

My Crown 691

Chapter 691: Zombies

Therefore, she found people to put on an act, attempting to entrap Qiao Mu in her scheme.

If the act had been successful and Qiao Mu had really pitied that shrewd woman, taking her home out of benevolence, then she naturally would have had an opportunity to lurk beside Qiao Mu to continue slowly feeding her poison...

It was only a pity that Wu Xiaosu was young and quick-tempered, which led to her being roaringly impatient in handling matters. She was not dependable at all, so Qiao Mu was able to easily see through her scheme.

Qiao Mu flipped over her small hand, and a tiny golden cicada was reflected in Wu Xiaosu's eyes.

The moment she saw this golden cicada, a trace of panic flashed past her eyes. Her entire body started trembling, which also caused her chains to clank, and she howled, "Qiao Mu, what do you want to do? I want to see Her Majesty the Queen! I want to see the Empress Dowager! I've been wrongly accused! Your so-called witnesses and physical evidence are all fabricated! I absolutely didn't imprint the Wu Family's seal on the inside of the rice sack!"

She had been framed, barefaced and undisguised!

Qiao Mu curved the corner of her mouth slightly and didn't answer her. Instead, she motioned with her finger, and an immobilization talisman drifted out.

"You!" Wu Xiaosu's entire body turned cold, and just as she opened her mouth wide in shock, she suddenly felt that her body was unable to budge.

Following which, Qiao Mu flicked her fingertip lightly, and that small golden cicada swiftly landed inside Wu Xiaosu's mouth, sliding down her throat.

Wu Xiaosu's eyes were filled with horror. If not for the fact that her entire body was stiffly immobilized at this moment, then she would certainly have already been shuddering as she lay limp on the floor.

Seeing her reaction, a faint snigger surfaced on Qiao Mu's lips. Didn't this Wu Xiaosu instruct that foolish woman on the street to go home with her and wait for an opportunity to approach her bedroom?

She wanted to stuff this golden cicada underneath her bed so that it would emit poisonous fumes that would accumulate over time?

Tsk, it didn't need to be so troublesome. Just directly make Wu Xiaosu swallow it and let it nicely take effect inside her stomach.

After Qiao Mu finished sorting Wu Xiaosu out, she just left her frozen there, departing leisurely without undoing the immobilization.

When the two people, hand in hand, finally entered the palace and saw the queen, Eldest Madam Wu had sobbed so much that her eyes were puffy, while the Vassal King Consort of An'nan had drunk four hours' worth of tea with a bellyful of rage!

Before the Vassal King Consort of An'nan could point fingers, the crown prince ordered someone to bring the evidence before the queen as he narrated the sequence of events while pointing out the established facts.

Seeing that the queen had turned silent, Eldest Madam Wu was anxious. "Wu Xiaosu is a pure and innocent maiden as well as the Vassal King Consort's niece, after all. Won't this imprisonment damage the royal family's prestige? Moreover, she carelessly offended the crown prince consort only because of her childlike disposition. The crown prince consort didn't suffer any harm at present, so why can't we just take a step back and appreciate a boundless open vista..."

"A kingdom has its laws and a family its rules. From what you're saying, does Eldest Madam intend to disregard the law?" The crown prince said dryly, "Three months in prison is already a light sentence. Could it be that Eldest Madam Wu wishes for your daughter to be beheaded due to gross disrespect instead?"

"We hope that the Wu Family will properly supervise Miss Wu's words and actions after she gets released from prison this time. Don't let her err again, or else she definitely won't get off lightly."

The next day, the queen still wanted to persuade her son some more and see if he could let Miss Wu off.

After all, the young lady had a sense of shame. If she were to spend three months in prison, wouldn't it make other people die from laughter!

In the end, she was informed that her son, along with his little wife, had left the capital for Beilan early in the morning!

It was almost the new year, and yet he didn't stay put! It made Queen Zhao fume so much that she scolded the crown prince for being a fake son.

By this time, the young couple had already reached the outskirts, and they rode a horse together, galloping for some distance.

They saw a seven to eight-person squad frantically running towards the city gate from far away.

Behind them followed a large pack of staggering zombies.

There were a full 30 to 40 zombies in the pack, and even though their running speed wasn't slow, their postures were distorted due to missing limbs.

Chapter 692: Fleeing After Performing a Misdeed

However, this batch of zombies' movement speed was no different from normal peoples'. If there weren't any surprises, then they should be a batch of level-three zombies.

The seven to eight-person squad frantically fled over wildly. From far away, they saw the crown prince and Qiao Mu reining in their horse sideways, foolishly stopping there without moving.

In the midst of their panic, they had only cast the two people a glance while criticizing them incessantly on the inside. They only thought that those two were young'uns that had been scared witless. Otherwise, why wouldn't you flee after seeing such a large batch of zombies?

And even dim-wittedly reining in their horse across the middle of the road.

“Why are there so many zombies?” The little lady asked crisply.

Qiao Mu really hadn’t seen so many zombies acting together in a long time. After all, there were basically mystic cultivator squads completing missions every day in the vicinity of Guanlan City, purging nearby zombies.

It would already be pretty good if someone out on a journey could occasionally see one or two sporadic zombies. That’s why it really was unexpected to see such a large batch of zombies.

These people’s “luck” was truly not bad.

When the seven to eight people got closer and closer, Qiao Mu fixated on the leader, a nimble and agile tall fatty who was a vigorous middle-aged uncle, and her gaze turned slightly queer.

“Captain!!” An intense screech came from behind him.

The tall fatty turned his head for a peek, and he saw a tall zombie with a missing arm already pressing close to the back of his skull. Two fangs protruded from its huge gaping mouth, looking especially eerie and sinister.

“F*ck!”

Without room for objection, the tall fatty brandished the fire pincers in his hand and soundly struck the pouncing zombie’s large face, which immediately sent that approaching zombie, along with its left eyeball, flying.

“Quickly run, Little Miss!” A tubby auntie beside the tall fatty was also striving to run madly. Spittle sprayed from her mouth as she shouted at Qiao Mu and Mo Lian, gesturing for them to quickly turn around and run into the city.

Don’t judge the tubby auntie from her plump physique, as she was a speed-type superhuman: extremely nimble and abnormally fast.

While watching them hurriedly galloping over, Qiao Mu’s charming eyes scanned the eight-person squad one by one, and the more she saw, the more spirited her eyes became.

“What are you looking at.” Mo Lian reached out to pivot the little fellow’s small face back. *What was so good-looking about them that made this child stare at them unblinkingly?*

That eight-person squad consisted of both the elderly and the young, male and female. They were also all ordinary-looking people. He really didn’t know why his Qiaoqiao was unable to take her eyes off them.

“Quickly come over!” Qiao Mu waved her hand at the tall fatty and company. “Hurry, hurry!”

The tall fatty’s mouth twitched. “Little Miss, quickly run! Don’t root yourself here! We really can’t deal with these several dozen level-three zombies!”

“Everyone lie down!” The little fellow forcefully waved her hand.

Everyone gazed at her in bafflement, and they only saw that fair and delicate little lady pull out a round ball from her sleeve.

Yet the center of Mo Lian's brows twitched, and he was just about to grab the little fellow's small hand...

When he saw that she had already thrown out that round Core Ravaging Thunder, which landed inside the zombie pack.

Boom!! A huge explosion quaked the earth and shook the mountains!

The eight-person squad stopped, dropped, and rolled in stupefaction. They hugged their heads as they lay on the ground before raising their gazes towards the little lady that departed in the dust.

"Huge Bear Squad, wait until I return. Until we meet again!" While hugging the youth's waist, Qiao Mu turned to look at the group of people lying on the ground and waved at them.

"Who dares to be so impudent at Guanlan City's North Gate!!" At this time, numerous austere figures, accompanied by several angry reproofs, instantly flew out from the city gate.

Chapter 693: Huge Bear Squad

The eight people from Huge Bear Squad continued to lie there without moving, shielding their heads as they stared absentmindedly into the distance.

Before them, the Core Ravaging Thunder had blasted out a huge pit, and without exception, the 30 plus zombies had all been annihilated in the explosion.

The numerous experts that defended Guanlan City's North Gate had exited the city by flying high up into the sky, and when they saw this scene before them, they were all startled.

The members of Huge Bear Squad were also only slowly able to get up after a good while had passed, and they all looked at each other in bewilderment.

"C-Captain, is o-our Huge Bear Squad so famous now? That even a random little miss crossing the street can immediately blurt out the name of our Huge Bear Squad?"

Huge Bear Squad's captain, Gao Sheng, grumpily smacked the back of that team member's skull with his palm. "What nonsense are you spouting. It must be because she saw the badge on our chests!"

Everyone lowered their heads for a look. Their Huge Bear badge wasn't extremely noticeable, and the bear engraved on the badge didn't look mighty either... Frankly speaking, could that miss truly distinguish that it was a 'huge bear' on this badge?

"What exactly happened here?" A mystic cultivator guarding the city looked solemnly at the captain, Gao Sheng.

Gao Sheng scratched the back of his head with a silly smile. "It's just that, just earlier, um, our squad carelessly attracted a zombie pack's pursuit, and a passing expert helped us dispose of the zombies. Ah, that's right, we, the Huge Bear Squad, went to the north slope to complete a potherb digging mission. At the moment, we've completed our mission and plan to return to the city."

The mystic cultivator guarding the city scanned the badge on their chests before giving a nod, saying, "According to the rules, you have to first stay in the tent district outside the city for several days, and you can only enter the city when it's about time."

"Okay, okay!" Everyone understood the rules. Hence, Gao Sheng nodded repeatedly without objection before leading his teammates towards the north city gate's tent district.

What's more, Mo Lian knew that the little fellow's misdeed would certainly alarm the city guardians, so he hastily slapped the horse's rump, running away with this little ancestor.

Qiao Mu, on the other hand, was in a great mood, and like a little rat, she giggled in stifled laughter during the entire ride.

Mo Lian helplessly stroked the little fellow's head. "The nearby zombies will be attracted here by the loud explosion."

Qiao Mu turned her small head to look at him. "Operation squads will only be able to fill their stomachs if there are missions to carry out."

Besides, who knew if all the zombies in Guanlan City's vicinity added up together even amounted to one hundred. After all, the operation squads had continuously disposed of all that needed to be disposed of.

Mo Lian couldn't resist breaking out into laughter. "How about having Little Seven bring us over?"

"No need. Didn't you say that riding on horseback to Beilan City only took less than a day?"

"Mhm, at our current speed, we'll be arriving at dusk."

"Then let's just enjoy the scenery." The little fellow pulled out a packet of osmanthus candy, sucking on one piece herself while stuffing another into Mo Lian's mouth.

Crown Prince Mo didn't savor the candy's taste. Rather, the little fellow's small, soft, and squishy finger that scraped past his lip made him feel tingly and weak. It was so unimaginably sweet.

On the other end, the Marquis of Jiayuan's Estate.

A quick-witted boy servant quickly walked into the hall and bowed towards the master and madam, reporting, "Master, Madam, there are visitors outside. They claim to be clansmen from your main clan."

Qiao Zhongbang, who had just eaten and was currently checking his son's recent homework, paused with a book in hand.

Wei Ziqin also raised her head and couldn't help slightly knitting her brow.

Chapter 694: People from the Main Clan

Clansmen from the main clan? Wouldn't that be...

"Hahaha! Zhongbang, why haven't you dropped by the main clan after having moved to Guanlan City for so long?" A hearty laugh soon came from beyond the door.

"Hey? You can't barge in randomly." Yet the anxious shouts of a boy servant could also be heard in the background. "Master, Madam, they..."

Qiao Zhongbang raised his head and saw a sixty-year-old elderly man smiling at him with repeated nods as he led two middle-aged men, who were slightly older than him, through the door.

“Clan Head.” The Qiao Zhongbang couple stood up and greeted the elderly man insipidly before waving their hands, dismissing the boy servant that was guarding the entrance.

It wasn't that they didn't contact the main clan after moving here for so long.

On the contrary, it was exactly the opposite. When they moved here back then, the couple, along with Qiao Zhongxing, had brought gifts to pay a visit on the second outside day, wanting to connect with the main clan. In the end, however, several snobbish doormen barred them .

At that time, Qiao Zhongbang and them had even encountered this middle-aged man standing to the left behind the elderly man.

At the time, when that person heard that they were a branch family from Qiaotou Village, he didn't even look them in the eyes and directly had people drive them away without letting them finish speaking.

This incident left a shadow in Qiao Zhongbang and his brother's hearts. Afterwards, in the two plus years that they had moved to Guanlan City, they didn't try to call on the Clan Head of the Qiao Family's main clan again.

“Sigh, you're regarding me as an outsider by calling me Clan Head.” Qiao Dongbo, the patriarch of the Qiao Clan's main family, waved his hand with a smile. “Zhongbang, I had also watched you grow up. By seniority, I'm your Eldest Uncle, so you don't need to call me Clan Head and be so distant.”

Qiao Zhongbang replied tepidly, “You flatter me. My brother and I are merely farmers from the remote and desolate Qiaotou Village. We don't dare to claim relations with the main clan. If there isn't anything else, please return.”

Clan Head Qiao Dongbo's old face stiffened.

The two middle-aged men behind him grew furious, especially the man on the left. It was only after hearing Qiao Zhongbang's voice did he realize that he had met this person before two years ago.

However, at that time, the Qiao Zhongbang couple were dressed very plainly, and it was obvious with a glance that they were country bumpkins. How could they be compared to right now: dressed in damask and satin, loaded in riches and honor.

“Zhongbang, everyone is part of the same clan, so there's no need to fuss over minor matters.” Clan Head Qiao Dongbo said calmly, “What happened two years ago, it's all those doormen's fault for using their position to bully others and failing to comprehend the ways of the world. Rest assured, I'll immediately punish them after I return!”

“No need!” Qiao Zhongbang waved his hand before turning to pull his madam towards the inner hall. “Pardon me, I still have some things to discuss with my wife, so I won't be seeing you off.”

This geezer even dared to mention what happened two years ago to their faces, which meant that he had long since known about it. However, at that time, Qiao Zhongbang and his brother were merely trash-like existences in the main clan's eyes. When had the main clan ever cared about them?

Qiao Dongbo was so livid that his mouth twisted, and with his two sons, he left the marquis's estate with their tails between their legs.

Qiao Zhongde immediately cursed loudly, "Dad! He's nothing but a cripple who obtained a marquis's title, only because he sold his daughter to acquire glory. Does our Qiao Clan even need to rely on him?"

"Cripple, cripple! The cripple is already nearly about to break through peak level-seven mystic cultivation. And you? An insignificant level-six mystic cultivator, and yet you keep on saying that he's a cripple!"

The clan head's words greatly shocked Qiao Zhongde. Just earlier, he was solely preoccupied with his anger and didn't take note of Qiao Zhongbang's cultivation at all.

Chapter 695: Ghost Village

"What do you understand. I heard that this future crown prince consort is dearly doted on by the crown prince. She herself is also an extremely capable child. If she can return to our clan..."

Fame, status, resources—wouldn't they attain everything they could think of? He had even heard that His Highness the Crown Prince frequently sent presents to the Qiao Zhongbang couple with incredible diligence.

Qiao Zhongde only felt his teeth ache, and he muttered quietly, "But the other party has to be willing to return first."

Judging from Qiao Zhongbang and his wife's attitudes, it didn't seem possible.

"Isn't that all your fault!" Qiao Dongbo was immediately filled with anger, and he stomped the ground before giving his eldest son a good kick. "An undiscerning good-for-nothing! Offending that couple for no reason! I'm telling you, you have to think of a way, no matter if it's begging or anything else, and invite that couple back to the main clan."

"During the clan competition after the Lantern Festival, I want to see that child Qiao Mu representing the Qiao Clan." Qiao Dongbo's eyes flickered.

—-This crown prince's section break—-

Clip clop clipitty-clop. With the young couple on its back, the small white horse galloped spiritedly across the small slope like a loose cannon.

When it was near noon, the young couple had already travelled a fair distance. Furthermore, with the crown prince hugging her in his embrace, not a speck of dust had landed on Qiao Mu's hair and clothes, and she remained clean and tidy, simple yet elegant.

Moreover, the horse's rhythmic jouncing almost induced her into slumber.

Not far after descending the small slope, the two people reined in the horse at the entrance of a small village.

This village was most likely already deserted. After all, the people living nearby had either moved to Beilan Fortification or relocated to the close by Mo Kingdom capital. Who would keep residing in this withered, tiny rundown village?

Besides, safety was also a hidden danger. Who could guarantee that a zombie wouldn't suddenly break in through the window in the middle of the night...

"Let's pass through this village?" Mo Lian lowered his head to look at the drowsy little fellow who kept nodding off continuously, involuntarily finding it amusing.

Qiao Mu reluctantly observed this village. Looking into the distance, it was in complete ruins with broken walls everywhere, and there weren't many intact houses inside either.

"If we pass through here, would it be a shortcut?"

"It should be." Mo Lian nodded. "But this village looks a bit ghastly and eerie. Don't be afraid, though."

"How am I afraid." Qiao Mu harrumphed lightly, looking down at the white snakelet that had probed its small head out of her waist pocket.

She had gone through a full half-day's mental therapy session before finally deciding to bring the white snakelet along.

The reason was no other than that she had to work hard to exterminate her psychological trauma.

It couldn't be that every time she battled someone else in the future, she would flee from fright if the other person threw out a mystic serpent!

That was f*cking too cowardly; she absolutely had to overcome it!

In addition, the white snakelet kept peeking at her with that pitiful "please don't abandon me" gaze, so our dear Qiao Mu truly was a bit helpless.

The entire way, the white snakelet had been very well-behaved, holing itself up in her waist pocket. The only times it probed out its small head was to look at the scenery, not making even the slightest sound.

Qiao Mu subconsciously reached out to stroke the snakelet's round head.

Along with her action, the white snakelet also immediately rubbed back and forth against her small hand in slight excitement.

At this time, Crown Prince Mo had already urged the horse into the village's perimeter, and upon entering the village, the two people thoroughly sensed the desolation of the place.

Let alone people, not even birds nor beasts would come to this kind of place. A more offensive way to describe it would be that probably even rats would starve to death if they took root here.

Qiao Mu looked around with large eyes, blinking her eyes in alertness. Suddenly, she heard a faint sound.

Chapter 696: Deliberately Mystifying

The two people both turned their heads, and they suddenly saw a skinny and emaciated five-fingered claw extending outward from a crack in the wall.

That black and skinny claw was covered in blue veins, and it looked especially scary.

Normal people would fall off their horse from fright upon seeing this.

However, the young couple merely exchanged a glance before continuing to watch that hand slowly stretch out from that crack in the wall.

After that was half a grimy face, then half a skinny figure that was all skin and bones.

A pitiful man with a slightly deformed head and a body as slim as a bean sprout crawled out from a nook in the ground.

When his gaze met the young couple's, he was clearly startled, and his entire body froze on the spot.

There was actually someone here?

Qiao Mu examined that person attentively, and after careful scrutiny, she confirmed that this was a person and not a zombie.

Even though he was slightly deformed and looked abnormal, there was an eighty percent probability that he had been starved into this state. His gaze was focused and his limbs were limber, so he was obviously not a zombie.

Mo Lian reached out in a grab, and he lifted that man, who was so thin that he looked misshapen, before him. "Who are you? Why were you hiding there so sneakily?"

That person croaked twice and revealed a slightly frightened expression, repeatedly begging for mercy by kowtowing to the two people.

Unexpectedly, he was a mute. A mute could actually live for so long, hiding in this rundown village. It really couldn't be imagined how he passed his days to become emaciated to this extent.

Mo Lian dismounted the horse and walked over to the crack that the mute had crawled out from. After taking a look, it seemed like there was a lair underground where this mute probably slept in every day.

"I'm going down for a look, Qiaoqiao." Mo Lian pointed downwards.

Qiao Mu nodded before retracting her gaze and scanning the mute in doubt. "You really are a mute?"

The mute cried out two short and raspy

"ah"s.

Qiao Mu flipped her fingers and suddenly threw an immobilization talisman at him.

Astonishingly, she saw that mute swiftly evading to the side with agile movements before abruptly flashing past the talisman and throwing a handful of powder in Qiao Mu's face.

Nevertheless, the corner of Qiao Mu's lips tugged into a bone-chilling smirk. With a light swipe of her fingertips, several streams of water rushed forth and directly washed away the powder that the mute had scattered over.

The mute was clearly taken aback, and his huge pupils also slightly contracted.

Water spirit? Impossible! How could such a small little lady be a spiritual cultivator?

That misshapen mute suddenly opened his mouth wide, and a slimy and squirming snake's forked tongue abruptly shot out of his mouth, heading straight for Qiao Mu's small face.

Qiao Mu really hadn't imagined that the mute before her could do something so disgusting. That forked tongue was thick and fat, red streaked with black, and it abruptly swept towards her face.

No sooner said than done, Qiao Mu shook her fingers slightly and imbued mystic energy into the defensive ring on her finger, which activated the eggshell shield in a split second!

Thud! That forked tongue soon crashed against the defensive shield, producing a faint sound. The snake man retracted its forked tongue in pain before turning around and taking to his heels.

Qiao Mu breathed a sigh of relief and only felt nauseated.

However, Qiao Mu then saw a flash of white light as the white snakelet jumped out from her waist pocket. It passed through the defensive shield without hindrance and directly bit the back of the mute's neck.

"Ahhh!" The mute released a low, raspy cry, abruptly collapsing to the ground, sliding his body forward like a snake struggling on its deathbed.

It turned out that the white snakelet's bite was extremely vicious, and it was merely a jiffy before the mute's body started emitting puffs of black smoke.

Chapter 697: Underground Village

Just like a sieve, small holes appeared one after another throughout the mute's body, simultaneously emitting black smoke.

Soon enough, he gradually became enshrouded by this dense black smoke that spewed out from his body, blurring his silhouette.

When Mo Lian happened to witness this scene upon jumping out from the lair, he instantly jolted in fright and swiftly bolted towards Qiao Mu, hugging her in his embrace. "What happened?"

"What can happen to me." Qiao Mu pursed her small mouth as she pointed at the mute, saying, "He's the one in trouble."

The white snakelet weaved out of the black smoke and flopped limply onto Qiao Mu's hand, cutely rubbing against her fingers.

Qiao Mu stroked its head. "Mo Lian, after the little white snake bit him, this person started emitting black smoke. What kind of special ability or cultivation technique is this?"

Mo Lian gazed deeply at the white snakelet.

Yet the white snakelet was not to be outdone and raised its snake head, sweeping Great Lord Mo a contemptuous glance with its protruding eyes.

“This is the dark energy of the netherworld. It is one of the three extremely powerful mysterious energies beyond the five spirits. It hasn’t appeared in nearly a millennium, but I once read about it in a collection of marvels from the Upper Three Provinces. There was only a scant description regarding the energy of the netherworld.”

When the white snakelet heard this, it swayed its head as it gazed at Qiao Mu with a “praise me, commend me, pet me” expression.

Qiao Mu was somewhat amused, so she petted its small head.

“This energy of the netherworld also has a peculiar power. Depending on how well the user can control the energy of the netherworld, the user can manipulate someone killed by this energy for a certain period of time.” Mo Lian explained.

By this time, after the black smoke dissipated, that mute had drooped his head and walked towards them, step by step.

When he raised his head, his eyeballs were gray, and that long, snake-like forked tongue curled up as it slithered out of his mouth.

“Demonic cultivator.” Mo Lian gazed at the mute gravely. “He’s already dead. Qiaoqiao, do you want to leave now, or go down for a look?”

“Let’s go down for a look, we can let this person lead the way!” Qiao Mu’s eyes lit up.

Mo Lian nodded. “The lair links up to other places underground. However, the paths lead into all directions, so if we didn’t have a guide, we would probably end up taking a roundabout way.”

“Then what are we waiting for, let’s go.” After all, Qiao Mu was quite curious about this underground world.

When the mute led the way from the lair to a rather large-scale underground village, the two people couldn’t help but be taken aback.

If not for the fact that they just so happened to encounter this mute crawling out from a crack in the wall, they would not have known that the lair underground led to places elsewhere, especially this village underground.

Mo Lian’s eyes narrowed slightly.

Such a village appeared in a place so near the Mo Kingdom capital.

Before this, not the slightest rumor had leaked out about this place, so this truly was a bit abnormal, which made him vigilant.

The mute brought them into the village, upon which two burly men walked up with a smile and said, “Yo, you’ve returned. You’ve brought back two fat lambs so quickly? Not bad!”

While speaking, the two people eyeballed this pair of fat lambs in astonishment.

This graceful bearing and appearance, tsk tsk. If such a handsome man and beautiful woman were offered to the village chief, then the mute, this punk, would definitely receive great accolades.

The mute didn't make a sound, not even the occasional croaks that he would occasionally make, yet no one noticed.

Chapter 698: Revulsed

The mute didn't pay attention to them and brought Qiao Mu and Mo Lian straight into the middle of the village.

There were actually a hundred plus households inside the village, so seeing that there were outsiders, everyone came over to take a look. There were men and women of all ages in strange clothing, and their eyes showed malicious intentions.

Qiao Mu swept them several impassive glances as she and Mo Lian followed behind the mute for a period of time.

"Ahaha, my distant guests. We welcome your arrival!" The sound of full-bodied laughter suddenly travelled over from a distance.

Subsequently, a robust man strode over unhurriedly, while surrounded by a crowd, towards Qiao Mu and company

"Village Chief."

"Village Chief!" The rest of the people also followed in bowing deferentially in greeting towards this village chief.

This man seemed to be about thirty years old, with a rather tall and large stature. His pair of shining eyes scanned Qiao Mu and Mo Lian, and when he finally saw the two people's appearances clearly, a hint of disbelief flashed past his eyes.

Just from their looks, such refined and elegant people didn't look simple at all. Would they let the mute so easily capture them?

"Mute, where did you find these two people from."

The mute was silent and merely hung his head quietly, not making a sound at all.

Hm? Why wasn't he saying anything! The man was puzzled as he peered at the mute who had lowered his head.

After all, in the past, even though the mute couldn't speak, he could still at the very least explain himself by gesticulating while ahing and baaing.

"Ohohoho." A tinkling laughter, like the sound of silver bells, entered everyone's ears.

Immediately afterwards came a fragrance that assaulted the senses.

The woman that quickly strode over was about 27 to 28 years old. Her curvaceous figure was bound inside a red, ultrathin miniskirt, while her foreign attire revealed two fair and smooth long legs.

“Oh my, where did such an adorable little lass come from. Hurry, come over to Sister.” That woman twisted her supple, snake-like waist as she whisked over like a whirlwind. She hooked her hand and was about to pull Qiao Mu into her embrace.

Yet Crown Prince Mo kicked at that woman without a word. Whatever protective feelings for the fairer sex didn't exist...

That leg was vicious and accurate and kicked straight for the woman's thigh.

Qiao Mu had originally thought that the woman's leg would certainly break with a crack, yet who knew that that woman's leg was like as if it were deboned. It was as flexible as a noodle strand and surprisingly avoided Crown Prince Mo's kick.

“You cruddy man! Go away, go away!” The woman's beautiful expression fell as she retreated two steps backwards. She hastily pulled out a handkerchief from the cloth folding in her chest and wiped her thigh, even though it hadn't been touched at all.

Qiao Mu: “...”

This was the first time she saw a woman be so revulsed by the crown prince!

The crown prince's expression was also very ugly. He hooked his darling into his embrace with one hand while patting her back gently with the other to placate her.

The large man looked at Mo Lian and Qiao Mu with greater doubt, and just as he wanted to speak, he saw a short man landing before them with lightning hops.

“Third Rabbit, what's the matter.”

That short man called Third Rabbit cracked his mouth into a smile. “Village Chief, Mother Zhen and them have returned. They said that we're going to have a barbeque feast tonight! And to have the villagers make preparations.”

“Alrighty!” Everyone cheered simultaneously, as if that whatever barbeque feast was that interesting.

Qiao Mu's eyes flickered as she sneakily poked the snakelet with her finger.

The snakelet gave the mute an order, upon which the mute lowered his head, leading the two people towards his own house.

Since the village chief and the others were occupied with preparing for that whatever barbeque feast, they didn't make things difficult for them anymore.

Chapter 699: A Dark World

Qiao Mu could perceive that everyone's faces were filled with long unseen excitement, which made Qiao Mu a bit curious.

With everyone busying about, the entire village made it seem as if holding this barbeque feast was like celebrating the new year in advance.

Since this barbeque feast was to be held when night fell, Qiao Mu and Mo Lian followed the mute back to his house.

Once they entered, the mute collapsed limply and crashed to the ground, not moving at all.

“The little snake’s energy of the netherworld can only manipulate him for this long. We have to be careful when moving about from here on out.” Mo Lian grasped Qiao Mu’s small hand and said, “This village is very odd. From my observation, many of the people seem to be demonic cultivators.”

Especially that woman whose entire body was extremely flexible. If his guess wasn’t wrong, she must have fused with a certain kind of snake skeleton, which made her body abnormally supple as a result.

“What exactly is such a village, gathered with demonic cultivators and hidden underneath the ground, up to?”

Orthodox mystic cultivators, or common martial artists, weren’t enthusiastic about getting close to demonic cultivators, but ever since operation squads were established, demonic cultivators weren’t discriminated against anymore. On the contrary, many squads were very willing to absorb these demonic cultivators with superpowers and take part in missions together.

This being the case, everyone started trying to accept demonic cultivators.

So why did these demonic cultivators still sneakily withdraw underground and away from society, unwilling to emerge and appear under the sunlight?

“You say, could it be that someone deliberately gathered these people underground?” Qiao Mu muttered quietly, causing the crown prince’s brows to knit tightly.

If there really was someone behind the scenes, corralling such a large crowd of demonic cultivators underground near the Mo Kingdom capital...

Then this really was a matter worth looking into.

The two people didn’t go outside. In the meantime, several people had knocked on the mute’s door, but the two didn’t respond.

It wasn’t until dusk that Mo Lian and Qiao Mu opened the door and followed everyone in a swarm towards the underground village’s central plaza.

The two people were mingled within the crowd, following unhurriedly in the rear.

When they arrived at the plaza, they saw a dense sea of black heads, more than a thousand in total.

This underground village was actually hiding a thousand plus people, half of which were demonic cultivators, while the other half were mostly shackled normal people.

However, unlike the excited demonic cultivators, most of the normal people wore benumbed and wore lifeless expressions as the crowd of demonic cultivators drove them forward.

It was the exact image of a master dragging along a group of slaves, going forwards or backwards with one order.

Many long benches were placed around the plaza.

The group of demonic cultivators each pulled along their slaves and took their seats in order, and upon looking into the distance, the crowd encircled the center of the plaza.

Some demonic cultivators pulled along around a dozen slaves, while others only pulled along a few. These slaves with unkempt hair and tattered clothing consisted of both male and female, old and young; however, all of them knelt at the demonic cultivator's feet.

"Quiet down, everyone quiet down!" The village chief raised his hand, gesturing for the crowd to stop their lively discussion.

Everyone quieted down.

That previous snake beauty[1] swung her slender waist as she walked up in revealing clothing. She stood next to the village chief and giggled, "The barbeque feast starts now, everyone can forget yourselves in this night of revelry!"

The crowd released excited screams in waves as they vigorously swung the long chains tethered to their slaves.

Chapter 700: Barbeque Feast

The sound of rolling wheels weighing down on the ground travelled in this direction.

Qiao Mu and Mo Lian raised their heads and saw people carting out three humongous grills.

These so-called grills were in fact fire spits skewered with three people. Two normal people with benumbed expressions stood on either side of the grills, continuously turning the fire spit.

Qiao Mu almost threw up just from a glance, and she abruptly buried her head into the crown prince's embrace.

Although the crown prince was also extremely nauseated, nothing could be discerned from his expression as he coldly gazed at this crowd of madly laughing monsters.

Those three people were already disfigured beyond recognition. Their bodies were dripping with blood, and the sound of sizzling fat could be heard. It was obvious that they had already been roasted for a long time and were deader than a doornail.

"Eldest Brother, Second Brother, Third Brother!!" A wretched scream suddenly came from the foot of a demonic cultivator sitting in the front row.

One of the slaves tethered to that demonic cultivator suddenly erupted and bolted forwards with a furious roar, wanting to pounce at those three grills.

Yet the female demonic cultivator holding the chain abruptly pulled on it with a cackle. With a clanging sound, that bald little fatty who had called for his brothers was pulled back to the ground with a bam. In fury and despair, he cried bitterly as he smashed his fists onto the ground with all his might.

“Ahehehehe.” The female demonic cultivator let out an enchanting laugh. She stood up and pulled at the chain in her hand, dragging the bald lad back to her feet. Sharp thorns suddenly surfaced at her fingertips, and she clawed away a piece of flesh from the lad’s arm with a swoosh.

“Lad, you should thank me for not handing you over in tonight’s barbeque feast! Ahahahaha!” The female demonic cultivator cackled so much that it made her tremble while fiercely stomping on the large iron wok on that bald lad’s back. “What Eldest Brother, Second Brother, Third Brother, right now, you’re my little slave. You only have Master, ahahaha.”

Qiao Mu probed out her small head from Mo Lian’s embrace, and her fists involuntarily clenched.

Mo Lian, who could sense her change in mood, quickly placated her with his hand and whispered into her ear, “Wait a bit first.”

“Ah! Ah!!” The lad with the iron wok let out a series of despairing wails and angry roars, incessantly clawing at the ground while pressed underneath the female demonic cultivator’s foot.

“Tsk, really so uninteresting. You only know how to scream yourself hoarse. Don’t you know how to do anything else?”

“Jin Ji[1], you really are brutal!” Several demonic cultivators nearby bantered at her with a smile.

“Village Chief! Let’s have some entertainment!”

“Right, right, right! Last time’s live dissection was really entertaining! Hahahaha.”

The village chief laughed and put his hands on his hips, revealing his bulging pecs. “How about we have something even more thrilling this time? Do you want to watch?”

“Yes!” The crowd of demonic cultivators below swung their chains as they screeched excitedly.

The village chief smiled evilly and suddenly held out his hands, clapping three times heavily.

Soon afterwards, a series of low roars travelled over as a dark and thin woman personally pushed a wheelbarrow slowly to the center of the plaza.

On top of the wheelbarrow was a large, square iron cage, which was holding an intricately bound level-four zombie.

The level-four zombie gaped his mouth and bared two hideous fangs. His eyes were bloodshot, and he let out a series of furious bellows at the fresh meat in the plaza.

“Hahahahaha!” Everyone laughed madly in excitement.

“This is a level-four zombie that absorbed all of a level-six mystic cultivator’s power. His present strength is equivalent to a level-four mystic cultivator.”