

Little Girl 601

Chapter 601: The Secret Has Been Discovered?

The dagger is of excellent quality; a moment upon the wood, and instantly, several marks appeared on the surface.

This...

Both Master Chen and the County Magistrate wore puzzled expressions.

What's so special about this?

But before Master Chen could ask, the deep cuts on the Phoebe Wood Sign, at least an inch deep, suddenly disappeared.

Just as if a pebble had been thrown into the calm surface of a lake, causing a series of ripples to spread out.

But when the pebble sank, the ripples vanished without a trace.

"Gone? How can they just disappear?"

Master Chen was shocked, touching the signboard in disbelief.

However, the signboard was smooth and still bore only the three characters, "Chu's Restaurant."

"Master Jiu, is this sign really a treasure? I always said, how could a rundown Spiritual Food Restaurant with a few mediocre buns possibly compete with my Spiritual Delicacy Buns. It turns out it was all because of this sign. Fortunately, the sign is now ours."

Now Master Chen believed, as he inspected the sign over and over again, his face showing attachment.

Little did he know that Master Jiu scoffed at this.

"Is your head also made of wood? Do you think you can use this sign just because you have it? Unless it wishes, those characters will never disappear, unless you want De Yue Building to hang a signboard that reads 'Chu's Restaurant.'"

"How can I make this sign my own?"

Master Chen asked with great admiration.

This Master Jiu was a valued patron who dined at De Yue Building a few days earlier.

At that time, Master Chen was at his wit's end.

Ever since Chu's Restaurant began selling buns, not only had the sales of buns at De Yue Building plummeted, leaving most of the Spiritual Delicacy Buns unsold, but even the business of Spiritual Delicacies was being taken over by Taoyao Pavilion.

With Master Ji at Taoyao Pavilion, it could not be shaken in the short term.

He initially wanted to take care of the local ruffians from Chu's Restaurant, but he had to consider the Taichang Temple backing them.

Master Chen was caught between two fires, as one can imagine.

But as soon as Master Jiu visited, he told him that he had methods to help De Yue Building; the only condition was that Master Chen had to give him one hundred Intermediate Qi Stones.

Master Chen was initially unwilling.

Not until Master Jiu made his move and struck Master Ji with an incurable illness did Master Chen believe him, which led to later actions against Chu's Restaurant.

With the current situation of the signboard, Master Chen was utterly impressed by Master Jiu.

"This signboard has spirit, and it recognizes its master. Unless the previous owner vanishes, it will not recognize a new master, and you will have a chance to tame it."

Master Jiu spoke deliberately and tapped the Phoebe Wood Sign with his finger.

"Its master is Ma Jingtian in prison, don't worry, I'll have someone deal with Ma Jingtian secretly."

Master Chen said dismissively.

A mere local ruffian does not deserve to own such spiritual objects.

Only in his hands can the signboard truly shine.

"Fool, when I say vanish, I don't mean death, but a true erasure. This is a Spiritual Food signboard; the other party must be a Spiritual Delicacy Master. Those few in the prison are not Spiritual Delicacy Masters at all."

Master Jiu showed impatience.

If it weren't for the fact that he was tracking the aura of the Fu Tian Pill and arrived here, and happened to be injured by the people from Taichang Temple, needing a large number of Qi Stones for recovery, why would he deal with such a fool?

"So you're saying that the real owner of Chu's Restaurant is not Ma Jingtian? Don't worry, Master Jiu, I'll have the County Magistrate investigate and confirm the true owner of the Spiritual Food Restaurant, then find a way to make him lose convincingly."

Master Chen was full of confidence, considering his skills in making Spiritual Food, few in the entire Purple Cloud City could match him.

Chapter 602: Misfortunes Never Come Alone

After coming out of the prison, Xin Lin did not look for the County Magistrate immediately.

It was clear that the County Magistrate had been bribed by Master Chen.

Looking for the County Magistrate at this time could possibly lead to being framed with unfounded charges.

Xin Lin thought for a moment and decided to head to Taoyao Pavilion first.

When she left Taoyao Pavilion initially, Master Ji had told her that she could ask for help whenever she needed.

During the day, Taoyao Pavilion was not open for business.

Just as Xin Lin reached the entrance, the pimp's eyes lit up.

"Little lady, why it's you? Why isn't your father with you?"

The pimp had a good memory and remembered Xin Lin's "father" Gui Hu.

Since Gui Hu's visit to Taoyao Pavilion, the Oiran there had been longing for him day and night eagerly awaiting his return.

Xin Lin frowned in displeasure.

Little did she know that Silly Chu, standing next to her, took offense.

"Who said... I am her father..."

Unfortunately, Silly Chu had no beard to puff, or else he would be puffing his beard and glaring by now.

"Ah, you are her father? How come she has two fathers, although both are quite handsome. Still, you are early; the Oiran has yet to wake up."

The pimp muttered.

"I'm not here to find the Oiran today. I have come to look for Master Ji."

Xin Lin stated outright.

"Master Ji? That's even worse luck. Master Ji recently fell ill, has been bedridden and it's feared that..."

The pimp sighed deeply.

"Master Ji is in trouble? What happened, take me to see him... I know a bit about medicine."

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin felt something was amiss.

Chu's Restaurant had its sign taken down and Master Ji had fallen ill at the same time; things seemed too coincidental.

With Master Chen's intelligence, Xin Lin didn't think he could suddenly grasp something that quickly, something fishy was going on.

"Just you? Stop boasting, kid. The proprietress even called for people from the Imperial Hospital, yet no cure was found."

The pimp shook his head, showing disbelief.

"I'm no good, but my father is. Do you know who my father is? My father is Grand Doctor Chu."

Xin Lin pushed the silly father figure standing behind her forward.

Silly Chu was still a bit confused, unsure of what his darling meant.

"Daddy, you don't say a word, just tighten your face and glare at him. If you do a good job, I'll give you sugar-coated haws to eat later."

Xin Lin whispered in a low voice.

Upon hearing this, the silly smile on Silly Chu's handsome face disappeared.

He tightened his face, his gaze piercing, furiously glaring at the pimp.

"He is Grand Doctor Chu?"

The pimp was startled.

The name Grand Doctor Chu was illustrious.

But Grand Doctor Chu, coming back to such a wretched place?

Even the so-called Imperial Physician the proprietress had lavishly invited was merely a retired former imperial physician.

After all, a physician from the Imperial Hospital would absolutely not come to a place of ill-repute like theirs... for a consultation.

"You don't believe? Hehe, actually, my father and I have also learned some medicine. Little brother, your eyes are murky, you often suffer from chest tightness and shortness of breath, and you easily have nocturnal panic attacks. Your liver isn't in good shape. You must have ingested some toxic substance in your younger days, damaging your liver."

Xin Lin glanced at the pimp and declared confidently.

Upon hearing this, the pimp exclaimed.

"My goodness, little god, how did you know? I had indeed improperly consumed porpoise as a child, which has caused me lasting illness."

Initially still skeptical, the pimp was wholly convinced by Xin Lin's words.

He hurriedly invited Xin Lin inside.

Since falling ill, Master Ji had been staying in a private room within Taoyao Pavilion.

Master Ji had no children; these days, his nephew, Master Ji, had been taking care of him.

Chapter 603: Superpower Reappears

Xin Lin had just entered the Taoyao Pavilion when she suddenly stopped in her tracks.

A scene flashed across her mind.

A damp and limp sensation suddenly engulfed her.

In front of her, everything turned gloomy, as if the sky had suddenly darkened.

Thump, thump, thump...

Something was approaching.

Xin Lin felt an uncomfortable coldness on her feet, as if they were soaking in water, her skin feeling unpleasant.

Xin Lin looked down and shuddered.

A layer of mud-like substance was covering her ankles. The substance was growing continuously.

It clearly wasn't mud, as it was moving.

It crawled up Xin Lin's ankles, burrowing into her body as if it intended to devour her whole.

"Who are you?"

Xin Lin asked instinctively.

At that moment, the mud-like substance finally stopped moving and raised its head.

Xin Lin noticed that it was different from ordinary mud; it had two antennae, and a mouth.

It slowly opened its mouth, which was like a large suction pad, dripping with copious amounts of saliva.

The saliva was a snotty green color, appearing very viscous. Only when the saliva had finished dripping did Xin Lin realize that it wasn't a mouth, but a suction cup.

Inside the suction cup was a face, that of a man with droopy eyes and pale skin.

Xin Lin clearly did not recognize that face.

Xin Lin's heart jolted, and she stumbled.

The man disappeared.

Everything around her returned to normal.

She was still inside the Taoyao Pavilion, and the pimp was still rambling on about Master Ji's injuries.

The scene just now was very realistic, but Xin Lin knew it was about to happen.

Her superpower had been manifesting unevenly recently.

Previously, Xin Lin could control it, foreseeing once a day.

However, she wasn't sure when, but the occurrences of her superpower had dwindled.

Sometimes, even when Xin Lin wanted to use it, she was unable to.

Apparently, it started after she had swallowed the Fu Tian Pill, or maybe after encountering Gui Hu, or perhaps due to unlocking the Heaven-defying Book?

Regardless, the scene just witnessed wasn't pleasant for anyone.

It was clear that the creature wasn't human.

Was it a Xuan Spirit Beast?

Or an Evil Ghost?

Why did it suddenly appear at this time?

Did this mean that Xin Lin would soon encounter that person?

Xin Lin felt a headache coming on; the day's events were overwhelming and confusing.

Xin Lin planned to ask Gui Hu, but that would have to wait until after visiting Master Ji.

"Several days ago, Master brought some people into the valley of Qin Mountain to gather ingredients, as a guest had ordered a table of Spiritual Food, requiring Xuan Nu Fish. That type of fish is only found in that area. Master Ji had fetched that kind of fish before, but unfortunately, this time there was an accident. Ever since returning, Master Ji has suffered from vomiting and diarrhoea, later developing a fever, and then bloating and falling unconscious. The doctors have seen him and still can't diagnose the issue."

As the pimp finished speaking, they arrived at the door of the private room.

As for his foolish father, after Xin Lin promised him a string of candied gourds, he dutifully maintained a serious face, remaining silent, continuing to play the role of a 'Divine Doctor.'

The pimp knew only so much, which obviously wasn't helpful for Master Ji's illness, so Xin Lin gestured for him to leave.

Just as she steadied herself, Xin Lin heard several voices coming from inside the private room.

Chapter 604: White-Eyed Wolf

"Alas, he was fine before, how come after a trip to the mountains, he ended up like this. Doctor, is there really no way?"

The voice of the owner of Taoyao Pavilion followed.

"We have tried all the possible methods. Medicine and acupuncture are useless; you should prepare for his funeral."

An aged voice spoke.

It seemed that this was the imperial physician that the pimp mentioned earlier.

"Boss, don't worry, my uncle knew everything, so do I. From now on, I will take care of Taoyao Pavilion."

Then, the voice of Master Ji was heard.

"Taoyao Pavilion cannot be left to him."

Xin Lin, understanding the situation, pushed the door and entered.

"Who are you?"

Just when Master Ji was about to seize the opportunity to persuade and secure the role of chef, an unexpected interruption occurred.

Upon seeing the newcomer, it was a young girl wearing a Qingtian Academy uniform, who looked somewhat familiar, but he couldn't recall where he had seen her before.

"It's you, Xin Lin, you're no longer part of Taoyao Pavilion, why did you come here?"

The owner of Taoyao Pavilion had been doing business for many years and had a knack for recognizing people.

When Xin Lin was at Taoyao Pavilion initially, the owner felt that she was not just an ordinary girl.

Later, when Master Ji mentioned she was the top scorer at the Zixiao Palace Exam, the owner was so frightened that he hastily sent this 'high deity' away.

Unexpectedly, she had come back.

"You are Xin Lin! You are an outsider, when is it your turn to discuss matters here?"

Seeing Xin Lin, Master Ji felt inexplicably guilty, his eyes dodging uncertainly.

Xin Lin keenly noted his reaction.

"I heard Master Ji was sick, so I came to see him. Although I am no longer part of Taoyao Pavilion, I was brought up by Master Ji, and I wanted to check on his illness."

Xin Lin swiftly moved and approached the bed.

Looking at Master Ji lying on the bed, with eyes tightly closed and completely pale.

It had only been half a month, but Master Ji had lost his robust appearance; looking at his belly, swollen like a stuffed ball.

Occasionally, saliva with a strange odor dripped from the corners of his mouth.

"Heh~ little girl, you speak so confidently. I have already examined him, Master Ji has contracted a strange disease, unheard and unseen before. Not only you, even I am at my wits' end."

The gray-haired elder by the bed said. He had served at the Imperial Medical Hall in his early years, having seen countless difficult and complex diseases, yet he had never encountered such a condition.

Xin Lin stared at Master Ji, walked forward, and touched the saliva at the corner of his mouth.

The greenish saliva looked very disgusting.

"This is not a disease."

Upon inspection, Xin Lin was more convinced of her earlier suspicion and shook her head.

"Nonsense, if it's not a disease, what is it? I am a former imperial physician, and what are you! A little girl who hardly knows a few big characters!"

The former imperial physician was immediately furious.

"Xin Lin, stop causing trouble here. I am also saddened by Master Ji's condition, but now is not the time for baseless talk."

The owner of Taoyao Pavilion also showed a face of sorrow.

It seemed she could only prepare for Master Ji's funeral then.

"I may be nothing, but he is. Father, tell us, does Master Ji have a disease or not?"

Xin Lin sharply called out towards the outside.

Then a figure walked in.

The man was tall and stately, with sword-like eyebrows and starry eyes, his face full of an imposing aura—it was Chu Beiqing.

Chapter 605: The Only Divine Doctor

The former imperial physician, who had been so arrogant just moments earlier, immediately felt a shiver down his spine and broke out in a cold sweat at the sight of the cold gaze from the newcomer. His pompous aura disappeared in an instant.

"Divine... Divine Doctor Chu."

The owner of Taoyao Pavilion and Master Ji were also taken aback.

The title of Divine Doctor Chu, at one point in time within Purple Cloud City, was akin to a faith-like existence.

Every citizen in the city knew that there were two imperial physicians in Chu Mansion, but the only one who could be called a divine doctor was the former imperial physician, Chu Beiqing!

Indeed, only he deserved to be called a divine doctor!

"No, that's Chu Beiqing. Hasn't Chu Beiqing become a madman long ago?"

Master Ji snapped back to reality and shouted loudly.

Xin Lin's father, that is Chu Beiqing, that madman!

How could a madman diagnose illnesses?

"What is this?"

The former imperial physician was both shocked and bewildered, stealthily glancing at Chu Beiqing.

Looking at his clear eyes and composed face, there was not a trace of insanity.

Speaking of which, it was quite a coincidence. This former imperial physician had once committed a violation under Chu Beiqing's jurisdiction and was forced to retire early as a consequence.

His medical license was also revoked by Chu Beiqing himself, and he thought that with Chu Beiqing turning into a madman, taking on some private jobs would be of no issue. Little did he know he would be caught red-handed.

At this moment, the heart of the former imperial physician was in utter turmoil.

"No illness."

Chu Beiqing uttered two words, his gaze fixed directly on the former imperial physician.

The latter was so startled that all suspicions and thoughts of mysterious diseases were cast aside from his mind.

"Owner, my medical skills are superficial, please find another more capable. I take my leave."

The former imperial physician was so terrified that he ran off, even forgetting to collect his consultation fee.

"This... this... Divine Doctor Chu, does Master Ji really have no illness?"

The owner of Taoyao Pavilion looked at Chu Beiqing, pinning his last hope on him.

"Darling... gourd... candied hawthorn."

However, Chu Beiqing's handsome face suddenly changed, and he dashed to his beloved daughter.

His speed of changing faces left the owner and Master Ji utterly astounded.

"Divine Doctor Chu? Is he really a madman or..."

Before the owner could finish speaking, he was silenced by a warning glance from Xin Lin.

"Why ask so many questions, any further delay and Master Ji will truly be beyond saving."

Xin Lin felt Master Ji's pulse.

The heart meridian was weak and his breath faint; indeed, the situation was very bad.

If the cause wasn't found quickly, Master Ji would truly be beyond hope.

"Owner, you must not be deceived. Xin Lin was driven out of Taoyao Pavilion and holds a grudge. She must have come for revenge this time. Chu Beiqing is a madman, and she is just a child, surely incapable of treating illnesses. If you believe her, my uncle is as good as dead."

Master Ji rushed forward, attempting to grab Xin Lin.

As a Spiritual Delicacy Master, Master Ji naturally had learned martial arts. Banking on his strength, he grabbed Xin Lin's collar, ready to throw her out.

But to his surprise, he found his grip empty as Xin Lin suddenly leaped up and knocked him to the ground with a punch.

"It is you who harbors ill intentions, plotting against Master Ji. Tell me, did Master Ji enter Qin Mountain and wade through water before he fell ill? After returning, he became bedridden with an illness."

Xin Lin's question surprised the owner of Taoyao Pavilion who kept exclaiming in admiration.

"Yes, yes, how did you know? Master Ji got sick after he took them into the mountains to look for Xuan Nu Fish."

Master Ji was punched by Xin Lin and lost two teeth, his mouth full of blood.

He tried to defend himself with a few whimpers, but Xin Lin stepped on his hand.

Chapter 606: The Mysterious Presence in the Belly

Xin Lin was petite, but her attacks were anything but hesitant, and her kick sent Master Ji screaming in agony.

"Murderer..."

As Master Ji was about to shout, Xin Lin grabbed him by the jaw, lifting him up like a little chick.

"You cry 'stop thief' while being the thief yourself, let me guess, you were also the one who instigated the trip to the mountains for the fish, weren't you?"

Xin Lin sneered.

Master Ji tensed up, his mouth uttering muffled noises.

"It was him. It was he who brought that customer back then. I suggested we could buy Xuan Nu Fish from the local mercenary army, but he insisted that wild Xuan Nu Fish tasted better."

The owner recalled.

Had it not been for Master Ji's insistence, Master Ji would not have gone through the trouble of ascending Ruqin Mountain.

The owner had not thought much of it before, but after Xin Lin mentioned it, he suddenly felt something was amiss.

Could it be...

"Still not admitting it."

Xin Lin let go, and Master Ji fell to the ground, several stones rolling off his body with a thud.

Those stones, of course, were not ordinary stones.

"Intermediate Qi Stones... Master Ji, as a mere martial artist who isn't even a Two-star Spirit Cuisine Master, how could you possess the valuable Intermediate Qi Stones? Speak now, or I'll send you to the government."

Xin Lin shouted fiercely.

Seeing this, Master Ji dared not hide the truth any longer.

"I was wrong, I was wrong, it's my fault, I should not have been greedy, wanting to become the head chef. But I never imagined my uncle would end up like this. I just wanted him to get hurt a bit, to take the position of head chef first."

Master Ji started to wail.

He told Xin Lin and the owner that just a few days ago, a mysterious customer suddenly approached him.

He promised to help Master Ji become the head chef of Taoyao Pavilion. Master Ji had been an Assistant Chef at Taoyao Pavilion for over a decade and had long aspired to be the head chef.

However, Master Ji was in his prime and never really had a chance.

Added to that, Master Ji had been irked by Xin Lin's recent involvement, and upon a few insinuations from that man, he got confused and agreed.

"That person told me that all I needed to do to become the head chef was to send my uncle into Qin Mountain to find the Xuan Nu Fish. I was also worried, so I went into the mountain with him. During our time in the mountains, we lived and ate together, and when diving for fish, we did it together, I didn't know what went wrong with my uncle."

Master Ji grew increasingly remorseful as he spoke.

His father had passed away early, and it was Master Ji who acted as an Assistant Chef to support his family.

"You're worse than pigs and dogs. Xin Lin, do you have a method to save Master Ji?"

The owner of Taoyao Pavilion shook his head and sighed after hearing this, yet his face showed a hopeful look towards Xin Lin.

Xin Lin could guess the ins and outs of the matter; does it mean she also knew how to save someone.

"First take him away and ensure he has no contact with the outside for the next few days. Also, spread the word that Master Ji is ill."

After saying this, Xin Lin walked to the bedside.

She looked at Master Ji's belly, her brows furrowing ever tighter.

According to his pulse, besides being weak, there were no other abnormalities in Master Ji.

The only problem was inside his body.

Xin Lin focused and concentrated Fu Xi's Energy in her eyes.

Her black pupils slowly turned to gold.

Following that, she looked through Master Ji's clothes, skin, and bones, moving deeper and deeper.

Just when Xin Lin saw inside Master Ji's belly, her brow twitched slightly.

The scene before her eyes made her hair stand on end.

Inside Master Ji's belly, what she saw was not the ordinary organs, but...

Chapter 607: A Risky Attempt

Master Ji's entire belly was now filled with greenish eggs of various sizes, which looked like a pomegranate bursting with seeds.

But these eggs were alive, because Xin Lin could feel them trembling slightly.

They were slowly absorbing the True Qi from inside Master Ji, gradually draining his Essence Blood Qi.

As the nourishment they absorbed increased, the eggs expanded slowly in volume, developing and growing larger - which explained why Master Ji's belly also kept getting bigger over time, appearing as if he were a pregnant woman.

But obviously, Master Ji was not a woman.

"Xin Lin, what have you discovered? Is there any hope for Master Ji?"

The boss watched on the side, growing more and more mystified.

He had assumed that Xin Lin, with her confident words, would begin the rescue immediately, but she just looked on without taking action.

"There is something inside Master Ji's belly that needs to be removed."

Xin Lin touched Master Ji's belly and pressed down hard; it was as firm as rock.

"Remove... To remove it? How can we do that... do we need to cut open his belly? No, you can't kill a man here. Taoyao Pavilion still needs to do business; there are dozens of girls and pimps upstairs and downstairs."

The boss's face turned pale with fright.

It was clear that one wouldn't stay alive after their belly was cut open.

Xin Lin didn't have confidence in doing that either; she had to think of other methods.

"You go out and keep watch, don't let anyone come in. Rest assured, I'll do my utmost to save Master Ji."

As the boss stepped outside, Xin Lin focused her gaze on Master Ji.

The strange leech man that had appeared in her mind earlier was connected to Master Ji.

Those insect eggs were still growing; if they were to break out of the belly, or if they sucked all the True Yuan from within Master Ji, then everything would be too late.

She must think of a method to stop them... but how.

"Baby... I'm starving to death..."

A grumbling voice came through.

On the side, Chu Beiqing looked pitifully at his daughter.

"Daddy, please bear with it a bit longer. Saving someone is urgent like putting out a fire; there's no time to waste."

Xin Lin spoke while soothingly patting her silly father's head. It was at that moment that she had a flash of Spirit Light in her mind.

Starving to death... Why couldn't those insect eggs just die inside Master Ji's belly?

With a pout, Chu Beiqing obediently squatted to one side.

Xin Lin approached Master Ji.

"Master Ji, I apologize for the intrusion."

Xin Lin took out the Xuanyu Bee Needle she carried on her.

She didn't know if her actions could save Master Ji, but it was better than doing nothing at all.

Xin Lin searched for a while and found an egg clinging to Master Ji's heart.

This egg looked the most dangerous.

Xin Lin slowly brought down the Xuanyu Bee Needle.

The hair-thin Xuanyu Bee Needle touched down in an instant, making Master Ji's body shudder.

The bee needle pierced into his body in a flash, accurately piercing through that insect egg.

A faint, almost inaudible explosion sounded from within Master Ji's body.

The Xuanyu Bee Needle had broken the egg, which swiftly shrunk and soon disappeared inside the body.

It worked!

Xin Lin was not only elated but also breathed a sigh of relief.

She only knew how to perform Golden Needle Hemostasis and wasn't sure if the same Golden Needle could be used against enemies, but it now appeared that the needle could also be used to attack.

After the first egg was silently pierced by Xin Lin, she proceeded to the second egg, then the third, her technique becoming more and more steady.

Chapter 608: Fat Insect

Outside the house, the owner of Taoyao Pavilion was waiting on guard.

As she waited, she pricked up her ears to listen to any noises inside the room, ready to burst in if anything sounded amiss.

However, after listening for a while, the owner of Taoyao Pavilion grew increasingly restless.

Inside the room, it was just too quiet.

Not a single sound could be heard.

She really couldn't rest easy, so she leaned against the door crack to peer inside.

Inside the house, under the bright oil lamp, she saw Xin Lin's diminutive figure prostrated in front of the bed.

Her hand was placed in front of Master Ji.

She couldn't tell what Xin Lin was doing; her fingers kept going down and then up again, as if she were sewing.

The owner's heart was filled with doubts.

The Xuanyu Bee Needle was extremely fine, virtually invisible to the naked eye, especially with Xin Lin's increasingly fast movements. The owner being an ordinary person couldn't possibly see the needle in her hand.

But soon, the owner noticed that even though Master Ji had not woken up, his belly was shrinking.

It was indeed getting smaller; it had looked as if it was nine months pregnant and kept growing, but now it was rapidly decreasing in size.

Now, does it only look four or five months pregnant?

The owner's anxious heart was somewhat relieved and she closed the door again.

There are three left.

After at least fifty or sixty needles, even Xin Lin's wrist was a bit sore. The strange eggs inside Master Ji's belly were almost completely cleaned out.

Xin Lin's Fu Xi's Energy was also nearly depleted.

She took out a bottle of Jade Pure Spring and gulped it down.

As her Fu Xi's Energy was recovering, Xin Lin was about to make another move.

But when her gaze fell on Master Ji again, her eyes sharply narrowed.

"Not good!"

Xin Lin found that one of the three eggs had actually hatched.

Xin Lin used the Xuanyu Bee Needle to kill these eggs; the eggs were indeed being killed, but it also resulted in the nutrients available to the remaining eggs suddenly increasing.

One of them, which was already on the verge of maturing, had now fully matured.

As the egg broke open, out crawled a weird insect covered in mucus, with no mouth or nose, not even legs or feet.

Gurgling sounds came from Master Ji's throat.

Master Ji suddenly sat up.

Xin Lin stepped back, her gaze cautious.

After a bout of retching, from his mouth, the weird insect that had hatched was struggling to crawl out.

Upon contact with the air, the insect's body swelled even larger.

Was that a leech?

Xin Lin stared at the ugly and thick insect, feeling nauseated, and cold sweat dripped from her forehead.

"Fat bug..."

Chu Beiqing, who was nearby, saw the weird insect and looked curious, about to reach out and grab it.

"Daddy, you can't touch it."

Xin Lin suddenly pushed her silly father away.

Pff—

The weird insect spit out a ball of mucus, a snotty green mucus that hit the stone wall nearby.

The stone-built wall was instantly corroded, forming a pit.

Such strong corrosive power.

Xin Lin, who was about to throw a punch, suddenly retracted her fist.

Good lord, the mucus from this creature was comparable to sulfuric acid. Anything it touched would be corroded. If her slender arms and legs were to get hit, she'd be reduced to bone fragments.

Xin Lin protected her silly father; her mind raced, searching for information about this kind of insect, but to no avail, she recalled all of the Mystical Medicine Book and there was no information about this strange insect.

"Desperate Corpse Leech, where did you come across this damned creature?"

Gui Hu's cold voice came through.

~A new week, a plea for recommendation tickets and monthly tickets~

Chapter 609: Tainted by Proximity

Xin Lin was startled.

Looking outside the house, she realized that it had already become dark without her noticing.

"You see, it wasn't me who provoked it, it came to me on its own. Do you recognize it? Do you know how to catch it?"

The Pride Corpse was truly a savior.

"Catch?"

There was a hint of surprise in Gui Hu's voice.

The Desperate Corpse Leech is a kind of Spiritual Beast.

It feeds on dead bodies and its eggs often exist in the form of parasites.

Due to its ugly appearance, it has always been shunned by the Xuanshen Beast World, truly detested by everyone.

Such an ugly thing, a normal woman would either scream or avoid it, but our little hen seemed not to be afraid at all.

Gui Hu thought he understood Xin Lin's temper quite well.

Did Xin Lin imply she didn't want to kill that ghostly thing?

"I need it alive; I have a use for it."

Xin Lin said.

"It's simple, just catch it."

Gui Hu said indifferently.

"Catch? Are you joking?"

Xin Lin quickly sidestepped another attack of rotten liquid.

Spraying that stuff was like throwing sulfuric acid; could anyone survive touching it?

Of course, for Gui Hu, who wasn't human, that likely didn't matter.

"What's in it for me if I catch it?"

Xin Lin thought the Pride Corpse would definitely refuse arrogantly as usual, or at least mock and sarcastically berate Xin Lin, but then Gui Hu said this.

Xin Lin staggered slightly on her feet, nearly falling over.

Good teachings not learned, when did the Pride Corpse learn to have her temper?

"I don't even have enough Fu Xi's Energy for myself, as you know."

Xin Lin said pitifully.

"I want that gourd as well."

Just when Xin Lin thought Gui Hu would make some outrageous demand, Gui Hu's handsome face remained expressionless, and slightly parting his thin lips, he uttered a sentence.

Uh... Xin Lin was instantly petrified.

Did she hear wrong? Did the Pride Corpse say he wanted a Candied Hawthorn?

Was this a case of 'a man is known by the company he keeps'? Spending too much time with the foolish dad, did he also pick up some silliness, or has he been with the Overlord Egg too long and turned into a foodie too?

Before Xin Lin could recover, whoosh, another streak of rotten liquid shot towards her.

"Deal. As long as you can help me catch that leech, eat as much as you want, I'll provide it all."

Xin Lin agreed without hesitation.

The next moment, suddenly a ghost claw emerged from thin air.

There was a snap sound, like a firecracker.

That slippery, plump, Desperate Corpse Leech was directly smacked and burst by Gui Hu's claw.

It burst; all that was left was a puddle of sticky liquid.

Looking at Gui Hu's ghost claw, it was unharmed.

Apparently, that sticky liquid had no effect on him.

"Pride Corpse, you did that on purpose, didn't you? You said you wanted it alive."

Xin Lin was furious.

It was so hard for her to find an ancient version of concentrated sulfuric acid... uh, a freaky leech.

"What's the hurry, that was just one leech. If we should catch, let's catch a big one."

Gui Hu said nonchalantly.

"You mean the Leech Man? But we have no idea where he is."

Xin Lin cooled down a bit.

"Don't worry, he will appear, as long as there's bait."

Gui Hu said, with disdain, wiping the sticky liquid off his hands.

"Bait?"

Xin Lin grew more curious.

The icy blue depths of his eyes moved slightly, shimmering like water ripples, landing on Xin Lin.

"Me?"

Xin Lin was stunned.

"To be precise, it's the Fu Tian Pill inside you."

Gui Hu said indifferently.

That Leech Man, too, was after the Fu Tian Pill.

Chapter 610: The Mysterious Duo

In the Chu Mansion, Chu Tianyi was before him kneeling a man, who had just finished speaking when Chu Tianyi stood up in shock.

"You say Chu Beiqing has recovered normally?"

"Yes, servant witnessed it myself; he even went to the Taoyao Pavilion to treat someone."

The former imperial physician knelt before Chu Tianyi and declared earnestly.

"It's impossible; he was poisoned, incurable, not long left to live, how could he possibly..."

Chu Tianyi muttered a few words then said no more.

"Servant dares to guarantee with my life, Master Ji from Taoyao Pavilion fell ill, and servant couldn't discern the illness, yet Chu Beiqing identified at a glance that Master Ji wasn't diseased."

The former imperial physician's face was full of jealousy.

Chu Beiqing had undermined his money-making several times, and he knew that Chu Beiqing had issues with Chu Tianyi. As soon as he left the Taoyao Pavilion, he went to the Imperial Hospital to report.

Chu Tianyi pondered for a moment.

"Go with Steward Liu, get a hundred taels of reward silver."

After sending off the former imperial physician, Steward Liu came in.

"Second Master, if Chu Beiqing truly has recovered, will he tell the Emperor about what we did back then?"

"What's there to fear; even if Chu Beiqing really has recovered, he wouldn't know about what happened back then. Not to mention, whether he has truly recovered or just pretending, remains to be seen. I'll immediately send someone with a message to that person."

Saying so, Chu Tianyi took out a prepared letter and handed it to the steward.

"Oh Chu Beiqing, Chu Beiqing, I wanted you to enjoy your last few months, but you insist on courting death, don't blame me for being a cold and ruthless brother."

A cold smile spread across Chu Tianyi's face.

At night, Taoyao Pavilion was as usual, lights flickering, but upon closer examination, business tonight was quieter than usual.

The reason being simply that Taoyao Pavilion's head chef, Master Ji, had fallen ill recently, with no one commanding the kitchen. Regular customers complained about the assistant chefs' skills being poor, preferring to spend more money at bigger establishments like Spiritual Food Restaurant, especially De Yue Building.

"Boss, when will Master Ji's illness recover? At this rate, we're going to lose all our regulars."

Several girls complained with resentment on their faces.

"Alas, what can I do? I've even called the Imperial Physician, who said it's incurable."

The boss's face full of worry.

At the table, after listening, several diners and patrons glanced at each other, understanding clear in their eyes.

At that moment, a man and a woman entered.

The man was tall and muscular, with bright eyes, clearly a Martial Artist.

The woman next to him seemed frail as a willow.

Both had fairer complexions than the average person; upon entering Taoyao Pavilion, they looked around as if searching for someone.

The pimp greeted them with a smile.

"This gentleman, please come in; as for this lady, Taoyao Pavilion does not entertain female guests, would you please see?"

"Are you blind, which eye of yours sees me as a woman?"

The frail-looking woman heard this, her beautiful eyes widened, and she pointed at the pimp's nose and scolded him fiercely.

That voice, deep and robust, was unmistakably a man's.

The pimp was also stunned; having been a pimp at the Taoyao Pavilion for so many years, he had seen all sorts of people, but tonight he was pecked blind, mistaking this delicate woman for a man.

"Gentleman, please forgive me, I am short-sighted. Both guests, please come in."

The pimp repeatedly apologized, and the frail man snorted before walking in.

After entering the Taoyao Pavilion, they didn't ask for girls to accompany them; instead, they chose an elegant seat upstairs directly opposite to the entrance of Taoyao Pavilion, from which they could clearly see all the entering and leaving guests.