

Ability 121

Chapter 121: Thunder Tribulation Sword!_2

The person must be watching me from the dark!

"Can't call the police."

He made the decision almost without any hesitation.

The risk of calling the police was too great.

If discovered...

His parents might really get killed.

He didn't want to take that risk.

Moreover...

He felt he had the ability to rescue his parents himself and didn't think the police would do a better job than him after calling them.

And his confidence...

Came from his Heaven-Defying Comprehension and his unique skill of Palm Thunder!

"Yida Square at noon tomorrow..."

Lin Beichen recalled the time and place agreed upon by the kidnappers, and after a moment, his Heaven-Defying Comprehension made him understand the message behind that short line.

This Yida Square was definitely not the final location.

Just like in movies, after he arrived at Yida Square as planned, he would surely be asked to move to another place, and maybe several other venues could follow.

This was why the kidnappers wanted him to keep his phone on!

The kidnappers were worried he might call the police without them knowing.

And the reason for choosing twelve noon...

Was because that's when Yida Square was most crowded, so even if he called the police without their knowledge, they could still control him via phone and make him disappear in the crowd from the police's sight.

"Too passive!"

Lin Beichen knew that to successfully rescue his parents, he had to turn the passivity into initiative.

But how?

After a brief thought.

Soon, a rough plan formed in his mind.

"I need to make some preparations before heading out tomorrow to perfect the rescue plan."

Lin Beichen looked at the Thunderstruck Wood in his arms and thought, it must be made into something portable first.

Not long ago, he discovered that Thunderstruck Wood had another use besides helping with his cultivation—

Palm Thunder would become more powerful when emitted through Thunderstruck Wood!

In other words, he could use less energy to unleash the same power of Palm Thunder by leveraging Thunderstruck Wood!

He didn't know how many members of the foreign organization he would face by taking the initiative, but it was better to be prepared; the stronger he was, the better.

So he must take Thunderstruck Wood with him.

But...

Currently, Thunderstruck Wood was just a wooden stake, which was not portable and would inconvenience the rescue plan.

"A Wooden Sword?"

Suddenly, the idea popped into Lin Beichen's mind.

With this thought, he felt that crafting Thunderstruck Wood into a Wooden Sword was a good choice, as it would be convenient to carry, not conspicuous, and also served as a weapon.

However, there was a problem.

Aside from not knowing how to carve, even if he started to learn now, there wouldn't be enough time as he had other preparations to make.

"Find someone to help?"

Lin Beichen suddenly remembered that Professor Yang En from the Imperial Capital University Art Department was a master sculptor in Huaxia.

So.

He didn't bother the principal anymore and quickly contacted the principal to help arrange it, finally finding Professor Yang En in his studio.

Professor Yang En was in his sixties, lean but robust, dressed in a white silk top and pants.

He was very amiable, and upon hearing Lin Beichen's sincere and urgent plea, along with the principal's influence, he gladly agreed to complete the sculpture before noon the next day.

"Thank you, Professor Yang!"

Lin Beichen bowed in gratitude and then left the studio, heading straight to the criminal investigation section of the Imperial Capital University Library, picking up books on reconnaissance.

"Contemporary Detective Science"

"Fundamental Theories of Detective Science"

"Reconnaissance Psychology"

"Counter-Reconnaissance Actions"

"Reconnaissance Strategy"

"Invisible Knowledge in Reconnaissance"

"Criminal Psychology"

"Complete Works of Psychology"

"Suspicious Mindsets"

...

He wanted to use the people secretly observing him to counter-track and attempt to find where his parents were being held.

"In complex terrains and places with cover, you can temporarily hide."

"Passing by a residential area with clothes drying, steal clothes and change quickly. Or change your hairstyle and attire quickly after turning a corner, such as taking off your coat and blending into the crowd."

"Learn to quickly memorize the layout of large shopping malls and use the terrain to shake off pursuers."

..."

With the aid of his Heaven-Defying Comprehension...

Soon, he had fully grasped the essence of several books on reconnaissance.

In an instant, he had a clear strategy for dealing with those who would be tailing him tomorrow, and also perfected the entire rescue plan.

Just wait for tomorrow!

...

The next day, in the morning.

Lin Beichen arrived at Professor Yang En's studio and politely knocked on the door.

"Knock, knock, knock—"

"Come in."

Yang En's voice came from inside the studio.

Lin Beichen pushed the door open and entered, greeting, "Good morning, Professor Yang."

"Morning, you're here for the Wooden Sword, right?"

Seeing it was him, Yang En smiled and nodded, then walked to the workbench, pulling out a silk-wrapped bundle from underneath.

"Here, take a look."

With that, he opened the bundle.

Inside the cloth bundle was a Wooden Sword and an additional cloth packet.

The Wooden Sword was about the same height as the wooden stake, over fifty centimeters long. Because it was carved from Thunderstruck Wood, it was pitch-black, rough on the surface, with minimal

patterns, primarily simplistic. Yet, the occasional lines etched into it gave the Wooden Sword an aura of sophistication and mystery, showcasing the touch of a master craftsman!

Chapter 122: Thunder Tribulation Sword!_3

"This Thunderstruck Wood is indeed different from regular wood. It's not just harder; no matter how you handle its surface roughness, it never gets smooth. It's truly strange and interesting."

Yang En reflected on his feelings while carving this piece and meanwhile unwrapped the cloth bag inside the packaging, continuing, "It takes way less wood to carve a wooden sword; this is the extra Thunderstruck Wood, all prepared for you."

"Thank you so much, Teacher Yang."

Lin Beichen bowed once more in gratitude, then politely chatted for a bit before taking the wooden sword and extra Thunderstruck Wood back to his dormitory.

"This sword shall be named Thunder Tribulation Sword!"

When Lin Beichen left the dormitory again.

It was already past ten in the morning.

He was wearing a brightly colored oversized hoodie, loose dark red sweatpants, black and red basketball shoes, and a large golden backpack.

He looked exceedingly peculiar.

Soon, he left the campus, didn't take a cab, and instead went to the bus stop and started waiting for the bus.

And at that moment.

Suddenly!

The feeling of being watched returned.

"The person following me is nearby!"

Lin Beichen discreetly observed his surroundings. Using the tracking knowledge he learned yesterday and his sharp Sixth Sense, he quickly pinpointed the target.

"It's him!"

"Still him!"

Lin Beichen instantly recognized that the man following him was the same one who stalked him a few days ago, feeling a wave of relief.

He was quite worried that he wouldn't be able to identify his stalker, leaving him without a counter-tracking target. Thankfully, that wasn't the case now.

Now, the situation was akin to the opponent being in the open while he remained concealed.

He had seized the initiative!

"Those books were really worth reading!"

Lin Beichen internally sighed. If he had relied solely on his Sixth Sense without the tracking knowledge he acquired yesterday, finding the target in such a vast area would have been extremely difficult.

At that moment, he felt confident in his counter-tracking skills.

Meanwhile.

Alek, unaware that he had been detected, subtly watched Lin Beichen. After a while, he saw Lin Beichen board the bus. Alek quickly rushed to the bus stop, blending into the crowded boarding group and squeezed onto the bus.

After about half an hour on the bus.

Yida Square was approaching.

The bus suddenly became restless.

A large portion of the passengers had plans to shop at Yida Square were preparing to alight at this stop, moving towards the rear door in advance.

At that moment.

Lin Beichen suddenly stood up and walked to the door.

"????"

Alek, who had been observing Lin Beichen, was bewildered. What was he doing? Was he getting off here? Why get off at this stop?

He knew...

Yida Square was just a few stops away.

"What is he trying to do?"

"Did he remember the wrong location?"

"No way?"

Without overthinking.

In front row of seats near the front door, Alek began squeezing towards the back door. Whatever the reason, he couldn't lose sight of Lin Beichen!

But timing was crucial when getting off the bus.

Those minor delays.

The passengers ahead of him had already formed an impenetrable barrier.

Although Lin Beichen was only a few meters ahead, at this moment, it felt like an insurmountable gap.

No matter how hard he tried to push forward, he barely managed to move a few inches, drawing angry looks from surrounding passengers.

"Hey, what's wrong with you, squeezing like that?"

"We're all getting off, why are you squeezing?"

"Are you sick?"

"Damn, you keep squeezing, and I'll beat you up!"

"..."

Voices of reprimand surged.

Alek wished he could find a hole to hide in, not because he was embarrassed, but because he had suddenly become the center of attention, fearing Lin Beichen might notice him.

Fortunately, at that moment, the bus stopped.

The rear door opened.

Alek squeezed out along with the crowd and quickly looked for Lin Beichen. He spotted Lin Beichen about 300 meters away, heading into Yida Square.

"Had it not been for your outfit today..."

"I might have lost you!"

Lin Beichen's attire, especially the choice of colors, left a deep impression on Alek. He quickened his pace to catch up.

However, just as he was about to get closer.

Lin Beichen stepped into Yida Square, and immediately, the nearby shoppers also entering Yida Square formed a thick wall in front of Alek.

"Damn it!"

Alek couldn't help but curse. This was unbelievably unlucky!

He pushed forward at his fastest speed into Yida Square.

He thought, with barely a few seconds between them, he'd surely spot Lin Beichen.

However...

"??????"

"Where is he??"

Alek looked around, bewildered, but there was no sign of the striking figure. Had he lost him?

His heart sank, and disregarding the risk of being noticed, he started running within the mall, trying to find Lin Beichen.

But...

Within a few minutes.

He had already circled the first and second floors several times.

Still no sign of Lin Beichen.

He had indeed lost him!

He actually lost track of an ordinary person?

Though Alek found it hard to believe, he had no choice but to accept the reality.

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Almost without any hesitation.

He quickly took out his phone and dialed a number.

At the same time.

Around two or three meters away from Alek, leaning against a seat, sat a young man.

This young man was wearing a beige baseball cap, a white short-sleeved T-shirt, light blue jeans, and a pair of washed blue canvas shoes, with a rectangular shoulder bag slung across his body.

At this moment, he slightly raised his chin, revealing a delicate and handsome face, subtly observing Alek, who was facing away from him.

It was none other than Lin Beichen!

Wearing striking clothes, especially with colors that make a visual impact, so that the tracker forms a fixed impression of you. This way, after changing clothes, the tracker will easily ignore you.

This is what Lin Beichen learned yesterday in "Invisible Knowledge in Reconnaissance."

Lin Beichen had put this outfit directly over his original clothes.

As soon as he entered Great Inspection City, he ran to the restroom, took off his clothes, put them in his backpack, threw them into a trash can, and then naturally sat in the rest area, watching Alek run past him back and forth.

And it wasn't just the clothing.

There was also getting off the bus, then entering Joy City...

What seemed like accidental and coincidental situations caused Alek to keep increasing the distance between them, but in fact, it was all orchestrated based on what he had learned from "Reconnaissance Psychology" and "Reconnaissance Strategy" the day before.

With the help of Heaven-Defying Comprehension,

Lin Beichen was already proficient in tracking and counter-tracking in reconnaissance.

The roles of tracker and trackee...

Had switched!

This was the best test of his learning results!

At this moment, Alek spoke.

Alek's voice was very low, hard to hear clearly unless one focused intensely. Fortunately, Lin Beichen had excellent hearing and had been listening closely, so he managed to catch some words.

"Hu Nodun... lost him. Quickly contact him... find him... keep following him secretly!"

"You lost a college student???"

On the other end of the line.

In the courtyard of the transaction site in Yanjiao Village.

The man who called Lin Beichen yesterday had a strange expression, with a mix of confusion and mockery.

Alek could imagine his expression, with a gloomy face as if ink could drip from it, and then coldly said, "Hu Nodun, finish the boss's task first!"

"I'll contact Lin Beichen now."

At the mention of the boss.

Hu Nodun also put aside other thoughts, taking out a phone with a red case from his pocket. This was Zheng Xia's phone.

He then found Lin Beichen's number and dialed it.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is temporarily unavailable, please try again later."

Hu Nodun: ???

Why can't I reach him?

Wasn't he instructed to keep his phone available?

Doesn't he care about his parents' lives?

He tried calling several more times, but the response was always the same mechanical, cold voice—

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is temporarily unavailable, please try again later."

Hu Nodun sensed something was wrong and stopped trying to call, instead saying to the person on the other end, "Alek, something is off. I can't reach that kid, I've tried several times, and it's always unavailable."

"Can't reach him?!"

Alek's brows furrowed instantly.

Not far from him.

Lin Beichen revealed a smug smile, as if everything was under control.

Upon hearing Alek's instructions on the phone,

He immediately switched his phone to airplane mode.

Just then.

Alek's voice could be heard vaguely again: "I think... he sensed... being tracked... shook it off... and hid."

Thinking back to two days ago when he was spotted by Lin Beichen, Alek added, "That kid is very alert."

"What now?"

Hu Nodun's tone was evidently anxious as he said, "How do we explain this to the boss?"

"Don't worry."

Alek seemed to have thought it through and sneered, "That kid's parents are in our hands. It's not us who should be anxious, but him. Let him hide if he wants, I'm done tracking him. I'll head back now to join you guys and wait for that kid to contact us."

Lin Beichen couldn't hear this clearly, but he caught a crucial piece of information—he was going to join the kidnappers!

"Good, the plan works."

Lin Beichen did all this to make the trackers give up and return to their base, whether to rest or regroup, so he could countertrack them.

Watching Alek's receding figure.

He got up and followed.

"Now it's my turn."

...

...

Imperial Capital Police Headquarters.

Organized Crime Investigation Squad, office.

Qian Yi and other squad members, along with Wang Kai's team who came to assist, were taking a lunch break after a busy morning.

Just then, a squad member scrolling through his phone said in surprise, "It's been two days, and Lin Beichen's popularity hasn't dropped at all?"

"Lin Beichen is really hot these days."

Another squad member laughed and shook his head, saying, "It's hard not to see his news online, it's everywhere."

"Something about summoning thunder and lightning..."

A team member laughed, "Being the first in the history of college entrance exams, making such unrealistic and even superstitious statements, it's full of contradictions."

Just as he finished speaking.

Someone suddenly said, "Hey, do you think those traffickers who died were actually killed by Lin Beichen summoning thunder?"

"????"

Everyone was stunned for a moment, scenes flashed in their minds like a slideshow—Li Youquan's death, the human traffickers' deaths on Wuling Mountain.

Could it be in the so-called "immortal cultivation"...

Lin Beichen made some progress?

As soon as the thought appeared, it even startled themselves, thinking, how could they have such a ridiculous idea?

Just then.

Intelligence and Reconnaissance Squad Captain, Hu Deguang, hurriedly walked in, breaking the brief silence.

Qian Yi asked in confusion, "Old Hu, what's up? Why are you in such a rush?"

"Good news, a major breakthrough!"

Hu Deguang didn't waste words, directly saying, "I found a hideout connected to that foreign organization."

"What?!"

Everyone's eyes lit up at the news, abandoning their lunch and immediately standing up, ready for action.

Qian Yi asked eagerly, "Where is it?"

"Beihai Province, a small village in Yanjiao."

"What are we waiting for then?"

Qian Yi waved his hand decisively and commanded, "Let's go!"

Chapter 124: Stand with a Sword and Mount a Horse, Thunder Tribulation Kills!

Beihai Province, Yanjiao.

An unknown village.

The sky was covered with dense clouds.

A drizzle fell gently, with occasional dull rumbles of thunder echoing from the horizon, rolling in, the bright lightning flashing intermittently among the continuous dark clouds.

Different weather every ten miles.

From the Imperial Capital to Yanjiao, the weather had grown increasingly harsh.

Alek walked on a country path that had become somewhat muddy, his brow furrowed.

For no reason.

Only because...

He had the feeling that someone was following him!

This feeling wasn't very strong when he first left the Imperial Capital, almost non-existent, but the further he walked towards Yanjiao, the more desolate and open the place, the stronger the feeling became.

Until now...

He had arrived in the village.

The feeling had reached its peak!

"Plop—"

"Plop—"

"..."

The sound of footsteps echoed clearly in the drizzling rain.

Alek stopped in his tracks and suddenly turned his head.

In the misty drizzle...

Fields, earthen houses, village huts, willow trees, and weeds.

Vague and indistinct.

It looked like a rustic painting.

He said loudly, "You've followed me all the way. I've been aware of it for a long time. That's enough, come out!"

After speaking, he stared unblinkingly at the surroundings, trying to catch any unusual movement.

Meanwhile.

Behind a willow tree not far from Alek.

Lin Beichen's expression changed slightly at hearing this, thinking to himself: Was I discovered?

But in the next instant.

He figured out that the other party was trying to bluff him into revealing himself!

"It's getting increasingly difficult to follow him."

"This time, it's a feint."

"Next time, I might actually be discovered!"

From the moment he entered the village, Lin Beichen realized that it had no conditions suitable for following someone—no people, uncomplicated terrain, and an open view.

If he hadn't reacted quickly just now, he would have been spotted already.

"However..."

"This village should be where the kidnappers are hiding, and also the place where my parents are being held, right?"

Thinking of this, Lin Beichen felt it was time to stop following and directly control the man to find out the specific location of the kidnappers' hideout.

Although he could have done this earlier, he waited until now to take action.

It's because...

If he acted too soon, he worried the target location would be too far away, providing his follower with too much room to maneuver, and he didn't want to control him over rough terrains.

There were too many uncontrollable variables!

Of course, though Lin Beichen had decided to take action, he didn't step forward directly.

He knew nothing about this person following him—didn't know their skills or if they carried any weapons.

Based on this...

Showing himself rashly would be as foolish as anything.

At this moment, Lin Beichen realized how similar this situation was to the one in Xiaoqianmen Park not long ago when he captured a human trafficker!

He also needed a single move to subdue the enemy!

Only this time...

He had mastered the Palm Thunder.

There was no need to get close!

Checking the distance between himself and his follower, it was just right.

Without wasting time.

He didn't even have time to pull out the Thunder Tribulation Sword from his shoulder bag.

He gathered the electric elements in his liver into his palm, then flicked his hand.

Instantly!

Accompanied by a ripping sound like lightning striking.

A blue-white electric light shot from Lin Beichen's palm, passing through the drizzle, directly toward Alek not far away.

"Crack—!"

Hearing the sound, Alek, who was focused on observing the surroundings, felt a sudden tightness in his neck and all the hair on his body stood on end.

At the same time.

He first saw the blue-white electric light flashing from behind the willow tree.

"Where did the light behind the tree come from?" frēwebnovël.com

The thought had only just crossed his mind when the blue-white electric light magnified infinitely before his eyes.

"???"

He instinctively tried to dodge.

But before he could move.

He felt a numbing sensation in his arm, spreading throughout his body in an instant.

"What is this?"

"What's this feeling?"

Alek was stunned, and then his face changed dramatically. He realized that he had been zapped!

Was that electric light just now?!

In an instant, Alek felt as if countless thick needles were continuously pricking him.

"Ah... Ah...!!"

His trembling screams echoed in the whispering rain.

With a 'plop', he fell face-up on the muddy dirt road, his body twitching like a fish just pulled out of the water, his limbs flailing uncontrollably as if he were wrestling with himself.

Seeing this, Lin Beichen then walked out leisurely from behind the willow tree, came to Alek, took out nylon ropes and the Thunder Tribulation Sword from his shoulder bag, and then used the binding technique he had learned yesterday to tie Alek's hands behind his back.

He had many questions to ask Alek, and he needed him to lead the way, so he was quite useful.

He wouldn't kill Alek with the electric shock directly.

Lin Beichen was no longer the fledgling who didn't even know the power of the electricity emitted from his palms at first.

With his current level of cultivation.

He had a clear understanding of his Palm Thunder's power and could precisely control the strength of his attacks.

"Sh-sh—"

The fine rain drifted down, hazy like smoke.

After a while, Alek, who had fallen to the ground, stopped convulsing violently and only twitched occasionally, his consciousness gradually becoming clear.

At this moment, his face and body were covered with yellowish mud, making him look as if he had just been pulled out of a cesspit.

Chapter 125: Stand with a Sword and Mount a Horse, Thunder Tribulation Kills!_2

Unbearable to look at.

Still not fully lucid, Alek instinctively struggled and turned over, no longer maintaining the posture of a dog eating shit.

Lin Beichen's expressionless face came into view instantly.

His pupils, dilated from the shock, suddenly contracted. He shivered and became completely clear-headed.

It's him?!

In the instant he was shocked, Alek realized that his feeling was not wrong, someone had indeed been following him. But even in his wildest dreams, he would never have thought that it would be Lin Beichen!

"How could it be him??"

"A college student possessing such advanced tracking skills?"

"Who is he really?"

"What did he use to shock me just now?"

"..."

Countless questions flooded Alek's mind.

However, his hands, which were fruitlessly trying to break free, left him no time to ponder these questions and more urgently reminded him: Escape quickly!

Alek's expression instantly turned furious and panicked. He shouted loudly, "Who are you? Were you the one who just attacked me? What do you want? Let me go immediately!"

At this moment, his acting skills could not be matched even by an Oscar winner.

Even Lin Beichen had a brief moment of confusion, thinking he might have caught the wrong person.

However, it was only for that brief moment.

Lin Beichen's eyes turned icy as he shouted, "Stop acting. Tell me, where are you keeping my parents?"

"What am I acting about?"

Alek erupted as if he had suffered a great injustice, "How would I know where your parents are? What kidnapping? What are you talking about? Did you mistake me for someone else?!"

"Shut up!"

Time was running out.

Lin Beichen had no time to argue.

He channeled the Electric Element in his liver to his palm while saying, "Next, answer whatever I ask you. If you keep spouting nonsense, you'll relive that feeling from just now."

"Click click click——!!"

As Lin Beichen finished speaking, accompanied by a crackling sound, his palm was filled with slender blue-white arcs of electricity.

"???"

It was as if he had seen a ghost.

Alek's eyes widened, almost popping out, filled with horror and disbelief! His expression was written with the words – Unbelievable!

His palm can generate electricity?!

Is he even human?

What the hell is going on??

He was completely dumbfounded; this was entirely beyond his understanding!

"Speak!"

Lin Beichen gave Alek no time to buffer, pressing him, "Where are my parents being held?!"

Alek snapped out of his horror.

Looking at the twisting, jumping arcs of electricity, his heart was still turbulent, filled with fear and panic of the unknown.

However, the training from his organization since childhood had taught him, or rather, made him used to thinking in such situations.

So, although his insides were freaking out, his mind remained clear, thinking quickly.

This kid wants to rescue his parents.

Hu Nodun and the others are all there!

They have guns!

No matter if this kid's hand can generate electricity...

In front of a gun, it's useless!

Take him to the trap!

Upon this thought, he glanced at the arcs in Lin Beichen's palm with lingering fear, then quickly said, "I... I know, I'll take you there!"

"Lead the way!"

Lin Beichen pulled Alek up from the ground, warning, "I advise you not to have any funny ideas."

Saying this, he pressed the Thunder Tribulation Sword to Alek's back, continuing, "Before you try anything, I'm sure I can kill you first."

Alek, still not fully recovered from the electric shock, his legs weak and his body wobbling.

Feeling the tip of the sword against his back.

He thought: Let's see whether your sword is faster or the bullets!

However, thinking was one thing; he definitely couldn't show it.

He nodded vehemently, fearfully saying, "Yes, yes, yes."

Then, under Lin Beichen's indication, Alek walked in front to lead the way.

Lin Beichen followed behind him, with the Thunder Tribulation Sword always pressed against his back.

The two of them walked towards the village.

However...

The direction wasn't towards the most remote corner of the village but into the dense forest beside the village.

It turned out that during the period Alek was on his way back...

Hu Nodun, thinking of a possibility, wondered if Lin Beichen, after evading Alek's tracking, would choose to call the police?

The possibility wasn't low.

Though knowing Lin Beichen didn't know this place, even if he called the police, it would be impossible for them to find this place immediately.

But Hu Nodun's inherently cautious nature made him decide to move.

Move into the mountains!

In the mountains was a cave already scouted in advance.

The cave's location was concealed, easier to defend and harder to attack, with many escape routes around. It was a better hiding place than the courtyard, despite being harsher.

Soon, under his leadership, his companions and two other human traffickers transferred Tang Ru and Lin Beichen's parents to the cave.

He also notified Alek at the earliest time.

So, Alek wasn't playing tricks on Lin Beichen but was seriously leading the way, taking Lin Beichen towards the cave.

"Crunch—"

"Crunch—"

"..."

Walking through the forest, the two were silent, neither speaking a word.

The clouds in the sky grew thicker and thicker, darker and darker, covering the sky, plunging the whole forest into darkness, as if entering deep night directly.

Chapter 126: Stand with a Sword and Mount a Horse, Thunder Tribulation Kills!_3

The rain poured harder and louder in the mountain forest.

The dull thunder accompanied by the flashes of lightning through the clouds became more frequent.

Who knows how long they had walked.

Suddenly!

On the hilltop not far away, through the rain, a shadowy figure appeared faintly.

At this moment.

A flash of lightning streaked by.

In the brief illumination.

The outline of the shadow became distinct; it was a human figure!

Hilltop.

In the brilliance of the lightning, the figure's appearance was clearly revealed. It was none other than the human trafficker Wu Xingwang!

There was someone!

Lin Beichen and Alek noticed at the same time.

Alek didn't know who this figure was, but he knew his chance to escape had come. He was already here; aside from his own people, it couldn't be anyone else!

He suddenly lunged forward, making sure his back was no longer vulnerable, as if he was in a runner's starting stance.

Lin Beichen had been watching Alek's every move. When he saw Alek's reaction to the figure, he anticipated that Alek might take action.

As expected!

He guessed correctly.

At this moment, the Palm Thunder that had been poised in Lin Beichen's palm quickly transferred to the Thunder Tribulation Sword in his hand.

"..."

Without a sound.

Suddenly!

The previously rough surface of the Thunder Tribulation Sword now appeared smooth and reflective, with blue and white arcs of electricity dancing on the blade.

This made the previously blunt-looking wooden sword appear incredibly sharp!

Without any hesitation.

Lin Beichen thrust the Thunder Tribulation Sword towards Alek's back.

"Hey..."

"Buzz—!"

Alek's voice was abruptly cut off.

The Thunder Tribulation Sword pierced through Alek's back as if it were tofu, penetrating to his chest. The arcs of electricity on the blade surged into his body through the point of contact.

Alek looked down with difficulty, his despairing eyes seeing the tip of the immaculate sword.

In the next instant.

Under his gradually blurring gaze.

Wisps of black smoke seeped out from the wound.

"Urgh urgh urgh urgh urgh..."

Alek's whole body convulsed madly, twitching uncontrollably like a carp on a stick.

Blood foam gushed from his mouth.

In the blink of an eye.

He stopped moving, his body became rigid, and his limbs froze in their last contorted positions before the convulsions ceased.

He was dead!

Seeing this, Lin Beichen withdrew the Thunder Tribulation Sword from his body.

Not a drop of blood followed!

"Thud—!"

Alek's corpse fell heavily onto the dry grass.

The kill was inevitable.

A dragon has a reverse scale; to touch it is to die!

Lin Beichen had already made up his mind before coming here.

Anyone related to the kidnapping of his parents...

None will live!

The reason he killed so decisively...

Besides Alek's betrayal and exposing him, the crucial reason was that he knew Alek had led him near their destination and that Alek's usefulness had diminished.

"What a pity."

Looking at Alek's corpse, Lin Beichen's expression didn't change at all. He sighed inwardly; he had to find another way to uncover the exact location of the kidnappers' hideout.

For a moment, he cast his gaze to the figure on the distant hilltop.

"This should be a lookout on the periphery of the kidnappers' hideout."

Lin Beichen surmised to himself, "Since it's a lookout, there should be more than one. Perhaps I can learn something from them."

With this thought, he began scouting the surroundings.

After a cautious reconnaissance.

He discovered...

There were only two lookouts in this entire area, and they were quite far apart.

"Let's do it this way!"

After a brief consideration, Lin Beichen had a plan and then swaggered up the slope.

The sound and curtain of rain obscured his figure.

Until he was about twenty meters from the hilltop.

Wu Xingwang noticed the rapidly approaching figure.

Startled, he asked warily, "Who?!"

"It's me."

Lin Beichen mimicked Alek's voice, continuing to move forward, "Is everyone here?"

Wu Xingwang had had limited contact with Alek.

At the sudden hearing...

He immediately thought it sounded like Alek.

"Everyone's here."

Wu Xingwang replied instinctively, then asked, "Alek, have you returned?"

During his reply.

Lin Beichen had already moved within five or six meters of him.

Almost there!

By closing the distance, he ensured an infallible strike!

At such a close distance.

Even in the dim light and rain curtain.

Many details could still be seen.

Wu Xingwang's brow furrowed instantly; Alek wasn't this tall or this sturdy.

He suddenly realized.

This damn...

Wasn't Alek!

"Who are you?!"

As Wu Xingwang's words fell.

Under his astonished gaze.

Lin Beichen transferred the Palm Thunder to the Thunder Tribulation Sword and slashed fiercely.

Immediately!

With a sound like a bolt of lightning, a dazzling blue and white electric light shot from the Thunder Tribulation Sword, striking Wu Xingwang.

Wu Xingwang only saw a glimmer of blue and white rapidly expand.

Before he could react.

The blue and white light struck his body directly.

"Ah!"

A single shivering, sorrowful cry.

Only one such cry.

Wu Xingwang had no time for another; his entire body convulsed violently before becoming rigid. With a peal, he collapsed to the ground.

Motionless!

Another one dead!

"Everything is going according to my plan!"

Lin Beichen nodded in satisfaction, then looked in another direction, took a deep breath, erased all traces of his presence, and swiftly concealed himself in the forest.

Moments later.

From the direction Lin Beichen had looked at earlier.

A figure approached, muttering, "Xingwang, what's been happening here, making weird noises? This isn't lookout duty; it's self-sabotage. Even if you're unhappy with their arrangements for us to keep watch, you can't do this, understand?"

The figure became clearer.

It was none other than another human trafficker, Zhou Tiezhu.

As he spoke, Zhou Tiezhu arrived and saw Wu Xingwang lying on the ground, his brow furrowed instantly. What was going on?

Why was he lying on the ground?

Was he ambushed?

Dead?

With this thought, remembering his unanswered muttering.

His heart skipped a beat, and he quickly found cover, cautiously observing the surroundings. Confirming no immediate threats, he emerged from cover and ran towards Wu Xingwang.

"Xingwang, what's wrong?!"

Before the words fell.

Zhou Tiezhu reached Wu Xingwang's side.

"????"

Under his gaze.

Wu Xingwang's hair was stiff, his body covered in a layer of carbon black, resembling someone who had just emerged from a coal pile, with blood-foam at the corners of his mouth.

This... this is...

Zhou Tiezhu was bewildered.

At that moment.

Suddenly!

A lightning bolt sliced leaf-like through the gray clouds in the sky.

"Crack—!!"

In an instant, the sky was as bright as day.

Illuminating the forest.

And through Zhou Tiezhu's eyes, it illuminated his mind.

"Was he struck by lightning?!"

Chapter 127: Thunder in One Hand, Sword in the Other, Lin Beichen Reveals His Holiness in Front of All

Deep in the mountains.

A dim light seeped through the human-height weeds.

A cave was perfectly hidden behind the weeds.

At this moment, inside the cave.

Tang Ru's face was dirty, her expression aggrieved and panicked. Her bright eyes looked at Zheng Xia and Lin Xiangdong beside her, full of worry.

Zheng Xia and Lin Xiangdong were tied up, sitting against the cave wall, eyes closed, their bodies limply slumped together, subconsciously leaning on each other.

Hu Nodun and the other two were sitting not far from them.

At this time, one of them muttered, "How long has it been? Lin Beichen still hasn't contacted us?"

"Let's see who can keep their cool longer."

Hu Nodun sneered, then looked at the unconscious Zheng Xia and Lin Xiangdong: "Anyway, we have his parents. I refuse to believe he's less anxious than we are."

"Right."

The other person nodded with a smile, then glanced at the time, saying, "Alek should be back soon, right?"

"Losing track of a college student, really... haha, I can't wait to hear his excuse when he gets back."

"Yahan, I advise you to be a bit more restrained during the mission. Don't provoke Alek too much."

Hu Nodun reminded, but then his face showed disdain and ridicule: "But once the mission is over and we're back at the base, that's a different story."

In the eyes of Hu Nodun and the other two.

No matter how Alek was before, he was now a joke, and a disgrace to the organization.

Losing track of just a college student?

Isn't that embarrassing!

While they were chatting.

The phone rang.

"Ring ring... ring ring..."

Hu Nodun picked up the phone and saw that it was a call from Zhou Tiezhu.

Could something have happened?

He frowned slightly and answered, "What's up?"

"M-Mr. Hu Nodun."

Zhou Tiezhu's voice was filled with pain and panic: "Xingwang... he's dead."

"What?!"

The trio's eyes widened.

Could it be...

Someone is coming to kill them?

They didn't think of Lin Beichen or the police at first, considering the former as completely powerless and the latter wouldn't kill lightly.

They thought of their enemies!

But due to the nature of their work...

They had too many enemies!

At this moment, they couldn't determine who it was.

The atmosphere inside the cave became tense.

Hu Nodun immediately asked, "How did he die?"

"It seems... it seems he was struck by lightning."

"???"

The trio was dumbfounded.

Struck... by lightning?

Was their worry unnecessary?

Were they overthinking?

Just when they were at a loss for words.

Zhou Tiezhu continued, "It seems like he was struck by lightning, but I can't be sure, so I called you, hoping you'd come take a look."

Hu Nodun thought it was necessary to check it out, just to be safe.

"Got it, wait there."

He hung up the phone and then said to Yahan, "Yahan, you're the best at this among us. Go take a look."

"Okay, I'll go now."

"Be careful."

"Got it."

The watch points of Zhou Tiezhu and Wu Xingwang were chosen by Hu Nodun and the others.

Yahan knew the location.

Braving the wind and rain.

Soon, he found Zhou Tiezhu.

"Mr. Yahan, come take a look."

Zhou Tiezhu met Yahan and pointed to Wu Xingwang's body on the ground, saying, "I didn't touch anything to avoid disturbing the scene."

"Well done."

Yahan gave Zhou Tiezhu an approving look, then went straight to Wu Xingwang's body and squatted down.

Prying open his eyelids, checking his mouth...

After a careful examination.

He had a preliminary judgment—he was indeed struck by lightning.

"But..."

Yahan wasn't ready to conclude and started inspecting the surroundings.

No wonder Hu Nodun said he was the best at this.

This is what professionalism looks like.

Ruling out all possibilities!

Soon, Yahan finished examining the surroundings, confirmed his judgment, and felt relieved.

Then he said to Zhou Tiezhu, who was anxiously waiting, "Apart from you and me, there are no other traces. Judging by the state of the body, he was indeed struck by lightning accidentally."

There was nothing else to handle here.

He patted Zhou Tiezhu on the shoulder and headed back to the cave.

"I'll head back first. You figure out how to deal with the body."

"Okay, Mr. Yahan."

Zhou Tiezhu watched Yahan leave.

Not just him.

On a thick tree not far away.

Lin Beichen was also watching Yahan's back until he completely disappeared, and a smile appeared on his face.

Everything was under control!

From the moment Wu Xingwang was killed, every step.

Zhou Tiezhu reporting the situation, the people from the base coming to investigate and confirm the cause of death...

It was like they were all acting in the play he wrote.

"In this way..."

"Just follow this person's trail to find their base."

Lin Beichen wasn't in a hurry to follow Yahan.

For one, he was worried that if he followed too closely, he might be noticed.

Not out of fear of retaliation, but out of concern that they might not return to their base if they suspected they were being followed.

Chapter 128: Thunder in One Hand, Sword in the Other, Before the Crowd a Saint Emerges, Lin Beichen_2

There is also a very important reason.

There's still someone alive at the scene!

All those involved in kidnapping his parents must die!

That was a decision he had made long ago.

It cannot be changed!

"Deal with him first."

Lin Beichen descended from the tree and quickly blended into the darkness.

At the same time.

Zhou Tiezhu was picking up dry branches in the forest. Wu Xingwang had been with him for many years, and he couldn't bear to leave Wu Xingwang's body out in the wild.

Of course, digging a hole for Wu Xingwang was out of the question.

It was too time-consuming and laborious.

However, gathering some dry branches to cover the body was something he was willing to do.

"Sigh!"

"You poor kid, how could you get struck by lightning?"

Muttering to himself, Zhou Tiezhu also wondered if their sin of trafficking children was too severe, making them prone to retribution by lightning?

Maybe he should retire after this job!

Better quit before it's his turn next time.

Just as he was reflecting on Wu Xingwang's death.

"Rustle—"

A sound different from the rain suddenly broke the silence.

Zhou Tiezhu, already on edge, swiftly looked in the direction of the sound.

In the darkness, not far away.

A shadow moved closer, becoming clearer from a blur.

It was a human figure!

"Someone?"

Zhou Tiezhu felt a sudden jolt of fear—who could it be?

Before he could ask.

Under his astonished gaze.

The figure seemed to hold a sword.

A layer of blue and white light suddenly appeared on the sword, standing out conspicuously in the dim surroundings.

Immediately after.

The figure swung the sword.

"Clap—!!"

With a sound like lightning striking, the blue and white light detached from the sword, cleaving through the darkness and shooting straight at Zhou Tiezhu.

"???"

Zhou Tiezhu watched the blue and white light magnify infinitely in front of him, hearing the crackling sound close to his ears, he could almost feel the energy within it.

"Is this freaking electricity??"

"Is that even a human?"

"..."

Zhou Tiezhu's confusion only lasted a moment.

The next moment.

The confusion vanished.

Not because he found the answer, but because he himself "vanished."

"Er~er~..."

His scream immediately turned into autotune due to the electric shock.

Zhou Tiezhu's reaction was even more intense than Wu Xingwang's, his body spasming as if his spine would snap, the contortion of his limbs made it hard to believe he wasn't injured.

His eyes showed hardly any pupils, only the whites, continually rolling back.

His mouth wasn't frothing with saliva, but blood foam!

And in just a breath.

"..."

With a violent spasm, his whole body fell silent.

Dead straightened out for life.

The shadow in the distance moved closer.

Lin Beichen, sword in hand, emerged from the darkness without giving a glance at Zhou Tiezhu's body, walked past him and approached where Wu Xingwang's body lay, following the path Yahan had taken.

"Went this way from here."

"Turned left."

"..."

Tracking Yahan's trail.

Soon, he came near a cave and discovered the entrance hidden behind weeds.

Lin Beichen did not rush in carelessly.

When climbing the mountain with Alek, he had asked about the situation here.

However, he couldn't fully trust what Alek said.

In other words.

He wasn't sure what the situation inside the cave was like, how many people there were, what weapons they had, etc.

What he did know was that his parents were in the enemy's hands.

"Better observe from the dark first."

Lin Beichen silently approached, hiding in a spot where he was unlikely to be seen even if someone came out of the cave but where he could still hear sounds from inside.

"Wu Xingwang was really unlucky, struck by lightning."

"Don't worry, do you think I'd make mistakes? I've checked the scene, there's no outsiders around."

"Is the sedative wearing off? Give his parents another dose. Two adults are hard to control, we can't afford any mistakes."

"Hey, don't meddle with that kid!"

"..."

Listening for a while.

He gathered a lot of information, even gaining unexpected insights.

From what they said, kidnapping his parents was meant to lure him into coming, not to kill him, but to capture him alive.

And so far...

His series of actions had not aroused the kidnappers' suspicions. They had no idea he was here.

Although he hadn't seen the inside of the cave, he had a pretty good grasp of the situation.

His parents were sedated, unconscious and vulnerable.

Besides his parents, there was also a little girl held hostage.

There were only three kidnappers in total.

"If I can't eliminate all the kidnappers at once, even though there are only three, I can't just rush in."

Lin Beichen thought clearly.

The enemy had hostages, maybe even guns.

To safely rescue his parents and the little girl...

The best plan was to lure them out one by one and take them down one at a time!

"But how to do that?"

He fell into deep thought.

And just then.

A voice came from the cave.

"Alek is really taking his time. If he's not back soon, call and hurry him up. That loser couldn't even keep track of a college student, he's not what he used to be. Making us wait like this."

Hearing this, Lin Beichen's eyes lit up, a brilliant idea flashed in his mind.

Chapter 129: Thunder in One Hand, Sword in the Other, Lin Beichen Revealed Before All_3

There's a way!

He listened by the wall again for a while, making sure they wouldn't come out for a bit, then cautiously left the vicinity of the cave and returned to Alek's corpse, searching it and finding a cell phone.

"Wonder if it's dead."

Lin Beichen fiddled with it and found the phone was perfectly fine, all functions normal.

He smiled with relief.

Weighing the phone in his hand.

His gaze unconsciously turned towards the direction of the cave on the mountain.

"This feels like a long-awaited fishing trip."

...

...

Elsewhere.

Police cars with flashing red and blue lights, but no sirens, sped over and stopped not far from the village. One by one, police officers got out of the cars.

A mass of them stood in the rain.

Ready to strike!

Qian Yi stood at the forefront, constantly checking his watch. After a brief moment, he turned and asked the officer beside him, "Is it about time? Are all the brothers in position?"

"Captain Qian, let me confirm."

The officer communicated and then reported, "Captain Qian, the brothers have blocked all the routes around the village."

"Good."

Qian Yi nodded, then without wasting words, gave a vigorous wave to the officers and lowered his voice to command, "Move!"

With the order given.

He led the charge.

Leading hundreds of officers rushing towards the village.

"Plop—"

"Plop—"

"..."

The dark clouds hung low, the rain pouring down.

The chaotic footsteps echoed between heaven and earth.

An imposing force!

At the village entrance, in a pavilion.

A few elderly men and women sitting inside to shelter from the rain looked at the mass of officers rushing into the village and were completely stunned.

"What's going on, why are there so many police?"

"Did something happen in our village?"

"Oh my, this formation... something big has happened!"

"..."

They had never seen such a grand scene.

Ignoring the rain, with no umbrellas in hand.

They stumbled against the wind and rain, running home.

Before these elderly men and women could limp their way home.

Qian Yi had already led the officers to take control of the courtyard that was previously used as a transaction spot.

In an instant, the small courtyard was filled.

Everywhere one could see the figures of officers.

No dead angles!

"Report, no targets found in the warehouse."

"Report, no targets found in the dry toilet."

"Report, no targets found in the east wing room."

"..."

Officers reported back from all directions in the courtyard.

The targets were gone?!

Qian Yi frowned deeply, thinking: Did these people hear something and run?

When did they run?

Before he came?

Or after entering the village?

He wasn't sure.

But this hideout was discovered with great difficulty.

He wouldn't just call it off.

"Everyone!"

"Create a team to block all exits out of the village, then notify the brothers outside to start closing in from the village center!"

"The rest of the brothers..."

"Visit every household in the village and see if they are hiding in any villager's home."

Then, Qian Yi glanced back at the dense forest behind him and said, "And this mountain, follow me for a thorough search!"

...

...

In the cave.

Hu Nodun and the other two were completely unaware of what was happening in the village below, as the lookouts who served as their eyes had been electrocuted by Lin Beichen.

They had grown impatient waiting for Alek.

Their patience had reached its limit.

Hu Nodun, frowning, took out his phone, muttering, "Damn it, is Alek slacking off? He should've crawled back by now even if he was crawling, why isn't he back yet?!"

In their minds, the possibility of Alek running into trouble was unthinkable.

Cursing, Hu Nodun also dialed Alek's phone.

"Ring ring... ring ring..."

The phone rang from outside the cave.

"????"

The three looked towards the cave entrance instinctively, thinking: Did he come back?

They couldn't help but feel that Alek really was summoned by their thoughts.

But after waiting a bit.

The phone kept ringing.

But...

No one was in sight.

Then, Yahan leaned towards Hu Nodun and whispered, "Did Alek hear what you said and throw a tantrum, refusing to come in?"

"Nonsense!"

If it were the old Alek, Hu Nodun might have shown some respect, but after the recent mess, he'd had enough.

"Alek, get in here now!"

"..."

Hu Nodun's shout received no response.

The phone kept ringing, but no one appeared.

"Damn it!"

Hu Nodun's eyes were filled with killing intent and he said to another person, "Hadir, go and 'invite' Alek in."

He emphasized "invite".

The meaning was clear.

Hadir understood, nodded, and got up to go outside the cave. Following the ringing sound, he quickly saw the phone on the ground.

"???"

"Where's the person?"

Looking around.

He didn't see a single person.

"Where did he go?"

"Why is just the phone here?"

"Did it drop?"

Confused, Hadir walked up to the phone, bent down to pick it up.

And at that moment.

Suddenly!

A ripping sound like lightning striking the earth echoed.

"Krrrack——!!!"

"???"

"What's that noise?"

Before Hadir could grab the phone, he instinctively looked up at the sound.

Suddenly!

Chapter 130: Thunder in One Hand, Sword in the Other, Lin Beichen Revealed Before All_4

A bluish-white gleam exploded in front of his eyes.

Before he could react.

In the next instant.

His vision went black, consciousness fading.

This life of his ended in an instant.

At that moment, Hadir was still in a bowing stance, body stiff, and covered in a layer of black ash.

Standing like a statue in the rain.

Died instantly.

Without... any pain.

In a second!

And the entire death process...

Was clearly witnessed by Yahan behind him.

He had originally come out to relieve himself and see what Alek was up to, but as he reached the cave entrance, he saw Hadir's bent figure.

And in the woods ahead.

Through the rain.

A shadowy figure flickered, followed by a burst of bluish-white light emerging from it.

Instantly striking Hadir.

Then...

Hadir's body convulsed violently, the light vanished, and he became as he is now.

"???"

"Dead... dead?"

"Hadir is dead??"

"Struck by lightning?"

"What was that shadow?"

"How did it discharge electricity?"

Yahan was utterly bewildered, instinctively looking back at where he saw the shadow.

But...

There was no shadow anymore.

Nothing.

"???"

In an instant, Yahan felt dazed, even doubting his senses.

But...

Hadir's stiff corpse was still at the entrance.

Reminding him:

Everything had just happened!

No mistake!

Yahan was in shock.

Witnessing that scene had a tremendous impact on him.

His mind went blank, devoid of thought, only filled with subconscious notions.

"Did I see ghosts???"

Yahan shuddered, fear making him retract his urge to pee, and he ran back frantically.

Hu Nodun saw him running back like someone soulless, furrowed his brows and yelled, "Yahan, what are you doing?!"

"Dead... dead!"

"???"

Hu Nodun felt a sudden chill in his heart, jumped up and shook Yahan's shoulders forcefully, asking in a deep voice, "Who's dead?"

"Hadir, Hadir is dead!"

Being shaken brought Yahan back, though still confused, he recounted what he had witnessed and muttered anxiously, "I think I really saw a ghost, an electrifying ghost?"

"..."

Hu Nodun gave no response.

He had the strongest nerves among the three.

Also...

Since he hadn't seen it himself.

He hadn't been impacted much.

At the moment, Hu Nodun's brows were furrowed tightly.

"There can't be any ghosts!"

"Not a ghost..."

"Then it's a person!"

"Who?"

Almost instantly.

A name flashed in his mind—

Lin Beichen!

"How could someone who managed to shake off Alek be an ordinary college student?"

Hu Nodun realized Lin Beichen's extraordinary nature!

"Only a few knew about this cave's location and the plan to move here."

"Aside from Alek..."

"The ones who knew had always been on the mountain."

"It can't be exposed!"

"The issue must be with Alek!"

"If Lin Beichen could shake off Alek, why couldn't he track Alek and find this place?"

He wasn't sure if his suspicions were accurate.

But...

That didn't stop him from verifying them.

Nor did he have the time to think about other questions.

He only wanted to answer one question now—

Whether his suspicion was correct!

"Yahan, what you saw wasn't a ghost, it was a person!"

"A person?"

"Right!"

Seeing Yahan calm down a bit, able to understand words, Hu Nodun commanded without further explanation, "Follow me, move Zheng Xia and Lin Xiangdong to the cave entrance."

"Okay."

With hardly any thinking capacity left, Yahan did as told.

Soon, they reached the entrance, hiding behind Zheng Xia and Lin Xiangdong.

Hu Nodun then pulled out his gun and pointed it at Zheng Xia's head, shouting to the outside, "Lin Beichen, I know you're nearby. You're here to save them, aren't you? Come on, I'll count to three. If you don't come out, don't say I didn't give you a chance!"