

Having children earns benefit, start competing for dominance in the world by marrying a wife

#Chapter 61: 61 The Birth of the Second Child i - Read Having children earns benefit, start competing for dominance in the world by marrying a wife Chapter 61: 61 The Birth of the Second Child i

Chapter 61: 61 The Birth of the Second Child i

Hearing the sound, Mu Zixuan immediately looked in the direction from which it came.

With just one look, she stood rooted to the spot, completely dumbfounded.

She had never expected to see her mother again in this lifetime.

From the day she married Lu Chen, she had been prepared to never return to the Capital City, to never see her family again.

But to her astonishment, just over a year had passed, and she was seeing her mother once more.

A wave of immense emotion swept through Mu Zixuan's heart—this was the surprise the Prince had spoken of!

Indeed, it was a tremendous surprise for her!

At this moment, Mu Zixuan couldn't help but let the tears flow.

Mrs. Mu was equally excited upon seeing her daughter, and quickly ran up to Mu Zixuan.

Mother and daughter immediately embraced tightly.

!!..

Mu Zixuan cried, and Mrs. Mu cried along with her.

Mu Zixuan cried because she had finally seen her family, whereas Mrs. Mu wept due to Mu Mansion having gone through a life and death crisis, and she had thought she would never see her daughter again.

After a while, Mu Zixuan wiped away the tears at the corners of her eyes. Just as she was about to comfort her mother, she noticed that not far away stood Mu Changtian and others.

It then dawned on Mu Zixuan that not only had her mother come to North City, her father had come too, and even her two brothers were there.

Even some of the servants from Mu Mansion were present...

What was going on?

Even Mu Zixuan, as naive as she might be, could sense something must have happened to Mu Mansion from this scene before her eyes.

Mu Changtian was a Duke, a man who had once wielded military power.

Although his military power had been taken back, the Emperor would not have allowed him to leave the Capital City.

Yet here they all were, in North City—clear evidence that something had befallen Mu Mansion.

Mu Zixuan immediately asked, “Mother, what happened? Why have you all come to North City?”

Mu Changtian sighed and then said, “Zixuan, come inside first. We’ll tell you about the Capital City affairs slowly.”

Mu Zixuan nodded, then followed them to the guest hall of Mu Mansion.

Afterward, Mu Changtian narrated everything that had happened in the Capital City and their exile, and only then did Mu Zixuan understand what had transpired within Mu Mansion.

At this moment, she didn’t blame Lu Chen for not telling her about this, understanding why he had kept it from her. When the Mu Mansion was in trouble, she had just given birth and was quite weak.

If she had heard about the situation of Mu Mansion at that time, it would have definitely been a blow.

Now, Mu Zixuan felt even more gratitude toward Lu Chen.

She could never have imagined that one day it would be the North Prince who saved their entire family.

At the same time, Mu Zixuan felt incredibly fortunate; if she hadn't married the North Prince, it was very likely that both she and Mu Mansion would no longer exist.

After staying in Mu Mansion for about four hours, Mu Zixuan returned to the Prince's Mansion.

At this time, Lu Chen was in the study, looking over the reports from the Brocade Guard.

Thump, thump, thump...

The sound of knocking echoed through the study.

"Prince, may your concubine enter?"

Lu Chen put down the report, then stood up and said, "Come in."

Just as Mu Zixuan pushed open the door, Lu Chen greeted her with a smile, "My darling, how do you like the surprise I prepared for you, did you enjoy it?"

No sooner had Lu Chen finished speaking than Mu Zixuan threw herself into his arms.

Feeling the gentle jade fragrance in his embrace, Lu Chen gently patted Mu Zixuan's jade back in a comforting manner.

Tearfully, Mu Zixuan said, "Wuu wuu wuu... Prince, thank you for saving our whole family!"

Lu Chen smiled slightly, "You are my beloved concubine, and I don't want to see you heartbroken after losing relatives. It's what I should do."

As Lu Chen spoke, he continued to pat Mu Zixuan's back, "Alright, alright, stop crying. The Mu family is all fine, isn't it? And now that they have come to North City, it will be even easier for you to see your family if you wish."

With that, Lu Chen slightly pushed Mu Zixuan away and then used his finger to wipe the tears from the corner of her eye.

At this moment, Mu Zixuan's face glowed with rosy health, and her tearful beauty made her appear all the more pitiable and lovely.

Looking at Lu Chen before her, Mu Zixuan had no idea how to express her gratitude; she gazed into his eyes with affectionate brows.

Seeing Mu Zixuan look like this, Lu Chen couldn't help himself and kissed her.

“Mmm mmm...”

Mu Zixuan didn't resist. Since becoming pregnant, it had been a long time since she had nurtured her relationship with Lu Chen.

Moreover, because of the incident at the Mu Mansion, her gratitude to Lu Chen erupted, which made her long for his deep affection.

Originally, Lu Chen didn't like to nurture relationships with his wives or concubines in the study, as it was his workplace; occasionally, he found it sufficient to deal with the female slave Wang Qingci.

However, the atmosphere had been set to such a level, so there was nothing more to be said.

[The host has nurtured affection with Mu Zixuan once, Qi Refinement Mantra experience points increased by 20, Rejuvenating Skill experience points increased by 20.]

[Congratulations to the host for the arrival of another child, a reward of two hundred 122mm howitzers, a thousand shells, and an additional bonus of cement manufacturing technology.]

[The more children you have, the greater the rewards. Keep up the good work and produce more offspring!]

Hearing the system notification, Lu Chen was stunned for a moment. He was still in a sweet moment with his beloved concubine, not expecting that one of his concubines was giving birth to his child at this time.

Seeing Lu Chen cease his movements, Mu Zixuan, with eyes full of alluring charm, turned her head and asked, “Darling, what's wrong?”

Mu Zixuan would call Lu Chen ‘darling’ only at such times, but she had also called him ‘good brother’ and ‘good husband’.

Lu Chen raised his hand and gently wiped the perspiration from Mu Zixuan's fair forehead, replying, “Xiaoxiao must have given birth.”

Hearing this, Mu Zixuan immediately came back to her senses and quickly said, “Prince, let's go and see her right away.”

Mu Zixuan was not an unreasonably indulgent person; at a time like this, it clearly wasn't the time for pleasure-seeking.

Lu Chen said, “Yes, let's get ready and then go.”

After quickly getting ready, the two headed straight to the northern courtyard where Zhou Xiaoxiao was located.

By then, the northern courtyard was busy with activity, Zhou Xiaoxiao had completed the birth and was lying on the bed weakly, her complexion pale and sweaty all over.

Lu Chen sat down beside Zhou Xiaoxiao's bed, grasped her jade hand, and said, "Xiaoxiao, you've had the baby. Why didn't you send someone to notify me?"

If it weren't for the system's prompt, he wouldn't have known Zhou Xiaoxiao had given birth.

Barely managing a smile, Zhou Xiaoxiao said, "The Prince has been very busy lately, and I didn't want to disturb you."

Mu Zixuan interjected, "Sister, the Prince wouldn't mind."

Lu Chen smiled and said, "Xiaoxiao, next time you give birth, remember to notify me, understand?"

Hearing this, Zhou Xiaoxiao was momentarily stunned. She had just given birth, and the Prince was already discussing the next childbirth with her. At that moment, a blush crept onto Zhou Xiaoxiao's pale face.

Seeing her so weak, Lu Chen immediately channeled spiritual energy and applied the Rejuvenating Skill to treat Zhou Xiaoxiao.

The next moment, Zhou Xiaoxiao felt an incredible relief throughout her body, the pain and fatigue instantly vanishing.

Seeing the faint green glow emanating from Zhou Xiaoxiao's body, Mu Zixuan, Chu Yuqin, and the others beside them were all stunned..

Chapter 62: 62 Barbarian Tribe Unrest i

Chu Yuqin had long since heard Lu Chen speak of his connection with the divine, so she was not surprised that Lu Chen could use Immortal Techniques.

But knowing was one thing, seeing it with her own eyes was quite another.

At this moment, Zhou Xiaoxiao, who lay in bed, issued a soft "ying ying" sound, and after a moment, she stared intently at Lu Chen and said, "Prince, what did you just do? Why do I feel so comfortable? I don't feel any pain at all!"

Upon hearing Zhou Xiaoxiao's words, Mu Zixuan suddenly thought of her own childbirth.

Although her body did not emit a green light, she felt extremely comfortable when coming into contact with Lu Chen's body, and her body had recovered to its pre-childbirth state in just a few days.

Initially, she thought it was because her constitution was good, but now it seemed more likely that Lu Chen had used a special method to heal her.

Lu Chen did not immediately answer Zhou Xiaoxiao's question, but waited until her face regained its color before he said, "This is my unique healing method, which allows you to recover as soon as possible."

No sooner had Lu Chen spoken than Chu Yuqin immediately turned to the midwives and maids in the room and said, "No one is to speak of what happened today to outsiders!"

Seeing Chu Yuqin's solemn face and her stern tone, the midwives and maids quickly lowered their heads and responded, "Yes, Madam Chu."

They had never seen such a method of healing before; it was clearly not a mundane human healing technique, but the legendary Immortal Technique.

!!..

The thought that their Prince could wield Immortal Techniques filled the midwives and maids with unbounded excitement.

Previously, they had only heard of the existence of Immortals; now they had witnessed someone using Immortal Techniques in person, and it was their own Prince they served, which was incredibly exciting for them.

After all, serving an Immortal was not a fortune bestowed upon the ordinary!

At this time, Zhou Xiaoxiao sat up in bed, and Lu Chen hurried to support her.

She had recovered to her pre-childbirth state, and her body was no longer in any danger, whereupon she took the child beside her into her arms and gazed at it intently.

"Prince, I have only given birth to a daughter for you."

A look of regret appeared on Zhou Xiaoxiao's face.

Seeing how fond Lu Chen was of Lu Changfeng, she had always thought Lu Chen preferred boys, so she felt somewhat regretful now that she had given birth to a daughter.

In this era, that was the norm; a woman's status was elevated only by giving birth to a son.

Lu Chen looked at his daughter in Zhou Xiaoxiao's arms and smiled, saying, "Xiaoxiao, to me, sons and daughters are nearly the same.

"In my Prince's Mansion, whatever is available for my sons will also be available for my daughters. Although a daughter might not receive as much as a son, I absolutely will not shortchange any of my children. You don't need to worry."

Upon hearing what Lu Chen said, Zhou Xiaoxiao finally felt at ease.

Mu Zixuan then reminded from the side, "Prince, the child does not yet have a name, please give her one."

After thinking for a moment, Lu Chen said, "Let's name her Lu Huanhuan. I hope she grows up happy and joyful."

Zhou Xiaoxiao murmured, "Huanhuan... Huanhuan, Prince, I like that name!"

Just then, a maid's voice suddenly came from outside.

"Prince! Commander Qin is looking for you! He says it's a matter of great importance! He hopes you'll hurry to the study!"

Zhou Xiaoxiao had just given birth, and normally Lu Chen would be by her side at this time. Moreover, the maids of the Prince's Mansion were quite sensible; they wouldn't dare to disturb him unless it was an urgent matter.

Seeing Lu Chen's expression turn serious, Chu Yuqin swiftly said, "Chen'er, since it's Commander Qin looking for you, it must be important. You go ahead. We'll stay here with Xiaoxiao."

Lu Chen said, "Alright, I'm leaving first."

As soon as the words fell, Lu Chen turned around and left Zhou Xiaoxiao's room, heading to his own study.

By the time Lu Chen arrived at the study, Qin Yushan had already been waiting for him.

After opening the door, Lu Chen immediately asked, "Commander Qin, what has happened?"

Qin Yushan hurriedly took out a bamboo tube, retrieved the rolled-up sheepskin from inside, unrolled it, and handed it to Lu Chen, saying, "Prince, there is movement among the Barbarian Tribe in the North Land!"

Hearing this, Lu Chen's eyebrows instantly knit into a "JII" character.

Since arriving in North City, Lu Chen hadn't been afraid of the petty assassination attempts from the Capital city nor the Aristocratic Families in North City.

What he had always been most worried and concerned about were the Barbarian Tribes to the north of North City!

The news of the Barbarian Tribes' movements immediately put Lu Chen on edge.

If the Barbarian Army moved south, North City would bear the brunt of it, and its towns would inevitably be subjected to a brutal pillaging by the Barbarians.

The reason North City had never been able to develop, and why it had remained so impoverished, was precisely because of the sporadic invasions and looting by the Barbarian Tribes.

After reading the sheepskin scroll handed over by Qin Yushan, Lu Chen fell into silence and did not speak for a long time.

The intelligence on the scroll indicated that the Barbarians had started to assemble, but they had not yet formed a large army; they would need at least two more months to complete their assembly.

After a while, seeing that Lu Chen had remained silent, Qin Yushan took the initiative to speak, "Prince, our people have found out that the Barbarians' move southward this time seems not just for looting food, but to permanently occupy North City!"

"The court of the Barbarian Tribes plans to establish a nation and has set their sights on making Yan County their capital!"

On hearing this, Lu Chen couldn't help but let out a cold laugh and said, "They want to occupy North City and establish a nation here? Where does that leave me, the Prince? What a fine dream they have!"

Lu Chen was the Seignior of North City. If he lost his fief, what kind of Seignior would he be?

Qin Yushan then reminded, "Prince, judging by the assembly orders from the Barbarian court this time, they will bring at least three hundred thousand Cavalry to attack North City."

"North City currently has only thirty thousand soldiers, and most of them are in Yan County; they are nowhere near capable of stopping the Barbarian Army's assault. I fear we need to start making plans early."

Hearing Qin Yushan's reminder, Lu Chen lapsed into silence once more.

Large-scale wars are not the same as minor assassinations.

If assassins came to the Prince's Mansion to carry out an assassination, a few grenades could blast those assassins into crying for their fathers and shouting for their mothers.

If indeed three hundred thousand Barbarian Cavalry were to come, it would certainly be an overwhelming sea of warriors.

Moreover, the reason the Great Xia Dynasty had always been unable to deal with the Barbarian Tribes was that the Barbarians were mostly Cavalry. When the Cavalry attacked, they advanced very quickly, and the Great Xia army often found it impossible to set up defenses before being assaulted.

And when the Great Xia troops finally arrived to counterattack, the Barbarian Cavalry, like a receding tide, vanished swiftly, evading pursuit.

For many years, the Great Xia Dynasty's approach to dealing with the Barbarians had been predominantly defensive.

However, with the Barbarians intent on occupying North City this time, they would likely not retreat upon seeing the Great Xia's army approaching as they did in the past.

Yet with such a scenario, even if North City were to be defended successfully, the cost would be a land steeped in the suffering of its people and fields filled with lament.

If the people of North City were all killed by the Barbarians, would he, the Prince, not become a one man band?

Chapter 63: Tower Master Zhou, there's no need for courtesy i

Lu Chen stared at the parchment in his hands, remaining silent for almost a quarter of an hour.

This was the real crisis he had faced since arriving in North City.

In fact, if he could not withstand the Barbarian Tribe's attack when the time came and simply abandoned his fief to return to the Capital, he would at most be punished, but not to the point of death.

However, once he actively abandoned his fief and fled alone to the Capital, his reputation as a Prince would genuinely plummet, to the point of being irrecoverable.

A prince who abandons his people and his territory would be nailed to the pillar of historical shame.

But if he didn't leave, he would have to face a very real problem.

Thirty thousand against three hundred thousand, how would he fight!

And it was infantry against cavalry, no less!

North City had thirteen counties, exactly thirteen fortresses, which thirty thousand soldiers could not possibly defend.

Moreover, it was difficult for him to know from which direction the barbarians would attack.

Seeing that Lu Chen had been silent all this time, Qin Yushan didn't speak either, simply standing quietly by Lu Chen's side.

For a moment, the study was so quiet it was frightening, with even the sound of a mosquito seeming particularly loud.

At this moment, Lu Chen's thoughts turned to the 122mm howitzer. Two hundred 122mm howitzers could indeed play some role.

Moreover, the people of this world had never witnessed such terrifying weapons of mass destruction, so it could catch the enemy by surprise.

But the key issue was that the cavalry was dispersed and highly mobile. What if the enemy, seeing these terrifying weapons in his hands, simply turned tail and ran away?

At this thought, Lu Chen was momentarily startled.

Wait... Wasn't he worried about how to defend North City? Why was he now concerned that the Barbarian Tribe might run away...

Thinking this, Lu Chen's lips involuntarily curled into a slight, devilish smile.

If it were possible to gather all three hundred thousand cavalry in one place, perhaps thirty thousand fighting three hundred thousand wouldn't be impossible?

But would the barbarians be that cooperative?

The Barbarian Tribe deploying so many cavalry at once would certainly divide their forces; they wouldn't attack a single fortress with three hundred thousand soldiers.

Unless there was a place, or something, capable of attracting them to attack with all three hundred thousand cavalry at once.

After thinking for a while, Lu Chen felt he was not cut out for waging war; professional matters should still be left to professionals.

Thinking by himself here, he might not come up with a good strategy even after a long time.

He had not been to a battlefield in his previous life, and had not fought a war in this one; imagining scenarios here was of little use.

No matter how much he thought, it would just be armchair strategizing.

With this in mind, Lu Chen said to Qin Yushan, "Tomorrow morning, summon the important generals of North City and the Prefecture Governor to the Prince's Mansion."

Qin Yushan immediately understood Lu Chen's intention; Lu Chen was apparently planning to gather them first to discuss countermeasures, and then make a decision.

Meanwhile.

Hundred Flowers Tower.

The fragrance-filled room, a graceful figure flickered in and out of visibility. Wang Qingci was bathing in a tub when a maidservant spoke from behind a curtain, "Tower Master, people from Blood Moon Tower have arrived."

Upon hearing this, Wang Qingci immediately rose from the tub, droplets of water gliding down her fair, jade-like body as she emerged like a lotus rising above the water.

After dressing, Wang Qingci went to the third floor pavilion of Hundred Flowers Tower.

At that time, a young man in white was standing at the railing, gazing in the direction of North Prince Mansion.

This scene reminded Wang Qingci of someone—the former Vice Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower, who also seemed to enjoy standing there, overlooking the Prince's Mansion.

Entering the pavilion, Wang Qingci promptly said, "Vice Tower Master Zhou, you have finally arrived. I have been longing to leave this accursed place, Yan County."

The youth in white turned to look at Wang Qingci, a faint smile on his face, "Miss Wang, you have worked hard."

Zhou Hanwen, unlike the hall master of Blood Moon Tower, was dressed in white, appearing as nothing more than a refined gentleman, seemingly a delicate scholar.

But he was far from weak; he was a genuine Grandmaster.

Zhou Hanwen then asked, "Miss Wang, I've heard that North Prince Mansion is looking to take in concubines. Is there any truth to this?"

Wang Qingci replied, "Indeed, there is such a matter. But why ask this, Vice Tower Master Zhou? Do you plan to send a female assassin to infiltrate the Prince's Mansion and kill the North Prince?"

At this, a bitter smile crossed Wang Qingci's face, feigning an unwillingness to recall something as she spoke, "Vice Tower Master Zhou, if you intend to do so, I advise against it. Chu Yuqin is already a Half-step Grandmaster and accompanies the North Prince every day. She even listens from outside when the North Prince shares his chamber with his wives and concubines."

"If it is simply a matter of sending a female assassin near the North Prince, I fear she would be discovered by Chu Yuqin before even getting close to him." "Originally, the assassins from our Hundred Flowers Tower were wiped out by Chu Yuqin alone. I suspect she might become a Grandmaster in a few years." Hearing Wang Qingci's words, Zhou Hanwen's frown deepened slightly, "I indeed considered sending a female assassin to approach the North Prince just now, but after hearing what you've said, it seems that if we want to kill the North Prince, we must lure him out."

"Ideally, we should separate him from that Mysterious Grandmaster."

At this, Zhou Hanwen's eyebrows relaxed again, and he stared at Wang Qingci with a smile, "Miss Wang, I've heard the North Prince is quite lecherous; has he shown any interest in you?"

Wang Qingci replied, "The North Prince has indeed been coveting my body, and for the mission's sake, I've been leading him on. If Vice Tower Master Zhou needs my help, please do not hesitate to ask."

Zhou Hanwen said, "Then I must trouble Miss Wang to lead the North Prince here to Hundred Flowers Tower. That should increase our chances of successfully assassinating him."

Wang Qingci said, "That shouldn't be a problem, but even if I get him to come here alone, I fear that the Mysterious Grandmaster and Chu Yuqin will still follow him."

Zhou Hanwen said with a smile, "If we can draw those two out of the Prince's Mansion, that would be even better news for our Blood Moon Tower."

“I want to prepare a surprise for the North Prince.”

Zhou Hanwen was not one for rigid thinking; avenging himself against the North Prince didn't necessarily mean having to kill him immediately.

If they could draw out the two Mysterious Grandmasters and Chu Yuqin, Blood Moon Tower could massacre the inhabitants of the Prince's Mansion. He wanted the North Prince to witness the corpses of his wives and concubines with his own eyes.

Moreover, Blood Moon Tower had come to North City with another important objective: to acquire scented soaps and their production methods.

With the Mysterious Grandmaster lured away, they would have ample time to steal the methods of making the North Prince Mansion's scented soaps.

In Zhou Hanwen's view at this time, there was just one slightly formidable Grandmaster in North Prince Mansion. Without that Grandmaster, the North Prince Mansion was like a lamb awaiting slaughter.

At that moment, the corners of Wang Qingci's lips curled up slightly, forming a faint arc as she said with a hint of a smile, “In that case, I will have the North Prince come to Hundred Flowers Tower tonight.”

Hearing Wang Qingci's words, Zhou Hanwen replied politely, “Then I must trouble Miss Wang.”

Wang Qingci responded, “There's no need for courtesy, Vice Tower Master Zhou; this is my duty..”

Chapter 64: That's an Army of 300,000!_i

After nightfall, Lu Chen stayed in his study, repeatedly examining the map of Great Xia, especially the terrain of North City.

Although the map was drawn by soldiers, it still held some referential value.

At this moment, Lu Chen thought that if he wanted to maximize the effectiveness of the grenade cannons, the best way would be to lure all thirty thousand Barbarian cavalry into narrow terrain.

Then, he could “close the pocket,” trapping the Barbarian cavalry with no way to escape.

Of course, planning this way was just theorizing on paper; the specific execution would undoubtedly be extraordinarily difficult.

For instance, whether the Barbarian Tribe would fall for it or follow their thought process, all depended on the Barbarian leaders.

Just then, there was a knock at the study door.

“Chen’er, may I come in?”

Hearing that it was Chu Yuqin’s voice, Lu Chen absentmindedly responded, “Yes, come in.”

Chu Yuqin entered the study and saw Lu Chen’s eyes fixed on the map on the desk. Knowing that after meeting Qin Yushan, Lu Chen had shut himself in the study, Chu Yuqin realized that a significant crisis must be approaching.

Chu Yuqin asked with concern, “Chen’er, what happened?”

Chu Yuqin was no outsider, and Lu Chen had no intention of keeping her in the dark, so he replied, “The Barbarian Tribe’s royal court has issued a summons, preparing to gather an army of three hundred thousand to move south, occupy North City, and then establish a nation there, with Yan County as their capital city.”

Upon hearing this, Chu Yuqin’s mind went blank for a moment.

In this world, large-scale wars could not be swayed by just a Grandmaster or a few strong individuals.

With three hundred thousand cavalry, if they really moved south, the few people in North City would definitely be unable to hold, no wonder Lu Chen had lost his appetite and stayed in the study all night.

Chu Yuqin then asked, “Chen’er, is this information accurate?”

Lu Chen nodded, “This is intelligence passed back by the Brocade Guard from the grasslands.”

Chu Yuqin fell silent.

When the Blood Moon Tower sent someone to assassinate Lu Chen, she couldn’t protect him properly, let alone protect the Prince’s Mansion amid three hundred thousand cavalry.

Chu Yuqin also understood that this was clearly not something she could meddle in.

At this moment, Lu Chen said, “Madam Chu, I plan to move Zixuan and the others to Anping City, then I will lead thirty thousand soldiers to decide the battle against the Barbarian cavalry at Yan County.”

Anping City was also a city in North City, but further south.

If North City truly fell, Mu Zixuan and the others could leave North City at the first opportunity and return to the Capital city.

Hearing Lu Chen’s words, Chu Yuqin was momentarily stunned before urgently saying, “Chen’er, you mustn’t!”

“That’s three hundred thousand cavalry!”

“How could North City’s thirty thousand soldiers possibly be a match for the Barbarian cavalry!”

Although Chu Yuqin had never been to battle, she knew that the Barbarian Tribe’s three hundred thousand cavalry were indeed a full three hundred thousand strong.

Typically, the Great Xia Dynasty, or other dynasties when deploying troops abroad, always claimed to have armies of several hundred thousand or even a million.

But these so-called several hundred thousand or million strong armies were greatly inflated, with logistics taking up the majority, and the actual combat-capable soldiers might not even reach half.

However, Barbarian soldiers were different; each of their cavalry could fight, so if they claimed to have three hundred thousand cavalry, it meant they truly had three hundred thousand combat-ready soldiers.

Chu Yuqin simply couldn’t imagine how Lu Chen could hold out with North City’s thirty thousand soldiers if the Barbarian Army of three hundred thousand cavalry besieged them!

Seeing Chu Yuqin so flustered, Lu Chen showed a hint of confidence and smiled, “Madam Chu, have you forgotten that I have a celestial fate?”

Chu Yuqin didn’t relax just because Lu Chen said this. She continued, “Chen’er, Auntie knows you have celestial fate, but with your current strength, you still can’t withstand an army of three hundred thousand.”

“Moreover, within the Barbarian Army, there must be many Grandmasters, and even Great Grandmasters.”

Lu Chen said indifferently, "What I mean is that I have even more terrifying weapons at my disposal."

This...

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Yuqin suddenly remembered those mysterious weapons he had used before.

If Lu Chen had a large number of such weapons or if the Prince's Mansion could manufacture similar ones, then it wasn't impossible for thirty thousand to fight against three hundred thousand.

Chu Yuqin asked curiously, "Chen'er, are the weapons you mentioned really capable of withstanding the charge of the Barbarian Cavalry?"

Lu Chen, looking at the map, did not directly answer Chu Yuqin's question but asked instead, "Madam Chu, do you know what I'm most worried about right now?"

Chu Yuqin looked down at the map and said nothing.

Since Lu Chen had already decided to lead thirty thousand soldiers to face the three hundred thousand Barbarian cavalry head-on, naturally he wasn't worried about the Barbarian forces reaching the city.

If Lu Chen wasn't even concerned about the Barbarian forces reaching the city walls, Chu Yuqin could not imagine what else Lu Chen could be worried about.

At this time, Lu Chen continued, "What I'm worried about is that the Barbarian Cavalry might flee, and we won't be able to completely hold these three hundred thousand cavaliers."

Chu Yuqin: "...???"

Upon hearing what Lu Chen said, Chu Yuqin suddenly felt her mind struggling to comprehend.

Not only to withstand the southward push of these three hundred thousand Barbarian Cavalry but also to defeat them completely and ensure none escaped?

If anyone else heard this, they would probably think the North Prince had lost his mind out of fear upon hearing the news of the Barbarian Tribe's advance south.

That's three hundred thousand soldiers!

And cavalry at that, not to mention whether it was possible to defeat them, trying to keep all three hundred thousand cavaliers from escaping was nothing short of a pipe dream.

At this moment, Chu Yuqin let out a sigh and said, "Chen'er, Auntie is just a homemaker. Auntie doesn't understand much about war; I only hope you come back safely."

Lu Chen then looked up at Chu Yuqin with slightly furrowed brows and an anxious expression on her face. He smiled and said, "Madam Chu, don't worry. If it really comes to the point where we can't resist the Barbarians, I will find a way to escape."

"Escaping the encirclement of the Barbarians isn't too difficult for me."

Chu Yuqin inquired, "When do you plan on sending Zixuan and the others to Anping City?"

Lu Chen replied, "The sooner the better, I need to prepare in advance."

At this moment, Lu Chen gazed into Chu Yuqin's eyes and continued, "Madam Chu, I hope you can leave with Zixuan and the others when the time comes and help me protect them."

In response to Lu Chen's request, Chu Yuqin didn't refuse this time, as she knew that she wouldn't be much help in such a large-scale war.

"Alright, if North City really falls, Auntie will take Zixuan and the others back to the Capital. You focus on fighting the Barbarians in Yan County."

Seeing Chu Yuqin agree, Lu Chen felt one less concern in his heart.

At this moment, the voice of a maid was heard at the door.

"Your Highness, an urgent message from the Brocade Guard."

Lu Chen said, "Come in."

The maid then entered the study, handed over the letter to Lu Chen, who opened it and glanced through before muttering to himself, "It seems that before we confront the southward advance of the Barbarian Army, we need to deal with a little trouble first.."

Chapter 65: Blood Moon Tower Assault i

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Yuqin immediately asked, "Chen'er, what has happened again?"

Lu Chen replied, "The Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower personally came to Yan County. He wants Qingci to lure me to Hundred Flowers Tower. If that so-called Mysterious Grandmaster is with me, the people from Blood Moon Tower will head straight to the Prince's Mansion and slaughter everyone. If the Grandmaster is not with me, they plan to kill me first at Hundred Flowers Tower, then use my death to draw out the Mysterious Grandmaster."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Yuqin's brows slightly furrowed, and then she snorted coldly and said, "Blood Moon Tower is incredibly audacious, persistently attempting to assassinate a Seignior again and again!"

At this point, Chu Yuqin looked at Lu Chen, "Chen'er, what do you plan to do?"

Lu Chen said indifferently, "It's time to deal with the trouble that is Blood Moon Tower. It's okay to kill me, but if they want to harm my wife and children, then they all deserve to go down and meet Yama."

Lu Chen's words were very calm, but his tone was filled with murderous intent.

This time, he was truly enraged. His system had decided that his women were his weakness, and now that they were being targeted, he would not let the other party live.

Lu Chen continued, "Getting rid of Blood Moon Tower is just the beginning. The person behind the scenes is still out there. Without Blood Moon Tower, other organizations of assassins will come knocking. It's time to give a warning to the person behind the scenes."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin instantly understood what Lu Chen meant. Lu Chen was planning to make a move on a certain Prince in the Capital city.

Chu Yuqin, of course, would not stop Lu Chen. After all, that Prince had sent assassins to kill Lu Chen time and time again—this was something no one could endure.

However, Chu Yuqin still reminded him, "Chen'er, the Barbarian Tribe is moving southward. If you decide to take action against someone in the Capital city, you need to ensure your subordinates handle it cleanly. Otherwise, if your father the Emperor finds out, he might very well refuse to send you reinforcements."

Lu Chen responded, "Madam Chu, rest assured, I am well aware of the pros and cons."

Lu Chen then said to a maid outside the study, "Xiao Xue, go and summon Commander Qin."

The maid's voice came from outside the door, "Yes, Prince."

After the maid left, Lu Chen said to Chu Yuqin with a smile, "Madam Chu, I will have to trouble you to head to Hundred Flowers Tower in a while."

Chu Yuqin immediately realized what Lu Chen wanted to do. He wanted to make the people from Blood Moon Tower believe that she and the Grandmaster were accompanying Lu Chen to Hundred Flowers Tower, thus luring the assassins to come and slaughter the Prince's Mansion.

Chu Yuqin said, "Alright, Chen'er, you need to be very careful."

Although she knew that Lu Chen's strength was no longer what it used to be, Chu Yuqin still subconsciously worried about him since she had watched him grow up from a child.

Now that the Brocade Guard was involved, actions in the Prince's Mansion were expedited considerably. It hadn't been long since Qin Yushan had arrived at the Prince's Mansion when he had the Brocade Guard set up an ambush there.

If the assassins from Blood Moon Tower dared to come, they would have no return.

Although Blood Moon Tower had a Grandmaster, so did Qin Yushan, and he was not just any Grandmaster. Taking down a minor Grandmaster from Blood Moon Tower would not be much of a challenge for him.

To make the ruse more convincing, Lu Chen had someone sent to Mu Mansion to tell Mu Changtian that something very important had come up and requested his presence at the Prince's Mansion.

When Mu Changtian heard that the North Prince had a task for him so soon, he was very pleased.

Being tasked immediately upon his arrival in North City meant that the North Prince valued him greatly. His fear was that the North Prince might sideline him indefinitely.

A General not favored by his sovereign is worthless.

The time had come for him to showcase his worth!

Subsequently, Mu Changtian dressed himself meticulously according to Lu Chen's request, his entire persona resembling a Martial World Knight, with a wide-brimmed hat covering his face, rendering him unrecognizable.

When Mu Changtian arrived at the Prince's Mansion full of enthusiasm, thinking that Lu Chen was about to entrust him with an important mission, Lu Chen spoke to him, "Father-in-law, I need you to visit Hundred Flowers Tower, pretend to be the Mysterious

Grandmaster of the Prince's Mansion, and help me divert the attention of Blood Moon Tower's assassins. Make them believe that the Mysterious Grandmaster has left the Prince's Mansion, which will draw them into attacking us."

Hearing these words, Mu Changtian was stunned momentarily. Distracting the assassin's attention? How was that an important matter?

Lu Chen even had his servant relay to him that it was an extremely important matter, only for this outcome?

Although he was somewhat disappointed, Mu Changtian still accepted the order and said, "Yes, Prince."

Having said this, Mu Changtian couldn't help but ask curiously, "Prince, how many assassins has Blood Moon Tower sent to assassinate you this time? Don't you need my help?"

Mu Changtian still wanted to strive for a chance, even though he knew Lu Chen had many strong fighters under his command; after all, he was himself a Grandmaster, and a Grandmaster could play a greater role.

Lu Chen smiled faintly, then said, "There aren't many assassins; they can be dealt with quickly. I won't be needing my father-in-law's help for the time being."

Seeing Lu Chen say this, Mu Changtian didn't insist on imposing himself and could only follow Lu Chen's instructions, accompanying a decoy prince to the Hundred Flowers Tower.

On the way to the Hundred Flowers Tower, Mu Changtian asked curiously to Madam Chu beside him, "Madam Chu, how many experts has Blood Moon Tower sent this time?"

Chu Yuqin replied, "I'm not sure about that, but I heard that their Tower Master has come personally."

This...

Upon hearing Chu Yuqin's response, Mu Changtian was taken aback. The Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower himself had come, and the North Prince could still afford such a nonchalant demeanor?

Soon, Mu Changtian calmed his inner thoughts. With so many strong fighters under the command of the North Prince, there was indeed no need to fear Blood Moon Tower.

At best, the Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower was just a Grandmaster, and the North Prince surely had more than one Grandmaster under his command. Blood Moon Tower seeking out the North Prince Mansion was purely a death wish.

Mu Changtian thought to himself, let it be, there would be plenty of opportunities to show loyalty after arriving in North City; there was no need to rush. The North Prince said he was to train the Cavalry, which was also considered a significant appointment.

Before long, the Prince's Mansion carriage arrived at the door of the Hundred Flowers Tower.

Seeing a man wearing a bamboo hat and Chu Yuqin standing next to the carriage of the Prince's Mansion, Zhou Hanwen on the loft slightly curled the corners of his mouth, "Miss Wang, it seems just as you said, these two will be constantly protecting the North Prince."

"Next, I shall trouble Miss Wang to find a way to detain the North Prince. I will be heading to the North Prince Mansion now," he added.

Wang Qingci smiled and said, "Tower Master Zhou, take care. I will try my best to delay and wait for your return."

No sooner had Wang Qingci's words fallen than Zhou Hanwen, along with the people from Blood Moon Tower, headed for the North Prince Mansion.

At this moment, evening had arrived, the sun had set, and the fiery sunset cast its glow on the people, tinting their skin with a bronze hue.

Zhou Hanwen and his group sped through the streets, heading straight for the North Prince Mansion.

At that time, the North Prince Mansion was unusually silent; it seemed there was not a single person inside the mansion.

When Zhou Hanwen and his men climbed into the North Prince Mansion, they found there wasn't a single servant inside.

Zhou Hanwen's eyebrows furrowed; he instantly sensed something was amiss.

The next moment, countless arrows came flying towards them, and Zhou Hanwen realized they had been tricked.

Yet Zhou Hanwen was still very confident; as a Grandmaster, such arrows couldn't possibly injure him.

Being a Grandmaster, he could sense that the man at the Hundred Flowers Tower wearing a bamboo hat was also a Grandmaster.

The Mysterious Grandmaster and Chu Yuqin were both not in the North Prince Mansion. Even if there were some guards left in the mansion, how could they possibly prevent him from massacring the North Prince Mansion?

Zhou Hanwen then said to the assassins of Blood Moon Tower behind him, "Kill on my command! Spare no one from the North Prince Mansion!"

Chapter 66: Another Grandmaster!_i

As Zhou Hanwen gave the order, the assassins of Blood Moon Tower charged towards the direction of the Jinyiwei Guards amidst a shower of arrows.

Seeing this scene, Lu Chen had already become unfazed, recalling the last time he dealt with the Vice Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower, those Ninth Grade experts from Blood Moon Tower also charged forward through the rain of arrows.

It had to be said that before the invention of gunpowder, the status of martial artists was hard to shake in this world.

Unfortunately for them, Lu Chen had arrived!

Lu Chen then distributed grenades to the Jinyiwei Guards, having used only a dozen or so last time to kill the assassins from Blood Moon Tower; he still had plenty left.

Lu Chen then said to the Jinyiwei Guards, "Throw the grenades the way I do."

As soon as he finished speaking, Lu Chen pulled the pin, held the grenade in his hand for a moment, and then hurled it towards the direction Zhou Hanwen was in.

Lu Chen's system could identify people, and with a single glance, he recognized that the man in white was the Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower. Having reached the status of a Ninth Grade Martial Artist with considerable strength, he effortlessly threw the grenade over Zhou Hanwen's head.

Zhou Hanwen had sharp senses and immediately locked onto the round object in the sky. Even though he didn't know what it was, a strong sense of crisis surged within him.

That round object looked like a stone, but Zhou Hanwen didn't believe the Prince's Mansion had run out of arrows and had to resort to throwing stones it was clearly some specialized weapon.

Zhou Hanwen hurriedly leaped backwards several steps.

Although Zhou Hanwen managed to get away, the martial artists beside him didn't react in time.

The grenade exploded mid-air and with a thunderous boom, countless shards flew out, piercing through the heads of the martial artists below.

Against traceable arrows, these martial artists might have had a chance to defend themselves, but against the swiftest, chaotically flying grenade shards, they had almost no other option but to dodge.

Witnessing this spectacle, Zhou Hanwen's face immediately darkened.

Although he had guessed it was a specialized weapon of the Prince's Mansion, he had not anticipated its power to be this tremendous.

Ninth Grade martial artists stood no chance against this weapon; in the blink of an eye, Blood Moon Tower lost several Ninth Grade experts.

Zhou Hanwen had only thought the Prince's Mansion possessed a Mysterious Grandmaster, attributing the North Prince's survival against several assassination attempts from Blood Moon Tower solely to that Mysterious Grandmaster.

Now it appeared they had been gravely mistaken!

Even without the Mysterious Grandmaster, relying solely on this innovative weapon, it would still not be easy for the assassins of Blood Moon Tower to assassinate the North Prince, even if the North Prince Mansion had not a single martial artist.

Everyone had thought the North Prince was useless, but it now seemed the whole world had been deceived!

Possessing such a terrifying weapon and keeping it a secret, the North Prince must be plotting something.

But none of that mattered now; what was critical was how he would kill the North Prince under these circumstances!

Perhaps because Zhou Hanwen, the Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower, was leading the team personally, although the first grenade took out several Ninth Grade martial artists, the assassins from Blood Moon Tower somehow did not falter.

This actually surprised Lu Chen.

However, Lu Chen had no intention of giving them time to react, and the next moment, he continued to throw grenades. Following the method Lu Chen just demonstrated, the other Jinyiwei Guards holding grenades also hurled them out.

Subsequently, over a dozen grenades exploded above the heads of the assassins from Blood Moon Tower.

Poor assassins of Blood Moon Tower, they hadn't even seen the North Prince in person and were already heavily decimated, with only a few remaining.

At this point, Zhou Hanwen panicked.

He had not expected that in such a short span of time, nearly all his men would be gone!

These were the elite assassins from Blood Moon Tower!

Before, these assassins could not only take the life of a prince but killing the emperor of a small kingdom would have been no issue. However, today, they had nearly all perished before even laying eyes on the North Prince.

The weaponry of the North Prince Mansion was too terrifying!

No good!

He must hurry and leave the North Prince Mansion!

The weapons of the North Prince Mansion had never leaked a whisper because anyone who saw these weapons from the outside must have been killed, otherwise, it would be impossible for Great Xia to have no information about such weapons.

This is a weapon powerful enough to subvert the martial arts world!

If the news that the North Prince Mansion possessed such weapons got out, the entire martial arts world would shudder, and the status of martial artists would plummet.

Zhou Hanwen thought to himself that although he might not be able to kill the North Prince, if he could just escape and spread the word about the North Prince Mansion's secret weapon, it wouldn't be long before the North Prince would be assassinated by top martial artists from all over the world.

He didn't believe the North Prince could protect himself when that time came!

With this thought, Zhou Hanwen turned to escape.

However, the moment he turned around, he found a man dressed in red, with a long blade slung at his waist, leaning against the doorframe of the mansion's main gate.

The moment Zhou Hanwen saw Qin Yushan, his pupils shrank slightly.

Another Grandmaster!

And not just any Grandmaster!

He had seen this man before!

This was the assassin known across the martial arts community as Blood Demon Mad Blade!

Blood Moon Tower didn't exist when this man was dominating the pugilistic world. He had only seen him from a distance once back then.

Zhou Hanwen never expected to see this man again in this place!

The only thought left in Zhou Hanwen's mind was to flee!

Not to mention the Prince's Mansion's secret weapon, just the Blood Demon Mad Blade himself was more than he could handle.

Others might have been Grandmasters decades ago, and even if Qin Yushan remained a Grandmaster now, he would be someone whose strength was infinitely close to that of a Grandmaster.

Not something he, who had only recently entered the Master Realm, could contend against!

Zhou Hanwen couldn't understand why Blood Demon Mad Blade would show up at the North Prince Mansion!

He had actually become a subordinate of the North Prince!

How did the North Prince accomplish this!

At that moment, Qin Yushan spoke with a smile, "Life-snatching Scholar Zhou Hanwen, Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower, I have long wanted to encounter your iron fan. It seems today I will finally get my wish."

After hearing Qin Yushan's words, Zhou Hanwen came back to his senses.

Now was not the time to ponder these things. Now that he knew the terror of the North Prince Mansion, the North Prince was even less likely to let him leave. If he wanted to escape, he would have to deal with Qin Yushan first.

Zhou Hanwen then took out a fan, “whoosh,” opened it, and said, “Then please enlighten me, senior!”

While talking, Zhou Hanwen waved his fan, and a dozen sharp needles flew towards Qin Yushan.

Qin Yushan easily dodged these sharp needles. With one forceful step, he shot towards Zhou Hanwen like a cannonball.

The best way to deal with the ranged weapon-type hidden weapons in Zhou Hanwen’s hands was to close the distance.

But Zhou Hanwen’s iron fan was obviously not just capable of launching hidden weapons. He immediately flicked his wrist, closed the fan, and in the next moment, a blade appeared on the tip of the fan.

Zhou Hanwen’s iron fan had turned into a sword at that moment.

The two then engaged in close-quarters combat, the collision of blade and fan sending sparks flying. Both released their Protective Gang Qi completely, causing the floor tiles around them to be upturned..

Chapter 67: The Era of the Martial Artist is Coming to an End i

When Qin Yushan and Zhou Hanwen crossed hands, several Ninth Grade Martial Artists of the Brocade Guard were not idle either. With the help of hand grenades, they quickly dispatched all the assassins from Blood Moon Tower.

Now only Zhou Hanwen, the Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower, remained.

At this moment, Lu Chen leaped down from the rooftop and walked over to sit on top of the flowerbed at the Training Ground, simply watching the battle between Zhou Hanwen and Qin Yushan.

A Jinyiwei Commander approached Lu Chen and asked, “Prince, aren’t we going to take action?”

Lu Chen immediately raised his hand and waved it, then said, “No need. I want to see what a battle between Grandmasters looks like.”

Lu Chen had never seen a Grandmaster's battle and, therefore, did not know the extent of a Grandmaster's strength.

By witnessing a battle between Grandmasters with his own eyes, he would be better able to assess the combat strength of a Grandmaster and decide whether modern weapons could effortlessly take down a Grandmaster.

It was certain there would be Martial Artists of the Master Realm among the Barbarian Tribe's Cavalry, and probably more than one. Knowing the combat strength of a Grandmaster in advance would allow him to prepare thoroughly.

At this time, Qin Yushan, holding his blade, pressed down on Zhou Hanwen with a cleaving attack, forcing Zhou Hanwen to dodge, completely unable to counterattack.

Zhou Hanwen felt his arms constantly trembling. The might of the Blood Demon Mad Blade, once renowned in the jianghu, was indeed not to be taken lightly. A slight mistake on his part, and he could very well lose his life.

At this moment, Zhou Hanwen caught sight of Lu Chen in the distance.

Though he had never met Lu Chen, the respectful attitude of the Brocade Guards around him allowed Zhou Hanwen to guess Lu Chen's identity.

Zhou Hanwen finally came to his senses, realizing that it hadn't been the North Prince who had entered the Hundred Flowers Tower earlier. The elegant young man not far away was the real North Prince.

From the very beginning, their Blood Moon Tower had been played!

With that thought, Zhou Hanwen's heart burned with rage, but at the moment, he was helpless.

He was being suppressed by Qin Yushan, and even escape was problematic, let alone taking the North Prince's life under these conditions.

Could it be that he would truly fall at the hands of this bratty kid today?

Thinking this, Zhou Hanwen's heart was filled with unwillingness.

Since he took over as the Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower, assassination missions had rarely failed, especially those he personally took part in, which had a hundred percent success rate.

Who could have thought that today he would fall into the trap set by a prince who was ostensibly a good-for-nothing.

The more Zhou Hanwen thought about it, the angrier he became, and the skill inside his body began to circulate wildly. The next moment, a reddish blood energy faintly appeared around Zhou Hanwen's body.

Seeing this scene, Qin Yushan's eyebrows furrowed.

Zhou Hanwen waved his fan, and countless flying needles shot out. Qin Yushan quickly retreated a few steps and used his blade to block the needles.

However, Zhou Hanwen had no intention of escaping. The moment he shot out all his flying needles, he charged straight towards Lu Chen not far away.

Seeing this, Qin Yushan's face turned pale.

"Not good! Prince, get out of the way!"

With a roar-like voice, Zhou Hanwen shouted, "Brat, if you want to kill me, then you'll have to accompany me in death!"

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen cracked a slight smile and did not move.

This was the best time to test the firearms.

A Grandmaster, no less an one who had used the Blood Ignition Skill and protected by Gang Qi.

He wanted to see if the Barrett's bullets could penetrate his body.

With that thought, Lu Chen casually lifted his hand, and the long Barrett appeared in his grasp, the dark muzzle aimed straight at Zhou Hanwen's chest.

Zhou Hanwen was stunned by the sudden appearance of the stick-like weapon in Lu Chen's hand.

The weapon in Lu Chen's hand had appeared out of nowhere, a sight that would surprise anyone; even Qin Yushan and his fellow Brocade Guards were momentarily taken aback.

Is this some kind of magic trick?

Where did such a long weapon come from?

Though momentarily stunned by Lu Chen's actions, Zhou Hanwen's body did not stop.

As Zhou Hanwen was about to reach Lu Chen, he mocked, "You think a stick can stop me? How little you must think of me!"

During his speech, Zhou Hanwen prepared to end Lu Chen's life.

However, what he had imagined did not occur.

The next moment, a loud bang resounded.

Gang Qi...

Lu Chen's shoulders shrugged slightly backward, even though he was now a Ninth Grade Martial Artist, lifting the Barrett to snipe still caused significant recoil.

Fortunately, his aim was spot-on, and at such a close range, even a blind man could have hit the target with his eyes closed.

The bullet traveled exceedingly fast, and even a Grandmaster like Zhou Hanwen couldn't dodge it.

Still, a Grandmaster was different from ordinary Martial Artists. The moment the bullet left the chamber, Zhou Hanwen's eyes clearly saw a black dot flying out from the tip of that strange stick.

Zhou Hanwen thought it was a hidden weapon and planned to block it with his fan.

However...

The moment Zhou Hanwen swung his fan, the Barrett bullet instantly penetrated his iron fan, then his Protective Gang Qi, and went straight through his chest.

The instant the bullet pierced through Zhou Hanwen's body, he lost all sensation of pain, but he could feel that something had penetrated him.

Zhou Hanwen couldn't believe it as he looked down slightly to find a bloody hole in his chest; his pupils shrank, and his expression turned to one of shock and disbelief.

He could not fathom how, as a Grandmaster and even with Protective Gang Qi, any hidden weapon could penetrate his body.

And that not even his iron fan could stop it...

Soon, Zhou Hanwen's consciousness began to blur, and his body followed by collapsing.

Seeing the bloody hole in Zhou Hanwen's chest, Qin Yushan from afar took a sharp intake of breath and couldn't help but exclaim, "It seems the era belonging to the Martial Artists is coming to an end."

Qin Yushan had become a Jinyiwei Guard for certain reasons, but he himself did not know Lu Chen had such a powerful weapon; he only knew that Lu Chen was the master they had to follow.

After seeing the damage dealt by the weapon in Lu Chen's hand, he gradually understood why Lu Chen had become the master of the Jinyiwei Guard.

Because this young man was destined to stand at the pinnacle of this world, looking down upon everything!

At the same time.

Mu Changtian, after learning from Wang Qingci that the assassins from Blood Moon Tower had gone to the Prince's Mansion, immediately returned there with Chu Yuqin.

On the way, Mu Changtian saw Chu Yuqin's unconcerned demeanor and curiously asked, "Madam Chu, aren't you worried at all that something might happen to the North Prince?"

Chu Yuqin retorted, "Does General Mu wish to see the Prince in trouble?"

Mu Changtian quickly responded, "That's not it at all, I'm just worried the Blood Moon Tower's assassins might hurt the Prince."

Mu Changtian had only just arrived in North City, and if the North Prince were to suffer any mishap, it would not bode well for his family, making him the most concerned about Lu Chen's safety.

Seeing how calm Madam Chu was, a hint of curiosity arose in Mu Changtian's mind. Was the North Prince Mansion truly so powerful that facing a Grandmaster and a full force mobilization from Blood Moon Tower, they remained completely unfazed?

It wasn't long before Mu Changtian and Chu Yuqin returned to the Prince's Mansion.

Mu Changtian quickly entered the Prince's Mansion with the intent to help defend against the assassins from Blood Moon Tower, only to discover upon his arrival, a multitude of dead bodies clad in black – the assassins of the Tower.

This....

Chapter 68: Madam Chu, a Healer Can't Heal Themselves

Seeing Mu Changtian and Chu Yuqin return, Lu Chen said with a smile, "Father-in-law, Madam Chu, you've worked hard."

Chu Yuqin didn't speak; she quickly walked to Lu Chen's side and asked with concern, "Chen'er, are you alright? Are you hurt anywhere?"

Although she didn't seem worried about the situation at the Prince's Mansion on the way back, she was still very worried about Lu Chen's condition.

Lu Chen was about to answer that he was fine when he suddenly thought of something, then immediately covered his chest and said with a strained expression, "Madam Chu, I'm fine, just sustained a minor injury."

Seeing Lu Chen's appearance, Chu Yuqin became extremely anxious, "Chen'er, do you feel unwell anywhere right now?"

Lu Chen said, "There's no discomfort, but I feel like there's something accumulating in my Dantian, making it hard to breathe."

Hearing this, Mu Changtian, who was not far away, couldn't help but become worried. He was about to say something when he heard Lu Chen say, "Commander Qin, please help to deal with the corpses in the Prince's Mansion. I'm feeling unwell, so I will retire to rest first."

At that, Lu Chen took Chu Yuqin's jade hand in front of everyone and walked away, saying as they left, "Madam Chu, please help me regulate my condition quickly, I feel the energy inside me getting more and more obstructed."

Seeing this scene, Mu Changtian was stunned.

After Lu Chen and Chu Yuqin left, Mu Changtian asked Qin Yushan curiously, "Commander Qin, the North Prince is alright, isn't he?"

Mu Changtian didn't know what was going on; he really thought that Lu Chen was seriously injured and needed Chu Yuqin's treatment.

Hearing Mu Changtian's question, Qin Yushan said with a smile, "Of course the North Prince is not alright."

This...

Mu Changtian asked with confusion, "Why do you still smile when the North Prince is not alright?"

Qin Yushan countered, "General Mu, can't you tell the North Prince only shows issues in front of Madam Chu?"

Mu Changtian was no fool; with the reminder from Qin Yushan, he quickly realized the truth.

The talk of injuries was merely an excuse.

So, could it be that the North Prince harbors other thoughts toward Chu Yuqin?

Mu Changtian quickly stopped himself from thinking further. It wasn't his place to be concerned about such matters. It's normal for a man to have thoughts about a beautiful woman; the North Prince is a man, after all—nothing strange there.

Mu Changtian then turned his attention to the assassin corpses scattered on the ground, and he noticed that besides the assassins' bodies, there were no others.

Not a single soldier from the Prince's Mansion was dead, which meant that the moment the assassins from Blood Moon Tower arrived at the Prince's Mansion, the mansion had managed to eliminate all of the assassins without a single casualty?

How was this possible?

Mu Changtian then looked at Qin Yushan and continued to ask, "Commander Qin, why don't I see the corpses of the Prince's Mansion's soldiers?"

Qin Yushan answered, "General Mu, not a single soldier from the Prince's Mansion has died; where would the bodies come from?"

Hearing Qin Yushan's answer, Mu Changtian was completely astounded; the Prince's Mansion had truly not lost a single soldier and had wiped out all of Blood Moon Tower's assassins!

Is this the true strength of the North Prince Mansion?

At that moment, Qin Yushan said, "General Mu, you should go back and rest well today. Tomorrow morning the Prince has matters to convene us for, and then you must also participate."

Hearing this, Mu Changtian said, "All right, I will go back then."

Afterward, Mu Changtian turned and left the Prince's Mansion.

Meanwhile.

After arriving at the study, Lu Chen pretended to be in great discomfort.

Seeing Lu Chen in this state, Chu Yuqin said with a worried face, "Chen'er, don't scare me, what's wrong with you?"

Lu Chen replied, "All, just now I carelessly received a palm strike from an assassin. Commander Qin examined me and said it's nothing serious, but for some reason, I just feel uncomfortable here in my chest."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Yuqin no longer cared about proprieties regarding physical contact between men and women, and said directly, "Quickly take off your clothes, let me have a look."

Without another word, Lu Chen immediately began to undress, taking off his upper garments.

Chu Yuqin immediately raised her delicate hands and gently touched Lu Chen's chest. She channeled her Inner Strength into Lu Chen's body to help him check if there was anything wrong, but she found no problems.

Chu Yuqin muttered to herself, "Strange, I can't find anything unusual either?"

With that, Chu Yuqin raised her head, her beautiful eyes locked onto Lu Chen's as she said, "Chen'er, could it be that, like last time, there was an issue when you were training in martial arts, which has caused your inner strength to circulate poorly?"

Lu Chen replied, "That's possible. It's probably because that thief struck me, bringing out the hidden injuries I've accumulated from recent training days, making me feel the flow in my Dantian is not smooth."

Suddenly, Chu Yuqin thought of something and said, "Didn't you say you knew an Immortal Technique to heal the body? Why not try using it to treat yourself?"

Lu Chen sighed, "Ah, Madam Chu, it's hard for a doctor to heal oneself, you know. My Immortal Technique can only be used to heal others, not myself."

Chu Yuqin asked worriedly, "Then what should we do?"

Lu Chen asked with a smile, "Madam Chu, have you forgotten about the method we used last time to regulate my condition?"

This...

Chu Yuqin hesitated for a moment.

Of course, she hadn't forgotten how she had helped Lu Chen last time, but she still felt that method was a bit improper.

Moreover, she almost made a mistake last time. If she did the same again, what if she couldn't control herself later?

Thinking about what happened last time, a blush quickly appeared on Chu Yuqin's elegant and dignified face as she then said, "Chen'er, is that method truly effective for your body?"

Lu Chen answered, "Didn't we already try it last time? It's definitely effective."

Chu Yuqin hesitated for a moment, then said, "Alright then, let's try again, but keep your legs away from me this time."

As she said this, Chu Yuqin's face became even redder, a complete image of a shy and beautiful woman.

It was okay for their upper bodies to be close, but it would be inappropriate for their lower bodies. She was also aware that Lu Chen had some feelings for her and she was worried he wouldn't be able to control himself.

Seeing Chu Yuqin's agreement, Lu Chen said, "Mm-hmm, I understand."

Then, Lu Chen raised his hands and directly embraced Chu Yuqin's waist.

Chu Yuqin's hips were leaning against the desk, which slightly indented from the pressure.

At that moment, Lu Chen whispered in Chu Yuqin's ear, "Madam Chu, with the Barbarian Tribe attacking this time, I don't know if I'll be able to see you all afterwards."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Yuqin quickly replied, "Chen'er, don't speak of such ominous things. I believe you will definitely be able to defeat the Barbarian Tribe, after all, you are someone with a fate with the immortals, blessed by an Immortal!"

Lu Chen spoke with a downhearted tone, "It's not the fear of the many, but the fear of the one."

At this point, Lu Chen tightened his arms, hugging the Gentle Jade Fragrance in his embrace very tightly, their bodies also pressing closely together.

Chu Yuqin twisted her hips slightly, trying to avoid Lu Chen's enthusiasm, but finding she couldn't move at all, she let him hold her.

Just then, the distinct masculine scent from Lu Chen's body wafted into Chu Yuqin's nostrils, making her feel a sudden warmth all over.

Chu Yuqin grew nervous, indeed it was like last time..

Chapter 69: How Could You Treat Me Like This_i

Chu Yuqin wanted to channel her energy to soothe the unusual sensations in her body and calm her restless heart, but just like before, she now had no skill within her, just like an ordinary person.

Chu Yuqin couldn't help feeling a bit nervous; every time she interacted with Lu Chen, she felt this way. If it continued, who knows, one day she might make a mistake.

Fortunately, at this moment, Lu Chen didn't make any inappropriate moves. He held Chu Yuqin tightly, with his head resting on her fragrant shoulder, whispering in her ear, "If one day something happens to me, you must take care of Zixuan and the others, I'm entrusting them to you."

Hearing the tone of Lu Chen as if he were entrusting his last wishes, Chu Yuqin quickly said, "Chen'er, if you say such things again, I will get angry."

In Chu Yuqin's opinion, Lu Chen's words were very inauspicious. If they really became a terrible omen, what would she do if something happened to him?

Seeing the seriousness in Chu Yuqin's tone, Lu Chen smiled and said, "Okay, I won't say it anymore."

Feeling the softness of Chu Yuqin's body, Lu Chen's thoughts wandered to other matters, his blood surged, becoming somewhat restless.

A unique subtle fragrance assailed Lu Chen's nose, ceaselessly provoking him, as if it were teasing him.

Chu Yuqin also noticed the strangeness at this moment. She shifted slightly, trying to distance her hips from Lu Chen.

However, Lu Chen did not comply with her wish. His large hand shifted slightly downward, securing Chu Yuqin's hips in place, preventing her from moving.

Chu Yuqin's heart was in turmoil. She hadn't expected Lu Chen to be so bold. She quickly pushed Lu Chen away slightly from the upper half of her body, then looked at him with eyes brimming with spring waters, and asked, "Chen'er, do you feel better now?"

"If you do, please let go of me."

There was a hint of pleading in Chu Yuqin's voice, if this continued, things might really go awry.

Lu Chen said, "I still feel uncomfortable, let me stay a bit longer, it's probably because of the many hidden injuries I've accumulated. I need some time to heal."

Chu Yuqin's face flushed, and she said softly, "Can your hands be a little more behaved? Don't touch everywhere, if this continues, I will really get angry." Lu Chen, with an innocent face, said, "Touching randomly? No, haven't my hands been right here the whole time?"

Chu Yuqin pursed her lips and said nothing more; it was really difficult for her to articulate.

As time passed, Chu Yuqin found it increasingly hard to suppress the restlessness in her heart; her entire body softened, relying on Lu Chen to stand.

At this moment, Lu Chen looked into Chu Yuqin's beautiful eyes and said, "I feel that this method of recuperation isn't very effective anymore. We need to go a step further."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin, who was already in a daze, suddenly came to her senses.

Go a step further?

Their bodies were already pressed together; if they took another step, wouldn't that mean...

Chu Yuqin didn't dare to think further and hastily said, "No, we can't do that sort of thing!"

Seeing the excited look on Chu Yuqin's face, Lu Chen smiled and said, "You misunderstood me, that's not what I meant."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Yuqin relaxed a little, then asked with a tender tone, "Chen'er, what do you mean by going further..."

Before Chu Yuqin could finish speaking, Lu Chen leaned in and took the initiative to kiss her fragrant lips.

Chu Yuqin's mind went blank.

She hadn't expected Lu Chen to do such a thing, and his actions were so sudden she didn't even have time to dodge.

At that moment, Lu Chen glanced at Chu Yuqin's favorability; it had always been at 98, just missing two points to reach 100.

But with his proactive kiss, Chu Yuqin's favorability didn't decrease; instead, it increased by one point, reaching 99.

XXX

Lu Chen felt somewhat incredulous, as he had braced himself for Chu Yuqin's favorability towards him to decline after such incident.

Actually, this was quite understandable. Chu Yuqin had always harbored those feelings for him deep inside, and with the continuous influence of the Dragon and Phoenix Tea, her heart had long belonged to him.

However, due to certain conventional morals of the world that shackled her like chains, she never dared to take things further with Lu Chen.

But today, Lu Chen took the initiative to break the awkward standoff between them, which directly shattered the chains around Chu Yuqin's heart, causing her favorability towards Lu Chen to start rising.

After Chu Yuqin regained her composure, she quickly raised her hand, incessantly pushing against Lu Chen's chest, trying to push him away.

"Umm umm umm..."

Chu Yuqin, while pushing Lu Chen's chest with her jade hand, made protesting noises, but Lu Chen didn't pay attention to any of these.

This was the best chance for desensitization; if he and Chu Yuqin continued without anything further happening, their relationship would remain in a deadlock like this.

Lu Chen didn't plan to take Chu Yuqin today, but it was essential to get her accustomed to being intimate with him. Only then would she be able to accept him more readily when it came to proper matters in the future.

Chu Yuqin struggled for a moment, and upon realizing that she couldn't budge Lu Chen, she had no choice but to give up and passively comply with his kisses.

After what seemed like an eternity, Chu Yuqin felt Lu Chen's hands becoming increasingly restless. Her mind snapped back to clear-headedness, realizing that if this continued, she would likely become Lu Chen's woman.

No! This can't go on any longer.

He is Yue's child!

I can't make a mistake!

From where she got the strength, she didn't know, but she suddenly pushed him, and this time, she actually managed to push Lu Chen away.

After pushing Lu Chen away, Chu Yuqin spoke with tears in her eyes and shame and indignation, "Chen'er, you've gone too far!"

"How could you treat me like this!"

"I'm your aunt, you know!"

Seeing Chu Yuqin's pitiful and moving appearance, Lu Chen felt guilty inside. He immediately said, "Just now, I don't know what happened. I suddenly couldn't control myself, and it might have something to do with the Immortal Law I'm practicing."

"I was wrong. Please don't be angry, okay?"

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Yuqin calmed down a bit. She wiped away her tears with her sleeve and then asked, "How is your body feeling now?"

Lu Chen replied, "It has recovered some. It's much better than before."

Hearing Lu Chen's answer, Chu Yuqin said, "I can help you recuperate, but you must not mess with me again!"

Lu Chen showed a crestfallen expression and said, "I understand."

Seeing Lu Chen's demeanor, Chu Yuqin knew she had been too harsh with her words. She felt extremely guilty, and then she took the initiative to move closer, leaning on Lu Chen's broad chest.

Witnessing this, Lu Chen was stunned. He hadn't expected Chu Yuqin to come closer on her own.

At that moment, Chu Yuqin said, "Don't move, just let me hold you."

Hearing this, Lu Chen replied, "Okay."

After a little while, Chu Yuqin noticed something off about Lu Chen again, and with her face flushed, she fiercely scolded, "Chen'er, you little rascal, why are you always so restless!"

Chapter 70: Don't Even Think About It_i

Hearing Chu Yuqin's words, Lu Chen naturally knew what she was referring to.

Lu Chen then said with a helpless look on his face, "Madam Chu, I am a man, and any vigorous young man holding a great beauty in his arms can hardly remain indifferent."

Upon hearing Lu Chen actually praise herself as a great beauty, Chu Yuqin felt even more flustered inside.

Although she had forced herself to calm down just moments ago, for some reason, she was starting to feel restless again.

Chu Yuqin emphasized again, "I am your aunt! You mustn't harbor any improper thoughts towards me!"

Lu Chen said indifferently, "Madam Chu, we have no blood relations, and besides, you're only about eleven years older than me."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin was taken aback.

What Lu Chen said was true; they had no blood relationship. At most, she was merely sworn sisters with Lu Chen's mother.

And even though an eleven-year difference seemed significant, when those men took wives, some in their seventies or eighties still married girls in their teens. In truth, this age difference wasn't really significant.

If one thought about it that way, it seemed there wasn't anything particularly unsuitable about the two of them.

At this moment, Chu Yuqin's mind went blank, and she quickly stopped herself from entertaining wild thoughts.

How could she even think like that!

She was a woman who had been married! She was now a widow! And Chen'er was a prince, how could a prince marry a widow!

With this thought, Chu Yuqin immediately said, "Chen'er, I don't care what you say, you just can't have thoughts about your aunt, if Yue finds out that I deceived her son's body, how can I face her after I die!"

Hearing Chu Yuqin's words, Lu Chen laughed and said, "Then let me be the one to trick you."

Chu Yuqin snorted lightly and said, "Don't even think about it."

Hearing Chu Yuqin's words, Lu Chen smiled faintly.

Even though Chu Yuqin was so defiant with her words, he could tell that her defenses were starting to weaken, and after a few more intimate encounters, Chu Yuqin would completely succumb.

After an unknown amount of time, Chu Yuqin asked gently, "Chen'er, do you feel better now?"

Lu Chen replied, "Hmm, my dantian feels better, there's no longer that sensation of blocked energy flow, but I feel uncomfortable elsewhere."

Upon hearing this, Chu Yuqin immediately understood what Lu Chen meant, she spat angrily, "You little rascal, don't think that I don't know what's on your mind, deal with your other physical issues by going to Mu Zixuan yourself." Having said that, Chu Yuqin gently pushed Lu Chen away and then took a few steps back to distance herself from him.

"Chen'er, since you're fine now, I'll take my leave."

Lu Chen said, "Alright."

Lu Chen felt that it was more or less enough for the time being; these sorts of matters needed a gradual approach, not force.

Afterward, Chu Yuqin turned around and headed for the door. Seeing Chu Yuqin's alluring figure, Lu Chen felt he was losing control, and immediately went to Mu Zixuan's courtyard, picked her up, and took her to the next room to cultivate their relationship.

The next morning.

Early in the morning, before Lu Chen had gotten up, important officials from North City had arrived at the Prince's Mansion.

Prefecture Governor Li Rui, upon seeing the generals and colonels in armor at the Prince's Mansion training ground, was somewhat puzzled.

What was the purpose of the Prince's Mansion gathering them at this time?

Since the North Prince had come to North City, he had not bothered with the affairs of North City; each time he went to the North Prince to report on his duties, the North Prince found some excuse to send him away.

This seemed to be the first time the North Prince had summoned them to the Prince's Mansion.

XXX

Could it be that the North Prince was planning to take charge of the affairs of North City?

At this thought, Li Rui felt some tension inside. He was unsure whether the North Prince would make some major policy adjustments. If the North Prince really intended to initiate reforms, then, as Prefecture Governor, his workload might increase significantly.

Of course, that wasn't Li Rui's biggest concern. What worried him the most was that the North Prince might replace him as Prefecture Governor with someone from his inner circle to facilitate the reform.

Thinking of this, Li Rui immediately approached Li Feng and asked in a low voice, "General Li, do you know why the Prince has summoned us here?"

Li Feng shook his head and said, "I too have just received the Prince's message, and I'm not aware of what he wants to discuss."

Hearing this from Li Feng made Li Rui even more anxious. Even Li Feng, an important general close to the North Prince, was unaware of the matter, so it must be something significant.

At that moment,

a middle-aged man clad in armor entered the training ground with two youths.

Seeing the man, Li Feng and the soldiers who initially followed Lu Chen to North City were stunned.

Li Feng then walked up to the man. As he was about to salute, the man stopped him by lifting his arm.

Li Feng, looking at Mu Changtian in confusion, asked, "General Mu, what brings you to North City?"

Hearing Li Feng's words, Mu Changtian smiled and corrected, "General Li, you've mistaken me for someone else. My surname is Mo, not Mu."

At this clarification from Mu Changtian, Li Feng instantly realized something must have happened in the Capital City.

As a subordinate of Mu Changtian, how could he not recognize Mu Changtian and his two sons?

Li Feng finally understood why Mu Changtian had them accompany the North Prince in the first place—judging by the situation, it seems that the Hu Ben Army might have already been disbanded and reorganized.

Li Feng then asked, "General Mo, what has happened in the Capital City?"

Mu Changtian replied, "Duke Mu Residence is implicated in conspiring with the remnants of Chen Nation and has been exiled by the Emperor. Our Mo family also suffered because of this. We were attacked by assassins on the way to exile, but fortunately, the Prince sent someone to rescue us and brought us to North City."

Upon hearing Mu Changtian's words, Li Feng's mind went blank for a moment.

Lately, he had also noticed the changes in the Prince's Mansion, which recently gained many Ninth Grade experts, even one who seemed to be at Master Level. Li Feng had long recognized the North Prince's remarkable capabilities, so it wasn't strange to him that the North Prince could save Mu Changtian. What he found hard to believe was the audacity of the North Prince.

There is a difference between having the ability and having the courage to save someone.

Some people might have the ability to save others but not necessarily the courage to do so.

The Duke Mu Residence was eliminated because of a conflict with the Emperor, yet the North Prince dared to rescue the entire family under such circumstances, which showed the North Prince's tremendous boldness.

Had it been any other Prince, they would have feared getting involved and wouldn't dare to have any contact with Duke Mu Residence.

Li Feng thought to himself, could it be that the North Prince summoned them today because of General Mu?

Just as Li Feng was contemplating this, a maid from the Prince's Mansion came over and said to everyone, "The Prince has asked you to wait in his study." Hearing this, everyone immediately headed for Lu Chen's study.

After Lu Chen got up and had a simple breakfast, he headed to his study. Meanwhile, the people inside the study were still guessing why the North Prince had called for them.

Then, the figure of the North Prince appeared at the door, and everyone immediately saluted, saying, "We greet the North Prince!"

Lu Chen waved his hand to dismiss the formalities before walking straight to his desk and opened a map spread out on it.

Li Rui was the first to speak, "Prince, may I ask why you have gathered us here today?"