

Little Girl 201

Chapter 201: Wind Breath Grass

"That said, several hunters hurriedly descended the mountain as if fleeing for their lives.

Before leaving, Xin Lin declined the persuasion of the hunter named Da Niu and closed her eyes as she glanced at Qin Mountain.

A beautiful, colorful bird flashed through her mind.

It was fiercely protecting its nest.

What a huge nest it was, taking up half of the tree canopy, with seven or eight eggs the size of ostrich eggs inside.

Beneath the tree, a group of people were continuously attacking the large bird.

At that moment, a cold arrow was shot towards one of the pitch-black eggs...

The image in her mind flashed by, and Xin Lin opened her eyes.

It seems that the man-made disaster mentioned by those hunters must be the group of people attacking the large bird.

Unfortunately, her superpower lasted for a very short time. She could only make out the rough appearance of the nest and the large bird. As for the strength and identity of the group of people, that remained unknown for the time being.

The colorful bird was about fifteen feet long, covered in colorful feathers, with plumage like that of a phoenix. However, there is no such thing as a real phoenix in this world; the bird must be some kind of Luanniao.

In the area of Qin Mountain, the more powerful the birds and beasts, the higher their living areas. Judging from where this large bird lived, it must also be a ruler of this part of Qin Mountain.

"Considering the height of the tree where the nest is built, it must be above the waist of the mountain. Since I'm going to collect Wind Breath Grass anyway, why not explore the mountain?"

Rascal Corpse had sent Xin Lin into the mountain for training. Thinking to herself, with her limited supply of Fu Xi's Energy, it would be best to refine it and cherish it.

Xin Lin made up her mind and entered the mountain, one step deep, one step shallow.

At the moment she entered the mountain, a flash of light passed through the blue eyes of the Gui Hu that was within the Sealing Spirit Talisman.

This feeling?

How could this small mound contain the aura of ancient fierce birds?

Gui Hu pondered thoughtfully, but fortunately, the aura was very faint. It was either at its last breath or sealed away, posing no threat to Little Budian. With this thought, Gui Hu once again entered into meditation, slowly circulating the Fu Xi's Energy within his body.

If Xin Lin knew that what she almost exhausted herself walking through, the Qin Mountain, was just a small mound in the eyes of Gui Hu, she would certainly be so angry that she would spit blood.

Qin Mountain was vast, and it took Xin Lin more than an hour just to enter the mountain.

Luckily, Xin Lin was fortunate. Apart from an attack by an Eagle-faced Falcon at the mountain entrance, she encountered only two attacks thereafter, both by third-level and lower Low-grade Dark Beasts, which were easier to deal with than the Red Toad she met earlier.

Along the way, Xin Lin also found many Medicinal Herbs recorded in the Mystical Medicine Book and casually collected some, adding some interest to her journey.

The sky was already filled with golden hues. Unknowingly, it was already evening.

Walking for half a day left Xin Lin with a growling stomach. She took out her dry food and gnawed on it when she noticed a steep, blade-like cliff ahead.

It was covered with greenery. Xin Lin's eyes lit up.

Wind Breath Grass!

She quickly walked up to it and indeed saw the cliff covered with a patch upon a patch of grass that had white fuzz on its surface, resembling wheat seedlings.

With the wind blowing, the scent of the grass seemed to enter her nose, making her feel drowsy.

Xin Lin quickly grabbed the tiger's mouth of her hand; the pain sharpened her senses.

Wind Breath Grass is a Mortal Upper Stage Spirit Grass that, aside from being refined into Jade Marrow Pills, is commonly used for aiding sleep.

The Mystical Medicine Book records that if Wind Breath Grass is dried and ground into powder, its efficacy is greatly enhanced.

Even an Xuanwu Practitioner, if not careful, upon inhaling the powder of Wind Breath Grass, would not fall asleep but would experience slowed movements and delayed reactions.

Hence, Wind Breath Grass powder is an excellent aid for, uh, sleeping and medical treatments."

Chapter 202: A Grass-Eating Snake?

However, only Wind Breath Grass older than five years possesses such effects.

Moreover, the Wind Breath Grass required for refining the Jade Marrow Pill needs to be over ten years old. Xin Lin estimated visually that among the large patch of Wind Breath Grass, only a small portion could be used for medicinal purposes.

Xin Lin looked at the cliff, which was uneven and roughly fifty to sixty feet high, and there were a few pine trees as thick as bowls growing on it.

It was around dusk now, and Xin Lin dared not delay any longer. She exerted force with her feet as if stepping on a spring, leaping several meters high, and aiming for a foothold to climb up the cliff.

She used her hands and feet together, climbing up swiftly like a gecko.

The fragrance of the Wind Breath Grass was getting closer; it was just a few meters away.

But at that moment, the fresh scent of the herbs vanished, replaced by a foul stench that hit her face, and there was a faint rustling sound by her ears.

Xin Lin felt a chill down her spine and turned her head to meet a pair of eyes.

A pair of snake eyes as big as lanterns met Xin Lin's gaze.

At the other end of the Wind Breath Grass, there lay an Emerald Python as thick as a bowl; its color nearly matched the Wind Breath Grass, and one wouldn't notice it without a close look.

(Get lost. This is my territory.)

Clearly, the Green Python's target was also the Wind Breath Grass; it arrogantly glared at Xin Lin.

"Do snakes eat grass nowadays?"

Xin Lin was speechless.

Mr. Python, can you live like an actual snake?

Hiss—

Seeing that Xin Lin didn't recognize the hints and refused to back away, the big snake spat out a cluster of green mist.

Xin Lin, quick-witted and alert, rolled to the side before the green mist could draw near.

The moment that green mist touched the cliff, it immediately corroded a large hole, showing the extreme toxicity of the Green Python.

Xin Lin shrank her neck; some troubles are better avoided. No wonder Jiang Qing said that Wind Breath Grass is hard to harvest.

She quickly retreated, slipping down the cliff.

(Coward)

Seeing that her opponent was driven away by its breath, the Green Python grew even more smug.

Slowly it coiled up the patch of flourishing Wind Breath Grass and swiftly slithered towards the other end of the cliff.

Soon, a cave appeared in the other end of the cliff.

The cave was large, and the python slithered into it.

After a while, the Green Python came out again; it was getting dark, and night was approaching.

At this hour every day, the animals in Qin Mountain return to their nests, making it an excellent time for hunting.

The cunning Green Python knew this was the time to hunt.

After the rustling sound, the Green Python slithered far away.

But just then, a small head poked out from the other end of the cliff.

Once sure the Green Python had slithered far away, Xin Lin exerted strength in her hands and feet, sneaking into the cave.

Inside the cave was moist and slippery, resembling a sheep's intestines, twisting and dim.

Xin Lin squinted her eyes; Fu Xi's Energy gathered at the bottom of her eyes. Being small and bending her waist, it wasn't too difficult for her to navigate through the python's den.

The foul stench of decay had disappeared, replaced instead by the fragrance of medicinal herbs.

In the deepest part of the snake cave, there lay a bed of soft grass, with a plethora of white bones scattered beside it.

"Wind Breath Grass!"

Of course, a Green Python wouldn't actually eat grass. For animals, the greatest use of Wind Breath Grass is to line their nests. Whether birds or nest-dwelling reptiles like snakes, all like to use it to warm their nests.

Even the most experienced hunters might not know such a use for Wind Breath Grass, and Xin Lin knew it only because of the records in the Mystical Medicine Book.

Chu Beiqing mentioned it casually in the Pharmacopoeia, and it was only thanks to Xin Lin's good memory that she remembered.

Chapter 203: Disaster from the Skies!

Five-year-old Wind Breath Grass, ten-year-old Wind Breath Grass, and even some that are fifteen years old.

Xin Lin's eyes lit up, and the corners of her mouth curled slightly.

The Green Python was undoubtedly the Mountain Tyrant of this area, and the difficulty in picking Wind Breath Grass nearby was mostly due to it monopolizing them.

Aside from a very small portion of fresh Wind Breath Grass in its nest, the majority had already dried in the wind.

Xin Lin did not stand on ceremony, grabbing several large handfuls until she looked a whole lot plumper, then she quickly climbed out of the cave.

When she emerged from the cave, the outside was completely dark.

The Green Python had not yet returned.

What good luck she had today.

Xin Lin's mouth curled into a slight smile, preparing to slide down the mountain wall.

At that moment, a cry rang out from the sky and a gust of wind whooshed past.

Xin Lin's eyelids twitched, and she looked up to see a pair of sharp golden claws swooping down from the sky, aiming straight for her heart.

A large bird descended from the heavens.

That bird wore colorful feathers and had a five-colored crest on its head. Its wings stretched out several feet wide, and it was indeed the same large bird that had previously appeared in Xin Lin's mind.

How did this creature get here?

The area where the bird lived was very far from this mountainside, how could it be here?

Xin Lin inwardly lamented as the golden claws reached her in a flash.

In an instant, Xin Lin's figure disappeared.

The bird's golden claws caught empty air, and its talons, sharp like hooks, pierced into the mountain wall.

It missed its target, a flash of irritation apparent in its eyes.

It swiftly retracted its wings, turned around, and swooped toward the base of the mountain wall.

At the base of the mountain wall, as Xin Lin's feet touched the ground, she broke out in a cold sweat from the shock.

But before she could steady herself, there was another flap of wings overhead, and those relentless bird claws swooped down again.

Incorrect!

Why was it still following her?

Xin Lin thought that by using the Ghost Escape Technique, she could avoid the large bird.

But somehow, the bird found her again!

"Aunt Bird, oh, my flesh is little and my bones hard, not tasty at all, why do you catch me!"

Xin Lin inwardly cursed her bad luck; she was continuously using the Ghost Escape Technique and if this continued, she'd completely deplete the Fu Xi's Energy within her!

"Rascal Corpse, come out quickly for an emergency rescue."

Xin Lin touched the Sealing Spirit Talisman in her bosom; she was led to this damned place by the Rascal Corpse, so it had to be responsible, it must be responsible!

However, Xin Lin had stuffed herself with too much Wind Breath Grass, and her run was far less nimble than before.

After running a few steps, she felt light on her feet, and suddenly she was lifted into the air.

"Oh no!"

She was flying!

Regaining her senses, Xin Lin realized she was being carried off by the large bird.

But wait, aside from being a little high up, she felt no pain or discomfort.

The bird's talons had torn through her clothes and grabbed hold of the Wind Breath Grass, flying higher and swiftly soaring over the mountain wall towards the high reaches of Qin Mountain.

(What a big haystack, the children will have a warm nest now.)

The bird let out a cheerful cry, flapping its wings with even more vigor.

"???"

Xin Lin was utterly baffled, and looking at her bulging form, she realized that the large bird wasn't intending to catch her, but rather the Wind Breath Grass on her.

Wind Breath Grass was perfect for a warm nest, liked by both Brother Green Python and Aunt Bird.

Xin Lin's meager cultivation in the eyes of the bird wasn't even worth as much as grass.

Deep in Xin Lin's heart, the small figure of Xin Lin was in tears.

How insulting, to be considered less valuable than grass, ahh!

In an instant, Xin Lin was already hundreds of feet in the air. If she struggled now, a moment of carelessness would turn her into a high-altitude projectile.

Let me endure it for now, I'll think about safe landing first.

Thus, Xin Lin simply stopped resisting, letting the cold wind whistle by her ears, knowing that ahead a dense canopy of towering ancient trees appeared.

Chapter 204: Diverting Calamity Eastward

The grass and trees in this ancient forest cover the sky and sun, thriving exuberantly.

Atop the tallest ancient elm tree, there is an enormous bird nest, identical to the one Xin Lin had previously envisioned in his mind.

There are seven or eight eggs in the bird nest, surrounded by some dry grass and branches.

The giant bird lands in the nest, tossing the "human-shaped Cao Duozhi" it had in its claws into the nest.

With a roll, Xin Lin bumps into the eggs, and with this collision, stars flash before his eyes.

Inside the Sealing Spirit Talisman, the Rascal Corpse remains completely still.

After retrieving the "Cao Duozhi," the giant bird sits on top of the eggs and Xin Lin, closing its eyes to incubate.

Xin Lin is pressed so hard that he dares not to let out a breath.

As the sky grows darker, the Fu Xi's Energy within Xin Lin also begins to stir restlessly.

"Dead Rascal Corpse? If you don't come out now, I'm going to suffocate to death."

Xin Lin feels a sensation all over his body as if ants are gnawing at him. The Fu Xi's Energy surges chaotically, and he rolls his eyes. Is that guy, the Rascal Corpse, really going to leave him to die?

Although Xin Lin is not sure of the grade of this giant bird, just by looking at its dwelling, he knows it's extraordinary, and he has no confidence in being born again from beneath the bird's claws.

"Remove those three words."

Inside the Sealing Spirit Talisman, a cold, indifferent voice finally emerges.

Three words?

What three words?

"Rascal Corpse?"

Xin Lin comes to his senses. Could it be that the creature takes offense at being called Rascal Corpse, and that's why it's been acting haughty and not showing up?!

In Xin Lin's heart, a small version of himself breaks into a cold sweat, having never seen such a stubborn creature before.

"Gui Hu, think of something quickly to make that giant bird shift its position."

After the giant bird incubated for a while, its thick feathers and body nearly crushed Xin Lin's bones to pieces.

Inside the Sealing Spirit Talisman, a black light suddenly flashes and shoots into the night.

About five or six li away from the Ancient Forest, a group of people are traversing through the night.

This group of people is different from the earlier hunters, with roughly over twenty individuals, proceeding unhurriedly.

Among the team are men and women. In the center are several young lords and ladies dressed in gorgeous attire with handsome and beautiful features. Leading them are several raggedly dressed hunters, followed by several tall and strong martial artists with swords and arrows on their backs.

"Heir Yang, it's completely dark now, and we've been searching for a day without a trace of the Xuan Bird. Is there really a Xuan Bird in these mountains?"

The one asking is a delicate-looking girl with waist-length hair, dressed in a pale blue soft armor, appearing graceful and poised.

"The Qin Mountain has been home to the legend of the Xuan Bird since ancient times, but its whereabouts are unpredictable and hard to capture. A month ago, a hunter saw a colorful Xuan Bird building a nest in the mountains. The Xuan Bird propagates only once every sixty years, and building a nest surely means laying eggs. I've just become a Spirit Master, and if I can get a Xuan Bird for summoning, I'll be unbeatable for the top place in the Zixiao Palace Exam."

The one answering is a young man with an impressive aura, approximately fifteen or sixteen years old, clearly of noble birth and raised in luxury.

These people are, undoubtedly, the hunters mentioned earlier who have entered the mountain for the hunt.

Relying on their noble families, they seized a few hunters as guides, and the beasts of Qin Mountain have been victimized all day long.

As dusk deepens, Heir Yang and his team still haven't discovered the Xuan Bird. At this moment, a shadow stirs in the grass ahead, quickly darting toward the Ancient Forest.

"What incredible speed! It must be some powerful beast, chase it!"

Heir Yang and the others perk up and quickly pursue in the direction of the Ancient Forest.

In the nest, the Xuan Bird opens its eyes, sensing a foreign presence.

Chapter 205: The Special Bird Egg

The Xuan Bird let out an angry screech.

This part of the Ancient Forest was very secluded; would those detestable intruders ever allow it to properly incubate its eggs!

Aunt Bird was angry, and the consequences would be dire.

The Xuan Bird soared into the air, transforming into a blazing streak that shot into the night.

Finally, Xin Lin breathed in fresh air; the Fu Xi's Energy within her was chaotically darting about.

"Gui Hu, are you the one who did this?"

In the tranquil night, there was no answer.

Xin Lin touched the Sealing Spirit Talisman in her bosom, the talisman was there, but Gui Hu's energy was absent from within it.

Xin Lin looked around but there was no trace of Gui Hu.

That guy, he'd actually disappeared!

Dammit!

Xin Lin was shaking with anger, but what should she do with the Fu Xi's Energy inside her?

Cursing under her breath, Xin Lin had no choice but to abandon immediate thoughts of escape, quickly channeling the Fu Xi's Energy within her, gathering it in her pupils.

Ahead, the dense foliage and tree shadows in front of Xin Lin vanished.

Xin Lin could clearly see the Xuan Bird spreading its colorful wings, gliding swiftly ahead.

A group of people emerged in the distance.

She could see that far?

Xin Lin was astonished; previously, when she used Fu Xi's Energy, she could only see through the clothes of those close to her, but now, she could actually see a mile or two ahead, not to mention, in the pitch-black night, she attained the ability to see as if it were daylight.

But Xin Lin's vision only extended just over a mile, beyond that, she couldn't see clearly.

That's why after searching around, she still couldn't find a trace of Gui Hu, that unreliable guy, who knows where he'd sneaked off to.

To drain the Fu Xi's Energy within, Xin Lin continually concentrated the energy at the base of her eyes.

Yet even so, the wildly darting Fu Xi's Energy in her body still leaked out, in small amounts.

That portion of Fu Xi's Energy slowly diffused in the Mystic Bird Nest.

Just then, among the several eggs behind Xin Lin, one Grey Egg moved slightly.

The size of that egg wasn't much different from the others, shaped like an Ostrich Egg, just slightly different in color.

This Grey Egg, mixed in with the Mystic Bird Nest, had gone unnoticed by Aunt Bird; in a nest of eggs, it's hard for all to be exactly the same.

But it was this Grey Egg that, while Xin Lin dispelled the Fu Xi's Energy, secretly moved.

Upon touching the Fu Xi's Energy, the Grey Egg shivered, like a cat catching the scent of blood, the egg inched forward.

Moving forward once more, its chubby egg body struggled mightily as it inched towards Xin Lin.

At this moment, Xin Lin moved a little.

The Grey Egg immediately became rigid, motionless, fearful of being discovered.

Just like that, the Grey Egg quietly absorbed the Fu Xi's Energy leaking from Xin Lin.

All this, unbeknownst to Xin Lin.

A good half of the night passed before the stirring Fu Xi's Energy within Xin Lin was calmed down.

During this half night, the Xuan Bird had already clashed head-on with the group of Hunters who intruded into the mountains; the Xuan Bird was greatly annoyed, launching wave after wave of attacks, resolutely preventing the intruders from nearing the Ancient Forest.

The group of young Hunters was also quite capable; although they didn't kill the Xuan Bird, they caused substantial trouble for it, trapping the bird so it couldn't return.

In this way, it inadvertently gave Xin Lin an advantage.

By the third watch, Xin Lin finally opened her eyes.

Gui Hu still hadn't appeared.

Just as Xin Lin was about to flee the nest, she suddenly heard a sound behind her, a snap, as if something had fallen to the ground.

Chapter 206: Mommy, Don't Leave Me

Within the territory of the Xuan Bird, no other birds or beasts dared to approach.

It was close to the third watch, and this sudden noise was particularly jarring.

"Gui Hu?"

Xin Lin perked up, and turned her head back.

But behind her, there was no trace of the Rascal Corpse?

Not a single ghostly presence.

Xin Lin looked suspiciously, glancing at the eggs nearby.

Something wasn't right!

Xin Lin gaped, staring ahead, she couldn't have seen wrong, could she? One egg was missing.

Xin Lin's scalp tingled, and she hurriedly looked down, finding that sure enough, beneath the ancient tree, there was a scattering of broken eggshells.

It seemed that the earlier noise had been the sound of an egg falling to the ground.

"Could it have been the wind that knocked the egg down? The unlucky little fellow, hasn't even hatched yet and already met its end."

Xin Lin shook her head.

But just as Xin Lin looked up again, a flash of white appeared before her eyes, and a shadow of an egg rolled down from above her.

Crack—

Another egg fell from in front of Xin Lin's eyes, crashing down.

This time, Xin Lin was certain that the egg had not been knocked down by the wind.

Xin Lin's scalp tingled again, her gaze swiftly turning to the remaining eggs.

Eggs can't possibly fall down on their own, right?

Xin Lin looked on doubtfully, when suddenly, her eyelids twitched, and she noticed the Grey Egg move!

Yes, it really moved, the out-of-place Grey Egg shuddered, tipped its butt, and bumped an adjacent egg out of the nest.

Crack—

Another crack sounded.

Goodness me!

Xin Lin's eyes widened in shock, eggs were committing fratricide!

That Grey Egg was so arrogant, it was as if it didn't even notice Xin Lin at all, again and again, it shook its butt, left and right, sweeping down the other Xuan Bird Eggs in the nest like autumn leaves with a swift posture, eliminating five or six of them in one go.

The motion was fluid and utterly shameless.

"Holy moly! Is this the Overlord Egg, a law unto itself?"

When the abnormal is afoot, there must be demonic trickery at play; after the Grey Egg exterminated the other eggs, it joyfully rolled around on the spot.

By now, Xin Lin had seen all too clearly, that Grey Egg was definitely not a Xuan Bird Egg.

Among the Bird Clan, there's a certain practice where some birds lay their eggs in other birds' nests, to be incubated by another mother bird, and after hatching, they may even attack other birdlings in the same nest.

Clearly, this Grey Egg had taken active measures to enjoy the exclusive favor of Aunt Bird by attacking the others.

As the sole witness, one could only imagine how Xin Lin felt at this moment.

"Never mind that, the best plan now is to beat a hasty retreat; otherwise, once Aunt Bird comes back and sees her lineage ended, I'm the one who's going to get killed."

Xin Lin broke out in a cold sweat.

She could no longer care about where Gui Hu had gone; grabbing handfuls of Wind Breath Grass, she stuffed it about herself in a panic, and hurriedly prepared to descend the tree and flee for her life.

Xin Lin moved quickly, using both hands and feet, and with the cover of night, soon descended the tree.

As soon as she turned around, there was an extra egg in front of her.

"!!!"

With a bewildered face, the Grey Egg hopped along, actually following her out of the nest.

"Overlord Egg, why are you following me? You're already an only child, go back now."

Xin Lin took off running.

(Mommy... Mommy... don't leave me behind)

The Grey Egg didn't mess around, the presence of Fu Xi's Energy on Xin Lin was irresistibly tempting.

It hopped after Xin Lin.

Xin Lin ran all the way, thinking she was already safe, but then, a terrifying screech came from above.

Xin Lin looked up to see Aunt Bird swooping down from the sky, her multicolored feathers all spread out, and her brown eyes filled with unbridled fury!

Chapter 207: The Spirit Talisman That Vanished into Thin Air

Aunt Bird barely managed to drive away the intruders, but when she returned to the nest, she discovered that all the bird eggs had disappeared.

It takes a sixtieth year cycle for Xuan Birds to lay eggs, and Aunt Bird went mad, frantically searching, only to find that the earlier "Cao Duozhi" was the culprit!

"Aunt Bird, it's all a misunderstanding, all of it. The egg-smashing incident wasn't my doing, it was this!"

Xin Lin pointed at the Grey Egg next to her.

The angry bird screech was deafening, and the whole Ancient Forest trembled.

Little did she know, the Grey Egg swiftly hid behind Xin Lin.

(Shameless person, I'm going to tear you into pieces)

The Xuan Bird, seeing the last bird egg also falling into the hands of Xin Lin, grew even more furious.

Xin Lin wanted to cry but had no tears, why was she so unlucky.

She just wanted to steal some Wind Breath Grass, but ended up being framed by an Overlord Egg.

"Face, you scam."

In annoyance, Xin Lin kicked the Grey Egg flying.

(Wuu wuu... Mommy...)

As the Grey Egg flew out, Aunt Bird became anxious, flapping her wing and catching the Grey Egg securely.

But turning around, there was no trace of the "Cao Duozi".

Aunt Bird pecked the Grey Egg, nearly tearing up, holding onto the only remaining Overlord Egg, both heartbroken and relieved.

(Rascal, you think you can escape Qin Mountain, I will definitely find you and make you pay for the eggs with your life)

The Xuan Bird looked around, but there was no sign of the "Cao Duozi".

Dawn was approaching, even if she has to mobilize the power of the entire Bird Clan of the mountain, she had to find her!

The Xuan Bird spread its wings and soared high, heading towards the tallest ancient tree.

(Mommy... you will definitely come back to the nest)

Under Grey Egg's butt, there appeared an old piece of talisman paper.

"Pfft, I've seen people take thieves as fathers, but never seen someone taking a thief as a son."

Outside the Ancient Forest, Xin Lin exhausted her last bit of energy, used the Ghost Escape Technique to escape breathlessly.

She touched herself and her face suddenly changed.

The Sealing Spirit Talisman was gone!

This Sealing Spirit Talisman was not the one from Gui Hu before, but the new blank Sealing Spirit Talisman she acquired later that can only seal third-level and above Spiritual Beasts.

That was something Xin Lin exchanged with 10 points of Heaven-defying Value, and more importantly, Gui Hu had reminded earlier that this Sealing Spirit Talisman was an important tool for her in this Zixiao Palace Exam, without it, Xin Lin's True Qi problem would probably remain unsolved.

"Unlucky, ninety percent likely it's lost in the nest or somewhere along the way."

Xin Lin's body had already completely exhausted Fu Xi's Energy and she obviously couldn't go back.

She cursed under her breath.

Just at this moment, Gui Hu was still missing.

She had no more Sealing Spirit Talisman at hand, it looked like she had to figure out something else.

Xin Lin thought for a moment, then noticed a firelight ahead.

It was indeed a fire, and moreover a bonfire, with the fragrance of food faintly wafting through.

It was the group of people who had an earlier conflict with the Xuan Bird!

Xin Lin's eyes lit up, she thought for a while, and a plan formed in her mind...

By the bonfire, Heir Yang and the others were also annoyed.

They had finally found the Xuan Bird, only for it to escape halfway, and even lost several guides and Xuanwu Practitioners.

They could only wait until dawn to think of ways to find the whereabouts of the Xuan Bird.

"Princely Heir, there's some noise ahead!"

While patrolling, a Xuanwu Practitioner spotted a figure flickering ahead, who after a few steps, collapsed to the ground, motionless.

Chapter 208: Are You Stupid or Am I

Several guards stepped forward and soon brought back a little girl.

"Wake her up."

In a place like Qin Mountain, how can there be a six or seven-year-old little girl?

How can a little girl survive in such a place?

It is rumored that when Xuan Beast Spirit Beasts cultivate to a high level, they can transform into human form, indistinguishable from ordinary people. Thinking of this, Heir Yang and the others couldn't help but become cautious.

A basin of cold water was poured over her head, and the little girl grunted a few times, slowly waking up.

Seeing everyone, she was scared and curled up into a ball, her wet little body shivering nonstop.

The woman in the team stepped forward and checked the little girl's pulse.

"Heir, she has no True Qi inside her; she's a normal human."

Heir Yang's expression slightly relaxed, and he stepped forward proudly.

"Child, who are you, what is your surname and name, and why are you in Qin Mountain?"

Heir Yang asked a few questions, but the little girl remained silent.

"Heir, I think this child is a bit abnormal."

The woman beside him said.

Heir Yang looked at the little girl, seeing her unkempt and dirty, though her appearance was not ugly, she still looked somewhat foolish.

Heir Yang gave a signal, and the woman walked forward and took out a piece of candy.

The little girl's eyes widened, happily snatching the candy and stuffing it into her mouth haphazardly.

"Little sister, can you tell big sister why you are in the mountains?"

Little Xin Lin inwardly spat, Sister your head, just wait and you'll all be crying.

As an irregular female soldier, pretending to be foolish is an essential skill!

Yet, her face squeezed out an innocent smile, looking as harmless as possible.

"Bird eggs... bird eggs..."

Saying that, she made a gesture of a bird egg.

Such a big bird egg, Heir Yang and the others immediately brightened their eyes.

In the area of Qin Mountain, only the Xuan Bird could lay such eggs.

The Xuan Bird has a strong territorial sense, and its territory spans several miles. They didn't see any other birds or beasts nearby.

The Xuan Bird had hurriedly flown away earlier; its nest might be nearby, but unfortunately, the towering ancient trees in the area make it hard to find the nest.

But things were different with this child here.

"Little sister, how did you find the bird eggs?"

Heir Yang still wasn't reassured and probed further.

Even they couldn't find the bird's nest; there's no reason why a foolish child could.

"Catch... big bird..."

The little girl made a gesture of a big bird and pointed at her back.

There were two large rips on the back of her clothes, clearly torn by bird claws.

So, the child was captured by the Xuan Bird.

Heir Yang and the others suddenly realized. No wonder.

The Xuan Bird is omnivorous; under conditions of scarce food in the mountains, it might even descend to snatch poultry and people; surely the fool was unlucky to be captured and kept as food in the nest.

Heir Yang and the others gently coaxed more information, roughly finding out the location of the nest, knowing the fool took the chance to sneak down from the ancient tree when the Xuan Bird was out.

"As soon as it gets light, we will immediately enter the Ancient Forest; I refuse to believe we can't catch the Xuan Bird this time."

Heir Yang was determined.

"Heir, but that Xuan Bird is already a Level 5 Spiritual Beast, its feathers are extremely tough, resistant to both swords and spears, we have surrounded it several times before, but couldn't handle it."

His subordinates expressed their concerns.

"What's there to fear? Have you forgotten? I still have a Sealing Spirit Talisman in my hand, and it can seal Spiritual Beasts of level three and above."

Heir Yang said, carefully taking out a Spirit Talisman.

Sealing Spirit Talisman?

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin stealthily glanced at Heir Yang.

Chapter 209: Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array

Seeing the Sealing Spirit Talisman, Xin Lin was still full of anticipation.

She had just lost a Sealing Spirit Talisman, and this Prince Yang having one couldn't be a better coincidence.

However, after giving the talisman a glance, Xin Lin couldn't help but roll her eyes.

She doubted if this thing could really seal a third-level or higher Spiritual Beast.

How come it looked completely different from hers?

Even though the Heaven-defying Book wasn't very reliable, the Sealing Spirit Talismans that came with the Opportunity Dice looked much higher-grade; the glyphs alone were much more complex than Prince Yang's.

This fool really intends to use it to capture the Xuan Bird?

If so, my condolences, dear~

"This Sealing Spirit Talisman was bought by my father at the black market, costing two hundred thousand silver taels. This time, the Xuan Bird will surely not escape."

Heir Yang patted his chest as a guarantee.

Two hundred thousand taels for this?

The whole family must have their brains kicked by a mule, causing widespread brain damage.

Xin Lin inwardly pities such a large sum of silver.

The group of underlings around Heir Yang continually flattered him, saying that this time Prince Yang will surely succeed rapidly at the Zixiao Palace Exam, making him overly proud.

Thus, everyone rested on their own, waiting for dawn to catch the Xuan Bird in the Ancient Forest.

Xin Lin was left alone in a corner, ignored by others.

She touched the Sealing Spirit Talisman in her bosom, thinking about Gui Hu, who had disappeared for the whole night. It seemed that when the Xuan Bird left its nest, he vanished, and if he did not come back soon, day would break.

Xin Lin felt irritated and closed her eyes, ignoring the talisman.

Meanwhile, the same night presented a drastically different scene atop the Qin Mountain, covered in snow and ice without a trace of life.

But underneath the thick ice, a different scene unfolded.

Below the ice, a vast number of trees and beasts existed.

Not far away, three Six-Horned Deer were being chased by a Blood Lion, their movements eternally halted.

They were completely frozen into ice sculptures, preserved in their original forms.

How many years they had been sealed within this Qin Mountain was unknown.

A figure walked across the icy ground.

The surrounding chill was biting, even a Xuanwu Practitioner could not stay here for more than a quarter of an hour.

This was one of the reasons why Emperor Longteng ordered the summit area to be sealed.

Gui Hu raised his eyes, looking towards the highest point of the mountain.

There, the ice was thickest and the temperature coldest.

Right here.

Gui Hu had several reasons for letting Xin Lin enter Qin Mountain, partly for her trial, but also because of this area.

This area, Xin Lin cannot enter.

With the Xuan Bird away from its nest, as long as he did nothing foolish, Little Budian should temporarily be safe.

Gui Hu walked to the summit, looking down upon the mountain scenery with a commanding gaze.

With a flick of his sleeve, his broad sleeve stirred up a gust of sinister wind.

The summit's thick ice cap cracked crisply, as if cleaved by an axe, splitting open.

An ancient mark filled with images of birds, snakes, insects, and beasts appeared before his eyes.

"Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array, I didn't expect to find such an ancient array here."

Gui Hulan's blue eyes condensed, as between his ghost claws, a trace of dark ghost power emerged, flowing like water slowly into the array.

The array, like a stone mill covered in years of dust, was pushed by an invisible force, making "ka ka ka" sounds, reactivating the array which then emitted a dark glow.

Between heaven and earth, a large amount of Spiritual Energy flowed continuously towards the array under its influence.

Chapter 210: The Missing Divine Beast

Ghost Claw retrieved quickly, and that portion of Spiritual Energy swiftly merged into Gui Hu's body.

Gui Hu's figure became clearer by a few degrees.

The razor-sharp nails on his ghost claw, resembling knife blades, had disappeared. It now looked somewhat similar to a human hand.

Gui Hu was not a person who cared about appearance, but he remembered clearly the aversion flickering in Little Budian's big eyes every time he extended his claw.

He did not enjoy being born different from others.

"With it, three years will be enough to restore a true physical body."

A hint of joy flickered in Gui Hu's blue eyes.

After awakening, Gui Hu found that the mainland had changed drastically from his time.

This was a new mainland with only True Qi and Spiritual Energy.

The people here, whether it was their cultivation or talents, were far inferior to those of his era.

In such a place, reshaping a usable physical body was exceedingly difficult.

His physical body, in that great battle, was likely reduced to ashes.

The so-called physical body he now possessed was merely a temporary shell, unable to bear his strength. He had to seal a portion of his Ghost Power, yet even so, this shell was easily detectable by those with intentions.

Earlier on, he still had a Fuxi Pill and was fifty percent confident that he could reconstruct his physical body within three years, breaking free from the temporary shell's constraints on his Ghost Power.

But now, the Fu Tian Pill had been swallowed by Little Budian.

That Little Budian was also very stingy, showing a ruffled demeanor whenever absorbing a bit more of Fu Xi's Energy.

Moreover, the Fu Xi' Energy in her was not enough for his absorption.

Thus, these days, he'd been pondering on how to quickly reconstruct his physical body.

However, just yesterday, he detected fluctuations from an ancient Heaven and Earth Array around Qin Mountain. Upon finding the Xuan Bird nest, he was certain, something mysterious must be within this mountain.

"However, next to the Devouring Spirit Array, there should be a Divine Beast guarding it. Why is there not a single beast here?"

Gui Hu looked around, his eyes filled with a sense of peculiarity.

Clearly, something must have happened that caused the guardian Divine Beast to leave.

Gui Hu stopped pondering, sat cross-legged in the middle of the Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array, allowing massive amounts of Spiritual Power to pass through his shell and transform into Ghost Power.

Until the first gleam of dawn appeared in the east.

Gui Hu then stood up; the Heaven and Earth Devouring Spirit Array had stopped operating.

The Spiritual Energy in the vicinity had been entirely devoured, and its recovery would take at least a month.

Despite being monthly, it was still much faster than his normal cultivation.

Gui Hu glanced at the Ancient Forest and, in a blink, dashed towards it.

He had almost forgotten that Little Budian was still in the nest.

Xin Lin was dreaming about using the Dan Wood Furnace to concoct pills for Silly Chu... when the Dan Wood Furnace suddenly exploded.

A foot kicked against Xin Lin's back.

"Get up quickly, lead I into the forest."

Heir Yang and others were fully equipped and ready; as soon as Xin Lin woke up, Heir Yang ordered people to tie her up.

"Princely Heir, she's still just a child, let us take you into the forest instead."

The hunters by the side couldn't stand it any longer, trying to plead for Xin Lin.

"She's just a fool; it's her ancestors' virtue that I, the Princely Heir, am letting her guide the way."

Heir Yang said unkindly.

Xin Lin moved her wrist, covertly changing the rope into a slip knot.

Daybreak arrived, and it was time for the drama to unfold.

A group of people walked towards the Ancient Forest.

Sunrise in the east, the first rays of sunlight fell on everyone.

"Egg... large egg"

Xin Lin, with an obedient look, led everyone forward.

Upon entering the Ancient Forest, Xin Lin pointed towards the tallest tree at the deepest part of the forest.