

Chapter: 66

Shrunken

Her eyes winced in pain as the dragon bit her finger. She pulled her hand away, wanting to inspect the injury, however, she could not find any injury on her finger.

Su Ruan frowned, wondering if it was only her imagination.

She had thought that the dragon's teeth were a little sharp and her fingers would bleed. Surprisingly, there was no sign of anything.

Su Ruan turned to the dragon again, noticing that he had stopped making too much fuss. Her gaze fell on the injury on his body and her lips parted as she watched how his injury had slowly healed by itself.

This... was too magical, right?

Suddenly, Su Ruan was having a hard time believing everything that she had seen that night. If it was not for the slight pain on her finger, Su Ruan would believe that everything she experienced was nothing more than just a dream.

In a few minutes, the wound on the dragon's body had stopped bleeding. His skin was repaired and finally, it stopped, leaving only a deep scar.

Long Fei glanced at this scar and huffed in frustration. Although it was merely a scar, Long Fei knew best that if he was to shift in his human form, the wound would show on his body.

However, he could not deny that it was amazing that he could heal this much with a tiny drop of Su Ruan's blood.

This was why his grandfather had always pressed that it was important for him to find his partner. It was also the reason why his parents were inseparable after they were married.

Satisfied with his recovery, Long Fei moved his head and nudged Su Ruan's hand again. The way he was acting now was almost like a puppy.

"You... are healed." Su Ruan muttered softly.

The dragon lifted his head to meet her eyes and blinked.

A thought came to her mind and Su Ruan looked at the creature in puzzlement. "Are you... thanking me?"

The dragon nodded softly before he let out a huff.

Su Ruan glanced at the injury spot on his body again and saw that other than a small scar, there was no other sign that hinted that he was injured before.

She raised her hand hesitantly and patted at the dragon's head. A thought came to her mind and she spoke again, "The last time I fell into the water... I saw you, didn't I?"

Long Fei did not answer her this time but continued to watch her expression.

He wondered if this girl would link this creature to Long Fei. If she found out, then how would she react? Would she think of him as a freak?

"You are the legendary lake's dragon, aren't you? Now that you are healed, are you going back into the water?" Su Ruan asked.

A light flashed in his eyes. Whatever he do now, he could not return to the water temporarily. That troublesome group was tricky. Who knew if they were already waiting by the water to keep their eye on him.

If he wanted to heal properly, the only thing he could do now was to stay by Su Ruan's side.

With this thought in mind, Long Fei leaned over and put his head in Su Ruan's lap.

Seeing the scene in front of her, Su Ruan did not know whether she should be afraid of this dragon or not. His reaction was simply too adorable, right?

"You... want to stay with me?" Su Ruan asked.

The dragon slithered closer to her and coiled his body around her. His head continued to rub against her hand.

Su Ruan could not help but found that the situation was a little strange. The dragon's fierce look did not seem to match his action.

"I have to go back to the house before anyone would realize that I have gone missing," Su Ruan said with a helpless tone. "You can't possibly stay with me like this." She braved herself to touch his head. "You should go back into the water. That is where your home, right?"

Long Fei raised his head to look at her and realized that she was right.

They both could not stay here for too long. Otherwise, someone might notice something.

A thought came to his mind and Long Fei groaned. He really did not like this idea but it seemed that it was the only way for him to survive.

Moreover, now that the bullet was extracted from his body, he could use his power back.

Long Fei hesitated, wondering if this will be the right decision.

Seeing the look on Su Ruan's face, Long Fei finally made up his mind. Even though he hated doing this the most, it was the only way for him to stay close to her.

Su Ruan was dumbfounded upon noticing that the dragon began to move away from her. She had thought that with the way he had acted around her, the dragon would want to continue to pester her, asking her to stay around.

She could not help but feel a little disappointed.

However, she soon noticed that there was a change in the dragon's body.

It seemed that his body had shrunken a little bit?

Su Ruan continued to watch the creature with her mouth slightly agape.

In just a few seconds, she had witnessed how the dragon's body shrunken until he became very small. Once the shift was over, the dragon lay on her lap for a long time, as if he was too tired after that shift.

A thought came to her mind and Su Ruan could not help but blurted it out. "Mu... shu?" Su Ruan was reminded of the dragon character in that Disney movie, Mulan.

Long Fei tilted his head up quickly and stared back at Su Ruan in anger when he heard that name. He huffed at her but the effect did not work as well as he had thought due to his small size.

That stupid name! That stupid dragon!

This was the reason he hated shifting into this size.

Even though he was in danger, Long Fei would refuse to shift into this form. But it was also due to his stubbornness that the group of people was unaware that he still have this skill to adjust his body to any size that he liked.

Now that she was no longer afraid of him, Su Ruan scooped the tiny dragon into her hand and gave him a look over. Suddenly, a smile curled on her lips.. "You're adorable."

Chapter: 67

Into Her Room

Su Ruan could not understand why but when she looked at the creature in her hand, it felt as if he was throwing a tantrum.

Her eyes were staring at him with a dazed expression.

The more she looked at him, the more that she became unafraid of him. Moreover, he was in this pocket size. Suddenly, she had the urge to tease him.

Long Fei naturally noticed the look in Su Ruan's eyes. Suddenly, a bad feeling arose in his heart.

A light flickered in her eyes and a smile gradually formed on her lips. "Do you want to come with me?"

Hearing her question, Long Fei started to slither around her wrist. His action was as if she was refusing to let her go.

Su Ruan giggled when she saw his action. The creature that she had thought was scary had now become very adorable. She really wanted to keep him in her pocket and never let go.

After a brief hesitation, Su Ruan did just that. She shoved him in her pocket and whispered, "Stay there and don't make a move."

Long Fei tried to adjust his position in her pocket. As Su Ruan stood up and leave the orchard, Long Fei peeked his head out of the pocket to look at the woman.

He did not think that his plan would work so well and she had willingly agreed to bring him to her side.

Long Fei lowered his head again to look at his small body. A look of disgust appeared on his face but he couldn't help but wonder if Su Ruan liked this form well. It gave him a complicated feeling.

When he snapped out of his trance again, Long Fei realized that he was already in her room.

Su Ruan took him out of the pocket and placed him on the mattress. Then, she peeked her head out the door to ensure that no one had seen her enter the room.

As she closed the door, the sound of pitter-patter could be heard outside.

Su Ruan walked over to the window and saw that it was raining outside. She stretched her head out to look at the sky before closing the window and turning around.

"This is strange. There were no clouds in the sky just now. Why does it rain suddenly? The weather is too unpredictable these days. Fortunately, we arrived in time. Otherwise, we would be stuck in the rain," Su Ruan mumbled to herself.

Long Fei looked away from the window and narrowed his eyes. He hoped that the rain would be enough to remove the stain of blood on the ground.

He made a note to himself to tell Long Yu Heng to check on everything before the others came to look for him at the orchard.

He retracted his gaze and turned to look around the room. This was the first time that he had entered her room and gotten to take a look around.

Previously, he could only stand outside her window and watch her from afar. It was the only way he knew so that he could stay close to her.

Looking around the room would give one the feeling that Su Ruan's stays in this town were temporary.

The thought made his chest stuffed. Long Fei shifted his gaze and his expression stiffened.

Seeing a few of her personal items hanging around the room made him feel shy.

As he was still in deep thought, Su Ruan suddenly scooped him into her hands again. She brought him to her eye level and looked at him with an excited look on her face. However, the look on her face changed a second later.

"What's wrong with you? You don't look too good. Is your injury hurting again?"

Long Fei grunted and looked away. Then, he jumped out to the mattress before Su Ruan could run her hand all over his body.

He could still remember how her hands would feel against his skin.

If she started to touch him again, he did not know what he would do. Long Fei was worried that he would lose control and accidentally shift before her.

She would definitely be scared, right?

Su Ruan watched as the small dragon curled his body at one side of her bed. She could not understand what he was trying to do.

"You're not going to shift again into a bigger size, are you?" Su Ruan suddenly realized this important problem.

She had seen him in his majestic form under the water. His size was bigger than the time she found him in the orchard.

If he shifted in her room, perhaps, this house was going to collapse.

Long Fei raised his head and moved it side to side.

"Does that mean no?" Su Ruan tilted her head as she looked at him. "So you do understand my words?"

This dragon was definitely an interesting creature. He was tame, obedient, and seemed to understand human words.

With his size now, Su Ruan had this feeling that she wanted to keep him by her side for a long time.

"It's best if you can stay this size forever." She went closer to him and poked at his body. "You're very cute like this."

Long Fei grunted when he heard her words.

Cute. This was not the way he wanted one to describe him.

Too lazy to hear her saying nonsense things about his body, he then closed his eyes.

He only needed to stay here and recover before the sun goes up. Then, he would leave.

With Su Ruan close to him, Long Fei could feel his body gradually recovering. Feeling a little tired after running around in the mountain, he then fell asleep.

It was half an hour later when Long Fei woke up. He scanned his surroundings and realized that he was in unfamiliar surroundings.

As he finally remember that he had run into Su Ruan and followed her home, Long Fei jumped up. His eyes widened when he realized that he has been sleeping in the girl's embrace.

Long Fei took a few steps back and stared at the sleeping girl's face with a complicated look on his face.

Seeing that she was deep in sleep, Long Fei decided to sneak out of the house and leave.. There was a lot of work for him to do before the sunrise.

Chapter: 68

Inscribed Bullet

Long Residence.

In the east courtyard, Long Yu Heng was seen walking back and forth. His face was pale and his palm was sweating.

It has been a few hours since the last time he saw Long Fei. After that man had entered the mountain, the two of them had broken their communication.

As he continued to pace back and forth, Long Yu Heng began to wonder if he should inform the elders of Long Fei's disappearance.

The only consolation he got was the rain.

Seeing the pouring rain despite the clear sky a few minutes ago let him know that Long Fei was still alive.

But, where was he?

It was only a few hours ago that he had gone to visit their grandfather to inform that Long Fei had left. If he goes again and says that Long Fei had not returned, then, how will their grandfather react?

Long Yu Heng closed his eyes as he began to ponder his decision.

At this time, the sound of hurried footsteps could be heard heading in their direction.

An elderly man walked into the room with an anxious look on his face. Before Long Yu Heng could ask what was going on, the old man had spoken first, "Young Master Long had returned."

His eyes widened and Long Yu Heng quickly turned and ran over to the door. It was a few seconds later that he remembered that he did not know where his cousin was. "Uncle Nian, Where is he?"

"The Young Master went back to his room to change his clothes," the old man answered.

Long Yu Heng changed the direction and headed to the bedroom. Without knocking, Long Yu Heng pushed the door open and saw the man's hard abs in front of him. The sight stunned him and he continuously stared at the chest in front of him.

"What are you doing?" Long Fei frowned. He put on his shirt and buttoned up. "Don't you know how to knock?" His brow furrowed.

Long Yu Heng snapped out of his trance and ignored the man's unhappy gaze. He entered the room and walked around his cousin, scanning the man's body from head to toe.

"You're not injured, are you?" Long Yu Heng heaved a breath when he did not see any sign of injury on the man's body. "What happened. What took you so long to come back? I was going to call the elders and announce your disappearance if you come back a minute later."

"I was injured."

"What?" Long Yu Heng gave his cousin a look over. He was about to rip off Long Fei's cloth to inspect the man's body when he was stopped.

"It's fine now," Long Fei said. "Su Ruan healed me."

"It's good that you are fine." Long Yu Heng halted upon realizing that there was something wrong with his cousin's words. His expression turned serious. "What did you say? Miss Su did what?"

Long Fei did not answer his question. Turning around, he picked up something from his desk and threw it over to his cousin.

Fortunately, Long Yu Heng was quick enough to receive the items. He looked at the bullet with a puzzled look on his face. "What is this?" His expression changed upon inspecting the bullet.

The inscription on the bullet was quite familiar to him. They were thin and could not be seen clearly, but as a member of the Long family, Long Yu Heng was very familiar with it.

He turned swiftly with an anxious look on his face. "Ah Fei, you..."

"I'm fine."

The frown on his face deepened. It was no doubt that Long Fei was shot with this bullet. But how did he recover so quickly? Long Yu Heng thought about Long Fei's words earlier and spoke, "What happened?"

"I ran into that old man in the mountain," Long Fei said. "I believe that a few of them are staying in this town."

His heartbeat accelerated. Long Yu Heng understood well the severity of what will happen now that Long Fei had run into that man.

Long Yu Heng made a note to let someone check on the nearby hotel for the identity of their guests and their purpose of visiting the town.

"Yu Heng, help me to clean up," Long Fei said. His eyes narrowed. "We have to find a way to let them leave this town. They cannot stay for too long."

"I understand. Don't worry. I know what I should do."

Long Fei nodded. He watched as his cousin turned around and frowned he was reminded of something else. "Yu Heng, wait a second."

The man turned around with a puzzled look on his face.

"Help me to look after Su Ruan," Long Fei said. "Now that I managed to escape, I have a feeling that the group was going to pay a visit to a few places in this town. Don't let them find out anything."

...

Su Ruan woke up later in the morning.

The memories of what happened last night came to her mind as she stared at the ceiling. Swiftly, she got up from bed to look around.

Her eyes were staring at her bed with a dazed expression.

Last night, before she went to bed, she had pulled that tiny dragon into her arms. But now, that adorable creature was no longer around.

Did he leave?

Seeing that her bed was empty made her wonder if perhaps last night's events were nothing but her imagination. But was it only her imagination?

Su Ruan looked at her empty arms and blinked.

Her feeling was telling her that everything that she had experienced last night was not a dream or her imagination.

Last night, she had met the lake dragon and helped him with his injury. Then, she had brought him back to her room.

As she recalled the incident, Su Ruan began to have a lot of questions in her mind. For example, how could her touch help to heal the dragon?

Su Ruan stared at her hands with a dazed expression.

The sound of someone knocking on her door snapped her out of her trance.

"Su Ruan, are you awake?"

It was her mother.

"I'm awake!" Su Ruan shouted back. She came down from her bed and walked over to the door. Her mother's worried face appeared as soon as she opened the door.

"Are you feeling well?" Ma Zheng Zheng asked worriedly. She stretched her hand and placed it on her daughter's forehead. A breath of relief escaped her at the normal temperature.

"Mom, I'm fine." Su Ruan chuckled.

"You usually woke up early," Ma Zheng Zheng said. "I was worried when I didn't see you during breakfast."

"It's nothing. I couldn't sleep well after eating too much last night." She lied.

"Is your stomach hurting?"

"It's fine now." Su Ruan flashed an assuring smile. "Mom, what did you cook for breakfast? I'm hungry."

"Look at you, all you think about is food." Ma Zheng Zheng looked at her daughter helplessly. "Didn't you say that your stomach was unwell?"

The mother and daughter exchanged a few words.. Once Su Ruan convinced her mother to leave, she closed the door again and stared at her empty bed in deep thought.

Chapter: 69

Dead Creature



After having her breakfast, Su Ruan walked out, wanting to look around the orchard.

She still could not stop thinking about what had happened last night and was hoping that she could find some proof to let her know that he was not crazy.

Following her instinct, Su Ruan walked slowly to the place where she had found that dragon. She finally found the tree where she had seen that creature but could not find anything that would prove that last night was not a dream.

Her eyes were staring at the spot where she had found the dragon in a daze. Slowly, she approached the place and crouched on the ground, and touched the soil. Her brow furrowed as she could not find any blood spots.

"Sister Ruan, what are you doing here?"

Hearing her cousin's voice, Su Ruan stood up quickly and flashed a smile. "Yu Xi. I was walking around and thought I saw something."

Ma Yu Xi craned her neck to look at the spot where Su Ruan has been looking at earlier. "Did you find anything?"

"No. I think my eyes were playing tricks on me."

Ma Yu Xi decided not to think too much about this matter and walked closer to her cousin. "Sister Ruan, are you ready?"

Su Ruan raised a brow and shot a puzzled look. "Ready for what?"

"Have you forgotten?" Ma Yu Xi inched closer and whispered, "We are supposed to join Young Master Long and his cousin fishing the day after tomorrow."

A faint smile curled on her lips when she saw the expression on Ma Yu Xi's face. "Are you excited about it?"

"Of course." Ma Yu Xi heaved a sigh. "Didn't I mention it previously? It was hard for one to meet anyone from the family. But it seemed that after you returned to this town, I get a chance to meet the Young Master a few times."

Su Ruan smiled as she continued to listen to Ma Yu Xi gushing about the trip.

She lowered her head, thinking about going to meet the young master again. She suddenly thought about the story that Long Fei had told her at the bakery café not too long ago.

Perhaps, the man would know something about the dragon?

A loud commotion snapped her out of her trance.

In a distance, a few workers from the orchard were seen running towards the lake. Even those who were working in the warehouse had come over to take a look.

Su Ruan exchanged her gaze with her cousin and they were both wondering what was going on.

"Sister Ruan, we should go and take a look too." Ma Yu Xi tugged at her hands and dragged her towards the lake.

When the two arrived, there was already a large crowd gathering by the lake.

Su Ruan craned her neck and followed everyone's gaze, however, there were too many people and she could not see anything.

"What's going on?" Ma Yu Xi asked the person beside her.

The young man turned and was surprised to see Ma Yu Xi. "Miss Ma. I heard that they found a dead, giant snake in the lake."

"A giant snake?" Ma Yu Xi looked at him in shock. "Dead? How can there be a giant snake around this lake?"

"Un." The young man nodded. "I heard that Old Man Xiao was on his boat when he saw the creature floating on the water. He thought that it was still alive and had called several men to catch it. However, when they got close, they found that the creature had already died."

"That's too scary!" One of the onlookers whispered. "I am never going to take a swim in the lake ever again."

Meanwhile, Su Ruan's heart skipped a beat upon hearing the news. She could not stop thinking about the little friend she met yesterday and worried about him.

That tiny creature had left before she woke up.

Perhaps he decided to shift back to his original size and return to the lake.

Could it be that someone saw him and killed him before he managed to return to the lake?

Feeling a little anxious, Su Ruan started to push through the crowd to get closer to the lake. Her mind was filled with the image of the dragon, lying on the ground, unmoving.

She did not know why but her heart was in so much pain upon thinking of the dragon's death. She had only met him briefly but could already feel a certain connection with him. She would be very sad if he died.

As she got closer to the water, Su Ruan saw a few boats on the lake water, working together to pull something out from the water.

Because their orchard was the closest land, the men planned to drag the creature over so that they could figure out what to do with it.

Su Ruan continued to watch the water anxiously. She could only pray that the snake was not the little friend that she had made last night.

A group of men appeared from behind the crowd, instructing them to move aside as a crane was going to pass.

It was said that the creature was too big that it would be difficult for them to drag it out to the land. Therefore, someone had suggested using the heavy machine to pull it out of the water.

Ma Hao Dong appeared with the group with a serious look on his face. The creature was going to be dragged over to his orchard and he came to take a look at it lest the men would accidentally destroy his trees.

Soon, the boats finally stopped at the lake and the crane came closer to drag the creature out.

Su Ruan joined the others to watch the scene where the men would pull the creature out of the water. Her heartbeat accelerated and her hands balled into tight fists as she waited.

Finally, she could see the creature in the water.

Her eyes narrowed as she tried to focus.

Seeing the creature's head, Su Ruan finally heaved in relief.

It's not him.

Fortunately, the dead creature was not her dragon!

Chapter: 70

Professor Chen

As the group of men brought up the carcass to the land, more people who happen to hear the news came over to watch the excitement as well.

At the entrance of the Ma family's land, several vehicles were seen parked at the side of the road. The atmosphere was lively. It was as if there was a big event.

Beside the lake, the crane finally lifted the big snake out of the water.

Loud gasps and screams were heard all over the area as everyone witnessed the size of this snake.

It was estimated the snake to be a few hundred kilograms. The size was enough to make one scared.

The thought that this big creature was found in their lake makes the townspeople scared. Almost everyone was saying that they needed to be careful from now on.

Since they had discovered this big snake, then, its family should be living around the mountains or lake around them.

Suddenly, everyone was discussing whether anyone had lost their farm animals. Then, some parents reminded their kids not to go into the lake water until the authorities had confirmed that the water is safe.

While everyone was focusing on the giant snake, a few vehicles arrived and parked outside the orchard. Soon, a few unfamiliar faces walked out, led by a man who was estimated to be in his late fifty.

Upon seeing the way they were dressed, the crowd parted to make way for this new group.

The old man walked until he finally arrived in front of the lake. His expression changed the moment he saw the snake. He waited for the workers to put down the snake on the ground before he instructed his group to approach and looked at the creature.

"Hey! What are you doing? Who are you?" Ma Hao Dong saw the unfamiliar faces and stepped forward to stop them.

The old man stepped forward, stopping Ma Hao Dong from approaching his apprentices. "I'm sorry, you are?"

Ma Hao Dong's expression turned uglier. "This is my orchard! Who are you, people? I have never seen any of you around this town before."

The old man's face changed again. "I'm sorry for my rudeness," the old man apologized. "My surname is Chen. I am a professor from a university in Capital City." He took out his card and handed it to Ma Hao Dong. "My students and I were on our break when we heard the news of this snake. We come over to take a look."

Su Ruan glanced at the person who was talking to her grandpa. She did not know what they talked about but her grandpa stepped aside and let the group in to look at the giant snake.

"Sister Ruan, look at that, don't you think it's scary?" Ma Yu Xi asked. "This snake should be close to hundreds of years for it to grow this big, right?"

"That's true. I wonder where did this huge snake had hidden all this while?" Su Ruan whispered.

"Don't you remember?" A woman who stood beside Su Ruan whispered to her friend. "There's the story about that mountain guardian that I used to hear about when I was a kid. Didn't they say that the mountain's guardian is a big snake? It couldn't be that this snake is the mountain's guardian, right?"

Hearing their whisper, Su Ruan turned to look at the friends and continued to eavesdrop.

She was not from this town and had only heard about the legendary lake dragon from Long Fei. This was the first time that she had heard about the mountain's guardian.

"I heard that too." The young man whispered. My grandfather used to say that the mountain's guardian did not attack the town's people and only go for those who tried to destroy the mountain."

"Right. Didn't you hear the rumor? I heard that there was a group of illegal loggers in the mountain. Someone ran into them while hiking yesterday morning."

"Then, if the mountain's guardian is dead, who was going to protect our mountain from now on?" Another girl whispered.

A deep frown appeared on her face.

Su Ruan did not want to believe the story about these mythical creatures. However, after running into the dragon last night... she should be more open-minded.

It was pitiful that the snake had died but Su Ruan was at least glad that it was not her little friend.

A commotion near the lake area snapped her out of her trance again.

One of the young men who came with the old man ran over and shouted, "Professor!"

Su Ruan's gaze followed the young man to look at what was going on.

The young man's face paled as he ran over to the old professor. He showed something in his palm and the professor's expression gradually turned ugly.

The professor lifted the item in the young man's palm to inspect it.

Because she was quite close, Su Run could see what the professor was holding. That thing in his hand... was it not the bullet that the dragon had dug out of his body last night?

Her heartbeat accelerated. Su Ruan could not look away from the bullet and wondered what would happen to that dragon if he did not take out the bullet last night.

A disturbing thought came to her mind as she continued to look at the group of people.

They seem to be very familiar with the bullet.

It couldn't be that it was this group of people who had harmed that dragon...

Her expression turned darker as she thought of what these people came to do.

Su Ruan could not hear the words that the old man had whispered to his student. After receiving his instruction, the young man ran over to his friends again and they continued to inspect the snake.

"What's going on here."

The familiar voice made everyone turn.

Long Yu Heng scanned the area and his eyes stopped at the old man for a few seconds. Then, he turned to Ma Hao Dong to greet him.

"Mister Long." Ma Hao Dong greeted him with a smile. He was extremely polite towards the young man. "Are you here to look at the snake they found in the lake as well?"

Long Yu Heng nodded. "Old Man Ma, sorry for my disturbance. I was in the town center when I heard people were talking about it. I got curious and decided to take a look."

"Then, let me bring you over to get a closer look."