

Quick Transmigration: Underdog Turns out to be Untouchable

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Because these refugees had injured people, the villagers, in their anger, wanted to beat them to death. Now that they've calmed down, the village chief and several clan elders have persuaded the agitated villagers to report to the government and let the officials handle these refugees.

During this crisis, no one died thanks to Qin Shuangshuang, which equates to saving the villagers twice.

So now, even though Qin Shuangshuang is a young girl and a female, due to these two incidents, her prestige in the village is no less than that of the village chief.

Everyone, especially the young people, greatly trust Qin Shuangshuang. To show his respect, the village chief plans to let Qin Shuangshuang participate in the handling of these people.

After thinking it over, Qin Shuangshuang still refused. It's fine to let her deal with these refugees, but the Qin Family are her closest kin. Although they have severed ties, for her to handle it would be awkward. The village chief also noticed her predicament and did not force her to participate.

Actually, whether Qin Shuangshuang participates or not is not important. The village chief's attitude needs to be expressed; it shows the importance of Qin Shuangshuang and also gives her face, which she naturally appreciates.

Under the leadership of the village chief, the villagers are busy settling the wounded, capturing the Qin Family to expel them from the clan, and reporting to officials to handle the refugees who injured people. Qin Shuangshuang, worried about Mrs. Bai at home and Qin Miao Fang Yaoyao, went straight home.

When Qin Shuangshuang got home, it was already broad daylight. She couldn't help but yawn widely. After a night of upheaval, she was exhausted. Qin Shuangshuang planned to take a good nap but found that Mrs. Bai and Qin Miao were not at home when she pushed the door open.

Qin Shuangshuang's heart tightened instantly. She turned around, ready to run out and search, only to turn and see Mrs. Bai and Qin Miao coming back with tense faces.

The moment Qin Shuangshuang saw their expressions, she sensed something might be wrong. She looked around but didn't see Fang Yaoyao, feeling uneasy, she asked,

"Mom, what happened? Why are you and Sister Miaomiao the only ones? Where is Yaoyao?"

Mrs. Bai sat silently on the small stool in the courtyard, her face looking very grim. Qin Miao also looked uneasy and, glancing at Qin Shuangshuang, said worriedly, "Around dawn, when the sounds of fighting in the village had stopped, Yaoyao said she was going out to see what was happening. But as soon as she went out, she disappeared. We've searched all around, but there's no sign of her; we don't know what happened!"

Fang Yaoyao is missing again! Qin Shuangshuang felt a jolt in her heart, a bad premonition arising. Last time Fang Yaoyao ran away, Qin Shuangshuang was anxious and worried, but she was somewhat reassured because, back then, every family still had rice, and no one was considering cannibalism yet.

But this time is different. Now, in villages other than Qin Family Village, cannibalism is rampant! And because Fang Zhongyi often visited Fang Yaoyao, she had no reason to go to Fang Family Village. So why did she disappear suddenly?

The more Qin Shuangshuang thought about it, the more uneasy she became. She turned back into the house, refilled her empty quiver, grabbed her bow, and headed out. At the same time, she told Mrs. Bai and Qin Miao, "I'll go to my master's house to see if Yaoyao went there. Mom, you and Sister Miaomiao stay at home together; don't separate at all. If you go out, stick together with everyone, remember, never be alone!"

After carefully instructing Mrs. Bai and Qin Miao with a few words, Qin Shuangshuang went out, sprinting directly toward Fang Family Village. But she hadn't run far before she saw several young wives from the village coming out together to carry water toward the ancestral hall, looking like they were going to cook.

True, after a night of turmoil and such intense activity, the bit of meat stew they ate yesterday couldn't hold them, it's time to eat something.

Several young wives saw Qin Shuangshuang rushing out, and they all warmly greeted her.

"Shuangshuang, why in such a hurry? Where are you going?"

"After a whole night of chaos, you should at least eat something before heading out!"

"Yeah, you're still young; without food, how can you manage? No matter how urgent, do it after you eat."

All of them could see that Qin Shuangshuang seemed about to leave the village and urged her to eat something first. Food was scarce, and everyone was starving; the intention behind their advice was good.

Qin Shuangshuang was extremely anxious and had no mind to wait for food. She quickly explained, "Our Yaoyao is suddenly missing; she might have left our village. I'm worried, so I'm going to look for her now. I'll eat when I get back!"

As Qin Shuangshuang spoke, she continued walking, and then one of the young wives said, "Yaoyao was called away by a little girl from their village!"

Qin Shuangshuang's steps halted immediately. She turned back to look at that young wife and asked anxiously, "Sister-in-law Li, what does the girl who called Yaoyao look like? Do you know whose child she is?"

The young wife was taken aback by Qin Shuangshuang's serious expression and, after thinking carefully, said, "I've never seen that little girl before, but I heard Fang Yao call her Xiao Xia. That little girl said something to your Fang Yao. I saw Fang Yao's face look very bad, and she hurriedly followed the little girl. I don't know if something happened; didn't she tell you before she left?"

Qin Shuangshuang shook her head with a grim expression. The bad premonition in her heart grew stronger. The only people who could worry Fang Yaoyao, besides her, Qin Miaobai, were her father, Fang Zhongyi!

But knowing Fang Zhongyi's abilities, Qin Shuangshuang didn't believe something could happen to him that would require someone to fetch Fang Yaoyao. Surely, the little girl used Fang Zhongyi to deliberately lure Fang Yaoyao away, and doing such a thing was definitely not well-intentioned!

Feeling flustered, Qin Shuangshuang quickly thanked them and then darted toward Fang Family Village.

The road to Fang Family Village was even more desolate. The large trees on both sides, stripped of bark, had long since withered and died, with no signs of life.

When Qin Shuangshuang arrived at Fang Zhongyi's house, he was just coming back from the mountain with some insect eggs and ant eggs, intending to distribute them to the villagers of Fang Family Village. Qin Shuangshuang was not unfamiliar with these; after being saved by Fang Zhongyi in her past life, she often ate them.

Regarding a girl's fear of insects, when you are starving to death, even a bunch of live insects would be eaten without hesitation, and you'd find them incredibly delicious!

Fang Zhongyi was a bit surprised to see Qin Shuangshuang because she hadn't visited Fang Family Village recently.

"Shuangshuang, why are you here at this time?" Fang Zhongyi said as he looked behind Qin Shuangshuang and then asked, "Where's Yaoyao? Why didn't she come back with you?"

Qin Shuangshuang couldn't spare the time to answer Fang Zhongyi. She quickly searched inside and out but, as expected, didn't see Fang Yaoyao. Qin Shuangshuang then asked, with a frown, "Master, do you know a girl named Xiao Xia?"

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When Fang Zhongyi saw that Qin Shuangshuang was ignoring his words and looking everywhere for someone, his heart had already tightened. By the time Qin Shuangshuang asked him, his face had changed, "Shuangshuang, has something happened to Yaoyao?"

Qin Shuangshuang's face was also grim, "It's very possible. Our village had some vagrants break in, causing a commotion all night. When I helped catch them and returned, Yaoyao was gone. Sister-in-law Li from the village told me a girl named Xiao Xia took her away, and Yaoyao looked very pale when she left. I felt something was wrong, so I came to see if Yaoyao had come home."

Fang Zhongyi's face was beyond description. Like Qin Shuangshuang, Fang Zhongyi knew that the reasons or people who could lure Fang Yaoyao away were very few, and he happened to be the most important one!

Moreover, he had stayed in the mountains for four or five days searching for food, and only returned home less than a quarter of an hour before Qin Shuangshuang arrived!

Forcing himself to calm down, Fang Zhongyi desperately recalled the girls his daughter had been close with, trying to remember if any were named Xiao Xia. But no matter how hard he thought, only two people, Qin Shuang and Qin Miao, came to mind as his daughter's best friends.

While Fang Zhongyi was desperately recalling, Qin Shuangshuang was pacing around anxiously, very agitated. Qin Shuangshuang just felt that this matter couldn't be unrelated to the people of Fang Family Village!

Qin Shuangshuang was even certain that Fang Yaoyao might very well be in one of the households in Fang Family Village right now! It's frustrating that in her past life she hadn't asked Fang Zhongyi about the cause of Fang Yaoyao's death, leaving her completely clueless at this maddening moment!

Actually, Qin Shuangshuang had previously talked with Fang Zhongyi about going to the border city, and Fang Zhongyi was supportive of it. However, when Qin Shuangshuang invited him to join her family in moving there, Fang Zhongyi shook his head, because he couldn't leave the villagers of Fang Family Village behind.

Fang Zhongyi was a skilled hunter. Even in times like these, he could still find something to eat in the mountains, albeit rarely, but at least he ensured the Fang Family

Village people wouldn't starve to death. Fang Zhongyi feared that if he left, they might die of hunger and then resort to cannibalism!

However, Qin Shuangshuang still had a doubt in her heart, because in her previous life, Fang Zhongyi had saved her in another village far away from Fang Family Village, and even when he was gravely ill later, he never mentioned wanting to return.

Considering Fang Zhongyi's feelings towards Fang Family Village in this life, it didn't make sense. If this place hadn't filled Fang Zhongyi with despair, he wouldn't have chosen to stay away from Fang Family Village until his death. This made Qin Shuangshuang uneasy about Fang Family Village in this life.

Despite racking his brains, Fang Zhongyi couldn't recall any close friends of his daughter. Truth be told, for a rough old man like him, his daily thoughts were all about hunting and selling the catch to save up for his daughter's dowry. He hadn't the mind to care about who his little girl was befriending!

Since his wife died of illness when Fang Yaoyao was four, it was already a miracle for him, a man, to raise such a delicate little girl! He couldn't be expected to handle every detail of his daughter's life with the care of a mother. He lacked that kind of delicate thought and time.

Unable to remember, and with Qin Shuangshuang growing impatient, she slung her bow and quiver over her shoulder and headed directly out towards a nearby household.

This household was unfamiliar to Qin Shuangshuang. She carried baggage against the people of Fang Family Village. Despite visiting the village numerous times, she had never interacted with its people—more accurately, she had refused to interact with them!

However, Qin Shuangshuang knew roughly where the families her daughter had been friendly with lived. Now, armed with bow and arrow, she kicked open doors one after another as she attempted to find them.

Qin Shuangshuang's tremendous natural strength was well-known in the neighboring villages, so although the families whose doors she kicked in were displeased with her rude intrusion, seeing her with bow and arrows looking furious enough to devour someone, they quailed, too afraid to voice their anger.

Each time Qin Shuangshuang kicked open a door, she asked a single question: Do you have a girl named Xiao Xia? Even if they answered no, she would still search the place before leaving. After searching six or seven houses, Qin Shuangshuang's patience was wearing thin.

Upon her next forced entry, Qin Shuangshuang grabbed a girl about her own size and ignored the girl's frightened trembling as she lifted her by the shirt collar. In a chilling

voice, she said, "Point out to me the households in this village with a daughter named Xiao Xia!"

The girl clattered her teeth together, seemingly struck dumb with fright, refusing to speak, her eyes staring vacantly at Qin Shuangshuang.

After several unanswered questions, Qin Shuangshuang frowned. Closely examining the girl, she noted her tattered clothing and filthy face, presenting a pathetically miserable appearance.

But upon a careful examination, it became apparent that this girl was not actually frail. Weighing her in her grip, Qin Shuangshuang realized, with her strength making it unnecessary to notice earlier, that this girl wasn't light at all!

Scanning the girl's family around her, she found seven or eight adults, equally ragged, clustered in a corner, avoiding her gaze as she scrutinized them.

But, after scrutinizing them one by one, an interesting observation emerged: the whole family wasn't particularly skinny! This was undoubtedly odd because, at that time, everyone else was so starved that their skin clung to their bones. How could this family appear relatively normal?

Faced with such a situation, Qin Shuangshuang suspected only one possibility! Turning, she looked at the dazed girl in her grip, gnashing her teeth as she coldly laughed, "You're Xiao Xia!" The statement was not a question, but an assertion.

The girl's pupils shrank suddenly, panic flickering across her face, yet she still stared dazedly, refusing to speak. But that split-second expression change was proof enough for Qin Shuangshuang to confirm she was indeed Xiao Xia.

"Why did you take Fang Yao away?"

"Where is she now?"

"Rest assured, as long as you tell us where she is, we won't blame you for anything that happened!"

"What will it take for you to say where Yaoyao is?"

"What do you want? Food? Silver? I can give you anything! Just tell me where Fang Yao is!"

No matter how Qin Shuangshuang probed, Xiao Xia wouldn't open her mouth. Even though greed and hesitation flickered in Xiao Xia's eyes when food and Silver were mentioned, she ultimately resisted, remaining silent.

Qin Shuangshuang's mood suddenly turned volatile! Taking a deep breath to quell the rising anger inside her, she grabbed Xiao Xia's hair and slammed her down hard on the ground. Xiao Xia screamed in surprise, collapsing instantly!

Before she could get up off the ground, she felt a weight on her back, pinning her back down, followed by a cold, cord-like object pressing against her neck and pulling tightly backward!

With her back firmly pinned, preventing any struggle, and the cord-like object continuously tightening, Xiao Xia felt a suffocating sensation creeping close to death!

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Xiao Xia's back was being firmly pinned down by Qin Shuangshuang's foot, making it impossible for her to struggle. The bowstring around her neck continued to tighten, and soon, Xiao Xia began to feel a sense of suffocation!

Quickly, golden stars started to appear before Xiao Xia's eyes, followed by waves of dizziness and blackouts. The pain of suffocation made it impossible for Xiao Xia to even scream!

At this moment, Xiao Xia experienced a near-death sensation, something she hadn't even felt when she was starving to death before. She had never imagined that death was this close, so close that she could even feel her head and body separating!

Just as Xiao Xia thought she was surely going to die today, the bowstring around her neck disappeared. Air re-entered her painfully aching lungs, and she couldn't help but curl up, coughing heartbreakingly while greedily taking deep breaths!

Qin Shuangshuang squatted down, slapped Xiao Xia's face, and smiled maliciously, "How about it? How does this feel? If you don't speak, we can go a few more rounds and see how long you can hold on!"

Xiao Xia gasped for air like a bellows, sending a venomous glance at Qin Shuangshuang, then looked at her family crouched in the corner, ignoring her plight, with an undercurrent of gloom in her eyes.

Qin Shuangshuang stepped on Xiao Xia's back once more, causing Xiao Xia to scream out in shock. Just when she was nearly in despair, she saw Fang Zhongyi, who had been looking for them as well, and sobbed with a hoarse voice, "Uncle Fang, save me!"

Fang Zhongyi turned his head and stayed silent. He wasn't an idiot. Though he had deep feelings for the people of Fang Family Village, when it came to his precious daughter, Fang Zhongyi wouldn't act out of misplaced kindness. Moreover, he had a faint sense of foreboding, though he couldn't quite believe it.

Qin Shuangshuang sneered and grabbed Xiao Xia's hair, wrapping the bowstring around her neck once more. This time, Qin Shuangshuang used more force, and Xiao Xia's face flushed bright red, with mucus and tears streaming down as she kicked wildly behind her. Just as she was about to choke, Qin Shuangshuang finally released her.

After Xiao Xia caught her breath, Qin Shuangshuang continued to speak coldly, "Well, will you talk now? I, for one, don't know my own strength. If you still don't speak, next time you might not have the same luck as these past two times and might not get away from being strangled to death!"

After experiencing near-death twice, Xiao Xia looked at Qin Shuangshuang with eyes full of terror and panic, but she still refused to disclose Fang Yaoyao's whereabouts. Instead, she said with a voice that was barely coming out, "Killing is against the law. You can't kill me!"

"Against the law?" Qin Shuangshuang sneered, "Are you stupid? What time is it now? Not to mention killing, no one would care even if you were eating people. At this point, seeing as you still have such flesh on you, you should understand..."

At this point, Qin Shuangshuang suddenly stopped, as though a bolt of lightning had cleaved the fog blocking her vision. In a flash of insight, Qin Shuangshuang suddenly thought of the most probable, yet most frightening guess!

She had been shortsighted before, because Fang Zhongyi had saved her in his past life and was her mentor in this lifetime. She admired and revered Fang Zhongyi infinitely, both emotionally and rationally!

So Qin Shuangshuang's subconscious always felt that even if the Fang Family Village people were unreliable, even if they wanted to eat people, they definitely wouldn't dare do it while Fang Zhongyi was in the village. They would at least wait until he left the village to dare eat people, right?

But now she suddenly thought that her assumptions were far too simplistic! She had forgotten that she too had been driven mad by hunger, using all her rationality to suppress the urge to drool over her kind in the past.

Why did she assume those villagers would fear Fang Zhongyi and not dare eat people? She had experienced firsthand how potent the power of hunger was. Without a strong will, in the face of such hunger, a person could do anything.

Wrong! Wrong! Everything was wrong!!!

Because of her blind admiration for Fang Zhongyi, Qin Shuangshuang always thought the Fang Family Village would dare to eat people only after Fang Zhongyi left.

But considering Fang Zhongyi's feelings for Fang Family Village, this assumption was fundamentally untenable. Therefore, it must have been the villagers doing something to hurt Fang Zhongyi's heart, perhaps... eating Fang Yaoyao, which led Fang Zhongyi to leave the village heartbroken, never to return.

At this moment, seeing Xiao Xia and her family's well-nourished bodies, plus Xiao Xia's obviously terrified gaze, yet no matter how she pressed, Xiao Xia wouldn't speak up. Even after Qin Shuangshuang repeatedly promised not to pursue any consequences as long as she spoke of Fang Yaoyao's whereabouts, Xiao Xia still wouldn't relent. Why?

There's only one reason: Xiao Xia knew that not speaking left a sliver of hope for survival, but once she spoke, Qin Shuangshuang would absolutely not let her go!

This Xiao Xia very likely wasn't instructed by others to lure Fang Yaoyao away; instead, she had done it of her own accord. As for the purpose, it was self-evident!

As soon as she thought of this possibility, Qin Shuangshuang felt her blood turn cold. She couldn't afford to waste time arguing with Xiao Xia. She immediately searched frantically around Xiao Xia's house—every room, hidden cellar, even overturned water jars to see if there were any secretive passageways hidden underneath!

Seeing Qin Shuangshuang's actions, Fang Zhongyi also suspected something. With a grim face, he joined Qin Shuangshuang in searching everywhere. But no matter how they searched, there was nothing! Nothing! Nowhere could they find a hidden place where someone could be hidden.

Xiao Xia's house seemed like an ordinary farmhouse on the outside, with nothing suspicious. But Qin Shuangshuang was not ready to give up and continued searching everywhere.

She was convinced that within this courtyard, there had to be a secretive place to hide people or to engage in some clandestine activities.

Qin Shuangshuang searched over and over again, finally finding a concealed entrance to a subterranean passageway beneath some farming tools in the granary. Qin Shuangshuang didn't bother with those tools; with a single energetic pull, she tossed both the wooden board and tools aside!

As the wooden board covering the passageway was lifted, a set of muddy stairs was revealed along with a faint stench emanating from below! The minute Qin Shuangshuang smelled this odor, her heart sank, and she couldn't help but become frantic.

Qin Shuangshuang's movements were significant, and soon Fang Zhongyi, searching outside, followed the sound and found his way over. Looking at that cave and the faint stench, his complexion turned pale as well.

After calming his mind for a moment, Fang Zhongyi was the first to step on the dirt stairs and go down. The hole wasn't dug too deep, and a few simple torches were placed below.

This setup wasn't strange for Fang Zhongyi and Qin Shuangshuang. It was common for farmhouses to have large vegetable cellars, cool in summer and warm in winter, making it hard for stored vegetables to spoil!

Although Xiao Xia's family had an extra vegetable cellar, it wasn't particularly odd. Digging another was unnecessary but, to villagers, it was just a bit more effort.

These finely crafted large vegetable cellars typically had a passageway a few meters long, leading into a room-sized space for storage, such as greens or home-brewed rice wine and pickles.

Qin Shuangshuang and Fang Zhongyi lit the torches and walked inside. The closer they got, the stronger the stench became. Qin Shuangshuang and Fang Zhongyi, filled with unease, quickened their pace. In an instant, they covered the few meters of the passageway, and they finally saw the space inside. Upon seeing it clearly, both Qin Shuangshuang and Fang Zhongyi's pupils shrank fiercely!

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Inside, where food was once stored, it now appeared like a scene from Purgatory!

The inside of the passageway had been constructed into the shape of a room. At this moment, the floor and walls of this room had been stained a purplish-black by the seepage of fresh blood, releasing a nauseating stench from both the floor and walls.

In a corner of the room, there was a heap of white bones! These bones appeared quite small and should all belong to children. Under the flickering torchlight, the pale bones emitted an eerie glow.

Not far from this pile of bones, there was a large square table. Fang Yaoyao, dressed in only a thin garment, was tied spread-eagle on top of it, her head thrown back deeply over the edge of the table, exposing a long stretch of her snow-white throat,

Beneath Fang Yaoyao's head, there was a large wooden basin, inside which lay a razor-sharp sickle! It seemed to be used for bloodletting.

In the gaps of the wooden basin, it was stained with dark red clots of blood, which looked as if they had been congealed for a long time! They were already dry, solidified on the wooden basin. Bound to the table, Fang Yaoyao, her eyes tightly shut, was unconscious, her life or death unknown!

Fang Zhongyi and Qin Shuangshuang, without taking much time to think, rushed forward in a fluster to untie Fang Yaoyao's hands and feet. Testing her breathing, it was a relief to find out that she had merely fainted, with nothing seriously wrong.

Qin Shuangshuang felt very angry inside, but she knew that Fang Zhongyi had a strong attachment to the Fang Family Village, and since she was not from there, it wouldn't be appropriate for her to take any actions against the people of the village. She quickly dressed Fang Yaoyao and carried her home, leaving the aftermath for Fang Zhongyi to handle.

Fang Zhongyi was deeply worried about his daughter, especially having just experienced the fear of nearly losing her. He really didn't want to part with Fang Yaoyao.

Fortunately, Qin Shuangshuang was someone he could trust. He was at ease letting Qin Shuangshuang take Fang Yaoyao away. More importantly, the anger and frustration in his heart needed an outlet. He had given his all to the people of Fang Family Village, yet those he protected had treated him this way, leaving Fang Zhongyi both furious and heartbroken. He needed to stay behind to avenge his daughter, ensuring the culprits don't have it easy.

Bidding farewell to Fang Zhongyi, laden with reluctance towards leaving his daughter, Qin Shuangshuang carried Fang Yaoyao back to her own home. At home, Mrs. Bai and Qin Miao were pacing restlessly in the room, their hearts both worried and stifled with gloom.

After walking around the house countless times, Qin Miao slumped into a chair with a sigh, saying dispiritedly: "Mom, when will this kind of life end? People who used to be honest and kind-hearted have now all turned into something neither human nor ghost. It's scarier to see a person than a ghost when going out. If the people in our village weren't good, I don't think I could live even one more day."

As Qin Miao spoke, her nose turned sour, and she couldn't help but lift her hand to wipe away tears. Such a futureless life really made one feel hopeless. She and Fang Yaoyao used to rely on their martial skills to fend off men, venturing around the villages alone without encountering much trouble. Most of the encounters were with decent people. Even when they ran into a couple of lewd ruffians, dealing with them with fists ensured no one dared bother them again.

But now, it felt like her world had suddenly descended from the mortal world into Hell, where evil ghosts lurked everywhere. Even if they managed to knock down one or two or ten, there would always be more evil ghosts swarming in, eager to devour their flesh, drink their blood, and extract their marrow until the last drop was drained.

Qin Miao had been under constant tension during this time. Now that Fang Yaoyao had been lured away and her life was uncertain, Qin Miao felt like she was about to collapse.

Mrs. Bai sighed, reached out to gently caress Qin Miao's head with some heartache. Such days, even for her, not to mention a child of ten or so like Qin Miao, felt incredibly oppressive.

Though life was oppressive and difficult, Mrs. Bai didn't feel hopeless, for she still had two daughters, Miao Miao and Shuangshuang, who needed her, as well as Yaoyao, who although didn't call her mom, felt no different emotionally after these years.

Just as Mrs. Bai and Qin Miao sat there in oppression, staring blankly, Qin Shuangshuang returned with Fang Yao on her back.

Seeing Fang Yao brought back by Qin Shuangshuang, both Mrs. Bai and Qin Miao felt their spirits lifted instantly. However, upon seeing Fang Yao's tightly closed eyes, they became somewhat panicked. Qin Shuangshuang quickly explained that Fang Yaoyao had merely fainted with no serious issues, which reassured Qin Miao and Mrs. Bai.

They stayed by Fang Yao's side the whole time. Fortunately, Fang Yao soon awoke. Upon waking, she felt a bit confused as to how she ended up back here. Her head ached. Reaching back, she felt a bump on her occiput, and touching it made it hurt more.

It was Qin Shuangshuang who explained everything to her, which made her understand what had happened, filling her heart with a chill of fear!

Fang Yao told Qin Shuangshuang that the girl named Xiao Xia was a friend she knew before getting to know Qin Shuangshuang. The relationship between the two had always been good.

Later, after Qin Shuangshuang became a disciple of Fang Zhongyi, Fang Yao spent most of her time with Qin Shuangshuang and Qin Miaomiao. However, when Qin Shuangshuang and Qin Miaomiao were not around, it was Xiao Xia with whom Fang Yao spent the most time, and she trusted Xiao Xia very much.

Early that morning, Fang Yao had told Qin Miao and Mrs. Bai that she was going out to check some information and then left. Upon ensuring the outside was clear, and seeing Qin Shuangshuang talking with the village chief and others, she did not say anything and thought to herself she would return to inform Mrs. Bai and Qin Miao of peace, before going to help prepare meals at the ancestral hall.

Fang Yao had everything well planned. Just when she was about to reach home, she happened to bump into Xiao Xia wandering about Qin Family Village. Due to the

frequent visits of outsiders fetching water, villagers were not particularly mindful of women and children from other villages appearing.

Fang Yao stepped forward to greet Xiao Xia, intending to ask about how her father, Fang Zhongyi, was doing. It had been three or four days since her father had last visited her, and she was somewhat concerned.

Xiao Xia was slightly stunned upon seeing Fang Yao, then suddenly exhibited an urgent expression, saying to Fang Yao, "Yaoyao, something's wrong! Your father had an accident on the mountain, and I'm here to get you back. Hurry, come with me!"

At this point, Fang Yao, recalling the incident, realized Xiao Xia's attitude was somewhat odd back then. Yet, at that time, Fang Yao was completely absorbed by Xiao Xia's words about her father being in trouble, unable to think about anything else, and merely followed Xiao Xia.

On the way, Xiao Xia said that her father had been surrounded and attacked by starving wild beasts on the mountain, and he was almost done for. He had been discovered by her father and several villagers and was now being carried to their home, asking Fang Yao to just follow her to their place.

Worried about her father Fang Zhongyi being in trouble, Fang Yao's mind was in chaos, and without even thinking, she followed Xiao Xia to her place, only to be knocked unconscious upon entering—what happened later, she didn't know.

It was fortunate that while Fang Yao was leaving, Sister-in-law Li, who was heading to the ancestral hall to prepare meals, saw her. And shortly after Fang Yao left, Qin Shuangshuang returned and, upon discovering Fang Yao was missing, intended to search for her.

By chance, Sister-in-law Li, who was coming back from fetching water and knew whom Fang Yao left with, encountered Qin Shuangshuang, which allowed her to save Fang Yao in time.

By dusk, exhaustion written all over him, with his head hanging low and spiritless, Fang Zhongyi arrived at Qin Shuangshuang's home, sighing frequently. He recounted what he did to handle the situation with Xiao Xia's family after Qin Shuangshuang and Fang Yao had left.

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In fact, Fang Zhongyi's method of handling was very simple. He merely went to the ancestral hall of the Fang Family Village and rang the big bell, summoning all the villagers of the Fang Family Village, then pointed out to them the cellar hidden in Xiao Xia's home, specifically used for eating people!

Without Fang Zhongyi needing to say much, upon seeing the scene that resembled a hell on earth, Xiao Xia's family, being the first in Fang Family Village to resort to cannibalism, suffered the villagers' frenzied revenge. The family, including Xiao Xia, numbering about a dozen, were surrounded and beaten to death by the villagers of Fang Family Village!

Actually, Xiao Xia was particularly popular with children in the village because she enjoyed looking after other people's children since she was young, and there wasn't any child in the village who had a bad relationship with her.

When famine struck, everyone was unbearably hungry, and hearing stories of cannibalism outside the village was not rare. However, no one dared to follow such dark thoughts because there was Fang Zhongyi in the village, who insisted on everyone maintaining a moral baseline. Moreover, Fang Zhongyi managed to obtain food for everyone, ensuring they wouldn't starve to death.

Although they were still driven mad by hunger, they wouldn't truly starve to death, so the people of Fang Family Village could endure it and not contemplate cannibalism.

Humans are very peculiar; sometimes their bottom line is incredibly strong, unbreakable even when close to death, yet at times, it's very fragile, easily shattered by the smallest incident, and they quickly fall into becoming demons!

The incident began when a child, who was on good terms with Xiao Xia, secretly came to find her, hoping this kind sister would give him some food as he was unbearably hungry!

Coincidentally, that day Xiao Xia's family had just mixed the meat chunks distributed by Fang Zhongyi with white soil to make white soil meat patties. This white soil, also known as Guanyin soil, had a fine texture and was easy to swallow. During years of famine, many people would eat it for sustenance.

However, eating too much Guanyin soil on an empty stomach could cause bloating and death, but if mixed in small amounts with food, while it wouldn't be absorbed by the body, it could give a feeling of fullness and would be expelled with the food, preventing any life-threatening bloating.

The food Fang Zhongyi brought back was too little, so the people of Fang Family Village would mix it with white soil to feel fuller.

That day, after making the white soil meat patties, Xiao Xia's family went out for a while. Coincidentally, the child came looking for Xiao Xia; finding no one at home, he couldn't resist and stole a patty to eat. After eating one, his appetite was aroused, making him even hungrier, and the child couldn't help eating one after another.

As he was eating, Xiao Xia and several elders returned home. Seeing the family's ration being stolen, the adults who had long been fearful of starvation instantly turned red with anger, rushing forward without hesitation to beat the child who was stealing.

The child was already weak from hunger and couldn't withstand such abuse, and he immediately shrieked in agony, crying out for mercy. Xiao Xia was terrified at the time, crying out to beg her father, her uncles, and her elder brothers to stop, but no one paid any attention to her.

Under the kicking and beating of several adults, the child soon lost his life. The adults, seeing they had killed someone, were momentarily dumbstruck, standing around the corpse, exchanging bewildered glances, all unsure of what to do.

By then, Xiao Xia was even more terrified, trembling and sobbing uncontrollably in a corner. The family didn't speak, but soon, their stomachs growled—a sound of hunger ringing from their intestines.

Triggered by this hunger, Xiao Xia's second uncle glanced at the child's corpse on the ground with a gleam in his eye and suddenly said, "Damn it! This dead child ate our food and caused us to starve. It's fate now. Anyway, if others find out, it'll be troublesome. Might as well offer him to our five viscera temple, secretly and soundlessly—it's just perfect!"

Everybody was startled by what Xiao Xia's second uncle said. At first, no one dared to respond, but secretly, in everyone's hearts, a flicker of interest was ignited.

The family stood stalemated for a long time, utterly starved until they couldn't bear it anymore. Xiao Xia's second uncle dragged the child to a large cellar previously dug near the grain storage, and the rest silently followed him, with Xiao Xia's father pulling her to follow them into the cellar.

What happened next was a nightmare for Xiao Xia, but when the aromatic human meat was placed on the table, driven mad by hunger, Xiao Xia, after being forcibly fed a bite by her parents, couldn't resist and started gobbling it down.

After sharing one child, the cage imprisoning the demon within was broken. What once seemed unimaginable—killing and eating people—now felt like it was no big deal.

The child's body provided meals for Xiao Xia's family for several days! The taste of the meat was too delicious, and the feeling of a full stomach was too blissful. However, since the child was originally small and already emaciated from hunger, there wasn't much meat on him, so Xiao Xia's family quickly became hungry again.

The family quickly schemed to capture another person to eat. Unfortunately, while they had such thoughts, they dared not act against the villagers' families, nor dared they venture outside the village, fearing they'd be captured and cooked instead.

Driven by extreme hunger, it was Xiao Xia who came up with an idea—using her good rapport with the children to secretly lure those who trusted her into their home, where the adults would hide behind the door, waiting to knock the child unconscious as they entered, then drag them into the cellar!

At first, while doing this, Xiao Xia felt guilty and anxious, but as more children were successfully lured without failure, Xiao Xia became bolder and increasingly justified in her actions, feeling no guilt or anxiety.

Children in the village mysteriously disappearing naturally prompted the adults to search, but since the children were secretly led away by Xiao Xia, in the eyes of the adults, the children were simply misbehaving and sneaking out, ignoring warnings, and getting captured outside the village. With this perspective, families of lost children naturally couldn't find them.

Although they couldn't find the missing ones, families with children kept a close eye on theirs, not letting them out easily without adult companionship, fearing they might unknowingly sneak out and get captured.

This method was indeed effective; with the children under tight watch, Xiao Xia had no chance to lure them out, and for several days, she couldn't bring back any food, forcing her to go to the Qin Family Village, which, like Fang Family Village, hadn't resorted to cannibalism and was tightly adjacent.

Initially, Xiao Xia intended to deceive a lone child in Qin Family Village to return with her, but unexpectedly, she encountered Fang Yaoyao on her first attempt! Fang Yaoyao even proactively greeted her, and in that flash of desperation, a bold thought struck hungry Xiao Xia!

Xiao Xia knew Fang Yaoyao possessed martial skills, but Fang Yaoyao had always trusted her and was completely unguarded, so bewitched by an urge, Xiao Xia tricked Fang Yaoyao into returning home with her, and it unbelievably