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Chapter 261: Let's see what this little man he's interested in really wants to do_2

Lin Xiuming performed a salute and said, "Thank you for your concern, Prince."

Lu Chen immediately turned around to leave, but as he reached the door, he suddenly thought of something, then turned his head to Lin Xiuming and said, "Oh, right, General Lin, please pass a message to Prime Minister Lin when you return. Tell him that I am very fond of Wanyun and once North Country has settled down, I will marry her."

Lin Xiuming was slightly stunned. The North Prince's declaration to marry Lin Wanyun meant that he had accepted the allegiance of their Lin Family.

"Certainly, Prince. I will tell my father upon my return."

Lu Chen didn't say anything more, then he turned his head again and left the room.

Lin Xiuming called out from behind him, "Farewell, Prince!"

After Lu Chen left the room, Lin Xiuming also returned to the military camp. He stayed in Yan County for one night, and the next day led the imperial army of twenty thousand back to the Capital city.

In the Great Wu Dynasty, within the Green Cloud Palace.

Wearing a red dress, Wu Junwan stood in the hall, her skirt slit to reveal her snowy long legs as a breeze wafted by, giving her a graceful and majestic demeanor.

With an intelligence report in hand, Wu Junwan's expression shifted constantly, as if deep in thought.

At that moment, she murmured, "All the lands under the heavens belong to the emperor, and all those who live within its borders are his subjects... Such grandeur, this young man has. Is he not afraid of death at all?"

It was clear that the intelligence report Wu Junwan held detailed events occurring in North City, especially about the reforms there.

Wu Junwan found it hard to believe that a mere Seignior dared to issue such a challenge against the Aristocratic Family and Scholar Officials class.

At this time, a female guard beside her asked, “Princess Junwan, do we still need to send someone to North Country?”

Wu Junwan turned to look at the guard and asked, “Why not send someone?” The female guard answered, “The North Prince’s actions have clearly angered the Great Xia Aristocratic Families and the class of Scholar Officials. Now that the war between Great Wu and Great Xia is close to ending, as soon as the war is over, those Aristocratic Families will probably seek to kill the North Prince.” Upon hearing the guard’s words, Wu Junwan smiled slightly and said, “I didn’t expect you to guess that the war is about to end as well.”

Both Great Wu and Great Xia had amassed large armies in Xiwu County, seemingly prepared for total war. The common people all believed that the war would be fought to the death.

But the higher-ups of both dynasties understood that the war at Xiwu County was the last battle. Once Great Wu captured Xiwu County, the war would come to an end.

Hearing Wu Junwan’s words, the guard immediately knelt halfway and said, “I should not make unwarranted comments on court affairs. Please punish me, Princess Junwan.”

Wu Junwan replied indifferently, “It doesn’t matter, these are trivial matters. Besides, you’re right, the war is indeed about to conclude. The Chu Family’s carriages have been entering the Imperial City one after another lately, obviously preparing for the end of the war.”

“Rise.”

The guard then stood up and said, “Thank you, Princess Junwan, for your forgiveness.”

Wu Junwan continued, “We still need to send more spies to North Country. The North Prince isn’t that simple.”

“If the North Prince dares to propose laws on land ownership at a time like this, it shows he has made preparations.”

“I don’t believe he will be easily assassinated. If he were to die so easily, everything he has done would be nothing but a joke,” she said.

Having said that, Wu Junwan looked up at the sky outside the great hall and continued with a smile, “I’m getting more and more interested in this young man.”

A mere Seignior daring to challenge all the Aristocratic Families and Scholar Officials of his kingdom – this wasn’t something an ordinary person could do. Wu Junwan was curious about who gave the North Prince the courage, possibly the mysterious superpower supporting him?

Was this superpower not worried about their chess piece, the North Prince, being taken care of? Or was it intentional, letting the North Prince act this way to aggravate the Aristocratic Families and Scholar Officials of the Great Xia Dynasty for some ulterior motive?

While Wu Junwan was contemplating these things, a maid rushed hurriedly into the Green Cloud Palace.

“Greetings, Princess Junwan!”

Seeing the maid’s flustered appearance, Wu Junwan asked curiously, “Xiaodie, what’s happened?”

The maid quickly said, “Good news, Princess Junwan. Mr. Chai has been reinstated to his position, and the Emperor has appointed him as the envoy to Great Xia.”

Chai Jiliang had always had good relations with Wu Junwan, and even the maids in the Green Cloud Palace could tell that he held a special feeling for the Princess Junwan, which is why he remained unwed.

Hearing the maid’s words, Wu Junwan smiled slightly, then said, “It seems that the war is indeed coming to an end. It’s just that we don’t know where those Heavy Cavalry from North Country have gone. There’s still no news of them.”

Wu Junwan had been keeping an eye on North Country's movements, particularly those of the Heavy Cavalry. She had dispatched numerous scouts to gather information, but up until now, the Heavy Cavalry had not appeared again in North Country, which made Wu Junwan worried that they might suddenly emerge on the battlefield and catch the Great Wu army by surprise. However, with the war almost over and that force not appearing on the battlefields of both dynasties, it likely meant that the troops had not headed to the front lines of the dynastic war.

Chapter 262: Let's see what this little man he's interested in really wants to do_3

As for where they went, that remains unknown.

Just then, another maid entered the hall, "Greetings, Princess Junwan."

Before Wu Junwan could ask what it was about, the maid took the initiative to say, "Princess Junwan, the Yue Emperor has sent a letter, inviting you to visit the Da Yue Dynasty!"

Hearing this, Wu Junwan smiled faintly. She hadn't seen her dear sister in a long time, and as the Da Yue Dynasty was relatively close to the North Country, if conditions allowed, she could take advantage of her visit to Da Yue to also drop by the North Country to see what this interesting young man was really up to.

A month quickly passed, and the war between Great Wu and Great Xia was nearing its end.

The two sides had fought for a month in Xiwu County, with each losing hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

In the battle of Xiwu County, Prince Lu Shuyun performed extremely well. He led a cavalry of five thousand men and flanked a Great Wu army of over a hundred thousand from behind. With the assistance of Great Xia's forces, Prince Lu Shuyun led his soldiers to shatter Great Wu's full-scale assault.

Furthermore, Prince Lu Shuyun, along with tens of thousands of soldiers, drove all the Great Wu soldiers that had entered Xiwu County completely out of the region, shattering Great Wu's ambitions. Great Wu no longer dared to attack rashly and ultimately had to agree to Great Xia's proposals, sending Prime Minister Chai Jiliang himself as the envoy to Great Xia...

Of course, all the above was fabricated by the people of Great Xia. What the situation actually was, the high-ranking officials of both sides were very clear.

It might look like Great Xia repelled Great Wu's offensive, but in reality, it was merely because the high echelons of the two great dynasties reached some agreements that Great Wu withdrew from Xiwu County. And the Chu Family, which played an extremely important role in this war, was instrumental in brokering the peace terms.

The Great Xia Dynasty, Capital city.

On the way home, Lin Xiuming often heard people discussing the appointment of the Crown Prince.

He was aware of the recent events in Xiwu County and felt it was almost dreamlike, thinking to himself, were the sons of the Sun Emperor all so formidable?

Princes who had never fought in wars before, once on the battlefield, they became so valiant?

Was it the same for the North Prince, the Qii Prince?

Upon returning to the Lin Mansion, the servants immediately ran to inform Lin Gaoyuan, "Master, the eldest young master has returned!"

After hearing the servant's voice, Lin Gaoyuan came out from his room.

Seeing Lin Xiuming's listless appearance, Lin Gaoyuan asked, "Xiuming, how did you manage the tasks I assigned you?"

Lin Xiuming came back to his senses and said, "Father, let's talk in my room."

The father and son then entered a private room and had all the servants stay ten meters away from it.

Once inside, Lin Xiuming said, "Father, the North Prince said that once the North Country stabilizes, he will marry Yun."

Upon hearing this, Lin Gaoyuan immediately revealed a smile.

“It looks like the North Prince has accepted us.”

At that moment, Lin Xiuming said, “Father, on my way back, I heard people on the streets discussing the Crown Prince’s appointment. Could it be that Prince Lu Shuyun really will be made Crown Prince?”

“If we now side with the North Prince, aren’t we seeking our own doom?”

Lin Gaoyuan snorted coldly and said, “The nature of his military achievement is well understood by the court officials. It might fool the commoners, but even if His Majesty does appoint Prince Lu Shuyun as Crown Prince, his position will still be unstable.”

Lin Xiuming said, “By the way, father, from what I heard from the North Prince, he doesn’t seem to intend to participate in the succession struggle. What he seems more inclined to do is to take the throne directly, which isn’t good news for our Lin Family.”

Hearing this, Lin Gaoyuan said indifferently, “The Emperor has never favored the North Prince, and with no power in court, it was impossible for him to become the Crown Prince to begin with.”

“So for the North Prince, the only remaining option is to raise an army.”

Hearing his father say this, Lin Xiuming was shocked. It turned out his father knew all along that the North Prince was planning a rebellion.

Lin Xiuming quickly said, “Father, isn’t the risk of aligning ourselves with the North Prince too great?”

Lin Gaoyuan stroked his beard and said, “Too great? I doubt it. Whether the North Prince succeeds or not, it will only bring benefits, not harm, to us.”

“If the North Prince is successful, I will still be a high official by the Emperor’s side; if he fails, I will still be a high official by the Emperor’s side.”

“And given what I know about His Majesty, it’s unlikely that Great Xia will remain stable for long, or else I wouldn’t have allowed you to secretly meet with the North Prince after he caused such a big stir.”

“It may look like His Majesty compromised to end the war between the two great dynasties, but the Aristocratic Families’ act of instigating the war has completely crossed His Majesty’s bottom line.”

At this point, Lin Gaoyuan couldn’t help but sigh.

“In the peace negotiations between Great Wu and Great Xia, Great Xia will have to give up at least three counties’ worth of land. The lands that once belonged to the Chen Nation have essentially been given away. As an Emperor who dreamed of expanding his territory since he was young, to give away all the lands he fought for, I don’t believe His Majesty can bear it any longer.”

“Even the most temperate of emperors have moments of irrational rage.”

“Great Xia is about to descend into chaos!”

Chapter 263: Opportunity in the North Countryi

After hearing his father’s words, Lin Xiuming felt like he understood, but not quite.

He was just a military general who normally spent most of his days training troops, rarely getting involved in politics, so he didn’t understand many things. However, he believed his father’s choice was correct. His father wouldn’t likely lead the Lin Family into an abyss.

Lin Xiuming continued, “Father, there’s another thing. I suspect that the North Country’s heavy cavalry has not been annihilated.”

“Instead, it’s possible that the North Fre King was wiped out by the North Prince.”

Hearing this, Lin Gaoyuan laughed and said, “I’ve never believed from the start that North Country’s heavy cavalry was annihilated. If the heavy cavalry of the North Country had truly been obliterated, the North Prince wouldn’t have the opportunity to reform North Country.”

At this point, Lin Gaoyuan looked at Lin Xiuming, “Tell me about what you saw in North Country, and why you suspect the heavy cavalry hasn’t been annihilated.”

Lin Xiuming then recounted what he had seen and heard in North Country to Lin Gaoyuan. After listening to his son, Lin Gaoyuan fell into deep thought.

It took a while before Lin Gaoyuan came back to his senses and said, “The North Prince’s approach is faultless; now is indeed the time to conceal strength. Those barbarian cavalymen you saw in Tianguang City are likely real barbarians, but they’re not from the North Fre King’s tribe, instead, they belong to the Sky Wolf King’s tribe.”

“The North Prince intends to blur the lines, making you believe that the North Fre King still exists.”

As a cunning old fox who had spent decades in the court, Lin Gaoyuan immediately grasped the actual situation in North Country.

At that moment, Lin Xiuming spoke, “Father, if we can discern that the North Country’s heavy cavalry might still exist, other people probably can too.”

“By concealing North Country’s military strength at this time, won’t people become aware of the North Prince’s intentions?”

Lin Gaoyuan replied indifferently, “Even if they become aware, what can they do? With so many unresolved matters within Great Sum, the Sum Emperor would not possibly focus his attention on him.”

“Right, for the time being, you should stay at home. If there is no assignment, try not to interact with outsiders, especially those from aristocratic families.”

“Lately, quite a few large ships have been heading south. I reckon the emperor is almost ready.”

Hearing Lin Gaoyuan’s words, Lin Xiuming asked curiously, “Almost ready for what?”

Lin Gaoyuan glanced at Lin Xiuming and then said, "The Southern aristocratic families sparked this war, causing the emperor to lose so much land. Do you think the emperor would just tolerate that and do nothing?"

Lin Xiuming instantly understood, then said, "If the emperor sends troops South, then the Southern aristocratic families should have noticed by now, no?"

Lin Gaoyuan snorted and said, "The officials from the Southern faction are still immersed in the joy of victory. They think that the emperor has compromised and don't have time to pay attention to the merchant ships at sea. If it weren't for my responsibility in managing the grain prices, I probably wouldn't have noticed the sudden increase in merchant ships either."

"Of course, concealing these merchant ships must require the cooperation of some Southern aristocratic family. Otherwise, the sudden appearance of so many merchant ships would likely have been noticed by other families. As for who is helping the emperor, we will only find out after everything is over."

"All right, let's not talk about this anymore. You must be tired from the journey, so rest well today."

With that, Lin Gaoyuan stopped discussing further with Lin Xiuming. Meanwhile.

North Country.

Winter had passed and spring had arrived. The ice and snow began to melt, and the weather grew increasingly warmer.

It was yet another sunny day. Lu Chen stood in the yard, basking in the sun while looking at the ledger in his hands.

At that moment, Mu Zixuan, dressed in a purple cotton garment, came to Lu Chen's side.

With a smile, Lu Chen said to Mu Zixuan, "Consort, I never expected that in just one winter's time, you've earned me ten million taels of silver."

Compared to a few months ago, items like perfumed soaps were no longer profitable. The true earnings came from coal and stoves; the carbon balls made by the North Prince Mansion this winter sold as many as were made.

Mu Zixuan also established a commercial guild during the winter, allowing any caravan that joined the guild to buy goods from the North Prince Mansion at low prices to resell to other countries or domains.

Because of the guild's establishment, the North Prince Mansion's earnings accelerated, and caravans from Yan County kept coming in droves. Now, the roads leading to North City were firmly packed by the wheels of carriages.

Mu Zixuan replied, "It's all thanks to the Prince's methods of making money, not so much due to me."

Embracing Mu Zixuan's delicate body and caressing her slightly swollen belly, Lu Chen said, "How can it not be related to you? Even with the ways to make money, someone has to know how to use them."

"With so much silver, North Country can finally thrive in construction."

Seeing Lu Chen so happy, Mu Zixuan felt very joyous inside as well. Being needed by the North Prince brought her great satisfaction.

Just then, a maid entered the courtyard and said, "Prince, Commander Wu is looking for you."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen immediately let go of Mu Zixuan, "Consort, you rest well; I must be going."

Mu Zixuan replied softly, "Mhm, take care, Prince."

Lu Chen then headed to the study, where Wu Yuan was already waiting at the doorstep. Upon seeing Lu Chen, Wu Yuan first saluted, then handed over the intelligence report he was holding.

Lu Chen took the report and, after a glance, couldn't help but reveal a hint of a smile.

“Indeed, I guessed right, the war has truly ended.”

“Three counties’ lands, my imperial father is indeed generous.”

At this point, Lu Chen said to Wu Yuan, “Immediately gather Li Rui and the officials of Yan County, since the Hall of Political Affairs has been built, it should be put to use.”

Wu Yuan immediately replied, “Yes, Prince.”

About one and a half hours later, the officials of Yan County were all present in the newly built Hall of Political Affairs.

The Hall of Political Affairs was very large, spanning hundreds of square meters, and currently, there were very few officials in North Country, with most of them holding several positions at once. Thus, the hall seemed very spacious.

After Lu Chen sat down on the throne at the top, the officials immediately performed a salutation and said, “Greetings to the Prince, long live the Prince, long, long live!”

Lu Chen “hmm”ed, then said, “Everyone, please sit.”

Lu Chen did not follow the customs of the Great Sum’s court. At the Great Court Assembly, officials had to stand, but they could sit when discussing state affairs, of course, they would kneel as they sat.

After the officials had taken their kneeling seats, Lu Chen directly said, “The imperial court has already negotiated a truce with Great Wu. To my knowledge, the conditions include the two counties currently occupied by Great Wu plus Xiwu County.”

Upon hearing this, the officials in the hall immediately started discussing among themselves.

Many of them had thought that the war between the two great dynasties would continue, and were surprised that it had ended so quickly.

At that moment, Li Rui said, “Prince, this is good news for North Country!” Hearing this, Lu Chen asked, “Lord Li, why do you say that?”

Li Rui replied, “Xiwu County has been Great Sum’s land since its creation. Its population consists mainly of Great Sum’s common folk, and they hold deep affection for Great Sum. Moreover, with Great Wu engaging in war year after year, their soldiers looting and plundering without restraint, the moment Xiwu County’s common folk learn that the imperial court plans to cede them to the Great Wu Dynasty, many will surely seek to migrate eastwards!”

“But there is no spare land in the east for them, and once they leave their homeland, they will become refugees.”

“And it just so happens that North Country is in need of more people!”

At this point, Mu Changtian also said, “This is indeed a good opportunity for North Country to attract more people.”

“However...”

“I believe North Country should not be overly eager to take in refugees.”

“Xiwu County will undoubtedly experience a massive eastward exodus, putting tremendous pressure on other Seigniors’ lands. When that time comes, Seigniors will naturally beseech North Country to take in refugees.”

Then, Lu Chen looked towards Qin Yushan and asked, “Commander Qin, what is your opinion on this matter?”

Now that there were too few civil officials, with only a handful able to speak up, Lu Chen had no choice but to involve Qin Yushan as well.

Qin Yushan pondered and then said, “Prince, your servant thinks what General Mo said makes sense. We need not be overly hasty in taking in refugees, but we can first send people to the three counties soon to be ceded to Great Wu to spread the benefits of joining North Country.”

“For instance, if they join North Country, they can receive land and seed grain. Your servant believes that upon hearing they can get land for joining North Country, the common folk of those three counties will definitely choose to come to North Country.”

Lu Chen said, “Very well, let’s do as Commander Qin suggested.”

“Additionally, I have convened you for some matters regarding reform that need discussion.”

At this point, Lu Chen looked towards Mu Changtian, “General Mo, I have reviewed your military reform proposal, and I have made some additions and adjustments to your suggestion. The military officers present should listen to my reform proposal, and if there is anything unclear, feel free to raise questions...”

Then, Lu Chen spoke to a Jinyiwei Guard by his side, saying, “Read.”

Immediately afterward, the Jinyiwei Guard took out a scroll and began to read.

For the following hour, they discussed several issues concerning North Country’s reform.

Meanwhile.

In Yan County, a tavern opened by Mysterious Moon Palace.

In a private room by the window, a man clad in coarse clothes was drinking and waiting for someone.

In a short while, a man wearing a bamboo hat entered the room.

After closing the door of the private room, the man in the bamboo hat walked straight over and sat down across from the man in coarse clothes.

The man in the bamboo hat then spoke up, “There’s more than one Grandmaster in the North Prince Mansion. Today, I saw two Grandmasters entering and leaving the North Prince Mansion. Although they were deliberately concealing their aura, I still detected them.”

“It might be difficult to make a move.”

Upon hearing the bamboo hat man’s words, Su Teng finished the cup of wine in his hand and then chuckled, “Since I, the Pavilion Master, have personally arrived, the mission cannot fail. Just two Grandmasters, they are of no consequence.”

“The Wang Family can hardly wait anymore. We must take action tonight.”

Chapter 264: After Tonight, No More North Prince Mansion

After the morning court session, Lu Chen had not left the Hall of Political Affairs when a Jinyiwei Guard hurried over and delivered a piece of intelligence to him.

Lu Chen took the intelligence from the Jinyiwei Guard’s hand, glanced at it, and his eyebrows furrowed slightly.

Martial artists of Master Level such as Su Teng were spotted by the Brocade Guard upon entering Yan County, so no matter where Su Teng and his group went, they would be closely monitored by the Brocade Guard scattered throughout the county. Every move they made was under the watchful eye of the Brocade Guard.

Su Teng’s information had already been in Lu Chen’s study for half a month. The Brocade Guard had infiltrated all walks of life; finding out what tasks Spirit Martial Tower had recently accepted was not difficult.

Lu Chen glanced at the intelligence in his hand again, and then muttered to himself, “It seems those fellows can’t wait any longer. Since that’s the case, let’s take care of them before anything else.”

Having said this, Lu Chen turned to the Jinyiwei Guard who had brought the intelligence and said, “Summon General Mu, General Wenren, and General Xuanyuan to my study. Also, tell General Xuanyuan to mobilize some Black Cavalry to seal off Yan County.”

Upon hearing this, the Jinyiwei Guard reminded, “Prince, deploying the Black Cavalry might expose the fact that the Black Cavalry of the North Country has not been destroyed. Recently, many spies from enemy states have arrived in Yan County.”

Lu Chen replied indifferently, “Just mobilize a portion of the Black Cavalry. I have never told the court that the Black Cavalry was completely annihilated.”

When Lu Chen wrote the battle report, he only mentioned that over forty thousand of the North City’s Black Cavalry had died in battle, not that the entire Black Cavalry was wiped out. It was to ensure that he could use the Black Cavalry at a critical moment.

Of course, to others, the death of over forty thousand Black Cavalry soldiers, with only some wounded left, was virtually no different from annihilation.

The Jinyiwei Guard said no more, “Understood.”

“I shall take my leave.”

Afterward, the Jinyiwei Guard turned and went to deliver the orders.

The morning court session had just ended, and military generals like Mu Changtian and Xuanyuan Chen had not gone far. Upon hearing that Lu Chen needed to see them, they immediately returned to North Prince Mansion and came to Lu Chen’s study.

Upon seeing Lu Chen again, Mu Changtian asked curiously, “Prince, what has happened?”

Lu Chen said, “The assassins sent by the Aristocratic Families have already arrived in Yan County, and they plan to attack the North Prince Mansion tonight.”

Hearing this, Mu Changtian was taken aback, but he quickly realized that ever since Lu Chen enacted the law to reclaim landownership rights, he knew that this day would come.

The Aristocratic Families would never allow the emergence of a trend whereby land within Great Sum returned to royal ownership. Only with the North Prince dead would they find peace.

Mu Changtian asked, “Prince, the Brocade Guard must have confirmed the assassins’ location, right?”

Since Lu Chen had raised the fact that the assassins had already reached Yan County, it meant the Brocade Guard had discovered their whereabouts. Otherwise, Lu Chen would not have gathered all these military generals.

Lu Chen nodded and said, "Their location has been confirmed. I had intended to deal with them when they attacked the North Prince Mansion tonight." "However, upon further thought, I have pregnant wives and children in the mansion. The commotion will frighten them if it gets too big, so I've decided to take action ahead of time and eliminate them all."

Mu Changtian said, "Prince, where are those assassins now? Let's take our troops and deal with them right now."

Lu Chen promptly called over the Jinyiwei Guard who was monitoring the assassins and then assigned tasks to Mu Changtian and the others.

There were three groups of assassins in Yan County now, and to avoid alerting them, Lu Chen planned to take care of them all in one fell swoop.

At this moment, Qin Yushan said, "Prince, it's still daylight. If we move now, some of your weapons might not be usable, and they could be seen by spies from other countries or the common people."

Qin Yushan knew that Lu Chen had powerful weapons like grenades and the Barrett at his disposal, which certainly would be used against these assassins. Using such things in broad daylight in the city would inevitably be noticed by the public.

As the word spread from one to ten, and from ten to a hundred, the secrets of North Country would be revealed.

Qin Yushan continued, "I suggest arranging soldiers to ambush on their inevitable path, then act at night."

Lu Chen thought it over. The news he had received indicated that the assassins would act at night, so ambushing them then would indeed be the best choice.

Lu Chen said, "Commander Qin's consideration is reasonable. Let's deploy the soldiers first and make our move tonight. However, this might catch the assassins' attention, so be very cautious when moving the soldiers."

Mu Changtian said, "Rest assured, Prince. I'll have soldiers disguise themselves as merchants entering the city. There have been many merchant caravans in Yan County lately, so it's unlikely the assassins will notice anything unusual." "Even if they do sense something's off, they'll probably assume these soldiers disguised as merchants are just like them, here to assassinate you."

Lu Chen thought for a moment and then said, "Alright, go and prepare."

Together they responded, "Yes, Prince!"

After they left, Lu Chen immediately went to the courtyard where Chen Wanrong resided.

At that time, Lin Wanyun and Chen Wanrong were sitting in the pavilion drinking tea. The Dragon and Phoenix Tea from the Prince's Mansion was very good, and it had both a refreshing and mind-awakening effect. They had grown fond of the flavor of Dragon and Phoenix Tea after drinking it..

Chapter 265 - After Tonight, No More North Prince Mansion_2

The two were sipping tea when suddenly, the voice of a maid came from the entrance to the courtyard, "Greetings to the Prince!"

Hearing the maid's words, they thought they were hallucinating, as Lu Chen had never before visited this yard.

At that moment, they saw a figure at the courtyard entrance and realized it was indeed Lu Chen, swiftly rising from their stone stools.

They were very surprised, never expecting Lu Chen to actively visit their courtyard. What was Lu Chen planning to do?

Could it be that he had encountered some trouble and sought help from the Mysterious Moon Palace?

Chen Wanrong took the initiative to greet him, "I've seen the Prince."

Lu Chen gave a slight smile, then said, "Miss Chen, there's no need for formalities."

At that point, Lin Wanyun asked, "Chen'er, do you need the Palace Master for anything?"

While Lin Wanyun had already helped Chen Wanrong get acquainted with Lu Chen, the two hadn't had a recent meeting, and Lu Chen, who had many women, seemed not to have focused his attentions on Chen Wanrong.

Chen Wanrong, lacking experience in seducing men, also didn't know how to stir Lu Chen's heart, leaving their relationship at an impasse.

Looking at Chen Wanrong with a smile, Lu Chen said, "Miss Chen, I have a favor to ask you, if that's possible."

Upon hearing this, Chen Wanrong and Lin Wanyun were taken aback.

Having been in North Country for so long, Lu Chen had never proactively asked for their help. The last time Lu Chen wanted the Mysterious Moon Palace to send disciples to teach North Country's common people to read, it was Lin Wanyun who took the initiative to approach Lu Chen. Had she not done so, Lu Chen might not have asked for their help.

Unexpectedly, today Lu Chen actively sought their assistance, which was a great opportunity for them as it meant they could finally interact more closely with Lu Chen, who had lowered his guard.

Chen Wanrong stated impassively, "Please speak, Prince."

Lu Chen said, "Recently, a number of assassins have arrived in North City, and I would like to ask Miss Chen to protect North Prince Mansion for a while."

Hearing this, Chen Wanrong replied without hesitation, "Alright."

Chen Wanrong's reply was so straightforward that it left Lu Chen unsure what to say next.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Then I'll trouble Miss Chen for this."

"I have other matters, so I won't disturb you any longer."

Having said that, Lu Chen turned to leave, and Chen Wanrong, still with no expression, said, "I bid farewell to the Prince."

Overhearing their conversation, Lin Wanyun was instantly stunned.

This...

So plain and direct, with no further conversation. How could a relationship develop this way?

However, Chen Wanrong couldn't be blamed, for she had never interacted much with men before, nor did she have such experience. Her manner of speaking had always been like this, consistent with everyone, a habit long since formed.

After Lu Chen left the courtyard, Lin Wanyun hurriedly followed him. Lu Chen had just planned to find Bai Qingqing to arrange tonight's guard duty when Lin Wanyun's voice came from behind him.

"Chen'er, wait a moment."

Hearing it was Lin Wanyun, Lu Chen immediately turned around, looking at her with puzzled eyes. "Madam Lin, is there something else?"

"It's nothing major," Lin Wanyun said. "I just wanted to remind you that you should have spoken with the Palace Master a bit more just now. It's not easy to find opportunities for face-to-face conversation."

Showing a look of regret, Lu Chen responded, "Sigh, I actually wanted to talk more with Miss Chen, but as you saw, we both tend to be rather direct speakers."

"Moreover, I get particularly nervous in her presence and don't know what to say."

Hearing Lu Chen's response, Lin Wanyun thought it over. Indeed, this was a significant issue. It seemed she would have to have a good talk with the Palace Master when she got back, advising her to be less terse when speaking with Lu Chen in the future.

While she had no experience cultivating romantic feelings with men, she also knew that to develop a relationship, there should be more communication.

Such brief interactions were clearly not conducive to fostering feelings. If Chen Wanrong continued in this manner, she feared it would be very difficult to afflict Lu Chen with a Love Worm.

With this thought, Lin Wanyun said, "Alright, I'll try to create more opportunities for you two to have face-to-face interactions in the future."

"You may have nothing to talk about now due to unfamiliarity, but perhaps it will get better after you get to know each other."

Lu Chen said, "Madam Lin is right."

"Madam Lin, I have other matters to attend to now, so I'll be leaving first."

Lin Wanyun said, "Alright, go ahead with your business, I won't hold you up any longer."

Afterward, Lu Chen turned and left.

Watching him leave, Lin Wanyun turned back to the courtyard to work on Chen Wanrong's mindset.

"Palace Master, this won't do. It took so much effort for the North Prince to approach you, but you only exchanged a few words. If this continues, he will definitely think you have no interest in him, and he might even give up eventually."

Upon hearing Lin Wanyun's words, Chen Wanrong's face still showed no expression, "Madam Lin, I don't know how to communicate with him."

Since leaving Chen Nation, Chen Wanrong had become silent, her facial expression rarely changing, as if she were indifferent to everything in the world.

Lin Wanyun was momentarily stunned by Chen Wanrong's response.

That made sense...

Chen Wanrong lacked experience in this regard, and her interactions with men were minimal. Even when she did interact, it was only to issue orders to the male disciples of the Mysterious Moon Palace.

She held a high position in the Mysterious Moon Palace and spoke to the male disciples in a commanding tone, using very few words. Asking her to speak as an equal with a man was indeed a difficult task.

But if things did not change, it would be hard for Lu Chen to fall completely for her. Her aloofness might even cause the North Prince to feel alienated. After all, he was a man of certain status and identity. How could he possibly feel good about her if she communicated with such a superior attitude?

Lin Wanyun thought to herself that she needed to find a way to give Chen Wanrong some training.

The reason Chen Wanrong remained this way was mainly due to her limited interaction with men. So, it made sense to increase her exposure to men rather than letting her stay in the courtyard all day.

Of course, as the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace, Chen Wanrong couldn't just interact with any man.

The best practice partner would be Lu Chen. Their goal was to make Lu Chen fall for her anyway, so they should find excuses for Chen Wanrong to be alone with him more often in the future.

That way, not only would Chen Wanrong be interacting with a man, but there was also the possibility that Lu Chen would become infatuated with her.

With this in mind, Lin Wanyun started to plan opportunities for the two of them to be alone together.

He said with a smile to the man wearing a bamboo hat opposite him, "It seems there are quite a few who want to assassinate the North Prince."

Su Teng, after all, was an Extreme Realm Master, and he could easily recognize the warriors disguised as merchants in the streets.

He didn't believe those people were coming for them. In his view, they were most likely fellow professionals, also aiming to assassinate the North Prince.

The North Prince had offended the entire Aristocratic Family and Scholar Officials class of Great Sum, so naturally, there were many who wanted him dead. Su Teng knew of no less than three forces with the same objective as them.

The man in the bamboo hat said indifferently, "Of course. How about we don't take action tonight and let those people test the waters first? Blood Moon Tower has failed against the North Prince Mansion multiple times, proving that the North Prince Mansion does possess some strength."

Su Teng lifted the cup in front of him, downed the wine in one go, and then said, "There's no need for that. Since everyone shares the same goal, we might as well join forces."

"Seeing how those people are in such a hurry, they're likely to take action tonight."

"If multiple forces act together, the North Prince Mansion will have no way to resist. By the time the troops from outside Yan County come in, everything will be over."

At that moment, the man in the bamboo hat said, "The Pavilion Master is right."

As he finished speaking, the man in the bamboo hat looked up at the setting sun outside the window, and continued, "After tonight, there will be no more North Prince Mansion."

Su Teng chuckled, picked up the knife by the table, and stood up, "The sun has set, it's time for us to get ready too."

Chapter 266: Something's wrong! Very wrong!_i

After nightfall, some people dressed in black clothes were constantly running through the streets, their speed was very fast, and almost every one of them had the strength above Ninth Grade.

Lu Chen stood in the room, glanced down at his all-black attire, and then said with a smile, "I never thought I, a prince, would stoop to wearing the kind of clothes a thief would wear."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin asked, "Chen'er, are you really going out?"

Chu Yuqin was also aware of tonight's operation and was somewhat worried inside because she had heard that among the people coming to assassinate Lu Chen, there might be an Extreme Realm Master.

An Extreme Realm Master was the closest existence to a Grandmaster, and once they made their move, even a Grandmaster might sometimes suffer at their hands.

Lu Chen turned his head to look at Chu Yuqin and said, "Madam Chu, rest assured, I won't make the first move. Xuanyuan Chen and Wenren Lie will take action when the time comes."

"Besides, there's only one Extreme Realm Master on the other side, it's not a big problem."

Chu Yuqin sighed slightly, not knowing what to say. She hated that her own strength was still too weak to protect Lu Chen.

At that moment, Chu Yuqin thought of Bai Qingqing and said, "Chen'er, let Bai come with you. In case of any danger, Bai can still block for you."

Lu Chen, while adjusting his cuffs, said, "No need, it's better for Bai to stay and protect Zixuan and the others in the Prince's Mansion. What I fear most is that an assassin might slip in."

Having said that, Lu Chen gazed into Chu Yuqin's eyes and said, "Madam Chu, I leave everything in the Prince's Mansion to you. I'm going now."

Chu Yuqin said, "Alright, rest assured, I will protect Zixuan and the others."

Lu Chen said no more, immediately covered his mouth with a piece of black cloth, and in an instant, he turned into the appearance of a black-clothed assassin.

Since the operation was on the streets rather than inside the Prince's Mansion tonight, Lu Chen was also worried about being recognized, so they all dressed uniformly in black nightclothes.

However, they had white cloth strips on their wrists, allowing them to be easily identified as allies.

The moonlight was very bright tonight; even without the brightness of lanterns, people could still see the road clearly.

At this moment, some shadows were swiftly moving across the rooftops of the common people's houses, and just as these shadows were about to reach the North Prince Mansion, suddenly, some other individuals in black stopped these shadows in their tracks.

The two groups descended from the rooftops and faced off in the street.

Seeing those people in black at a distance, Su Teng directly said, "Gentlemen, our goal is likely the same, so why don't we act together?"

"We just need the North Prince dead. As for the disposal of his body, you can do as you please."

Most assassins needed to bring back the heads of their targets to complete their tasks, but the Spirit Martial Tower didn't need the North Prince's head, they just needed him dead. So, Su Teng was offering up the body to avoid conflict with these people.

However, after hearing Su Teng's words, those in black remained unmoved.

Su Teng immediately felt that something was amiss; even if these people didn't agree with his proposal, it didn't make sense for them to say nothing at all. Something was seriously wrong!

Big trouble!

Just then, on the rooftops far away, suddenly appeared some individuals in black wielding bows and arrows.

Before Su Teng could speak, those in black loosed their arrows.

Looking at the sky filled with arrows, Su Teng instantly realized that these people in black clothes were not assassins coming to kill the North Prince, they were likely his protectors.

Su Teng immediately said, "We've been discovered, attack with full force!"

Upon hearing Su Teng's words, the assassins of Spirit Martial Tower immediately rushed toward the people in black not far away, but those in black didn't immediately counterattack. Instead, they pulled out some round iron balls and threw them at the assassins of Spirit Martial Tower.

The assassins from Spirit Martial Tower thought these were some kind of hidden weapons and, as they were about to split the iron balls in half with their swords or kick them back, the iron balls exploded with a thunderous roar, instantly taking down a large number of Spirit Martial Tower assassins, even Ninth Grade martial artists were killed on the spot.

Seeing this, Su Teng frowned, he hadn't expected these iron balls to be so terrifyingly powerful.

Something was off!

Very off!

After all, Su Teng was the Pavilion Master of Spirit Martial Tower, and he didn't reach his position solely through strength.

Su Teng immediately said, "Retreat!"

Hearing Su Teng's command, the assassins from Spirit Martial Tower quickly began to retreat, no longer intending to press forward.

Su Teng had basically guessed why North City had been able to defeat three hundred thousand soldiers of the Barbarian Tribe, and how Blood Moon Tower had suffered a setback at the North Prince Mansion.

North City had already obtained a terrifying weapon, and it was one that could easily kill a Ninth Grade Martial Artist. If it were a matter of human strength, even a Grandmaster might not be able to easily kill a Ninth Grade Martial Artist.

Looking at the other side, it seemed that even ordinary people could use this weapon, the lethality and killing effect of which were far above those of a Grandmaster-level fighter.

Su Teng felt like cursing inside. He had thought this would be an extremely simple mission, yet he had stumbled upon the North City's big secret.

Now he was in trouble; having seen North City's secret weapon, they certainly wouldn't let them leave easily.

Even though he felt somewhat troubled, Su Teng was not overly worried in his heart. After all, he was a fighter of the Master Realm, and even if he couldn't assassinate the North Prince, he still could escape with ease under these circumstances.

Seeing Su Teng and the assassins from the Spirit Martial Tower trying to flee, the soldiers from the North Country immediately followed them and continued to throw grenades at them.

Su Teng felt that if things continued this way, maybe they wouldn't even reach the city gates before all the assassins he brought were killed by that mysterious weapon.

He immediately said to the assassin beside him, "Give me all the broken silver you have on you."

Hearing this, the assassins around him immediately took out their broken silver and handed it to Su Teng.

Su Teng took their broken silver, then turned his head and, with his fingers pinching the pieces, he seemed to throw them casually. The next moment, all the grenades flying towards them exploded in midair.

Seeing this, Lu Chen not far away was stunned. Was this the power of an Extreme Realm Master? It was terrifying.

He had also reached the Master Realm, so why didn't he possess such strength?

In fact, if it had been Lu Chen, he could have easily knocked down those flying grenades with stones. However, Lu Chen had depleted his physical strength on his wives and concubines and had hardly experienced real combat. Therefore, he did not understand his own strength at all.

Seeing those people getting further and further away, Lu Chen frowned slightly. This wouldn't do. If that guy could knock down all those grenades with silver, could he also dodge his Barrett bullets?

Thinking of this, Lu Chen glanced at the assassins from the Spirit Martial Tower. Along with Su Teng, there were a total of three Grandmasters. It seemed that the Aristocratic Family had really invested heavily this time.

Lu Chen then took out his Barrett. Su Teng, being an Extreme Realm Master, could definitely dodge the bullets, but the other two ordinary Grandmasters might not be able to.

Lu Chen planned to deal with the other two Grandmasters first and then take care of Su Teng.

After taking out his Barrett, Lu Chen quickly aimed at a Grandmaster beside Su Teng and immediately pulled the trigger.

The Grandmaster had very strong perception. After experiencing the power of the grenades, he sensed the danger and dodged immediately, without trying to catch or deflect the bullet with his hand or knife.

The next moment, the bullet from the Barrett hit the ground, creating a huge hole.

Seeing the hole in the ground, Su Teng said coldly, "I didn't expect someone to be using hidden weapons from afar. It seems they had guessed we would come, so they laid an ambush here."

Seeing the first Grandmaster dodge, Lu Chen didn't rush. He continued to aim at that Grandmaster.

It was no surprise that a Grandmaster with strong perception could dodge a bullet.

To hit a Grandmaster, either the Grandmaster had to be arrogant, or the Grandmaster had to be restrained by others, unable to use all of their attention to sense the dangers around them.

The assassins from the Spirit Martial Tower were obviously not arrogant. If they had been, they wouldn't have retreated as soon as they saw the grenades.

Since grenades and Barrett bullets couldn't harm them, it was time for Qin Yushan and his men to enter the scene.

Just as the assassins from the Spirit Martial Tower were about to run out of the street they were on, suddenly, at the intersection of this street and another, a man dragging a big saber walked out slowly.

The man didn't wear the black night clothes like Lu Chen's; under the moonlight, his face was clearly visible.

Seeing the man not far away, Su Teng's heart jolted. He immediately ordered everyone to stop. Your favorite stories on [n/o/\(v\)e/lbin\(.\).com](http://n/o/(v)e/lbin(.).com)

At that moment, Qin Yushan spoke, "Pavilion Master Su, when did you start liking to hide? Is it because the scar on your face is too obvious, and you're afraid of being seen by others?"

Hearing this familiar voice, Su Teng tore off the cloth from his face and looked at Qin Yushan, sneering, "Blood Demon Mad Blade, interesting. You sure have a big life, not even dying after falling off a cliff!"

The two had fought before, and the scar on Su Teng's face was caused by Qin Yushan. After that battle, Qin Yushan fell off a cliff, disappearing from the martial world ever since.

Everyone thought Qin Yushan was dead, and that was what Su Teng believed, too. After all, with so many wounds and falling from such a high cliff, it was impossible to survive. Su Teng never expected to see Qin Yushan again in the North Country.

Qin Yushan put the big saber on his shoulder and said, "The heavens didn't let me die, what could I do?"

Su Teng replied coldly, "Last time I didn't kill you, this time I'll send you on your way!"

As he spoke, the knife in Su Teng's hand emitted a sonorous sound, and Qin Yushan's big saber on his shoulder, as if sensing it, resonated and also started to tremble nonstop.

Seeing this, Lu Chen suddenly became interested. He was no longer in a rush to shoot and simply squatted on the rooftop, watching.

Chapter 267 Golden Silk Soft Armor_1

Su Teng and Qin Yushan did not immediately set out. In a duel between experts, victory or defeat often comes in an instant.

Their blades seemed to tremble ceaselessly in their hands, looking as if they were about to fly out of their grasp.

At that moment, a cold wind blew by, wildly fluttering their clothes.

Then, at a certain instant, both of them moved at the same time, kicking back and creating pits in the ground, their bodies turning into afterimages as they charged at each other.

The next moment, the two afterimages intersected, sparks flying from where they met, with their blades reflecting the cold moonlight and dazzling onlookers' eyes.

Witnessing the flashes of blades darting past swiftly, Lu Chen couldn't help but exclaim, "What fast blades!"

Both their blades moved extremely quickly; if Lu Chen hadn't reached the Master Realm, he probably wouldn't have been able to see the slashes they wielded.

In just a matter of seconds, they unleashed blades at each other a hundred times over.

After a brief exchange, they both unleashed their strongest techniques almost simultaneously.

Thousand Waves!!!

Ten Thousand Lights Slash!!!

The blade energy Qin Yushan released was like successive waves rolling sideways towards Su Teng, while Su Teng's blade energy was like countless blades of light chopping vertically at Qin Yushan.

The collision of their blade energies created an invisible wave that sent them both flying backward.

Both of them half-knelt, using their blades thrust into the ground to stabilize their bodies.

In less than a minute, both had suffered serious injuries.

It was then that Su Teng spit out blood and said, "I really didn't expect that, not only did falling off the cliff not kill you, but it actually increased your strength."

"But do you honestly think you can stop us alone?"

No sooner had Su Teng finished speaking than two other Masters behind him also took action, sprinting towards Qin Yushan, preparing for a two-on-one assault.

However, just at that moment, the street suddenly grew eerily silent, and a chilling breeze swept through, raising goosebumps.

The two Masters immediately halted their advance, feeling a sense of immense crisis within them.

Clearly, there was another powerful figure nearby.

At that moment, from the end of a forked street, came the "clippity-clop" of horse hooves.

The sound grew closer, but no one could be seen at the end of the street.

Yet as the sound of hooves became clearer, a tall dark figure emerged in the distance; just then, a massive hammer flew out of nowhere, striking one of the Masters in the chest before he could react, sending him flying.

Seeing this scene, Lu Chen was somewhat surprised, not expecting Wenren Lie's hammer to be so formidable that even a Master Level Martial Artist couldn't dodge it.

As the assassin from the Spirit Martial Tower was sent flying, Wenren Lie, mounted on a tall black horse and clad in black armor, appeared before everyone.

On seeing Wenren Lie, Su Teng felt a chill run down his spine. He didn't recognize the burly man before him, but he felt a profound threat from him.

The man was even more muscular than he was; his armor bulged with his muscles, making him appear almost twice Su Teng's size.

Hearing this, everyone's attention was drawn to the young man.

The aura emanating from this man was also unnerving; although Su Teng could sense the man was only a Grandmaster, his presence seemed more formidable than his own.

Spitting out another mouthful of blood, Su Teng stood up from the ground, knowing that they were likely to meet their end here today. To escape, he realized they would have to fight with all they had.

It was at this moment that Lu Chen came down from the rooftop.

If Barrett can't hit from afar, then close the distance.

The street was now dead silent, with both sides seeming to have entered a standoff. Then, a series of clapping sounds echoed not far away.

Soon after, a young man dressed in a dark nighthawk suit entered Su Teng's and the others' line of sight.

As the young man clapped, he said, "Brilliant! Absolutely brilliant!"

Hearing this, everyone's attention was drawn to the young man.

Seeing the young man, Su Teng's eyebrows furrowed. Another Grandmaster!

Three Grandmasters appeared at once!

At first, they had thought North Prince Mansion only had two Grandmasters. Su Teng had thought that with his own Extreme Realm Master strength, he could easily hold off those two Grandmasters, but unexpectedly, Qin Yushan alone was able to match him evenly.

This was serious trouble!

North Prince Mansion had hidden its capabilities too deeply.

Wait a second, are these people really from North Prince Mansion?

With this thought, Su Teng then said, "Blood Demon Mad Blade, I'm curious, how did someone as proud as you become a dog for North Prince Mansion, following a useless Prince?"

"You should be well aware that North Prince has offended every Aristocratic Family and Scholar Officials in Great Sum; his days are numbered."

Upon hearing Su Teng's words, Qin Yushan coldly replied, "North Prince is my lord; how dare you, a band of thieves, insult him at will!"

As he spoke, Qin Yushan gripped his blade tightly, ready to engage Su Teng in a final battle to the death.

Hearing Qin Yushan's words, Su Teng was taken aback. So they really were from North Prince Mansion?

He had initially thought that Qin Yushan was seeking revenge, and that these people had no connection with North Prince Mansion. However, Qin Yushan's response pretty much confirmed that they were indeed North Prince Mansion's people.

Chapter 268: Golden Silk Soft Armor_2

At this moment, Lu Chen said indifferently, “Commander Qin, it’s time to end this.”

Lu Chen never liked to dilly-dally, and no one knew if there might be assassins heading to the North Prince Mansion soon. He planned to deal with these people and then return immediately.

Qin Yushan immediately replied, “Yes, Your Highness!”

Su Teng paused when he heard Qin Yushan address the young man as His Highness.

His Highness?

Does that mean the young man is the North Prince?

How could that be possible?

The North Prince is only seventeen this year, isn’t he? How could he become a Grandmaster at such a young age!

The martial arts prodigies he knew of were at most Eighth Grade at the age of seventeen.

No way, this young man is definitely not the North Prince. It must be Commander Qin making things up, pretending this young man is the North Prince in order to lure them into attacking him.

Regardless, if they wanted to leave this place, they would have to attack this young man.

Just then, more men in black, with white cloths tied around their wrists, appeared behind Lu Chen – all of their strengths were above Fifth Grade, including quite a number of Ninth Grade Martial Artists.

Lu Chen said calmly, “Take action!”

As he spoke, Lu Chen’s men immediately took out grenades and threw them at Su Teng and his group. Su Teng, just as before, easily blew up the grenades in mid-air using the broken silver on his person.

After the explosion of the grenades, the Spirit Martial Tower assassins were still unharmed.

With a cold snort, Su Teng said, “You can’t think that with such weapons, you could harm us. No matter how powerful a weapon is, it’s useless if it can’t hit its target. A weapon that doesn’t injure is just scrap metal.”

Seeing that Su Teng easily blew up all the grenades, Lu Chen had no choice but to say to Wenren Lie, “General Wenren, it’s up to you now.”

If the enemy could easily block the grenades, they had to resort to close combat.

No sooner had Lu Chen finished speaking than Wenren Lie, mounted on his horse, charged directly at Su Teng and his men.

Seeing Wenren Lie charge over solo on horseback, Su Teng and his group didn’t underestimate him. Even though they had never clashed with Wenren Lie before, they could roughly gauge his strength from the martial aura he emitted.

Su Teng immediately gripped his knife and faced Wenren Lie head-on. Regardless of the muscular man’s strength, they had to defeat him if they wanted to leave this place today, or else they would all end up staying here.

Wenren Lie, having retrieved the hammer he had thrown earlier, swung it toward Su Teng. Su Teng did not dodge; instead, he chopped down with his knife, and the collision caused sparks to fly.

When Wenren Lie and Su Teng engaged in combat, a Grandmaster behind Su Teng said, “Follow me and attack!”

As soon as the Grandmaster spoke, the Spirit Martial Tower assassins bypassed Su Teng and Wenren Lie and charged toward Lu Chen and his men.

Qin Yushan gripped his knife tightly and led the soldiers behind him to meet the charge. At that moment, a Grandmaster who had been struck to the ground by Wenren Lie’s hammer stood up.

Looking at Lu Chen, who stood still, motionless, a daring idea suddenly came to him.

Although he faintly sensed that Lu Chen was a Grandmaster, Lu Chen's aura was somewhat restrained, making him seem not very powerful.

As incredible as it sounded, a seventeen-year-old Grandmaster was plausible since the North Prince had managed to grow to his current position in North City, proving he did have some strength.

Perhaps the North Prince could indeed be a young Grandmaster.

Moreover, since everyone else was taking action and only the young man remained in place, this indicated that the young man was the leader. Regardless of whether the young man was the North Prince or not, if they could defeat the leader, they would have a chance to use the young man to escape this place.

With that thought, Tian Yan's legs kicked off the ground, and his body shot out instantly like a cannonball heading straight for Lu Chen.

The North Prince Mansion's soldiers were already clashing with the Spirit Martial Tower assassins, but Tian Yan didn't pay any attention to those soldiers; his target was solely the young man in the distance.

In the blink of an eye, Tian Yan appeared in front of Lu Chen and thrust his sword at him.

At this time, Lu Chen had his face covered with a black cloth, so Tian Yan couldn't see his expression. Lu Chen's mouth curled into a brilliant smile.

The distance had been too great earlier, and it was impossible to hit his target. Now, with only a few steps between them, he didn't believe the other party could still dodge.

Seeing the young man standing motionless on the spot, Tian Yan felt that something was amiss. The youth had no weapon in his hands, and there was no sign that he intended to dodge, as if he didn't regard Tian Yan's existence at all.

Could it be...

Is there a stronger presence nearby?

As Tian Yan was thinking this, he saw something like a black stick suddenly appear in the hands of the youth across from him. While he was wondering what kind of weapon it was, a “thud” resounded. In the next moment, Tian Yan’s Protective Gang Qi was instantly shattered, and his body was sent flying backward.

However, what surprised Lu Chen was that the scenario he had anticipated didn’t happen; Tian Yan’s chest didn’t have a bloody hole.

If it had been a typical Grandmaster hit by a Barrett, their body would definitely have a huge bloody hole, and they might even be blown to pieces, but this man was unharmed?

Isn’t the opponent just a Grandmaster? How could he withstand a bullet from a Barrett at such close range?

He had used the Barrett to snipe Grandmasters before and thought that Grandmasters had no defense against the Barrett.

While Lu Chen was puzzled, he noticed that Tian Yan was lying on the ground, continuously spitting blood from his mouth, unable to get back up.

By this time, Tian Yan’s chest clothes had been torn apart, and there seemed to be something golden and shimmering at his chest.

Realizing this, Lu Chen instantly understood.

This guy was wearing an armor!

Moreover, the material used to make this armor was extraordinary!

The Barrett is an anti-materiel sniper rifle, capable of piercing through a car in an instant, yet it hadn’t penetrated this man’s body. So what exactly was this material made of?

Lu Chen's curiosity was immediately piqued.

Lu Chen then aimed the Barrett at Tian Yan's head again. Since the chest couldn't be penetrated, he would aim directly at the head—he didn't believe Tian Yan's head was that hard.

However, just as Lu Chen raised his gun, Tian Yan passed out entirely.

Although the armor on Tian Yan's chest helped him withstand the bullet from the Barrett and prevented it from passing directly through him, his internal organs had suffered a tremendous impact, and all his ribs were broken.

Seeing Tian Yan pass out, Lu Chen's eyes lit up. This was an excellent opportunity to test the Absorption Technique.

Lu Chen immediately went over to Tian Yan, grabbed his head, and tried to channel his Inner Strength.

In the next moment, he felt a vortex forming in the palm of his hand, followed by streams of warm currents flowing into his body, making Lu Chen feel exceptionally refreshed.

While absorbing the skill, Lu Chen's mind was filled with images of Tian Yan practicing his swordsmanship. He was surprised to find that by absorbing a person's skill, he could also acquire all the Cultivation Techniques and Swordsmanship they had learned.

From now on, he wouldn't need to personally learn any martial techniques or Cultivation Techniques to have real combat experience.

The Absorption Technique was incredibly useful!

He hadn't expected that after taking down Chu Qingli, the system would reward him with such an amazing item. After the events of tonight were over, he would definitely have to reward her properly.

Before long, Tian Yan's complexion turned snow-white, as if smeared with a layer of flour.

Tian Yan was still alive initially, merely having passed out, but because all the skill within his body had been absorbed by Lu Chen, and without the protection of the skill, Tian Yan soon breathed his last, utterly devoid of life.

Seeing that there was no more skill to absorb from Tian Yan's body, Lu Chen threw his corpse on the ground, then stripped off the clothes from his chest.

By this time, the soldiers of the North Prince Mansion and the assassins from the Spirit Martial Tower were engaged in a bloody battle, completely unaware of what Lu Chen was doing.

After stripping off Tian Yan's armor, Lu Chen found the armor to be very soft, not at all like something that could withstand bullets.

Lu Chen then asked the system, "System, can you identify what this is?"

[The armor is made from Extraterrestrial Materials. Upon contact with Gang Qi or Spiritual Energy, it becomes incredibly firm.]

The system did not provide a detailed explanation, but Lu Chen didn't ask further, as he already knew what he wanted to know.

Afterward, he attempted to channel Spiritual Energy into the armor. The next moment, the Golden Silk Soft Armor instantly became taut and extremely hard..

Chapter 269: The Origin of the Golden Silk Soft Armor_i

Looking at the Golden Silk Soft Armor in his hands, Lu Chen's emotions were complicated, feeling both joy and worry.

He was happy to have obtained such a fine piece of protective armor, which would ensure his safety even more in the future.

His worry stemmed from the possibility that if the materials used to make this protective armor were widely available in this world, it wouldn't be good news for North Country.

The armor could even withstand Barrett's bullets, so ordinary firearms wouldn't be able to pierce through it at all.

He had originally thought that possessing hot weapons would make him invincible in this world, only to encounter armor that could resist Barrett bullets today.

At this moment, Lu Chen thought to himself that since the system had mentioned the armor was forged from extraterrestrial materials, they must be incredibly rare, and there probably wouldn't be too many of these armors around.

Comforted by this thought, Lu Chen felt slightly relieved-if there weren't many of these armors, then they wouldn't have too much impact on the hot weapons of North Country.

Even if someone made armor out of this material, it could only protect certain parts of the body and not everywhere; if he had targeted Tian Yan directly with a shot from the Barrett earlier, Tian Yan would still have died.

He didn't believe that anyone would waste such rare extraterrestrial materials to make full-body heavy cavalry armors-people wouldn't squander resources on something so precious, using them only for protective gear on vital areas.

Lu Chen didn't think too much about it and looked up at Wenren Lie and Su Teng not far away.

In front of Wenren Lie, Su Teng had no power to fight back and was basically being suppressed heavily. If Su Teng hadn't been seriously injured earlier, perhaps he could have barely resisted Wenren Lie's sledgehammer.

Seeing that nearly all the fallen ones on the ground were assassins from the Spirit Martial Tower, Su Teng knew they would soon be annihilated if this continued, so he had no choice but to use the Blood Ignition Skill.

Although after using the Blood Ignition Skill, he might become useless, it was still better than dying here.

The next moment, an intense bloody scent seemed to emit from Su Teng's body, his eyes turned blood-red, and his upper garments were torn apart by the force of his body, as a powerful energy burst forth from within him.

Then, Su Teng swung his blade at Wenren Lie.

“Ten Thousand Lights Slash!!!”

Wenren Lie didn't dodge the countless blades; instead, he swung his hammer in reverse, seemingly compressing the air, which produced a sonic boom in the sky, and all the blades dispersed, while Su Teng was knocked away by Wenren Lie's hammer, crashing through the yard and house of a commoner.

The commoners hiding inside the house shivered in the corner of the wall after witnessing this.

Wenren Lie didn't give Su Teng a chance to escape; he leaped from the ground, jumped more than ten meters high in one bound, and instantly arrived in front of Su Teng, then brought down the hammer again. Su Teng, lying on the ground, gripped his blade tightly and blocked in front of himself, attempting to resist Wenren Lie's attack.

However, Wenren Lie's strength was immense, and even in the Blood Burning State, Su Teng was no match for him.

With Wenren Lie's hammer strike came another thunderous sonic boom, and he quickly knocked Su Teng out cold.

Watching this from the rooftop, even Lu Chen couldn't help feeling some admiration; Wenren Lie wasn't just a Grandmaster, he had to have the strength of a Grandmaster.

If it weren't for the fact that he could see Wenren Lie's personal information, he might really have believed Wenren Lie was a Grandmaster.

The system truly provided one formidable military general after another.

After knocking Su Teng unconscious, Wenren Lie grabbed his head with his large palm, lifted his body up like an eagle grabbing a chicken, and then with a bound, he leaped directly onto the street.

Seeing Su Teng in Wenren Lie's hands, the assassins from the Spirit Martial Tower immediately panicked; their Pavilion Master was an Extreme Realm Master, and he had just used the Blood Ignition Skill, yet he was defeated in such a short time!

How could the North Prince Mansion have such terrifyingly powerful martial artists!

The Grandmaster, who was locked in a closely matched fight with Qin Yushan, saw that even Su Teng had been defeated and realized they could no longer escape. He immediately ceased fighting and said, "Don't kill me, I surrender!"

Seeing that the only conscious Grandmaster had surrendered, the other assassins from the Spirit Martial Tower also threw down their weapons and surrendered.

Lu Chen jumped down from the rooftop and approached Wenren Lie and Su Teng. He glanced at Su Teng, who had passed out, then looked at his chest and indeed found a piece of golden soft armor there.

Lu Chen had been thinking that since that Tian Yan had a Golden Silk Soft Armor, it was impossible for Su Teng, the Pavilion Master of the Spirit Martial Tower, not to have one. And it turned out he really did.

Lu Chen then turned his head to look at the Grandmaster not far away and directly asked, "How did you come by the Golden Silk Soft Armor you're wearing?"

Upon hearing this question, the Grandmaster knelt down with a thud and quickly replied, "Replying to the Prince, the Golden Silk Soft Armor we're wearing was all forged by our own Spirit Martial Tower."

Forged by yourselves?

Lu Chen frowned again and continued to ask, "Where does the Spirit Martial

Tower get the materials to forge such Golden Silk Soft Armor?"

That Grandmaster trembled as he answered, "Replying to the Prince, the material for forging the Golden Silk Soft Armor comes from meteoric iron that fell from the sky."

Lu Chen asked again, “Does the Spirit Martial Tower still have such meteoric iron?”

“No more. We only forged three pieces of Golden Silk Soft Armor, and they’re all worn by us three Grandmasters.”

After hearing the Grandmaster’s words, Lu Chen finally felt relieved, and his brows gradually smoothed.

Just then, Su Teng suddenly came to, and upon opening his eyes and seeing Lu Chen right in front of him, his expression twisted as he said, “Kid! You’re going to die with me!”

Upon hearing this, Wenren Lie instantly sensed something was wrong and immediately said to Lu Chen, “Prince, get away quickly! He’s going to self- destruct his Dantian!”

Before Wenren Lie could finish speaking and throw Su Teng out, they saw Lu Chen suddenly reach out and grab Su Teng’s face.

In the next instant, the energy in Su Teng’s body crazily surged towards Lu Chen. Su Teng screamed in pain as he felt the energy within him rapidly draining, and he was no longer able to gather energy in his Dantian to self- destruct.

Witnessing this scene, everyone present was stunned. The movement of energy within Su Teng was too obvious, and any Martial Artist could feel it.

Even the people from the North Prince Mansion were scared by Lu Chen.

The North Prince actually had such a terrifying ability?

To directly absorb the energy of the opponent?

My God, what kind of Cultivation Technique is this?

It’s too horrifying!

Before long, all of Su Teng's energy had been drained by Lu Chen.

Seeing this spectacle, the Grandmaster who had just surrendered trembled in fear, never having imagined that the North Prince possessed such an ability.

He was a Grandmaster too; surely the North Prince wouldn't take an interest in his body as well?

The very thought made that Grandmaster break out in cold sweat, feeling a chill down his spine.

Chapter 270: I'm Happy to Help You i

After Lu Chen had absorbed all of Su Teng's skill, Su Teng, having lost his power, could no longer endure the pain of his injuries and passed out from the agony once again.

At this moment, Lu Chen's gaze fell upon the Grandmaster who had just surrendered. Seeing Lu Chen looking at him, the Grandmaster hurriedly kowtowed and begged for mercy, "Prince, please spare my life, I confess everything. It was all orchestrated by the Wang Family. I was just forcibly brought to North Country by Su Teng, I never wanted to assassinate you."

The scene just now was terrifying: Su Teng, an Extreme Realm Master, had his entire skill drained by Lu Chen. The Grandmaster kneeling on the ground was afraid he would be the next one.

If he lost his skill, he would be nothing but an ordinary person. To the North Prince, a surrendered ordinary person was even more useless, which meant his death was undoubtedly imminent. Therefore, the first thing he had to do was ensure the North Prince would not absorb his skill.

Seeing the Grandmaster knocking his head on the ground frantically, Qin Yushan approached Lu Chen and whispered, "Prince, this man holds a high position in the Spirit Martial Tower. If we could control him, we might be able to control the entire Spirit Martial Tower in the future. The Spirit Martial Tower has many craftsmen, and those craftsmen are very valuable to our North Country."

It was evident to everyone in North Country how much Lu Chen valued craftsmen. The Spirit Martial Tower was a force specializing in forging weapons and equipment, and they started by trading these items. They trained a large number of craftsmen, especially blacksmiths.

Although the North Prince Mansion currently had over two thousand craftsmen, for the North Prince Mansion, this number was still not enough.

North Country was about to undertake massive construction projects; naturally, the more craftsmen, the better.

After hearing Qin Yushan's words, Lu Chen pondered for a moment, then told Qin Yushan, "Then leave this person to you. Don't let him escape."

Qin Yushan immediately replied, "Rest assured, Prince. I will administer medicine to seal his skill later."

At that time, Lu Chen said to the Grandmaster, "Take off the Golden Silk Soft Armor you wear."

Hearing this command, the Grandmaster hesitated not a moment before stripping off his clothes and removing the Golden Silk Soft Armor, placing it on the ground.

Lu Chen then had someone strip off Su Teng's Golden Silk Soft Armor as well. He picked up the two pieces of armor and examined them, discovering that they truly were forged from the same material and had the same effect—becoming indestructible upon contact with Spiritual Energy.

This material was indeed interesting.

Just then, two groups of people emerged from both sides of the cross-street. One was led by Mu Changtian, and the other by General Xuanyuan's soldiers.

They quickly converged, and after arriving beside Lu Chen, Mu Changtian reported, "Prince, I accidentally killed the leading Grandmaster."

Their mission that night had been divided; Mu Changtian and General Xuanyuan had each led their men to deal with two other assassin organizations.

Lu Chen had originally wanted them to capture the leading Grandmaster alive and not kill him, but when Master Level Martial Artists fought, it was sometimes hard to control the intensity, and accidentally killing an opponent was not unusual.

Lu Chen responded, “If he’s dead, let it be.”

At that moment, Lu Chen turned to look at General Xuanyuan, who was holding a man covered in blood. This man was also a Grandmaster, who by then was barely alive and appeared to be on the verge of death.

General Xuanyuan then threw the man to the ground, saying to Lu Chen, “Prince, I interrogated him briefly and learned that he is an assassin sent by the Chu Family.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen was momentarily taken aback.

The Chu Family?

Although he knew the identity of the force behind the assassins, the Brocade Guard had not uncovered who had dispatched them. Lu Chen had not anticipated that the Chu Family would also send someone to assassinate him.

Frowning, Lu Chen then squatted down, placed his palm on the man’s head, and directly absorbed all the skill from his body.

Mu Changtian had not been present earlier to witness Lu Chen absorbing another’s skill. Thus, seeing this scene, he stood completely dumbfounded. Actively absorbing someone else’s skill?

What Cultivation Technique was the North Prince practicing?

Mu Changtian suddenly seemed to realize something—as if a lightbulb had gone off. No wonder the North Prince had become a Grandmaster in such a short time; he could absorb others’ skill and make it his own.

How did this look anything but like an Evil Cultivation technique?

After Lu Chen had drained all the skill from the man on the ground, the man still hadn’t died. Lu Chen then instructed General Xuanyuan, “Take this man to my grandfather and tell him what happened tonight.”

General Xuanyuan promptly replied, “Yes, Prince!”

Then Qin Yushan spoke up, “General Xuanyuan, you may not know where the Prince’s grandfather lives. I will have someone guide you there.”

General Xuanyuan responded, “Alright, then I’ll trouble Commander Qin.”

Qin Yushan immediately summoned several Jinyiwei Guards and had them lead General Xuanyuan to the residence where Chu Xiong currently lived.

After General Xuanyuan departed, Lu Chen scanned the Spirit Martial Tower assassins lying on the ground. Although these assassins had surrendered, their strength was not low, and frankly, Lu Chen was somewhat concerned that Qin Yushan and the others wouldn’t be able to control them.

It was then that Qin Yushan instructed the Jinyiwei Guards to feed the surrendered Spirit Martial Tower assassins a certain pill. Noticing this, Lu Chen asked, “Commander Qin, what are you feeding them?”