

Genius 571

Chapter 571 - He's Definitely Not Dead!_1

...

Ninghai!

"What? Qin Fang...is dead!"

When Tang Feifei received this news from her brother, Tang Cheng, she was completely dumbstruck, her once perfect, delicate face instantly turning deathly pale, looking as if she had lost her soul.

"No, no...this can't be possible! Qin Fang can't be dead! He won't die..."

Tang Feifei's mind was in chaos, as if her heart was being wrenched by a knife, the pain unbearable. The news of Qin Fang's death came so suddenly that she couldn't accept it.

"I'll call him, I'll call him..."

Without a second thought, Tang Feifei pulled out her phone and immediately dialed Qin Fang. Before he had gone up the mountain, although he was not physically present, he would almost call Tang Feifei every day for a lengthy chat.

However, once he entered the mountains and had no way to charge his phone, Qin Fang had to leave it in the Props Box, and they were supposed to communicate via radio or walkie-talkies instead.

But with Qin Fang's sudden fall from the cliff, those devices were left with Li Yang.

"I'm sorry, the number you have dialed is switched off..."

Tang Feifei's idea was good, but the response from the phone was such, and the soft, melodious voice seemed like a ruthless dagger piercing straight into Tang Feifei's heart, causing her to collapse, weakened.

"Feifei, please hold back your sorrow..."

Tang Cheng had already anticipated how his sister would feel, but even though he wanted to offer her some words of comfort, he just couldn't bring himself to say them out loud.

Tang Cheng was also feeling miserable. He had a good relationship with Qin Fang, and aside from the possibility of becoming in-laws, the two men were also good friends.

He was also highly impressed by Qin Fang's talents, which he had observed during the days they had interacted, so much so that even he found them astonishing.

But the news came from Li Yang of the Jincheng Military Region, who witnessed it with his own eyes.

As for the reason behind Qin Fang going to such a cliff to gather herbs, Li Yang had explained the background in detail, and at this point, both Li Yang and all members of the Li Family were feeling guilt towards Qin Fang that Tang Cheng couldn't even imagine.

Qin Fang was the savior of the Li Family, so Li Yang had always prioritized Qin Fang's safety above everything else, always ensuring absolute protection in any dangerous situation.

They had managed to stay safe many times before, but this time there was an error. When he saw the broken end of the safety hook at the bottom of the cliff, he nearly fell apart.

Without a doubt, the safety equipment he had prepared had malfunctioned, leading to Qin Fang's fall from that high cliff, which was over a thousand meters tall.

From such a high cliff, survival was nearly impossible...

After Qin Fang fell, Li Yang immediately led his men to try every means to cross the mountain and head towards the side of the cliff where Qin Fang had fallen... even finding his body would suffice!

But then...

After great difficulty, when they finally crossed over the cliff and reached the other side, they were met with a bottomless ravine, and there was no way to descend it.

Li Yang was relentless. He immediately led his men to search the surrounding area for hundreds of meters, encountering attacks from many fierce beasts, but there was no trace of Qin Fang to be found.

Facing this outcome, Li Yang had to confront the helpless fact that Qin Fang, the savior of the Li Family, was dead!

With Qin Fang dead, there was no point for Li Yang and his team to remain in the mountains. They immediately notified the troops ahead and began to harvest the remaining herbs, which might destroy some of their medicinal properties, but without Li Yang's guidance, that was the only way they could proceed.

With many people, equipment, maps, and tools, even though they had deviated from their planned route, they could easily find their way out of the mountains.

It was precisely when the Eagle Claw Sect realized that their most outstanding disciple, Song Qingshan, had gone missing, that Li Yang had already left the mountains with his men, returning to the Jincheng Military Region.

Subsequent search parties still scoured the mountains several times over, but in the end, it was in vain; they found no sign of Qin Fang's survival.

It was not surprising though. At the time, Qin Fang was riding the Dragon King, gliding through the sky, a considerable distance away, and given the height of the cliff, over a thousand meters tall, a glide could easily extend the distance on the ground to over a kilometer away.

Even Qin Fang himself didn't know that during his descent, he had passed over two small hills before landing in a relatively flat mountain area, near the small lake.

Under these circumstances, unless Li Yang's men were numerous enough to double their search area, they might have a chance of finding the lake.

Of course, they might also discover that the people from the Eagle Claw Sect were searching near the same lake for their most distinguished disciple, Song Qingshan...

However, Qin Fang did not stay in the same place; instead, he led Qin Shouxiong and took the initiative to head out of the mountains. With no other option, Li Yang had to accept Qin Fang's death, informing Qin Fang's women, and of course, the Tang Family members in Ninghai...

Chu Yunxuan was among the first to learn of Qin Fang's death. In that instant, her face turned exceptionally ghastly, deathly pale with grief and despair flashing in her eyes.

Chapter 572 - He's Definitely Not Dead! 2

Although she had only been with Qin Fang for a short few days, the feelings rooted deep in her heart were indeed even more profound than those of Qin Fang's other women.

"No! He's not dead! He's definitely not dead!"

After a brief bout of sorrow, Chu Yunxuan wiped away her tears and forced a smile on her face that was not very pleasant to look at, as she said with great determination to Li Yang.

"Yunxuan, grieve with restraint..."

Li Yang and the others were quite helpless about it, too. They all hoped that Qin Fang was still alive, but the reality... It was within their expectations that Chu Yunxuan would say this. It was just that she hadn't been able to accept such a cruel truth in a short time, so that's why she said it.

It's just...

They didn't know that Chu Yunxuan and Qin Fang had practiced Joyous Zen together, and there was an extremely special connection between them. The moment Qin Fang fell off the cliff, Chu Yunxuan's mind had been shocked, and she had almost caused a medical accident with the scalpel in hand.

But such a feeling only lasted for an instant before it disappeared, and she quickly returned to normal. That feeling had never appeared on her again.

Now, hearing the news of Qin Fang's death from Li Yang, her first reaction was fear, sorrow, despair, but then, after thinking it over, she suddenly felt that Qin Fang definitely wasn't dead...

It wasn't just Chu Yunxuan who, upon learning of Qin Fang's death, still believed he wasn't dead—another was Xiao Muxue, another one of Qin Fang's women.

"Feifei, don't be sad! Qin Fang mustn't be dead..."

Xiao Muxue had gotten the news of Qin Fang's death from Tang Feifei. At that moment, she was indeed terrified, but in less than a minute, a radiant smile suddenly appeared on her desolate face, even though the tears in her eyes had not yet been wiped away.

"Muxue, you don't need to comfort me..."

Tang Feifei shook her head. She was Qin Fang's official girlfriend, but she had very good relationships with Xiao Muxue and Wen Yan, now being the recognized 'big sister' among the women, even though Wen Yan was a year older than her.

All the women were very sad when they got the news of Qin Fang's death, weeping uncontrollably. Even with Xiao Muxue's assured consolation, Tang Feifei took it merely as Xiao Muxue comforting her.

"Feifei, I'm not just comforting you! Qin Fang really isn't dead... I have a premonition, he will appear soon!"

But Xiao Muxue did not change her mind because of Tang Feifei's words; in fact, she became even more convinced about Qin Fang not being dead.

With both hands outstretched, she steadied the devastated Tang Feifei's shoulders, indicating with absolute certainty. She even felt that Qin Fang was about to reappear.

"He... he's really not dead?"

With tear streaks still on her face, Tang Feifei looked incredulously at Xiao Muxue in front of her, murmuring, actually also hoping more than anything that Qin Fang was unharmed.

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"When are we ever going to get out of these mountains..."

Gazing at the towering Qing Mountain before him, apart from various trees, there was only the azure sky above to see. As for a way out... so far, there was still no sign of one.

The expert, Qin Shou, seemed relatively calm, having lost his memory, he just quietly followed Qin Fang, asking no questions, saying nothing. Whenever danger arose, the two of them shouldered it together, and he seemed very silent at other times.

Qin Fang had wanted to talk to him several times, it was just unfortunate that the missing memories meant he could not think of anything at all, and he looked completely bewildered in response to Qin Fang's remarks.

In the end, Qin Fang had no choice but to abandon such attempts, and the relationship between the two continued in this very odd form.

After several days of being together, the two had become more in tune with each other, and Qin Shouxiong had become even more dependent on Qin Fang. Perhaps his survival instinct was still present, but the loss of his memory made him extraordinarily unfamiliar with this world, and now Qin Fang seemed like his only kin.

Besides Qin Fang, he maintained absolute vigilance towards anyone else.

Qin Fang pondered that even if Qin Shouxiong were to encounter a previously close friend, he would probably not recognize them at all, and might even treat them as an enemy to be wary of.

Qin Fang felt very strange about this.

Although he seemed to have become a nanny, having such a "child" with strength even greater than his own, who possessed absolute trust in him, was also an unexpected joy.

"Tsk, tsk, I wonder who is stronger between Qin Shouxiong and that woman Ye Huan..."

Qin Fang still held some lingering doubts about Ye Huan's strength; excluding the possibility of using firearms, even if he played all his cards, he was still not a match for Ye Huan.

Admittedly, Qin Fang had a bit of male chauvinism, but this beautiful woman bearing the name of his partner was not someone he could lay hands on, which would make anyone uncomfortable!

As for Ye Huan's claim that her skills were incomplete and she could not break her body for that reason, Qin Fang took it as her fooling him, something he never really believed from the start.

Now, with Qin Shouxiong's absolute trust, he was like Qin Fang's personal bodyguard. Although not a beautiful woman, he was someone Qin Fang could utterly rely on—at least until his memories returned.

"Sigh, still no signal, let's keep moving..."

Qin Fang took out his phone to check the still-empty signal bars, his face filled with helplessness, and tossed the phone back into the Props Box.

Leaving the phone outside, unless it's turned off, it would definitely consume the limited battery. The biggest problem with fruit-branded phones is their rapid battery consumption.

But it was different inside the Props Box, where time seemed to stand still, and whatever was put inside would come out exactly the same.

If it weren't for this, all of Qin Fang's buns would have gone bad by now, and they wouldn't have hot steamy buns to enjoy in such wild and deserted mountains.

This was also because Qin Fang's companion was the amnesiac Qin Shouxiong. If it were someone else, they would certainly find it very strange how Qin Fang could always produce hot steamy buns out of thin air.

Qin Shouxiong, however, found nothing odd about it. In his perception, such a question didn't exist; instead, it was taken for granted, and his worldview could be said to be entirely sculpted by Qin Fang, which saved Qin Fang the trouble of having to explain.

Otherwise, Qin Fang would have had to resort to killing the person and destroying the evidence to protect himself... although he truly couldn't bring himself to do such a thing.

This phone was Qin Fang's only tool for contacting the outside world, so he had to ensure its usability, and saving its power was a priority, making storing it in the Props Box the best choice.

Even though doing this meant the phone couldn't receive signals from the outside world, Qin Fang wouldn't be notified immediately if he could make contact with the outside world.

But that didn't matter much. At least up until now, he was very safe, and he had a powerful enforcer, Qin Shouxiong, by his side. In such big mountains, they were basically in no danger.

Even if the formidable Golden Crested Snake that Qin Fang had previously encountered appeared before them, it would not be Qin Fang who was being hunted, but that Golden Crested Snake.

With his Great Strength Eagle Claw Technique and strength almost equivalent to Level 5 Peak, Qin Shouxiong was on par with the Golden Crested Snake. Even at a disadvantage in size, with Qin Fang's help and the protection of the Detoxification Pill, they would definitely be the victors!

On this day, the fifth day of Qin Fang and Qin Shouxiong's trek through the mountains, which was also the day all Qin Fang's friends received news of his death, they climbed to the top of a nearly thousand-meter-high mountain blocking their path. Looking towards the north side of the great mountain, Qin Fang's face suddenly filled with excitement...

Chapter 573 - I, I'm Still Alive_1

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"Ah... I've finally walked out!"

Gazing at the scattered high-rises appearing in the distance, Qin Fang let out an exhilarating howl without any hesitation, his excitement reaching the extreme.

The wild sound waves traveled far, and the echoes rippled between the mountains... failing to dissipate for a long time!

In those remote mountains, Qin Fang and his companion had walked for five whole days, encountering numerous dangers that ordinary people could not even begin to imagine during that time.

Vipers and ferocious beasts were a common occurrence, posing no threat to the duo, but it was the natural dangers such as miasma, swamps, and abysses that were truly lethal. The slightest misstep could mean that neither of them would make it out of the mountains alive.

Yet, none of these dangers managed to stop their progress. After five days and a journey of thousands of kilometers, mainly due to the delay caused by climbing one peak after another and taking a longer route, they had emerged later than Li Yang and the others by two days.

Seeing the high-rises in the distance, Qin Fang knew they had finally left the mountains behind and returned to human society, even though they were still hundreds of kilometers away from the buildings.

Qin Fang took out his phone from the Props Box, feeling extremely excited but also very anxious, fearing there would still be no signal.

Five days might not seem too lengthy, but for some, it's an unbearably long time.

"Living each day like a year" is not merely a phrase!

Almost as soon as Qin Fang took the phone out of the Props Box, he watched as the time, which had been frozen for many days, began to inch forward. At the same time...

The phone started to vibrate intensely, having been set to do so by Qin Fang.

Almost as soon as the phone picked up a signal, it began to vibrate, and the process went on for several minutes.

Such intense vibrations almost caused Qin Fang's phone to crash, with the System operating so sluggishly, it was impossible to open any apps on the phone.

"Over three hundred text messages, more than two hundred missed calls..."

Thinking of the long list of missed calls and text message alerts on his phone, Qin Fang could imagine how many people were worried about him.

The majority of calls and texts came from Qin Fang's women, friends, and classmates...

Most of them, accounting for eighty percent, were from several of Qin Fang's women.

Tang Feifei, Xiao Muxue, Chu Yunxuan, Wen Yan, even Wen Yi and Fan Ning, had all made calls and sent texts, especially Tang Feifei, who sent over twenty calls and texts every day. Qin Fang couldn't help feeling a sourness in his eyes from such affection.

Without any hesitation, Qin Fang didn't bother to read through the texts, he directly dialed Tang Feifei's number, and then... called!

The news of Qin Fang's supposed death had almost driven Tang Feifei to despair. Had it not been for Xiao Muxue's insistence that Qin Fang was still alive, she would probably have ended up in the hospital from her illness.

Xiao Muxue's persistence gave Tang Feifei hope, allowing her to carry on with a tired body, making call after call, sending text after text.

She had no intention of attending class, but Xiao Muxue worried that if Tang Feifei stayed alone in the dormitory, she might do something foolish. Together with Wen Yan, one on each side, they protected Tang Feifei, forcing her to go to class with them. There were more people this way; it was easier to keep an eye on Tang Feifei.

Her phone was on her desk in class; Tang Feifei had no interest in listening to the lecture and was lying down at the back, staring blankly through hole-like eyes at the sky outside the window, watching the slowly drifting clouds.

Buzz buzz buzz~~~ Buzz buzz buzz~~~

The phone began to vibrate, shaking the desk's surface and the cheek Tang Feifei had resting against it.

"Feifei, you've got a call..."

Xiao Muxue and Wen Yan, sitting next to her, naturally noticed Tang Feifei's phone vibrating and gently nudged her, saying softly.

"I don't want to answer it; can you hang up for me..."

Without looking, Tang Feifei knew the call was surely from her brother Tang Cheng or one of her aunts, who nearly phoned her every day to comfort her.

But she just wanted to stay quiet there, not wanting to meet or listen to anyone!

Xiao Muxue sighed softly. She was hardly in a better state than Tang Feifei, but she had one conviction in her heart—Qin Fang is not dead, Qin Fang is not dead—which allowed her to appear calm on the surface.

In reality, her heart was fragile, not much stronger than Tang Feifei's. She understood she had to stay strong to steady Tang Feifei; if she herself collapsed, then Tang Feifei would surely not be able to hold on either.

Powerlessly, she picked up Tang Feifei's phone, intending to hang up or quietly explain to the caller, something she had done several times in the past two days.

But when she took the phone and glanced at the caller ID, her whole body seemed to be electrified, trembling violently.

"What's wrong, Muxue?"

The first one to notice something was wrong with Xiao Muxue was naturally the equally powerless Wen Yan beside her, who immediately asked with concern.

"Fei... Feifei..."

Xiao Muxue didn't respond; instead, she pushed Tang Feifei, who was facing away from her, and tremblingly called out...

"Phone... phone!"

"I don't want to answer! I don't want to answer! I won't answer anyone's call!"

Tang Feifei didn't notice Xiao Muxue's predicament and was even slightly irritated, saying excitedly, almost to the point of hysteria.

"You must answer! You must! It's Qin Fang's..."

Xiao Muxue was still as stubborn as I was, forcefully pushing Tang Feifei, grabbing her by the collar, and placing the phone in front of her so that the clearly visible words "Qin Fang" appeared before Tang Feifei's eyes.

"No, I won't answer! I won't answer anyone's... Whose? Whose did you say?"

Tang Feifei didn't pay attention to her own words, overwhelmed by anger, but when she vaguely heard the words Qin Fang, she was completely stunned.

Seeing the name still displayed on the phone screen, Tang Feifei's eyes widened in shock, and immediately...

"Ah..."

A thunderous and incredibly joyful cry sounded in the quiet classroom, startling the professor who was lecturing to the point of nearly having a heart attack...

"Sorry! Sorry..."

Tang Feifei was indeed too excited, Qin Fang's phone had been unreachable, which had almost driven her to despair as she waited for Qin Fang to turn his phone on.

Now, not only had Qin Fang turned on his phone, he had also taken the initiative to call, how could she not be excited?

Fortunately, she knew the rules well enough that she immediately apologized to the professor and fellow students startled by her scream, and then she dashed out of the classroom.

Xiao Muxue and Wen Yan didn't hesitate either; they weren't there to attend the class to begin with and immediately followed Tang Feifei out.

While running out, Tang Feifei pressed the answer button and attached the phone to her ears, eager to hear Qin Fang's voice at the earliest moment.

"I'm... still alive!"

When the call connected, Qin Fang had a thousand words to say but couldn't express them, and ultimately they condensed into one sentence, "I'm still alive."

"Wuu wuu wuu..."

Almost the moment Qin Fang uttered those words, on the other side of the phone, Tang Feifei covered her mouth, trying hard to suppress her excited emotions, but ultimately she couldn't stop the tears she had been holding back from bursting forth like a violent torrent unleashed.

Tang Feifei's cries were no longer held back as she burst into loud sobbing in the hallway of the classroom, attracting several students from the nearby classrooms.

Her weeping was so mournful that it made listeners' eyes sour, and some of the female students with lower thresholds for tears couldn't help but start crying as well.

"Muxue..."

Wen Yan's face was also streaked with tears as she looked at Tang Feifei, who was holding the phone and leaning against the wall sobbing, and then at Xiao Muxue, who also had tears on her face but still managed to keep a slight smile.

"Don't console her! Let her cry it out, she's been holding it in for too long! Wuu wuu wuu... I want to cry too!"

Xiao Muxue stopped Wen Yan from trying to comfort Tang Feifei. In the two days after receiving news of Qin Fang's death, Tang Feifei had shed some tears but always suppressed her emotions. It wasn't until Qin Fang's call that she could no longer hold back, and all her pent-up emotions exploded at that moment.

Consolation was useless; preventing her from crying like that wasn't good for her either. It wouldn't benefit her health at all, and only such an outpouring could release all the worries and fears in her heart, allowing her to return to the innocent and lively, pure Tang Feifei.

As Tang Feifei cried uncontrollably, Xiao Muxue couldn't hold back her own tears either; she had been even more repressed than Tang Feifei these past few days, enduring so that Tang Feifei could carry on.

The two-day wait had not been in vain, and her intuition had finally come true!

Qin Fang wasn't dead!

Qin Fang really wasn't dead!

The call was still active, and Qin Fang could clearly hear the crying of the women on the other side of the phone, especially Tang Feifei's voice, which was distinctly clear.

Their relationship was deepest and most familiar, and even through her sobs, he recognized her. During the years he had known Tang Feifei, the always cheerful and lively girl had never really been one to cry in front of Qin Fang.

Until... now!

Hearing that poignant weeping, hearing her sob without any care for her image, even a man of steel couldn't maintain a cold heart!

Chapter 574 - No More Tears for You!_1

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Hearing that mournful crying, hearing her utterly unconcerned with her own image as she sobbed loudly, even the toughest of men couldn't continue to maintain their icy hearts!

Qin Fang cried!

It is often said that a man does not easily shed tears unless he is truly heartbroken!

At this moment, Qin Fang was not heartbroken, but overflowing with joy and excitement... and also filled with a profound sense of being moved by the woman he loved!

Men are strong!

But that does not mean that a man's heart cannot be fragile or be touched...

Qin Fang was in such a state now. He couldn't remember the last time he had cried. He had always been very strong, never crying no matter how tough the times, but this time, he shed tears!

Some say that a man cries because he is weak, but even the most hardened hero has moments of tears...

Qin Fang sat on the rock beside him, staring at the distant society that was now within reach, his tears slowly falling, yet his heart had long since flown back to Ninghai, back beside his woman.

If anyone could see Qin Fang at this moment, they would surely be moved by his emotions.

Unfortunately, the only company Qin Fang had was a Qin Shouxiong who had lost his memory, who was now looking at Qin Fang with a bewildered face, not understanding why he suddenly started crying.

Qin Shouxiong's worldview had collapsed due to amnesia and was in the process of being reconstructed. At this moment, Qin Fang was the guiding light in his life, the only lighthouse in the darkness.

And yet, Qin Fang was in such a state now, which left him quite baffled.

Offer consolation?

Sorry! He simply didn't understand that...

All he knew to do was walk up to Qin Fang, gently pat him on the shoulder without a word, and then sit down beside him.

This gesture was what Qin Fang had done most for him over the past few days, naturally expressing encouragement and praise.

However, Qin Shouxiong utterly failed to grasp the significance of Qin Fang's action, but he always felt very happy whenever Qin Fang did it.

For such a simple reason, Qin Shouxiong thought that at this moment, he should make this gesture to Qin Fang.

Pfft~~

Although Qin Shouxiong had made the gesture very casually, Qin Fang was momentarily stunned and then couldn't help but burst into laughter, his tears scattering in the air.

Wiping away the tears gently, Qin Fang once again resumed his strong demeanor; it was enough to hold such feelings in his heart, there was no need to keep showing them on his face.

"I'm fine..."

He forced a smile on his face and said to Qin Shouxiong.

He truly hadn't expected that, at this moment, the one to comfort him wasn't any of his friends to date but the amnesia-stricken, clueless Qin Shouxiong sitting beside him, whom he treated as his closest person.

"Feifei, I'm fine. I will be back in Ninghai soon. Wait for me... Remember to dress up nicely; I don't want to return to Ninghai only to see a panda!"

Qin Fang took a deep breath, calming the emotions in his chest, before saying such words to Tang Feifei on the other end of the phone.

Pfft~~~

Tang Feifei, who was in the midst of loud crying, suddenly heard what Qin Fang said and immediately stopped crying altogether. As a well-bred lady from a prestigious family, she let out a soft chuckle.

She then realized that countless pairs of eyes around her were watching, all filled with strange expressions!

Looking at herself, her tears had wet her clothes, and in her intense crying fit, even her nose had run, leaving streaks on her attire.

This beauty ranking among the top at Ninghai University, loudly crying her eyes out in public and sniffling recklessly, had really lost face.

"Ah..."

Without any hesitation, Tang Feifei let out a shriek and then quickly got up from the ground, glancing at Xiao Muxue and Wen Yan nearby, who had also been crying, and the three of them burst into laughter. They then made their way through the crowd and ran outside.

"Qin Fang, hurry back here! I'm going to skin you alive..."

However, as she was running, Tang Feifei didn't forget to roar at Qin Fang on the other end of the phone...

Of course, this time she wasn't crying out, but laughing... laughing radiantly, happily, excitedly...

The gloom of several continuous days had faded away; at this moment, both of them were filled with excitement and exhilaration. The heavy stone that had been pressing on their hearts had completely disappeared.

The call ended, and Tang Feifei was a very intelligent woman. There were things she might not say, but it didn't mean she didn't understand them.

Qin Fang was still alive...

But many of his friends thought he was dead. At this time, both Qin Fang and she, Tang Feifei, needed to spread the news as quickly as possible, letting everyone share in this joy together.

"Ah, women... really are incomprehensible!"

Looking at the disconnected phone, Qin Fang's expression was quite strange. After a moment of silence, he uttered this conundrum that even the ancients had long seen through.

A woman's heart, a needle at the bottom of the ocean!

Qin Fang didn't dwell too much on this problem. Having informed Tang Feifei's side, Xiao Muxue and Wen Yan surely knew as well. As for Fan Ning being abroad, she probably hadn't even heard of his supposed death, considering only a very few people knew of her existence.

Yet, there was another woman Qin Fang had to notify immediately, and that was the one closest to him, Chu Yunxuan...

Chu Yunxuan's state had been quite poor these days. The news of Qin Fang's death had hit her hard, leaving her unable to concentrate, resulting in several low-level mistakes at the hospital.

Fortunately, the hospital knew of her level in medical arts and was aware that her emotions were askew. Since those low-level mistakes hadn't caused any significant impact, they didn't blame her. Instead, they asked her to rest at home and take care of herself...

In the past two days, Chu Yunxuan had gone nowhere, just sitting quietly on the couch in her living room, where Qin Fang had once sat and lain, where they had spent entire nights in bliss, leaving deep and beautiful memories.

On the coffee table, a laptop was placed, its screen displaying several scenes. Chu Yunxuan sat there watching, tears flowing from her eyes, wetting her clothes, yet she remained completely oblivious...

It was footage secretly recorded of her and Qin Fang spending the night in that hotel. Many segments of the video featured close-ups of Qin Fang, and whenever his face appeared on screen, Chu Yunxuan couldn't help but reach out to touch the young face on the screen...

Buzz buzz buzz~~

Her phone, set to vibrate, was placed next to the laptop and began to tremble, making it impossible for Chu Yunxuan to ignore.

Chu Yunxuan, needing quiet, instinctively wanted to end the call, but as her finger was about to press the decline button, she saw the caller ID on the screen.

Qin Fang!

Those two characters were all too familiar to her.

Perhaps ten days earlier, they were but strangers to each other, unknown faces in a crowd. But fate played its hand, bringing them together for profoundly deep exchanges.

That night, it was an integration of spirit and flesh. One evening was all it took for them to experience each other's lives of more than twenty years...

And it was that very night that they truly blended into one another!

"I'm back..."

The call connected, and a thousand words were reduced to a single phrase. No matter how flowery the language, nothing could express Qin Fang's feelings at that moment better than simplicity.

"Great! I'll come to get you!"

She didn't sob and howl like Tang Feifei and Xiao Muxue had because her tears had already dried up over these days. What she needed now was a smile; almost instantly upon hearing Qin Fang's familiar voice, Chu Yunxuan broke into a smile through her tears.

"Great!"

Qin Fang didn't waste words, replying with just that one word as both hung up the phone simultaneously.

Despite hearing Chu Yunxuan's laughter, having once merged souls with her, even separated by hundreds of miles, Qin Fang could still feel Chu Yunxuan's heartbreak, despair, and countless tears shed over these days.

As he neared human society, and his phone regained signal, the transmission of information sped up significantly.

Li Yang had also been having a tough few days. His father's health was on a continual improvement, and naturally, that brought him great joy. But the thought that Qin Fang had fallen while helping the Li Family made it impossible for his spirits to lift.

He had spent his days in a bar, his only activities being to drink, drink, and drink... until he was so drunk he lost consciousness, finally falling into a deep sleep.

Upon waking, he would do nothing else but continue to drink, drink, and drink... He appeared utterly despondent, even more so than any common drunkard.

Yet when Qin Fang's call came, he almost instantly cast aside the bottle in his hand, stood up proudly, and hurried back to the military region at top speed.

Just over ten minutes later, several armed helicopters took off from Jincheng Military Region, heading towards Qin Fang's location, and they soon brought him and Qin Shouxiong back.

Chu Yunxuan had been waiting at the airport early, originally intending to accompany the helicopter to retrieve Qin Fang. However, she wanted Qin Fang to see a beautiful and radiant Chu Yunxuan, not one with swollen, bloodshot eyes!

Seeing the visibly thinner Chu Yunxuan before him, Qin Fang didn't hesitate to pull her into his embrace, holding her tightly, as if wanting to merge her into his own body.

"I swear, I'll never let you cry again!"

No words could describe the feeling in that moment. What Qin Fang wanted was to be a true giant, standing before his women to shield them from the wind and rain, rather than being the cause of their worry and tears!

Chapter 575 - In the Absence of a Tiger, a Monkey Becomes King_1

...

"Damn it, these pieces of crap!!"

As he watched the gang of hoodlums flee in panic, Mouse Qiang's gaunt face filled with gloom, and his eyes seemed ready to burst into flames.

"Brother Qiang, why don't we get the boys to grab their weapons and storm their den directly!"

A lackey beside him spoke bitterly as well. Over the past couple of days, they had suffered enough at the hands of these guys. They couldn't get a good day's sleep, never knowing when this bunch of bastards might suddenly show up and start smashing up the shop behind them.

Go to the police?

Forget about it, those people are too slippery. Even they, who made a living on the streets, couldn't catch them, let alone the police being able to station someone here 24 hours a day.

Besides, the police station only had so many officers. If these guys caused trouble elsewhere, the police had to rush off to deal with it, making it impossible for them to stake out this area.

As for the shop behind them, although it hadn't been open for long, it had made quite a name for itself in Ninghai's catering industry. It might not be as high-end as those five-star hotels, but it was definitely reputable.

The reason, well, the taste of the dishes here was quite good, which was important, but another factor that couldn't be ignored was that the owner of the shop had a very strong background.

It was said that he used to be the third most powerful figure in Ninghai, after only Tang and Li, even surpassing Young Master Ning's reputation.

Who was that?

It was none other than Qin Fang, Young Master Qin... rumored to have died from an accidental fall off a cliff a few days ago.

"You think I don't want to? But... sigh, forget it, brothers, hang in there. Once we get through this period, you can pick any girl you want at Night Scenery of the Lotus Pond, and I, Brother Qiang, will treat you!"

Mouse Qiang's face relaxed slightly, his heart very tempted, but in the end, he shook his head helplessly.

He was personally brought up by Qin Fang, or at least, he considered himself to be. His loyalty to Qin Fang was absolute. Although Qin Fang was gone now, he would never forget the kindness shown to him.

Thus, when Fang Feixue was harassed by a group of roaming hooligans, even suffering from vandalism, paint-splattering, and feces-throwing, Mouse Qiang was the first to volunteer to come over and protect the place.

He knew very well where these people were from—a local gang in Ninghai, about two hundred strong. Mouse Qiang even knew exactly where their hideout was located.

But he could only stay with his men near Fang Feixue, waiting for these people to show up and then taking care of them once they did.

As for attacking their lair, that was something utterly impossible.

Those in the know understood that this small gang's boss was actually a former underling of Ninghai's underground kingpin, Li Rui. Even though he had set up his own shop, he still relied on Li Rui's name to get to where he was today.

With the news of Qin Fang's death spreading, there was no way Li Rui wouldn't know about it. And everyone in Ninghai knew about the bad blood between Li Rui and Qin Fang. Wasn't Qin Fang's rise to fame due to the commotion he caused at Bihai Pavilion?

However, because of Tang Cheng, Li Rui couldn't openly target the properties under Qin Fang's name—Fang Feixue. But Li Rui had plenty of men, and it was easy to arrange for some of them to be the scapegoats for this job. This current group was exactly that...

"If Qin Fang were still alive, these bastards wouldn't dare to..."

Mouse Qiang lamented silently in his heart and his expression became very sad.

He couldn't deny that his acquaintance with Qin Fang had been quite unpleasant, and he had even almost hooked up with Qin Fang's woman. But later, Qin Fang didn't really punish him, instead, he arranged for him to work under Li Dong, giving him the little power he had today. Sadly, Qin Fang had...

"Listen up, you lot, if we catch these bastards again, beat them hard. Just don't kill anyone. It doesn't matter if they end up crippled..."

Mouse Qiang immediately ordered his lackeys behind him, even though they, including himself, hadn't rested for two nights and two days. At most, they could only curl up in a corner and snatch a brief nap.

There was no choice. The other side had more than two hundred men, while they had at most about thirty. The enemies could rotate their forces, but they couldn't.

With too few men, they were no match for their opponents, and rather than beating them, they would end up being beaten.

But having too many wasn't an option either—the enemy wasn't easy to handle either. A large-scale brawl would have too negative an impact, and the police would definitely take action. Therefore, both sides were restrained and didn't dare bring too many gang members into the fight.

"Mouse Qiang, how's it going over there?"

Both Tang Cheng and Ning Weiqiang knew that Fang Feixue had been vandalized, but it was inconvenient for them to exert their power to handle it, so they had to let Brother Tiger send men there instead.

Li Dong was Mouse Qiang's boss and also controlled the University City area, which typically had less profit margins. But since Li Dong managed this area quite well and Li Rui hadn't managed to extend his influence there, some manpower could be diverted to help out.

He had a reasonably good relationship with Qin Fang, so this incident also made him regret Qin Fang's untimely demise.

With the care of the two young masters mentioned earlier, he was especially attentive to this matter. Even though he couldn't leave the university town himself, he would still call Mouse Qiang from time to time to check on the situation here.

"We repelled another attack from the enemy... But the brothers are all exhausted, I'm worried..."

Mouse Qiang still felt a lingering fear. His subordinates were indeed very tired; they had narrowly avoided being the ones driven back instead of the enemy!

If the enemy attacked again, he really had little confidence left, relying only on the heavy rewards to keep his subordinates going, otherwise they would have retreated long ago!

"Just hold on, I'll send someone to support you right away! Heh heh, by the way, I have some good news for you..."

Unlike his usual worries, this time his boss, Brother Dong, actually agreed to send support without hesitation, which caught Mouse Qiang by surprise. After all, Brother Hu had told him long before that their men needed to counterbalance Li Rui and couldn't be moved arbitrarily; Fang Feixue's side was now relying on them.

"Good news? What good news? Did that bastard Li Rui suddenly kick the bucket?"

Mouse Qiang was slightly stunned; these past few days, they had only been hearing bad news. If there really was good news, the thing he most hoped to hear was that Li Rui had suddenly dropped dead...

"Stop talking nonsense! Who are you to comment on Li Rui?"

Li Dong immediately scolded, but anyone could tell there was no real blame in his words.

Li Rui and Tiger were sworn enemies, which was an undeniable fact. And Li Dong, being one of Tiger's most loyal subordinates, naturally wished for Li Rui's downfall.

It was just that these things couldn't be discussed openly; whispering a few words in private was fine though.

"Right, right, look at me talking..."

Mouse Qiang immediately begged for forgiveness. "Brother Dong, don't leave me hanging, just hurry up and tell me the good news..."

Mouse Qiang was a very shrewd guy, he could tell from Li Dong's tone that he was in a great mood, indicating that the good news must be really good; he immediately asked.

"I'll stop teasing you, here it is! Young Master Qin didn't die..."

Li Dong also smiled; he knew that Mouse Qiang was working so hard this time precisely because of Qin Fang's care for him; he promptly shared the news with him.

"What! Not dead!!!"

Upon hearing this, Mouse Qiang immediately cried out in shock, his face covered with disbelief, but then his mood shifted to immense joy, his whole person seeming to whirl in excitement, "He's really alive! He's really alive! That's great..."

"Don't get too cocky, only a few people know about this news; we must keep it a secret. While they still haven't got the message over there, we're going to hit them hard!"

Li Dong's slightly sinister voice came from the other end of the phone, which didn't scare Mouse Qiang but made him even more excited.

"Don't worry, Brother Dong, I, Mouse Qiang, know what to do!"

Mouse Qiang was cunning, and as soon as Li Dong said this, he immediately understood and reassured Li Dong, patting his chest.

"Good to know, but be careful in these final moments..."

Li Dong briefly instructed a few words before hanging up the phone.

As for Mouse Qiang, he remained unsettled for a long time. The news of Qin Fang's fall had saddened him for two days, and now that he suddenly knew Qin Fang was still alive, how could he not be happy or excited?

"Boys, perk up! When you see those bastards, beat them hard. Wound one and I'll let you have a woman, wound two and I'll arrange a threesome for you... It's not Night Scenery of the Lotus Pond this time; Brother Qiang is really splurging, we're heading straight to the Tycoon Club!!!"

Mouse Qiang was truly too excited at this moment; just the thought of Qin Fang's return made his heart race.

If Qin Fang wasn't dead, it was naturally the best outcome for him. After resisting the enemy's attacks for two days and nights without rest, this would surely be seen as a great merit; Qin Fang couldn't possibly shortchange him upon his return.

The Tycoon Club was the best nightclub in Tiger's territory, much classier than Li Dong's Night Scenery of the Lotus Pond, equivalent to Li Rui's Bihai Pavilion in the south of the city.

Treating his subordinates to women at the Tycoon Club, Mouse Qiang was indeed spending heavily!

"Brother Qiang is mighty!"

"Brother Qiang is too awesome!"

"Get your spirits up! Damn it, I'm going to play with ten of the prettiest chicks at once..."

There's no denying, Mouse Qiang's move was incredibly effective, invigorating his subordinates who were suddenly as energetic as if they had been injected with adrenaline.

If before they were hoping the enemy wouldn't show up so they could rest properly, now they were hoping for the opposite. Only by facing the enemy could they earn merits, go to the Tycoon Club, and enjoy many women at once...

Chapter 576 - Qin Fang's Counterattack_1

...

"What? Fang Feixue was smashed by someone?"

Qin Fang learned of this news right after he had just settled down in the Jincheng Military Region. The call was made personally by Tang Cheng, and after Tang Feifei confirmed that Qin Fang was still alive, she immediately phoned to inform Tang Cheng and others.

However, Tang Feifei was not aware of the incident with Fang Feixue being vandalized; Tang Cheng and the others had been keeping it from her all along, given Tang Feifei's state was already quite odd at the time.

"Li Rui..."

When Qin Fang found out that his hard-earned Fang Feixue had been trashed by a bunch of hooligans, and even his disciples had been injured while protecting Fang Feixue, a strong murderous aura immediately erupted from him.

As Qin Fang's murderous intent emerged, the strength of Qin Shouxiong, who followed closely by his side, became even more intimidating, with a fierce light bursting from his eyes and an imposing aura around him.

Of course, the strength of a Level 5 Peak Expert is not to be taken lightly, especially when he possesses the sharp attacking Great Strength Eagle Claw Technique, and the incredible defensive Thirteen Taibao Horizontal Training Golden Bell Shield. Such a formidable person, unless facing a gun, would be an invincible force.

Killing someone?

That was as easy as playing a game!

Especially since Qin Shouxiong regarded Qin Fang as his only kin. Aside from Qin Fang, he maintained a considerable alertness towards anyone else, even Chu Yunxuan, who was unusually affectionate with Qin Fang, was no exception.

As for Qin Fang's bodyguard, Shen Liang...

Let's not talk about him for now, he had just gone to the hospital to get his arm fixed when he was immediately disarmed by Qin Shouxiong with a Great Strength Eagle Claw, rendering his special forces' killing skills unusable, which would be a joke even if he had managed to use them against Qin Shouxiong.

Qin Fang had quite a few enemies, but only a few had the capacity to stir up such trouble. Thinking with his gut, it had to be one of just a few, if not Ninghai Underground's overlord Li Rui, then Chen Weilian from Hanhai Group.

However, when Qin Fang left Ninghai, he heard that Chen Weilian had been severely dealt with by Li Rui over the Fan Ning incident and probably didn't dare provoke Qin Fang and Li Rui into confrontation for the time being.

So, thinking it over, the only one capable of pulling off such a thing had to be Li Rui.

It's just that Li Rui hadn't used his own trusted subordinates but found some scapegoats instead, so even Qin Fang's brothers and good friends like Tang Cheng and Ning Weiqiang couldn't trouble him.

"It's really true that when the cat's away, the mice will play!"

Thinking of Li Rui's influence in Ninghai made Qin Fang's heart surge with a strong feeling of animosity.

Killing him with a bullet!

That was indeed a good idea that would solve everything at once.

Setting aside whether he could succeed, just taking out Li Rui meant that Qin Fang would have to face the Li Family's fierce retaliation, and even possibly them spending a fortune to hire assassins to take him out.

Ordinary assassins Qin Fang could disregard. After all, he himself was quite formidable, not to mention he was protected by experts like Shen Liang and Qin Shouxiong.

But if it came to an assassin from the Assassin's Alliance, then Qin Fang would be in considerable trouble.

He was burdened with the epic mission of the King of Assassins—to defeat all registered assassins of the Assassin's Alliance to truly claim the throne—a necessary process indeed.

But it was a long-term mission. Currently, Qin Fang's power was relatively low in the ranks of the Assassin's Alliance; a mere One-Star Assassin like him stood no chance against the relentless assassination attempts by the many higher-ranked assassins of the Alliance...

Ordinary people's assassination tasks don't reach the assassin trading platform?

That is indeed true!

Tasks on the assassin trading platform are published through special channels, and ordinary people have no clue of the existence of the Assassin's Alliance.

But what was Li Rui's status? The underworld overlord of Ninghai, almost all the developed regions in the southern part of Jiangnan Province were under his shadowy control. How could he not have channels to post tasks to the Assassin's Alliance?

So, that was why Qin Fang was so cautious, not daring to directly make a move on Li Rui, or to put it another way... at least not yet!

"Brother Liang, how's everything going with Brother Da and the others?"

It wasn't that Qin Fang truly lacked any strength of his own. He had Shen Liang recruit a bunch of retired special forces operatives, whom he was now keeping highly paid and well-benefited—simply tasked with protecting the laboratory for the time being, without giving them any specific assignments yet.

Shen Liang was the overall in charge of these operatives. However, since he was often by Qin Fang's side, a man named Chen Da, who had previously been Shen Liang's instructor and was a rather impressive powerhouse belonging to the Level 5 Expert class, handled them.

Why is he considered a quasi-Level 5 Expert?

Chen Da had already been a Level 5 Expert, a Major of the Southwest Falcons, but during an encounter in the jungles of Vietnam, a stray bullet struck his arm, damaging a nerve, rendering his right hand powerless. He chose not to be a burden to his unit and voluntarily retired.

Qin Fang had recruited him through Shen Liang. His responsibilities did not involve direct action, but rather managing these former special forces soldiers, arranging training schedules, combat plans, and the like.

This man's personality was tough and iron-blooded. He trained the retired special forces hired by Qin Fang as if they were still in the military. His strength, prestige, and capabilities were truly impressive, which saved Qin Fang a great deal of worry.

With this small team of a dozen or so men at his disposal, and armed with weapons, there was no distinction from a regular army, and their combat effectiveness was absolutely top-notch.

Chapter 577 - Qin Fang's Counterattack_2

Of course, Qin Fang couldn't possibly equip them with weapons, that would be just asking for trouble!

"The brothers have been itching for action, all cooped up lately..."

Shen Liang smiled, tried to make a gesture with his suspended arm, but winced in pain, "Oh right, last time Young Master Qin had me take back that Wei Suo, the guy's a damn genius. He's been following Brother Da and learning fast, almost mastered all of our tricks..."

"Oh, Wei Suo..."

Had Shen Liang not mentioned him, Qin Fang would have forgotten about that fellow, the Wretched Brother who covertly filmed him with Chu Yunxuan—an all-rounder lackey, good at almost everything.

"How is he now? Staying out of trouble...?"

Wei Suo was very capable and had a good heart; the only things that bothered Qin Fang were his personality and those particular... quirks.

"It'd be hard for him not to toe the line, any brother on the team could make him uncomfortable for half a month... But that kid's hobbies are a real headache! Thankfully, Young Master Qin's lackey, Mouse Qiang, had an idea, got him a woman to cater to him, and he's so contented he's forgotten all his worries..."

When Shen Liang talked about Wei Suo, his face took on a weird expression. Their conduct was relatively decent; even though they'd occasionally fool around with women, they weren't to the extent of Wei Suo!

"Can't let him get too comfortable, though. Does he think finding women comes free of charge? Liang bro, discuss with Brother Da and organize a team for action. I'll have Tiger coordinate from his side, he'll take the fall for us... Oh, and make Wei Suo sweat a little, he's good at setting people up!"

Qin Fang still had unfinished business in Jincheng, and the ingredients for the Heart Nourishing Pill had already been gathered, some by the warriors. The potency might be reduced, but Qin Fang was still keen to try if enough could be gathered to concoct the pill...

As for Ninghai, ever since his return, Qin Fang had made up his mind. If Li Rui was still harboring ill intentions, he was going to hit back hard, not giving him a major loss would be too easy a let-off for Qin Fang!

...

Almost immediately after Qin Fang gave the orders, Shen Liang relayed the message to Chen Da in Ninghai, and the faux one-armed hero got everyone moving urgently, pulling Wretched Brother Wei Suo straight out of bed, where he had been sleeping with the top beauty of Night Scenery of the Lotus Pond.

Having a good understanding of his subordinates' abilities, Chen Da quickly devised an action plan, and Wretched Brother Wei Suo played a significant role in it.

"Brother Da... Brother Da, are we really going to do this?"

Wei Suo was now well-acquainted with Chen Da's group and was especially close to Mouse Qiang, knowing full well about Mouse Qiang guarding Fang Feixue.

As a "pro" personally hired by Qin Fang, Wei Suo didn't want to let Qin down; acting on some initial information from Mouse Qiang, he quickly found an important lead.

The leader of the small gang that kept causing trouble in Fang Feixue was called Luo Hongjun, nicknamed Eighth Route, Eighth Elder, once one of Li Rui's top enforcers.

And the guy had plenty of vices: women, gambling, drugs—he dared to do it all and loved it... Bihai Pavilion was Li Rui's most lucrative venue, and lower-ranking members weren't allowed there, so they had to make do with slightly less classy places.

That night, Eighth Elder was organizing a sizeable gambling event at his Drunk Cat Bathing Center, featuring familiar business tycoons, a wealthy nouveaux riche, property compensators, and so on, with an entry threshold not to be trifled with – cash of a hundred thousand.

Of course, the more money the better, with some even carrying one million in cash.

Therefore, the capital for this gambling event was expected to exceed ten million, with twenty or thirty million also being a possibility...

The target for Chen Da and his crew was this very gambling event; the colossal amount of gambling capital was one thing, the event organized by Eighth Elder meant after the money was brought in, it had to be exchanged for chips, and his men were responsible for the security. If that money were robbed, Eighth Elder would have to cover all the chips in the hands of the participants...

But even though the Eighth Elder was the boss of this small gang, the real control still lay in Li Rui's hands. A significant portion of the gambling proceeds had to be turned over to Li Rui's side.

And the reason these gamblers trusted the Eighth Elder was because of Li Rui's face. They simply couldn't meet the entry requirements for the Bihai Pavilion casino, so they had no choice but to participate in this kind of gambling event.

If anything happened to this money, the Eighth Elder could indeed run away, putting on the act of absconding with the funds, but Li Rui's reputation would undoubtedly be severely tarnished.

The Eighth Elder's gambling event might be tricky to handle, but who could guarantee that the Bihai Pavilion casino wouldn't pull off the same trick?

In the end, Li Rui would have to reluctantly compensate for the gambling funds... and that was precisely the goal of Chen Da and his group!

Of course, if some gang dared to smash up Fang Feixue, their leader, the Eighth Elder, certainly wouldn't let it go easily. It might not be too harsh, but breaking an arm or a leg was the very least... As for whether it would be a crushing injury, that would depend on whether Chen Da and the others were in a good mood!

...

That night, at the Drunk Cat Bathing Center.

The lights were bright, and the parking lot was already packed with various vehicles.

Anyone who could bring out a hundred thousand in cash for gambling was no pauper; having a car was pretty common.

The first floor housed the bathing center, where one could bathe, sauna, massage... all legitimate business operations.

The second floor featured private rooms, providing some very special services. Pretty girls were everywhere and generally took the initiative to drum up business.

This place was a cut above the roadside hair wash parlors but fell short of upscale nightclubs, and the quality of the girls was generally not high.

The third floor was the venue for this gambling event. The strict check started right at the staircase; those who were not regulars or introduced by regulars were not allowed in, and those who didn't bring enough money were also turned away.

It was evident that the Eighth Elder had taken the security here quite seriously; a few people were arranged to watch in the lobby on the first floor, and the second floor was under constant surveillance as well.

Especially at the stairway from the second floor to the third, it was heavily guarded. Seven or eight people blocked the way to conduct checks, and another seven men sat in the lounge upstairs resting. Combined with those patrolling the third floor, there were more than thirty people in total, almost a fifth of the Eighth Elder's forces gathered here.

Unfortunately, for Chen Da and his team, all this was useless. They went directly up to the third floor along the drainpipe from the rear of the bathing center.

Wei Suo's covert surveillance equipment played a significant role. He had installed cameras at many key points, monitoring everything in real-time, providing accurate news, and transmitting the footage to Qin Fang far away in Jincheng.

"Nobody move! This is a robbery!"

Chen Da and the others all wore masks and carried long watermelon knives, with two of them each holding a shotgun, which were borrowed from Tiger and were purely for intimidation; they generally wouldn't really shoot.

Of course, even if they really did shoot, it would only be to wound, not to kill... They had all been professional special forces soldiers, and they had a precise control over this aspect.

"Fucking hell... who are you guys? Don't you know this is my territory... Agh!"

The Eighth Elder was participating in the gambling event he hosted, but he never imagined being robbed on his own turf, and he immediately started cursing.

Unfortunately for him, Qin's men had already seen photos of the Eighth Elder. As soon as the man started shouting, one of them quickly stepped forward. The blade of his knife swung down instantly, and the Eighth Elder's arm, which had been pointing forward, started gushing blood...

Chapter 578 - The Furious Li Rui_1

...

"Isn't this a bit too cruel?"

After Chen Da and his men rushed into the third floor, they promptly installed hidden cameras, which allowed Qin Fang, who was far away in Jincheng, to witness the process. Chu Yunxuan was by Qin Fang's side, and upon seeing such a bloody scene, she couldn't help but frown and speak.

"The guy getting chopped up is called Luo Hongjun, nicknamed Eighth Elder, one of the eight King Kongs under Li Rui, and one of Li Rui's most trusted confidants. This time, Li Rui's move against Fang Feixue was orchestrated by this guy... Since he dares to touch my people at Fang Feixue, he should be prepared to be dealt with!"

As Qin Fang said this, a hint of ferocity flashed across his face, making Chu Yunxuan's heart quiver slightly.

After all, she was a doctor who saved lives and healed the wounded; such scenes were still a bit too much for her to stomach.

"Don't worry, Chen Da and the others know their limits!"

Qin Fang gently pulled her into his embrace and whispered words of comfort.

He also knew that this method might have been a bit too cruel, but how else was he to deter a strong and ravenous wolf like Li Rui?

He had sworn never to let his women shed tears again; therefore, he must eradicate all dangers before they arise.

Li Rui was Qin Fang's current archenemy; since he couldn't eliminate him yet, it was a very good idea to cut off one of his arms!

"I understand! I just... don't want your hands to be covered in too much blood!"

Chu Yunxuan understood Qin Fang the most. She nodded gently and spoke her concerns.

Qin Fang wasn't yet powerful enough, but several people had already died by his hands. Despite these individuals being vile enough to deserve a thousand deaths, she still didn't want Qin Fang to get his hands dirty.

Qin Fang didn't speak; he just held Chu Yunxuan tightly, with everything understood without words.

His duty as the King of Assassins meant he was destined to walk a path with no return, climbing to the throne over the bones of his enemies!

To not be stained with blood was to not kill!

But then, he would never fulfill his mission, and he would either be eliminated by the Assassin's Alliance or be wiped out by the damnable System.

Qin Fang still had many dear ones in this world, and so many women who loved him and whom he loved. He couldn't possibly just leave like that.

To be with those beloved people, Qin Fang must survive!

Therefore, he had to direct his blade at those enemies who stood in the way of his survival, and use their blood, their bones, to forge the immortal throne of Qin Fang, the King of Assassins!

"You... you people..."

Eighth Elder was also a ruthless character, having spent years by Li Rui's side and having chopped people on numerous occasions. He managed to make his way in the world precisely by being daring and unafraid of death – traits that won Li Rui's admiration and made him Li Rui's absolute confidant.

Having his arm chopped off, he knew this hand was ruined, but still unwilling to act cowardly, he actually wanted to argue with Chen Da and the others.

The result...

Ah!!!

The brother who made the move just now was really quick and precise, the sharp watermelon knife in his hand slashed down onto Eighth Elder's calf,

This time the strike was even more vicious, and even a tough character like Eighth Elder let out a shrill scream of agony.

With Eighth Elder chopped up like this, all his underlings were paralyzed with fear. Although there were some who wanted to rush to rescue their Boss, seeing the watermelon knife placed against Eighth Elder's neck, and those two hunting guns, no one dared to make a move.

"Gentlemen, we've come here today only for money, not wishing to harm anyone! But if anyone acts out of line, our knives, our guns... they don't have eyes..."

Chen Da really did give off a bit of a bandit's air with this statement. It was truly menacing, and the clientele here were all ordinary folks—none had seen such things before. They crouched down holding their heads, each not wanting to become the unfortunate soul under those hunting guns.

Having control over Eighth Elder was the equivalent of choking the life out of his underlings.

Intimidating the gamblers meant avoiding further chaos for the moment.

Although Chen Da and his crew weren't many, their goal was crystal clear. They immediately rushed to the chip exchange and began stuffing bundles of cash into sacks.

Wei Suo had initially estimated the gambling capital to be around ten to twenty million, but as they actually began to bag the money, it turned out to be at least double their initial estimate.

But Chen Da and his men were hardened individuals. There was some inconvenience with the extra money, but the more they had, the more it could hurt Li Rui, so without any hesitation, they packed all the money into the sacks.

They were well-prepared, with nearly ten sacks. Each could hold three to four million. Although it was quite a sum, and the bundles were thick, the sheer strength of Chen Da and his men meant that carrying the money didn't hinder them much.

As the old saying goes, "Arrive in haste, depart in haste."

After securing the money and under the threat of two shotguns, Chen Da and his crew swiftly slid down from the window and promptly vanished into the vast night.

Seeing that Chen Da and his men had successfully evacuated from Drunk Cat Bathing Center, Qin Fang finally let the heavy stone in his heart drop.

"See? They were quite restrained..."

Qin Fang said to Chu Yunxuan in his arms. Chen Da and his team had only used two knives in total and had used both on Eighth Elder. As for the others, they only knocked them down or knocked them out at most. There was hardly any knifing, not to mention the shotguns that had never been fired from start to finish!

Even Qin Fang mumbled to himself whether there were bullets in those shotguns at all!

...

Crash!!

An exquisitely crafted porcelain piece fell heavily to the ground, producing a crisp sound. The splinters flew up and cut across the face of the unlucky informant, immediately slicing a deep gash nearly puncturing his eye.

Yet facing such agony and injury, the unfortunate wretch could only bow his head as if he wasn't hurt at all, silently enduring his boss's boundless rage.

His boss was none other than Li Rui, who held an absolute dominant position in the Ninghai Underground. But now, Li Rui faced a considerable provocation. Someone had audaciously robbed his place, wounded his men, and made off with a large sum of money...

"Who did it?"

Li Rui couldn't remember the last time he had been challenged like this.

Even Tiger, who had always been at odds with him, merely holed up in the southern part of the city. Although there were occasional minor disputes between them, they never openly came to blows like this.

But today, not only did this group of people do just that, they were also audacious as a bear with the heart of a leopard. They had crippled his trusted aide, Eighth Elder...

The attackers were precise. With only two cuts, Eighth Elder's tendons in his hands and feet were severed, consigning him to a life of disability hereafter.

Li Rui would take care of him, but if he abandoned Eighth Elder, it wouldn't take more than a week for his enemies to tear him apart, given how many people Eighth Elder had maimed or even killed over the years.

"So far, there are no clues... These people seem to have come out of nowhere. Before this, there were no signs of them on Ninghai Road at all!"

Chen Da and his team were all hired by Qin Fang at a high salary and were normally kept on standby. Since they weren't part of the underworld, it would be strange to have any information about them.

"Damn it... Look into it right now! You must find out who these people are!"

Clearly unsatisfied with the answer, Li Rui's wrath was palpable. The enemy had attacked his doorstep, openly wounding his men and stealing his money, which was a deliberate provocation.

Having been robbed, and yet unable to grasp even the slightest detail about the adversary, his reputation as the Ninghai Underground boss had suffered a severe blow.

If the news broke the next day, he didn't know how many people would laugh at his misfortune.

Moreover, considering the reports on the incident, these assailants acted very swiftly and were obviously seasoned, indicating an organized attack rather than a spontaneous emergence from Ninghai Road. It was highly probable that they were drifters from another place.

Of course, Li Rui did not rule out the possibility that it was Tiger's doing.

After all, Tiger had once been under Tang Cheng, with quite a few strong experts at his disposal. If organized, this level of strength was plausible.

However, Li Rui thought this possibility was slim. Having battled Tiger for so long, how could he not understand Tiger's strength? This small squad was evidently stronger than even the mightiest force under Tiger's command.

"Could it be..."

A possibility suddenly struck Li Rui, furrowing his brow. However, he eventually relaxed, "How much was lost..."

"Gambling earnings of thirty-two million, and approximately five million was the monthly income from several of Eighth Elder's places, ready to be submitted together... but in the end..."

The man cautiously reported, his face still bleeding from the wound, occasionally dripping blood on the floor. Yet, he didn't even dare to wipe it away.

"Nearly forty million!"

Li Rui said heavily, starting to pace around.

The sum was not small, but for him, it certainly wasn't crippling. It was painful, though.

The most crucial issue was the immense blow to his reputation!

If this incident wasn't handled well, in the future, few people might dare gamble in his establishments. This was an important source of income for him. Losing it would indeed cause Li Rui significant distress.

Thus, for such an amount, Li Rui had to pay it, regardless. Otherwise, what he'd lose wouldn't just be face, but also his credibility and that of Bihai Pavilion might be affected.

Chapter 579 - Making a Move_1

...

"Arrange for the money to be returned to those people immediately, and while you're at it, give each of them a membership card to Bihai Pavilion..."

It wasn't just his prominent identity that allowed Li Rui to firmly hold the throne as the overlord of the Ninghai Underground at such a young age; his abilities were also quite terrifying. He quickly thought of a solution.

Why did those people go to the gambling event organized by Eighth Elder?

Beyond being somewhat familiar with Eighth Elder, what mattered more was that they valued Li Rui's reputation, yet they didn't qualify to gamble at Bihai Pavilion, so they had to settle for the next best thing.

Now that they had suffered heavy losses, Li Rui returned the money to them and also issued them membership cards to Bihai Pavilion, essentially granting them the privilege to enter Bihai Pavilion's casino to gamble.

As the saying goes, the wool comes from the sheep. Li Rui had returned the money, but it wouldn't take long for it to flow back into his hands from Bihai Pavilion's side.

With just a bit of time wasted, not only did Li Rui salvage his reputation, but he also made money again...

"Understood!"

The person nodded immediately. With Li Rui's approval, it would be much easier to handle their side of things. They promptly exited and hurried to take care of the matter, to prevent the spread of this adverse incident and protect the reputation of both Li Rui and Bihai Pavilion.

"Who exactly did this?"

Although a solution had already been proposed, Li Rui was never one to take a loss lying down. With this group of mysterious people having infiltrated Ninghai and robbed him once, there was the possibility they could do it a second time.

Forty million was not a small amount; with that kind of money, one could easily open a decent nightclub. But now, not only was it snatched away for nothing, Li Rui was also forced to cough up the money to fill this gap, which was utterly unacceptable to him.

"Could it have been Tang Cheng who sent people to do this?"

From the intelligence he had gathered, this group acted like the wind, with extraordinary speed and strong intentionality. They struck and left without dragging their feet, which seemed very much like the work of professional mercenaries or even a military operation.

In Ninghai, there were only a few who could mobilize such a group of people, and the one with whom he had enmity was Tang Cheng.

But...

"Impossible! He isn't that foolish."

Li Rui quickly dismissed this possibility. Although Tang Cheng had a troop under him and could mobilize them for minor tasks, a blatant robbery like this was criminal...

Tang Cheng's status had its limits; he wouldn't resort to such excessive measures over a minor rift between two people. If discovered, not only would Tang Cheng be finished, but the entire Tang Family would also be severely dragged down.

This was similar to Li Rui, who virtually monopolized the underground power of Ninghai. Everyone knew he was the overlord of Ninghai Underground, but none of his properties were registered under his name; even those with the surname Li were rare...

This was to avoid such over-the-line incidents from implicating the Li Family, which stood behind Li Rui. That would be a genuine catastrophe.

Upon this realization, Li Rui felt even more that something was amiss with the situation.

After a moment of hesitation, Li Rui walked back to his desk, opened a drawer, took out a card and a mobile phone, inserted the card, turned on the phone, and then dialed a number.

"How are those two people doing now?"

Once the call connected, he didn't mention the recipient's name or any title, simply asking this question straightforwardly.

"All is normal."

That was the simple response from the other end of the line.

"Get them to handle something! Eighth Elder has run into trouble, have them find the people responsible..."

Li Rui fell silent for a moment, but ultimately decided, and spoke into the phone.

"Understood!"

The respondent's answer was still very concise, just two words before the call was directly ended, seemingly showing little respect for Li Rui.

Yet Li Rui didn't mind; a slight smile appeared on his previously gloomy face.

"No matter who you are, if you dare to touch my things, my people, you will pay an incredibly heavy price!"

Lying quietly in his office chair, Li Rui's lean silhouette was almost invisible. He sat facing the tempting night view outside the window, the brightly lit Ninghai metropolis.

...

Qin Fang naturally had no way of knowing how many cards Li Rui held, especially since he was thousands of miles away in Jincheng.

Chen Da and his group acted with extreme stealth and speed; they were very efficient. Coupled with Wei Suo's full surveillance, Qin Fang hadn't found any oversights.

As for whether Li Rui would suspect that Qin Fang was related to this incident, that was up for him to guess.

But Qin Fang knew well that once the news of his survival leaked out, Li Rui would surely link the two events together, and perhaps he would realize it was all orchestrated by Qin Fang.

But did Qin Fang care?

Clearly not!

From the beginning, they were on opposing sides. From the moment Li Feng tried to kill Qin Fang, Qin Fang's relationship with the Li Family was beyond repair.

It was just that Li Feng's attempt to kill Qin Fang backfired, resulting in Qin Fang throwing Li Feng into prison. As Li Feng's older brother, Li Rui was even more eager for swift retribution against Qin Fang, but he had never gotten the chance to do so.

Chapter 580 - Making a Move_2

But when the news of Qin Fang's death came, this guy couldn't wait to make his move, knowing full well that Fang Feixue was Qin Fang's painstaking effort and that Tang Feifei had a share in it, yet he didn't care at all, which clearly shows that this person's mindset is definitely not one of generosity.

"Li Rui, we shall see..."

From the day he took action, Qin Fang's secret battle with Li Rui had officially begun; it was impossible for the two of them to coexist, one would inevitably fall.

Qin Fang naturally did not wish to be the one who fell, so it had to be Li Rui.

Li Rui had his advantages, his power was overwhelming, and he had numerous followers at his command, coupled with his personal abilities and considerable prestige. Even with the support of Tiger in Tang Cheng and Ning Weiqiang, he could only huddle in a corner of the city's south.

Compared to him, Qin Fang was essentially alone, perhaps with some abilities—a Level 4 Expert with many extraordinary skills, but he understood well the principle that a pair of fists is no match for four hands, and that even a fierce tiger cannot overcome a pack of wolves.

However, Qin Fang had his own advantages; he operated in the shadows, Li Rui in the light. Li Rui's large family and business naturally made him a target with many vulnerabilities, making it easier for Qin Fang to strike at him.

As for Qin Fang, Fang Feixue was the only business he had openly. Other assets, like the laboratory, were rented, and as powerful as Li Rui's influence might be, it wouldn't extend to freezing the money Qin Fang had in a Swiss Bank...

What does a barefooted man have to fear from someone wearing shoes?

Qin Fang had no foundations to speak of, and even if he failed this time, as long as he lived, he could always make a comeback.

But what about Li Rui? Once he failed, he would lose everything, and with the enemies the Li Family had made, they would certainly tear him to pieces.

Moreover, Li Rui's rise to power had been on the bones of many, and the enemies lurking in the shadows were certainly not limited to just Qin Fang.

The quiet night was undisturbed, at least Qin Fang had slept peacefully in Chu Yunxuan's arms, having not been able to sleep so soundly in the deep forest for many days, always on alert for deadly threats around him.

Qin Shou Brother, however, could not sleep. He was placed in the room next to Qin Fang's, a room that was lavishly decorated but eerily empty, which made him feel quite uncomfortable.

Even though Qin Fang had told him that he needed to survive in such environments from now on, and he had tried to adapt, it is not something that can be remodeled overnight, at least not in just one evening.

When the sun slowly rose the next day, his eyes had not closed at all, just sitting quietly on the bed, his strong body tensed, like a tiger ready to pounce, ready to strike a lethal blow to any "enemy" that approached him.

"I mean, Qin Shou Brother, try to relax a bit..."

When Qin Fang and Chu Yunxuan got up the next day, freshened up, and were prepared to take Qin Shou Brother back to Ninghai with them, they realized he hadn't rested the whole night.

Of course, for someone with Qin Shou Brother's strength, not sleeping for one night wasn't really a big deal, but Qin Fang truly hoped he wouldn't have to endure such hard times in the future; that would be too miserable.

"Hmm!"

Qin Shou Brother's attitude towards Qin Fang was completely different from his attitude towards others. He treated Qin Fang as he would himself, and only listened to Qin Fang.

He simply didn't bother with what others said, not being targeted by him was already considered giving face.

"Qin Fang, are we really going to take him with us?"

Chu Yunxuan couldn't help but ask in private, Qin Shou Brother's gaze was extremely sharp, and even though the extent of his hostility was already lightened because she was Qin Fang's woman and bore Qin Fang's scent, it still made her feel quite uncomfortable.

"Are you not a doctor who saves the dying and heals the wounded? Look at his current state, can I really just abandon him? Should I throw him back into the mountains?"

That was one reason Qin Fang was unwilling to leave Qin Shou Brother behind; another, even more important reason was that he saw Qin Shou Brother as his personal bodyguard for the future.

This tough guy was on the verge of stepping into the Level 6 Grandmaster level at any moment. Whether it was the Great Strength Eagle Claw Technique or the Thirteen Taibao Horizontal Training Golden Bell Shield, achieving Grandmaster Level in any of these would signify a qualitative change, with combat power skyrocketing by tenfold in an instant!

Some may think that tenfold is a bit of an exaggeration, but in reality, Grandmaster-level experts are indeed much stronger than those below the Grandmaster level.

Any Grandmaster-level expert, no matter how old, could easily defeat those at the Level 5 Peak when sparring.

That's why, even at important events like the Martial World conference, where real combat took place, all the participants were experts below the Grandmaster level. Even those almost invincible among the younger generation in the Southern Martial Arts World like the Tian Nan Four Shows, or a demon like Song Qingshan who swept through all the young experts below the Grandmaster level in the Northern Martial Arts World, had never dared to challenge the Grandmasters. There simply was no suspense in such a match.

Qin Fang was currently at Level 4, and his experience points, after the recent spree of slaughter, had only just barely reached half of what was required. To break into Level 5, he still had a long way to go.

Moreover, the experience needed to ascend from Level 5 to Level 6 skyrocketed to over a hundred thousand, and due to the higher level, earning more experience became like pouring a small cup of water on a cartload of hay. It was only by striking down or fighting experts of the same or a higher level that he could gain experience points.

This was definitely a daunting task that could be achieved only over a long period!

Since it was impossible for him to step into the Grandmaster level in the short term, if Qin Fang could have a Grandmaster-level expert bodyguard by his side, then his life would surely have more security.

From a cultural standpoint, Qin Fang was a gun expert, with a very sharp long-range attack capability.

On the more martial side, that naturally would be Grandmaster-level expert Qin Shou Brother, who was close at hand in melee combat—who could withstand such a tough man?

Ninghai was Qin Fang's base and stronghold; it was only there that he could better expand and grow. Even though Qin Fang's greatest enemy, Li Rui, controlled the Ninghai Underground and was its overlord, he couldn't stop Qin Fang's steps, although that place was indeed the most dangerous.

But the more dangerous it was, the more Qin Fang needed experts like Qin Shou Brother by his side to ensure the security of his life.

Not to mention, Qin Shou Brother, having lost his memory, was still reshaping his worldview. It would be far better for Qin Fang to guide him than to leave him outside to be guided by someone else, at least it would be much safer!

"Okay! Then bring him along... However, his condition is pretty serious. I will contact my classmates in the United States later; some of them are focusing on researching this area, and they may be able to help him recover his memory!"

Chu Yunxuan naturally centered her decisions around Qin Fang, so since Qin Fang had said so, she had no objections. Moreover, once they were in Ninghai, Chu Yunxuan had a very important mission to carry out. And with several other women belonging to Qin Fang there, she would not often see Qin Shou Brother, which would somewhat ease her own burden.

However, out of professional medical ethics, since Qin Shou Brother was a patient, she still wanted to help him.

Qin Fang naturally had no objections to this. Perhaps once Qin Shou Brother recovered his memory, he might leave him, causing Qin Fang to lose a strong support by his side, but watching Qin Shou Brother in this state of amnesia, Qin Fang couldn't help but feel compassion.

Everyone has family and friends, yet Qin Shou Brother had forgotten them all. Not to mention, Qin Fang bore a great deal of responsibility for Qin Shou Brother's amnesia.

"No problem, you can contact your classmates. Money is no issue; the medical fees will definitely satisfy them..."

Qin Fang immediately expressed his stance. He supported Chu Yunxuan's idea.

As for the matter of money, he was now a billionaire, and such a small sum of money was not of his concern!