

Genius 381

Chapter 381 Hatching Pet Egg_1

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Qin Fang thought his actions were fairly clandestine, but coincidences happen, and just as he stepped onto the elevator to go downstairs, Cai Qing happened to come out of her room.

"That person looks familiar... Qin Fang?"

Cai Qing caught a glimpse of Qin Fang's figure entering the elevator, pausing slightly in her step, "Why is he going out so late?"

It was indeed very late at that time, after ten o'clock, and the night sky was pitch dark because of the rainy weather. Although the city was still brightly lit, the area near the Lushan Scenic Area was instead very tranquil.

Cai Qing had come out at this time precisely to look for Qin Fang.

Of course, it wasn't because she had any physiological needs that Qin Fang could satisfy, but rather to take advantage of Cai Pingyuan resting, she wanted to give Qin Fang a good thrashing, to avenge the groping incident...

"Could he be going to... how disgusting!"

In the dead of night, Qin Fang wasn't resting in the hotel, but instead heading out. As a woman, it was only natural for her to think unpleasant thoughts, especially since it was common for call girls to phone into hotels like this one.

"Follow and see, catch him in the act!"

Cai Qing had just looked down on Qin Fang and was ready to turn around and go back to her room to sleep, but she paused mid-step, and immediately a new idea popped into her mind.

She disliked Qin Fang very much, even hated him. Why? Wasn't it because Qin Fang's presence made Cai Qing feel a mysterious threat, especially one involving Ning Yumo?

Cai Qing had always targeted Qin Fang, hoping to shame him, to see him lose face and even get injured, all in the hope that he would have the sense to stay away from Ning Yumo. Unfortunately, the results had never been great. Qin Fang's strength had grown more formidable, and he had become increasingly important in their grandfather's eyes. The fact that he was the only disciple taken to the great event of the Martial World showed this distinctly.

What could make Qin Fang completely lose face in front of Ning Yumo?

Being caught in an affair, letting his reputation be destroyed!

This was an opportunity too good to miss, and it was happening right before her eyes!

So, Cai Qing immediately grabbed a stealthy coat and hurriedly followed in the direction that Qin Fang had gone.

Because of that moment of hesitation, Cai Qing could only vaguely see the rear of Qin Fang's Audi as it drove away. She quickly left the hotel and hailed a taxi, chasing in the direction Qin Fang had gone.

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Qin Fang, of course, had no idea what Cai Qing was plotting. He was focused on hatching the Pet Egg in his hand as quickly as possible, putting everything else aside for the time being.

He drove to the base of Lushan Scenic Area and stopped in a relatively secluded corner, locked his car, and then slipped into the scenic spot like an extremely agile marten, without anyone noticing...

Qin Fang didn't linger at all. As someone bold and skillful, he directly headed up the mountain, walked for several minutes, and entered deep into the forest before he stopped.

With a thought, the Pet Egg disappeared from the Props Box and appeared in Qin Fang's hand. The grey and white egg was emitting a faint glow in the pitch-dark night and dim forest, making it look quite eerie and unpredictable.

Gazing at the Pet Egg in his hand, lying quietly in his palm, Qin Fang closed his eyes. Concentrating slightly, he could feel it trembling as if it had its own life.

This discovery gave Qin Fang a chilling feeling, but he was ultimately able to accept it. Since the Pet Egg had appeared in his hand, it had been releasing a power so mysterious and unpredictable that even the special gas it emitted could unconsciously change a person's personality.

Although Qin Fang had no tangible evidence, the change in Tang Feifei's mentality seemed to be somewhat related to the Pet Egg in his hand.

Perhaps now, for Qin Fang, it was a rather favorable development.

But the result made Qin Fang feel a sense of crisis that he couldn't control; whether the special gas had some unique effects that Qin Fang was unaware of, or whether it made the personalities of people like Tang Feifei even stranger, that would truly be a loss not worth the gain. It was this thought that made Qin Fang hesitant, but he felt he had no choice but to hatch the Pet Egg.

If he could use it for himself, then Qin Fang would keep it close.

If he couldn't use it, he would either eliminate it or release it back into the wild...

"Hu~~~"

He took a slight breath of relief. No matter the outcome, Qin Fang was determined to hatch it. After taking a moment to exhale, he concentrated his attention on the Pet Egg before him.

The Intermediate Detection Skill was focused on the mysterious Pet Egg...

This wasn't the first time Qin Fang had used the Scouting Skill on it, but the identification results had never been satisfactory. However, as Qin Fang's detection skills edged closer to advanced level, the results were becoming clearer.

Up until now—

"Pet Egg, a rare item of unknown attributes, must be hatched to determine its properties!"

"Hatching the Pet Egg requires the hatcher's fresh blood as a catalyst..."

Although Qin Fang had guessed that the hatching method for this Pet Egg wouldn't be the same as that of chicken eggs, duck eggs, or goose eggs, he still couldn't remain completely calm when he actually read the instructions.

"This hatching method is truly melodramatic..."

Qin Fang said with contempt, yet since it was a system requirement, he had no choice but to proceed in the specified manner.

Although he didn't carry a knife on him, there were still many tools he could use, such as the hundreds of silver needles intended for acupuncture stored in his Props Box, prepared for unforeseen needs.

He hadn't expected them to come in handy so soon, but they were not to be used on others, rather for him to draw his own blood...

With the Intermediate Acupuncture Skill, giving acupuncture to others was certainly no problem, as it wouldn't cause bleeding. Similarly, Qin Fang knew well how to draw blood...

The piercing pain Qin Fang felt as the needle pricked his fingertip was followed by a numbing sensation, and from the needle, a drop of crimson blood formed, although it was difficult to see clearly in the evening...

Without any hesitation, Qin Fang allowed the slowly forming, swelling drop of blood to fall upon the Pet Egg.

Ding-dong...

Though no such sound was made, when the drop of blood fell, it felt to Qin Fang as if he could distinctly perceive such a noise.

Not only that, almost as soon as Qin Fang's blood touched the Pet Egg, it brought him a feeling of blood connection, as if the Pet Egg was not an external object but rather a part of his own body.

At the same time, Qin Fang could clearly sense a steady... no, not his own heartbeat, but the heartbeat within the Pet Egg transmitting to him.

What is this?

Qin Fang was somewhat alarmed; the scene before him was too bizarre, and even though he had prepared himself psychologically, the actual event still nearly caused his heart to jump out of his chest.

"Sss..."

However, that was not the end of it.

On the contrary, this was just the beginning.

A slight prickling pain suddenly emerged from his fingertip, a strange, subtle sensation.

As Qin Fang's blood entered the Pet Egg, which shimmered with a faint luminescence, the light grew stronger, changing from the initial greyish-white to a bright translucent color, as if what Qin Fang held in his hand wasn't a Pet Egg but a glowing lamp.

But that was not what surprised Qin Fang. What truly astonished him was that the finger pricked with the needle appeared like a fountain, the crimson blood not lessening despite the removal of the silver needle, but instead forming a line of blood continuously connecting to the Pet Egg.

The bright white Pet Egg turned even more transparent as Qin Fang's blood infused it, yet the earlier brightness gradually transformed into a dark red, spreading swiftly over the entire Pet Egg.

"Your Life Points are too low, please replenish them quickly!"

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Qin Fang was almost shocked by the eerie scene unfolding before his eyes, frozen in place, but then these prompts abruptly reverberated through his mind, snapping him out of his shock.

"Crap, that was close..."

Qin Fang was startled. Glancing at his Life Points, they had plummeted from full status to below critical levels in just a few short minutes and were still decreasing rapidly.

Without any hesitation, Qin Fang voraciously consumed Baozi, and amidst rapidly regaining health, he barely managed to stabilize the bleeding rate.

Yet the Pet Egg's absorption rate was also impressively swift. Despite continuously eating Baozi to recover health, the overall rise in Qin Fang's Life Points was still slow as a turtle's crawl.

Luckily, Qin Fang was well-prepared this time, with twelve slots in his Props Box, besides two guns, a pile of bullets, and a few special items that couldn't be discarded. He brought six slots' worth of Baozi, just in case.

It wasn't a fight with someone that caused Qin Fang to lose blood; instead, it was this rapid blood loss from hatching the Pet Egg, and given the current rate of the Pet Egg's absorption, it seemed the duration wouldn't be short. Qin Fang had no idea how many Baozi he would end up losing...

Chapter 382: Hatching Success!_1

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"Eh, where did the person go?"

Cai Qing was puzzled. She did start a bit later than Qin Fang, but she didn't take the wrong direction. By now, she should have already spotted Qin Fang. This place was already within the Lushan Scenic Area, where there weren't many people or cars at night, and Qin Fang's Audi Q7 was very easy to recognize.

"Miss, where exactly do you want to go? We've been driving around this area for quite some circles..."

On the other hand, the taxi driver was somewhat perplexed. It should have been a good thing to encounter such a beauty late at night, but unexpectedly, the woman wanted him to drive into these secluded corners.

For a cab driver, meeting a cash cow like this should have been a very happy occasion, but recently, the public security in Jiujiang had been poor. A series of serial murders occurred, with one of the victims being a taxi driver, which inevitably scared him. Despite the fact that this beautiful woman looked lovely and gentle...

"I'm not refusing to pay you... just drive!"

Cai Qing was already feeling frustrated about not finding Qin Fang, and now that the driver was being difficult, she felt even more annoyed. With a huff, she spoke in an unpleasant tone, which only made the taxi driver worry more.

The driver checked his self-protection measures, deeming them to be reasonably sufficient, and covertly took out his phone, presetting the emergency number 110. If anything seemed off, he'd call the police immediately!

"There, go there..."

Just as he got everything set up, Cai Qing suddenly pointed to a dimly lit lane and spoke with irrepressible excitement across her face.

The driver blinked in surprise, glancing at the gloomy lane his eyes suddenly widened with alarm.

As someone who often hung around the scenic area, how could he be unfamiliar with that road?

It was formerly known as Chezen Road, the city's prime spot for car intimacy, but since a few years ago, when during the climax of their passion, a young man was killed by a slit throat, and the dazed woman was assaulted repeatedly before being murdered as well... Since that incident, very few people dared to go there for car intimacy.

And wasn't one of the victims from the recent serial murders, that taxi driver, found right here?

"Mama mia... I'm screwed now!"

The driver's heart was in turmoil. Through the rearview mirror, he caught a glimpse of Cai Qing's grim face. At that moment, Cai Qing was fantasizing about catching Qin Fang in the act of cheating, her excitement inadvertently showing, but to others, it looked more like a sinister smirk, which made the driver even more convinced that the woman behind him was up to no good.

"Stay calm! Stay calm..."

The driver kept psyching himself up, barely managing to suppress the fear in his heart for the moment.

"Sorry, miss, the road ahead is under construction, it's a dead end. My car will have a hard time getting out if we drive in. If you want to go there, it's better to walk. It's not far, just a few steps... I'll wait for you here!"

The taxi driver squeezed out what he believed was his most calm smile and said to Cai Qing. He wouldn't take that road no matter what. It was simply a point of no return, and nobody dared to walk there late at night.

"Alright then..."

Cai Qing couldn't help but frown slightly, but she didn't think too much of it, nor did she pay any attention to the driver's reaction. From her angle, she could vaguely see a car parked on that road, which very much resembled Qin Fang's Audi Q7.

Although she wasn't entirely sure, Cai Qing still chose to go there and check it out. She immediately opened the car door and got out.

Just as she closed the car door behind her, Cai Qing suddenly seemed to remember something. She wanted to walk a few steps forward to give the driver some instructions, but she could never have expected that as soon as she got out of the car and before she could approach him, the taxi driver floored the gas pedal. With a swish, he sped off without a trace at a speed that probably even the racing champion Schumacher couldn't match.

"Damn, what the hell! He didn't even wait for the fare..."

Cai Qing was stupefied, staring blankly at the disappearing taxi, utterly confused about what had gotten into the driver.

However, this did not affect her plan at all. After all, she hadn't paid for the fare, so she could simply call another taxi later.

Tossing her shiny black hair over her shoulder, Cai Qing crouched and stealthily walked into the lane. The farther she went, the clearer she could see the Audi car, thanks to the dull glow of a distant streetlight.

It was indeed him!

A surge of joy flashed through Cai Qing's heart. The license plate on Qin Fang's car was too unique to be mistaken.

Deep night, dark and secluded roadside, a man and a woman alone, car intimacy...

The words quickly flickered across Cai Qing's mind. She took out her phone and set it to the camera mode. She intended not only to catch Qin Fang cheating but also to film every disgraceful moment of his infidelity...

...

In the deep mountains.

"Why isn't it ready yet..."

Qin Fang was truly at his wit's end at this moment, his face had already turned pale and void of color. On such a night, deep in the mountains, if someone happened to pass by and saw Qin Fang's face, they would likely be scared out of their wits, especially since Qin Fang was holding an object that emitted a red halo, which appeared exceedingly ominous and terrifying.

Almost half an hour had gone by, but the Pet Egg in his hand showed no signs of hatching, though the speed at which it was drawing blood was not slow at all.

His fingertips, even his entire arm, seemed completely numb. Because of his clothes, Qin Fang couldn't see his own arm, which he estimated must be a livid purple by now, nearly drained of all blood.

But every time Qin Fang swallowed a Baozi, a large amount of blood would replenish his body; then it was drawn towards his finger, and finally transformed into a Blood Arrow that continuously infused into the Pet Egg.

By now, Qin Fang had devoured almost a hundred Baozis. If this unlimited consumption continued, the several hundred Baozis Qin Fang brought might not be enough to last until the last moment of hatching, which would then have to be declared a failure.

Of course, the changes in the Pet Egg were quite evident.

The previously grey and white Pet Egg had completely vanished, replaced by a blood-red oval sphere. The Pet Egg had turned a dark red, showing chaos but still emitting a faint red glow.

Within this red light, if one looked closely, they could see black patches at certain spots, and these black areas were connected, forming a complete expanse.

Qin Fang felt that this black area should be the creature inside the Pet Egg; unfortunately, he couldn't be certain, as this black area had never shown any changes. Instead, it was the bloody red areas nearby that had some slight movement.

As for Qin Fang and the Pet Egg, the feeling of a connection by blood became even more intense, and the two heartbeats began to gradually synchronize, one was Qin Fang's own, and the other was that of the Pet Egg.

Clearly, this Pet Egg was becoming more bizarre by the moment, and it seemed to have formed a peculiar connection with Qin Fang that was becoming tighter.

A good thing?

A bad thing?

Nobody could be sure.

However, judging from the current situation, Qin Fang could set aside those previous worries that had been disadvantageous to him. He was able to sense vaguely that this Pet Egg, or rather, the thing inside the Pet Egg, was developing a mysterious fondness for him.

It seemed... it seemed to regard Qin Fang as a family member.

"Hiss~~"

The numbness in Qin Fang's fingers disappeared almost instantly, and so did the sensation of his blood being drained. It came so unexpectedly that Qin Fang couldn't help but gasp.

This wasn't of much concern, however, as it allowed Qin Fang to replenish his blood rapidly until it was fully restored, bringing his body back to full health.

He wolfed down a few more Baozis, and his Life Points immediately returned at a speed visible to the naked eye, a recovery rate incomparable to the snail's pace it had been before. Qin Fang's complexion also regained a good deal of its color from the original paleness.

The Pet Egg in his hand had now turned entirely blood red, emitting a very sinister and unpredictable light. The brightness was even more intense than before, illuminating the surrounding environment clearly.

This was also the deep night, and also in such a mountainous forest.

Where man seldom tread, creatures returned to their nests!

Otherwise, if a hapless soul happened to come across this, they would probably be scared out of their minds.

The Pet Egg stopped sucking blood, but the connection with Qin Fang seemed even tighter. That feeling of blood connection and heartbeat synchronization, at such a moment, filled Qin Fang's face with surprise.

This sensation was unprecedently strong, a very familiar feeling released from the Pet Egg, making Qin Fang almost want to indulge in it.

Thump~~ Thump~~ Thump~~

The heartbeats of Qin Fang and the Pet Egg gradually synchronized, with each beat starting and ending at exactly the same time, with virtually no discrepancy whatsoever.

But the Pet Egg still looked the same, with no sign of breaking out of its shell, making the wait exceedingly anxious. Qin Fang especially was filled with anticipation, unease, and impatience.

Waiting is an extremely arduous task.

But now, waiting was all that Qin Fang could do.

Because in the process of hatching this Pet Egg, Qin Fang should have played the most crucial role. All that was left was to wait for the final outcome.

Crack~~

Finally, the Pet Egg began to change.

The blood-red shell emitted a very crisp sound, which, in the stillness of the night, was incredibly clear.

There was no doubt that the hatching of this Pet Egg had reached its end, and the creature inside was about to emerge...

Chapter 383: Is it a Serpent? Or a Dragon..._1

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Within the veil of night, the streetlights dim and unclear, shadows of the trees mottled, with just a faint halo of light.

Cautiously, Cai Qing made her way toward the Q7 parked by the roadside that belonged to Qin Fang. Her pace was unhurried, and she kept to the darker corners, not wanting Qin Fang to detect her approach.

Ten meters... eight meters... five meters...

The distance closed in, and the Audi Q7 remained silently parked, without any sign of movement, its interior lights off—as if no one was inside at all.

"Could he not be there?"

Doubt flickered in Cai Qing's heart.

Although she hadn't experienced it herself, she had seen it once or twice.

After all, if there's no rocking, then what kind of car-shaking would it be?

"Someone..."

However, such a thought lingered only for a few seconds before Cai Qing cast it aside, since she had noticed someone seemed to be leaning over the front of the car, by the hood.

This discovery immediately made her think of another form of pleasure, wasn't this the very position?

Cai Qing grew even more careful, no longer intending to detour from the side, but rather, using the car's rear as cover, she inched closer to the Audi, clutching her phone tighter in her hand.

This was a rare opportunity indeed!

No need to even open the car door, catch him right in the act!

In just a few steps, Cai Qing had already reached the rear of the Audi. She took a brief moment to steady her breath, then, gripping her phone, she dashed out in a sprint, snapping photos furiously at the front of the Audi, while triumphantly shouting out,

"Qin Fang, you bastard, you can't escape now! Haha..."

In this moment, Cai Qing was brimming with pride, believing she had finally caught Qin Fang red-handed. Clutching such evidence, she had no doubt Qin Fang would vanish from Ning Yumo's side.

Being night-time, the camera's flash was inevitably triggered, illuminating the scene before her eyes with each snap, and making the sight very clear to Cai Qing.

Triumph filled Cai Qing's face, her flawless visage bloomed even more radiant due to her bright smile, and her fair, smooth cheeks flushed with excitement and exhilaration.

But then...

"Ah..."

The usually fearless Cai Qing, upon seeing the scene illuminated by her phone's flash, couldn't maintain her excitement; instead, she let out a scream that could shake the heavens and bewail the spirits.

...

Crack~~~ Crack~~

The sound of the eggshell cracking continued, with more and more fractures appearing, spreading over a wider area. Qin Fang had a feeling that the little creature inside the Pet Egg was about to emerge, and it was about to happen right before his eyes.

However, this moment was not brief; Qin Fang watched the cracks intently, and after a whole five minutes of persistent cracking sounds, there hadn't been any significant change.

Crack~~

It wasn't until a distinct, crisp sound, different from the others, reached his ears that Qin Fang's heart gave a jolt.

Finally, at one spot on the eggshell, the crack completely burst open, leaving a hole the size of a chicken egg, and the surrounding shell continued to crack and the hole kept expanding.

Qin Fang held his breath, his heart thumping to his throat; he knew the little creature inside the Pet Egg was about to come out.

Creak... creak...

The sound of the eggshell fracturing persisted, growing softer, while from the hole emerged an odd noise, reminiscent of someone grinding their teeth in their sleep.

These sounds, however, did not capture Qin Fang's attention for long, as his eyes remained fixed on the hole in the eggshell, waiting for the little creature to slowly reveal itself.

Indeed...

Qin Fang's heart suddenly beat faster as a small head poked through the hole in the eggshell, and he saw a pair of bright little eyes.

It had emerged!

Qin Fang's heart surged with excitement, after waiting for such a long time and losing so much blood, the little creature had finally hatched.

The little fellow's gaze was pure, without a single flaw, fixed on Qin Fang, staring motionless, and in that moment, Qin Fang also felt an indescribable closeness with the creature.

Whether it was his body's instincts or some other reason, Qin Fang found himself extending the finger he had previously pricked, gently approaching the little one.

A pink tongue peeked out from the creature's mouth—not like the forked tongue of a serpent, but more like the tongue of a common animal, perhaps just a bit longer. As Qin Fang's finger approached, the little one's tongue gently licked it, displaying quite an affectionate attitude.

"What is this..."

Looking at the little creature before him, Qin Fang was instantly baffled.

He simply could not associate the little creature looking at him with those pure and unsullied little eyes with the massive Golden Crested Snake that ate people on sight.

If there was one similarity, it was probably that the little one also had a slippery, slender body that indeed resembled a snake.

However, although it was still very small, its head was clearly different from that of a Golden Crested Snake.

The Golden Crested Snake was so named probably because of the comb-like crest on its head, a very distinctive feature not found in other snakes.

And on this little creature's head, there was indeed something similar protruding, but it clearly wasn't a crest; it was more like some sort of horn.

Antlers? Bull's horns?

It was unclear at the moment, as it was too small, and the horns weren't single like the crest but a pair.

Qin Fang was filled with questions, but the little one seemed to sense something and stopped licking Qin Fang's finger. Instead, it opened its tiny mouth and began to gnaw at the red eggshell beside it.

The creature was too small, and with the dim environment and the discarded eggshell dimming, the red glow also faded. Qin Fang could only observe the scene before him with his superhuman eyesight.

Despite the little one's small size and mouth, it ate surprisingly quickly, especially those eggshells, at a speed that was hard to believe.

Qin Fang did not know how hard these eggshells were, but they definitely weren't as brittle as a chicken eggshell, though much bigger; not even an ostrich egg could compare. Perhaps only a Dragon Egg could compete.

Such a large egg and its eggshell, even if not ample in quantity, compared to the little one's mouth, was still a significant amount. However, the little one ate joyfully with a formidable appetite, biting off a piece and swallowing it in two to three bites before continuing to nibble.

The eggshell disappeared into the little one's mouth at this rapid pace.

And as the eggshell vanished, the little one's body also gradually came into Qin Fang's view.

Or rather, as the little one ate the eggshell, its body grew rapidly, slightly plumping with each bite.

In five minutes or so, the large eggshell was consumed by the little one. A slender creature, about ten centimeters long, now coiled in Qin Fang's hands, self-assuredly blinking at Qin Fang and occasionally licking his palm or gently rubbing its small head against Qin Fang's arm...

Qin Fang took the opportunity to pull out his phone and light up the little creature.

The little one did not seem shy or afraid of Qin Fang, and was unconcerned about the sudden flicker of light, continuing to sway its head, as if teasing Qin Fang.

But Qin Fang was seriously observing the little one's appearance.

"Is this... a snake? Or perhaps... a dragon?"

Qin Fang felt his mind wasn't quite up to the task, as the little one's form was truly perplexing.

Overall, it looked like a normal small snake with an eerie silver color, its body sleek and flawless, showing barely any scales.

Or perhaps, its scales were just too small to be seen with the naked eye in the dim light.

But there were two horns on its head, which, though small, undoubtedly were horns, resembling deer antlers... and the horns of dragons in legends also resembled deer antlers.

"Forget it, it doesn't matter..."

Qin Fang wasn't one to fuss over details. The little one was clearly still small. Moreover, Qin Fang was certain that the creature hatched from the pet egg was not a highly dangerous beast like the Golden Crested Snake, but an unknown creature.

And this little one was very friendly towards Qin Fang, even showing dependency, constantly currying favor with Qin Fang—it truly had the potential to be a pet.

"But how should I carry this little one around with me..."

However, Qin Fang was instantly troubled again. Although the little one posed no threat to Qin Fang, how to deal with it was another problem.

The little one seemed cute and gentle, apparently harmless, but that was just toward Qin Fang alone. How it would behave towards others was truly unknown.

If this little creature was hostile to anyone other than Qin Fang, it would definitely not be good news for him, especially since Qin Fang was accompanied by several beauties. If the little one had the same deadly poison as the Golden Crested Snake, wouldn't Tang Feifei and the others be in great danger?

After all, Qin Fang was a man and obviously intended to get intimate with the beauties. If the little one were to bite at a critical moment, the problem could become very serious...

Chapter 384 Homicide Case_1

...

It seemed as though Qin Fang's thought was sensed by the little creature; as if it could understand him, or perhaps it shared a psychic connection with Qin Fang. The little guy looked at Qin Fang with its pure, innocent eyes before a very bizarre scene unfolded.

There wasn't any noticeable movement from the creature, just a slight shift in its body, and then it burrowed its tiny head into Qin Fang's arm.

Qin Fang was shocked, yet he felt no pain as expected. Instead, a surprisingly warm and comforting sensation spread from that spot on his arm where the creature had vanished. Simultaneously, a tattoo appeared on Qin Fang's arm that resembled neither serpent nor dragon.

And what was even more bizarre—this tattoo was moving.

Indeed, the tattoo was alive! It moved about Qin Fang's arm as if it were a living being, seeming exceptionally delighted, and Qin Fang could distinctly feel its excitement.

However, the situation was not as simple as it appeared. The skin of Qin Fang's arm wasn't smooth and devoid of any other mark. When he merged with Fan Ning, Qin Fang had transferred a highly unusual toxin from Fan Ning's body into his own, leaving behind a serpent-like tattoo on his arm.

The moment the little creature detected this tattoo, or rather the toxin lurking within Qin Fang's body, it shot up his arm from near his wrist with astonishing speed, its movement incredibly fluid.

As the two tattoos neared each other, Qin Fang's newly acquired pet swallowed the original tattoo whole, and Qin Fang acutely sensed the toxin within him being cleansed away in an instant...

This was truly a remarkable event.

Even with all the mental preparation he had made, Qin Fang was still left dumbstruck by this spectacle.

Fortunately, after consuming the toxin in Qin Fang's body, the creature no longer frolicked about and instead settled down quietly, as if it had entered hibernation.

Qin Fang was a bit worried. The little creature had just been born, and the toxin lurking within him was a deadly poison secretly concocted by the organization Fan Ning used to be with. He wasn't sure if the creature would face any danger, even though he vaguely sensed that it was very calm, seemingly digesting the poison.

After hesitating for a moment, Qin Fang still decided not to disturb the creature, or perhaps he didn't know how to, letting it hibernate. He planned to wait for it to recover before slowly investigating his new pet...

Now that the tattoo had entered Qin Fang's arm and adhered to it, Qin Fang himself could only feel a slight increase in temperature there. Otherwise, it was as if the tattoo didn't exist at all.

So with the little guy staying within Qin Fang's arm, if he didn't pay close attention, even Qin Fang himself might not notice that such a mysterious little creature was hidden inside his body.

...

Woooooooo~~~

An exceedingly urgent siren from a police car came from afar, its sound carrying quite a distance. Even on the mountain, Qin Fang could hear it very clearly.

Through the dense forest, Qin Fang could faintly make out the arrival of numerous vehicles in the area below the mountain.

"What happened?"

Startled by the urgent sound of the siren, Qin Fang was slightly surprised, and by its noise, it seemed not far below the mountain, likely close to where his car was parked.

"Let's check it out..."

Qin Fang had no idea what had occurred at the foot of the mountain, but still decided to go down and have a look. After all, his car was parked there, and he wasn't around. The concentration of sirens suggested a substantial number of police cars, and he didn't want to get into any trouble.

With his agility, Qin Fang descended the mountain rather quickly, but he came to a halt fifty meters from his destination, for he realized the place was already crowded, with the flashing lights of police cars visible.

Exiting the tourist area at this time would be like walking straight into the hands of the police.

Of course, Qin Fang saw no need for such a risk. He changed direction, took a detour, and eventually found a relatively quiet path to exit the tourist area with ease. Only after traveling some distance did he return to the main road.

As Qin Fang had anticipated, this seldom-traveled small road was now bustling. The police had mobilized at least a dozen cars and scores of officers, a force that seemed sufficient to raid any entertainment venue, yet there was no such place on this road.

However, he had come to retrieve his car, and from where Qin Fang stood, he saw that the police had cordoned off the area.

"Qin Fang..."

Upon seeing Qin Fang emerge, Cai Qing also expressed surprise, unable to refrain from calling out to him.

It was only then that Qin Fang noticed Cai Qing surrounded by police officers. The usually proud and swanlike Cai Qing now looked like a frightened little girl, hardly resembling the strong woman she used to be.

Chapter 385 - Homicide Case_2

"Senior sister, what happened?"

Qin Fang sensed that something had gone wrong, and it seemed to be related to Cai Qing, so he quickly walked up, looking at the somewhat pale but beautiful face before him, and couldn't help but ask with concern.

"Sir, is that Audi Q7 over there yours?"

But his plan to inquire about the truth of the matter was interrupted by a policeman in uniform who stopped Qin Fang and asked very politely, at the same time pulling out a notebook, apparently wanting to ask some questions.

"Yes, the car is mine... What happened?"

Qin Fang nodded. Since he had come from behind the car, he naturally didn't know what had happened at the front. Now that the police suddenly asked, he felt the matter might not have much to do with Cai Qing after all, but rather seemed to involve him.

"Your car is involved in a homicide case, and we now need you to cooperate with us; we need to understand some details..." The police officer's tone became much firmer after hearing Qin Fang's admission. Two other officers also immediately surrounded him, looking as if they considered Qin Fang to be a suspect.

"A homicide case?"

Qin Fang furrowed his brows, vaguely understanding why Cai Qing had such a reaction. He ignored the three policemen and strode directly towards his car; he wanted to see for himself exactly what was going on.

"Sir..."

The three policemen were taken aback, not expecting Qin Fang to ignore their question and head directly for the car. They quickly followed, trying to stop him.

"We'll talk in a minute!"

Qin Fang waved them off, completely disregarding the three officers and spoke in a very assertive manner.

By then, he had pushed through the crowd and arrived at a spot where he could see his car. There was nothing wrong with the back, but as he looked toward the front hood...

He hadn't expected to be shocked at the sight.

The young man and woman truly had a very tragic death, especially the man; half his head was missing. The gore was almost worse than some of the bloody horror films from America.

"Ugh..."

Though Qin Fang wasn't seeing a dead body for the first time, and even had blood on his hands, such a bloody and vicious scene was still new to him. He instantly felt nauseous, nearly vomiting on the spot, and quickly turned away to take several deep breaths before he felt somewhat recovered.

"What the hell happened here? Who would do such a thing... Has the murderer been caught?"

By this time, the three officers had caught up to him. Qin Fang, feeling sick and frustrated, bombarded them with questions.

"Sir, please remain calm and cooperate with the police. We need you to answer a few questions..."

The officer Qin Fang had first encountered continued to speak. Seeing Qin Fang's strong reaction, they acted as though they hadn't seen it at all, their tone still unhurried. However, the other two officers were very vigilant, watching Qin Fang closely, as if they really considered him a suspect, fearing he might run away.

"Go ahead and ask..."

Seeing the two victims lying on the hood of his car, Qin Fang knew he couldn't escape this trouble; it was just his bad luck to be caught up in a homicide case just by strolling around, with the two people dead beside his car, making it impossible to avoid.

"Name, age, home address..."

Seeing that Qin Fang was willing to cooperate, the officers all breathed a sigh of relief, and then proceeded with some basic information gathering.

"May I ask why you parked your car here? Where have you been during this time? What is your relationship with Miss Cai over there?..."

The police quickly shifted their focus to Qin Fang. As the owner of the Audi, Qin Fang was indeed a prime suspect.

"You've caught the suspect?"

Just then, a cool voice rang in Qin Fang's ear, immediately drawing everyone's attention.

"Captain Luo, he's the owner of this car..."

The police officer who first addressed Qin Fang immediately snapped to attention, and then spoke with respectful deference.

It was only now that Qin Fang noticed the approaching female police officer, a third-grade police supervisor; it seemed her rank wasn't low, at least from a quick glance, none of the police officers present held a higher rank than her.

As for the appearance of this female officer, Qin Fang couldn't see clearly; she was looking down, examining content on the notebook of the speaking police officer, apparently having just arrived and not yet having a clear understanding of the entire case.

"Take the suspect away, back to the station for investigation..."

However, there wasn't much on the notebook, just some details about the investigation of the crime scene; she quickly finished reading, then lifted her head, glanced at Qin Fang indifferently, and stated simply, before turning to walk away.

In that brief moment she lifted her head, Qin Fang was taken aback; he really hadn't expected there to be so many beautiful female police officers around, to even encounter one in a small city like Ninghai, her appearance didn't seem to fall short of Ning Yumo's...

"Wait a minute..."

But this wasn't the time for Qin Fang to ponder whether the female officer was pretty or not; he had to speak up. Although he hadn't completely figured out the situation, seeing this police officer treating him as a suspect without a second word was simply not right.

"I must say, officer, as a people's policeman, shouldn't you thoroughly investigate before making a judgement... To slander me directly as a murderer, I have the right to sue you for defamation!"

Qin Fang didn't mince his words, minding his own business when he encountered such a situation was one thing, but being wrongfully accused of being a suspect for no reason was unnerving for anyone.

Especially the arrogant attitude of the female officer vexed Qin Fang, a man through and through, prompting him to take a more assertive tone in his speech.

"Whatever! Take him away..."

Yet to Qin Fang's surprise, the female officer was much more unyielding than he had imagined. She gave no room for rebuttal, dropped a curt statement, and immediately headed toward Cai Qing.

"Uh... what the hell is this about!"

Qin Fang was astounded; he had seen arrogance, but never like this.

"Heh heh, our Captain Luo is famously uncompromising. Many have complained about her, but I've never seen anyone get the best of her! Just cooperate and come with us... You look like someone with status; don't make us take measures!"

The nearby police officer said with a chuckle, explaining the female officer's toughness while flattering Qin Fang a bit, hoping that Qin Fang would cooperate with them.

This wasn't surprising, as the young police officer was a car enthusiast and knowledgeable about various luxury cars. Qin Fang's car was a limited edition, with very few in mainland China, and only no ordinary person could afford such a car.

Moreover, he felt internally that the likelihood of Qin Fang being a criminal suspect was not great, reasoning that even an imbecilic murderer wouldn't be foolish enough to leave two corpses on the hood of their beloved car.

Another reason was Qin Fang's license plate, which was simply too flamboyant and a Ninghai license to boot, clearly belonging to no ordinary individual. Naturally, he didn't dare offend him too much.

As for his superior, that is, Captain Luo who had offended Qin Fang, that was beyond his control. Everyone knew about Captain Luo's profound connections; ordinary people really couldn't touch her.

"Alright, alright, I'll cooperate, okay?"

Qin Fang gave a wry smile, finding the situation beyond his expectations, and now faced with such a perplexing yet dominant female police officer, he decided to just go along with the situation. After all, he wasn't the murderer, and the guilt couldn't fall on his head.

He only hoped the matter would be resolved quickly since he still had to visit Old Master Wu of Wu Family Boxing in Lushan tomorrow...

Chapter 386: Nice Touch..._1

...

Smack~~

"Confess and you'll get off lightly, resist and you'll be dealt with severely! Just come clean..."

The notebook used for recording statements was slammed down heavily on the table; the female officer with the surname Luo was extremely stern as she shouted at Qin Fang. At the same time, sharp gleams

shot from her beautiful eyes, making her seem exceptionally fierce, imparting an intimidating and soul-shaking sensation.

If he really were the murderer, anyone with a slightly weaker mental fortitude would have been scared witless by her commanding voice coupled with that intense gaze, likely trembling with fear and confessing everything on the spot.

But the problem was, this tactic was utterly useless against Qin Fang.

For one thing, Qin Fang's psychological quality was excellent; such intimidation was too amateurish to affect him in the slightest.

Secondly, Qin Fang wasn't the murderer at all, or rather, he was still a victim. The incident that had occurred on the car hood, and the fact that those two dead ghosts had died in such a posture on it, made Qin Fang wish he could replace the entire front end of the Audi.

He had even considered when to take Xiao Muxue out for a car romp, of course not forgetting to enjoy themselves on the hood. Now, that desire was completely gone.

"I'm totally innocent, what is there to confess..."

Qin Fang wasn't scared at all, his expression remarkably calm, not showing any sign of guilt even as he spoke those words.

"It seems we have a really stubborn opponent here..."

Unfortunately for Qin Fang, his innocent face did not earn the officer's acknowledgement; instead, she became even more convinced that Qin Fang was the murderer, and possibly even a habitual offender, well-versed in dealing with interrogation tactics.

"You don't need to deny it anymore! We already have enough evidence to prove that you killed the two victims..."

The beautiful officer named Luo Xi was a squad leader of the Jiujiang Municipal Bureau Criminal Police Team, with strong personal skills and excellent case-solving abilities. These were the reasons why she managed to advance to her current rank before turning twenty-four.

Luo Xi was quite famous in Jiujiang's police circles, known not only for her abilities but her temper as well.

If Ning Yumo that Qin Fang knew was a fierce tigress, then Luo Xi was a bona fide Tyrannosaurus rex; at least Qin Fang found that Luo Xi was actually a Level 4, on par with the special forces under Tang Cheng, which was much more formidable than Ning Yumo's pseudo Level 3.

Of course, Luo Xi's Level 4 status might also be inflated, and her true strength might not be as formidable as the rank suggested.

Even so, Qin Fang remained vigilant. He was still at Level 3, with a slight but noticeable gap from Level 4. Even if Luo Xi was a pseudo Level 4 expert, Qin Fang figured a confrontation would still cost him some effort.

"Evidence? What evidence... Show it to me!"

Qin Fang scoffed immediately. He had checked thoroughly: there were no cameras along that road, so his infiltration of the scenic area went unnoticed. Moreover, even if it had been discovered, wouldn't that further prove his innocence?

"Why would I show it to you? Are you planning to destroy the evidence?"

Luo Xi, however, frowned slightly. Qin Fang's unyielding attitude made her job extremely tough, as he was not cooperative at all.

"Stop talking nonsense! I didn't kill them. If you really had evidence, you wouldn't be here trying to make me confess; you'd release me and go after the real murderer..."

Qin Fang was even more derisive, scrutinizing the attractive officer from head to toe. Despite her figure being obscured by the uniform, it was evident from her outward appearance that she had a well-defined shape.

"I'd like to see my friend, how is she doing now?"

Qin Fang remembered Cai Qing, who he had seen being brought to the bureau as well, though she appeared to be somewhat emotionally unstable, prompting him to ask out of concern.

"You are still a suspect. Just confess your crimes; you can't see anyone!"

But this officer named Luo Xi was particularly uncompromising, bluntly shutting down Qin Fang with a single statement and staring at him with an enemy-of-the-state expression.

"Suspect your sister... Which eye of yours saw me commit a crime?"

Qin Fang was angered, thinking he had cooperated in good faith with the police investigation, only to be attemptedly framed as a murderer instead of being recognized as a good citizen.

As the matter escalated, Qin Fang's initial willingness to cooperate completely evaporated, and he looked at the female officer with a not-so-large bust but seemingly rigid mind and started cursing unhappily.

"You... You dare curse at me?"

Luo Xi was taken aback as well. She was used to being the one slamming the table and cursing people; she had never encountered someone who dared curse back at her in the bureau. The infuriated Tyrannosaurus rex instantly grew angry.

Smack~~

She slapped the recording notebook on the desk and lunged at Qin Fang across the table.

Fury overwhelmed Luo Xi, and she made a move to kick him.

"Stop, Captain Luo, don't hit him..."

Another police officer was in the interrogation room, and as soon as he saw Luo Xi make a move, his face changed, and he tried to intervene.

Unfortunately, his influence was too minor to stop her; he wore an expression of helplessness, stood up, and ran outside. Knowing he couldn't rein Luo Xi in, he had no choice but to seek help from a higher authority.

Chapter 387: Nice Touch..._2

"Fuck, are you serious? Am I supposed to be scared of you, woman?"

Qin Fang was also taken aback; he really hadn't expected this policewoman to be so hot-tempered. Although his words had been a bit harsh, she had actually lashed out at him directly.

But was Qin Fang the type of person to shy away from trouble?

Clearly, he wasn't!

He had always been cooperative with the police operation, so he wasn't handcuffed. As soon as Officer Luo Xi made her move, Qin Fang suddenly kicked the table leg, and the chair under his butt immediately screeched alarmingly, but at the same time, he rapidly retreated backward.

By the time Luo Xi had launched her kick, she hadn't managed to hit Qin Fang. Suddenly finding nothing under her foot, she leaned forward slightly.

If it had been just that, Luo Xi, with her balance, would have quickly stabilized herself. However, at this very moment, Qin Fang suddenly reached out, grabbed Luo Xi's long, sturdy leg, and with a gentle pull, she stumbled as her already unstable body involuntarily fell to the side.

Qin Fang was the kind of person who loved to argue and kick someone when they were down. The policewoman Luo Xi had been rude to him, so naturally, he felt no need to be polite in return,

"Ah..."

Luo Xi hadn't expected that after she struck preemptively, a seemingly defenseless Qin Fang would subdue her in one move, and with another move, he directly plunged Luo Xi into a sorry state.

Because Qin Fang held one of her legs, Luo Xi couldn't maintain her balance and inevitably fell to the side, right where the interrogation table was, and her head was heading straight for the corner of the table.

If she hit it squarely, Luo Xi might save her face but certainly not her head; she could be severely injured.

Even a tough woman like Luo Xi, when faced with such danger, instinctively let out a cry like any ordinary woman and closed her eyes, bracing for the impact.

Squeak, squeak, squeak~~

At that moment, the piercing noise sounded again, and Luo Xi felt her leg being let go, falling down, with the vague sensation of it touching the ground.

Luo Xi was almost in despair; she was acutely aware that even with both feet on the ground, it was impossible to regain her balance at this point. Her body's angle was already below 60 degrees, and she was about to hit the table.

Bang~~

The anticipated collision arrived!

Luo Xi felt her head buzz, her ears seemed to go deaf in an instant, her body tensed slightly, and her mind turned into mush, as if she had completely lost the ability to think.

But in reality...

Qin Fang sat in the chair, arms extended, supporting Luo Xi's body. With his formidable Strength, catching Luo Xi, who weighed just over a hundred pounds, was nothing to him; he caught her with ease.

"Tsk, tsk, not a bad touch, even if it's a bit small..."

"Ah..."

Luo Xi snapped back to reality almost instantly. Her face first turned as red as snow, but then it became purple as if it were sauce, because the man who had spoken was none other than the Qin Fang she had wanted to beat up.

"You hooligan! I'm going to kill you..."

This time, Luo Xi was even more furiously angry. She paused mid-step, and her delicate fist immediately thundered out, vaguely resembling a tiger descending the mountain.

Just then, the door of the interrogation room opened, and a burly middle-aged officer walked in. He barked sharply as he entered; he was Tan Huabing, the Jiujiang City police chief and the reinforcements the younger officer had called for earlier.

"Luo Xi, stop!"

Seeing his own subordinate, the gem of the criminal police team, Luo Xi, acting like she was out of her mind, ready to fight Qin Fang to the death, Director Tan's face changed dramatically as he shouted sternly.

At that moment, Luo Xi's fist was less than half a meter away from Qin Fang, and if she continued, she might actually hit him, which would truly spell trouble.

"Director, he..."

Luo Xi's face changed, and she yearned to punch that smug smile off his face, but with the director having spoken, she couldn't disobey even if she wanted to.

"Mr. Qin, I am Tan Huabing, the director of the city bureau. Are you hurt?"

Only when Luo Xi stopped did Director Tan finally breathe a long sigh of relief that nothing serious had happened. He immediately addressed Qin Fang very politely.

"My skin is thick enough that I'm not hurt, but I'd really feel terrible if Officer Luo got injured by accident..."

The smile remained on Qin Fang's face, and although Luo Xi saw it as the kind of provoking smirk that begged for a punch, Qin still teased the fiercely glaring beauty in front of him.

"You... We'll see about that! Humph..."

Luo Xi really wanted to punch Qin Fang, but with Director Tan there, she couldn't very well start a fight and could only leave with an angry threat, slamming the door behind her without affording the director any face.

"Haha... That's just how Luo is, sometimes a bit impulsive. Mr. Qin, please don't take it to heart!"

Director Tan's face was a picture of amusement, but he didn't make any excessive moves, instead he put in a good word for Luo Xi.

"Officer Luo is rather upfront, and always upholds justice. But I do hope she can correct her work attitude in the future..." Qin Fang was admittedly puzzled, but he didn't ask further and instead played the bigger man.

"By the way, Director Tan, how is the case progressing? I wonder about my status as a suspect..."

However, Luo Xi was just a minor interlude. What really concerned Qin Fang was whether he could quickly leave this place, as he was eager to rest and had plans to head to the mountains early in the morning.

"The forensic department already has results. The time of the victim's death doesn't match the time when Mr. Qin was there, and the death occurred elsewhere. Also, we didn't find anything suspicious in Mr. Qin's car, so your status as a suspect has been cleared. You can leave at any time..."

Director Tan immediately spoke very politely, giving Qin Fang a briefing of part of the case situation.

"Oh, that's good... What about my friend?"

Qin Fang nodded. He quite understood why Tan Huabing would say such things—it was probably because they found the National Security ID Qin Fang had in his car.

Of course, there could be other reasons, but those were beyond Qin's knowledge.

"Miss Cai is already waiting outside. You can leave anytime, and you may take your car. I've arranged for it to be cleaned..."

Director Tan was quite considerate, not only clearing Qin Fang's suspicion but also having his car cleaned, as one couldn't very well let an Audi be associated with a bloody mess.

"Then, thank you very much, Director Tan..."

Qin Fang expressed his gratitude politely and then left the interrogation room with the company of Director Tan to finally see Cai Qing in the lobby.

By then, Cai Qing's emotions had stabilized quite a bit; at the very least, her eyes no longer held the fear they did before.

Chapter 388: Enemies on a Narrow Road_1

...

"Are you okay, Senior Sister?"

Looking at Cai Qing's face, Qin Fang had nothing much to say, but asked with concern.

"I'm fine, let's go back!"

Cai Qing's reaction caught Qin Fang somewhat off guard; usually, she would have responded sarcastically to such a question from Qin Fang, even resorting to biting retorts or a physical fight, but this time, she was clearly more shaken, showing a substantial drop in emotion. Even the tone of her voice underwent a significant change.

"Then let's go..."

Qin Fang sighed softly. Despite Cai Qing's strong and domineering personality, she was ultimately still a woman who, faced with such a bloody scene, also underwent a tremendous psychological test, revealing that inside, she was really a vulnerable young woman.

Seeing Cai Qing's slightly unsteady steps, Qin Fang hesitated, then took off his coat and draped it over her shoulders, while reaching out an arm to support her—this girl who appeared strong on the outside but was actually fragile at heart.

Cai Qing's body paused, and she looked at Qin Fang with surprise, her eyes expressing incredulity, clearly unaccustomed to such a gesture from him.

"Be careful..."

Qin Fang actually felt a bit sheepish, but he could see that Cai Qing was even more vulnerable than he was at that moment and needed someone to support and comfort her. He had to step up, even though such a move could easily provoke her to counterattack.

In the end, Cai Qing did not lash out at Qin Fang. Instead, she just silently tightened the coat that Qin Fang had draped over her, seeking some extra warmth in the slightly chilly night. However, she did not shake off Qin Fang's arm but instead kept a small distance, as if not wanting to be too close.

Qin Fang's Audi was already parked in the precinct's yard, its front already washed clean of blood, almost leaving no trace that two horrifically mutilated corpses had once lain there...

"Let's take a taxi back..."

Qin Fang was acutely aware of Cai Qing's body trembling abnormally upon seeing the Audi, realizing then and there why he shouldn't take her towards the Audi but instead decided to exit by another path and hail a taxi back to the hotel.

"No need, I'm not that fragile..."

However, this time Cai Qing's steps froze, and she didn't follow Qin Fang, "You'll need to drive this car tomorrow, I don't want Grandpa to worry about us..."

Qin Fang was slightly surprised by this reason, which indeed sounded a bit melodramatic, but seeing that Cai Qing was serious, he immediately went to drive the car.

Barely holding herself together, Cai Qing stepped into the Audi and sat quietly in the back seat, her eyes closed, looking on either side but not daring to look straight ahead.

But this was already a good start. Qin Fang drove back to the hotel, continuously observing Cai Qing in secret to confirm that she showed no abnormal behavior, which finally put his mind at ease.

...

The night passed without incident.

As usual, Qin Fang got up early and his rest was not affected by returning late the previous night; he simply went out for a morning workout, and by the time he returned to the hotel, both Cai Pingyuan and Cai Qing were already awake.

Yet, while Cai Pingyuan looked spirited, Cai Qing seemed listless, especially her slightly darkened eye circles, clearly indicating an uneasy night's sleep.

For this, Qin Fang could only shake his head, not knowing what else to say, realizing that Cai Qing had been greatly upset and would likely be downcast for some time.

"Early morning exercise, not bad, not bad!"

Cai Pingyuan also had a habit of rising early for morning exercise, though he didn't get up as early as Qin Fang.

"A day's planning lies in the morning, Master..."

Qin Fang laughed, now also accustomed to this daily routine, except that today he missed sparring and breaking moves with Fang Dacheng. However, Qin Fang took the opportunity to practice his Fist Technique a few more times.

"Mmm, well said..."

Cai Pingyuan nodded, then sat down to have breakfast with Qin Fang and Cai Qing. "I already contacted the Wu Family last night. We'll leave at nine o'clock and head directly to the Wu Family's estate on Lushan..."

"Alright..."

Qin Fang nodded, seeing that Cai Pingyuan had everything arranged, which saved him the trouble.

The Wu Family held considerable status and influence in the region, with members present in politics, the business world, and even the Underworld, almost becoming the local overlords. However, the Wu Family Members were relatively low-profile, and with the Elder of the Wu Family consistently doing good deeds these years, their reputation remained positive.

According to Cai Pingyuan, the Wu Family's rise started very early, tracing back to the Qing Dynasty. The Ancestor of the Wu Family was originally a bandit, not born with the surname Wu. During an accidental robbery, he ended up saving an injured Xingyi Fist Grandmaster and cured the Grandmaster's serious injury. The Grandmaster, seeing his decent character and excellent talent, took him as a disciple and taught him the essence of Xingyi Fist as a way to repay the kindness.

Yet the Ancestor of the Wu Family felt that the Grandmaster had saved him and set him on the right path. Thus, he gave up his original surname and planned to adopt his master's surname, which was Wu. To avoid disrespect to the Grandmaster's Family, he slightly altered it to the current Wu surname.

Afterward, the Ancestor of the Wu Family passed down the Xingyi Fist, refining and honing it continuously. Coupled with several exceptionally talented descendants within the Family and Sect, the Fist Technique grew even more formidable, leading to the creation of the Wu Family Tiger-shaped Fist. Almost every two generations, the Wu Family would produce a Grandmaster Level expert.

Chapter 389: Enemies on a Narrow Road_2

That's why the Wu Family has a rule: martial arts are not necessarily only passed down to the direct descendants. Disciples and branches of the family can also learn them, of course, the true essence is still reserved for the most core disciples to cultivate.

Thus, Tiger Fist spread widely, and there were many masters. Among the Xingyi Twelve Branches, several branches revered their own skills but gradually declined. On the contrary, the Wu Family's way of inheritance was more suitable, so they remained prosperous and continued to produce masters.

Cai Pingyuan was obviously using the same approach. There was only one direct heir left in the Cai Family, Cai Qing, but unfortunately, Cai Qing couldn't learn the true essence. It wasn't easy for Cai Pingyuan to come across Qin Fang, who had talent, qualifications, diligence, and character, all almost beyond reproach; that's why he valued him so much.

...

The Wu Family estate was located on top of a mountain peak in Lushan, within the scenic area, but it was isolated from the rest. The environment was quiet and elegant, indeed an excellent cultivation holy land.

The forest on the mountain was deep with luxuriant foliage, and the fog was rising. The air was slightly humid but exceptionally fresh, breathing it in made one feel immediately refreshed and clear-headed.

Qin Fang's car could only make it halfway up the mountain before he had to stop. The remaining hundred or so meters of mountaintop road had to be climbed with one's own legs.

"It looks like the Wu Family is doing quite well for themselves, Master..."

There was a large parking area halfway up the mountain, and at this moment, it was filled with many cars, including some high-end luxury vehicles... It was then that Qin Fang commented with a chuckle.

Cai Pingyuan just smiled without saying a word, while Cai Qing, who had somewhat recovered her spirits, threw Qin Fang a disdainful look.

In the Martial World, having the strength of a Grandmaster like Old Master Wu might not stop bullets, but one's status in the jianghu was incomparable.

Many disciples had considerable skills, and if they slightly broke into the underworld, they would be top-notch fierce fighters. Some entered the military, where they were material for special forces, and it was not difficult for them to rise to prominence.

'Poor in scholarship, rich in martial arts' — how could an old-established Martial Arts Clan like the Wu Family not have money? They also held considerable status and wealth in the business world.

With money, it was natural to spread connections into the political realm, and with support from the business and underworld, it was easy to achieve political success. Thus, the scope and influence kept expanding and quickly formed a large-scale influence.

This was the reason behind the Wu Family's formidable status.

There was one thing Qin Fang was not clear about: when he stirred up trouble in Bihai Pavilion and managed to get away unscathed, apart from the fact that Qin Fang himself was in the right and Li Rui made meticulous plans, the influence of Xingyi Martial Arts Hall also played a part.

Whether it was Li Rui or Tiger, or even some barely decent small forces in Ninghai, almost all had the influence of Xingyi Martial Arts Hall. Cai Pingyuan might be an amiable old man, but when provoked, even Li Rui and Tiger would have nowhere to run...

After parking the car, Qin Fang carried two jars of wine, closely following behind Cai Pingyuan and Cai Qing, and headed towards the Wu Family's estate at the mountaintop.

On this not so high mountain, there was such a sizeable old estate that looked like it had many years behind it.

Next to it were towering ancient trees, adding to the serenity and giving off a feeling of pure naturalness.

Even the mountain path was made of whole flagstones, which were equally aged. Perhaps because not many people came up, the edges of the flagstones were clearly moss-covered.

The height of over a hundred meters was really nothing for three practitioners of martial arts; even if the winding mountain road made them take a few extra turns, it wasn't of much difficulty, only delaying them slightly.

After spending more than ten minutes climbing to the top of the mountain and arriving in front of the Wu Family estate, they found that many people were already standing and waiting at the entrance.

Glancing over, Qin Fang saw that the number of people was easily over a hundred. The scene was indeed grand, but from another perspective, it also showed the profound heritage of Wu Family Boxing.

At least the scale of Xingyi Martial Arts Hall was not small, but the actual number of core disciples was no more than a dozen, and even if including those who had already graduated, there were probably only a few dozen.

"Uncle Master Cai..."

Seeing Qin Fang and the two others appear, the people at the door immediately came forward to greet them. The person in the lead was a rugged-looking middle-aged man, about forty years old, with a particularly burly body, especially his hands, which were thick and powerful, imposing a considerable pressure.

Qin Fang covertly cast his Scouting Skill, but the result made his expression change dramatically.

Level 6!

What surprised Qin Fang was that this middle-aged man, at least twenty years younger than Cai Pingyuan, had such formidable cultivation. He was already at the same level as Cai Pingyuan, meaning he had reached the Grandmaster Level.

However, Cai Pingyuan and Old Master Wu were peers, and this person was likely a disciple or nephew of Old Master Wu, still addressing Cai Pingyuan as Uncle Master.

"How is your father doing?"

Cai Pingyuan nodded, lightly patting the middle-aged man's shoulder, then asked with concern.

"Ah, it's still the same..."

The middle-aged man's face showed a mix of bitter and helpless emotions as he spoke with feeling.

Chapter 390: Enemies on a Narrow Road_3

"Let's talk inside..."

Cai Pingyuan nodded, his face also looking rather grave, which left Qin Fang a bit perplexed.

However, he was just an attendant at this moment, and it wasn't his place to inquire about such matters, so he obediently followed carrying the wine.

"Is it you?"

When Luo Xi saw Qin Fang again, she almost shrieked on the spot.

Initially, Qin Fang hadn't noticed Luo Xi standing among the crowd, but her exclamation made it impossible for him to ignore her. He immediately looked in the direction of the voice and spotted an infuriated Luo Xi.

"It's really a small world after all..."

Qin Fang smiled wryly, after parting ways last night, he never thought he'd see Luo Xi again, especially since he was just passing through the city and might never return in his lifetime. Encountering each other again amidst the vast sea of people was no easy feat.

To his surprise, meeting again proved so easy, it indeed was a small world.

Cai Qing also heard Luo Xi's voice, and as she turned to look, she instantly recognized Luo Xi, who was gritting her teeth in the crowd. Although she didn't know what had transpired between Qin Fang and Luo Xi, Cai Qing remembered her as one of the police officers when they were taken to the station.

It was just that Luo Xi wasn't wearing her uniform now but casual clothes, which was why Cai Qing hadn't noticed her earlier. Now taking a closer look, there was no way she wouldn't recognize her.

"Hmm? Ran into someone you know?"

Cai Pingyuan, who was about to enter, looked surprised when he saw the expressions on both Cai Qing and Qin Fang and spotted Luo Xi in the crowd, so he couldn't help asking.

"We've met once before..."

Qin Fang nodded, not planning to bring up last night's events, nor did he want his master to worry, so he kept quiet.

"Then you young people go and have fun..."

Cai Pingyuan wasn't the kind of rigid old fossil, so he immediately waved his hand and said to Qin Fang and Cai Qing.

Since they were already in the Wu Family's territory, and Qin Fang's role was just to carry the wine, there were plenty of people to do that...

"This... okay, then!"

Qin Fang was somewhat embarrassed, unsure whether to agree or refuse, but seeing Cai Qing nodding at him from the side, he reluctantly agreed.

In the crowd.

"Xiao Xi, you know him?"

Luo Xi's exclamation had surprised the authoritative middle-aged man beside her, prompting him to ask casually.

"I know him! I even caught him last night!"

For Luo Xi, who was attacked by Qin Fang, who also groped her most cherished breasts, there was no way she wouldn't recognize him, even if he turned into ashes. What made it absolutely unbearable for her was that this man had only commented on the "nice feel" of her breasts and even complained that they were too small!

That was unacceptable!

This was the main reason Luo Xi harbored such resentment towards Qin Fang. Had there not been so many people around, and considering Qin Fang was a guest from afar, she would have rushed forward and given him a thrashing.

"Caught him?"

The middle-aged man was slightly startled, a hint of curiosity flickering in his eyes.

But before he could ask further, Qin Fang and Cai Qing walked over, and the middle-aged man paused with the question on his lips.

"Greetings, Uncle Luo!"

Cai Qing didn't recognize Luo Xi, but she recognized the middle-aged man beside her and courteously greeted him.

"You are... Mingwen's daughter, Xiao Qing?"

The middle-aged man was taken aback for a moment, furrowed his brows, and then asked with some uncertainty.

Old Master Wu and Master Cai were peers, and he was martial brothers with Cai Qing's father, Cai Mingwen. The two had a very good relationship back then, there were even plans to arrange a marital match between their children, but since both families had daughters, the plan was eventually dropped.

"Yes, that's me! Uncle Luo, you have a good memory... This must be Xiao Xi, right?"

In front of Qin Fang, Cai Qing was a tigress, but to outsiders, she was still seen as that polite and pleasant girl, her smile becoming more apparent.

"Xiao Xi, come, let me introduce you. This is Cai Qing, daughter of Ninghai's Master Cai. She's just a few days older than you... And this is?"

The middle-aged man immediately introduced Cai Qing to Luo Xi cheerfully, but that wasn't the main point; he turned towards Qin Fang, his expression showing a hint of puzzlement.

"Uncle Luo, this is Qin Fang, my grandfather's new closed-door disciple!"

Though Cai Qing didn't like Qin Fang very much, she still needed to uphold her grandfather's reputation and gave a brief introduction.

"Oh, so you're Junior Martial Brother Qin. I'm Luo Youheng, you can call me Luo Shixiong..."

What surprised Qin Fang was how friendly and familiar the middle-aged man acted, who was twice his age, readily seeking to address each other as brothers.

"Dad..."

Luo Xi was taken aback, she hadn't expected her father to speak like that and couldn't help but call out.

The middle-aged man was Luo Xi's father, Luo Youheng, a disciple of Old Master Wu and also his son-in-law, while Luo Xi was Old Master Wu's granddaughter. This was something Qin Fang hadn't anticipated.

It explained why Luo Xi was of a similar age to Ning Yumo but significantly stronger—it was now apparent that she was the granddaughter of a grandmaster-level expert. Even if her natural talent and effort weren't on par with Cai Qing, being stronger than the average person was almost effortless.

Qin Fang began to understand why Luo Xi's movements during their scuffle seemed to hint at the form of a fierce tiger. Weren't those the techniques of the Tiger Fist?