



Pup-Hub

There was something tickling his nose. Something soft and fluffy.

Still half asleep, Shen Yuan mumbled incoherently and touched the fluff that was moving and rubbing against his face. This couldn't be anyone but his husband. He was familiar enough with the sensation, having always combed his fingers across the thick strands and helped Binghe to tame his hair every morning.

Perhaps Shen Jiu was right, Luo Binghe was indeed a little beast. However, rather than a ferocious wild wolf, Shen Yuan always liked to think of Luo Binghe as an overly sticky pup. His husband certainly could be quite overwhelming sometimes and Shen Yuan was ready to give him a good long lecture to remind him that he didn't enjoy having his sleep disturbed, especially after a long night. If he wanted head pats, Shen Yuan was happy to give it once he was fully awake and had his morning tea.

Yet, when he opened his eyes, Luo Binghe was nowhere to be found. Instead, the one greeting him in their bed was a fluffy black pup, with a red mark that reminded him so much of his husband.

".... Binghe?"

He didn't know why he would think the pup would be his husband. How could one man (or demon) just turn into a puppy overnight? However, the way the ball of fluff was looking at him reverently just reminded him of Luo Binghe so much. Even the way the pup was wagging his tail excitedly bore so much resemblance to the half-demon.

"Arff!" The pup barked.

He responded to the name. There was no doubt that this was his husband. Dear lord, did he actually curse his husband into a literal pup, after commenting about his horrible kissing technique 'that felt more like biting' a bit too much last night? Heavens, he was just joking around!

He sat up, holding Bingpup in hands, still mostly confused all while wondering how to deal with the pup. It took a while but Shen Yuan suddenly remembered that a similar incident had occurred a few months back, albeit it was kept secret.

Shen Jiu had sent him a letter urging him to come back to Cang Qiong Mountain Sect. When he arrived, it was to the sight of his brother holding a dark grey pup with two black stripes on his eyes that looked awfully similar to Yue Qingyuan's eyebrows. Jiu Ge made him dog-sit for three days and very reluctantly admitted that the dog was indeed the sect leader who was cursed by an unknown artifact, after Shen Yuan had pushed him to reveal why the sect leader wasn't around.

Jiu Ge after all was never a dog person. Even if the dog happened to resemble the man he loved so much, Shen Yuan couldn't think of a reason for him to actually adopt a pup, unless the creature wasn't an actual pup.

Now he needed to question Jiu Ge about the root of the curse and how he was cured. As cute as Bingpup was, as the ruler of the demon realm and Shen Yuan's husband, he couldn't stay as a puppy forever.

He cleaned up and got ready to head out before packing Bingpup in a silk cloth tied around like sash on his body. He couldn't reveal to everyone that the ruler of three realms had been turned into this small ball of fluff, he had to protect Binghe. Only Bingpup's little nose poked out a little

from the sash, allowing him to breathe. Shen Yuan flew on his sword all the way to Cang Qiong Mountain, holding the sash with Bingpup in his arms protectively.

When he arrived at Qing Jing Peak, he found Ning Yingying sweeping at the bamboo house as usual. The young woman instantly lit up and went to greet him. "Xiao Shizun!"

He smiled. "Hello, Yingying. Is my brother around?"

"Shizun went to Qiong Ding Peak to see Zhangmen Shibo. Xiao Shizun, what is it that you're holding?" Ning Yingying asked, eyeing the sash with the suspicious lump in Shen Yuan's arms.

All she could see was tufts of black fluffs poking out from the cloth. Her jaw dropped as she suddenly recalled the time when Shen Yuan had once returned to Cang Qiong Mountain carrying a young boy who resembled her former shidi so much. Though Shen Yuan later explained that the boy was just indeed Luo Binghe who was experiencing a side effect of a qi deviation, it caused quite a chaos for a while as everyone apparently thought that Shen Yuan had brought over a little young master Luo.

"Can... can it be... Xiao Shizun, you're finally?" Ning Yingying gasped.

"Whatever it is that you're thinking, it's definitely wrong," Shen Yuan interrupted her before she could ever form the wrong conclusion. "I will just be here for a short while to see my brother, Yingying. There's no need to prepare anything and you don't have to spread the news of my visit either."

The less people who knew about Binghe's condition, the better. Shen Yuan hopped on back to his sword and headed to Qiong Ding Peak.

Yue Qingyuan welcomed him with a warm smile, though Shen Yuan suspected that the happiness he was exuding was partly because Shen Jiu was always in a better mood whenever Shen Yuan was around. It wasn't easy for either of them when Shen Yuan decided to follow Luo Binghe to the demon realm. They had always been together since birth, even rising to become the twin peak lords together - the only rare exception in Cang Qiong Mountain. They used to fight a lot, but in the end Shen Yuan knew Shen Jiu loved him more than anyone.

And as he expected, his brother only let out an amused snort when he saw Bingpup trotting out of the sash. "Why not keep him in this form? He is a lot more tolerable this way."

"Arff!" Bingpup barked.

"Easier to discipline and not as aggressive too," Shen Jiu commented.

"I can't let my husband stay as a puppy forever, Jiu Ge," Shen Yuan sighed. "How did you cure Qi Ge before?"

Shen Jiu froze. A tinge of peach blossomed on his cheeks and ears, and he immediately covered his expression with his fan. "I forgot."

Shen Yuan eyed his brother suspiciously. "Gege, you never forget things. Ever. Was it something embarrassing?"

Yue Qingyuan laughed. "Ah, you see-"

"Shut up!" Shen Jiu quickly stopped him. "Whatever, he's a heavenly demon. I'm sure he can find other ways to get himself out of trouble. Just wait for a couple more days and he will be fine."

It was definitely something super embarrassing if Shen Jiu was that unwilling to tell him. Dear lord, Shen Yuan wished it wasn't anything crazy or he would need to strangle someone infinitely.

“Jiu Ge. You know we can’t let this go by just like that. The border between the demon realm and human realm has been kept under control by Binghe’s power. If those low-class rebels find out that the demon lord is in this vulnerable state, imagine what they would do. I would be in danger too.”

Shen Jiu was not a man who would show his weakness easily. Shen Yuan however knew that he was also someone cautious enough to be able to sort his priority. Shang Qinghua had once made a remark about how the two brothers were different, yet so eerily similar too, with the way they were able to maneuver their way into utilizing other’s weak points to achieve their goals. Frankly, Shen Yuan thought both him and Shen Jiu were just used to using their brains in order to make up for whatever they lacked to survive.

Shen Jiu fell silent. He looked away and lightly nudged at Yue Qingyuan who was sitting beside him, prompting him to speak.

Yue Qingyuan chuckled. “If this situation is indeed what I experienced back then, it was likely caused by the relic created by a demon elder in the past. It was an incense burner created with the intention to interrogate. The victim’s significant other would be cursed into an animal and they would have to confess the secret they were hiding in order to release the curse.”

.... *What kind of terrible, fucked up invention is that? How does it even work?!* Shen Yuan screamed in his mind.

“It didn’t work out too well. The spell backfired and the demon who casted it turned into an animal himself. The relic ended up stashed into a treasure room, only unearthed and sent our way centuries later,” Shen Jiu added. “Anyway, in order to release the curse, the caster has to hear whatever confession they wished.”

“... How do we know who the caster is?” Shen Yuan questioned.

“Whoever lit the incense burner. That night Qi Ge was the one who lit it up and must have unconsciously wished for something, which is why that happened,” Shen Jiu coughed.

Doesn’t that mean the relic actually works, considering the relationship between the two of you? The irony.... The poor guy who created the cursed thing must be secretly his own enemy’s love interest then! Shen Yuan thought. “So, the thing you confessed was...”

In contrast to Shen Jiu’s scowl, Yue Qingyuan had a blissful smile on his face. “Ah, it was quite vague but I remember that night, I somewhat wished just once, Xiao Jiu would be honest about his feelings and tell me what he feels for me.”

“....”

Oh lord. Heavens. No.

No wonder his brother looked like he wanted to hide in a mousehole. Shen Yuan would want to do that too. Especially considering the kind of things Luo Binghe probably wished for him to confess.

Maybe he could stay with Binghe in this form for a while, yeah. Puppies are good. There was nothing wrong with it, Bingpup was just as cute, if not cuter than Binghe, right? With a cute round tummy and big bright eyes? Who could resist this adorable creature? Even his grumpy twin brother didn’t scowl at Bingpup, what better way to foster a good relationship between these two in-laws?

Bingpup whined and started nestling in his lap. Shen Yuan was reminded that as a small pup he wouldn’t be able to defend himself against his enemies or do any of his paperwork. Or maybe he could. Bingpup looked like he could pack some punch. Maybe Shen Yuan could teach him to

hold the brush. Oh, imagine all those demons receiving their written orders stamped with a tiny paw print!

He was clearly out of his mind here. Shen Yuan shook his head. He thanked his brother and brother-in-law, then left Cang Qiong Mountain still carrying Bingpup in his arms.

How hard could it be to confess your love?

Very hard. At least to Shen Yuan. He wasn't averse to affectionate gestures and he often showed appreciation to Luo Binghe's effort. However, those were often expressed in the form of praises, encouraging words, and gratitude. Something he had done even before their relationship switched from a master-disciple to lovers. His skin wasn't thick enough to actually confess his love, as in, saying those three words.

Shen Yuan couldn't recall the time he had actually said those words right to Luo Binghe's face. Luo Binghe did ask for his hand and he agreed, but those didn't really count as confession, did they? Either way they were initiated by Luo Binghe himself and not him so none of it mattered in this situation.

He had to figure out how to confess his feelings without actually having his heart burst from embarrassment. There shouldn't be anything to stop him. He and Binghe were married for years by now, he knew how much his husband loved him and now pleased he would be. Yet, why was Shen Yuan still scared?

He looked at Bingpup directly in the eyes and gulped. The pup stared back at him with eyes full of devotion, just like Binghe himself. Curled black tail wagged back and forth with excitement. Shen Yuan lightly poked the red mark on Bingpup's forehead and sighed.

"Binghe... how can this happen?" He lamented.

"Arff!" Bingpup barked.

Blood rose to his head, colouring his cheeks scarlet from the embarrassment. Oh well, there was no point waiting, was there? He was eventually going to have to do this anyway. Shen Yuan cleared his throat. "I have no idea what you wish for, so I'm just going to confess to everything. My feelings and... everything I think of you."

Bingpup blinked.

"Binghe... I... I really like you. I'm so in love with you, I can't understand it myself. I just know that I like you," Shen Yuan uttered. Gosh, he wanted to run and hide his face somewhere so bad! "I know the way we got together could have been better but ultimately, I'm just glad that I found you. You're my first love and I hope that you'll be my last one too."

Bingpup whimpered and trotted over to lick Shen Yuan's palm. Shen Yuan patted his head. "You're a bit too sticky sometimes, but to be honest, I really like it. Knowing that someone like you is so in love with me, makes me feel like the luckiest person in the world. I'm so happy to be married to you, Binghe."

Bingpup rubbed his head against his palm. He still wasn't turning back to his Binghe, which meant Shen Yuan's confession still wasn't enough. Shen Yuan blushed. What more should he say?

"You know... even if I did tease you about your kissing techniques, I don't hate it when you kiss me. I really like the long, soft kisses you give me. I love it when we hug and cuddle in the

mornings and before bedtime. You already know that I enjoy your cooking, but above all, I also adore the face you make when I eat well,” Shen Yuan added.

It looked almost like Bingpup was smiling, with the way his eyes were so bright and his tails wagging happily.

Shen Yuan clenched his fists and shut his eyes. Gosh, he was going to have to hide in a cave for a month after this. “You’re so handsome and talented, sometimes I can’t believe how fortunate I am. Um...” Shen Yuan paused. Gosh, he couldn’t believe he was saying this now. “If I have to name my favourite part of you, it would be your chest, I guess? It’s a secret I’ve never told you before, but I really want to bury my face in your chest....”

The sound of a cup shattering against the floor startled him.

Shen Yuan turned around. His jaw dropped as he saw Luo Binghe standing at the door, with a tilted tray in hand. He barely managed to save the teapot from falling to the floor as well. His face looked as red as a tomato and he was absolutely flustered. “Shi... Shizun...”

Impossible. Bingpup was still here. What was happening? “Bing... Binghe? Aren’t you a pup now?”

Luo Binghe blinked. “I’m... not? I was going to surprise Shizun with the pup this morning, but got called to handle an emergency as soon as I woke up, and...”

Shen Yuan suddenly recalled a conversation they had a week prior. A demon subordinate had offered a special egg that could be used to conceive children to Luo Binghe as a gift. Knowing that his husband had previously complained about how he found staying in the palace could be boring sometimes, Luo Binghe accepted the gift. Shen Yuan however wasn’t ready to actually raise a baby. He did, however, make a nonchalant comment about how a puppy wouldn’t be too bad.

As it turned out Bingpup was just an actual puppy brought in by Luo Binghe to be his new friend. He just didn’t get to be there for the surprise and silly Shen Yuan immediately assumed the puppy was Binghe because of their resemblance and the curse that fell upon Yue Qingyuan before.

Now Luo Binghe had heard his confession. All the embarrassing things he would never say before.

Needless to say, Shen Yuan spent the following week on a vacation with only Bingpup in an attempt to forget about the fact that he had just out loud admitted to wanting to smash his face against Luo Binghe’s chest.

*** EXTRA SCENE ***

Shen Yuan rarely ever interacted with Luo Binghe’s subordinates. If he ever needed something, he would often relay it to Binghe himself or talk to Shang Qinghua. However, that morning Mobei Jun came to seek him for a personal request, something the ice demon had never done before.

He brought up a tiny brown hamster from his sleeve. The hamster smelled of ink and had his cheeks stuffed with melon seeds.

“Shang Qinghua became like this and I don’t know how. Do you know what happened?” Mobei Jun asked.

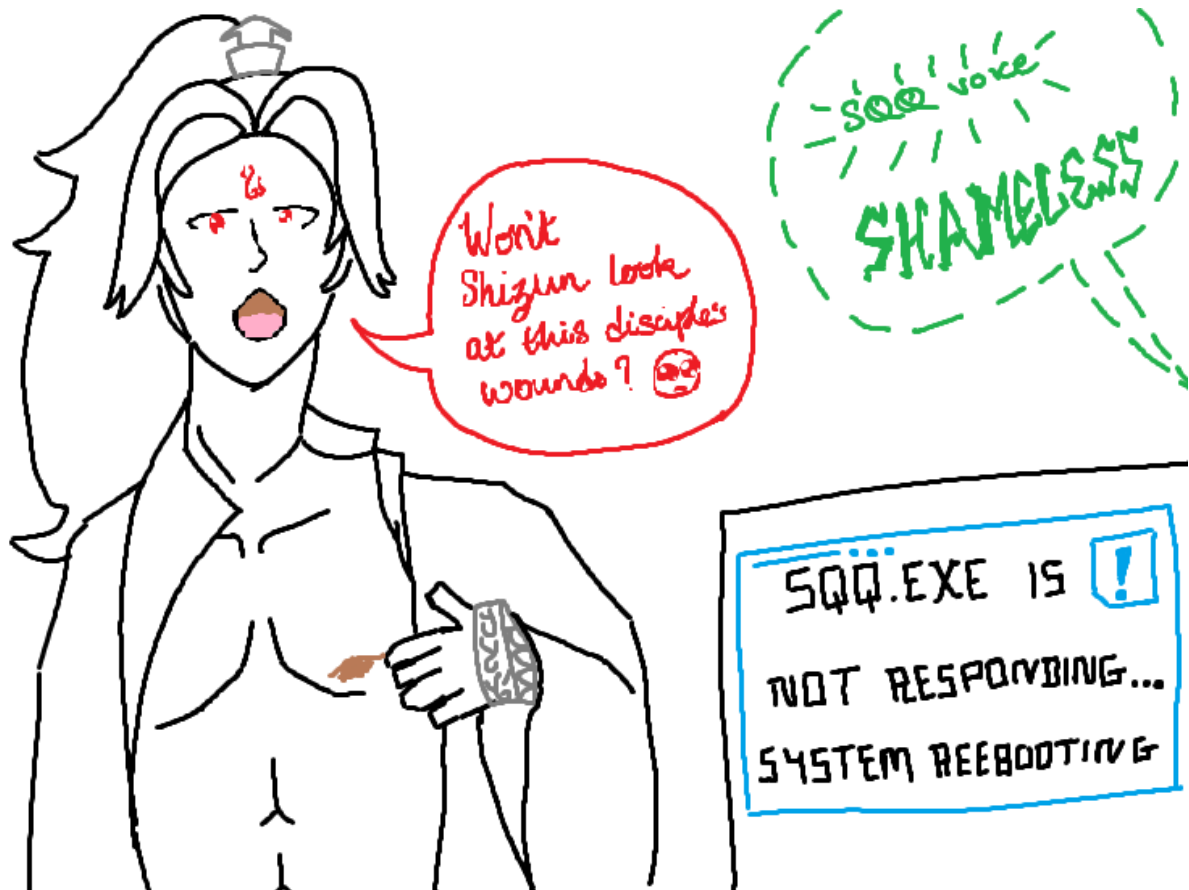
Shen Yuan sighed. *Oh man, this is going to be tough.*



[Stand-in: No writer, ms paint doodle in place :\)](#)



[Artist credit: Pro \(Twitter\)](#)



[Writer credit: Koschei \(Twitter\) | Ao3: Koschei_B](#)

When sending his husband to Bai Zhan peak, instructing him to talk things out with Liu Qingge, Shen Qingqiu did not know what he expected. Perhaps he hoped that they would finally reach an understanding; Really, he was fed up with constant fighting, and coming to his precious bamboo forest all ruined was the last straw.

He was unpleasant to Luo Binghe when telling him to go away, and having calmed down rushed to apologize. Hearing that Luo Binghe did as told was alarming, but not surprising.

What was surprising, shocking, was seeing them passionately kissing.

He did not stare.

[Writer credit: Mel \(Twitter\) | Ao3: kitsune812](#)

Summary:

Since meeting Luo Binghe, Mobei Jun stayed by his side. Always unwavering, unquestioning. Nothing could bind either demon to do something they do not want to.

So he waits.

—

PIDWverse, MBJ pov

Silver and cold

—

This trip would be long.

So long, that Luo Binghe couldn't give him an estimate on when he'd be back.

“Oh? It's unusual of you to ask for details.”

Mobei Jun's eyebrow twitch.

“I have to oversee the kingdom in your absence.” He feigned annoyance, even though he was already used to doing it. No one in their right mind would dare challenge Luo Binghe. There were some decisions that had to be made but it wasn't too taxing. “I'd just like to know how long.”

In this boring world, the only one that made things interesting was Luo Binghe.

Luo Binghe scrunched his nose and undid his high ponytail, letting his long hair fall on his shoulders. Mobei Jun cursed in his mind and hated himself for being so predictable. Luo Binghe knew Mobei Jun was weak to this look on hi,.

But it could also be the fact they spent decades together.

“Why don't you give me a little bit of you that I can take with me?”

Mobei Jun's body moved faster than he could and placed himself behind Luo Binghe and pulled him by the hair into a kiss.

Then, raised his free arm and a gust of wind made the door in Luo Binghe's chambers closed.

—

If anyone asked him, not that anyone would, Mobei Jun wished he could keep Luo Binghe
<i>close.</i>

It was frustrating at times. Not knowing where he was. Mobei Jun couldn't care less about what he did.

If he fathered another child or if he locked behind closed doors with several people and didn't come out for days.

His lord's appetite would not and cannot be fulfilled.

Mobei Jun knew this best.

Even on his own accord, he could meet anyone he wanted, be with anyone he wanted for any amount of period, not having to ask for permission.

Luo Binghe would ask periodically. It always brought him an unexplainable joy.

In this world, he thought that maybe if someone cared about what he had to say and what he felt, it would be Luo Binghe.

—

What he loved about whatever it was they had, is that they always came together not because out of obligation.

They didn't have an arrangement.

Or ever talked about it.

It simply was.

Mobei Jun will always serve under him.

And Luo Binghe would always rule the world.

They were always together and will continue to be.

This was because they wished it so.

There was no force that could influence Luo Binghe into doing something he didn't want.

The same could be said for Mobei Jun.

They were the strongest.

—

Mobei Jun watched as Luo Binghe healed himself the morning after.

There were... marks, evidence of how much Mobei Jun will miss him.

Gone in the blink of an eye.

“Ah, yes. I will miss this.”

Mobei Jun frowned.

It was obvious Luo Binghe wouldn't allow himself to be seen marked, but Mobei Jun had worked hard to imprint himself onto him.

“You get so angsty when I'm far. Here.”

Luo Binghe made a small tear on his thumb and a stone started forming with the scarlet substance that came from it.

“Catch.” Luo Binghe threw it at Mobei Jun, he caught it effortlessly.

It looked like a small garnet that shone brightly.

“It has some of my lifeblood. If it ever dulls or goes off, well... I may or may not need you.”

Mobei Jun understood. In the unlikely possibility he needed reinforcements, Mobei Jun would know first.

In the time he spent looking at it. The already healed Luo Binghe already made way into bed again and huddled up next to him.

This was new. Luo Binghe never lingered.

“Not even the first wife worries like you do.” Luo Binghe said half joking and half serious after burying himself into his arms.

After years of standing by him, Mobei Jun could guess Luo Binghe's trauma.

Although his life has been full of hardship and trials, he was now at a point in which he ruled and would never again be vulnerable.

Mobei Jun would make sure of it.

He kissed the top of Luo Binghe's head.

—

It wasn't like the stone emitted any heat or made any noise.

He would look at it from time to time but didn't constantly monitor it.

He took it out of his pocket once and thought he pulled the wrong thing even though he didn't have anything else in his it.

He blinked twice.

It blinked.

Never again it had faltered in its inner shine.

He stared at it sternly and made preparations.

He knew little to nothing of his lord's whereabouts.

Luo Binghe didn't say.

There was no point in raising alert or anything like it.

He paced and looked at the stone again.

It had stabilized. It was fine.

Mobei Jun stared at it closer.

Its normal shine was restored.

He didn't know how long that was, but however long that lasted, was enough.

He couldn't sleep for the rest of the night.

The morning after, Binghe came back with a portal, into Mobei Jun's chambers.

He fell with a thud.

Mobei Jun went to him immediately.

Another unusual development.

He immediately placed Luo Binghe in his own bed and started transferring spiritual power.

Once he was conscious, Mobei Jun stared silent.

Whatever he had gone through. It didn't matter.

Luo Binghe looked straight up, deep in thought.

“I've met a different version of me.”

Mobei Jun widened his eyes.

“Does it make sense? To be with just one person?”

This question echoed in his mind.

“Depends on who you ask.” Mbj said with a scratchy voice.

“I'm asking you.”

“There's only one person I see.”

Luo Binghe sat upright, he was weak still but was fine.

“Do you want to try it?”

“I thought you'd never ask.”

There was a lot of things to think about, the wives, the kids.

But if there was one thing he knew well, in this world, no one told them what to do.

They did what they did because they wanted to.