

Genius 891

Chapter 891 - The Last Backer is Also Unreliable!_2

Finally...

After a full ten minutes, about four or five cars stopped nearby, and a group of people got out and walked towards the sales office.

Seeing these people arrive, whether it was Cao Pangzi, Zhou Pei, or Qin Fang, all felt a slight tremor in their hearts, knowing that it was time to take action.

"The big fish has finally shown up..."

Seeing the people coming in, a slight smile appeared on Qin Fang's face as he muttered softly.

His words could only be heard by Tang Feifei and a few other women who were close to him.

Tang Feifei and the others had already felt that Qin Fang's move was definitely purposeful, and now hearing this, they knew that things had developed to this step, finally entering the path Qin Fang had anticipated.

A few people turned their gaze towards the entrance of the sales office and immediately noticed the young man who had walked in—a handsome guy with striking looks.

However, it wasn't his looks they were most concerned about, but his identity.

"It's him!"

Xiao Muxue, Wen Yan, and Su Yuan didn't recognize this handsome guy, but Tang Feifei happened to know him.

Of course, Qin Fang knew him even better...

"Young Master Chen..."

The moment this young man entered, Cao Pangzi rushed towards him as if he had seen a relative, almost wailing as he approached the young man.

"President Cao, what's the matter with you...?"

As the young man entered, he had not noticed Qin Fang yet, but he saw the corpulent figure rushing towards him. Recognizing his business partner Cao Pangzi, he then saw Cao Pangzi's dangling arms and asked with a puzzled face.

"Young Master Chen, you have to stand up for me! He's the one who broke them..."

Cao Pangzi, at this time, had lost his arrogance. He seemed like a small wife wronged to the extreme, almost about to cling to the handsome guy's thigh and sob his complaint.

And the handsome guy followed the direction Cao Pangzi's arm pointed and only then saw Qin Fang and the others.

"Young Master Chen, long time no see..."

Qin Fang also approached with a smile on his face, surprisingly taking the initiative to greet the handsome guy and even reached out his hand.

"Long time no see! Young Master Qin..."

When Young Master Chen saw Qin Fang, his expression changed slightly, but he quickly regained his composure. Seeing Qin Fang come over, he courteously shook hands with Qin Fang, smiling as if the two were good friends...

In Ninghai, among the friends Qin Fang knew, there weren't many who were wealthy and powerful with the surname Chen. The only one he could recall was Chen Jiangnan, but clearly, Chen Jiangnan was not as wealthy as the person before him—after all, this person was Chen Weilian, the young head of Hanhai Group, a household name in both Ninghai and Jiangnan Province.

Qin Fang had thought of many ways to meet Chen Weilian again, but he had never imagined it would be under circumstances like these.

However, now that they had met, Qin Fang was not going to mind the method...

"Young Master Chen, what is this..."

Cao Pangzi felt even more that something was wrong. Initially, he had seen Qin Fang dressed simply, even calling it plain, and thought Qin Fang had no significant background.

But now he found that Chen Weilian, whom he regarded highly, was greeting Qin Fang as an equal, which utterly puzzled him, and quite obviously, he was baffled by the situation.

"Young Master Qin, since things have already happened, I won't shirk responsibility. Whatever you want to do is fine, I won't have any objections..."

Yet, Chen Weilian did not pay any attention to Cao Pangzi. Instead, he got straight to the point with Qin Fang, indicating that this matter had nothing to do with him, and whatever Qin Fang wanted to do with Cao Pangzi, he wouldn't object.

Cao Pangzi might be wealthy, and perhaps he's quite impressive in Hedong Province, but this isn't Hedong Province; it's Jiangnan Province, and even if he were a powerful dragon, he couldn't defeat Qin Fang, the local serpent.

Moreover, Cao Pangzi isn't really a powerful dragon...

"Young Master Chen..."

As soon as he heard Chen Weilian's words, Cao Pangzi's face turned pale in an instant, and so did Zhang Hui and Zhou Pei, who were standing next to him.

Zhou Pei, in particular, turned completely green... The reason he was so obsequious to Cao Pangzi was simply that Cao Pangzi was good friends with his immediate boss, and by keeping Cao Pangzi happy, he would have opportunities for promotion and wealth.

Although Young Master Chen wasn't his immediate boss, he was the boss of his boss's boss... Moreover, the villa complex where they were located was actually built by a subsidiary of the Hanhai Group.

But the present situation made it clear that Cao Pangzi had provoked someone he shouldn't have, implicating Zhou Pei as well...

With Chen Weilian's words, Cao Pangzi turned utterly green, and Zhou Pei also felt a strong sense of crisis, feeling that Qin Fang might strike him at any moment.

"Since Young Master Chen has spoken, naturally, I must give you this face..."

Looking at Chen Weilian, whose smile was very warm and appeared extremely gentle, he seemed like a thoroughly gentlemanly figure.

But only those who truly knew him understood that he was definitely the type to devour his prey whole... Looking at Cao Pangzi, one would realize that after discovering the conflict with Qin Fang, he did not hesitate to throw him to the wolves, leaving him for Qin Fang to deal with, even cutting off the partnership with Cao Pangzi forthwith.

Money can be gradually earned back after a loss...

Yet the incidents in Capital City had made Chen Weilian not dare to underestimate Qin Fang at all... The entire squad of the Remnant Wolf Mercenary Corps had been dispatched just to assassinate Qin Fang, yet Qin Fang still stood before him unharmed, whereas none of those mercenaries made it back alive.

Chen Weilian could foresee the fate of those mercenaries, with no chance of survival... As for whether Qin Fang knew that those mercenaries had been sent by him, Chen Weilian, that was something he couldn't ascertain.

From the current circumstances, Chen Weilian couldn't make out anything...

There had already been considerable friction between him and Qin Fang. Previously, Chen Weilian had used Fan Ning to deal with Qin Fang, nearly costing Qin Fang his life, and that's when their enmity was forged.

Being more cautious, Chen Weilian had gone to Little Island to lay low as Qin Fang, Tang Cheng, and Li Rui were all in a rage, only returning once things had calmed down...

"As you wish..."

After understanding the rough context of the situation, Chen Weilian had made his judgment.

Chen Weilian could recognize Tang Feifei, and naturally, he also recognized why Cao Pangzi had developed a grudge with Qin Fang.

He felt no sympathy for Cao Pangzi; what a lack of foresight, after all. There are plenty of beautiful women out there, and with Cao Pangzi's hands burning with excessive money, why would he harass Tang Feifei of all people?

Now he had reaped the consequences. It wasn't just that Qin Fang wouldn't let Tang Feifei off the hook; by taking up this battle, he wasn't only offending Tang Feifei but also implicating Tang Cheng and, possibly, Governor Tang...

Such folly was beyond what Chen Weilian would ever do.

Thus, it was destined that Cao Pangzi would undoubtedly end up as a tragic figure!

"President Cao, it seems your backup isn't reliable... Since even Young Master Chen has said so, I won't hold back!"

No matter what Chen Weilian was thinking, Qin Fang wouldn't let Cao Pangzi off easily. Adding to Qin Fang's intention to test the limits of Chen Weilian, he chuckled and moved slightly, instantly appearing in front of Cao Pangzi.

Before Cao Pangzi could react in any way, Qin Fang's fist swiftly struck...

Crack, crack~~

With two easy punches to the knees, Cao Pangzi's legs twisted immediately into a strange angle...

In addition, with a punch to Cao Pangzi's lower abdomen, Qin Fang used his inner strength to rupture all the meridians connected to Cao Pangzi's offspring...

Chapter 892 - Another Slap!

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Qin Fang's strike was incredibly fast. It wasn't until he had stepped back to his original position that Cao Pangzi felt something was amiss...

His legs went slightly limp, and he collapsed completely, his calves seemingly losing all connection with his thighs, twisting grotesquely.

As for the lower abdomen area, Cao Pangzi's sensation was not as clear—after all, Qin Fang had used concealed energy to break his meridians, leaving no visible scars.

Ah~~~

Yet even so, having both legs brutally broken, the intense pain made him let out a deafening scream...

The agonized cry that burst forth even caused Chen Weilian, who had intended to stay out of the matter, to change color. Looking at those distorted legs, it seemed unlikely that they would completely heal without great difficulty, and it was highly probable that there would be lingering complications... perhaps even disability!

Seeing how ruthlessly Qin Fang had acted, Chen Weilian was also taken aback, but he had already said that he wouldn't intervene, so it wouldn't do for him to go back on his word now. He could only turn his head aside, trying his best not to meet Cao Pangzi's gaze...

Of course, beneath his slightly sullen eyes, one could discern the displeasure in his heart.

"Young Master Chen... I've gotten my revenge. Since he's your friend, I won't trouble him further. You take him away!"

Qin Fang had been paying attention to Chen Weilian's expressions and demeanor all along, easily capturing his reactions... There was something odd in his gaze as well.

Chen Weilian, a man capable of contending with Tang Cheng and Li Rui, endured such a blatant slap in the face from Qin Fang. He was definitely not to be underestimated, and Qin Fang became even more cautious inwardly.

However, Qin Fang and Chen Weilian couldn't possibly become friends. There was no point in deliberately making connections; not only was Qin Fang unwilling to accept Chen Weilian, but Chen Weilian was also unwilling to accept Qin Fang.

Cao Pangzi's limbs had been completely crippled by Qin Fang. They might still be reattached, but Qin Fang had precisely calibrated his strike. It was impossible for there to be no lasting damage... It was estimated that it wouldn't take long before Cao Pangzi's hatred for Qin Fang would become so deep that he would wish to flay him alive!

But Qin Fang himself didn't care about the likes of Cao Pangzi, a nouveau riche. He did have money, but in the end, he was just a nouveau riche. Even if he thought of hiring assassins, he could only think of third-rate ones like "Ghost Shadow"...

This was the thought that Qin Fang understood from Cao Pangzi's heart, and since he had struck such a ruthless blow, he naturally had to be wary of Cao Pangzi...

At the same time, Qin Fang had unexpectedly discovered a bit of Cao Pangzi's thoughts and attitude towards Chen Weilian. Clearly, Cao Pangzi was extremely dissatisfied with Chen Weilian's lack of assistance and saw Chen Weilian as an enemy on par with Qin Fang...

A rift between Cao Pangzi and Chen Weilian thus formed, fulfilling Qin Fang's objective. Once such a rift was created, Qin Fang could exploit it and properly deal with Chen Weilian.

"Then thank you..."

Upon hearing Qin Fang's words, Chen Weilian's face also appeared somewhat displeased. It was another slap to his face from Qin Fang, and even with the best self-restraint, it was impossible not to feel some anger—yet he restrained himself from losing his temper.

"Young Master Qin, Miss Tang, if there's nothing else, I have some official duties to attend to..."

After such a slap in the face, Chen Weilian couldn't possibly stay any longer. He promptly said goodbye to Qin Fang and Tang Feifei, having no intention to linger.

"Young Master Chen is a busy man. Of course, we mustn't hold you up. Please, feel free to leave..."

Qin Fang also took the opportunity to end things on a good note, seeing no need to enter into a direct conflict with Chen Weilian at the moment. With a smile on his face, he expressed himself with indifferent politeness.

"Manager Zhou, I leave this place in your hands. If Young Master Qin and Miss Tang aren't satisfied, you need not come in tomorrow! Excuse me..."

Chen Weilian glanced at Zhou Pei, who had a swollen face, and spoke quite sternly, indicating he was already aware of the cause of the incident, which indeed had a lot to do with Zhou Pei. However, having lost face already today and considering that Zhou Pei was his subordinate, Chen Weilian couldn't be too direct with him.

As Zhou Pei nodded fervently and assured his care, Chen Weilian spoke politely and immediately led his people toward the office area of the sales center.

He also instructed a few men to carry Cao Pangzi out, sending him straight to the hospital... After all, such injuries required prompt medical attention; delaying treatment could easily lead to complete debilitation.

Face had already been lost, and if Cao Pangzi also suffered further issues, it would be quite adverse for his upcoming plans...

"Young Master Qin..."

With that, Chen Weilian left, and at that moment, Zhou Pei squeezed out an awkward smile on his bruised face and approached, the distorted attempt at friendliness making his appearance even weirder.

"Qin Fang, let's just leave it. Let's go somewhere else..."

Before Qin Fang could speak up, it was Tang Feifei who immediately chimed in.

She didn't have a good impression of this Zhou Pei. Given that Zhou Pei was a classmate of Su Yuan, even if he didn't help them, at least he should have maintained a neutral stance—they could have reluctantly understood his plight...

But Zhou Pei hadn't done so. He firmly sided with Cao Pangzi, colluding and abetting. They almost suffered because of it, which was somewhat related to him.

"Yeah, let's go somewhere else. It's not like Ninghai's villas are only found here..."

Xiao Muxue and Wen Yan, who always looked up to Tang Feifei as the legitimate wife, immediately echoed in agreement.

Only Su Yuan looked unhappy, seemingly hesitant, opening her mouth as if wanting to say something but ultimately couldn't—the disappointment she felt toward Zhou Pei was too profound.

"Su Yuan junior sister..."

However, her hesitant expression, as seen by Zhou Pei, seemed like a glimmer of hope, as he immediately put on a very pitiful face and called out to Su Yuan.

"Let's go..."

But his plea evidently couldn't save him; instead, it made Su Yuan make up her mind as she sighed softly.

Zhou Pei once held a rather decent moral character in Su Yuan's heart, or else she wouldn't have proactively brought Tang Feifei and the others here to buy houses. But the Zhou Pei of today was completely different from the Zhou Pei back in school. Society had changed him a lot.

This kind of change couldn't be said to be wrong, it's just that this time Zhou Pei had not chosen his side wisely...

"I'll listen to you guys, let's go..."

Of course, Qin Fang didn't have any objections. He immediately went out of the sales office with the ladies, preparing to check out other places...

Moreover, this villa community belonged to Hanhai Group. If they really bought a house here, not only would it mean financially supporting the enemy, but there was also no guarantee that Chen Weilian wouldn't make some arrangements against him or the women around him... This could be quite adverse for Qin Fang.

Thus, Qin Fang and his companions left. Despite the unpleasant incident, at least Tang Feifei and the others did not suffer any loss, especially since Qin Fang had defended them so fiercely. They didn't blame Qin Fang for being too harsh; instead, they felt that he was being considerate toward them...

But no sooner had they left, the staffs' view of Zhou Pei at the sales office changed. They looked at him as if he were just a passerby, not the once highly-regarded manager...

Having made a mistake, one naturally has to pay the price. For Zhou Pei though, the cost seemed too high, as he was suddenly stripped of his lucrative job. Moreover, he also had to worry about possible retaliation from Cao Pangzi, Chen Weilian, and others...

And the mistress Zhang Hui, who had been so arrogantly domineering before, now seemed like an unnoticed wildflower, with no one paying any attention to her presence...

Her man, Cao Pangzi, had been crippled by Qin Fang and sent straight to the hospital. The severity of his fate terrified her, and her legs were still trembling even now.

Her adversary Su Yuan, however, did not bother to acknowledge her presence at all and left with Qin Fang and the others. If their personalities were switched, she would have likely humiliated Zhang Hui without hesitation. But this disregard seemed to distress Zhang Hui even more than direct humiliation...

And as for Zhou Pei, who had always been fawning over her, he lost his job as well. The look of defeat on his face seemed to have aged him by several years in an instant...

The saleswomen at the sales office looked at her with eyes full of irony and ridicule, subsequently choosing to ignore her...

Why? Because Cao Pangzi was in the hospital, and without him, what money would Zhang Hui have to buy a villa? Without money, who would pay her heed?

In this way, it seemed as if the matter had concluded, a mere trifle in Qin Fang's experiences... but for many others, it had a significant impact.

But Qin Fang didn't think the affair was over.

On the contrary, he felt that it had just begun. He believed that it wouldn't be long before he ran into Chen Weilian and Cao Pangzi again... and it wouldn't take long at all.

After all, he had unexpectedly learned of Chen Weilian and Cao Pangzi's collaborative plan. If he didn't make good use of it, it wouldn't be easy to bring Chen Weilian down.

While heading to another villa community sales office, Qin Fang was driving with Tang Feifei, and Shen Liang was driving the other women.

One occurrence of such an event was enough. He didn't want something like this to happen again, causing Tang Feifei and the others to suffer... If Shen Liang had been there today, they wouldn't have been scared like that.

"Qin Fang, did you do this on purpose?"

While they were on the road, the otherwise silent Tang Feifei suddenly asked a question.

Chapter 893 - The Cleanup Mission of the Assassin's Alliance

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Qin Fang was slightly taken aback by the suddenness of the question.

"Yes, it was intentional..."

However, Qin Fang didn't hide anything and nodded straightforwardly, admitting to it.

Tang Feifei seldom meddled in Qin Fang's affairs outside and rarely inquired about them...

Her character was inherently calm and detached, not particularly concerned with such matters. As the little princess of the Tang Family, the Tang family members had always hoped to keep her away from these complicated issues.

Even regarding her marriage, Old Master Tang had from the beginning given her the freedom to choose rather than an arranged political marriage that would be more advantageous for the Tang Family...

Of course, in the case of Qin Fang and Tang Feifei's marriage, Old Master Tang had never objected. Now that he was aware of Qin Fang's background, he would be even less likely to oppose it, and in fact, was quite in favor of it.

Indifference didn't mean she was utterly oblivious. Born into such a family, she would certainly be privy to many things, regardless of how much the Tang Family wanted to protect her; it was impossible not to have any exposure at all.

She used not to question Qin Fang about these matters, knowing that he could handle them and that with the backing of the Tang Family's name, Qin Fang would not be at a disadvantage.

But this time she asked because she felt there was something unusual about this matter... She was Qin Fang's woman, supportive of all his endeavours, and naturally she was also concerned for his safety.

"Don't worry, Feifei... I can handle these things!"

Touched by Tang Feifei's concern, Qin Fang gently patted her thigh to comfort her...

"I'm driving, don't move about!"

Yet, such an affectionate gesture seemed a bit too intimate, causing Tang Feifei to blush and she slapped away Qin Fang's hand, chastising him.

"Er..."

Qin Fang was taken aback for a moment but then smiled meaningfully and looked at Tang Feifei, "Feifei, we've been husband and wife for a good while, this isn't too excessive, is it...?"

"Pah, who is your husband or wife? Have some shame... I haven't settled the account with you about Sister Chu, and you dare to play the hooligan with me..."

Tang Feifei gave Qin Fang a scornful look, her attitude incredibly alluring, yet her words sent a chill down Qin Fang's spine.

"Sister Chu" might be a light euphemism, its meaning quite ambiguous, referring either to Chu Yunxuan who had already become Qin Fang's woman or to Chu Qianqian whom Elder Chu had decided for Qin Fang...

But Qin Fang knew very well that Tang Feifei was referring to Chu Yunxuan, because although Chu Qianqian had been promised to him by Elder Chu, she herself was not willing.

"Alright, I'm not blaming you, but if such a thing happens again in the future, you must tell me honestly... I don't want to be constantly worried about you!"

Noticing the change in Qin Fang, Tang Feifei leaned closer tenderly and spoke gently. Although it was somewhat bitter for her, she understood that it was inevitable...

And Qin Fang's love for her was endless, just like the events of today. Qin Fang claimed he had been deliberately harsh, but wasn't it all for the sake of avenging her, Tang Feifei?

For this reason alone, she, Tang Feifei, had not chosen the wrong person...

Stirred by this incident, Tang Feifei and the others seemed to have lost interest, visiting another villa complex and personally inspecting several villas, but none seemed to satisfy them. As the evening approached without finding a suitable house, they decided to call it off.

Fortunately, buying a house wasn't like buying vegetables, a decision you could make after just a glance. One would have to be even more selective than for a regular apartment, let alone a villa...

Although Qin Fang wasn't short of money, he didn't want to make a hasty decision he would regret later.

In the end, Qin Fang decided to leave the decision up to Tang Feifei, letting the other women help with suggestions; he was too busy and no longer concerned himself with the matter, especially since he had suddenly received a mission.

This task wasn't from the System but from the Assassin's Alliance...

"Clean-up mission!"

After opening the laptop that had been gathering dust for some days, Qin Fang looked at the mission email in his inbox, his expression was rather calm.

It was a clean-up mission, not very difficult, only rated three-star, with a measly score of 30 points... However, compared to Qin Fang's nearly depleted mission points, 30 points was quite a considerable income.

Clean-up missions are equivalent to system tasks within the Assassin's Alliance, indiscriminate tasks without level requirements for the assassins who undertake them. As long as you receive the email, you can accept the mission.

However, these types of clean-up tasks do not pay a penny, but the points are doubled. A normal three-star task yields only 15 points, but this one has 30 points, making it equivalent to two three-star tasks...

The only thing was that three-star tasks could be somewhat troublesome. Missions are assigned based on the target's range of activity, automatically sending emails to assassins registered within this range. So, by the time Qin Fang saw this email, it was likely that many other assassins had seen it too...

That is to say, this mission was not exclusive to Qin Fang; other assassins who saw the mission email could also undertake it.

Whoever ultimately completes the mission would earn those 30 points.

Of course, the areas where the target was active included cities like Ninghai, Yangcheng, and Jiangbian within Jiangnan Province of Dragon Country. Although there were many assassins registered with the Assassin's Alliance, there probably were not too many within such a range. Qin Fang figured two or three would be quite a lot.

So in that sense, Qin Fang didn't face much competition...

Mission Target: Sinan, male, 37 years old, a person from Dragon Country, who used to be a three-star assassin. Later he switched to being a black market arms dealer affiliated with the Assassin's Alliance, but now he has defected from the Alliance for unknown reasons.

According to the information, Sinan's hometown is Yangcheng of Jiangnan Province. He has no direct close relatives left, only a cousin living in Jiangbian City across from Yangcheng, and his last sighting was in Yangcheng three days ago, which seemed to be for a family tomb visiting...

The information provided wasn't extensive. If you want to know more, sorry, please use assassin points to purchase further details, which isn't expensive, just 5 points.

Five points may not seem like much, but for a one-star assassin like Qin Fang, completing a one-star mission only earns 1 point, and upgrading to two-star requires 5 points, which means he needs to complete five missions to move up a rank...

And to climb to three-star requires 50 points, four-star needs 500 points... and so on. To reach the pinnacle as King of Assassins, Qin Fang would definitely have to undertake an absurd number of missions to accumulate enough points.

Of course, the higher the star level, the greater the authority, and the difficulty of the missions also increases gradually, along with the mission points.

One-star missions yield 1 point, two-star give 5 points, three-star afford 15 points... these are all rules set by the assassin trading platform.

To level up quickly and gain more points, undertaking these level-unrestricted tasks is the best way... one mission alone is worth 30 points, propelling him directly to a two-star assassin, and with a little more effort, he could easily step into the ranks of three-star assassins.

Only those above three-star assassin are truly the core members of the Assassin's Alliance; one-star and two-star are merely the training phase, mostly cannon fodder. Many assassins who just start out are swiftly eliminated...

Of course, being eliminated means death... Either die during a mission, or be purged by the Assassin's Alliance.

Therefore, the assassin profession is highly competitive; if you don't advance, there's only one outcome—death!

Certainly, Qin Fang didn't want to reach that point. His points were at the brink of the limitation period, and just when he was planning to find a mission to complete, like a pie falling from the sky, this substantial gift arrived.

But this gift was not so easy to claim. This mission was rated as a three-star task not just because the target used to be a three-star assassin, but also considering the level of difficulty involved... Moreover, it was very possible that someone else might try to snatch it or even cause trouble.

Qin Fang wasn't too worried about the difficulty, but the real trouble was the lack of information at hand.

"Looks like I need to make a trip to Yangcheng..."

This scant information mentioned that the target Sinan had been seen in Yangcheng three days prior, and the potential places he could appear were Yangcheng, Jiangbian, and Ninghai. While the range was extensive, considering the generous reward of the mission, Qin Fang also had to approach with caution.

Almost immediately after receiving this clean-up mission, Qin Fang made a quick call to Tang Feifei and the others and rented a car to head to Yangcheng.

The reason he used a car instead of other means and had to rent one was for the sake of safety. The profession of an assassin is fated to move in the shadows, unseen, and once identity information is leaked, it could lead to very dangerous situations...

For professional reasons, Qin Fang deliberately had various fake identities created, and he used different appearances for each, making it nearly impossible to connect these completely different personas to one person...

For instance, the identity Qin Fang was currently using was that of a chef in his thirties who had worked in a restaurant in Ninghai, and who was originally from Yangcheng. He was supposedly planning a trip to visit relatives in Yangcheng...

As for his so-called relatives, they had moved away over a decade ago, and it was unlikely to find them. However, no one could debunk this identity he was using.

Chapter 894 - Assassin Girl

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Sinan was a lean man of honest appearance, utterly ordinary-looking with a face that would be lost in a crowd, impossible to pick out.

Such a person was most suited for the assassin's trade – too ordinary to attract attention, thereby making concealment convenient.

Yet those who knew him understood that this seemingly trustworthy fellow was in fact quite formidable; anyone who underestimated him would end up miserably, brutally outsmarted...

He had once been an outstanding soldier, and had he been willing to stay in the military, he would be at least a senior officer by now.

Instead, he had left the service to become an assassin, and in just two short years, he had risen to the rank of a Three-star Assassin. Although this ascension seemed slow, it was an insurmountable feat for many green One-star and Two-star Assassins...

Having lingered at the Three-star level for a while, he chose not to continue down the assassin's path but instead became a weapons dealer affiliated with the Assassin's Alliance, shifting to selling arms and intelligence.

This transformation was extraordinary, one that very few assassins could handle, or rather, were capable of handling at all.

Most assassins tired of the trade would prefer to retire outright, living out their "later years" in leisure and comfort, or grooming their disciples to take over...

Becoming an arms dealer required more than just physical skill and strength but also a strong network... While the Assassin's Alliance could supply the arms, selling them was a formidable task.

Typical powers had their own arms suppliers, and overstepping bounds was a serious taboo – a misstep could lead rivals to hire an assassin to kill you...

Such incidents were common; assassins were said to have a high turnover, but the turnover among arms dealers was also significant, and even an Assassin's Alliance-affiliated dealer like Sinan was merely one with a prestigious label... But really, how many arms dealers operated without the backing of a powerful entity?

This time, however, Sinan had unknowingly committed some deed that incited the wrath of the Assassin's Alliance, prompting them to issue a sweeping order for his elimination.

In Yangcheng, inside an ordinary apartment in a residential complex.

"To sweep me? It won't be that easy..."

Sinan sat on the sofa, calmly savoring the wine in his glass, his demeanor unusually composed, without excessive worry.

Having served many years as an assassin in the Assassin's Alliance and then as an arms dealer, he naturally had his own connections within the organization; he received word of the sweeping order virtually the moment it was issued.

He even knew that his address had been sent to the assassins tasked with the mission, yet he did not hurry to leave Yangcheng.

Compared to a large city like Ninghai, although Yangcheng was also a prefecture-level city, its urban area was significantly smaller – driving around the city wouldn't take more than an hour or two at most.

But for those assassins coming to eliminate him, locating him within this range was no easy task...

Of course, it was impossible for him to hide indefinitely; knowing his range of activity, the Assassin's Alliance was also aware of what had led to his defection, and he had to complete certain tasks – otherwise, the Alliance wouldn't be the only ones after him!

"Three assassins! One Three-star, one Two-star, and one One-star... Wonder which of them will be unlucky... or perhaps all three will suffer!"

Clearly, Sinan had access to a wealth of information, even down to the exact numbers and rankings of the Alliance-registered assassins within the vicinity.

Qin Fang was undoubtedly the lowest One-star Assassin of those mentioned...

After altering his appearance, Qin Fang, driving a rented car, left Ninghai and successfully arrived at his destination, Yangcheng, where he checked into the most luxurious hotel in the area.

Although the Assassin's Alliance was scrimpy with the details, they had indicated that Sinan was a man who valued the quality of his personal life – this was true both during his time as an assassin and later as an arms dealer...

Given the proclivities of such a man, it was likely that upon appearing in Yangcheng, he would choose to reside in a high-end hotel, and Qin Fang checking in was wholly a shot in the dark.

In fact, not only Sinan but most other assassins and mercenaries shared this trait – they earned quite a sum of money, though most of it was spent on indulgences.

They lived life on the edge, never sure if they'd be killed the next day... And their money always came with strings attached, and even if laundered, it was usually stored anonymously; should they be killed, the funds would turn into unclaimed accounts, eventually lining the pockets of banks or the forces that had backed them.

Qin Fang's current identity was a chef, who by rights shouldn't be able to afford such extravagant accommodations, but Yangcheng was a small city after all, with its best hotel being Four-star at most. Since he wasn't staying in the presidential suite, it wasn't that outrageous...

Moreover, Qin Fang had chosen to do this deliberately.

Since the information I've got is scant, fishing in the sea, I might as well shake the grass to scare the snake and lure it out of its hole.

The snake I need to lure isn't just the target Sinan, but also possibly assassins from the Assassin's Alliance who may be competing for the same business.

With so few points, I'm unable to purchase more effective information. However, if I come across a colleague, Qin Fang can completely track this colleague and thereby locate Sinan.

Then...

It goes without saying that I'd unapologetically snatch the business from this colleague.

In Qin Fang's words—

"I am preemptively resolving a crisis for a colleague!"

Sinan is an arms dealer and in his own right a strong Three-Star Assassin. Even if these folk quit the assassin trade, he has certainly not ceased killing people.

Having thrived for so many years, he must be quite formidable. It would be a grave mistake to perceive him as a virtuous man or a woman of faith.

For a Three-Star task, even if it's a cleaning operation and the points are doubled, it's still only 30 points at best. It's generally difficult to attract Four-Star Assassins to undertake the task, thus Qin Fang estimates that the strongest competitor this time is likely just a Three-Star Assassin. Their ability might be strong, but it might not be too overwhelming.

Regardless, Qin Fang is determined to snatch this task.

The Yangcheng Hotel where Qin Fang is staying is said to be the best hotel in Yangcheng. Although the hotel only has a Four-Star Level, all the facilities and equipment are configured to Five-Star Level standards.

Yangcheng Hotel has thirty floors and was once the tallest building in Yangcheng. Even now, after the city's development, it still ranks in the top ten high-rises.

The top floor naturally features the most luxurious presidential suites. A single floor houses only two suites, each as large as four or five ordinary suites below.

When Qin Fang checked in, he had inquired incidentally. Unfortunately, both presidential suites had been booked just two hours before his arrival.

When he heard the news, Qin Fang felt somewhat frustrated. He had seen the task email last night and almost immediately prepared to rush to Yangcheng in the early morning, yet he was still a little too late.

Qin Fang vaguely felt it was too much of a coincidence; he even suspected that the guests who booked the two rooms might be one of the snakes he wanted to lure...

Of course, this is purely speculative and without any factual basis. Qin Fang must meet these two individuals to confirm his suspicions.

Scouting Skill has such advantages; it can easily discern one's true identity... even if someone, like Qin Fang, used a pseudonym or false identity, he could easily see through it.

As long as he confirms that either of these two people is his colleague, Qin Fang can follow the vine to find the melon, thereby locating Sinan.

Colleagues will certainly have more detailed information about Sinan. 5 points is an impossible sum for a One-Star Assassin, but any Two-Star Assassin or above can afford to spend that many points on information.

Although Qin Fang can't directly extract the information he wants from his colleague's mind, following behind them like a mantis stalking the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind, is also a good strategy.

Perhaps this method is somewhat underhanded, but for such a substantial sum of points, Qin Fang can only take on this potentially stigmatizing name.

Qin Fang didn't manage to stay in the presidential suite... not that he intended to, but he still stayed in a luxury business room on the twenty-ninth floor. It was only one floor below the top, not too difficult to keep an eye on things.

There were two elevators for moving between floors, both situated very close to the room where Qin Fang stayed. To see who was living in the presidential suite upstairs, one simply had to check the elevator...

Qin Fang could also plan a deliberate "chance encounter."

It must be said, Qin Fang's luck is indeed not bad at all. He had just settled his so-called luggage and was planning to inquire about the situation in the lobby when, by chance, the elevator from the top 30th floor happened to come down. Qin Fang quickly hastened his steps, ready for the "chance encounter."

Ding~

When the elevator reached the 29th floor, along with such a ding, the elevator doors opened, and Qin Fang immediately stepped inside.

There were two women in the elevator, one dressed in the hotel uniform, obviously a hotel staff member, while the other was a beautiful young woman with delicate skin, wearing black sunglasses and an open red down jacket, revealing a black sweater underneath that hinted at her ample and firm assets. She wore black tights with a black short skirt and a pair of high heels, exuding a quite chilly aura.

Such a look generally gave off the impression of a rich family's young lady... and it was unlikely for anyone to associate her with an assassin.

Chapter 895 - The Atypical Beautiful Assassin

...

From her appearance, the girl in front of Qin Fang was dressed quite fashionably and lived in the penthouse presidential suite. She was either a rich girl with money to burn or a mistress being kept by someone.

However, there was no sight of any rich man keeping her, and the temperament on her face didn't quite match that of a woman who would be a mistress...

But these were merely external images shown by her appearance. When Qin Fang couldn't resist using a Scouting Skill on her, the feedback he received also made his eyes light up slightly.

He had considered the possibility of encountering a colleague, but he never expected to hit the nail on the head and with such precision...

This attractive girl who looked like a rich young lady was hiding the identity of an Assassin beneath her beautiful facade...

It wasn't surprising for a woman to be an Assassin. Even within the Assassin's Alliance, there were quite a few beautiful female Assassins because the more beautiful a woman is, the better she becomes at bewildering people, always concealing a ruthless heart beneath that lovely face.

Qin Fang even knew that some assassin organizations specially selected beautiful women and trained them to become fearsome Assassins...

But those were all things Qin Fang had heard about, and the first real female Assassin he encountered was this pretty, cute young woman in front of him.

The beauty was very young, around the same age as Qin Fang by the looks of it, probably about twenty years old... Most girls of this age would be in school, but the one before him had already embarked on such a difficult and dangerous path of no return.

Name unknown, LV5, Assassin, Specialties: Shooting, Tracking, Stealth, Assassination...

As Qin Fang sized up the girl, the information he got from the Scouting Skill wasn't much, and it was also quite vague, which slightly surprised him.

Ever since his Scouting Skill was upgraded to Advanced, it was rare to encounter a situation where the information obtained was so limited...

"Is this a limitation of the System, or does this girl have something on her that's concealing some information?"

Faced with this situation, Qin Fang couldn't help but frown slightly, pondering the reason behind it.

If it was a System-imposed limitation, then Qin Fang would have to do thorough preparatory work before carrying out future missions.

But if something was concealing the information, Qin Fang was interested in that thing... So far, only when he had encountered Ninja's stealth techniques had the Scouting Skill shown a similar situation. Currently, he was busy hastening the growth of Qin Zi, the future Valkyrie, and also preparing to better counter the threat from the Ninjas.

Whether that thing hiding personal information was unique or could be mass-produced, Qin Fang had to investigate thoroughly, at least not to be caught off guard when he truly encountered it.

But just by looking with his eyes, Qin Fang couldn't possibly guess what item on the girl was concealing the scouting information.

Was it the pair of pretty diamond earrings?

Or that pure silver necklace?

Or perhaps the delicate platinum ring on her finger?

Of course, it's more likely that the item was hidden even more secretly... that was something Qin Fang had no way of knowing.

As Qin Fang thought, his gaze was fixated on the girl beside him, especially as he got so engrossed, his eyes started to go a bit blank, giving the impression that he was staring straight at the girl.

Assassins are particularly sensitive to all kinds of gazes, especially a young girl having an Uncle staring straight at her, almost drooling. Her reaction was inevitably a bit unnatural, and her delicate eyebrows couldn't help but bend slightly.

Ding~~

Luckily, the elevator had gone from the top floor to the ground floor in that while, and the crisp sound brought Qin Fang back to reality from his reverie.

"Hmph..."

The girl glared fiercely at Qin Fang and then quickly stepped out of the elevator, swinging the large bag in her hand.

This was a very common gesture for a woman, only the timing she chose was rather interesting. Just as Qin Fang was about to follow her out of the elevator, the girl's bag swung over, nearly striking Qin Fang across the face with it...

With Qin Fang's capabilities, such an attack was naturally bound to fail; he only needed to slightly shift his angle to easily avoid it.

But considering that he was just an ordinary chef at the moment, not a formidable Assassin, there was no need to show off too much strength, as that might put the female Assassin on her guard, which wouldn't be good.

However, it was obvious the girl was just teasing Qin Fang a bit and didn't really intend to hit him; her bag only brought a breeze across Qin Fang's cheek without actually touching him.

Hearing the girl's cold snort, Qin Fang couldn't help but give a wry smile, clearly, this lovely colleague of his wasn't in the best of tempers either.

Of course, Assassins with too good a temperament or too kind a heart wouldn't survive long.

Qin Fang was originally worried about how to find Sinan's whereabouts, and tracking his own kind seemed to be the simplest and most convenient method. Before, he had to wait for his colleague to show up, but now there was no need, because this departing girl was just the one...

Chapter 896 - Atypical Beautiful Assassin_2

Qin Fang had no intention of continuing to wait and instead felt that following this girl out, with his skills, it wouldn't be easy for him to be shaken off.

When the girl left the hotel, she didn't drive her red Porsche sports car but hailed a taxi and left the hotel...

The reason Qin Fang knew she owned a Porsche was because he accidentally heard the doorman muttering to himself when they went out.

Having a car but not driving it, choosing instead to take a taxi, clearly indicated there was a problem...

Without any hesitation, Qin Fang immediately hailed a taxi and followed the one the girl was in, with one leading the other towards the center of Yangcheng City.

"Could it be that Sinan is living in the city center?"

This suspicion popped up in Qin Fang's mind.

Yangcheng was not like Ninghai, it was just a small city. Although the downtown area was quite busy during weekends and holidays, the flow of people simply couldn't compare with Ninghai.

With Sinan's special status, the Assassin's Alliance had already issued a clean-up mission. If he was bold enough to show up openly, it would be the epitome of recklessness; with a larger crowd, there might be a possibility...

But now it wasn't the weekend, nor a holiday, and the city center wasn't that crowded. Sinan would likely be spotted easily... Having managed to stay alive and blend in so well until now, this person was definitely not stupid and wouldn't make such a foolish move.

However, Qin Fang had too little information and could only focus on this girl. Since she had gone to the city center, Qin Fang naturally could only honestly follow her.

The girl got off the taxi in the city center and immediately quickly entered a pedestrian street next to her, and directly went into one of the branded clothing stores.

"Does she have a contact here? Or is this a secret black market hideout?"

Seeing the girl's decisive manner, such doubts arose in Qin Fang's heart. He immediately paid the cab fare, got out of the taxi, and cautiously approached the store.

"Ugh... no way!"

But when Qin Fang approached cautiously and peered inside, lo and behold... the girl was picking out clothes.

There was indeed another girl talking to her, but it was not any clandestine whispering; she was simply explaining the details of the clothing item in the assassin girl's hands.

Eventually, the assassin girl decided against the piece of clothing. After browsing the shop without finding anything else suitable, she immediately left the store and made her way to the next shop.

For the next full two hours, from morning until lunchtime, the assassin girl kept flitting from one store to another on the pedestrian street, while Qin Fang trailed miserably behind her. Even though he had changed his appearance several times, Qin Fang still couldn't help but complain.

"Damn it... Are you kidding me?"

Qin Fang suddenly felt this woman was definitely a bona fide madwoman. She was supposed to be here on a clean-up mission, yet instead of searching for the target Sinan, she came shopping...

Yangcheng was merely a small city and couldn't even compare with Ninghai, not to mention super cities like Capital City, Jiangzhou, Guangfeng, Shenzhou... And those world-famous cities abroad were even further off.

And looking at what she was buying – either very cute plush toys or those clearly worthless A-grade jade pieces that even novice shoppers unfamiliar with the trade could get duped into buying by the sellers.

Qin Fang had secretly monitored her for such a long time without any findings, feeling instead as if he had been played by this beauty.

Qin Fang couldn't help but laugh and cry at the sight of her delighted expression—it didn't seem feigned at all...

Thinking back to the events that just unfolded, when the beauty entered a lingerie shop, Qin Fang naturally followed. The result was that the female customers in the shop all looked at him with a very peculiar gaze... Despite not being in his own true appearance, and therefore having a rather thick skin, he still felt creeped out by their stares and ultimately had no choice but to retreat in defeat.

Lunchtime arrived, and Qin Fang's stomach was starting to growl with hunger, yet the girl didn't seem satisfied and remained energetic, as if she wanted to continue shopping, making Qin Fang so frustrated that he wanted to rush over and give her a beating, to remind her that business matters were more pressing...

However, he reminded himself that he was here to usurp the girl's business. Forcing her to work and then taking over surely wouldn't be reasonable.

Fortunately, things finally turned around because the girl suddenly received a phone call, which prompted her to leave the pedestrian street and head to a high-class Western restaurant in the downtown area...

"Finally free!"

Watching the girl enter the Western restaurant and seemingly preparing to dine with someone, Qin Fang had an inkling that they were finally getting to the heart of the matter, considering her identity. He followed her in and chose a spot not too far from her...

Of course, Qin Fang couldn't possibly show his face as the cook; he'd already given a bad first impression to the girl, who seemed to peg him as a lecherous uncle. If he showed up with that face again, he was likely asking for a beating!

No sooner had Qin Fang settled into his seat than he placed himself right behind the girl, his angle just perfect to see her back.

"Xiao Xiao..."

The girl had just sat down when a young man with a smile on his face walked over and politely called out to her.

"Cousin, you're here, sit down..."

The girl didn't stand up. Calmly, she gestured with her hand to the seat opposite her and spoke in a tone that was flat yet very pleasant to the ear.

What caught Qin Fang's attention, however, wasn't this interaction. He recognized the man who had just sat down...

"His name is... Sun Shu, yes, Sun Shu, Li Yao's boyfriend..."

Qin Fang remembered the man vaguely; after thinking carefully, wasn't this the very man sitting in front of the girl, his high school classmate, Tang Feifei's close friend Li Yao's boyfriend?

Back at the Baiyu Lake Resort get-together, he and Qin Fang had hit it off quite well, even though Qin Fang knew he might not have a simple background, he was nothing like the arrogant Li Feng, and was quite amiable...

When the dinner ended and they parted ways, Sun Shu had even invited Qin Fang and Tang Feifei to hit him up when they were in Yangcheng and had left his contact information... It's just that the invitation seemed casual due to the passage of time, and lacking confidence at the time, Qin Fang assumed Sun Shu was just being polite like others and didn't pay it much mind.

But who would have thought that his luck would be this good? Coming to Yangcheng for the first time for a cleansing mission, he encountered a beautiful assassin, and this assassin somehow had a connection with Sun Shu...

"Cousin?"

Upon hearing the girl address Sun Shu, Qin Fang was slightly stunned. Were these two actually relatives, or perhaps distant ones?

It was hard to say. Most assassins possess fake identities and, for some mission requirements, might even become their target's distant relatives out of the blue.

As for the current situation, Qin Fang didn't dare to conjecture wildly. He simply dealt with his own food while eavesdropping on the conversation between the girl and Sun Shu nearby... He was really hoping the content of their conversation would help him solve the real issue at hand.

After all, during a mission, assassins usually try to interact as much as possible with people they know to ensure their identities are not compromised. The scene unfolding before him could very well have a reason...

Chapter 897 - The Secret Battle between the Male and Female Assassin

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However, Qin Fang soon realized he had thought too simplistically again; this beautiful assassin named Xiao Xiao was truly an unorthodox, atypical assassin, drastically different from the usual.

"Xiao Xiao, since you're back, shouldn't you visit home? Your mom misses you a lot..."

Sun Shu sat down, not in a hurry to order food, but queried in a quite amiable and sincere manner, and even his words carried a hint of pleading.

Indeed, once he said this, Qin Fang was immediately rendered speechless... he even faintly felt that he might have targeted the wrong person.

The profession of this beauty was indeed that of an assassin, but it seemed she had just come home to visit family, not specifically for a mission.

Although the Assassin's Alliance assigned cleaning missions based on the operating regions of the assassins, generally assassins wouldn't take on missions in their hometowns—it was too risky as enemies could easily target them, and one misstep could endanger their entire family...

Of course, most assassins are lone individuals with no family attachments; those who had families were mostly retired or semi-retired and generally would not take on missions anymore.

Yet, this girl was an exception; it seemed her family was still around, which made it even more unlikely that she had come specifically for this mission. Even to avoid suspicion, a typical assassin might forgo such a high-point cleaning mission.

Points and money are important, but when compared to one's life and family safety, they are inconsequential.

"Please don't associate her with me, she isn't my mom..."

As Qin Fang struggled with the food on his plate, planning to finish quickly and bolt back to the hotel to wait for other peers, Xiao Xiao's tone turned sharp, almost to the point of anger.

"Alas..."

Hearing this, Sun Shu's face darkened slightly, and he could only sigh helplessly, clearly indicating there was some complicated story involved.

Even as an outsider, Qin Fang could sense this, and he also faintly felt Xiao Xiao's mood becoming restless...

Such a discovery immediately piqued Qin Fang's interest, and he seized the opportunity to employ the Mind Reading Technique on Xiao Xiao.

Even though it was highly unethical to pry into a stranger's privacy, to clarify whether this beautiful assassin was here for the cleaning mission, he had to do so.

If she was here for that, Qin Fang would continue to watch her.

But if not, Qin Fang would naturally finish his meal and leave to continue searching for clues... He had already wasted much of the morning and was a step behind; any more delay, and he would truly miss the chance and have to pass this high-reward mission to someone else.

No sooner had Qin Fang deployed the Mind Reading Technique than he sensed the innermost thoughts of the beautiful assassin, but he immediately became alert and lowered his head to casually deal with the food on his plate.

An assassin's perception is extremely sharp, even such minute changes in mental state can make them highly sensitive. Thus, the moment Qin Fang used the Mind Reading Technique, the slightly agitated Xiao Xiao became wary, her mind tensed, and her eyes quickly scanned the surroundings.

But the result was obviously disappointing for her; everything around was calm. There were not many customers in the Western restaurant, everyone was naturally dining or talking, nothing unusual or anyone suspicious appeared...

In the end, she could only return her somewhat doubtful gaze to normal, but her vigilance remained high, and Qin Fang could not use the Mind Reading Technique on her a second time.

The Mind Reading Technique is an instant skill, meaning it can only detect the target's current thoughts... To fully understand all about a target would require a longer period of probing.

But human memory is a fascinating thing; it may last only a brief second, yet the amount of information it contains can be vast, so vast that not even a supercomputer might manage to process it...

Usually, thoughts are rather straightforward, and with the fleeting time, only minimal information can be detected.

This was the case for Qin Fang; he had barely touched on the assassin's slight thought when she noticed him.

A killer's willpower is much stronger than that of ordinary people, and unless they relax their minds themselves, it is difficult for others to force them to—even under torture, they maintain their will unbowed.

The girl was alert, and Qin Fang lost his chance to probe again, but he wasn't at all disappointed, in fact, there was a slight sense of relief.

It might have been only a brief few milliseconds of probing, having gleaned merely a fragment of information, yet Qin Fang was quite pleased, as he coincidentally found out that this beautiful assassin was also one of the killers assigned to clean Sinan.

Qin Fang had this judgment because while the girl seemed to resent her mother verbally, her thoughts were about not wanting to endanger her family... because someone was extremely dangerous!

Chapter 898 - The Covert War Between Male and Female Assassins_2

Who this person was, although she hadn't provided an answer, or perhaps Qin Fang hadn't had the chance to learn the answer yet, Qin Fang vaguely felt that this person should be his target for this mission—the arms dealer Sinan.

Sinan started as an assassin before entering the arms trade, his level of danger absolutely surpassed that of the average assassin. Not only did he have wealth and power, but he also possessed influences that many assassins did not have.

When it came to arms dealing, such influence was absolutely terrifying, definitely not comparable to small gangs made up of hooligans or thugs. Killing or annihilating a family was a matter of a single command.

Combining other pieces of information, Qin Fang was basically able to confirm the accuracy of this message now...

And the conversation between this petite beauty and Sun Shu that followed also served as an indirect validation.

"Let's not talk about her. Did you bring the documents I asked you to get?"

The girl didn't dwell on the subject, seemingly very reluctant to discuss it, and asked Sun Shu directly.

"Brought them! They're all here..."

At this point, Sun Shu opened the briefcase he was carrying and took out a sealed document bag, which he handed over to the petite beauty.

"Thanks! This meal's on me... I'm off!"

As soon as the girl received what she needed, she immediately burned the bridge after crossing the river, taking the stuff and leaving right away, seemingly not wanting to stay there for another minute.

"Er..."

Not only was Qin Fang, an outsider, a bit speechless, but even Sun Shu paused for a moment. However, he didn't try to hold her back further, simply saying, "Xiao Xiao, come to my place when you have time, my parents also miss you..."

"We'll see!"

The girl casually dropped this remark and then, with the documents in hand, sashayed out of the Western restaurant in her high heels after settling the bill.

Watching this scene, Qin Fang no longer had the appetite to continue eating, nor did he want to meet with Sun Shu under these circumstances. In the end, he paid the bill and followed the female assassin out.

He followed close behind the female assassin, blending into the moving crowd. A beauty like her naturally attracted the attentions of many men. It was then that Qin Fang cast a Scouting Skill on her again, making him less noticeable to her.

The information fed back to him was much the same as before, but perhaps due to Sun Shu, Qin Fang now knew the name of this atypical beautiful assassin—Su Xiaoxiao.

Just from the name, one would expect a delicate, virtuous young lady from a wealthy family, skilled in feminine arts—if not music, chess, calligraphy, and painting, at least adept in needlework.

Yet Qin Fang didn't know whether she was proficient with a needle or a kitchen knife, but he could be certain she would be extremely skilled with a gun.

After leaving the restaurant, Su Xiaoxiao did not head back to her hotel. Instead, she carried her large and small bags and immediately entered a nearby mall, slipping into a changing room in a clothing store...

After about a few minutes, when Su Xiaoxiao emerged once more, she had completely transformed... If Qin Fang hadn't been watching her all along, he would definitely have found it hard to believe that the mature and charming office lady now before him was the same youthful, pretty, and stylish Su Xiaoxiao from before.

OMG, unbelievable~~

"This change is really too drastic!"

Despite his reluctance to believe, the scene before him was indeed happening in reality, and Qin Fang could not deny it even if he wished to.

Of course, he also understood why Su Xiaoxiao had been buying this and looking at that all morning; it was all in preparation for this very moment...

Qin Fang could use Metamorphosis to change into various faces, a unique skill of his own, so it was only natural that other Assassins would have their own methods of concealment. For instance, Su Xiaoxiao, who was now using such a disguise technique, effortlessly changed her aura and appearance...

Changing her outfit was tantamount to turning into a different person; even Qin Fang was nearly deceived by his own eyes. It was estimated that even if Su Xiaoxiao's cousin, Sun Shu, were to look, he would most likely not recognize her either.

After coming out of the changing room, although Su Xiaoxiao still carried all her large and small bags, the document bag that Sun Shu had given her was nowhere to be seen. Perhaps it was placed in one of the bags in her hand, or maybe it had simply been destroyed...

The few minutes spent changing might not reveal much content, but as long as some crucial clues were grasped, it was enough. Once the data lost its value, it naturally lost its reason for existence as well.

Just as Qin Fang had speculated, when Su Xiaoxiao passed through a narrow road and by a smoking, burning pile of trash, she decisively threw away one of the bags in her hands. The contents quickly transformed into a pile of ash...

Originally, Qin Fang had intended to see what the documents in that bag were, but now he no longer had the chance. Even if he rushed into the pile of trash to dig out that bag, it was unlikely much content would remain.

Moreover, he also guessed that the material was likely related to Sinan. All he needed to do was to keep an eye on the Su Xiaoxiao ahead, and knowing or not knowing any more didn't make much of a difference.

Su Xiaoxiao and Sun Shu were cousins and were clearly Yangcheng locals; it was evident that she was far more familiar with the terrain than Qin Fang... After tossing away the documents in her hand, her pace quickened, swiftly moving through the narrow alleys. Qin Fang had to tightly follow, yet worried about being detected by her, which was quite distressing for him.

Yangcheng could be considered an ancient city. Although its urban development had been rapid, it still retained many old streets with ancient charm. Walking on such old streets felt like going back to the Ming or Qing dynasty. Some areas even preserved the historical and cultural aura of estates that were said to belong to high-ranking officials and nobility from ancient times.

However, Qin Fang had no interest in admiring these. He was only worried about being shaken off by Su Xiaoxiao, which would mean all his efforts up to now had been in vain.

The vigilance of an Assassin could never be too weak, and Su Xiaoxiao was no exception. It seemed she had detected Qin Fang's presence because her footsteps became even faster. After passing through a rather long alley, she quickly turned into a side alley and disappeared from Qin Fang's line of sight.

Qin Fang was slightly startled, but even though he felt that he had been discovered, he still swiftly chased after her. He certainly didn't want to really lose sight of her.

This alley was quite desolate, flanked on both sides by tall ancient walls made of green bricks. Without guessing, Qin Fang knew that beyond the walls was most likely a historical mansion that had been converted into a tourist attraction.

Yet, this was not his concern, as the moment he had entered the alley, he was immediately "controlled" by someone... despite intentionally allowing it to happen.

"Who are you? Why are you following me?"

The person who had controlled him was, of course, Su Xiaoxiao. Only now her expression was extremely cold, resembling an ice-cold, ruthless Queen, a beautiful enchantress yet a fierce Rakshasa filled with murderous intent...

"I... I... I just thought you were beautiful and I wanted to..."

Being "controlled," Qin Fang seemed to go weak at the knees in an instant, appearing quite frightened. He spoke tremblingly, and since he currently had a rather sleazy appearance, his words seemed more credible.

Qin Fang was not surprised at all to be discovered by Su Xiaoxiao. If she had not detected him after all this time, her vigilance as an Assassin would seem too weak...

Despite the numerous times Qin Fang had changed his appearance, he was unable to alter his clothing, which, even if it was more generic, could not conceal his suspicious movements.

"Hmph... filthy hooligan!"

Upon hearing this, Su Xiaoxiao was slightly taken aback. She fixed her gaze on Qin Fang's eyes, which were filled with fear, and immediately scolded him, followed by a karate chop to the back of Qin Fang's neck, knocking him "unconscious" and leaving him in the corner of the alley...

Chapter 899 - The Ruthless Explosive Bear Locke

...

Qin Fang cooperated in feigning unconsciousness quite well; his self-control was certainly not a problem... With an attack power like Su Xiaoxiao's, she couldn't even break through Qin Fang's defense.

"You filthy hooligan, daring to have lewd thoughts about this lady... I'm going to castrate you today!"

Although Qin Fang had feigned unconsciousness very cooperatively, it was clear that Su Xiaoxiao had no intention of stopping there. Upon seeing Qin Fang's "lecherous" face, Su Xiaoxiao actually pulled out a short dagger from under her OL-style miniskirt and, muttering to herself with a hateful expression, made a beeline for Qin Fang's vitals.

Qin Fang wasn't really passed out; his consciousness was very clear. Although his eyes remained closed, he could still "see" Su Xiaoxiao's actions...

Feeling the dagger approaching, Qin Fang suddenly felt a cold chill in his groin, and both of his "eggs" trembled slightly.

"Nima, does it have to be so ruthless..."

Qin Fang mentally groaned, feeling utterly disgusted. Did he really have to blow his cover after holding back for so long?

Bang~~

Just as the dagger was about to reach Qin Fang's vitals, and even though it was separated by a pair of trousers, Qin Fang could feel the coldness of the blade.

But at that moment, a faint sound was heard, causing Su Xiaoxiao's movement to halt as she looked in the direction of the noise. It seemed to be just a rat skittering by, but she quickly tucked the dagger away and reverted to her former appearance before swiftly leaving the alley.

"Phew~~ that was close!"

Qin Fang also heaved a sigh of relief; he had almost been unable to resist intervening. A man's Second Brother was their most prized possession, and although Qin Fang's would have stopped bleeding quickly if it got cut, if it was completely severed or one "egg" was sliced off, he'd become a eunuch.

This was something Qin Fang absolutely couldn't accept. He would rather give up the plan than risk such danger...

"Su Xiaoxiao, you just wait, don't let me catch you..."

Thinking of the gleaming knife that almost separated his Second Brother from him, Qin Fang felt quite furious at this beautiful assassin.

He was secretly taking note of Su Xiaoxiao, as for what he would actually do when the time came, that was hard to say...

Qin Fang didn't hurry to "wake up." He didn't know whether Su Xiaoxiao was nearby watching him. Only after briefly sensing the surrounding killing intent and confirming there was no danger, did Qin Fang stand up.

He also quickly left the alley and began to follow Su Xiaoxiao, anxious that he might lose her if he was any slower... Of course, Su Xiaoxiao was no easy target. Her disguise had been exposed due to Qin Fang's unexpected appearance, and she quickly bought new clothes and successfully changed her disguise once again.

As for Qin Fang,

having learned from this lesson, he naturally wouldn't make the same mistake twice. He also bought several sets of clothes to store in the Props Box like Su Xiaoxiao did. He changed into a new outfit and altered his face, resuming his watch over Su Xiaoxiao with grandeur...

Perhaps because of Qin Fang's appearance, Su Xiaoxiao's vigilance had increased. This time she wasn't in a hurry to take action. Just like in the morning, she started a shopping frenzy again and passed the afternoon time, leaving Qin Fang with no choice but to join in her madness.

As time gradually progressed into the evening, Qin Fang kept roaming around Su Xiaoxiao, always maintaining a considerable distance. To dispel her suspicions, he even purchased a map of Yangcheng. Whenever Su Xiaoxiao ventured into small streets and alleys, he could navigate in a roundabout way.

When dusk was slowly setting in, Qin Fang's patience was wearing thin, and Su Xiaoxiao finally started to make a move...

About a kilometer away from the city center, there lies Yangcheng's most famous national scenic area—a beautiful lake.

Nestled beside this lake is a villa district that constitutes the most luxurious residential area in the whole of Yangcheng, with each villa's selling price comparable to those in big cities like Ninghai.

Qin Fang was shadowing Su Xiaoxiao as they both stealthily infiltrated the area, bypassing surveillance and security, slowly drawing closer to one of the villas.

Concealed in the darkness, Su Xiaoxiao's stealth ability wasn't too shabby. Dressed in a simple black tight-fitting outfit, she didn't attract attention in the night.

As for Qin Fang, there's even less need to mention him. Deep black was his best protection... His Stealth Skill could be utilized to its greatest effect.

In comparison, the reason Qin Fang was discovered by Su Xiaoxiao during the day was because the Stealth Skill's effect was much weaker and, with the hustle and bustle of the crowd, he didn't want to draw too much attention, which led to his discovery.

Now, the situation was completely different. Qin Fang was less than ten meters away from Su Xiaoxiao, but she was completely unaware of his presence.

"Could it be that Sinan lives here?"

Gazing at the villa in front, which Su Xiaoxiao had been observing, Qin Fang also silently pondered.

This villa didn't seem much different from any other ordinary villa, but to a professional assassin's eyes, it was no less than a Dragon Pool Tiger Den, fraught with crisis and brimming with deadly traps...

Chapter 900 - The Brutal Explosive Bear Locke_2

The surrounding walls were equipped with the most advanced surveillance systems, all acquired through special channels and modified by experts.

This system is even coveted by Dragon Country's military forces, but its use is strictly restricted. Only black market arms dealers like Sinan could get their hands on such technology; ordinary real estate developers simply do not possess the means...

The system was also equipped with small electroshock devices, high-voltage electroshock systems, and more... Even Qin Fang noticed a miniature rocket launcher hidden on the villa's rooftop, which, combined with the firearms of some inside personnel, meant that not even a small squad of fully-armed soldiers could easily take down such a seemingly ordinary villa.

Based on the information gathered on Sinan, Qin Fang also believed this place was likely Sinan's stronghold... Whether Sinan was actually there at the time, however, remained unknown.

No matter what, having a lead was far better than searching blindly. At least Qin Fang could follow the trail and eventually trace it back to Sinan.

Su Xiaoxiao was curled up in a corner, not in a hurry to sneak into the villa. She was cautiously observing the movements inside.

This was something Qin Fang greatly admired; recklessly barging in without understanding the enemy situation would likely lead to an unknown death...

Whether it was sheer coincidence or a case of jinxing by Qin Fang, just then—

Bang!

A dull sound echoed.

Both Qin Fang and Su Xiaoxiao turned their gaze toward the front gate of the villa, where they saw a dark figure being kicked out like a ball and then smashing heavily against the villa's wall, splattering a pool of crimson blood.

The ball-like figure then helplessly fell from the wall, turned out to be a person... but no longer a normal one at that point.

His limbs had been completely twisted and entangled by someone, turning a full-sized man into a lump of flesh, and this flesh ball ultimately could not escape the fate of death. The last blow had burst his head, killing him instantly.

Witnessing such a scene, even Qin Fang's complexion shifted slightly. The force behind that kick was terrifying; his own full-strength blow would have been no more effective.

That meant inside this villa... there surely existed a powerhouse who was no weaker than Qin Fang himself, or perhaps even stronger.

The doors of the villa had been smashed open, and several people walked out, all dressed in black suits. Most of them were Dragon Country people, with a few foreigners, but without exception, they were all very muscular men. And around their waists and underarms, bulging shapes indicated they were all carrying weapons.

These people were not Qin Fang's main concern. His attention was focused on the last foreigner who walked out.

If the preceding men were considered strong, then in comparison to this foreigner, they appeared rather slender...

It was deep winter, and temperatures were low, yet this foreigner was only wearing simple sports briefs, with a bulging area that was particularly eye-catching.

But that bulge was less noticeable compared to the muscles that were visible all over his body... muscles that seemed almost on par with a governor's, just looking at them you felt the intense power they embodied.

Of course, these muscles were fundamentally different from those of bodybuilders maintained by drugs. The unfortunate soul's fate had already proven that this blonde foreigner's strength was almost on par with Qin Fang's...

"Dispose of this man..."

The blonde foreigner seemed to be the leader of this group and spoke quite fluent Chinese, directly ordering his subordinates.

And he was naturally referring to the unlucky soul he had just killed.

"Ghost Bear, LV5, Assassin... Assassin Alliance Three-Star Assassin..."

Although this unlucky devil was already dead, Qin Fang still managed to identify his identity before his body was disposed of...

But precisely because of this, Qin Fang's expression subtly changed.

Ghost Bear was evidently the codename of this unfortunate assassin, with strength comparable to a Level 5 martial artist. Within the Assassin's Alliance, he was a Three-Star Assassin, which already provided the most direct evaluation of his strength.

Yet such an expert assassin met with this fate... It forced Qin Fang to be extra cautious. Sinan hadn't even shown his face yet; just this blond foreigner alone had killed a Three-Star Assassin. Whether Sinan had other hidden trump cards remained unknown.

"Explosive Bear Locke, LV5, mercenary, boxer... He has a significant reputation in the Underground World with a terrifying track record of having ripped through thirteen opponents in a row..."

That was the reconnaissance information on the blond foreigner, which gave Qin Fang a slight understanding of his adversary while also making him feel somewhat astonished.

Beneath the façade of civilized society, an Underground World exists, comprising the Assassin's Alliance, Mercenary Alliance, and Underground Black Fist Alliance... In summary, a variety of forces together form this dark world.

This Underground World is the true domain of survival of the fittest, where the strong reign supreme. Whether you are an assassin, a mercenary, or a black fist fighter, as long as you possess absolutely terrifying strength, you can become a cut above others... perhaps even ascend to become the King!

Qin Fang knew that dealing with Sinan would be difficult, and of course, he had mentally prepared for the fact that someone who had operated for so many years must have helpers—it was impossible for him not to.

Explosive Bear Locke, a horrifyingly powerful black fist fighter and mercenary. No matter the reason, he was clearly employed by Sinan this time. To take down Sinan, Locke was the first formidable obstacle standing in the way.

Strength of Level 5 was not much of an issue for Qin Fang. When he was at Level 4, he could easily overpower many Level 5 experts...

But Locke was different from other Level 5 experts. He originated from the realm of black fist fighters, whose mortality rate could be said to be the highest in the Underground World, much higher than that of assassins and mercenaries...

They had no such thing as defeat because there was only one outcome for failure—death. Therefore, to survive, their only thought was to kill their adversaries!

To have survived in such brutal fistfights and to have created a streak of thirteen consecutive fights tearing through opponents, you could imagine just how terrifying Locke's strength was.

And this Three-Star Assassin named Ghost Bear was evidently the first casualty in this cleanup mission, though it was unknown if it was because his name clashed with that of Explosive Bear Locke.

Having confirmed that Ghost Bear was stone dead, Locke left the follow-up tasks to his subordinates, while he himself returned to the villa. From beginning to end, Sinan hadn't even showed his face.

Disposing of bodies was not a difficult task for these people, who had plenty of experience; they simply loaded the body into a car and then drove out of the villa. Where it was disposed of no longer mattered.

Everything once again became calm, as if nothing had ever happened...

Qin Fang lurked in the shadows, his mind swiftly flashing through one thought after another. Sinan still had not appeared, and he would certainly not act rashly.

"Startling the snake" was originally his plan, but now it seemed that he must revise it; otherwise, he might end up just as miserably dead as Ghost Bear a moment ago.

His inaction didn't mean that everyone else would also remain still.

For instance, Su Xiaoxiao, who was now stealthily approaching the villa's courtyard wall, seemingly intending to sneak in.

"This idiot woman..."

Seeing Su Xiaoxiao's actions, Qin Fang couldn't help but frown and silently curse in his mind. He could no longer care about so much, and immediately pounced toward Su Xiaoxiao. Before she had the chance to react, he subdued her, and then, holding her petite body, quickly disappeared into the darkness...