

## **The Growth 496**

### Chapter 496 - 18: Mother and Child Ghost

Following the trail of the Evil Ghost, E Kui soon arrived at the center of this eerie area.

As expected, the creature lurking in this area was indeed an Evil Ghost.

However, contrary to what E Kui had imagined, this Evil Ghost was not some truly wicked entity.

Quite the opposite, it was a Mother and Child Ghost.

The mother had died unexpectedly during pregnancy, causing the child to fall into the Netherworld with her, thus becoming what is known as a "Mother and Child Ghost."

Such ghosts typically exist with two souls in one body — that is, the soul of the mother and the soul of the child.

Under normal circumstances, the soul of the child is ignorant, without mature self-awareness.

Therefore, at the moment of death, the child's soul will separate from the mother and head towards reincarnation.

As for the mother's soul?

Regardless of her experiences in life, even if she becomes an Evil Ghost, she would merely be akin to any ordinary Evil Ghost.

However, in rare cases, the child within the mother's womb develops self-awareness during the embryonic stage and forms an attachment to the mother.

Thus, when death befalls the mother and child, the child will have an obsession not wanting to separate from the mother.

If the mother happens to worry about her unborn child at this time.

Then a "Mother and Child Ghost," distinct from ordinary Evil Ghosts, is born.

As individuals, the Mother and Child Ghost are two separate beings.

But from the perspective of ghosts, the Mother and Child Ghost is an extremely special and rare two-bodied ghost.

Of course, if it were only like this, E Kui wouldn't just stand there in shock.

What truly stunned E Kui was that he did not sense any resentment or hatred from this Mother and Child Ghost.

Being a ghost born from obsession, what nurtures the Mother and Child Ghost is pure love and attachment.

This is something E Kui had never encountered and completely could not comprehend.

Back when he was in the Box of the Creator, E Kui could evolve from a single cell into a true intelligent being, fundamentally due to his will to "sacrifice everything to survive."

And as E Kui descended into the Mountain and Sea Realm under the identity of the Nameless Soul.

What he felt from his creator was only indifference and malice, there was no so-called "love".

Even when reincarnated into his current self as E Kui, he had never felt kindness from anyone.

"No...maybe there was once..."

Suddenly shaking his head and whispering, because E Kui recalled the Creator and the Goddess of Death who had given him his current name.

After all, if it weren't for their benevolence, E Kui wouldn't be who he is today.

"Ah!!!"

In the midst of E Kui's contemplation, the Mother and Child Ghost not far away finally noticed this mysterious invader.

As the maternal ghost, the mother first let out a shrill howl, then summoned a torrent of blood-red whirlwinds to attack E Kui.

At the same time, the area dominated by the maternal ghost showed a perceptible squirming trend.

It seemed as if flesh and blood were squeezing out folds.

Malice incarnated as crimson blood began to pervade the ground, turning it into a blood-colored hell.

Clang!

In face of this situation, E Kui immediately drew the Ghost-Slaying Sword.

As the sword left its sheath, a massive amount of Spiritual Essence transformed into substance and surged into the sword's body.

The next moment, a terrifying Sword Qi directly sliced through the space, dispersing the pervasive bloodiness and malice.

After all, E Kui was born a demigod, the natural nemesis of Evil Ghosts.

Such a mere Mother and Child Ghost was hardly capable of posing any threat to E Kui.

No, not even a threat; E Kui simply didn't regard her as significant from the start.

"It seems beings like Shen Tu are indeed rare."

As the Ghost-Slaying Sword returned to its sheath, E Kui still stood in place as if nothing had happened.

But from his slightly fluctuating gaze, it was clear that his emotions were not as calm as they seemed.

It wasn't until this very moment that E Kui had a clear realization of his own Power.

As long as his opponents weren't beings of the caliber of Shen Tu, with E Kui's current Power, he could traverse the Netherworld unimpeded.

"Waa waa..."

Just as E Kui planned to slowly approach the maternal ghost he had just split with a single sword strike, a piercing baby cry suddenly resounded again.

Looking toward the source of the sound, a baby-like little ghost appeared beside the maternal ghost.

"Waa waa..."

Touching the open wound on the maternal ghost's body.

The little ghost cried somewhat cluelessly, seemingly completely unaware of what had just happened.

And the severely injured maternal ghost, noticing E Kui's steps, struggled to rise again, barely shielding the little ghost behind her.

Unfortunately, having taken a direct slash from the Ghost-Slaying Sword.

All the maternal ghost could do was what she had done; she was powerless to launch any counterattack against E Kui.

"..."

Witnessing this scene, E Kui subconsciously halted his steps.

Seeing the maternal ghost, despite being seriously injured, persisting in protecting the little ghost, E Kui's cold heart seemed to tremble slightly.

"Don't... come closer..."

Seeing this, the maternal ghost spoke in a tone almost imploring.

Even though her voice was very hoarse, and perhaps due to the long lack of communication with others, it sounded quite strange.

Being able to force an irrational Evil Ghost back into "reason" was enough to demonstrate the deterrent power of E Kui's previous sword strike.

"You are already beyond saving."

After a brief silence, E Kui spoke so.

E Kui's earlier sword did not only sever this mutated space but also destroyed the souls of the Mother and Child Ghost.

"No... my child... can be saved..."

As if experiencing a final flare of clarity, the maternal ghost continued to plead.

"He... can be saved..."

"I beg you... don't harm him..."

Turning with difficulty to touch the still-ignorant little ghost, the maternal ghost's maternal instinct displayed brilliantly at this moment.

Seizing this opportunity, E Kui also saw the little ghost's current state.

At the last moment of his sword swing, the maternal ghost had actively severed the umbilical cord linking the child ghost, risking near obliteration to protect her child.

Otherwise, even if she couldn't defeat E Kui, she wouldn't have been slain by a single sword strike.

Realizing this, the tremor within E Kui's heart became more pronounced.

Yet, before E Kui could clarify the source of this tremor in his heart, the maternal ghost had already dispersed rapidly, unable to withstand the divine might of the Ghost-Slaying Sword.

"Waa waa..."

Watching helplessly as his mother transformed from presence to absence into countless particles of light.

The clueless little ghost, although not understanding what it meant, instinctively cried out loudly, seemingly trying to summon back his mother in this way.