

## Chapter2 Totem

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The village chief does not have his own name, just like his father, who is also like his father. The eldest sons of the village chiefs throughout the generations have all lost their names, and the collateral branches of the family have assisted the ruling family of the village. Inheriting this heavy responsibility, the peripheral branches have not only engaged in farming and fishing, but they also share some of the work required by the village chief. Over time, some of the mothers in the family passed away and the siblings moved out of the courtyard.

The previous generation of village chief, due to illness, handed over the position to the current village chief at a very young age. The village chief was not even ten years old when the ancestral well was excavated, and the first batch of relics of the ancestors unearthed many exquisite ornaments and numerous glass bottles. Among them was a necklace depicting a creature that was part-human and part-fish, which had been excavated a long time ago. He examined it carefully, observing the small breasts, wavy curly hair, and round, plump tail. His elders chattered outside the door, saying that the necklace and jewelry came from the outside, worn by women or men from the outside world. After examining the papers in the glass bottles, the elders learned that this creature was called a mermaid, a combination of human and fish, an inhabitant of the outside world. The jewelry and the information in the glass bottles suggested that they belonged to the same ship or the same family. There were many records of voyages and encounters with the outside world, and the patterns on the

jewelry corresponded to some of them.

He held up the metal mermaid, and unconsciously, he looked at the round and plump body. He examined the intersections where the scales were woven, thinking that there must be a special point at least. At that young age, he only thought about where the mermaid's excrement went. He leaned against his mother's hair, and in his eyes. Ling Dang 's skirt got shattered through the hair, and in this dense hair forest, he gave her the mermaid necklace, and she dried her hands to receive the gift. She asked his mother, Auntie, how does she "pull her tail" (referring to menstruation)? How does the blood flow out? When a child is born, do they have to split their tail in half?

His mother said that they were like fish, they didn't "pull their tails," and giving birth to a child was like laying eggs. Ling Dang touched that two breasts and said, but she's a female,like all the female dogs ,they "pull their tail,like all the" female pigs ",they pull their tails,like all the “ female rabbits “,they pull their tails,why doesn't they(the mermaid)?

After his mother carried him far away, he still thought about what Ling Dang said about "how that woman pull her tail." It was late spring, and the rain was heavy. Several cat cries pierced through the rain curtain. His mother hugged him and covered his ears, softly chanting, “the mother cat is in heat, crying so loudly, it hurting my baby ‘s ears.”

Ling Dang's menstruation came very late. She was thin and small, completely different from the girls nowadays. Jia Liang was tall and straight, and her long hair before falling in love was the same long and thick hair that girls have now. Before

falling in love, Jia Liang was a girl, transparently white, with bright and moist eyebrows and eyes, and shiny red lips. But Ling Dang, she was thin and yellow, her face has always been sharp and deeply concave, as if she hadn't slept well for a long time, her eyeballs were yellow and red, blinking with anger all the time. Her mouth was as sharp as her rabbit teeth, every word she said was bumpy and prickly. And her mother, her face was almost the same as Ling Dang's, her belly sagged in her clothes because she had given birth to two daughters.