

Genius 411

Chapter 411 Pursuit of the Killer_2

It seemed that Luo Xi had come out of her room just in time to verify the truth of Qin Fang's words, dressed indeed in a change of clothes.

Not in formal attire, but rather in casual home wear that snugly wrapped her perfect figure.

The temperature on the mountain was a bit low, and those too-thin pajamas, fine for wearing in the bedroom, simply weren't appropriate to walk out in, especially with a man in the house.

"Dad, your timing is perfect, we were just about to come to find you! Qin Fang, you explain."

Luo Xi came right up to Luo Youheng's side, hooking her father's arm with a cheerful smile.

"Luo Shixiong, I just had a chat with Luo Xi and discovered some issues..."

Qin Fang no longer hesitated. The case involved high-level matters, and although Luo Youheng, as the deputy director of the provincial department, would not be specifically responsible for the case, if he could speak on it, things might go smoother.

"Oh, what issues?"

Luo Youheng was slightly taken aback, yet he didn't mind asking.

"Well..."

Qin Fang then briefed Luo Youheng on what he knew, sharing his suspicions and speculations, and listed a few examples in an attempt to persuade Luo Youheng to help.

"Junior Martial Brother Qin, what can I say? This matter is quite complex and troublesome... How about this, when Grand Elder Wu wakes up tomorrow, you can directly ask him! As for getting you into the special case team, I'll figure something out."

Yet Luo Youheng did not promise anything, as if there was something Qin Fang didn't know within this affair, and the crux might indeed lie with Grand Elder Wu.

"Alright then!"

Qin Fang nodded, accepting the situation. At this point, even if he were insistent, it would be futile. As for joining the special case team, as long as Grand Elder Wu agreed, he believed all difficulties could be easily resolved.

The night passed without incident.

Qin Fang stayed in Luo Xi's courtyard for the night, of course not in Luo Xi's bedroom. After such a commotion, it was troubling enough; if he actually stayed there for the night, Luo Xi might be agreeable, but Luo Youheng certainly would not, hence Qin Fang was accommodated in the guest room.

The next morning, Luo Youheng came to find Qin Fang early, saying that Grand Elder Wu had already woken up, his complexion visibly much better and he was now barely able to speak. The first person he wanted to see was Qin Fang and his master.

Cai Pingyuan was an old friend and sworn brother of Grand Elder Wu, and Qin Fang was considered Grand Elder Wu's martial nephew, as well as his lifesaver. If not for their timely arrival, it was feared that Grand Elder Wu would have already passed away.

Just as Luo Youheng had said, Grand Elder Wu looked much better today, with a noticeable improvement in spirit. A faint color returned to his pale and wrinkled face, though his body remained extremely weak and he had lost a considerable amount of weight; this could only be compensated for by later care.

"Master, Uncle Wu..."

Qin Fang, who had come along with Luo Youheng, saw that Cai Pingyuan was already sitting there early on, and immediately greeted the two politely. As for the rest, Wu Ming and Wu Hai, being of the same generation, a simple nod sufficed.

Cai Pingyuan just nodded, not showing much reaction. The relationship between master and disciple was very good, so Cai did not care about these formalities at all.

Old Master Wu was similar, but his face clearly held a trace of a smile, as if forcibly squeezing it out. Despite inadvertently straining his injury, causing his complexion to instantly pale, it moved Qin Fang considerably.

"Uncle Wu, your body hasn't fully recovered yet, it's best not to make too big a movement..."

Qin Fang immediately offered comfort, not wanting the Grand Elder Wu that he had risked his life to save to suffer from any incidental negligence.

"I'm already fine," reassured Old Master Wu with a gentle shake of his head and then squeezed out those words, which let Qin Fang understand the old man's temperament—stubborn and dominant. It's no wonder that the Wu family could be so powerful in this region.

"Qin Fang, don't bother with him; this old fellow is just stubborn!"

Cai Pingyuan chuckled at the side. They were old friends, and it was common for them to blend their friendship by chatting and teasing each other.

In response, Qin Fang simply smiled. It was not his place to engage in such high-level banter, and it was most appropriate for him to just sit quietly and attend to his breakfast.

"Xiao Qin, I heard from You Heng that you're investigating a murder case, and that you've made some discoveries?"

However, Qin Fang soon became restless, as Old Master Wu actually took the initiative to abandon his argument with Cai Pingyuan and turned his attention toward Qin Fang, looking as if he had already received news from Luo Youheng.

"Yes, Elder Wu! Here's what happened..."

Qin Fang had no choice but to repeat the details he had gathered to Old Master Wu, despite the fact that the expressions of Elder Cai, Cai Pingyuan, and others showed no change, as if they had already known about it beforehand.

And indeed, that was the case...

"You're right, the person who injured me and the criminal behind that case are indeed the same,"

Old Master Wu nodded solemnly, but as soon as he spoke, Cai Pingyuan, Wu Ming, Wu Hai, Luo Youheng, and the rest simultaneously looked up.

Although they were aware of this fact, they still couldn't decide who the criminal was.

The only suspect was Chen Qingsong, who was beaten and fell off the cliff years ago, but Chen Qingsong should have died twenty years ago, so how could he have committed two such crimes recently?

This was the most perplexing issue for them, and without question, Old Master Wu was the only person with knowledge of the situation, as the only two other people involved were already dead beyond doubt.

"The criminal is a young man!"

Old Master Wu was silent for a long time before he said this in a deep voice.

"A young man?"

Everyone was slightly taken aback.

Whether the criminal was young was not important in itself, but the skill required to nearly kill a grandmaster-level martial artist and leave him severely wounded was enough to move these older-generation masters. Such skill would likely be on par with that of Cai Pingyuan or Wu Ming; even Wu Hai, who had just reached the grandmaster level, would not suffice.

But could a young man possess such strength?

There was one more than twenty years ago—Chen Qingsong. However, so many years had passed, and if Chen Qingsong were still alive, he would be almost fifty years old by now, hardly a young man.

"Although I did not see his face clearly, he was definitely young, not more than thirty years old!"

Old Master Wu stressed this point, and although the others didn't know exactly what had happened that day, Old Master Wu was injured in the evening when the sky was already growing dark. Plus, it was a sneak attack, one strike and the assailant was gone, so not seeing the assailant's face clearly was quite normal.

However, the assailant had struck from the front, and even if they couldn't remember the exact face, it was not difficult to retain some impression.

"Moreover..."

But the real bombshell was yet to come, and here was the twist, "Moreover, I suspect he is a disciple of Qingsong..."

Whoosh~~

Everyone was stunned, including Qin Fang.

"Dad, are you saying that Chen Qingsong isn't dead?"

Wu Hai, who was a martial arts fanatic and rather straightforward, immediately asked in surprise.

Chen Qingsong had failed to marry the Wu family daughter before committing such a crime, and all the women he had defiled were killed, leaving no descendants.

The only possibility then would be that Chen Qingsong did not die from the fall off the cliff and spent twenty years training a disciple, who had now returned for revenge.

"How is this possible?"

Yet, everyone's hearts couldn't accept such a fact. After all, Chen Qingsong had been seriously injured at that time with no chance of recovery, not to mention that he had fallen from a mountain; being crushed to pieces would have been considered lucky.

To expect him to survive?

It would have been harder than reaching the heavens...

Chapter 412: The First Advanced Skill: Cooking_1

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Old Master Wu understood everyone's questions all too well, but he had his own reasons.

"Tiger's Rush is a secret technique passed down in the Wu Family. Aside from you two brothers, only Qingsong possesses it..." This was a known fact to everyone, and several people nodded in agreement, waiting attentively.

"I didn't get a clear look at that young man, but I did see something... It's precisely because of this thing that I am convinced that the young man must be a descendant of Qingsong."

Old Master Wu continued, his eyes seeming to drift off, as if his thoughts had already flown to a distant era.

Chen Qingsong was once his most outstanding disciple, whom he even valued more than his own sons. Wu Ming and Wu Hai were quite envious back then. But such a disciple deeply hurt an old man's heart.

"Dad, are you talking about... the Feng Yuan Pei?"

It was Wu Ming who suddenly recalled something, his expression changing slightly as he asked in surprise.

"The Feng Yuan Pei!"

Upon hearing this name, Qin Fang wore a look of unfamiliarity, and Luo Youheng was almost the same, but Cai Pingyuan and Wu Hai's expressions changed.

"Indeed, it is the Feng Yuan Pei!"

Old Master Wu nodded slightly and said.

Cai Pingyuan, noticing Qin Fang's puzzled look, quietly explained to him.

It turned out that the Feng Yuan Pei was an heirloom jade pendant of the Wu Family, carved from a piece of Thousand-Year Warm Jade. The precious jade was spiritual, especially when worn over a long time, the spirit of the jade would blend with the wearer's vital essence, creating a unique substance. This substance could enhance the 'Cut Hair and Wash Marrow' property, accelerating cultivation speed significantly.

Chen Qingsong, at a young age, had displayed remarkable martial talent, with an extremely rapid cultivation speed that greatly pleased Old Master Wu. It seemed as though he had foreseen Chen Qingsong breaking through the Grandmaster's limit to reach higher realms.

It was for this reason that he gave Chen Qingsong the Feng Yuan Pei to wear instead of Wu Ming.

Regrettably, Chen Qingsong strayed onto the wrong path and was eventually gravely injured and fell off a cliff, causing the Feng Yuan Pei to vanish from the world.

Unexpectedly, it reemerged, and it was Old Master Wu who witnessed it, which could explain a lot.

Perhaps, Chen Qingsong really wasn't dead!

"Dad, I understand what to do now!"

There was no need to say more. The people present were not fools; Old Master Wu's intent was clear.

Chen Qingsong was a renegade disciple who deserved death. If the Feng Yuan Pei had disappeared along with him, that chapter would have closed forever.

But unexpectedly, he hadn't died and even trained a disciple with formidable strength who almost managed to kill Old Master Wu. Subsequently, this disciple had brutally killed two people using even more savage methods, bearing a striking resemblance to Chen Qingsong's temperament back then.

Such a person could not be allowed to remain at large. They must be captured and possibly... executed!

As for the Feng Yuan Pei, being originally property of the Wu Family, it was time to reclaim it.

Old Master Wu's body was still quite frail, speaking so much must have been very tiring for him, and he needed rest. Everyone did not want to bother him further and took their leave.

With Old Master Wu's statement backing him, Qin Fang's previous proposal seemed relatively simple. After leaving Old Master Wu, Qin Fang specially met with Wu Ming alone to make his intentions clear without any pretense.

Wu Ming had been worried that Qin Fang, who hadn't been practicing martial arts for long, would stand no chance against this brutal murderer. However, when Qin Fang displayed his service pistol and gun permit and even flashed his National Security Agency special agent ID, Wu Ming agreed amidst shock.

As the head of the Wu Family, Grand Elder Wu held absolute authority, and Wu Ming managed the overall situation. This matter was trivial for him, so he notified Luo Youheng to arrange it. As the Deputy Director of the Provincial Department, You Heng's involvement would ease the process. After all, Qin Fang wasn't there to take credit from others; it was just in name.

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"Congratulations, your Cooking Skill (Intermediate) proficiency is full, upgraded to Advanced Cooking!"

What surprised Qin Fang was that just as he was gearing up to join the task force hunting the killer, this notification popped up.

"Finally advanced!"

Surprise and excitement appeared on Qin Fang's face. He had been waiting for this day for a long time and now finally possessed his first advanced skill.

He opened the skill panel and called up the data for his Cooking Skill.

"Skill: Cooking, Level: Advanced, Proficiency: 0%, can cook various delicious dishes, Deliciousness +10."

The content was similar to Intermediate Cooking, with only a few changes in details, like the skill level advancing to Advanced, and the additional property increasing from Deliciousness +5 to Deliciousness +10, doubling.

Recalling the past, a mere Deliciousness +5 already enabled Qin Fang to thrive, and now with Deliciousness +10, doubled, the food he would make would undoubtedly be even tastier. Concurrently, his cooking skill would reach new heights.

Chapter 413: The First Advanced Skill: Cooking_2

Fang Feixue's Seven Orifices Exquisite dish was already a fine piece of work, but that was from Qin Fang's peak period of Intermediate Cooking. However, compared to the current Advanced Cooking, this was yet another qualitative leap.

Qin Fang was pondering whether to create another incomparably delicious signature dish. That way, Fang Feixue's fame would become even more resounding, and maybe even he, Qin Fang, could gain some recognition as a distinguished chef...

However, that was obviously not his personal pursuit. It was fine to show off occasionally, but if he really had to be stuck in a kitchen cooking, he definitely wouldn't be happy about it.

"Forget it, let's wait on this idea!"

Qin Fang temporarily dismissed the plan. Now that he was at Advanced Cooking, even if he created a new signature dish, Wen Yi, with her current Intermediate Cooking level, wouldn't be able to reach his level of complexity; she still couldn't...

"Hm? What's going on?"

Thinking of Wen Yi, Qin Fang immediately wanted to check the diligence of his two new disciples, so he called up the Apprentice Fame System. There, hanging under the names of his two disciples, Sun Liang and Wu Ping, were a few numbers—Disciples (2/4).

"Could it be..."

Qin Fang's eyes suddenly lit up. When Qin Fang's skill was at Intermediate, he could only take on one disciple at first. After Wen Yi graduated, Qin Fang was able to accept two disciples.

Unexpectedly, when his skill rose to Advanced, this number changed once again, from the original 2 to 4. This meant that Qin Fang could take on disciples again, and this time, he could take on two more.

"Hahahaha..."

This discovery immediately filled Qin Fang with ecstatic joy. It was the best news possible. Taking on two more disciples would accelerate his Skill Proficiency leveling.

Even though stepping into Advanced Skill meant he needed more and more Proficiency, having these disciples to help meant that Qin Fang could still quickly increase his Proficiency without stepping into the kitchen. This was simply a superweapon for leveling up!

However, there was no rush to take on disciples. He did have a candidate on hand, Zhou Rui, a disciple in name. After returning home, he could officially accept him. But unless he personally taught Zhou Rui, the latter would only be his disciple in name and would not learn Cooking Skill, offering no boost to Qin Fang's own Proficiency.

Deciding to act, Qin Fang immediately called Wen Yi to inquire about the current situation at Fang Feixue, then had her relay a message to Zhou Rui, telling him that he had passed the trial period and was officially accepted into Qin Fang's tutelage as a formal disciple. Once Qin Fang finished with the Martial World convention and returned to Ninghai, Zhou Rui could officially begin his training.

This news made Zhou Rui so excited he almost fainted. Sun Liang and Wu Ping, who had entered with him, could now hold their own at Fang Feixue, taking charge of the main dishes after meals. Their bowls of ramen had already won the praise of many diners; naturally, their income had also been rising.

This had already made Zhou Rui both envious and jealous, so to gain Qin Fang's approval, he had been the most diligent apprentice in Fang Feixue, even more so than Sun Liang and Wu Ping.

As the saying goes, hard work pays off. In less than half a month, his efforts had been rewarded, and Qin Fang finally agreed to take him on as a disciple. How could he not be excited?

However, while Zhou Rui was excited, he didn't dare to be complacent. He knew that Qin Fang might be away for a long time, and if he slacked off before Qin Fang's return, the opportunity that was already in his grasp might slip away. Consequently, he became even more diligent.

Sun Liang and Wu Ping also learned the news and each extended a welcome to Zhou Rui, their fellow initiate. However, deep down, they were somewhat anxious.

As Inner Chamber Disciples of Qin Fang, they had started off higher than Zhou Rui and were gradually solidifying their positions at Fang Feixue. They had become somewhat complacent these days, looking down on Zhou Rui's diligence.

But now that Zhou Rui was also entering the door, with his level of diligence, he was bound to receive Qin Fang's attention. If they weren't careful, they could be surpassed by him, and their hard-earned positions would be threatened, even risking being neglected by Qin Fang.

Resign and switch employers?

They didn't dare think in that way!

The extent of Qin Fang's background had already been made clear when Fang Feixue opened, and the contract they had signed with Fang Feixue was like a heavy shackle, for they could not afford the enormous penalty for breach.

Moreover, the salary Fang Feixue offered them was quite generous; even if they jumped ship to a five-star hotel, they might not necessarily earn such an income, so they were very reluctant to leave.

If they didn't want to leave, they had to work even harder, so the two brothers started to exert themselves, which, in turn, made Qin Fang's Proficiency increase even faster.

Of course, how excited Zhou Rui was, and how Sun Liang and Wu Ping's worries drove them to diligence, were all details Qin Fang didn't notice, but accelerating his Skill Proficiency was undoubtedly a great thing, which he certainly couldn't refuse.

"Right, the baozi..."

The upgrade of his Cooking Skill filled Qin Fang with immense joy, but once he calmed down, he began pondering the other uses of this skill.

And the first thing Qin Fang considered was the soup buns he consumed to replenish his Life Points.

Without a doubt, the baozi played a vastly significant role, almost granting Qin Fang an undying life, as long as he had enough of them in hand, any injury was but a trifle to him.

However, problems gradually arose.

As Qin Fang leveled up, his Life Points cap also kept increasing; it was currently at 22 points, and upon reaching Level 4, it would be 27 points, but his baozi's attribute had always been "Life Points +1".

In this way, if Qin Fang suffered severe injuries with blood loss happening too rapidly, the +1 Life Point restoration was simply too slow, and he might perish from not replenishing his health in time.

This was not alarmism—as Qin Fang had experienced during his battle with the Golden Crested Snake, the frightening rate of blood loss had almost prevented him from holding on. If he had had a +5 Life Point restorative at that time, Qin Fang figured he might even have been able to solo the Golden Crested Snake instead of risking his life to kill it.

He had learned the recipe for this baozi from Uncle Fang, which was incomplete at first. Only after Intermediate Cooking's Restoration and modification did it acquire the +1 Life Point trait, and apart from those Qin Fang made himself, not even Uncle Fang's own baozi had such an effect.

Now that his Cooking Skill had reached Advanced, Qin Fang thought that the secret soup baozi recipe had been fairly well restored, so he decided to try making a batch of baozi.

One reason was to test the effects of Advanced Cooking, and the other was to prepare for the upcoming challenges.

This successor of Chen Qingsong was not an easy target, extremely ruthless and savage in his attacks. Although Qin Fang was a Sharpshooter, facing such a powerful and malicious opponent required ample preparation.

And the baozi were undoubtedly Qin Fang's greatest reliance.

Qin Fang had specially prepared a considerable amount of baozi for this martial arts tournament, but he hadn't anticipated that after just two or three days before even reaching the tournament venue, he had already used up half of his stock.

Now, having to face such an enemy, Qin Fang feared the process would be extremely tough, so he needed to be even more adequately equipped, and replenishing his baozi was a must.

He was also curious to know if advancing to Advanced Cooking would bring him any unexpected surprises.

For some reason, Qin Fang felt such a premonition!

Chapter 414: Superior Soup Dumplings: Life Points +3_1

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The matter was essentially settled, and Elder Ma was on his way to the Wu Family as well. He believed that Old Master Wu's health would recover soon under his treatment, and Qin Fang also planned to head down the mountain to prepare.

But before that, Cai Pingyuan still pulled Qin Fang aside, and the master and disciple had a brief chat.

"Qin Fang, do you really plan to get involved?"

The thing is, this really had nothing to do with Qin Fang. Cai Pingyuan didn't really want Qin Fang to meddle in it, especially since the murderer was so vicious. With Qin Fang's current strength, an encounter with the murderer would truly be a life and death situation.

He was an experienced individual, having seen all sorts of murders and lootings in the Martial World, but such a brutal person was still rare to encounter—decisive, fierce, and inhumane in their actions. Just by looking at the way the official's second generation had died, one could imagine it; half of his head had been blown off.

With such formidable attack power, even a grandmaster-level expert like Old Master Wu suffered such heavy injuries. Not to mention Qin Fang, who was just starting out as a young martial artist.

"Master, don't worry. I'm not so foolish as to confront the murderer head-on... and besides, you know, I am a sniper!"

Qin Fang smiled. Cai Pingyuan was genuinely worried about his safety, but Qin Fang didn't want to waste this very precious opportunity. After all, it was such a rare chance to gain a large amount of experience in a legitimate way. He even planned to break through to Level 4 this time.

As for Qin Fang being a sniper, Cai Pingyuan did know about it; however, he had never inquired into it. They were all experts in cold weapons, and firearms were under national control. They couldn't get in touch with them; it's not that they couldn't, they just didn't want to touch that line, and naturally didn't care much about it, preferring to uphold their own martial power.

"Moreover, it's just a few days. If we still can't catch the murderer by then, I won't be able to leave even if I want to..."

Of course, Qin Fang didn't forget to add that—it was indeed the truth. Pursuing the murderer was meaningful, but he also needed to attend the Martial Arts Tournament; he couldn't delay that either.

"Alright then, you must be careful yourself!"

With the conversation having reached this point, Cai Pingyuan knew that Qin Fang had already made up his mind. He, as a master, could no longer stop him. After all, every martial artist who truly wanted to become strong must be able to stand on their own. Those in greenhouses were only flowers that could not withstand the true battering of wind and rain, and such care only ends up harming them.

Qin Fang's independence may have come a bit early, but it wasn't a bad thing. People like Cai Pingyuan and Old Master Wu also stepped onto battlefields riddled with bullets at Qin Fang's age and matured quickly as a result.

With Cai Pingyuan's permission, and with Old Master Wu's nod of approval, Luo Youheng made some arrangements, and Qin Fang rightfully joined the special case team, albeit only with a consultant role—a temporary position.

However, the benefits were obvious. That is, Qin Fang was qualified to review any intelligence the special case team uncovered. During interrogations, he could also sit in, among other things—in short, he had no small amount of power.

But what really caught Qin Fang's attention was one point: if the murderer was discovered and resisted, he had the right to kill the suspect without bearing any legal responsibility!

It might seem meaningless at first glance, but in reality, it was a clause for—revenge!

Or rather, it was an opportunity for the Wu family to take revenge.

No matter who the murderer was or whose disciple he was, the actions he took had completely enraged the Wu family. Their only thought was not anything else but to take the life of this murderer.

As for sentencing and imprisonment, they hadn't considered that at all; they needed him dead!

That's how the people of the Martial World are—if they truly despise and are enraged by someone, they really do whatever it takes to deal with their enemy.

Of course, the principle that misfortune should not befall the innocent family members of the enemy also applies. The murderer can be killed, but their innocent family members, wives, and children... cannot be harmed.

This is a rule of the Martial World that no one can violate; otherwise, the entire Martial World would pursue and surround such a person.

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"What? You're not going crazy, are you?"

When Luo Xi heard Qin Fang's request, she almost exploded on the spot. Her temper was never the best, and she was the type to speak her mind directly, never hiding what should be said, and it was no different at that moment.

"You're the one who's crazy! I'm serious..."

Qin Fang rolled his eyes, retorting irritably.

He was never polite with this woman beside him. He would fight when it was time to fight and scold when it was time to scold. Only in this way could they best get along.

An utterly speechless woman!

But now, their relationship was quite good. Perhaps it was due to their closeness one evening that broke the ice between them, and Luo Xi was no longer targeting Qin Fang. However, she had not changed her nature of being a hot-headed female cop.

"And you're still denying you're not insane! We're supposed to be investigating a case, and you want to go to a baozi shop? If that's not crazy, what is??"

Luo Xi spoke bitterly, her eyes already fully revealing her emotions.

Chapter 415: Superior Soup Dumplings: Life Points +3_2

"You don't know shit! Just take me there, why all the fuss? If you won't go, I'll get out and find it myself..."

Qin Fang, of course, couldn't possibly explain his purpose to Luo Xi, as it was his secret. So far, only Wen Yan had caught a glimpse of it, but she was a very smart girl, and her heart was fully devoted to Qin Fang, so naturally, she wouldn't betray him.

However, Luo Xi, despite having had very intimate contacts with Qin Fang, clearly still had a very low trust level with him.

Qin Fang came over in Luo Xi's BMW MINI, leaving his Audi Q7 on the mountain. The main reason was that the Wu Family didn't want him getting too involved, to avoid bringing him danger.

Now that Old Master Wu had awoken, Qin Fang was a great benefactor to the Wu Family. Naturally, they didn't want him to take any risks. If it weren't for Qin Fang's insistence, Wu Ming wouldn't even have agreed to let Qin Fang take part in the operation.

In the end, both sides had to compromise, agreeing that Qin Fang could be part of the mission, but he had to be with Luo Xi, so they could look out for each other and avoid a lot of trouble. After all, Luo Xi, the violent policewoman, had quite a reputation in Jiujiang, and ordinary people wouldn't dare to provoke her.

Naturally, Qin Fang had no choice but to carpool with Luo Xi when going out.

"Fine, you win!"

In the end, Luo Xi, though beaten, drove around the streets until she found a baozi shop that Qin Fang was relatively satisfied with.

This baozi shop was actually in a remote location; the business couldn't be considered very good, just barely making it by, probably just serving regular customers. It did fit Qin Fang's requirements, though.

They parked the car by the roadside, and Qin Fang walked towards the baozi shop. As for Luo Xi, she followed reluctantly. She was a rich girl who never lacked money. Whether it was food, clothes, things she used, or the car she drove, although not extremely luxurious, they were definitely not subpar. However, she had never been to this baozi shop before.

The reason was simple—it looked unhygienic.

By comparison, she would rather go to those fancier restaurants and high-end establishments...

But Qin Fang didn't care about that. He started his career with a street food stall and didn't have any aversion to small shops. On the contrary, he felt very much at home.

"Boss, what would you like? Our shop has baozi, steamed buns, shaobing, fried dough sticks, porridge, noodles..."

The moment they reached the entrance of the baozi shop, the proprietress immediately came over to warmly greet them. Her white apron was slightly blackened, covered in white flour, as were her hands, but her smile was radiant.

Perhaps because it was no longer early, and the busiest time for breakfast had passed, there were only a few scattered customers who occasionally chatted with the owner and his wife, seeming quite familiar.

"Do you have soup dumplings?"

Qin Fang nodded, took a seat at a table, and then looked up to ask.

"Soup dumplings? Yes, yes, we have them... How many would you like? They'll be ready shortly!"

The proprietress paused for a moment and glanced back, but she still replied politely.

"They're not ready yet..."

Qin Fang had actually noticed this already and purposely said so, "I need a large quantity, and I'm guessing what you have won't be enough... How about this—I'll make them myself, and you guys help me buy the ingredients. I'll cover the costs!"

"Ah..."

The proprietress was immediately stunned. She had seen customers come to the baozi shop to buy or eat baozi, but had never seen someone wanting to make their own. As soon as Qin Fang said this, she was taken aback.

Not only she but also Luo Xi, who was sitting next to Qin Fang wiping the table with a paper towel, was startled, her mouth gaping wide, thinking she must have misheard.

"I'm not joking..."

Qin Fang laughed, took out his wallet, and pulled out a stack of money. He didn't count it, but just handed it to the proprietress—it must have been at least five or six thousand yuan.

"These are the ingredients I need; please go replenish them..."

He produced a piece of paper from his person, upon which were written, quite simply, a few items. They were special ingredients required for the secret recipe soup dumplings. This wasn't Fang Feixue, so he might as well give this baozi shop a bargain.

"I'm on it, right away..."

The proprietress finally snapped back to reality and immediately went over to communicate with her husband. Then, under his dumbstruck gaze, she rode off on a bicycle to buy the ingredients.

As for Qin Fang, he took off his coat, rolled up his sleeves, donned a simple apron, and began to knead dough and roll out the baozi skins...

"He's not just talking big!"

Luo Xi was truly dumbfounded. She had thought Qin Fang was just joking but had not expected him to actually get to work—and his movements were so skilled, his expression so focused.

From kneading the dough and rolling out the skins, to preparing the fillings and chopping them, every action was smooth and flowing. The baozi shop owner beside him was already quite skilled, but compared to Qin Fang, he didn't even qualify as an apprentice.

Qin Fang threw down a hefty sum of money, and the baozi shop immediately became his temporary private space. The husband and wife owners simply stood to the side, really unable to help, merely watching on helplessly.

The speed of making the baozis was truly an artistic experience, a collision of speed and passion. In no time at all, hundreds of exquisitely shaped soup dumplings, looking as if they were carved by the same mold, were formed.

He then placed them into steamer baskets to cook, while Qin Fang continued with his task. He had already used up nearly three hundred soup dumplings, and he needed to replenish that quantity.

It wasn't long before the first basket of baozis was ready. Qin Fang hurriedly took them out and immediately threw a Scouting Skill on them, and the attributes of the baozis appeared before him.

"Superior Soup Dumplings, consumption increases Life Points by three, restores 10% physical strength, happiness level +8%."

Seeing such attributes, Qin Fang almost leaped for joy, or started shouting frantically. This was such an enormous surprise that his brain almost burst with excitement, nearly causing him to faint.

If the original soup dumplings had ensured Qin Fang's life was secure, then now... They were celebrating his Undying Body.

With Qin Fang's current Life Points at 22, he would need only seven of these Superior Soup Dumplings to almost fully recover. Before this, he would have to munch on 22 baozis consecutively, wasting a significant amount of time and also occupying too much space in his Props Box.

Before leaving Ninghai, Qin Fang had prepared a total of 600 soup dumplings, which could increase his Life Points by 600, but they took up half of the 12 slots in his Props Box.

However, if he were to use these Superior Soup Dumplings with a +3 increase to Life Points, 600 Life Points would only need 200 Superior Soup Dumplings, occupying just two slots, freeing up four slots all at once.

No one understood better than Qin Fang the importance of these empty slots in the Props Box. A single slot could hold one type or category of item—like these Superior Soup Dumplings, equating to 300 Life Points, potentially saving Qin Fang's life over a dozen times...

"Huh..."

However, the appearance of the Superior Soup Dumplings did bring Qin Fang considerable joy, but there was still a bit of discordance.

For instance... there were 16 in this basket, and after he threw Scouting Skills on each of them, he was surprised to find that only six were Superior Soup Dumplings; the remaining ten retained their original properties.

That is to say, out of this batch, less than 40 percent were Superior Soup Dumplings; they weren't all superior quality.

This discovery slightly disappointed Qin Fang, but soon his joy returned.

What he really cared about was the +3 Life Points attribute of the Superior Soup Dumplings. Although the chance of them being superior was not very high, relying on accumulated proficiency from making them, that number was still considerable.

"Keep this one... not this one... not this one... keep this one... not this one... keep this one... not this one..."

Thus, Qin Fang started multitasking: making baozis, applying Scouting Skills, and separating the Superior Soup Dumplings to pack away. These he was definitely taking with him. As for the remainder... he would leave those to the baozi shop.

Chapter 416 Suspect_1

...

"Qin Fang, why are you making so many baozi?"

Luo Xi had always wanted to ask this question. A person's appetite is quite limited. Qin Fang's soup dumplings were not very large, but when piled up in quantity, it became quite terrifying.

Every time Qin Fang loaded the steamer, he would steam at least five or six baskets at once, each with sixteen dumplings, which meant he was steaming one hundred dumplings at a time.

For just the two of them, even if they let themselves go and ate as much as they could, being able to eat two baskets each would already be considered gluttonous, but even then, they couldn't finish the dumplings from a single steaming session.

Yet after Qin Fang steamed a batch of baozi, he didn't stop; instead, he kept busy, seemingly intending to expand further. Luo Xi could no longer hold back and immediately grabbed Qin Fang, asking in puzzlement.

Although some rich people have some eccentric habits that are hard to understand, someone like Qin Fang was truly rare, and no wonder Luo Xi thought there might be something wrong with his mental state.

"If you're hungry, just have some. I naturally have my reasons..."

But obviously, Qin Fang was not going to tell Luo Xi, only pointing to some of the soup dumplings he had set aside while his hands kept moving without interruption.

"You..."

Luo Xi was met with an urge to laugh and didn't know quite what to say. She felt as though she didn't have the right to comment, so she could only helplessly shake her head. As her stomach was indeed getting hungry, she immediately took a few soup dumplings and sat down next to Qin Fang to eat.

"Eh... the taste is really not bad!"

Upon taking a bite, Luo Xi was quite surprised. It was not as unpalatable as she had imagined.

In fact, the flavor was really good, with thick soup, delicious and sweet meat filling, and even the baozi skin was flavorful. Everything mixed together perfectly... the taste was truly good!

Even Luo Xi thought these were the most delicious baozi she had had in her over twenty years of life.

After finishing one, she lightly licked her lips and immediately sensed a lingering fragrance, without the greasiness common in other people's soup dumplings, and found it quite exquisite.

So... Luo Xi couldn't help but start eating a second one.

Qin Fang just smiled faintly at this. Luo Xi was eating the defective products he made, but it's important to know that Qin Fang was now skilled in Advanced Cooking, which added a Deliciousness +10 attribute; even these defective products had at least Deliciousness +5. How many people could make soup dumplings with such deliciousness?

Qin Fang continued to sit there making his baozi. The husband and wife owners of the baozi shop could only watch from the side. Seeing Luo Xi eating so enjoyably, they couldn't help but secretly try one too. Their eyes immediately widened. The wife, being rather shrewd, quickly pushed her husband toward Qin Fang and stared very carefully at every movement he made, busy trying to learn his technique.

Qin Fang didn't forbid this; if they really had the ability to learn something from him, that would be their own skill.

As time slowly passed, Luo Xi had long become full to bursting, looking like she might not even be able to walk properly, so Qin Fang sent her back to the car to rest. Meanwhile, he continued with his work.

Not until he had selected about two hundred Superior Soup Dumplings with Life Points +3 from the several hundred baozi did Qin Fang finally stop his work, packed these Superior Soup Dumplings, and prepared to leave.

"Boss, these baozi..."

The owners of the baozi shop, looking at the dumplings piled there, which numbered three or four hundred at least, knew that selling them could earn a couple hundred bucks at least, especially since these baozi were so delicious. It would be a pity to just throw them away; it would be a waste.

Or put another way, compared to the baozi made by Qin Fang, the ones they made were simply not fit for human consumption, the difference was too great. They had even wanted to secretly learn how to make dumplings like Qin Fang to see if they could achieve the same flavor, where even half of it would be enough.

"Don't need them!"

Qin Fang waved his hand; those were just ordinary baozi with Life Points +1. Not only were their attributes vastly inferior to the Life Points +3 baozi he had on hand, but their flavor was also much poorer.

His original intention wasn't truly to play around making baozi, it was just for the ones he had on hand. Now that his goal had been achieved, those remaining had no significance.

"You don't want them... Thank you, thank you so much!"

The owners were slightly stunned, quite taken aback, but soon they started thanking him profusely with big smiles on their faces.

Qin Fang didn't make much of it, carrying the two big bags with him, heading straight to Luo Xi's car. Now that he was outside, it wasn't appropriate to throw the baozi directly into the Props Box, so this was the only way to handle them.

"You're finally back..."

By the time Qin Fang got into the car, Luo Xi had already dozed off inside. But looking at her slightly bulging belly, it was clear that she had eaten too much. If one didn't know better, they might think she was a few months pregnant.

"Let's go..."

Qin Fang just smiled, without idle chit-chat.

"Where to? You don't plan to make me go to work like this, do you?" Luo Xi asked, pointing at her belly.

Chapter 417 Suspect_2

"How about going to the tourism school..."

Qin Fang was also helpless. Luo Xi was a notoriously violent policewoman. Although she was very beautiful, she belonged to the fierce animal type that scared people off, and the average man really could not stand her. Thus, she was still single, and many in the police force hoped for some tough guy to whisk this violent lady away; then they would be happy.

If Qin Fang really were to go to the Criminal Police Team with a big belly, he would likely be immediately labeled as the "faux boyfriend of the violent policewoman," which was not a good thing, even though the two of them indeed had something fishy going on.

"You think of starting the investigation with that girl?"

Luo Xi nodded. Being a local, she knew places pretty well. While driving to the destination, she discussed the plans with Qin Fang.

"Now with not a single lead, if the police start from the murdered official's second generation enemies, then we'll do the opposite and start from that girl..."

Qin Fang nodded. He had already gone through the case file and hadn't gotten much information. The main issue was that the assassin's motive was very unclear.

If it was said he wanted to kill Old Master Wu as revenge for Chen Qingsong, why would he kill this young couple?

The so-called second-generation official wasn't a good person; relying on his family's power, he did a lot of bad things, especially being very lascivious, with many women he had played with, even resorting to coercion several times, driving several girls to death...

All things considered, the police believed the assassin's being an enemy of the second-generation official was a reliable assumption, and thus primarily started the investigation from there.

As for the girl, she was just an ordinary college student. She came from an average family and was generally considered pure. She had always been single, a bit vain, so while in school she worked part-time as a tour guide and occasionally went to nightclubs to sit at tables, belonging to that type of girl who really could let loose.

Of course, in such a tourism school, a lot of pretty girls were of a similar type; after all, if a woman is willing to spread her legs, the money comes awfully fast.

At least Qin Fang had heard that a sophomore beauty once openly posted on a website that she'd be willing to sleep for four nights in exchange for an iPhone, and that girl really looked quite good.

This tourism school in Jiujiang, frankly, was nothing but a common vocational school. The Lushan Scenic Area is a very famous spot in the country, with a huge number of tourists every year, thereby creating a great demand for tour guides.

But being a tour guide is also a youth-consuming profession; after working for a few years, most change careers to do something else or hook a rich guy to become a mistress, Little Four, or Little Five.

Such an atmosphere led to a high number of pretty girls who were quite open; as long as the money was right, playing with two, three, or four at the same time was no problem at all.

Of course, there were also plenty of boys here. For example, when Qin Fang and Luo Xi arrived, they saw many playing basketball, with several girls shaking flags, cheering, and rooting for them.

Luo Xi then directly took Qin Fang to find their target—the roommate of the murdered girl, Xue Lu.

The police had already communicated with her two days earlier and recorded her statement, leaving a contact number; getting in touch was much easier. It wasn't long before the girl named Cao Zhenzhen came out and directly got into Qin Fang's car.

"Student Cao, don't be nervous. We just have a few questions for you..."

Luo Xi showed Cao Zhenzhen her police badge, but the girl still looked quite nervous, much like the last time she had made a statement.

It was no wonder, as Xue Lu's death was very gruesome, and as her roommate, their relationship was pretty good. During cold winters, they even huddled together under one quilt. But now she was scared to stay in the dormitory by herself.

Qin Fang furrowed his brows and without saying much, immediately deployed several Mind Reading Techniques on the very anxious Cao Zhenzhen.

Without obtaining someone's permission and casually probing into their mental activities is a very impolite act, but for the sake of the case, Qin Fang had to do it.

Luo Xi, as if recording the statement for the first time, asked the same old set of questions, and although Cao Zhenzhen was nervous, she still answered honestly. Basically, her answers were largely similar to before.

"Student Cao, I have a question. Xue Lu really didn't have a boyfriend before?"

But while Luo Xi and Cao Zhenzhen were having their back and forth, Qin Fang, who had remained silent, suddenly asked from his driver's seat.

Cao Zhenzhen was taken aback, a flicker of urgency passing through her gaze, but she still shook her head and said, "No, she didn't have a boyfriend, everyone knows that!"

Luo Xi was also momentarily startled by Qin Fang's sudden interjection, then she focused on Cao Zhenzhen's reaction, catching that glimpse of abnormality in her eyes.

"Then who is Chen Liang?"

Qin Fang, however, was not about to let the matter rest, his tone becoming even more severe and his eyes suddenly blazing with intensity.

"Chen Liang... Chen Liang is my boyfriend!" Cao Zhenzhen blurted out, startled by Qin Fang's tone, yet she still clenched her teeth and spoke.

"Your boyfriend?"

Hearing this response, the stern-faced Qin Fang suddenly broke into a smile, "Classmate Cao, I hope that you can disclose the truth to us. The police suspect that Xue Lu's death was a crime of passion, and the murderer's method was extremely cruel, showing his twisted personality. If he could murder Xue Lu with such means today, it's possible that one day he could kill another girl with even more brutality... Maybe even you."

Qin Fang's words carried significant weight, appearing to persuade, yet they sounded more like a threat, so much so that even a cop as tough as Luo Xi couldn't help but frown.

But...

Wow!!

Cao Zhenzhen actually broke down crying, her otherwise fairly pretty face turning deathly pale, showing how terrified she truly was.

Luo Xi immediately rolled her eyes at Qin Fang and went to comfort Cao Zhenzhen, but Qin Fang pulled her back, gently shaking his head as a sign.

Luo Xi was puzzled, but she knew Qin Fang must have his reasons for saying and doing so, and therefore, she held her tongue, sensing that Cao Zhenzhen was likely hiding something.

"Xue Lu... Xue Lu really didn't have a boyfriend! Chen Liang... Chen Liang wanted to pursue Xue Lu, but she didn't like him..."

Cao Zhenzhen cried for a while, and seeing that no one comforted her, her sobs gradually quieted down. Observing that Qin Fang and Luo Xi were looking at her calmly, she finally resigned herself to speak.

"Tell us about your relationship with Chen Liang..."

Qin Fang continued with the same expression, his tone very flat.

"Chen Liang is a good person; he couldn't possibly be the murderer! That night... that night, he was with me the whole time! We... we were together all night long!"

However, Cao Zhenzhen was extremely agitated, even her tone growing significantly louder, veering on the verge of hysteria.

But she didn't realize that the more she behaved this way, the more she was not helping the man she liked; instead, she was making his suspicion even more evident.

"Oh, is that so? Then where did you stay that night?"

Qin Fang asked, his tone suggestive, "You better not lie. The police will investigate. If you give false testimony, not only will you be legally responsible, but your boyfriend will become a suspect as well..."

"Fenglin... Fenglin Hotel!"

Cao Zhenzhen's complexion turned even paler, she just a girl not yet twenty years old, with little experience in the world and even less knowledge about legal matters, hesitating for a while before finally revealing a location.

"It's less than a kilometer from the scene..."

Luo Xi immediately said into Qin Fang's ear.

Chapter 418: LV4 Assassin Chen Liang_1

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Luo Xi grew up on Lushan Mountain and was very familiar with the surrounding area of the scenic spot. So when Cao Zhenzhen mentioned that location, Luo Xi almost instantly knew where it was without much thought.

Less than one kilometer from the crime scene, with the killer's strength, it wouldn't take even a few minutes to kill, dump the body, and return—perhaps not even ten minutes in total.

Regardless of whether Cao Zhenzhen's claim of being together all night was true or not, those ten minutes, in comparison to several hours of an entire night, indeed seemed trivial.

"Take the person away..."

However, that was already enough, Qin Fang immediately signaled to Luo Xi.

He now suspected that this Chen Liang had a problem, and might very well be the killer. Hence, Cao Zhenzhen would become a very important witness. Given the brutality of the killer, once he learned that Cao Zhenzhen had revealed anything, it was likely he might lay hands on this girl—even their intimate relationship wouldn't matter.

"What about you? Don't tell me you're going to look for this Chen Liang alone..."

Luo Xi frowned slightly, her words also revealing deep displeasure.

A young expert who was capable of injuring a Grandmaster-level expert would definitely not be of low ability, at least possessing strength above Level 5, possibly even at the Level 6 Grandmaster level like the Wu Family Brothers.

Qin Fang was that strong, and Luo Xi had a sense of it. If it were just about Martial Arts skills, Luo Xi might have an edge over Qin Fang. But when it came to overall strength, Qin Fang was not much weaker than Luo Xi, and might even be slightly stronger.

"Don't worry, I'm just going to observe the situation. I'm not foolish enough to walk into death..."

Qin Fang smiled, retrieved Cao Zhenzhen's mobile phone, and found several photos inside, including a selfie of her with a young man. Qin Fang memorized the man's face and then got off the car to go inquire about him.

As for Luo Xi, she took Cao Zhenzhen back to the criminal police team. Until Chen Liang was cleared of suspicion, this girl needed to be protected. Xue Lu was an example; one misstep and this girl might follow in Xue Lu's footsteps.

Qin Fang strolled through the campus. He was a student himself, and compared to Luo Xi, it was much less likely for him to attract attention. He brushed past these students with almost no one giving him a second glance, even though he considered himself quite handsome.

"Handsome, are you looking for Teacher Chen?"

Qin Fang was lucky. On the road, he happened to meet a girl who had appeared in a photo on Cao Zhenzhen's phone. He immediately stopped her and learned that she was Cao Zhenzhen's classmate and revealed his intention to find Chen Liang.

Chen Liang's identity was actually a school teacher, just in his late twenties, young and handsome. Rumor had it that he came from a wealthy background, which attracted quite a lot of female students from the school.

Unquestionably, Cao Zhenzhen was one of them.

However, it seemed that Chen Liang preferred the more beautiful Xue Lu but failed to win her over. Instead, it was Cao Zhenzhen who played her cards right, and the two started dating and quickly became intimate. That night at Fenglin Hotel, they had a wild time.

Cao Zhenzhen hadn't disclosed one detail: before deciding to book a room at the Fenglin Hotel that afternoon, she had called Xue Lu. Xue Lu told her about planning to have an escapade in her car at the scenic spot that night. Chen Liang happened to be by her side at that time... then they went to the Fenglin Hotel.

The crime scene was one of the few best spots for such escapades in the vicinity of the scenic area, and the location of Fenglin Hotel was conveniently not too far from those spots.

"I need him for something, just tell me where he is..."

Qin Fang smiled, naturally not revealing his true intentions.

To find out if Chen Liang was the killer, Qin Fang needed only to use his Intermediate Detection Skill. Most ordinary school teachers were usually Level 1 ordinary people, and it would be impressive to find a Level 2, most likely a physical education teacher.

But if Chen Liang was the killer, given his prowess in injuring Old Master Wu and in killing the official's second-generation heir and Xue Lu, he would be at least Level 4 or 5, or even reaching Level 6.

Qin Fang's Intermediate Detection Skill could detect information of experts up to Level 3 above his own level, meaning unless it's a Grandmaster-level expert above Level 6 like Old Master Wu, Qin Fang could determine the other party's level.

The killer definitely needed to be caught, and Qin Fang estimated that when necessary, he wouldn't mind taking down this brutally violent individual with a single shot.

By doing so, he could not only eliminate a threat to the public but also gain a massive amount of experience points for leveling up. It was a chance to achieve two goals with one action, so why not?

However, as much as he would think about it, actually doing it was very complicated. He had to first understand the target's strength. If, as a Level 4 newbie, he confronted a Level 6 expert, he might not even have time to draw his gun before getting his head blasted off.

The official's second-generation heir's head had been blown apart. The instantaneous burst of power from the Tiger's Rush was no weaker than a bullet, and even more formidable.

Chapter 419: LV4 Assassin Chen Liang_2

Qin Fang had only 22 Life Points, definitely unable to withstand such a wild offense.

So he had to be extremely cautious.

"Didn't you notice on your way here?"

The girl casually asked back with a laugh, a pair of big eyes blinking, even seeming a bit intent on flirting with Qin Fang. Qin Fang believed that if he just beckoned with his finger, he'd easily pick up this chick.

The reason was simple, this time when Qin Fang went out, the clothes, shoes, and socks prepared for him were all personally selected by Tang Feifei and two other beauties. They all knew Qin Fang wasn't short of money, so they didn't plan on letting him wear street stall goods worth a few tens or a hundred yuan like before, but had upgraded to high-end clothing worth tens of thousands.

Despite their young ages, these girls had been around the block and developed quite the eye for value; they immediately noticed the expensive look of Qin Fang's attire.

Moreover, although Qin Fang wasn't the creamy-faced handsome type, he was decent-looking, and with a strong build, his charm was quite astonishing—it was just the type to pick up girls with.

"Notice what?"

Qin Fang was slightly startled, not quite understanding what the girl meant.

"Teacher Chen, ah, he's over there playing basketball!"

The girl quickly laughed, pointing to the basketball court surrounded by many girls in the distance.

"There were too many people over there, I really didn't notice..."

Qin Fang suddenly understood, realizing the person was right under his nose, yet he had passed by twice without noticing.

"Let's go over together then! It seems like you don't know Teacher Chen. I'll take you to him..."

This girl was quite straightforward, not hesitating to link her arm with Qin Fang's in front of the other girls, and pulled him towards the basketball court.

Qin Fang had wanted to keep a distance from the girl, but after thinking about it, he decided not to make a big deal of it. He was here just to gather information and there was no need to make himself too tense; doing so might draw Chen Liang's attention instead.

"You can tell? Hehe, actually, a friend of mine knows him. They said he's pretty nice, so I came to check it out..."

Qin Fang said cheerfully, and then started chatting casually with the girl.

And wouldn't you know, he actually managed to find some potentially useful information.

Chen Liang had an excellent reputation in the school; his teaching skills were high, and his relationships with the students were quite good. He was really gentle in nature, giving off a big brother vibe to these girls. Hence, most of the girls considered him to be their dream lover, nearly flawless, with many eagerly hoping to spend a spring night with him, though he was very restrained himself.

Basketball has always been the most popular sport on campus, with a strong fan base, and also one of the key methods to pick up girls.

If someone was good at basketball, even if they weren't that handsome, the difficulty of picking up a girl was much lower compared to those homebodies, not to mention the likelihood of landing a beautiful girl was quite high.

The crowd of onlookers was quite large, with women making up more than half. It was a pity it wasn't summer, or else there would definitely be a sea of pale, white legs.

With the strong intervention of a few girls beside him, Qin Fang finally got closer inside and could clearly see the players on the court.

"Look, handsome, that best-looking one is Teacher Chen..."

The girl beside him pointed at five or six men crowded together on the court, God knows which one she meant, but Qin Fang still managed to easily spot his target.

This wasn't strange. Among the ten people playing on the court, five or six were around twenty years old, obviously students from the school, while the rest were slightly older, mostly twenty-five or twenty-six and above.

Among them was one who wasn't particularly strong, but one look at him standing there exerted an inexplicable pressure on others; every movement of his body was incredibly coordinated, not inferior to that of a professional athlete.

As for being the most handsome, Qin Fang just curled his lip without voicing any dissent, essentially conceding the point by default.

Honestly, this Chen Liang really did have a bit of the charisma of the famous Hong Kong and Taiwanese actor Xiao Hei, just a tad paler in comparison.

Having identified his mark, Qin Fang ignored everyone else; they were just extras, with names not worth mentioning. He promptly used his Scouting Skill on the target.

In fact, whether he used the Scouting Skill or not, Qin Fang was already certain of one thing—Chen Liang was an incredibly formidable opponent.

Or rather, it was certain that Chen Liang was definitely stronger than him!

Soon, the reconnaissance results came back.

"Chen Liang, LV4, Teacher, Assassin, Evil Camp, Specialties: Tiger Fist, Dragon-Shaped Fist, Poison Making..."

The scouting skill Qin Fang had used this time was quite powerful, laying out some of Chen Liang's details, amidst which there were numerous pieces of information Qin Fang found very useful.

The mere fact of belonging to the Evil Camp was enough for Qin Fang to realize he had achieved his goal on this trip. There was a ninety percent likelihood that Chen Liang was the murderer, especially since Tiger Fist was listed among his special skills.

Since the time Qin Fang had gained the System, he had used his Scouting Skill on countless individuals, but those labeled as part of the Evil Camp could be counted on one hand.

One who had made a strong impression on Qin Fang was Hei San. Gu Tong had brought him in to kill Qin Fang, but before he could act, Qin Fang had confused him with a bottle of Raging Potion, causing him to accidentally run over and kill Gu Tong with his car.

There was also Pi San, whom Qin Fang had shot dead. Back then, Qin Fang's Scouting Skill hadn't been upgraded to Intermediate level, so he couldn't ascertain Pi San's alignment. However, judging by his actions, he most likely belonged to the Evil Camp.

To be labeled as part of the Evil Camp meant having over 100 Sin Points—the signature of a hardened criminal. Killing an innocent member of the Neutral Camp would add 100 Sin Points to one's tally, and killing someone from the Good Camp would double that.

Since Chen Liang had been determined to be from the Evil Camp, at least one innocent person must have died by his hand.

Of the two victims, there was no need to mention the official's second-generation scion. Though Qin Fang's knowledge of him was limited, he understood that person was probably not far from being Evil Camp himself.

However, Xue Lu was innocent, surely a member of the Neutral Camp. Her murderer would have immediately gained 100 Sin Points upon killing her, thus being categorized under the Evil Camp.

Indeed, Chen Liang was no simple man. In addition to being a teacher, already known to Qin Fang, his profile astonishingly included another occupation—Assassin!

Assassin, a term both foreign and familiar to Qin Fang.

Familiar because the term had been worn out in numerous Hong Kong movies, not to mention its indispensability in foreign action blockbusters.

Foreign because they belonged to works of fiction, and Qin Fang had never come into contact with one in real life, let alone imagined they truly existed.

Qin Fang wouldn't doubt the System's assessment of accuracy; it had repeatedly proven its correctness.

"Assassin...This is really going to be interesting," he pondered, letting the word "assassin" swirl through his mind, a playful expression tinted with a hint of a bitter smile appeared on his face.

He hadn't anticipated that Chen Liang was actually an assassin, which likely meant that numerous people had fallen by his hand, possibly not just Xue Lu and that second-generation official, but maybe many other innocents as well.

This information was incredibly useful for Qin Fang, yet, in reality, it was hardly good news.

Chen Liang was an assassin, and hence, surely adept at killing. This meant that Qin Fang would encounter significant difficulty in dealing with him. Already at a disadvantage in terms of personal strength when compared to Chen Liang, this added layer of complexity was causing Qin Fang a considerable headache.

Chapter 420: Fierce Battle! Tiger's Rush!_1

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"Why did he leave?"

Feeling her arm being pulled away, the beauty who had been clinging onto Qin Fang's arm and hoping to charm him was surprised to discover that Qin Fang had turned around and left without even a greeting.

"I just remembered something, I need to take care of it... Anyway, I've met the person, and next time I won't have trouble finding them!"

Qin Fang smiled and without the desire to stay, turned around and left.

Someone with Level 4 strength who had also mastered the essence of the Wu Family Tiger-shaped Fist, the Tiger's Rush, with the strongest Attack Power, and an assassin proficient in stealth and poisoning.

Such an opponent would undoubtedly be more difficult to deal with than an ordinary Level 5 expert.

Qin Fang already struggled against Level 4 experts, so facing one who was more terrifying than a Level 5 expert meant he had to carefully plot his strategy, or else any slip-up could put his life in danger.

Just the thought of his head being blown apart like a watermelon caused Qin Fang to shiver involuntarily, and to say he was not scared would be nonsense.

However, Qin Fang still had some doubts.

He had been told by his master, Cai Pingyuan, that Tiger's Rush was a secret technique of the Wu Family, requiring extremely high strength to cultivate, only worthy of Level 6 Grandmasters. Within the Wu Family, only Old Master Wu, Wu Ming, and Wu Hai knew it. As for Chen Qingsong, he had not been considered a member of the Wu Family for twenty years.

Yet this Chen Liang knew this move, despite having only Level 4 strength, which was contradictory.

"Could it be that the perpetrator is not Chen Liang, but... Chen Qingsong himself?"

Such a thought could not help but emerge in Qin Fang's heart, but he immediately dismissed this idea since Old Master Wu had clearly stated that the one who injured him was a young man under thirty using the Tiger's Rush.

If Chen Qingsong were still alive, he would be fifty years old by now, and Old Master Wu could not have misidentified him.

This Chen Liang could fit the description given by Old Master Wu, but there was a significant conflict in terms of strength.

"Could it be that Chen Liang has fellow disciples or brothers?"

Another idea popped into Qin Fang's mind. Chen Liang had a fellow disciple or brother who was stronger than him and was the one who used Tiger's Rush to injure Old Master Wu and kill the official's son and Xue Lu...

That seemed like a plausible explanation, but there were still many small details that didn't quite fit, such as why Chen Liang's fellow disciple would want to kill the official's son and Xue Lu.

To seek justice for Chen Liang?

That didn't make sense; Chen Liang liked Xue Lu, but since he could not win her over, it would be understandable if he killed her himself, but it was illogical for his fellow disciple to do it.

There was also the fact that Chen Liang had chosen Fenglin Hotel to meet Cao Zhenzhen when he knew in advance that Xue Lu and the official's son would be nearby for a car date. In reality, Cao Zhenzhen was aware that Chen Liang had been absent from the hotel for a while; the reason... they had run out of condoms in the hotel room, and he went out to buy more, which took about ten minutes or so.

All this information was obtained by Qin Fang using the Mind Reading Technique from Cao Zhenzhen, and it was this information that led Qin Fang to suspect Chen Liang, yet he did not expect to actually find something.

After leaving the travel school, Qin Fang directly took a taxi to Fenglin Hotel, intending to scope out the area a bit, although he already had some hunches, he now just needed to check on-site to confirm the accuracy of his guesses.

Fenglin Hotel was a three-star hotel at the foot of Lushan, not the best, but certainly not low-end either—it was an established name with an excellent location.

Qin Fang directly booked the same room that Chen Liang and Cao Zhenzhen had used before. The window faced the street and offered an excellent view. Standing by the window, Qin Fang could clearly see a crossroad, alongside many narrow lanes leading to quieter areas at the foot of Lushan, all of which had an appealing name—'Car Dating Haven'.

After observing, Qin Fang noted that from this room, he could clearly see every car entering and leaving the vicinity, meaning Chen Liang could have also seen the official's son and Xue Lu driving into the scene of the crime.

Then he had more than ten minutes, under the pretext of buying condoms, to step out. In such a time frame, it was certainly enough to complete the murder, dispose of the bodies, and return.

To confirm his guess, Qin Fang started timing as soon as he left the room and briskly walked towards the crime scene.

It was late at that time, and since Jiujiang is not a big city with few pedestrians at night, so he would have been fast. Qin Fang quickened his pace slightly and it took him a little over three minutes—less than four—to reach the crime scene.

Then... murder!

The official's son and Xue Lu were found making love on the hood of their Lamborghini, something the police had confirmed.

Chen Liang attacked from behind, shattering the official's son's head with one strike, and then snapping Xue Lu's neck with the second; the whole process took no more than half a minute.