So this was the blood ritual?

What was being sacrificed? These indescribable insects disgusted her to the verge of vomiting.

The women woke up one by one, saw the terrifying scene before them, and screamed in horror.

Various voices echoed in the silent tomb, egregiously terrifying.

Outside the tomb door, Jin Zijin held his hands tightly, his forehead veins bulging.

Tian Jizi held him down and said, "Don’t panic, stay calm."

"What is he doing?" Jin Zijin gritted his teeth, his words popping through clenched teeth.

"The blood ritual has already started," Tian Jizi said indifferently.

"Master?" Jin Zijin punched the ground in pain. He couldn’t imagine what the scene inside looked like, barely able to hear the terrified screams of the women in the tomb.

Tian Jizi glanced at the closed tomb door and sighed softly, "Even I can’t open this door; acting rashly would only startle the snake. Wait."

Jin Zijin closed his eyes in agony. Aside from waiting, there was truly nothing else he could do.

If he ended up not being able to save her, how could he ever forgive himself?

Inside the tomb, Yu Jizi, who had been standing indifferently aside, opened his eyes and looked at Gu Youyou, "Awake, are you? Good timing, there is something that should be taken out now."

Gu Youyou felt weak and limp, as Yu Jizi lifted her from the ground.

"You’ll get your comeuppance, you old pervert," Gu Youyou said fiercely.

"I’ll be young very soon, haha..." Yu Jizi seemed extremely joyful, pointing at the coffin and saying, "Look, soon I will look like that. How does that seem, quite young, right?"

Yu Jizi boasted in front of Gu Youyou with a smug face.

Gu Youyou was so nauseated she nearly threw up right in his face, cursing, "Why don’t you go find a baby to work your magic on, wouldn’t that make you even younger? Maybe you could even crawl back into a womb for nursing."

Yu Jizi’s expression changed, and with a fierce look, he sneered, "In a moment, we’ll see if you can still be so sharp-tongued."

With that, he took out a bottle, uncorked it, and a thumb-thick, blue, semi-transparent insect crawled out.

Gu Youyou’s eyes widened as she stared at the insect, likely the one Jin Zijin had mentioned, truly disgusting.

Yu Jizi chuckled softly and said, "This is a treasure of Xuanzong; you are the first one to be used by it. If it weren’t for your usefulness, I wouldn’t bear to use it, and I would’ve directly flayed open your body."

Chapter 880: Where is the Bead?

Then, he pinched Gu Youyou’s chin, forcing her to open her mouth.

Gu Youyou had already guessed what this insect was—it was the one that Jin Zijin had mentioned before that could extract the Youying Pearl from her body.

But the Youying Pearl was no longer inside her, and Yu Jizi did not know.

Unable to speak because he was pinching her chin, her body felt sore and weak, devoid of any strength to resist.

She watched in horror as the disgusting insect crawled into her mouth.

The bug hesitated for a moment in her mouth before beginning its crawl down her throat.

She desperately wanted to bite the thing to death; swallowing it dead would be better than alive.

But Yu Jizi kept pinching her chin, giving her no chance to bite down.

This nauseating feeling of wanting to vomit but unable to, was sheer torture on her body.

Something was burrowing in her throat, unspeakably uncomfortable.

Pain and itchiness mingled, her throat burning painfully with fluids moving. Gu Youyou guessed her throat must have been torn, bleeding.

The discomfort nearly brought her to tears, but the thought that the Youying Pearl wasn't inside her and the anticipation of seeing Yu Jizi furious brought her a perverse sense of relief.

If she wasn't wrong, this meteorite was extremely important, perhaps crucial to accomplishing their plans.

This old freak, having calculated everything, certainly hadn't anticipated that the Youying Pearl was no longer in her body. He might have visited that deep pit where the Sakaki tree fell, but surely he never explored that old rat burrow.

Such a person would never be taken by those rats as food and carried in.

That rat burrow, many, many years ago, might have been visited by ancestors of the Dao Family, but they sealed it after they left.

Stricken with too much pain to cry, Gu Youyou smiled creepily, baring her teeth.

Her arm was still bleeding, the blood dripping to the ground attracted many greedy insects.

Blood also trickled from her mouth, her white teeth making the scene grotesquely terrifying.

Time had passed for a while, and Yu Jizi faintly felt something was amiss. Why hadn't it come out yet?

Gu Youyou felt so uncomfortable it was unbearable; the bug burrowing inside her body could kill her before she could see Yu Jizi bursting with rage.

Her body was still so young; she had already died once, she couldn't die again.

Why hadn't Jin Zijin arrived yet? Was it that he couldn't find her, or what? Searcy had said she deliberately left the cloth behind; he would definitely find them following that bee.

Or perhaps... he had already encountered trouble; that time Yu Jizi could have... No, that couldn't be it. At most, he was just injured and couldn't come because his injuries had not yet healed.

Suddenly, she hoped he wouldn't come.

He was no match for Yu Jizi. What could he do if he came? Become a ghost couple with her?

But he still had so many things unresolved, his mother's great revenge, the affairs of the Dao Family...

The more Gu Youyou thought, the more confused her mind became. One moment she hoped he would come, the next she hoped he would not.

Time ticked by second by second, and she didn't know how long had passed, but when she was about to lose consciousness from the pain, she finally felt that disgusting insect crawl out.

Yu Jizi caught the insect in one motion and tossed Gu Youyou aside.

Gu Youyou lay on the ground as countless insects immediately swarmed toward her.

Tears flowed from her eyes, but she was smiling.

Due to her injured throat, her laughter sounded particularly hoarse and even horrific.