

## King Hall 251

### Chapter 251: Past Secrets 1

Gu Xiyang listened to Mu Jinyu's drunken humming of the song and felt a pang of sorrow and sympathy.

"Sigh."

Gazing tenderly at Mu Jinyu, who was lying on the couch, Gu Xiyang heaved a deep sigh and then got up to go back to the room to fetch a blanket to cover him first, waiting for Wen Rou to return so they could carry him into the room together.

"Mom, don't leave... Don't abandon me!"

Just as Gu Xiyang was about to stand up, the drunk Mu Jinyu seemed to sense her movement and suddenly called out in a hoarse voice, stretching out his hand and clutching her arm tightly.

When Gu Xiyang heard Mu Jinyu's hoarse shout, her heart clenched tightly, and she turned her head back to look at him, only to find his head slightly lifted, tugging at her, with drunken, blurry eyes, already streaming with tears.

Seeing Mu Jinyu in such a distressed state made Gu Xiyang's heart tremble violently.

In a daze, she felt as if she could see, back when he was a child, the utter despair he felt after learning that Su Zijin had left.

Especially a year later, when his father also passed away in melancholy, he must have missed his mother even more, hoping she would come back to take him away. Yet, days and years passed by.

In the end, his wish was not granted, and he received no more news about his mother.

Originally, he should have assumed his mother was long dead, but today, he suddenly learned that Su Zijin was still alive, yet she had come back to disrupt his life.

Mu Jinyu held onto Gu Xiyan's hand for quite a while, then laughed weakly a few times and let go, continuing to lie on the sofa, falling into a deep sleep.

Gu Xiyan looked down at her arm—where her originally soft, jade-like arm now had many bruises—showing how forcefully Mu Jinyu had grabbed her!

After a long silence, Gu Xiyan sighed deeply, then took a few tissues to wipe Mu Jinyu's tears. Only then did she go back to her room to fetch a blanket for him and covered him with it.

Afterward, Gu Xiyan thought to check whether Su Zijin had left and went to open the door.

After opening the door.

Indeed, Su Zijin, wearing thin clothes, was still standing at the door.

Gu Xiyan looked at her with complex eyes and said, "Jinyu is drunk. Do you know what he said when he was drunk?"

Su Zijin showed a guilty expression, shook her head slightly, and asked with concern, "What did he say?"

Gu Xiyan then repeated the sentence Mu Jinyu had shouted with all his might.

Upon hearing this, Su Zijin's expression immediately became more complex, and her eyes reddened, with sparkling tears beginning to swirl.

"It's my fault, I didn't fulfill my responsibilities as a mother..."

Gu Xiyan's expression was placid, even somewhat indifferent, as she said, "When he was drunk just now, he also hummed a tune."

As she spoke, she tried to hum the song "Calling My Name", but because she didn't know the Minnan dialect, she hummed it a little off-key and with unclear enunciation.

However, Su Zijin recognized the song she was trying to sing, and immediately, her tears surged forth, sobbing uncontrollably!

"Calling My Name, I will use a lifetime to think and listen,

Once a young man unacquainted, you did not know, you were my life

Calling My Name, Ruan, you need someone to keep you company

On the journey of life, Ruan loves having you lead the way...

With tears in her voice, Su Zijin sang, and the scenes from the past flooded her mind.

Back then, she knew that for the safety of Mu Jinyu and his father, she was doomed to leave them, and her heart was full of conflict and pain. Often, she would sing this song in front of Mu Jinyu.

It turned out that Mu Jinyu had always remembered it!

Su Zijin could imagine the scene: not long after she left, Mu Jinyu's father passed away, leaving him an orphan, squatting by the roadside, watching other families happily together, while he could only look on with envy, and yearning for her to return, to keep him company and hold his hand.

"I'm sorry, wuu wuu wuu, I'm sorry..."

Su Zijin, covering her mouth, wanted to rush in and explain the reasons from the past to Mu Jinyu, but Gu Xiyao stopped her.

Gu Xiyuan, looking at the suddenly collapsing and crying Su Zijin, also felt somewhat at a loss, but she knew that letting her go in now would not wake Mu Jinyu and would be meaningless.

At the same time, because of her sudden return today, the resentments that Mu Jinyu had been harboring for years were bursting forth, and if not allowed to vent, it could lead to trouble!

Therefore, Gu Xiyuan had to stop her and prevent her from further provoking Mu Jinyu.

Su Zijin, blocked by Gu Xiyuan from entering, was feeling an intense urgency. Without thinking, she tried to use force to push her away, but then she remembered that this woman was her daughter-in-law and quickly retracted her hands.

The abrupt withdrawal made Su Zijin's qi-blood flow in reverse, almost causing her to spit out blood, but she forced it back down.

In her heart, she was relieved that she hadn't touched Gu Xiyuan; otherwise, there really would have been no chance for reconciliation with Mu Jinyu.

After stopping herself, Su Zijin looked at Gu Xiyuan with pleading eyes and begged, "Let me go in, please. I need to explain things to him..."

Gu Xiyuan shook her head and said, "Let's go outside to talk. You tell me first, and I will find an opportunity to explain for you."

Su Zijin peeked into the room but couldn't see Mu Jinyu, felt disheartened, and then calmed herself down, sighing, "Alright, let's go outside to talk then."

Gu Xiyuan walked out the door, closed it, and then left the building with Su Zijin. They went to a park in the residential area and sat down in a secluded pavilion.

"I know that Jinyu actually still cares about you, but he just can't forgive you for abandoning him back then. Maybe he also knows there were unspeakable reasons that compelled you to leave, but the

resentment makes it impossible for him to forgive you..." Gu Xiyan slowly said as she sat down on a stone bench inside the pavilion.

With a pale face, Su Zijin gave a slight nod and said, "I know I wronged him; I was really not a qualified wife or mother. To have left Jinyu for so long without any contact, I don't have the face to see him. But if I don't come back to find him, the torment in my heart makes it hard for me to breathe. I want to make it up to him..."

"Why did you have to leave them, father and son, all those years ago?" Gu Xiyan asked, curious.

Upon hearing this, Su Zijin clenched her fists so tightly that her knuckles turned white. She took a deep breath and revealed her long-kept secret to Gu Xiyan.

She told Gu Xiyan that she was the daughter of a prominent family, where her marital fate was not her own to decide. After learning about the man she was arranged to marry, knowing his character and how he treated women, she was extremely repulsed and insisted she didn't want to marry him!

But breaking off an engagement was not so easy. So, when she went out traveling to clear her mind, she met the father of Mu Jinyu. Attracted to him for some reason, she fell in love fast and subsequently had Mu Jinyu.

But such a thing was not easy to keep from her family, given its great power. Her father, in a thunderous rage, eventually helped her hide the truth. After all, he was the one who adored her the most.

But there are some things in life that are beyond one's control...

Chapter 252: Past Secrets 2

And Su Zijin's fiancé's family, in fact, was not as distinguished as the Su Family, if it were not for her fiancé's high talent, they would have had nothing to do with marriage at all.

As for her fiancé, at that time he was in a Secret Realm undergoing cultivation, which, in terms more easily understood, was almost like he was training in some special forces unit!

As a result, his family was temporarily unaware of Su Zijin's condition.

And with her father helping to cover up the truth, Su Zijin lived peacefully with Mu Jinyu's family for five years. Although life was harder due to Mu Jinyu's father's inclination to help others and therefore tight finances, she still felt those were the happiest and most joyful five years she had ever had...

But then, these peaceful days were disrupted when her fiancé completed his cultivation and emerged from seclusion.

Su Zijin had no choice but to return to Capital City first, to face everything she least wanted to confront.

But she had already decided that once she returned, she would make it clear to the other party that she would not marry him, no matter what kind of slander she might have to bear!

When Gu Xiyan heard this, she suddenly recalled what Mu Jinyu had once confided in her: In his understanding and memory, his mother had left them because she was fed up with the hard life.

So there was indeed more to the story.

However, why hadn't Su Zijin come back after leaving Mu Jinyu?

Could it be...

That she had actually married the other man?

While Gu Xiyan pondered this, Su Zijin continued to reveal the concealed truths.

After she returned, she spoke openly in front of both families, which immediately provoked their anger. However in the end, the other side relented, because he didn't particularly like her either. The whole reason he wanted to enter into marriage with her was to use her family's power to make his own path smoother and further.

Once it was ensured that he would receive proper compensation, naturally he wouldn't pester her anymore, insisting on marrying a woman who had already been wed!

So, what followed was the two families negotiating about the compensation.

Due to some reasons, they wrangled over it for more than a year.

During this period, she tried several times to come back and see how Mu Jinyu and his father were getting on-what they were eating and wearing-but fearing that the other side would lash out in fury and harm them, she could only endure patiently.

When the other side learned that she was married with a child, they were indeed ready to take action against them. But since all traces of her five-year life experience had been erased by her father, they couldn't find Mu Jinyu and had no idea who they were!

After severing all ties with the other side completely, Su Zijin hurried back to Rong City.

Only to find out...

That her husband had already died of illness long ago, and Mu Jinyu, too, was missing!

Su Zijin had not expected that Mu Jinyu's father would succumb to stomach cancer in such a dejected manner.

When she left, she didn't clarify to them that it might be possible for her to return, because at that time she was prepared for the worst: being placed under house arrest, unable to leave Capital City ever again, or even, shedding blood on the spot...

Therefore, Su Zijin did not make it clear to them whether she would be able to return or not.

If she couldn't return, then they might as well think of her as dead!

Yet, when she learned in Capital City that she could divorce smoothly, she thought of giving them a surprise upon her return.

Instead, it was they who gave her a large "surprise" first!

Upon hearing this news, she felt as if struck by a clear sky bolt of lightning, nearly driving her insane.

She could not even maintain mourning for her husband, as she searched tirelessly for Mu Jinyu's whereabouts.

Regrettably, the last information she could find about Mu Jinyu was that he had entered an orphanage, only to be taken in by an old person shortly after, and then there was no more news.

Regardless of how much she searched, she could never find any news of Mu Jinyu.

At times she despaired, fearing that something terrible had befallen Mu Jinyu, and that he had been trafficked to another country by that old person.

Otherwise, why could she not find even a sliver of information?

More than a decade passed, and Su Zijin had despaired and given up the search for Mu Jinyu.

But then, yesterday, she saw someone's live stream of the Beauty Pill release conference, and in the video, she caught a glimpse of someone who resembled Mu Jinyu, with a look almost identical to his father. It set her heart racing.

After carefully reviewing Mu Jinyu's information, she was convinced that he was her long-lost son. Even though his name had been changed, the details such as his birthday were indisputably accurate.

Especially when Mu Jinyu had just seen her, that look of excitement mixed with revulsion in his eyes, though it broke her heart, also let her know that he was indeed her son!

"Woo woo woo... I didn't really want to leave them. I wished to be by his side as he grew up, but I had no choice. He must have suffered a lot. I want to make it up to him, but what if he doesn't forgive me?!"

After Su Zijin finished pouring her heart out to Gu Xiyuan, her tears breached once again as she spoke, unable to continue.

Gu Xiyuan listened with a headache, not expecting things between them to be so complicated.

With a soft sigh, Gu Xiyuan looked at Su Zijin, who was covering her face and sobbing uncontrollably, and could only offer some stiff comfort, "Aunt, you don't have to be so sad. Jinyu may be a bit rebellious right now and doesn't understand your hardships. That's why he's acting like this. Give it some time, and I'll try to talk to him. Maybe... he'll come to understand you?"

Gu Xiyuan wasn't entirely sure herself what Mu Jinyu's attitude toward Su Zijin was, but for now, this was the only way she could comfort her.

"Thank you, Xiyuan!" Su Zijin, with swollen eyes, hurriedly wiped away the tears on her face and then spoke with some embarrassment, "I'm sorry for making a fool of myself."

"It's okay, you should go back now," Gu Xiyuan said, feeling quite awkward, and managed a strained smile as she urged.

Su Zijin didn't want to leave, but knowing that Mu Jinyu didn't want to see her, she reluctantly left with a heavy heart.

As Gu Xiyuan watched Su Zijin leave, she rubbed her temples, feeling a real headache coming on.

Shaking her head slightly, Gu Xiyuan didn't dwell on it any longer. The outcome between mother and son could only be seen one step at a time.

When she got back home, Gu Xiyuan saw Mu Jinyu lying on the couch, sleeping in a daze, while there was a pool of filth on the floor, emitting a strong stench.

Clearly, Mu Jinyu had thrown up again while she and Su Zijin were downstairs talking.

Gu Xiyan, seeing this, could only frown slightly, get cleaning supplies from the bathroom, and then spent a great deal of time cleaning the floor.

"Whew, I'm absolutely exhausted today!"

Gu Xiyan exhaled softly, half lying on the sofa, and wiped some sweat from her forehead.

The entire day had been fraught with worry due to Mu Jinyu's strange state, and she had spent the afternoon trying to appease him. She had hardly finished eating when Mu Jinyu's mother showed up, sending her into another state of anxious fear.

Just when she had finally managed to get Mu Jinyu to drink, and had had a long conversation with Su Zijin, she had to come back and continue taking care of Mu Jinyu. It had truly worn her out.

She felt exhausted in both body and mind!

Chapter 253 - Can you talk some more?

The next day.

Mu Jinyu woke up feeling groggy and shook his head a few times, still experiencing some headache from the hangover.

He raised his hand to his temples and pressed on a few acupoints, which made him feel much better afterward.

Opening his eyes and looking around his bedroom, Mu Jinyu remembered that he should have passed out on the sofa last night, so it must have been Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou who moved him to the bed.

Getting up and drawing back the curtains, Mu Jinyu gazed out the window, his eyes hazy and contemplative, as if lost in thought.

He didn't know how long had passed.

"Knock, knock, knock!"

Along with the knocking, Wen Rou's voice could also be heard.

"Little Mu, are you up yet? Come out for breakfast if you are."

Mu Jinyu withdrew his gaze and responded softly, "Mhm."

After opening the door and freshening up in the bathroom, Mu Jinyu went to the dining room and sat down for breakfast with Gu Xiyang and the others.

Gu Xiyang and Wen Rou looked slightly worried, but seeing his calm demeanor, they chose not to mention what happened last night.

After breakfast, Gu Xiyang asked Mu Jinyu if he wanted her to stay with him.

Mu Jinyu shook his head and said, "I'm fine, you go on with your work. I was just about to go find Ah-Xiang."

Seeing this, Gu Xiyang didn't insist on staying and left for work with Wen Rou.

After the two had left, Mu Jinyu called Xiang Mantang, asking where he was and that he would come to him.

Xiang Mantang provided his address, and Mu Jinyu didn't say much over the phone, simply disconnecting the call and heading out to take a taxi to the address given by Xiang Mantang.

Since returning to River City, Xiang Mantang had arranged for a villa to be bought at Donghui Mansion through Liu Mei.

When Mu Jinyu arrived at the entrance of Donghui Mansion, Liu Mei was already there to receive him.

Following Liu Mei into Donghui Mansion, they slowly made their way to Villa Number Three.

On seeing the villa, Mu Jinyu raised an eyebrow and muttered, "This villa doesn't seem to be any worse than mine. Ah-Xiang must have made quite a lot of money after being away for so many years..."

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Liu Mei couldn't help but smile, though she dared not comment on the matter.

Following Liu Mei into Villa Number Three, they passed through a front courtyard with rockeries and pavilions. Mu Jinyu did not look at the other European-style luxury houses nearby and instead went straight to the backyard garden.

Xiang Mantang was there, practicing his morning martial arts!

"Hoo!"

"Ha!"

"Boom!"

"Bang!"

Approaching the garden, the sounds of intense activity could be heard from afar.

Mu Jinyu looked over and saw Xiang Mantang wielding a seven-foot-seven-inch long spear, swirling it around so it whistled through the air. Every now and then, the sound of sonic booms occurred, and at his feet lay countless remains of Bronze Men!

"Ha!"

With a light shout, Xiang Mantang stepped forward, his waist turning and shoulder moving as he brandished the spear. He fiercely struck at a Bronze Man standing before him, and with a booming sound, the metal figure made entirely of pure copper was utterly smashed to pieces!

After that, he continued his assault without stopping, shattering the remaining thirteen Bronze Men in the field in just a few breaths!

"Phew!!"

Xiang Mantang stood straight after sheathing his spear, his chest and abdomen heaving a few times. The flushed complexion from the intense exercise quickly returned to normal, and then he took a long breath of white air, three feet long and lingering!

It wasn't until a minute later that the white breath, which looked like a ribbon, finally dissipated.

"Senior brother, you're here."

Planting his spear into the ground, Xiang Mantang then turned around, smiling lightly at Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu blinked and replied with a smile, "You still push yourself so hard. It really makes me feel embarrassed as your senior brother."

Xiang Mantang gave a wry smile and said, "If I had your talent, senior brother, I wouldn't need to do this either!"

"Let's not talk about that," Mu Jinyu changed the subject, "I came to ask you about something regarding Dragon King Hall."

Xiang Mantang's heart stirred, knowing what he wanted to ask, and nodded. He pointed to a small pavilion nearby and said, "I haven't had breakfast yet. Let's eat and talk."

"Okay," Mu Jinyu nodded.

The two then made their way to the pavilion.

In the meantime, Liu Mei, following Xiang Mantang's instruction, had already brought over breakfast, a Cantonese dim sum spread.

Xiang Mantang picked up a pair of chopsticks, grasped a crystal-clear shrimp dumpling, chewed gently, and then swallowed. Afterward, he smiled at Mu Jinyu and said, "The craftsmanship of this place is quite good, you should try it."

Although Mu Jinyu had already eaten, he wasn't averse to having more, seeing Xiang Mantang enjoying his food so much. He also picked up a pair of chopsticks and started eating.

After a few bites, Xiang Mantang picked up a cup of Pu'er tea, took a light sip, exhaled, and then leisurely said, "I suppose you're not interested in the Northern Dipper Seven Dragon Guards of Dragon King Hall, so I'll just tell you about the Old Dragon King."

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu swallowed the shrimp dumpling in his mouth, biting on his chopsticks without making a sound.

"The Old Dragon King's name is Su Yuanzheng. He's over a hundred and thirty years old, one hundred thirty-seven to be precise," continued Xiang Mantang.

Mu Jinyu: "???"

One hundred thirty-seven years old? Could his nominal grandfather really be that old?!

Or had Xiang Mantang misspoken? Was that his nominal great-grandfather?!

Noticing Mu Jinyu's slightly confused expression, Xiang Mantang glanced at him and said with a mild smile, "You don't have to doubt your ears; that's his real age. Otherwise, I wouldn't call him the Old Dragon King."

"Phew..." Mu Jinyu let out a breath and then said in frustration, "That's really brazen. But, seriously, an old coot like him, can he still move around?"

"Why not?" Xiang Mantang replied, "We cultivators, even at a hundred years old, are still strong and hearty, no different from younger men. Isn't it normal to be able to move around at over ninety?"

"Then..." Mu Jinyu hesitated to speak, unsure of how to proceed.

Xiang Mantang guessed what he wanted to ask and slowly said, "Well, it's a story about 'a pear tree overshadowing the begonias.' The Old Dragon King was obsessed with martial arts throughout his life, with no children even past ninety. Until later... well, to put it simply, otherwise, it might take seven days and nights to tell."

Mu Jinyu raised an eyebrow. Seven days and nights—this old fellow's story sure was long!

Suppressing a laugh, Xiang Mantang said, "It's a pretty cliché story, full of encounters, infatuation, late-life daughter, pampering, arranged marriage, perfect matches, rebellion, running away from home, and then, ah, it's also encounters, infatuation, having a child out of wedlock, leading to someone..."

"Stop, stop, stop..." Mu Jinyu frowned and said discontentedly, "You sure are brief in your storytelling!"

With a calm expression, Xiang Mantang teased, "You get the gist, don't you? Besides, I think, senior brother, you're not that interested in Dragon King Hall. If I say too much, you'll think I'm nagging."

Mu Jinyu paused, then nodded heavily, "Right, I'm not really interested in Dragon King Hall, it was just a casual question."

After speaking, he couldn't help but ask again, "Hey, but I'm a bit interested in the Old Dragon King's daughter's story. Could you... tell me more about it..."

## Chapter 254: Together

Looking at Mu Jinyu with his disapproving yet earnest demeanor, Xiang Mantang felt a bit like laughing, but it wasn't appropriate to laugh out loud, lest it angered his senior brother.

Suppressing the desire to laugh, Xiang Mantang then relayed the past events he had investigated yesterday to Mu Jinyu.

It was almost no different from what Su Zijin had told Gu Xiyan the day before.

After listening, Mu Jinyu's expression was silent and contemplative for a long time without saying anything.

Xiang Mantang also didn't say much, nor did he offer any advice, simply waving over Liu Mei to clean up the table and remove the unfinished breakfast, then sitting in silence with Mu Jinyu.

After a while, Mu Jinyu's vacant and lifeless eyes regained some luster. Blinking a few times, he looked at Xiang Mantang and managed a weak smile, "Well, that story is quite interesting."

Xiang Mantang rose from the stone stool, stretching his limbs and suggested casually, "Why not go out for a walk to digest a bit?"

"Alright." Mu Jinyu also stood up, following Xiang Mantang out of the pavilion, strolling along the pebbled path in the backyard.

As they walked, Xiang Mantang spoke in an even tone, "Actually, I sometimes wish that the departure of my parents was not death, but a temporary leave.

Then one day, after I get home, they would suddenly jump out and give me a scare.

Afterward, they would tell me that the tragedy more than a decade ago was actually just a fake death they staged with the organization, and they had been secretly undertaking a mission somewhere, until today when their mission was finally complete and they could come back to see me, along with my sister who had gone with them.

That the incidents of those years were just an April Fools' joke they played on me, even if the joke lasted for more than a decade, even if the joke wasn't funny at all..."

As Xiang Mantang spoke, he turned to look at the visibly moved Mu Jinyu, his voice growing hoarse, "I really hope there was such a joke in my bleak life, I would definitely play along with them, hahaha..."

Laughing, Xiang Mantang suddenly burst into unrestrained and hearty laughter, tears streaming down as he laughed, then while laughing he said, "I would definitely play along with them, hahaha nonstop, and once the laughter ended, I'd sulk with them for a while, for not taking me with them back then. After getting over the anger, I'd sit at their knees, being filial and taking good care of them..."

Xiang Mantang felt that Su Zijin indeed had his difficulties and that the incidents of those years were a twist of fate, but he did not directly advise Mu Jinyu. Instead, he shared his own longing and helplessness.

He did not directly speak the words of a son wanting to support his parents but no longer having them around, but he believed Mu Jinyu would understand on his own.

Mu Jinyu remained silent for a long time, his expression changing unpredictably, his gaze shifting uncertainly between struggle and hatred, but in the end, he only let out a light sigh and said nothing.

At this moment.

"Dinglingling."

Mu Jinyu's cellphone ringtone sounded.

Mu Jinyu shook his head slightly, rubbing his somewhat sore eyes before taking out his phone to answer the call.

"Hello, Jinyu, it's bad news, the Beauty Pill prescription has been stolen!"

Gu Xiyan's anxious and frustrated voice came from the other end of the line.

"Hm?" Mu Jinyu's eyes focused upon hearing this, but then he relaxed again and said, "If it's stolen, it's stolen, it doesn't matter. Without the specialized equipment, it's just an ordinary beauty medicine."

"Ah?" Gu Xiyan was taken aback and somewhat surprised to hear Mu Jinyu's response.

She had thought that giving him this news over the phone would enrage Mu Jinyu, but unexpectedly, he didn't scold her.

Then, Gu Xiyan also recalled the scene when they had gone to the pharmaceutical factory together.

The actions of burying jade stones around the factory grounds...

At the time, she did not take seriously the elaborate scheme that Mu Jinyu spoke of as he arranged what he called the "Spirit Gathering Array."

Could it be... without those jade stones and the "Spirit Gathering Array," the Beauty Pills made with that prescription are really ineffective?

If that was indeed the case, wasn't Gu Xiyan's initial fear of the stolen prescription an unnecessary scare?

Mu Jinyu then said, "Although I don't care about the theft of the prescription, since they can't produce the real Beauty Pill anyway, anyone who dares to steal from me still has to pay a price. Let's leave it at that for now. I'm going to find someone to investigate who dared to steal from me!"

Having said that, Mu Jinyu immediately hung up the phone and called Mei Yinxue, the Xu Family, the Jiang Family, and Du Xiangcheng, asking them to help investigate who had stolen her Beauty Pill prescription.

If she were to simply report the theft to the police, finding the thief would undoubtedly take a lot of time, and it might not even be successful.

With the help of Mei Yinxue and Du Xiangcheng, if both the martial arts community and the government took action, unless the thief had significant backing, they would certainly be able to root them out!

Upon receiving Mu Jinyu's request, Mei Yinxue and the others promptly agreed to help.

After all, they had all entered into partnerships with Mu Jinyu, with their focus set on the sales of the Beauty Pill. If anything untoward happened to the Beauty Pill, it would affect their interests, and they naturally couldn't tolerate that!

As for Du Xiangcheng, although he had little partnership with Mu Jinyu, he owed her a favor. Moreover, Mu Jinyu's company was in the area he oversaw. The better the Jinyu Group performed, the higher his achievements would be, so naturally, he wouldn't stand idly by!

Xiang Mantang, seeing that Mu Jinyu had finally ended the call, raised an eyebrow and asked, "What's up? Was the prescription stolen?"

Although he had not intended to eavesdrop, with his skills, since Mu Jinyu hadn't distanced herself or avoided him, he naturally could hear her conversation with everyone quite clearly.

"Yes, they've got a lot of nerve, just wait till I find them and see how I'll deal with them!"

Mu Jinyu put away her phone, laughing coldly.

Xiang Mantang said, "I can help you look into it too."

With that, he took out his phone and sent a brief text, explaining the situation.

Mu Jinyu wasn't sure how capable Xiang Mantang was now, but seeing his eagerness, she didn't reject his offer.

Soon, twenty minutes passed.

There was no news from Mei Yingxue and the others yet.

But Xiang Mantang's phone rang with a message notification.

"Ding!!"

Xiang Mantang took out his phone, his expression slightly solemn, with a glimmer of cold light flashing in his eyes, and then passed the phone to Mu Jinyu.

"Found the person, take a look."

"That was fast?" Mu Jinyu raised an eyebrow, surprised at Xiang Mantang's efficiency.

Xiang Mantang spoke with a hint of pride, "Of course, Dragon King Hall is not to be underestimated."

Mu Jinyu chuckled softly, said nothing, and focused on the screen of the phone, carefully examining the information just uncovered by Xiang Mantang's subordinates.

"Jiangnan's Ancient Martial Arts Chen Family, the side branch, Chen Xuyang..."

Having read the information, Mu Jinyu muttered a few words, then a flash of cold light swept across her eyes, and she murmured, "Foolishness!"

After speaking, her expression returned to calm, and she handed the phone back to Xiang Mantang, saying, "All right, I won't keep you any longer, my fellow apprentice brother must get back to his duties."

Xiang Mantang pocketed his phone and said, "Hey, it's been a while since our Jinyu Mantang acted together, why not join me?"

Mu Jinyu's face also showed a smile, and she nodded, "Then let's do it together."

Chapter 255: Attacking the Chen Family

River City's Western Suburb.

A manor built upon the mountainside.

This is the home of the Chen Family, the foremost among the Four Great Families of River City.

Within one of the manor's pavilions, a group was assembled at this moment, their expressions tense yet filled with anticipation as they awaited the results of a pill that a woman in her thirties had just swallowed.

However, after a minute had passed.

Seeing that the woman with a sallow complexion showed no signs of change, their hopeful expressions inevitably turned to disappointment.

"It's been a minute, it seems the Beauty Pill formula we obtained is wrong!"

"I had a feeling it wouldn't be so easy to get our hands on it, such important things, how could they just be locked in a safe? It's impossible!"

"Right, let's just kidnap the CEOs from Jinyu Group and force them to reveal the real formula for the Beauty Pill!"

"..."

A few young men with bright eyes and buzz cuts spoke, the glint of ferocity beginning to flicker in their eyes.

After Chen Xuyang found them and told them about his feud with Mu Jinyu, they, already extremely interested in the Beauty Pill, immediately thought of demanding compensation from Mu Jinyu!

However, considering it unlikely that Mu Jinyu would willingly hand over the formula, they opted for a "carrot and stick" approach, first stealthily stealing the formula.

If things went smoothly and they acquired the formula, they would have no further quarrel with Mu Jinyu, after all, confronting the other three major families all at once was also a headache for them.

But now, it was clear that they couldn't amicably resolve their grievances with Chen Xuyang through Mu Jinyu, so they had no choice but to kidnap Gu Xiyan and a few other high-ranking members of the Jinyu Group. If they still couldn't pry the formula for the Beauty Pill from their lips, then they would have to go back to Mu Jinyu, the rightful owner.

One of the buzz-cut youths discarded the Beauty Pill that had just been concocted by the Chen Family Pharmacist and with a fierce glint in his eyes said, "Let me do it, I will definitely capture those three wenches."

"Good." An elder sitting at the head of the table tapped the ground lightly with his Dragon Head Cane and said in a deep voice, "Then let Xiao Lin go."

Chen Helin stood up immediately, leaving the conference room, then returned to his own courtyard. After changing out of his practice clothes and into common garb, he walked towards the manor's entrance.

"Boom!"

Just as he reached the entrance, a thunderous roar sounded, and the estate's great gate, forged of Mysterious Iron, instantly shattered, flying inward and nearly hitting him!

Had Chen Helin not dodged in time, the Bronze Lion doorknocker embedded in the gate would have almost smashed his head.

"Damn it, who the hell is smashing the Chen Family's gate!"

Chen Helin shook with fury as he shouted.

"What, the Chen Family can steal but not allow their gate to be smashed, is it so tyrannical?"

A slightly mocking voice rang out.

Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang strolled in from outside the manor with ease.

Chen Helin's eyes turned bloodshot as he looked at the two of them, and realizing what they had just said, his pupils contracted slightly, knowing they were from the Jinyu Group.

Yet, Chen Helin was somewhat surprised; these two didn't seem to be carrying rocket launchers or any heavy weaponry, so how had they blown open the Chen family's gate?

Could it have been with their fists?

Shaking his head internally, Chen Helin felt it was unlikely, thinking to himself that they probably discarded their heavy weaponry after blowing open the gate and were now just putting on a show!

"Smashing the Chen Family's door and daring to slander the Chen Family's reputation, looking for death!"

After Chen Helin's eyes flickered a few times, he immediately let out a roar. Then, with a stamp of his right foot on the ground, his whole body shot up like stepping on a spring, at least two or three meters high, arms outstretched in the shape of a crane, watching Mu Jinyu and his companion below. Suddenly, his body plummeted down like a hawk swooping on a rabbit, aiming a kick straight at Xiang Mantang's head!

If an ordinary person faced this move from Chen Helin, their reaction would undoubtedly be too slow, and they would get hit in the head, ending up either in a vegetative state or dead on the spot!

However, Xiang Mantang watched Chen Helin's little tricks with a faint smile, stretched out his right hand with a motion that appeared slow but was quick, acting after but arriving before, with a strange posture like an antelope hanging its horns. Just as Chen Helin's leg, powerful enough to split stone and break wood, was about to hit him in the nick of time, he seized Helin's calf!

Then...

Xiang Mantang instantly neutralized the fierce energy in Chen Helin's leg and then, under the horrified gaze of the other party, started swinging his right hand, flinging him around like a meteor hammer for nearly a minute. After Chen Helin had been spun into unconsciousness, Xiang Mantang finally let go!

"Biu~"

Once Xiang Mantang released his hand, Chen Helin was thrown out, flying twenty meters away before crashing into a willow tree large enough to embrace, breaking the tree. Only then did his flying momentum stop!

Then his head lolled to the side, and he passed out.

"He's still breathing?" Mu Jinyu, looking at Chen Helin who was still alive, couldn't help but click his tongue in admiration, "Truly a thick-skulled kid!"

"If he weren't thick-skulled, how would he dare to court death?"

Xiang Mantang patted his hands and chuckled lightly.

Afterward, the two brothers strode toward the main building in the estate.

Inside the main building's conference room, a group was discussing the bright future that would befall the Chen Family after having obtained the Beauty Pill, believing that they would inevitably become the number one Martial Arts Family in Shenzhou.

"Beep beep beep!!!"

Just then, a sharp and piercing alarm sounded.

It was so intense it felt as if their eardrums would burst.

"What's happening? Who dares to trespass into the Chen Family's grounds?"

Upon hearing the ear-piercing alarm, everyone's faces changed dramatically. They immediately stood up, supporting themselves on the table, ready to go out and see what was going on.

"Boom!"

No sooner had they moved than the tightly closed doors of the conference room burst open, shattering into countless splinters that shot towards them from inside.

The splinters, carrying some kind of dark energy within them, were terrifyingly powerful, akin to a storm of hidden weapons, sharp as pear blossom needles.

The Chen Family people who had rushed toward the door could not evade in time and were turned into sieves, lying on the ground unable to move!

Patriarch Chen, who had remained calm and seated upon hearing the alarm, though his demeanor did not change much, his eyes narrowed slightly at the sight.

The elderly hands holding the Dragon Head Cane also unconsciously tightened!

"Tap tap tap!"

The clear and pleasant sound of footsteps approached. Mu Jinyu was the first to reach the door, peering inside. Seeing the bloodshed on the floor, he couldn't help but utter a light exclamation, "So fragile? Are they done for before I even lifted a finger?"

After his comment, he spotted Old Patriarch Chen sitting in the main seat like a statue, his eyes lit up, "There's another one, too bad it's an old geezer. Doesn't pique my interest to make a move."

"Let me handle it then."

Xiang Mantang also entered, ignoring the bloodshed, and looked at Old Patriarch Chen with an indifferent expression, softly asking, "Any last words?"

Chapter 256: Come to Clean Up

When Old Patriarch Chen saw Mu Jinyu enter, he felt as if he were facing a great enemy, his whole body tensed up.

At this moment, seeing Xiang Mantang come in and feeling the fierce evil Qi accumulating around him like a dense fog, his heart trembled, and his face couldn't help but turn a shade paler.

Old Patriarch Chen, who had roamed the Jianghu and the underworld for decades, had never felt this from anyone else.

It was truly the terrifying evil Qi that could only be amassed through a killing spree!

"Who are you? Why did you barge into the Chen Family and start killing without a word?"

Patriarch Chen clenched the handle of his Dragon Head Cane tightly, his eyes fixated on Xiang Mantang as he asked in a stern voice.

"Killing without a word, where did that come from?"

Upon hearing this, Xiang Mantang looked innocent, shrugged his shoulders, and said, "Wasn't it you who started it? I was actually ready to discuss how you would compensate for stealing my senior brother's prescription, but that little guy at the door just attacked outright. I thought that was the attitude of the Chen Family."

He paused, then said with a light smile, "So, knowing your attitude, I didn't bother with the pleasantries and just took action."

Patriarch Chen's face looked grim. Leaning on the Dragon Head Cane, he slowly stood up, regretting heeding Chen Xuyang's advice, which had led to this encounter with such a fierce and evil being.

In their investigation within the Chen Family, there was no record of Xiang Mantang at all!

He guessed that this must be outside help called in by Mu Jinyu, who, if not the leader in his backing forces, must be a top figure.

Squeezing the Dragon Head Cane tightly, Patriarch Chen's knuckles turned white. He stared at Xiang Mantang as if facing a formidable enemy and said in a deep voice, "Do you know the consequences of offending the Chen Family? Our ancestor is currently cultivating in the Kunlun Ruins. Your actions today will bring disaster upon the forces you represent, leading to their annihilation!"

"The Kunlun Ruins?"

Upon hearing Patriarch Chen's words, Xiang Mantang's expression remained unchanged, though his eyes flickered slightly, contemplating something.

Then, he smiled and said, "So what? If he dares come, I'll make sure he never returns!"

"Ha!"

Patriarch Chen, who initially thought he might scare Xiang Mantang away, realized it was futile upon hearing his reply, and let out a furious roar. He kicked and shattered the rosewood table, swung the Dragon Head Cane, and struck at Xiang Mantang!

The force of his strike was tremendous, possessing the power to split mountains and seas, which ordinary martial artists would not dare confront but merely avoid its sharp edge.

But as the Big Dipper Tianshu of the Dragon King Hall, Xiang Mantang was clearly not intimidated by a mere family head of the Chen Family.

Xiang Mantang did not evade or dodge; he simply raised his hand, striking the Dragon Head Cane with a force as if trying to move a mountain!

"Crack!"

At the collision of fist and cane, a crisp snapping sound echoed, not because Xiang Mantang's arm was broken, but because the Dragon Head Cane was snapped in two!

Patriarch Chen's face changed, his hand moved, and with a ringing sound, a bright sword light suddenly flashed in the room, its chilling Sword Qi causing goosebumps on anyone it touched.

It turned out that inside the Dragon Head Cane, there was secretly hidden a short sword sharp enough to slice through iron like mud.

"Die!"

Patriarch Chen discarded the broken cane, grasped the frosty short sword, and with swift movements that did not resemble those of a man in his seventies, he stabbed rapidly towards key points like Xiang Mantang's heart and throat!

Seeing this, Xiang Mantang still maintained a calm demeanor, not awkwardly dodging backwards, but simply extending two fingers and gently pinching forwards!

Mu Jinyu stood by, not showing any sign of worry.

He even leisurely took out a handful of sunflower seeds from his pocket and started cracking them, interestedly watching the spectacle.

"Cling!"

At the collision of sword and fingers, if it were an ordinary expert, even if they could successfully trap the blade amid the flurry of sword shadows, they would likely have their arms broken by the Inner Strength contained in Patriarch Chen's short sword.

Yet when Xiang Mantang reached out to grasp the sword's edge, not only was he unharmed, but he actually snapped Patriarch Chen's precious sword—which could slice through iron as if it were mud and was sharp enough to cut a hair blown across it!

It was as if the sword in his hand was, in fact, made of plastic.

"Horizontal Refinement Grandmaster?!"

Witnessing this scene, Patriarch Chen's pupils shrank rapidly, and he was struck with fear;

The Chen Family Ancestor had been merely a Martial Arts Grandmaster, yet that was enough for the Chen family to dominate River City and even in Jiangnan Province, no one dared to provoke them.

But today, he hadn't anticipated that the Beauty Pill would bring about such a formidable person.

Moreover, the opponent was so young, appearing to be only in his early twenties, which meant his background must be enormously significant, far beyond what the Chen Family could provoke!

As Patriarch Chen's thoughts whirled, his first impulse was to smash the window and flee from the Chen Family home.

"Whoosh!"

Seeing this, Xiang Mantang, still idly playing with the tip of the sword in his hand, suddenly lifted his hand and threw it.

Patriarch Chen sensed the movement behind him and was scared out of his wits; he tried desperately to dodge the sword, but no matter how he attempted to move in a serpentine pattern, he couldn't escape from being targeted!

"Shriek!"

The broken sword tip punctured Patriarch Chen's back, instantly spurting a spray of blood that interweaved into a cluster of stunningly red flowers in the air.

Patriarch Chen's eyes turned vacant, and he could no longer run; his body dropped straight down!

"Bang!"

Patriarch Chen fell heavily to the ground, and with his last ounce of strength, he turned over and fiercely fixed his gaze on Xiang Mantang and Mu Jinyu, as if to imprint their faces in his memory, refusing to let them go even in death!

Xiang Mantang did not look at Patriarch Chen again.

He was never a generous man.

Towards those who died by his hand, he was always too stingy to even spare them a glance.

Slowly pulling out a clean towel from his pocket, Xiang Mantang began meticulously wiping his hands.

His hands remained as pale and refined as if they were carved from jade, having not acquired even a drop of blood or filth during the encounter.

The reason he was wiping his hands was solely due to Xiang Mantang's obsession with cleanliness and habit.

After all, when he used to kill people, it wasn't with the leisurely ease he had now; each time was fraught with peril as he killed his opponent, pressing his fingers into their eyes, striking their throat or heart, and other vital spots.

Therefore, each time after he had killed someone and lived to tell the tale, he would thoroughly wash the sticky blood and filth from his hands...

Mu Jinyu stood by, watching Xiang Mantang clean his hands, and remained silent.

After wiping his hands, Xiang Mantang took out his phone and dialed a number, "Come over and clean up, and bring Chen Xuyang over; I won't personally go."

After speaking, he simply hung up the phone.

He did not inform the person on the other end of his current location or Chen Xuyang's whereabouts.

But clearly, the person would know Xiang Mantang's location and where Chen Xuyang was.

"Let's go, let's sit outside for a while."

Xiang Mantang put away his phone, looking at the blood-stained floor with disgust, he wrinkled his brow and then said to Mu Jinyu.

Chapter 257: Sending Off Again

"Hmm." Mu Jinyu nodded softly and then walked out of the blood-soaked meeting room with Xiang Mantang to the living room outside.

Initially, Mu Jinyu had come only to teach the Chen Family a lesson.

He hadn't planned on unleashing a massacre, but since Xiang Mantang insisted on a bloody lesson, he decided to go along with it.

Soon, the people Xiang Mantang had called arrived.

They quickly carried away the bodies of the Chen Family People and cleaned up the blood stains from the floor, washing it spotlessly clean, leaving no trace.

They even sprayed some air freshener to disperse the lingering smell of blood.

After cleaning, the leader saluted Xiang Mantang silently and left with his men without uttering a word.

Thus, the Chen Family Estate seemed to return to its state a half-hour earlier, except for the smashed doors of the main entrance and the meeting room and the fact that the people chatting inside had changed; everything else appeared almost unchanged.

Xiang Mantang, seemingly accustomed to this, sat by the coffee table in the living room, casually sipping freshly brewed tea while chatting with Mu Jinyu.

"How much longer do we need to stay here?"

Mu Jinyu asked.

He didn't wish to stay at the Chen Family's anymore. Even though their bodies had been taken away and the blood had been cleaned up, this attitude of treating someone else's home as if it was one's own, made him feel quite uncomfortable.

Xiang Mantang took a sip of tea, exhaled, and said with a light smile, "Almost done, just a few more minutes."

They didn't wait a few more minutes.

As soon as Xiang Mantang's words fell, another group of people barged in, dragging a tightly bound Chen Xuyang and Lin Xiaoru, pushing them into the room.

"Kneel down!"

A stern-faced young man, holding onto Chen Xuyang, brought him in front of Xiang Mantang and forcefully pushed him down by the shoulders to kneel in front of Mu Jinyu and the others!

"Thud!"

Chen Xuyang, unable to resist, immediately fell to his knees in front of Mu Jinyu.

His face was filled with terror; anxiously looking up, when he saw Mu Jinyu sitting in front of him, his face turned deathly pale, his heart nearly stopping in fright.

'How could it be him?'

Chen Xuyang felt as if he had fallen into an ice cellar, his whole body chilling.

This morning, when he learned that the Chen Family had stolen the Beauty Pill prescription from Jinyu Company, he thought things had gone smoothly and credited himself with a significant service to the Chen Family, expecting to turn his fortunes around.

Then, he planned to confront Mu Jinyu later and humiliate him. Follow current NOVELS on NOvelFire.net

But just as he was pleased with himself, suddenly, a group of men stormed his home, took him and Lin Xiaoru without explanation, and bound them.

Even when Lin Xiaoru revealed her identity, they were indifferent and even sneered.

Then, they took them out in broad daylight, not bothering to hide their actions.

And when he encountered a police officer on the road and screamed for help, the officer simply showed some form of identification and respectfully watched them leave.

At that moment, his heart sank, but he still couldn't understand who he and Lin Xiaoru had offended to deserve such an extensive display.

Mu Jinyu had considered the possibility of facing Mu Jinyu, but it seemed unlikely. If Mu Jinyu had such significant influence, how could he have been helpless after being suppressed by Lin Xiaoru?

Unexpectedly, the one who had him tied up turned out to be Mu Jinyu...

Only, how could they be staying at the Chen Family's house? Why had the Chen Family People not reacted at all?!

"Thud!"

In the midst of Chen Xuyang's terrified and confused state,

At that moment, Lin Xiaoru was also forced to kneel by the stern young man.

"Huff..."

Xiang Mantang let out a breath and then placed the steaming teacup on the coffee table before finally casting his gaze towards the two pale-faced individuals, Chen Xuyang and his companion.

"You have a lot of nerve, repeatedly provoking us. You think you can push your luck just because my senior brother spares you?"

Sitting upright in his chair, with his hands resting calmly on his knees, Xiang Mantang looked at them placidly and spoke faintly.

"You, you've kidnapped us. What are you going to do? Do you know that you are breaking the law? Let me tell you, I am the precious daughter of Lin Pharmaceutical, and if anything happens to me, you will regret it deeply!"

Lin Xiaoru, facing Xiang Mantang's indifferent eyes, felt a chill at the bottom of her heart and then shouted, her voice filled with fear and faux bravado.

"Slap her."

Xiang Mantang said indifferently.

"Slap! Slap!"

The stern young man standing nearby, quiet as a lamppost, immediately walked over to Lin Xiaoru without saying a word and forcefully slapped her delicate face!

The sound of the slap was crisp and pleasing, reverberating loudly in the quiet living room.

Clearly, the stern young man's blow was heavy, showing no mercy, devoid of any compassion or pity.

Pressing down on them, the young man's face remained impassive; there were no fluctuations, resembling a statue.

"Ah!"

Lin Xiaoru let out a scream, then quickly covered her mouth, not daring to make a sound, for fear that any further whimpering would displease Xiang Mantang and provoke him to hit her again.

She bowed her head, feeling the burning pain on her cheeks, knowing that her face must have swollen severely. Her eyes flickered with vengeful light, but she dared not raise her head to let Xiang Mantang see it.

Seeing that Lin Xiaoru had covered her mouth and stopped wailing, Xiang Mantang nodded slightly, satisfied, and said with a smile, "When I kill, please keep quiet, thank you."

Hearing this, Lin Xiaoru looked up at Xiang Mantang in shock, her eyes filled with disbelief.

He wanted to kill?

He wanted to kill me?

Upon hearing this, Chen Xuyang's eyes also showed a blank expression.

Then, intense horror and fear appeared in his eyes.

Trembling, Chen Xuyang opened his lips and said shakily, "You... What about Patriarch Chen and the others? Are they... are they..."

He couldn't finish his sentence, fearing the reality that might devastate him.

Xiang Mantang nodded slightly, his tone slightly apologetic as he said, "We were in a rush, and since the Chen Family were somewhat disobedient, we couldn't arrange for you to leave together. I'm sorry, but you have to go together..."

"No!!!"

"You can't kill us!!!"

Xiang Mantang hadn't finished speaking when Chen Xuyang and Lin Xiaoru burst out screaming hysterically.

They were afraid, they were terrified, they were frantic, they struggled ceaselessly, trying to escape from there.

Seeing this, Xiang Mantang's lips curled up in a satisfied smile.

If he didn't want them to die clearly, understanding their regrets and resentments before departing, he wouldn't have bothered to make a big move to specifically invite them from their homes to the Chen Family Estate.

Then, Xiang Mantang slowly extended his hands and gently pressed on both of their heads, like a benevolent shepherd calming lambs cowering at his feet.

Then, amid their terrified struggles, he moved his hands slightly.

"Crack!"

Chapter 258 - Chen Wudao

Kunlun Ruins.

A hidden sanctuary within the Kunlun Mountain.

In this vast and boundless world, atop a majestic mountain peak, there sat an elegant little wooden hut.

At this moment, two elderly hermits with an otherworldly presence were sitting by a cliffside, playing chess and stroking their beards as they conversed about the major happenings within the Kunlun Ruins.

"Puh!"

Suddenly, one of the elderly men, while playing chess, underwent a drastic change in complexion—his face turned from white to red and back to white—before he opened his mouth to spit out a large mouthful of blood onto the chessboard.

The blood he spat out, coagulated yet undispersed, shot out like a blood arrow, instantly piercing through the chessboard. The chess pieces were thrown into disarray, some falling at their feet, others plummeting down the cliff.

"What's wrong, Old Chen? What's happened?"

The other elderly man, upon seeing his companion spitting blood, slightly changed expressions and quickly asked with concern.

"I'm not sure, I just felt a sudden whim, and my heart is restless. Let's end this game of chess for now; I need to divine what exactly has happened."

Chen Wudao's eyes flickered with changes before he wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth and murmured softly.

Having said that, he began twirling his fingers and muttering some spell under his breath. Then, his gaze intensified, and a terrifying murderous aura burst forth!

"Boom!"

In an instant, an ancient pine rooted on the opposite cliff, directly in line with Chen Wudao's fiercely murderous gaze, began to shake violently, its needles swiftly falling.

In the blink of an eye, not a single needle remained.

Chen Wudao stood up tall, his eyes bloodshot, his body trembling, "Damn it, someone dared to sever my bloodline, to cut off my fate, I won't let them off!"

This man was none other than the Chen Family Ancestor mentioned by Patriarch Chen just before his death.

However, he seemed unconcerned about the death of his descendant; what truly angered him was that someone had severed his fate.

The Chen Family had flourished under his protection, providing him with wealth and a ceaseless stream of fortune in return for his shelter.

Chen Wudao had been waiting for the Chen Family to slowly develop into Jiangnan Province's number one Martial Arts Family and even the number one in the entire Martial Arts World of Shenzhou so that with the smoky haze from the family graves, he could ride the wave and lead the Martial Arts World to prosperity.

But now, the whole Chen Family had been massacred!

"Huff..."

Chen Wudao took a deep breath, suppressing his boiling fury, and then bowed with a fist to the worried-looking old man beside him, "Brother Li, I must leave the mountain. After I deal with that ignorant fool, we can continue our exchange of chess skills."

"Alright," the old man nodded.

Chen Wudao immediately turned and leapt down from the towering cliff.

As he fell through the midair, the fierce wind howled, causing his clothes to flutter loudly, yet he remained as immovable as a mountain, and even...

During this descent, his bones crackled, and his previously slightly stooped figure straightened out.

His head of silver hair was stripped away by the fierce wind, leaving him bare, but in no time, his scalp grew a head of shiny black hair.

Afterward, Chen Wudao's wrinkled, aged face seemed to undergo a reversal of time, his wrinkles disappearing as his skin became smooth, fair, and delicate.

"Boom!"

Chen Wudao landed heavily at the mountain's base, like a meteor hitting the earth, creating a deep crater, with sand and stones splashing everywhere and dust filling the air...

After the dust settled, a strikingly handsome young man stepped out of the deep crater and started striding toward the distance.

If not for the young man's Taoist robe being identical to Chen Wudao's, hardly anyone would dare to believe that he was the white-haired, old Chen Wudao!

...

The transformation of Chen Wudao within the Kunlun Ruins was something Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang, seated in the Chen Family Estate, were naturally unaware of at this moment.

However, even if they had known, they wouldn't have cared.

When Xiang Mantang let go, Chen Xuyang and Lin Xiaoru collapsed, lifeless, their eyes wide open in fear and regret, staring at the ceiling.

"Take them away."

Xiang Mantang took out a clean towel to wipe her hands and spoke indifferently, instructing a few people.

"Yes."

The people respectfully saluted Xiang Mantang. Their expressions unchanging, they lifted the bodies of Lin Xiaoru and Chen Xuyang and quickly left the living room.

As Mu Jinyu watched these two struggle and die, a hint of pity appeared on his face.

These people really didn't know whether they were alive or dead, insisting on a confrontation over a trifle, only to end up like this today.

In fact, if it had been Mu Jinyu himself settling accounts with them, he would not have been so heavy-handed, preferring to make them regret for a lifetime, just as he had done with Zhang Qiuwai and Jiang Changge.

However, since Xiang Mantang was willing to vent his anger for him, although he felt somewhat uneasy, he did not refuse.

In the end, they brought it upon themselves!

Yet, Ah-Xiang's murderous aura seemed to have grown much stronger.

Mu Jinyu thought to himself silently.

After Xiang Mantang finished wiping her hands, she said to Mu Jinyu, "Let's go, we can return now."

Mu Jinyu stood up and left the Chen Family Estate with her.

After walking out of the estate, Mu Jinyu looked back at the quiet manor and said to Xiang Mantang with concern, "Ah-Xiang, this won't affect you, right?"

"No worries." Xiang Mantang smiled lightly, her expression unconcerned, "If it were one of the other big families in River City, whether the Du Family, the Jiang Family, or the Xu Family, cleaning them up like this, considering their influence on society, indeed there would be quite some trouble. But this Chen Family, heh..."

After a sneer, Xiang Mantang continued, "They are a Martial Arts Family with countless wealth, their influence radiating throughout Jiangnan, but mostly they let their underling puppets handle affairs. Therefore, even if their whole family were to pass away, at most it would cause a stir in the Jiangnan Martial Arts World and not much else. And once people find out it was me, Xiang Mantang, who did this, who would say anything? They might even applaud!"

Seeing Xiang Mantang saying this, Mu Jinyu also felt reassured.

He knew Xiang Mantang was not one to make empty claims. Since she spoke like this, it was basically settled—the incident wouldn't cause any further uproar.

Afterward, the two got into the car driven by Sister Liu and chatted idly along the way.

Mu Jinyu originally planned to scrounge a lunch at Xiang Mantang's place at noon, but after Xiang Mantang received a phone call, she apologized and excused herself, saying she had matters to attend to and couldn't keep company with her senior brother.

"If you have matters, then go ahead," Mu Jinyu waved his hand, not minding too much.

Xiang Mantang instructed Xiao Mei, "Take good care of my senior brother, don't neglect him. I'll be back soon."

"Yes," Liu Mei replied respectfully.

Xiang Mantang then apologized to Mu Jinyu again and departed.

After Xiang Mantang had left.

Mu Jinyu asked flatly, "Sister Liu, can you cook?"

Driving the car, Liu Mei made a sound of acknowledgment, "I can."

Mu Jinyu said, "Then it's getting late; go to my place and make me a simple meal."

Chapter 259 - Ambush

Liu Mei felt a mix of amusement and disbelief upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words.

What was her status again? Carrying the General's Star, whenever she stepped outside, leaders would always respectfully attend to her, yet Mu Jinyu treated her as if she were a nanny.

However, she also understood Mu Jinyu's prestigious position within Xiang Mantang, so despite finding it funny and inevitable, she wasn't really bothered by it.

Liu Mei hesitated for a moment before saying, "Alright, but I must warn you that the food I cook may not be very tasty and might not suit your taste. Perhaps, I should find a professional chef instead?"

It wasn't that she was too proud to serve Mu Jinyu, but she genuinely feared that her cooking might make Mu Jinyu feel sick.

Mu Jinyu's eyebrows twitched involuntarily upon hearing her words, and he quickly asked, "How bad... can it be?"

Liu Mei replied somewhat sheepishly, "It might be hard for a normal person to swallow, but if one were starving for several days, it would still seem delicious."

Mu Jinyu fell silent for a while, then sighed lightly and spoke, "Then trouble Sister Liu to find someone with decent cooking skills."

With a secret chuckle, Liu Mei nodded and replied, "Yes, of course."

After finishing, she took out her mobile phone and sent a text message.

Someone would then make the arrangements for her.

...

Xiang Mantang bid farewell to Mu Jinyu and then, under the arrangements of his subordinates, boarded a plane bound for Kunlun.

Sitting in first class, Xiang Mantang asked the stark young man next to him, "Are you sure Chen Wudao is coming out?"

"Yes," the stern young man replied, "With his strength, after all the Chen Family People died, he must have sensed something. However, since Kunlun Ruins is vast and there are restrictions at the entrance, it will take him at least five hours to get out, which is enough time for us to ambush him at the exit!"

Xiang Mantang nodded slightly, "Good, a family should embark on their final journey together to prevent any crazed harm to society once they get out!"

After speaking, he closed his eyes and began to cultivate.

Xiang Mantang didn't have the same natural talent as Mu Jinyu, so he had to continuously squeeze time for cultivation, never allowing himself to falter, gradually nearing Mu Jinyu's level of cultivation over time.

The subordinates who had booked the entire first class knew that Xiang Mantang wasn't just resting his eyes but was adjusting his state in preparation for the upcoming battle through continuous cultivation.

Watching Xiang Mantang, they looked at him with respect, then likewise stopped worrying about what was to come and started to cultivate themselves.

...

More than two hours later.

The plane carrying Xiang Mantang and his entourage finally landed at the airport.

Several military vehicles roared into the airport and came to a stop at the landing spot before the plane had even touched down on the runway.

The plane finally stopped.

Then, Xiang Mantang, who was sitting in first class, slowly opened his eyes with a flash of sharpness, got up, and disembarked from the plane.

Surrounded by an entourage, Xiang Mantang walked down the gangway, under the awe-filled glances of the other passengers, and headed towards the military vehicles.

The drivers of the military vehicles had already stepped out and opened the doors, waiting respectfully. After ushering Xiang Mantang and his people into the vehicles, they shut the doors, returned to their seats, started the engines, and with a roar, drove off, leaving no trace!

The fellow passengers watched them leave until they could no longer see them, and only then did their heartbeats start to slow.

...

After more than an hour had gone by.

Xiang Mantang finally arrived at the entrance to the Valley of Death in Kunlun Mountain.

Kunlun Mountain's Valley of Death, also known as the Gate of Death, is said to be scattered everywhere with wolf fur, bear skeletons, hunter's steel guns, and desolate graves—every sign sending a chilling breath of death to the world.

Few dared to venture into this haunted place.

Yet, Xiang Mantang led his people here.

This was because it was an entrance to the Kunlun Void; Chen Wudao would inevitably appear here if he were to exit from the Kunlun Ruins.

Xiang Mantang was here to wait for the rabbit!

At this moment, Xiang Mantang was holding a wooden box, not knowing what was inside, nor did he seem to intend to open it immediately. He closed his eyes, quietly waiting for Chen Wudao to appear.

An hour later.

Sitting alone at the mouth of the Valley of Death, Xiang Mantang seemed to sense something and suddenly opened his eyes.

He saw a strange change at the entrance of the valley, where the void was continuously distorting and undulating, just as if someone was skimming stones across a calm lake surface.

Only, what was being skimmed was not the lake, but the void itself.

Seeing this, Xiang Mantang knew Chen Wudao was about to appear, his eyes flashed, and he began to unpack the specially made wooden box, revealing two iron rods and a spear tip inside.

He took them out, and not flustered by the changes before him, or worried about Chen Wudao appearing at any moment, his hands were very steady, quickly assembling them together.

He assembled a spear, seven feet, seven inches, and seven parts long, weighing seventy-seven pounds, seven taels, and seven cents—the Overlord Spear.

This Overlord Spear was Xiang Mantang's weapon, forged from Mysterious Iron and Meteorite Iron Beyond, crafted by the country's most famous Grandmaster blacksmith, taking nearly a year to forge.

And with Xiang Mantang's campaigns, it had drunk the fresh blood of countless enemies.

Today, it would drink the blood of another Grandmaster.

"Buzz..."

Xiang Mantang had just assembled the Overlord Spear when the void before him suddenly twisted violently, emitting a burst of sonic boom, followed by a figure that abruptly burst through the twisting void.

It was indeed Chen Wudao.

Chen Wudao had just come out from the Kunlun Ruins, and was in a rush to head to River City to find out who had annihilated his Chen Family.

He saw Xiang Mantang standing alone, one hand behind his back, the other holding the spear slanting towards the sky, blocking his path, with a killing intent skyrocketing into the skies.

Chen Wudao's eyes showed a wary color, and he spoke, "Who are you, and why do you block my path?"

Xiang Mantang looked up, his eyes indifferent as he stared straight at Chen Wudao, lightly said, "You've taken the wrong path, I've specially come to direct you."

"Oh?" Chen Wudao raised an eyebrow, his tone cooling down as well, "Then tell me, which path should I take?"

"Underworld!"

As soon as Xiang Mantang's words fell, his figure suddenly moved like a released rabbit, covering a hundred meters in a breath, instantly closing to a distance of seven feet from Chen Wudao, spear picking and slashing horizontally, dancing out dozens of spear flowers in a second, directly thrusting

towards Chen Wudao's vital parts including the heart, throat, eyes, abdomen, and below the navel... among others.

Seeing this, Chen Wudao's eyes couldn't help but reveal a hint of shock, completely unexpected that this young man, looking no more than twenty, would possess such terrifying skills!

However, he, Chen Wudao, was fearless!

"Clang!"

Chen Wudao raised his hand, choosing to clash directly with Xiang Mantang's Overlord Spear with his bare hands in a rush.

Palms meeting the spear, Chen Wudao did not fall behind but even emitted bursts of gold-iron clashing sounds, as if his body had long been tempered like molten iron cast.

...

Chapter 260: Chen Wudao, Dead!

"Clang!"

Their palms clashed with the spear, emitting bursts of resounding clangs like iron being forged. Chen Wudao's eyes shone fiercely, displaying his fighting spirit.

He continuously struck the Overlord Spear with both palms, dozens of times in a single second.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

As the saying goes, an inch longer is an inch stronger, an inch shorter, an inch riskier. Xiang Mantang couldn't kill Chen Wudao instantly, which immediately forced Chen to suppress a mouthful of blood in his throat and close in on him.

As Chen Wudao raised his palms to strike the spear shaft, he stepped towards Xiang Mantang, ready to strike him down with a kill upon closing in!

The repeated impacts of his palms against the spear shaft sent multiple shockwaves back through his arms. His hands swelled and reddened, and Xiang Mantang's hands also trembled, his grip splitting, nearly losing hold of the Overlord Spear!

"Ha!"

Seeing Chen Wudao closing in, Xiang Mantang suddenly let out an angry shout, abruptly releasing his grip on the spear. Clenching his fists, he launched an attack straight at Chen Wudao!

His punch was swift and ferocious, like a bullet leaving the barrel, tearing through the air with a chilling sound!

Caught by surprise, Chen Wudao's eyes flashed with astonishment, yet he did not retreat. Instead, he raised his swollen and bloody fists to meet Xiang Mantang's onslaught!

"Boom!"

It was like thunder exploding from flat ground.

In an instant, currents of energy swept through, sand and stones blasted into the sky, and dust filled the air!

"Tss!"

Both men stood their ground, fists colliding, and each slid backwards several meters, carving deep grooves into the earth.

"Puh!"

Although Chen Wudao's strikes were no less fierce than Xiang Mantang's, he was after all an older man, his Qi-Blood could not match the vitality of a younger man like Xiang Mantang, could it?

In this moment of pause, Xiang Mantang's face flushed and his throat moved, as if a mouthful of blood was about to surge up, but he forcefully held it back. In contrast, Chen Wudao could not contain it. After his complexion changed several times, he finally spewed out a jet of blood!

"Swoosh!"

Even though Chen Wudao could not hold back the blood and qi, his experience came to the fore. He managed to turn the spurt of blood into a sharp blood arrow with penetration power rivalling that of a sniper bullet, shooting straight at Xiang Mantang's heart!

Xiang Mantang's body shook, still unable to recover from the punch he had exchanged with Chen Wudao. As the blood arrow approached, a cold glint flashed in his eyes as he forcefully moved his feet.

While Xiang Mantang managed to avoid a hit to his vital heart, he still couldn't dodge the blood arrow completely, and it pierced through his shoulder.

"Humph!"

Xiang Mantang couldn't help but let out a muffled grunt, his garments immediately stained with a patch of red, while the blood arrow nailed through his shoulder, damaging his tendons. For the time being, that arm was disabled.

And if not treated by a master soon, his entire arm might be completely ruined!

After being injured, Xiang Mantang turned a shade paler and then glared at Chen Wudao with eyes brimming with a murderous aura crisscrossing. If one looked closely into his eyes, it seemed as if the Endless Blood Sea roared and boiled!

"Ha!"

Xiang Mantang gave another angry shout. Ignoring his disabled right arm and having recovered from the backlog of the fist exchange, he kicked the Overlord Spear that had just fallen to the ground, sending it flying back into his hand. Gripping it with his left, he swept it around, spear momentum raging, and began to charge towards Chen Wudao!

Chen Wudao's own spurt of blood, while catching Xiang Mantang off guard and disabling his right arm, also caused much of his own energy to drain away.

His face aged suddenly, wrinkles crisscrossing. As he caught his breath, he saw Xiang Mantang, with total disregard for himself, charging at him once more.

His complexion turned even paler, his turbid old eyes flickering with fear, apprehension, and anger!

Chen Wudao couldn't fathom what grievance he had with Xiang Mantang to warrant such a relentless, do-or-die battle, not caring even if both parties were to come out worse for wear!

So ferocious and domineering, it was as if they shared a blood vendetta or a feud over a stolen spouse!

Could it be that he was the killer who annihilated his Chen Family?

But why was he so eager to completely eradicate the Chen Family? Even if it meant he himself ended up paralyzed for life, it simply wasn't worth it!

Chen Wudao could never understand why such a madman existed, but as he saw Xiang Mantang approaching with a spear and an aura of murderous intent reaching for the skies, he had no time to be distracted by these thoughts, and he immediately struck the Fist Seal with his hand, confronting and retreating in a defensive motion!

He dared not meet the sharp edge head-on any longer!

Yes, after emerging from the Kunlun Ruins and facing Xiang Mantang, not even thirty seconds had passed. The unbridled rage and unstoppable momentum he initially possessed had now been

suppressed by Xiang Mantang, and along with the blood that spurted out like an arrow, he sustained grave injuries; his chest felt as if it were a leaky bellows, the burning pain searing.

Fighting against Xiang Mantang, whose murderous aura soared and whose momentum was at its peak, he was no match. If the struggle continued, his death was certain.

Therefore, Chen Wudao was already thinking of retreating, or perhaps fleeing back to the entrance of Kunlun Ruins to heal his wounds before seeking revenge on Xiang Mantang!

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

"Clang!"

After several more exchanges, Chen Wudao constantly falling back made his intentions clear to Xiang Mantang.

Seeing that his opponent harbored fear, his edge all but gone, how could he still stand as his match? His path to death was set. All that was left was for Xiang Mantang to assist him on his way!

A mocking, cold smile curled the corners of Xiang Mantang's mouth, and without a moment's pause, he continued to attack Chen Wudao with his spear!

"Boom!"

Chen Wudao retreated to the entrance of the Valley of Death, his fear of Xiang Mantang building up more and more. He no longer dared to entangle with him and bearing the pain, he punched to deflect the thrusting Overlord Spear. He then turned around, moving swiftly like a freed rabbit, intending to escape into the entrance of the Kunlun Ruins behind him!

"Thinking of making a comeback from the east hill? You might as well start your journey early!"

Upon witnessing this, Xiang Mantang gave a light reprimand, his Inner Strength surged, transmitting through the spear. He then gripped it tightly and raised it high above his head before hurling it towards the fleeing Chen Wudao!

"Whoosh!"

The Overlord Spear, weighing seventy-seven catties and seven liang and seven qian, was thrown by Xiang Mantang like a javelin. The sound of tearing through the air echoed, embodying an unstoppable force, instantly bearing down on Chen Wudao.

Chen Wudao heard the noise and turned to look back, frightened to the point where his soul almost left his body, and immediately prepared to dodge to the side with a clumsy roll!

But it was still too late.

The momentum of the Overlord Spear had reached its peak; he could not escape, not in his weakened state like the setting sun.

Suddenly!

"Boom!"

The Overlord Spear, under Chen Wudao's horrified gaze, pierced straight through his chest. The residual energy did not dissipate, carrying him all the way back and finally pinning him to a huge rock!

"Rumble!"

The rock couldn't withstand the terrifying force of the spear; it exploded on impact, scattering fragments across the sky.

Like the collapse of a mountain.

But in doing so, it successfully dissipated most of the Spear Force, allowing Chen Wudao to be pinned to an ancient tree not far away without blasting it apart as well!

Chen Wudao was pinned against the ancient tree, eyes wide with despair and unwillingness, his pupils gradually dilating before his head lolled to the side, and he breathed his last.