

Genius 761

Chapter 761 - Beauty is a Curse Ah~_3

As for the owner of this voice, it was a dashing and handsome man who looked as if a handsome tree had come to life...

Ning Yumo and Cai Qing's gazes were naturally the first to notice the two roses, almost simultaneously pausing for a moment before focusing their attention on the flower bearer.

This person was none other than Qi Shao, who had previously boasted about coming over to flirt. As the top heartthrob of Capital University, his external assets were quite substantial. At least in terms of looks, Qin Fang couldn't hope to compete even if he tried.

Women are a strange species, with many placing significant importance on their first impression of someone, which is their appearance. Even if the person is actually scum, if they look handsome at first glance, they will feel that the person is not bad...

Conversely, even if someone is profound and insightful, if they're not visually appealing, a woman will dismiss them at first sight.

Qi Shao was clearly a good-looking guy with enviable external characteristics. His flirting relied on his face and sweet tongue, making him almost invincible in his pursuits.

Seeing the expressions on the two beauties evolve from initial shock to smiles, Qi Shao could already anticipate their reaction. They would definitely be delighted to accept his flowers, kick this unattractive guy to the curb, and leave with him to do something meaningful...

"Handsome guy, shouldn't you ask my boyfriend's opinion before sending flowers?"

Cai Qing was sitting on the outside, looking at the rose in front of her with a radiant smile on her face, but a hint of disgust flashed in her eyes.

However, she didn't let this emotion show and looked at Qi Shao with a beaming smile, of course, not forgetting to point at Qin Fang sitting across from her.

Qi Shao's flattery was pretty good, but too bad he targeted the wrong person. There's something off about Cai Qing's sexual orientation; she simply doesn't like men. It didn't matter whether Qi Shao sent her one rose or tens of thousands; it was all useless and only served to increase her disgust.

If it were the past, facing such a pretty boy, Cai Qing would have politely offered a "scram," but today she seemed to have changed her nature, actively pulling Qin Fang to act as her shield. It seemed she had already begun to enter the role-play.

"Uh..."

Qi Shao was abruptly taken aback. Although he looked down on Qin Fang and even wanted to eliminate him, there were so many people around; he couldn't just completely ignore Qin Fang's presence.

"I'm sorry, it was my mistake..."

But Qi Shao, the Invincible One in the flirting world, gracefully apologized and retracted the one rose but inched the other closer to Ning Yumo.

"Beautiful..."

Since Cai Qing admitted that she was Qin Fang's girlfriend, Qi Shao wanted to flirt but now wasn't the appropriate time, so he immediately launched his charm offensive towards Ning Yumo.

"Sorry, handsome, but I am also her girlfriend..."

Ning Yumo didn't give him a chance, directly smiling and pointing at Qin Fang, almost choking Qi Shao with her words.

Although Qi Shao and his two sidekicks had been whispering about Qin Fang scoring two beauties, most of that was under the impression that Qin Fang was one beauty's boyfriend, while the other wasn't...

But now... it seemed to be different from what he had envisioned.

"Bro, what you're doing isn't exactly honorable..."

This was naturally Qin Fang's moment to step in. Ning Yumo had claimed to be his girlfriend, which he readily accepted. Having taken this step, there was nothing left to hide. But what about Cai Qing... Considering he was about to go to the Lei Family as Cai Qing's fiancé, he simply let Cai Qing enter the role in advance to avoid complications.

"Who are you to act brotherly towards me?"

Qi Shao was never known for having a good temper. How could he not understand the mockery of the two beauties? Having been pampered all his life, he had always gotten whatever he wanted and had never been ridiculed like this, so naturally he lost his cool...

Just as Qin Fang spoke, it hit right on Qi Shao's nerves, and Qi Shao immediately roared in anger.

The moment these words were spoken, the faces of Cai Qing and Ning Yumo slightly changed. Ning Yumo frowned, seemingly displeased, but Cai Qing felt quite the opposite; she would have been delighted if Qin Fang and Qi Shao had started fighting right then and there.

Qin Fang, however, seemed quite natural, and didn't get angry at Qi Shao's rude words at all. The smile on his face grew even stronger.

"I'm really not worth mentioning, but I wonder what sort of 'thing' you consider yourself to be?"

Qin Fang had always been one to respect others who respected him, but if someone refused to show respect, there was no reason for him to give face. The Qi Shao before him was clearly such a person.

"Hmm?... You dare to insult me?"

Qi Shao was slightly startled, as he hadn't expected Qin Fang to talk back to him like that. Anger instantly appeared on his face, and while smirking deceptively, he shot a very unfriendly glare.

"Me? Insulting you? Really?"

Qin Fang scoffed. Qi Shao was indeed not just any kind of arrogant, seemingly with a strong sense of confidence, which left Qin Fang a bit unsure of his status.

Of course, Qin Fang wasn't afraid of him. After all, he had nothing to lose and besides, he had the support of influential figures like Qiao Zhenfei from Capital City.

"Good, good, very good... you've got guts!"

Listening to Qin Fang's defiant words, Qi Shao's smile turned sinister, "Boy, be careful when you go out. You never know when you might get hit by a car or have your legs broken..."

"Tsk tsk... Should I take that as a threat?"

Unmoved, Qin Fang boldly stood up, stepping closer to Qi Shao, "But you see, the thing I least fear is being threatened... because those who have threatened me all kicked the bucket first..."

Chapter 762 - Lei Laohu_1

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As he spoke, Qin Fang even gently patted Qi Shao's shoulder, looking just like a good friend, and his tone was not as gloomy as Qi Shao's earlier remark. On the contrary, it sounded more like everyday small talk.

But for some reason, when Qi Shao heard Qin Fang's words, he felt an icy chill deep inside, causing an inexplicable sense of panic.

However, Qi Shao wasn't someone to be easily fooled. Using an old saying, "I wasn't born to be scared..."

"Hmph, we'll just wait and see..."

Despite the commotion and being teased by the two ladies, along with Qin Fang's provocation, almost all the guests in the restaurant had their eyes on Qi Shao. Thus, Qi Shao had no face to continue, especially since the two beauties didn't give him any respect.

After uttering a harsh threat, Qi Shao left angrily, returning to his own table. In no time, a loud slap was heard, and when everyone looked in the direction of the sound, they saw the previously flirty lady at Qi Shao's table now with five finger marks on her face, obviously just slapped by Qi Shao...

Instantly, more people looked at Qi Shao with unlimited disdain, especially the women, who scorned him as if he were a pile of dog shit. His handsome appearance was useless now!

"Tsk tsk, looks like you've got yourself in big trouble..."

The sound of the slap was, of course, heard by Qin Fang's group. Both Qin Fang and Ning Yumo shook their heads and remained silent, while Cai Qing smiled with schadenfreude at the situation.

Clearly, Qi Shao wasn't the kind of person with great magnanimity. Feeling embarrassed and having no place to vent, he hit his own girl. Such pettiness was really unbecoming.

In comparison, Qin Fang had offended Qi Shao pretty severely. Probably the parting threat was not entirely empty words...

The thing that delighted Cai Qing most was to see Qin Fang suffer, the more miserable, the better...

"Doesn't matter, if I get taken out, you can just marry Lei Peng!"

Qin Fang shrugged his shoulders indifferently.

"You... consider yourself ruthless!"

Cai Qing was taken aback, as if Qin Fang had choked her. Her face turned red, but she eventually had no choice but to compromise.

Right now, Qin Fang was her only lifeline. If Qin Fang didn't accompany her to Lei Family, it would indeed be hard to find another suitable person for the task.

If they couldn't convince the Lei Family, the Cai Family would have a hard time calling off the marriage, and then she would have to marry Lei Peng, something that Cai Qing found even more unacceptable.

Now that Qin Fang had leverage over her, Cai Qing found it hard not to compromise...

"Hmph, once we deal with the Lei Family, I definitely won't let you off!"

But that didn't stop Cai Qing from secretly making up her mind, even though she was already finding it difficult to get the better of Qin Fang. Or to put it another way, she got no advantage when facing Qin Fang.

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Back to Qi Shao.

"Qi Shao, this guy is too insolent. We absolutely can't let him get away with that. What do you say we do?"

"How about we find a few cops to arrest him, make him do time, and let those inmates have a go at his ass..."

With Qi Shao humiliated, his two lackeys naturally couldn't stand idly by and immediately came up with suggestions. These two guys were notoriously sly and could think up all sorts of malicious tricks.

"No good, this guy is so arrogant, he probably has some status..."

Despite Qi Shao's arrogance and presumptuousness, which had been nurtured by his background, he himself wasn't stupid. The lackey's idea was good for dealing with ordinary people, but might not be so smooth against some well-connected privileged young master.

"Then how about hiring some folks to corner him, take him to an alley, and beat him up badly? Break his arms and legs and see if he still puts on airs?"

The lackey put forward another idea, just as ruthless as the previous one.

"Hmm... that's a good idea!"

Qi Shao considered it briefly and immediately felt this was quite reliable. Having some guys block the way and beat someone up would also give him a chance to play the hero, and perhaps he could win over those two beauties.

While talking, he immediately took out his phone, called a friend he knew, briefly instructed him, and then hung up. He looked over at Qin Fang's group with a sinister smile.

Although Qin Fang and Qi Shao had only just met today, Qin Fang had seen plenty of such pretentious characters. The petty Qi Shao probably wouldn't give up so easily and was likely already devising a wicked plan.

But Qin Fang was not worried at all. The methods Qi Shao could think of were limited, either finding cops to arrest him or thugs to block him. Qin Fang wasn't particularly concerned about either.

Hiring cops to deal with Qin Fang was like running into the muzzle of a gun. Second Brother Tang Quan from the third generation of the Tang Family worked at Jingcheng City Bureau, apparently as some kind of squad leader, and his rank wasn't low. At the elder's birthday, Tang Quan had told Qin Fang that if he had any trouble in Capital City, to just mention his name, and the police definitely wouldn't dare to arrest him...

As for sending thugs to block Qin Fang, it was a futile effort no matter how many came; they were just delivering themselves into his hands. Qin Fang, once capable of facing one against a hundred, wouldn't care about a few petty thugs.

Since neither option was viable, there was nothing for Qin Fang to fear.

"It's getting late. Where do you live? I'll take you back..."

With the fuss Qi Shao had caused, none of the three were in the mood to eat anymore. Besides, there wasn't much to the Western meal, so they ended their dinner there. As a man, it was only natural for Qin Fang to take the two beauties home.

"We don't live far. Just out the door, walk 200 meters west, and we're there..."

During the meal, Ning Yumo was separated by Cai Qing, but once they finished eating, Ning Yumo naturally looped her arm through Qin Fang's and cheerfully said.

"Alright, I'll take you back..."

Qin Fang smiled. He had been in Capital City for a few days but hadn't had the chance to spend time alone with Ning Yumo. A stroll together sounded nice.

As for Cai Qing, the third wheel, he just ignored her!

So Qin Fang paid the bill and led Ning Yumo and Cai Qing out of the restaurant.

"Qi Shao, they're leaving..."

Just as Qin Fang and his group left, Qi Shao was already informed.

"No worries, Tiger's men have arrived. We'll just wait a little longer before we leave. I really want to see how this kid can slip through the palm of my hand. Hmph... Why the long face? Looking like you're going to a funeral... Believe it or not, I can have them take turns with you."

Qi Shao was in no hurry, speaking very calmly.

However, when he turned around, he saw his pretty companion's face stained with tears, the five finger marks still vivid, with half of her face swollen like a bun.

She could no longer pique Qi Shao's interest, in fact, he found her quite a buzzkill, so he cursed out loud and shouted, terrifying the beauty, who then covered her mouth with her small hands, her eyes reddening, but she dared not make a sound.

The winter in Capital City was rather chilly at night. Ning Yumo and Cai Qing's clothing was not very thick; while they felt comfortable in the restaurant, once outside, they immediately felt the cold.

Without hesitation, Qin Fang took off his jacket and wrapped it around Ning Yumo. As for Cai Qing, he didn't even spare her a glance...

"Hey, aren't you being quite ungentlemanly? I'm also a girl; don't I deserve some kind of gesture?"

Qin Fang's disregard immediately displeased Cai Qing, who started chastising him, acting as if it was a man's duty to act that way.

"Senior Sister, we're both martial artists. Neither the 'three fu' of summer nor the 'three nines' of winter scare us; what's a little temperature to us..." Qin Fang, not easily fooled, immediately retorted with a smiling face.

Cai Qing was at a loss for words, as Qin Fang said, martial artists must be diligent. Neither the coldness of winter nor the heat of summer should be a problem, so this bit of low temperature really wasn't much.

The chilly night breeze whistled, but the metropolitan lights of Capital City shone brightly, illuminating the roads with occasional passersby walking in twos and threes.

Qin Fang walked quietly down the street with Ning Yumo, their fingers interlocked, and although they didn't talk much, everything was understood without words.

Cai Qing followed behind, her face filled with jealousy and anger, cursing Qin Fang silently while not daring to make a sound, only furiously waving her fists.

Squeak~~ Screech!

Suddenly, a van rushed forward and screeched to a halt not far from where Qin Fang and the others were. More than ten people jumped out and swiftly surrounded Qin Fang and his companions.

"Hmm?"

Qin Fang was slightly taken aback. The group before him was undoubtedly thugs, but the one leading them was clearly no ordinary thug, boasting the strength of Level 5.

Ordinary thugs were mostly Level 1 civilians, with the slightly stronger ones reaching Level 2. A Level 3 was considered a skilled fighter, much more formidable than these common thugs.

The special forces soldiers under Tang Cheng were mostly only Level 3, and they had no problems handling three or five people, which spoke volumes of their capabilities.

But for a thug to reach Level 5 was almost impossible; even if a special forces soldier turned to the underworld, it was highly unlikely they would reach such a level.

The only possibility was that this man was a martial artist, and furthermore, an Inner Sect expert. At least in terms of level, he was one level higher than Qin Fang.

"What do you want to do?"

Seeing such an expert, Qin Fang took the thugs seriously, immediately pulling Ning Yumo behind him and shouting fiercely.

"I am Elder Lei, Tiger. My apologies, brother, but you've offended the wrong person. I can't let you leave so easily today..."

The high-level thug that Qin Fang was most wary of stepped forward, and with unexpected bravado, spoke.

Chapter 763 - Bear Fist_1

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Looking at the expert before him, Qin Fang couldn't help but twist his mouth. It wasn't his first time being cornered, but usually, it was some sleazy guy yelling out and then getting straight to the fight. It wasn't often someone came at him with such a boisterous tone.

"Lei Laohu?"

Hearing this name, Qin Fang was indeed quite surprised. It seemed he had seen a character by the same name in some movie before.

The actor playing that character appeared to be a fatty, but the Lei Laohu in front of him was not. Saying he was more like a bear might be more appropriate—very strong, that kind. Even on such a cold winter day, this guy was wearing a thin coat, vaguely showcasing his fierce muscles.

Although the name Lei Laohu sounded quite domineering, it also had a bit of a kitsch ring to it, but the man himself made Qin Fang quite cautious.

Qin Fang wasn't afraid of any expert below the Grandmaster Level. Even if he couldn't defeat them, Qin Fang could still retreat unscathed. But running away wasn't his goal—he needed more real combat to enhance his strength.

Therefore, whenever Qin Fang faced a Level 5 Expert, he would go all out... even though he was only Level 4 himself.

But Level 4 Experts didn't pose any threat to him anymore; his attributes had comprehensively surpassed those of a Level 4 Expert. Only by facing Level 5 Experts could he continue to make progress.

He had been cornered by quite a few people, but except for Lei Laohu, the others were all negligible. Those ordinary Level 1 thugs, even if Qin Fang didn't make a move, Ning Yumo and Cai Qing could beat them back and forth a dozen times without breaking a sweat...

"What do you think you're doing? I'm a police officer..."

Just as Qin Fang wanted to speak, Ning Yumo suddenly stepped forward and sternly shouted at the bunch of hoodlums.

"Eh... Cop?"

"This beauty is a cop? Brother Hu, what do we do now?"

And sure enough, when Ning Yumo got fired up, her policewoman aura definitely showed through. The gang of hoodlums was immediately subdued by her presence, each of them turning their focus to their boss, Lei Laohu.

"Beauty, this doesn't concern you. If you know what's good for you, you'll leave on your own; we surely won't stop you... But if you don't show some respect, then don't blame me, Lei Laohu, for being rude!"

Ning Yumo could intimidate the small-time thugs all right, but Lei Laohu only slightly furrowed his brows and didn't back down. Instead, he spoke even more arrogantly.

He had backing for the task at hand—unless it was some extraordinary cop, he wouldn't even give them the time of day... Clearly, in his eyes, a beautiful woman like Ning Yumo was at most some office-bound household registration officer. He couldn't care less...

"You... are courting death!"

Ning Yumo was instantly furious. She had quite a reputation as a tough policewoman within the Ninghai Police, and most habitual offenders knew her name; just the mention of falling into her hands made them feel like dying.

But that reputation counted for something in Ninghai, not in Capital City—nobody knew she was a cop here.

And certainly not for someone like Lei Laohu, a Martial Arts Expert with strong backing; he was not afraid of the police and thus was audaciously confident. After all, if things escalated, someone would bail him out.

"Let me handle this..."

Qin Fang naturally couldn't let a woman stand in front of him, and immediately pulled Ning Yumo behind him, facing the imposing figure of Lei Laohu.

Ning Yumo originally wanted to say something, but after glancing at Qin Fang's expression, she obediently stepped back.

"I thought you were someone of importance, but I see I was wrong. You're only capable of bullying women..."

Having positioned Ning Yumo behind him, Qin Fang faced Lei Laohu with an utterly calm expression, showing not a trace of fear, apparently not taking these opponents seriously at all.

"Bullying a woman? Hmph... Would you need a woman to stand in front for you if you were a real man?"

Lei Laohu was unyielding and immediately retorted.

"Is that so?"

Qin Fang sneered, his smile remaining as he looked at Lei Laohu.

For some reason, Lei Laohu felt a sudden unease facing Qin Fang's smile, as if he had done something dishonorable.

"Enough talk, take this~~"

Lei Laohu clearly had no interest in a war of words with Qin Fang, which was not his strong suit; one could tell by his sheer size. He immediately roared and transformed into a robust shadow charging towards Qin Fang.

An expert reveals himself with a single move!

Ordinary thugs typically fought with sloppy, untrained moves, and very few knew any basic martial arts. Professional fighters usually learned simple and practiced routines so that they could respond most effectively on both offense and defense...

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh~~~

The sound of a palm cutting through the air, forceful like thunder, whipped up the wind, signaling the sheer power and ferocity of the strike.

Meanwhile, the empty left hand adopted a strange posture. As the right palm neared Qin Fang, the left fist immediately followed with a circular counterstrike. Once both hands came together, it resembled the action of a bear's hug...

"Bear Fist?"

As Lei Laohu made his move, Qin Fang's expression changed slightly, a flicker of alarm crossing his mind because Lei Laohu's technique was reminiscent of a ferocious bear, daunting in its power.

At the same time, this technique had a clear hint of Xingyi Fist, and Qin Fang immediately thought of Xingyi Fist's branch—Bear Fist.

Qin Fang had never encountered a Bear Fist expert, nor had he seen the Bear Fist technique, but as a branch of Xingyi Fist, it bore some resemblance to other branches. From the moment they clashed, Qin Fang felt he was facing a peer from his own martial discipline...

Though the stance resembled Bear Fist, Qin Fang's first thought was naturally Bear Fist, particularly since it was a secret technique of the Lei Family, passed down only among its members. Even if Lei Laohu's real name was unknown, the "Lei" in his name made Qin Fang suspect a connection.

Thinking of this, Qin Fang suddenly thought of Cai Qing, who had a matrimonial connection to the Lei Family. Both the Cai Family and the Lei Family were prestigious, so she likely had seen Bear Fist before. While Qin Fang countered Lei Laohu's attack, he couldn't help but look over at Cai Qing, not far away.

Cai Qing had maintained her silence throughout, as if completely uninvolved. Neither Qin Fang nor Ning Yumo thought there was anything odd, considering Cai Qing would love nothing more than to see Qin

Fang get thoroughly beaten. Under such circumstances, her reaction was not surprising, yet her expression seemed a bit odd at the moment, as if she had discovered something.

Chapter 764 - Evenly Matched_1

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Lei Laohu's attack was still quite ferocious, Qin Fang slightly shifted his body to the side, dodging that fierce palm, and at the same time he hastily retreated, his extreme Agility making his movement as swift as the wind. Lei Laohu's truly lethal left fist suddenly came up short, and such a threatening attack was easily neutralized by Qin Fang as if it were nothing.

However, Lei Laohu was clearly not going to be annoyed by this. Despite his large body, which seemed to imply sluggishness, he was actually nothing of the sort. He quickly twisted his body using the momentum from his charge, sticking to Qin Fang like a plaster, attacking from another angle.

Furthermore, the movements of his body, the shifting steps, and so on, were all very methodical, and his routine was incredibly pure. It seemed that even from his first move, he had already predicted Qin Fang's every subsequent reaction.

Qin Fang was not in a hurry either. He moved slightly, like a leaf in the wind, wherever Lei Laohu's palm wind swung, his body followed with a brushing motion, narrowly dodging every one of Lei Laohu's attacks...

Yet this process was quite nerve-wracking to watch. Observing Lei Laohu's stormy and aggressive offense, Qin Fang looked like a small boat in the midst of a tempest, seemingly on the brink of capsizing at any moment.

"Brother Hu, keep it up!"

"Brother Hu, mighty!"

"Brother Hu, invincible..."

As the saying goes, the expert watches the flow while the layman enjoys the show.

The lackeys that Lei Laohu brought along were nonstop in cheering him on. They were merely ordinary thugs, with only a few who had half-heartedly practiced a couple of moves, almost negligible in skill. They naturally couldn't see the intricacies of the fight and could only judge by the momentum, where Lei Laohu's ferocious attacks seemed to leave Qin Fang with no power to counterattack, as if he could be killed by Lei Laohu's hands at any moment, so naturally they thought Lei Laohu had the absolute upper hand.

But for the real experts, it was completely different; even a half-knowing observer could spot some issues, like Ning Yumo.

"Qingqing, this Fist Technique seems..."

Never mind Qin Fang, even Ning Yumo, who was just a spectator, felt something was amiss with Lei Laohu's Fist Technique. She wasn't part of the Martial World, though she had Level 3 Strength, which came from learning military combat techniques or police sanda skills, so she didn't quite understand the issue with this type of Fist Technique and could only ask Cai Qing beside her.

"This is the Lei Family Bear Fist, Lei Laohu must be from the Lei Family..."

Cai Qing wouldn't warn Qin Fang, but she didn't have any reservations with Ning Yumo and immediately gave a simple explanation. Although she had never seen Lei Laohu before, the Fist Technique gave it away the moment he threw a punch.

Capital City is Lei Family's turf, using Bear Fist here would surely mean the man is from the Lei Family; otherwise, it's nothing but a death wish. Martial Arts Clans take their Martial Arts very seriously, and if it's not meant to be shared, it absolutely won't be shared; otherwise, it would be difficult to pass on from generation to generation...

Besides, Lei Laohu had already stated his name, whether it's his real name or a nickname, there was definitely a significant connection to the Lei Family, perhaps he was even a direct descendant of the Lei Family.

At least... Lei Laohu's Fist Technique was quite good, and his strength was formidable, and even Cai Qing herself was pondering whether she could contend with Lei Laohu in combat.

And the answer was clearly no. She might have formidable strength, but she had one fatal flaw: she couldn't cultivate Inner Breath, which meant that despite mastering all the moves and secrets of Xingyi Fist and Cannon Fist, she still wouldn't be able to fight against a same-level Inner Sect Expert...

"A member of the Lei Family?"

Ning Yumo was taken aback upon hearing this, her face suddenly showing alarm; clearly, she hadn't anticipated this.

Although with Ning Yumo's help, Cai Qing had persuaded Qin Fang to substitute for her in a challenge, possibly even having to fight a master from the Lei Family, she didn't expect to encounter someone from the Lei Family so soon after agreeing; the coincidence was just too much.

If she hadn't known that these people were most likely sent by that Qi Shao from before, Ning Yumo would have suspected that Cai Qing and the Lei Family had colluded to deal with Qin Fang.

Of course, that was unlikely. Cai Qing, although resentful of Qin Fang, wouldn't be joking with her own wedding matter, which would certainly result in a complete loss without gaining anything, losing both her fiance and her troops.

"Qin Fang, be careful, he's from the Lei Family..."

No matter the reason, now that she knew Lei Laohu was from the Lei Family, Ning Yumo didn't hesitate to immediately warn Qin Fang.

"Thank you for the reminder, Sister Ning..."

In fact, even without Ning Yumo's warning, Qin Fang had already guessed Lei Laohu's identity, but feeling Ning Yumo's concern for him, Qin Fang naturally wouldn't act as if nothing had happened.

"Sigh, they say girls are outgoing, but you, oh you..."

Cai Qing muttered enviously, her teeth clenching with secret resentment toward Qin Fang.

"You still dare to rush forward to help? Qin Fang is at a disadvantage like this, ah..."

Ning Yumo, too, was frantic with concern upon seeing Qin Fang's willow-in-the-wind stance, which seemed on the verge of collapse at any moment. Even if she wasn't too worried at the start, the more the fight dragged on, the clearer the situation became, and it truly made her anxious.

Being an intelligent woman, she knew that jumping in to help would only complicate matters or even become a burden to Qin Fang, so she could only let Cai Qing make a move.

At least she knew one thing, that Cai Qing's strength seemed to be no less than Qin Fang's... Although that was a long time ago, and now Cai Qing was no longer willing to cross hands with Qin Fang. After the event at the Wu Family, she was no longer his match.

"I certainly won't help..."

Cai Qing immediately shook her head and refused, "Don't worry. Although Qin Fang seems to be at a disadvantage, Lei Laohu himself isn't faring much better either. Martial artists value a swift and vigorous strike, peaking on the first attempt, then declining, and exhausting by the third... Lei Laohu only has three moves; once he uses them up, the show's over."

"Are you serious?"

Ning Yumo was slightly startled, looking at Cai Qing uncertainly, not sure if she was telling the truth or not, since Cai Qing held so much hatred for Qin Fang, she might betray him at any moment.

"Relax, would I lie to you?"

Cai Qing reached out to grab Ning Yumo's somewhat cold hand, comforting her, "Besides, in a couple of days, he has to accompany me on a visit to the Lei Family, and most likely we'll have to fight then. Rather than being unprepared and struggling to cope at that time, it's better to test Qin Fang's abilities against Lei Laohu now..."

As she said this, Cai Qing watched the situation in the field, and the more she observed, the more convinced she became that Qin Fang was doing exactly what she had described, testing moves against Lei Laohu!

Lei Family Bear Fist is an extremely fierce fist technique, most moves distilled from imitating the actions of a raging bear, but with slight differences. After all, it's not bears but humans who execute this fist technique.

In this world, there's no such thing as a perfect martial art; every martial art has certain flaws and weaknesses, even the centuries-old Xingyi Fist.

The Lei Family Bear Fist was no exception; it had weaknesses too. For instance, its movements seemed a bit clumsy, making them much easier to decipher for a more agile expert.

Moreover, the same martial art performed by different individuals would yield entirely different results. For example, Qin Fang resoundingly defeated Su Yang, whose Eight Extremes Fist was quite advanced, but Qin Fang could rely on his superior strength and resilient physique, along with ample baozi support, to forcefully match Su Yang blow for blow.

However, Elder Niu, also a practitioner of Eight Extremes Fist and a grandmaster-level expert, would have a completely different result; the same moves executed by him could easily overpower Qin Fang without giving him any chance, unlike the relatively easy fight against Su Yang.

Without a doubt, Lei Laohu was a member of the Lei Family, with quite formidable strength. At least, after exchanging dozens of moves with him, Qin Fang could guess that Lei Laohu was probably one of the distinguished figures among the younger generation of the Lei Family.

Why? Because Lei Laohu's strength before deploying his killer moves was almost the same as Su Yang's, unless the Southern Martial Arts World was truly much weaker than the Northern Martial Arts World; otherwise, such strength was definitely formidable.

"Kid, if you don't show your true skills, I'm going to use my killer moves..."

Qin Fang appeared to be at a disadvantage, but his responses were appropriate, and his actions were measured—never giving Lei Laohu any chance with each exchange, his composure making it seem like he was not truly losing ground.

"I'm getting a bit impatient as well, come on..."

Even ordinary moves of Bear Fist were already impressively powerful, and Qin Fang dared not allow Lei Laohu to land a hit easily, let alone his killer moves, which were undoubtedly the most terrifying.

For instance, Tiger Fist's Tiger's Rush, Eight Extremes Fist's Tie Shan Kao, and so on—if hit, the adversary could be killed with a single blow...

Qin Fang shed the lax aura around him, tensing up his entire body and attuning to his optimal state, his eyes intently fixed on his opponent's, not allowing for any carelessness.

What the Bear Fist's killer move was, Qin Fang had no idea, but if normal moves already matched some weaker fist techniques' killer moves in terms of lethality, one could only imagine the horror of the ultimate move.

Qin Fang's Life Points had surged lately, successfully breaking through the 40-point mark, and recently, his Strong Body Technique and Tough Skin Technique had also made significant progress, vastly improving his resistance to blows...

"As long as the burst of killing power doesn't exceed 40, you won't be able to hurt me..."

Qin Fang muttered to himself, his body completely taut, ready to unleash his own killer move at any moment.

Chapter 765 - Explosive Bear Strike VS Tiger's Rush_1

...

Lei Laohu was just as cautious, his eyes filled with vigilance, and he valued Qin Fang far more than Qin Fang valued him.

Others might not know, but he was all too aware that, although on the surface he seemed to have an absolute advantage, in reality, he was already at the end of his tether.

Just like Cheng Yaojin's three unique moves, in the previous exchange, Qin Fang had fully grasped all his techniques. If there were no new changes, Qin Fang would start to counterattack and easily crush him.

It was precisely for this reason that, to reverse the unfavorable situation, he had requested Qin Fang to use their ultimate moves together, hoping to turn defeat into victory with this final tactic.

In a martial arts expert's duel, especially between evenly matched opponents, the goal is to achieve a learning effect. The earlier moves are just a set-up, and it would truly be a pity if the final techniques were not witnessed.

Therefore, when he made this request, Qin Fang readily agreed.

Lei Laohu didn't know that Qin Fang was soon to meet a party from the Lei Family, possibly facing their experts. Knowing a bit more about them would naturally be of great help for the journey ahead.

Although his regular moves were quite sharp, they didn't cause much harm to Qin Fang, who didn't care at all, unless he were attacked by a large group; otherwise, he could almost completely ignore them.

The only truly lethal one was naturally this final ultimate move, for which Qin Fang had to have some idea in advance to handle it more comfortably.

So, Lei Laohu's request was for his own chance to turn the tables, but for Qin Fang, it was a wish come true. Naturally, he wouldn't refuse in the slightest.

Both men were ready, each elevating their state. Their gazes met in mid-air, and even in the cold winter night, they sparked a searing flame!

"Come on!"

"Make your move..."

The two roared almost simultaneously, and their bodies instantly erupted, unleashing their most closely guarded techniques in a torrential assault on one another.

"Explosive Bear Strike!"

Lei Laohu's footsteps thundered almost instantly, as if his stomp shook the ground, exuding a sense of overwhelming strength.

At the same time, he leapt into the air, transforming into a colossal bear descending from the sky, like a towering pillar crashing down from the heavens, unstoppable in its descent.

His arms stretched out, his fists clenched, as if each hand had instantly become an enormous hammer, dropping heavily. The airflow driven by his arms was violently turbulent, blowing away every speck of dust and scrap of paper from the ground.

"Tiger's Rush!"

Qin Fang, not wanting to be outdone, shifted slightly backwards, positioning himself in a strange stance, silently calculating Lei Laohu's landing spot, and then... Tiger's Rush brazenly launched.

The Explosive Bear Strike was an attack coming from above. Coupled with Lei Laohu's tall stature and more imposing physique, his arm span was even longer. If he were to punch face-to-face with Qin Fang, he could hit Qin Fang, who might not even be able to reach him at all.

But at this moment it was different from before, his attack was descending from above, while Qin Fang's was an explosive, horizontal burst of force. This created a crossing path...

During the crossover, it was the most dangerous moment. Either Qin Fang's Tiger's Rush elbow strike would blow away Lei Laohu, rendering all his attacks null,

or the opposite would happen: Lei Laohu's Explosive Bear Strike, in its ferocious manner, would completely overpower Qin Fang by transforming his strong fist into a giant hammer that would crush Qin Fang entirely, dissolving the Tiger's Rush into nothingness.

Everyone held their breath, waiting for this moment to arrive...

"Lord Hu will win!"

"Lord Hu will win!"

"Lord Hu will win..."

The gangsters, one by one, were shouting frenziedly. They were followers of Lei Laohu, so they knew just how formidable he was.

Although Qin Fang seemed quite capable, having pushed Lei Laohu to use his ultimate move, an event they seldom experienced, whenever Lei Laohu used his ultimate move, he immediately finished off his opponent, securing the final victory.

In their view, this time would be no exception. They could already foresee the scene of Qin Fang being defeated by Lei Laohu and wailing on the ground.

Every time Lei Laohu used his ultimate move, what they wanted to see most was just such a scene. Even though Qi Shao had requested Qin Fang's limbs be broken, being hit by Lei Laohu's ultimate move would definitely result in a fate far more miserable than merely having one's limbs broken.

"Qingqing, do you think Qin Fang might be in danger?"

Ning Yumo was also incredibly nervous. Qin Fang had already seemed to be in mortal peril before, and despite Cai Qing's assurance that Qin Fang was doing it on purpose, it still made her extremely worried.

Now, to make matters worse, both men had unleashed their strongest attacks. Once one of them landed a blow, the other would undoubtedly suffer horribly and sustain serious injuries.

Of course, Ning Yumo hoped nothing bad would happen to Qin Fang, but she was powerless to intervene or offer any help. All she could do was hold Cai Qing's hand tightly and ask with great anxiety.

"I don't know either..."

But at this moment, Cai Qing was just as tense. The strength of Qin Fang and Lei Laohu had reached a level that basically surpassed her understanding. She was significantly weaker than both men, and furthermore, since she didn't have Inner Breath, she was even less aware of the terrifying extent of the attack power when the two ultimate skills fully erupted.

"Ah... Could it be that..."

As soon as Ning Yumo heard this, her anxiety escalated instantly, and she gripped Cai Qing's hand so tightly it turned blue and white.

Unaware of her own grip, and Cai Qing feeling the same, their hearts were simultaneously captivated by the man in the battlefield.

Although she did not like Qin Fang, in such a moment, his agile figure and broad shoulders conveyed a sense of immense strength, safety, and grandeur. Even she, a woman who generally had no use for men, felt her heart waver slightly at that instant.

As for Qin Fang and Lei Laohu themselves, they did not have the luxury of such thoughts. They were now completely engrossed in the contest, their bodies getting closer and closer, soon to collide with each other.

Who would defeat the other was about to be revealed in this moment...

Chapter 766 - Crushing Defeat_1

...

All of Lei Laohu's underlings fell silent, looking incredibly tense and anxious. Despite their absolute confidence in Lei Laohu, they couldn't help feeling nervous at this moment.

Ning Yumo and Cai Qing felt the same way. Their hands involuntarily found each other's, gripping so tightly that their knuckles turned white. They anxiously awaited the outcome.

From his elevated position, Lei Laohu descended swiftly, fists clenched in a hammer-like stance, aiming directly at the rapidly approaching Qin Fang below.

"Wu Family Boxing?"

Tiger's Rush was the essence of Wu Family's Tiger Fist, a move of exceptional importance. Once executed, it carried an unrivaled bold and fierce momentum, and the elbows and body formed the shape of a tiger's head, creating a roaring wind that resembled the roar of a ferocious tiger.

Lei Laohu was not a rookie martial artist like Qin Fang, who had only a few months of Xingyi Fist practice. He had trained Bear Fist for over a decade and was versed in various fist techniques, especially the different branches of Xingyi Fist.

Though he had never faced an opponent using Tiger's Rush, he had at least heard of it vaguely; it was said to be a secret technique of the Wu Family, supposedly only for Grandmaster-level experts to cultivate.

Had Qin Fang already entered the Grandmaster Level?

Even as Lei Laohu concentrated all his attention on his most violent punch, he couldn't help but become slightly distracted upon facing Qin Fang's Tiger's Rush.

However, at their level of strength, any slight lapse could lead to a decisive victory or defeat in battle.

"Perfect opportunity!"

Qin Fang immediately seized the brief moment of distraction. His already swift punch seemed to reach its peak at that moment, gaining speed to the point of breaking the sound barrier.

"Come at me..."

Qin Fang's elbow moved as fast as lightning. In the blink of an eye, it seemed to surpass the speed of sound, pushing the limits of vision. Despite Lei Laohu's utmost caution and vigilance against Qin Fang, he couldn't hide the shock on his face as the Tiger's Rush struck.

Lei Laohu was not an easy target like some soft persimmon you could knead at will. Despite a slight error that put him at a disadvantage, it wasn't enough to make him back down.

On the contrary, it was as if he was fueled by a desperate courage, a readiness to face death, clutching his fists even tighter, and his arms surged with rapidly climbing strength, swelling larger and appearing more powerful.

Whooosh whoooosh~~~

The punch generated a fierce wind, whipping up chilling blasts. Even before entering its range, Qin Fang could feel the sheer ferocity of Lei Laohu's punch.

But retreating was not an option for Qin Fang. As the saying goes, "In a narrow path, the brave one wins." Courage was the least a martial artist should have. Shrinking back in such a decisive battle would leave an indelible shadow in his heart, even if he were to emerge victorious, which would be a huge blight on his growth as a fighter.

This wasn't an issue against weaker martial artists, as they couldn't push him to such dire straits.

However, when facing foes of equal or higher competency, this would be a fatal flaw. In adversity, such an imperfection could lead to a martial artist's inner collapse—defeated before the fight even begins.

The changes Qin Fang and Lei Laohu underwent were nearly instantaneous, completed in a flash. To onlookers, both seemed the same as before, showing no significant visible changes or adjustments.

Boom~~

Finally, their bodies collided, emitting a loud, clear sound of impact—a collision of fists with flesh and bone.

Everyone's breath seemed to pause at that moment. Qin Fang and Lei Laohu maintained their conjoined posture, yet they still hadn't separated, leaving the victor unknown.

Lei Laohu's fists landed on Qin Fang's head, while Qin Fang's elbow struck Lei Laohu's face. The night was not clear, and it was hard to tell who hit the other first.

This stalemate, of course, couldn't last forever. Someone would react first, and that person was...

Qin Fang!

Qin Fang's body seemed to suddenly shrink, likely caused by the terrifying damage from Lei Laohu's Explosive Bear Strike. The brutal force, starting from the top of the head, spread instantly throughout his body, and his legs seemingly couldn't withstand such power, causing him to appear much shorter.

"Qin Fang..."

Ning Yumo immediately cried out, her complexion turning deathly pale in an instant, tears uncontrollably streaming down as she couldn't hold back any longer, rushing toward where Qin Fang was.

Cai Qing's face only improved slightly. Although she really hated Qin Fang, it was no problem for her to bully him. But it was a completely different matter when someone else beat him. She was also thinking of rushing over to rescue him. If Lei Laohu attacked again, Qin Fang would not die but would certainly be severely injured.

"Haha, Lord Hu is mighty!"

"Long live Lord Hu!"

"No one is as powerful as Lord Hu..."

On the other side, the gangsters were completely different, immediately letting out a strong shout, their faces filled with excitement and triumph as if it wasn't Lei Laohu who had made the move, but themselves.

However, their cheering stopped abruptly just a few seconds later, their faces filled with shock, their eyes instantly frozen.

Ning Yumo and Cai Qing's movements stiffened instantly because they were horrified to find that Lei Laohu, who should have been the victor, had his massive figure smashed by what seemed like a thousand-pound hammer. He flew backward like a kite with its string cut, traveling five or six meters before crashing heavily to the ground. With a thud, he lay there groaning in pain, the strong man unable to get up.

This scene was beyond everyone's expectations. No one had anticipated such a sudden turn of events.

The gangsters looked at each other in disbelief as if they had witnessed something utterly bizarre. They wanted to go over and check on Lei Laohu but dared not approach Qin Fang's side too closely.

"Qin Fang?"

Ning Yumo and Cai Qing were just as stunned because this twist was too bizarre. In the end, Ning Yumo could only softly call out to Qin Fang.

"Ah, well, I'm fine..."

At this moment, Qin Fang was no longer crouching as before. He straightened his back, moved a bit, and with a smile on his face, he calmly responded, having just heard Ning Yumo's call.

"Really fine? You just now..."

Ning Yumo was clearly still doubtful, although Qin Fang was moving his neck and waist as if he wasn't badly hurt. In contrast, Lei Laohu was lying on the ground without the strength to rise. If not for the rising and falling of his chest, proving he was still alive, one might think he had already been killed.

"I just wanted to see how powerful the Lei Family's Explosive Bear Strike really was... Hehe, it's indeed not to be underestimated!"

Qin Wang spoke somewhat embarrassingly to Ning Yumo, like a child who had done something wrong. His risky move had worried her.

"..."

Yet, such an explanation left both Ning Yumo and Cai Qing speechless.

The Explosive Bear Strike, which is the essence and most powerful skill of the Lei Family Bear Fist, is typically avoided by most people at all costs. But Qin Fang, on the contrary, had actively wanted to test the power of this strike...

"You, oh you..."

Ning Yumo really wanted to scold Qin Fang, but seeing his expression, she held back the words at the tip of her tongue. After all, he was the man she had chosen. To be able to withstand such a fierce attack without any serious injury filled her with pride. It was not time to make him lose face in front of all these people.

Cai Qing also wanted to scold Qin Fang, but she too held back in the end. She was thinking that if Qin Fang could withstand Lei Laohu's Explosive Bear Strike, then when they went to the Lei Family, Qin Fang would be able to take on more fire. This should be considered a good thing for her...

"Hehe... I understand, don't worry, it won't happen again!"

Qin Fang certainly understood Ning Yumo's intentions. He was very touched. If not for Cai Qing watching like a third wheel, he almost wanted to go up and give Ning Yumo a warm hug and a passionate kiss.

But with Lei Laohu still injured on the ground, Qin Fang couldn't possibly ignore him. Otherwise, his visit to the Lei Family might be quite troublesome.

It's said that it is better to settle scores than to tie knots in enmity...

Being able to spar with Lei Laohu, a grandmaster of the Lei Family Bear Fist and well-known in the Northern Martial Arts World, satisfied Qin Fang completely.

Lei Laohu's strength was quite good, ranking him among the top in the Level 5 experts. Although in the actual fight, he was still slightly weaker than Qin Fang, he was still considered very powerful among the younger generation.

If he could continue to spar and exchange moves with such experts, it would also serve as an excellent training for Qin Fang, even if he could no longer defeat such experts.

To improve his strength, Skill Proficiency was a critical aspect, but practical combat experience was also a vital factor.

Chapter 767 - A Smile Erases All Enmity_1

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After settling Ning Yumo, Qin Fang then strode toward Lei Laohu not far away.

All of Lei Laohu's underlings were dumbfounded by now. In their eyes, their incredibly powerful, almost undefeated boss, Lei Laohu, had been defeated.

Although Qin Fang had taken a fierce attack from Lei Laohu, he didn't seem to be affected at all. He walked with the same ease and steadiness, whereas Lei Laohu was the one lying on the ground, unable to move.

As Qin Fang approached Lei Laohu, his underlings couldn't help but back away slightly, seemingly worried that Qin Fang would go after them next. After all, they were Lei Laohu's underlings and had come to confront Qin Fang.

"You... what do you want? If you want to hurt Lord Hu, you have to step over my body first..."

Of course, there were exceptions to everything. An underling immediately rushed out, blocking Qin Fang's path, posing like a martyr ready to protect his master out of loyalty.

The other underlings, seeing this one's action, began to stir, but before they could make their move, Qin Fang slapped the blocking underling down. That underling instantly slumped like a lump of mud, causing the rest to become terrified. A particularly timid one even let out a scream and quickly fled the scene.

This is what a mob is like, devoid of any real solidarity. As one ran away, the others scattered in all directions in seconds, leaving only Lei Laohu and the collapsed underling.

Qin Fang, however, couldn't care less about them. These hoodlums were the type who only bullied the weak and feared the strong. Their fleeing was to be expected.

He walked up to Lei Laohu, who lay there with eyes open, gasping for air, his face showing a bruise that Qin Fang had given him.

"How is it?"

Qin Fang looked down smilingly at Lei Laohu on the ground. Lei Laohu no longer possessed his previous, overwhelming presence, but he didn't show the cowardice and timidity of his underlings, showing a calm acceptance of his defeat instead.

"Not dead yet..."

Lei Laohu was quite frustrated as he lay there, looking up at Qin Fang who had resoundingly beaten him. When Qin Fang asked that question, Lei Laohu thought it was a taunt and retorted irritably.

"Heh, as long as you're not dead, it's fine..."

Unexpectedly, Qin Fang didn't mind Lei Laohu's tone at all. He took out several Silver Needles and swiftly pricked them into Lei Laohu's body while he was still immobilized.

"You..."

Lei Laohu's face changed dramatically. Although he had initiated the provocation and was defeated and injured by Qin Fang, Qin Fang striking him now was completely justified.

However, Qin Fang not even uttering a word before taking action was slightly unnerving. Just as Lei Laohu wanted to curse or say something vicious, he suddenly felt the strength returning to his nearly paralyzed limbs.

"All done, aren't you going to get up..."

While Lei Laohu was still in a state of shock, Qin Fang had already removed the needles and extended a hand to him as if offering to help him up.

Lei Laohu was skeptical, somewhat confused about the act Qin Fang was putting on, yet he still extended his hand and grasped Qin Fang's. With a slight exertion of strength, his robust body immediately rose to his feet.

After releasing their hands, Lei Laohu moved around a bit, and aside from the intense pain in his face, there seemed to be no other abnormalities in his body; it was as if he had returned to his previous state.

"What... what do you mean by this?"

Lei Laohu was no fool. He had taken a direct hit from Tiger's Rush, and his injuries were definitely severe. Qin Fang's strength was greater than his own, and it was clear that Qin Fang had held back, otherwise, he absolutely wouldn't have been able to get up.

But what truly puzzled Lei Laohu was that Qin Fang could have taken the opportunity to deal with him harshly but he had chosen to let him go and even healed his wounds.

"It's nothing, we don't have any grudges..."

Qin Fang shrugged his shoulders, indicating that he was unconcerned. Lei Laohu was simply fulfilling a commission, a matter of loyalty. Even if Qin Fang had taken action against him, it would just be Lei Laohu's bad luck.

However, Lei Laohu seemed like a decent person, and Qin Fang thought that making a friend like him would be quite nice.

"You... are very strong!"

Lei Laohu's expression was complex, but in the end, he could only squeeze out that much.

He was the one who had fought Qin Fang, and the comparison of their strengths was very clear. Qin Fang was much stronger than him. At least, Lei Laohu was very aware of how powerful his Explosive Bear Strike was. Yet Qin Fang had landed a hit on him even earlier, but the force of the Tiger's Rush had been held back, allowing his Explosive Bear Strike to land first.

However, Lei Laohu's pride in his Explosive Bear Strike couldn't do much to Qin Fang. Qin had taken it squarely but seemed hardly injured at all; his resilience was truly terrifying.

Lei Laohu had thought his strike would be successful, but instead, he ended up being the one severely shaken. And then, Qin Fang's Tiger's Rush finally erupted. Lei could clearly feel that Qin Fang had pulled back a lot of his strength at the last moment, but it still left him seriously injured...

"Heh, you're not bad either..."

Qin Fang casually waved his hand and likewise complimented Lei Laohu.

In all fairness, Qin Fang was kind of cheating. Lei Laohu's Explosive Bear Strike wasn't as weak as he imagined; when Qin Fang took the blow head-on, it depleted more than half of his Life Points given his defense and Life Points.

That was also why he could bear it; if it were just some ordinary person, their head would have been cracked open, or at the very least, they'd be turned into a vegetable.

"Heh, thanks..."

Lei Laohu stood dumbfounded for a while, then walked up to Qin Fang. His large palm-sized hand patted Qin Fang's shoulder as he spoke with a very sincere tone.

"You've offended Young Master Miao Qi. Be careful in Capital City, you might not be so lucky next time... But I consider you a friend!"

Lei Laohu seemed to quite like Qin Fang's temperament, possibly because he respected Qin Fang's magnanimity, and he expressed his initiative very eagerly.

"We're already friends, aren't we? As for Miao Qi, I never took him seriously..."

Qin Fang and Lei Laohu shook hands, both wearing faint smiles on their faces. It indeed seemed like they were no longer enemies with a laugh. However, when Qin Fang mentioned Miao Qi, both of their eyes showed very obvious disdain and contempt.

Chapter 768 - The Lei Family Insider_1

...

Men's friendships are sometimes forged in seemingly casual moments, although not always particularly solid, yet sometimes they are more dependable than purely interest-based alliances.

"How about we go for a drink together?"

Such is the beginning of a friendship born from combat, and while there is still a gap in their strengths, this kind of engagement is beneficial for both of them.

Qin Fang took the initiative to extend an olive branch, and Lei Laohu wasn't one to play hard to get, so he immediately invited him with a hearty laugh.

"No problem, but I have to take these two beauties back to the hotel first..."

Qin Fang was indifferent, but he wasn't alone; Ning Yumo and Cai Qing were also with him, and considering the late hour, he needed to at least show some gentlemanly behavior.

"What's the problem? We can go with you, what do you say, Yu Mo?"

Before Lei Laohu could respond, Cai Qing took the initiative, even gently tugging at Ning Yumo's arm and surreptitiously signaling her.

"Qingqing is right, let's go together!"

With such a gesture from Cai Qing, Ning Yumo quickly grasped the meaning and, with a calm smile on her face, amiably agreed.

"I know a good place just up ahead..."

Lei Laohu, not one to be finicky, pointed to a spot not far away and spoke, indicating his familiarity with the area. As a native of the Capital City, the surrounding district was his stomping ground.

Qin Fang didn't object, so he led the two beauties, preparing to follow Lei Laohu.

"Kid, what's your name? From tomorrow on, you're with me..."

As they walked past the kid whom Qin Fang had beaten into a sorry state, Lei Laohu gave him a couple of brisk claps, and the kid immediately gained some vigor.

In fact, the kid was just immobilized by Qin Fang's precision strike at his nerves, looking worse off than he was, but the other hooligans didn't understand this. Lei Laohu, as someone from the martial world, naturally knew.

The kid was lucky in a way; he had charged out bracing himself to be the hero and was instantly taken down by Qin Fang. His fellow brothers all ran away.

If Qin Fang really intended to settle the score with Lei Laohu, then the kid would have undoubtedly met with a grim fate. But instead, Qin Fang and Lei Laohu met, let bygones be bygones with a laugh, and turned from enemies into friends, which in turn brought fortune to the kid, making him the object of Lei Laohu's interest.

"Yes, Lord Hu..."

The kid's eyes nearly popped out in excitement, needless to say how thrilled he was.

It turned out that Lei Laohu wasn't actually just a thug, but his status was much higher than that of the average gang leader. After all, the Lei Family was a big name in the Capital City, and even the toughest leaders in town had to respectfully call him "senior brother."

These hooligans were merely called in to show support for another gang leader. They all wanted to follow him, but Lei Laohu simply didn't take any interest in them.

Yet unexpectedly, such a good opportunity had presented itself. Only this kid had the misfortune turned to luck, taking a great advantage, while the others who had run away would likely meet with unfortunate ends.

The big brother didn't dare to offend Lei Laohu, so it was the underlings who would definitely suffer.

This was just a small interlude, and Qin Fang didn't care too much about it, but this also showed that Lei Laohu was a relatively reliable person.

Lei Laohu led Qin Fang and the others to a teahouse with classic decor. Although it was late at night, the teahouse was still in business, which was quite rare.

"Are you the one from the Cai Family?"

Lei Laohu looked at Cai Qing in front of him with some surprise. The Lei and Cai families had been close for many years, but that was mostly limited to the older generation. The younger generations had grown quite distant.

Cai Qing belonged to the Cai Family, but there were very few in the Lei Family who had actually met her — probably only Lei Peng.

Lei Laohu usually hung around the Beijing-Tianjin area and seldom ventured to the Jiangnan region. Even when he did go, it was mostly to meet some familiar friends, and he had never been to the Cai Family.

"Yes, that's me. Hello, Senior Brother Lei..."

Although she was not fond of men, Cai Qing always maintained her manners in the presence of others, which prevented Lei Laohu from noticing anything unusual about her.

"Sister Cai, good..."

Lei Laohu also politely clasped his fists as a gesture of respect, then immediately turned his face to look at Qin Fang, who was affectionately close to Ning Yumo, his eyes filled with a strange expression. Nevertheless, he couldn't help but ask.

"Young brother, don't tell me that you are... Master Cai's successor in martial arts?"

The marital dispute between the Lei and Cai families was not widely known among the Cai family members, mainly because very few of the Cai family's clan practiced martial arts anymore, but it was different for the Lei family.

In Capital City, the Lei family was a highly respected major clan, in their heyday, unlike the gradually declining Cai family, they were not on the same level.

As one of the prominent figures among the younger generation of the Lei family, this marriage had caused quite a stir; of course, they were also already aware of the Cai family's tactful rejection. Old Master Lei understood Master Cai's predicament, but certain members of the Lei family found this reason quite unacceptable.

Including Lei Peng himself, one of the parties involved, and several other families related to Lei Peng's branch, many were already clamoring to give Qin Fang a heavy "repair."

"If there's no one else, then it must be me..."

Having already promised Cai Qing, Qin Fang naturally could not go back on his word, even though he knew the Lei family would probably be quite troublesome, he couldn't avoid it. He couldn't let a woman like Cai Qing bear it all alone, such was his respect for his own master.

"However, the Tiger's Rush that you used seems to be the Wu Family Tiger Fist..."

Seeing Qin Fang's expression, Lei Laohu realized that this matter was likely not a falsehood, but the issue was that Qin Fang rarely used the Cai Family's Cannon Fist. Instead, during his recent clash with Lei Laohu, Qin Fang had used the Tiger's Rush, a secret technique of the Wu family, despite not being a member of the Wu family.

"That was thanks to a fortunate coincidence, taught to me by Old Master Wu..."

Qin Fang said with a chuckle, albeit his explanation was slightly different from the truth. Indeed, Old Master Wu had once corrected some flaws in this secret technique for Qin Fang, which wasn't so different from having taught it to him personally.

"Brother, that fortune of yours..."

Lei Laohu was immediately awestruck; being from a noble family, he knew all too well how strict the inheritance of martial arts was. Wasn't the conflict between the Lei and Cai families centered on this very issue?

Yet there was Qin Fang, who had no formal ties to the Wu family, and had still learned the Wu's most important and treasured techniques—enough to make even Lei Laohu envious.

Of course, his envy was only mild, and he didn't have any other ideas, especially since he wasn't a match for Qin Fang anyway.

"Brother Hu, in a couple of days I'm going to your Lei family. Could you give me some inside information, let me know whom I should be wary of?"

Qin Fang's question was somewhat abrupt, mostly because he had not known Lei Laohu for long and they had just had a physical altercation, which made their relationship rather complex.

"Of course, if it's inconvenient, then forget it."

Qin Fang naturally wouldn't make it difficult for Lei Laohu to decline the offer.

"What's there to hide? Although Lei Peng and I are cousins, our relationship is just so-so. His branch is quite dominant in the family, mainly because of my third aunt, Lei Peng's mother, whose family is very powerful—they're from the Heavenly Pool Sect... Thus, Lei Peng is considered a figurehead of both families, and his strength ranks among the top in our group of brothers. He usually gives us the cold shoulder, so full of himself, acting as if he's certain to inherit the position of Family Head..."

It was clear that, like any major noble family, the Lei family had its share of prosperity and hidden issues.

The Cai family had many members, but no one was willing to continue the family business, and in the end, such hope fell on Cai Qing, who was destined to be married off.

Of course, Cai Qing's unique sexual orientation might have emerged from this sense of responsibility.

The Lei family of this generation had seven brothers; their sisters were meant to be married off and so didn't count, and the brothers were all considered quite outstanding. For instance, Lei Laohu, despite appearing straightforward and lacking cunning, Qin Fang realized after just a few sentences that he was not so simple.

The Seven Tigers of the Lei Family were well known in the Northern Martial Arts World; they were all fairly young, the eldest being only 30, and all of them were Level 5 Experts, considered masters among the younger generation, with some even rivaling the seasoned Quasi Grandmaster-level Experts.

Lei Peng was such a figure, his strength ranked in the top three among the Seven Tigers of the Lei Family, and even among the Northern Martial Arts World's young generation, he was considered a powerful adversary.

Since he practiced not only the Lei Family's Bear Fist but also the Heavenly Pool Sect's techniques, combining the strengths of both, his power had become even more formidable.

"Little brother, if I'm not mistaken, Lei Peng must have insisted on revisiting the marriage proposal with the old master mostly for the sake of the Cai Family's Cannon Fist inheritance. He's much more talented and insightful than any of our other brothers. If he could fuse the strengths of three families, he would easily break through to the Grandmaster level..."

Lei Laohu seemed quite willing to pour his heart out to Qin Fang, but of course, the implications were not lost on Qin Fang.

To put it bluntly, he was being used as a pawn against Lei Peng, who was simply too strong and had begun to pose a clear threat to his brothers.

Chapter 769 - Very Troublesome_1

...

Was Tiger the kind of dimwitted big guy without a cunning mind?

Clearly not!

He could join forces with Miao Qi against Qin Fang because he was relying on the massive family background that Miao Qi had. However, such a background was only useful for disciples from families like Miao's; the Lei Family actually couldn't count on it at all.

For Tiger, the appearance of Qin Fang was a rather good opportunity.

In terms of strength, Qin Fang was much stronger than Tiger. Having just exchanged blows, Tiger had deeply felt the might of Qin Fang's strength.

Although Tiger had not truly fought with Lei Peng, based on his estimation, Qin Fang would probably be on par with Lei Peng—unlikely to be defeated and fully capable of retreating unscathed.

In terms of status, Qin Fang was Master Cai's chosen disciple, and according to the traditions of these ancient martial arts families, such disciples generally were expected to marry women from the Cai Family. Currently, it seemed that Qin Fang was somewhat entangled with Cai Qing.

As for Qin Fang's ambiguous relationship with Ning Yumo, that wasn't seen as a big issue. These ancient families, with centuries of tradition, were quite indifferent to having multiple wives and concubines.

At the very least, the relationship between Cai Qing and Ning Yumo seemed harmonious. Witnessing such a perfect and harmonious harem, Tiger could only silently admire Qin Fang in his heart.

"Heavenly Pool Sect..."

Qin Fang, of course, understood what Tiger meant. He had intended to resolve this trouble all along. Although Tiger was using him, by clarifying so many matters, he had indeed provided Qin Fang with some assistance.

At the same time, Qin Fang also took note of a term—Heavenly Pool Sect.

In the Martial World, aside from martial arts families like the Cai, Lei, and Wu, there were also sects that passed down various martial arts techniques.

The names of some of these sects were widely circulated in martial arts novels, which most people regarded as fictional creations by the authors. However, in reality, these sects truly existed.

The Heavenly Pool Sect had a considerable reputation in the Northern Martial Arts World, located atop Changbai Tianchi. However, it seldom appeared in public as the sect was located in a very secluded area, so many who visited Mount Changbai never encountered such a sect.

Of course, even if one stumbled upon it by chance, they were likely to mistake it for an ordinary ancient temple in the mountains. However, in the Martial World, such sects were quite renowned.

There were many such sects. For example, the Tai Chi Palace on Mount Wudang inherited the Tai Chi Fist, Tai Chi Sword, and True Martial Fist Technique from its founder Zhang Sanfeng. Atop Mount Kunlun, the Kunlun Sect was an incredibly ancient and prestigious sect, even though each time it emerged, it only had one successor...

Besides, there were places like Miao Jiang, Lingnan, Inner Mongolia, and the Tibetan Border amongst others. The more remote the area, the more likely it was to have such ancient and prestigious sects passed down through history.

Sects were different from families. Families emphasized bloodline inheritance, and those not of the family were not allowed to inherit. Sects, on the other hand, were different; they generally actively sought out individuals with good roots and aptitude to pass down their ultimate skills. Although they also had very strict requirements, their legacies tended to last even longer.

According to Lei Laohu, Lei Peng's maternal family members were disciples of the Heavenly Pool Sect, and so Lei Peng had been practicing the supreme martial arts of both the Heavenly Pool Sect and the Lei Family from a young age, which made him extremely powerful.

Furthermore, for the sake of the marriage between the Lei and Cai families, Lei Peng's uncle had come to the Lei Family to oversee the matter, making an already complicated situation even more troublesome. But as Lei Peng's uncle was a direct disciple of the Heavenly Pool Sect, even Old Master Lei had to treat him with great respect, not to mention the younger generations.

"By the way, Younger Brother Qin, there is something I must remind you of—Lei Peng's uncle is a grandmaster-level expert. You need to be very careful..."

If it were just a matter of dealing with a disciple of the Heavenly Pool Sect, that would be one thing. But with Lei Laohu's pointed reminder, Qin Fang and Cai Qing's expressions grew all the more striking.

Qin Fang might still be Level 4, but he could generally hold his ground undefeated against experts below the grandmaster level. However, once faced with a grandmaster-level expert, Qin Fang would truly have difficulty maintaining his standing.

The gap between Level 5 and Level 6 might numerically seem the same as that between Level 4 and Level 5, but the actual difference in strength is as vast as that between heaven and earth—it's an insurmountable chasm.

Unless Qin Fang resorted to using a gun, if faced with a grandmaster-level expert in hand-to-hand combat alone, Qin Fang would definitely not be able to match...

Cai Qing didn't know much about Qin Fang's background. She did know, however, that Qin Fang had once fought one of the Four Tiansouthern Showmen, Su Yang, to a draw and had just defeated one of the Seven Tigers of the Lei Family, Lei Laohu. His strength was definitely outstanding among the younger generation.

But that was only among the younger generation. Against a grandmaster-level expert, there was just no comparison...

Lei Peng's uncle was very powerful, having reached the grandmaster level, and with the backing of a major sect like the Heavenly Pool Sect, even her grandfather Cai Pingyuan would find the situation quite troublesome.

Thinking this, Cai Qing's complexion grew even more somber. She had never liked men in the first place, and apart from her family, no other man had ever even touched her. The thought of marrying a man she didn't know at all, sharing a bed, and even engaging in that kind of act... Cai Qing suddenly felt an impulse to die.

Just then, a warm, large hand suddenly took hold of Cai Qing's slightly cold small hand, calming her restless heart bit by bit.

But soon, she realized something was amiss. Of the people present, Ning Yumo had small and delicate hands. Yet, the hand before her was wide and powerful.

This was... Qin Fang's hand!

This realization immediately caused Cai Qing's complexion to change drastically, and she almost instinctively felt nauseated, struggling to break free.

"Senior Sister, don't worry. I've got this..."

However, at that moment, Qin Fang's voice entered her ears, with a simple, comforting phrase.

Under normal circumstances, Cai Qing would roar like a raging lioness if Qin Fang took advantage of her like this, then fiercely strike at Qin Fang without holding back until she'd beaten him senseless.

But this time, unexpectedly, she had no reaction. Instead, she nodded slightly, appearing every bit the gentle and delicate lady.

As for Qin Fang, he looked at Ning Yumo with a wry smile, having been prompted entirely by her... His own heart was still hanging by a thread.

Chapter 770 - The Angry Miao Qi_1

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While Qin Fang's side was entangled in a love-hate relationship, Lei Laohu acted as if he hadn't seen anything and his gaze had already wandered off to who knows where.

This young man, though rugged in appearance and resembling a tiger's back and bear's waist, was definitely not to be regarded as a simple-minded, muscular hunk.

If anyone were to treat him as such, they would likely end up being sold by him and still help him count the money with a smile.

However, Qin Fang didn't have any conflict of interest with Lei Laohu at the moment, on the contrary, the two of them now seemed to share a common enemy.

Even though Qin Fang was suspected of being used, Lei Laohu served as an inside agent for Qin Fang within the Lei Family, allowing Qin Fang to be informed about the Lei Family's movements in a timely manner, which was mutually beneficial.

"Brother Hu, I won't say too much, I appreciate the favor..."

It needed to be acknowledged, for Lei Laohu had already provided him with much information. Qin Fang had to accept this favor; his visit to the Lei Family this time was destined to clash with Lei Peng, and if handled well, Lei Peng would naturally suffer a great loss of face, which would be beneficial for Lei Laohu and the other Lei brothers. That would mean Qin Fang had repaid his favor.

"Come on, between Brothers, let's drink to that..."

Smart people talk more efficiently. Without explicitly stating things, they understood each other through simple words and phrases.

Forming ties with Lei Laohu was an unexpected occurrence, yet it surprisingly provided Qin Fang with previously unclear inside information.

One would have thought that given the relationship between the Lei Cai families, Old Master Lei would not be overly entangled in this matter. However, now Lei Peng's involvement with the Heavenly Pool Sect made things complicated.

Although Cai Qing always claimed she was no less capable than a man, at the end of the day, she was still a woman. With the Cai Family already on the losing side of reason in this matter, if it was handled poorly, it could prove very problematic.

In the Martial World, there are certain rules; even if the Cai Family called off the marriage, the Lei Family wouldn't go as far as to commit murder or arson, but a hundred years of the Cai Family's reputation would be destroyed, which would be even less acceptable to the Cai Family than their gradual decline in recent years.

The status of the Cai Family in Ninghai was similar to that of the Lei Family in Capital City. While not involving the underworld, figures from all walks of life showed respect to Old Master Cai. This was the strength of a Martial Arts Clan. Even though subsequent generations of the Cai Family seldom practiced martial arts, as long as Old Master Cai stood firm, the Cai Family would not fall.

But once this matter erupted and the Cai Family's reputation soured, not only would Old Master Cai be disgraced, but dealings with underworld figures would also change from the past convention.

Many of the Cai Family were in business. Before, these people showed respect and would not trouble the Cai Family members. But once it reached this point, it was difficult to say what would happen.

Therefore, the Cai Family was very clear; this matter had to be handled well, or it could become very troublesome. Most importantly, even if the Cai Family called off the marriage, they must still be seen as being reasonable.

Fortunately, Qin Fang still had two days to ponder over the matter. Lei Laohu also expressed that he would return to the Lei Family to gather information. After all, aside from Lei Peng's current strong momentum, the other six of the Seven Tigers of the Lei Family were worried about Lei Peng growing more powerful. One person alone might not be enough, but collaborating with the others would make things much more convenient.

Even when Qin Fang visited the Lei Family accompanied by Cai Qing, the other branches would also do their best to help him by dragging Lei Peng down...

This was just a preliminary plan. The specific approach would be determined by the situation at hand, for behind Lei Peng, besides his own lineage, there was the backing of the Heavenly Pool Sect, which was even larger and more powerful than the Lei Family. Lei Laohu and others, even if willing to help, would still do so within certain limits and not overly favor Qin Fang.

Regardless, this was a hurdle that had to be overcome. It involved the centuries-old reputation of his Master, and Qin Fang couldn't avoid it even if he wanted to; he had to bear it.

After having drinks and a chat with Lei Laohu, they parted ways. Qin Fang escorted Ning Yumo and Cai Qing back to the hotel, and he himself returned to Chang'an Club.

He did want to spend some alone time with Ning Yumo, but with the situation surrounding the Lei Family becoming so troublesome and Cai Qing's mood quite depressed, Ning Yumo couldn't bear to leave her best friend to fret alone and so accompanied her at the hotel.

Qin Fang originally worried whether Cai Qing would do something to Ning Yumo, but after giving it some thought, he let it go. Considering her current state of mind, she was likely just an ordinary woman now.

...

Watching Qin Fang and his companions gradually disappear into the distance, a smug smile immediately surfaced on Lei Laohu's rough face. He then pulled out his mobile phone and dialed a number.

"Young Master Miao Qi, I can't take on your job, find someone else..."

The sentence was straightforward, and Lei Laohu didn't even wait for a response before hanging up the phone. A mocking expression was clearly etched on his face, along with a sense of relief, as if he had long been fed up with that person.

On the other end of the phone.

A young man was thrusting on top of a seductive woman with a voluptuous body, who let out languid, tempting moans now and then, further stimulating the man's most primal desires.

The woman used all her skills, seemingly wanting to give the man the ultimate pleasure; she roared with abandon, making the man feel so powerful.

But just as the man was about to climax, that damned phone suddenly rang, much to the woman's dissatisfaction. She really didn't want the man to pick up the call, but it was clear that she didn't hold much sway in the man's eyes. The man only glanced at the caller ID before electing to answer the call.

However, the call was brief, as if the other party had just delivered a single sentence before hanging up.

In a matter of seconds, shock transformed into rage on the man's face as he violently smashed his expensive phone to the ground, shattering it completely.

"Lei Laohu, you bastard, how dare you play me like this..."

There also came the man's furious roar. This man was none other than Young Master Miao Qi, who Qin Fang had put in his place earlier.

The youngster's surname was Miao, known as the seventh child of the third generation in the Miao Family from Capital City, hence commonly called Young Master Miao Qi. Among the spoiled heirs of Capital City, Miao Qi was counted as one of the top profligates. He was not just morally corrupt, but his wrongdoings were also well-accounted for.

Although the Miao Family was not as prominent as the Qiao Family, where Qiao Zhenfei belonged, it was only second to them. After all, the current number one leader was a representative figure of the Miao Family. Thus, Young Master Miao Qi always saw himself as a crown prince, despite being a good-for-nothing among the third generation of the Miao Clan; he wasn't someone just anyone could afford to offend.

Miao Qi was not like Miao San, who held no significant status in the Miao Family. His father was a rather powerful figure, rumored to join the cabinet in the next term. By comparison, Miao San felt as distant as those relatives of the Miao family's external branches with no direct connection.

Nevertheless, Young Master Miao Qi could never have imagined that he would be faced with successive humiliations on his own turf in Capital City. How could a person like him not be enraged?

As for Lei Laohu, targeting someone from a Martial Arts Clan like the Lei Family, which had some standing even in the official ranks, wasn't too surprising. Some of the country's special agencies employed Martial Arts Experts, especially within the Imperial Guard, the Central Police, and personal guards of various leaders, many came from these Martial Arts Clans.

Therefore, although Miao Qi was quite unhappy with Lei Laohu, he wouldn't do something too outrageous. At most, he would hire a stronger expert to 'repair' him as payback and call it even.

Lei Laohu's matter could be set aside for the moment. Miao Qi never expected that Lei Laohu, who had always been so polite to him, would suddenly change sides in dealing with Qin Fang, an outsider from the countryside. This was quite extraordinary.

The spoiled heirs who mixed in in Capital City were not like those from remote areas where 'the sky was high and the emperor far away,' where perhaps even the son of a minor county party secretary could bully men and women without consequence.

However, things were different in Capital City. One might unexpectedly run into some outsider with a powerful background. Bear in mind that although the topmost leadership was in Capital City, many leaders from the second tier were from other regions, such as Southern Guangdong Province, Border Province, and direct-controlled municipalities like Jiangzhou and Mountain City, whose leaders are just a step away from the top leadership.

The children of such people, when they come to Capital City, even local tycoons like Miao Qi have to be courteous. Although they may not cross paths often, the general consensus is to avoid provoking them if possible.

But these individuals were usually well-known, Miao Qi might not be very familiar with them, but he had mostly seen them before. Qin Fang was definitely not among them.

"Heizi, help me investigate the information of the man we encountered tonight, and have someone keep an eye on him, waiting for my orders..."