

Singing Spring Melody

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Alternative Name: 咏春曲

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Artist: –

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Description

Hahaha, this little girl is just too amusing!

When other people come to beg the Godly Doctor for help they kneel outside anxiously for three days. But she's actually enjoying it! She even hunted a pigeon and spit roasted it over the fire.

When other people see the Godly Doctor they bow down low with their heads on the ground, plea, cry, beg, and do everything they can.

She on the other hand, overwhelmed by the charm and pheromones, started to drool when she saw him!

Although he always hated these excessively kind and selfless idiots, this little beauty's "lustful" and ditzy ways are just too hilarious!

A little peck on the mouth from time to time, a touch of her hands, an arm around her waist, makes him very happy

UNTIL, he found out that he's getting charged for all of that!?

According to her profiteering ways of calculation he's going to go bankrupt before the wedding night!

Heh heh heh, since his future sister-in-law is going to play dirty and play the badger game with him then he's not holding back anymore. He's going to use his invincible honey trap to make sure they lose oh so completely

(Happy Ending)

Singing Spring Melody

Singing Spring Melody Prologue-Ch09

<http://moonbunnycafe.com/singing-spring-melody/singing-spring-melody-free-talk/>

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Hell King Sect Series/Yan Wang Sect Series

By: Jue Ming 决明

Free Talk means speech without liability. As far as I've seen, this word is used almost exclusively in doujinshi^[1] works. But I'm borrowing it now to use in my novel, after all, a certain period of my life was largely devoted to the doujinshi circle.

After hearing that my first book was being placed in the new series "Sweet Pocket" I felt pretty excited looking forward to it, but I'm also scared. New year, new people, new book, and new series, everything's new! (Upon thinking about this, Balloon Jue Ming^[2] starts to giggle stupidly) I'm scared because I'm writing novels without the knowledge of a lot of my good friends, and in the end, I published the book using the same pen name I've been using for doujinshis (I know it's a reckless thing to do). As you can imagine, I'm gonna be dragged to the washroom by a bunch of my good friends for "re-education"! Ooh, please show mercy, Balloon might burst if you beat it

Having been in the doujinshi circle for several years, I've written a dozen Free Talks, but this is the first time I've been unsure as to what I should write Seeing your own writing being published in a book is a very strange feeling, my part in the doujinshi circle had always been doing illustrations for other people's stories, drawing other people's characters.

For me, I've been doing illustrations for far longer than I've been writing. I replace the manhua^[3] storyboards that flash across my mind with clumsy words, trying to present these stories that are drowning in my laziness appear in front of everyone in a new form, as this book baby that you are holding in your hands. You can call it a romance novel, but I actually think it's more like a manhua draft, haha, since it doesn't have any eloquence of speech, and of course there isn't any so-called literary talent either (I'll reflect on this).

Hopefully, when you are reading you'll experience the illusion of "words within pictures, and pictures within words"

And finally I've got to thank a few people, otherwise when they receive the book baby, they might get pretty pissed off. Qing, Ya Ling, Xu Hua, Zhu Zhu, Meng Yue, Xiao Lan Er, thank you guys for helping me edit my draft, telling me your thoughts on it, and listening to me complain ... as well as calling me to "delay" me as I was keying the story into my computer (that person knows who I'm talking about, surrender yourself and you will be shown mercy, haha!).

My darling Zhu Zhu has asked me to be funny when I'm writing the preface Come on, at least in the preface of my first book baby let me maintain the illusion of being a proper lady, since my image in the doujinshi circle has been completely ruined.

At the end of the book I've included a few pages of manhua^[4], it's how I've imagined the male and female main characters to be!

Ok, enough chit chat, onward to the next page!

Translator's Notes:

This is the preface Jue Ming 决明 had written for her book 咏春曲 Singing Spring Melody.

Jue Ming 决明 has a Facebook page, if you are interested in her work please go and follow her on Facebook! Click here for the link—>[LINK](#).

Here is a three-part interview with 决明 Jue Ming from her publisher—>[LINK1](#)—>[LINK2](#)—>[LINK3](#). On the page there are some examples of her illustrations as well as her self-portrait.

As always, please like, comment, and follow if you've enjoyed reading!~ Ciao!

1 The Japanese word for fan comic inspired by someone else's work. A Sherlock doujinshi would be a fan made comic about the adventures of Sherlock and Watson.↩

2 Balloon is the nickname Jue Ming (the author) calls herself. Since she is an illustrator they usually draw self-portraits for the author's introduction column for dojinshis, for ease of drawing and probably out of laziness, she drew a round blob-like person for herself, therefore the name 气球 or balloon. She also has other nicknames like 皮鞠 meaning ball, and 小明 which translates to Little Ming, a term of endearment. ↩

3 Manhua is the Chinese name for comics, its Japanese counterpart is manga, in which a lot of us are familiar with.↩

4 I used to have the scans of a book that's a compilation of all the end of book manhuas Jue Ming had drawn, and now it's gone forever. I had the foresight to scan the book when I took it out from the library, but not the foresight to keep it safe. A lot of her books are now sold out and no longer in print, oh well.↩

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Hell King Sect Series/Yan Wang Sect Series

By: Jue Ming 决明

Beneath the scorching sun a silhouette shuttled across the dry and cracked river bed. She could almost hear the bead of sweat drip from her slightly tanned face and onto the ground with a sizzle. Evaporating.

The dried up rivers, yellow withered crops, mist-like sand carried by the wind. The great drought that plagues the village every five years made the already poor living conditions even worse. But the village folks could only suffer in silence.

Disease started to spread relentlessly with the arrival of the cruel summer days, painful groans can be heard throughout the village. This strange infectious

disease is certainly terrifying, but the most terrible thing is the helpless nature of this whole incident. There was not a single doctor in the village, once a person contracted the disease they were as good as dead. So the villagers either died, or moved away. Those that couldn't move away were left behind, waiting for death.

Within just two weeks, half of the original hundreds of villagers were gone. The whole place was like a ghost town with all the empty streets.

Finally digging up a few edible wild herbs from the dry riverbed, the young girl carefully placed it in her arms, with a content look on her face she started to walk quickly towards her home.

It seems that today Papa and her little sisters can eat a meal of wild herb congee.

Just as the idea ran through her mind, the sound of a faint whimpering came from behind. She slowed her steps and looked around.

“Lit ... little ... Bao Chun^[1]”

Upon hearing the barely discernible weeping Bao Chun was sure that someone was calling to her!

“Who is it?!” She looked around, then finally spotted the curled up body of her neighbour Li Fu^[2] behind some bamboo baskets.

“Uncle Li!”^[3] Bao Chun exclaimed as she ran over to help Li Fu up.

“Little ... little Bao Chun, don ... don't get ... too close to me ... this ... this disease ... it ... it can spread”

Li Fu looked like a human skeleton, rotten sores covered his body. Bones peeked out from the infected flesh. This is the final stage of the strange disease.

“Bao Chun's not afraid.” She let Li Fu lean against a wooden plank, and realized that in his arms he held his three-year-old granddaughter Xiao Cui.^[4]

The little girl's face was black, it was obvious that she had been dead for several days, the stench of death reeks from her body. But it seems that Li Fu hasn't yet realized this, his limp right hand still kept on patting the little girl on her back, comforting her.

“Little ... little Bao Chun Can you ... can you please give some food to my ... to my little girl. She ... she hasn’t eaten anything in days” Li Fu pleaded painfully with his eyes closed.

“But, Xiao Cui ... she ... she” Bao Chun held her tongue and swallowed her words, unable to tell him the heartbreaking truth that his dear granddaughter was long gone.

“Please ... please ... I beg of you” Li Fu thought Bao Chun’s hesitation was because she knew how precious food was at a time like this, and thus unwilling to give it away.

“Uncle Li, don’t say that”

Bao Chun held on to the wild herbs and a small bag of unrefined brown rice, this was the only food for her family of four, the only food that she managed to find

But before her mind could think about objecting, unaware of her actions, her arms handed over all the food.

“Uncle Li, wait right here, I’m going to make a pot of congee for you ... and Xiao Cui ... to eat together.” She can’t bear to acknowledge the fact that she just handed over the thing that her family’s life depended on, she handed over all of it.

“It’s so kind of you Nowadays ... everyone ... everyone can only fend for themselves ... no one is willing to give other people any food. Thank you ... Xiao Cui, big sister Bao Chun is going to make you something delicious now” Li Fu muttered to himself half unconsciously.

The soft-hearted Bao Chun’s eyes already swelled with tears, but she still doesn’t have the courage or the heart to tell him that the baby girl in his arms was already dead.

She fumbled to wipe away the tears, quickly got a fire going, and with the water she found collecting in some empty clay jars, a pot of congee was quickly cooked.

“Come, Uncle Li. Be careful, it’s hot.” Bao Chun carefully handed over the bowl of watery congee, “Here, let me take little Xiao Cui.” She held out her hand to

take the already cold corpse, so Li Fu can eat.

“No, it’s ... it’s alright Let me feed ... feed Xiao Cui first. Come ... come on Xiao Cui ... come on” Li Fu’s hand shook as he put the bowl to Xiao Cui’s lips, feeding one bite after another to her. But the congee ran down her chin one bite after another.

Bao Chun bit her lips to hold back the tears. She was only a girl of eighteen, but she’d seen all of life’s joys and sorrows. She wanted to do something for them, but she was powerless

“We have to thank ... thank big sister Bao Chun” Li Fu tended to the cold body in his arms, the smile on his face weighs heavy on Bao Chun’s heart. She felt the weight becoming heavier and heavier, almost suffocating her.

“I ... I’m going home to cook Goodbye Uncle Li”

No longer able to bear seeing this heartbreaking scene in front of her, Bao Chun turned to escape. Running for her home as if her life was in danger. But the faint whispers still rang in her ears.

“Xiao Cui ... do you want to drink another bowl”

Bao Chun pounded her ears, she couldn’t help but let the tears fall onto the dry, cracked sandy ground, leaving marks behind. Those marks were like accusations made towards the heavens for bringing this cruel, heartless drought upon their land.



After giving away their only food to Li Fu, Bao Chun stood in the kitchen, dazed and feeling lost. She stirred at the pot of rain water, their only water supply, gathered from the only rain shower several months ago.

No rice, no vegetables, what will she give her family to eat?

Bao Chun couldn’t help but sigh when she thought about this.

She always feels slightly regretful every time after she couldn’t help herself and do a good deed.

Take the incident this morning with Li Fu! She KNEW that they needed the food to conserve energy, more-so than Li Fu, who was on the verge of death. She

KNEW that Xiao Cui was just a cold, dead corpse, she should have just toughened up and refused Li Fu's request. This way they would have had brown rice and wild herbs in this pot. This way her family can temporarily be warm and full

If only she could turn back time, she would ... she would

She would do it all over again.

This is why Bao Chun is sighing, the kindness that other people see in her was her biggest problem.

She doesn't want to be an overly nice person, she wants to be selfish for the sake of her family members, to save the last of the food supply for herself. Because no one will know if her family might be the next ones lying there on the ground, begging people for food. But when she sees other people suffering, she can't help herself but to offer up everything she's got.

Oh no! If Qiu Yue^[5] finds out she did this again, then she'll get another scolding.

While Bao Chun was mid-thought, brisk footsteps came from behind.

"Big sister Bao Chun, I'm back." A petite figure ran in from outside, the excitement in her voice lit up the dim kitchen with hope.

"Qiu Yue." Bao Chun hid her looks of self-pity to welcome her excited little sister, and with a guilty conscience, continued to stir the pot of water.

"Big sister Bao Chun, I found a dead bird, we can eat meat today." The ten-year-old's pretty little face was a little dirty, her hair tied into a simple braid, her clever and delicate upward tilted eyes were wise beyond her years.

She held up the bony sparrow in her hands, this was the only thing she found after an entire morning of searching.

"Let me see." Bao Chun took the sparrow and quickly checked it all over. Although food was very precious to them, to the point that sometimes they even dined on chicken and duck that died from sickness, but with this strange disease spreading around the village, it's best that they are careful with animals of unknown origin.

After she finished checking the bird, Bao Chun nodded her head with satisfaction. It was fortunate that Qiu Yue found the sparrow, otherwise they were going to go hungry again today.

“Big sister Bao Chun, what about you, what did you find?” Qiu Yue looked over at the empty pot of water.

“Uh ... umm ... it’s d-dry and h-hot and all the gra-gra-grass were de-dead and withered ... I ... I couldn’t find a-any food ...” Bao Chun tried to cover up with a lie, but she always stuttered when she tries to lie. This gave her away immediately.

“Did you give away the food again?” Qiu Yue squinted her eyes and stared down at the guilty looking Bao Chun.

As a terrible liar, Bao Chun could only try to change the topic, “Huh, wow, look at how fat this bird is!”

“That bird’s leg is thinner than my pinky! Don’t try to dodge my question, just answer yes or no!” Unfortunately Qiu Yue wasn’t getting distracted, she looked like a miniature adult with her hands on her hips. She was only ten years old, yet in the Liu household^[6] she was a force to be reckoned with. She’s a strong, independent little girl, not needing protection or care taking from anyone. She was the head of the household.

“Yes” Bao Chun confessed, and immediately tried to explain and defend her actions. “But Uncle Li was so terribly ill, and so” Bao Chun was like a little kid caught while doing something bad, she twisted her fingers around anxiously.

“You! Have you thought about how many days our family has gone without eating? Liu Bao Chun, there is a time and a place to be an overly nice person! I’m not against you helping others, but before you help anyone we have to make sure that our bellies are full!” When Qiu Yue gets angry she will yell out Bao Chun’s full name, and all Bao Chun could do was to duck her head between her shoulders and look like some poor misunderstood little housewife.

“We can’t be so selfish”

“SELFISH!? IF A HOUSE IS ON FIRE IT’S EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF! AND YOU! YOU ARE GOING TO BE BURNED ALIVE!^[7] And we are going to die with you

because we are unlucky!” Qiu Yue pointed a finger at Bao Chun’s nose and felt the anger raging within her. She was so smart, how can she have such an idiotic older sister? “Oh the heavens! Oh Mama, look at this ‘wonderful’ daughter of yours! If you are listening then strike her with lightning and help her to see clearly!” She pointed her right hand at the sky, and dramatically screamed to their mother who died many years ago.

“Qiu Yue, if Mama was still here she would agree with me” Bao Chun quietly reminded Qiu Yue that she inherited her kindness from their mother, which is to say that their mother was also an overly nice person.

“Right, how could I have forgotten.” Qiu Yue shook her head. Fortunately, she wasn’t being serious when she was shouting back there, otherwise their mother up in the heavens might have actually sent lightning down to strike this not so kind daughter of hers. She hurried and quickly closed her palms and made a worshiping gesture.

Bao Chun saw Qiu Yue and couldn’t help but laugh out loud.

“Laughing! You have the nerve to laugh!?” Qiu Yue turned and punched Bao Chun on the head, Bao Chun froze mid-smile and her expression went back to that of the misunderstood little housewife. She continued to stand there repenting and listening to her little sister lecturing on.

In the Liu household, the younger they are, the stronger they are, and the more powerful they had. Little sister lecturing big sister, even younger daughter lecturing father was not uncommon.

“Tell me, what did you give away?” Qiu Yue pressed angrily.

Bao Chun was struggling with whether or not she should tell the truth, but faced with Qiu Yue’s interrogations she obediently chose to tell the truth.

“Uh ... a ... a ... small bag of brown rice and some wild herbs.”

“BROWN RICE!?” Qiu Yue’s voice rose an octave higher. She couldn’t remember when was the last time she saw a grain of rice. She wanted to cry! She wanted to die, but before she does, she’s going to kill Liu Bao Chun first.

Bao Chun was startled by Qiu Yue’s voice, she ducked her head even further into her thin shoulders. If she knew Qiu Yue would get this angry she would have

left out precious items like brown rice

“You mean those little crystal-like grains of rice, RICE that can be cooked into FOOD!?” Qiu Yue gritted her teeth and tried to not let the anger twist up her expression.

Bao Chun nodded, a thin layer of sweat quickly formed on her forehead.

“You mean those tiny grains of rice more precious than pearls, RICE that can be made into CONGEE!?” Qiu Yue’s voice no longer had the tone of a child, it sounded like a butcher knife being sharpened on a stone.

Bao Chun felt like she just became a livestock, waiting to be slaughtered. The sweat gathered into beads and started to drip down her face.

“Rice! The rice that I haven’t seen, haven’t eaten, haven’t even touched in god knows how long!” Qiu Yue shouted, but she couldn’t help but let two streams of tears pour down her face.

“Don’t cry Qiu Yue” Bao Chun was just about to go over and comfort her little sister while she cries over lost rice, when Qiu Yue looked up, screamed and ran in front of Bao Chun.

“Give me back my rice! Give me back my rice! I want to eat rice! I want to eat rice!” She jumped on to Bao Chun like a hungry little wild animal. As the saying goes. “Humans die in pursuit of wealth, birds die in pursuit of food”, [\[8\]](#) but as it turns out, humans will go crazy over food as well.

“I’m sorry ... Qiu Yue ... don’t be mad” Bao Chun quickly apologized and tried to calm her down, reaching out her arms to hold Qiu Yue’s tiny little body in a tight embrace.

Although Qiu Yue looked scary, but she didn’t actually hurt her big sister. She humphed, then wiped her face and jumped down from on top of Bao Chun.

“I ... I promise there won’t be a next time” Bao Chun raised her right hand to swear a promise.

But she uttered these exact same words last time, when she gave their cotton blankets to Aunty Chen, and once before that, when she gave away their pots to Uncle Qiu, and countless number of times before that!

“As the saying goes, no good deed goes unrewarded.”^[9] Although she has never asked for anything in return, this has always been the reason she used as an excuse to explain her actions.

“Yeah, sure, if we haven’t all starved to death already.” Qiu Yue glared at Bao Chun, their family’s on the verge of being starved to death, and Bao Chun with her soft-hearted ways, just so happens to feel extra generous today.

“Everyone in our family living healthily, happily together is the best reward.” Bao Chun cherished her blessings, especially after seeing the state Li Fu was in today, she was especially grateful to the heavens for being so kind to her family.

Qiu Yue wrinkled her nose, her face looking unconvinced.

“Fine! Fine! Be an overly nice person! Fortunately, there is this sparrow. Just be glad we have something to eat.” She calmed down and shot Bao Chun a look that says “I can’t stand you”. Although Bao Chun’s kindness often irritates her to no end, but she also knows that this is just how Bao Chun is, so she’s not going to be too hard on her older sister.

Bao Chun cheered on the inside and started to happily prepare the “feast” that’s barely even bigger than her palm.

Qiu Yue rested her head on the table and reminded her older sister yet again, “You have to learn how to be selfish, otherwise who knows if one day you might end up selling yourself to save other people’s lives.”

She was not opposed to Bao Chun’s kind heart, but the kindness she shows has to be within her own limits, not stupid kindness like giving precious life saving food to other people and starving to death herself! If she keeps acting this way Bao Chun is going to suffer big losses some day.

“Yes yes yes.” Bao Chun cooked as she vaguely answered Qiu Yue. Although Qiu Yue was only ten, she has the final say on every major decision. Even her sister and father are a little afraid of her.

“I really don’t understand what’s inside your head!” Qiu Yue complained.

How am I supposed to know? Bao Chun thought. If there was tofu inside her head, then she can take it out and her family can have a second dish for dinner. Bao Chun’s mind started to wander.

“The bone can be used to make soup, something nutritious for Papa and Ruo Xia’s^[10] body.” Bao Chun threw a few sections of thin bones into a big pot of water. “Qiu Yue, go and call Papa and Ruo Xia for dinner.”

Dinner? What dinner? Qiu Yue laughed to herself and asked Bao Chun, her young face had on a smile much older than her years.

Bao Chun tenderly stroked Qiu Yue’s hair, only through this little gesture can she feel that Qiu Yue is indeed just a ten-year-old little girl who needed the love of her big sister, a little girl who deserves to live a happier more carefree life.

“Don’t give me that again.” Qiu Yue muttered. She knew all too well what Bao Chun’s watery eyes meant, if she doesn’t escape now then that sentimental sister of her’s might want to hug her again and cry a big vat full of tears.

She doesn’t want there to be a drought outside her house and a flood inside.

Qiu Yue quickly ran out from the kitchen and yelled “Papa! Second sister! Dinner time!”

Although the plate that she brought to the table only had a few hair-thin slivers of bird meat, a big pot of “soup” that was basically just water and broken pieces of bones. Bao Chun’s family was full of joy.

Be content and thou shall know happiness forever,^[11] this was proven true by Bao Chun’s family.

The Liu household didn’t have many people, their mother passed away a long time ago and left behind four daughters. Liu Dai Gui^[12] relied on the money he earned by farming and raised his daughters alone.

The eldest daughter Liu Bao Chun was just like her mother, kindhearted and gentle. Her looks were average, but she always had a loveable and calming smile on her face. Her only flaw was that she was too soft-hearted, often times she couldn’t wait to take all her things and give them to the needy or people who didn’t need them. This part of her personality was a pain in the neck for the entire family.

The second daughter was Liu Ruo Xia, who was born sick and feeble, her body was weak like a thin wisp of willow branch in the wind. She was the prettiest of

all the girls, but also the most proud and headstrong.

The third daughter was Liu Qiu Yue, only ten years old and already the most powerful figure in the house. She was a precocious and wise child, with a knack for doing business. So obviously she managed the family's finance, this way it won't be squandered away by the other three.

The youngest daughter was Liu Dong Xue, [\[13\]](#) Qiu Yue's twin sister. Dong Xue starved to death during the winter when she was eight years old. Her life, like her name implied, was short lived.

"We haven't had meat in a long time." Liu Dai Gui picked up a sliver of meat and put it in his mouth, his satisfied expression made the whole family laugh.

"Ruo Xia, Papa, drink some more soup." Bao Chun smiled and said. It's a hard life when you aren't sure when your next meal will be, simple pleasures like a stomach full of soup is happiness. Not to mention how miraculous it was that no one in their family contracted the strange disease, not even Ruo Xia, who was already weak and sickly.

"Life really is getting harder and harder everyday, today we've got soup but what about tomorrow? How will we live?" Liu Dai Gui looked at his three daughters with heartfelt sorrow. Bao Chun was already of age and should have been a mother by now, yet she is still unwed. Ruo Xia is sick and feverish every other day. And Qiu Yue ... she's ... still so young He grew more depressed as he thought about his girls.

"We can't stay in this village anymore, Papa's thinking of taking you girls and move to Suzhou, what do you think?" Liu Dai Gui continued to drink his soup as he shared the plan he has pondered over for days. He had always engaged the whole family in these sorts of discussions and were always willing to listen to his daughters' opinions. Although he's only a countryside farmer, but he was a good, open-minded father.

"But Ruo Xia's poor health, will she be able to withstand the long journey? Suzhou is several miles away from here by foot." Bao Chun asked, concerned about her sister.

"But if we stay in the village we'll contract the strange disease before Ruo Xia

dies! Papa, I'm with you on this." Qiu Yue, whose opinion mattered the most around the household, slammed her fist on the table and chimed in.

As for Ruo Xia, who everyone else seems to care for the most, simply sat there looking nonchalant and drinking her soup.

"Papa heard that life over there in Suzhou is much easier than here in the village. It's better than here, even at its worst. Also, I heard that on our way to Suzhou we will pass by the Yuan Mountain, and there lives a Godly Doctor^[14] who can cure any and all diseases. Papa wants to go and see if we can get lucky and convince him to cure Ruo Xia of her feebleness. This way we can all go and live happily ever after in Suzhou." Liu Dai Gui's face lit up while visions of a better future danced in his head. His personality is a combination of an extreme pessimist and an extreme optimist.

Ruo Xia's eyes lit up when she heard the words "Godly Doctor", "Can he really cure my illness? I'm up for it Papa, let's move to Suzhou." Counting in Ruo Xia's vote there are now three people in favour of moving.

Bao Chun looked around the room, "If everyone else agrees that I'm all for it too."

"I plan to leave in three days, would that be too soon?" Liu Dai Gui asked Qiu Yue.

She shook her head and said, "We don't really have any belongings we need to pack up so I say we leave right away, as soon as possible."

"Okay, the next few days we can start preparing for the trip, your mother still has some jewelry left, we can manage to scrape something together. Hopefully that will last us until we arrive in Suzhou." Liu Dai Gui even thought of the traveling expenses.

Ruo Xia interrupted and said, "Papa, that Godly Doctor you mentioned, is he real?"

Liu Dai Gui stopped for a moment, scratched his head and thought, "I think he is? Last time I heard, Aunty Wang's distant relative's cousin's best friend was saved by the Godly Doctor!"

"Oh yes, I remember hearing about that from Aunty Wang. That person she

knew, he was literally at death's doorsteps and the Godly Doctor used only one acupuncture needle and that man lived!" Bao Chun chimed in with the little piece of "miracle" that she heard about.

"So Ruo Xia can definitely be cured of her illness." Liu Dai Gui and Bao Chun both said at the same time, with silly grins on their faces and a look of admiration in their eyes.

Ruo Xia being satisfied with this answer, nodded her head and continued to drink her soup.

"So, do we go and find the Godly Doctor first or settle down in our new place first?" Bao Chun asked.

"Doctor first."

"New place first."

Qiu Yue and Ruo Xia spoke at the same time, but gave very different answers.

Qiu Yue glared at Ruo Xia, "And how exactly do you plan to see the doctor without any money? Usually, if it has anything to do with the word 'godly', that meant the price was as high as the heavens above! Of course we should wait until we've settled down at the new place."

"Humph! Sure, wait until you've settled down and started a successful career, just in time to build me a gorgeous tombstone. Don't forget to engrave on there 'Liu Ruo Xia, the poor unlucky soul who couldn't wait long enough to gather the money for her treatment and died.'" She said cold and sarcastically.

Bao Chun and Liu Dai Gui exchanged glances, then after a few seconds, Liu Dai Gui started and said, "Qiu Yue and Ruo Xia both have very valid points. We shouldn't let Ruo Xia's illness drag on, but we also have to consider our financial situation. Bao Chun and I have discussed it and we thought that it's for the best if we split up. Qiu Yue and I will go to Suzhou and earn money, while Bao Chun will take Ruo Xia to the Godly Doctor. After three months, regardless of what happens, we meet at the Mountain God Temple five miles outside of Suzhou and discuss our next steps. Now, how does this sound?"

Liu Dai Gui looked to Qiu Yue and Ruo Xia for answers.

Qiu Yue considered the possibilities. If Bao Chun went with Papa to Suzhou then they would probably give away all their money to the beggars along the road, and they can kiss their savings goodbye Out of the four people in the Liu household Bao Chun and Papa were the most alike, both were very soft-hearted. It wouldn't be a good idea to send the two of them off to Suzhou together, but if Bao Chun were to take Ruo Xia

“You sure you are alright with this?” Qiu Yue raised one eyebrow and asked Bao Chun. It's hard to tell who was the older sister in this situation.

“Yes, of course!” Bao Chun quickly raised her hand and promised. Aside from some unnecessary kindness she is very good at taking care of all the details of daily living.

Qiu Yue studied Bao Chun for a while and finally made her decision.

“That's it then, we'll listen to Papa! He and I will go and work hard to earn money while you two work hard to seek treatment. After three months we'll meet up at the Mountain God Temple.” Qiu Yue announced with no intentions of turning back.

Translator's Notes:

Chapter one is up and finished! I'm so glad I found out a way to do footnotes, this way I don't need to start this whole other thing in another post! If you've read any of my footnotes you'll realize that I have a thing for footnotes, and the need to explain things, as well as a penchant for rambling on.

As always, please like, comment, and follow if you've enjoyed reading!~ Ciao!
<3

1 The name Bao Chun 宝春 bǎo chūn consists of the characters for treasure “宝” and spring “春”. The spring mentioned in the title of the novel refers to the same character found in her name. ↩

2 His Chinese name is Li Fu 李福, “李” being his family name and “福” being his given name. It's ironic that while “福” means prosperity and good fortune, he himself wasn't so lucky. ↩

3 You might see in Chinese novels a bunch of uncles, aunts, sisters, brothers,

grandpas and grandmas and wonder “WOW! Are Chinese people all related!?” Simple answer is no. Think of them as honourifics, terms of endearment, as well as a way to show closeness. Depending on the situation you can call a person big sister/brother, little sister/brother, aunty/uncle, grandpa/grandma. Usually some part of their name follows these honourifics. These are used to address relatives as well as non-relatives, so it can get a little confusing at times.↵

4 Xiao Cui, read like Hsiao Tsui. 小翠’s name consists of the character for little “小”, which are generally placed before one’s family name or given name turning it into a term of endearment. Elders in the family may address kids in this way. “翠” can be interpreted in many ways, but the most common meanings are “green” and “jadeite”. ↵

5 The name Qiu Yue 秋月 qiū yuè consists of the characters for autumn “秋” and moon “月”, her name literally translates to “autumn moon”. ↵

6 The family’s last name is Liu 柳, which is not an uncommon last name. If translated, it means “willow”, the author in this novel plays a lot with plants and names. But this might not be intentional.↵

7 Original words here being 人不为己, 天诛地灭 rén bù wéi jǐ, tiān zhū dì miè, which is a common saying, pointing out the selfish nature of human beings. Literally translates to “if a person doesn’t do things in favour of himself then the heavens and the earth will work together to eliminate him.” Pretty harsh↵

8 Original words here being 人为财死, 鸟为食亡 rén wèi cái sǐ, niǎo wèi shí wáng, which is another common saying, pointing out how both humans and birds have a tendency to strive for what they desire, regardless of the dangers. The literal translation was given in the text. ↵

9 Original words here being 好心有好报, which literally translates to “a good heart will have its rewards”, meaning if you do good deeds you will be rewarded.↵

10 The name Ruo Xia 若夏 ruò xià is perhaps the most poetic of the four sisters. It consists of the characters for like/similar “若” and summer “夏”. Her name literally translates to “like summer”. Coincidentally “若” has the same sound as “弱” which means weak. Given her sickly nature, it is unsure if this is intentional.↵

11 Original words here being 知足常乐, the meaning is as I translated. This was

just for anyone who wanted to learn Chinese.↩

12 The name Liu Dai Gui 柳带贵 liǔ dài guì without looking at his family name, consists of the characters for carrying/bringing “带” and “贵” which can mean expensive, nobility and high-valued. It’s ironic that he doesn’t actually have anything of material value, but he has his three precious girls and that’s more valuable than anything else >~< awwwww~↩

13 The name Dong Xue 冬雪 dōng xuě consists of the characters for winter “冬” and snow “雪”. Her name literally translates to winter snow. Considering how geographically speaking, they live in Southern China, winters are either short-lived or nonexistent. If only she lived in Canada, she would have lived a very very long life!↩

14 Godly Doctor sounds kinda funny, the original words were 神医. The character “神” is added in front of certain professions to mean that they are so good/efficient at doing their job it’s as if they are gods. Bear with me through the awkwardness.↩

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Hell King Sect Series/Yan Wang Sect Series

By: Jue Ming 决明

The four of them decided to split up into two groups, one group with the mission to earn money, will head straight to Suzhou; The other will aim to seek out a cure from the doctor. At the foot of the Yuan Mountain they parted ways with their elderly father and younger sister.

Yuan Mountain didn’t have misty clouds, legends of heavenly beings, nor any mountain bandits. The place has an almost desolate feel to it, closed off from the worldliness of outside life. Lush vegetation covered the entire mountain top, sparing no room for even a small path to walk through. Two figures struggled to weave their way through the weeds and trees that towered over them.

Stepping out from within the dark forest and suddenly being welcomed by the

light and sight in front of her made Bao Chun gasp, and drop her jaw in amazement.

Holding on to the old emaciated donkey that they bought after having to sell three bangles, she stood in front of a huge luxurious mansion in the woods.

They were lost in the woods for three days and three nights, running around like a headless chicken. But everyone gets lucky sometimes, by a miraculous stroke of luck they actually found the place.^[1] Bao Chun shook and woke up the napping Ruo Xia sitting on the back of the donkey.

“We’re here?” Rubbing the sleep from her eyes, Ruo Xia looked around and her eyes lit up.

“Is this the place?” Bao Chun and Ruo Xia both asked the other at the same time. Then both exchanged glances and nodded at the same time.

“Soooooo big”

“Yeah, it’s probably ten times, no, twenty times bigger than our house” Still sitting on the back of the donkey, Ruo Xia muttered with her mouth slightly ajar, looking like a naive little girl who haven’t been exposed to much of the outside world.

High walls closed off the insides of the mansion. Although unable to catch a glimpse of what the other side held, the set of large, deep red locked doors, and towering buildings seen from the outside was enough to send anyone gasping in awe.

This place was like a secret city.

“Qiu Yue said that being the Godly Doctor he must earn a TON of money, it seems that only the Godly Doctor can afford to live in a house like this. Come on Ruo Xia, let’s go in.” Bao Chun said while she guided the donkey forward.

Beside the gigantic doors of the main entrance stood an upright stone tablet. Unfortunately, the two girls knew fewer words than the number of cockroaches in their house, so this tablet pretty much meant nothing to them.

Bao Chun knocked on the door and asked, “Is the Godly Doctor in? Please open up the door.”

She stood there joyfully waiting for the doors to open. Some time passed ... then a lot of time passed ... then the sun began to set ... and the moon peeked out from the east

Other than the party of welcoming mountain mosquitoes not a single sound nor person came from the Godly Doctor's house.

"Did we come at a bad time?" Bao Chun wondered, her wrists ached from swatting.

"So we are sleeping here tonight? In the deep dark, creepy woods? What if there's a bear ... or a wolf" Ruo Xia looked around with terrified eyes.

Bao Chun gulped, although scared to death herself, she still tries to look like a big sister and comfort Ruo Xia. "Don't be scared, big sister Bao Chun is here to protect you ... but if those wolves and bears are still hungry after gobbling me up then ... well ... there's nothing else we could do"

As the two girls cried on each other's shoulders someone approached in the distance, atop a black steed in the dark of the night.

"Who are you?" A young man dressed in black appeared in front of the two girls, his strikingly handsome features cold and emotionless, his arrogant eyes did not even bother to look their way.

"The Godly Doctor!" Both girls pointed a finger at the black clad young man.

"Wrong." The young man leaped off of his horse, and shot them a cold sneer.

His hands pushed open the set of deep red doors, seemingly with ease. Bao Chun's eyes widened with surprise, since she just tried putting her whole weight into pushing open the doors, yet it still wouldn't budge.

"Sir! Please wait!" Bao Chun hurried after the young man in black, "Is this the Godly Doctor's residence?"

The young man's face remained expressionless, so she continued to ask, "Can we go inside with you? The woods at night can be quite scary ... my sister and I have come to ask the Godly Doctor for help, and right now there's no other place for us to stay in ... so"

"Can't you see the rules written on the stone tablet?"

“Rulers? What rulers?^[2] Here in the mountains?”

“If the doctor you seek, for three days you kneel in wait.” The young man said emotionless. Would it have killed him to say a bit more?

“Huh?” Bao Chun froze with a silly look on her face, “Kneel for three days?”

The young man nodded.

“But the patient is not in good health. How can she make it through three days of kneeling?” Bao Chun tried to reason with him. She firmly believed that everyone has goodness in them, including this young man before her.

No one asked you to seek for help, you can get the hell out of here and ask someone else to save your life. And with that, Bao Chun was disillusioned.

The young man’s indifference ignited a trace of anger within Bao Chun, “If we weren’t desperate we wouldn’t have come to you for help and get humiliated like this!” She has never seen someone so cold and heartless, treating a human life like it was nothing!

“If you are asking for help then you must kneel.” The young man turned and went back into the mansion, just as the door was about to close completely he said with half a chuckle, “Whether or not my master will save her is up to him, better say your prayers.”

And with a thud, Bao Chun was left standing outside the doors.

How arrogant! Bao Chun pinched her eyebrows together and frowned, if that was just a servant, then it’s hard to imagine what the Godly Doctor’s temper is like.

If only Qiu Yue was here! Her sharp tongue and quick wit will make that young man feel sorry for the rest of his life! But alas, she was no Qiu Yue

“What are we going to do? I’m so weak I don’t want to kneel here for three days.” Ruo Xia objected immediately.

Bao Chun patted Ruo Xia’s back, comforting her. “Don’t worry, big sister Bao Chun will kneel in your place.” Knowing Ruo Xia’s poor health and due to the mother-like responsibilities an older sister has,^[3] how could she bear letting her precious baby sister kneel for three days.

Bao Chun adjusted the hem of her skirt and started to kneel.

Three days it is, it should be over in the blink of an eye, right?



There are actually a lot of things one can do while their knees are firmly planted on the ground. Such as barbecuing.

Yes, Bao Chun is using the spare time she has while kneeling and waiting to hunt a pigeon, spit roast it over the fire she started, and feed herself.

Just as she bit into a fat juicy roasted pigeon thigh, the young man dressed in black came out through the doors.

“Come with me.” The young man glanced at her and commanded.

“Huh? But I didn’t kneel for the three full days!”

“Master is feeling especially generous today, you no longer need to kneel.” The young man answered as his mouth curved upward slightly. How was he supposed to tell her that his master got bored and was curious, so he made an exception and agreed to see a person who haven’t knelt for three full days?

“But Ruo Xia just went to relieve herself ... I’m not the one who needs medical attention!”

“The Master ordered me to bring you in NOW. You only have one chance, it’s up to you.” The young man turned and was about to walk away.

“I’ll go I’ll go!” Bao Chun cried anxiously, and wiped her greasy hands on her skirt. She’ll think of a way to get inside and the rest can wait until after she sees the Godly Doctor.

The young man glanced over at her again and led her into the mansion.

WOW! This must be what heaven on earth looks like! Her eyes grew wide and her jaws dropped to the ground, everywhere Bao Chun looked made her gasp in awe.

“SO BIG!”

“SO PRETTY!”

“SO RICH!”

The village she grew up in was a barren wasteland, not an inch of grass in sight. But this place was covered in lush green plants as far as the eye could see. Flowers she didn't recognize were all in full bloom, it's as if the goddess of spring lived in this beautiful garden.

The two walked onto the bridge at the centre of the lake. It was summertime and the lotus flowers were in bloom, their pedals pale pink and delicate.

But the only thing Bao Chun could think of at this time was the big fat lotus roots beneath the water.

"Papa and Qiu Yue will be so happy if I took the lotus leaf and used it to make lotus leaf rice^[4]" Bao Chun imagined and wiped at the corner of her mouth. It was as if she could smell the overflowing aroma of food.

"Quickly." The young man in black irritatedly turned to remind her again. But this time he found Bao Chun standing a few feet away in the distance, under the pavilion, eyes fixated upon the white geese on the other side of the lake.

The young man cursed under his breath. Does she think she's here to look around and go for a stroll? Just look at that silly grin on her face, it seems that she's just another ditzy woman lost in her imagination.

"Look at the fat geese If we use it to make soup, it can probably last us for a whole month."

When the young man caught wind of what Bao Chun just said he looked at her in disbelief. How can someone ruin this scenery with such a tasteless comment?

"Look at those wings ... mmmhm ... delicious" Bao Chun tried to remember the most recent time she had eaten meat, it came from the tiny sparrow that Qiu Yue picked up. She then looked at the big fat geese in front of her, her mouth began to flood with saliva.

"Miss!" The young man tugged on Bao Chun's arm and reminded her, "My master hates waiting on other people!"

"Oh, okay." Bao Chun reluctantly looked away and followed the young man. She couldn't help it, having lived in poverty for so long, her mind was always on how to feed her family and keep them warm. The goose down from those geese back there can be used to make clothes and keep warm.

They passed through a small forest of bamboo, and onto a flight of stone steps.

“STRAW MUSHROOMS!”^[5] Bao Chun covered her mouth and gasped, as if she saw some incredible treasure.

Down the steps to the right was a patch of colourful mushrooms. She crouched down low to take a closer look.

“They are so pretty! I bet they are great in a stir-fry with shredded meat!” Of course the meat meaning the fat geese she saw earlier.

“They are poisonous.” And once again, poor Bao Chun’s dreams were dashed. He reminded her again coldly, “You’ve wasted enough time already.”

“I’m sorry.” Bao Chun apologized and hurried after the young man. But it wasn’t long before she slowed her steps and stopped again.

The young man did not hesitate to show his irritation. What should have been a short walk took much longer than expected, all because this foolish woman kept staring and smiling at the bamboo shoots!

Finally, the angry-looking young man led Bao Chun into a room. Pleasant faint aromas of medicinal herbs filled the room. He respectfully bowed towards an empty seat and said, “Master, the girl is here.”

Bao Chun curiously looked around the room, unsure of who the young man was talking to.

“I was getting so tired of waiting.” A displeased voice came from behind the white chiffon curtains, he sounded quite young.

“My apologies.” The young man didn’t care to explain much, and gestured for Bao Chun to sit down on the chair to the right.

Bao Chun blinked, feeling a little anxious and confused, but still decided to sit down like she was told.

The room was silent for a while, then the voice from behind the curtains said, “Anemia. Just eat some foods rich in iron.”^[6]

Bao Chun looked dazed and confused, unsure as to where the sound came

from.

“You have to come to me and kneel three days for THIS? Did all the quacks in the world suddenly die off!?” The voice muttered to himself. He got bored and made an exception to let her in. Of course it was also partially due to the fact that the young man in black told him that there was a person kneeling outside roasting meat. But the person he brought in was just slightly anemic, this pissed him off a bit. “Now you can get the hell out.”

At this point Bao Chun finally understood what the person behind the curtains meant, she quickly got up and said, “Please Mister Godly Doctor Sir, I’m not the one that needs medical attention, it’s my younger sister!” She was about to rush over and lift up the curtains, but the young man shot her an angry glance and stopped her.

“Was it you that knelt outside for two days?” The voice asked.

“Yes.”

“Since you are the one who was kneeling, then you are the one that needs my help.”

“Ah yes, I want you to help and take a look at my sister.”

“The stone tablet clearly stated that the person seeking my help needs to be the person kneeling, didn’t you see it?”

“I ... I ... I don’t know how to read” Bao Chun said softly, a little afraid to admit her illiteracy.

The person behind the curtains went silent for a brief moment, the only sound in the room being the light tapping of fingertips on the desk.

“Mister Godly Doctor”

“I only see patients who abide by the rules, if your sister wants to see me then tell her to kneel for three days. Then we’ll see.” The person behind the curtains waved a lazy hand at her, gesturing her to show herself out.

“Please! My sister is in very poor health, she won’t make it through three days of kneeling. Please make an exception!” Bao Chun cried.

“Then give me a reason to make you an exception.”

“Because you are the Godly Doctor!”

“Nope, try again.” The person behind the curtains wasn’t satisfied with her answer.

“Ummmm, be cause ... doctors ... Godly Doctors are very kindhearted?” Bao Chun managed to squeeze out a ridiculous answer.

“Kindhearted? That’s a new word! If I’m kindhearted then why must I make everyone kneel for three full days before I’m willing to see them. Notice how I said to see, not to treat.” The opening of a paper fan can be heard from behind the curtains, one can almost make out the silhouette of a person leisurely waving a fan back and forth.

“Ummmm, I think ... that’s because of ... ummmm ... because of ... ummmm ...” The more desperate Bao Chun was for an answer the more her mind started to go blank.

“If you don’t talk, then I’ll have to see you out.” A gentle threat came from behind the curtains.

Bao Chun became desperate for an answer so without thinking she suddenly blurted out, “I heard Qiu Yue say that everyone with some sort of ‘Godly’ title has some strange habits. I think that wanting people to kneel for three days is probably your strange habit, right?”

“I ... I’m not accusing you or blaming you in any way, but it seems to me that you have such dish rag guard^[7] for human life”

“You mean disregard?” A sudden burst of laughter made Bao Chun’s face flush with shame.

“Did ... did I say it wrong?” Oh, if only she hadn’t tried to sound more serious and sophisticated with such a big word! Bao Chun nervously twisted around the fabric of her skirt.

The laugh did not stop, instead it turned into chuckles, and asked her, “Are you and your sister very close?”

Bao Chun quickly nodded her head.

“Close enough to die for her?” The voice asked her, sounding doubtful.

“If there comes a day when this becomes necessary, then yes. I’m willing to die for her.”

“Why?” From behind the curtains the doctor’s eyes stared at Bao Chun’s face motionlessly.

“Because she’s my sister.” Bao Chun answered without hesitation.

The look on her face proved that she really did mean what she said.

This little girl doesn’t lie or hide the truth, her clear, bright eyes made it easy to read her thoughts.

Silence washed over the room, after a long while the person behind the curtains called out a number.

“Nineteen.”

“Huh?” Bao Chun looked up, clearly puzzled. Nineteen? What kind of answer is nineteen?

The black clad young man beside her stepped forward and answered, “Yes Master.”

“Bring the sister inside.”

So, Nineteen is the name of the young man dressed in black! Bao Chun suddenly realized. Strange name for a strange person.

The person behind the curtains stood up, lifted up the edge of the curtain with the fan in his hand and slowly walked out.

“I can bring her inside. However, whether or not I will save her is a whole other thing.” He spoke slowly, his words in sync with his slow leisurely mannerisms.

Bao Chun looked up from the bottom of the white silk robe and blue gown he was wearing, a gasp escaped her pink lips. Just like when she saw the scenery inside the mansion, her jaw dropped in amazement.

Stepping out from behind the curtains was a man about twenty-five or twenty-six years old.

The handsome face before her had a full smile, staring into his bright eyes, she saw her own reflection. His thin lips stirred up a touch of warmth within her

heart. The centre of his brows was branded with a star-shaped pattern,^[8] and his head of light silvery hair was tied casually from behind

The man standing in front of her was the most beautiful person she has ever seen.

He smiled, and studied Bao Chun's absent-minded face. Closing the fan in his hand he used it to lift up Bao Chun's chin.

"You're drooling."



"Embarrassing! That was so embarrassing!"

She drooled while staring at a man! Oh god!

Bao Chun covered her face with shame, the redness in her cheeks have yet to fade. She just stood there, staring at the Godly Doctor like some silly love-crazed ditz.

It wasn't until when Nineteen brought Ruo Xia into the room did she realized what she was doing She literally felt like dying of embarrassment!

The smirk on the Godly Doctor's face just then was probably from seeing her all embarrassed!

"Big sister Bao Chun! Big sister Bao Chun!" Ruo Xia impatiently called to the dazed Bao Chun.

"Yeah?" Bao Chun looked at Ruo Xia, her face still dazed and confused.

"Did you hear what I said?"

"Uh ... no." Bao Chun answered truthfully. The only thing she can think of right now is that bright charming smile.

Ruo Xia rolled her eyes and said, "Didn't that Godly Doctor agree to help and cure me? We've waited for a whole day already, but where is he? I haven't seen a single person."

"He's probably busy." Bao Chun didn't want to tell Ruo Xia right away that the Godly Doctor only promised to let them in, he said nothing about helping Ruo Xia cure her illness.

“Big sister Bao Chun, go and ask him.” Ruo Xia said with an air of entitlement, like it was only natural for Bao Chun to take care of everything for her. Ruo Xia’s personality became this way because she had been sick for as long as she could remember, her family members all took special care of her. Regardless of how arrogant and unreasonable she got, no one could bear scolding her in any way.

“Oh, okay.” Bao Chun couldn’t say no to Ruo Xia’s request so she bit the bullet and walked back to the study.

Unable to find anyone behind the white chiffon curtains, Bao Chun started to look for him in the garden.

The Godly Doctor’s mansion is a quiet and picturesque place, he didn’t have a ton of servants, Nineteen was the only other person she had seen. Speaking of him, who uses a number as a name? Bao Chun wondered as she walked.

Walking around aimlessly she arrived at the lake where she saw the geese earlier.

“No one is around, I really want to catch and cook you guys.” Bao Chun muttered to the two fat geese in front of her.

It’s unsure whether they could understand human speech or they just saw the desire to eat them burn strong in Bao Chun’s eyes. Either way, they quickly swam several feet away from where Bao Chun stood.

“Steamed, braised, fried, boiled” Bao Chun started to imagine all the possible ways she could cook them, as if just by staring at them she was able to turn these geese into delicious dishes.

“Everything Master has around here is useful and has a purpose, don’t you get any funny ideas.” A cold voice interrupted Bao Chun mid-thought and pulled her back to reality.

Bao Chun didn’t turn around, she knew who that dream-dashing voice belonged to. “Nineteen Gong Zi.”^[9]

“Don’t call me Gong Zi.” Nineteen furrowed his brows in disgust.

Bao Chun smiled at him, but Nineteen turned a blind eye towards her smile.

“Is your younger sister called Twenty?” Deliberately ignoring the indifference

Nineteen is showing her, Bao Chun joked and asked. “Usually people who use numbers to name their children has that many number of children, are you the nineteenth kid in your family?”

Nineteen ignored her question, the only answer she got in return was a gust of cold wind.

It’s certainly not easy to get him to open up. Bao Chun shook her head.

Nineteen can certainly be considered a very good-looking boy, but those cold looks that he always has on his face tend to keep people away. His good looks are frosty, compared to his master, Nineteen has to retreat to second place. Because the Godly Doctor’s features are already more handsome in comparison, on top of that, his smile was certainly better than Nineteen’s. When he smiles he seems so kind and affable.

“Where is your master? If it’s possible, I’d like to ask him if it is convenient for him to come and take a look at my sister.”

It’s a simple yes or no question. If he refuses, they can meet up with Papa earlier.

“Master’s old illness was acting up again, he is resting. He will let you know after a few days.”

“Old illness?! Even the Godly Doctor gets sick?” Bao Chun’s shock and disbelief was written all over her face, she has always thought that doctors like him would be invulnerable to any and all things.

“The Godly Doctor is still only human. Besides, Master never self-proclaimed to be a Godly Doctor. Miss, when you see him again next time, please refrain from calling him that. He doesn’t like it.”

“Then how should I address him?”

“The Master’s family name is Huangfu.”

Bao Chun repeated the name to herself three times, and his face began to surface in her mind.

His voice was like the spring wind, so comforting it turned people to putty. And his head of shiny silver hair, does it feel like silk if she were to touch it? And his

lips, they curved upward in the most perfect arch So, his name is Huangfu!

“What’s his full name?” Bao Chun wanted to know everything about him so she kept on pestering Nineteen.

“Don’t know.” Nineteen’s tone sounded like he didn’t want to answer the question, but he really didn’t know Huangfu’s full name. He usually just addressed him as master, out of respect.

“He looks so affable, his smile is so kind, how can you be so frigid and unfeeling?” Bao Chun simply couldn’t get used to Nineteen’s expressionless face.

Affable? Kind!? Using these words to describe his master is an insult to the words!

But he didn’t let that show on his face, instead he said, “Miss, you simply haven’t gotten to know The Master yet.” As for what Bao Chun said about him being frigid and unfeeling, he acted like he didn’t even hear it.

“And you too, don’t keep calling me miss over and over again, I’m Bao Chun.” Bao Chun saw the bowl of black soup-like liquid in Nineteen’s hand and asked curiously, “What kind of illness does your master suffer from? Is it serious? He looks pretty healthy!”

“That’s quite an amazing ability that you have Miss Bao Chun. You are able to tell if a person is healthy or not with a single glance, you should be honoured with the title of the Godly Doctor.” Nineteen’s words certainly wasn’t a real compliment, but Bao Chun couldn’t tell the difference just by listening to the words. But she does sense that he didn’t mean well.

“Nineteen, do you not like me?”

“Miss Bao Chun you are overthinking. I have to bring Master his medicine, sorry I can’t stay and chat.” Bao Chun felt a little hurt by the way he answered her.

Although she wasn’t a beautiful girl, but she treats everyone with sincerity, so people generally liked her. What does Nineteen have against her then? Bao Chun sighed as she watched Nineteen walk away.

“Could it be that I’ve become unlikeable after leaving my hometown?” Bao

Chun muttered to herself and pinched at her cheeks.

“That’s just how Nineteen is, he doesn’t like to talk. He has nothing against you my child.” A kindly old woman peeked out from behind the flower shrubs, and tried to comfort her.

Bao Chun was startled by this, since she didn’t expect there to be anyone else here in the mansion.

“Granny, and you are ...?”

“Me? I’m the cook. I didn’t mean to eavesdrop on your conversation, it’s just that—” the old woman stood up and showed Bao Chun the basket of weeds she was holding. “I was weeding the garden.”

“These?” Bao Chun walked over to take a closer look, “Granny, you are getting rid of all these?”

“Yes, if you don’t remove the weeds they will hinder the growth of the medicinal herbs.” She pointed to the flowers and bushes around them, “These are all of The Master’s favourite medicinal herbs.”

Bao Chun looked at the weeds she held in her hands and got a little emotional. “But those weeds you are holding is about ten days worth of food for us. There is a terrible drought in our village, all the green plants died off. If we really got hungry, we would even eat the yellow dried up grass Granny, can you give these weeds to me instead of throwing them away? I want to use them to make wild herb congee.”

With a faint smile in her eyes she said, “I make really delicious wild herb congee.”

“You can cook?”

“Yup, everyday home-cooked dishes are easy for me, but if we are cooking some delicacies then I need to start learning.”

“So you are the new servant?” The old woman looked at all the patches Bao Chun has on her clothes and took a guess.

“Oh, no I’m not. I’m just here with my younger sister to ask the Godly ... I mean Mister Huangfu for help.”

“Ooooooooooh.” The old woman understood, but was a little surprised. She has never seen any of her master’s patients stay for as long as she has. “Has The Master finished with seeing your sister?”

Bao Chun shook her head and walked over to help support the old woman, helping her lighten up her load.

“Mister Huangfu seems to have fallen ill, I think we have to wait for a few days.”

“Well then, you just stay for a few more days here and keep this old lady company. If you have time, make me some of that wild herb congee.” The old woman felt a liking towards Bao Chun as soon as she saw her, she said this to her while patting her lightly on the hand.

“No problem, we have so much wild herbs here, enough to make a huge pot! Too bad Mister Huangfu’s house doesn’t have a lot of people, and Nineteen probably won’t want to eat food made by me” She remembered how cold Nineteen was towards her.

“That boy Nineteen isn’t picky about food. Back there when you two were talking, he said more than five sentences to you, so that meant he liked you.” Nineteen was cold but he certainly wasn’t mean-spirited, it wasn’t hard for the old woman to see through him.

“Really?” Bao Chun suddenly saw a glimmer of hope again.

“Yes! He doesn’t say a single word to people he doesn’t like!”

“Then ... what about Mister Huangfu? What is he like?” Bao Chun was still more interested in Huangfu.

“The Master” The old woman thought about it for a while and selected her words carefully, “You will know after you’ve been around him for a while.” She didn’t want this little girl to be deceived by her master’s kind looks. “You can’t judge a book by its cover, especially the cover that The Master has on.”

Bao Chun quietly thought about the words that granny said to her. It sounds like Huangfu isn’t who he appears to be.

“So you are saying that his gentle smile is fake?”

“Oh no, the smile is real. But the meaning that lies beneath the smile, that’s what people are unsure of.”

“So I was right! How can such a kind smile be fake!”

“So you think that The Master is a good person?” The old woman asked.

Bao Chun nodded her head quickly, she has always trusted her intuition.

The old woman gave her a sympathetic look and said to her with pity, “Look out and take care of yourself my child.”

Translator’s Notes:

Oh boy oh boy! The second chapter is up! I proofread this five times and still caught stupid mistakes and typos ... I am starting to hate verb tenses because Chinese doesn’t really have them in the same way English has. But alas, I have finished. I highly recommend the Chrome plugin called Ginger, it’s a grammar checker, and the best one I’ve used! I wish I had this when I was still in school! Anyway, you can read the footnotes to learn some Chinese and extra juicy bits of knowledge ;). I highly recommend it!

If you want some visual aids, I’ve read the author’s manga and her drawings for the two main characters pretty much look just like Shi Ryuuki^[8] and Kou Shuurei from Saiunkoku Monogatari. Google them, you won’t be disappointed!

P.S. Ruo Xia gets less and less likeable as we get into the book Yeah ... no one likes her

As always, please like, comment, and follow if you’ve enjoyed reading!~ Ciao!
<3

1 Original words here being 瞎猫碰上死耗子 xiā māo pèng shàng sǐ hào zi, which literally translates to a blind cat bumps into a dead mouse. A blind cat can’t very well hunt so it’s by a stroke of luck that it bumped into this free lunch.[↩]

2 In the original book this part was a play on the word “规条” which meant rules and regulation, Bao Chun being uneducated and generally confused thought he said “龟条” which IS NOT a real thing, it just has the same sound as “规条”. The author made an attempt to make the readers laugh because “龟条”, although

isn't a real thing, translates literally to something like "turtle strips". ↩

3 The original words here being 长姐如母. In China there is a saying 长兄如父, 长姐如母 zhǎng xiōng rú fù, zhǎng jiě rú mǔ, which translates to the eldest brother is like a father, the eldest sister is like a mother. This meant that the oldest siblings have the same responsibilities as a parent, if the parents are not around, they must assume all parental responsibilities. ↩

4 This is a relatively well known Chinese dish originating from Guangdong (or so the wiki says) its Chinese name being 荷叶饭. You can Google it to see some pictures or click here →[LINK](#). Usually rice, seasonings along with some meat and other ingredients are mixed together, wrapped up in lotus leaf and steamed. You can make it with plain rice as well if you really just want the special aroma of the lotus leaf to seep into the rice. You can read about it in the Chinese wiki here →[LINK](#). It shares similar traits with Beggar's Chicken 叫花鸡 →[LINK](#). If you would like to taste Lotus Leaf Rice then go to a Dim Sum place, they should all have it. ↩

5 Really cute and interesting little balls of mushrooms called 草菇 in Chinese, you will be amazed when you cut one open! Click here for a picture →[LINK](#). ↩

6 The original words being 补血, which literally translates to "supplementing blood", this was before the discovery of minerals and vitamins, anemic people who suffer from anemia or 贫血 meaning "lacking blood" were instructed to change their diet. They didn't know about iron and what not, only that certain foods helped them get better, they supplemented them with what the body needed. It didn't make sense in English without a lengthy explanation so I opted for a more modern term. ↩

7 This was a joke the author put in. Now, we know that Bao Chun is illiterate and uneducated, she doesn't know how to read so she doesn't know many complicated four-character idiom that educated people knew and understood. She made the mistake of trying to say one of them, but instead of saying 草菅人命 she said 草管人命. Notice how the second characters of both sayings are similar looking. Bao Chun either confused one for the other and said the wrong thing or she doesn't know the correct way 菅 was pronounced so she took a guess and was wrong. The meaning was the same as what I translated and I tried to keep the joke similar to what the author intended. But for your sake, 草菅人命 is pronounced like cǎo jiān rén mìng. TADA~ The more you know~ Thank you

for not dish rag guarding my footnotes.↩

8 I have to step in because I want to say the description makes him sound like some male Mary Sue ... or maybe it's just me But I've seen manngas the author drew and he actually looks like Ryuuki from Saiunkoku Monogatari, but with silver hair and a star and no hair ornaments. Click here to see a visual aid — >[LINK](#).↩

9 Gong Zi or 公子 in Chinese, used to be a way of addressing the sons of dukes or princes. It is later used to address the sons or noble families and a general term to address other people's sons, but more commonly, it's a way to address young men politely.↩

10 The name Huangfu 皇甫 huáng fǔ is a family name, it has two characters so it's called a 复姓 which means compound surname or two-character surname.↩

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Hell King Sect Series/Yan Wang Sect Series

By: Jue Ming 决明

It was five days later when Bao Chun learned that Huangfu has finally gotten out of bed.

Every single day Ruo Xia has been clamouring for her to find the Godly Doctor and cure her. So when she heard that he was in his study, Bao Chun bit the bullet and went over once again.

“Come in.” Huangfu's deep and lively voice said from inside the room as soon as he heard the knock.

Bao Chun took a deep breath and pushed open the doors despite her blushing red cheeks.

Huangfu sat at his desk, he lazily turned his gaze away from his book and towards Bao Chun. His face was still a little pale, but seems to be in very good spirits. As usual, Nineteen stood silently behind him to the right.

“Don’t be a stranger, sit.” Huangfu raised his hand slightly, gesturing her to sit down.

She followed his gesture and obediently sat down on the chair closest to her, looking a little anxious and overwhelmed.

“Mister Huangfu, are you feeling better?” She asked carefully.

“Thank you for your concern.” Huangfu gave her an unreserved smile, so brilliant and bright that the sun seems to lose its colour in comparison.

“If it’s convenient for you, can you come and take a look at my sister?” Bao Chun was straightforward and stated the purpose of her visit.

Huangfu put down the medical text in his hand, tucked away a few fallen strands of silver hair beside his cheek.

“Have I said I was going to save her?” He asked Bao Chun with a smile, his tone relaxed and at ease as he spoke.

“But” Bao Chun was about to speak, but was interrupted by Huangfu.

“I didn’t say I wasn’t going to save her.” He gave a slight chuckle, and Bao Chun was lost in his smile again.

“Then”

“However, I just now recovered and shouldn’t really be tiring myself out. Miss, I don’t think you can bear to see me puke blood as I treat your sister, right?” Huangfu tried to look more sickly, and put his right hand over his heart. Bao Chun almost felt guilty for the unreasonable request that she was making.

“Yes”

“So, let’s hold off on the question of whether or not I’ll save her and leave it for another time. Your sister can endure a little longer, right?” Huangfu was satisfied with the look on Bao Chun’s face, and cast her another deadly smile.

“Umm” His smile hit Bao Chun hard, melting her into a puddle.

“Even better if she can’t endure it, then I don’t have to save anyone.” Huangfu stroked his chin and held back the urge to laugh out loud.

“Huh?” Bao Chun looked at him, not sure if he was serious or just joking.

“Miss, if it’s not too much trouble for you, could you help me by fetching my medicine from the kitchen? Otherwise, my illness might flare up again. Oh, before I forget, the kitchen is around the corner and down the hall.” Huangfu winced slightly, covering his heart, yet still didn’t forget to provide Bao Chun with directions.

“Okay” Bao Chun answered, dazed and stupefied.

During their short exchange, Bao Chun only managed to squeeze out six words before getting dismissed and sent away.

Meanwhile, Huangfu leaned back against the chair and couldn’t help but to start guffawing loudly. Such an amusing girl!

“Master, if you don’t intend on saving them, then why not just make them leave?” Nineteen, who for the whole time, stood silently behind Huangfu, questioned his actions. Usually, if The Master doesn’t want to do something, he’s rejections were quick and unsympathetic. But making the exception of letting the two sisters stay was indeed very strange and unusual behaviour on his part.

“It’s been too boring lately, I wanted to have a little fun. Her sister won’t die anytime soon.” Huangfu said lazily, almost like a different person compared to how gentle and elegant he was a few moments ago.

He knew after one look at Ruo Xia that she had a congenital heart disorder. If she takes some medicine and rests well, she can live another thirty to forty years, no problem. As for her deathly pale face, that was simply from chronic malnutrition. To think, she treated such a minor ailment like some sort of terminal illness!

As he thought of Bao Chun his lips curled upwards into an even bigger smile.

She wasn’t the type of girl who stunned people with her beauty at first glance. Her eyes were a little small, her nose was a little flat, they weren’t much to look at when separated, but together, on her small, delicate face, it was rather pleasant and refreshing.

“This little girl wears her heart on her sleeve, just a few sentences and she was at a loss for words, this is so much fun.” Huangfu smiled with his eyes, “It seems that life is going to get pretty interesting lately.”

Whenever Huangfu is nice to the people seeking his help, that meant he was feeling bored lately.

A year ago, there was this young man who caught Huangfu's interest. Huangfu messed with him so much that he no longer wanted to seek treatment, and stole away from the mansion during the night.

Nineteen started to feel sorry for Bao Chun. She piqued his interest, so that meant there was going to be a whole lot of trouble in store for her.

"What's her name?" It was rare for Huangfu to ask the name of someone seeking his help.

"Liu Bao Chun."

"Bao Chun, Baby Bao Chun, Little Bao Chun." Huangfu enjoyed himself as he intentionally called out her name in an almost loving tone, repeatedly calling out every single nickname he could think of.

It's a good thing that Bao Chun wasn't there. If she had heard him speak to her in that tone, she would probably drop to the floor and die of happiness.

"She's the most interesting one out of all the people who came to him for help. By the way, are there any more people outside kneeling?"

"Yes."

"Countless number of people he doesn't want to save, but he couldn't save the one that mattered." The smile faded from Huangfu's face, he opened up his right palm, and stared at the dark scar at the centre.

After a long while, he slowly closed his fingers.



Huangfu managed to skillfully dismiss Bao Chun ten more times, and Bao Chun got scolded by Ruo Xia ten more times. She felt like she was stuck between the two of them, a loser on both sides, unable to please anyone.

Every time Huangfu smiled at her, as warm as the rising sun, she found herself staring and slipping into a trance for a good long while. But Huangfu's unwillingness to give her a clear answer on whether he was going to save her sister also really angered her.

And now, after having been defeated by Huangfu's smile for the eleventh time, she was boiling his medicine for him.

"Little Bao Chun, you failed again?" Every time Granny Li sees Bao Chun kneeling by the stove side, she knew The Master probably volunteered her to come and help.

Granny Li was the old woman Bao Chun saw the other day, weeding in the medicinal herb garden.

Bao Chun held on to the round fan, absent-mindedly fanning at the fire here and there. When it comes to boiling medicinal herbs, the most important thing is to control the duration and degree of heat. So it usually takes her half a day to prepare a single dose, leaving her with no time to ask Huangfu about treating Ruo Xia.

"I don't think I understand what Mister Huangfu is really like anymore." Bao Chun complained.

Granny Li smiled at her. She's cooked here for more than a decade, and still haven't the foggiest idea about The Master's true nature.

"Did you know he's really cute when he smiles? But sometimes his words are so cruel, every time I try to figure out whether he was serious or just joking, he would smile at me ... and when I come to my senses again, I'm here, boiling medicine." She's really starting to hate herself for having such weak willpower.

Granny Li couldn't help but laugh, just thinking about Bao Chun's silly grin makes one wonder. The Master certainly does treat Bao Chun differently than all the other people who came to him for help, although it could be that he was just toying with her, but just by looking at the number of times that he smiled at her in the last seven days, it's not hard to see that Bao Chun has a special place in his heart.

She just wasn't sure if this was a good or a bad thing.

"Careful there Little Bao Chun, don't boil the pot dry." Granny Li saw that Bao Chun was blanking out again and kindly reminded her.

"Ah!" Bao Chun hurried to remove the pot from the stove, "Ouch, it's so hot!"

“Be careful.” Granny Li helped to bring the bowl over and let Bao Chun pour out the medicine from the pot.

“Just by looking at it, she knew the medicine was hard to swallow. Just what kind of illness does Mister Huangfu suffer from?” Bao Chun saw that he had to drink this medicine three times a day with his meal and thought, was he really that sick?

Granny Li avoided Bao Chun’s question, “Go now Little Bao Chun, the medicine loses its properties if it gets cold.”

“Oh, okay, I’ll get going.”

Although Bao Chun was really curious about Huangfu’s illness, but getting him to drink this bowl of life-saving black liquid was more important than satisfying her own curiosity.

On her way delivering the medicine, she saw Nineteen bring in two girls she didn’t recognize. One of them was deathly pale, she walked in leaning almost entirely on the slightly older girl beside her. Violent coughs escaped from her thin bloodless lips, making people worry that she might cough out her internal organs.

Was there someone else here seeking treatment from Mister Huangfu?

Bao Chun remembered that one of the men kneeling outside the mansion from before told her that Huangfu will ask everyone that comes to him a question. Unable to resist her own curiosity, she slowly followed the three outside the study.

“That young girl seems to be in serious condition, Huangfu probably would agree to save her, right?” Bao Chun said to herself. After spending some time with him during the past few days, in her mind, she saw him as a kindhearted doctor, who will never cruelly refuse to help.

She stood outside the window, it just so happens that from here she could almost catch a glimpse of Huangfu sitting behind his curtains, as well as the look on the other three’s faces. If she lifts her head up to look over, she could see Huangfu’s face.

The look he had on was cruel and emotionless!

Bao Chun's hands shook with shock, a cold shiver ran up her spine.

No matter how much they begged and pleaded with him, Huangfu seems to only be interested in studying their pain. He sat behind the chiffon curtains, unyielding, his thin mocking lips finally broke the silence, "Why should I save her?"

The coldness in his voice froze the room, the simple question easily gave away his reluctance.

The frigid expression on his face was unfamiliar to Bao Chun, it didn't seem like him, it was more like the look that Nineteen always had

No, Nineteen had a look of indifference, but his ... his was a look of cruel heartlessness.

"Please! My sister is sick beyond cure, but she's only sixteen! Please Mister Godly Doctor! Have mercy and save her! Please!" The older girl knelt in front of him with almost her entire body on the ground, "This is all the money we have saved up, please doctor, have mercy and save her!"

In front of her was a bag of copper coins, they've worked hard to save these coins one by one.

"Give me a reason to save her." Huangfu's expression was cold and merciless, untouched by the sister's emotional pleas.

Bao Chun's fingers were white from clutching the bowl of medicine, but she couldn't look away from the stranger he had become. Was this stranger really the Huangfu she knew?

"Saving a life is the greatest re—"

"Enough! I'm not saving her." He hates nothing more than when people try to convince him by saying, "Saving a life is the greatest reward."^[1] He doesn't need that reward! He has better things to do!

The pair of sisters cried on each other's shoulders, just as Nineteen was about to kick them out, Bao Chun ran in from outside, stood in front of the white chiffon curtains, and faced Huangfu.

"Why won't you save her? Look at how she is begging you!" She questioned

Huangfu, as if the sisters kneeling there were her and Ruo Xia.

“I don’t want to, I’m not interested, I’m too lazy, are you happy now?” Huangfu raised his hand and opened up his fan from behind the curtains with a sharp click, the sound filled the room.

His voice was very calm, yet it was so chilling for Bao Chun to hear.

“I think that you can’t save her, you won’t save her, you don’t know how to save her, and you don’t have the confidence to save her!” Because she can’t see Huangfu’s face from behind the curtains she won’t be distracted by his smile again. Of course, she also won’t know how irritated he was at the moment. Her only goal was to convince him to save these two girls.

“Prodding me will do you no good Little Bao Chun.” Huangfu saw through her actions, immediately foiling her plan.

“If ... if you have the skills to save her, why won’t you do it?” Was she wrong about him? Was the kindhearted Huangfu that she knew just an illusion? Bao Chun couldn’t help it but yell out, “Then give me a reason for not saving her!”

Just because she’s usually so gentle doesn’t mean that she won’t get angry, especially when it came to matters of life and death. Since he likes to ask questions so much then she’ll do the same to him.

Ha! Using his own words against him, does this little girl have a death wish?

Behind the white curtains Huangfu propped his head up on his right hand and spoke slowly, “Was there a rule stating that everyone who knows about medicine must save people?”

“But you are a doctor”

“Who told you that I made a living treating patients? Who told you that I was a kindhearted doctor? I just so happened to know a little about medicine, I’m not trying to save the world or make lots of friends. What reason is there for me to save her?” Huangfu retaliated with words, each sentence more aggressive than the other.

Bao Chun was made speechless, she was always clumsy with her words, how could she possibly convince Huangfu?

“But they’ve knelt for three days outside”

“Did I beg them to kneel?” Huangfu sneered with a look of disdain. His happy, comfortable life was disrupted by these numerous people^[2] coming to him for help, he couldn’t get a moment’s peace. But he wasn’t complaining, so what right does she have to accuse him?

“Miss Bao Chun, it’s best that you don’t provoke The Master anymore.” Nineteen saw that Bao Chun still wanted to fight, so he held her back by the wrist, and shook his head.

“I just want for him to save her” Bao Chun’s face twisted with pain, the pain she took on from watching others suffer.

“The decision lies with The Master, it’s not up to you and I.” Nineteen has been around Huangfu for several years, he understood that when Huangfu doesn’t want to help, it doesn’t matter whether you’ve broken your legs from kneeling or cracked your skull from begging, his mind was made up and no one could change it.

“Well said.”

Huangfu walked out from behind the curtains, ignoring the surprised looks he got from the two girls seeking help, his gaze fell upon Bao Chun.

The only difference is, he wasn’t smiling.

Bao Chun felt like she was in the middle of a winter blizzard, the icy wind pierced her skin and chilled her bones.

Huangfu looks so ... terrifying without his smile!

As Huangfu walked towards Bao Chun she hurried in retreat, stepping back as he approached. All the courage she had when she was debating with him were gone.

“But, seeing that you really want me to help them, I will.” Huangfu’s lips curled upward, but there was no happiness in that smile.

Bao Chun didn’t really understand him, and was delighted, thinking that she had convinced Huangfu, she lifted her little face up, her clear, bright eyes met with his, these eyes she stared into housed too much hidden intentions she did

not understand.

Bao Chun's heart tightened, she watched as Huangfu moved his perfectly shaped lips and said word by word, "Little Bao Chun, I've decided to choose between this girl and your sister, if I save her I won't save your sister, if I save your sister, I won't save her. This time, it's up to you to decide, you can think it over and choose wisely." Then he took the bowl from Bao Chun's hands and drank the medicine in one go.

"How" How was she supposed to choose!?

The sisters kneeling on the floor looked at Bao Chun with pleading eyes, because they know it's up to her to decide whether Huangfu will save them.

"Miss ... please" The older sister mumbled quietly, so much hope and desperation were in those two words.

All of a sudden Bao Chun realized, Huangfu did this on purpose, he deliberately set her up to be stuck in this dilemma, he wanted her to take the blame for not saving the girl.

"No, don't make me choose" She looked at the strange yet familiar face, shaking her head with difficulty.

Huangfu smiled, his expression was that of cruelty. "If you won't choose then I will, I think I'll pick—"

"NO!" Bao Chun screamed without thinking, interrupting him before he could make a choice. She knew that no matter what his choice was, it won't put her at ease. She bit her lips, and after a long time she finally said, "I'll ... I'll choose"

Her gaze shifted and fell upon the two sisters, their faces morphed into her and Ruo Xia's. She was pleading for help while Ruo Xia battled with death, desperately trying to stay alive.

Just one word from her and it's decided, will she live? Or die?

Ruo Xia waited a long time for this day

They are just strangers

Ruo Xia is her sister!

They are

Huangfu put the empty bowl back in her hand and asked, "Your answer?"



Huangfu sat quietly in front of his desk, thinking back to moments ago, the look Bao Chun had on her face when she made her decision. [\[3\]](#)

She really is something special.

So she's especially foolish.

Isn't selfishness human nature? She went as far as to sacrifice her own sister to save a stranger's life, should she be considered as altruistic or idiotic?

If he was in Bao Chun's shoes and had to make the choice, he would choose to save his own sister without hesitation. After all, those two girls were only strangers, the only thing she'll get in return is a "thank you".

Not worth it. It's really not worth it.

"Nineteen." Huangfu called out.

"Yes Master?"

"If you were Little Bao Chun, would you save your sister, or those two strangers?"

"I would save my sister." Nineteen answered without hesitation.

"Isn't she odd?"

Poor Miss Bao Chun, being called odd by someone as strange as The Master. Nineteen thought to himself.

"Perhaps Miss Bao Chun thought the condition of those two other girls were much worse than that of her sister's, so she wanted Master to save them first. Afterwards, she can then ask Master to save her sister." This seems to be the only plausible explanation

But sadly she was wrong, Huangfu has never been a soft-hearted person.

"I said I would only save one of them, I won't change my mind. Can't blame me for killing her sister if she did it herself." Huangfu lightly tapped the edge of the

desk with his right index finger, this was a habit of his when he's thinking.

"Master, if you insist on doing this then it will kill Miss Bao Chun."

"Oh?"

"If Liu Ruo Xia misses her opportunity at being saved by Master because of this, then Miss Bao Chun will surely blame herself, and if her sister dies from this then do you think Miss Bao Chun can live with herself?" Nineteen has always been very observant, and can easily see through people. Especially Bao Chun, who was clear as water with her straightforward nature

Nineteen was right, Huangfu thought quietly. Someone as pure and kind as her would probably take all the blame for herself.

"But if Master doesn't care about Miss Bao Chun's life, then there is naturally no need to mind the nonsense that I just shared."

"Care about?" Nineteen, what are you implying? Huangfu suddenly laughed and question him. This guard of his is really getting more and more talkative.

"Miss Bao Chun is a person that people can easily take a liking to." Nineteen didn't give a straight answer.

"Including me?"

"I do not know."

"Great, you do not know." Huangfu couldn't tell either, even he himself couldn't put a finger on the strange feelings he has towards Bao Chun.

Perhaps when it comes to Bao Chun, he was willing to indulge her more and pay more attention to her, but does that mean anything?

Has he fallen for her? Or was this just a passing fancy?

He doesn't realize it himself, but as his personal guard, Nineteen has given him enough hints. Is it possible that he expresses more emotions than he knew? Perhaps it's not a good thing for him to care too deeply for someone.

Huangfu combed his loose silver hair with his fingers, his frustration was rarely seen displayed so outwardly. "Nineteen, go and tell that What's the name of Bao Chun's sister again?"

“Liu Ruo Xia.” Nineteen was not at all surprised that his master didn’t remember Liu Ruo Xia’s name.

“Right, tell her about everything that happened today.” Huangfu looked up, his usual self again.

“Master, do you mean that you want Liu Ruo Xia to find out that Miss Bao Chun has sacrificed her to save another?” Nineteen was slightly confused, although he wasn’t sure about Liu Ruo Xia’s personality, but judging from how spoiled and entitled she seemed to be when she was with Bao Chun, it’s not hard to guess that there will surely be an explosive family feud between the two.

“Correct.” Huangfu’s gaze shifted downwards.

Bao Chun’s kind and gentle face overlapped with that of another’s from his memory, both universally loved all living things, both so selfless ... and both were so stupid.

“The people I hate the most are kind, selfless idiots, doing this will only put me off.” As if to explain his own actions, Huangfu closed his clear, bright eyes, lowered his voice and uttered to himself. “Let me see how selfish you can be, Bao Chun.”



From the farthest room of the guest quarters in the Huangfu mansion, came the shrill voice of a girl screaming and yelling, along with the sound of objects hitting the ground.

Ever since she “unintentionally” heard the news from Nineteen, she has been in a raging fit.

“Is your brain broken, or have you gone crazy?” Every curse she uttered as well as every item she threw were all directed at Bao Chun, attacking her straight on, not caring if they hit Bao Chun. “We came here to seek treatment! But you! You chose to save strangers over me! Bravo Liu Bao Chun, bravo!”

“Ruo Xia, don’t be so angry ... be careful with your body” Bao Chun worried about Ruo Xia’s health as she dodged the items that flew towards her.

“Be careful? I think you’d rather see me die!” Ruo Xia’s left hand clutched at

her chest as her right hand attacked Bao Chun.”

“No I don’t, it’s not like—”

“No!?” Ruo Xia finished throwing all the things on top of the drawer yet still felt angry, she saw the tea set on top of the table and in the heat of the moment, threw it at Bao Chun’s head.

Before Bao Chun could react, the ceramic cup hit her on the forehead, blood was visible from under her bangs.

“You think I don’t know? You’d rather save a stranger than your own sister! How can you be so vicious! Qiu Yue always said that you gave away everything to other people, and I finally see it now, you can even give away your sister’s life!”

“I won’t let you die” Bao Chun had no way of refuting, she could only quietly comfort Ruo Xia.

“Humph! If the Godly Doctor won’t save me, what makes you think you can? Liu Bao Chun, even if I die and become a ghost I won’t forgive you” Ruo Xia screamed those harsh words then turned away from her sister. This devastated Bao Chun.

“I’m sorry ... I just felt so bad for them” The blood from her forehead dripped down and into her eyes, she slowly wiped it away with her sleeve.

“You always cared more about other people than your family. Good intentions? Don’t give me that crap!”

“Don’t be so angry, I’ll go and beg Mister Huangfu again”

Ruo Xia laid down on the wooden bed with her back to Bao Chun and refused to acknowledge her.

Bao Chun sighed, looked at Ruo Xia’s back, then slowly walked out of the room

The moonlight fell on her lonely figure, she has to admit, she did something wrong. She should have been more selfish, at least for the sake of her family

Far in the distance she could see the light in Huangfu’s study, recalling the day’s events, she remembers his face, how he looked at her with cruel, unfeeling eyes, asked her to make a painful choice with indifference, that unfamiliar face, that beautiful yet unfamiliar face

She couldn't bring herself to walk forward, she doesn't have any more courage to ask him again.

Because he had already given her an opportunity, but she didn't take it. She has no right to be angry with him

With her back against the cold marble column, she slid down, burying her head between her knees, ignoring, as her wound stained her white skirt.

"Why? Didn't she keep on telling herself that she needs to think about her family more? Liu Bao Chun, you idiot!" She mumbled in self-blame.

If only she was the one who was sick instead of Ruo Xia, that would make everything better. It wouldn't matter whether Huangfu agrees to save her, she wouldn't have any fears or complaints. Sigh

All of a sudden, a gown draped over her head.

Bao Chun looked up, it was the face that she knew so well, the face that she would see in her dreams, that face was now inches from hers.

Huangfu flashed his signature smile, as if what happened that afternoon was all but a dream. [\[4\]](#)

"Why are you sitting here all alone? You'll catch a cold." He asked softly, his gentle tone was a far cry from this afternoon's cruelty.

"Your forehead, it's bleeding." Huangfu lifted up her chin and examined her wound. "It'll be a shame if this left a scar on that little face of yours. Come, let me tend to that wound for you."

Huangfu tried to pull her up, but Bao Chun sat on the ground, unbudging.

"What's wrong?" Huangfu's face looked harmless, he sat down next to her on the ground and naturally put his right arm around her shoulders.

Hum, it actually feels pretty good, her shoulders were a little thin but it wasn't boney.

"Are you still mad at me for what happened this afternoon?" Huangfu laughed and asked her without an ounce of guilt in his voice.

Bao Chun hung her head low. She didn't have the right to be mad at him, she's

just wallowing in self-hatred.

“You aren’t talking, so that means you are still angry?” Huangfu asked softly.

“No.”

“So why are you so depressed? You should be really happy! You saved a life, didn’t you? That little girl is probably hopping around right now, happily humming a cheery tune.” Perhaps Huangfu was just casually mentioning it, or perhaps he was deliberately trying to make her feel guilty.

Bao Chun didn’t answer, she just looked at him. He saw his reflection in her bright eyes, but they lacked her usual lively spirit.

He patted Bao Chun on the head, letting her lean against his shoulder. Bao Chun let him pull her into an embrace without resisting, taking in his scent. He smelled faintly of medicinal herbs.

“Did you get into a fight with your sister? The wound on your forehead, did your sister do this?” Although it was he who instructed Nineteen to tell Liu Ruo Xia what Bao Chun did, but he didn’t expect that girl to go so far and physically hurt Bao Chun like this.

“My wound is nothing in comparison to how much I’ve hurt her She must be so disappointed in me, I’m a terrible older sister” Bao Chun felt so powerless, but she couldn’t cry any tears.

If I was your sister, I would’ve probably snapped your neck. Huangfu thought.

Being next to him and feeling the heat from his body, the Huangfu she sees right now was the Huangfu she knew so well, the one that was gentle and caring. But where is that cruel and ruthless mask he wore? Which is the real him? Bao Chun was confused and her wound was aching with pain, the more she thought about him the more it hurt.

“Huangfu, why did you become a doctor?” She asked him, when her real question was, “Why did you become a doctor and refuse to save people?”

“I never thought of myself as a doctor. It was by mere chance that I studied medicine.” Huangfu answered, gritting his teeth on the last sentence. He turned to Bao Chun’s depressed face, “You actually wanted to ask me how I was able to

be so cruel and refuse all the people that come to me for help, right?"

Bao Chun looked him in the eye and nodded in honesty.

"It's simple, because I'm a selfish, selfishman." Huangfu pointed to his heart and smiled contentedly. "If saving that girl today made me happy then I would have saved her, but saving people is a hassle to me, so why make it difficult for myself?"

"But everyone has compassion"

"Wrong. Most people have compassion, but I am not like most people." Huangfu held her hand in his and studied it. Her hand was almost half his size, but it didn't have the fair and soft skin a girl's hand should have. Thick callouses formed on her palms from years of hard work, while brutal rays of the sun wreaked havoc on the back of her hands.

"I don't understand you" Bao Chun muttered under her breath. He spoke so confidently, smiled so harmlessly, yet underneath that face was a selfish soul that she cannot agree with.

Huangfu held her hand and rubbed it against his cheek. Having heard the four words muttered by Bao Chun he chuckled and said, "Do you want to understand me?"

I do. But it's too hard. A voice inside Bao Chun's head answered.

"Am I an idiot?" Bao Chun suddenly changed the topic and quietly asked.

"Only a little." It's pretty good that you are self-aware.

"I ... I want to become more selfish"

"Oh, really?" Huangfu raised an eyebrow. She's finally getting it now, a worthy student indeed. [\[5\]](#)

Bao Chun spoke softly and the words flowed out of her, "I knew it gets especially cold during the night, and that cotton blanket can keep Papa and Qiu Yue warmer, but Aunty Chen's house burned down, their family of six was shivering in the haystacks. It took me so long to find two withered stalks of wild herbs, that was our only food, it could have lasted us several days. But Uncle Li begged me as he held on to Xia Cui, the girl was already dead, dead people didn't

need food” She didn’t care whether or not Huangfu understood what she was talking about, with her head on his shoulder, she started to pour her heart out to him, telling him all the things she regrets doing.

“I didn’t know what my family would eat after I gave away the food to Uncle Li, I didn’t know when our next meal would be My youngest sister Dong Xue, she starved to death on a cold winter night when she was eight. Papa said that when people starve to death, they’ll stay a hungry ghost in the underworld,^[6] unable to feel full no matter how much they eat” Bao Chun’s eyes swelled with tears, she doesn’t want Dong Xue to be a poor, hungry ghost, eternally suffering from starvation. But her family has always lived hand-to-mouth, they were lucky to be able to offer her some fruits, what way was there for them to prepare a generous feast of offerings^[7] to compensate poor dead Dong Xue.

She started whimpering, her lips quivered as if wanting to say more.

She was drowning in regret and self-blame

Huangfu’s heart tingled with inexplicable sorrow and grief.

He knew that Bao Chun was an overly nice person, but he didn’t know it was to this extent.

He doesn’t like seeing Bao Chun always putting others before herself, her emotions revolving around the experiences of others.

Happy because someone else was saved, depressed because of someone else’s suffering. But where did she put herself? She could give up Liu Ruo Xia’s chance of being treated. She could also give her own life to save Liu Ruo Xia. He doesn’t know why, but it doesn’t matter who it is, others have always been more important than herself. The only thing he knew for certain was that the first thing she sacrifices was always herself, Liu Bao Chun.

After her family, after everyone else in the world, was a tiny little space she allowed for herself. But that space was as tiny as a grain of sand. She cherished others, but others did not necessarily cherish her.

As for him, he only wanted her to be a little selfish, to care more about herself, and to protect herself a bit more.

“It’s alright, it’s okay, what’s done is done, don’t think about it anymore.”

Huangfu patted her on the back, and stopped her from thinking about past misfortunes.

Bao Chun's suffering was due to all the weight she has on her shoulders, she's reluctant to put them down but they're also unbearably heavy. And he, will take those weights off from her thin, fragile shoulders one by one.

"Being selfish is the easiest thing in the world." Huangfu lifted up Bao Chun's tear-stained face, he couldn't help it but to kiss away those pearl-like drops of tears. "Tomorrow, I'll personally teach you that selfishness, is human nature."

Translator's Notes:

Oh man @_@ this was the longest chapter yet! Took a bit longer but here it is. Let's just say a certain someone isn't being very likeable in this chapter.

Lots of Chinese lessons in the footnotes today, have fun reading if you are interested.

This certain isn't the happiest chapter in the book. I got a little emotional as I was doing the translation, I have some very strong feelings towards starving kids. I've always made sure that I don't waste food or things in general, since there are actual children and adults out there in the world that live in starvation and have very little to keep them comfortable. Let's all be more aware in our daily lives. Be the change you want to see in the world, right Mr.Gandhi? See you all in the next chapter!

*As always, please like, comment, and follow if you've enjoyed reading!~ Ciao!
<3*

1 Original words here being 救人一命, 胜造七级浮屠 jiù rén yī mìng, shèng zào qī jí fú tú, which translates to "there is greater merit in saving a single life than in building a seven-story Buddhist stupa". This get a little bit into religion, while Buddhism did not originate in China it was and still is a HUGELY popular religion in China. Long story short, in Buddhist beliefs there is something called 功德, which translates to merits and virtues, you do good deeds to "save up" these virtues, this will influence either your current life or your after you reincarnate (reborn after death). Building a seven-story Buddhist stupa or 浮屠 earns you a lot of merits and virtue, but it use up a lot of your money, manpower, and time.

But saving a human life is more important than all of that, hint hint, life is more precious than anything else in the world! This line is usually used to convince people to save a life or when complimenting a person for saving a life. Here is a 浮屠 → [LINK](#) you don't get the same structures if you search for Buddhist stupa or Buddhist tower. If you are reading this and I have made a mistake, please correct me if I am wrong in explaining your religion. ←

2 Original words here being 过江之鲫 guò jiāng zhī jì, this literally translates to “carp crossing the river”. This means numerous and chaotic. The story behind this four-character idiom was that the Eastern Jin Dynasty was built in the south of the Yangtze River, influential and privileged family of scholar-officials from the North all came to the South. People back said that “more well known individuals crossed the river than carp”. C-A-R-P not C-R-A-P! ←

3 Original words here being 壮士断腕 zhuàng shì duàn wàn, this literally translates to warrior cutting off his hand at the wrist, it can also be written as 壮士解腕 zhuàng shì jiě wàn, with the same meaning. This was basically the story of a warrior who got bitten by a venomous snake (venomous not poisonous, venomous toxins are injected, while poisonous toxins are delivered through either ingesting it or through touch) to stop the toxin from spreading, he cuts off his own hand at the wrist. This is used as a metaphor for when people do things or are faced with a decision, they act quickly without hesitation. In a “cut your losses early” kind of way. ←

4 Original words here being 南柯一梦 nán kē yī mèng, the story behind this four-character idiom came from a story about a man during the Tang Dynasty who had a dream that he became the new governor in this kingdom, but when he woke up he realized that it was all a dream and the kingdom he dreamt of was the ant hill beneath the large ash tree. This was later used as a metaphor for happy illusions and all those good stuff. Similar idioms are 黄粱一梦 huáng liáng yī mèng OR 黄粱美梦 huáng liáng měi mèng. I won't bore you with the explanations. ←

5 Original words here being 孺子可教 rú zǐ kě jiào, which means “the young man is worthy to be taught”. The story behind this is that of 张良's. Zhang Liang was a famous strategist and statesman in the early Western Han dynasty. He met an old man when he was young and the old man thought that Zhang Liang could be taught, so he gave Zhang Liang a book that helped him to become an advisor to

the first emperor of the Han Dynasty. Read the story here —>[LINK](#) and just search for the term “shoe”, trust me. An antonym for 孺子可教 is 朽木不雕 xiǔ mù bù diāo, meaning one cannot carve a rotten piece of wood.↵

6 To learn more about 饿死鬼 or hungry ghost please click the link here —>[LINK](#) it’s a little different from what Bao Chun’s papa said, but his version is also well known in China.↵

7 This is what a feast of offerings looks like —>[LINK](#)↵

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Hell King Sect Series/Yan Wang Sect Series

By: Jue Ming 决明

It’s too easy to be selfish

Bao Chun stood before the main hall, forcing herself to ignore the pleading eyes of the people kneeling there, begging for help.

She kept on telling herself, this is the last chance that Huangfu is giving her, if she is selfish then there is hope for Ruo Xia, and they can finally reunite with Papa.

Unlike before, today, Huangfu was not sitting behind the white curtains. Instead, he sat leisurely behind the desk with his head propped up on his hand, smiling away. The look in his eyes was a reminder to Bao Chun that their lesson of the day was “selfishness”.

Different people seeking help, same place, same dilemma, same decision, and the same choice for her to make.

Perhaps she stayed silent for too long, Huangfu walked over to her and breathed into her ear, “He’s just a stranger, is he really more important than your sister? All you have to say is ‘I want to save my sister’, then leave without turning back, and Ruo Xia is saved.” His voice was a low whisper, heard only between the two of them.

Bao Chun hung her head, afraid of the looks she was getting, Huangfu stood beside her, distracting her from looking at the fifteen-year-old boy kneeling before them, waiting for Huangfu to save him.

That boy ... he's only fifteen! He has his whole life ahead of him

"What's wrong?" Huangfu ran his finger across her pale lips, half forcing her to speak up and choose.

Bao Chun looked down. No, she can't think about others anymore, even though that sickly, frail boy was only fifteen

She took a deep breath as she muttered a reply, "I ... I want to save my sister."

"I can't hear you." He purposely spoke in a loud voice, so everyone there could hear him.

"I" Bao Chun saw the look in the boy's eyes and closed her own in avoidance, "I want to save my sister." She needs to be persistent, she needs to save Ruo Xia.

"Very well. Nineteen, show our guest out!" Huangfu smiled contentedly and closed his fan.

"NO! Godly Doctor! Don't listen to that woman! Save me doctor! Please! Save me!" Unwilling to give up, the boy clung to Huangfu's right leg and pleaded. He glared at Bao Chun resentfully, his stare piercing through her.

"Nineteen!" Huangfu sighed slightly, Nineteen immediately stepped forward and held the boy back by his arm.

"You selfish broad! How can you be this selfish! You'll die a horrible death! You selfish b—" The boy was about to run at Bao Chun, Nineteen saw it and immediately threw him out the door.

Having been denied treatment, the boy stood outside the front entrance, and continued to curse Huangfu and Bao Chun. Huangfu still sat there leisurely with a look of contentment, Bao Chun's face however, drained of all colour.

"See, being selfish is as easy as eating and sleeping." Huangfu lightly patted her cheeks, like rewarding a pet.

My heart feels so heavy

Bao Chun can't remember that boy's face anymore, but those resentful eyes were deeply ingrained in her mind. The thought coiled itself around Bao Chun like a boa constrictor around its prey, tightening, squeezing and compressing.

"Yeah ... being selfish, is so easy" Bao Chun muttered to herself. She did it, didn't she? It's so simple, she said one sentence and she saved Ruo Xia's life

One sentence was enough to decide a person's fate.

Bao Chun left the main hall like a wandering ghost, the same beautiful scenery in front of her, now, unseen by her haggard eyes.

The lake was still the same shade of dark green, her reflection in the water was still clearly visible.

Familiar eyes, familiar nose, familiar lips

Upon seeing her own reflection, Bao Chun's stomach churned, she knelt by the lake side and started to throw up.



Ever since that day, Bao Chun had been unable to keep any food down. Everything she ate, she would instinctively throw up, and when there was no more food in her stomach, she would throw up bile. It was as if she was going to throw up all the organs in her body.

She does get hungry and wants to eat food, but she can't hold back the nausea and vomiting.

Within days, Bao Chun's rounded face became frighteningly thin, her conditions were worse off than Ruo Xia's.

She laid in bed weakly, her body feeling light as air.

Granny Li worried about her everyday, and tried her best to cook her dishes that stimulated the appetite. She tried making medicinal cuisines, [\[1\]](#)supplementary cuisines, [\[2\]](#) as well as desserts. Unfortunately, it still couldn't do much to improve Bao Chun's terrible condition.

"Granny made you some medicinal chicken stew, no matter what, you should eat some."

“Thank you, I’m so hungry.” Bao Chun took the bowl of delicious aromatic soup and sipped it with a smile.

Granny Li carefully studied Bao Chun’s reactions, seeing how Bao Chun happily enjoyed the soup, she thought the poor girl was probably alright now.

Suddenly, Bao Chun covered her mouth, unable to bear the pain and discomfort in her stomach, and once again, threw up all the medicinal stew she drank.

It was as if her body was punishing her, the more food she ate, the worse the vomiting became.

“Little Bao Chun!” Granny Li hurried over to pat her on the back and ease her breathing.

After a few more violent coughs, Bao Chun wiped away her tears and comforted Granny Li, “I’m fine now!!”

“You call this fine? You can’t keep going like this, I’m asking The Master to come and take a look!” Forgetting about the messy state the kitchen was in, Granny Li hurried to find Huangfu.

“So bitter, I feel terrible”

Bao Chun closed her eyes and let her body lay limp on the bed, in spite of how tired she was, she couldn’t fall asleep no matter what.

Through her tightly shut eyes, she could make out black shadows moving about, transforming into numerous unfamiliar faces. They were whispering, arguing, and crying beside her ears, making it impossible for her to fall asleep.

Then she heard Huangfu’s voice floating beside her, he lightly pressed his hand on her wrist to assess her pulse. “How long has she been like this for?”

“Four or five days.”

“She’s been like this for five days and none of you have thought to let me know?” Huangfu’s expression darkened, and he narrowed his eyes, a sign that he was about to get angry.

“I just thought that Little Bao Chun had an upset stomach, but her conditions got worse and worse. The past few days she’s only had some water to drink,

anything else she eats, she'd throw up."

"Little Bao Chun?" Huangfu patted Bao Chun's sickly pale face, she looked terrible. "Come on, wake up, don't sleep anymore."

"I wasn't sleeping" Bao Chun replied, she was so tired that she couldn't even open her eyes.

"Why can't you eat anything?"

"I don't know ... I'm so hungry ... but I'm afraid to eat Once I eat, I'd throw up, and I'll feel even worse" Bao Chun answered feebly.

"How long have you gone without sleep?" From assessing her pulse, he knew that she was severely sleep deprived.

"Ever since the day I started to throw up I'm so sleepy, but I can't fall asleep" Bao Chun struggled to open her eyes, and looked at Huangfu with worry.

Huangfu furrowed his brows, and wanted to know further about her condition. However, nothing seems to be out of the ordinary, he pressed his palm against her forehead, but her temperature was normal.

"Have I contracted the strange disease? Am I going to die?" She was in so much pain, so hungry, and so tired

"Nonsense!" Huangfu stopped her from drivelling on. Could it be that there was another illness in the world that was even harder to treat than the poison in his body?

Nineteen, who stood silent behind Huangfu the entire time, approached, after pondering for quite a while and whispered into Huangfu's ear.

Huangfu looked at Nineteen, stunned, "Is that even possible!?"

"Why don't you try it, Master?"

Huangfu stared at Bao Chun's emaciated features, and dismissed the two others, "Leave us."

Granny Li still wanted to stay and help, but Nineteen pushed her lightly on the back, and gave her a look that said it was going to be alright.

Finally, they were alone in the room, Huangfu sat by the edge of the bed, his

hands still cupping Bao Chun's wrist, her small hand shivered underneath his palms.

"Little Bao Chun, is ... this your way of protesting to me, for forcing you to make that selfish decision the other day?" Huangfu leaned in towards her face, carefully studying her reaction.

Upon mentioning her selfish decision, Bao Chun felt a wave of discomfort, running from her stomach to her throat, she hurried to cover her lips when she started retching.

Seeing Bao Chun's reaction, Huangfu confirmed Nineteen's guess.

Just because he jokingly said, "Being selfish is as easy as eating and sleeping" she was now unable to eat or sleep? The selfishness that seemed so easy for him, almost killed her?

He couldn't make sense of it, because he was selfish, selfish and self-centred, he doesn't care about other people's emotions, so of course he won't feel any guilt.

But Bao Chun was the opposite, foolish, but kind.

After Bao Chun felt slightly better, she turned towards Huangfu, his deep eyes met with hers.

Huangfu lifted her up from the bed, she protested weakly, "Where are you taking me?"

"To sleep." He said as he left the room, making his way towards the back of the hill.

"But, shouldn't people sleep in rooms?" Bao Chun asked, seeing how they were getting farther and farther away from the house.

"I'm taking you to paradise." Huangfu grinned, "And let you sleep comfortably in the clouds."

His smile gave her a sense of comfort and reassurance she has never felt before. Closing her sleepy eyes, she laid her head on his shoulder trustingly. As he walked, she felt as if her wandering mind and spirit also lay firmly in his embrace.

Once they arrived, Bao Chun was greeted with a faint and exotic fragrance, the soft, warm winds pleasantly caressed her face. Bao Chun opened her eyes slowly, the scenery she was met with took her breath away.

Flowerbeds covered the hilltop, full of tiny purple flowers swaying in the wind, like exquisite Hunan embroidery^[3] made on the soil, making the endless view in sight all the more lively.

Bao Chun inhaled deeply, desperately trying to take in more of the indescribable sweet scent. "It's so beautiful here." She gasped in awe.

Huangfu gave a slight smile, and said nothing. He gently placed her at the centre of the flowerbed, ignoring all the flower stems being crushed.

"It smells so great ... what kind of flower are these?" Bao Chun held up a tiny purple flower to her nose with both her hands, and let the faint unique fragrance of the flowers surround her.

"Lavender, aids sleep." Huangfu gave her a simple explanation, "Let's pick some later to make tea."

"You can drink it?"

"Every flower and shrub I plant is edible." The difference is whether or not it will kill you.

"It's so comfortable" Bao Chun closed her eyes, enjoying the rare feeling of relaxation. She started to feel a wave of sleepiness wash over her, the soft winds caressing her face, the air, cool and refreshing.

Huangfu was right, it feels like she's among the fluffy clouds.

"Open your mouth." Huangfu pinched her cheeks gently.

Bao Chun looked at him through half-squinted eyes, Huangfu picked up a piece of green leaf and placed it between her lips, Bao Chun held the front portion of the leaf in her mouth without suspicion.

"Don't swallow it, just keep it in your mouth."

"It's a cool, bitter, and tastes so grassy" She said, mumbling her words.

"Mint, induces appetite." Huangfu removed his outer gown and placed it over

her, lying on his side beside her, his long arm around her shoulders, firmly holding her in his embrace, enjoying the feeling of having her in his arm.

“I’m already so hungry, and with this leaf in my mouth, I’m even more hungry” Bao Chun was curiously surprised that this little leaf in her mouth did not make her throw up.

She took a bit more of the mint leaf into her mouth. Haha, she feels like a cow eating grass!

Huangfu watched as she moved her lips and tongue, her pink lips against the captivating shade of green.

If only he could take the place of that leaf, the thought of being kissed by her lips awakened a desire deep within his heart.

He propped himself over her, blocking her sight of the white clouds in the blue sky.

Bao Chun was confused by his actions, and even more perplexed by the strange look in his eyes. As she was about to open her mouth and ask him, her unspoken words, along with the mint leaf was stolen by his lips.

She tasted the coolness of the mint leaf as well as the scent of medicinal herbs on him, his scorching breath felt strange on her, and the Huangfu before her eyes was so very close.

She was so hungry

Her small hands unknowingly slipped around his neck, and laced her fingers through his silvery strands.

His agile tongue moved the mint leaf out of the way and into his own mouth, then continued to ravage her mouth, kissing her deeply. Only backing off slightly when the person beneath him began gasping for air.

Although Bao Chun didn’t understand the meaning behind his actions, but the intimate gesture and closeness between them still made her blush. She naively thought that Huangfu invading her mouth with his tongue, was simply trying to steal the mint leaf from her mouth.

“I’m so hungry, don’t steal my mint leaf ”

“I’m also very hungry, I don’t mind letting you eat to your heart’s content.” There was a duality in the meaning of Huangfu’s reply, however, Bao Chun was too inexperienced and innocent to understand his intentions.

“I also really want to go to sleep” Bao Chun comfortably put her arms around Huangfu’s waist, finding a suitable position, then closed her eyes, feeling perfectly satisfied.

“Do you want to eat first or sleep first?” He kissed her earlobe longingly.

“No more eating ... I’ll throw up again, it’s really painful ...” Bao Chun tucked her head into her shoulders, avoiding Huangfu’s lips.

Huangfu stopped what he was doing. He knew that unless he solves the problem that’s at the root of it all, she will probably never be able to eat or sleep, because she blames herself so easily.

Huangfu brushed aside the hair on her forehead, and kissed the fresh scar that had formed.

“Tomorrow, I’ll have Nineteen track down and bring back that boy, the one that came to me for help.” He spoke softly.

Bao Chun opened her eyes, looking puzzled, as if silently asking him a question.

“I’ll save him.” Huangfu placed another kiss between her brows. For her, he’s willing to be unselfish for once.

“Really? You’re willing to save him?” Bao Chun asked in a tiny uncertain voice.

“I can lie to anyone, but I won’t lie to you.” Huangfu gave her a mischievous smile, and his deep eyes softened.

“Thank you, you are so great.” Bao Chun smiled. It seems that he was back to being the gentle and kind Huangfu she knew.

Perhaps it was because Huangfu rid her heart of all the guilt she was feeling, with her mind at peace, Bao Chun’s tired eyes began to feel heavy. But Bao Chun wanted to enjoy this rare moment alone with Huangfu, so she fought the urge to sleep, forcing her eyes to stay open.

“Don’t force yourself, you can’t even keep your eyes open anymore. Go to sleep.” Huangfu covered her eyes with his right hand, forcing her to close them

and rest.

“Then, I’ll sleep, just for a little while” Bao Chun pulled Huangfu’s gown over her, and soon gave in to the sandman’s spell and fell fast asleep.

Looking at Bao Chun’s innocent sleeping face, Huangfu suddenly felt that perhaps saving people isn’t such a bad thing.



Several days ago, Huangfu brought her to the lavender garden at the back of the hill where she slept like a baby. She wasn’t even aware when Huangfu carried her back down. Ever since that day, sleep has taken up most of her time.

Perhaps the lavender’s sleep inducing properties was too effective

Sitting on the short kitchen stool, Bao Chun rubbed her sleepy eyes, trying to stay awake. However, a few moments later, her eyelids were eager to meet up once again.

“Dozing off again?” while busy with her duties, Granny Li still didn’t forget to wake Bao Chun up, fearing the pot of rare and precious medicine on the stove will be over-boiled by the inattentive Bao Chun.

As if by reflex, Bao Chun waved the bamboo fan she held in her right hand, her mind desperately trying to fight the urge to sleep. Her head hung so low it almost touched the ground.

“You’ve slept for three whole days now, how come you still look so terribly tired?” Granny Li stopped what she was doing, and squatted down in front of her, patting Bao Chun’s cheeks lightly to wake her up.

“I haven’t been sleeping enough” Bao Chun let out a big yawn, and stood up to stretch her body.

“Don’t fall asleep again. Are you hungry?” Granny Li went back to the bamboo steamer and opened the lid, a sudden burst of delicious aroma filled the room.

“Yes, I’m hungry, I’m hungry!” Bao Chun’s eyes lit up, and ran to Granny Li’s side, “Is there anything to eat?”

Ever since that day when she returned from the hillside, her stomach seems to be making up for the lost meals. Her appetite became insatiable, often asking for

snacks and desserts immediately after finishing a meal.

“Yes, I’ve made Chilled Cakes^[4] and Eight Treasure Congee.^[5] The Chilled Cakes need to be iced first to taste good, do you want to have some congee first?” Granny Li took a plate of glistening green desert, and put it aside.

“They look so delicious.” What flavour are these cakes?

“They are mint flavoured Chilled Cakes. The Master suddenly mentioned he wants to eat these, you’ve never had them before, right?”

MINT!

A loud boom went off in Bao Chun’s head, her cheeks suddenly flushed, the memory surged forth, like water from an opened dam.

That day, she could almost feel the faint taste of mint in her mouth. That day, Huangfu was so close up against her, close enough for her to count his lashes, close enough to see the clear colours of his eyes, and close enough to feel the heat from his lips

“Little Bao Chun? Little Bao Chun?” The sound of Granny Li’s calls finally reached the blushing and dazed Bao Chun, Granny smiled, gave her a puzzled look and asked, “Why are you smiling in such a silly way?”

“NOTHING! I was just saying that Huang ... umm, I mean mint tastes really good, I, I like the taste of mint.”

She almost said Huangfu instead of mint, she definitely needs more sleep.

“Really? You’ve had other foods made with mint? How was it made?” Granny Li has always been an excellent cook, able to make a variety of different dishes with medicinal herbs, satisfying Huangfu’s picky appetite. Because of this, she spends a lot of time experimenting with new and unique ways of cooking. Upon hearing that Bao Chun has tasted another dish made with mint, she was curious to ask whether she knew of some new and unique cooking methods.

“NO, no it wasn’t cooked Raw, I ate it raw” Bao Chun shook her head vigorously, her glowing red cheeks made Granny Li stare at her in confusion.

“Hum, not a lot of people eat raw mint. Well, come on over and have some congee.” Granny Li put the Eight Treasure Congee on the table and scooped a

nice full bowl of it for Bao Chun.

Bao Chun thanked Granny Li, but her eyes kept wandering over to the Chilled Mint Cakes.

I really miss the taste of mint

I really miss the kind and gentle look on Huangfu's face that day

"I really miss it" Bao Chun couldn't help it but to speak out her thoughts.

"What do you miss? Oh, there's Eight Treasure Congee?" Smelling the aroma of food, Huangfu came into the kitchen. He saw Bao Chun sitting at the table with blushing cheeks and the bowl in her hands, as if the Eight Treasure Congee in her hands were some sort of real precious treasure.

"Master." Granny Li quickly scooped another bowl for Huangfu, but it seems he was only interested in Bao Chun's bowl of congee. As Bao Chun was about to scoop a spoon-full of congee into her mouth, she was interrupted halfway.

Bao Chun was at first dazed by this, and stared dumbfoundedly at Huangfu for quite a while, only to return to herself again when Huangfu stole another bite of congee from her.

"Don't steal my congee!" Bao Chun shouted, holding on to her bowl.

"It's just a bowl of Eight Treasure Congee, not real treasure. Listen to you muttering 'I really miss it' with your blushing red cheeks, who knows what you are thinking about." Huangfu jokingly laughed at her, tapping her lightly between the brows with the handle of his fan.

"How come you are here?" From what she remembers, Huangfu has never set foot in the kitchen.

"My little medicine-boiler took so long just to cook some medicine, if I still don't get my medicine I think I might just die. So I have to personally come to the kitchen, and see if my little medicine-boiler was slacking off." As Huangfu said the last two words, he pinched Bao Chun on the tip of her nose, moving her head from left to right.

"Ouch! It hurts, ouch ... let go! Huangfu!" Bao Chun shook her head, and tried to free herself from Huangfu's evil clutching fingers.

“Master, if you keep playing, Little Bao Chun’s going to asphyxiate.” Granny Li laughed and tried to help Bao Chun.

“If she dies I’ll save her.” Huangfu smiled, finally letting go of Bao Chun’s little red nose. Bao Chun unceremoniously rolled her eyes at Huangfu.

“Master, Little Bao Chun has already finished cooking your medicine.” Granny Li respectfully presented Huangfu with the bowl of medicine, “This is the last dose of the month.”

Huangfu hummed slightly, acknowledging what she has said. Then took the bowl of unbearably bitter black liquid and drank it in one go, without so much as a frown.

“That medicine’s really bitter ...” While boiling the medicine, Bao Chun secretly took a sip to try, and the only word she could use to describe it was bitter. Now, seeing how Huangfu was able to drink the medicine without flinching, she was pretty impressed.

“You took a sip of this?” Huangfu raised an eyebrow, and without her realizing, put his right hand on her wrist to assess her pulse, secretly diagnosing her.

“Only a tiny sip ... then I was too afraid to! Because it was really terrible tasting!” Bao Chun saw that Huangfu’s face flashed a hint of displeasure and quickly explained while waving her hands in the air.

Huangfu’s hand left her wrist and took a small jade bottle out from his gown, “Don’t drink unknown medicines, be careful, or they might kill you.” His tone was so calm that the anger was barely discernible. Then, he poured out a small dark red pill.

The medicine he was drinking used more than ten types of deadly toxic plants as guiding herbs, [6] with the purpose of counteracting and neutralizing the toxins that were already present in his system. A healthy person can die from one sip of it, it was lucky that Bao Chun didn’t drink much and he discovered it early.

“What’s that?”

“A peanut.” Huangfu was too lazy to explain to her, so he casually made something up.

“Liar!” Bao Chun refuted, her mouth opened to the perfect size.

Huangfu threw the pill into her mouth with accuracy, and with a light chuckle, he said, “bullseye!”

Although Bao Chun was feeling suspicious, but based on her trust in Huangfu she obediently swallowed the pill.

“Good girl.” Huangfu patted her on the head, and sat down on the empty seat beside Bao Chun, eating his congee.

Bao Chun wolfed down two bites of congee, and drank two large bowls of tea, trying to rid her mouth of the bitter taste from the pill, then went back to talking to Huangfu, who seems to be in a pretty good mood.

“Huangfu, do you have time after this?”

“I have time for pleasure, but not business.” Huangfu answered her, knowing Bao Chun was probably going to ask him to treat Liu Ruo Xia again.

“You said you were going to save my sister.”

“Yes, another day, another time.”

“But you’ve been saying another day for days now, it’s already been several days! Are you trying to drag this on forever!?” Bao Chun pouted, she wasn’t happy with Huangfu and was starting to lose trust in him.

“So clever.” Huangfu gave a fake laugh and clapped his hands, “It’s only been a short few days, and Little Bao Chun has already figured me out, good job, excellent work!”

“No way! If you have time today, you have to go and take a look at Ruo Xia.” Bao Chun was bent on making him keep his promise. They’ve been here for almost a month now, she can’t keep letting him dismiss her so easily.

Huangfu saw the firm look on Bao Chun’s face, and gave her his best and most distracting smile to try to draw her attention away. “Come on now Little Bao Chun, don’t be angry.” His voice was so sickly sweet, it could turn a person to putty.

“It’s useless.” After losing to his smile for more than ten times, she dared not lose to its charms again! Bao Chun stared into his eyes adamantly, making up her

mind to overcome his fatal charm.

Huangfu hummed in acknowledgement, upping the dosage and attacked her with his smile once more.

NO! I can't backdown! I can't lose! I can't surrender! Bao Chun cried out in her mind.

"My darling, baby, Little Bao Chun." He tried once more with the deadly combination of an endearing nickname, and a loving glance, his thin red tongue lightly flicking over his lips, gracefully drawing a sinful arc of perfection.

And, knockout!!

Bao Chun covered her burning cheeks with both her hands, running out of the kitchen gasping for air, once again defeated by Huangfu's charms.

"Hahaha! This is so fun!" Huangfu gave a hearty laugh. He never gets tired of seeing her like this.

However, Bao Chun wasn't aware that Huangfu has already instructed Granny Li to alter Ruo Xia's diet and bathing regimen, adding the appropriate medicinal herbs to improve her sickly condition, but not to cure her completely within a short period of time. Because he knew that the longer Ruo Xia remains here, the longer Bao Chun will have to stay here with her, so Huangfu selfishly didn't want to cure Ruo Xia too early.

"Master, why won't you just tell Little Bao Chun that you've already started your treatment for Miss Liu?" Granny Li felt bad for poor Bao Chun, being tricked by Huangfu like that, and wanted to speak out for her.

"Do I need for you to comment on what I do? Zip your lips, don't let me hear anything you aren't suppose to say." Huangfu stopped smiling, the relaxed look he had on his face disappeared completely.

"Yes."

"Nineteen." Huangfu called out of the window.

"Master, Miss Bao Chun left for the stone bridge at the centre of the lake." Nineteen was standing outside the entire time and knew what Huangfu was going to say, and gave him the answer before Huangfu had to ask.

With his back to the both of them, and a look of annoyance, Huangfu criticized Nineteen, “And you, go back to the quiet guy you used to be.”

“Yes Master.” Nineteen respectfully answered with no intentions to change. Huangfu left the two of them and went after Bao Chun.

With The Master gone, Granny Li teased Nineteen, “You are getting less and less afraid of The Master.”

“You too.” Nineteen answered plainly, walking into the kitchen. He stood outside the whole time, listening and watching as Huangfu scolded Granny Li, without missing a single moment, not even when she made that funny face as she respectfully said “yes”.

In truth, her and Nineteen never changed. It was Huangfu who changed.

Granny Li brought over two bowls of Eight Treasure Congee, and handed Nineteen a bowl, they both sat down on the doorstep as if in silent agreement. From there, they were able to see most of the scenery on the bridge at the centre of the lake.

“It’s rare to see The Master walk so fast” Granny Li commented.

“That’s Qinggong.”^[7] Nineteen answered. Although The Master has excellent martial art skills, he rarely ever sees him use any.

“Oh, he has on that mischievous smile again.” Granny Li had a sharp eye, she was able to see very clearly the expression on Huangfu’s face as he caught up to Bao Chun, like some riffraff harassing and toying with a nice girl from the village.

“Miss Bao Chun lost again.” Nineteen took a bite of the congee, and the two talked as they watch the two people on the bridge.

“She’s pretty much hopeless as soon as The Master smiles”

Translator’s Notes:

Too bad there wasn’t Pepto-Bismol back then~ hahaha~

Speaking of porridge, bear bear’s porridge was eaten by some terrible blond girl >~<, she also sat and broke my chair, and slept on my bed!

I gotta admit, my mind kinda went to the gutters during a certain part of the

story, simply because if I were to use the same words the author used, what they were doing would have sounded much more R-rated. I tried not to use the words “wrap mouth around” and “suck” but ... yeah you get it

Also, because of a few things in this chapter, I was a little slow during my translation. Reading the chapter made me feel all like this —>[LINK](#) while translating it made me feel all like this —>[LINK](#). I have never written anything intimate between two people beyond hand holding Now I am seriously considering translating some pure smut for practice before I move on to any more projects. >~> hum ... shall we randomly insert a post between all the Singing Spring Melody updates just to see how my smut translation skills are? Teehee~

As always, please like, comment, and follow if you've enjoyed reading!~ Ciao!
<3

1 药膳 or medicinal cuisines. Before we get into that, there are dedicated people in China live their life according to what is good for the healthy, this is known as **养生** or **养生之道**. Diet is a big part of living healthy, medicinal cuisines are a specialty in China, where food and medicine come together to create dishes that not only tastes good, but are also good for one's body. This way, without having to drink bitter bowls of medicine, you are doing good for your body. Now click to see some examples of medicinal cuisines —>[LINK](#).↩

2 补品 or supplementary cuisines. As we mentioned before, **养生** or **养生之道**, where people live their life in certain ways to keep healthy, and eating is a big part of **养生**. Aside from that, Chinese people are big on **补**, which literally translates to “to supplement”. The Chinese believed that different foods and medicines have the ability to supplement nutrients to specific parts of the body, and have particular healing properties, which is why they eat foods in certain combinations to harness those properties. Some even believed that similar things supplemented similar parts in the human body, eating an animal's brain will be good for your own brain, eating a soup made from the lungs of an animal will help with your lung functions and drinking the alcohol that has been soaking a tiger's penis and testes will make a man better in the bedroom ... yeah. Let's come back to the story, in the story the supplementary cuisines Granny Li

cooked were probably just combinations of nutritious soups and what not. An example you might have heard before is bird's nest soup/congee, click here to read about it —>[LINK](#). I admit some of the ingredients in famous supplementary cuisines are strange sounding, bird's nest, hasma (toad oil), fish swim bladder, shark's fin and *etc.* But I assure you, there are normal ones! Finally, click to see some examples of supplementary cuisines —>[LINK](#).↵

3 湘绣 or Hunan embroidery is one of four famous embroidery styles in China, and part of the Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage Project. It is known for its incredible realism, where the needle is used like a brush to paint amazing detailed pictures. Click here to see what it looks like —>[LINK](#). ↵

4 凉糕 or Chilled Cakes can refer to a type of snacks eaten during the summer in both Beijing and Sichuan. These Chilled Cakes are made with rice, sugar and flavouring ingredients such as 薄荷 which is mint. These cakes are steamed and cut into pieces or prepared using moulds. They should be chilled before serving, since it is usually eaten during the summer. I have found two pictures that pretty accurately represents what the book described as 薄荷凉糕 or Chilled Mint Cakes, but they AREN'T IT! So click here if you want to see what they look like in my mind —>[LINK1](#) —>[LINK2](#). Now click here if you want to see what 凉糕 ACTUALLY looks like —>[LINK](#).↵

5 八宝粥 or Eight Treasure Congee is a delicious sweet congee made with rice (long-grain, black rice, or glutinous rice), a variety of beans (but always includes red beans), a variety of nuts, and other goodies such as lotus seeds, red dates, dried logan, gouqi berries and silver ear fungus. The congee is always sweet, and traditionally made with rock sugar to produce a shiny velvety finished product. The congee doesn't necessarily have eight ingredients, but tend to have at least that many number of ingredients or somewhere around that number. The ingredients may vary based on personal preferences, and geographical locations in China. This congee also has its medicinal properties depending on the ingredients. It is customary to eat this congee on the eighth day of the twelfth month according to the Lunar calendar, called 腊八, the congee is then called 腊八粥. Stores carry cans of Eight Treasure Congee so people can enjoy them easily nowadays without having to spend several hours boiling the congee. Click here to see pictures of 八宝粥 —>[LINK](#).↵

6 药引 or guiding herb/ingredient, sometimes you will see it being translated as

conducting herb/ingredient, is a term in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). The 引 in 药引 means to guide, and to lead out, these are herbs or medicinal ingredients that are able to guide the other medicinal ingredients to the part of the body that needs treatment.[↵]

7 轻功 Qinggong, sometimes translated as Light Kungfu in Wuxia novels. Despite its name, Qinggong DOESN'T make your body lighter, what it does is that it greatly improves your speed, agility, and the height in which you are able to jump. It also allows you to jump and leap off of extremely small objects, or something generally impossible to step off of. Such as sword tips, a blade of grass/leaf, and the surface of water. If you've seen Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon there was a bamboo forrest scene that shows off the character's Qinggong. There are different Qinggong from various different masters and sects. If you enjoy reading Wuxia Novels you might see this very often.[↵]

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Hell King Sect Series/Yan Wang Sect Series

By: Jue Ming 决明

Temperatures have cooled slightly, it's no longer as unbearably hot as a few days ago. Bao Chun took the now healthier looking Ruo Xia for a stroll in Huangfu's garden, since he said that even sick patients need some form of exercise to be healthy.

Bao Chun carefully shaded Ruo Xia with an umbrella^[1] as the two slowly walked over the stone bridge.

"You don't really come around the garden very often, look over there, when the lotus flower wilts there'll be lotus seeds." Bao Chun pointed to the lotus flowers at the centre of the lake, not far from the two of them. "We've never tasted lotus seeds before, so it's good that we can at least see them."

"Lotus seeds are for wealthy families." Ruo Xia was in a good mood, and chatted with Bao Chun, "What's that?"

She pointed to a plant on the other side.

“That’s taro, we’ve eaten them before.” Bao Chun explained patiently, “But that was a long time ago, at the time, you said that you liked how it tasted.” She looked up and saw that Ruo Xia seems to have gotten tired and was squatting on the ground, she hastily asked, “Ruo Xia, are you tired? Do you want to take a break?”

“It’s fine, this garden is so big, last time when we arrived I only caught a quick glimpse of it, but it looks like it’s going to take quite a while for me to see everything here.” Ruo Xia fanned herself using her hand, trying to cool herself.

“It took me several days of looking around to finally see the entire mansion.” Bao Chun pointed to the back of the hill and said, “The scenery over there on the hilltop is more beautiful than any place one can imagine.”

Ruo Xia waved her hand, showing no interest.

“Although the Godly Doctor haven’t been treating me, it seems that my body is becoming better and healthier, I’m no longer easily feverish.” Ruo Xia noticed an obvious change for the better in her body conditions, and thought the Godly Doctor was indeed godly, simply by breathing the same air as him was able to cure her illness.

“Perhaps it’s because the environment and our diet has improved, that’s why you’ve gotten stronger.” Bao Chun said as she patted her own face. She’s only been here at Huangfu’s for a month, and she’s already gained back several kilos^[2] in weight. “Granny Li’s a wonderful cook, making medicinal dishes to supplement the body every few days, Huangfu’s also very particular about eating, there’s always several medicinal ingredients in every dish, so no wonder you are becoming more and more healthy.”

“The Huangfu you are referring to, is he the Godly Doctor?” Ruo Xia asked, raising her thin eyebrows. She was very curious about the Godly Doctor.

“Oh, yeah. There’s also this very good-looking young man in black named Nineteen, you’ve seen him before, he’s the one that brought you into the mansion. Also, the person that feeds us and made sure that we are full every day is Granny Li, she’s really nice.”

Bao Chun thought Ruo Xia was starting to show interest in the people around her, and enthusiastically started to introduce her to all the people in the mansion.

Ruo Xia waved her hand to stop Bao Chun from rambling on excitedly.

“Huangfu is the Godly Doctor’s family name, right? What’s his full name?” She only wanted to ask about the one she was interested in.

Bao Chun paused for a moment, unsure as to why Ruo Xia was only interested in things to do with Huangfu. “I, I don’t know.” Now that she thought about it, she knew very little about Huangfu, not even the most basic thing, his name.

“What does he look like? Is he handsome? Is he good-looking?” Ruo Xia has only seen Huangfu once, the day she came to the mansion, but he was hidden behind white chiffon curtains at the time, it was so blurry that she couldn’t see clearly.

“Very handsome ... very good-looking” An indescribable feeling of sadness and distress slowly spread in Bao Chun’s heart, she didn’t like how Ruo Xia’s eyes looked at her expectantly, asking her everything about Huangfu.

“And?” Ruo Xia wasn’t satisfied with the five word description of Huangfu that she got from Bao Chun, so she continued asking.

“I don’t know.”

“What about his personality?”

“I ... I don’t know.”

Ruo Xia frowned, noticing that Bao Chun seems to be avoiding her questions.

“Fine then, I’ll go and see for myself.” And with that, she got up and walked towards the study. Back when Bao Chun was showing her around the garden she had told her where it was, and the most common place for Huangfu to be was in his study, to the east of here.

“Ruo Xia, let’s not go and bother him” Bao Chun hurried after her and called out. Since when did Ruo Xia become so fast, fast enough for her to have a hard time keeping up?

Soon, Ruo Xia disappeared around the corner, and Bao Chun had no choice but

to pick up her pace.

“Stop.” Nineteen appeared in front of the study just in time to stop Ruo Xia.

“Is Mister Huangfu inside?” Ruo Xia’s face lit up with a beautiful smile, it’s even prettier now with her healthy rosy cheeks.

Unfortunately, Nineteen completely ignored her smile.

“Nineteen Gong Zi?” Bao Chun had mentioned the name of this cold, indifferent man, Ruo Xia moved her lips, her soft melodic voice rang out between the two of them, but Nineteen was still unmoved.

“Ruo Xia ... umm, Nineteen.” Bao Chun followed after Ruo Xia, trying to stop her, but saw Nineteen standing in front of the door.

Nineteen’s eyes landed on Bao Chun, completely ignoring Ruo Xia’s presence. “The Master is inside discussing important matters, it is best that you come back later Miss Bao Chun.”

“We have a guest? Is someone else here seeking treatment?”

“You could say that. But it’s also a very important person.” Although Nineteen’s sentences were short, but he answered Bao Chun’s questions carefully. Ruo Xia stood on the side and saw what happened, feeling extremely displeased.

Bao Chun stood beside Nineteen, trying to quietly stick her head in and take a peek. However, the wooden doors were opened before she got the chance, an extremely well dressed and chubby middle-aged man walked out first, followed by several strong muscular men that appeared to be his bodyguards. Huangfu stepped out along with him, happily grinning.

“Godly Doctor Huangfu, stay, please, no need to see me off!” The middle-aged man respectfully took a bow,^[3] his words were full of deep respect for Huangfu.

“You are too kind Cheng Wang Ye.^[4] Nineteen, go and see our guest out.” Huangfu gestured with his hand to let the man go first.

“I’ll be back next year to intrude on your time again Doctor Huangfu.”

The middle-aged man Huangfu referred to as Cheng Wang Ye passed by Ruo

Xia and didn't bother to hide his appreciation for her beauty. Ruo Xia glared at him angrily, then arrogantly looked away.

“My, what a lovely girl, is she the Godly Doctor's”

“Patient.”

“Ohhhhh.” Cheng Wang Ye dragged his voice and held the tail sound, rudely checking out Ruo Xia's perfect figure.

Seeing this, Bao Chun leapt in front of Ruo Xia, standing in front of her like a protective mother hen.

“Such a rude little servant girl.” Cheng Wang Ye humphed slightly, his gaze still on Ruo Xia.

Huangfu frowned inwardly, before he could make sense of his thoughts, he had already pulled Bao Chun behind him.

“This girl here is no servant, she is a very special honoured guest of mine—” He paused, letting Cheng Wang Ye guess the rest himself.

“Pardon me! Excuse my rudeness!” Upon hearing what Huangfu has said, Cheng Wang Ye immediately hurried to apologize. Just by seeing how Huangfu shielded her like some sort of treasure, he knew he better not offend that homely looking girl. Not wanting to stay any longer, he quickly left with Nineteen for the stone path leading towards the outside.

“Who was that?” Bao Chun asked with her eyebrows pinched together, repelled by the disgusting way that man was looking at Ruo Xia.

“The Emperor's younger brother.” Huangfu smirked as he saw Bao Chun's wide-eyed expression when she heard the true identity of his guest.

“What ... what's he doing here?” He's a Wang Ye!

“Seeking treatment.”

“You ... you didn't make him kneel for three days right?” Bao Chun looked at Huangfu nervously.

“He's an exception. I rely on him to make a living.” Huangfu didn't let go of the hand he had on Bao Chun's right arm, and lead her into the study, Ruo Xia

followed behind.

Bao Chun's questioning eyes begged him for an answer.

"His treatment fees are incredibly high." Huangfu gave her a sly grin.

Bao Chun swallowed and asked, "How high?"

"High enough for all of us to live lavishly for a whole year without worrying about food or clothes." Huangfu opened the paper fan in his hand, "Did you actually think that just by hanging around the mansion doing nothing we were able to have all the meat, vegetables and fruits we could eat, and wear all the best clothes? I use my two hands to feed everyone here." He explained proudly.

The truth is, he was merely using the Wang Ye's annual visit to the doctor to cleverly extort money from him with his Godly Doctor title. If working just one day out of the 365 days can assure him a whole year's worth of luxury then why not?

"I've always thought the mansion was self-sustaining" But he's right, she never realized where the food they ate came from, she actually naively thought that the chicken in the medicinal stew was raised by Granny Li, the tender fish were from the lake, and that the veggies were grown from the soil in the garden.

As if able to read Bao Chun's mind, Huangfu said, "You didn't think the pearl powder^[5] in the tea you drink every night were from the oysters in the lake did you?"

Bao Chun lowered her head and nodded in shame.

Huangfu elegantly rested on his side on the lounge chair, then jokingly poked fun at her again, "It's a good thing you didn't believe that pearls were created by a few drops of tears." His glance momentarily fell on Ruo Xia, who stood behind Bao Chun, but his gaze lazily floated away immediately afterwards.

Ruo Xia's pretty face was already a vibrant shade of red. She had desperately tried to imagine what Huangfu looked like, but seeing was believing, that handsome face of his was indescribable by mere words, and of course, unable to be portrayed by her imagination

Ruo Xia smiled and curtsied to formally greet Huangfu, saying in her soft voice,

“I humbly greet you Gong Zi, wishing you all the fortune and blessings.”[\[6\]](#)

Huangfu raised an eyebrow. He had always disliked women who eagerly showed their liking towards him. Especially coy and pretentious women like her, posturing and posing her body, pretending to be graceful and delicate. It's too bad that he already knew Liu Ruo Xia's true natures when she threw a cup and injured Bao Chun.

Just as he was about to stiffen his face and tell Liu Ruo Xia to get the hell out of his sight, he caught a glimpse of Bao Chun biting her thin lips, and trying to avoid looking at them, she was fighting back her jealousy!

Interested, Huangfu smiled, pushing back his disgust and dislike of Ruo Xia and answered, “Miss Liu, you are being too polite. Please, have a seat. Bao Chun, go pour us some tea.”

“Thank you Huangfu Gong Zi.” Ruo Xia sat down unceremoniously, while Bao Chun stiffly served the two tea.

“You are looking pretty healthy.” Huangfu casually chatted with Ruo Xia, his eyes glancing over once in a while to the blank and unmoving Bao Chun.

“It's all due to Gong Zi's unmatched medical skills, I am extremely grateful.”

Huangfu took the tea Bao Chun had handed him, looking up at her, his hand cupping her's as he held the tea cup, Bao Chun couldn't free her hand, so she could only mouth silent words to him to let go.

“Oh no, you are too kind.” Huangfu answered, seeing Bao Chun's jealousy and smiled with satisfaction.

He's smiling at her!

Ruo Xia almost went wild with joy from this smile.

Bao Chun almost wept in pain from this smile.

No matter how dense Bao Chun was, she could still see that Ruo Xia liked Huangfu. And Huangfu generously gave her a sunny smile, a smile that she always thought belonged only to her. But now, he has given it to another woman, and that woman was her sister.

Bao Chun almost wanted to run out of the room screaming, she didn't want to

see the flirtatious glances they were exchanging, she broke away from Huangfu's grip, and made towards the door.

"Be careful." Just as she was about to trip on the doorstep, Nineteen, returning from seeing the guest off, came back just in time to grab Bao Chun before she could fall.

Bao Chun held on to him involuntarily, like a piece of life-saving driftwood at sea, and failing to notice Huangfu's eyes suddenly darkening.

"Nineteen, there is no reason for you to be here, leave."

Nineteen saw the displeased glances Huangfu was casting him, and sensibly began to leave.

"I'll go with you." Bao Chun hastily shouted, her hands never left Nineteen's arm.

"You, stay." Huangfu's face grew darker and darker. She was holding on to another man's arm wanting to leave him!?

"I want to go with Nineteen ... to go weeding." Bao Chun randomly picked an excuse and started to drag Nineteen out. She'd rather spend days weeding the entire mansion and hillside to not have to stay here and watch them look at each other affectionately.

Huangfu stood up from his chair, and pulled Bao Chun into his arms, "Sure, I'll go weeding with you! Nineteen, you stay here and chat with Miss Liu."

"Master" Nineteen looked troubled. He has not the slightest bit of good feelings towards Liu Ruo Xia, yet The Master has ordered him to chat with her!?

"Then I'll stay and keep Ruo Xia company" Bao Chun's objections were drowned out by the slamming doors as Huangfu left with her, her voice getting smaller and farther.

Nineteen and Ruo Xia exchanged glances, then both quietly looked away.

On the other side, an entirely different scene was lively at play.

"Don't drag me along Huangfu!"

Bao Chun was at a disadvantage due to her short legs, and struggled to match

Huangfu's stride. However, Huangfu's hand showed no intentions of letting her go, causing her to follow behind him half running and half dragging along.

"What are you so angry about ... Huang, Huangfu?" Bao Chun asked as she gasped for air. Why is he angry at her when she's the one who should be angry at him?

Huangfu turned and knocked her on the head.^[7] It's not good for his health to be angry with someone so dense.

He dragged her to the lakeside and finally let go, then crossed his arms and stared at her, looking displeased.

"I wanted to see your jealous face but ended up getting jealous myself." Huangfu self-reflected. Since when did he become such an immature hothead?

The reason for why he lost his cool stood with her back to him, gasping for fresh air.

Why is it her? She's so ordinary, so foolish, so naive, so But he only has eyes for her.

Finally able to breath again, Bao Chun found Huangfu blanking out, she raised her hands and waved them around in front of him, "Huangfu? Huangfu? You there?"

In one quick swoop, Huangfu grabbed hold of her wrist and began to suck and nibble at her fingers as punishment.

Bao Chun was ticklish and giggled as she demanded, "No, stop biting ... Huangfu, it tickles!"

"Why didn't you get angry back there?" Huangfu finally let go of her fingers, and laced them through his own, holding on to her hands tightly.

"What do you mean get angry?" Bao Chun asked, all the while knowing the answer. She knew that Huangfu meant when she saw him and Ruo Xia laughing, but she wasn't angry, she was fearful of the strange feeling she felt in her heart.

"When I was flirting with your sister." Huangfu reminded her. He went through so much trouble and put on a show for her with her sister, yet she didn't even

react?

“She’s really beautiful, isn’t she?” Bao Chun sat down on the ground along with Huangfu, who wouldn’t let go of her hands. She stared at the sparkling lake water, her expression dimmed, “Ruo Xia was the most beautiful girl in our village, ever since she was fifteen,^[8] and of marrying age, the number of suitors that came to our home asking for her hand in marriage almost broke our doorsteps”^[9]

Back when Ruo Xia was still sickly, she was already stunningly beautiful, not to mention now that she’s healthy.

“Were ... you tempted?” She asked in a tiny, uncertain voice.

Huangfu looked incredulous, then smile slightly, “I’ve seen countless beautiful women, if I fall in love every time I see someone like your sister, I’d be busy falling in love left and right.” Speaking of beauties, there were hundreds of beautiful women in his family, not to mention it’s tiring to see beautiful people all the time. “Plus, you are easier on the eyes.”

Bao Chun gave a slight smile, thinking that Huangfu was just comforting her.

Swimming leisurely along the lake were those two fat white geese Bao Chun paid so much attention to.

“Every time Nineteen sees me staring at these two white geese he always kept on reminding me that these two geese belonged to you, and that I shouldn’t get any funny ideas.” She pointed at the white geese and laughed.

“Those two dumb geese aren’t mine, they are my younger sister’s. Little Bao Chun, what do you think of Nineteen?” The first sentence was to answer Bao Chun’s question, the second sentence was what he was trying to get at.

“Nineteen? He’s really nice. Although a little cold, but he’s starting to talk and have conversations with me. If only I could have an older brother like that, that’d be great.”

“An older brother?” Bao Chun only thought of Nineteen as a brother? Huangfu laughed at his own suspicions.

“Yup, I’m the oldest of my siblings, so I’ve always wished for an older brother

or sister. Although my little sister Qiu Yue acts more like an older sister than me, we rely on her to make a lot of decisions at home. Did you just say that you have a younger sister?” She’s never heard Huangfu mention his family members, since he brought it up himself, she decided to continue asking.

But it seems Huangfu has no interests in talking about his sister, so she had to find another topic and keep asking.

“How come you never mentioned your sister? Is she married?”

“Who knows.” Huangfu shrugged.

“How come you don’t care about your sister at all?” Bao Chun looked at him suspiciously for a while, then seemed as if she suddenly realized something and asked, “Could it be that she’s not your real sister, that’s why”

“Unfortunately, we have the same parents.” He must have suffered ten lifetime’s worth of misfortune to have a sister like her, neither cute nor respectful to her brother.

He looked maliciously at the geese on the lake, turned to Bao Chun and smiled, “Do you want to find out what I use these geese for?”

Seeing Bao Chun nodding, Huangfu plucked off a thick willow branch, skillfully removed the leaves and took out some sturdy string he was carrying in his sleeve, and tied it to the willow branch.

“Go and fetch me two ginsengs.”^[10] He instructed Bao Chun.

Not far in the distance behind a length of fence was the garden planted with ginseng, Bao Chun suspiciously brought back the two precious medicinal plants and watched as Huangfu used the ginsengs as bait, the willow branch as a pole, and started to “fish” for geese.

The geese stretched their necks high into the air, desperately trying to get at the ginseng, struggling to flap their wings, but then looked disappointed when their heavy weight held them down. However, unwilling to give up so easily, they still kept trying to leap for the ginseng. This made for an unusual yet hilarious picture.

“Huang, Huangfu ... these two geese, this is how you use them?” Bao Chun

stared dumbfounded at the Godly Doctor, who at the moment, looked more like a child excitedly playing.

“That’s right, why else would I help my sister raise them?” Huangfu was busy toying with the poor geese, his usual charming smile now tinged with evilness, his eyes glowed with joy. “Little Bao Chun, do you want to try? It’s quite addictive.”

“No! It’s too mean! Give me the fishing pole! I mean, the geesing pole!” Bao Chun grabbed the willow branch from Huangfu’s hand, took off the ginsengs and threw them over to the two geese. Finally, after being toyed with and tormented for years, those two fat geese finally got to taste the deliciousness of ginseng.

“Aww, now I can’t play with them anymore.” Huangfu pretended to complain and put his head on Bao Chun’s shoulder.

“What hateful thing has your sister ever done to you that made you torment even her pets?” Bao Chun felt bad for those two geese. Geese are for eating, not playing, how could he be so wasteful?

“Our hatred runs deep. You know over there—” Huangfu pointed to a corner of the medicinal herb garden to the east of them, where a plot of soil peeked out from the green plants surrounding it, “Do you know what used to be there?”

Bao Chun shook her head, “I thought that was for some new medicinal herbs you were going to plant.”

“Chi Shao, [\[11\]](#) bitter in taste, slightly cold properties, heat-clearing and blood-cooling, promotes circulation to resolve blood stasis. Used for warm-heat disease, high fevers, macula, frenetic blood heat, vomiting of blood, sores and painful swelling.” Huangfu told her the name of a medicinal herb and its properties, seeing the confusion in Bao Chun’s eyes, he slowly started to explain. “The Huangfu clan has always named their children after medicinal plants, that unworthy sister of mine is named Huangfu Chi Shao, which is why I won’t plant her namesake where I live.”

Bao Chun’s eyes lit up and hurried to ask a question that she’s been itching to ask for quite some time, “Then is your name also a medicinal plant? What’s your full name?”

“You really want to know?” Huangfu smiled, deeply pleased with her question.

Bao Chun nodded with intense interest.

“Okay, let me show you something.” Huangfu didn’t tell her right away, instead he pulled Bao Chun up from the grass and took her to the medicinal herb garden. He dug up a plain-looking plant with brownish-yellow roots, covered in white dusts, and looked a little like the ginger used in cooking.

He handed the plant to Bao Chun, “Spicy and bitter in taste, warm properties. Can dry dampness and invigorate the spleen, dispel wind-dampness, and brighten the eyes. Used for wind-damp arthralgia, joint pains, and wind-cold dampness headaches. This plant, is my namesake.”

Bao Chun frowned slightly. The only medicinal plants she knows are Dang Gui, [12] ginseng, and goji berries, [13] the rest are just weeds to her.

“You’re name is ... Huangfu Ginger?” Judging from its appearance, the plant she’s holding looks just like ginger. “This name, this name ... is a little ... special!” Bao Chun carefully chose her words, afraid that she might hurt Huangfu’s feelings. But this name is just so awful sounding!

Huangfu narrowed his eyes, “Are you trying to make me poison you? Who uses ginger as their name!?” [14]

That little idiot!

“You mean I guessed wrong?” Bao Chun saw a change in Huangfu’s expression, so she carefully asked again.

“In my study there is a cabinet full of prescriptions and medical masterpiece books, you can easily find the CORRECT NAME FOR THIS.” Huangfu gritted his teeth and stressed the last four words.

“Huh?! You don’t mean that you want me to look it up myself and find out your name do you?” Bao Chun asked feeling a little hopeless. She knew so few words, how is she going to find it?

Huangfu nodded and added, “Of course you don’t have to look it up, since you always called me Huangfu, so it doesn’t really matter whether or not you know my name. Nineteen and Granny Li never knew my name either, so you don’t”

He pretended to shrug like it was nothing.

“I’ll look it up! I’ll look it up!” Bao Chun clutched the ginger-looking plant in her hands and held it close to her heart.

This is too alluring to pass up! She could be the only person in the mansion to know his full name!

“Are there people in your family named Huangfu Dang Gui and Huangfu Ginseng?” Bao Chun asked Huangfu as a joke, not expecting him to nod in reply.

I wonder what those two guys called Dang Gui and Ginseng will think if we cut up the Dang Gui and ginseng, add eight bowls of water and boiled it down to one bowl of medicine? Bao Chun thought sympathetically.

Bao Chun held the plant in her hands and started to sniff at it left and right.

Huangfu playfully twirled around strands of silver hair fallen over his shoulders, he’s really looking forward to the moment when Bao Chun is able to call out his name. But it will take several months for the illiterate Little Bao Chun to finish memorizing San Zi Jing. [\[15\]](#)

Teaching her to read should also be fun and full of challenges.

Out of habit, Huangfu fiddled with the silver hair by his neck, and inadvertently caught a glimpse of his right palm, surprised to find streaks of blood secreting from his scabbed over knife scar!

His expression changed, then pressed his fingers above his right vein— Damn it!

Huangfu secretly clenched his teeth and calculated the days No, how could he have forgotten such an important hour!

He spent too much time worrying about Bao Chun!

“Little Bao Chun, go back to my room with me.” He appeared calm, the most important thing now is to not fall down here!

Bao Chun looked up with her little puzzled face, “Why?” Because good girls don’t easily go into rooms with guys.

“Don’t ask now, I” Huangfu covered his mouth, and forced down the warm

liquid in his throat.

“Huh? What’s wrong? You are sweating a lot!” Bao Chun was utterly confused, Huangfu was so healthy and lively just a minute ago, but now he’s pale as a ghost! The star-shaped pattern branded between his brows turned from its original pinkish hue to an alarming shade of crimson, like blood, ready to burst through, it’s the only bit of colour on his ashen face!

Bao Chun tried to wipe away the cold sweat on his forehead with her sleeve.

Huangfu put his arm around her shoulder, half of his weight weighed almost entirely on Bao Chun’s body. Bao Chun sensed that something was wrong with him, so while Huangfu was still conscious, she tightly gripped his wrist that draped over her shoulder with one hand, and held him by the waist with the other, then hurried to get him back to his room.

What exactly happened? Why did it happen so suddenly that it caught her off guard?

She could feel his body becoming frighteningly cold, he felt like a piece of ice!

They’ve only managed to walk under the roof before Huangfu lost consciousness and fell entirely onto her body. Unable to bear his full weight, both he and Bao Chun dropped to the ground. Bao Chun got up and was about to pull him up, when she realized drops of blood falling to the ground, like blossoming crimson flowers.

Bao Chun saw the blood was flowing out almost endlessly from Huangfu’s mouth, staining the light blue gown that he always wore, yet more and more blood was flowing out rapidly.

With no time to think and scream, Bao Chun half held and half dragged the unconscious Huangfu to the front of his room, then immediately turned and darted towards the main house.

“Nineteen!” Bao Chun ran as she wiped the tears from her eyes, screaming hysterically for the only person who could help her now.

Nineteen wasn’t in the study. Nor the kitchen! Nor in the alchemy room!^[16]
Nor the pavilion at the centre of the lake!

He's not even in his room!

Bao Chun lost count of how many times she fell and got up again, her voice was hoarse from shouting, but she still wouldn't stop calling out Nineteen's name.

"Miss Bao Chun!" Nineteen had heard her calling out to him repeatedly, but she kept on running in the opposite direction of him, so it took some time for him to find her. "What happened!?"

Bao Chun heard Nineteen's voice, her legs gave out and fell to the ground.

"Huangfu, he, Huangfu is puking blood ... no! He's spurting blood! He's in front of his room—"

Translator's Notes:

Ok, the hardest thing about this chapter was checking and reading up on Chinese medicine, but I have always wanted to know about them so it was pretty interesting! Also, OMG most numbers of footnotes per chapter @__@ I went a little overboard with my "lectures", professor bearbear likes to lecture. I actually finished translating this two days ago, but I was distracted while editing and I had my seminar on human trafficking and sexual violence to finish up so it took a while for me to finish editing. But here it is!~ I laughed my ass off at Huangfu Ginger xD

Also, I know this isn't AT ALL how Qiu Yue looks like according to the description of her, but I have always in my head imagined Qiu Yue to be like this —>[LINK](#) and —>[LINK](#). I have no idea why.

WordPress messed up my publishing timestamp ... oh well, by the way, I'm thinking of doing another HBMJTT today, let's see if I have time.

*As always, please like, comment, and follow if you've enjoyed reading!~ Ciao!
<3*

1 Just thought that for your own interests, you might like to see what a traditional Chinese umbrella looked like, the girl in the image is how I imagine Ruo Xia to be, but her personality's WAY nicer than Ruo Xia's! Click here to see —>[LINK](#). If you want to see a bunch of different Chinese umbrellas click here —

>[LINK](#) or here —>[LINK](#). Or read about the wiki here —>[LINK](#).↩

2 It originally said several 斤 jīn, which is a Chinese unit of measurement for weight, it's roughly 0.6 grams, but I usually treat it like half a kilogram. Read about the wiki here —>[LINK](#).↩

3 The original words were 揖身, which means to bow. The bow here isn't the kowtow that people do when they beg, not the bow you take when you exit the stage, it's a special type of bowing that's actually a form of salute, called 作揖 zuò yī. You've seen it a bunch of times if you follow any ancient Chinese drama. Click the link here to see what it looks like —>[LINK](#). Just like wearing a kimono, left and right matters, but I can't remember which hand is supposed to be on top.↩

4 In Chinese it says 王爷 wáng yē, is the title used to address the Emperor's brothers, or certain other men in the ranks of nobility.↩

5 Pearl powder or 珍珠粉 is made from ground up pearls, the texture of it is similar to flour. It has a long history of being used in Traditional Chinese Medicine. It also has whitening and brightening properties, so it is often ingested or applied to the face for cosmetic purposes. Click here to see what it looks like —>[LINK](#) or read the Chinese wiki on it here —>[LINK](#).↩

6 Ruo Xia said to Huangfu “奴家拜见公子万福” she referred to herself as 奴家 nú jiā which is a term young women used to refer to themselves as back in the old times, using this term usually shows they are more feminine and girlish. It is made up of the characters for 奴 slave/servant and 家 home. Another term that is similar to 奴家 is 小女子 xiǎo nǚ zǐ, which is used to a similar effect and literally translates to “little woman” xD yeah I know!↩

7 Don't worry, it's not domestic violence, put down the phone you've picked up xD it's not what it seems like. The action is called 爆栗, which literally translates to “exploding chestnuts” it's a knock on the head that is loud but not necessarily painful. The loud sound is apparently reminiscent of the sound you hear when you cook chestnuts in hot sand (yum) and the exploding sounds you hear when the chestnuts open up.↩

8 It originally says 及笄 jí jī, which means for a girl to become fifteen years of age. 笄 jī is the hairpin people back in the olden times used to hold up their hair, the ceremony for a girl to pin up her hair is a coming-of-age ceremony, signifying

she is of marrying age. Notice, it is 及笄 and not 及笈!↵

9 Almost breaking one's doorsteps or 踏破门槛 is an expression for when so many people come to your place for whatever reason, they've worn out the doorsteps to the point of breaking. ↵

10 Ginseng or 人参 rén shēn. Click here to see it —>[LINK](#).↵

11 Chi Shao or 赤芍 chì sháo. Click here to see it —>[LINK](#).↵

12 Dang Gui or 当归 dāng guī. Click here to see it —>[LINK](#).↵

13 Goji berries or 枸杞 gǒu qǐ. Click here to see it —>[LINK](#).↵

14 Her name is Ginger —>[LINK](#), you know, from As Told By Ginger? ↵

15 San Zi Jing or 三字经, also called the Three Character Classic and Trimetric Classic is one of the many Chinese classics that was taught to children to help them learn to read and write. It was written in triplets of characters for easy memorization. Please read more about it here —>[LINK](#), it's very interesting so I recommend reading it from here —>[LINK](#) or here —>[LINK](#).↵

16 No, it's not cool Fullmetal Alchemist alchemy, it's not even the cool "let's get rich and get gold alchemy". The alchemy room in Huangfu's mansion is used to create 丹药 a form of medicine made from alchemy. This alchemy is specifically called Chinese alchemy, read about it here —>[LINK](#). If you want to see what an alchemy room looks like then here is it—>[LINK](#), focus on the first two rows of pictures.↵

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Hell King Sect Series/Yan Wang Sect Series

By: Jue Ming 决明

When Bao Chun returned to Huangfu's room again, Nineteen was there one step ahead of her and has already taken care of everything.

Huangfu was switched out of his bloodstained gown, his once blood-soaked lips were tightly shut, and he was laying on his bed peacefully asleep.

If it weren't for the dirt on her skirt from tripping over and the blood drops on the hem of her skirt, she almost thought what happened was all just a dream.

Bao Chun stood quietly by the bed, tears poured out from her eyes.

"It's an old illness of The Master's, it's not a big deal." Nineteen finished settling Huangfu down in bed, before slowly turning to comfort Bao Chun.

"His body was so cold ... he, he was puking up blood ..." Bao Chun said hoarsely. The scene of him falling unconscious played repeatedly in her mind.

"Master's illness flares up regularly, it's not a big deal." Nineteen patiently tried to reassure her once again.

"He threw up so much blood He was just fine a moment ago, he was happily fishing for geese, and talking ... and then out of nowhere, so suddenly ... he just kept, kept on puking blood" Bao Chun looked at her palms in horror, it was as if she could still feel his coldness on her fingertips, "Is he going to die? Is he going to die"

"MISS BAO CHUN!" Nineteen clamped down on Bao Chun's quivering shoulders, interrupting her muttered words to herself, forcing her to snap back to reality, away from the scene of Huangfu covered in blood. "That's The Master's, old, illness! Do you hear me? OLD, ILLNESS! He's fine, he'll wake up after a few days, he'll continue to talk and laugh with you, did you hear what I just said?!"

He broke out of his usual cold, uncaring tone and growled at Bao Chun.

"But" Bao Chun finally looked at Nineteen's dark eyes, seemingly searching for a more convincing promise.

Nineteen pulled Bao Chun over by her right hand and placed it on Huangfu's chest.

"He's breathing, can you feel it?" He lightly coaxed her.

The skin she felt under her slightly trembling palm was moving up and down at a slow pace, but it's an irrefutable proof that he was still there.

"He's still alive" Even more tears poured out of Bao Chun's eyes, but this time out of joy.

Nineteen breathed a sign of relief, “Do you want to go take a rest, go to your room to change and wash your face?”

She looked even worse than The Master. Her long hair held up by a wooden hair pin was now messy and disheveled, she was covered in dirt from head to toe, her extremely haggard face streaked with tears.

Bao Chun shook her head, her right hand still lightly placed on top of Huangfu’s chest, as if afraid that she’ll miss Huangfu’s breathing and heartbeat if she was inattentive for a slight moment.

“Master won’t be waking up anytime soon, you’ll scare him if he wakes up seeing you in this state.”

“Let me be with him for a little bit, just a little while. Don’t force me to leave him at a time like this, I’m so scared! I’ve seen so much death and separation, the type of loss that no one can prepare for, I’m afraid, I never want to feel it ever again”

With her back to Nineteen, Bao Chun confessed her fears, tears fell like raindrops on the back of her hand.

If she was forced to leave Huangfu’s side right now, she will definitely be driven mad by her own ridiculous thoughts and guesses.

“I’ll get you a basin of water and clothes for you to clean yourself up, if you want to stay then stay.” Nineteen did not keep on insisting and agreed to let her stay.

The room fell into silence, the only sounds present in the room were her own breathing and weeping.

Bao Chun affectionately combed Huangfu’s silver hair with her left hand, while softly saying, “Have I ever told you your hair was really pretty? I don’t know a lot of words, so I can’t use beautiful and fancy vocabularies to describe how I feel while I am touching them, but it’s really, really pretty, especially when you talk, it flows with you while you move, up and down, back and forth, as if you were surrounded by an aura of light, making me smile in such a silly way every time I see it You have to get better soon, this way I’d be able to see them flow around you once again”

Bao Chun started to state her love for Huangfu starting from his hair, then his eyes, his nose, and his lips Her fingertips running over each of his features and carefully describing her feelings, each time ending with “you have to get better soon”.

When Nineteen and Granny Li walked into the room again, Bao Chun already got to talking about things totally unrelated to him.

“So you have to get better soon, or else I’m going to tell Nineteen to sell those two dumb geese, this way you won’t be able to trick and bully them anymore.” She’s even resorting to threats and trickery.

Nineteen wrung out a warmed towel, twisted her over by her chin and started to wipe Bao Chun’s face roughly.

“Nineteen, you are too rough! Do you think Bao Chun’s face is a table?” Granny Li couldn’t keep watching him and took away the towel in Nineteen’s hand, “Boys will be boys, they never know how to treat a girl properly! Little Bao Chun, don’t cry, Granny’s so sad seeing you cry like this.”

“I’m sorry for making you guys worry” Bao Chun sniffed and gave them a weary smile.

“This is your first time seeing The Master’s old illness flare up, it was only normal for you to be caught unprepared. You’ll get used to it after a few more times.” Granny Li carefully wiped away tear streaks from Bao Chun’s face as she comforted her. Thinking back to the first time she saw The Master’s illness flare up, she was so anxious and worried, but when the same thing kept on happening several times later, she and Nineteen eventually got used to it and is now cool as a cucumber.

“What kind of illness does Huangfu suffer from? Is there any way to cure him? Can’t Huangfu cure himself?” Bao Chun asked nervously, she’ll probably die from worrying about Huangfu before seeing his illness flare up a few more times.

Nineteen and Granny Li looked at each other, Nineteen nodded as if agreeing with Granny Li to tell Bao Chun the truth.

“Alright, Granny’ll tell you then.” Granny Li patted Bao Chun on the hand, “The Master doesn’t actually have an illness, the reason why he throws up blood is

because he was poisoned, and Miss Chi Shao is the only person who—, do you know who she is?”

Bao Chun nodded, “Huangfu’s younger sister.”

“Yes, The Master’s sister. She’s the only one who can cure him, but after their fight several years ago, curing him sort of got put off.”

Bao Chun knew the Huangfu siblings weren’t on good terms, but she didn’t expect their rocky relationships to have such a serious impact.

“But Huangfu is her older brother, how could she bear to not save him?” Bao Chun furrowed her thin brows, and started to complain about this Huangfu Chi Shao.

“The reason why she refuses to help was because she herself was also poisoned, and the only person with the cure just so happens to be The Master.” Nineteen found it funny to see the rare look of hostility in Bao Chun’s eyes, so he had to explain for the unlucky Chi Shao, who happens to be The Master’s younger sister. “To put it simply, the two of them both refuses to save each other, letting the poisons wreak havoc on each other.”

“The two of them are both so stubborn, both refuses to back down or give in. It seems to me that they’ll both have to wait until the next lifetime to be cured.” Granny Li paused, “However”

“However what?” Bao Chun asked anxiously. Is there another way?

“However, if Little Bao Chun were to” Granny Li paused again.

“Me? What can I do to help?”

“If you could convince The Master to back down then you can save The Master’s life, as well as cure Miss Chi Shao.” Nineteen and Granny Li said, collaborating with each other.

“But ... will Huangfu listen to me?” Huangfu’s always in control of the situation in their relationship, every time he smiles, she forgets everything, she even forgets who she is, there is nothing she could do.

“How do you know you can’t unless you try? If not even you could do anything, then there is really no way to save him.” Granny Li was unwilling to give up and

tried to convince her again. She knew that Bao Chun meant more to The Master than anyone else in the mansion, Bao Chun's words mean more to him than all the urging and convincing she and Nineteen had done over the years.

"But" Bao Chun hesitated, having absolutely no confidence in herself.

Nineteen knelt down and looked Bao Chun in the eyes while she sat on the bed, his face was serious and stern. He asked her in a low voice, "Do you want to see The Master smile to you forever?"

"Yes!" She loved his smile!

"Then remember, if you could convince him, then The Master's smile is yours forever. If you were to fail" Nineteen intentionally paused, letting Bao Chun figure out the rest on her own.

"Fa, fail?" Bao Chun's face drained of all colours. If she can't convince Huangfu to treat the poison, then ... her gaze shifted to the still and unmoving Huangfu laying on the bed, her small hands tightly clutching his large cold palms.

"How long did you think The Master could keep going with the poison in him?" Nineteen upped the dose, making absolutely sure that Bao Chun will take on the task.

Of course he'll never tell Bao Chun that albeit it's difficult to cure The Master of the poison in his body, but due to The Master's foundation of medical knowledge, it's all too easy to avoid dying from the poison, so it's no problem for him to hold out for fifty more years.

"Do you think you could do it?" Nineteen asked Bao Chun, desperately trying to suppress his laughter.

Bao Chun yelled without thinking, "I CAN DO IT!"

Nineteen and Granny Li exchanged looks. No wonder The Master always liked teasing Bao Chun, it's because she's just too gullible!



The days are so long while waiting for Huangfu to wake up.

Bao Chun stayed by his side almost never leaving him, even when Nineteen and Granny Li promised and swore that Huangfu won't die in his sleep, Bao Chun still

insisted on seeing him opening his eyes.

Early in the morning every day, Bao Chun would go to the kitchen first to make him a pot of spare rib congee, and it's only during this period of time would Bao Chun leave his room, wait for the congee to finish cooking, then sit by Huangfu's bed while holding the piping hot congee in her hands, waiting for him to wake up.

She wanted him to be able to have hot congee as soon as he wakes up, but unfortunately none of her hard cooked congee saw Huangfu waking up, so she had to heartbreakingly eat the cold congee bite after bite herself, every day just before dawn. Her sad sobbing made her look like a poor deserted wife.

"The Master still haven't woken up yet?" Whenever Granny Li brings over lunch, she will always stay for a while with Bao Chun in Huangfu's room, and every day she opened with this question.

"Yeah." Bao Chun answered wistfully.

"The longest The Master has ever slept for was sixty days, it's only the fourth day today, don't worry."

"But he didn't turn, he didn't move one bit. He doesn't snore or talk in his sleep, he didn't even change his position. Doesn't he get hungry?" Bao Chun said with a long face, thinking how much he looked like a corpse in his sleep.

"The Master is unconscious right now, so of course he doesn't feel hungry. He won't even feel the pain if you secretly pinch him."

Granny Li was going to demonstrate for Bao Chun to see, but Bao Chun hurried to stop her. "No, don't, he's already in such a bad condition."

"Look at you, like a mother hen protecting her chicks." Granny Li jokingly teased her, but she was also worried that the exertion during the past few days will wear her out, "You have to take good care of yourself too, you aren't sleeping enough. It's no good if The Master wakes up, only to have you fall ill from over exhaustion."

"I'm not tired." Bao Chun was running completely on willpower. She gave Granny Li a weak smile, then continued to hold the porridge while looking down at a medical book.

“Little Bao Chun, since when did you become interested in medical books?”

Bao Chun showed a forced smile, “I don’t recognize many of these crooked looking characters, but Huangfu said his name’s in the medical books so I have to find it no matter what.” She pointed to the medical book, fortunately, this “Hundred Herbs Guide Book” has ink illustrations beside each herb, so she could only look at the pictures and figure out the medicinal herbs.

“You’ve worked hard.” Granny Li patted her on the cheeks, giving her some encouragement mentally, “I’ve got to go out for a bit, I’ll call you when dinner is ready.”

“Okay.” Bao Chun replied.

She watched as Granny Li left the room, then Bao Chun set the medical book on her knees, leaned against the bedside, resting her head on the end of Huangfu’s bed. From here she only needed to lift her head slightly to see Huangfu’s deep-set features.

“You have to wake up soon, I really miss your smile and your voice” Her eyes lingered on his face, then kept on calling to him in a small voice.

Bao Chun closed her eyes, letting her tired self fall asleep momentarily. Because nestled on the bedside is an uncomfortable way to sleep, this way, even if no one is here to wake her up, she will wake up on her own from a sore neck, ensuring that she won’t just keep on sleeping.

Thin black strands of hair fell over her face and his palm, the owner of the tiny face was in a deep slumber, but the owner of the palm twitched slightly from the smooth and delicate sensation



Oh gosh, neck cramps!

Bao Chun complained as she slowly turned her stiff neck and opened her eyes, hitting her neck with her fist to ease the soreness and discomfort.

What time is it now?

Bao Chun stared into the darkness in the room, it seems she slept past dinner time. She got up and patted her ruffled skirt, then took out a flare^[1] to light up

the lamp and habitually got ready to sit back on the edge of the bed.

“You’ve slept for almost another day” Bao Chun said as she turned towards the bed, then suddenly realizing that the bed was completely empty! She jumped onto the bed, flattened the beddings, but Huangfu was nowhere to be seen!

“Huangfu?!” Bao Chun flew out from the room like a headless chicken, ready to search for Huangfu in the pitch dark garden. Why didn’t he wake her when he woke up?

A strong, firm hand grabbed Bao Chun’s hand, she happily turned around and yelled, “Huangfu!”

“No.” Nineteen’s face slowly became visible in the moonlight. He had expected Bao Chun to run out like crazy after discovering The Master was gone, so he had been waiting outside the room. “The Master is in the alchemy room, he woke up.”

Bao Chun’s ears only heard the last three words that Nineteen said so nonchalantly, “he woke up”!

“Re ... really?!” Bao Chun asked in a tiny uncertain voice.

Seeing Nineteen nod, Bao Chun finally relaxed her tightly wound nerves and cried as she laughed, “He woke up! He woke up!” She repeated as she sobbed and sniffled, her words were so mumbled that no one could understand what she was saying.

“I’ve told you that The Master would be fine, you look like a mess, why would you go and put yourself through all this?” It was rare for Nineteen to be in such a good mood, so he teased her jokingly, “You look like some deserted wife left behind by her husband.”

Bao Chun’s cheeks flushed red, “I was worried”

“Alright, do you want to go and see The Master?”

“Yes.” Bao Chun wiped away her tears, “Where did you say he was?”

“The alchemy room.”

Bao Chun only took one step outside before she quickly turned back to ask Nineteen, “Do I look scary or awful right now?” She touched her loose hair and

looked down at her rumpled clothes.

“Did you think you were going to a wedding? It’s good enough and cute enough.” Nineteen stretched out his hand, his palm facing up and made a gesture meaning “please proceed”.

“Thank you.” Bao Chun finally hopped off happily to her destination.

“Wait!” Nineteen called out after her, reminding her, “Don’t forget to mention to The Master about curing the poison.”

Bao Chun patted her chest reassuringly and shot her a smile that says “leave it to me”.

“It’s really getting more and more lively.” Nineteen laughed as he watched Bao Chun walk away.

To the north of the Huangfu mansion, along the foothills of the mountain straight ahead, lies the lavender garden. Before reaching the foothills, there is a low but exquisite looking house. From what Nineteen had told her, this slightly hidden place was Huangfu’s alchemy room.

Holding back the urge to break through the door, Bao Chun decided to do the proper thing and knock.

“Come in.”

Oh! Huangfu’s voice sounds like a beautiful melody, I’ve missed it so much!

Bao Chun smiled her silly smile, feeling like she was going to die from happiness.

“Little Bao Chun, if you aren’t going to come in then you aren’t allowed to come in anymore.” Huangfu seems to know the person outside the doors was immersed in her own world, so he uttered a threat.

“I’m coming in!” Bao Chun rushed to open the doors.

Huangfu lazily slumped over the lounge chair, a coat draped over his shoulders, he wasn’t decently dressed but was still so damned charming. He brushed aside his loose hair, the smile never leaving his face.

Huangfu threw a dark brown pill into the air, then opened his mouth wide to

catch it.

“You’re moving! You’re moving!” Bao Chun was so touched. The Huangfu that was lying there unmoving on the bed yesterday was now putting on a peanut eating show in front of her.

“Have you still not woken up yet? Come sit here.” Nonsense, if he’s not moving then isn’t he dead?!

Huangfu held out his hand to her, Bao Chun gently gave him her own hand. Huangfu tugged gently, letting her fall into his arms.

She’s not the only one who missed the warmth of embrace.

“If I keep on sleeping, then someone’s going to ‘drown the Huangfu Temple with waterworks’. He wiped away the tears rolling down her face, “Crybaby Bao Chun.”

No matter how he mocks or ridicule her, Bao Chun was still overflowing with joy. As long as he’s alive, any vicious words of his she will believe and follow like an imperial decree.

“Thank goodness, you scared me to death” She held up his hand and rubbed it against her face. So warm, this is the temperature he should have. “I was so worried, so worried You fainted for four whole days, four days ... and threw up almost a vat full of blood. Thank goodness you woke up, and you’re back to your old self.” She doesn’t care how Huangfu’s going to laugh at her for her overreaction, she just wants to tell him how happy and moved she was.

The usually vicious-tongued Huangfu was uncharacteristically holding her in his embrace, not mocking, laughing at or ridiculing her, his eyes showed slightly how moved he was. Never had anyone cared whether or not he’d die in his sleep when the poison flared up, because everyone thought of him as the Godly Doctor, thought that he’ll never lose to some poison.

But he was still just a human after all, it still hurts when he gets injured, it’s still painful when he gets sick, he also needs the care and affection of others. And she, was the first person to treat him like this.

Huangfu’s big hands gently caressed her neck like the soft spring wind. When he woke up, he saw Bao Chun curled up against the edge of the bed and knew

she was probably going to have muscle soreness from her bad sleeping posture. Too bad whenever he wakes up after the poison flares up, his arms are so weak he can't even pick up a brick. Otherwise, he'd pick up the sleeping Bao Chun and put her on the bed, letting her have a good night's sleep.

"The moment the poison flared up, I thought if you saw me puking blood and fainting you'd probably be scared out of your wits, unfortunately, I still couldn't hold off until we reached the room and lost consciousness before we got there."

I'm sorry for making you worry so much. Huangfu silently buried this thought at the bottom of his heart.

He knew how worried, and how scared Bao Chun must have been when she saw the scene of him fainting. But knowing that there is someone who is worried about you is indeed quite heartwarming.

Bao Chun shook her head, "If you died" She shivered, afraid to keep on thinking, "I don't want it to happen! Please don't ever die in front of me!" She demanded Huangfu to make a promise.

"I'm not King Yan Luo,^[2] ruler of the underworld, maybe according to The Book of Life and Death^[3] my life is shorter than yours, this way I'll still die before you." Huangfu shrugged, he always had an accepting attitude towards life and death, but Bao Chun's words were sweet and they slightly lit up his heart.

"Then ... what if we cure you of the poison in your body? Will that prolong your life?"

Huangfu wiped the smile off of his face and replaced it with a look of displeasure, "Did Nineteen and Granny Li say something to you?"

"We are all very concerned about you, and we all want you to be completely rid of the poison in your body. Huangfu, can you please call back your sister?" She asked warmly.

"No." Huangfu rejected her without hesitation, "I don't want to see that ugly woman ever again."

"She's your little sister." But what she really wanted to say was, with Huangfu being so handsome, his sister probably won't be that terrible looking.

“True, this is the biggest indelible stain on my life.” Huangfu tossed another pill into his mouth and also put one up against Bao Chun’s lips, “Here, it’s a blood supplementing pill, taste it.” Every time he threw up a bunch of blood he’ll eat a dozen or so of these blood supplementing pills, to make up for his excessive loss of blood.

“Don’t try and direct my attention away, I’m talking to you about some serious business here.” Bao Chun pushed aside his hand and looked him in the eye.

He always skillfully deflected her questions to divert the topic, it was the same way back when she tried asking him to cure Ruo Xia’s illness, and now, even with his own life at stake, he’s doing the same thing.

“Okay, if you want to talk serious business then I’ll talk serious business with you.” Huangfu put away his playful expression, a shadowcast over his bloodless white porcelain-like face, thick lashes hid the emotions in his eyes, and his voice was different from their usual light and happy tone, it sounded low and gravelly.

“Do you want to know the real reason behind why I don’t like to save people, despite being a doctor?” His eyes weren’t looking at Bao Chun, it was as if he’s talking to himself.

“If you want to tell me.”

“Of course.” He was so sure. He never liked talking about himself, but with her, he doesn’t want to hide anything from her.

Huangfu flicked at the silvery strands that fell beside his cheeks, “I used to have black hair in the past. I can’t remember when it started When it faded to this unpleasant and repulsive colour.” There was a flash of inexplicable loss in his eyes, then as if laughing in self-mockery he said, “But I digress.”

“I like your silver hair, it’s beautiful, it really is.”

Huangfu took a deep breath, breathing in the faint scent of her hair, his embrace around her waist unknowingly tightened.

“My mom, was a genuine weak and naive ... overly nice person. A lot like you.”

He didn’t mean her appearance but was referring to her personality. “She was afraid to see other people suffer any sort of pain, if she could give something of

her's to other people, then she will gladly be generous. To others, she was kind, but to me, that was stupidity. In order to protect her, Chi Shao and I became the polar opposites to our mother's personality, to make sure she's not getting taken advantage of by others, to make her live better, we had to be stronger than her, and tougher than her."

"When I was five, some random distant relative suddenly came to the mansion, begging for mom to take her in, and of course, mom didn't refuse. But Chi Shao and I both disliked that woman, behind her sad pitiful eyes, she inadvertently revealed a hint of cruelty. Though mom always thought we were too suspicious. But the truth revealed that this almost stranger-like distant relative of ours was a calculating venomous snake harbouring sinister motives, and her intention was to kill mum, and drag down the entire Huangfu household to die with her. To this day, I still didn't understand why she wanted to kill a woman so kindhearted that she was almost like a Buddha."^[4]

Huangfu was completely immersed in the memories from the past, peacefully revealing it to Bao Chun.

"She poisoned mom with two types of poisons, two types of poisons that no doctor could cure. She didn't want to kill mom immediately, just wanted to torture her slowly by making mom throw up blood time and time again. When I was seven, Chi Shao and I separately transplanted the poisons into our bodies, and each studied the poison the other had in their body, researching methods for a cure, hoping to save mom ... before the poison became too much for her. Unfortunately, before we could figure out a way to save her, she passed away, right in front of Chi Shao and I, she threw up her last drop of blood. What good is there to save all the people in the world? I couldn't save her. I couldn't save her, what good is there to save all the people in the world." Huangfu burst out in laughter and repeated the last two sentences over and over again. He studied medicine to save his family, not those thousands and millions of strangers!

He spread open his right palm that he had around Bao Chun's waist, letting Bao Chun see clearly the scab that formed from the knife scar that he made when he was transmitting the poison into his own body, the scar that tears open every time the poison flares up, never ever able to fully heal, as if ridiculing and mocking his incompetence!

Bao Chun wrapped her hands around his wounded palm, "I'm sorry, I shouldn't have asked, I'm sorry"

She knew the powerlessness and self-blame that came with the inability to save a loved one. At this moment, she finally understood, the smiling Huangfu she usually sees was only a child stuck in deep guilt over his inability to save his mother. He put so much blame on himself, he was in such pain

Huangfu took another deep breath, a smile lit up on his porcelain like face. "Oh wow, don't tell me you believed all that?" He asked teasingly, as if saying, "I was just lying to you back there."

"I believe it. That wasn't a beautiful story, but I believe it." Bao Chun looked at his forced smile, filled with heartache. His eyes, they couldn't hide all the pain he was feeling. "That's why you hated when I begged you to help the other people that came to you seeking help, that's why you were so tough on me and wanted me to learn to be selfish. You must really hate people like me, right?"

After hearing his story, everything he did before suddenly all made sense.

Huangfu looked down and smiled, hiding his face in the crevice of Bao Chun's neck, "Hate? No, I deeply despise them."

He was honest and blunt, "I despised your gentle and selfless acts, despised how you think the whole world can betray you, despised the disgusting cowardice hiding behind your kind heart." He was a man advocating selfishness, but the woman he fell in love with just so happen to have the type of personality that he dislikes the most.

It wasn't so much that he hates soft-hearted women, it was more like he's afraid of them. Because he isn't sure he can always be there to protect her, and he dare not imagine what would happen if this soft-hearted woman were to end up like his mother

"If there comes such a day, will you be selfish for my sake? Will you change for my sake?" Huangfu held her face in his hands, his gentle breath falling on her nose, asking her to make a promise.

"I will." Bao Chun answered. "I'll be selfish for you right now. I want you to be good, to be healthy, to live a long life! My way of being selfish is to make you

agree to invite your sister back, only she can save you! Huangfu, can you please let your sister come back?" She was almost begging him.

Maybe he doesn't value his own life, but she does! She will cherish it and carefully hold it in her hands, protecting it.

Bao Chun held the hands he had around her cheeks and concentrated on waiting for him to answer her.

"Curing me, is it really that important to you? Why?" Huangfu put his forehead closely against her's, he knew Bao Chun had a kind heart, sympathetic to any sufferings of other people. But he doesn't want her to give her kindness away to other people, he want it exclusively all to himself! At least in her heart, he has to be the most special.

Bao Chun felt Huangfu's breath on her nose, his clear eyes full of anticipation, waiting for her answer. The blood red star from the day when his illness flared up has faded back to the pinkish skin tone, sitting between his slightly upturned brows.

Bao Chun put her hands on his shiny silvery hair, feeling its silky smoothness, carefully combing it with her fingers.

"I've never been so scared before in my whole life I've seen so many friends and family members die in front of me, I've been sad, I've been depressed, however, I've never been scared, but" Bao Chun looked up with her once again tear-filled eyes, "This time, I was scared! I was scared that you will keep on sleeping, that you will never wake up. I was scared that you will never open your eyes and look at me ... and now, I'm afraid I have to face yet again the fear of your poison flaring up"

She doesn't know how to answer Huangfu's question of whether it's "important or not", she just knew that she wants to save him, she has to save him!

"Please ask Miss Chi Shao to come back, I'm begging—"

Huangfu suddenly leaned in, easily taking her pink lips into his, blocking her words of request.

Silly girl! Don't beg him! He's the one who should be begging! But for the sake

of his life and death, she in turn is begging him to have Chi Shao treat him? If he's just a bystander, perhaps he'll have a good laugh at her ridiculous behaviour, but at this time, he can only feel complete heartache and contentment!

Yes, contentment. He once gave all he had to try and save mom's life, because mom and Chi Shao were the most important people in his life. But now, she's worried about him, scared for him, wanted to prolong his life Does that mean in his heart she's also different?

He lightly pecked and tasted the fragrance between her lips, his voice was vague and husky. "Whatever you say then"

"Really? You promise?" Bao Chun's body shook out of reflex, her lips left Huangfu's seduction, in her excitement she didn't notice Huangfu's look of disappointment.

Huangfu wiped his face in defeat and muttered, "At least give me a little sugar" He hadn't even had a chance to warm his lips yet, before this "delicious little bird" before him flew away. If he knew this then he wouldn't have answered her so quickly, he'd at least wait until he's kissed her enough.

"Stop messing around." Bao Chun scolded him, But she liked the playful Huangfu that would joke and ridicule people.

"I still haven't shown you what real messing around looks like." Huangfu quickly gave her a loud smooch on each cheek.

Bao Chun laughed as she hid from his puckered lips, he playfully stuck out his tongue, circling Bao Chun's palm, making her yank back her hand in embarrassment.

"Ah, yes!" Huangfu opened the wooden cabinet beside him as if he suddenly remembered something. Inside there was an array of bottles, he took out one of the jars, took off the cork and the room instantly filled with a sweet fragrance. "Hold your hand out."

Bao Chun curiously watched him as he poured out a cold green liquid, then carefully rubbed it evenly on her hands.

"It feels really good, what is it?"

“It’s a nourishing formula, it’ll restore your hands to a baby like delicate state.” Her rough, calloused hands was always on his mind, a few days ago, he took special care and blended together several sweet-smelling herbs for her to use, but it got delayed because his illness flared up.

“Thank you.” The icy coolness pleasantly surrounded her little palms, making her sigh in comfort.

“You’re welcome, it doesn’t really matter since I’ll be the one benefitting.” Huangfu gave her a wicked smile.

This was for when he’s biting her fingers later on, they’ll be as sweet as white asparagus shoots. Upon thinking of this, Huangfu was even more happy than before.

“What do you mean you’ll be the one benefitting?” Bao Chun asked in a silly way. Why does it matter to him if her hands are soft or not?

“You don’t have to understand too much. By the way, if you have time, you can also rub some medicinal liquid on your body, this way the feel of your skin would be a lot better as well ... But it seems I’ll have to make several more vats.” Huangfu stroked his chin and thought, but Bao Chun certainly wouldn’t know his mind had already wandered off imagining scenes not suitable for young audiences.

After thoroughly massaging her palms, Huangfu felt satisfied and put away the bottle.

Bao Chun gently shook her hands in the air, letting the medicinal liquid dry quicker, and said, “But when I go back and keep on working won’t my hands get rough once again?”

“Work? Did Granny Li give you some heavy work to do?” He doesn’t remember there being anything in the mansion that needed her to work hard, small things like boiling medicine won’t do any harm to her hands.

“I mean when I go home with Papa, I’ll have to work just like before.” Bao Chun answered him matter-of-factly. She can’t be like him and use his title of the Godly Doctor to take advantage of the members of the royal family.

Huangfu’s face sunk, he stared at her and asked, “Go home?” Does she want

to leave here?

“Yeah, when Ruo Xia recovers, then we’ll go to Suzhou to live with Papa and Qiu Yue.”

“I guarantee that Liu Ruo Xia will be so sick starting today that she won’t be able to leave the bed.” He said glumly.

“Why?!” Bao Chun couldn’t detect the anger in his tone, she was only concerned about what he had just said. “But I saw that lately Ruo Xia was getting much better than before.”

“So, once she gets better you’re in a hurry to leave?” He asked, extremely displeased.

“I’m not in a hurry, Papa and I made a promise to meet up at the Mountain God Temple after three months, there’s still two more months left, I’ll at least have to wait until your sister cures you of your poison.” Bao Chun curled her fingers and counted. She could still stay with him for two more months ... time flew by so quickly, in the blink of an eye she’ll have to leave him.

“Did I say you could leave?!”

“Huh?” Bao Chun raised an eyebrow and look at Huangfu with a puzzled expression.

Huangfu’s thoughts spun quickly in his mind, and he suddenly revealed a sinister fox-like smile. “Besides, you can’t go anywhere before you settled your debt for the treatment fees as well as room and board fees.” Haha! He’s such a genius!

Bao Chun stared wide-eyed. Oh no! Qiu Yue told her before to first find out the basic rate the Godly Doctor charges. If the fees are high enough to bankrupt them, then absolutely do not let him treat Ruo Xia. She forgot to ask him first Her mind wandered off to Cheng Wang Ye, [\[5\]](#) who came to Huangfu for treatment. His fees were enough for the entire mansion to live in luxury for an entire year!

Bao Chun gulped, then worked up the courage and asked, “How are you going to charge for your treatments?”

“Can you take the responsibility for the decision? I want to talk to your Papa face to face.” Huangfu saw through what Bao Chun was thinking. He’s admiring himself more and more now for this reason he just thought of. This way, he can have both Bao Chun’s person and heart as compensation to him, for the rest of his life!

“We are a poor family, really poor, even Papa won’t be able to afford it ...” Bao Chun grimaced, then suddenly shook her hand and realized, “Are you going to charge me for the medicinal liquid I rubbed on my hands?”

“You can count those as free gifts, no need to be so polite.” Huangfu laughed to himself, pretending to be generous in giving her a favour. “I’ll have Nineteen go to Suzhou to seek out the whereabouts of your Papa and little sister, and invite them over to—pay the bill.”

Translator’s Notes:

Some of you might know that my father flew in from out of the country and is here visiting, I had to go with him to run a few errands for a while so my progress was a little slowed.

For this chapter, my favourite part was when Huangfu threatened Bao Chun that Ruo Xia was going to be bedridden starting that day. xD Oh Huangfu, look at how jealous you are! Also at the end where he thought up that “genius” idea to charge Bao Chun~ I think the chapter ended perfectly the way it did, with pay the bill

If I remember correctly, we have three more chapters left and then an



epilogue. So please stay tuned! Once Singing Spring Melody ends I’ll post up a character name and relationship page so anyone confused by the names can refer to. I’m also considering creating a general glossary page for common terms that I’ll keep in Chinese, this way people can read it, understand it and have an easier time reading my translations. For anyone following Hunting for Beautiful Men, a Journey Through Time, I’m also going to start translating the next chapter for that one, so I won’t be working on chapter seven just yet.

Happy belated April Fool's and Easter everyone! I'm currently re-watching 宫锁心玉 and 金玉良缘. Micky He and Wallace Huo <3 also, 冯绍峰! ~

As always, please like, comment, and follow if you've enjoyed reading!~ Ciao!
<3

1 In Chinese it's called a 火折子, it's a portable lighter of sorts. People were more advanced than the days of using flint to light fire. This was mentioned in some grave robbing novels. To read about it and see a picture of it, please click here—>[LINK](#).↵

2 In Chinese his is 阎罗王, he is the ruler and judge of the underworld, where all the dead people have to go after they die.↵

3 The book is called 生死簿 in Chinese, if you've read or watched Journey to the West you'll know that the Monkey King tore the page with his name off of the book, that way he could no longer be crossed out and die. The book is filled with all the names of the people in the world, as well as their time and reason for death. It is kept by one of the judges that aids Yan Luo in his judgement.↵

4 The book originally said 菩萨 which is a Bodhisattva, a Buddhist religious figure. To see what the Bodhisattva looks like click here—>[LINK](#). Although always portrayed as a female by TV shows, but the Bodhisattva is in fact genderless. Chinese says like 菩萨心肠 or describing someone as 菩萨 basically means the person is really really kind hearted. There are other proverbs and sayings that involve 菩萨, but I'll learn about them as we encounter them.↵

5 In Chinese it says 王爷 wáng ye, is the title used to address the Emperor's brothers, or certain other men in the ranks of nobility.↵

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Hell King Sect Series/Yan Wang Sect Series

By: Jue Ming 决明

“Sigh”

The familiar sound of sighing can be heard in the kitchen, Granny Li set down a bowl of ginseng chicken soup in front of Bao Chun. Staring at the delicacy before her, she let out another heavy sigh.

“Haven’t you heard that one sigh adds three years? You’ve aged at least thirty years today from sighing.”

Granny Li has finally heard enough and decided to stop Bao Chun from aging herself.

“But I’ve got things on my mind.”

“You’re worried when The Master’s sleeping, yet you’re still worried when he’s awake. Little Bao Chun, you sure are hard to understand.”

“A chicken’s worth fifteen copper coins, a fish was worth at least thirteen copper coins ... ginsengs! Oh my god! Ginsengs were as expensive as gold bars, and I’ve lost track of how many gold bars I’ve eaten.” Bao Chun had a troubled look on her face, mumbling as she counted the large sum of money she owned Huangfu. She couldn’t even finish counting the most basic amount she owned for food and drinks, not to mention the shockingly high treatment and accommodation fees.

“What chicken fish and ginseng? Hurry up and drink the bowl of ginseng chicken soup on the table. It’ll taste really oily if you drink it cold.” Granny Li couldn’t understand what Bao Chun was talking about, and only urged her to eat more.

Bao Chun swallowed and said with much integrity, “I can’t let myself sink deeper into debt. I’ve decided to only drink water from now on!”

“What nonsense are you drivelling on about?!” Granny Li scolded her.

“Huangfu said that he’s settling accounts with me, all the things that I’ve eaten, drank, used, along with the treatments all cost money!” Even if she sold herself off she wouldn’t be worth the price of a single ginseng!

“If The Master really was going to calculate everything in detail, then he’ll have to measure and weigh the amount of air you breathed in the mansion! Rest assured, The Master won’t be happy to see you starve yourself to death. Also, if you starve yourself half to death, The Master will have to put in efforts to treat

you, and that treatment fee will be enough for you to eat three cows and ten chickens.” Granny Li simply sat down next to her, picked up the chicken soup and started to pour it into Bao Chun’s mouth, blocking any words Bao Chun was about to speak.

“Also, didn’t you say that The Master has agreed for Miss Chi Shao to come back? Isn’t this more important than your meal fees? Although The Master has agreed, but whether or not Miss Chi Shao was willing to come back was yet another problem.” Granny Li said to Bao Chun as she fed her, “The biggest challenge currently at hand is inviting Miss Chi Shao to come back.”

Bao Chun gurgled down the chicken soup and asked, “How will we get in touch with Miss Chi Shao?” They have to at least find her first, then, they can talk about what to do next.

“The young miss was always the one to reach out to us, we’ve lost contact with her in recent years, but it’s a good thing that the messenger that delivered her letters is still here in the mansion.”

“And who’s that? Nineteen?” There’s not that many people here in the mansion, Nineteen was the only possible candidate.

“Does Nineteen look like a messenger pigeon?” Granny Li wiped away the oil from Bao Chun’s mouth and said, “I’m talking about the two in the lake.”

“Those big fat geese?!” Bao Chun’s tone was filled with surprise, “They’re the messengers? But they don’t look like pigeons!” If there was a way to feed pigeons and have them grow to an impressive size like that, then she definitely will have to ask Granny Li to teach her how. A pigeon that can be eaten as a goose? It’s pretty worth it no matter how she thinks about it.

“I didn’t say they were pigeons, those two are snow geese, very precious snow geese. It took Miss Chi Shao a lot of time and effort to finally hunt them down.” Granny Li smiled as she watched Bao Chun’s surprised expression, she looked like she had just swallowed ten eggs. “It’s just that they were fed a little too well and ended up as big fat geese. In my opinion, those two priceless snow geese has probably forgotten how to fly by now, having lived in such peace and comfort for so long.”

“But how can that be?! Without them, we won’t be able to find Miss Chi

Shao!” Bao Chun slammed her hand down on the table and stood up, her eyes shone with determination.

For Huangfu’s sake, she will figure out a way!

“I’ll make those two big white geese remember their true identity and mission!” She shouted loudly.

“What are you planning to do?”

“The most important thing right now is to make those two white geese ... I mean snow geese fly again, otherwise everything else is empty talk.” She declared, even though she still couldn’t accept the truth about the identity of the big white geese.

“Alright, you can do it, I am supporting you mentally.” Granny Li cheered Bao Chun on.

“Thank you!” She can’t continue to waste her precious time eating ginseng chicken, she has to take care of those two big white geese first! Bao Chun looked around and had an idea. She got up and took two hot steamed meat buns from the steaming basket. “I’ll use this as bait!”

“Little Bao Chun?” Seeing how Bao Chun was busy searching left and right in the room for some rope and a wooden stick, Granny Li’s eyes were filled with giant question marks.

“I’m going to fish for geese!” Bao Chun replied and quickly ran off to the lakeside.

The two unsuspecting snow geese were still swimming leisurely in the lake waters. Having gotten accustomed to their happy and carefree life as white geese, they can’t immediately realize their true identity as snow geese.

“Hey there, do you wanna eat steamed buns?” Bao Chun shouted towards the centre of the lake, where the two snow geese looked up at her as if they understood her words. The delicious smelling meat buns moved along with her waving hands and shone in front of their eyes. Finally, unable to hold back any longer, they were lured in and approached Bao Chun.

Seeing how the geese were getting closer and closer, Bao Chun put the meat

buns down on the ground a step away from her. The two geese saw this and followed it to shore.

As soon as the geese's mouths touched the skin of the steamed buns, Bao Chun immediately took out the rope from behind her and tied the two gluttonous snow geese up. The two snow geese honked miserably and Bao Chun felt guilty and a little bad for them, but remembering that Huangfu needed them to save his life, she forced herself to toughen up and ignore their pleas for mercy.

“Just hang in there guys, I won't do anything to you. I just want you guys to please remember how to fly.” She squatted down by the two snow geese, lifted her hands up horizontally on either side of her body, and imitated a bird flying in the sky, flapping her “wings” as she talked. “Just like this, do you remember now? Do you know how to do it?”

It's just as the saying goes, “Talking to a brick wall is a waste of one's time and effort”. But in actuality, talking to a goose isn't in any way better.

They honked at her in reply, as if to say, “Who the heck cares about what you have to say?! We just can't fly!” “Or maybe it's that your bodies are too heavy to fly? It's ok, I stole some laxatives^[1] from Huangfu's alchemy room.” Bao Chun held up two large jars of medicine and waved them around in front of the geese's terrified eyes.

The geese honked in complaint to the cruelty, “Help, this is manslaughter! ... No, this is 'geeseslaughter!' Help!”

Due to the graphic nature of the following scenes, Bao Chun closed her eyes and poured the laxatives into the snow geese's mouths.

“Amitabha, amitabha, please don't blame me for doing this ...” Bao Chun chanted as she did so.

“Honk, honk honk! HONK HONK HONK HONK!” “This is injustice, this is heartless! I don't want to poop until I collapse!”

Drawn over by the noise near the lakeside, Nineteen walked over and saw the hilarious scene of Bao Chun reciting Buddha's name as she tortured the two snow geese.

“You aren't really planning to capture these two and eat them right?”

Nineteen spoke out and interrupted her as he picked up the two tied up snow geese. He really didn't expect Bao Chun to have the guts to actually do it.

"No, it's not like that. Granny said that these two snow geese knew where Miss Chi Shao lived, and we could use them to deliver the message and ask Miss Chi Shao to come back." Bao Chun tried to take back the snow geese, but Nineteen raised his hand up and held them out of her reach.

"Give them back to me!" Bao Chun jumped up and down beside Nineteen.

"No matter how hard you try, these two snow geese won't be able to deliver your letter to Miss Chi Shao."

"No, as long as they are able to fly there will be a way." She had confidence in them. Nineteen looked at her and smiled in mockery, then looked up and looked the two snow geese in the eye and asked, "Do you two even remember the route?"

As very intelligent animals, they immediately shook their heads.

"See?" Nineteen untied the rope around the snow geese and let them escape Bao Chun's evil clutches. "These two geese are too used to the luxurious lifestyle in the mansion, they've long forgotten the route by now. Plus, Miss Chi Shao lives at the borders, did you really think that these two dumb geese can fly safely to Miss Chi Shao? Why don't you try and ask them to lay a few golden eggs to play with, you'll have more success with that."

Bao Chun's face changed to a look of depression, and could no longer hold back her tears, "What do I do then? Huangfu's going to die! Sniffle sniffle ... these two dumb snow geese, living in comfort and eating all the good food at Huangfu's mansion, but they're so useless when you need them All they know how to do is swim around and honk" She started to blame and criticizing the two geese.

Nineteen shook his head and handed something white to Bao Chun. Bao Chun thought it was a handkerchief for her to wipe away her tears, so she took it and dried her tears, blowing her nose along the way.

"Thank ... thank you."

"That's Miss Chi Shao's address." Nineteen suddenly said.

“What?” Bao Chun didn’t hear him clearly, so she raised her head and asked again.

“I said, that piece of paper was Miss Chi Shao’s address.”

“What paper?” Bao Chun furrowed her brows and asked. Why can’t Nineteen ever give a certain answer? She could never quite understand his point. They really do have difficulties communicating.

“The one you just used to wipe away tears and blow your nose.”



After much effort, having finally sent out the letter asking Chi Shao to come back, Bao Chun collapsed on the table.

Not noticing that her hands were covered in ink, Bao Chun wiped her tired face, staining her face black. She bent down to pick up the dozens of cotton paper on the ground, all of them filled with Huangfu’s neat handwriting.

She originally planned to let Huangfu write the letter by himself, asking Chi Shao to please come back. But Huangfu wouldn’t write it no matter what, and pretended that it had nothing to do with him. So poor Bao Chun had to write the letter herself, running to Huangfu every time she encountered a word she didn’t know how to write, coaxing him to teach her how to read and write, and then going back to her room and copying it onto her letter. But it turns out that out of the three hundred words, she didn’t know how to write two hundred and eighty-seven of them!

But thanks to this incident, Bao Chun learned a lot more words.

She took the medical book out from under her pillow, finding that she could read more and more of the characters, and knew that she was close to finding out Huangfu’s full name. She made a mark on all the pages with medicinal herbs that looked like the ginger that Huangfu showed her last time. After some elimination, there were only ten or so possible herbs left, out of the several hundred she started with.

“Huangfu’s name is in here!” Bao Chun giggled as she smiled her silly smile and hugged the medical book.

“Big sister Bao Chun.” Ruo Xia knocked on her door, bringing Bao Chun back to reality, and she quickly opened the doors for Ruo Xia.

“What happened to your face?” Ruo Xia laughed at her and said, “You’re like a little piece of charcoal.”

Bao Chun looked at herself in the bronze mirror. Huh? Who’s that woman with the pitch black face? She looked really familiar

“Oh my!” Bao Chun called out softly. It was probably from when she was writing the letter, but the stain was kind of a little too big. Other than her eyes and her lips, she looked like she had just crawled out of a pool of ink.

Bao Chun wrung out a wet towel to clean herself up, her skin was once again back to their original fresh and delicate pink hue.

“Big sister Bao Chun, you’ve gotten a lot prettier.” Ruo Xia sat by the bedside and fiddled with her hair. Of course, Bao Chun’s looks were still not as beautiful as hers, but her smile gave off an air of feminine charm.

“Really?” Bao Chun laughed. “Isn’t it all the same, two eyes and a mouth.”

“Of course your facial features didn’t change much. Yes! What’s changed is that you now give off ... this feeling of happiness.” Ruo Xia stared at Bao Chun for quite a while, then stroked her cheeks and remarked, “Your skin’s gotten much smoother as well.”

Bao Chun caressed her cheeks with her own hands, the smooth sensation was evident. These results were all thanks to Huangfu, forcing her to eat a bottle of fine pearl powder each night, along with a variety of medicinal herb liquids for her to rub on her skin.

“I have to thank Huangfu for this.”

Ruo Xia seems to be deep in thought, and Bao Chun was starting to feel a little embarrassed being stared at by her for so long. When she remembered to ask Ruo Xia why she was staring, Ruo Xia spoke first instead and asked, “It seems that Huangfu Gong Zi^[2] treats you very well, am I right?”

Ruo Xia is neither dumb nor stupid, she understood very well the ineffable relationship between Bao Chun and Huangfu.

“I guess he’s pretty good to me.” Bao Chun replied. There’s only the occasional teasing and making fun of her, treating her like a toy, satisfying his need to escape from his boring life.

“Do you like him?” Ruo Xia asked pointedly.

Bao Chun was stunned. Of course the answer was yes, she was attracted to Huangfu the moment she saw him. Although in the beginning she was simply lost in his impeccable smile, but after being with him for a while, she fell in love with every facet of him. Be it the happy Huangfu, the angry Huangfu, the smiling Huangfu or the cold and indifferent Huangfu To her, they were all unique.

“I could tell just by looking at your face.” Ruo Xia chuckled, her face was beautiful like the blooming peach blossom. She raised one of her slender eyebrows and said slowly, “I also like him.”

“Huh?” Bao Chun was caught off guard and could only stare blankly at Ruo Xia’s serious face, when she finally found her voice again, she asked in a tiny, barely discernible voice, “What ... what did you say?”

Ruo Xia gave her a firm and proud smile, “I, also, like, him.” She put emphasis on each word and repeated herself unapologetically. “You saw it too, when he saw me the other day he was very nice and polite to me, I think he probably likes me.” She has a lot of confidence in herself.

It’s true, who doesn’t like the beautiful Ruo Xia? Who doesn’t like a confident and delicately charming beauty?

This was something that she understood ever since she was fifteen years old, but why does her heart still ache? Bao Chun’s mind wandered off.

“Big sister Bao Chun, you’ve said it yourself that you don’t plan to get married, didn’t you? So, can you let me have Huangfu Gong Zi?” Ruo Xia affectionately held Bao Chun’s hands and asked as she whined cutely. She knew very well Bao Chun’s easily convinced, soft-hearted nature, along with Bao Chun’s love for her, no matter what she asked of Bao Chun, she never failed to get what she wanted.

“I” Bao Chun hesitated. She never hesitated before to give her sister any of her things, even though their family wasn’t well off, but if there were new clothes, good food, or anything else that she was able to provide her with, she

would never refuse her requests. But Huangfu

“Say yes, say yes!” Ruo Xia lightly swung their hands from side to side as she held Bao Chun’s hand in hers, and coyishly asked.

“Well” It’s not up to her to decide whether or not to let her have him.

“Big sister Bao Chun, don’t you think I’m a better match for Huangfu Gong Zi?”

“Yes, you’re right, but”

“Stop saying but, I know you love me the most, right?”

“Yes—” Bao Chun was about to say, “Yes, but it’s hard to give you an answer” to politely decline. However, a loud bang rang out and interrupted the conversation between the two sisters, causing the two to turn their heads in frightened surprise.

The poor door was lying on the ground resentfully, the door murderer was standing in front of the recently created gap in the wall, eyes almost spewing flames.

Having never seen Huangfu so furious, Bao Chun and Ruo Xia huddled together in fear, forming a ball.

“Liu Bao Chun, repeat what you’ve just said.” Although he was obviously angry, but the words that came out of his mouth were cold as ice and frosty like snow.

Bao Chun was so frightened that she tried to hide behind Ruo Xia, too bad that Ruo Xia had the exact same idea, so the two of them could only retreat step by step, into the corner of the bed.

Huangfu reached out with his large palm, accurately picking up the back of Bao Chun’s collar, dragging her out from the corner of the bed.

“Don’t! Don’t hit me! I’m sorry! I was wrong! I didn’t do it on purpose!” Bao Chun covered her face, unsure of what Huangfu was angry about, so she continuously fired out apologies.

He’s so scary, is he going to beat her up

“If you have the guts, then repeat for me what you’ve just told her!” Huangfu’s

shouting almost broke Bao Chun's eardrums, in addition to that, he was also violently shaking her.

"I don't have the guts! I don't have the guts ... I really don't have the guts" Bao Chun murmured on and off. Who has the courage to debate with a crazy lion? She didn't know, but at least she didn't!

"No?! You dare to give me away?! You dare to abandon me?!" Just now, he was looking for Bao Chun to go with him and play with the snow geese, but he didn't expect to hear the conversation between them that drove him crazy. That ignorant woman was actually willing to give him away to her sister!

That "yes" Bao Chun had just uttered drove all the reason he had out of him.

What did she take him for? An item? A dispensable person? A man that she could generously give to others without feeling an ounce of heartache?

And to think, all the thoughts and effort he had put into her, going out of his way to make her happy, trying to keep her by his side. But it turns out, it was all one-sided, it's all him and only him!

Ruo Xia saw the veins that almost popped out of Huangfu's forehead, and patted herself on the chest, trying to calm her frightened heart. Her mind got to work and thought to use her feminine charms to divert Huangfu's attention. So she forced out her most beautiful smile and said, "Huangfu Gong Zi"

"Beat it!" Huangfu shouted without thinking, unwilling to spare her any extra attention.

"Ruo Xia, save me" Bao Chun peeked out from her slightly opened eyes, saw a pale and terrified Ruo Xia running off in terror, and attempted to beg Ruo Xia to take her along.

Huangfu kicked with his right foot and the door on the floor immediately flew up, refilling the gap in the wall, as well as blocking off Bao Chun's last possible escape route.

Huangfu pushed her roughly against the lounge chair, his angry face close to hers.

"Don't, don't be so angry ... it's bad for your health" Bao Chun swallowed

her fear and tried to calm him down.

Huangfu sneered, “You still care about my health? What for? Didn’t you just generously give me away? Why would you care about whether I’m dead or alive?”

“Of ... of course I care.”

“Oh wow, I guess I should be grateful! Should I cry my eyes out to express my gratitude? Appreciate you for your kind and charitable ways, and to thank you for your selflessly affectionate spirit, huh?” Huangfu lifted up her chin maliciously, although he didn’t like seeing the look of fear on her face, but he was so full of anger that he had to let it vent.

Bao Chun bit her lower lip, enduring all the mockery from Huangfu without talking back.

“Tell me, am I also something that you can easily give away to some other woman?”

“She ... she’s not some other woman, she’s my younger sister.”

“What a wonderful big sister you are! Giving your little sister everything she asks for!” Huangfu said as he gritted his teeth. He really wanted to strangle her! Then cut open her skull and see what in the world she’s storing up there! “What about me? Did you ask the ‘item you are giving away’ whether or not he wants to accept your sister?”

“Do ... you?” She asked timidly.

The taut string of sanity immediately snapped.

“DO, I?! You are actually asking me this? Do I? You don’t know what I want?!”

Huangfu’s hands held on to her shoulders, wanting to push her away. But at the same time he also wanted to hug her tightly in his embrace, trapping him in a dilemma.

“How ... how am I supposed to know” It hurts, his grip was so tight that it’s almost crushing her bones.

Huangfu’s eyes darkened, a cold smile spread across his face.

Enough! He's had enough!

With a dull ripping sound, Bao Chun's outer coat was instantly reduced to shreds, falling on the floor all around her. Her eyes widened with terror as she watched Huangfu approach her, laying his hand on her inner gown, letting her know that it too will suffer the same fate as her coat.

"No—" Bao Chun clutched her collar tightly, not letting his hand trespass any further. Although she hasn't yet lain with a man, she understood that she wasn't supposed to let other men see or touch her body.

"Or perhaps I should just take you by force, and make you understand, WHAT, I, WANT!"

His eyes revealed his insistence, and his actions showed his determination. He wants to keep her, even if he has to resort to such vile and despicable means and force her, he will make her willingly become his!

Bao Chun was terrified!

She desperately tried to pry open his hands, but they won't budge no matter how hard she tried. Huangfu clamped down on her wrists and secured them above her head, his right hand easily ripping away her last line of defence.

"No, don't do it! Don't do it! I'm so afraid" She cried and pleaded pitifully, her cries stabbed at Huangfu's guilty conscience, slowing down the hand he held at her nape.

"Sniffle ... sniffle ... I'm so afraid" Her kitten-like weeping was an accusation towards his brutality.

Huangfu released his grip, Bao Chun immediately moved her body to the inner side of the lounge chair, her tightly closed eyes were no longer able to hold back her fears, tears overflowed and flooded down her cheeks.

"Don't hurt me ... I beg of you"

Seeing how Huangfu was about to make another move, Bao Chun was startled and moved to cover her face with her hands. However, Huangfu simply turned around quietly and took out a new outer coat from the closet, draping it over her shoulders. He glimpsed over at the medical book lying peacefully on the table,

turned a few pages and ripped out a page from the book, then took it to the candle fire, letting the flames devour the piece of paper.

She doesn't even want him anymore, what need is there for her to know his name!

Bao Chun stared blankly and watched his every movement.

Why was he only burning that one particular page? Oh no! That's the page with the herb that Huangfu was named after!

The flickering candlelight shone on his face, Bao Chun couldn't bear to look at his lonely expression, but didn't dare to go and talk to him, fearing that if she's not careful she might anger Huangfu once more.

He sat back down next to her and lowered his head, allowing his silvery strands hide half of his face.

After quite a while, Huangfu's barely discernible voice sounded like it came from somewhere far away. "So, was this how you managed to be selfish for my sake?"

He turned his head slowly and looked into her eyes, letting Bao Chun see clearly the emotions hidden behind his.

What she saw in his eyes was deep hurt.

"Liu Bao Chun, I don't care for it. Your selfishness, I—don't care for it." His voice was so very soft, like the illusory and unreachable clouds.

Oh god! She hurt him! Bao Chun came to a startling realization and desperately clutched on to his hand, she's not letting him drift further and further away from her!

"I didn't give you away to Ruo Xia, I didn't! I didn't say I don't want you! Huangfu, don't be like this!"

He continued to show Bao Chun a sense of being abandoned, but she didn't! How could she ever abandon him?

Huangfu pulled his hand away from her soft palms with an air of indifference.

In the heat of the moment, she lunged forward and clung to his arm. "I'm not

letting go! I'm not letting go! I won't let go no matter what! You didn't even finish hearing the conversation I was having with Ruo Xia, you can't declare me guilty! I can give anything to Ruo Xia, anything except you! I won't let go, even if you really like Ruo Xia! I didn't say yes to her! I was just about to refuse when you came in! I wasn't going to say yes to her, I would never say yes to her, you are mine!"

She growled and poured everything out, each and every word was a display of her affection and first love in front of his eyes. She thought that she could never be selfish, but she just wasn't that great!

She selfishly wanted him!

Huangfu's mood slowly returned to normal. He probably scared her pretty badly, that's why she's so emotional in explaining everything.

He no longer pulled away at her touch, he quietly and attentively listened to her feelings and stored them in his heart.

"Don't get me wrong Don't say that you don't care for everything that I do, if you don't care for it then what should I do? I'm really dumb and really slow, just tell me what you want me to do, don't make me guess, don't let me make silly assumptions, I'll never guess it and never know I'm just an illiterate country girl who doesn't know much about the ways of the world, I don't have the brains to understand those complicated thoughts. Just tell me what you want me to do, as long as I can to it, I will do it"

His distance and indifference made her feel like she has fallen into a deep abyss, a simple "I don't care for it" almost dug her heart out.

Huangfu lightly stroked her hair, just like he used to.

"I don't want you to guess, or to make assumptions. I thought I was making it obvious enough." He's made so many exceptions for her. What kind of sensible person couldn't see and understand his feelings? Everyone but her, she's such a fool. "You like doing charity, you like to give, you like to be kind, and you like to be selfless, I could stand all of these. But when it comes to me, you have to have absolute ownership and be absolutely selfish. I don't care how much your morals tell you that it's better to give than to receive, and that helping people is the basis of happiness. When it comes to me, you have to be selfish."

He cupped her face between his hands and demanded seriously.

He didn't care about how soft hearted and kind Bao Chun was, and how much he disliked those traits. But she has to understand, she doesn't have to be selfish when it come to other things, but when it has to do with him, she just has to be.

"If anyone wants you to give me up, you have to speak loudly and tell her that, 'Huangfu is mine, don't anyone dare to take him away from me!' like how you've just told me." He loved it when she told him, "You are mine!" He loved it to death.

"You're not angry anymore?" Bao Chun asked gingerly as she studied his face, and saw the familiar bantering and gentleness she was used to.

"Yes." Who could stay angry at her after listening to that heartfelt confession? "Did I scare you?"

"Yeah, I thought you were going to hit me" Bao Chun shuddered at the thought and spoke haltingly. When she was younger, she saw the uncle next door beat up his short and thin wife. His huge fist mercilessly fell onto her pale weeping face and body, and knew that some men will use violence to make women fear and submit to them She couldn't help but to hug her shoulders.

"I will never hurt you." Huangfu radiated with his signature smile, and took the opportunity to button up her coat for her. He didn't take advantage of her at all, back there when he ripped her clothes off, he hadn't seen or touched a single inch of her skin that's not supposed to be exposed.

"But you're so scary when you're angry How many times have you gotten angry like this?"^[3]

"How many times have I gotten angry? Well, you can count it with one hand." He fiddled with Bao Chun's fingers.

"Three times?"

"That's rare enough right?" Huangfu was as proud as a peacock.

Seeing how complacent he was, Bao Chun didn't have the heart to say anything to him, she hasn't even gotten angry once in her entire life.

"Do, do you always strip people's clothes off when you get angry?" It's a really

strange habit.

Huangfu threw his head back and laughed. Does Little Bao Chun take him for a pervert? He isn't interested in doing the same thing to his long dead grandfather and that unworthy sister of his!

"I also strip people's clothes off when I'm not angry!" Huangfu bit at her earlobe, looking like he's up to no good, and declaring his dominance.

"You perverted cat!" Bao Chun tried to keep him away with her hands pressed up against his chin, trying to keep this furious lion turned perverted cat far away from her. But Huangfu easily snuck back to her side, and the only thing missing was him meowing.

Huangfu's large palm snuggled up to her neck and ran along the skin of her nape, wiping away the mist of sweat condensed on her skin.

"Little Bao Chun, you're sweating a lot" He chuckled and said.

"Of, of course! It's really hot ... don't keep on sticking to me!" Bao Chun called out in protest. Every time Huangfu leaned against her, she always felt really uncomfortable. She knew it wasn't because of the temperature, but she doesn't understand where these desires came from, so she couldn't free herself from its grasp.

Sweat soaked through her clothes, Bao Chun half closed her watery eyes, her red lips slightly ajar, exhaling hot breath

Huh, it's not right, why is it especially hot and especially uncomfortable today?

She turned her head.

"Ah!" Bao Chun pointed to where she had put the pile of cotton paper she had just cleaned up, raging flames were burning away wildly. "Huangfu, fire! There's a fire!" She screamed and pushed at Huangfu, seeing how the fire was growing larger and larger, spreading from the cotton papers to the closet.

"How did the fire start?" It's not dry or anything, how did it catch on fire for no reason? A confused Huangfu sat by the lounge chair and rubbed his chin as he thought.

"Somebody come quickly!" Bao Chun was hopping around in the room like a

grasshopper.

Huangfu happily slammed his fist onto his palm, “That’s right! It’s the page of the medical book that I burned, and then, I threw it aside randomly.” Now they finally know the culprit that started the fire!

“Help!” His laughter was mixed in with the sound of Bao Chun’s cry for help.

Translator’s Notes:

I was away at an event and came back super late, but here it is, the next chapter. I have a feeling that someone’s going to get a lot of hate in this chapter. I hope you guys have fun reading!

*As always, please like, comment, and follow if you’ve enjoyed reading!~ Ciao!
<3*

1 It originally says 巴豆 in Chinese, which is the name for Purging Croton Fruit, a medicine used as a laxative. I opted to use laxative instead of its actual name for ease of reading, since most people know in Chinese that 巴豆 is a laxative but not everyone knows that Purging Croton Fruit is a laxative. Click here to read about it —>[LINK](#).

2 Gong Zi or 公子 in Chinese, used to be a way of addressing the sons of dukes or princes. It is later used to address the sons or noble families and a general term to address other people’s sons, but more commonly, it’s a way to address young men politely.

3 I added a sentence right here since I believe the online text was missing a line, the whole thing didn’t flow right without a line here.

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Hell King Sect Series/Yan Wang Sect Series

By: Jue Ming 决明

By Huangfu’s orders, Nineteen headed off to Suzhou to seek out the

whereabouts of Bao Chun's father and sister.

Walking along the orderly street markets, there were inns, teahouses and performance stages standing along either side of the street. Tavern banners were flowing in the wind, against the backdrop of a sunny sky. The shouting of peddlers and menial servants were mixed with endless streams of people, making for quite a bustling scene.

As for Nineteen, he must find two "needles" he's never seen before out of this haystack.

It's been said that food is the primary necessity of the people. Since eating is a must for everybody, Nineteen has decided to start his search at the restaurants and inns. Of course, the first place that came to mind was the most famous one in Suzhou, "Food Destiny Pavilion".

Nineteen picked a place on the second floor that's closest to the streets, it just so happens that he could see the entire street from where he was sitting.

"Hi there sir, what would you like to order?" As soon as he sat down, he was greeted by a warm and friendly restaurant worker.

"I'll take a pot of scented tea and a few side dishes." Nineteen's gaze was on the streets outside, it was quite awhile before he looked over at the server. It was the kind and gentle face of a good man, his smiley face made him feel a sense of familiarity. Nineteen put away his cold looks and tried to make the expression on his face seem kind.

Due to influences from the incredibly kind Bao Chun, he too was starting to show expressions of kindness.

"Yes, right away."

"Hold on. I'd like to ask you about two people, a father and daughter with the family name Liu. They've only just settled in Suzhou recently." Seeing how the server seemed like a good person, Nineteen was finally willing to ask regarding the whereabouts of the Liu family father and daughter duo.

The server's eyes widened. Father and daughter, family name Liu, not from around these parts Isn't he referring to him?

That's right, this server right here was Bao Chun's father, Liu Dai Gui.

It's been a month since they've gone their separate ways and split up with Bao Chun, Qiu Yue and Liu Dai Gui has since made a living and settled down in Suzhou, and it just so happens that he's working at "Food Destiny Pavilion" as a server. The young Qiu Yue couldn't do much except for some odd jobs to help out with the family expenses, but under a strange combination of circumstances, she showed the shopkeeper her exceptional abilities to balance accounts, and was immediately hired as one of the bookkeepers at Food Destiny Pavilion.

"Well sir, I think you are looking for—" Before Liu Dai Gui could admit anything, the sound of a man and a girl fighting out on the streets can be heard. The girl's voice was strong and powerful, shouting fluently at the man twice her size standing in front of her.

Nineteen turned his head to check out the girl.

It was a little girl of around ten years old in age, the pale yellow silk clothes she wore did quite a job bringing out her cute and loveliness. With her two hands on her hips, she was exactly what Bao Chun had described to him as "mother hen" like. Nineteen smiled slowly.

"No need. I think I've found her."

"Huh?" Amid Liu Dai Gui's stunned amazement, Nineteen leaped down from the second floor of the restaurant.

Qiu Yue had just finished teaching an unscrupulous businessman a lesson or two about not messing with the scales, and was just getting ready to go back to work at Food Destiny Pavilion.

"Liu Qiu Yue?"

Hearing her name being called by a cold voice from behind, she turned her head and was faced with a man who looked like he hasn't smiled in almost eight hundred years.

"That's me. Who are you?" She had a great memory and has never forgotten a person she's met before, and she was absolutely sure that she'd never seen this cold, handsome, and icy man behind her.

“Is Liu Bao Chun your big sister? I’m here about her—”

Nineteen was just about to state his purpose, Qiu Yue suddenly screamed, picked up the hem of her skirt and bolted inside Food Destiny Pavilion, all the while not forgetting to call out, “Papa! Oh no, oh no! Big sister Bao Chun’s in trouble! A bad guy came looking for us, Papa!”

Bad guy?! She wasn’t goddamn talking about him was she? Nineteen cursed under his breath and followed her.

Nineteen suddenly understood everything when she saw Qiu Yue trotting up to the server that he had just met. No wonder he kept on getting a familiar vibe from that server, it’s the same vibe of silliness that Bao Chun had.

“Excuse me sir, what did you say happened to our Bao Chun?” Liu Dai Gui was shaken up by Qiu Yue’s words and regarded Nineteen like he was some sort of monster or demon, and asked shakily.

Nineteen was silent at first, but suddenly out of nowhere decided that he was feeling especially humorous, and answered with a straight face, “Miss Bao Chun is over at the Godly Doctor’s place and owes him an enormous amount of money, my Master has especially instructed me to invite the both of you over to —pay the bill.” He emphasized as he said pay the bill, and tried to hold back his urge to laugh.

“What?! Liu Bao Chun’s in a buttload of debt?!” Qiu Yue looked up suddenly with wide eyes, she’s back to her little tigress self again.

“Yes.” Nineteen was amused by Qiu Yue’s angry puffy cheeks.

“Qiu Yue, what do we do now?” Liu Dai Gui leaned against his precious daughter, trying to find some sort of solution.

“What CAN we do? Aside from heading over to his Master’s place and chopping that Liu Bao Chun up to make steamed buns!”



A lively family reunion scene is currently at play in full swing inside the main hall of Huangfu’s mansion.

A tearful Bao Chun ran towards the direction of her father and younger sister,

getting ready to give the two of them a huge sweet hug.

“Papa! Qiu Yue!!”

“Bao Chun, my daughter!” Liu Dai Gui and Bao Chun ran towards each other in the same exact manner, but just before they could run into each other’s embrace, a loud piercing cry punctuated the air, stopping them amidst their joyous steps.

“Liu Bao Chun, you wasteful spendthrift of a daughter!” Qiu Yue rushed over and quickly stepped between the two, then pointed a finger at Bao Chun’s nose and shouted, “How much do you owe him?! I’ve reminded you a million times, if the Godly Doctor’s fees are too high, then we’d rather swallow poison and kill ourselves. But you, you, YOU—”

As Qiu Yue approached her step by step, the frightened Bao Chun could only run in the other direction, cowering behind Huangfu.

“You can’t blame me for that! How am I supposed to know that he charges so much? Don’t yell at me! If you want to yell then ... yell at him!” Bao Chun directed all of Qiu Yue’s attention to Huangfu.

The tall man stood before Qiu Yue, shielding Bao Chun from her. Qiu Yue had to try hard to be able to look Huangfu in the eyes. The Godly Doctor had rare good looks, but his eyes revealed a hint of intelligence that differed from his outer appearance.

“Tell me! How much does my sister owe you?” Qiu Yue asked straight away. Since their purpose today was to come and pay the bill, they might as well find out how much they owe.

“It’s not that much. Granny Li, do you have the abacus?”^[1] He asked Granny Li, who was standing on the side looking forward to a good show.

Granny Li nodded and Huangfu started, spouting out hundreds of ginseng, Dang Gui, and countless other precious medicinal herbs.

“That’s it for the medicinal herbs, now for the room and board fees.” Huangfu sat on the chair and smiled as Granny Li calculated all the fees.

Qiu Yue had enough of seeing Granny Li slowly working the abacus, and

demanded, "Give it here, let me do the calculating."

The clattering sound of abacus beads rang out in the hallway, mixed with the sound of Qiu Yue's light cursing. Qiu Yue knew very well the most reasonable price of things sold on the market so it didn't take her long to finish calculating the fees. When she saw the number, Qiu Yue's face grew pale. Even if their whole family sold themselves off, it won't cover the amount of money they owe him.

"Is one abacus enough? Do you want me to bring you another one?" Huangfu smiled wickedly and asked.

Qiu Yue felt a blanket of dark clouds hovering over her, she finally knew what it means when a person wants to cry but can't shed a single tear.

"Wait!" The brain in her little head was still functioning so she made a desperate last attempt, "When my sister was staying here did she ever help with cooking or cleaning?"

"Yeah yeah yeah!" Bao Chun hurried to raise her hand and answer, "I've helped with boiling medicine, weeding, washing clothes, and"

Qiu Yue raised her right hand to stop her from talking, and Bao Chun obediently closed her mouth.

"Since my sister worked while she was here, then the cost of employment should be deducted from the total amount owed." She started to get into the nitty-gritty details with Huangfu, at this point, if they could pay a bit less, then they're going to try to pay a bit less.

"That's fine, I'll pay her one hundred taels of silver for the past month, but as for Liu Ruo Xia's treatment fees"

Huangfu shrugged, his face looking quite harmless as he sneered. Even if they deducted one hundred taels of silver from the total amount that they owe him, the remaining amount was still terrifyingly large, not to mention the treatment fees.

Qiu Yue wiped her face, looking like a defeated little hen.

Why did Dong Xue starve to death and not her?! If it was her that died two

years ago, then she won't have to be faced with this bleak situation.

"Seeing how we owe you such a large amount of money, can you give us a discount on poison for four?" Qiu Yue asked Huangfu half-heartedly, she would have never expected her good name to be tarnished by this gigantic debt!

Huangfu laughed as he watched the miserable expression on the family's faces. Is it really necessary to do that? What he wanted was really simple.

"Yeah, why don't we just give Bao Chun over to you, and you can decide whether you want to kill her or cook her" Qiu Yue mumbled hopelessly.

"Deal!" Huangfu suddenly closed his fan, and the smile on his face turned into a wicked grin. He was just waiting for someone in the Liu family to suggest this. It's a good thing that this miniature head of the family was sensible enough to have said it. "Not only will I write off the money you owe me from before, I'll also have Nineteen bring you the medicine Liu Ruo Xia needs each month." He was quite straightforward, and openly made them a generous offer.

Qiu Yue blinked. How did they go from being in a disadvantaged position to being in an advantageous position? It was just some nonsense she was mumbling, who knew that they could pay the debt by giving him Bao Chun?

"No you can't! I, Liu Dai Gui, will not sell my daughter!" Liu Dai Gui pulled Bao Chun away from behind Huangfu and shielded her behind himself instead. They've pulled through all those tough times, so no matter what, he can't sell his daughter like some sort of item. "If ... if worse comes to worst then I'll take Bao Chun's place, and work for you for the rest of my life."

"Papa" Bao Chun said quietly, feeling touched.

Huangfu twitched his lips. What would he want an old man for? He can't flirt with him, touch his little hands or tease him.

"Now Uncle Liu, don't be so tense. Have a seat here and drink some tea, we can take some time and discuss things." Huangfu flashed his signature smile that he often uses with Bao Chun, all bright and gleaming.

"As long as I don't have to sell my daughter, we can talk." Liu Dai Gui named his condition, then let his guard down slightly after seeing Huangfu's kind looking smile.

Like daughter like father. He didn't think that his honey trap would work with him as well.

"I'm not actually trying to buy your daughter from you. I mean, Little Bao Chun isn't that young anymore, right?"

"Yes, she isn't young anymore, but I'm still not selling." Liu Dai Gui insisted.

"Alright, so you don't have to sell. But you've got to find her a husband to marry, right?" Huangfu tried for an emotionally moving approach, and treated Liu Dai Gui in the same manner that he treats Bao Chun.

"Yes, it's all my fault as her father, I kept on pushing back and delaying her marriage"

Huangfu flicked his hand upwards and unfolded his fan with a sharp upward flick, interrupting Liu Dai Gui's self-blame session.

"Well then, Little Bao Chun and I just so happen to be in love And I think I won't make such a lousy son-in-law, right?"

In love? Liu Dai Gui saw the rare blushing cheeks of his eldest daughter and asked delicately, "Bao Chun, is what he's saying true?"

Bao Chun's cheeks were flushed, suddenly being faced with Huangfu half "forcing" her to marry him, she felt a slight sense of happiness.

"And, Little Bao Chun and I have done all the deeds that we should have, and shouldn't have done. So I think aside from me, you'll never be able to find another husband for Little Bao Chun." Huangfu simply decided to mislead Liu Dai Gui with his words, and winked at Bao Chun somewhat vaguely.

"Should have done? Shouldn't have done? You, you laid fingers on my Bao Chun?!" Liu Dai Gui was angry and fierce, holding on to Bao Chun's arm again. "Is what he's saying true?!" No no no, wait a moment, he has to trust his own baby daughter.

Huangfu's face looked like he was looking forward to a good show, and started embellishing his story lazily.

"We've slept together. Haven't we, Little Bao Chun?" He was referring to the time when the two of them slept in the same place in the lavender garden, just a

few days ago.

Bao Chun nodded her head honestly, confirming that this was indeed true.

“Touched lips?” He was referring to the time when he stole the mint leaf from her, and that was the only time he truly got some “sugar” from her.

Bao Chun nodded her head again, Huangfu wasn't lying.

“And took off your clothes?” He was referring to the time that he got really angry.

Bao Chun nodded for the third time, she remembered that incident quite well.

Tears started streaming down Liu Dai Gui's aged face. His innocent little Bao Chun was deflowered by a big bad wolf, and that big bad wolf is currently beaming with a very smack-worthy smile.

“Which is why, for the sake of Bao Chun's honour, I'm willing to pay full responsibility. Unless you guys have a better idea?”

“Sniff ... Qiu Yue, he laid fingers on Bao Chun ...” The only saviour Liu Dai Gui could think of right now was the head of the Liu household.

Qiu Yue patted her poor crying father on the back and said, “It's ok, it's alright, be good now, don't cry ok? Don't cry. Big sister Bao Chun, come over here.”

With her arm around Bao Chun's neck, Qiu Yue glanced over at Huangfu and the three of them talked secretively in the corner of the room.

“Does he treat you well?” Qiu Yue was only a ten-year-old little girl, keeping everything in the house in order was her specialty, but when it comes to relationships, she knew nothing. As the situation quickly took a turn for the worse, and judging by Huangfu's attitude, things seem to be in their favour.

“Very well, extremely well.” Bao Chun answered quietly, her cheeks pink from blushing.

“Do you want to marry him?” Qiu Yue got straight to the point.

“I do, but I'm afraid that I might not be good enough for him” Bao Chun looked shy and nodded her head slightly, feeling quite self-conscious.

Whether it's appearance or family background, Huangfu was totally out of her

league.

“I could tell that the young man over there really wants to marry Bao Chun.”
Liu Dai Gui interrupted and said.

“Let’s set the whole marriage thing aside, the most important thing right now is whether or not we have the money to pay back this Godly Doctor—”

“His name’s Huangfu.” Bao Chun kindly provided Huangfu’s name to Qiu Yue.

Qiu Yue rolled her eyes at her sister, unhappy that Bao Chun interrupted her big speech. “Yeah, Huangfu, whatever. Don’t interrupt me. The most important thing right now is whether or not we can repay the debt, and he’s made it clear that he wants Bao Chun in return for clearing our debt, so they are screwed either way. Big sister Bao Chun, let me teach you something” She whispered into Bao Chun’s ear.

“Would it be ok if we did that?” Bao Chun listened to Qiu Yue’s idea, feeling quite hesitant.

“Rest assured, there won’t be any problems.” Qiu Yue patted Bao Chun on her hand reassuringly, “Papa, do you have any other questions?”

“No I don’t, it’s all up to you.”

“Very well!”

After a while, the three of them finally stood up after their secret chat, all three had the same smile on their faces.

“We’ve finished our discussion, ‘brother-in-law’.” Qiu Yue sounded quite endearing with that last bit there. “What Papa meant was that he wants to wait until the end of the year to marry big sister Bao Chun off. But during the meantime, my sister will of course be living with you, my brother-in-law!” Having just “sold off” her sister, a sneaky grin was now hanging on Qiu Yue’s face.

“I see no problem in that.” Huangfu was quite satisfied, “I’ll do everything in my power to take care of her.”

“Where’s Ruo Xia?” Liu Dai Gui finally realized that one of his precious daughters was missing from the scene.

“I’m over here.” Ruo Xia had been standing outside the doors up until now,

walking in as she spoke.

Seeing Ruo Xia's rosy cheeks, Liu Dai Gui smiled delightedly. "You look so healthy!" So the large debt that they owe the Godly Doctor wasn't for nothing.

"You can take Miss Liu back home as well." Huangfu said indifferently. He wasn't interested in feeding an annoying extra mouth, the best thing she could do was to get the hell out of his way and skedaddle.

Ruo Xia raised her chin proudly, "Papa, I'll leave with you guys." That Huangfu has absolutely no taste, setting aside a beauty like herself and instead choosing the plain looking Bao Chun.

Liu Dai Gui saw how displeased his future son-in-law was with his second daughter, and vice versa, so he tugged at Qiu Yue's sleeve and asked, "How come future son-in-law doesn't seem to like Ruo Xia that much?"

Generally speaking, men always pay more attention to beautiful women!

"But once they get to know big sister Bao Chun, they will always like her better. My future brother-in-law has good taste."

Qiu Yue was secretly rooting for Huangfu, even though she's Ruo Xia's little sister, she has some complaints about Ruo Xia's bad temper.

Hearing Qiu Yue calling Huangfu brother-in-law left and right made Liu Dai Gui feel sad as a father

Liu Dai Gui sniffled, and finally had to accept the truth that Bao Chun was getting married!

"When I think about ... Bao Chun being married off, I just don't want to let her go" Every father wants to keep their little girl around them forever, but now I've got to hand Bao Chun over to another man, and Who will have mercy on the aching heart of parents everywhere?

"But when the time comes, marriage is a must!^[2] What is there to be sad about? When you have time, just make that Twenty guy bring you over to see Bao Chun more often." Qiu Yue comforted her father like some old lady.

"Twenty?" Liu Dai Gui mumbled, feeling uncertain.

"Yeah, that ice cube face over there." Qiu Yue gestured with her little chin,

pointing towards where Nineteen was standing, and just so happens to meet his glance.

“Isn’t his name Eighteen?” Liu Dai Gui thought as he tilted his head, he thought he heard his future son-in-law calling him like that!

“No, his name’s Twenty. I’ve got superb memory, if I say it’s Twenty then it’s Twenty.”

“Eighteen sounds better, it also sounds like a gambling terminology.”

Their whisperings evolved into a full blown debate, Bao Chun saw how the poor Nineteen was being renamed and volunteered to step in and correct their mistake. “His name’s Nineteen. Although it’s a pretty strange name, but it’s his name, so you guys can just stop debating!”

“It’s his fault for having such a strange name.” Qiu Yue grumbled.

Her minor complaints certainly did not escape Nineteen’s ears, but strange enough, a faint smile crept up Nineteen’s face, so faint that it was almost undetectable.



“Do you really want to marry me?” Bao Chun asked in a tiny uncertain voice. After seeing her family off, she was finally able to ask the question she’s been meaning to ask him.

“What do you think?”

“But I don’t understand”

“Don’t understand what? The fact that I want to marry you?”

“Well, I don’t look very good, and my personality is the type that you hate And all in all, I feel like that I’m not good enough for you.” Bao Chun hung her head and twisted at her sleeves.

Huangfu took her hands in his and asked casually, “Little Bao Chun, do you know how to cook?”

Bao Chun didn’t understand why Huangfu would all of a sudden ask such an unrelated question, but still listened to him and nodded.

“And you have no problems with sewing clothes?” Huangfu added.

“Yup.”

“What about boiling medicine, washing clothes, and planting vegetables?”

Bao Chun nodded her head for every single one of them. Huangfu was asking about insignificant little things that most people are able to do.

“But I don’t know how to do them.” Huangfu smiled and said, “I burn the rice when I cook, prick my fingers when I sew, I’m alright when it comes to boiling medicine, but I shred my clothes into tiny pieces when I wash them, and if I plant things, I will forget to water and fertilize them. Given all of that, it seems that you are smarter than I am. So in what way are you not good enough for me?” It was only for the sake of Bao Chun did he willingly bring up his own past embarrassments.

“But you know how to cure people, you are the Godly Doctor.”

“Why didn’t you say that the only thing I knew how to do was curing people, and that I could do nothing else besides that? And according to your line of reasoning, it’s me who isn’t good enough for you. So now, Little Bao Chun, do you want me?” Huangfu pretended to be all sad and pitiful looking, trying to win Bao Chun’s sympathy.

“Yes!”

Bao Chun answered firmly without thinking.

When she saw the wicked grin on Huangfu’s face, she hurried and lowered her head, her face hot enough to boil an egg.

“You knew all along.” Bao Chun’s face became hotter and hotter, feeling a little remorseful for her shameless reaction, because good girls don’t openly express their desires like that.

Huangfu was not shy about putting his arms around her thin shoulders, planting a big and loud kiss on her cheek. “You’re so adorable when you’re blushing.”

Bao Chun suddenly opened her eyes wide to watch his actions, then hurriedly jumping away from his side, and said in a panicky voice, “Wait! I’ll be back!” Then

she quickly ran out of the room, leaving behind a stunned Huangfu.

After a long while, Bao Chun finally returned to his side and gave him a smile.

There was a black ink stain on her right cheek, but Bao Chun had absolutely no idea. Huangfu didn't bother to point it out to her either, instead, he pulled Bao Chun back into an embrace and continued with his flirtatious touches.

“Hold on again” Bao Chun jumped away from him for the second time, “I'll be back soon.”

It was the exact same thing, and exact same words, leaving behind an angry perverted cat, pissed off from not being able to get what he wants.

The same thing happened once, twice, three times, and the unsatisfied Huangfu finally erupted with anger.

When Bao Chun ditched him for the fourth time to go back to her room, Huangfu followed her inside as well. And what he saw was Bao Chun struggling to write at the desk, scribbling away while the floors were covered with piles of waste paper. Huangfu approached her from behind and leaned down with his hands placed on the table on either side of her, firmly locking her between his chest and the desk.

“What exactly are you busy doing?” As Huangfu opened his mouth to interrogate her, his gaze also happens to fall on the true culprit that ruined his happy time—the notebook on the table.

He snatched the “account book” away from Bao Chun and asked, grinding his teeth, “What is this?! Kissing cheeks, ten taels of silver. Biting two inches of the pinky on the right hand, five taels of silver. Three inches of the right index finger, six taels of silver. Both arms around the body, additional twenty taels of silver?” The more he read, the angrier he became, and his voice rose an octave higher.

She was actually noting down all of his flirtatious touches in detail and charging him?

“I think, you have some explaining to do, am I right?” Huangfu's soft voice whispered trickery into her ears, his eyes narrowed in a cat-like manner.

“Qiu Yue said ... that I can't let you take advantage of me, so we have to note

down and calculate everything precisely.” Bao Chun smiled her silly smile and attempted to justify her own actions, because the man standing in front of her looked like he was ... umm, starting to turn hostile.

Huangfu furrowed his brows. Well!! If a touch on the cheek and a peck on the lips add up to a hundred something taels of silver, then the day that they consummate their marriage will be the day that he goes bankrupt! That profiteer Liu Qiu Yue! If he was the pot then she’s the kettle! Why doesn’t she just go and rob a bank!?

But Liu Qiu Yue forgot to take into account of an important factor, and that is, her partner in crime Bao Chun, was too easy to take care of.

Especially when faced with him.

Huangfu laid down the account book and gracefully brushed aside his hair, letting the bright and dazzling thin strands dance across his skin, his pupils slightly covered by his fan-like lashes, a faint smile hidden within his thin pink lips.

He, was honey trapping Bao Chun.

Bao Chun stared at him unblinkingly, watching as he moved slowly. Bao Chun gulped with difficulty, her breath was taken away by the beautiful sight in front of her.

Huangfu’s long fingers trailed up her pink cheeks, his touch somehow felt electrifying to Bao Chun.

“So, Little Bao Chun” Huangfu softened his voice, leaving the already defenceless Bao Chun to melt between his fingers.

“Wh, what?” Aren’t we just talking? Why are you leaning in closer and closer?

Huangfu unleashed his smiling attack, along with his body language, became a special move that could deal a huge amount of damage to Bao Chun. He played with her waist length raven hair, twirling around with it here and there, his handsome face deliberately leaning against her’s, so close that as soon as he opens his mouth, he would be able to touch her red lips. However, he was only leaning in very closely without actual physical contact, so they can’t charge him.

“Do you want to kiss me?” After a few seemingly long and agonizing moments, Huangfu finally gave her an answer.

“Kiss? You mean like the last time when we were eating the mint leaf?” Bao Chun opened her mouth with difficulty, because of what Huangfu was doing, she could only move her lips ever so slightly, fearing that if her movements were too big or too vigorous, she might come into contact with Huangfu’s thin lips.

“That’s right, so ... since I can’t take advantage of you, I’ll be the good guy and let you take advantage of me.” Then, Huangfu somehow took out a piece of green mint leaf from behind him. Looks like the mint leaves he always carried with him can finally serve their purpose now. He thought delightedly.

Bao Chun was tempted. It was certainly an alluring opportunity.

“Okay.” Their blushing encounters in the lavender gardens danced in her dreams, to tell the truth, she did want to revisit what they did that day. So without much thinking, Bao Chun nodded her head and said yes.

Huangfu happily took one end of the mint leaf into his mouth, leaned his lips in close to hers, and waited for Bao Chun to make her move.

Her hands snaked up the back of Huangfu’s neck, enclosing her lips around the other exposed half of the mint leaf.

Oh, gods! He is so going to plant mint leaves everywhere in the mansion, for the sake of his own enjoyment later!

Their lips were no longer satisfied by mere touch, it was unsure as to who initiated the first move, their tongues danced and intertwined with each other’s. A moan escaped from their temporarily parted lips, it was hard to tell whether it came from her or him.

Sweetness turned into light pecking, no one knew who ended up swallowing the mint leaf.

Huangfu slightly distanced the two, his voice sounding innocent, yet unnoticeably intentional.

“Oh yes, Little Bao Chun, I forgot to tell you” Although Huangfu was still lingering in the soft sweetness of Bao Chun’s embrace, he did not forget his true

business. He looked up at the groggy Bao Chun, who was still lost in their kiss and flashed her a sly smile. “For taking advantage of me, I’ll have to charge you.”

Translator’s Notes:

Happy 100th day anniversary!

Oh my goodness, I was laughing so hard towards the end, mostly due to my own imagination running wild. I could imagine Huangfu’s face going all trolololol and Qiu Yue’s face turning some scary shade of red from anger. ALSO, I kept on thinking about Huangfu singing Milkshake, you know, that song?

*♪ Huangfu’s milkshake brings all the girls to the yard
And they’re like
I wanna kiss your lips
Damn right they wanna kiss my lips
I can let you
But I have to charge ♪*

Because I was really bored while editing and this bit amused me Because umm you know, he has to charge? Ok explaining a joke ruins it, I’ll stop. Oh man, I wish I could draw, I would draw the HELL out of Huangfu dancing to this song! Aside from that, the bit about Nineteen’s name being debated over was quite funny as well!

Now for some UPDATES! I got a little sick the week before last, and I’m now finally all better. Some of you might have noticed that there were two new additions to the site, a “translation progress” widget being displayed in the sidebar. As well as a pool about BL/yaoi content. The progress bars will be updated regularly, so you can anticipate when the next chapter might come out.

As for the pool, it’s currently about 50/50 right now, and there is actually a reason behind why I’m asking. Aside from reader base interests and personal interests, one of the books in the series I’m translating actually reads a bit like a BL story but is, in fact, NOT a BL story. So I thought I might ask around and get a feel of how open everyone is about seeing that. Since I might feel a bit sad translating something and have people running away screaming “IT FEELS GAY, I’M SO TERRIFIED!” roll eyes Yeah, ok maybe no one would react like THAT. But

now you know why I'm asking. And by what I've seen, IF I am going to post any BL/yaoi content I'll label them clearly so if it's not your cup of tea, then you can avoid reading it. (I doubt it will happen anytime soon, my hands are pretty full.) So, that's it for updates. We cool?

As always, please like, comment, and follow if you've enjoyed reading!~ Ciao!
<3

1 Ancient China's version of a calculator click the link to see what it looks like — >[LINK](#). It was mandatory to learn how to use this back when I was in elementary school math class in China. It's either grade one or two, I don't remember anymore.↩

2 The phrase in Chinese is “男大当婚, 女大当嫁”, literally translating to “when a man is of age he marries, when a woman is of age she is married off”. You'll hear this pretty often in drama's.↩

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Hell King Sect Series/Yan Wang Sect Series

By: Jue Ming 决明

Bao Chun felt as if she had just fallen from cloud nine, hitting the ground extra hard. Her mouth was wide open, unable to be closed. A thought flashed across her mind—that sly bandit!

“But you didn't mention it before!” Bao Chun accused him of his evil deeds.

“You're the one who didn't ask.” Huangfu shrugged, he had on his typical “feigning innocence after taking advantage of her” look.

Then he quite willingly picked up a writing brush and wrote down in her account book, “one thousand taels of silver per kiss”.

“Would you like to pay it up front or put it on your tab?” He waved the account book before her eyes quite brashly, his dazzling yet annoying smile hung

across his face right there in front of her, making it clear that he's always going to be in control of the situation in their relationship.

"This time doesn't count!" Bao Chun reached out and tried to take back the account book, she had never expected Huangfu to get back at her by seducing her! "You big perverted meanie cat!

Being vertically challenged with short limbs was another one of Bao Chun's weaknesses. Huangfu only needed to raise his hand slightly for her to look at the book and sigh in defeat.

"Or, you could just let me kiss you for five taels of silver each time." Huangfu looked Bao Chun over in all apparent seriousness, "And if we calculate according to this, you should be able to deduct five hundred taels of silver from the total amount you owe me." Huangfu had a lecherous look on his face, his evil claws reaching out to grab Bao Chun.

Bao Chun screamed and the two started a game of tag right there in the room.

"Go away!"

"Five taels." Huangfu succeeded in his pursuit and generously made his first deduction.

"Don't come over here!"

"Ten taels."

"Don't bite my neck—it tickles!"

"Fifteen taels."

At the same time, two people were standing outside the doors, looking awkwardly at each other.

"It seems ... now might not be the best time to go in and disturb them. The Master won't be pleased to be interrupted."

Granny Li secretly peeked in through the crack in the door to take a gander at the new tricks that the youngsters were up to, and said to Nineteen, who was standing beside her.

"But this is more important than what The Master's up to."

“You tell him then.” Granny Li straight up handed him the hot potato and left Nineteen to deal with the mess, without forgetting to knock on the door on Nineteen’s behalf.

“If you have something to say then say it, if not then get the hell out of my face.” From inside the room came Huangfu’s displeased command along with Bao Chun’s cry for help.

The reluctant Nineteen rolled his eyes at Granny Li, then accepted his fate and said, “Master, Miss Chi Shao has returned. ”



If it wasn’t for Huangfu’s arm around her waist, Bao Chun would definitely have thought that Huangfu used some sort of witchcraft or sorcery and cloned himself!

Bao Chun stared at the “other Huangfu”, a daintier version of him, dressed in women’s clothing.

She glanced back and forth at the two people. The Huangfu standing to her left, then the Huangfu sitting in front of her, then the Huangfu standing to her left, then again at the Huangfu sitting in front of her

“There’s two of you!” Bao Chun tugged at the sleeve of the one true Huangfu and said shockingly.

Just then, the “other Huangfu” opened her mouth to greet them.

“Big Brother, you’re still not dead?” A clear and melodious voice escaped from her ruby lips, different from that of Huangfu’s.

“If I die I’ll pull you down with me to keep me company.” Huangfu snapped at her sarcastically, then took Bao Chun’s hand in his and sat down on the chairs furthest away from everyone.

“She’s your little sister?” Bao Chun knew that she had just asked a stupid question, because the fact that the two of them had identical features were proof enough.

“Corrections, she’s my UNWORTHY sister.” Huangfu was quite insistent on emphasizing her unworthiness.

“And you said she was ugly?!” Bao Chun had never seen a beauty like hers before. Her eyes that bore Huangfu’s likeness sparkled on her exquisite flower-like visage, her thin lips were as tender and delicate as the skin on a fresh apple. The only things that set her apart from Huangfu were her satiny raven strands and inordinately pale skin. If such a beauty could be called ugly then she herself must be some sort of demon lady!

“You don’t think she’s ugly with a face like that? She’s got eyes as big as a cow’s, a huge bloody gaping hole for a mouth, not to mention her haggish laughter. You certainly won’t find a woman more grotesque than her in all of the Central Plains area.”^[1] It seems that all of her good points were easily being twisted up by Huangfu into some sort of mockery.

“But ... you look just like her So if you say that about her, you are saying that about yourself as well.”

“I’ve never thought of my outer appearance as particularly good looking.” Huangfu answered Bao Chun quite seriously. The only thing about his own skin that he’s happy about was the thrill it allowed him when he’s seducing Bao Chun.

Bao Chun rolled her eyes. Does this man’s appreciation for aesthetics differ from that of normal people’s?

“Are you the Guang Chun that wrote to me?” Huangfu Chi Shao stared at the girl whispering to her dear old brother and studied her amusingly. The poor girl, having to deal with being liked by that abominable brother of her’s.

“Guang Chun? Oh no, I’m Bao Chun.” Bao Chun corrected.

Chi Shao removed a thick stack of cotton paper from her bundle, each page was scribbled with only ten crooked characters, messily scrawled across the pages, dotted with ink blobs and wrongly written characters. She pulled out the last page and pointed with her slim finger, “Isn’t this the character for Guang?”

“This is ‘Bao’.”^[2] A serious Bao Chun wrote out the strokes once again to show her.

Chi Shao thoughtfully nodded her head and gave Bao Chun an apologetic smile, “Your writing was a little ... so it took some effort for me to read it.” She

paused and swallowed a few words, so not to hurt Bao Chun's fragile feelings.

"I know my writing was really ugly, but Huangfu wouldn't help me write the letter, so I'm really sorry it gave you a hard time." Bao Chun scratched her head, she almost didn't recognize her own chicken scratch anymore ... and was starting to admire Chi Shao from the bottom of her heart for being able to read and understand all that.

"Oh no, it's not your fault, it's definitely not your fault. I know how despicable my brother can be, you are the one that must have had a hard time." Chi Shao took Bao Chun's hand in hers sincerely. Although the two women had just met, there seems to be a budding friendship forming between them.

"Stop your nonsensical chit-chat. Take care of proper business here straight away, and then you can get the hell out of Huangfu mansion." An unfriendly sounding Huangfu interrupted the conversation between the two women, his harsh, tyrannical tone was obviously directed at his unworthy sister.

"Hey! It was you who 'begged' me to come back. And look at you now! I haven't even been here for long and you're already giving me that look again! Do you not want to rid yourself of the poison?" Chi Shao's equally harsh and she-devil looks completely destroyed the graceful celestial maiden image Bao Chun had formed in her mind.

"Then I won't! Who cares!" Huangfu was certainly not one to pocket his pride.

"Ah Niu,^[3] let's go!" Without saying anything else, Chi Shao called to the exceptionally tall and muscular man with an honest looking face that stood behind her.

"Chi Shao." The man she called Ah Niu showed a look of disapproval, then wrapped his large pacifying palms around Chi Shao's small silken hands, and shook his head at her. "Restraint. Have restraint. You promised me."

Chi Shao pouted her lips, her flames of arrogance extinguished, and sat herself back down onto the chair.

"Uh, Huangfu Gong Zi^[4] ... " Ah Niu attempted to talk some sense into the equally pissed off looking man. But just because he was able to calm Chi Shao down doesn't mean he could do the same with Huangfu.

“And who are you?” Huangfu raised an eyebrow at Ah Niu and interrupted him. Judging by the interaction between Chi Shao and him, it was pretty much just as he had guessed.

And sure enough.

“I am Chi Shao’s husband.” Ah Niu scratched his head, a hint of barely discernible crimson washed over his deeply tanned face.

That arbitrary and willful sister of his just casually married herself off like that, not even bothering to tell her only brother!

“First of all, let’s hear you call me brother-in-law.”^[5] Huangfu waved his hand and grinned viciously at Chi Shao.

“Okay, brother-in-law.” The honest Ah Niu did exactly as Huangfu had told him.

“Why are you following his orders? He tells you to call him brother-in-law and you follow his orders, what about me?” Chi Shao angrily pinched Ah Niu, even though she knew that with his thick cow hide, it won’t hurt him one bit. But she’s still really pissed off!

“But he really is your brother, so it’s not wrong of me to call him brother-in-law ...” Ah Niu innocently tried to explain himself, not forgetting to pat his beloved wife on the back, easing her anger.

“Your name please?” Huangfu asked casually. How in the world did this down-to-earth guy fall for Chi Shao? He just couldn’t figure it out no matter what, but chances are, Chi Shao probably forced herself onto him.

After a simple glance over, Huangfu found out that this brother-in-law of his “used to be” a martial artist, a deviation in his Qi during practice^[6] has caused things to go wrong and obstructed his meridian system^[7], the passageway in which his Qi^[8] passes through. To simply put it, he’s lost all his martial art skills.

“Niu-Niu She Bing.”^[9]

“Like the ox tongue pastry?”^[10] Don’t tell me your dad was named Niu Rou Mian^[11], like beef noodle soup.” Huangfu asked in a ridiculing tone.

“No. That’s my uncle’s name.” Ah Niu, being the simple and honest person, answered everything truthfully.

Chi Shao glared at her brother, she hates it when people make fun of her hubby’s name, and decided to fight back. “As if your name’s any better sounding! It’s just some minor useless medicinal herb, used especially in the treatment of diarrhea! Don’t you laugh at him when you aren’t any better. What’s wrong with ox tongue pastry? It’s delicious and refreshing!”

“Humph! My name is useless? You think yours sound any better?” Every time a fight breaks out in the Huangfu family, insults are thrown at the medicinal her that is their individual namesake.

Huangfu was just about to start a war of words with Chi Shao, but felt a light tug on his right sleeve. Looking over, he came face to face with Bao Chun’s shimmery worry-filled eyes.

“Don’t be like this, we’re the ones that invited Miss Chi Shao back Did you forget about the poison in your body?” Her eyes clearly conveyed the same message.

“This is how it’s always been between Chi Shao and I, this is how we get along with each other. It just doesn’t feel quite right unless we argue a couple of times.” Huangfu’s mischievous smile faded, and he patted Bao Chun on the back of her hand reassuringly.

It’s better to set her mind at ease first.

“Let’s get down to business first.” Huangfu pushed up his left sleeve and demonstrated his willingness to let his sister take his pulse.

Chi Shao twitched her lips in disdain, but followed suit and pushed back her left sleeve as well. The pair focused intently and started their diagnostic process.

“Not bad, you’ve kept yourself in good repair, I guess you’ve proven true the saying that ‘calamity lasts centuries’.”^[12] With her eyes gently closed, Chi Shao muttered as she shook her head.

Huangfu on the other hand, suddenly had a scary look on his face and said between gritted teeth, “You did this on purpose didn’t you?!”

“On purpose? What do you mean on purpose?” Her similar and delicate face showed a puzzled expression, it’s too bad that the sinister smirk she had on completely destroyed her feigned innocence.

Huangfu took back the finger he had placed on her wrist, his face stern.

“What’s wrong?” Ah Niu looked worryingly at his brother-in-law’s serious expression, thinking that something must be dreadfully wrong with his wife.

“She’s pregnant! There is a baby inside of her!” Huangfu finally stated the reason as to why he was so pissed off.

For a while, Ah Niu was in a daze, when he finally recovered, he burst out in a boisterous laugh, “I’m going to be a father! I’m going to be a father!” He ran about the room excitedly, as if that was the only way he was able to show how ecstatic he was.

“This means they’re both poisoned, I have to spend more effort on curing them both separately. This carries a higher risk of failure, and therefore, more dangerous. What are you so happy about over there?!” Huangfu sneered and interrupted Ah Niu’s joyous celebration, pleased to see his faltering smile. When he’s not in a good mood, absolutely no one else is allowed to be in a good mood.

The colour of Ah Niu’s face turned from red to green then to white, he hurriedly crouched next to his beloved wife and whispered, “Chi Shao ...”

“Don’t worry, my Big Brother is THE ‘Godly Doctor’. He who is of godly status, be no mortal. Isn’t that right? Big Brother.” Chi Shao glanced over at Huangfu mockingly.

“But mistakes are also pretty common.” Huangfu replied without an ounce of appreciation.

“Brother-in-law ...” Ah Niu’s pale face became all the more ashen.

“It seems our only option is to abort the baby.” Chi Shao rolled her eyes indifferently, her tone was light as air, it was as if she was speaking about how great the weather was outside.

“NO!” Bao Chun and Ah Niu said at the same time. One couldn’t bear the thought of a young child dying before it’s born, while the other did not want to

part with the joy of being a father, and bury his child before he even had the chance to hold him in his arms.

“Huangfu, you have to save Miss Chi Shao and her baby!”

“Brother-in-law, you have to save Chi Shao, and your little nephew or niece”

“Don’t bother with it, we should just abort the—” Chi Shao lazily interrupted. But was abruptly cut off before she could finish.

“NO YOU CAN’T!” The protesting duo shouted in unison.

The Huangfu siblings watched as their other halves glared at them, arms akimbo, the pair of siblings both stuck out their tongue in unison.

“Fine, I’ll adjust the medicine and try to reduce the dosage, it’s going to take some extra effort, we’ll see if it’s possible to keep the child alive during the detoxication process.” Huangfu reluctantly surrendered, who knew he was going to get set up by his sister like this?

“Thank you!” A giddy Bao Chun happily rewarded Huangfu with a loud kiss, Ah Niu smiled goofily, as if waiting to reward his kindhearted brother-in-law in the exact same manner.

“Save your spit, you don’t need to thank me.” Huangfu interrupted and rejected any ideas his brother-in-law might be forming. He’s not at all interested in this burly, bear-like man.

Ah Niu scratched his head with a blank expression, a simple yet genuine smile rippled across his face.

“Chi Shao, brother-in-law is a really good person, not at all like how you’ve described him to be.” Ah Niu turned to face his beloved wife.

“Oh? Is that so? How did she describe me?” Huangfu asked curiously, even though he knew she probably didn’t have anything too good to say about him.

“She said you had a fierce-looking green face with ferocious fangs, and that you were a terrible brother with an ugly face to match an even uglier heart.” Ah Niu didn’t know how to read other people’s faces, and had no idea that in certain situations, he shouldn’t be telling the whole truth.

“Oh?” Huangfu made a nasally sound.

“But you will always help a family member in need.” Ah Niu smiled and added the most important last thing. “Am I right, Chi Shao?”

Chi Shao’s cheeks were red, she looked away, trying to hide her obviously upward-turned lips and lightly scolded him, “You talk too much!”

Huangfu’s face looked awkwardly surprised, he and Chi Shao’s personality were similar in so many ways, both were stubborn, both were proud, both were reluctant to speak their minds, and both weren’t used to complimenting the other in front of other people.

But they both have confidence in the other’s abilities, and are willing to put their own life in the other’s hands. Otherwise, based on he and Chi Shao’s knowledge and mastery of medicine, curing themselves of the poison was an easy task. But both would rather endure the pain than to take away the other person’s right to treat the poison.

“We’ve waited for five years now, it’s finally time to rid ourselves of this burden.” Huangfu Chi Shao and her brother glanced over at each other in unison, as if in some sort of secret agreement, and slowly revealed their most sincere concern for the other.

“Yeah, it’s been five long years.”



The poison was deeply rooted in their bodies for many years, and not something that could be completely cleared out in one or two days, the fastest it will take would still be up to six months. Aside from using guiding herbs^[13], they still need internal Qi energy^[14] to force out the poison.

After their daily supper, Nineteen exercised his Qi^[15] and helped Huangfu and Chi Shao with treatment.

Bao Chun and Ah Niu were each crouched in the bathroom, drawing medicinal herb baths for the Huangfu siblings.

While making small talk, Bao Chun heard the full version of Chi Shao’s love story, and couldn’t help but chuckle, “The story really fits Miss Chi Shao’s personality.”

“Yeah, it was the first time in my life that I’ve met such a bold and fierce woman, and we ended up becoming husband and wife, it was unexpected.” Although Ah Niu says so, the look of happiness on his face was enough to prove how satisfied he was.

“Huangfu’s whole family is strange, but strange in a very cute way.” At the thought of this, Bao Chun couldn’t help but to cover her mouth and laugh.

“Yeah, Chi Shao repeatedly declared that she will never again step into her house, but once she received your letter, she rushed back all the way from thousands of miles away.” It was a whole month’s worth of travelling, but they were able to make it back to the Huangfu mansion quite a few days ahead of schedule, it wasn’t hard to imagine how tired their horses must have been.

“Huangfu’s like that too, the two of them fight like little kids, but deep down they still care and worry about each other.”

Bao Chun picked up a few medicinal herbs and put them into the hot water, then continued chatting, “I’ve heard from granny before that the reason they were fighting was because they were arguing over who gets the last piece of pastry!” And the two of them actually fought over such trifling matter for five years, Bao Chun secretly rolled her eyes at this.

“Chi Shao had never mentioned of this, so who got it in the end?” Ah Niu scratched his head, he only knew that Chi Shao had a falling out with her brother, but he never found out why.

“I think neither of them would back off and let the other person have it, so Huangfu ended up lacing the pastry with poison.” Bao Chun laughed wryly.

“It does seem like something brother-in-law would do.” Ah Niu remarked pertinently.

“And Miss Chi Shao poisoned the pastry with venom toxin.”[\[16\]](#)

The poor pastry! Falling victim to the war between the Huangfu siblings.

“Uh ... yeah, that sounds like Chi Shao alright.” Ah Niu scratched his head again, he almost forgot that his beloved wife’s personality was also pretty extreme.

Two knocks came at the door and a sweat covered Nineteen came in through the doors, “Miss Chi Shao’s session just came to an end, you can go ahead and wipe off the poisonous sweat she expelled from her body.”

“Oh, thank you.” Ah Niu thanked him sincerely and hurried out with the hot medicinal herb water.

An attentive Bao Chun handed Nineteen a wet towel, “You’ve worked hard.”

“I’m only doing my duty.” Nineteen wiped away the sweat from his face and stabilized the excessively consumed internal Qi energy in his body. He still has to exercise his Qi and help The Master detoxicate later.

“If only I knew martial arts, you wouldn’t have to be so exhausted.” Bao Chun swung her fists and kicked her legs about in all apparent seriousness. Is it too late now to be learning martial arts?

Nineteen saw the wondering expression on Bao Chun’s face and didn’t know whether to laugh or cry, so he rushed to tell her, “I’m pretty weak right now from exercising my chi, I don’t have any energy to take you in as a disciple. Just give me a break.”

“But I really really mean it! You don’t even have to be my Shifu, [\[17\]](#) you could become my sworn brother.” [\[18\]](#)

“I’ve got so many siblings at home that I can’t even tell them apart, so I’m not interested in taking in a sworn sister.” Nineteen pursed his lips, his tone was quite cold when he was talking about the situation at home.

“You’re not really the nineteenth child in your family are you?” It was difficult enough for her family to raise four kids, Bao Chun couldn’t imagine how Nineteen’s family could possibly raise more than a dozen.

“My father is the emperor, it’s normal for him to have dozens of children.” Nineteen said lightly, then amusingly discovered a wide-eyed Bao Chun staring back at him, as if he had just told her some terribly strange thing.

“Nine-Nineteen ... you-you’re joking, right?” Bao Chun gulped, not noticing her own head wobbling from side to side.

“Is it really that surprising?” Nineteen reached out to steady Bao Chun’s head,

making sure that she won't cause injuries to her skull from all the excitement.

"You're a prince" She couldn't believe that she was weeding the garden and sweeping the floors with a prince!

"Used to be. "

"Bu-but, before, when Cheng Wang Ye^[19] came to seek treatment, how come he didn't recognize you?"

"The imperial palace houses a bunch of princes and princesses, it's obvious to everyone who is, and who isn't well liked by the emperor, I think that's why he didn't recognize me."

"Bu-but, how did you end up becoming a servant at the Huangfu mansion?" This sure looks good for Huangfu's reputation, having a noble prince working to attend to his every need. Very prestigious.

"Oh? I guess I haven't told you this before, but when I was nineteen, I was suffering from some sort of strange disease, but it's a good thing The Master was willing to save me. Ever since I recovered, I've been following by The Master's side to repay my debt of gratitude. That's also how I got the name Nineteen, didn't you know? "

Although back then, The Master's condition for curing me was for me to become a servant at the Huangfu mansion, in which also involved a whole lot of other complications, but Nineteen's grateful for the kindness that The Master had shown me, not to mention, living in the Huangfu mansion was a lot more freeing than the unnecessary and overelaborate formalities at the palace. Status and nobility had long lost their importance.

"Oh" Bao Chun sighed quietly in disappointment. After learning of Nineteen's identity, she no longer had the courage to ask Nineteen to become her sworn brother, she's only a simple commoner

"I don't understand." Nineteen suddenly changed the subject.

Bao Chun was confused and asked him, "What don't you understand?"

"You." Nineteen pointed to Bao Chun's nose, "You're obviously younger than me, based on seniority, you should be calling me older brother. But now, I have

to call you sister-in-law.”^[20] He deliberately pretended to be unhappy, but a trace of a smile at the corner of his mouth gave away his true feelings.

“What are you talking about?” Nineteen’s starting to confuse her again.

“What I’m saying is, sister-in-law, that The Master and I had just become sworn brothers.” Nineteen winked at her, a rare moment of mischief snapped Bao Chun out of her depressed state and put a smile on her face.

“That wasn’t very smart of you, if you took me in as your sworn sister, then Huangfu would have been the husband of your younger sister, but you ended up picking the scenario that made you the lowest ranked in terms of seniority. ”

Nineteen laughed at her and replied, “And you think The Master would agree to that?” He believed that The Master had countless ways of forcing him into giving in and become the lowest ranked member of the Huangfu family.

“It’s ok, I’m happy as long as we can be family, even if you’re my younger brother, big sister Bao Chun will give you lots of love.” Bao Chun extended her arms generously towards him, obviously trying to pull Nineteen into an embrace.

“Oh no you don’t!” Having seen through her intentions, Nineteen rapidly retreated by taking two steps away from her. He’s not a little kid!

Not to mention, he’s actually older than Bao Chun by a few years, he will not stand for such humiliation!

“Let big sister give you a hug!” A determined Bao Chun carried the hem of her dress in one hand while she chased Nineteen around in the bathroom. Having just finished exercising his Qi, Nineteen was no match for the overly energetic Bao Chun, so it wasn’t long before Bao Chun succeeded and got what she wanted.

“Let me go!”

The sound of Nineteen’s woeful cries echoed in the narrow bathroom, sounding exceptionally dreary.

And this was exactly the spectacle that greeted Huangfu when he walked into the bathroom. Nineteen, who has never had more than two types of facial expressions, was looking awfully pitiful being held in an embrace by Bao Chun.

His face showed his desire to break free, as well as the failure to do so.

“Are you trying to strangle Nineteen? If you really hate him that much, no big deal, I’ll throw him out tomorrow. Killing him seems a little immoral Little Bao Chun.” Huangfu finally couldn’t stand it anymore, and stepped in to save the poor Nineteen.

“Master.” As soon as Nineteen escaped and adjusted, he was about to bow to Huangfu out of habit.

“Hum?” Huangfu disdainfully interrupted Nineteen’s words, “What Master? Change it.” He waved his right hand at Nineteen, waiting for him to start over.

“Big Brother.”^[21] Nineteen was quite unaccustomed to this new title, although he had already repeated it to himself hundreds of times, he’s still a little shy when it’s time to actually say it.

Huangfu nodded with satisfaction and took out a Zheng Xin Pill, used for regulation of breathing, from his sleeve. “Take this, I still have to trouble you a while later.”

Upon hearing this, Bao Chun put down the basin of medicinal herbs, dried her hands and tugged at Huangfu’s sleeve, looked up at him and asked, “Do you think I could stay on the side and watch when Nineteen’s helping you and exercising his Qi?”

“What are you going to do on the side? Cheer and applaud?” Huangfu laughed out loud, he doesn’t have the energy to tend to a woman who’s fainted from seeing the disgustingness of detoxication through Qi exercising.

“I can learn on the side, maybe I’ll even be of some help later on.” Although she’s not able to do much, but she believes that if she watches them carefully enough and learn, she’ll surely become a great helper to Huangfu one day.

“No you can’t. I won’t be ‘properly dressed’ later when we are exercising our Qi and detoxicating, I don’t want you to bleed too much out of your nose.” He’ll never forget the time when Bao Chun accidentally walked in on him bathing, two explosive streams of blood shot out of her nose, wildly spraying mist-like blood everywhere. She suffered severe blood loss due to this, and was bedridden for three whole days.

“That’s not going to happen, my body’s very healthy now, I definitely won’t be spraying blood out of my nose again. Let me do it! Let me do it! If I could learn a few things about medicine, then later on when people come to you for treatment ... I’ll be able to help and share some of your workload!” Bao Chun tried to show off some of the new words and idioms she had recently learned, once again emphasizing her usefulness.

Unfortunately, Huangfu wasn’t buying any of it, he pushed Bao Chun straight out the doors, and left her with a piece of advice, “If you’re really that bored, go and find something to eat in the kitchen.”

And with that, he slammed the door in her face, disregarding Bao Chun’s further attempts to convince him.

“Nineteen.” Huangfu pulled Nineteen over by the shoulders and said in an extremely small voice, “Lately, if there are anyone kneeling outside seeking treatment, get rid of all of them.” He’s decided to start enjoying a life of happiness, and first things first, he must eradicate all people, events, and things around them that could evoke sympathetic feelings in Bao Chun.

Yeah right! As if he’s going to let a couple of treatment seekers outside divide up Bao Chun’s attention!

“And another thing, that stone tablet outside with the rules for seeking treatment, get rid of it when you’ve got time. Blow it up to smithereens, I won’t allow any traces of it being left over.” The second thing he’s going to do was to get rid of that eyesore of a stone tablet, the thing that has enslaved him for all those years.

Back when the elders of the Huangfu clan erected the stone tablet, it was supposed to be instructions for the family to practice medicine and save people. But after Huangfu’s deliberate alterations, whether or not he’s going to save or treat someone all depended on his mood. Since the virtues of the Huangfu clan were lost on him, he might as well be more thorough and lay that stone tablet to rest.

“And finally, seal off the front doors.” A wicked grin ran across his lips.

The last step in his plan was to have everyone believe the Huangfu mansion to be a ghost house, this way, no one will dare to disturb his quiet happiness.

“Mas ... Big Brother, if we seal off the front doors, how will we walk in and out of the mansion?”

“Have you ever seen ghosts ‘walk’ in through doors? We’ll just leap onto roofs and vault over walls.” Huangfu really admire himself for coming up with such a wonderful plan, so much so that he even started to clap his hands.

Nineteen was about to talk, but stopped himself on second thought. Huangfu saw this and gestured to him, “Say what you have to say, we’re family. ”

“It’s not a problem for me, but how will Bao Chun and Granny Li leap onto roofs and vault over walls?” Big Brother probably forgot that they’re the only ones in the mansion capable of flying and leaping everywhere.

Huangfu agreed with the problem Nineteen proposed, and gently stroked his chin, “Little Bao Chun won’t be a problem either, I’ll just hold her in my arms. As for Granny Li ... ” He looked Nineteen up and down, the clear message in his eyes sent a chill up Nineteen’s spine.

“I understand, I’ll take care of Granny Li” Nineteen sighed quietly, accepting his fate. As the older brother, Huangfu gets to hold the beauty in his arms. While being the younger brother, Nineteen could only respect his elders. He should have known this when he came on board and became sworn brothers with him.

Huangfu gave a hearty laugh, he could hear it now, the birds calling and the flowers laughing.

“I can feel it more and more, my days of happiness aren’t far now”

Translator’s Notes:

*Finally! The new chapter is out! New characters revealed now? I know right?!
xD*

After careful deliberation I’ve decided on how to translate a few of the terms that’s given me quite the headache. If you read the footnotes you’ll see that it has reached a record high of 21 footnotes. This took me forever as well. Since certain Chinese terms simply can’t avoid the awkward translations simply because we don’t say those things in English.

But anyway, epilogue is on its way I shan’t be long this time! After all, I’m

hoping to finish this book before school starts again. And I'll probably be really busy and slow. By the way, Haunting Spectre Road has been sitting there unedited for quite a while now so that should be coming out next, either that or the epilogue. Once again, I do update the translation status quite frequently so check them out if you are anxious about when the next chapters are being released.

Thank you to everyone who has waited for me and supported me, I appreciate all of my readers for their kindness and patience. I hope you enjoy this chapter!

Oh wow, I updated just in time for Shusheng Bar's 3rd birthday! Happy birthday! Go and check it out here—>[LINK](#) if you don't already know the wonderful site that hosts links to translated Chinese novels and recommendations.

As always, please like, comment, and follow if you've enjoyed reading!~ Ciao!
<3

1 The Central Plains or 中原 in Chinese, is a geographical term used in ancient China to refer to regions that aren't ruled by outside tribes. Compared to present day China, Central Plains was only a small portion of China. Click here for more details—>[LINK](#).↩

2 Chi Shao confused the character for “廣” “Guang” and the character for “寶” “Bao”, if you look at the traditional version of these two characters they do look a little similar.↩

3 阿牛 this is a nickname, generally the character “阿” is used as the first character for many nicknames, it makes a name sound more endearing. Using “阿” in nicknames is more common in Cantonese speaking areas (like Guangdong and Hong Kong) and areas that speak the Min Nan dialect (like Fujian and Taiwan). “牛” is the Chinese character for ox and other bovine animals, in this case his personality is very similar to that of an ox, simple and down-to-earth.↩

4 Gong Zi or 公子 in Chinese, used to be a way of addressing the sons of dukes or princes. It is later used to address the sons or noble families and a general term to address other people's sons, but more commonly, it's a way to address young

men politely.↩

5 The Chinese like to refer to their relatives by their familial status instead of their name out of respect, which is why a lot of the times translations sound weird. Although the English translation says brother-in-law but in Chinese there are different names for your brother-in-law depending on both people's status in the family and speaker's gender. In the story, Ah Niu calls Huangfu 大舅子 which is what one calls their wife's older brother, while 小舅子 is what one calls their wife's younger brother. 大伯 is what one calls their husband's older brother, while 小叔 is what one calls their husband's younger brother. 姐夫 is what one calls their older sister's husband, while 妹夫 is what one calls their younger sister's husband. You see now why I despise sorting out Chinese kinship relationships, I never know what to call anyone.↩

6 The phrase in Chinese is 走火入魔, which literally translates to “walking fire entering demon”. You see this a lot in Wuxia and Xianxia stories, it simply means something went wrong while a person was practising the internal Qi portion of their martial arts and now they've either gone crazy or is dying or has lost all their martial arts skills. Click here for more details—>[LINK](#).↩

7 Meridian system or 经络/经脉 in Chinese is still used today in Traditional Chinese Medicine. It is not just a martial art thing. Click here for more details—>[LINK](#).↩

8 Qi or sometimes spelled Chi, are both words for the Chinese term “气”, which is a form of energy or circulating life force. Click here for more details—>[LINK](#).↩

9 The name 牛舍秉 niú shě bǐng has very similar pronunciations to 牛舌饼 niú shé bǐng, see below. “牛” is the Chinese character for ox and other bovine animals, in this case his personality is very similar to that of an ox, simple and down-to-earth.↩

10 牛舌饼 niú shé bǐng or ox tongue pastry is the name of a Taiwanese pastry. It is a long, oval, ox-tongue-shaped flat pastry that is hard and crispy. There is no filling on the inside and are usually sweet. Click here for more details—>[LINK](#) or click here to see pictures of it—>[LINK](#). Its name in English can easily be mistaken for 牛蒡酥 another type of pastry similar in its nature. This pastry is more popular in Cantonese speaking parts of the world. Click here for more details—>[LINK](#).↩

11 牛肉面 niú ròu miàn or beef noodle soup is a noodle dish popular in all parts of China, it is also a famous food item in Taiwan. Click here for more details—>[LINK](#) or click here to see pictures of it—>[LINK](#). Ah Niu’s uncle has a name that sounds exactly like this food item because his last name is “牛”, which happens to be the first character of this food item. It’s a name pun/gag.↵

12 The whole sentence in Chinese is 好人不长命,祸害遗千年, which translates to “good people don’t live for long, while calamity lasts centuries”.↵

13 药引 or guiding herb/ingredient, sometimes you will see it being translated as conducting herb/ingredient, is a term in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). The 引 in 药引 means to guide, and to lead out, these are herbs or medicinal ingredients that are able to guide the other medicinal ingredients to the part of the body that needs treatment.↵

14 内力 or internal Qi energy is what allows people to practice martial arts in the martial arts world, different kinds of martial arts requires the Qi to be utilized differently. Present day people practice something called Qigong, which also utilizes this form of energy, click here for more details—>[LINK](#).↵

15 Exercising one’s Qi or 运功 in Chinese, means to guide and circulate one’s Qi, usually used in 运功疗伤, which means exercising one’s Qi to heal wounds. If you’ve watched any Wuxia or Xianxia shows/movies you will recognize this. Click here to see pictures of it—>[LINK1](#)—>[LINK2](#)—>[LINK3](#).↵

16 蛊 pronounced gǔ in Chinese is a venom based poison popularly used by the Miao ethnic group in China. Its preparation involves sealing several venomous creatures such as centipede, snake, scorpion, spider and *etc.* inside a closed container, where they devoured one another and allegedly concentrated their toxins into a single survivor. This type of toxin is used in black magic for various purposes, one of them is for Miao girls to punish unfaithful men or to make someone fall in love with the spell caster. The Chinese Paladin game series uses this as one of the magic/skill its characters are capable of using. Click here to read more about 蛊—>[LINK](#). WARNING! DO NOT GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH THIS! If you want to see a SAFE simulated picture of how 蛊 is prepared, click here—>[LINK](#).↵

17 If you know what sensei is then this is the Chinese version of it. Shifu 师傅 is how apprentices and disciples refer to their masters. Sometimes the master’s

surname or identity is placed in front of Shifu to distinguish them from others. In modern Chinese, you can also refer to someone experienced in certain areas (usually labour work) as 师傅. For example, a taxi driver or a plumber. If you've seen Kung Fu Panda you'll also know this.↵

18 结拜 is the process in which people become sworn brothers or sisters. Sometimes there are simple rituals like in Romance of the Three Kingdoms. This is done mostly in ancient China, and is uncommon today. 义兄 means sworn older brother, you can replace “兄” meaning older brother with “弟” meaning younger brother, “姐” meaning older sister, or “妹” meaning younger sister. “义” means adopted or adoptive, you can add “子” or “女” after this to mean adoptive son or daughter. Click here to learn more about sworn brothers—>[LINK](#).↵

19 In Chinese it says 王爷 wáng yé, is the title used to address the Emperor's brothers, or certain other men in the ranks of nobility.↵

20 The Chinese like to refer to their relatives by their familial status instead of their name out of respect, which is why a lot of the times translations sound weird. Although the English translation says sister-in-law but in Chinese there are different names for your sister-in-law depending on both people's status in the family and the speaker's gender. In the story, Nineteen calls Bao Chun 嫂子 is what a younger sibling calls their older brother's wife. 大姑子 which is what one calls their husband's older sister, while 小姑子 is what one calls their husband's younger sister. 大姨子 is what one calls their wife's older sister, while 小姨子 is what one calls their wife's younger sister. Once again, I hate Chinese kinship relationships.↵

21 Big brother in Chinese is 大哥, which is literally the characters for “big” “大” and “brother” “哥”. For other brothers, replace the character in front of brother “哥” for numbers, such as “二” Er meaning two/second, “三” San meaning three/third, “四” Si meaning four/fourth, “五” Wu meaning five/fifth and etc.↵

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Singing Spring Melody Epilogue

<http://moonbunnycafe.com/singing-spring-melody/singing-spring-melody-epilogue/>

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Hell King Sect Series/Yan Wang Sect Series

By: Jue Ming 决明

Bao Chun sat frowning by the lake, a complicated expression on her face. Ever since she got back from the temple, she's been sitting in the same place holding the same pose.

“What's wrong? Is there a word that you don't know how to read?” Huangfu looked amusingly at Bao Chun's many changing expressions. Recently, he's taught Bao Chun a considerable number of characters and words, as long as the number of strokes in a character doesn't exceed thirty-five, it won't be a problem for Bao Chun. But there is only one explanation for the grave expression on her face right now.

“Great Misfortune!^[1] This is actually worse than the fortune I got before I met you” Bao Chun scrunched up her face, “But I'm all messed up with happiness!”

“You can't use 'all messed up' like that.” Huangfu took the fortune paper^[2] from her hands. He was never one to believe in gods and deities, and glanced down at the piece of yellow paper with disdain. If everything in life can be predicted by words, then what need is there for people to live and experience it?

“Is the oracle poem^[3] implying that I can't marry you?” Imagination ran wild in Bao Chun's little head, and in the heat of the moment, she spoke out loud her innermost thoughts.

Huangfu's lips curved into a smile, and quite “accidentally” ripped up the fortune paper, letting it fall to the surface of the lake.

“Why did you rip it up Huangfu?” Bao Chun shouted anxiously, but was still too late.

“This damned piece of ... I mean this adorable piece of oracle poem is a hint for you.” Huangfu held Bao Chun’s face in his hands in all apparent seriousness, forcing her to focus all her attention on him.

“A hint?”

Huangfu nodded, his joking expression faded, and looked quite serious.

“If you don’t marry me ... yup, great misfortune.” Huangfu explained as he nodded his head in self-admiration.

“Huh?”

“If you marry another man ... yup, great misfortune.” He sounded pretty well argued and impressive.

“Well ... ”

“And if I don’t marry you as my wife ... yup, great misfortune.”

“Then ... ”

“To avoid great misfortune befalling us, let’s just follow what the oracle poem says and follow through.” Huangfu explains everything how he likes, this way, it doesn’t matter whether the fortune was good or not, he’s able to twist anything into a good thing.

“But this explanation seems a little strange ...” Bao Chun couldn’t quite follow what Huangfu was getting at, she knew his arguments were lame, but still couldn’t raise any questions about it.

“You might not know this, but aside from having medical knowledge, I’ve also got quite the silver tongue.” Huangfu pointed to his beautiful lips.

“It’s all clever talk and ingratiation.” She wrinkled her nose and used the idiom she had just learned a few days ago to show that she agrees with what Huangfu was saying.

“Not only will I say it, I’ll do it too!” And as soon as he finished talking, Huangfu puckered his lips and kissed Bao Chun on her slightly opened cherry lips. Bao

Chun hadn't a chance to react, giving him the opportunity to steal several kisses from her.

"You!" Bao Chun raised her fists and swung them towards his chest.
"Perverted cat!"

Huangfu kicked up with one foot and leapt onto the tree, lying there with an annoying expression as he roared with laughter, pausing in the middle of laughing to cough. Although Bao Chun was petite, but a beating from her still hurts quite a bit.

"Get down from there!" Bao Chun stomped her feet at the bottom of the tree.

"Why don't you come up?" Huangfu found a good spot on the tree to lie down flat, stretching comfortably, knowing that she obviously can't come up.

Bao Chun thought hard about what she could do, then suddenly remembered a plant she saw growing in the corner of the garden, a smile slowly appeared on her face. Who said that Huangfu would always be in control of the situation in their relationship?

Today, she will get the opportunity of seeing a big perverted cat falling off of a tree. Bao Chun shuffled over to a safe area, to avoid the unexpected calamities of getting crushed by a falling cat later.

"Get the hell down from there!" She engaged her diaphragm and shouted into the sky, "HUANG, FU, CANG, ZHU!"^[4]

Translator's Notes:

Finally, everyone! The last chapter is up! I kept a rough record of how long it's been since I first started to translate this, and it's been 183 days!

For all those Qiu Yue and Nineteen fans out there, there is another book by the author (not in this series) that's about Huangfu and Bao Chun's daughter. Qiu Yue and Nineteen made a very brief appearance in that book. And yes, they got married!

If you aren't quite ready to say goodbye to Huangfu and Bao Chun, don't worry. They make appearances later on in the series. Huangfu is a busy guy!

I'm getting ready to translate the next novel in the series, there are a lot of

terms that I have to figure out how to deal with so I won't have to go back and forth correcting myself. I'm thinking of posting up a page with a glossary of words that are better left in Chinese for the sake of eliminating awkwardness when reading. But that's for later.

I'd like to start posting up ebook links soon, but I haven't done this before, so it might take some time for me to figure it out.

*As always, please like, comment, and follow if you've enjoyed reading!~ Ciao!
<3*

Or follow my Facebook page here—>[FACEBOOK](#) for news, status updates, interactions and more!

1 The fortune she received says 大凶, or great misfortune. To see a list of possible fortunes one could receive click here—>[LINK](#). One receives their fortune by shaking a bamboo tube full of sticks and if a stick falls out, that is your fortune. This process is called 求筮, Kau Cim in Cantonese, Qiu Qian in Mandarin, and O-mikuji in Japanese. Click here to read more about it —>[LINK](#), or see pictures of it here—>[LINK](#).↩

2 Fortune paper is the fortune printed on paper that matches the sticks used in Kau Cim. The sticks you shake out has numbers printed on them and you look for the corresponding fortune. To see an example of it, click here—>[LINK](#).↩

3 Oracle poems are how your fortune is presented to you when you receive them on the fortune paper. Click here to read more about it and see an example of it—>[LINK](#).↩

4 Cang Zhu or 苍术 cāng zhú. Click here to see it —>[LINK](#). Yes it does look a bit like ginger! xD↩

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