

E Monarch 166

Chapter 166 – Assassins

“One million taels instead of two for one share.” Jun Mo Xie exposed a meaningful smile: “I’m only giving you this bargain because I like you.”

He’s offering the Emperor’s brother a share which is worth one million taels per share, and is actually calling it a favor?

Jun Mo Xie lowered his line of sight to look at young Yang Mo and said: “Little girl, you’re a shareholder in my wine from now on.... You and I are partners now!”

“I’m a man!” the boy screamed back so furiously that it almost felt as if he was gearing up to bite his tormentor.

“We’ll discuss more on this topic later. Ladies and gentlemen, Song Shang will convey the details of the auction to you later, as and when they are decided, but for now, I need to head back home.” Jun Mo Xie wisely chose to hurry back home.

The identity of an Emperor’s brother, and his plan to secure the future of his children was not just a very serious matter, but also a very sensitive one, which was appropriately conveyed by prince Yang Huai Nong in one sentence. It was evident from his choice of words that any deviation from his instructions would result in a torrent of his influence. Even a Sky Xuan expert like Song Shang recoiled from the threat; let alone Jun Mo Xie.

Of course, this wasn’t enough to scare an expert of the Solitary Falcon’s standard..... obviously.... The man’s strength had already surpassed the influence of a prince. However, the prince’s words were enough to shake any man alive, apart from a man of the Solitary Falcon’s stature of course.

In fact, even Jun Mo Xie didn’t really care much about the prince, and was only concerned with his true new partner; young Yang Mo. I might like you prince, but when the time comes, I’ll only care about this kid’s life... not your insignificant one!

“Master, do you wish for your disciple to stay here?” Even though Song Shang had asked this question in a normal tone, it was obvious from the gleam in his eyes that he wished to stay on.

“This vast and boundless land has several paths, but they all lead to one single destination..... no matter which path you take, you must walk the path of wine-making.... But wherever you go, remember to take these two jars of wine with you; as a reminder!” Jun Mo Xie smiled: “Song Shang, you.... Since your identity has been exposed.... Are you planning on leave this city?”

Even though Jun Mo Xie had asked this question, he was well aware that Song Shang wasn’t going to leave. How could he.... when he could stay here and learn to make such wine? Making quality wine had been his life-long pursuit, so how could he leave when the secret of making such wine was within arm’s reach? Even if his body was dismembered into a thousand pieces, he still wouldn’t leave!

Since he was done here, Jun Mo Xie turned around and greeted the Solitary Falcon once again and then turned around to leave the shop.

The Solitary Falcon interrupted his departure: “Boy, how can you leave when we’re not done yet? You still haven’t settled my account yet... you owe me!”

“Old man, you have no account with me, so it isn’t good of you to ask me. I have no debts with you... and you have no credit over me.” Jun Mo Xie smiled as he looked back at him: “People usually owe me, not the other way around; if you think I owe you... then why don’t you try and find me?”

Even though the Solitary Falcon’s mouth opened to curse, his eyes still revealed the hint of a smile: “Since you’re playing tricks with this old man... maybe I will!”

“Well then, if you can find me later, then we’ll certainly settle our accounts.” Jun Mo Xie glanced over at him one last time, and then sped away: “If you find me later, then I’ll definitely give you a reason to... ha....”

“This kid was so calm even after learning my true identity.... This is the first time I’ve ever seen someone with such a low Xuan Qi maintain such composure.” The prince’s eyes revealed a hint of appreciation as the three men gazed at Jun Mo Xie’s fleeting silhouette: “He is certainly something beyond the usual!”

"I agree with you old man... this is a first for me as well!" the Solitary Falcon agreed in dismay: "He somehow managed to figure each one of us out but still managed to retain his own mystery!"

The Solitary Falcon had long realized that the youngster had figured his identity out as well, else there would have been no reason why each and every words coming out from his mouth would be so targeted and associable.... However, the Solitary Falcon was feeling a bit bizarre instead of angry for some reason.

I knew he was flattering me all along, but then why was I still feeling so good about it?

"Hang on! What are you doing?" The prince stopped Song Shang's actions mid-way, and glared at him with the eyes of a fire-breathing dragon. "Even though you're the kid's apprentice now, it still doesn't mean that you can just pick up these two jars of wine and leave. Anyway, he intends on auctioning them... didn't you hear him? So, how much for them? Don't think that you can climb onto a high tree and take these two jars for yourself....."

Song Shang was in the process of stealthily taking away the two wine jars which Jun Mo Xie had left behind, and was intending on slipping out!

"I was the competitor and now his new disciple.... You're just the referee! Why should you get these two wine jars?" Song Shang glared argumentatively, unwilling to pass on the ownership of the wine jars without a fight.

"The referees are allowed to drink the leftovers; would you disagree?" The Solitary Falcon unceremoniously snatched the two jars from Song Shang's hands: "The contest is over now, and you're the owner of this pub; it's your duty to go and get us something suitable to drink with our wine!"

Old Song didn't have the courage to say anything when confronted with the power and influence of a man like the Solitary Falcon. He bitterly turned around and went inside his shop to fetch the snacks. The Solitary Falcon and the prince hurriedly grabbed their glasses and poured themselves a drink. The prince couldn't help but feel the influence of brute strength, and the insidious effect that it could instill in the hearts of weaker men!

In a corner far away from the pub, a woman stood dressed in black robes with a black veil concealing her face. As a gust of wind fluttered past her robes, it managed to lift her veil just enough to reveal her two bright and shiny eyes, which seemed to be burning in the flames of anger.

Jun Mo Xie.... You shamed and humiliated me! Today, you will pay for it with your life! Jun Zhan Tian won't be able to help you today, and neither would the Eighth Grand Master you just befriended.... Tonight, you'll die for sure!

"Miss, it is about to rain; you should find cover below." A black masked man quietly came from behind her and whispered in her ear.

"No! I want to witness the ossification of Jun Mo Xie's bones to ash with my own eyes; only then will this anger inside my heart truly subside!" The black-robed woman remained motionlessly glued to her spot as she replied in a voice as cold and sharp as ice-shards: "Jun Mo Xie needs to return to his home before dark in order to attend a family dinner tonight. We've gone to great lengths in order to procure this information; therefore we must seize this opportunity well!"

"Yes miss!"

Even though it was only the early hours of dusk at the moment, but a thick layer of dark clouds had already started to converge in sky, making the sky look a lot darker and gloomier at this time than usual. As the shrill autumn winds howled through the streets of the Tian Xiang city, the clouds continued to narrow down the last remaining strand of silver-lining in the sky above.

The city's streets had already been emptied since the pedestrians had already sensed the ominous signal of the dark clouds and the mournful winds.

Jun Wu Yi had been forced to remain restricted to his wheelchair due to the presence of his guests.....

"Why does it feel as if something is amiss?" Jun Mo Xie was sitting in his palanquin, feeling extremely uneasy on the way back to his residence. I just won a contest, and I even acquired such a top-level Sky Xuan apprentice.... Then why am I not feeling any excitement? This is a strange phenomenon..... Something is wrong!

When was the last time I was this unsettled?

Something is definitely wrong.....

This thought silenced Jun Mo Xie's mind as a burst of horror took control of his subconscious!

Whether in this life or the previous, Jun Mo Xie had only felt this sensation when he was lurking on the fringes of a major danger!

Moreover, this feeling of discomfort had saved his life many-a-times in the past!

Is there any approaching danger.... Is my existence under an immediate threat?

Jun Mo Xie's entire body suddenly went cold as he subconsciously sunk into his seat!

Whoosh! Whoosh!.....

Numerous piercing sounds sounded all around without any warning as a myriad of weapons made their way through the empty street and towards the palanquin.

Bow-arrows, sleeve arrows, throwing knives..... numerous concealed weapons flew through the sky in a mad frenzy!

These weapons rained on his palanquin even more densely than the impending natural shower!

Bang....a huge flying chain smashed off the roof of his palanquin.....

The eight men accompanying Jun Mo Xie could be regarded as some of the best guards of the Jun family, and were able to react quickly enough to obstruct most of the weapons approaching their master's palanquin. Two men were caught off-guard and sustained injuries, but even they managed to retaliate by stopping some of the weapons.

"Protect the young master!" the eight men immediately surrounded the palanquin shoulder-to-shoulder as soon as the command sounded. Even though two men had arrows poking out of their lower bodies, they stationed themselves in front of their master's ride without making any sounds of agony.

The sudden and usually dense wave of hidden weapons' attack was followed by absolute silence.... The wind however, continued to howl through the streets of the city.....

Jun Mo Xie's heart sunk: Assassins! And they are well-trained, organized.... Plus they are being led by someone very experienced!

The leader of the guards quickly issued his orders: "The enemy is attacking from the shadows, therefore we must split up in to two groups. If need be, then you two will guard the young master from the front, while the two of you will guard him from the rear. If you need any help, then the four of us will immediately return to assist you. The young master's safety is the first priority!"

Everyone accepted the command with awe-inspiring bravery.

"No, don't! We must stay together!" Jun Mo Xie's voice sounded from within the palanquin: "The other side has more manpower, and they have a significantly higher amount of firepower as well. They have at least a dozen bow and arrows, sleeve arrows, as well as throwing knives... hammers, darts.....they attacked from a long distance, but even then their attacks were simultaneous... they are very well organized. It's useless to split up when dealing with such an enemy... that will only accelerate the pace of our defeat and ensure our deaths! We only have one hope; do you see that corner ten feet away from here?"

Jun Mo Xie quickly analyzed the situation through the screens of his palanquin and commanded. Given his ability, making the corner wasn't an issue, but it was an entirely different matter as far as his guards were concerned.

Chapter 167 – Torrent of terror

Since the first volley of those concealed weapons had been focused on the palanquin, Jun Mo Xie had clearly understood that he was the intended target of the attackers; and now that the upper part of the palanquin had been smashed to pieces, he was certain that the assassins were simply waiting to see their reaction. If these assassins were to realize that their target has already died, then he was sure that these people would immediately turn around and leave without even coming out in the open!

“We’ll make our way to that corner ten feet away, and then we’ll take the road which leads to the Jun residence.” Jun Hu, the head of the guards immediately whispered his command.

“Good! Now listen to my orders; and you’re not allowed to oppose me! Else you’ll be removed from the Jun Family’s command, understood?!” even though Jun Mo Xie’s voice was barely audible, the severity of his command was evident from his tone.

The eight guards looked rather stumped by his words, but quickly realized that this wasn’t the time to argue and hastily nodded.

Jun Mo Xie had been able to spot that most of the concealed weapons had been issued at the back of golden colored lights, while another five or six had originated from green colored sources. But the most surprising thing was that the number of golden colored sources was almost thrice as many as the green colored ones!

Who is trying to get me killed? Who’s capable of organizing such an expensive line-up?

Jun Mo Xie couldn’t resist drawing a comparison: even the assassination attempt on the princess wasn’t half as strong as this one! Am I an even bigger target than the princess now?

“You will immediately abandon the palanquin; and then you’ll move forward in full speed. I’m their target! You don’t need to worry about me; I’ll make my escape once you’re gone!” Jun Mo Xie calmly instructed.

Jun Hu shook his head as he blankly stared in his master’s direction, we will not abandon the young master under any circumstances.... “This is our only duty! We will not abandon you young master... we’ll defend you till our deaths! We cannot obey that command young master!”

“Nonsense! I’m your master, and as long as I’m alive, you will listen to every word of mine! Now obey the command!” Jun Mo Xie patiently replied: “It was obvious from their attacks that they are much stronger than you guys are, so you won’t be able to do much even if you stay here and fight. However, you will end up becoming a burden for me if you stay! You have to get out now so I can get out of here with ease!”

“We’ll be waiting for you up ahead in that case young master! And we’ll try to attract as many troops as possible towards us!” Jun Hu didn’t hesitate one bit while making up his mind, if the young master dies, then I will not wait for the martial judgement.... I will immediately put a knife to my throat, and I’ll kill myself.

He ordered his men, and the eight silhouettes immediately rushed out.

“I don’t care who you are, nor will I care about your instigator..... since you’ve come to kill me, you should’ve come prepared to face the consequences!”

As Jun Mo Xie watched his eight guards reaching the corner, the long-lost glimmer of a familiar glory shone in his eyes: “It seems that it’s unavoidable to divulge from the ways of my past today! So.....It’s time to kill!”

A monstrous smile surfaced on his face as his body sunk deeper into his seat. Like a snowflake in the summer sun, his body disappeared into the ground below without a trace, leaving the palanquin completely empty.....

The movement of the bodyguards had left the assassins baffled! They had been spying for several days now, and had even gone to the lengths of bribing local peddlers for gathering reliable information about Jun Mo Xie’s activities. They were absolutely convinced that Jun Mo Xie was sitting inside the palanquin!

But why are those guards abandoning the palanquin? Are they just trying to distract our attention?

But that just doesn’t make any sense, ah, they didn’t even peek into the palanquin to see if their master is alive or dead.... They just fled! How could such irresponsible guards exist under this sun? But my sources were sure that these guards are most loyal to the Jun Family, and weren’t even afraid of sacrificing their lives for the sake of their masters!

This is really weird! Could it be that the palanquin.... Is really..... empty?

No that can’t be! Just the elevation of the palanquin was enough to indicate that someone was inside the palanquin! Therefore, someone must still be in there!

But there must be a reason why they are abandoning the palanquin and fleeing!

Even though his head was swarming with several different possibilities, the leader of the assassins immediately issued his orders: "Two teams will go and stop those eight guards, but make sure that you don't kill them all! At least one man must be taken captive! One team will follow after me, and we'll personally go and kill that evil bastard!"

A dozen silhouettes emerged from within the shadows of the surrounding area, and swiftly made their way towards the escaping guards. A few more assassins, who were already positioned in the direction of their escape, had already started engaging them in combat.

Several more assassins came out of their hiding spots almost simultaneously, and then dispersed into four groups as they completely surrounded the palanquin. They quickly blocked every possible and imaginable exit route of the palanquin while their gleaming swords flickered and reflected their black masks.

"Young son of the Jun Family, you can come out now..... There are no loopholes in our plan, so it's pointless to struggle." The leader of the assassins slowly stated in a cold voice as he unsheathed his golden sword.

"You're still in there; I'm a hundred percent sure of it! If you don't come out now, then I'll set your ride ablaze!" the ominous hint of a sadistic pleasure gleamed in his eyes, revealing that he would genuinely enjoy this act of cruelty.

The man repeated himself twice, but heard nothing apart from the constant clashing sounds coming from some distance away due to the confrontation between the guards and his two other teams. Even though those eight guards were both outnumbered and less powerful as compared to their opponents, they were still bravely trying to attract as much attention onto themselves as possible. It was evident that they weren't fighting for their survival, but for that of their young master's, and were somehow able to match up to their aggressors in the backdrop of their bravery!

Amidst the fierce fighting, a flag with flowery engraving on it suddenly rocketed into the sky!

“This is the Jun Family’s secret signal for help!” the leader of the assassins already knew their secret signal, and knew that they would run into trouble if they didn’t hurry. Hence, he waved his hands and ruthlessly ordered: “Burn him!”

Five or six torches lit up at the same time, and were set in contact with the fabric of the palanquin and its bamboo structure. With the wind assisting their intention, the conflagration instantly took control of the palanquin’s fate, while the faces of the arsonists rejoiced as they tried to imagine Jun Mo Xie’s fruitless struggle for escape.

However, their laughter came to an abrupt end.

They were surprised upon realizing that the fire only gave rise to the snapping sounds of the palanquin’s structure, but not of Jun Mo Xie’s screams. Moreover, the only scent they could smell was that of burning inanimate objects; and not that of a living body....ah, what’s going on?

Is that evil bastard really not in the palanquin?

Two men simultaneously exposed the chains which were nicely concealed in their sleeves. These chains snaked out towards the palanquin and ripped open the vehicle’s flaming structure!

Not a soul in sight!

“Li Zhi Wu, what is going on?” an ice cold voice sounded from a distance. The graceful and elegant body of a woman was watching from distance with a flavor of extreme disappointment in her eyes.

“We’ve been fooled!” the leader, Li Zhi Wu was startled by the sight of a silver bolt of lightning, which pierced through the dark of the clouds. This flashing light was followed by the crisp and bombarding sound of thunder.

A torrent of rainfall came crashing down from the heavens above.

At this point, the eight body guards of Jun Mo Xie’s were still engaged in a fierce confrontation with a number almost twice of theirs’, and even though they were somehow hanging tough, it was evident

from the rate which they were consuming their Xuan Qi, their blood would start to flow through the bare streets of the city very soon. In fact, if these men chose to flee at this point, some of them would actually be able to make an escape..... However, they were still fighting back with the single-minded ambition of distracting their master's aggressors!

"Hey, how's it going?" a ghostly figure suddenly appeared behind one of the black masked men; the man turned around... only to find two slender fingers approaching his Adam's apple, 'chuck'..... the eyes of the assassin froze in shock while his hands trembled twice as his feet recoiled backwards under the effect of his collapsing body.

Since the appearance of this figure was too ambiguous, another one of the assassins was unable to spot it. All he saw was his collapsing comrade, and was unable to understand why his companion would choose to drop to the ground for no reason: "What are you doing?" he asked as he extended his hand to assist his companion.

As the palm of his hand came in contact with his deceased companion's body, the remaining fifteen or so of his companions hastily screamed: "Be careful....."

They were too late. The man felt a cold hand around his neck as his ears heard a crisp snapping sound of something breaking.... The man was left perplexed to find that he was staring at his own buttocks!

What's going on? I was obviously looking in the forward direction, so why am I seeing my own butt..... as his thoughts seized to exist, his body collapsed to the ground while his dead fish-like eyes continued to remain glued to his own buttock!

This man was quite fortunate, especially when one considers the fact that he died a painless death, and saw only his own buttock in his last moments, and not some foreign object.....

However, his companions weren't destined to be as fortunate!

Thunderbolts of lightening continued to accompany the falling torrents of rain!

As the lightening continued to shine in the dark sky, almost everyone experienced an incredible but frightening torrent of terror: an erratic figure suddenly appeared in between four assassins, almost like a ghost..... no one saw where the figure came from..... no one heard any sounds of its approach.....

Is he a god ora monster?

Like a devil from a nightmare, one their eyes could see but hands couldn't touch, the monster leisurely cut their lives short.... Helpless, they only stood there in passive acceptance of their fate!

Chapter 168 – Slaughtered

This erratic ghostly figure only made one action; he actually made several actions simultaneously, but it was impossible to classify them as separate actions due to the degree of their simultaneity: his left foot silently but with visibly thunderous speed went straight up one of the assassin's crotch, while his left hand landed on the throat of the second assassin, and poked a big hole in it. No one saw the speed with which his right hand reversed the neck of the third assassin, and left him staring at his own buttock....luckily; then, both his elbows landed straight into the back of the fourth assassin, who was facing the other side at that moment, unaware of this mysterious figure's presence behind him.....

Even though the assassin's back was unable to resist the elbows, and crumbled inwards under the effect of the dual-elbow strike, his body's flesh showed no signs of any injury!

As a result, the first assassin was sent out screaming into the air, bleeding from all seven apertures of his face while the next two assassins swirled around and landed on the ground. The fourth one however, was left wearing a strange look on his face..... he landed on the ground in a weird posture while his bodily blood started to fuse into the mud below.....

Anyone could tell that all his bones inside his thoracic cavity had been shattered along with his spine.....

Another thunderbolt shone in the sky, and this mysterious figure instant disappeared and reappeared in the middle of another group of six assassins! In span no less than a blink of an eye, these six assassins were already dead as well!

The rest of the assassins were staring in awe and fear.....six well trained and cold-blooded killers were vulnerable beyond words in front this thing! He actually killed the six of them without borrowing any support from his Xuan Qi!

Who in this world is capable of killing six of such expert assassins in one swoop??

“Follow me!” the mysterious man shouted through the mask which was concealing his face; it was evident that he was addressing the Jun Family’s guards.

“Please save the young master first.....” Jun Hu requested even though he was panting with exhaustion. He hadn’t yet finished his sentence before he found himself interrupted by this mysterious man: “Jun Mo Xie has already escaped! If you guys hadn’t stayed back here then he would have already gotten home by now!”

Realizing that their young master would have somehow made the corner and might have made his way towards the safety of the Jun mansion, the eight guards finally breathed a sigh of relief, and rushed forward to join their savior.

The mysterious man didn’t intend to boast, but had he not stopped to save these eight guards, then the young master Jun would already have made it home! Obviously, this mysterious man was Jun Mo Xie himself.

After he had asked his guards to leave him, he had immediately removed his robe, and had masked his face with its fabric. Then he had escaped into the earth below with the help of the Yin Yang escape law. If it weren’t for the task of rescuing his eight body guards, then Jun Mo Xie would have straight away made his way towards the Jun residence, after all this location was quite close to the Family’s residence. Although, Jun Mo Xie’s wasn’t skilled enough to cover the entire distance in one single attempt, but he would have managed it in multiple rounds with ease.

Everyone was staring at his figure in awe..... after all, who could have imagined that there would actually be someone in this world who could really traverse through the ground freely? This was simply unrealistic.... To them, this phenomenon was beyond all forms of reasonable comprehension! Nothing like this had ever happened in the entire Xuan Xuan continent before. No one had ever reported such a sighting; in fact, no one had even imagined it.

However, the Hongjun Pagoda was an alien object for this world, and had long surpassed the limitation of Xuan Qi. In this world obsessed with, and limited to Xuan Qi, no was capable of imagining the existence of such an object, let alone understand the profound meaning of the 'Art of unlocking the heaven's fortune'!

Is his skill a gift of god, or the apparition of a monster... he was able to kill off six highly trained killers in the blink of an eye..... how?! It takes the human mind a while to switch between confusion and shock, and then it requires more time to process everything in between. Although those well-trained assassin were capable of doing all this in just a few tenths of a second, this time was enough for hitman Jun to complete his task!

In fact, this time was enough for hitman Jun to eliminate them without even using his blade!

The leader of the assassins, Li Zhi Wu by now had figured out that his targets were escaping, and so he quickly started to move after them, putting all his strength to work. His body almost elevated from the ground below as the yellow colored light of his Xuan Qi abnormally dazzled through the falling raindrops, making it seem as if a bright sun had suddenly appeared in the middle of a night-like ambience!

The yellow colored lights of two khaki-colored robed men also flashed beside him as they charged right behind him at an almost equivalent pace. These three assassins had decided to take the lead in chasing after their mysterious attacker!

At the moment, Jun Mo Xie and his companions were being chased by almost a dozen killers, when suddenly a black-robed, black-masked man appeared right in front of them. He just stood there blocking their way ahead with a sword in his hand, and a deep look in his motionless eyes, almost as if he was an unbreakable wall, unwilling to let Jun Mo Xie and his guards past.

A green-colored light flashed from his body as he geared up for the approaching escapees!

A Jade Xuan expert! This person must be the leader of those two groups.

This person had no intention of using his Xuan Qi to kill his escaping targets, and only intended on doing just the right amount of hard work. His only aim was to resist Jun Mo Xie's party long enough for his comrades to catch up and encircle the escapees.

Obviously, once the nine escaping men were surrounded by the remaining killers, the escaping men wouldn't be able to last long enough to see the Jun Family's on route support!

Just a matter of moments would be enough to decide the fate of their lives!

However, Jun Mo Xie's guards were charging forward like sharp daggers, knowing that they were being led by a mysterious but all-conquering spear at the front!

A green light flashed as this man stepped backwards to assess the situation better, making the water in the puddles underneath his feet splash in all directions. This jade Xuan expert was already beginning to have second thoughts!

This mysterious figure must be one the best from the Jun Family!

Then, he raised his sword and burst forward again. This Jade Xuan killer had been practicing his sword-play for decades and now seemed confident of matching his opposition!

In fact, it could even be said that the man was so confident of his ability, that he would even be willing to match his sword against a Spirit Xuan for a few seconds!

Who is this mysterious masked expert? I haven't been able to see his Xuan Qi light yet, but I know that he's no rookie! Could this expert be a Spirit Xuan?

If I died defending my line of defense against a Spirit Xuan, then it would indeed be a matter of honor!

Even though the heart of this Jade Xuan expert had gone numb, the fire of this thought had propelled his body to move forward and confront this mysterious expert.

Nah, this is absolutely impossible.... This is ridiculous....if he was genuinely a Spirit Xuan expert, then he could have killed us all in the blink of an eye. So why would he chose to kill us one by one? Besides, Spirit Xuan experts can't be found everywhere.... They are Spirit Xuan masters... not cabbage!

As his mind process this information and added more fuel to his actions, he accelerated the pace of his advance, and charged forward even faster; almost at the speed of lightening!

The eyes of this killer were gleaming so brightly in the colors of excitement, that it seemed as if he had completely forgotten the fear of death in the background of this legendary situation!

As their body's approached closers, Jun Mo Xie's body didn't slow down even to the last step, but his entire upper body twisted in a strange manner at the last moment, almost to the point where it seemed to be defying the laws of nature!

His waist had twisted in a manner which would allow him to face his attacker from the side while his face had already moved past his attacker's body!

This is simply bizarre!

Is there anything that this guy can't do?

Whoosh!

Even though the Jade Xuan assassin was taken aback by Jun Mo Xie's maneuver, his blade still managed to pierce past Jun Mo Xie's chest-clothing and tore out his shirt. In fact, the blade was so close to his body that it's face practically came in contact with Jun Mo Xie's chest but its sharp edges were only able to slash the raindrops which fell from the sky above!

Although Jun Mo Xie's movement had been exceptionally fast, but the speed and expertise of his attacker's strike was beyond the human body's limit of making a complete escape, owing to which the blade ended up rubbing Jun Mo Xie's chest! But this minor sacrifice of his clothing was completely worth it!

Because Jun Mo Xie's bullet like body had crashed straight into this Jade Xuan experts', while Jun Mo Xie's hands had managed to reach their desired destination!

The Jade Xuan expert's feet were lifted off the ground under the effect of the huge momentum and massive inertia of Jun Mo Xie's advance, forcing his body to advance forward! Well..... Jun Mo Xie was moving forward, but he was moving backwards! Involuntarily, of course! His mind was still in an excited state, but his body had started moving against the direction of his mind's command.....

Just when the Jade Xuan expert's eyes started to change their reflection from the excitement of his brutal advance to the extremity of his shock....

Jun Mo Xie's right elbow heavily bombarded the cavity of his chest!

Boom! Snap..... however, this sound was muffled by the sound of thunder!

Even his nerve cells were too slow to react..... the pain from this first strike hadn't even reached his brain cells yet when.....

Three of Jun Mo Xie's right palm's fingers found their way to his throat and split it open! Another faint snapping sound was issued as his fragile throat's bone was pulled out of his body.....

His head was forcefully raised upwards under the effect of the second attack.....

But only to find Jun Mo Xie's left hand's two fingers waiting there. His left hand had moved almost at the same time as his right one, and now his two fingers were plugged into his obstruction's eye sockets!

A black-white and red liquid projected outwards as Jun Mo Xie pulled his fingers out!

But that wasn't the end of it yet; Jun Mo Xie's left knee was also projecting upwards to meet this Jade Xuan's crotch in the hope of a high-impact collision!

Chapter 169 – Coming out safely

A very fierce method! However, Jun Mo Xie wasn't regarding this method as 'fierce' or even 'ruthless', but as simply necessary! Each individual attack of this series was fatal, and their combined impact over such a short duration had made them even more so!

The reason he considered these attacks to be necessary was simple: Their path was being obstructed by a Jade Xuan, and the only way to get out was to either use the Yin Yang Escape law or go for overkill without using his Xuan Qi since he was well aware that he couldn't break through a stronger enemy's Xuan Qi protection! In case he used the Yin Ying escape law to get past the man, he was sure to stop and kill his guards!

You will need to die my friend! It's better that you die than us! Therefore you must die! Jun Mo Xie was well aware that he couldn't afford to stall for even one second, else he would have a difficult time in getting everyone to safety, and therefore he had raining such powerful and consecutive strikes onto the assassin's body!

As far as Jun Mo Xie was concerned, that Jade Xuan assassin only had himself to blame for his miserable death. Had the man not been so powerful, then he too would have died as painlessly as his comrades!

Even though Jun Mo Xie had landed several fatal blows onto the man's body in a flash, he had still managed to maintain his forward velocity while the body of the Jade Xuan assassin had hung onto his own as the two of them bolted forward!

Boom!

Just as Jun Mo Xie's knee landed the final blow, the body of the Jade Xuan assassin suddenly split apart. His four limbs detached from the rest of his body, and flew out in four different directions, while his head dismembered from the core of his body and flew over Jun Mo Xie's head. The body which had been hanging onto Jun Mo Xie's, had now suddenly dismembered into a hundred fragments. The deceased assassin's bones and flesh were now flying out in different directions while his blood was merging into the falling raindrops!

Jun Mo Xie's eight bodyguards quickly made their way forward through the blood and rain without slowing down; in fact, they weren't required to slow down at all during this in-motion combat sequence! The assassins who were chasing them had also seen this sequence very clearly: in their eyes, this demonic figure had just opened up a big and red hole in the body of their lieutenant, and had just torn his body apart like a piece of paper!

The escaping men continued to breeze forward and made another corner.... and were relieved to realize that they had finally made it to safety!

A few gorgeously glittering Xuan Qi lights were quickly braving their way through the rain and towards them; the Jun Family's support troops were arriving!

"Xiao Qi!....." Li Zhi Wu was running forward as fast as possible as he continued to stare at the rainy sky while his comrade's head spiraled through the air. He came to stop as the head landed on the ground, and rolled over twice and came to a halt next to his feet. His comrade's lifeless face was turned upwards, but was missing two eyes..... His face was still carrying a ferocious expression on it... even the traces of his sadistic smile were still frozen on his lifeless face!

It was almost as if the man had been struck by lightning and had been unable to change his facial expression before succumbing to his death!

Even though these two men were unrelated by flesh, they had become brothers in bond over the numerous risky assignments that they had taken together over these past few decades! And now his brother's dismembered face was lying next to his feet!

Even if he managed to pick up his brother's entire body, Li Zhi Wu knew that he still wouldn't be able to piece it back together!

What is this strange feeling?

The black-robed leader of the assassins could feel his blood boiling. He could still hear Xiao Qi boasting about his smart and quick-witted son, and about his kind and loving wife..... he even remembered Xiao Qi mentioning that he would wash his hands clean of this life after this final assignment, and would then concentrate on rearing his family along with his wife.... far away from this city; like normal people, and would live happily ever after.....

He could clearly hear his friend's words and could even see the desire in his eyes as he had said: I'm sick and tired of this blood-soaked way of life!

And then.... Just now his friend had obeyed his own command and had charged forward to stop their escaping targets!

And just now he had died in front of his own eyes! And had died in the most gruesome manner possible!

Just because of his one command.....

“Who are you? I dare you to leave your name behind!” Li Zhi Wu roared as he stood motionlessly in the rain.... his voice sounded as shrill as that of an old ape! “Who are you.....?!”

A crisscross lightning bolt lit up the sky once again, and the sounds of thunder started to ring endlessly from the sky above, like drums on a battlefield; powerful and heavy; suppressive and bloody!

The hitman Jun shouted back loudly: “I dare you to tell me your name!” since the Jun Family’s reinforcements had arrived, the situation had completely reversed.... And Jun Mo Xie had already realized that the leader of his attackers had lost his mind to chaos upon losing his friend, and was hoping to take full advantage of it!

Li Zhi Wu shouted back hatefully: “I am..... you damn bastard..... at least have the guts to tell me your name!” He realized his enemy’s intentions at the last second, and withheld his name.

But no one answered back..... However, the Jun Family’s reinforcements were already galloping at full speed since they had spotted the situation.

“Withdraw!” a cold voice originated from the throat of a slender black-dressed woman. Her wet hairs were pasted against her beautiful face, and one could clearly see through her veil and tell that her pupils had gone completely cold with pain and disappointment. However, despite all of it, she was still categorical enough to issue the command for retreat.

Li Zhi Wu immediately returned to his senses, and bent down to pick up his friend’s head. He tried to scream one last threat, but his voice broke before he could find his words and so he simply stared at the backs of Jun Mo Xie and his guards..... his eyes were blatantly exposing the sea of hatred which was turning and twisting inside his heart!

Then, he turned around and left without saying anything more.

Brother Xiao Qi....I'll take you home!

His two tragic and teary eyes quietly disappeared into the dark of the streets.

The remaining of assassins were unable to fetch the bodies of their friends, and were forced to leave their fallen behind. By the time the Jun platoon arrived, all they saw was a collection of dead and cold bodies on the floor.....

Jun Mo Xie had already settled the immediate crisis, and had somehow managed to spoil the assassination attempt on his life.....

A yellowish light flickered from far away, almost as if it was flying in the dark sky, and landed straight in front of the eight bodyguards: "Where is the young master?"

It was the butler, Old Pang! This old and loyal butler of the Jun Family was a peak Earth Xuan expert in reality!

The eight people were left stunned upon realizing this truth in that moment! The masked man had said that the young master is safe.... But where is he? Where did young master go? He didn't get home yet? With no concrete answer to give, they just continued to stare at each other blankly.

Old Pang's face started to wrinkle as his eyebrows gradually started to rise, he gloomily asked: "Did you really abandon the young master and escaped alone?" his voice was already beginning to reek of his murderous intentions!

"Ah.....that's not.....that's..... a mysterious expert said that he had rescued the young master..... we were completely encircled by the enemy at that time, but he also rescued us..... the young master didn't reach home...." Jun Hu's eyes were fixed on the ground while his head was lowered with shame. He was well aware that if his young master is dead, then his life and that of his men wouldn't even remotely be enough to compensate for the loss.

"A mysterious master? Who was that mysterious master? Where is he?" Old Pang's tone continued to get colder with each question he asked: "Did you really abandon the young master on the word of an unknown man? And then you just rushed out to ensure your own safety? Is that what you joined this family for?!"

"Pop!" the eight men simultaneously knelt to the ground in the pouring rain with nothing to say in their defense, and seemingly ready to accept their penalty.

Old Pang sighed and grunted: "Jun Hu, it's a pity that we accepted you into the family, trained you and then trusted you with the safety of the young master. We gave you the responsibility of his safety! And now the fate of the young master's life is unknown! You're held in capital offense in accordance with the military regulations! What do you have to say about that?"

"I have nothing to say in my defense; I accept my punishment." Jun Hu remained knelt on the ground as the blood and rain poured over his expressionless face.

He could have said many things.... such as, he had only obeyed the command of his young master, and that since the young master was the only intended target, he had broken away from the young master in order to attract the attention of the enemy. He could have spoken about the valor which he fought... he could have said all of it; but he chose to keep quiet. He was well aware that if anything untoward had happened to his young master, then all his explanations weren't worth anything since it would still mean that he failed in his line of duty!

"Hang on....." Jun Mo Xie jumped over the adjacent wall, and ran over: "Old Pang, please don't blame these people wrongly. If Jun Hu hadn't fought so bravely and distracted the enemy, then I wouldn't have been able to get away." Jun Mo Xie narrated the tale of Jun Hu's bravery.

"Is that so?" Old Pang's face immediately calmed down: "Why didn't you say so?"

Then he looked around and asked: "Where's that mysterious expert who saved you all? This person saved the life of the young master... the entire family is in his debt, and so he must be rewarded accordingly."

“He went in that direction, but he was too agile, and therefore I cannot be too sure which way he went afterwards.....” Jun Hu raised his finger and pointed in Jun Mo Xie’s direction, whilst still kneeling on the ground.

“That man was really weird..... he threw me straight to the ground.” Jun Mo Xie brushed his forehead almost as if it was bruised: “He actually kicked me after saving my life and left without saying goodbye.”

“What did this person look like?” Old Pang’s mind started shuffling through several ideas.

“His face was masked, so it’s impossible to tell.” Jun Mo Xie and Jun Hu spoke up at the same time. Even though Jun Mo Xie’s voice seemed ignorant, Jun Hu’s tone seemed full of gratitude.

Old Pang waved his hand as he stated in a deep voice: “You eight will report to the master of the house, and you’ll tell him the entire story without any omissions, and then you’ll wait for the master’s judgment!”

“Yes!” the eight men readily agreed and stood up on their feet once again.

Chapter 170 – Clues

“Young master, now..... how will you participate in the family dinner now?” Old Pang took an umbrella from the guard behind him, and held it above Jun Mo Xie’s head.

“Not an issue! I didn’t sustain any injuries.” Jun Mo Xie answered in a heroic manner: “This was just a small incident, I’ve been through worse.”

Even though Old Pang’s mouth parted to open, but he didn’t speak. He could tell that Jun Mo Xie had indeed gotten used to these affairs. The young master had sustained a few injuries during the last assassination attempt on the princess.... Compared to that, this assassination attempt on the young master’s life was nothing since the young master is perfectly unharmed.

“In that case, you must return to the residence young master. The master and the Guan family have been waiting a long time now.” Old Pang stated.

“Just a minute, but first I have to go back because I need to take a look at my palanquin.... There should still be something inside it.” Jun Mo Xie took the umbrella and turned around.

The palanquin was first attacked by concealed weapons, and was then set ablaze. And now this rain has turned it into a pile of dirt and ash; what could possibly be still left in it?

Even though Old Pang didn't quite agree, he still followed after Jun Mo Xie for the sake of keeping him safe.

Jun Mo Xie circled around the remains of the palanquin a few times like a fly, and then bent down to pick something up from the floor, and then first looked east, then west, and then swirled around in a circle once. Then he handed the umbrella back to Old Pang and said: “Let's go.”

“I don't think that the weapon you just picked up belongs to you, young master.” Old Pang's keen peak Earth Xuan eyes were capable enough of spotting the item that Jun Mo Xie had just picked up. You just walked all the way over to here for picking up a concealed weapon which was left behind the enemy? These kinds of weapons are very common.... It's common sense to know that this will give us no clues.... The young master considers himself to be too smart....

Even though he had seen Jun Mo Xie picking up that weapon, he hadn't noticed the way his eye had lit up or the ‘Ah, is that so’ smile on Jun Mo Xie's face at that moment.

Even the pouring rain and fierce winds weren't enough to completely wash away all the traces of the assassins. Though some minor traces still lingered, the Jun Family's sleuths weren't capable of understanding or interpreting them.

For example, the wind was still carrying a faint fragrance with it..... Even though the fragrance was so faint that a normal person wouldn't exactly be able to tell things apart, but Jun Mo Xie's amplified senses were keen enough to detect it.

And then there had been a hint of familiarity in that ‘Withdraw’ command; these two factors were alone enough! A wretched smile creased onto his face as he put two and two together.

Upon reaching home, Jun Mo Xie found his grandfather standing at the gate of the hall way. The Old man's eyes scanned his grandson from head to toe but found no scratch on his body. He frowned his brows in rebuke: "When will you be strong enough for me to stop worrying about you! Now go and change your clothes."

Jun Mo Xie obediently left for his room even though he didn't quite agree with his grandfather.

He quickly changed his clothes and entered the dining hall, and found that the food and beverages had already been set on the table. Jun Wu Yi was sitting in his wheelchair with a thin layer of blanket atop his legs. He looked at Jun Mo Xie, smiled faintly and whispered in a low voice: "I don't know what kind of skills would be required to handle this matter in such a neat manner..... Mo Xie, your uncle is very curious ah. You have to tell me about the origins of these mysterious skills; don't say that you don't know anything about it!"

"Uh.... Uncle, this big world is filled with all kinds of wonders, and some extraordinary talents, this....." Jun Mo Xie smiled mischievously.

"Stop, I don't want that talk again." Jun Wu Yi widened his eyes to stare at his nephew: "What about those people? Do you have any idea about them?"

"I did get some idea about them; I might be able to track down a few of them." Jun Mo Xie winked.

"Should I send some more men to assist you?" Jun Wu Yi's expression suddenly became very cold. Those bastards tried to assassinate my Mo Xie, therefore they must die!

"That time hasn't come yet." Jun Mo Xie smiled back: "They've given us something to build on, but if we send out our men after them right now, then we'll only make them more cautious."

"You mean.....you already know who's behind this?" Jun Wu Yi's eyes lit up.

"Uncle, your clear as flame foresight is capable of planning battle strategies from a tent and can win a battle from a thousand miles away....." Jun Mo Xie mockingly flattered.

Jun Wu Yi didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"Guan Family?" Jun Mo Xie asked out of curiosity: "We've organized this banquet for them, so why aren't they here yet?"

"They are in your sister-in-law's courtyard. Qing Han had a fit of rage." Jun Wu Yi smiled subtly: "This is their internal family matter after all; therefore it's alright to wait a while."

As he said these last words, Jun Mo Xie turned his head to look outside into the rain and spotted a queue of individuals slowly making their way towards the dining area.

It was the Guan Family!

A total of five from Guan family had showed up for the dinner with a beautiful but ice-faced Guan Qing Han leading the way, followed by a thin and tall, middle-aged man dressed in a green robe. Even though his robes were fluttering in the wind, but his clothes were completely dry, almost as if his clothes were impervious to the rain outside. The man behind Guan Qing Han was her father, Guan Dong Liu; he was also the head of the Guan family.

Behind Guan Dong Liu was a burly looking old man. Even though his hair and scanty beard were gray, but his body was still very big and sturdy. The sharpness of his eyes seemed to resemble that of a leopard, and his tiger-like walk made it rather evident that this man, Guan Ru Shan was one of the finest warriors of the Guan family.

Guan Ru Shan was followed by two long-faced, jade shaded, elegant, smart and handsome youngsters. These two youngsters were Guan Qing Han's elder brothers. The eldest one was named Guan Qing Bo, while the second son's name was Guan Qing Yue.

Guan Qing Han was a very elegant and beautiful young woman, but her two brothers' elegance and looks were at par with hers'. This family has excellent genes; really excellent ones. Jun Mo Xie thought: They look like embroideries on a pillow cover, don't they?

"Brother Guan!" Jun Wu Yi greeted Guan Dong Liu by cupping his hands in a traditional manner while remaining in his wheelchair.

“Brother Jun, there’s no need for such formalities.” Guan Dong Liu smiled radiantly as he cupped his hands to return the greeting, and then signaled his two sons to step forward and greet Jun Wu Yi.

“The third generation of the Jun family is indeed very handsome, graceful and bears extraordinary talents ah. Brother Jun, the future of your family is indeed in very secure hands.” Guan Dong Liu looked sideways at Jun Mo Xie and smiled affectionately.

The sincere and complimenting manner in which he stated these insulting words to the new master of the house was indeed very fascinating! Jun Mo Xie could already tell that maintaining control of the relationship with a man of such diplomatic skill could be a very difficult task.

But at this moment, Jun Mo Xie’s eye suddenly diverted towards youngster at the back, Guan Qing Yue, who had intentionally or otherwise hidden his body behind his father’s in an instant. His eyes had revealed a hint of anger at first upon seeing Jun Mo Xie, which had quickly transformed to shock and surprise, almost as if he wasn’t expecting to see Jun Mo Xie here. Even though that look in his eyes had disappeared so quickly that no one else was able to notice it, but he still wasn’t able to hide it from the keen and perceptive eyes of the Hitman.

Jun Mo Xie couldn’t help but wonder: What’s the reason behind that look in his eyes? He searched his entire memory in order to determine whether he or the previous Jun Mo Xie had any kind of an association with the youngster, but only found that not only had he never had any sort of an association with the youngster, he had never even seen the man’s face before, but then why did he look so shocked after seeing me? What am I missing here?

Even though Jun Mo Xie’s mind was busy juggling a plethora of thoughts, his surface expressions were indifferent to it as he stepped forward and smiled courteously to greet Guan Qing Bo and Guan Qing Yue. Jun Mo Xie had heard that the two brothers of his sister-in-laws’ had interests similar to the previous Jun Mo Xie.

It was customary for the host family to entertain their guests; the older generation was responsible for the entertainment of their counterparts, while the younger generation was responsible for looking after theirs’. Since Jun Mo Xie was the only youngster in the Jun Family, the burden of entertaining these two youngsters naturally fell onto his shoulders.

“Third young master.” The two youngsters cupped their hands in greeting. Even though this was his usual title of address from strangers, it was still rather weird coming from the elder brothers of his sister-in-law since the appropriate term of address would have been ‘brother’ or ‘younger brother’. The Guan Family was based out the Jiang Hu province and though their region of residence was fairly small, but the family was still quite wealthy and influential since they were practically the overlords of the territory; the young generation of such a family obviously must be aware of the appropriate terms of address.

This title of address alone was enough to reflect that these two youngsters didn’t consider Jun Mo Xie to be their sister’s brother-in-law and were plainly considering him to be a powerful family’s young descendant.

Just this one ‘third young master’ was enough to reveal a lot of information to Jun Mo Xie. Suddenly, a warm smile surfaced on his face as he extended one arm and led the younger of the two men into a more isolated corner of the dining hall. Guan Qing Yue’s arm shook as Jun Mo Xie pulled him away, and although this vibration was extremely subtle, but Jun Mo Xie was clearly able to sense the fear inside this young man’s heart.

Even though his face wasn’t reflecting anything, his mind was constantly considering all sorts of circumstances. Could it be that?

Even though Jun Mo Xie’s mind was busy making its calculations, his mouth was free to talk: “You guys have travelled thousands of miles to get to the Tian Xiang city.... and I’ve failed to entertain you for the first two days of your stay here, brothers.....”

Guan Qing Bo elegantly smiled and said: “There’s no need for any formalities. Our first two days in the Tian Xiang city have been quite wonderful anyway, and we’ve managed to keep ourselves amused. We met a lot of new people, and have come to realize that this place is indeed worthy of being called the ‘capital city’ of the Tian Xiang Empire. We’ve kept ourselves very busy brother, so there’s no need to apologize, really ha ha....”

Guan Qing Bo’s nature had taken after his father, which was evident from the fitting choice of words he selected to reply with. Jun Mo Xie had been informed that Guan Qing Bo was just as interested in certain activities as the previous Jun Mo Xie had been, but that wasn’t even remotely visible from the sophisticated manner in which he was conducting himself!

“Oh?” Jun Mo Xie sneakily moved closer, and said in a low voice: “Then I can guarantee a place which will bring the brothers more joy than any other place ever has....”

“What place?” Guan Qing Bo asked in a low voice.

A wretched smile surfaced on Jun Mo Xie’s face; the kind that only a man can understand. His quickly glanced around at Guan Qing Han to ensure that he was standing at a safe distance away from her: “Spirit Fog Lake! That place is every man’s paradise, ah, you just can’t miss it.....”

Guan Qing Yue’s face suddenly and violently twitched for a second the moment he heard the words ‘Spirit Fog Lake’.