

Folly 99

Chapter 99: The Weasel

After spending some time, the two finally passed through the cedar woods and reached the shrubland halfway up the mountain.

"Shuangshuang, this place should be where rabbits like to dig holes and make nests. Pay attention to see if there are any holes on the ground.

It's best if there are several. Rabbit burrows usually have multiple exits to escape when danger arises."

"Cunning rabbits have three burrows" is not just a saying; it reflects the real life of rabbits.

Mu Shuangshuang kept an eye on her footing while observing the surroundings. Although this shrubland may not have fierce beasts, it's always good to be cautious.

"It seems like there really are some, Lu Yuanfeng, there are holes here." Mu Shuangshuang examined several rounds and finally discovered a series of holes set a few meters apart on the grassy field, very much like what Lu Yuanfeng described.

Lu Yuanfeng didn't dare to stay too far from Shuangshuang, so when he heard her voice, he turned and walked over, just in time to see the spot Shuangshuang pointed to.

"Shh..." Lu Yuanfeng gestured to Mu Shuangshuang, signaling her to be quiet.

Mu Shuangshuang understood; she must have found the right spot.

Lu Yuanfeng took a small bundle wrapped in a fishing net from the cloth bag hanging on his waist. He unfolded the net, picked several pieces, each covering a different hole, then used large stones to weigh down the edges of the net.

Mu Shuangshuang watched from the side but didn't understand what was happening at the moment.

Once Lu Yuanfeng had covered all the holes, leaving only the one at her feet, he began to speak.

"Rabbits are quite clever and attempt to escape as soon as there's danger. I've sealed all its exits, and now I'll smoke it out.

No matter which hole it comes out from, once it shows its head, you must catch it quickly."

This method of catching rabbits was quite novel. Mu Shuangshuang became intrigued, watching as Lu Yuanfeng started a fire and covered it with leaves.

Then he took a bunch of branches and fanned vigorously at the hole, sending smoke into it. Soon, she felt movement inside.

She followed the disturbance to one of the holes, waited for a while, and a white rabbit burst out, but was caught in the net as soon as its head emerged, Mu Shuangshuang seized the rabbit by hand.

Just as she was about to shout, out came another creature. "Lu Yuanfeng, a ferret, there's a ferret here, I caught it."

With her left hand clutching the rabbit's head and her right catching a black ferret, Mu Shuangshuang felt elated.

Lu Yuanfeng quickly came over, staring at the ferret in Mu Shuangshuang's hand for a long time.

The black little creature looked like a ferret, but its fur color was different from any ferrets he had seen, smoother and more lustrous.

"Shuangshuang, this isn't a ferret." Lu Yuanfeng spoke with certainty. "There are no black ferrets."

"Isn't it? Then what is it? It looks so much like a ferret. Could it possibly be a mink?" Mu Shuangshuang said offhandedly, but the more she thought about it, the more it resembled one.

This little thing was about the size of a house cat, but with a longer, slender body, a pointed muzzle, short yet powerful limbs. If not a mink, what else could it be?

"Shuangshuang, you've struck gold this time." Lu Yuanfeng showed a delighted expression.

The price of a mink is far higher than that of a rabbit, and not by a small margin; a rabbit is only worth about sixty coins at most, but this Black Mink could be sold for several taels.

Furthermore, the Black Mink is relatively rare among minks, so this single mink could fetch seven or eight taels of silver, and considering its fur, ten taels isn't out of question.

"Yes, yes, really struck gold."

Initially, she thought catching a rabbit was enough, adding some animal blood to herself to feign serious injury when returning, but unexpectedly there was this pleasant surprise.

The Black Mink struggled fiercely in Mu Shuangshuang's hands, kicking incessantly, unwilling to be held by her like this. Mu Shuangshuang raised her hand and slapped it.

"Behave, or I'll make you into a mink fur coat."

The Black Mink squealed in pain, clawing continuously, attempting to scratch Mu Shuangshuang.

"One more move, and I'll slay you. Lu Yuanfeng, lend me your chopping knife."

The Black Mink continued to cause a ruckus, and Mu Shuangshuang had only one thought: to subdue it first.

As the knife was handed over, the Black Mink's squealing intensified, its small body quivering constantly. But the more it struggled, the closer the knife came to its neck, until it felt the blade touch its throat, at which point it ceased resisting.

Simultaneously, Mu Shuangshuang withdrew the knife. "Little one, you'd better behave and stop struggling, or I'll strip you down and turn you into mink stew."

The animals in the mountains mostly have sharp instincts and wits; Mu Shuangshuang's explicit threats finally intimidated the Black Mink, causing it to lower its head as if accepting its fate.

Even so, Mu Shuangshuang pulled out two cloth strips from her pocket and tied up the Black Mink securely, while for the rabbit, she simply tied its two feet with grass rope.

The valuable and the less valuable must be treated differently.

With the rabbit caught, the focus shifted to hunting, and Lu Yuanfeng led Mu Shuangshuang down a long stretch of mountain path. Suddenly, from a distance within the bushes, trees began rustling vigorously, indicating the presence of game, possibly something big.

Lu Yuanfeng's bow and arrow were already gripped and aimed at the bushes. He glanced at Mu Shuangshuang, who had positioned herself in a safe spot nearby, before feeling relieved.

Neither of them made a sound, their eyes fixed on the bushes. Lu Yuanfeng was bolder.

He advanced alone, just parted the bushes, and before he could discern what it was, a large black shape had already charged at him.

"Oh no, it's a wild boar, run, silly boy!"

Mu Shuangshuang shouted as Lu Yuanfeng dodged to the side, and the animal in the bushes was fully exposed.

A huge black wild boar was gnawing on the meat of a deer, accompanied by two smaller black piglets doing the same.

Mu Shuangshuang swore she had never seen such a large wild boar, with a sturdy body and tusks over twenty centimeters long protruding. As soon as it spotted Mu Shuangshuang and Lu Yuanfeng, it charged forth.

Perhaps, they had intruded into its territory.

Both fled desperately downhill, but they were no match for the wild boar, nearly caught in just a couple of strides.

"Up the tree, quickly up the tree~" Lu Yuanfeng shouted, and Mu Shuangshuang scrambled up a tree frantically.

The wild boar had to weigh three or four hundred pounds; being struck by it would surely shatter bones. With this thought, Mu Shuangshuang climbed even faster.

The wild boar was fixated on Mu Shuangshuang's pursuit, tracking her movements. As she climbed halfway up the tree, the wild boar simply charged straight ahead.

"Shuangshuang, watch out! Jump, get off the tree, it's dangerous!" Lu Yuanfeng spoke as his arrow shot forth, but the wild boar had already collided.

The rustle of air being torn was audible to Mu Shuangshuang.

Mu Shuangshuang felt a chill down her spine, thinking she was doomed, facing the prospect of being crushed by the wild boar.