

Sweet Love 4241

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Yun Shishi nodded grimly. "I know that, too. I agree that he shouldn't be so reliant on me. But the fact is that he is so much more independent now compared to in the past."

"Actually, I can understand the bond between the two of you. After all, you've been there for him for a very long time, at least since he was born, so you are irreplaceable as his anchor. By the same token, you rely on him and he is irreplaceable as your anchor. It's just that it doesn't occur to you that he can't rely on you forever."

Yun Shishi grunted in agreement. "I understand. But the priority now is to find out what has happened to him?"

"Do you want Gong Fan to come back?" Alice asked her in a serious tone.

Yun Shishi did not answer at once, but looked at Alice hesitantly.

Alice sighed. "I can see you're hesitant. On the one hand, you can't bear to part with Gong Fan, but on the other, you don't want him to be dragging Youyou down, right?"

"Uh huh."

"Youyou only feels guilty about Gong Fan. What about you? Is there anything else besides guilt?"

Alice's question sent her into a reverie. In her mind, she could already imagine Gong Fan snuggling in her arms and clinging on to her helplessly. She remembered how he was always arrogant in the presence of others. However, in her presence, the boy had a sense of vulnerability that few others could detect.

"Mommy, don't ever abandon me..."

He was afraid she would abandon him. She understood that the trade-off was now entirely in her hands.

Did the boy really care that much about Gong Fan? Not necessarily. It was probably more of guilt than anything else that he felt towards Gong Fan. However, mostly, he was afraid that Yun Shishi would be sad

The boy probably had many ways to make Gong Fan disappear and send him into exile. Even if Gong Fan was unwilling to leave, Yun Shishi would only have to say "I don't want you anymore!" And Gong Fan would leave dejectedly for sure.

But... The paradox was that she would rather Gong Fan lived in her world than the boy's. If it had been her, she would have been willing to shoulder any amount of pain. Except that if it were the boy, she couldn't bear for him to be so burdened. And she had no right to interfere with his thoughts.

If Youyou was unwilling to co-exist with Gong Fan, there seemed little point in her forcing it. Besides, if she were to put the boy in a dilemma, he would be the one suffering. Her heart ached at the thought.

She let her hands fall limply to her sides and sighed. "Forget it. There's nothing I can do to keep Gong Fan. In any case, I just want Youyou to be well. There's no way I can impose so much mental burden on him for my own selfish reasons. If you have to force me to make a decision, I'm willing..." She could hardly finish her sentence. She looked up at Alice solemnly, held back her tears, and choked, "I'm willing to give up Gong Fan."

The words cut her to the core. But she had no choice! She could not stand by and watch the boy sink into misery.

Give it up!

This was what Yun Shishi told herself. Youyou would understand her decision, she thought.

Alice looked at her calmly, understanding her struggle.

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"May I put the boy under hypnosis tomorrow?"

"Hypnosis?" It was obvious that at the mention of the word "hypnosis," Yun Shishi was suddenly nervous and edgy. She eyed Alice warily.

Alice laughed at that. "You're not thinking that I'm going to hypnotize the boy and make him lose his memory again, are you?"

"No..." The woman was just being overly sensitive. After all, she had no love for the word "hypnosis".

"The first time I tried to hypnotize the boy it was without your consent or his. But things are different now. Now I'm seeking both of your agreement. If you agree, I'll do it."

"And what would be the purpose of you performing the hypnosis?" she asked with concern.

She had to be clear about the nature and purpose of the hypnosis before she could decide.

Alice explained, "I wish to locate Gong Fan."

...

The hypnosis was scheduled for 1.30pm the next day.

Alice had chosen this timing because it was around mid-afternoon when people were most likely to get sleepy after a full meal. At the same time, it was the most relaxing time, which would mean that there was a high chance that hypnosis would succeed.

Naturally, the boy agreed. He was willing to be hypnotized. He also wanted to find some answers as to where Gong Fan was hiding.

"The hypnosis process might produce some painful images. Are you able to withstand going into the depths of the dreamscape?"

It did not bother Youyou in the least. “No matter how painful it is, how can it be worse than the dreams I had the first time I was hypnotized?”

Alice couldn't help feeling guilty. She cleared her throat awkwardly.

The boy turned to his mother and said, “Mommy, the hypnosis is starting. It's best that you don't stay here. It's better that you wait outside!”

“Don't you want me here?”

Before the boy could answer, Alice explained, “It's best not to have a third party present when the hypnosis is being performed, or the subject may be easily disturbed.”

“Okay ... I understand.” Yun Shishi stood up and silently backed out the door, respecting Alice's opinion.

The boy lay down on the chaise longue. Where he lay, the afternoon sun bathed him, especially his face. It was warm and delicate and suddenly, he felt sleepy.

Alice casually placed a metronome beside herself. She sat next to the boy and spoke softly to him. Her voice grew softer, and gradually the boy's eyelids grew heavy.

“Relax. Close your eyes. Imagine yourself lying in a meadow with the wind blowing gently in your face...” Alice's voice seemed to guide his thoughts in the direction she wanted them to go.

Youyou finally closed his eyes and began to breathe more evenly.

...

He entered the dreamscape successfully.

When he opened his eyes again, he found himself lying on grassy ground. Above him was the blue sky and white clouds, and a gentle breeze was blowing. The sunlight poured over him, warm and comforting.

He just lay there, relaxed, for a moment he was reluctant to move.

“What do you see?” Alice's voice was still with him.

The boy opened his eyes and looked skyward. He saw a kite floating in the sky, higher and higher.

“I see... a kite.”

“A kite?” Alice frowned, then continued along. “And do you see who is flying the kite?”

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“It's... Gong Fan?” Alice winced fiercely at the boy's remark.

Gong Fan? How was that possible!

In the dreamscape, Youyou was already running towards Gong Fan, as though without a care in the world. He was standing at the top of the mountain, so he could look far into the distance. From his vantage point, he could easily see the person who was running and flying the kite at the foot of the mountain.

The person was dressed exactly like Gong Fan, and he wore Gong Fan's usual cold expression. Even though he was tugging at the kite, his face did not bear the innocence that a child his age normally did. Instead, he silently looked at the kite in the sky and took a step back from time to time, pulling at the string.

"Gong Fan!" Youyou did not expect to see him, and immediately ran toward him in jubilation. "Gong Fan!"

!!

He got closer. It was as if there was wind under his feet. Soon, he found himself beside Gong Fan. He called out softly. Gong Fan seemed to have heard his voice. The boy turned around and looked at him coldly, and immediately felt disgusted.

"Oh, it's you."

His cold gaze was so unfamiliar that Youyou froze in place. He was surprised by how distant Gong Fan seemed. Even though, for various reasons, he had never had direct contact with Gong Fan, at least they would communicate through a notepad. It was obvious that Gong Fan was friendly towards him.

However, the child standing before him now was different. His expression was hostile and icy.

"What's the matter with you?" Youyou moved closer to him, reaching out tentatively to touch him.

"Don't touch me!" Gong Fan shook off his hand and turned to leave. When Youyou saw this, he was stunned for a moment and immediately caught up with him. However, he had only taken a few steps when it felt as if he had crossed a barrier. The entire world suddenly became dark.

"Gong Fan?"

...

"Youyou?"

Alice held the boy's hand and kept calling to him, but there was no more response. Her eyes widened in surprise. For the first time ever, she found she had lost control of the hypnosis.

Could Youyou no longer hear her? No, she had to end this hypnosis! Alice would not allow anything to go wrong with this hypnosis session!

"I'll count to three, Youyou. Wake up and walk out."

"Three."

"Two."

"One!"

She gently activated the metronome and snapped her fingers in front of the boy's face. "Wake up."

For a long moment, the boy remained unresponsive. Alice stood up abruptly, annoyed. "Oh no..."

It seemed to have run out of control. How could this happen!? Could the boy have been drawn into a dream that she was unable to intervene?!

Inside the dream.

Youyou was in a world of darkness. It was like the chaos of nothingness. He could not see anything clearly. He forced himself to calm down quickly and look around. He looked down. It was as if he was standing above an abyss. At first glance, it seemed to be a bottomless black hole.

He tried to take a step forward, but he missed. He felt his body suddenly falling freely, and he felt as if he was falling towards the end of the abyss!

It is a dream. This is a dream. This is a dream...

As he fell, he kept telling himself, *This is a dream. Don't believe it!*

Once he believed it, he would be trapped in it.

Alice had once told him that if he believed in the dream and was immersed deeply enough, it would be difficult to wake from them.

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This is a dream. Don't believe everything in the dream.

However, even though he kept warning himself like this, he could hear the sound of the howling wind in his ears, he could feel his face hurting from the cutting wind. He wondered if this was a dream. He couldn't help but waver...

He could not tell if this was a dream or reality!

Just at the point he almost wavered, he suddenly saw a turbid black river at the end of his visual field. He didn't even have time to call for help before he fell into the river and sank into it. The moment he hit the water, he felt as if his head was about to crack apart!

The feeling of drowning was also so real that it was unfathomable. It was as close to real life as it could get. The turbid river water kept gushing into his nose, through his lips, and into his mouth. It was suffocating!

!!

"Ahhhhh..." He opened his mouth to call for help. Almost instinctively, he wanted to be free of this terrible dream. Except that he could only feel himself drifting with the river. The world spun around him.

"Help ..."

“Help ...”

Alice heard the broken sounds that escaped the boy’s mouth from time to time. She suddenly sat down next to him again and put the brainwave detector on his head, ready to detect the frequency of his brain waves.

When she saw the chaotic frequency that presented on the screen, she suddenly felt a little uneasy.

How did this happen?!

“Youyou...” Alice gripped his hand tightly, trying to make him feel her strength. “Wake up. Wake up. What you’re seeing is a dreamscape. Dreams that don’t exist...”

“Gong Fan!” Youyou gave a sudden, hoarse cry of surprise, but a name escaped his lips clearly.

In the dream.

He drifted with the water to a deserted place. The river gradually became shallower. He climbed to the shore in a sorry state and clung on to a rock on the shore. Suddenly, he heard unfriendly footsteps.

Rustle... rustle...

The boy heard the sound clearly and looked up in surprise. He saw Gong Fan walking towards him, expressionless. He was shocked to spot that there was a sharp dagger hidden in Gong Fan’s hand.

He was so frightened that he choked and instinctively called out, “Gong Fan...”

Gong Fan walked towards him without a word. However, Youyou was keenly aware that this Gong Fan seemed to be somewhat different from the Gong Fan he knew. His face was cold, his eyes dark and lifeless. He looked like a walking corpse.

“What... are you doing?” Youyou kept retreating. Seeing that Gong Fan continued to approach him, a step at a time, he suddenly felt an inexplicable fear!

He could imagine the sharp dagger piercing through his chest, dripping with blood.

“No ... don’t ...” He suddenly got up from the ground, turned around, and fled!

The footsteps behind him gradually quickened in pursuit. Youyou gasped in horror and ran as fast as he could towards the end of the road!

“Don’t...”

“What are you doing!?”

Even though this was a dream, it was too real!

Although the boy could still vaguely tell that the scene before him was a dreamscape, it was beyond what he could bear!

Even though it was a dream, he didn’t wish to continue!

Wake up! Wake up!

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The boy kept running towards the end of the road, his willpower falling apart in the terrible dream. There seemed to be no way out. Behind him, the footsteps became more intense. The boy could even feel the rush of footsteps closing in right behind him!

How did this happen?!

Was the dream beginning to crumble?

Had it gone completely out of control?

...

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“Don’t... don’t come any nearer... don’t...” The boy kept waving his hand, his face flushed with the effort of trying to catch his breath.

On the other side of the door, Yun Shishi could hear the boy’s uneasy ramblings. Nervously, she pushed the door open a crack, only to see Alice frowning in alarm at the boy’s flailing hands. She took a step into the doorway, and Alice looked up at her and shushed her.

“You can come in, but don’t speak.”

“Uh huh...” The woman stepped in and saw that Youyou was lying on the lounge, his face flushed. Her heart wrenched at the sight. “What’s going on?” she asked anxiously.

“The hypnosis got out of hand.”

Got out of hand!?

Yun Shishi almost cried out in fright.

She didn’t know exactly what it meant when a hypnosis got out of hand, but the boy looked to be in such pain that even Alice found it hard to imagine how he was going to break free from the nightmare.

“The dream went out of control.”

Alice said grimly, “Which means I can no longer manipulate his dream.”

“And what does that mean?” Bewildered, Yun Shishi was stunned by how bad his condition seemed to be. She was afraid that Youyou would become like Gong Fan. She could not accept such a blow.

Alice took in a deep breath and said, “I suspect... he has met Gong Fan in his dream.”

...

Youyou felt himself being thrown to the ground by a powerful force. He struggled with all his might to break free, but what he saw was a dead end.

The powerful force behind him grabbed him by the collar again. He spun around, finally seeing the face in front of him.

Gong Fan stood in front of him expressionlessly, his hands grabbing Youyou's collar tightly. His expression was filled with hostility.

"Gong Fan!"

It was indeed him. Youyou was in disbelief. He had never thought that Gong Fan, who had always been friendly with him, would show such a terrifying side to him!

"What exactly do you want!?"

Gong Fan stared at him coldly. Suddenly, his lips curled into a disdainful smile. "What do I want?"

"You..." Youyou felt his blood run cold as he saw the murderous intent rising and filling his eyes.

He had never been a timid person, and he rarely really feared anyone or anything.

However, the youth standing before him with an icy gaze finally put fear in his heart for the first time!

"You've taken control over reality with this body, whereas I control the dream world of this shell. In reality, you're the king, but here, you will never defeat me!"

In the next second, Gong Fan suddenly raised his hand high, exposing the sharp dagger that was emitting a cruel luster!

"Don't..." Flustered, the boy shook his head. "Don't be like this! You can't be like this..."

He did not understand how Gong Fan had become so violent and cruel. This was not like him!

"Pfft..."

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"Pfft..."

"Don't you dare invade my territory!" Gong Fan's eyes were bloodshot as he thrust the dagger towards Youyou. Even though this was a dream, the pain of his chest being pierced was excruciating and so unbelievably real.

Youyou winced in pain and could barely speak. He felt the sharp point of the dagger dig into his chest as if it were trying to rip through his thin body... The dagger plunged into him repeatedly, till blood was splattered everywhere...

The boy woke up with a start. He opened his eyes and drew in a deep breath until his blurry vision cleared. He could see clearly now. He was lying in bed with the overhead light of the bedroom above him. His father and her mother were standing nervously in front of the bed. Alice was watching him closely, drenched in a cold sweat from observing his repeated screams.

The boy glanced out the window. It was dusk.

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He had fallen asleep and before he knew it, he had been struggling with dreams all afternoon. Although he had slept, this dream made him even more exhausted. He leaned against the headboard weakly, his body drenched in cold sweat.

Little Yichen sat at the edge of the bed, his heart aching and uneasy at the sight of Youyou's pale face.

Youyou was beyond exhausted. The dream was so real that he was in a daze even after he had woken up. He recalled Gong Fan's ruthless and cold expression in his dream and could not stop trembling.

Yun Shishi glanced at Alice, who acquiesced. Her heart aching, she went to the boy and held him close. "Did you have a nightmare, Youyou? Don't be afraid. Mommy is here. Mommy is with you."

The boy weakly embraced her and finally broke down, tears rolling down his face. It was rare to see Youyou in tears, and Yun Shishi was even more bewildered by this.

"What exactly happened?"

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"Youyou, you can tell Mommy what your dream was about. Mommy will keep it a secret and not tell anyone..."

After her repeated coaxing, the boy finally looked up with terribly bloodshot eyes.

He was crying! Youyou had always been like a little adult, mature, sensible and responsible. It was rare to see him shed a tear.

Seeing him cry made Yun Shishi's heart ache even more. She held him tightly and said in helpless frustration, "It's okay if you don't want to talk about it. Mommy's just so worried about you..."

"He tried to kill me..."

"What?" Yun Shishi was inwardly alarmed, but kept her composure.

"Gong Fan... I dreamed that he was holding a dagger and coming after me. Then, he pinned me against the wall and stabbed me in the heart." The boy narrated in a shaky voice. Though he did not go into too much detail, one would inevitably shudder to imagine such a scene.

Yun Shishi found that hard to believe, but as they said, it was only a dream. "It was a dream, just as you said," she reassured him. "A dream is a dream. Don't take it seriously!"

"That was what I thought all the while." The boy sniffed, and his voice was still broken. "But I was terrified nevertheless. I kept feeling that even though it was a dream, it was so real... I'm so tired, but I don't dare to sleep. I'm afraid that if I fall asleep, I'll have that dream again. Mommy, do you think that person who stabbed me with a knife was really Gong Fan?"

“Like you say, it was a dream. A dream is a dream. Reality is reality. You have to keep the two separate. Since it was a dream, and you’re now awake, forget everything that had happened in the dream!”

“But... Mommy, my sixth sense tells me that that person is Gong Fan. He really did try to kill me in my dream.”

Yun Shishi held him tighter at that. “How can a person be killed in a dream? Even if a person dies a thousand times in a dream, they won’t die.”

“But...” The boy had mixed emotions. “It felt worse than dying... Mommy, that sort of dream... it really felt like it was happening. No matter how much I told myself it was a dream, I wasn’t convinced. But I feel so tired now after the dream. it’s exhausting even just to breathe...”

Those words cut the woman like a knife. They were so painful to hear that she found it difficult to breathe. She kissed the boy gently on the forehead and said to him, “You must stay well, Youyou. Mommy... I really don’t know what to do...”

She felt a deep sense of helplessness in his presence! She wanted to protect him, but she didn’t know how! His life had never been truly peaceful since the day he was born. He was born with poor health, and later on, he was found to have a split personality... Yun Shishi simply could not imagine how much pain there was in her son’s world.

And what truly hurt was the fact that the boy would rather carry the pain himself than let her know or worry about it...

Alice said the boy was reliant on her. She knew, however, that she was even more reliant on the boy. She wanted to walk into him. She wanted to understand the kind of life he really led as a split personality.

Because she shook with fear just hearing Youyou’s description of it!

“I’m sorry...” The woman choked on her tears. “Mommy didn’t take good care of you, didn’t protect you well...”

She felt powerless, no matter what she said...

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Yun Shishi stayed in the room with Youyou till late, when Little Yichen came into the room. Even though she did not say so, the boy could sense that she was exhausted, so he did not pester her but simply urged, “Mommy, you should go to bed!”

Yun Shishi was still worried, though, and continued to hold Youyou in her arms, showing no signs of letting go.

When the boy saw this, he said helplessly, “Mommy, you obviously don’t think much of me as a brother! Don’t worry, I’ll stay with Youyou. If he doesn’t want to sleep, I’ll play games with him. If he wants to sleep, I won’t disturb him.”

Youyou pouted. “I don’t want to sleep or play games.” He really had no interest in games, they were too inane. But he didn’t want to go to bed so early either. Even though he was tired, and the afternoon nap had only served to exhaust him even more because of the bad dream, he was reluctant to sleep. He was worried about entering into another series of nightmares. He was afraid that his sanity would not be able to withstand it.

Little Yichen suggested, “Then I shall accompany you to the study to read!”

“Okay.” Youyou turned to Yun Shishi and said to her, “Hurry up and go to bed, Mommy. How are you going to take care of me if you don’t rest? Don’t worry, I’ll be fine.”

Despite her own sense of unease, Little Yichen was around so she nodded reluctantly.

In addition, she was also tired by now, so she stood up and repeatedly reminded Little Yichen to take good care of Youyou, before reluctantly returning to her room.

After she had left, Youyou did not go to the study. Instead, he lay down on the bed and stared at the ceiling without speaking.

Little Yichen saw him lying like this and asked curiously, “You look tired and your eyes are red. Aren’t you going to sleep?”

“I don’t feel like sleeping.”

“Afraid of nightmares?” Little Yichen smiled and continued, “I’ve had my share of bad dreams, but no matter how realistic they are, they can’t be real. I think it’s because you’re usually under too much pressure. That’s why you have terrible nightmares when such powerful negative energy accompanies you into your dreams.”

The boy turned to him, frowning and seemingly a little impatient. “Do you really understand what it’s like to have nightmares?”

Little Yichen looked startled.

“If it’s possible, I never want to dream such terrible dreams again.” Youyou closed his eyes for a moment, then opened them weakly. Because he did not sleep well, he was in a daze.

Once a person lacks proper sleep, they generally may become abnormally anxious.

As gentle as Youyou was, he was a little anxious at the moment. He threw his pillow violently against the cabinet .

Little Yichen was taken aback by his abruptness, but did not dare to speak, for fear that an unintentional remark would make the boy even more anxious. He kept silent.

Youyou’s temper was slowly slipping out of control. He rolled over heavily, snatched all the blankets, and wrapped them around himself, covering himself.

Little Yichen looked at him helplessly, maintaining his silence. Then, he went to the cupboard and took out another blanket. Trying his best to avoid provoking Youyou, he carefully spread the blanket on the bed and climbed in, curling up pitifully.

Youyou saw the cautious movements beside him and lifted the blanket to take a look. Despite his rage, he was at once amused to see his twin brother so ill at ease.

“What’s the matter with you? You look pathetic. As if I bullied you.”

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The boy glanced at him, about to say something, and then thought, Isn’t it so!

In any case, he felt that his status in this family was rather insignificant, and could only silently suffer any sort of bullying. Apart from his Daddy, to whom he could more or less talk back.

Whether it was Yun Shishi or Youyou, Yueyao, Lisa...

This was because he was the second oldest man in the family after his father. Of course, he had to be magnanimous. Especially when it came to Youyou and Yueyao, he had to let them have their way a bit more.

For some reason, when Little Yichen shot him an innocent look, the boy burst out laughing.

“Big Brother, am I bullying you too much? Sometimes I feel like you’ve become a punching bag.” Little Yichen’s eyelids twitched at that. He could not process Youyou’s sudden change of attitude.

“Uh...”

“Alright, alright. I’ll stop bullying you. I wouldn’t want you to feel that you’re always being bullied by your little brother.”

Little Yichen pursed his lips. “Well, I’m your Big Brother after all,” he said in an old-fashioned way. “Besides, I fought you for nourishment when we were in Mommy’s womb and you were born with poor health...”

His voice trailed off as he spoke. Others might not be able to understand his feelings. The boy was vaguely aware that Youyou’s poor health might have something to do with him.

When they were in her womb, he must have been the domineering one, fighting with his brother for nourishment. As a result, he felt an inexplicable guilt towards the boy.

If it hadn’t been for him, the boy might have been perfectly healthy!

At least, he wouldn’t have had wasted much of his childhood cooped up in the hospital.

He would have been like the other kids, going out every day to fly kites and play with his buddies.

He wouldn’t have to watch on while others had fun.

Little Yichen suddenly recalled, "I remember I used to play a horror game where the main characters were a pair of twin sisters."

"Twin sisters?"

"Yeah."

"In the old folklore of many countries, in fact, the first of the twins to be delivered is considered the younger sibling, and the last to be born is the older sibling."

"Oh? Why is that the case?"

The boy answered, "I read a report saying the medical opinion was that the first of the twins should be the younger sibling because the baby to arrive second is in the higher position in the uterus, pointing to the fact that it had developed earlier. The first baby to develop occupies a favorable position inside the uterus, causing the later baby to be closer to the womb opening and to be born first."

"I see!" The boy could not help but find this interesting.

"Then by that logic, I should be the big brother!" The boy rubbed his chin in mock seriousness as he reached a conclusion.

"In that game, it's the same set-up. The first ones born are the younger ones, and the ones born later are the older siblings."

"No wonder I'm a little more mature than you."

This game that Little Yichen played was called Crimson Butterfly.

In the game, there was an ancient village. The Minakami Village was a village established at the entrance to the Hellish Abyss. In order to suppress the Void at the entrance to the Hellish Abyss, the village was a host to a ritual called the Crimson Sacrifice Ritual.

When the power suppressing the Void was weakened, another crimson sacrifice had to be offered. Otherwise, if the Void's resentment erupted, it would cause the village to be destroyed.

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When the power suppressing the Void weakened, another crimson sacrifice had to be offered. Otherwise, if the Void's resentment erupted, it would cause the village to be destroyed.

It also happened that a pair of twins would be born in the village during each cycle. It was generally acknowledged in this village that the twins were originally one person. However, they were produced separately so that they could become the Crimson Sacrifice in the Crimson Sacrifice Ritual. Therefore, the villagers believed that during the Crimson Sacrifice Ritual, when one of the twins killed the other, the twins would become one and release a powerful force that could suppress the Void and protect the village.

It was the same game Little Yichen had played a long time ago. And for some reason, when he saw that the story was set up around a pair of twins, he was naturally inclined to buy it.

The beginning of the game featured a pair of twin sisters. One day, when they were little, while the older sister, Bao Tenpei, was playing with her younger sister, Sasaki Tenpei, she fell and broke her leg. Later on, during a random outing, Sasaki Tenpei realized that her sister had gone chasing after a red butterfly. Concerned, she ran after her big sister and accidentally crossed the barrier into a village that had disappeared on the map.

As she searched for her sister, she also learned the secrets of this village.

As it turned out, the village had disappeared a long time ago.

After the Kiryuu family completed their last successful sacrifice, when time came for Minakami Village to host the Crimson Sacrifice Ritual again, the responsibility fell on the Tachibana twins, Mutsuki, and his brother, Rai.

The two of them were kind-hearted and had a deep relationship. However, when the ritual was held, because Rai could not bring himself to attack Mutsuki, the latter was killed by the priest and thrown into the Void.

Although Mutsuki had indeed been killed during the ritual, Rai's longing for him was too strong, causing the Crimson Sacrifice Ritual to fail. The Void was not suppressed.

In fact, this kind of regular Crimson Sacrifice was called Yang Sacrifice. When the Yang Sacrifice failed, a Yin Sacrifice had to be held, to temporarily prevent the eruption of the Void's resentment so as to earn time for the next Yang Sacrifice. The content of the Yin Sacrifice was to turn the person who was the sacrifice into a pillar-like Wedge before throwing him into the Void.

If both the Yang Sacrifice and the Yin Sacrifice were to fail, a great compensation would occur, which was the moment of destruction.

After holding the Yin Sacrifice, they had to prepare for the next sacrifice. The next round of sacrifice was given to Kuroda, the village chief.

Kuroda had a pair of twins. After his two daughters were born, he was sure that they had come to this world with the mission of sacrifice.

The elder girl was named Yae, and the younger sister, Atsushi, was born first. The Tenpei sisters were the reincarnation of this pair of twins.

Rai did not want the tragedy that had happened to him to repeat itself on the Kuroda sisters, so he wanted to get someone to take the two sisters away from the village because Rai had promised Mutsuki that he would not let the same thing happen again.

After asking the folklorist So Masaru to take the two sisters away, Rai thought that he had delivered his promise to Mutsuki. Having never been able to get over Mutsuki's death, Rai then hanged himself in the confinement room.

However, he did not know that the only person who had really escaped from the village was Yae. The younger sister had slipped down the hill and broken her leg. The villagers had found her and taken her back.

After Atsushi was found, she saw Rai's dead body and decided that it was her mistake that caused it. She fell into despair and no longer tried to escape. Instead she looked forward to Yae returning to look for her and completing the sacrifice.