

The Beauty 1011

Chapter 1011 I Like You

The person you like?

Hearing these words, Ling Chen was momentarily stunned. He had always considered Leng Feifei as a friend and never thought she would fall for him.

"Feifei, you should know that I already have a girlfriend. No matter what compensation you need from me on this matter, I won't have any objection, but..."

Leng Feifei nodded and said, "I know, but so what if you have a girlfriend? As long as you're not married, I have a chance. Ling Chen, I've never faced my feelings squarely before. Or rather, I didn't dare because I felt unworthy. But now I've figured it out; anything I like, I can pursue. Regardless of the outcome, as long as I've tried, even if things don't turn out well, at least I won't have regrets. On the way back just now, I made up my mind to use that money for further studies and work hard to better myself. Only by becoming more excellent can I have the qualifications to compete with others. So, I hope you won't get married so soon, at least give me a chance to pursue you."

Having heard Leng Feifei's words, Ling Chen felt not just helplessness but more of a deep admiration.

"Feifei, I'm not worth you doing all this."

"Whether it's worth it or not is my business. Anyway, I've said what I needed to say. I hope you remember my words. Bye-bye!"

After speaking, Leng Feifei waved to Ling Chen and went back to the room by herself.

Watching Leng Feifei's figure disappear from sight, Ling Chen touched his nose and smiled with resignation.

Am I really that outstanding?

Thinking of this, Ling Chen laughed at himself, then started the car and drove back to Wealthy Manor.

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In a villa located in the suburbs of East Sea City.

Currently, in the luxurious living room sat seven or eight people, among them was Lin Guodong. If Ling Chen were here, he would definitely recognize everyone present.

Ji Gang, Chen Quan, Chu Huaiyang, Song Mingzhe, and Zhu Hong.

Looking at the people in front of him, Lin Guodong gently tapped the armrest of his chair with his fingers and was the first to break the silence in the room: "Everyone, I'm sure you all understand the current situation. Does anyone have any good suggestions?"

Upon hearing this, Chen Quan closed his eyes, looking as if he was oblivious to the happenings around him. Chu Huaiyang and Song Mingzhe didn't say anything either, but directed their gaze at Zhu Hong. Zhu Hong had always been the one dealing with the God Organization, so it was most appropriate for him to handle such matters.

Noticing their small actions, Lin Guodong turned his head to look at Zhu Hong and asked, "Mr. Zhu, what do you think?"

Zhu Hong played with his nails and replied, "In my opinion, you can't blame anyone else for this matter; you can only blame yourselves. Your move back to East Sea City was too rushed, you weren't prepared at all, and you hastily intruded on someone else's territory. Besides, you've let Ling Chen and his team seize the advantage."

"Mr. Zhu, I understand everything you're saying, but the situation has already unfolded and there needs to be a resolution, don't you think? Since we're partners, I'd like to hope Mr. Zhu can help out a bit to quickly improve the current situation."

Zhu Hong nodded and said, "Mr. Lin, if that's how you see it, let me be frank. As of now, the God Organization's situation in East Sea City is quite dire. According to the intelligence we have, Ling Chen has already teamed up with the Secret Society. We're all aware of the Secret Society's capabilities. Now, East Sea City is covered by their intelligence network, every move the God Organization makes is under surveillance. If you dare to take any significant actions, you'll be discovered immediately. This puts the God Organization in a passive position without a doubt."

"The main reason for all this is none other than that main base. Mr. Lin, to be frank, you're too careless. Such an important place and you didn't allocate more defense, you let Ling Chen take it over just like that." At this point, Zhu Hong sighed speechlessly.

After a pause, Zhu Hong continued, "To change this situation, the only way is to retake that base."

Upon hearing this, Lin Guodong frowned and said, "Mr. Zhu, the defenses of that base, you've experienced them yourself. We can't break through in a short time. Moreover, even if we forcefully initiate a war, it will only result in more casualties."

"Mr. Lin, if that's how you think, then you'll never alter the God Organization's stance in East Sea City," Zhu Hong said. "If losing a few people can reclaim the base, why not? It's better than being constantly suppressed by Ling Chen. Plus, the God Organization never lacks manpower. Mr. Lin, now is the time to show some decisiveness. If you continue to be indecisive, things will only get worse. By then, even if you want to salvage the situation, it will be too late."

"But..." Lin Guodong was still somewhat hesitant.

"Mr. Zhu, it's easy for you to say. Once I send people into a full-blown conflict, not only will it expose the God Organization's strength in East Sea City, but more importantly, this is East Sea City, part of Huaxia, not abroad. Any major actions will surely attract police attention. If the police get involved, our operations will be further constrained."

Zhu Hong chuckled and said, "Mr. Lin, I understand your concerns. However, regarding this matter, you can rest assured. I know the most suitable time to strike."

"Really?" Lin Guodong asked curiously, "When?"

Zhu Hong pulled out a folded promotional poster from his pocket and handed it to Lin Guodong.

"Mr. Lin, take a look yourself."

Lin Guodong, half-believing, unfolded the poster, his brow furrowing involuntarily.

"This is... Tang Shiyun's concert?"

"Yes, indeed," Zhu Hong nodded, "As far as I know, Ling Chen has a very good relationship with Tang Shiyun. By then, Ling Chen is sure to attend her concert at the stadium. Moreover, Tang Shiyun is a well-known star in the country, with huge popularity. Once the concert begins, it will surely attract a large audience. To maintain order at the venue, the police will definitely allocate more personnel to ensure the concert's security. So, when the concert starts, the entire police force in East Sea City will be significantly reduced. That time would be our best opportunity to make a move."

Having heard Zhu Hong's suggestion, Lin Guodong nodded and said, "That's a good proposal, worth considering."

"Mr. Lin, does this really require consideration? If you miss this chance, you'll never have such a good opportunity again. As the leader of the God Organization, being hesitant at such a time doesn't align with your typical style." After a pause, Zhu Hong added with a smile, "Of course, this is a matter for the God Organization, we're just collaborators. How you proceed is your business, anyway, the consequences aren't ours to bear."

Chapter 1012 Nanrong Father and Son

"Mr. Lin," Ji Gang, who had been silent all along, spoke up, "I think Zhu Hong's suggestion is good. We can give it a try. After all, God Organization has a lot of manpower. Even if we lose some, it's not a big deal. However, what I'm worried about now is, if we launch an attack, how are we going to break the base's defenses? Last time, Chen Quan and I tried, and the base's defenses were very strong. Unless we use large machinery, there's no way to break through the base's defenses."

Beside him, Zhu Hong chimed in, "Additionally, the armored iron man in the base is also a big problem."

"That armored iron man is the latest equipment developed by God Organization, originally intended for individual combat, positioned as a high-firepower lethal weapon. However, we were too careless and let

that armored iron man fall into Ling Chen's hands," Lin Guodong spoke. "But the main reason I called everyone together this time is because God Organization's researchers have been captured by Ling Chen. Those researchers are the most important asset of God Organization. Over the years, all of God Organization's research results have been developed by them. If those research results fall into Ling Chen's hands, it will be a huge threat to us. Therefore, we must take action as soon as possible."

At this point, Lin Guodong looked at Zhu Hong and said, "Mr. Zhu, I support your proposal. The concert is in about ten days, and during this time, we will make all the preparations to seize control of the base. When the time comes, we may have to trouble you."

Zhu Hong smiled slightly, "Mr. Lin, you're too kind. We are now partners, and it is only right to help each other. Well, if there's nothing else, we'll be going now. Notify us when you're ready to move."

"Alright, no problem."

After seeing Zhu Hong and the others off, Ji Gang looked at Lin Guodong and asked, "Do we need to request help from above for this operation?"

"With Chen Quan's assistance on the side, two experts from the Heavenly List should be enough. There's no need to bother the higher-ups."

"Although you say that, Chen Quan is ultimately an outsider. I can't trust him. And Zhu Hong is not a simple person. He must have his own plans for cooperating with us. We better be on guard against him to avoid being bitten back."

"Don't worry, I understand this. Elder Ji, time is limited. I will have to trouble you in the upcoming actions. If this operation fails, God Organization will find it very difficult to establish itself in East Sea City. At that time, none of us will be able to explain to the higher-ups."

Upon hearing this, Ji Gang asked, "Mr. Lin, may I ask a nosy question? Why does God Organization want to move all its forces to East Sea City? Although East Sea City is a large coastal metropolis, it doesn't seem to warrant such attention from God Organization. This time, God Organization seems to have bet everything on East Sea City, leaving no way out. Why is that?"

Lin Guodong replied indifferently, "Elder Ji, this is a secret of the Ling Family. It's not convenient to disclose it for now. But rest assured, when the time is right, you'll naturally understand the reason."

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In the blink of an eye, three days passed.

Wealthy Manor.

At the Nanrong Family, upon learning that Yang Qingling and the others had bought a house, Nanrong Wanqing seemed reluctant. She wished Yang Qingling could stay a while longer, so she could develop a closer bond with her.

Fortunately, the villa Yang Qingling purchased isn't far. It's only about ten minutes' drive away.

In the past few days, the villa's formalities were almost complete, and Ling Chen helped Yang Qingling pack her belongings at home and moved them all to the car.

"Wanqing, are you staying at home or coming with me?"

"I'll go with Mrs. Yang and see if there's anything I can help with." In front of Yang Qingling, Nanrong Wanqing always tried her best to show herself, hoping to gain Yang Qingling's favor.

As soon as she finished speaking, Nanrong Wanqing suddenly heard her phone ringing.

Taking out her phone and glancing at the caller ID, Nanrong Wanqing walked to the side to answer the call. Not knowing who it was, after listening for a few moments, she turned to Ling Chen and apologized, "I might not be able to make it. There's something urgent at the company that needs my attention."

Ling Chen smiled and said, "No problem, you go ahead and handle your business. Oh, don't forget to come to my house for dinner tonight. Mom said she'll be cooking tonight, so you must be there."

"I know. Don't worry, I won't miss it."

After Ling Chen and the others drove off, Nanrong Wanqing called for Zhong Wei and Liang Zhao Hui to drive her out of Wealthy Manor.

"Chairman, are we heading to the company?" Zhong Wei, sitting in the passenger seat, asked.

"Not to the company." Nanrong Wanqing showed an address on her phone to Zhong Wei and said, "We're going here."

"Understood."

After spending more than twenty minutes on the road, Liang Zhao Hui drove the Rolls Royce to a high-end western restaurant.

"Wait for me in the car," said Nanrong Wanqing as she got out of the car and walked straight to the western restaurant.

It was past lunchtime, and there weren't many customers in the restaurant. Nanrong Wanqing found a waiter and inquired softly. After a while, she arrived outside a private room.

Opening the door, she saw a well-lit room with two people inside, a young man and a middle-aged man, whose appearances bore some resemblance.

"Uncle, cousin." Nanrong Wanqing closed the door and greeted warmly.

"You're here!" Nanrong Zhengqing pointed to a seat beside him and smiled, "Come sit. Have you eaten yet? Want me to get you a steak?"

"No need, I ate at home already." After a pause, Nanrong Wanqing asked, "Uncle, when did you return to East Sea City? You should have let me know earlier so I could pick you up from the airport."

"We are used to coming and going freely, no need for such formalities. Wanqing, we're here mainly because of your issue."

"My issue?" Nanrong Wanqing asked, puzzled, "Uncle, what issue could I possibly have?"

"Cousin, don't you remember the favor you asked us last time?" Ji Beizhao pitched in, "You wanted us to help find your second uncle, right? My dad and I had some free time recently, so we went back to our hometown and checked on your dad's whereabouts."

Upon hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing eagerly asked, "Did you find anything?"

"Wanqing, don't get ahead of yourself," said Nanrong Zhengqing as he set down his knife and fork and picked up a cup of coffee. "Your father's situation is more complicated than you think. It won't be resolved quickly. However, we did find some clues."

"What clues?" Nanrong Wanqing asked hastily. Over the years, she had sought help from countless people to find her father's whereabouts, but to no avail. Now that there were finally some clues, how could she not be excited?

Chapter 1013 In the Know

"According to our investigation, we found that your father had a very deep connection with the God Organization," Ji Beizhao said, "Not only that, he held a high position within the organization, managing a large number of people. Cousin, I'm not sure how much you know about the God Organization. This organization..."

Ji Beizhao was just about to explain the God Organization when Nanrong Wanqing quickly interrupted him and said, "I've heard Ling Chen mention the God Organization, and I know it's a criminal organization that does evil all over the world."

"Criminal organization?" Nanrong Zhengqing said with a half-smile, "The God Organization can't simply be described as a criminal organization. However, your understanding isn't wrong. Within the God Organization, your father goes by the alias Mr. Yun. I wonder if you've heard of this name."

Mr. Yun?

Nanrong Wanqing's expression slightly changed, and she looked at Nanrong Zhengqing in surprise, "Uncle, are you sure there's no mistake?"

"No mistake, we've verified it through multiple sources. Why?"

"I... I've dealt with a man called Mr. Yun before. That man also looked in his forties or fifties, but I've never seen my father before, so I couldn't recognize him." At this point, Nanrong Wanqing suddenly remembered something.

"Last time, that Mr. Yun came looking for me, and Ling Chen was there too. His reaction upon seeing Mr. Yun was quite intense, as if he was very cautious. I didn't think much of it at the time, but now that I think about it, Ling Chen might have known Mr. Yun's identity, which is why he reacted that way."

"You're right," Ji Beizhao said, taking over the conversation, "According to our investigation, Ling Chen did have contact with Mr. Yun, and not only that, they interacted frequently. I suspect Ling Chen likely knows Mr. Yun's true identity."

Hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing asked perplexedly, "If he knew, then why didn't he tell me?"

"We're not quite sure about that. However, when I called you earlier, I specifically told you not to tell Ling Chen and to come here alone. The reason I did this is because your father had a deep connection with Ling Chen." After a pause, Ji Beizhao glanced at his father and continued, "Wanqing, the main reason we called you here today is to tell you something."

"What is it?"

"Your father, he..." Ji Beizhao opened his mouth but didn't know how to continue.

Seeing this, Nanrong Wanqing couldn't help but urge, "Cousin, what's wrong with my dad?"

"Dad, why don't you tell her, I can't say it," Ji Beizhao sighed and passed this heavy responsibility to Nanrong Zhengqing.

"Wanqing, before I tell you this news, I hope you're mentally prepared. Your father... he has passed away!"

Passed away?

Nanrong Wanqing froze for a moment, looking dazedly at Nanrong Zhengqing, hardly believing what she just heard.

"Uncle, you said... my dad is dead?"

"That's right," Nanrong Zhengqing nodded, "I know this is hard to accept, but it's the truth, and there's nothing we can do to change it. When we learned about this, Beizhao and I discussed whether to tell you. Initially, I thought that since Nanrong Yuan had been gone for so many years, perhaps it was best to let him forever 'disappear.' That way, at least you wouldn't have to endure the pain of losing a father. But Beizhao told me that regardless, he is your biological father, and you have the right to know everything. After much hesitation, I decided to tell you, so that during the Qingming Festival, someone can offer him incense."

Passed away... father passed away...

Nanrong Wanqing lightly bit her thin lips, her hands starting to tremble uncontrollably. Over the years, she had always held onto hope that one day she would find her parents and their family would reunite. But now, she finally learned of her father's whereabouts, only to find out it's news of his death.

She didn't understand, since Nanrong Yuan had gone to the Hongyu Group as Mr. Yun to see her, why didn't he reveal his identity directly? Was he not even willing to acknowledge his own daughter?

"Wanqing, have a cup of tea first." Ji Beizhao handed a cup of hot tea in front of Nanrong Wanqing, "I know this is a big blow to you, but I hope you can be strong. Besides, the dead cannot be brought back to life, and if your father were still alive, he definitely wouldn't want to see you sad."

Nanrong Wanqing wiped away the tears at the corner of her eyes and asked, "Uncle, are your sources accurate?"

"Rest assured, my information is definitely accurate. To be honest, I got this information from the police in the last two days."

"The police?"

"Yes. A few days ago, the police discovered the God Organization's temporary headquarters in an air-raid shelter beneath the police station. They collected the computer servers at the site and copied all the remaining data of the God Organization from there. Amongst that data, there were records regarding your father. I went through a lot of connections to get that information."

"Then..." Nanrong Wanqing composed herself and asked, "Uncle, you mentioned before that my father had a deep connection with Ling Chen, what does that mean?"

"Ling Chen probably already knew your father's true identity. The reason he didn't tell you could be because your father was serving the God Organization at the time, which happened to be Ling Chen's enemy. Simply put, they were in a hostile relationship. At that time, Ling Chen was already living in the Nanrong Family, and his relationship with you was also extraordinary. So, anyone wouldn't want to drag you into it. Otherwise, with a girlfriend on one side and an enemy as the girlfriend's father on the other, Ling Chen would probably be very troubled. Therefore, not telling you was the wisest choice."

Nanrong Zhengqing continued, "According to the information we obtained, your father was captured by a secret government agency and detained at a secret base in Beijing. Later, Ling Chen transferred your father to East Sea City, probably to collaborate with him on something. However, not long after your father arrived in East Sea City, unfortunately, he was discovered by members of the God Organization and was secretly abducted and killed. If the intelligence is correct, your father died at the Nanrong Family's dock. Due to the government's swift intervention, this matter was covered up, and the Nanrong Family was unaware."

"So Ling Chen knew everything from the very beginning."

"Yes," Nanrong Zhengqing nodded, "However, your father's death wasn't greatly related to him. And I believe Ling Chen had his difficulties. Otherwise, he would have arranged for you and your father to meet. Of course, Ling Chen isn't entirely blameless. Your father has been dead for so long, and he kept it from you, that's his fault."

Beside him, Ji Beizhao chimed in, "Maybe Ling Chen hasn't figured out how to tell you. After all, not everyone can easily say something like this. Wanqing, don't blame Ling Chen too much. It would be difficult for anyone in his position to make a choice."

Chapter 1014 Gathering Dinner

Nanrong Wanqing was silent for a moment and asked, "Then where is my dad's body?"

Nanrong Zhengqing and Ji Beizhao exchanged a look, and replied, "We don't know, it was the government that got involved at that time, perhaps only Ling Chen knows. Maybe you can ask Ling Chen when you get back."

"I understand." Nanrong Wanqing responded, appearing very downcast. It's hard for anyone to be happy upon hearing the news of their father's death.

"Uncle, cousin, thank you for helping me find out about my father's affairs."

"We're all family, no need for such formal words." With that, Nanrong Zhengqing sighed and said, "Honestly, I can't understand why your father got involved with the God Organization. The God Organization is harmful to society, countless people suffered because of them, and your father worked with them... Sigh! I really don't know what to say."

"Uncle, I understand what you mean. But no matter what, he is still my father." With that, Nanrong Wanqing stood up and said, "Uncle, if there's nothing else, I'll be leaving now."

"Alright, don't be too upset, your health is more important."

Walking out of the western restaurant, Nanrong Wanqing looked at the gloomy sky outside, feeling empty inside, as if she had lost her soul, without any spirit.

"Chairman." Zhong Wei, who was waiting by the roadside, hurried over when he saw Nanrong Wanqing approaching. Seeing that Nanrong Wanqing's expression wasn't right, Zhong Wei asked with concern, "Chairman, are you alright? Are you feeling unwell, should I take you to the hospital for a check-up?"

"No need." Nanrong Wanqing said expressionlessly, "Just take me back."

"Chairman, weren't we going to Ling Chen's house?"

"No, take me back to Wealthy Manor."

"Yes." With the chairman's command, Zhong Wei dared not ask more and quickly ushered Nanrong Wanqing into the car.

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In the evening.

Ling Chen sat in the freshly tidied living room, checking the time, it was almost six-thirty, but there was still no sign of Nanrong Wanqing. He took out his phone and dialed Nanrong Wanqing's number.

Soon, the call connected, and on the other end came Nanrong Wanqing's weary voice. Ling Chen was shocked and hurriedly asked, "Wanqing, what's wrong?"

"Nothing, I just suddenly feel very tired and want to rest. Sorry, I probably can't come tonight, please apologize to Mrs. Yang for me, I'm really sorry."

"Wait for me at home, I'll come over to see you right away." With that, Ling Chen got up and headed out.

"No need, I'm already lying in bed, the doctor just checked me, it's just a little cold, nothing serious. A few pills and a good night's sleep will do. You just moved into your new home, stay and celebrate with everyone, I'll come over as a guest another day when I feel better."

"Alright then, you rest first, I won't disturb you anymore. If I have time tomorrow, I'll come to Wealthy Manor to see you."

After hanging up, Yang Qingling, who was busy in the kitchen, poked her head out and asked, "Ling Chen, isn't Wanqing coming?"

"Mom, Wanqing is not feeling well, she's resting at home and can't come tonight."

"Is it serious?"

"No, just a minor cold, I'll go over and keep her company tomorrow." As he spoke, he heard a doorbell ring at the entrance.

Ling Chen quickly walked to the door and opened it, seeing Hu Fei, Tang Guolun, Zhou Jun, Kaelina, Jiang Yunkai... and Qiu Yong among others outside. Seeing everyone had arrived, Ling Chen couldn't help but smile and quickly ushered them into the house.

"Come in and make yourselves at home." Ling Chen warmly greeted.

Yuan Yun patted Ling Chen on the shoulder and said with a smile, "Don't worry, we won't be formal with you."

With friends gathered, though Ling Chen was happy, he felt a bit disappointed. He specifically invited Nanrong Wanqing for dinner tonight because he knew so many friends would come. He hoped she could help host, which in some way would acknowledge her position as the hostess.

Unfortunately, Nanrong Wanqing suddenly felt unwell, so the plan was abandoned.

"Elder Qiu, you came! Ling Chen, quickly have everyone sit down." Yang Qingling came out of the kitchen, greeting everyone.

However, her address made Ling Chen feel a bit awkward. He and Qiu Yong were like brothers, but his mother treated him as an elder, which seemed upside down. What was more troubling was that his grandfather actually called Qiu Yong a brother. No wonder, Yang Yan was older than Qiu Yong by a few years, so calling him younger brother was somewhat appropriate.

But now, Ling Chen's seniority was all mixed up.

"Alright, everyone call each other as you like, don't mind those formalities." Qiu Yong said with a smile.

During the guests' seating, Ling Chen pulled Hu Fei aside and asked, "Chubby, now that you all came over, what if something happens at the base? At least leave one or two people there."

Hu Fei shrugged and said, "What could I have done, when they heard you invited us over for dinner, everyone rushed over, no one wanted to stay back at the base. But don't worry, Zhou Jun's grandfather is still there, plus, what could possibly happen over one meal, just relax."

It's rare to gather so many people, alcohol was indispensable. After a round of drinks, it was already past eleven at night, except for Qiu Yong and a few others still wanting more, everyone else was too drunk to move.

Luckily, there were enough rooms in the house, and Ling Chen carried them one by one into the bedrooms.

When everything was settled, it was already past one in the morning. Ling Chen checked the time, and drove out of the community alone. Half an hour later, he arrived at the base.

Hu Fei and the others had drunk too much, and wouldn't wake up until morning. With no one guarding the base, to avoid any incidents, Ling Chen had to rush over to the base overnight, just in case anything unexpected happened.

At the base, only Zhou Qi was guarding the control center. Ling Chen greeted Zhou Qi and placed some snacks and a few bottles of liquor he had bought along the way in front of Zhou Qi.

"Elder Zhou, thank you for your hard work tonight, come, have a couple of drinks first." Ling Chen diligently poured a cup of liquor for Zhou Qi.

After a few cups of liquor, Zhou Qi became more talkative.

"Ling Chen, sometimes I feel that I've shortchanged myself. Just think, I've dedicated most of my life to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and what did I get in return? They kicked me out. Honestly, I carry grudges, as most of my life was spent there. But now that I'm out, I've come to terms with it. Though the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is a great place, it's all about rules and lacks warmth among people. Your place is different, your friends are all genuine, they're ready to accompany you through hardships with just one word. It's rare in life to have a soulmate, and even more so to have so many wonderful brothers."

Chapter 1015 Deception

"When you're out and about, you rely on friends. Fortunately, I've been lucky to make many like-minded good buddies. Elder Zhou, you really don't need to feel so sad, after all, so much time has passed. Everyone has their destiny, maybe yours isn't to remain unknown in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, but to achieve something great."

Zhou Qi waved with a smile, "I'm old, I don't have the energy for great achievements. Ling Chen, what you're doing now is what's truly significant, and it's benefiting the people. If you can destroy the God Organization, it would mean saving countless innocent lives. In this respect, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion can't compare to you."

"The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has too many taboos and intricacies, which results in their efficiency being too slow. Also, the pavilion itself is a martial arts arbiter, never actively getting involved in disputes. Unless they're provoked directly, they don't act rashly. When I stayed at the pavilion for a long time, I hadn't thought about many things. But since I've gone through so much with you, I've realized how selfish the pavilion can be in this regard."

"Everyone knows the greater the power, the greater the responsibility. However, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has such formidable martial prowess and abilities, yet they huddle in their territory, never actively helping others solve problems. Even when someone approaches them, they deliberate repeatedly before making a decision. By the time they decide, it's already too late."

Ling Chen chimed in, "The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, after all, has a history of hundreds of years, and more or less there are bound to be these sorts of issues. What's more, these issues have taken root, and they can't be changed overnight unless Su Mei has enough determination."

Zhou Qi sighed, "I watched Su Mei grow up, and I'm very clear about her abilities. Managing a Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is already quite challenging, thanks only to her grandfather's reputation protecting her. To change the pavilion, it's simply impossible. Unless her grandfather returns to the pavilion, there's a slight chance."

Hearing Zhou Qi mention Su He, Ling Chen suddenly remembered his father Ling Kun's instructions before he left. Su He asked Ling Kun to pass on a message to him, asking him to visit when he had time, as Su He seemed to have something to discuss with him.

However, being busy dealing with the God Organization lately, he didn't have the time, so he thought he'd check it out later.

After a round of drinks, Zhou Qi was a bit tipsy. Seeing it wasn't early, Ling Chen let Zhou Qi rest first, while he stayed at the control center to oversee the latter part of the night.

The night passed.

By eight o'clock the next morning, Hu Fei and his team returned to the base.

"Fatty, I'm heading back to rest, call me if anything comes up," Ling Chen instructed.

"Got it."

Leaving the base, Ling Chen didn't head straight home but drove to Wealthy Manor. Last night, Nanrong Wanqing wasn't feeling well, and he wondered if she was better today.

As soon as he reached the entrance of the Nanrong Family home, and parked the car, before entering, Nanrong Hao came out from inside.

"Chen, you're here early."

"How's your sister? Is she feeling better?"

"My sister?" Nanrong Hao asked confusedly, "What's wrong with my sister? She's fine, we even had dinner last night. However, while her health is fine, she seemed quite preoccupied, not sure why. Hey, Chen, did you upset my sister?"

"Of course not. Okay, you head to the company, I'll go check on your sister." Saying this, Ling Chen quickly made his way to Nanrong Wanqing's villa and went straight in.

On the villa's second floor, Ling Chen stood in front of Nanrong Wanqing's bedroom and knocked gently. However, there was no response from inside.

Strange! Could she have gone out?

Thinking this, Ling Chen pushed open the door and entered. There was no one in the spacious bedroom, and the quilt on the bed was neatly arranged.

Where is she?

Didn't Nanrong Hao say Nanrong Wanqing was home? How could there be no one? Thinking for a moment, Ling Chen took out his phone and dialed Nanrong Wanqing's number.

After a short while, the call connected, and Ling Chen asked, "Wanqing, where are you?"

"I'm at home, why? Do you need something?"

"You're at home?" Ling Chen was slightly taken aback, staring at the empty room, "Uh... are you feeling better? I was just about to visit you at home."

"No need to trouble yourself. I feel much better after sleeping and there's no issue. I still need to go to the company later. You should focus on your matters, no need to worry about me. Alright, I won't chat more, I need to get up for breakfast." With that, before Ling Chen could say anything else, Nanrong Wanqing hung up.

Breakfast?

Ling Chen chuckled wryly. If he hadn't come to the Nanrong Family home, he might have believed Nanrong Wanqing's words.

He couldn't understand, was there something she couldn't just tell him? Why resort to deception? Also, since knowing Nanrong Wanqing, she had never lied to him.

What was really going on?

Ling Chen touched his nose, feeling a headache coming on. Nanrong Wanqing certainly had something on her mind, which was why she found an excuse to avoid attending the family banquet last night. Whatever was troubling Nanrong Wanqing, it certainly wasn't a simple matter.

After much thought, Ling Chen decided to head home first. Since Nanrong Wanqing intended to keep him in the dark, pressing her would be futile and might even anger her. If she wanted to tell him, she would eventually.

...

Two days later.

In the chairman's office at Hongyu Group.

Secretary Wang Lan knocked on the office door, and after receiving a response, she entered.

"Chairman."

"Lan, what's the matter?" Nanrong Wanqing asked without looking up from her document.

"Chairman, Mr. Han just called. He wants to see you to discuss something important in person."

"Mr. Han? Which Mr. Han?"

"Han Mingchao."

"Him?" Nanrong Wanqing frowned slightly, "If it's business-related, let him talk to Nanrong Hao. I don't have time to meet him now."

"Chairman, Mr. Han mentioned that it's a personal matter, not business, and he's already downstairs. Should he come up, or should he reschedule?"

Hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing thought for a moment, closed the document in her hand, and said, "Since he's here, let him come up."

"Okay." With that, Wang Lan turned and headed out.

"Lan, wait!" At this moment, as if remembering something, Nanrong Wanqing called out to Wang Lan.

Wang Lan stopped and turned back to ask, "Chairman, is there something else?"

"Inform the front desk in the lobby that if Ling Chen comes by, let them notify me in advance. Understand?"

"Yes, got it." Wang Lan replied, though she was a bit puzzled inside.

What's up with the chairman? She's been stern-faced these past two days, could it be she had a falling-out with Ling Chen?

Chapter 1016 Concert (Part 1)

In recent days, Ling Chen hasn't been having a good time. He searched for Nanrong Wanqing more than ten times, but each time she found an excuse to refuse him. Over these days, he's been to the Nanrong Family four or five times, yet still hasn't caught a glimpse of Nanrong Wanqing.

What exactly is going on? Ling Chen sat on the sofa at home, pondering quietly. A few days ago, he seemed not to have offended Nanrong Wanqing, and he had no idea why she was upset—the whole thing is so baffling.

"Ling Chen."

Hearing Yang Qingling's voice coming from behind, Ling Chen turned around and asked, "Mom, what's up?"

"Why hasn't Wanqing come over to visit these past few days? No trace of her, not even a phone call. Did you two have a fight?"

"Mom, nothing like that. She's been really busy with work recently, so she doesn't have time to come over," Ling Chen dodged the question.

"Oh, come on, I've been through this, do you think you can fool me? Son, it's very normal for couples to argue, you don't need to worry too much. As a man, you should be generous, not petty like a woman. Also, if Wanqing is mad at you, then you should be the one actively seeking her, instead of just staying at home. Do you expect Wanqing to come find you?"

Ling Chen said with a bitter smile, "Mom, it's not like I haven't tried. I've called her so much that my phone's almost worn out, and I've been to the Nanrong Family several times, but she keeps avoiding me. What else can I do? I don't even know how I've offended her. Sigh, sometimes women can be so inexplicable. It's okay to be angry, but at least give me a reason. She doesn't say a word, what can I do? Should I block her at her office building?"

"It's not a bad thing for a man to be proactive."

"Mom, it's not about being proactive or not. Alright, don't worry about it, I know what to do." Just as he said this, Ling Chen's phone on the coffee table started ringing.

Seeing the caller ID, Ling Chen quickly answered the call, "Hello! Shiyun, is there something you need from me?"

"Ling, my concert is the day after tomorrow, aren't you going to come and support me?"

"Of course I'll come, how could I not? Save a seat for me, and I'll definitely be there."

"You've said it, so don't go back on your word. I'll save three seats for you; you can bring some friends along."

After hanging up the phone, Yang Qingling asked, "Was that Wanqing calling?"

"No, it was Shiyun. Hey! Mom, are you interested in going to the concert with me?"

"Shiyun?" Yang Qingling listened to the unfamiliar name and asked, "Who is that? Have I met her?"

Ling Chen slapped his forehead, remembering that he hadn't mentioned Tang Shiyun to his mom yet.

"Mom, Shiyun is the first friend I made in East Sea City—a very cute girl. If you meet her, you're guaranteed to like her."

Listening to this, Yang Qingling looked at her son with a peculiar gaze and said, "Ling Chen, honestly tell Mom, how many girls are you interested in? Are you seeing several girls at the same time?" Pausing for a moment, without waiting for Ling Chen to respond, Yang Qingling earnestly advised, "Son, Wanqing is a very nice girl, you must not do anything to let her down. Also, men should be loyal, just like your father; you must not be a philanderer. Those kinds of men are scumbags, and I do not wish for my son to become one of them."

Ling Chen said helplessly, "Mom, what are you saying, making your son sound like such a scumbag. Shiyun is my little sister, don't overthink it."

"Men and women can't have pure friendships, especially you, who always call others your sister, it shows you have feelings for her. Son, don't blame Mom for not warning you; you better be careful, don't play with fire and get burned."

"Mom, it's not as serious as you say." Ling Chen was speechless, his mother's reaction was too extreme.

"Alright! Since you don't want to go to the concert, I won't force you, I'll find someone else." After saying this, Ling Chen took strides toward his room. He's truly scared of Yang Qingling, getting berated out of nowhere.

"Wait!" Yang Qingling called out to Ling Chen, who was about to go upstairs, "Who said I'm not going? Perfect, I'll go with you to see what kind of person this 'sister' of yours is."

"Alright, if you want to go, I'll accompany you then. I'll head back to my room!"

Returning to his room, Ling Chen wandered onto the balcony of the bedroom. Looking out, he could see Han Mingchao's villa. At this time, two cargo trucks were parked at Han Mingchao's door, and several men in work uniforms were moving furniture from the house to the trucks.

Upon seeing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but wonder. What's Han Mingchao up to? Why move when you're living well—could it be to avoid trouble from me? Thinking of this, Ling Chen chuckled. This guy's guts are way too small.

...

A day passes.

Friday, 6:30 PM.

Ling Chen had dinner at home, went back to his room, and changed into a clean and neat suit, then waited at the front door for Yang Qingling.

Tang Shiyun's concert starts at 7:30; there's still an hour left. After waiting for a few minutes, Yang Qingling leisurely descended from upstairs.

"Mom, when you meet Shiyun later, mind your words and don't scare her." Sitting in the car, Ling Chen cautioned anxiously. He had no choice—the attitude Yang Qingling showed the other day made him worry.

Yang Qingling glared at her son with disdain; she was, after all, raised by a prestigious family, well-educated and courteous—not like those unruly women on the streets. If it weren't for him being her son, she would've taught him a lesson already, daring to question his mom's standards.

Receiving Yang Qingling's glare, Ling Chen straightened up considerably. He shut his mouth and quickly started the car, driving towards the stadium.

PM.

Ling Chen arrived on time at the stadium parking lot. After parking, he led Yang Qingling directly to the stadium entrance.

At this moment, outside the stadium is already a sea of people; the audience all holding tickets and lining up to enter. Such bustling scenes naturally attract street vendors trying to earn some business. Surrounding the crowd, vendors had spontaneously formed a little food street, with tantalizing aromas in the air.

Seeing those fans holding banners and nameplates, Yang Qingling asked in surprise, "Does that Tang Shiyun have great fame?"

Yang Qingling, who had been abroad for a long time and only recently returned home, had no knowledge of Tang Shiyun's domestic popularity. Thus, the crowded scene before her left her greatly astounded.

Ling Chen had only told her that Tang Shiyun was a singer, but never imagined she was such a hit star. For a moment, she was full of curiosity about Tang Shiyun, whom she'd never met.

In response to Yang Qingling's inquiry, Ling Chen merely chuckled, believing nothing he could say would be more convincing than the sight of the live audience.

Chapter 1017 Concert (Part 2)

At the entrance of the stadium, Yang Qingling asked, "Son, aren't we going to queue?"

"No need, with so many people, we don't know how long we'll have to wait in line." Saying this, Ling Chen took out his phone and dialed a number. In less than two minutes, Tang Shiyun's agent Xu Hong quickly walked out from inside the stadium.

"Mr. Ling."

"Miss Xu, I'm sorry to bother you while you're so busy." Ling Chen said apologetically.

"No worries." Xu Hong smiled slightly and said, "Shiyun instructed me even if you didn't call, I would still contact you. Let's go, there are too many people here, I'll take you through the VIP access."

"Alright, thank you!"

The VIP access is only open for concert VIP guests. Led by Xu Hong, Ling Chen and Yang Qingling quickly arrived at the backstage lounge. Not long after they sat down, they saw Tang Shiyun come in wearing a red robe full of classical charm.

"Ling." Tang Shiyun happily called out, opening her arms wanting to hug Ling Chen. However, she quickly noticed that besides Ling Chen, there was another ***** with a very graceful presence in the lounge.

Seeing someone else in the room, Tang Shiyun quickly retracted her arms, embarrassedly sticking out her tongue at Ling Chen.

"Ling, who is this beautiful auntie?"

Ling Chen smiled and said, "Shiyun, come, let me introduce, this is my mom, Yang Qingling. Mom, this is Tang Shiyun I've mentioned to you."

Mom?

Tang Shiyun was shocked. When did Ling suddenly have a mom? He hadn't mentioned anything about this last time they went out. After a brief moment of confusion, Tang Shiyun quickly responded, sweetly saying, "Mrs. Yang, I'm sorry, I didn't know you were Ling's mom and forgot to greet you just now."

"It's okay. This is our first meeting, it's normal for you not to recognize me." Yang Qingling said with a gentle smile. Putting things aside, she quite liked this polite girl.

"Ling, I reserved three seats for you, why did only two of you come?"

"It's just us two, couldn't find anyone else."

"Then what about Wanqing? Why didn't you bring her to watch my concert?"

"Wanqing... Wanqing had something come up last minute, I'm not too sure about her schedule." Ling Chen said casually.

At this time, Xu Hong knocked on the lounge door and peeked in to say, "Shiyun, fifteen minutes until it starts, you should get ready to go on stage."

"Got it. Hong, could you take Ling and Mrs. Yang to the VIP seats?" After speaking, Tang Shiyun turned to Yang Qingling and said, "Mrs. Yang, I'm sorry, I need to do my final preparations. After the concert, I'll sit down and chat with you properly."

Yang Qingling smiled in response, "Alright, go on with your work, don't let us delay your important tasks."

After watching Tang Shiyun leave, Xu Hong led Ling Chen and Yang Qingling straight to the VIP seats. Halfway there, Ling Chen suddenly heard his phone ringing from his pocket. Taking out his phone and looking at the caller ID number, Ling Chen muttered to himself in surprise, why is he calling me?

Without time to think more, Ling Chen answered the call, saying hello and asked, "Beizhao, why do you have time to call me today?"

"Ling Chen, are you with Wanqing?"

"No. You need Wanqing for something?"

"No, I don't need Wanqing. Um... are you two okay?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen asked in confusion, "What do you mean 'okay'? Beizhao, clarify what you mean, I don't quite understand."

"What, didn't Wanqing come clean with you?" After a pause, Ji Beizhao continued, "Wanqing already knows about her father's situation. My dad and I investigated my second uncle's information, what he used to do, his relationship with you, and his death, Wanqing knows all of it, I thought Wanqing would have told you."

Ling Chen felt a pang in his heart. He finally understood why Nanrong Wanqing was ignoring him. It was because of this.

All along, he had hesitated, not knowing how to tell Nanrong Wanqing about this issue. So he kept delaying it until now. Now, Nanrong Wanqing's attitude is cold towards him, probably blaming him for hiding this matter for too long.

Thinking about this, Ling Chen couldn't help but give a bitter smile. It's not surprising that Nanrong Wanqing is angry with him; anyone in her position would be furious; after all, this isn't a small matter.

"Hello! Hello! Ling Chen, why aren't you speaking?"

Hearing Ji Beizhao's voice from the other side of the call, Ling Chen said helplessly, "Why didn't you give me a heads-up earlier, so I could mentally prepare?"

"Ling Chen, you can't blame me for this. No matter what, Wanqing's father is my second uncle and my dad's brother; it's our family matter, we had to tell Wanqing. Though I did consider you, but I believe you did nothing wrong in this issue, at most, you hid it from Wanqing. Wanqing is not unreasonable; she

should understand your difficulties. Therefore, I think she won't do anything to you; she'll just sulk for a few days, then you can coax her."

Ling Chen bitterly smiled, "She's not even really talking to me now, how can I coax her?"

"You are her boyfriend, you have to figure it out on your own. Anyway, I just wanted to check in. Since Wanqing hasn't yet confronted you, why don't you go to her and explain yourself, maybe she'll feel better."

"Alright, that's all I can do now."

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen sighed softly. What's inevitable will come, this day had to be faced eventually. It's good, taking this opportunity to explain things clearly to Nanrong Wanqing to avoid misunderstandings.

"Mr. Ling, it's time to enter."

Seeing Ling Chen standing there and not moving, Xu Hong couldn't help but remind him.

"Okay, I'm coming."

Arriving at the VIP seats, they were only about two meters from the stage, perfect for watching the performance. There weren't many seats in the VIP area, only thirty-plus seats. At this moment, most of them were already occupied. Those seated in the VIP area are all people of status and position, it's not something money can buy.

Tang Shiyun reserved the seats for Ling Chen in the front row, considered the best position in the house.

Yang Qingling smiled and said, "That little girl is quite thoughtful, leaving the best for you."

Hearing his mom's meaningful words, Ling Chen rubbed his nose and said, "Mom, don't overthink."

"How can I not overthink, when a woman treats you like this, doesn't it mean something? If it were someone else, they would surely reserve these seats for their own parents. Hey! Son, does Miss Tang know about your relationship with Wanqing?"

"She knows." Ling Chen nodded.

Chapter 1018 Concert (Part 3)

Yang Qingling clicked her tongue in wonder and said, "She knows you have a girlfriend and still treats you like this? It seems she has deep feelings for you. Son, to be honest, I really can't see what charm you have to attract so many outstanding girls."

Hearing his mom's teasing, Ling Chen rolled his eyes and said, "Mom, am I really your biological son? You shouldn't put down your own son like that. Besides, am I that bad?"

"You're not bad, just a bit too much of a playboy. You should learn from your dad in that regard."

"Dad is aware of my relationships with them."

"He knows?" Yang Qingling asked in surprise, "Didn't your dad give you a hard time?"

Ling Chen grinned and said, "Mom, what would you want dad to scold me for? If there's anyone who deserves a scolding, it should be dad first. Oh, by the way! Mom, I almost forgot to tell you, dad arranged a fiancée for me many years ago."

"What?" Yang Qingling was taken aback, exclaiming, "There's such a thing? Something so big and your dad didn't discuss it with me."

"It's because you weren't around. See, even dad has arranged things for me, so you don't need to worry unnecessarily."

As they were speaking, Ling Chen saw a few people walking through the corridor not far away.

Wanqing?

Ling Chen was startled and quickly got up from his seat, briskly walking over to meet them.

"Wanqing, Haozi, hey! Miss Su, you're back too, long time no see." Ling Chen greeted Su Lin with a smile. It had been a while since they last met; the little lady seemed to have been exposed to the elements regularly, as her skin had changed from its former pale color to a healthy tan, her star-like bright eyes now exuding a hint of wildness, becoming more charming and poised.

Hmph!

Confronted with Ling Chen, Su Lin huffed heavily, completely ignoring his greeting, and walked past him.

"Wanqing, you..." Ling Chen was about to speak, but saw Nanrong Wanqing following Su Lin without so much as acknowledging him, her expression very cold.

"Chen," it was still Nanrong Hao who showed some loyalty. He leaned towards Ling Chen and asked in a low voice, "Did you have a fight with my sister? She's been in a bad mood these past few days, throwing a fit over the smallest displeasure at home, even I got scolded badly. Chen, you'd better think of a way, if this continues, my days won't be easy."

"Your sister already knows about your father's matter."

"Really?" Nanrong Hao asked in surprise, "You told her?"

"It wasn't me, she found out from somewhere else and hasn't spoken to me in days. I don't even know what to do."

"That doesn't make sense!" Nanrong Hao said curiously, "Your father's death has nothing to do with you, so why would she be mad at you? It doesn't make sense. Besides, my sister is more open-minded than me, if I can get over it, why can't she?"

Ling Chen shrugged and said, "How would I know? Forget it! The concert is about to start, let's take our seats first. I'll talk to your sister about this after we get back."

Back at his seat, Ling Chen found, whether intentionally by Su Lin and the others or not, that Nanrong Wanqing was sitting right next to him. However, her expression was icy cold, with a look that warned strangers to stay away.

Once seated, Ling Chen glanced at Nanrong Wanqing beside him and whispered, "Wanqing, I'm sorry, I know I was wrong, I shouldn't have kept your father's matters a secret from you for so long."

As for Ling Chen's explanation, Nanrong Wanqing acted as if she hadn't heard it, her gaze fixed unwaveringly on the stage, not sparing even the corner of her eye for Ling Chen.

Seeing her indifferent reaction, Ling Chen felt at a loss, not knowing how to get Nanrong Wanqing to respond.

While pondering, the stage lights gradually dimmed. Then, a dazzling beam of light projected from the top, landing in the center of the stage.

At the same time, the round platform in the center of the stage began to rise slowly, revealing a figure cloaked in a bright red robe to the tens of thousands of audience members.

When Tang Shiyun's exquisite face appeared on the big screen, the whole audience immediately erupted, with waves of cheers continually rising, and everyone chanting Tang Shiyun's name in unison.

Facing the enthusiastic crowd, Tang Shiyun wore a sweet smile, walked gracefully to the edge of the stage, and bowed to the audience in gratitude.

Along with Tang Shiyun's movements, soothing music spread from around the stage, filling the entire stadium.

Like the wind, like water, as if time passes.

Like a song, like wine, intoxicating the heart.

...

Tang Shiyun held the microphone, her sweet voice like a clear spring, lingering in the ears of the audience. In an instant, the noisy stadium quieted down, leaving only Tang Shiyun's voice flowing throughout the venue.

Listening to Tang Shiyun's song, Ling Chen felt his mood instantly calm down, as if all troubles were cast away. At this moment, only Tang Shiyun's enchanting voice echoed in his mind.

It wasn't just Ling Chen; even Nanrong Wanqing's expression, as cold as an iceberg, gradually melted, her beautiful eyes flickering, immersed in the beautiful and moving melody.

The song came to an end.

After a few seconds of silence in the audience, a thundering applause erupted, resounding throughout the stadium.

Watching the audience's reaction and Tang Shiyun smiling on stage, Ling Chen's lips curled up, lightly clapping his hands to cheer for Tang Shiyun.

Now Tang Shiyun finally has her big stage.

After listening to a few songs, Tang Shiyun finally went down to rest and change costumes, and next was the performance by the concert guest. However, just as the guest came on stage and hadn't started singing yet, they faced strong protests from the audience.

"We want to hear Tang Shiyun!"

"We want to hear Tang Shiyun!"

Tens of thousands of people in the stadium shouted in unison, almost lifting the roof of the stadium. Fortunately, the guest had good on-the-spot adaptability and quickly explained, asking everyone to stay calm.

Taking advantage of Tang Shiyun not being back on stage yet, Ling Chen turned his gaze to Nanrong Wanqing beside him, attempting to start a conversation, "Wanqing..."

However, before Ling Chen could finish, he saw Nanrong Wanqing suddenly turn her head towards Su Lin. Whatever she said, she got up and started walking out.

Watching Nanrong Wanqing's departing figure, Ling Chen hesitated whether to go after her or not.

"Hey! What are you standing there for?" At this moment, Su Lin's voice came from beside him.

"Don't say I didn't help you. Wanqing went to the bathroom. If you have something to say, go find her yourself."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's eyes lit up. He thought the little girl wasn't going to pay him any attention!

"Thanks!" Ling Chen thanked her and hurriedly got up to follow. Soon, he arrived outside the restroom of the stadium. Since it was a VIP lounge and bathroom, no one else was around; everyone was watching the show live.

Standing outside the bathroom, Ling Chen waited quietly, contemplating how to explain things to Nanrong Wanqing.

Chapter 1019 - 1026: An Unexplainable Accident

At this moment, near the base, more than a dozen workers in road safety uniforms were holding barriers and closed off several roads, diverting all passing vehicles to take alternative routes.

After the roadblocks were set up, several box trucks slowly drove over, heading straight towards the base.

As the box trucks reached their destination, the cargo compartments opened from the back, and armed men jumped out of the trucks, gathering by the roadside. A rough glance showed at least a hundred people. At the same time, several trucks carrying heavy machinery drove in from the other side of the road.

When the trucks were parked, Zhu Hong jumped down from the passenger seat and walked straight into the crowd.

"Mr. Ji, are all the people here?" Zhu Hong asked.

"They're here, and all the equipment is here, ready to act anytime," standing at the front of the crowd, Ji Gang replied. "Where's your Master?"

"Don't worry, Mr. Ji, my Master will arrive soon and won't delay the important matters." With that, Zhu Hong turned and looked at the construction site not far away, saying, "Mr. Ji, tonight's battle is crucial for the God Organization's future survival in East Sea City. You better take it seriously and make sure nothing goes wrong. As partners, only if you stand your ground firmly, will my days be easier."

"Zhu Hong, the God Organization never stops until we achieve our purpose. Just wait and see; this base will be taken back sooner or later," Ji Gang said, ordering several subordinates below, "Get ready immediately, attack in half an hour."

Inside the base.

Watching the surveillance footage displayed on the big screen, Tang Guolun, Hu Fei, and the others unconsciously tensed up.

"Boss Tang, looks like the God Organization is planning something big."

"What are we afraid of? With this base, we'll meet soldiers with generals, water with earth. I want to see what capabilities the God Organization truly has." After a pause, Tang Guolun looked at Hu Fei and said, "Call Ling Chen, inform him about the situation here, and have him come back immediately. We need him to hold the fort."

"I think Ling Chen is at Shiyun's concert tonight."

"What's more important, his little girlfriend's concert or the security of the base? Stop the nonsense and make the call." With that, Tang Guolun continued to instruct, "Zhou Jun, since Ling Chen isn't here temporarily, the armored robot is yours. They'll definitely use heavy machinery to destroy the base's outer defenses later. Your primary task is to stop them. Any problems?"

"Boss Tang, rest assured, I guarantee not to disappoint you," Zhou Jun quickly assured.

"Very good. Elder Zhou!" Tang Guolun turned his gaze to Zhou Qi on the side and said, "We will find a way to block the attack from the God Organization; the rest is up to you, according to the plan we discussed earlier."

"I understand."

"Alright, since everyone knows their job, take your positions. Report to me immediately if there are any issues."

...

In the VIP lounge of the gymnasium.

Ling Chen waited outside for a few minutes, finally seeing Nanrong Wanqing emerging from the restroom.

"Wanqing." Ling Chen hurried over, trying to take Nanrong Wanqing's hand, but she threw her hand behind her, avoiding Ling Chen's grasp.

Seeing Nanrong Wanqing's behavior, Ling Chen gave a bitter smile and said, "Wanqing, I know you're mad at me. No matter if you scold or hit me, I'll accept it, but please, don't treat me so coldly. At least talk to me."

"What do you want me to say?" Nanrong Wanqing coldly replied.

"Wanqing, I was wrong about your father's matter. I shouldn't have hidden it from you for so long. I just hope you can understand; I really didn't know how to bring it up to you."

Hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing stared into Ling Chen's eyes and asked, "You think that's your only mistake?"

Ling Chen was stunned and asked in confusion, "Do I have other mistakes?"

"Think carefully yourself; apart from my father's matter, where else did you go wrong? Don't come to me until you figure it out." With that, Nanrong Wanqing stormed out.

Seeing her leave, Ling Chen quickly grabbed Nanrong Wanqing's arm, urgently saying, "Wanqing, I really don't know. At least give me a hint."

"Ling Chen, even now, you're still pretending in front of me?" Nanrong Wanqing said coldly, "Aren't you clear in your heart about what you've done wrong towards me? Or do you really want me to say it all out?"

"Say it!" Ling Chen nodded and said, "I really don't know where I went wrong. Although I have my flaws, I have never made a fundamental mistake."

"Alright, you forced me. Let me ask you, what's the relationship between you and Leng Feifei?"

"Feifei?" Hearing Nanrong Wanqing mention Leng Feifei, Ling Chen couldn't help but feel a pang in his heart. The fact that Nanrong Wanqing brought up Leng Feifei specifically, could it mean she found out about the matter between them?

However, he had never disclosed anything about Leng Feifei, so how did Nanrong Wanqing know? Could it be Leng Feifei herself went to Nanrong Wanqing and told her?

No! It couldn't be. Ling Chen thought to himself. Although Leng Feifei expressed her liking for him, her character would never allow her to do such a thing. As thoughts flashed quickly, a spark of intuition suddenly crossed Ling Chen's mind.

That's it!

Han Mingchao, it must be that bastard. No wonder a few days ago, he saw Han Mingchao moving out of the villa across the street. At the time, he thought Han Mingchao was afraid of getting into trouble with him, but now he realized Han Mingchao should be afraid of retaliation.

Good, Han Mingchao, I spared you, and yet you turned to harm me instead.

While thinking, Nanrong Wanqing saw the flickering eyes of Ling Chen, who remained silent for a long time, and she lightly bit her lip, saying, "Looks like I was right, there is indeed an unspeakable relationship between you and Leng Feifei. Ling Chen, I trusted you so much, and yet you betrayed me like this."

"No, it's not like that," Ling Chen quickly explained. "Wanqing, it's not what you think. Yes, something did happen with Feifei, but it was not by our will. If you must blame someone, then blame Han Mingchao; it's all his doing. Wanqing, believe me, Feifei and I are truly innocent."

Nanrong Wanqing looked pale, holding back tears, and said, "You admitted to having relations with her, so what innocence is there to speak of? Ling Chen, do you really think I'm that easy to deceive?"

"Wanqing, will you hear me out? You're a reasonable person; if you know what happened, I'm sure you'll understand me."

"Fine." Nanrong Wanqing took a deep breath and nodded, "Go ahead, I want to hear what excuses you have for covering up your disgraceful behavior."

Chapter 1020 - 1027: All-Out Offensive

"I..." Ling Chen opened his mouth, about to explain, but at that moment, the ringtone of his phone in his pocket suddenly rang.

He took out his phone and saw that it was Hu Fei calling. Ling Chen hesitated for a moment, but still chose to answer the call.

"Hello! Fatty, what's going on? I'm in the middle of something urgent, I'll call you back later."

"If you wait any longer, the whole base might be gone."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's expression changed slightly. He glanced at the heartbroken Nanrong Wanqing, turned aside, and asked, "What's happening?"

"The God Organization has gathered a large number of people and sealed off all the surrounding roads. It looks like they're preparing for a full-scale attack on the base. You'd better get back immediately."

"Is this really happening?" Ling Chen's heart sank, instantly understanding the God Organization's intention. Tonight was Tang Shiyun's concert, and the police had allocated most of their forces to maintain order at the stadium, leaving other areas with very thin police presence. Such a good opportunity could not be missed by the God Organization.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen immediately responded, "Wait for me there, I'll be back right away." Hanging up the phone, Ling Chen walked up to Nanrong Wanqing and said solemnly, "I have something urgent to handle, I'll explain everything when I get back." Without waiting for Nanrong Wanqing to respond, Ling Chen started walking out.

"Stop!" Nanrong Wanqing shouted softly at Ling Chen's back, "Ling Chen, don't think you can make excuses to avoid this. If you don't explain clearly today, then don't bother explaining in the future."

"Wanqing..." Ling Chen turned his head and said helplessly, "What happened with Feifei might have been my mistake, but it was an accident, it doesn't mean I betrayed you. I don't have time to explain much now, but think about it yourself—have I ever done anything to wrong you since we met? Whenever you're in danger, even if I have to risk my life, I'll save you. Doesn't that prove my intentions?"

"Lin told me that men change, maybe you're the same."

"We've been through a lot together. If that's not enough for you to trust me, then nothing I say will matter." Saying this, Ling Chen checked the time and said, "I really have something urgent, sorry, if you're still willing to listen, I'll explain everything when I get back."

Having said that, regardless of how much Nanrong Wanqing shouted, Ling Chen left without looking back.

After leaving the stadium, Ling Chen made a call to Yang Qingling and drove towards the base.

The journey from the stadium to the base took over twenty minutes, not too far. However, because of the concert, many unauthorized vehicles were parked along the roadside near the stadium, causing congestion at both sides of the road, with traffic moving very slowly.

Ling Chen kept his patience, following the traffic for several hundred meters. It took more than ten minutes to reach a clear road section.

At this time, near the base, Ji Gang had already ordered an attack.

A few trucks directly drove several pieces of heavy machinery into the construction site. Around the heavy machinery were over twenty fully armed men guarding, in case someone came to sabotage.

Through the large screen's surveillance footage, two excavators were seen slowly moving above the base, starting to clear the surface soil. At the same time, several large drilling machines were already equipped and ready to start work at any moment.

Seeing this, Tang Guolun immediately shouted, "Fatty, have Zhou Jun prepare to act."

"Understood!"

Soon, Zhou Jun, driving the armored ironman, was transported to the surface from the freight elevator. For the past few days, Zhou Jun had been getting accustomed to this armored ironman because Ling Chen couldn't stay at the base all the time. To handle unexpected situations, Tang Guolun specifically arranged for Zhou Jun to take over from Ling Chen as a contingency.

Zhou Jun used to belong to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, with a good skill base, young and strong, very suitable for operating this armored ironman.

Reaching the surface, Zhou Jun controlled the armored ironman, striding rapidly towards the location of the heavy machinery. Tang Guolun's task for him was clear: destroy the God Organization's heavy machinery to prevent them from damaging the base's external defenses.

Seeing the armored ironman approaching, the men guarding around the heavy machinery immediately rushed to encircle the armored ironman. At the same time, they all drew their prepared crossbows, aiming at various parts of the armored ironman.

"Fire!"

With a single command, over twenty crossbows were simultaneously unleashed, sharp crossbow arrows pierced through the air with a whistle, pinning themselves to the metallic surface of the armored ironman. At the tail end of these crossbow arrows, each was tethered with a steel wire, connected to their respective crossbows.

As the crossbow arrows were secured, over twenty men vigorously pulled the steel wires in different directions, trying to use the pull to drag the armored ironman to the ground. If they could immobilize the armored ironman, the subsequent tasks would be much easier.

However, despite their well-laid plans, they overlooked the weight of the armored ironman itself. No matter how they pulled, the armored ironman remained steadfast on the ground, unmoving.

"My turn." Zhou Jun sitting in the cockpit grinned, and the two robotic arms suddenly lifted high. Instantly, driven by the steel wires, several men flew up, skimming through the air, landing heavily on the ground.

Seeing this situation, the leading man hurriedly shouted, "Retreat quickly!"

"Let's see where you can run to." Zhou Jun, driving the armored ironman, quickly followed the group towards the location of the heavy machinery.

"Hurry, retreat quickly!" The technicians operating the heavy machinery, seeing the armored ironman rushing over, quickly signaled their companions to start the trucks, dragging the heavy machinery towards the two main buildings on the construction site.

However, the roads on the construction site were uneven, and with the heavy machinery being dragged behind, the trucks weren't moving fast. In no time, Zhou Jun caught up to the trucks.

"Speed up, faster, speed up!" The technicians in the trucks urged anxiously.

Finally, after a bumpy ride, the trucks drove into the unfinished underground parking lot of the main building. However, as the parking lot was still under construction, it was piled with bricks and construction debris everywhere. The trucks had no where to go, and had to stop in place.

At this moment, accompanied by the sound of heavy footsteps, the armored ironman had already arrived in the parking lot.

Seeing those trucks trapped ahead, Zhou Jun couldn't help but smile. Let's see how you escape now!

With a quick turn of mind, Zhou Jun controlled the armored ironman, stepping forward, raising the mechanical arms high to destroy the heavy machinery on the trucks.

Seeing the armored ironman coming closer, the technicians in the trucks no longer looked panicked, but instead had cold smiles of plots succeeding in their eyes.