

The Beauty 1081

Chapter 1081 Asking for a Beating

"Miss Nanrong?" Xia Mutong looked at the hurriedly approaching Nanrong Wanqing and asked in confusion, "What are you doing here?"

"Officer Xia." Nanrong Wanqing asked anxiously, "What's the situation inside? Is my brother okay?"

"Your brother?" Xia Mutong was slightly taken aback and immediately understood. She had just received a call reporting that Tianyu Leisure Club was being vandalized, so she brought people over. Now, hearing Nanrong Wanqing's words, it seemed that the one causing trouble for the Tianyu Club might be Nanrong Hao.

Still, Xia Mutong felt a bit strange inside. Why would Nanrong Hao come to cause trouble for them? Could there be some conflict between the parties?

While pondering, an Audi car slowly approached and parked by the roadside. As the car door opened, Xia Mutong looked at the newcomer and her gaze couldn't help but freeze.

Ling Chen? Why is he here too?

Thinking about it, it made sense. Ling Chen's relationship with Nanrong Hao was well known. If Nanrong Hao was in trouble, Ling Chen couldn't sit still. Besides Ling Chen, Jiang Hao stepped out of the Audi car.

Seeing the dozen or so policemen outside Tianyu Club, Jiang Hao's expression slightly changed, silently thinking to himself that this wasn't good. Initially, he was planning to bring his brothers to support Nanrong Hao, but Ling Chen didn't allow it to prevent chaos. Moreover, with Ling Chen in charge, it wouldn't make a difference how many more people they had.

At this moment, Ling Chen's gaze was fixed on Nanrong Wanqing. Having not seen her for half a month, it felt like Nanrong Wanqing had lost quite some weight.

As they drew closer, Xia Mutong proactively asked, "Why are you here?"

Ling Chen withdrew his gaze and looked at Xia Mutong with a smile, "Officer Xia, I heard there were some minor problems here, so I came to check it out."

"Really just to check?" Xia Mutong clearly didn't trust Ling Chen very much. She had dealt with Ling Chen more than once and was very familiar with his way of doing things.

"Ling Chen, don't say I didn't warn you. This is a police matter; it's best you don't interfere."

Ling Chen smiled slightly and whispered, "Officer Xia, can we talk privately?"

Xia Mutong frowned but still agreed to Ling Chen's request. They walked aside and began to talk quietly.

Seeing Ling Chen and Xia Mutong whispering to each other, Nanrong Wanqing lightly bit her thin lips, feeling somewhat uncomfortable for reasons unknown. Recalling what Nanrong Hao had said to her, Nanrong Wanqing sighed lightly. Perhaps her brother wasn't wrong.

Soon, Ling Chen and Xia Mutong returned to Nanrong Wanqing's side. Nanrong Wanqing tried her best not to look at Ling Chen beside her and asked, "Officer Xia, can you take action quickly? I... I'm worried about my brother's safety."

"Wanqing, don't worry." Before Xia Mutong could reply, Ling Chen had already taken over, "I just discussed with Officer Xia, we'll go in and take a look first."

"We?" Unable to suppress the doubts in her heart, Nanrong Wanqing blurted out.

Ling Chen chuckled, giving Nanrong Wanqing a reassuring look, and said, "Trust me, you all will be fine." With that, Ling Chen knocked on the door of Tianyu Club.

Soon, the door opened, and Ling Chen led Nanrong Wanqing directly inside.

In the club lobby, Nanrong Hao was surrounded by a group of subordinates in a protective circle, confronting Liu Wei and his group in the center.

With the arrival of Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing, the expressions on Nanrong Hao's and Liu Wei's faces revealed different emotions. Nanrong Hao was pleased; as long as Ling Chen was there, Liu Wei's two skilled bodyguards would no longer be a threat. In contrast, watching Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing walk side by side, Liu Wei's mouth curled into a mocking smile, especially as Ling Chen completely disregarded him.

"Miss Nanrong, we meet again," Liu Wei said with a smile.

Nanrong Wanqing's expression was indifferent, ignoring Liu Wei's words, and continued to stick close to Ling Chen. Even if conflicts arose with Ling Chen, as long as Ling Chen was beside her, Nanrong Wanqing felt exceptionally calm no matter the trouble she faced.

Perhaps, she had grown accustomed to trusting Ling Chen.

"Haozi, how's it going, are you okay?" Ling Chen ignored Liu Wei and his trio in the lobby and walked directly to Nanrong Hao, asking with concern.

"I'm fine." Nanrong Hao squeezed out a smile, but his gaze swept towards the two middle-aged men beside Liu Wei, gently reminding, "Chen, be careful, Liu has skilled fighters protecting him."

Ling Chen nodded, smiled, and patted Nanrong Hao on the shoulder, saying, "Don't worry, leave it to me."

"Wanqing, take care of Haozi, let me handle the rest." With that, Ling Chen's footsteps turned, heading towards Liu Wei not far away.

"Ling Chen, there's no business for you here; you'd best not interfere, lest you bring trouble on yourself," Liu Wei said coldly, not taking Ling Chen seriously at all.

Ling Chen's lips curled in a constant smile, softly speaking, "What did you say?"

Liu Wei frowned, impatiently saying, "I said..."

Smack!

Before Liu Wei could finish, a loud slap sounded in the lobby.

In an instant, everyone's gaze focused on Ling Chen and Liu Wei.

Liu Wei covered his aching cheek, looking at Ling Chen in disbelief. He hadn't expected Ling Chen would dare to hit him. After a brief stupor, Liu Wei quickly regained his composure, looking at Ling Chen with a cold gaze, grinding his teeth, "You dare..."

Smack!

Before Liu Wei could finish his sentence again, another crisp slap sounded. With two consecutive slaps, Liu Wei's cheeks were now swollen on both sides.

"Speak up!" Ling Chen still carried a smile, "Why did you stop speaking?"

"Courting death!"

This time, Liu Wei didn't speak, but the two middle-aged men beside him had already moved, rushing toward Ling Chen. When Ling Chen slapped Yang Wei earlier, they had sensed that Ling Chen was not an ordinary person. Otherwise, they wouldn't have been unable to stop him.

Therefore, for assured dominance, they decided to attack simultaneously.

Seeing the two middle-aged men charge at him, Ling Chen swayed left and right, his body suddenly becoming a blur, disappearing from their sight.

Huh?

The two were puzzled. Where did he go? As they wondered, a teasing voice came from behind, "Are you looking for me?"

Upon hearing Ling Chen's voice, the two middle-aged men's expressions changed drastically, quickly turning around.

Bam! Bam!

As they turned, they only saw a blur before them, and then a wave of intense pain surged over them, permeating their bodies, almost making them spit out blood.

Seeing Ling Chen standing quietly as if he hadn't moved at all, fear flickered in the eyes of the two middle-aged men.

"Come on, continue!" Ling Chen beckoned provocatively with his fingers.

"You... are you a Dragon List expert?" one middle-aged man asked in a deep voice.

"Why blabber so much? I'm not here for idle chat. Since you're not making a move, I'll switch to my turn."

Chapter 1082 - 1089: Courting Death (Part 1)

Before the two middle-aged men could respond, Ling Chen tapped the tip of his toes lightly, his body instantly transforming into a shadow and disappearing before their eyes.

Damn!

A strong sense of crisis surged from their hearts. The two middle-aged men quickly turned around, casting their eyes around in search of Ling Chen's whereabouts.

"I'm here." The voice came and immediately caught their attention. However, when they turned their heads, they found nothing. At the same time, a gust of wind swooshed in, pressing toward their backs.

Before they had time to turn around, a powerful force suddenly struck, directly blowing the two of them away.

Seeing the two experts brought by Liu Wei being toyed with by Ling Chen, everyone's hearts that were in suspense finally settled down. Looking at the two middle-aged men who landed on the ground, Ling Chen sneered, too lazy to pay further attention, and directly turned his gaze to Liu Wei, striding over.

"You... don't come over!" At this moment, Liu Wei was still immersed in the shock from just now, unable to gather his thoughts.

Impossible! This is impossible! Those two experts were the Liu Family's elites. Normally, this type of Dragon List expert would not lower themselves to do security work. But because the former head of the Liu Family had shown kindness to these two, out of gratitude, they chose to stay and serve the Liu Family. This time, when coming to East Sea City, the current head of the Liu Family, Liu Wei's father, fearing for his son's safety on a solo trip, dispatched these two experts to protect him closely.

Although they were nominally the Liu family's security, Liu Wei dared not show any disrespect, maintaining an attitude of utmost respect at all times.

As long as those two were by his side, it was his biggest reliance in his operations in East Sea City. However, he couldn't believe that an obscure young man could easily defeat them. Moreover, looking at Ling Chen's manner, it seemed he hadn't exerted his full strength, merely toying with these two experts.

"Liu Wei, other than them, do you have any other means? Bring them out all at once, so as not to waste everyone's time." Ling Chen said lightly.

As Ling Chen approached, Liu Wei felt an inexplicable pressure coming, even making breathing difficult. Stepping back two steps, he tried to widen the distance from Ling Chen, and said in a deep voice, "Ling Chen, don't be so arrogant. Isn't Nanrong Wanqing your girlfriend? I warn you, I have incriminating evidence against her. If you dare to harm a hair on my head, I'll make sure she rots in prison."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen chuckled indifferently, "So, should I feel scared hearing that from you?"

Hearing Ling Chen's words, for some reason, Liu Wei sensed a tinge of ridicule, as if Ling Chen wasn't taking his threat seriously at all.

"Ling Chen!" Liu Wei gritted his teeth, glaring coldly at Ling Chen, "You better not push me."

"I don't have time for your nonsense. The police are outside, why not let them handle this? Haozi, go, bring Officer Xia in."

As soon as Ling Chen finished speaking, Nanrong Hao hesitated a bit but quickly walked over to Ling Chen and whispered, "Brother Chen, I just went through the information. If we let the police get involved, Sister will definitely be charged, and it's very serious. Perhaps we should..."

Before Nanrong Hao could finish his sentence, with one look, Ling Chen stopped him, saying, "What are you afraid of? With me here, your sister won't have any trouble."

Seeing Ling Chen's confident demeanor, Nanrong Hao immediately swallowed his words. He knew well of Ling Chen's capabilities; since he said so, he must have his ways. Now, Nanrong Hao gestured someone to open the doors of the Tianyu Club, letting Xia Mutong and her team inside.

Liu Wei was slightly taken aback, not expecting Ling Chen to voluntarily involve the police. Could it be... could it be he truly doesn't care about Nanrong Wanqing?

As he pondered, Xia Mutong already entered the lobby, glanced around to get a brief understanding of the situation, and looked at Liu Wei and Ling Chen, asking, "Who called the police just now?"

"Officer Xia, it was me." Liu Wei quickly stepped forward. The last time Xia Mutong led a team to raid Tianyu Leisure Club, Liu Wei, impressed by her beauty, remembered this woman. He pointed at Nanrong Hao and others and said, "They barged into my place and injured my people."

Before Xia Mutong could respond, Ling Chen answered calmly, "Officer Xia, these are just minor issues, no need for much concern."

Upon hearing this, Xia Mutong squinted her eyes and asked, "Then what would be considered a major issue?"

"Haozi, show that compiled data to Officer Xia."

Nanrong Hao was somewhat worried, as it involved Nanrong Wanqing. However, Ling Chen gave the order, and Nanrong Hao dared not disobey, immediately handing the data Liu Wei provided him over to Xia Mutong.

As she looked through the contents of the data, Xia Mutong's gaze grew colder and colder. Even Liu Wei standing to the side could feel the chilling aura emanating from her.

"Officer Xia, this data..." Liu Wei was baffled by Ling Chen's intention, handing over such information to Xia Mutong for review. He knew that with the agreement between him and Nanrong Wanqing, all the charges would fall on her head, while he would merely be an accomplice, facing minor repercussions.

"Liu Wei, can you explain what this is about?" Xia Mutong asked coldly.

Faced with Xia Mutong's questioning, Liu Wei glanced at Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing, a secret sneer forming in his heart.

Hmph! Since you're courting death, don't blame me.

"Officer Xia, all these were orchestrated by Nanrong Wanqing. I was forced; the Hongyu Group is wealthy and powerful, especially in East Sea City, and I dare not offend her, hence... Officer Xia, here's the agreement I signed with Nanrong Wanqing. Please have a look." Liu Wei said, pulling the agreement from his pocket and presenting it to Xia Mutong.

Before arriving, fearing the situation might slip from his control, he carried the agreement with him. Now, it seemed his decision was correct. With this agreement, he could safely escape the predicament.

Xia Mutong browsed through the agreement's content, slightly furrowing her brows. Though not a businessperson, she understood fundamental principles—no one would sign an agreement taking full responsibility solely on oneself as it would undoubtedly be foolish.

"Miss Nanrong, I'd like to know if this agreement is real?" Xia Mutong asked, looking at Nanrong Wanqing.

From the moment Liu Wei presented the agreement, Nanrong Wanqing felt her heart sinking to the bottom. She knew that what was meant to come would eventually come, though she didn't expect it to be so soon.

Furthermore, Ling Chen's stance was perplexing. Knowing Liu Wei had such an agreement, potentially disadvantaging her, yet he still initiated police involvement—what was he truly up to?

Chapter 1083 - 1090: Courting Death (Part 2)

"Officer Xia, Wanqing never signed that agreement. It was forged by Liu Wei himself to shirk responsibility and frame her," Ling Chen spoke up before Nanrong Wanqing could say anything.

"Frame?" Liu Wei sneered, "Ling Chen, don't speak if you don't know anything."

"Officer Xia, you've seen the contents of that agreement. As the chairman of the Hongyu Group, with Wanqing's extensive experience, why would she casually sign such an agreement? It's like courting disaster. Anyone with a bit of sense wouldn't do something this foolish," Ling Chen said calmly. "Since Liu Wei insists that the agreement is genuine, why don't we have it verified and see who's telling the truth?"

"Alright!" Xia Mutong nodded. In reality, she also doubted that Nanrong Wanqing would make such a basic mistake.

After making a phone call, Xia Mutong said, "Let's wait a bit; the tech team will arrive soon."

Hearing this, Liu Wei replied, "Since you want to verify its authenticity, go ahead. I have no objections." After speaking, he confidently walked to the bar, picked up a bottle of whiskey, poured himself a drink, and drank leisurely while waiting, appearing utterly unworried.

The tech team arrived quickly. In less than twenty minutes, two staff members reached the Tianyu Leisure Club.

Xia Mutong handed the agreement provided by Liu Wei to them, instructing them to check it immediately.

A few minutes later, one of the staff members looked up at Xia Mutong and said, "Captain Xia, we checked it. The signature and fingerprints on it are forged."

Liu Wei, who had been leisurely sipping his whiskey, almost choked upon hearing the result. He quickly put down his glass and said, "That can't be! Wanqing signed that agreement right in front of me; it can't be fake. You... you must have made a mistake."

Xia Mutong ignored Liu Wei and looked over the examination results briefly.

"Is there any issue with the result?" Xia Mutong needed confirmation once more.

"Captain Xia, you can rest assured, there's absolutely no mistake. The fingerprints on this agreement are completely different from Miss Nanrong's, so there's no way she signed it."

"Alright, thank you for your hard work."

"No!" Liu Wei shouted loudly, "This is impossible; you must have made a mistake. Check it again."

"No need to check again," Xia Mutong said coolly. "I trust the expertise of the tech team. Liu Wei, you're the owner of the Tianyu Leisure Club, which is involved in multiple illegal activities. From now on, you have the right to remain silent, but anything you say can and will be used as evidence in court. Officers! Arrest him."

A few policemen rushed forward without further ado, pinning Liu Wei down despite his resistance, and handcuffed him.

"No, don't! Let me go." Feeling the cold handcuffs, Liu Wei truly panicked. He never dreamed that a situation he thought was under complete control would end like this.

"Liu Wei, it seems you've run out of good days. These accumulated charges are more than enough to sentence you to life imprisonment," Ling Chen remarked.

Standing next to him, Nanrong Wanqing continued, "Liu Wei, by falsely using the Hongyu Group's name, you've swindled and cheated everywhere, severely damaging Hongyu Group's reputation and interests. I'll have a lawyer sue you; see you in court."

"Take all these involved parties with me," Xia Mutong pointed at Li Yan and the other two middle-aged men subdued by Ling Chen, all of whom were handcuffed and escorted out of the Tianyu Club.

"Officer Xia, you might want to have Liu Wei's office and residence searched; there might be more discoveries," Ling Chen suggested meaningfully.

"Ling Chen!" Liu Wei, controlled by two officers, shouted venomously, "Remember this, it's not over. I won't let you get away with this." By this point, Liu Wei was sure that Ling Chen was behind all of this.

Hearing Liu Wei's threat, Ling Chen smiled faintly, leaned in, and whispered something in Liu Wei's ear.

Whatever Ling Chen said, Liu Wei's face instantly turned pale, and his eyes were filled with hopelessness.

"Farewell," Ling Chen patted Liu Wei's shoulder, ignoring the despair in his eyes.

Watching Liu Wei, dazed, being led away by police, Nanrong Hao curiously asked, "Chen, what did you say to him? He looks as if he's lost his soul."

Ling Chen smiled slightly: "His fate is sealed in East Sea City."

His earlier proposal to Xia Mutong to search Liu Wei's home wasn't without reason. When he received Jiang Hao's call earlier, Ling Chen knew it was time to reveal everything. Thus, he planned meticulously, and as Liu Wei hurried to the Tianyu Leisure Club, Jiang Hao had already sent someone to Liu Wei's house, delivering some 'gifts'.

Those 'gifts' weren't valuable, but if found by the police, it would be a death sentence. Coupled with Liu Wei's previous charges, he would be beyond redemption, and no one would believe him.

With this in mind, Ling Chen told Liu Wei, "Farewell."

Once Nanrong Hao's curiosity was satisfied, Ling Chen turned to Nanrong Wanqing behind him and approached her directly. Nanrong Hao tactfully stayed behind, allowing Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing some space to be alone.

"Are you alright?" Ling Chen asked with concern.

Nanrong Wanqing, her expression calm and her eyes bright as stars, showed no emotion.

"Thank you!" Nanrong Wanqing said. When Liu Wei presented that agreement, she felt anxious and uneasy. Despite being mentally prepared, at that moment, fear crept in. Unexpectedly, things took a turn for the better, and not only was she cleared, but Liu Wei was also incriminated.

She knew that the agreement was genuine; she had someone verify the duplicate of that agreement. So, Ling Chen must have intervened to save her.

Thinking about her attitude towards Ling Chen during this period and his actions, Nanrong Wanqing felt a tinge of guilt.

"Nanrong Hao, come with me to the station," Xia Mutong directed at Nanrong Hao and his men, unmistakably indicating that while Liu Wei was guilty, Nanrong Hao had also broken the law by trespassing and injuring people.

Nanrong Hao's face stiffened, and he quickly responded with a smile, "Officer Xia, it's a misunderstanding, just a misunderstanding. I was just angry at Liu Wei's actions, and acted impulsively. Can we let it slide?"

"Officer Xia, Liu Wei falsely used Hongyu Group's name, and Haozi is also a victim. Since no real trouble occurred, could we cut him some slack?" Ling Chen pleaded on his behalf.

Chapter 1084 - 1091: Courting Death (3)

"That's right! Officer Xia, you've caught a big fish, why waste your energy on us? I promise you, I'll never offend again," Nanrong Hao said with a flattering tone.

Xia Mutong glanced at Ling Chen. In truth, she hadn't planned on actually apprehending Nanrong Hao, she just wanted to scare him a bit to prevent him from engaging in such illegal activities again in the future. Besides, since Ling Chen had spoken, she might as well do him a favor.

"Alright, I won't pursue this matter this time. Next time, be careful, or don't blame me for being unkind." With that, Xia Mutong waved her hand and said to her colleague, "Pack up!"

"Nanrong Hao, let's go back as well," Nanrong Wanqing said. "There are still many matters waiting for me at Hongyu Group."

Sister had spoken, and Nanrong Hao dared not disobey. After exchanging a glance with Ling Chen, he hurriedly followed Nanrong Wanqing's footsteps and walked out.

Watching Nanrong Wanqing's departing figure, Ling Chen chuckled helplessly. He knew well that Nanrong Wanqing wasn't interested in talking to him, which is why she left in such a hurry. However, regardless of the situation, it seemed from earlier that Nanrong Wanqing's attitude toward him had clearly improved.

In truth, Ling Chen misunderstood Nanrong Wanqing in this regard. Nanrong Wanqing hadn't thought of so many things; she was eager to return not to avoid Ling Chen but for revenge.

The actions of Liu Wei in East Sea City couldn't be unknown to the Liu Family, yet they didn't intervene, indicating their approval of Liu Wei's approach, wanting to use Hongyu Group to establish their position in East Sea City. Just as Nanrong Wanqing said, if people don't offend me, I won't offend them. Since the

Liu Family bullied the Nanrong Family, if they don't take action, how can they establish themselves in the future?

Nanrong Wanqing had already decided on her strategy—The Liu Family...was soon to be a thing of the past.

A week passed in no time, during which Ling Chen spent his days at home waiting for calls from Ling Kun or the porridge girl. Almost half a month had gone by without any news from Ling Kun, causing Ling Chen to worry.

The matter with Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion wasn't resolved yet, making it difficult for Ling Chen to feel at ease. Additionally, his greatest worry was that Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion might have deemed Ling Kun the culprit behind the murder of Su Zhengyang and his wife. After visiting Changlong Town with Du Kang that day, surveillance footage and evidence both implicated Ling Kun in their deaths. However, Ling Chen believed in his father and was convinced he wouldn't commit such an act.

At this point, he just wanted to personally ask Ling Kun what really happened that day, hoping to resolve the misunderstanding with Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

"Ling Chen, there are guests at home."

Upon hearing Yang Qingling's voice from downstairs, Ling Chen responded immediately, got up, and left the bedroom.

Arriving in the living room, he saw Zhou Qi seated on the sofa, causing a thump in Ling Chen's heart. Zhou Qi seldom came to him; if it was about matters at the base, he could easily contact Tang Guolun and Hu Fei without needing to see Ling Chen. Thus, Zhou Qi's arrival likely had to do with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion issue.

"Elder Zhou," Ling Chen greeted with a smile, "What brings you here today?"

Zhou Qi glanced at Yang Qingling beside him and said, "I have something I want to discuss with you."

Yang Qingling, being clever, smiled slightly and said, "Elder Zhou, take your time. I'll go make some tea for you."

"Elder Zhou, what is it?"

"Han Qi called me."

Indeed! Ling Chen's heart sank; Zhou Qi was here concerning the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion matter.

"Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has issued the Heavenly Mechanism Order, uniting all martial arts comrades to search for your father's whereabouts."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen's expression changed drastically. He understood too well what the Heavenly Mechanism Order signified. In the hundreds of years since the founding of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the Heavenly Mechanism Order had only been issued a few times; each issuance meant that Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion would rally all forces to achieve its objective.

"Elder Zhou, does this mean Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has already determined my father to be the murderer of Su Zhengyang and his wife?"

"I'm not sure about that. But according to Han Qi, regardless of whether your father is the real culprit, since he appeared at the scene, he should be most knowledgeable about the matter. Thus, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion wants to inquire directly from him. In truth, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has given you a fair chance; so many days have passed without any news from you, leaving them no option but to act."

Ling Chen replied solemnly, "Doesn't this mean my father is in danger?"

"He probably isn't. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion ordered to capture him alive, so no one will harm his life, but..." At this, Zhou Qi hesitated.

"Elder Zhou, but what? Please tell me," Ling Chen hurriedly urged.

"Ling Chen, if...and I'm only saying if...that incident really was your father's doing, have you considered the consequences?"

Ling Chen's heart sank as he immediately grasped Zhou Qi's implication. He had always believed in his father's innocence, but this was purely his personal opinion. If Ling Kun was involved in the murder of Su Zhengyang and his wife, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion certainly wouldn't spare him. Then, his relationship with Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion would instantly collapse.

However, this wasn't the main concern. If Ling Kun truly faced a danger to his life, what should he, as a son, do?

Should he save him, or not?

Fight against Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? Ling Chen had never entertained such notions; he didn't even dare. But now, he had to consider this issue.

No matter what Ling Kun had done, he was ultimately his father, Ling Chen couldn't just sit idly by.

Turning his back on a family member for justice? That's just lip service—how many could truly achieve it?

"Ling Chen, you'd better think of a way to find your father quickly, clarify the situation and prevent difficulties for everyone," Zhou Qi kindly advised.

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Elder Zhou, thank you for informing me. Rest assured, I know what to do."

After sending Zhou Qi off, Ling Chen immediately took out his phone and called Hu Fei. When he returned last time, Ling Chen had already instructed Hu Fei to focus on searching for Ling Kun's whereabouts. Now, half a month had passed, and he was unsure whether there had been any progress.

After finishing the call, Ling Chen looked somewhat disappointed. There was still no news from Hu Fei, not a word about Ling Kun nor the porridge girl; it seemed as though they had vanished without a trace.

Dad, please don't let anything happen!

Ling Chen silently prayed.

...

Three days later in the morning.

Ling Chen had just finished breakfast and was preparing to go out for some activities. As he left the villa, barely far from it, he received a phone call.

"Hello! Mr. Ling."

"Mr. Zhang, hello!" Ling Chen greeted, "Calling me this early, is there something you need?" The person on the other end, Mr. Zhang, was the mysterious government envoy, serving as his bridge for communication and cooperation with the government.

"Lin Guodong is dead!"

Dead?

Ling Chen was slightly taken aback and quickly asked, "How did he die?"

Chapter 1085 - 1092: Surprise Attack on the Ling Family (Part 1)

"He was assassinated at his residence last night, leaving nothing but the body."

"Didn't your government promise to give him protection? Why was the secret leaked?"

"I'm not sure. Since taking over, I've always arranged Lin Guodong in a safe place, not only changing his name and identity but also including him in the witness protection plan. However, from the current situation, we still underestimated the power of the Ling Family. Not only did they find Lin Guodong's whereabouts, but they also killed him in front of more than a dozen security personnel."

"The Ling Family might be retaliating against the traitor," Ling Chen said solemnly.

"That's right, I think so too. Ling Chen, the Ling Family might have big plans. If you have any intelligence on this, remember to inform me."

"Intelligence exchange is possible, but you have to tell me what actions you're planning to take."

Mr. Zhang replied, "We haven't decided yet. I've already convened an emergency meeting, and we'll come up with a countermeasure."

"Alright, let's leave it at that for now."

After hanging up, Ling Chen let out a quiet sigh. When he decided to hand Lin Guodong over to Mr. Zhang, he had hoped for Lin Guodong to enjoy his twilight years peacefully. Yet, he underestimated the ruthlessness of the Ling Family. They showed no mercy to traitors.

Two hours later, Ling Chen received another phone call from Mr. Zhang.

"Mr. Ling, we just finished the meeting."

"Really? What strategy have you come up with?"

"I hope you can help us once. I have ordered Colonel Pang, the leader of Lonely Wolf, to lead the team to the south, preparing to sweep away the Ling Family's forces. However, you are most familiar with the Ling Family's power. To prevent accidents, I want you to join the team. You are acquainted with the members of Lonely Wolf, and I believe you will enjoy working together."

Hearing Mr. Zhang's words, Ling Chen was somewhat surprised. The government's strategy had always been to maintain a passive stance, investigating secretly and avoiding direct confrontation with the Ling Family. But now, they had changed the plan, surprisingly initiating an attack.

"Mr. Zhang, why are you suddenly adopting an offensive stance?"

"From the current situation, it is the only effective solution. Moreover, the Ling Family nocturnal assassination of Lin Guodong shows complete disregard for the government, and the higher-ups are extremely angry about it. The Ling Family has crossed our bottom line. Therefore, we decided to uproot Ling Chen's forces once and for all, preventing them from committing further atrocities. Mr. Ling, I know your capabilities very well, and I hope you can assist us. Once the mission is complete, I will represent the government to award you."

"Forget about the award; the grudge with the Ling Family runs deep. Even if you didn't ask, I'd still find them. Okay, I will collaborate with Lonely Wolf and try to help you solve this issue."

"Thank you!"

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen immediately dialed Tang Yuan's number. As Mr. Zhang had said, Lonely Wolf had already received orders and was preparing to depart. Knowing Ling Chen would accompany, Tang Yuan seemed exceptionally excited.

"Haha! It's been a long time since the two brothers fought side by side. So come over quickly, we'll meet at the airport."

Having agreed on the meeting location with Tang Yuan, Ling Chen checked the time; it was nine in the morning, still early. After booking a ticket, Ling Chen briefed Yang Qingling and called Hu Fei. After handling the matters in East Sea City, Ling Chen drove alone to the airport.

After an hour and a half of flying, the plane finally landed at Xiangnan City Airport.

Xiangnan City is a southern city in Huaxia, a provincial capital, where the Ling Family's foundation is rooted.

Though commonly referred to as the southern Ling Family, it was Ling Chen's first time in Xiangnan City. Compared to coastal cities, southern cities are hotter, with ground temperatures reaching up to thirty-five degrees. Exiting the airport passage, Ling Chen saw several Land Rover off-road vehicles parked on the roadside.

Glimpsing at the license plates, Ling Chen immediately walked over and sat directly in the front passenger seat of the middle Land Rover.

As soon as he got into the car, Tang Yuan's cheerful laughter came, "San Lang, long time no see."

Ling Chen looked back with a smile and greeted everyone in the car. Besides Tang Yuan, Pang Jiulin and Han Bing were also in this vehicle. They were all very familiar with each other, so Ling Chen didn't stand on ceremony and asked, "Instructor Pang, have you planned it out?"

Pang Jiulin said, "Not yet, we'll first go to the safehouse where the intelligence we need is. After reviewing the intelligence, we'll decide on an attack plan."

Before long, the three Land Rover off-road vehicles arrived at the safe house in Xiangnan City. The safe house was located in a residential building, with a large room area where more than a dozen people in the living room didn't feel crowded. However, what surprised Ling Chen was encountering someone who came to greet them when he arrived at the safe house.

The person was none other than Ren Qing, who had previously caused trouble for him in East Sea City.

Ling Chen distinctly remembered Mr. Zhang had sent someone to take Ren Qing away at that time. Based on her actions, she should have been dismissed, but Mr. Zhang kept her on. Apparently, Mr. Zhang did appreciate Ren Qing's talent. Though Ren Qing was skilled, her character and personality were less than commendable.

Seeing Ling Chen arrive, Ren Qing seemed already aware, showing no signs of surprise, nor anger or resentment; it was calm, almost as if she didn't recognize Ling Chen.

Sitting in the spacious and bright living room, taking advantage of Ren Qing going to fetch documents, Ling Chen discreetly inquired with Tang Yuan. Then he learned that Ren Qing was the responsible person for this safe house, recently transferred here.

Back then, Ren Qing was mainly responsible for behind-the-scenes intelligence work, considered a person with status and position, overseeing a large team. Now, turned into the head of a safehouse, it

was clear that the incident in East Sea City greatly impacted her future. Although Mr. Zhang hadn't directly dismissed Ren Qing, such an arrangement was undoubtedly a more painful punishment for her.

Possessing skills and capabilities but unable to gain recognition and promotion, presumably, Ren Qing's days were not pleasant.

Ling Chen was not a petty person. After all, the conflict with Ren Qing was resolved. As long as Ren Qing didn't trouble him again, he wouldn't go out of his way to target her.

Before long, Ren Qing returned with a thick document folder.

"Colonel Pang, this is the intelligence material Mr. Zhang asked me to deliver. We've been observing the Ling Family secretly; all their actions are under surveillance," Ren Qing reported earnestly.

Pang Jiulin took out the documents, handing them out to everyone, checking the intelligence while asking Ren Qing about the Ling Family's situation.

The Ling Family is undoubtedly a formidable opponent; Pang Jiulin couldn't afford to be careless. As the current leader of Lonely Wolf, he must be responsible for his team members.

Chapter 1086 - 1093: Raid on the Ling Family (Part 2)

Soon, the structure blueprint of the Ling Family's residence was completed, and Pang Jiulin unfolded it and laid it on the table.

"According to the information provided by Miss Ren and her team, there are currently over forty people residing at the Ling Family, with more than half of them being security personnel hired by the Ling Family. Look here." Pang Jiulin pointed at the architectural diagram and said, "The Ling Family has two main gates; the front gate has four security officers, the back gate has two, rotating in shifts, 24 hours a day. Moreover, the top of the family's perimeter wall is equipped with an electric grid, and surveillance cameras are installed. Given the Ling Family's security setup, I suspect they also have motion sensor devices installed internally. As soon as someone steps into the Ling Family premises, they would trigger the alarm system."

"Tsk tsk!" Tang Yuan couldn't help but click his tongue and say, "The Ling Family is truly formidable, practically turning their home into a fortress; ordinary methods simply can't infiltrate it. Boss Pang, how about we launch a direct assault?"

"No." Pang Jiulin said, "I've received orders from above, and the orders are very clear. The operation must be conducted covertly without causing much impact. The Ling Family holds a very high status in Xiangnan City, and as soon as any anomaly appears at the Ling Family, it will surely draw a lot of attention. Therefore, our operation this time will mainly focus on infiltration, aiming to conclude the battle as swiftly as possible."

"That might prove difficult." Ling Chen touched his nose and said, "I've had quite a bit of contact with the Ling Family and have some understanding of their overall strength. Besides these obvious security installations, the security personnel of the Ling Family should not be underestimated either. The Ling Family never lacks experts, and if I'm not mistaken, the security personnel for the Ling Family must comprise top-tier experts. Therefore, trying to sneak into the Ling Family would not be a simple task."

Upon hearing this, Pang Jiulin looked at Ling Chen and said, "Then do you have any good suggestions?"

"I don't have any good ideas at the moment." Ling Chen thought for a while and asked, "Instructor Pang, how many days' time did you receive from above?"

"Three days."

"Three days isn't much time, but it should be enough for us to act. I think it would be best not to act hastily, but first scout the situation, aiming to be foolproof." Ling Chen paused as he spoke, then turned to look at Tang Yuan and said, "Old Tang, tonight you come with me to scout the Ling Family."

"OK!" Tang Yuan briskly agreed.

Night fell.

Around nine o'clock, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan drove over to the vicinity of the Ling Family. They parked a block away from the Ling Family, and Ling Chen looked around to find that the area was filled with

low-rise buildings, with no tall buildings within a hundred meters radius. Looking far and wide, there were practically no buildings taller than ten meters.

Tsk tsk!

Ling Chen was secretly apprehensive. The position of the Ling Family is right in the city center, and logically, the city center should be the most bustling area. However, this vicinity was an exception. Regarding this, Ling Chen was well aware; it was undoubtedly due to the Ling Family's influence.

The residence of the Ling Family is modeled after an ancient Siheyuan, but its area is several times larger than typical Siheyuans, occupying a local area of over a thousand square meters. In addition, the surroundings of the Siheyuan are enveloped with lush green vegetation, covering a total area of several thousand square meters.

In such a precious and bustling area, possessing such a large area truly shows the Ling Family's immense wealth.

Before coming, Ling Chen had already discussed with Tang Yuan and planned to find a suitable position to observe the Ling Family. However, with no tall buildings nearby, Ling Chen had no choice but to dismiss this notion.

"Tang Yuan." Beside him, Tang Yuan spoke up, "I remember Ren Qing's data mentioning that there used to be quite a few office buildings here, but later they were all acquired by the Ling Family. After the Ling Family successfully acquired them, they directly demolished those office buildings and converted them into low-rise buildings."

"The Ling Family certainly has a grand approach."

"Yeah! I heard that all the property and land around here belong to the Ling Family. Do the math, how much would these resources add up to? Damn, if I had even one ten-thousandth, I wouldn't need to be fighting tooth and nail." Tang Yuan said discontentedly.

Ling Chen replied with a smile, "The Ling Family is indeed willing to spend extravagantly on their own safety." He knew very well that the main purpose of the Ling Family demolishing those tall buildings was

to prevent attacks on the Ling Family. Imagine, if someone with a sniper rifle took high ground, the Ling Family would be in constant danger.

Strolling leisurely around the Ling Family's perimeter, Tang Yuan exclaimed exasperatedly, "Damn! After searching for half the day, not a single breakthrough point discovered."

Ling Chen nodded in agreement, making no comment. The defense of the Ling Family was indeed well done. He found along the way that the forests around the Ling Family were filled with Dark Posts. As for their exact number, he hadn't figured it all out yet. But from the current situation, the first thing to solve in the attempt to sneak into the Ling Family is these Dark Posts.

"Tang Yuan, should we head back or continue strolling around?" Tang Yuan asked.

"Let's head back, there's really nothing more to see." As he spoke, Ling Chen suddenly halted, his gaze fixed on the market at the street ahead.

Seeing Ling Chen staring intently, Tang Yuan curiously asked, "What's up?"

Ling Chen's lips curled slightly, smiling as he said, "Heaven helps those who help themselves! I know the exact time to initiate the attack. Come on, let's head back!"

Two days passed, leaving only one day before the deadline imposed by above.

During this time, Mr. Zhang made several phone calls to inquire about the situation. Upon learning that everyone was holding back, Mr. Zhang seemed somewhat anxious.

"Mr. Zhang, rest assured, I'm well aware of what I'm doing." Ling Chen didn't want Mr. Zhang to put pressure on Pang Jiulin, so he proactively took the call and said, "With one more day, I'll do my utmost to handle this matter."

"Alright, since Mr. Ling says so, I trust you're confident about this operation." With that, Mr. Zhang shifted his tone and asked, "By the way! Mr. Ling, has Qing caused any trouble? Sorry, I forgot to warn you."

"No worries, Miss Ren hasn't bothered me."

"That's good, I've cautioned Qing; she shouldn't do anything impulsive."

Upon hanging up the phone, Ling Chen checked the time and said, "Instructor Pang, there are twelve hours left; ensure everyone is prepared. Once the time comes, act immediately."

Nightfall!

It was still early evening when Ling Chen, Pang Jiulin, and others directly drove to the vicinity of the Ling Family.

At the supermarket entrance, they saw a temporary stage set up in front; a band was tuning their instruments. Hearing the high-decibel sound from the speakers, Ling Chen couldn't help but laugh.

That night he saw the poster at the supermarket entrance, announcing a promotional event would be held, accompanied by a live performance.

Thus, Ling Chen promptly decided that the moment the performance started would be the optimal time for them to act.

At eight o'clock in the evening, the stage lights in front of the supermarket lit up, under the watching gaze of numerous pedestrians, explosive music blasted from the speakers, marking the official start of the performance.

Chapter 1087 - 1094: Raid on the Ling Family (Part 3)

Under the cover of the noisy sound, a ten-person squad rapidly advanced through the forest. Although Pang Jiulin was responsible for this operation, the true leader was Ling Chen. Pang Jiulin and Tang Yuan fully acknowledged Ling Chen's abilities. Moreover, facing the Ling Family this time, it was most suitable for Ling Chen to lead the action, given his rich experience in dealing with them.

Carefully traversing the green woods outside the Ling Family, everyone moved forward. Along the way, relying on their skills and Ling Chen's keen hearing, they eliminated numerous dark posts. It didn't take long for Ling Chen to lead Pang Jiulin and others successfully to the outer wall of the Ling Family.

Looking at the electric grid device on top of the wall, Ling Chen frowned slightly—this was a significant problem. They had thoroughly investigated these past two days: the grid above was connected to high-voltage electricity, and touching it would certainly mean death.

"Instructor Pang, have everyone wait here. I'll go dismantle the electric grid device first."

"Alright, be careful on your own."

Leaving the squad, Ling Chen circled along the outer wall to the back door of the Ling Family. At the entrance, two security personnel in suits stood outside, vigilantly watching the surroundings to prevent suspicious individuals from approaching.

Ling Chen quietly observed for a moment, slowly moving his steps toward the opponents. Fortunately, both sides of the back door are surrounded by trees, providing cover for Ling Chen's body.

When he was about five meters away from the security personnel, Ling Chen leaned forward, lightly tapping his toes, and instantly accelerated, rushing straight towards the two security personnel.

Though the two security personnel were not slow to react, feeling the gust of wind approaching from the side, they turned their heads rapidly to gaze at the oncoming figure.

Despite their quick reaction, Ling Chen was even faster. With a swing of his fist, one security personnel was hit instantly, knocked directly to the ground. Before the other could defend, Ling Chen shifted his footwork, appearing behind him in an instant, and delivered a hard chop downward.

With a muffled sound, the opponent's body immediately fell forward.

Resolving the two security personnel in a flash, Ling Chen exhaled slightly in relief, cautiously walked to the back door. He opened the door and glanced inside, only to find two surveillance cameras facing the entrance. Walking in directly would definitely be caught on the camera.

Thinking for a moment, Ling Chen closed the door again and picked up two pebbles from the ground outside.

With a gentle flick of his wrist, the two pebbles were thrown one after another, and two crisp sounds followed as the camera lenses were shattered by the pebbles.

Seizing the opportunity, Ling Chen swiftly dashed inside. The back door led to the Ling Family's large backyard. Once inside, Ling Chen didn't dare remain idle and quickly shifted positions, finding a relatively safe spot to hide.

Two minutes passed, and two security personnel appeared in Ling Chen's view, quickly heading toward the back door.

The surveillance cameras being damaged and the two security personnel at the back door were unreachable; the Ling Family was sure to send someone to investigate. Watching the two security personnel pass by, Ling Chen rolled on the ground, sneaking past them from behind, making directly toward a house in the siheyuan.

Entering the room, Ling Chen exhaled audibly, his gaze surveying the furnishings. This room seemed uninhabited, with the floor covered in thick dust and miscellaneous items piled up against the wall.

While waiting briefly in the room, he suddenly heard urgent and chaotic footsteps outside.

It seemed the Ling Family had discovered the situation at the back door.

At this moment, in the main hall of the Ling Family's siheyuan, a muscular middle-aged man in a suit stood in the center, accompanied by several youths.

"Have you found the intruder?" the middle-aged man inquired solemnly.

"Second Uncle, we haven't found anyone yet. Our people are searching; I assure you, whoever's entered the Ling Family will find escape impossible," a handsome young man replied.

"Stay vigilant; disseminate my command to elevate the Ling Family's security level to the maximum. Everyone must be stationed. Until the crisis is resolved, no one is allowed to rest, got it?"

"Understood!"

...

"You two, go search over there." In the siheyuan, more than a dozen security personnel were conducting a meticulous search.

Two security personnel were instructed to arrive at the front of a room, exchange a glance, and directly rush inside.

But just as the two security personnel rushed in, the door was immediately closed. After three minutes, the door reopened, and a man in a suit emerged with his head down.

Glancing around, Ling Chen subtly smiled; everyone was dressed alike, so no one noticed him.

Now, Ling Chen threaded his way among the security personnel, proceeding quickly forward. With the suit providing cover, Ling Chen's movement became much more convenient. Soon, Ling Chen reached the outside of a heavily guarded room.

Considering the surroundings and the intelligence he possessed, this room was likely the Ling Family's security office, where the Ling Family's security system was managed. Gaining control of the security office would allow shutting down all security devices, enabling Pang Jiulin and the others to enter.

Though the security office had guards, it was no issue for Ling Chen. Within moments, Ling Chen swiftly handled the guards outside the door and kicked open the security office's door.

Hearing the noise from outside, the staff in the security office was startled and quickly turned around. But before seeing clearly, the intruders felt a pain in their heads, immediately passing out.

Staring at the equipment in the security office, Ling Chen felt a headache. These were all professional devices controlled by computers, and Ling Chen didn't know how to disarm the security system.

Pausing briefly, Ling Chen abandoned further thought, grabbing a fire axe in the room, and struck the equipment forcefully.

Suddenly, sparks flew, and all the devices started smoking and went into shutdown.

Glancing at the crashed computer, Ling Chen smiled faintly; indeed, brute force was more efficient. With the Ling Family's security devices disabled, Ling Chen promptly used the earpiece to contact Pang Jiulin outside.

"Copy! We're coming in now."

Ending the call, Ling Chen didn't linger long in the security office; he still had more important tasks.

This mission was crystal clear: Destroy the Southern Ling Family. Yet, Ling Chen understood that the truly significant figures of the Ling Family were absent; they had long hidden abroad and elsewhere. Nonetheless, there would be minor characters around. Additionally, given the Ling Family had resided here for years, many secrets were certainly concealed.

Ling Chen was immensely interested in this. From Lin Guodong's accounts, Ling Chen learned many things about the Ling Family. In certain respects, even the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was inferior to the Ling Family.

"Stop!"

Suddenly, a chilly voice halted the sprinting Ling Chen from behind.

Chapter 1088 - 1095: The Pain of Losing a Father (1)

Hearing the shout from behind, Ling Chen stopped in his tracks, turned to look, and a trace of surprise flashed in his eyes.

It was her?

Ling Chen never expected to meet her here. He was taken aback for a moment but quickly regained his composure and smiled at her, saying, "Miss Lin Qiqi, long time no see. I didn't expect to meet you here."

This woman was none other than Lin Qiqi, who had once impersonated the leader of the God Organization to negotiate with Ling Chen in an attempt to rescue Lin Guodong. It had been several months since they parted; it turned out she was staying with the Ling Family.

"Ling Chen!" Lin Qiqi shouted sharply, "You sure have guts to run wild on the Ling family's turf."

"Miss Lin, I have always been bold; don't you know that?"

"Enough!" Lin Qiqi looked at Ling Chen with gritted teeth and hatred in her eyes, coldly saying, "You're here just in time. Release Uncle Lin immediately, or I'll make sure you have no chance to walk away alive."

Uncle Lin? Ling Chen was slightly startled and immediately realized she meant Lin Guodong. Strange, Lin Guodong was already dead; why would she demand his release? Could it be... she still didn't know about Lin Guodong's accident? Ling Chen increasingly felt this could be the case.

The relationship between Lin Qiqi and Lin Guodong was quite unusual, as evidenced by Lin Qiqi's risky attempt to rescue Lin Guodong.

Perhaps... he could use this as an opening.

With thoughts racing, Ling Chen spoke, "Miss Lin, maybe you're mistaken, Lin Guodong is not in my hands."

"Who would believe your lies? My intelligence shows that Uncle Lin was last captured by you. Don't you even have the courage to admit it?"

"Miss Lin, you are correct; Lin Guodong was indeed captured by me, but he is not currently in my hands. I handed him over to government authorities long ago."

Upon hearing this, Lin Qiqi's eyes showed a glimmer as she hurriedly asked, "Then... where is he being held now? Tell me. I need to rescue him."

"Too late," Ling Chen replied. It was clear that Lin Qiqi cared deeply about Lin Guodong's safety. Despite not wanting to tell her, Ling Chen chose not to hide the truth any longer at this point.

"Too late?" Lin Qiqi stared at Ling Chen, asking anxiously, "What do you mean by that?"

"Lin Guodong is already dead."

"What?" Ling Chen's words were like a bolt from the blue, turning Lin Qiqi's face deathly pale, her lips devoid of any color. She stood there dazed, motionless, as two streams of tears slowly flowed from the corners of her eyes, dripping onto the ground.

Dead... dead... no... don't... Lin Qiqi murmured to herself, her body trembling slightly. Though she tried hard to conceal it, Ling Chen could still feel the deep sorrow within her heart.

"It was you... It must have been you who killed him," Lin Qiqi glared at Ling Chen, gritting her teeth, her eyes full of hatred.

"Ling Chen, blood for blood, I'll kill you." With a sharp shout, Lin Qiqi rushed up, regardless of whether she was a match for Ling Chen, wildly swinging her fists.

Seeing Lin Qiqi's fists coming at him, Ling Chen casually grabbed and immediately locked her wrist. Lin Qiqi struggled desperately to break free, but how could her strength compare to Ling Chen's? She couldn't budge at all.

"Miss Lin, don't misunderstand. I didn't kill Lin Guodong. On the contrary, Lin Guodong reached an agreement with me, and I handed him over to government authorities hoping he could have a chance to enjoy his twilight years. You should know, with Lin Guodong's identity and actions, he would be doomed in anyone's hands. It was already fortunate enough for him to survive for a while. Moreover, Lin Guodong signed a witness protection plan with the government and lived under their protection, hidden and unnamed during this time."

"Then how did he die?" Lin Qiqi asked, tears streaming.

"Believe it or not, it wasn't us who killed Lin Guodong; it was the Ling Family."

"The Ling Family? No, that's impossible!" Lin Qiqi screamed hysterically, "Ling Chen, you're lying! How could the Ling Family have killed him?"

Ling Chen spoke calmly, "Nothing is impossible. Miss Lin, you're a sensible person. Lin Guodong made a deal with the government, betraying the Ling Family; how do you think the Ling Family would treat a traitor? You're part of the Ling Family; I don't need to explain—you should understand in your heart."

Upon hearing this, Lin Qiqi's tears flowed continuously from her eyes, her two arms hanging weakly.

Just as Ling Chen said, Lin Qiqi was very familiar with the Ling Family's ways. Moreover, she believed Ling Chen wasn't deceiving her. Some time ago, Lin Guodong had secretly called her once, saying he was doing well and she shouldn't worry. As to where he was, Lin Guodong didn't say a word. Not only that, Lin Guodong had urged her not to reveal his whereabouts to the Ling Family.

At that time, she didn't understand why, but as long as Lin Guodong was safe, she felt at ease. Now, after hearing Ling Chen's words, she finally realized Lin Guodong didn't want to implicate her.

"Miss Lin!"

At this moment, a shout came from nearby. Ling Chen looked attentively, only to see several security personnel quickly heading their way. Seeing Ling Chen's unfamiliar face, the security personnel became immediately alert, suspiciously scrutinizing him and asking, "Miss Lin, who is this man?"

Lin Qiqi looked at Ling Chen, a trace of hesitation flashing in her eyes. A few seconds later, Lin Qiqi seemed to make a decision and said, "He's sent by my second uncle to protect my safety. All right, there's nothing for you here; go ahead and help the others upfront."

"Yes!" Upon Lin Qiqi's instructions, the security personnel, though puzzled about Ling Chen's identity, didn't ask further. They had just received notification that numerous people had infiltrated the Ling Family, and they needed to fend off the offensive.

Watching the backs of the security personnel depart, Ling Chen shifted his gaze back to Lin Qiqi and nodded, "Thank you!"

"Are you clearing out the Ling Family this time?" Lin Qiqi asked.

"Pretty much. The Ling Family sent people to kill Lin Guodong, undoubtedly a provocation to the higher-ups. Orders were issued from above to strike at the Ling Family's forces with full force."

"The core members of the Ling Family have fled before their wrongdoing was exposed. Those left behind are mostly peripheral members. Like me, most once served in the God Organization." At this moment, Lin Qiqi's emotions had returned to calmness.

"I know. Our operation isn't meant to eliminate everyone in the Ling Family but to make a statement. From now on, we won't remain silent anymore." As Ling Chen said this, he hesitated for a moment and continued, "Miss Lin, for Lin Guodong's sake, I don't wish to make trouble for you. Leave now, find a place where no one knows you, live quietly, and stay away from this conflict."

Chapter 1089 - 1096: The Pain of Losing a Father (Part 2)

Lin Qiqi said with a bitter smile, "No, I'm a member of the Ling Family, I'm already deeply involved and can't get out." Saying this, Lin Qiqi used her hand to pull open her clothes, revealing her snow-white skin. However, Ling Chen's attention wasn't on her skin, but on a scar near her heart. It was obvious that the scar was very new and very neat, suggesting that the surgery was performed only a couple of days ago.

"You... what happened?"

"A couple of days ago, they sent a few people over to perform a small surgery on those of us left in the Ling Family. They implanted a chip in our bodies to lock onto our location at any time. Moreover, that chip has a self-destruct function. At first, we didn't quite understand why they did this. But after listening to you just now, I finally got it. It's probably because of Uncle Lin's incident. They're worried about traitors appearing within the Ling Family again, so they put a shackle on us. If anyone betrays, the outcome is nothing but death."

Ling Chen's face changed; he never expected the Ling Family to be so ruthless, without sparing even their own family members.

"Then you..." Ling Chen still wanted to say something, but Lin Qiqi had already interrupted him.

"Ling Chen, there's no need to persuade me. As a Ling Family member, fate was decided long ago. Come with me, I'll take you to a place." With that, regardless of whether Ling Chen was willing, Lin Qiqi simply walked away.

Ling Chen didn't hesitate, quickly catching up with Lin Qiqi. At the same time, Ling Chen contacted Pang Jiulin and others through his earpiece to inquire about their situation.

After all, the security personnel of the Ling Family are all experts. Without his own help, he wasn't sure if Pang Jiulin and the others could handle them.

"Instructor Pang, how's the situation over there?"

"No problem. These guys are indeed skilled, but we are no pushover either. You go on and do your thing; don't worry about us."

Hearing this, Ling Chen was slightly relieved. For this operation, Pang Jiulin and the others were very well prepared, with everyone fully armed. The members of Lonely Wolf are battle-hardened agents; although not as adept as the security personnel, their overall abilities aren't lacking.

That's good! With Pang Jiulin's team attracting outside firepower, his actions would undoubtedly be much easier.

Following Lin Qiqi's footsteps, Ling Chen proceeded step by step, and before long, the two arrived in a study within the Siheyuan.

Walking into the room, he saw many ancient paintings hanging on all four walls. Judging by the seals on these paintings, they're the works of famous artists. As for authenticity... with the Ling Family's financial resources, how could they possibly buy fake collections?

Just the value of the paintings in this room probably exceeds ten figures.

At this moment, Lin Qiqi went straight to the bookshelf in the study, took out a book, and gently pulled it outward. Immediately, there was a soft click, and the entire bookshelf slowly moved aside, revealing a wide secret passage.

"This is the secret of the Ling Family, let's go!" With that, Lin Qiqi walked straight into the secret passage.

On the way, Ling Chen was perplexed by Lin Qiqi's actions and couldn't help but ask, "Why are you doing this? For you, I should be an enemy."

"You're wrong." Lin Qiqi replied indifferently, "To be precise, you're an enemy of the Ling Family, not mine. The Ling Family always likes to impose their enemies on everyone." After a pause, Lin Qiqi continued, "Uncle Lin was once married and had a daughter. Unfortunately, shortly after she was born, she was diagnosed with a terminal illness and couldn't live for more than a few years. When she died, Uncle Lin's wife couldn't endure the blow, chose to divorce, and bid farewell to this sad place forever. Before this, Uncle Lin applied to take on a position in the God Organization, hoping to use its resources to research a cure for terminal illnesses. Unfortunately, although research made some breakthroughs over a few years, they still couldn't apply it clinically."

"After Uncle Lin's daughter died, he was depressed for a long time, taking years to come out of the shadow. At that time, there was a little girl by his side, with the last name Liu, I heard Uncle Lin took her in. He treated her as a daughter. Later, when my father died unexpectedly during a Ling Family mission, Uncle Lin felt very sympathetic for me. Since then, he, like a father, cared for me, allowing me to feel paternal love again. Even though he's my uncle, I've long regarded him as my father in my heart."

After listening to Lin Qiqi's account, Ling Chen finally understood why she was helping him.

The Ling Family killed Lin Guodong, and no matter the reason, it was an unforgivable act for Lin Qiqi.

A woman, once filled with resentment, becomes a terrifying thing.

Proceeding along the secret passage, Ling Chen walked for several dozen meters before it opened up before him. At the end of the passage was a massive underground chamber, capable of accommodating even thousands of people.

However, more shocking than the size was the fact that the walls of this underground chamber were lined with three-meter-high bookshelves, each packed with various books. Judging by the paper of those books, they've been stored for a long time.

"This is the library of the Ling Family," Lin Qiqi said beside him. "Centuries of accumulation are all here. In this regard, it's no exaggeration to say that even the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion can't compare to the Ling Family."

Ling Chen couldn't wait to step up to one of the bookshelves, casually pulling out a book. After glancing through it, he was internally overwhelmed with shock.

This... turned out to be a martial arts manual!

It seems Lin Guodong didn't lie to him. Previously, Lin Guodong had told him that the Ling Family's collection of martial arts is more extensive than that of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Now, it seems, it wasn't wrong.

The books here were meticulously organized, each bookshelf numbered. Ling Chen casually skimmed a few shelves, his eyes soon drawn to one in particular.

Standing in front of the shelf, Ling Chen examined it carefully for a while.

Nine Yang Qiankun Step... Shattered Leaf Step... Phoenix Fist... Eight Silk Palm... All were precious martial arts tomes, some of which were even rare, lost arts.

Unbelievable! Truly unbelievable!

Ling Chen was inwardly alarmed; who would have thought that the Ling Family possessed such rich resources. Once these martial arts manuals are leaked, they would surely ignite a storm in the Martial Arts community. Indeed, the Ling Family is a deeply-rooted clan; without hundreds of years of historical foundation, such a collection couldn't be achieved.

No wonder the Ling Family stationed people here. Such a vast collection of books couldn't possibly be moved.

Chapter 1090 - 1097: Ling Family's Collection

At this moment, Ling Chen stood there, unable to take his eyes off them, almost with little stars in his eyes. For a martial artist, these are priceless treasures, things that can't be bought with money. Now, so many martial arts secrets are laid out in front of him, allowing him to choose at will. If he wants, he can take these precious martial arts secrets away. As for Lin Qiqi, it's believed she won't stop him.

"Let's go."

Lin Qiqi's voice came through, and Ling Chen finally snapped out of the martial arts secrets, turned his head and asked, "Where to?"

"This is just a part of what the Ling Family has collected, there are many more such things, I'll take you to see them." With that, Lin Qiqi straightforwardly headed toward the other end of the basement. Soon, the two arrived before a large locked door.

Next to the door, a password lock was installed, Lin Qiqi entered a six-digit password, and the door opened promptly.

Following Lin Qiqi's footsteps, Ling Chen passed through the door, his eyes immediately widened. If the previously collected books were priceless treasures, then this room was filled completely with treasures of value.

Gold, jewelry, ceramics, and jade from various eras, dazzling, making one overwhelmed.

This... even Ling Chen, who's quite wealthy, was deeply shocked by the treasures inside.

It's estimated that adding up all his assets wouldn't compare to the treasures in this room. Although he's an amateur in collecting, Ling Chen knows the price of these items to some extent. If it were placed in an auction, any ceramic or jade here could be auctioned for tens of millions or even hundreds of millions of dollars.

Moreover, a corner of the room piled with a large amount of gold. Ling Chen casually picked up a gold bar, which was carved with the era and bank's mark, this gold was at least a few hundred years old, probably passed down from the Ling family's ancestors.

Besides the value of the gold itself, the historical value among them is also immeasurable.

Ling Chen checked them one by one, not only were there precious collections, but also many swords and weapons. Being stored by the Ling Family here indicates that these weapons are not ordinary.

"Why didn't the Ling Family move these away?" Ling Chen asked curiously.

"These are things left by the ancestors, they have been stored here for many years. The Ling Family regards this place as a backup measure; if anything happens to the Ling Family, these treasures are enough for the Ling Family to rise again. You saw when you came in, this place is full of mechanisms, very few outsiders can enter without permission. Also, not many Ling Family members know about this place, I'm one of them, and I was instructed to guard these things."

So that's it! Ling Chen finally understood.

Lin Qiqi's task is to guard these treasures, so she has access to this place.

"This is the Ling Family's fallback; by telling you this place, it means cutting off the Ling Family's retreat." Lin Qiqi looked at Ling Chen and asked, "Do you understand my meaning?"

Ling Chen nodded, how could he not understand Lin Qiqi's meaning? This is revenge! Because the Ling Family killed Lin Guodong, so Lin Qiqi wants revenge.

"Take away anything you fancy, how you handle the rest is up to you."

"Miss Lin, if you want to break free from the Ling Family, perhaps I can help you. Although the Ling Family planted a chip in you, I can find someone to help you remove it."

"No need." Lin Qiqi replied coldly, "I've thought it through, you don't need to worry about me." After a pause, Lin Qiqi switched the topic, "Leave your phone number with me, I'll notify you if anything happens in the future."

After remembering the phone number, Lin Qiqi also told Ling Chen the password for the entire basement's access, then left him with a "handle it as you wish" and departed alone.

"Tang Yuan, where are you?"

At this time, Tang Yuan's voice came through the earpiece.

"I'm in the Ling Family's basement, there's a great discovery here. How are things on your side?"

"Nearly settled, caught quite a few, a couple escaped. Hey! Where's the basement? I'll come to you."

"Hold on, I'll come meet with you." Ling Chen said. Without the basement's password, Tang Yuan couldn't enter this place at all.

Before leaving, Ling Chen didn't forget to take something with him. It's a rare opportunity like this, not getting some benefits would be too bad for himself.

Arriving at the Ling Family courtyard, he saw more than twenty people crouching in the spacious yard, including security and Ling Family members, all were controlled by Pang Jiulin and his people.

"Instructor Pang, well done!" Ling Chen walked over with a smile, giving a thumbs up, "You can go back and claim credit upstairs this time."

"Where did you just disappear to? Didn't see anyone, I was counting on you to help me."

Ling Chen smiled embarrassedly and said, "Instructor Pang, I found something even more significant." Initially, Ling Chen thought of keeping it all to himself, anyone would be tempted by such a massive fortune. Especially since this wealth is unknown to the government, and it's private property of the Ling Family, even if taken, no one would know.

However, after a struggle in his mind, Ling Chen decided to hand these treasures over to the country.

In any case, he doesn't lack money, and he also wants to maintain good relations with the government. After all, there are many times where he'll need the government's help in the future.

Led by Ling Chen, Pang Jiulin and Tang Yuan arrived at the Ling Family's secret basement. Just like Ling Chen before them, Pang Jiulin and Tang Yuan were completely stunned by this huge fortune, taking quite a while before coming back to their senses.

"Damn!"

Tang Yuan's mouth was agape, almost drooling.

After a while, the two settled their minds. Pang Jiulin patted Ling Chen's shoulder and nodded, "You're quite something, I'll report this to the higher-ups, and your credit will surely be significant."

Ling Chen's mouth curled upwards, completely understanding Pang Jiulin's intention, which was a good thing for him.

"Hey! Instructor Pang, can you...can you help me with something?" Ling Chen hesitated several times but couldn't resist speaking up.

"What help?"

"These valuable items will be handed over to the country, but those books outside aren't worth anything, can you give them to me?" Ling Chen said. To others, those books weren't worth anything, but in Ling Chen's eyes, they were priceless. Moreover, he's also part of the Ling Family, these books were left by his ancestors, as a descendant, he too has inheritance rights.

Pang Jiulin and Tang Yuan exchanged a glance, knowingly smiled, and nodded, "No problem, but you've got to find a way to transport those books out. If the people sent from above see them, you'll have a hard time taking them."

Seeing their approval, Ling Chen's eyes brightened, quickly thanking them.

After coming out of the basement, Ling Chen didn't delay, immediately called Hu Fei from East Sea City, asking him to dispatch more people over. So many books, thousands upon thousands, can't be moved by just two or three people, at least several large trucks need to be prepared.