

The Beauty 1061

Chapter 1061 Su Mei's Sorrow

Entering the room where Su Mei was, there was a tray outside with a few delicate dishes. However, they had already grown cold with time. This woman... Ling Chen felt a bit helpless, having heard from Han Qi that Su Mei hadn't eaten or drunk anything for days. Even if she weren't a woman, even a person made of iron couldn't endure.

Raising his hand, Ling Chen lightly knocked on the door, but after a few minutes, there was no response from inside.

"Miss Su, it's me, Ling Chen. Can I come in?" Ling Chen had no choice but to identify himself. After a moment, there was a 'click' and the lock on the door was opened from inside. Shortly after, Su Mei appeared before Ling Chen, her eyes red and swollen. Seeing her pale little face, Ling Chen couldn't help but ask with concern, "Are you alright?"

Su Mei said nothing, merely shifted her body to let Ling Chen into the room.

Inside the room, Ling Chen glanced around, seeing a mess with many things shattered on the floor. Additionally, there was a patch of undried water on the ground which Ling Chen deduced to be Su Mei's tears. Sigh! Seeing this scene, Ling Chen let out a soft sigh. He truly understood Su Mei's feelings; anyone would struggle to bear the blow of losing both parents.

"Miss Su." Upon hearing the door close behind him, Ling Chen turned to look at Su Mei about to speak, but then Su Mei's feet suddenly gave way, and she collapsed.

Reacting swiftly, Ling Chen dashed forward to support Su Mei by the waist, preventing her from falling to the ground.

Having not eaten for several days, this woman was probably close to fainting from hunger, with no strength left. Ignoring Su Mei's resistance... of course, Su Mei didn't have strength to resist now, only managing a token struggle. Ling Chen carried Su Mei to the bed, quickly exited the room, called in a few members of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and gave some instructions. Soon after, a young man responsible for logistics brought a bowl of pork and preserved egg porridge to Ling Chen.

Su Mei hadn't eaten for days and couldn't eat too much or too greasy food, so porridge was the most suitable choice.

Helping Su Mei up carefully, Ling Chen rested her head against his strong chest, then took a spoon, gently blew on it, and when the porridge had cooled, he brought it to Su Mei's lips.

Smelling the fragrant scent of the porridge, Su Mei lightly bit her lips, showing no intention of opening her mouth.

"Miss Su, your body is too weak. If you don't eat something soon, you will collapse sooner or later," Ling Chen advised, "I know your parents' situation has hit you hard, but don't forget you are the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, it needs you to oversee it. If you fall, what will happen to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? The pavilion is the legacy of your Su Family. Would you really be able to bear seeing it fall apart under your watch? If that happens, your parents surely won't rest in peace. Miss Su, listen to me, whether for the pavilion, your parents, or yourself, you must pull yourself together. Staying locked in the room grieving like this—what good does it do? Can you find the murderers who killed your parents? Can you avenge them?"

Ling Chen's words lit a faint spark of light in Su Mei's dim eyes. Whether moved by Ling Chen's words or not, Su Mei opened her mouth and swallowed a spoonful of the pork and preserved egg porridge.

Seeing Su Mei finally willing to eat, Ling Chen was undoubtedly the happiest. Soon, Su Mei had finished the entire bowl of porridge.

"How do you feel now? More comfortable?" Ling Chen asked with a smile.

Su Mei gently nodded. Having eaten, her pale face gradually regained a bit of redness, and her spirits improved significantly. She looked back at Ling Chen, asking, "Why did you come?"

"Nothing much to do recently, so I thought I'd come to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to have a look. Who knew I'd encounter such a situation as soon as I arrived." At this point, Ling Chen spoke softly, "Miss Su, I wish you peace and condolence. If there's anything you need, please feel free to ask, and I'll do my best to help."

"Can you help me find my grandfather?" Su Mei pleaded, "With what's happened to Mom and Dad, I really don't know what to do now. There's not a single person around that I can rely on. Ling Chen, you have no idea how awful it feels, like the whole world is left with only me, all alone."

"Miss Su, don't worry, I understand how you feel. Besides, Mr. Du already talked to me; I will quickly go find Elder Su and inform him of what has happened at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"Thank you!" Su Mei expressed gratefully.

"You call me a friend, and I have connections with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, so there's no need for formality with me. By the way, Elder Tong came to pay their respects to your parents, chatting with Mr. Du downstairs. Would you like to say hello?"

Su Mei nodded. After all, she was the Pavilion Master and Tong Zhentian held an esteemed status, comparable to her grandfather, a master in the Martial Arts world with a high lineage. As a junior, it would be impolite not to appear.

With Ling Chen's assistance, Su Mei got out of bed, moved a bit, and once her strength had returned enough for her to walk on her own, she guided Ling Chen to the reception room.

Arriving at the reception room, pleasantries were exchanged as could be expected. After some polite conversation, Tong Zhentian directed the conversation towards Ling Chen.

"Ling, I just discussed with Mr. Du, bringing Su He back must be handled quickly. You are his disciple; only you know where he resides, so I hope you can take the time to bring Su He back to prevent any further issues."

"I understand. Elder Tong, Elder Du, I just mentioned to Miss Su that I would set off tomorrow morning to invite Elder Su."

"Good, then I'll leave this matter to you."

One night passed.

The next morning, Ling Chen left the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion early, setting out alone for Jin Hai City. Fortunately, there was a flight directly to Jin Hai City, saving a lot of time. By around eleven in the afternoon, Ling Chen finally drove to his destination.

Following the coastline along the beach, Ling Chen walked familiarly. Before long, a hut appeared in his sight. A fishing boat was docked on the shore by the hut, indicating that Su He hadn't sailed out to fish yet.

Arriving at the hut, Ling Chen knocked on the door, calling out, "Elder Su, it's me."

"Come in." Soon, Su He's aged voice replied from inside.

Opening the door, Ling Chen saw Su He sitting by the window of the hut, enjoying the view of the tumultuous waves outside while sipping a small drink. Seeing Ling Chen enter, Su He gestured towards the seat beside him, saying, "Sit down."

"Thank you, Elder Su."

"Did your father send you?" Su He asked, seemingly casually.

Father? Ling Chen hesitated slightly but quickly understood what Su He meant.

Chapter 1062 - 1069: Su He Leaves the Mountains

Some time ago, when Ling Kun went to find Ling Chen, he mentioned that Su He asked him to go over when he had time, saying there was something to discuss. As a result, he was so busy during this period that he forgot about it.

"Um..." Ling Chen touched his nose and said, "Elder Su, I didn't come this time because you had something to discuss with me, but rather..." At this point, Ling Chen swallowed his words, unsure how to start. The elderly Su He seemed to be in his eighties or nineties, and telling him that his son and daughter-in-law had been killed, who knows what his reaction would be.

Seeing Ling Chen's hesitant expression, Su He slightly frowned and said with displeasure, "Why, is there anything you cannot say in front of me?"

"No." Ling Chen quickly waved his hand. However, the words reached his lips, but he couldn't say them out loud. Damn it! Why does such unpleasant tasks always fall on me? After hesitating for a while, Ling Chen stammered, "Elder Su, uh... I just rushed here from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion this morning."

Su He nodded silently. At his age, he could easily see that this wasn't what Ling Chen wanted to say.

"Elder Su, something happened at Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion." Ling Chen gritted his teeth and finally spoke out.

"Did something happen at Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, or did something happen to that little girl Su Mei? Make yourself clear."

"Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and Miss Su are both fine, it's... it's Su Zhengyang!"

When Ling Chen mentioned 'Su Zhengyang,' Ling Chen clearly saw Su He's pupils slightly contract. After a moment of silence, Su He slowly asked, "What happened to him?"

"They... they passed away." Ling Chen summoned up the courage to reveal the news of Su Zhengyang couple's death. As his words fell, Ling Chen looked straight at Su He, only to see no expression on Su He's old face, eyes like an ancient well, indifferent to such events.

Silence! The heavy atmosphere unconsciously filled the whole cottage.

Su He still didn't speak, just picked up the wine glass from the table. Ling Chen noticed carefully that Su He's hand trembled slightly, despite his attempts to control his emotions, which revealed his inner turmoil.

After draining a glass of wine, Su He looked at Ling Chen for a long time before saying, "How did they die?"

"According to Elder Du, they were murdered, then their bodies dumped at the entrance of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. As for who was responsible, there's no clue yet." Ling Chen paused and continued, "Elder Su, I know you're feeling down, Miss Su feels the same way, due to excessive grief, she shut herself in her room, hasn't eaten for days, her health is deteriorating. Elder Du said Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion urgently needs someone to hold the fort, so he asked me to..."

"I understand." Before Ling Chen could finish, Su He cut in, "You go out for a moment, I need some time alone."

"Yes!" Ling Chen dared not disturb, quickly stood up and walked out of the cottage.

Sitting outside on the beach, waiting for about ten minutes, Su He finally came out of the cottage.

"Ling Chen."

"Elder Su, do you have any instructions?"

"Can you help me contact Du Kang? I want to talk to him."

"No problem." Ling Chen nodded, immediately took out his cellphone, and dialed Su Mei's number. Shortly after, when the call connected, Ling Chen handed the phone to Su He, consciously stepped aside, not eavesdropping on their conversation.

Not long after, Su He returned the cellphone, saying, "Wait outside, I'll pack up and leave with you."

"Okay."

What Su He needed to pack was simple, just a few clothes in a small cloth bag, looking quite rustic, like a countryside villager. However, at Su He's age and level, he no longer cared about such things.

Over four hours later, Ling Chen and Su He arrived at the forest edge outside Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Not far ahead, Su He suddenly stopped, turned to Ling Chen and said, "You lead the way."

"Me?" Ling Chen asked puzzledly, "Elder Su, what's wrong?"

"Just go ahead, don't ask so many questions." Su He said nonchalantly, clearly unwilling to explain. Ling Chen dared not disobey, disregarding seniority, Su He was after all his master, so he, as a disciple, dared not defy.

After a few minutes, Ling Chen and Su He arrived at the forest's center, with about ten minutes to go, they would reach the main gate of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Swish!

At this moment, a sharp whistling sound suddenly attacked from the side. Ling Chen, with quick reflexes, immediately sensed it and quickly dodged to the side. However, just as Ling Chen reacted, he saw a figure flash by, appearing in front of him, a hand firmly grasping his arm, immobilizing him.

Elder Su? Seeing Su He suddenly appear before him, Ling Chen was a bit stunned, momentarily unable to react. While he was dazed, that piercing sound approached swiftly, transforming into a point of frost. As the frost approached, it suddenly emitted a cold light, the frost directly exploded, scattering into countless cold lights, covering the sky and rushing toward them.

Seeing this scene, Ling Chen felt a chill down his back, cold sweat trickling down his forehead. If it weren't for Su He holding him just now, he would definitely have been hit by those cold lights.

As the cold lights approached, Su He remained unperturbed, a big hand waving, instantly reflecting the cold lights flying in the air, splattering onto the surrounding trees.

"Hiding like a coward, since you're here, why not come out?" Su He shouted coldly.

"Elder Su, indeed vigorous despite your age, impressive skills indeed." As the voice came, Ling Chen's field of vision immediately revealed an elderly man over fifty. The man had white hair, a ruddy complexion, and a somewhat overweight physique. Due to his short stature, about one meter and sixty-five, he appeared quite chubby.

Su He glanced at the other party and said, "Let them all come out."

The chubby old man asked with a smile, "How did you know there were more?"

"If you want to deal with me, you certainly wouldn't just send one person, that would be suicidal." Su He replied calmly.

"Haha!" The chubby old man laughed and said, "Elder Su, you really think highly of yourself. But you're right, dealing with you alone just won't do." With that, the chubby old man clapped his hands.

With two loud claps, dozens of figures suddenly emerged from the ground around Ling Chen and Su He, each holding a large iron net, surrounding them inside.

A rough glance showed at least thirty people present.

Tsk, tsk! What a grand setup, these guys really went all out to deal with Su He. Now, faced with the eyes of many enemies, Su He's expression remained calm, unaffected in the slightest.

"Seems my guess was correct." Su He pondered for a moment, then slowly said.

Chapter 1063 - 1070: Encountering Enemies in the Forest

"What have you guessed?" The plump old man looked at Su He, his expression still maintaining a smile. However, a hint of coldness and sinister intent shone in his cloudy eyes.

"You killed my son and daughter-in-law just to force me out, then take the opportunity to ambush me and put me to death."

"Haha! Elder Su, it seems I underestimated you. You're right, we were the ones who killed your son and daughter-in-law. There was no other way, you've been missing for so long without any word. To force you out, we had to use extreme measures. But how do you know it wasn't done by your son's enemies?"

"I know Zhengyang's character the best; he wouldn't easily stir up trouble. Besides, he was the former Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Any smart person wouldn't trouble him unless their background was even stronger than the Pavilion. So your real target isn't me, but the entire Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"Elder Su, you've guessed right again!" The plump old man squinted his eyes, grinning as he said, "The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was established singlehandedly by your Su Family's ancestors, and many secrets are known only to the Su Family. Before your son died, I tried asking him about them, but unfortunately, he had a tight mouth and wouldn't say a word. If he'd cooperated, perhaps I would have spared his life."

"What secrets do you want to know?" Su He asked.

"Who is the person in the Yangxin Pavilion? I want to know his identity. As long as you tell me, I promise not to bother the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion again."

Yangxin Pavilion?

Upon hearing the plump old man's words, Ling Chen's heart stirred, and a hint of doubt appeared in his eyes. He knew all the elders in the Yangxin Pavilion, but except for Du Kang, everyone else was an expert on the Earthly List. It didn't seem like these people would launch such a grand operation for an Earthly List expert. Suddenly, a flash of insight crossed Ling Chen's mind.

That's it! He almost forgot, behind the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, there is a valley where the Yangxin Pavilion was originally built. Now, two people live in that valley, one of whom is a youth about his age. At that time, Huang Zheng and Liang Tian fought fiercely to take him as a disciple, and it was that youth who intervened and stopped them. Not only that, but the youth also severely reprimanded the two of them.

Huang Zheng and Liang Tian had been in the Yangxin Pavilion for quite some time, considered veterans. However, faced with the youth's reprimand, the two veterans didn't dare to retort but obediently listened. When Ling Chen saw this scene, he was extremely shocked and became increasingly curious about the youth's identity.

However, later on, when he asked several people, everyone was evasive about the youth's identity, not daring to say a word. Thus, Ling Chen's curiosity about the youth's identity grew even more.

As far as he knew, besides the youth, there was another person living in that valley, but Ling Chen had never met them. Perhaps the person the plump old man mentioned was that mysterious figure who had never appeared.

After pondering for a moment, Su He replied calmly, "I don't understand who you're talking about. If you want to meet someone from the Yangxin Pavilion, just give your name, and I'll surely arrange a meeting for you."

Hearing this, the smile on the plump old man's face gradually faded, "Elder Su, why pretend to be ignorant in front of me? Besides you, I'm afraid no one knows that person's true identity."

"I truly don't know who you're referring to. If you don't believe me, there's nothing I can do."

"Alright!" nodded the plump old man, "Since that's the case, there's no need for us to continue this conversation. Elder Su, I gave you a chance, but you didn't cherish it. In that case, you can't blame me for destroying the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"You'd need the skills to do that," Su He replied fearlessly.

"Attack!" With a cold shout from the plump old man, his subordinates immediately charged towards Su He and Ling Chen. As the iron net in their hands gradually tightened, the area for Ling Chen and Su He to move shrank to about three meters. Moreover, the giant iron net was several meters high, making it almost impossible to jump out.

Ling Chen knew clearly that these people came for Su He and must have prepared in advance. It's not easy to deal with a Heavenly List expert, let alone someone like Su He, who had been famous for many years.

Faced with the group's assault, Su He looked on expressionlessly, showing no intention of making a move. Suddenly, outside the iron net, more than a dozen men took out bottles and tossed them inside. As the bottles shattered on the ground, a powder wafted into the air around them.

"Ling Chen, be careful!"

At Su He's reminder, Ling Chen nodded and quickly covered his nose, holding his breath. He didn't know what the powder was for, but if it was used against a Heavenly List expert, it couldn't be simple.

As he was pondering, Su He took a step forward, raising his arms and slowly swinging them. With his movements, Ling Chen visibly sensed the flow of air around him.

This... is this... Inner Strength?

Ling Chen was secretly shocked; Su He could actually use Inner Strength to alter the airflow, which was incredibly powerful.

Soon, the powder diffused in the air seemed to be summoned, gathering between Su He's hands to form a sphere. Then, with a flick of Su He's wrist, the sphere shot out towards the people outside the iron net.

Boom!

When the sphere exploded, the powder dispersed, falling on those people. Some who couldn't dodge in time inhaled the powder through their nostrils. Suddenly, their faces turned red as if they were on fire, and they fell to the ground rolling and screaming in agony.

Seeing half of his subordinates incapacitated, the plump old man's face darkened, realizing that Su He's move was beyond his expectations.

"Old Su, I couldn't see, after all these years, your skills have only improved."

"Nothing much, would you like to try?"

"I..." The plump old man opened his mouth, ready to reply. But at this moment, a man suddenly appeared from the woods nearby. He walked quickly to the plump old man's side and whispered a few words. Whatever he said caused a noticeable change in the plump old man's expression.

"Old Su, today you got lucky. But remember, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will eventually fall into our hands." With that, the plump old man waved his hand and lightly commanded, "Retreat!"

Watching them leave, Ling Chen asked, "Elder Su, aren't you going to chase them?"

"There's no need."

As they spoke, a series of hurried footsteps approached from one end of the woods. As the footsteps grew louder, Ling Chen finally saw who was coming. Leading the group was Han Qi, followed by dozens of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Disciples.

"Elder Su!" Upon seeing Su He, Han Qi's expression was extremely excited.

Chapter 1064 - 1071: Number One Under Heaven (1)

Seeing Su He, whom he hadn't met for many years, Han Qi's excitement was beyond words. This was the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's Pavilion Master from back in the day, and the most renowned one at that. His contributions to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion were immeasurable. Even the later Su Zhengyang and Su Mei couldn't reach Su He's heights.

Faced with Han Qi's emotional excitement, Su He merely nodded, responding rather indifferently. At his age, he had already undergone many storms and seasoned himself to remain composed. Pointing at the people on the ground who had inhaled the powder and were crying out in pain, Su He spoke, "Capture them all and guard them strictly."

"Old Pavilion Master, do I need to find someone to interrogate them?" Han Qi asked.

"There's no need. These are minor figures, you won't be able to find anything from them, don't waste time on them."

"Yes, Old Pavilion Master." Han Qi immediately took the order and instructed his men to tie up all the men.

On the way back to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, Ling Chen walked alongside Han Qi behind Su He, whispering to each other.

"Elder Han, you arrived quite timely, was it the dark post in the Lin Zi that discovered their tracks?"

"No. I received orders to come support the Old Pavilion Master."

"Orders?" Ling Chen was taken aback, feeling puzzled. He and Su He were intercepted halfway, no one knew they would be ambushed, how did Han Qi receive orders in advance? Could it be that... Su He had already anticipated this happening? If that's the case, then Su He's judgment is too accurate.

Returning to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, Su Mei, who had already received the news, stood at the gate with important figures from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and Yangxin Pavilion, awaiting Su He's arrival.

The former Pavilion Master returning to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was a joyous occasion for everyone. From today onwards, the hearts of the people at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion would finally settle down.

"Grandpa!"

Before Su He got close, Su Mei, standing at the forefront, couldn't help but run over, opening her arms and directly plunged into Su He's embrace. For so many years, she had always thought her grandfather was dead, unexpectedly having the chance to see him again. After experiencing the pain of losing her parents, Su Mei's heart had become unimaginably fragile, urgently needing a family member to give her protection and a sense of security. Su He's return finally made her feel at ease.

Watching the tear-streaked, pitiful Su Mei, a faint smile appeared on Su He's calm face. He gently patted Su Mei's back and said, "Alright! Stop crying, you're all grown up now, a dignified Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, why are you acting like a little girl, aren't you afraid of others laughing?"

Hearing this, Su Mei raised her head from Su He's embrace, wiping the tears from the corners of her eyes and said, "So what, no matter how old I am, I will always be your granddaughter."

Having finally comforted Su Mei's emotions, Su He came to the front of the crowd, accepting everyone's greetings. At this moment, Ling Chen stood quietly outside the crowd, not participating. To him, he still felt like an outsider. Meanwhile, sharp-eyed Ling Chen also noticed that Du Kang was not among the crowd welcoming Su He, only his disciple Yang Tao was.

After a brief exchange of pleasantries, accompanied by Su Mei, Su He and the others arrived at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's memorial hall.

Gazing at the portraits of his son and daughter-in-law, even someone as seasoned as Su He couldn't help but have teary eyes. However, the old man knew how to restrain himself, not letting the sadness show.

Didn't stay long in the memorial hall, Su He let out a deep sigh and directly turned around and walked out. The atmosphere was something he really didn't want to stay in for too long, lest he couldn't control his emotions.

Coming to the reception hall, everyone gathered together, sitting down, waiting for Su He to speak. However, after a few minutes passed, Su He kept his eyes closed, not saying a word, as if ignoring everyone present. Seeing Su He's demeanor, Su Mei couldn't help but step forward, wanting to get her grandfather to speak.

Upon approaching, before Su Mei could speak, Su He suddenly raised his hand, indicating that Su Mei shouldn't speak.

Su He's gesture made everyone speculate, guessing it was because the death of his son and daughter-in-law had dealt a massive blow to him, he now needed some time to calm down.

Thinking of this, everyone quietly sat in their seats, silently watching Su He, none of them spoke, the entire reception hall was supremely quiet, only the sound of everyone's breathing could be heard.

As time passed minute by minute, about half an hour later, the door to the reception hall was pushed open from the outside. Immediately following, Du Kang strode in.

With Du Kang's appearance, Su He suddenly opened his eyes, his gaze sharp. The two exchanged glances, Du Kang lightly nodded. Seeing his action, Su He swiftly stood up, hands behind his back, his posture upright, like an ageless Qing Song, exuding a powerful aura.

"Bring them in!" Su He ordered softly.

Immediately, two people walked in one after another from outside the reception hall, one being Tong Zhentian, and another being a chubby old man. Compared to the former, the latter appeared even more woeful, covered everywhere with blood stains.

Seeing the chubby old man, Ling Chen couldn't help but be surprised, isn't this the old guy who just led people to ambush them?

In an instant, Ling Chen immediately understood. Before setting out today, Su He had contacted Du Kang, and it's apparent the two had already arranged plans. Du Kang and Tong Zhentian lay in ambush secretly, waiting for that chubby old man to retreat, then secretly tracking and capturing him. Both Du Kang and Tong Zhentian were Heavenly List masters, powerful in skill, joining forces for capture meant no one could escape their grasp.

At this moment, standing in the reception hall, the chubby old man straightened his back, his sharp gaze sweeping across the room, finally fixing on Su He.

"Old Su, you truly are cunning, sending people to intercept me halfway. However, having Du Elder and Tong Elder, two Heavenly List masters, to labor to capture me, even if I die here today, it's worth it." The chubby old man said with a smile. Even at this point, he still managed to laugh, seeming unconcerned about his predicament, as if he didn't take it seriously. It was uncertain whether he had a trump card or simply didn't care about his fate.

"What's your name? Who's backing you?" Su He seemingly not hearing the other's taunts, asked as if talking to himself.

"I'm just a nobody, not worth mentioning."

"A nobody?" Du Kang chimed in beside him, "If even Heavenly List masters are nobodies, then who else in this world dares to dominate."

Heavenly List master?

Ling Chen raised an eyebrow, a look of surprise flashing in his eye. Indeed, the chubby old man wanting to harm Su He wouldn't have weak strength, only a Heavenly List master can confront another Heavenly List master. However, what Ling Chen was curious about was the chubby old man's background and whose orders he was under.

"If you truly want to know my name, then you might as well call me Guo Hong."

Chapter 1065 - 1072: The World's Number One (2)

"Who's the person behind you?" Su He asked, "I'm not very interested in your identity, I just want to know who killed my son and daughter-in-law."

Guo Hong grinned, "So Elder Su wants revenge for his son. What a pity, I'm afraid you won't be able to avenge this even so."

"Why? You're not going to tell me the murderer of my son is dead, right?"

"No, he's not dead. It's just that if you go for revenge, not only will you fail, but you might lose your life as well." Guo Hong smiled meaningfully, "Old Su, the waves behind the Yangtze River push the waves ahead. Today's Martial Arts world is no longer your domain. You've held the title of first on the Heavenly List for many years, it's time to step down gracefully."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen silently clicked his tongue. He wasn't familiar with the rankings of Heavenly List experts, and he hadn't expected Su He to be the first. The master he accepted unwittingly turns out

to be the best in the world, which is truly surprising. If he had known Su He's identity earlier, he could have walked horizontally in the Martial Arts world as a nominal disciple.

However, judging from Guo Hong's tone, the murderer of Su Zhengyang and his wife's killer seems to be even more formidable than Su He.

At this moment, Su Mei, standing beside Su He, drew a knife from who knows where, and quickly moved in front of Guo Hong, placing the knife directly at his throat and gritting her teeth as she asked, "Speak, who exactly killed my parents?"

Guo Hong didn't even glance at the steel knife at his throat, and laughed to himself, "Master Su, don't get angry, I wasn't the one who killed your parents. If you want to know the identity of the murderer, it's not impossible, it's just..." Guo Hong's lips curled slightly, "You should show some sincerity."

"Enough nonsense!" Su Mei coldly snapped, "If you don't speak, do you believe I will kill you right now?"

Guo Hong lightly laughed, "Master Su, there's no need to threaten me, such tactics won't work. Honestly, since I've been caught here, I never expected to go back alive. So kill or torture me as you wish." After speaking, Guo Hong raised his head, exposing his neck in front of Su Mei, and even leaned closer to the steel knife, signaling Su Mei to make a move.

"You..." Su Mei gritted her teeth, and without another word, swung the steel knife in her hand, striking toward Guo Hong's neck.

"Stop!"

At this moment, Su He gently shouted, his figure flickered, instantly appearing beside Su Mei, blocking her attack. Taking away the steel knife, Su He casually handed it to Han Qi beside him, saying, "Girl, let me handle this matter."

With her grandfather speaking, Su Mei had no choice but to obediently comply, despite being unwilling in her heart.

Once Su Mei stepped back, Su He walked straight up to Guo Hong, staring directly into his eyes and said, "You are a Heavenly List expert, I'm not interested in using tactics against you, they are of no use."

"Still, Elder Su is wise."

"I just want a name, tell me, and I'll immediately let you go."

Guo Hong looked at Su He with a mischievous smile, then shifted his gaze, turning to look at Ling Chen among the crowd. Noticing Guo Hong's movement, everyone focused their gaze on Ling Chen.

Facing everyone's attention, Ling Chen rubbed his nose and asked, "Why are you looking at me? Are you trying to tell me I killed the former Pavilion Master and his wife?"

"It's not you; you don't have that kind of power. But that person is closely related to you."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen's expression subtly changed, and he said solemnly, "Are you trying to slander me? Or are you trying to sow discord? For a Heavenly List expert like you, isn't this kind of low-level tactic too depreciating?"

"No, no." Guo Hong smiled, "I'm not lying to you, he is indeed closely related to you because he shares the same surname, Ling."

Ling Family?

Ling Chen was taken aback. It makes sense; able to kill Heavenly List experts and dare to challenge Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, who else but the Ling Family? Although the God Organization has been disbanded, it was merely an organization secretly supported by the Ling Family, and does not represent all of Ling Family's power. Moreover, after hundreds of years of development, the Ling Family's power has become solid; even the destruction of God Organization would not significantly weaken the Ling Family's influence.

With thoughts racing, Su He deeply glanced at Ling Chen and then withdrew his gaze, staring at Guo Hong, "Name?"

"Ling Tao!"

Him?

"Impossible!" Before Su He and the others could respond, Ling Chen blurted out, "It's impossible!"

"Why is it impossible?" Guo Hong looked at Ling Chen and asked, "Do you know the inside story better than I do?"

"Ling Chen." Su Mei interjected, "Do you know this Ling Tao?"

At this point, Ling Chen couldn't continue to hide, so he nodded, "I've met Ling Tao once, he would definitely not do such a thing."

Guo Hong laughed heartily, "I thought you had some evidence, but it's just your assumptions. Ling Chen, you only met Ling Tao once, do you understand his character? Or... wait!" At this point, Guo Hong seemed to remember something, and with a meaningful tone, he said, "I almost forgot. Ling Chen, I understand why you're eager to defend Ling Tao."

"I'm not defending him, you don't need to falsely accuse me here."

Su He waved his hand, signaling Ling Chen not to get angry. After a pause, Su He asked, "Ling Chen, what exactly is going on? Why did he say you're defending that Ling Tao?"

"This... I'm not sure." Ling Chen indeed didn't understand Guo Hong's meaning.

"You don't want to say? Or don't dare to say?" Guo Hong chuckled and said, "Since you don't dare to say, let me spill it out. Ling Tao and his father, Ling Kun, are old acquaintances; whenever Ling Tao acted, Ling Kun was involved, including the assassination of Su Zhengyang and his wife, in which Ling Kun also took part. Ling Chen, you're adamant that this incident has nothing to do with Ling Tao; is it because you know the inside story and don't want this incident to implicate your father?"

"I did not." Ling Chen immediately explained, "I know nothing about their affairs. Guo, don't randomly accuse people, my father would never do such a thing."

Initially, when Ling Chen met Ling Tao, the two talked about many things. Ling Tao had once told him, this conflict has always been Ling Family's internal dispute. Simply put, Ling Family has two factions, one is the Southern Ling Family, which secretly supports the God Organization. Besides, there's also Ling Tao's faction. However, Ling Chen is not very familiar with this faction, only aware that his father is a member of this faction.

"I've met Ling Kun before." Su He chimed in, "He is upright, not the kind of person you're describing, so I don't believe your words."

Upon hearing Su He say this, Ling Chen finally felt relieved, his biggest fear being that Su He might misunderstand due to Guo Hong's slander.

Chapter 1066 - 1073: Changlong Town

"Elder Su, how do you know Ling Kun wouldn't do such things? Could it be that you trust his father unconditionally like Ling Chen does?"

"It's not that I trust Ling Chen, it's that I don't trust you," Su He said calmly. "Actually, the reason is simple. If you were sent by Ling Tao, you should be covering up the truth for your master, instead of trying to convince us that Ling Tao and Ling Kun were behind this. No sensible person would believe your words."

"Is that so?" Guo Hong didn't get angry at having his lie exposed; instead, he smiled and said, "Elder Su, if you think that way, there's nothing more I can say. However, I suggest you send someone to check in Changlong Town, and by then the truth will be crystal clear to you."

At this point, Guo Hong shifted the topic and said, "Alright! I've said everything I need to say. How do you plan to deal with me?"

Su He thought for a moment and said, "I won't kill you for now. After I get to the bottom of this, I'll decide what to do with you." After saying this, Su He moved like lightning, and with a single palm strike, he hit Guo Hong's chest. Instantly, Guo Hong's face turned pale, he spat out a mouthful of fresh blood, and he collapsed to the ground, unable to stand.

"Not killing you doesn't mean I'm not punishing you. For the next two months, you'd better not recklessly use your Inner Strength; otherwise, even immortals won't be able to save you." With that, Su He gave a look to Han Qi, who understood immediately and called people to take Guo Hong away.

"Alright! Everyone disperse, I'll notify you if there's anything," Su He waved his hand, signaling everyone to leave.

As Ling Chen reached the door, he heard Su He's voice from behind: "Ling Chen, you stay." After everyone had left, only a few remained in the spacious reception room: Su He, Su Mei, Du Kang, Tong Zhentian, and Ling Chen.

Ling Chen stood quietly to the side, unsure of what Su He intended to do.

"Old Su, do you think Guo Hong's words are credible?" Du Kang asked.

Su He glanced at Ling Chen beside him and said, "It's not a matter of believing or not believing; without evidence, I won't believe anyone's one-sided story. However, since Guo Hong mentioned Changlong Town, we might as well send someone to check it out."

Hearing their conversation, Ling Chen couldn't help but speak, "Elder Su, um... maybe you should talk first, and I'll step out."

"No need," Su He said. "Ling Chen, I don't mean to suspect your father. It's just that this is our only lead. Without other clues, we have to pursue it."

"I understand, but... this is the business of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and as an outsider, it's not appropriate for me to get involved. Moreover, if my father is a suspect, I should keep my distance even more."

"You're overthinking it." Su He patted Ling Chen's shoulder and said, "I'm not the kind of person who lacks reason. You are you, and Ling Kun is Ling Kun. They can't be lumped together. Moreover, to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, you're not an outsider. I've decided to let you go to Changlong Town with Du Kang to investigate the situation and see if we can find any clues."

Ling Chen hesitated for a moment, then nodded and said, "Alright."

After resting for a night at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the next day, Ling Chen and Du Kang set off for Changlong Town.

Changlong Town is a small town with over thirty thousand residents and a moderately high economic level. After the flight, Ling Chen and Du Kang took a few more hours by car to reach Changlong Town.

Once there, Ling Chen found a rather comfortable hotel locally. After a short rest, Ling Chen checked the time and saw that it was already evening.

"Elder Du, should we go eat first?"

"Find a place with drinks."

Ling Chen couldn't help but smile; Du Kang's only preference was for alcohol. Leaving the hotel, Ling Chen found a nearby restaurant and ordered a table of sumptuous dishes along with a case of wine.

"Come, let's have a drink first," Du Kang raised his glass, signaling Ling Chen to pick up his cup.

"Elder Du, you should drink alone."

"What's the fun in drinking alone? Drinking is only atmospheric with more people. Come, fill it up!" Ignoring Ling Chen's refusal, Du Kang directly filled his glass to the brim.

"Kid, I know what you're thinking." Du Kang looked at Ling Chen meaningfully, raised his glass, and said, "Are you worried about your father? Actually, you need not be; I know exactly what kind of person Old Su is, and he definitely doesn't have any intention of blaming you."

Ling Chen took a sip of his drink and said with a bitter smile, "Elder Du, I understand what you're saying, but... but have you considered? What if everything Guo Hong said is true?"

Upon hearing this, Du Kang asked puzzledly, "Why are you thinking this way? Back at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, you were outspokenly proclaiming your father's innocence and insisted he had nothing to do with this matter. Since you have such confidence in them, what are you worried about?"

"Elder Du, you're right, but I just don't feel at ease," Ling Chen said. Since leaving the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion all the way to Changlong Town, Ling Chen's heart had been unsettled. The reason was none other than Guo Hong's words.

There's no doubt he trusted Ling Tao and Ling Kun. However, Guo Hong suddenly mentioning Changlong Town made him very anxious. If Guo Hong didn't have evidence, why did he mention Changlong Town? Something must have happened here, and his father was likely involved, which is why Guo Hong suggested they come here to investigate.

"Alright! Those who are innocent prove themselves. There's nothing to worry about, just relax. Come, let's keep drinking, have a good rest tonight, and investigate tomorrow."

After an hour passed, Ling Chen had drunk two bottles of white wine by himself, feeling a bit dizzy. Walking felt like swaying from side to side, and he could barely stand firm.

Compared to Du Kang's drinking capacity, Ling Chen fell short by more than a bit. Besides those two bottles of white wine, the rest of the alcohol was downed by Du Kang alone, totaling six or seven bottles, yet he remained completely unaffected and still clear-headed.

With Du Kang's help, Ling Chen finally made it back to the room and fell asleep immediately, leaving everything behind him.

The next morning, Ling Chen groggily opened his eyes, rubbed his still slightly aching forehead, and sat up from the bed. Seeing the bright sunlight through the window, Ling Chen went to the bathroom to wash up, then changed into clean clothes. After a bit of tidying up, Ling Chen walked out of the bedroom to find that Du Kang had already risen and was standing on the balcony of the living room, enjoying the sight of elderly people exercising outside.

"Elder Du," Ling Chen greeted as he approached.

"You're up!" Du Kang turned back, holding his treasured wine gourd.

"Let's go, I found something interesting, let's take a look." As Du Kang spoke, he headed out of the room.

Curious, Ling Chen hurriedly caught up with Du Kang's pace and asked, "Elder Du, what interesting thing?"

Chapter 1067 - 1074: Who Is the Real Culprit? (1)

"You'll find out when we get there," Du Kang teased, keeping Ling Chen in suspense.

Leaving the hotel, the two took a taxi to the east side of Changlong Town. Ten minutes later, they arrived at a residential area. Before getting out of the car, Ling Chen's attention was drawn to the police tape not far off. Strange! Why would there be a police line here? Could something have happened?

Getting out of the car, Ling Chen focused his gaze and saw that the police tape cordoned off a bungalow. Additionally, a seal was affixed to the front door of the house.

Outside the police line, several local residents stood pointing and talking among themselves. Because they were relatively far away, Ling Chen couldn't make out what they were saying.

"This morning at the hotel, I went through some newspapers from the past few days. There was a murder case here, but they couldn't find the killer or the body. According to nearby residents, the people living here were a married couple, around their forties or fifties."

Hearing Du Kang's words, Ling Chen immediately understood why he had been brought here. Based on information mentioned in the newspapers, this was likely the former residence of Su Zhengyang and his wife, and more specifically, the site where they had been killed.

After the onlookers had dispersed, Ling Chen looked around. Seeing that no one was paying attention to him, he immediately lifted the police tape and entered, taking Du Kang with him.

At the door, Ling Chen tore open the seal on the house and pushed open the tightly shut room. As the door opened, a strong smell of blood hit him in the face. Ling Chen rubbed his nose, getting accustomed to the scent in the room, before slowly observing the layout.

The decor in the house was very simple, with few appliances: a table, a few chairs, and a bed—just some basic furniture with nothing extravagant. Su Zhengyang, as the former Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, certainly wasn't short of money. Moreover, Ling Chen had witnessed the financial strength of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion multiple times. With Su Zhengyang's status, he could live anywhere but chose such a modest dwelling.

This house had two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom. The floors in the living room and bedrooms were stained with blood, as were the walls, all of which stood out quite strikingly.

Looking at these conspicuous bloodstains, Ling Chen couldn't help but frown. Judging from the distribution and quantity of the stains, there must have been more than two or three people involved in the fight. Regardless of who murdered Su Zhengyang and his wife, it was certain they were attacked by multiple assailants.

While Ling Chen was focusing on the bloodstains, Du Kang was examining other aspects. The floor, the walls—cracks were everywhere, as if they had exploded.

"Elder Du, this is..." Ling Chen asked in surprise.

Du Kang nodded and said, "These are the damages caused by the explosive force of their inner strength during the confrontation."

"Wow! That's amazing," Ling Chen said, unable to resist touching the cracks on the wall, wanting to feel the terrifying power of a master from the Heavenly List.

"Don't touch!" Noticing Ling Chen's action, Du Kang's expression changed, and he hurriedly stopped him.

Unfortunately, his warning came a moment too late as Ling Chen's hand was already on the wall. As his fingertips touched, a 'crack' was heard, and the cracks quickly spread. In no time, the entire wall was covered in them.

Watching the cracks extend toward the ceiling, Ling Chen was momentarily stunned, unable to react.

"Run!" Du Kang whispered urgently, immediately grabbing Ling Chen by the arm, crashing through the nearby window, and charging outside.

As the two landed, a loud 'boom' echoed from behind. The entire house collapsed into rubble, raising a cloud of dust.

Ling Chen got up from the ground, looking with lingering fear at the ruins behind him, his face still a bit pale. If it hadn't been for Du Kang's timely reaction and getting them out of the house, they would have been buried under the stones.

Du Kang patted the dust off himself and said helplessly, "I told you not to touch it."

Ling Chen sheepishly rubbed his head, puzzledly asking, "Elder Du, what just happened?"

"Did you think the inner strength of a master from the Heavenly List is so easily dispelled?" Du Kang paused and said casually, "Never mind! Explaining won't help you; you won't understand until you've reached that level. The house has collapsed, so there's no point staying here. Let's go."

Ling Chen nodded, following Du Kang's steps, preparing to return to the hotel. After walking a short distance, Ling Chen suddenly stopped and said, "Elder Du, I think we should head to the police station."

"To the police station?" Du Kang turned back, asking perplexedly, "Why go to the police station? The house has collapsed. Do you want to turn yourself in?"

"Elder Du, I'm not that unreasonable." Ling Chen said, pointing to an intersection not far away, where there was a surveillance camera. "I noticed there are several surveillance cameras around here. Since

the police are already involved in investigating this case, they must have collected the surveillance footage. We might as well go and look at the footage. We might find some clues."

Du Kang thought for a moment, then slightly nodded and said, "That's a good suggestion. However, the people at the police station aren't going to show us the footage for no reason. Are you planning to use some trick?"

"There's no need for that," Ling Chen smiled confidently. "Elder Du, leave this to me."

On the way, Ling Chen made a few phone calls. By the time he and Du Kang arrived at the Changlong Town police station, a middle-aged man in uniform was already waiting at the door.

Seeing Ling Chen and Du Kang getting out of the car, the man hurried up to them, a smile on his face, and said, "Mr. Ling, Mr. Du, good day. I'm Ding Wei, the chief of the Changlong police station. I've been notified by my superiors and will fully cooperate with both of you."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Thank you, Chief Ding."

"Not at all, not at all. Please, both of you, come in." With Ding Wei's warm hospitality, Ling Chen and Du Kang went straight to the chief's office. After sitting down, Ding Wei personally brought tea and fruit, showing great politeness.

Before coming, Ling Chen had called Tang Yuan. Being a member of Lonely Wolf, Tang Yuan had certain privileges. With his help, things were much easier.

"Chief Ding, I'll get straight to the point. We're here about the recent murder case in the town," Ling Chen said directly, "I want to know how much information you have."

"The murder case Mr. Ling mentioned is one I am personally overseeing. However, it's quite strange. By the time we arrived, all we found were large amounts of blood at the scene; the bodies had been taken away."

"I'm not concerned about that. What I'm concerned about is the killer. You must have collected surveillance footage from around the crime scene. Have you discovered anything?"

Chapter 1068 - 1075: Who Is the Real Culprit? (2)

"Mr. Ling has been to the scene?" As the words fell, Ding Wei rushed to respond, "We've checked the footage, and while there have been some discoveries, we still can't confirm the identity of the killer. How about this: why don't you both have a seat while I ask someone to bring over the surveillance footage from the day in question for you to review yourselves."

"Alright, thank you very much."

It wasn't long before Ding Wei returned to the office with the surveillance footage. Ling Chen leaned in closer, watching the screen carefully. It was indeed late at night, and the surrounding residents were already asleep. Around one o'clock in the morning, a figure finally appeared on the screen. However, the person kept their back to the camera, making it impossible to see the face; only their build and stature suggested they were around Su Zhengyang's age.

The individual reached the door and, without much hesitation, pushed it open and rushed inside. Since everything took place indoors, the situation inside was unknown, and there were no lights on. After waiting for about two minutes, someone appeared on the footage again. As the person turned, their profile flashed momentarily, but since it was nighttime, the surveillance didn't capture it clearly.

However, the instant Ling Chen saw that vague profile, his expression became visibly uncomfortable. His fists clenched instinctively, eyes fixed intently on the man in the footage.

No doubt about it! That man who appeared later was none other than his father, Ling Kun. Even though he hadn't seen his face directly, Ling Chen knew his father too well. One glance, and he confirmed the identity.

Could it be... could Guo Hong be right? As wild thoughts raced through his mind, Du Kang, standing beside him, seemed to notice the change in Ling Chen's expression and asked, "Do you know this person?"

Ling Chen hesitated for a moment, reluctantly nodding, and said, "He's my father."

"Is that so?" Du Kang seemed a little surprised, as he initially thought Guo Hong's words were meant to deceive everyone. But based on the current circumstances, not everything Guo Hong said was false.

Could it actually be true? Thinking this, Du Kang's expression gradually turned serious. If Ling Kun was indeed involved, how would Ling Chen interact with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion in the future? Even if Ling Chen had nothing to do with it, Su He and Su Mei would surely ignore him.

As he pondered, the footage showed Ling Kun not lingering much outside before he burst into the house through the front door. About three minutes later, Ling Kun scrambled out through a window on the north side of the house. When Ling Kun was seen again, there were apparent bloodstains on his body, and he was holding a steel sword.

Rising from the ground, Ling Kun casually tossed the steel sword into the roadside bushes and quickly fled the scene. Just as he vanished, another person, the same man who initially entered, sprinted out of the house. This man's escape path was in the opposite direction from Ling Kun's.

With the disappearance of Ling Kun and the mysterious man, a few minutes later, a van slowly drove up and parked at the front door. Then, a few people jumped out of the van, went inside, and carried out the bodies of Su Zhengyang and his wife, loading them onto the vehicle.

Watching the van drive out of the frame, Ling Chen's heart sank to the depths. From the content of the video, it was clear his father was indeed a suspect. Even if he didn't want to believe it, he had to accept this reality. After pondering for a moment, Du Kang asked, "Chief Ding, did you find the sword in the footage?"

Ding Wei nodded and answered, "Found it, it's stored in the evidence room."

"Could you bring that sword here for us to take a look?"

"No problem, I'll make a call and have someone send it over."

Ding Wei was efficient with his work, and in less than ten minutes, the sealed steel sword was delivered to the chief's office. Du Kang took the sealed bag and examined the steel sword inside. The blade was

blood-red, stained by residual blood. Du Kang focused intently on the blade's edge, his brows occasionally furrowing.

After a moment, Ding Wei put down the steel sword, turning to the pensive Ling Chen, he asked, "Is there anything else you need to investigate?"

The sound of his voice snapped Ling Chen back to reality. Glancing at the monitor screen, Ling Chen wasn't sure what else could be examined. At that moment, his mind was in a chaotic whirl.

Seeing Ling Chen remaining silent, Du Kang decided not to prod further and instead said to Ding Wei, "Chief Ding, thank you for your help. We'll be on our way."

"Mr. Du, please, there's no need to be so formal. It's my honor to assist with your work," Ding Wei replied with a smile. "If you don't have any other matters, how about joining me for lunch? My treat."

"No need!" Ling Chen stood up, cutting in, "We have other matters to deal with, Chief Ding. You carry on, and we'll get out of your hair." With that, ignoring Ding Wei's attempt to persuade them, Ling Chen and Du Kang walked straight out of the police station.

Back at the hotel, Du Kang stopped Ling Chen, who was about to head to his room, and asked, "Can you get in touch with your father?"

"Not sure, I'll try." Truthfully, Ling Chen was eager to return so he could reach out to Ling Kun and ask about what transpired. He couldn't believe his father would do such a thing.

When Ling Kun left initially, he hadn't given Ling Chen a contact number, so now, finding Ling Kun would rely on asking for the porridge girl's assistance. She had been handling matters for Ling Kun and should certainly know his whereabouts.

However, to Ling Chen's disappointment, after several calls, the porridge girl's phone was unreachable, showing as out of service area.

"What should I do?" Ling Chen frowned discreetly, unable to contact the porridge girl, unable to locate Ling Kun, unable to understand the truth of the matter, his anxiety was palpable.

Seeing Ling Chen's restlessness, Du Kang asked, "You can't find your father?"

Ling Chen sighed softly, "No. Mr. Du, do you... do you also believe my father was involved in this incident?"

"It's not what I believe, Ling Chen. At this point, let me be frank with you. Just now, while examining that steel sword, I found that the blade's edge matched perfectly with the wounds on Su Zhengyang and his wife. If I'm not mistaken, your father used that steel sword to kill Su Zhengyang and his wife."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's expression changed, and he quickly said, "Mr. Du, could it be you've made a mistake?"

"Even though I'm old, my eyes are still sharp, and my experience and instincts tell me I haven't made a mistake." At this, Du Kang sighed, saying, "Ling Chen, I understand you're distressed. No one could have anticipated such an outcome. Right now, unless you can find your father and confront him face-to-face, the charge of murdering Su Zhengyang and his wife will surely stick to him."

"This... I..." Ling Chen opened his mouth, not knowing what to say. At this point, any words were superfluous; only evidence mattered most.

Chapter 1069 - 1076: The Real Culprit (3)

"Alright, don't think too much about it, perhaps there's some misunderstanding. Let's rest for a day and head back to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion tomorrow."

Du Kang's words didn't make Ling Chen feel any better; instead, his mood grew heavier. This was no laughing matter. Once Ling Kun's crime was confirmed, his relationship with Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion would be completely severed. Not to mention Su Mei, even his master Su He would be lost.

Thinking about these consequences, Ling Chen sighed deeply. It seemed tonight would be another sleepless night.

The next day.

Ling Chen had booked the flight tickets and went to the airport with Du Kang.

Sitting in the departure lounge, Ling Chen kept his head down, staring at the smooth floor, looking somewhat dazed and weary. Last night, he didn't sleep a wink, constantly thinking about his father's affairs. Why would Ling Kun have the murder weapon of Su Zhengyang and his wife? Ling Chen thought of countless reasons to exonerate Ling Kun, but the scene in the surveillance video was real; no one could falsify it.

"Elder Du!" After pondering for a long time, Ling Chen slowly raised his head, looking at Du Kang beside him, he said: "Why don't you return to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion first, I... I won't go."

"What, are you scared?"

Ling Chen nodded ambiguously and said, "It's not about being scared, I just don't want to cause unnecessary misunderstandings and trouble. Elder Du, you've seen that surveillance video too, currently, my father is indeed heavily suspicious, without sufficient evidence, I can't firmly say he's innocent. However, I have my persistence, I believe my father wouldn't do such a thing."

"You want to meet your father and ask him clearly?"

"Correct." Ling Chen replied, "Given the current situation, asking face-to-face is the only way to know the truth. Elder Du, after you go back, please convey to Elder Su that I will get to the bottom of this matter and give the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and the Su Family an explanation soon."

"No problem, I will convey this for you, but..." Saying this, Du Kang changed his tone and asked, "Ling Chen, have you thought about what you will do if it turns out your father truly did it? Elder Su has made his stance clear; he definitely wants revenge for his son. At that time, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will surely hunt down your father, as a friend of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and a disciple of Elder Su, what will you do? Will you help Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and take righteous action against your kin, or defend your father and stand against Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

Ling Chen smiled bitterly and said: "I don't know." He had already thought about this many times, but he hadn't decided yet. An eye for an eye; that's how things should be, but that's his father after all, he couldn't just sit by and do nothing while Ling Kun gets into trouble.

Du Kang seemed to understand Ling Chen's predicament, so he said: "I can't help you with this, you have to resolve it on your own. Alright, the flight is about to take off, I'll go first. Once you've figured things out, come find me at Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion." With that, Du Kang took his wine gourd and strode toward the boarding gate.

Watching Du Kang leave, Ling Chen rebooked his flight. After a few hours of flying, Ling Chen finally returned to East Sea City.

The first thing upon reaching East Sea City, Ling Chen didn't go home but drove directly to the base. There were many Secret Society members at the base, perhaps they had a way to contact porridge girl and Ling Kun.

However, to Ling Chen's disappointment, these Secret Society members didn't know porridge girl's contact information. Moreover, they informed Ling Chen that ever since the Secret Society merged with East Sea City's forces, porridge girl instructed them to fully serve Ling Chen from now on, forbidding them to follow any orders, including from Ling Kun and porridge girl. Evidently, porridge girl had handed over the Secret Society to him, and from now on, Secret Society had no relation to Ling Kun.

"Ling Chen, why are you in such a hurry to find your dad?" Tang Guolun asked.

"It's urgent. Boss Tang, please do me a favor, regardless of the cost, you must help me find my father. This matter is extremely urgent, it can't be delayed."

Seeing Ling Chen speak with such importance, Tang Guolun didn't ask further, nodding: "Alright, don't worry, I'll have people keep an eye out for your father's whereabouts."

After entrusting Tang Guolun with the task of finding Ling Kun, Ling Chen returned home alone.

Entering the house, he only saw Liu Xiyao and Yang Qingling sitting in the living room, watching TV and chatting leisurely. Although the two women were two decades apart, Yang Qingling and Liu Xiyao were

both former business moguls and shared many common topics. Moreover, Liu Xiyao was raised with elegance and noble demeanor by Lin Guodong from an early age, which greatly appealed to Yang Qingling. If not for Ling Chen's strong objection, Yang Qingling would have asked Liu Xiyao to call herself 'Yang'.

It's a joke, if Liu Xiyao called Yang Qingling her sister, wouldn't that make him a generation lower than Liu Xiyao? Ling Chen could never agree to such a thing.

Hearing the sound of the door, Yang Qingling and Liu Xiyao turned their heads and cast their eyes on Ling Chen.

"Son, you're finally back. How are you, tired?" Seeing Ling Chen's weary face, Yang Qingling immediately stood up to greet him, saying, "Take a seat, I'll make some ginger tea for you."

"Mom, no need, I'll go upstairs and rest." With that, Ling Chen headed straight to the second floor.

After staying up all night yesterday, flying, and dealing with various matters today, he was exhausted. Back in his room, Ling Chen didn't even take off his shoes, he collapsed on the bed in a star shape. Shortly, his steady snores slowly filled the bedroom.

...

Midnight!

In his drowsiness, Ling Chen seemed to hear some kind of noise. He opened his eyes, looked around, and found it was the ringtone from his phone in his pocket. Could it be a call from porridge girl?

Unable to reach her yesterday, Ling Chen left a message asking porridge girl to reply as soon as possible. Now, at this hour, it could very well be from porridge girl.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen eagerly pulled out his phone. Upon seeing the caller ID on the screen, Ling Chen's gaze instantly dimmed.

Answering the call, Ling Chen said hello, impatiently asking: "Jiang Hao, why are you calling me so late?"

"Chen, are you free now?"

"What's up?"

"Chen, you asked us to keep an eye on Liu Wei, right? You won't believe it, that guy really isn't a good character. Haozi and I are outside Tianyu Leisure Club, if you have time, come over quickly."

Liu Wei?

Ling Chen patted his forehead; with all the trouble regarding Ling Kun, he nearly forgot about this guy. If Liu Wei wasn't dealt with, Liu Xiyao wouldn't dare return home. After some thought, Ling Chen replied, "Wait for me there, I'll come and meet you soon."

Chapter 1070 - 1077: The Cunning Liu Wei (1)

Outside Tianyu Leisure Club, when Ling Chen drove up, Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao were there, but Zhao Zhengxiong was nowhere to be seen. The two guys, Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao, were sitting at a roadside stall, having ordered a table full of barbecue and oysters, along with several cases of beer, thoroughly enjoying themselves, their mouths greasy.

"Chen, come over, we saved a dozen just for you." Jiang Hao attentively handed a dozen oysters to Ling Chen, ambiguously saying, "Knowing you're usually quite busy, eat more to nourish yourself."

Ling Chen glared at Jiang Hao; with his build, he didn't need any nourishing. He opened a bottle of beer on his own, picked up a skewer, and said, "You guys enjoy this stuff; I'm not interested." He hadn't had dinner yet, and his stomach was empty. In no time, he polished off a few bottles of beer and cleared the table of barbecue.

Patting his round belly, Ling Chen asked contentedly, "So, what's going on with Liu Wei over there?"

Jiang Hao didn't speak, took out a pack of cigarettes from his pocket, handed one to Nanrong Hao, and took out a lighter to light it. However, as soon as the cigarette was lit and before he could take a puff, it

was snatched by Ling Chen next to him. Watching Ling Chen puffing away, Jiang Hao asked curiously, "Chen, don't you smoke?"

"How do you know I don't smoke?" Ling Chen retorted, too lazy to say much. He typically didn't smoke, but when feeling down, he occasionally smoked a couple to ease his mood. Currently, the Ling Kun matter hadn't been clarified, feeling like a stone weighing on his heart, making him very uncomfortable.

Taking a satisfying drag, Jiang Hao began, "Chen, that Liu Wei kid is quite the troublemaker these days, constantly trying to target us."

"What do you mean?"

"A couple of days ago, he laid out a feast and invited our brotherhood to dinner, originally inviting you too. But knowing you don't like such occasions, I found an excuse to turn it down for you. When our three brothers attended, Liu Wei was indeed courteous. He even casually suggested wanting to join us."

"Join?" Ling Chen was slightly stunned. Right! He remembered Nanrong Hao mentioning that the Liu Family previously had connections with the local underground forces. Now that they've arrived in East Sea City, the Liu Family might want to walk the old path again. Legitimate business grows slowly, unable to expand quickly. However, with support from both the black and white worlds, it's a different scenario.

"Jiang Hao, how did you reply to him?"

"Of course, we refused; that's a given. The underground syndicate in East Sea was hard-won by us brothers. Liu Wei is an outsider who hasn't contributed anything and just wants to forcefully insert himself. How can it be that easy?"

Ling Chen nodded, asking, "Liu Wei must have offered some terms, right?"

"What's there in his terms other than money?" Jiang Hao waved dismissively. "Besides, we aren't short of cash. That guy gives off a sinister vibe; better steer clear of him."

After hearing Jiang Hao's words, Ling Chen puzzledly asked, "If you've already dealt with it, why did you call me out? To drink with you?"

"Chen, don't rush." Nanrong Hao picked up a beer and said, "We rejected Liu Wei, but he wasn't content, trying to manipulate our brothers."

"Yeah!" Jiang Hao chimed in, "He secretly met our brothers, offering them a large sum to turn them against us. But my brothers aren't the type to forget loyalty for cash. Brotherhood is about loyalty, especially in this world. As soon as they finished meeting Liu Wei, they immediately came to report it to me. Hmph! Liu Wei was generous, giving a million to each. Since he's using underhanded tactics against us, don't blame me for teaching him a lesson. Watch closely; tonight he'll learn that East Sea is not easily handled."

Jiang Hao's words helped Ling Chen understand the entire cause and effect. Liu Wei was overly confident, believing money could solve everything. Jiang Hao and his group had been managing the underground syndicate in East Sea for a long time; they weren't to be trifled with. Liu Wei's approach was either overly arrogant or underestimated his opponents.

As they spoke, several police cars pulled up by the roadside, directly parking at the entrance of Tianyu Leisure Club. The car doors opened, revealing Xia Mutong, tall and elegant, stepping off the car and leading a team inside.

Watching Xia Mutong's silhouette disappear at the entrance, Ling Chen curiously asked, "Did you two call the cops?"

Jiang Hao chuckled smugly, "I got a few brothers to 'relax' with some ladies inside. They should just be in bed now. Once the cops catch them, he won't be reopening that leisure club."

...

Tianyu Leisure Club.

Li Yan's expression changed slightly upon receiving notification of a police raid, hastily heading downstairs with her team. All entertainment projects at the leisure club were registered as legal, except

for the sixth floor where services were more 'special.' According to Huaxia's law, such services were prohibited.

Still, there's rarely a leisure club without some involvement in the grey market, as the profits are significant. Of course, this involves taking certain risks.

Li Yan, brought over by Liu Wei from the Liu Family, had much experience in this field. Despite the situation, she remained calm, organizing everything systematically.

Upon reaching the lobby, Xia Mutong led over ten colleagues straight to the elevators, ignoring the protests from the reception desk. Additionally, Xia Mutong ordered the sealing of the club's entrances to prevent any escape attempts.

"Oh! Isn't this Officer Xia?" Li Yan approached Xia Mutong with a smile, feeling the situation turning grim. In this business, relationships on both the black and white sides needed careful handling, especially with the police. Without good relations, how could the business continue amidst frequent raids?

Originally, Li Yan aimed to win Xia Mutong over, offering numerous benefits for help and protection. However, Xia Mutong had outright dismissed her. Clearly, Xia Mutong was tough to deal with, never condoning criminal acts.

"Officer Xia, what brings you here today?" Li Yan smiled, positioning herself to delay Xia Mutong.

"Step aside!" Xia Mutong commanded coldly.

"Officer Xia, you..." Li Yan attempted to speak, but before she could finish, Xia Mutong impatiently pushed her aside and swiftly entered the elevator.

Watching the elevator doors closing, Li Yan immediately took out her walkie-talkie to inquire about the situation on the sixth floor.