

Doctor 631

Chapter 631: I Swear I Will Not Be Human Until This Vengeance Is Repaid!

Dongfang Dian thought of this, glanced at his son, his face as pale as paper, and cold sweat instantly broke out on his back. At the same time, a realization dawned on him, knowing that Lin Ruoxue had asked him to agree to Fang Bai's three conditions for his and his son's sake.

He could imagine that if he refused Fang Bai's conditions, thus enraging Fang Bai, his son could very likely end up missing an arm or a leg, suffering for a lifetime.

Although Lin Ruoxue had essentially saved his son, Dongfang Dian felt not even a shred of gratitude toward her. Instead, a stronger sense of resentment brewed in his heart. He thought to himself that Lin Ruoxue and her daughter Dongfang Rushi were already dominant enough in the family. If they were to add Fang Bai as an ally, who else in the Dongfang Family could possibly hold them in check in the future? Would he and his son ever have a chance to turn things around?

"Ten million... how should it be paid?"

Dongfang Dian's thoughts raced, and he quickly agreed to the decision to pay the ten million.

To avoid his son losing arms or legs, let alone ten million, even if it were a hundred million, Dongfang Dian would have to come up with it.

"Just use mobile banking to make the transfer. It's less troublesome."

Fang Bai saw Dongfang Dian soften, but his eyes were filled with resentment. Fang Bai smiled indifferently, not caring.

"Hero, tell him your bank account number. Let him transfer the ten million into your account."

Fang Bai said to Xiong Yingxiong behind him.

"Huh?"

Xiong Yingxiong was stunned and stuttered, "Ten million... into my account? Master... this..."

"What's all this about! He hit you, so you should be the one to receive the compensation money!"

"But... but..."

"Tell him your bank account number!"

"Oh..."

Xiong Yingxiong, seeing his master glare at him, did not dare to say more and honestly told Dongfang Dian his bank account number.

Dongfang Dian took out his phone, logged into his personal bank account, and transferred ten million to the bank account number Xiong Yingxiong had given. The moment he clicked "confirm," the corners of his mouth twitched, and he felt an extreme pain in his heart.

A moment later, Xiong Yingxiong's phone showed that ten million had been transferred into his account.

"Good, let's consider this incident closed! However, I hope there won't be a next time, because it won't just be a matter of making apologies and paying some money."

Fang Bai looked at Dongfang Dian and his son with a faint smile, the weight of his presence silently and invisibly enveloping the two.

Thump—

Like being crushed by a mountain, Dongfang Dian and his son fell to the ground, their faces deathly pale, drenched in sweat, feeling as if they were about to suffocate.

Dongfang Dian might not be a martial artist, but he recognized that this pressure was something martial artists called "aura," and he knew it had to be Fang Bai imposing it on them.

This was Fang Bai's way of demonstrating his power and also a warning to them.

The pressure exerted by Fang Bai lasted only a few seconds, but during these seconds, Dongfang Dian and his son felt as if they were on the brink of an apocalyptic end, walking a circle on the line of death.

"Aunt Lin, Rushi, Ruhua, I have some matters to attend to, so I'll be taking my leave now!"

Fang Bai knew Lin Ruoxue and Dongfang Dian must have something to discuss, so after greeting the three of them, he left the hotel with Xiong Yingxiong and the others.

Lin Ruoxue asked her two daughters to see Fang Bai off, then had several bodyguards wait outside the door, and with the back of her hand, she closed the door of the "Fortune Hall," looking at Dongfang Dian father and son, dumbfounded.

"Do you know, you almost brought a huge disaster upon the Dongfang Family? If you were my son, I would personally beat you until you can't get out of bed for ten days and a half months!"

With Fang Bai and the others no longer present, Lin Ruoxue was even colder toward Dongfang Dian father and son. She glared at Dongfang Yue with her phoenix eyes and said sternly, "Do you feel it's suffocating and annoying to be beaten and then have to apologize and make compensation to others?"

"I... I didn't..."

Dongfang Yue had been scared stiff by Fang Bai earlier and still hadn't gotten over it. Even his usual boldness was gone, and he muttered softly in response.

Lin Ruoxue sneered coldly and said, "I know you're not convinced, and you might even think about retaliating against Fang Bai's disciples in the future! But I must solemnly warn you, if you do, you're seeking death, and then nobody will be able to save you! For Fang Bai to want you dead is easier than squashing an ant!"

Dongfang Yue kept silent, but the corners of his mouth curled dismissively, and his expression was filled with the words "I don't believe it."

Dongfang Dian, after all, had lived decades longer than his son, and with patience, furrowed his brow and asked, "How powerful is Fang Bai exactly?"

"Much more powerful than you can imagine!"

Lin Ruoxue said, "In terms of medical skills, Fang Bai is on par with the current four National Doctors; in terms of strength, all the martial artists our family employs combined might not be his match! In terms of wealth, he's the Vice President and a major shareholder of the Beauty Company; in terms of connections, the Lu Family in Yanjing, the Jiang Family, the Tang Family in Anxi, the Ye Family in Lingnan, the Qin Family in Jinling, and the Hua Family in Zhongzhou, all have good relationships with him. Some families even revere him as an honored guest..."

Dongfang Dian listened to Lin Ruoxue listing each point, and his complexion turned ashen, as if he was mourning for the dead.

He never imagined that Fang Bai would be so powerful. He had thought about taking revenge after a while, but now it seemed he should be thankful if Fang Bai didn't trouble him.

Watching Dongfang Dian's complexion become increasingly ugly, Lin Ruoxue inwardly scorned him and said, "If we mother and daughter hadn't come in time, you would know better than me what the consequences would've been! It's a minor matter that you father and son have antagonized Fang Bai, but if you drag the entire family down with you, that would be a major issue!"

After a pause, she continued, "The old master at home was furious when he found out that Xiao Yue had provoked Fang Bai. As for how to deal with Xiao Yue, the old master has left it to me..."

Dongfang Dian sighed and said, "Third younger sister, for the sake of being family, you..."

"In this matter, I won't be lenient, nor can I be lenient!"

Lin Ruoxue interrupted Dongfang Dian's words and stated solemnly, "Do you think that after Fang Bai has left, he won't be keeping an eye on things here? If I let Xiao Yue off today, or handle things improperly, and Fang Bai becomes dissatisfied, what then?"

Dongfang Dian glanced at his son, looking suddenly much older, and asked with a parched voice, "Then what do you suggest we do with Xiao Yue?"

Lin Ruoxue thought for a moment and said, "Xiao Yue can't continue to stay at Yanjing Medical University. Whether he withdraws or transfers, that's for you to decide."

"Alright! In the next few days, I'll send him abroad to study!"

Dongfang Dian agreed readily. Fang Bai was a professor appointed by Yanjing Medical University, and his disciple was also a student there. His son had offended them, and staying on might lead to more trouble, so it was better to stay as far away from them as possible.

"Furthermore, considering your failure to discipline your son and nearly bringing disaster upon the family, all the family businesses you're managing will be handed over to Rushi to take care of. You should reflect behind closed doors for a while!"

"No! That's impossible!"

Dongfang Dian laughed in anger, pointed at Lin Ruoxue and said, "I knew it, you've never had good intentions! You're using this as an opportunity to suppress me, aren't you? Heh heh, if all the businesses I manage are handed over to Rushi, then your branch of the family will control more of the family assets than mine. In the future, your branch could overshadow the entire Dongfang Family, right? Lin Ruoxue, Lin Ruoxue, your ambition is truly great!"

Lin Ruoxue remained unangered and said indifferently, "If you don't agree, you can go home and talk to the old master!"

She left Dongfang Dian with a look of contempt and derision and turned to leave.

Soon after, in the deathly silent Fortune Hall, the sound of Dongfang Dian's inarticulate, beast-like growl could finally be heard:

"Fang Bai, if I don't get revenge for this, I swear I'm not human! Lin Ruoxue, I won't let your ambition succeed!"

Chapter 632: Blue Ice Fish

Two days later, a series of personnel changes occurred within the Dongfang Family, with the largest change befalling Dongfang Leiming's second son, Dongfang Dian.

Originally in control of many of the Dongfang Family's industries, Dongfang Dian's power was second only to Lin Ruoxue and her daughter, Dongfang Rushi. However, after the adjustments, he was stripped of almost all control over the industries, becoming the least powerful among his siblings.

According to rumors, it was Old Master Dongfang who made this decision. This led to Dongfang Dian making a scene in front of Old Master Dongfang, who became so angry that he gave Dongfang Dian several hard slaps and even threatened to expel him from the family. It was only after the family members' persuasion that he let the matter go.

The root cause of this event was Dongfang Dian's son, Dongfang Yue, who had provoked one of Fang Bai's disciples, causing Fang Bai's displeasure. To quell Fang Bai's anger, Old Master Dongfang made such a decision.

In Yanjing, many prominent clans that had little understanding of Fang Bai began to investigate his background after this incident. They came to the realization that Fang Bai was a master of both medicine and martial arts and had connections with clans like the Lu Family and the Jiang Family, concluding that offending him would lead to no good end.

Therefore, the elders of those prominent clans started to constantly remind their young ones to take Dongfang Yue's example as a warning and to never provoke Fang Bai.

Meticulously, some observant people calculated that since Fang Bai's arrival from Zhongzhou to Yanjing, he had conflicts with many young members of prominent clans, and in every case, his opponents ended up worse off.

As a result, Fang Bai also earned the title of "nemesis of the unruly young masters."

Those close to Fang Bai, upon hearing this news, displayed a mix of concern, excitement, and admiration.

As for Fang Bai himself, he merely smiled indifferently, not taking these matters to heart.

With the "World Meta-Human Elite Competition" date nearing, Fang Bai also sped up his cultivation, hoping to break through in his cultivation level before departing for America, thus increasing his assurance of winning the championship.

Early this morning, Fang Bai once again came to the waterfall deep in the mountains outside Yanjing City to temper his body.

After nearly a month of uninterrupted body tempering, Fang Bai's physical body had undergone countless impacts, becoming even stronger. The energy of his physical body transformed into traces of True Yuan flowing into his Qi Sea. Coupled with large amounts of Essence Stones and Spiritual Medicine, the True Yuan within Fang Bai's Qi Sea was exceptionally abundant and concentrated.

Every time Fang Bai practiced his punches and kicks, the True Yuan inside his Qi Sea would surge ceaselessly, giving him a sensation of bursting out of his body, inching closer to the critical point of breaking through barriers and advancing to the next realm.

Under the assault of the waterfall, Fang Bai performed a set of martial arts like flowing water, then sat down cross-legged on the spot, allowing the cascading water to strike his head, blocking out his senses and all external sounds, entering a state of self-forgetful cultivation.

After a long while, Fang Bai opened his eyes, sighed, and shook his head with a wry smile.

He had repeatedly attempted to break through the realm's barriers but had not succeeded, realizing he was still lacking some fortuitous opportunity.

Just as he was about to leap to the shore, get dressed, and leave, a bone-chilling cold suddenly invaded from beneath the water, causing him to involuntarily shiver.

"Hmm? What's that?"

Fang Bai's gaze sharpened as he saw a small fish with deep blue scales emerge, slowly swimming in the pool. To Fang Bai's surprise, where the blue fish swam, the water within a three-foot radius instantly froze over with a layer of thin ice.

"Blue Ice Fish!"

Seeing the blue fish, Fang Bai couldn't contain his excitement. He hadn't expected to encounter in the Secular World what was considered a cultivation treasure only found in the Cultivation World in his previous life.

In Fang Bai's previous life in the Cultivation World, Blue Ice Fish commonly lived in extremely cold waters, covered with a layer of thin yet hard blue scales, and could live up to a thousand years.

For Fang Bai, the Blue Ice Fish was not an ordinary fish but a Water Element spiritual creature that naturally absorbed Water Element Qi.

A mature Blue Ice Fish, a thousand years old, was only about the size of a thumb, but the condensed Water Element Qi within its body was astoundingly powerful.

In Fang Bai's past life in the Cultivation World, there was a saying, "Eating a single Blue Ice Fish is equivalent to a hundred years of arduous cultivation," which showed how significant the fish was for martial artists.

Fang Bai had never imagined that in this world, where Essence Energy was so scarce and resources were depleted, such spiritual creatures would exist.

From this, Fang Bai became even more certain that this world was not as simple as he had thought; there were many mysteries waiting for him to explore and discover.

The Blue Ice Fish in the pond before him was mature, likely around a thousand years old. It was leisurely swimming in the water about five or six meters away from Fang Bai. Whenever it swam past, a thin layer of ice formed on the surface of the water, which would then be immediately broken by the flowing water pouring down into the pond.

Because it lived in the extremely cold waters all year round, the condensed Water Element Qi within the Blue Ice Fish was chilling to the extreme. The outflow of this energy while the fish swam caused the freezing of the water's surface.

Fang Bai's eyes shone brightly, his throat moved, as he stared intently at the Blue Ice Fish in the water.

He prepared to capture the Blue Ice Fish. If he could successfully catch and consume it, the Water Element Qi within his Qi Sea would surge immensely, and he might break through his current realm in one fell swoop, elevating his strength even further.

However, the Blue Ice Fish was cunning and had sharp reflexes. It swam at an incredible speed in the water, and even with Fang Bai's great strength, he didn't dare to be careless—in case he startled the fish and missed this opportunity forever.

Fang Bai stood under the waterfall, holding his breath, suppressing his heartbeat, and slowly shifted his feet forward. He was gathering strength in secret, waiting for the best moment to strike.

Shortly after, the Blue Ice Fish swam towards Fang Bai. When it was about three meters away from the rock where Fang Bai stood, he suddenly sprang into action.

Quiet as a maiden, swift as a fleeing rabbit.

Fang Bai was still until he wasn't, then he moved with the speed of lightning, pushing his movement technique to its limits and astonishing speed.

He suddenly leaped from the rock beneath the waterfall, like a swallow skimming over water, diving towards the Blue Ice Fish in the water, his right hand splayed out to catch the elusive creature.

With such a close distance and an all-out surprise attack, Fang Bai believed that it would be difficult for the Blue Ice Fish to escape from him.

Yet, to his surprise, the Blue Ice Fish displayed unexpected agility. Just as Fang Bai's fingertips brushed the water's surface, the fish "swooshed" away, darting from beneath his fingers. Then with a flick of its tail, it created a splash and rapidly swam to the bottom of the pond.

"Where do you think you're going!"

Fang Bai hadn't expected that his full-force strike, with all his gathered momentum, would miss. Annoyed, his body instinctively plunged into the pond, chasing after the Blue Ice Fish that had dived to the depths, like a fish himself.

The pond wasn't very large, but it was quite deep. Sunlight shone down, yet the bottom was hard to see.

Chapter 633: Underwater Spectacle

Fang Bai had tried to gauge the depth of the pool before, it was approximately ten meters deep, yet what puzzled Fang Bai was that while the bottom of the pool was very cold, it certainly couldn't be considered "extremely" cold. It was unsuitable for Blue Ice Fish to live in. Where exactly had that Blue Ice Fish come from?

With this question in mind, Fang Bai fixed his gaze on the Blue Ice Fish that was frantically trying to escape and pursued it relentlessly.

Once both Fang Bai and the fish reached the bottom of the pool, the Blue Ice Fish swam towards the rock beneath which Fang Bai used to stand and cultivate. After chasing for a while, Fang Bai discovered a hidden cavern beneath the rock.

Even though the outside light couldn't penetrate ten meters under the water, Fang Bai's vision was excellent. He could still make out the scenery more than ten meters away underwater.

He discovered an oval stone cave, over two meters wide, beneath the rock. As he followed the Blue Ice Fish into the cave, the temperature of the surrounding water suddenly dropped.

"I have no idea how deep this water cave is or where it leads. If that Blue Ice Fish came from here, then there might be more of them inside!"

The image of a school of Blue Ice Fish swimming freely in the water popped into Fang Bai's mind, and he couldn't help but get excited. Discovering a nesting ground for Blue Ice Fish here would be like stumbling on an exceptionally valuable cultivation resource.

Taking out a Luminous Pearl from his Spatial Ring, Fang Bai used its light to continue following the Blue Ice Fish deeper into the cave.

With an unparalleled Chaos True Body and a head full of hundreds of Water System Techniques, Fang Bai moved through water almost as if he were a fish. However, circulating his Cultivation Techniques consumed True Yuan, and only the constraints of his own cultivation level limited how long he could stay underwater.

Fang Bai's Qi Sea contained enough True Yuan to support him in the water for three to five hours, which was why he had no reservations about following the Blue Ice Fish deeper.

Time passed, and Fang Bai estimated that he must have penetrated several miles into the water cave. He felt the water around him growing colder and colder, so much so that his normally resilient body started to feel the chill to the bone.

Yet Fang Bai grew even more excited, for he knew that this environment was suitable for Blue Ice Fish.

The Blue Ice Fish Fang Bai was pursuing seemed to have tired, its speed slowing. Fang Bai suddenly accelerated, attempting to catch it, but with a flick of its tail, the fish darted upwards, entering another water cave.

After following the water cave upward for several hundred meters, the space before him suddenly opened up as if he had entered into a giant water tank the size of a football field.

The temperature inside this "water tank" was fearsomely low, but surprisingly, the water hadn't frozen. Fang Bai barely lasted ten minutes before feeling like he couldn't withstand it any longer.

The giant "water tank" wasn't pitch black; something emitted a dazzling blue light, turning the water into a magnificent shade of blue. Everything within the "water tank" was visible under this blue glow, with no place to hide, perfectly revealed.

To Fang Bai's delight, the "water tank" was filled with groups of Blue Ice Fish swimming together. At a rough count, there were thousands upon thousands of them.

The large schools of Blue Ice Fish seemed to circle around something in their midst, and the source of the brilliant blue light was right in the center of the fish school

Fang Bai put away the Luminous Pearl and swam towards the school of fish.

At this moment, numerous Blue Ice Fish moved slowly beside him, not afraid of him at all. He could effortlessly catch a few by merely reaching out his hand.

However, Fang Bai's focus wasn't on the Blue Ice Fish at the moment. He dispersed the fish school and burst in, only to see fist-sized blue transparent stones in his view.

Those blue stones, quietly embedded in a massive rock at the bottom of the water, emitted a bright and dazzling blue light. Fang Bai, watching them from a distance, felt a bone-chilling coldness assaulting him and couldn't help but shiver again.

"Water Ice Crystals!"

Upon seeing those blue stones, Fang Bai exclaimed out loud in surprise, his joy mixed with a surge of excitement.

Then, Fang Bai swam up to the massive rock and reached out to play with one of the embedded blue stones known as "Water Ice Crystals."

Threads of coldness, piercing to the bone, spilled out from the Water Ice Crystal and seeped into Fang Bai's body. He felt as though his blood was being frozen, dangerously close to being immobilized, and his entire body almost turned rigid.

Water Ice Crystals were essential materials for crafting water attribute Spiritual Artifacts, and were also one of the coldest substances in the world. It was their presence that led to the extremely low temperatures here, which created a suitable environment for the Blue Ice Fish, a spiritual creature, to exist, survive, and continually multiply.

Fang Bai did not know where these Water Ice Crystals came from but thought that perhaps they had always existed here since the creation of the world.

"What a treasure!"

After admiring the crystals for a moment and finding the coldness unbearable, Fang Bai casually tossed them into his Space Ring, then proceeded to remove the second, third, fourth... crystals from the rock.

Fang Bai initially planned to put all the Water Ice Crystals from this place into his Space Ring; however, after a second thought, he decided to leave some behind.

If Fang Bai took all the Water Ice Crystals, leaving nothing behind, the Blue Ice Fish would lose their suitable living environment and would soon die, leading to their eventual extinction.

In the Cultivation World or the Nine Immortal Domains of Fang Bai's previous life, such acts of plundering renewable treasures entirely were met with condemnation and disdain by all Martial Artists. Therefore, when Martial Artists discovered renewable natural treasures, they often left some for those fated to find them.

After taking most of the Water Ice Crystals, Fang Bai casually caught dozens of Blue Ice Fish and placed them on the Water Ice Crystals in his Spatial Ring before quickly leaving the water cave and returning towards the outside.

The reason Fang Bai didn't catch more Blue Ice Fish to take back was that he believed in not biting off more than one can chew. Being alone, he wouldn't be able to digest so many in a short period. Plus, this

place was extremely secluded and unlikely to be discovered by others, meaning he could always come back here to catch fish whenever he pleased.

Although Baili Mingyue was also a Water Spirit Root cultivator, her Cultivation Level was too weak. If she were to eat Blue Ice Fish now, she simply wouldn't be able to withstand the coldness; that would not be helping her but harming her instead.

Half an hour later, Fang Bai emerged from the water cave, his head popping out beside the waterfall. He took a long breath of relief.

He crawled to the edge of the pool and lay on a flat rock in a spread-eagled position, lazily basking in the warm sun while silently circulating his Cultivation Technique to recuperate.

Once his depleted True Yuan was replenished, Fang Bai was fully revitalized, brimming with energy.

He walked to the edge of the pool, took out several Blue Ice Fish, removed their tough scales, rinsed the whole fish clean in the pool water, then returned to the same rock.

With a solemn expression, he sat cross-legged, started circulating his Water System Techniques, the "Water Element Art," and then, opening his mouth, he gulped down several Blue Ice Fish whole.

Chapter 634: Advancement, Furious Wave Fist!

A few Blue Ice Fish swallowed, Fang Bai's bare body swiftly became enveloped in a thin layer of ice, making him look like an ice statue from afar.

Fang Bai ignored this and allowed his body to be covered with the thin ice, continuing to circulate the Water Element Art to digest and absorb the pure Water Element Qi released by the Blue Ice Fish in his belly.

After an hour, the Water Element Qi transformed from the Blue Ice Fish had been completely absorbed by Fang Bai, causing his Qi Sea to become tumultuous due to the large influx of Water Element Qi.

Fang Bai, as if in deep meditation like an Old Monk, lost in oblivion, guided the turbulent and restless Water Element Qi in his Qi Sea to circulate through specific meridians, launching an assault towards "Earth Level Perfection."

Once the breakthrough was successful, and his cultivation level reached "Xingyuan Realm" Perfection, Fang Bai's strength would be equivalent to an Earth Level Perfection in this world. Moreover, with his ability to challenge beyond his level, even if he faced a Heaven Level High Rank expert, he would have the power to contend.

The further one advanced in martial arts progression, the harder it was, and even with the assistance of the Blue Ice Fish, Fang Bai couldn't make the breakthrough in one go.

After several failed attempts to break through, Fang Bai was not disheartened at all. He patiently operated his cultivation technique and stimulated his True Yuan, repeatedly assaulting the last barrier on his path to advancement.

From sunrise to sunset, a whole day, Fang Bai stayed still as if he had turned to stone, not moving a muscle.

A bird landed on his head, intending to rest its feet but was struck by the cold emanating from his body, and in an instant, it froze into a ball of ice and fell to the ground, dead.

A grey-furred rabbit jumped out from the forest, aiming to drink water from the pond. As it passed by Fang Bai, it too, was frozen stiff in place.

At the moment the setting sun dipped below the horizon, Fang Bai's body trembled slightly. Then the thin ice covering his body quickly melted away, revealing his skin glowing like white jade.

Fang Bai slowly opened his eyes, his gaze sharp as a knife and as piercing as lightning, seemingly able to cut straight to one's heart, but he quickly concealed it, making it appear as ordinary as anyone else's.

Intense fluctuations of energy radiated from Fang Bai, spreading to the surroundings, even affecting the air to form visible ripples.

"Finally, I've made the breakthrough... It wasn't easy!"

Fang Bai introspected his Qi Sea, only to see the mass of Chaos Origin Energy within it had expanded significantly. In particular, the black part representing the Water Element Qi occupied a larger area within the mass of Chaos Origin Energy, indicating that his attacks using Water System techniques would be the most powerful.

Fang Bai leaped to his feet and executed a Water System martial skill "Furious Wave Fist," striking towards the water in the pond in front of him.

As his fist hammered down, the mass of Chaos Origin Energy in his Qi Sea spun with great velocity. A stream of black Water Element Qi separated and traveled through his meridians, reaching his fist in an instant, then exploded outward with a faint sound of a sonic boom.

Boom—

The powerful Water Element Qi that burst from Fang Bai's fist struck the surface of the water with the force of an overwhelming wave, producing a thunderous noise and raising waves several meters high.

Whoosh—

As the giant waves crashed down, countless droplets splashed, as if the entire pond was boiling, taking a while to settle down.

This punch, comparable to the impact force of a waterfall's current, if it were a person, how could they withstand such a blow?

"After advancing in cultivation level, my strength has greatly increased. Tomorrow's trip to America should yield satisfactory results!"

Fang Bai muttered to himself.

Fang Bai had never been much for fame and fortune, but since he had promised Long Jingtian to win the crown at this year's 'World Meta-Humans Organization Elite Competition', he planned to do his utmost to achieve that.

Moreover, Fang Bai was curious to witness the so-called meta-humans of this world and understand what made them so unique that even a Heaven Level expert like Long Jingtian could be defeated by them.

Seeing it was getting dark, Fang Bai took out some clothes from his Spatial Ring, put them on, and drifted away.

Early the next morning, Fang Bai arrived at the Dragon Guard headquarters at the time he had previously agreed with the Dragon Maiden. Then, with him as the team leader, he led ten core members of the Dragon Guard who were participating in this year's 'World Meta-Humans Organization Elite Competition' onto a coach bus toward Yanjing International Airport.

The ten core Dragon Guard members led by Fang Bai, aside from the Dragon Maiden, were all Earth Level Martial Artists. Among them were seasoned Earth Level warriors like Long Da and Long Er, as well as the recently advanced Long Wu and Long Shijiu, who had risen in rank under Fang Bai's guidance over the past month.

The reason the Dragon Maiden was going wasn't to compete; her strength was not yet sufficient to qualify for the competition. She was prepared to act as a translator for Fang Bai and the others, and Long Jingtian also wanted her to broaden her horizons and gain experience.

This time, Long Jingtian didn't accompany them, instead he remained at the Dragon Guard headquarters. With Fang Bai leading the team, he felt very reassured.

If even Fang Bai couldn't take first place, then there was no use in him going either.

For security reasons, Fang Bai and his group took a chartered plane from Huaxia Airlines.

Since its establishment, the Dragon Guard had made a prominent name for itself both domestically and internationally, but it had also made many enemies. Many people hated the Dragon Guard members to the bone and would be pleased to see them dead.

Therefore, every time Dragon Guard members traveled together, they made sure to have ample security measures in place to prevent any possibility of a collective ambush, and even the flight attendants on the plane had to go through multiple stringent checks by the Dragon Guard to ensure they did not pose a threat to flight safety.

At eight o'clock in the morning, the chartered plane carrying Fang Bai and the others took off, heading for the American gambling city of Las Vegas across the ocean.

Of all the modes of transportation in the world, Fang Bai's least favorite was flying because, in his view, if there was an accident on the ground or in the water, he had the ability to protect himself. However, on a plane flying at tens of thousands of meters in the air, should there be an accident, with his current ability, there would be no chance of escape.

This feeling of not having control over his own life made Fang Bai very uncomfortable.

So, before every flight, Fang Bai would diffuse his Divine Sense throughout the entire plane, inside and out, in search of any explosive devices or the like, inspecting far more carefully than any ordinary check.

Of course, if the plane had a mechanical failure mid-flight, that was beyond Fang Bai's control.

"How is it, are you confident in taking first place?"

In the cabin of the plane, Fang Bai spoke with a smile to Long Da, Long Er, and others, trying to alleviate the tension they felt before facing their opponents.

Members of the Dragon Guard like Long Da and Long Er, although experienced in participation at the 'World Meta-Humans Organization Elite Competition', still found themselves under immense pressure to win first place, which would decide who would control the human resource allocation rights of various meta-human organizations for the next five years. Consequently, they had to give their all.

However, in the previous two competitions, despite the Dragon Guard leader Long Jingtian personally stepping in, they ended up in defeat. This left Long Da and Long Er somewhat lacking in confidence, and they were unsure about how strong Fang Bai really was and whether he could lead them to victory this time, causing an involuntary sense of nervousness among them.

Chapter 635: Crisis on the Plane

"With Instructor Fang here, getting first place will definitely be no problem!"

Long Shisan said with a smile.

Fang Bai was not humble, nodding and saying, "That's right, the reason I'm bringing you all to America this time is to aim for first place! Whoever tries to compete with us for first place, we'll beat them up good!"

Fang Bai's words caused a burst of laughter among Long Shisan and the others.

However, Dragon Maiden spoke seriously, "Although we should not underestimate ourselves, we also cannot be arrogant... As far as I know, some of our opponents this time have sent even stronger teams than in previous years. It's clear that everyone is determined to win first place!"

Long Wu clicked his tongue and said, "The organizers are really generous this time, usually the prize money is five hundred million US dollars, but this edition they've increased it to one billion US dollars, which is quite tempting!"

"If you're tempted, then strive for it!"

Fang Bai said loudly, "Once we get first place, the one billion US dollars will be split evenly, what do you guys think?"

Before Long Wu and the others could respond, Dragon Maiden already spoke sternly, "Instructor Fang, 'Dragon Guard' has a rule, any prize money must be turned in and confiscated!"

Fang Bai pursed his lips, dismissively saying, "Turned in and confiscated? Isn't that a bit too harsh? Who's the miser that made this rule? This is simply demotivating everyone's drive and hard work!"

Long Wu and the others secretly laughed, but no one dared to join in with Fang Bai's complaints, because this rule was set by the 'Dragon Guard' leader, Long Jingtian—who would dare to disagree?

Dragon Maiden heard Fang Bai actually calling her own grandfather a 'miser' and rolled her eyes, saying in annoyance, "It was my grandfather who made that rule. If you have a problem with it, go talk to him!"

Fang Bai laughed and said, "Alright, I'll talk to him later! Confiscating the entire one billion US dollars... that's a little unsightly. If you ask me, we should at least keep a few hundred million for everyone's expenses!"

Long Wu, Long Shisan, and the others looked up to Fang Bai admiringly, thinking that in the entire 'Dragon Guard', probably only Instructor Fang had the guts to reason with Long Jingtian.

Although Fang Bai's ability and status were comparable to Long Jingtian's, he was not as stern and rigid. He and the ten 'Dragon Guard' members on the airplane cabin laughed and joked, blending in as one of them, without the slightest air of superiority.

The ten 'Dragon Guard' members were very relaxed in front of Fang Bai, completely lacking the tension and restraint they felt in the presence of Long Jingtian.

The airplane flew steadily at an altitude of ten thousand meters above the ocean. When midnight came, all the 'Dragon Guard' members, including Fang Bai, stopped talking, sat cross-legged, closed their eyes, and entered the Cultivation State.

Suddenly, a series of soft "beeps" disturbed Fang Bai. The sound was very faint, and if it weren't for Fang Bai's extremely sharp senses, far beyond that of an ordinary Martial Artist, he would not have detected it.

Fang Bai abruptly opened his eyes, a sharp light flickering in them, and his eyebrows furrowed tightly. His natural instinct allowed him to sense an unusual crisis from those soft sounds.

"Dragon Maiden, how many captains are there in the cockpit?"

Fang Bai turned his head, asking Dragon Maiden in a low voice.

Dragon Maiden came out of her Cultivation State, opened her eyes, and looked at Fang Bai with some confusion. Although she did not understand what he meant by his question, she still answered, "There are three captains in total, one main and two co-pilots... Why?"

"Among the two co-pilots, is there a woman?"

Fang Bai asked again.

Dragon Maiden nodded and said, "Yes! The woman's name is Huo Hongyan, she's thirty-five years old, very beautiful, and currently single..."

As she said this, she gave Fang Bai a strange look, thinking to herself that perhaps Instructor Fang had a thing for uniforms or liked mature women. Otherwise, why would he ask this?

"Huo Hongyan..."

Fang Bai muttered, his eyelids suddenly twitching rapidly.

"Instructor Fang, what's wrong?"

Seeing Fang Bai's change in expression, Dragon Maiden asked in surprise.

"Huo Hongyan... fiery red face... Wrathful Beauties..."

Fang Bai looked at Dragon Maiden, as if muttering to himself, yet also as if speaking to her.

When he uttered the words "Wrathful Beauties," Dragon Maiden's pupils suddenly dilated, and she sprung up from her seat as if on springs.

The commotion on Dragon Maiden's side alarmed the other Dragon Guard members. Long Da, Long Er, and others ended their cultivation and looked at her in confusion, unaware of what had happened.

"Maybe... Maybe the name is just a coincidence? There are many names with 'Hongyan' in this world... Besides, we've thoroughly investigated Huo Hongyan before..."

Dragon Maiden felt her reaction was a bit over the top and said to Fang Bai with a smile, but it was somewhat forced.

Like the other core members of the Dragon Guard, Dragon Maiden was filled with admiration and reverence for Fang Bai. His serious demeanor and recent speculation also caused Dragon Maiden to feel a strong unease; her previous words and the smile she showed were both just forms of self-comfort.

If there really were a "Wrathful Beauties" aboard the plane, it certainly wouldn't be good news, and it was easy to guess what she might do.

Fang Bai said, "The name Huo Hongyan doesn't seem to connect to 'Wrathful Beauties,' but... have you heard a very familiar 'beeping' sound?"

"'Beeping' sound?"

Dragon Maiden focused her mind and listened carefully, shaking her head, "I haven't heard it!"

Fang Bai said, "The sound is coming from the cockpit, very faint, and because your strength is not strong enough, you can't hear it..."

Suddenly, Dragon Maiden's face turned pale as she exclaimed, "The 'beeping' sound you're talking about, could it be..."

"Yes! We're in big trouble now..."

Fang Bai said with a wry smile and nodded. "What if I told you that the beautiful co-pilot has a timed bomb on her, and it has already started the countdown, would you believe me?"

"Instructor Fang, you... you're joking, right?"

Dragon Maiden's face went pale in an instant, her voice trembling slightly as she spoke.

Fang Bai sighed, "Do I look like I'm joking?"

"I'm going to the cockpit..."

Dragon Maiden gritted her teeth and turned to hurry towards the cockpit.

The other Dragon Guard members in the cabin, all extremely clever individuals, sensed something from the conversation between Fang Bai and Dragon Maiden. Their faces turned white, expressions filled with panic as they stood up one by one.

If they were in a car, they would have many ways to escape, but on a plane, no matter how strong they were, once they encountered a crisis, there was simply no hope of escape; the only thing awaiting them was a catastrophic end.

"Dragon Maiden, wait a moment!"

Fang Bai stopped Dragon Maiden and then slowly stood up, speaking in a deep voice, "If you go, you might not even be able to open the door of the cockpit. Let me go instead!"

His figure flickered and he darted past Dragon Maiden like the wind, rushing towards the plane's cockpit at the front.

Dragon Maiden bit her lower lip tightly, her slender waist twisting as she closely followed behind Fang Bai.

Long Da, Long Er, and the others looked at each other and followed suit.

Chapter 636: Breaking Through the Hatch Door

As a group of people approached the cockpit, a flight attendant resting in the cabin heard the commotion outside and hastily came out to see what was happening. Noticing the ill-looking Fang Bai and his companions, the flight attendant, unaware of what had occurred, stepped in front of Fang Bai and asked, "You..."

Fang Bai cut off the flight attendant's words, speaking in a deep voice, "Do you have a way to open the cockpit door?"

"You... what are you trying to do?"

The flight attendant looked at Fang Bai and the others with a face full of wariness.

For safety reasons, the cockpit was strictly off-limits to passengers; even the flight attendants couldn't enter without the captain's permission.

"I want to save the lives of everyone on the plane, including yours... is that reason enough?"

Fang Bai's Divine Sense Diffusion helped him to hear the faint, rhythmic "beeping" sound coming from the cockpit, making him even more anxious.

He didn't know when the timing device on the bomb would detonate. If he couldn't disassemble it before it went off, the consequences were unimaginable. By then, including himself, it was likely that no one on board would survive.

If that beautiful co-pilot known as Huo Hongyan was actually one of the Wrathful Beauties, then she must be an ordinary assassin with no knowledge of martial arts. Otherwise, if she even had the slightest fluctuation of a Martial Artist Aura, Fang Bai's keen senses would not have missed it.

Fang Bai surmised that their action this time was targeted at him.

It seemed the Wrathful Beauties had gotten smarter. They had repeatedly used martial artists against him, with each assailant stronger than the last, yet they never succeeded. Now, by employing an ordinary assassin, they managed to create significant trouble without him noticing.

"Can you explain what exactly has happened?"

Upon hearing Fang Bai's serious words and seeing the solemn faces of Dragon Maiden, Long Da, Long Er, and the others behind him, the flight attendant started to believe him somewhat. However, due to her responsibilities, she intended to ask for clarity first.

With the timing device on the verge of exploding, Fang Bai was frantic, not in a mood to waste words. His eyes sparked with determination as he glared at the flight attendant, his voice turning icy, "There's no time to explain, just open the cockpit door, or we're all going to die!"

When he spoke, he released a hint of pressuring aura that turned the flight attendant pale with shock, making her tremble slightly as she took a couple of frightened steps back.

"Open the door!"

Fang Bai, putting aside compassion, moved closer and commanded sharply. His voice contained a wisp of True Yuan, which thundered in the flight attendant's head, nearly causing her to collapse.

"I... I need to contact the captain..."

The flight attendant shakily took out the communication device, attempting to reach the captain in the cockpit so he could open the door from inside.

Unexpectedly, after calling out numerous times, there was no response from the cockpit.

This was definitely not normal, and the flight attendant finally sensed that something was terribly wrong. Remembering Fang Bai's words that "we're all going to die," sweat began to bead on her lovely face as she realized the plane was in grave danger—and that this danger was emanating from the most critical part of the plane, the cockpit.

At this moment, the other flight attendants and stewards, hearing the ruckus, came out to inquire about the situation. When they learned there was trouble in the cockpit, their faces turned ashen.

The group of flight attendants and stewards gathered swiftly, whispered something among themselves, and then one of the flight attendants approached a keypad next to the cabin door. Her fingers trembling, she entered a long string of numeric codes, hoping to unlock the cockpit door this way. However, this too ended in failure.

There was no response in the cockpit, and the door simply wouldn't open, indicating that all three pilots were in trouble simultaneously—and the situation was extremely serious. If he couldn't manage to force the cockpit door open soon, it might not be long before the plane would lose control and plummet into the sea.

The flight attendants and stewards aboard the plane were so terrified they were beside themselves, plunging into disordered chaos. Some flight attendants had even started crying out of fear of death.

"It seems relying on you all is futile!"

Fang Bai didn't want to cause damage on the plane, but given the urgency of the situation and the twenty-some lives on board, including his own, he had to resort to violence to break down the cockpit door and enter.

Under the watchful eyes of everyone present, Fang Bai strode to the front of the cockpit door, extended his arms, and placed his palms lightly on the door. He circulated the Golden System Technique, summoning the most destructive and aggressive Golden Essence Energy from within his Qi Sea and rapidly gathering it into his palms.

"Open!"

When the Golden Essence Energy had accumulated to a certain extent in his palms, Fang Bai exhaled and called out. A robust and profound wave of Golden Essence burst forth from his palms instantly.

Boom—

A loud blast echoed as the explosion-proof, bulletproof, and exceedingly sturdy cockpit door was, incredibly, forced open by Fang Bai's bare hands.

The flight attendants and stewards on the scene were dumbfounded, looking at Fang Bai as if he were a deity.

The cockpit door was neither made of paper nor constructed of wood; it was forged from an incredibly sturdy alloy. It was utterly impossible for an ordinary person to destroy it through brute force, yet Fang Bai managed to open it with one palm. If he wasn't a god, what was he?

Although the Dragon Maiden, Long Da, and Long Er, among others, were not as shocked as the flight attendants and stewards, the look they gave Fang Bai also contained gleaming little stars of admiration.

In the eyes of ancient martial artists like Long Da and Long Er, Fang Bai's palm strike was not just a simple act of forcing the cockpit door open. It was violence mixed with aesthetics, indicating that Fang Bai's control over True Yuan had reached a level where he could deploy it at will, a standard unattainable even for Earth Rank experts like themselves.

If Long Da or Long Er had been the ones to make the move, regardless of whether they could have forced the door open, the cockpit door might have ended up flying off under the force of their violent attack, potentially striking the cockpit glass and leading to a catastrophic outcome of plane destruction and loss of life.

After Fang Bai forced open the cockpit door, it remained attached to the fuselage, just like it would during a normal opening.

This was the reason Fang Bai had personally taken action. After all, using brute force recklessly on an airplane could potentially lead to a crash.

As the door was forced open, Fang Bai was the first to vault into the cockpit, followed by the Dragon Maiden, Long Da, and the others.

The cockpit was a mess, clearly indicating that a fierce fight had taken place not long ago. The chief pilot and the co-pilot, both men, had been bound hand and foot with duct tape, their mouths sealed, and they were tossed in a corner of the cockpit, their faces showing terror.

And the person currently in control of the plane was none other than the beautiful female co-pilot known as "Huo Hongyan."

Huo Hongyan obviously hadn't expected Fang Bai and the others to break in and was caught by complete surprise, suddenly rising from her seat.

Before she could react, Fang Bai moved with the swiftness of lightning, already at her side, and quickly pressed a point on her neck.

Chapter 637: A Fine Line Between Life and Death

Huo Hongyan just felt a numbness at her neck, then the sensation spread through her entire body like electricity. Before she could bite the poison pill in her mouth, her vision darkened, and she lost consciousness.

Ssss—

After Huo Hongyan collapsed, Fang Bai rapidly and violently tore up her outer clothing, revealing something wrapped around her waist—it was an explosive device.

Seeing the explosive device, Dragon Maiden, Long Da, and others who had entered the cockpit all inhaled sharply.

The numbers on the bomb's timer kept jumping and changing, with less than thirty seconds to detonation. The lives of the more than twenty people on the plane hung in the balance in that instant.

"Thirteen, defuse it quickly!"

Dragon Maiden screamed out. Before her words had finished, Long Shisan, standing by her side, had already rushed over and crouched next to Huo Hongyan.

Long Shisan was not only an Earth Rank Ancient Martial expert but also a bomb defusal specialist. His skill in bomb defusal was so advanced that even the military's top experts felt inferior.

Long Shisan's face was grave, his fingers moved like lightning as he rapidly dismantled parts of the explosive device. When the timer reached ten seconds, he paused, hesitating over a red and a blue wire in front of him.

Those red and blue wires represented the difference between heaven and hell: cut the wrong one, and the explosive device would detonate immediately, the aircraft would be torn apart, and everyone would turn to ash; cut the correct one, and they would all escape from the brink of death, unharmed.

With more than twenty lives hanging on his decision, Long Shisan felt his mind go blank with tension as sweat beaded on his nose.

"Life and death are decreed by fate!"

Long Shisan gritted his teeth, his fingers touched the blue wire, ready to cut it with just a little pressure.

"Cut the red wire!"

Fang Bai's eyes narrowed slightly, his Divine Sense scanning the red and blue wires. The red wire gave him a stronger sense of crisis, so without further thought, he immediately shouted.

Long Shisan hesitated, but owing to his trust in Fang Bai, he closed his eyes, applied gentle pressure with his fingers, and the red wire was cut.

The timer on the explosive device, with only two seconds remaining, stopped there.

Eyes were glued to the timer on the explosive device, anxiously fearing it might suddenly resume counting down. The cockpit was as silent as death.

"It's safe now..."

After what seemed like an eternity, Long Shisan, crouched next to Huo Hongyan, let out a long breath, sat down on the ground with a thud, wiped the sweat from his face, and began to smile broadly.

The Dragon Guard members like Long Da and Long Er also had smiles on their faces, all feeling as if they had just narrowly escaped death.

The flight attendants and stewards were the happiest. Initially, they had thought their death was certain, but to their surprise, they had found salvation from a desperate situation. Realizing the danger had passed, they high-fived one another and erupted into cheers.

The captain and the co-pilot soon regained their freedom and continued to pilot the plane, while recounting the attack by Huo Hongyan. Everyone listened, feeling lingering fear, and all were very grateful to Fang Bai.

If it hadn't been for Fang Bai, at this time, everyone on the plane would have probably already perished in the vast ocean, their bones gone without a trace, right?

For safety's sake, Fang Bai let Long Da and Long Shisan stay in the cockpit, and he himself picked up the unconscious Huo Hongyan, removed the poisonous pill from her mouth that could have been fatal, and then returned to the cabin with the Dragon Maiden and the others.

What disappointed Fang Bai was that afterward, no matter what he tried, he couldn't get any useful information from Huo Hongyan, such as who the leader of Wrathful Beauties was or where their stronghold was located.

This incident had also been orchestrated by Huo Hongyan herself, following instructions given over the phone by her superiors.

Huo Hongyan was just an ordinary assassin, one of the lowest in the Wrathful Beauties organization, and she had no access to the secrets of the higher-ups in Wrathful Beauties.

After interrogating Huo Hongyan, Fang Bai handed her over to the Dragon Maiden, who planned to take Huo Hongyan back to Huaxia for punishment once they were in America.

The matter of Huo Hongyan, although it did not cause any damage, had affected everyone's mood, and for the next few hours, all of them sat in silence, with no one joking around anymore.

After more than ten hours of flight, the plane arrived at Las Vegas International Airport in America that evening. After dealing with Huo Hongyan's affair, Fang Bai and the others checked into a five-star hotel designated by the organizers of the "World Meta-Human Organization Elite Championship."

In the hotel room's large bath, Fang Bai soaked comfortably in a hot bath and, after changing into new clothes, left the room to dine in the restaurant with the Dragon Maiden and others.

After sitting on the plane for more than a dozen hours, if they were ordinary people, they would undoubtedly be exhausted and would want to go to sleep after dinner to rest up for the next day to experience this world-famous gambling city.

However, Fang Bai and his company were martial artists; before disembarking the plane, they had already meditated to adjust their breath for a while, and now not only did they not feel any fatigue, but they were also brimming with energy.

"Instructor Fang, can we go out and have some fun?"

After the meal, instead of going back to their rooms to rest, Long Da and the others surrounded Fang Bai, asking with big grins on their faces.

Looking at Long Da and the others gazing at him with eager eyes, Fang Bai laughed heartily, knowing what they wanted to do, and waved his hand, "Go ahead! All of you, go have fun. Do whatever you want, just don't stay out all night!"

"Thank you, Instructor Fang!"

Long Da and others were overjoyed, and in groups of two or three, they left the hotel and made their way to the casinos and other entertainment venues in Las Vegas.

Before coming to America, Fang Bai had specifically researched Las Vegas and knew a lot about the city, understanding that it had the reputation of the "Entertainment Capital of the World," with dining, gambling, and entertainment of every kind, especially the casinos which were particularly attractive to people from all over the world.

Due to the strict discipline of the Dragon Guard, core members like Long Da and Long Er usually stayed at the Dragon Guard headquarters, burying themselves in cultivating the Martial Dao and only having the chance to see the outside world during certain missions.

This could indeed allow the Dragon Guard members to cultivate their martial arts with a peaceful mind, benefiting their martial strength in the short term, but Fang Bai did not see this as a good thing.

If he were to lead the Dragon Guard, he would not set so many rules and constraints to restrict their members from interacting with the outside world.

On the contrary, Fang Bai would prefer a "free-range" approach, encouraging the Dragon Guard members to go out and explore, to get closer to nature, so they could have more opportunities to comprehend the marvel of the natural world and sense the Martial Dao, and perhaps even encounter some fortunate opportunities.

Just like himself, if he had stayed at home cultivating all the time, how could he ever have come across the Blue Ice Fish under that waterfall—a creature that was extremely rare even in the Cultivation World of his past life?

This principle was the same as the saying, "Reading thousands of books is not as useful as traveling thousands of miles."

Chapter 638: Chinatown

Fang Bai had also discussed this issue with Long Jingtian, except Long Jingtian had worried that once he loosened the reins on the "Dragon Guard" members, they would run wild like untamed horses, difficult to control.

Although Long Jingtian didn't immediately adopt Fang Bai's suggestion of "free-range" management, he did make some changes and announced that members of the "Dragon Guard" would have one day off per week, during which they could move about freely without any restrictions.

This time, as Fang Bai led the team to America, Long Jingtian also instructed Dragon Maiden and the others to follow Fang Bai's arrangements in all things. Even if Fang Bai took them through America to eat, drink, play, and gamble, making a ruckus, as long as they didn't delay important matters, he would let them be. After all, Long Jingtian was in Huaxia, out of sight and out of mind.

Fang Bai actually didn't like staying in his room either. Even when it came to cultivation, he preferred to be in nature, to find a place with mountains and water, where Essence Energy was abundant — the effect was much better that way.

Now being in a foreign land, everything felt novel to him. Fang Bai actually had the desire to go out and have a look around. So, just now when Long Da and the others wanted to go out, Fang Bai readily waved his hand and let them go without a second word.

However, to prevent any trouble, before Long Da and the others left, Fang Bai made each of them memorize his cell phone number, telling them to contact him with their phones if they encountered any issues they couldn't resolve.

"Dragon Maiden, you're not going out?"

Seeing Long Da and others leaving the hotel in small groups, Dragon Maiden remained by his side. Fang Bai asked her with a smile.

Dragon Maiden blinked and said, "Grandfather told me to follow you all the way! He said Las Vegas is a city with hidden dragons and crouching tigers, teeming with both the good and the bad; only by your side can I be safest. I've decided, if you go out, I'll go too; if you don't leave the hotel, then neither will I!"

Fang Bai nodded, showing he understood.

In fact, Long Jingtian's concerns were reasonable. The "International Meta-Human Elite Competition" was approaching, and powerful figures from all over the world were gathering in Las Vegas. Although Dragon Maiden was a Profound Level Martial Artist, she could handle ordinary martial artists, but she wouldn't be able to protect herself against real powerful opponents.

Especially since Dragon Maiden was also a young and beautiful woman. Letting her go out alone indeed worried people.

"Let's go, we should also take a look around! It'd be a shame not to enjoy ourselves while we're here."

Fang Bai said with a smile.

"Okay!"

Dragon Maiden replied, with a hint of excitement in her voice.

Dragon Maiden, after all, was just a woman in her twenties, not the introverted quiet type. Plus, she couldn't sleep this early; she was happy to go out and have fun with Fang Bai.

Las Vegas, leading the world's four great gambling cities, is a world-famous vacation city centered around the gambling industry, celebrated as the "Entertainment Capital of the World."

In recent years, Las Vegas has become the most selected honeymoon destination for newlywed couples around the globe, earning it the lovely moniker of "Marriage Capital of the World."

Although known as the "Gambling Capital of the World," of the nearly forty million visitors that come to Las Vegas each year, the majority are here for shopping and enjoying the cuisine, with only a minority coming specifically to gamble. However, this minority is enough to make this city of gambling thrive.

Las Vegas is a place filled with wonder. If you're down and out, a vagrant with only a few US dollars to your name, you too might have the chance to turn your luck around and become rich here; if you're a billionaire, you might just end up a penniless wanderer.

That's Las Vegas for you — one side heaven, the other hell.

And this was exactly why it was so captivating.

Walking on the main streets of the city, one could see luxurious hotels and casinos everywhere, and among the crowds, there were tourists of many nationalities and skin colors.

Fang Bai and the Dragon Maiden were both in Las Vegas for the first time, feeling a sense of strangeness and curiosity about everything here.

"I heard that there's a 'Chinatown' in Las Vegas where immigrants from Huaxia live. Instructor Fang, shall we go there and take a look?"

They strolled slowly, appreciating the city's night view, when a group of Huaxian people passed by them, the Dragon Maiden got the idea and said to Fang Bai.

"Sure!"

Fang Bai smiled and nodded. For him, being out was just about wandering and seeing, it didn't matter where.

The Dragon Maiden stopped a Huaxian passerby and politely asked for the exact location of "Chinatown," then she and Fang Bai went there excitedly.

The architecture in "Chinatown" was mainly of the classical Huaxia style, interspersed with some Western buildings, creating a unique fusion and a distinctive sight within the city.

"Chinatown" was home to tens of thousands of Huaxian people, some of whom had been immigrants for decades, through generations, yet many families preserved the traditional Huaxia customs, and some of them even spoke pure Huaxia language.

Walking in "Chinatown," seeing the Huaxian people with black eyes and yellow skin passing by, and hearing their Huaxia language, Fang Bai and the Dragon Maiden felt an extra sense of closeness.

"You little brat, stealing my family's steamed buns again... I let you off because I felt sorry for you last time, and here you are stealing again... I'll beat you to death..."

"Uncle, please don't hit me... ah... don't hit me... I won't steal anymore... no more stealing... ah..."

Ahead, about ten meters away, suddenly came the crying and screaming of a little girl, along with the cursing of an adult man.

Fang Bai and the Dragon Maiden looked up and saw a small, skinny figure staggering towards them, chased by a burly middle-aged man who was cursing while waving a broom in his hand.

Under the streetlights, the Dragon Maiden looked closely and realized that the small, skinny figure was just a seven or eight-year-old girl.

The little girl's hair was messy, and her face and body were covered in dirt as if she were a little beggar. She was filled with terror, and tears kept spilling from her big eyes that were clearly distinguished by black and white.

In her hands, the little girl was holding onto two snow-white steamed buns as if they were of utmost importance to her, clutching them close to her chest.

The middle-aged man chasing her was cursing non-stop, his broom occasionally hitting the small and frail body of the little girl. Each hit made her tremble, and then she would scream in pain and cry louder.

When the little girl got close to Fang Bai and the Dragon Maiden, she tripped over something and fell forward, the two snow-white steamed buns rolling out of her hands and getting covered in a layer of dirt.

The little girl watched the steamed buns roll away, unable to get up for a moment, looking extremely heartbroken. Her big eyes blinked, and her tears flowed faster.

Chapter 639: The Poor Little Girl

"Smelly girl, you think you can run away!"

The middle-aged man behind her caught up, his broom raised high, ready to strike the little girl again.

"Stop it!"

Dragon Maiden couldn't stand by, her form flashed, and she was already in front of the middle-aged man, saying coldly, "A grown man, bullying a little girl, aren't you ashamed?"

The middle-aged man glanced at Dragon Maiden, then pointed at the little girl crying loudly on the ground and said angrily, "I'm bullying her? This stinking girl has been stealing my steamed buns again and again. I spared her before because I felt sorry for her, but she came to steal again... I make these buns to sell. When customers see her dirty hands touching my buns, they feel disgusted and won't buy any of the others... Who's going to compensate me for my losses?"

The middle-aged man pointed at the little girl who had fallen to the ground and was crying incessantly, his face full of anger and grievances.

Dragon Maiden frowned and said irritably, "Alright, it's just a few steamed buns. Why argue over such trivial things with a little girl? Tell me how much you lost, and I'll reimburse you!"

Seeing that Dragon Maiden had an extraordinary air about her, the middle-aged man didn't dare to be too aggressive and said sheepishly, "The buns aren't that expensive, it's just that the girl is too infuriating... Never mind, it's just my bad luck today, I won't hold it against her! If she dares to come again next time... hmph, I'll see if I don't break her legs!"

With that, he gave the little girl a fierce look and turned to leave.

By this time, Fang Bai had already helped the fallen little girl up. Seeing that her clothes were dirty but thick, and she was not injured, he smiled and asked, "Little sister, did the fall hurt?"

Fang Bai's smile naturally held a kind of warmth, and the little girl, as if infected by his smile, immediately stopped crying. She wiped her tears, nodded at first, then shook her head and said timidly, "It doesn't hurt..."

She blinked her big eyes and added, "Big brother, thank you for helping me. When I grow up and become capable, I'll definitely repay you!"

After saying this, she suddenly went around Fang Bai, ran to pick up two buns that had rolled on the ground, cautiously peeled off the dirty outer layer, and only then did a shy smile appear on her little face.

Dragon Maiden walked back to Fang Bai's side and together they watched the little girl's face light up with a smile. She thought to herself that if the girl had her face washed clean and was dressed up carefully, she would definitely be a very cute and lovable pretty girl.

The little girl was very polite, not like a wild child who had grown up without parents. It was just unclear how she had ended up in such a plight.

Dragon Maiden, seeing the little girl holding the two steamed buns as if they were treasures, felt a twinge of pity and walked over to her. She crouched down with a smile and asked, "Little sister, where are your parents?"

Beautiful women are always likable, and the little girl, seeing that Dragon Maiden was beautiful, had no wariness toward her. However, the mention of her parents made her eyes turn red, and she began crying again, saying, "Mommy went to heaven last year, she won't come back, doesn't want daddy and Xiao Yu anymore... Daddy got into a fight, he got disabled, and now he lies in bed and can't move..."

Going to heaven, of course, meant death, so how could she possibly return?

Seeing the little girl crying so sadly, Dragon Maiden gently consoled her for a while until she stopped crying, and then asked, "Your name is Xiao Yu, right?"

"Mm."

Xiao Yu nodded vigorously.

"Xiao Yu looks like a good child. Why did you steal someone else's steamed buns?"

Dragon Maiden continued to ask.

Dragon Maiden and Instructor Fang had come out just to stroll, and since they had encountered this situation, she wanted to understand it fully. Besides, the little girl seemed cute and pitiful, and Dragon Maiden, filled with compassion, wanted to give the girl a helping hand.

Xiao Yu seemed very ashamed of stealing the buns, hanging her little head low and saying, "Dad owed money to some bad people, and the bad people broke into our home and took all the money. Xiao Yu and Dad haven't eaten anything for a whole day... Xiao Yu is hungry... Dad must be hungry too... so... so..."

Dragon Maiden, thinking of Xiao Yu's mother's death and her father's disability, felt increasingly sorry for her and sighed, "Doesn't Xiao Yu have any other family members?"

Xiao Yu shook her head and said, "No."

Having lost her mother and having a bedridden disabled father, all their money taken by others, and without even a relative in this foreign land... Dragon Maiden couldn't imagine how Xiao Yu and her father were surviving. Were they really relying on Xiao Yu stealing buns from others to get by?

Xiao Yu had stolen buns yet didn't eat them herself, so she must have been planning to take them home to share with her father, right?

"What a poor girl!"

Dragon Maiden glanced at Fang Bai, hesitated for a moment, then said firmly, "Instructor Fang, I want to go visit Xiao Yu's home... It's one thing not to come across such matters, but now that we have, I can't just ignore it and feel at peace with myself..."

Fang Bai nodded, smiled at Xiao Yu, and, touching her little head, asked, "Would Xiao Yu welcome us to visit your home?"

Xiao Yu tilted her head, obviously pondering whether it was a good idea to bring two strangers home and whether her father would be angry.

"We will buy lots of delicious food for Xiao Yu and Xiao Yu's dad to eat!"

Fang Bai immediately added.

The temptation of his words was quite strong, and Xiao Yu was quickly won over, nodding and saying, "Okay! Is big brother really going to buy lots of delicious food for Xiao Yu... and Xiao Yu's dad?"

"Of course, big brother keeps his word! Let's go, we'll head to the supermarket now! Xiao Yu, tell big brother and big sister what you like to eat!"

As he spoke, Fang Bai, flanked by Dragon Maiden on his left and right, held Xiao Yu's little hand and started walking towards a nearby Chinese supermarket.

Half an hour later, the three of them walked out of the supermarket, with Fang Bai carrying two big bags of food and drinks as well as a few toys that little girls would like.

Xiao Yu was content, having chosen only a bag of candy, a box of cookies, and a carton of instant noodles in the supermarket.

Xiao Yu said she could eat the candy and cookies with her dad, but the instant noodles were intended for her dad alone because she often saw him happily eating instant noodles hydrated with boiling water, so she thought it must be his favorite food.

What she didn't know was that her dad was eating the cheapest instant noodles, just to save some money so that she and her mom could eat and dress warmly.

Xiao Yu only chose these three things and refused to pick any more, saying that her dad had instructed her not to waste other people's money, so everything else was bought on Dragon Maiden's and Fang Bai's initiative.

When visiting someone's home, one should not appear too shabby.

Seeing her new big brother and big sister bringing so many things to her home made Xiao Yu very happy. She regained the innate cheerfulness of childhood and hopped and skipped the whole way home, humming a joyful nursery rhyme, forgetting all her troubles.

In every large city, there exists a "slum," a place usually inhabited by those who earn very little and barely get by each day.

Chapter 640: They Are Good People

Xiao Yu's family lived in what was known as the "slum" under the shadow of the bustling city.

This "slum," made up of over a hundred low tile-roofed houses and bungalows, featured narrow streets littered with sewage. The Dragon Maiden, faced with slight mysophobia, followed Xiao Yu through a bumpy and winding alley, her brows furrowed at the sight of puddles of dirty water underfoot, feeling an urge to turn and flee.

However, upon seeing Fang Bai's unchanged expression and thinking about Xiao Yu living in such an environment all the time, the Dragon Maiden sighed quietly and suppressed the impulse to escape.

This was a small courtyard, with two bungalows inside. The ground was covered with weeds and dead leaves, creating a messy scene that clearly hadn't been tended to in a long time, and the air was thick with the scent of herbs.

"Big Brother, Big Sister, this is Xiao Yu's home. Please come in..."

After pushing open the gate, Xiao Yu entered the courtyard, noticing Big Brother and Big Sister staring at the weeds and dead leaves on the ground. Her expression immediately turned downcast, and she said with the air of an adult, "Big Brother, Big Sister must think Xiao Yu's home is very dirty and messy, right? I used to clean up quite often, but then I had to take care of Dad and was so hungry that I had no energy to clean anymore..."

"Xiao Yu has already done very well..."

The Dragon Maiden affectionately touched Xiao Yu's head, then exchanged a glance with Fang Bai, both looking towards the eastern room with a trace of peculiarity in their eyes.

As soon as they had entered the courtyard, they had felt the presence of a Martial Artist in the eastern room. His Martial Artist Aura was weak and chaotic, evidently having sustained serious injuries. Putting this together with what Xiao Yu had said before, they guessed that he must be Xiao Yu's father.

What Fang Bai and the Dragon Maiden had assumed to be an ordinary scuffle between people, after hearing Xiao Yu say her father was disabled due to a fight, now appeared to be a grudge between Martial Artists.

Considering the fluctuations of aura emanating from Xiao Yu's father, he was likely a High Rank Martial Artist of Yellow Level. The person who had injured him to the point of disability must be at least at the level of Yellow Level Perfection.

What puzzled Fang Bai and the Dragon Maiden was that, as a High Rank Martial Artist of Yellow Level, Xiao Yu's father should be quite capable, with plenty of ways to make money such as opening a small martial arts school or working as a bodyguard, which could all bring in a good income. They needn't be wealthy, but having enough to live comfortably shouldn't be an issue. So, why were they living in such a slum, and why was their family situation so impoverished?

Xiao Yu's parents must both have their stories.

That's what Fang Bai and the Dragon Maiden thought.

"Xiao Yu, who have you brought home?"

A weak voice came from the eastern room—the injured Martial Artist, and possibly Xiao Yu's father.

Indeed, Xiao Yu cheerfully called out "Daddy," then ran into the eastern room with the candy and biscuits Fang Bai had bought, saying, "We have something delicious at home, Dad, you eat... you eat..."

Xiao Yu's father fell silent for a moment, and then suddenly spoke out, "Guests outside, I've broken both of my legs and can't move freely or come out to greet you, please forgive me! If you don't mind the simplicity of this small room, please come inside for a chat. How does that sound?"

Xiao Yu then ran out of the room again, tugging at Fang Bai and the Dragon Maiden's hands, saying, "Big Brother, Big Sister, come inside quickly! My dad is calling for you!"

Fang Bai and the Dragon Maiden looked at each other, took Xiao Yu's hand, and entered the eastern room.

The house was lit with a small lamp, giving off dim light, and furnished with some basic items.

The furnishings were simple, with only a bed, a table, a wardrobe, a few chairs, and an old television.

On the bed further inside the room, a man in his early forties was slumped over. Bathed in the dim light, his complexion was an abnormal shade of white, seemingly faint with life and extremely feeble.

The man had sword-like eyebrows and starry eyes, fair skin, and a handsome appearance. His hair might have been long and unkempt due to a lack of care for some time, and the clothes on his body emitted a strange smell, having not been changed for many days.

Xiao Yu stood by the bed, holding her father's hand, and pointed at Fang Bai and Dragon Maiden with her childish voice, "Daddy, it's this big brother and big sister who saved me; otherwise, the bun vendor

would have beaten me up badly! Big brother and big sister also bought so many delicious things for me! They are good people!"

From the moment Fang Bai and Dragon Maiden entered the room, Xiao Yu's father had been sizing them up. Fang Bai caught a fleeting glint of sharpness in his eyes, knowing that although he was recuperating, he still maintained the basic vigilance of a Martial Artist.

Fang Bai knew that if two people with ulterior motives tried to harm Xiao Yu and her father in this room, her father might still muster the last of his strength to deliver a fierce strike.

"Thank you both for helping Xiao Yu!"

Perhaps not sensing any malice from Fang Bai and Dragon Maiden, Xiao Yu's father let out a sigh of relief, his face showing a grateful smile.

"We just happened to encounter someone chasing and hitting Xiao Yu on our way, and we lent her a hand..."

Dragon Maiden, managing to tolerate the unusual smell from Xiao Yu's father, moved a bit closer to the bed and sized him up for a while before frowning and saying, "Xiao Yu's daddy, it seems you're gravely injured! Xiao Yu said her mother is no longer here, how will you and your daughter... live from now on?"

Xiao Yu's father's expression darkened as he sighed deeply, "I've already spoken to the neighbors. If I die, they will call the police to deal with my body. As for Xiao Yu... I've asked them to send her to an orphanage..."

"Then, Xiao Yu will become an orphan..."

Dragon Maiden murmured, feeling even more pity for Xiao Yu and sighed, "Xiao Yu's daddy, can't your wound... be treated?"

She thought if Xiao Yu's father could be treated and even if he could just walk again, the two of them would not be so helpless in continuing to live on.

Xiao Yu's father shook his head, "It can't be treated... it's incurable... I can only wait for death with my eyes open..."

Hearing the word "die," Xiao Yu burst into tears, tightly holding her father's hand and crying, "Daddy, don't leave Xiao Yu... Xiao Yu won't let daddy die..."

"Okay... Daddy won't leave Xiao Yu... be good, don't cry..."

Xiao Yu's father patted her small hand, his eyes reddening as tears streamed down.

Seeing the father and daughter crying together, Dragon Maiden felt a pang of sorrow herself. She turned to look at Fang Bai and said, "Instructor Fang, you..."

She knew Fang Bai possessed both medical and Martial Arts skills, and his medical prowess was on par with the National Doctors. He might be able to cure illnesses and wounds that others couldn't. However, she also knew the "World Meta-Human Organization Elite Grand Prix" was about to start, and if Fang Bai were to treat Xiao Yu's father, it would certainly consume much of his energy. Hence, she was hesitant to bring it up.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "You want to ask if I have a way to heal Xiao Yu's father's injuries, right?"

Dragon Maiden uttered a sound of agreement and sighed, "I did want to ask you, but I was afraid it might delay our business..."