

The Beauty 1101

Chapter 1101 Rescue

Clutching his aching chest, Chu Huaiyang looked up incredulously at Ling Chen. He couldn't imagine that the Ling Chen, who once could only fight him to a draw, now toppled him effortlessly. How much time had passed, yet Ling Chen's progress was astonishingly fast.

It's only been a few months, but Ling Chen's transformation was undoubtedly the greatest. The fusion of the Nine Yang Qiankun Step had significantly enhanced Ling Chen's skills. In addition, with dedicated training during this period, Ling Chen's internal cultivation methods had shown slight improvement. Therefore, Chu Huaiyang was no longer his match.

"Zhu Hong, surrender." Ling Chen said, "You cannot escape."

Zhu Hong glanced at Chu Huaiyang lying on the ground and coldly sneered, "Useless!" After a pause, he turned to Ling Chen and said with a cold smile, "Ling Chen, don't be too pleased with yourself. Even in death, I won't fall into your hands." As he finished speaking, Zhu Hong reached to his waist, and a dagger instantly appeared in his hand.

Seeing Zhu Hong place the dagger against his neck, Ling Chen shrugged and said indifferently, "Considering suicide? Fine, don't blame me for giving you the opportunity. If you die here tonight, it's a relief for everyone. Please, go ahead!" Ling Chen gestured for Zhu Hong to continue.

Holding the sharp dagger, Zhu Hong gritted his teeth, a trace of hesitation flickering in his eyes. He didn't want to die, no one does, but compared to dying, he was even less willing to fall into Ling Chen's hands. After experiencing so much, he didn't want to become a loser, which would undoubtedly be painful.

Glancing at Chen Quan and Ji Gang still engaged in battle, Zhu Hong knew Chen Quan couldn't spare himself and wouldn't be able to save him. Looking at his predicament, Zhu Hong couldn't help but feel dejected. He did so much, yet still lacked the power to compete with Ling Chen. If... if it weren't for Song Mingzhe's incident, losing a vital combat asset, perhaps he could have had a chance to escape tonight.

It seemed his fate tonight was already sealed. Thinking of this, Zhu Hong stared directly into Ling Chen's eyes and said slowly, "I originally wanted to play a game with you, but it looks like there's no chance." After speaking, Zhu Hong bit his teeth, closed his eyes, and fiercely drove the dagger towards his neck.

Beep beep!

Just at that moment, an ear-piercing car horn suddenly sounded. Following it, two dazzling headlights shone through.

This unexpected change instantly caught everyone's attention. Zhu Hong released the dagger and looked up to see an off-road vehicle speeding rapidly along the road, moving incredibly fast, reaching close in an instant.

Seeing the off-road vehicle charging recklessly, Ling Chen and the others' expressions changed slightly, not daring to block it physically, hurriedly retreated to avoid the vehicle's impact. At that moment, the off-road vehicle swerved, stopping steadily beside Zhu Hong. Meanwhile, the car's rear door opened, and a low voice came from inside: "Get in!"

Although he didn't know who was inside, Zhu Hong didn't hesitate. At this moment, he only had one thought in his mind: escape!

Sitting in the car, Zhu Hong grabbed the door, ready to close it.

"Help me!" Hearing Chu Huaiyang's voice, Zhu Hong glanced over, looking at Chu Huaiyang struggling to get up on the ground with ice-cold eyes. Their eyes met, and Chu Huaiyang wanted to say something, but alas, Zhu Hong ignored him, directly closing the car door.

Watching Zhu Hong heartlessly abandon him, Chu Huaiyang felt chilled to the heart. He thought Zhu Hong would save him, but who knew the other party wouldn't care about him at all.

Once Zhu Hong sat in the car, the off-road vehicle immediately started, tires spinning wildly, grinding against the ground and raising a burst of white smoke.

Bang!

Just then, a loud crashing sound came as Ling Chen somehow appeared on the hood of the off-road vehicle, punching onto the windshield.

With one punch, Ling Chen was surprised to find the off-road vehicle used bulletproof glass. However, even with bulletproof glass, under Ling Chen's punch, the surface instantly cracked with numerous fissures. Just one more punch would shatter the glass.

But before Ling Chen could strike again, a whizzing sound suddenly came. Ling Chen looked up and saw a figure rapidly approaching. With that figure's impact, Ling Chen was knocked off the hood, rolling to the ground.

Without Ling Chen's blockade, the off-road vehicle moved unimpeded, immediately heading toward the end of the road. Seeing this, Ling Chen hurriedly called out, "Beison, block it, don't let it escape."

The boss had spoken, Beison didn't hesitate, at once forming a human wall with team members, blocking in front of the off-road vehicle.

"Prepare!" Following Beison's command, more than ten team members took out their modified crossbows. Because Huaxia restricted firearms, Ling Chen dared not make exceptions, so he could only use cold weapons to arm the team. The crossbows modified by Tang Guolun, incorporating the features of Zhuge Crossbow, could load ten crossbows at once, allowing continuous shooting, with a range of about thirty meters.

If exceeding the range, the power drastically decreases, unable to cause damage.

At this moment, the off-road vehicle was less than thirty meters away from them. With Beison's order, more than ten crossbows fired in unison, targeting the off-road vehicle's driver. As long as they took down the driver, they could stop the vehicle and regain control of Zhu Hong.

More than ten crossbows shot through the air, instantly shattering the cracked bulletproof glass, exposing the driver without any protection in Beison's sights. One round of volley, and the off-road vehicle's driver would have no chance of survival.

However, just as Beison was about to give the attack order, two figures silently appeared behind them. No one noticed the presence behind them, and by the time they reacted, it was too late. Those two figures moved swiftly, in a blink, nearly half the men were knocked to the ground, including Beison.

Although Beison was an experienced mercenary, facing masters, he had no power to resist.

Taking care of those blocking them, the off-road vehicle accelerated, rushing past them, disappearing into the darkness instantly.

"Mission accomplished!" Someone shouted, and the man entangled with Ling Chen hesitated not a bit, immediately disengaging from the fight, reaching into his pocket, and throwing something hard to the ground. Instantly, white smoke erupted, enveloping everything around.

As the smoke dissipated, Ling Chen glanced around, those who made the move had already vanished without a trace. Moreover, not only Zhu Hong but even Chen Quan took advantage to escape Ji Gang, whereabouts unknown. In the center of the scene, only Chu Huaiyang remained lying on the ground.

"Who rescued Zhu Hong just now?" Ling Chen walked directly to Chu Huaiyang and asked.

"I don't know."

Chapter 1102 - 1109: Ling Beichuan (1)

"You've been with Zhu Hong for so long, don't you know anything? Chu Huaiyang, don't say I didn't give you a chance."

Chu Huaiyang smiled bitterly, "Even if you kill me, it won't help. I really don't know. You saw it just now, Zhu Hong ditched me and ran for his life on his own. Do you think I'd still cover for such a heartless person?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but nod. He had just witnessed Zhu Hong's ruthlessness, abandoning even his own companion for his safety.

"Beison, are you all okay?" Ling Chen asked with concern, looking at the approaching Beison.

"We're fine, just took a few punches, nothing serious."

"That's good. Help me escort him back." Ling Chen pointed at Chu Huaiyang and instructed.

After cleaning the battlefield, Ling Chen returned to the third-floor room with a few people. Upon entering, he saw Song Mingzhe lying on the floor, blood all over his mouth. Surprisingly, his vitality was tough; even after such severe injuries, he was still breathing.

Ling Chen checked Song Mingzhe's injuries. Although several ribs in his chest were broken by Ling Chen, it wasn't life-threatening. With timely treatment, he could survive. Ling Chen immediately ordered people to carry Song Mingzhe and drive him back to the base.

On the way back, Hu Fei called to inquire about the situation. Learning that Zhu Hong was rescued, Hu Fei was quite surprised.

"How's that possible? Zhu Hong only had a few people like Chen Quan around him, no other hands. Besides, anyone who could rescue Zhu Hong from you must be quite formidable."

"You're right. I find it strange too. Who on earth did this?" Ling Chen frowned secretly. The man who had fought him earlier was around thirty, very skilled, with a power comparable to the fifth rank on the Earthly List. Moreover, from Zhu Hong's expression at the time, it seemed he didn't know the people who were rescuing him.

After thinking for a while, Ling Chen said, "Fatty, help me find the whereabouts of that SUV, see if there's any clue."

"Understood."

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East Sea City's downtown.

A nondescript building, and at this moment, a sedan drove from the roadside and parked outside. As the car door opened, Zhu Hong got out with the driver. Looking at the building in front, Zhu Hong asked, "Where is this?"

The driver didn't speak, instead knocked on the door. Shortly, the door opened, and an old man in a Tang suit came out. Seeing the old man, the driver immediately became respectful.

"Housekeeper Luo, this is Zhu Hong, the person the master wanted."

The old man nodded and asked, "Is everything handled well?"

"Rest assured, Housekeeper Luo, it's all done. They won't track here."

"Very good. You've worked hard, go rest." The old man instructed, and the driver acknowledged, then drove away, leaving Zhu Hong alone at the door.

The old man carefully observed Zhu Hong, then stepped aside and said, "Come in, the master is waiting for you inside."

Zhu Hong was wary, but being in a vulnerable position, he had to obey. Although he didn't know these people's identities, his intuition told him they were not simple. Following Housekeeper Luo, Zhu Hong soon arrived at the second-floor living room.

The living room wasn't large, dimly lit, with a few single sofas against the wall. At this moment, an elderly man with white hair was sitting in a wheelchair, wearing an oxygen mask, with an IV stand beside him. From the elderly man's complexion, he didn't seem well, probably suffering from a prolonged illness.

Zhu Hong stood quietly by the side, not taking a seat. Housekeeper Luo also didn't invite him to sit, instead standing behind the elderly man, lowering his head, as if awaiting instructions.

After half an hour, the infusion was complete. Housekeeper Luo helped remove the needle, then took off the oxygen mask, handing over a steaming cup of tea.

The elderly man took two sips of water before turning his gaze to Zhu Hong. After a brief glance, he weakly said, "Sit down."

Having stood for so long, Zhu Hong's legs were almost numb. Seeing the elderly man speak, he didn't refuse and sat directly on a single sofa.

"Do you know why I saved you?" the elderly man asked.

"I don't know."

"Because of Ling Chen. Aren't you curious about my identity?"

Zhu Hong nodded. Indeed, he was very curious about the other party's background. On the way, he kept guessing, but had no clues.

"My name is Ling Beichuan."

Upon hearing this name, Zhu Hong's pupils constricted, and he said in a deep voice, "You're from the Ling Family?"

"Yes. The reason I brought you here is to let you hold Ling Chen in check. If you die, I'd have to find someone else, which is too troublesome. Besides, there's an existing feud between you and Ling Chen, making you the most suitable person."

"You want me to help you deal with Ling Chen?"

Ling Beichuan said indifferently, "If you can deal with Ling Chen, that would be a good thing. Unfortunately, you're not his match, and I didn't expect you to kill him. I brought you here mainly to be a distraction, to create some trouble for Ling Chen, so he has no time for other matters."

Being looked down upon made Zhu Hong very unhappy, but he couldn't refute. With his current strength, he couldn't possibly contend with Ling Chen. Previously, with a Heavenly List master like Chen Quan as his support, now with Ji Gang by Ling Chen's side, his advantage disappeared instantly.

After pondering for a moment, Zhu Hong spoke, "I can help you deal with Ling Chen, but we need to discuss the terms of cooperation."

Upon saying this, Housekeeper Luo, who had been silent, slightly raised the corners of his mouth with a mocking smile.

Cooperation?

What a self-important guy.

Ling Beichuan looked seriously at Zhu Hong, saying word by word, "Do you think... you're qualified to talk about cooperation with me? You're alive because you still have some use. Otherwise, there's no need for me to send people to rescue you from Ling Chen. Zhu Hong, remember, the reason I let you stay is that I need a dog by my side. Do you... understand what I mean?"

Zhu Hong said nothing, yet his eyes hidden behind the mask glowed with a chilling Yin Qi.

A dog?

This was the most insulting thing he had ever heard. The other party only regarded him as a dog, not a partner, because he wasn't qualified. No wonder Housekeeper Luo showed such a ridiculous expression, because his earlier proposal was a joke.

Seeing Zhu Hong's silence, Housekeeper Luo spoke up, "Zhu Hong, you should feel fortunate. Not everyone qualifies to be the master's dog. Being chosen by the master is your blessing. As long as you do well, even a dog can have unlimited potential. Don't you... want to return to the way you were before?"

Chapter 1103 - 1110: Ling Beichuan (Part 2)

It must be said, Housekeeper Luo's words moved Zhu Hong. Back on the island, due to the explosion caused by Ling Chen, his whole body was burned a hundred percent, leaving almost no possibility of

survival. However, under Nanrong Yuan's rescue efforts, and the use of many resources, his life was barely saved. But since then, wherever he goes, he must wear a mask to avoid scaring others.

If possible, Zhu Hong doesn't want to walk around with a mask, thinking back to the past when he was also handsome and dashing. Now, an explosion has ruined everything for him. With current medical technology, skin grafting is not impossible. However, for someone like him, who was completely burned, grafting cannot solve his problem, nor can it restore his previous handsome appearance.

If anyone else made such a request, Zhu Hong would definitely think it was a joke. But the person in front of him was Ling Beichuan, a member of the Ling Family; since he said so, there must be full confidence in it. Thinking of this, Zhu Hong felt a sudden surge of excitement.

Taking a deep breath, Zhu Hong calmed himself and asked, "Can you really restore me to my former appearance?"

Housekeeper Luo smiled slightly, "Of course, there's no problem. You know, the God Organization is secretly funded by the Ling Family. Over the years, all of the organization's research has been in the hands of the Ling Family, including some undisclosed secret studies. As long as you successfully complete the task given by the master, we can let you participate in the experiment. Not saying there's a full guarantee, but there's a good 80 or 90 percent chance. So, are you interested?"

"Alright, I accept," Zhu Hong agreed without much thought. This was a rare opportunity for him, and he had to grasp it firmly.

"Good, you're indeed a smart person." Ling Beichuan nodded, very pleased with Zhu Hong's choice. "Housekeeper Luo, take him down to meet his master."

Master? Zhu Hong was slightly startled. Could Chen Quan be here too?

"Come with me." Housekeeper Luo said, then directly walked out. Leaving the living room, he called a man in a suit, instructed him briefly, and then let Zhu Hong follow him.

Returning to the living room, Housekeeper Luo looked at Ling Beichuan, who sat in a wheelchair, and asked, "Master, do you think Zhu Hong can do it?"

"There should be no big problem," Ling Beichuan said with a smile, "I've observed him for a period; although he lacks ability, he has means and schemes. As long as he is invested in a bit, I believe he can create some trouble for Ling Chen and hold him back." Pausing for a moment, Ling Beichuan turned his tone, "Lin Guodong has been such a disappointment. I handed the God Organization to him, hoping he could accomplish a career, but he repeatedly failed and betrayed the Ling Family to join the government. Now, the God Organization is effectively ruined, whereas Ling Chen's power has grown stronger and stronger, controlling the entire East Sea City. Without the God Organization's restraint, Ling Chen's influence will only grow bigger. If Ling Tao approaches Ling Chen, and the two collaborate, it would undoubtedly be trouble for us. So, now we need to curb Ling Chen's power expansion."

"Master, Ling Chen's influence is not weak either. Why hasn't Ling Tao made a move yet?" Housekeeper Luo asked puzzled.

"Ling Tao still doesn't want to destroy Ling Chen. Although Ling Chen is good, he is still in the stage of growing. If he's involved in this dispute too early, it will instead suppress his momentum. Ling Tao is doing this to protect Ling Chen, giving him more space to develop. Currently, others don't have the energy to manage this, so I'll have to take action. Old Luo, satisfy Zhu Hong's requests for help as much as possible. He is a talent, hoping he can provide us with assistance."

"Yes, I understand."

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"Master."

In a spacious bedroom, Zhu Hong stood beside Chen Quan. Newly informed from Chen Quan's words, after escaping from Ji Gang's hands, Chen Quan soon encountered Ling Beichuan's people. Initially suspecting their purpose, he refused to follow them. However, he didn't expect them to act directly. More importantly, one of them was even stronger than Chen Quan.

There was no choice; under the pressure of that person, Chen Quan had to obediently follow.

Zhu Hong was deeply shocked by Chen Quan's experience, not expecting Ling Beichuan's subordinates to have Heavenly List masters, and even stronger than Chen Quan. This shows Ling Beichuan's very high status in the Ling Family, likely a core figure.

According to Zhu Hong's knowledge, the core members of the Ling Family had long been moved abroad, possibly hidden. After all, these times are unstable, and the government has decided to act against the Ling Family. For safety, it's best to avoid for now.

"Master, you know the situation, what do you think... what should we do next?" Zhu Hong asked. Although he accepted Ling Beichuan's proposal, he still needs Chen Quan's help. After all, it is too dangerous for him to be here alone; with Ling Beichuan's strength, he could be put to death at any time. Currently, the only dependency is Chen Quan, more precisely, Chen Quan's power.

"Let's cooperate with them first, these people have terrifying control; we don't have the strength to contend yet." Chen Quan thought for a moment, then finally made a decision. If meeting that expert hadn't happened, Chen Quan would never say such a thing. From the current situation, their lives are in the opponent's hands.

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Base.

Ling Chen sat in the control center, waiting for the search results. But to his disappointment, Hu Fei hadn't found where the SUV was.

"Sigh!" Hu Fei sighed helplessly, stating, "Really bad luck, we managed to catch Zhu Hong, only for Cheng Yaojin to rescue that bastard halfway. Ling Chen, who do you think in East Sea City has this ability?"

Ling Chen thought for a moment and said, "I do know someone, but I'm not sure if it's him."

"Who?"

"A few days ago, I received a call from Lin Qiqi, she told me that a core member of the Ling Family is hidden in East Sea City. Moreover, that person has stayed in East Sea City for many years."

"Apart from these, are there any other clues?"

"Not for now; Lin Qiqi is still investigating secretly. If she finds anything, she'll notify me immediately." After saying this, Ling Chen stood up and said, "Forget it! Since we can't find it, stop looking; we've worked hard all night, everyone's tired, let them go rest."

"Where are you going?"

"I'm going to see Song Mingzhe and Chu Huaiyang."

Since Chu Huaiyang was brought to the base, he had remained silent, sitting blankly in the room. Judging by his appearance, he suffered a significant blow this time. After all, being abandoned by companions, anyone would feel bad.

Chapter 1104 - 1111: Enlightenment

Hearing the door open, Chu Huaiyang lifted his head, looking at Ling Chen approaching alone. His eyes darkened slightly before he lowered his head again.

Ling Chen walked forward on his own and sat down beside Chu Huaiyang. Seeing the other party's listless appearance, Ling Chen spoke, "I know you're feeling bad. I've dealt with Zhu Hong quite a bit; I know exactly what kind of person he is. Back then, to deal with me, he could even abandon his own sister's life. Comparatively, you're even less valuable in his eyes."

Chu Huaiyang smiled bitterly, "You're right, I can't blame anyone but myself for being blind enough to believe in someone like him." After speaking, Chu Huaiyang lifted his head, staring directly into Ling Chen's dark eyes, and asked, "You've come to find me; I suppose you've thought of a way to deal with me. Go ahead, are you going to cripple my martial arts or kill me?"

"Rest assured, I won't kill you. You and I have no enmity; it's Zhu Hong I'm after."

"Then how do you plan to deal with me? Surely you won't let me go." At this point, Chu Huaiyang seemed to think of something and remarked, "If you're thinking of persuading me to serve you, I advise you to dismiss that notion. No matter what, I won't choose betrayal."

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "I'm not asking you to betray anyone. I'm just curious why you would follow Chen Quan and Zhu Hong?"

"I had no choice because it was my master's order. My master used to follow Chen Quan; they were like brothers, very close. Later, when Chen Quan was caught by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and they lost contact, my master chose to retire. Later, he took me as his disciple. Recently, my master received a letter from Chen Quan, hoping he would come out again. However, my master is old, plagued with illnesses, and no longer the master he once was. But because of his friendship with Chen Quan, he didn't refuse and instead sent me to assist Chen Quan with all my efforts."

"I see." Ling Chen nodded, finally understanding the relationship between Chu Huaiyang and Chen Quan and the others.

"If I let you go, will you still serve them?"

"What do you think? Since they've abandoned me, to them, I'm already a dead man, of no value. Besides, I'm not stupid enough to cling to people who've discarded me. Just right, if I survive this time, I'll return home to take good care of my master. No matter what, I've done quite a few things for Chen Quan; my master's debts are paid."

"You'll have the chance to return to see your master. However, this might take some time."

Upon hearing this, a trace of excitement appeared in Chu Huaiyang's eyes. No one wants to die, and he was no exception. As long as there was a chance to survive, he was willing to cherish it. Taking a deep breath, Chu Huaiyang looked at Ling Chen and asked, "You... really plan to spare me?"

Ling Chen smiled and said, "Why not? You're not my enemy. Besides, I'm not the kind of person who kills indiscriminately. As long as someone doesn't seek trouble with me, I won't pursue them." With that, Ling Chen stood up and said, "Come with me."

Soon, Ling Chen brought Chu Huaiyang to a room in the base.

As they entered the room, they saw Song Mingzhe lying on the bed, eyes closed, undergoing an infusion.

"Uncle Song?" Chu Huaiyang's eyes lit up, and he hurried over. Looking at the medical equipment around, Chu Huaiyang couldn't quite understand what was being displayed, "Ling Chen, how is he doing?"

"Rest assured, he's not in any life-threatening condition. Thanks to the doctors' efforts, his life has been spared, though he's unlikely to practice martial arts again."

Perhaps hearing their conversation, Song Mingzhe slowly opened his eyes, looking at Chu Huaiyang at the bedside.

"Uncle Song, you're awake? Do you want some water?" Chu Huaiyang asked with concern.

Song Mingzhe glanced at Ling Chen, who was nearby, but said nothing. Seeing this, Ling Chen smiled slightly and said, "You two talk, I'll wait outside." With that, Ling Chen walked out of the room.

Once Ling Chen left, Song Mingzhe, with Chu Huaiyang's help, sat up and leaned against the soft pillow. Because of his broken ribs, he couldn't move too vigorously and had to be very careful. After taking a few sips of water to moisten his throat, Song Mingzhe said, "It seems our luck isn't great; we've both been caught by Ling Chen."

Chu Huaiyang opened his mouth and said, "Uncle Song, don't worry, Ling Chen has promised he won't harm us."

"Don't forget our identities. Do you really think his words can be trusted?"

"Yes." Chu Huaiyang replied without hesitation, very confidently, "Uncle Song, I believe Ling Chen won't deceive us. Besides, he has no reason to."

Song Mingzhe furrowed his brows and said in a deep voice, "Remember, you can say this to me, but if Zhu Hong hears it, they..."

"It doesn't matter." Before Song Mingzhe could finish his sentence, Chu Huaiyang interjected, "Uncle Song, I've decided that even if we get out, I won't serve Zhu Hong and them anymore."

"Why?"

Immediately, Chu Huaiyang recounted the events of the past, "Uncle Song, people like Chen Quan and Zhu Hong aren't worth our sacrifices. They not only abandoned you but also me. For people like them, do you still want to side with them? I've figured it out; since they don't value our lives, why should we entrust our lives to them?"

After listening to Chu Huaiyang's account, Song Mingzhe fell into silence. After a moment, he sighed softly and said, "In such situations, everyone is just trying to protect themselves. Who can care for others?"

"Uncle Song, that's true, but Zhu Hong clearly had the opportunity to take me away, yet he didn't. Instead, he escaped alone." Pausing, Chu Huaiyang continued, "Uncle Song, I know your wounds were caused by Ling Chen, but at the time, we were enemies with different positions. It was natural for him to attack you. If it were you, you wouldn't hold back either. However, in the end, it wasn't Chen Quan or Zhu Hong who saved you, but Ling Chen. Without him, you wouldn't have made it through. Uncle Song, I know about your relationship with Chen Quan; he was once your big brother and you were as close as brothers. But it's been so many years, and you've done enough for him. Moreover, he now prioritizes Zhu Hong, not us. In his eyes, we're just expendable henchmen."

Hearing this, Song Mingzhe's gaze flickered, as if Chu Huaiyang's words resonated with him.

Chu Huaiyang earnestly said, "Uncle Song, we owe him nothing; we've done all we can. Besides, it's not that we're unwilling to help, but they've abandoned us."

"Alright, you don't need to say any more. I understand what you mean."

Chapter 1105 - 1112: Little Fei

"I'm now a cripple. Even if I go back, they won't want me. You're still young. Since you've already made your decision, I won't say much. Actually, what you said earlier is quite right. To Chen Quan, the two of us are not important. He values Zhu Hong's cunning and scheming, not our loyalty." Song Mingzhe's tone was very helpless.

"Uncle Song, you rest assured here and recover from your injuries. When you're healed, we'll leave here together." Chu Huaiyang said.

Song Mingzhe nodded, handed a finger-length wooden flute to Chu Huaiyang, and instructed: "I can't take care of Little Fei during this time, so please look after it for me and make sure nothing happens to it."

"Uncle Song, don't worry, I'll take good care of it." Chu Huaiyang knew who Song Mingzhe meant by 'Little Fei'; it was that falcon. It was Song Mingzhe's pride, and he spent countless time and energy to tame it.

As a falcon, and a king among falcons, it's not only large in size but also has an astonishing appetite, eating over ten pounds of meat at each meal. Because this is East Sea City where wild birds are scarce, it's simply not suitable for foraging. Song Mingzhe had to prepare food every day.

The two chatted for a while, but due to the severe injuries, Song Mingzhe couldn't sit for long and had to rest more.

Upon leaving the hospital room, Chu Huaiyang saw Ling Chen waiting outside and gratefully said thanks. He knew very well that if it were any other opponent, they wouldn't waste time and energy on them, but would kill them directly. So, Chu Huaiyang was deeply grateful to Ling Chen.

"You're welcome." Ling Chen smiled lightly, then looked at the wooden flute in Chu Huaiyang's hand. Curiously, Ling Chen asked, "What is this?"

"Uncle Song gave it to me, to summon his falcon." After a pause, Chu Huaiyang said, "Ling Chen, could you help me with something?"

"No problem, just tell me. As long as it's something I can do."

The next morning.

On a high-rise building at the base's surface, Ling Chen and Chu Huaiyang stood together, watching the sun rise slowly in the east.

"It's about time." Chu Huaiyang took out the wooden flute given by Song Mingzhe last night and began to blow gently. The tune of the flute was very simple, but the sound was very clear. Ling Chen watched from the side, feeling a bit strange. Could it be that just the sound of this flute could attract the falcon?

The sound of this flute could at most spread within a hundred meters. To attract that falcon in East Sea City was nothing short of a dream. Even with a loudspeaker, it probably wouldn't work. But soon, a magical scene appeared. A small black dot suddenly appeared in the sky.

As the black dot got closer, Ling Chen finally saw its full appearance.

Falcon!

Wow... Ling Chen marveled secretly. It's so incredible that, separated by such a distance, the falcon could hear the sound of the flute.

Soon, the falcon flew closer, and its size became larger. Seeing the falcon flying towards them, Ling Chen quickly stepped back. Accompanied by a sharp cry, the falcon flapped its wings and gradually landed in front of Chu Huaiyang.

Judging by the falcon's appearance, it seemed quite familiar with Chu Huaiyang. It didn't harm him, but instead, rubbed its head against his clothes friendly.

Seeing this, Ling Chen immediately picked up the bucket beside him and took the freshly prepared pork over, pouring it in front of the falcon.

However, what surprised Ling Chen was that the falcon looked at the meat on the ground but didn't immediately start eating, seeming... very cautious.

Seeing this scene, Ling Chen couldn't help but smile. They say animals have intelligence, and now it seems it's true.

Chu Huaiyang gently stroked the falcon's head and said, "It's okay to eat."

The falcon seemed to understand Chu Huaiyang's words, cheerfully chirped, then picked up a piece of fresh meat and directly swallowed it.

"This falcon is called Little Fei. Uncle Song spent a long time training it."

Ling Chen nodded, somewhat envious. Not everyone can own such a falcon. Falcons are birds of prey with very strong attack power, very difficult to tame. Moreover, a falcon as tall as a person when standing is even rarer.

Watching the gluttonous falcon, the meticulous Ling Chen suddenly noticed that something seemed implanted on the falcon's head.

"What is this?"

"A locator, at least that's what Uncle Song told me." Chu Huaiyang picked up the wooden flute in his hand, "This wooden flute contains a chip, and the locator can receive the signal from the chip to help Little Fei identify the location. In a way, it's a kind of high-tech product."

That makes sense!

Ling Chen suddenly realized, no wonder this falcon could find their location; it turns out it was through such an electronic device. Earlier, he thought the falcon came over just by hearing the flute sound.

"Can I touch it?" Ling Chen asked. He was very interested in such a rare falcon. If he could have one by his side, it would be so cool.

Sneaky Ling Chen thought to himself.

"It should be fine. You can try it. However, you should be careful. It's a bit shy; if a stranger touches it, it will regard them as an enemy and attack. Usually, when Uncle Song feeds it, I'm nearby, so it's quite familiar with me."

Hearing this, Ling Chen nodded and cautiously reached out, placing his hand on the falcon's head. As soon as he touched the head feathers, the falcon seemed extremely startled, quickly spreading its wings and looking at Ling Chen alertly.

"Little Fei, don't be afraid, it's okay, he won't hurt you." Chu Huaiyang quickly said, calming the falcon's emotions.

"Ling Chen, come, I'll help you." Saying this, Chu Huaiyang took Ling Chen's hand, gently placing it on the falcon's head, stroking it up and down. Perhaps because Chu Huaiyang was there, the falcon didn't react much and continued concentrating on its food.

Seeing the falcon calm down, Chu Huaiyang removed his hand, allowing Ling Chen to control it himself. Stroking the falcon's feathers, smooth and soft, made Ling Chen's interest grow even stronger.

"Hey! Do you know how to get along with it?" Ling Chen asked enthusiastically.

Chu Huaiyang thought for a moment and said, "I remember Uncle Song once said that Little Fei loves massages. If someone massages it, it'll develop a fondness for them. How about, do you want to try it?"

Ha! Ling Chen couldn't help but laugh.

Unbelievable, this falcon knows how to enjoy itself.

With newfound interest, Ling Chen followed Chu Huaiyang's instructions and gently stroked Little Fei's wings. Under Ling Chen's actions, Little Fei seemed to enjoy it, lying directly on the ground, spreading its wings, letting Ling Chen do as he pleased.

Chapter 1106 - 1113: Raptors

"Apart from meat, what does this guy usually eat?" Ling Chen asked.

Chu Huaiyang laughed and said, "It's nothing but meat. Raptors like hawks and falcons exclusively feed on meat. Uncle Song mentioned he used to not prepare food, letting Little Fei go out and forage on its own, which helps cultivate its wild nature. Such a large raptor is extremely rare domestically. Apart from Little Fei, there are almost none; it's quite unique among its kind. When Uncle Song discovered Little Fei, it was only a few years old, but its size had already surpassed its peers. To guard and tame Little Fei, Uncle Song waited for two full years where it appeared."

"So long?" Ling Chen was somewhat surprised. This not only requires inhuman patience but also extraordinary passion to be achieved. Otherwise, who would devote so much time and energy to something they don't like?

"That's why Uncle Song almost treats Little Fei like a son. Recently, Zhu Hong suggested to Uncle Song to replace one of Little Fei's eyes with an electronic eye for real-time monitoring, more advanced than any monitoring equipment. Uncle Song directly scolded Zhu Hong after hearing, and if Chen Quan hadn't stopped him, he might have lost control. For Uncle Song, a taciturn person, to get angry shows his deep concern and affection for Little Fei. Due to this matter, Zhu Hong doesn't regard Uncle Song well and acts very coldly towards him."

Hearing this, Ling Chen smiled faintly. He understood Zhu Hong's personality, always seeing himself above others. Honestly, without relying on Chen Quan, who would give him any face?

After feeding, Ling Chen massaged Little Fei for a while. Although not long, Little Fei was quite affectionate and nuzzled against his clothes.

Seeing this, Chu Huaiyang smiled, "Seems like Little Fei quite likes you."

"Whether it likes me or not, I sure like it," Ling Chen said. Every man has a fondness for taming such raptors, especially ones this large and rare.

Watching Little Fei fly away, Chu Huaiyang said, "We'll still need your help during this period. It's hard for Little Fei to find food around here, so we'll have to prepare meat meals three times a day."

"Alright, no problem. If you trust me, you could hand over that wooden whistle, and I can take care of the feeding. But if you're hesitant, I won't insist." Ling Chen said this mainly to have more opportunities to interact with Little Fei. Such a rare chance needed to be seized.

"Well... it's not really appropriate." Chu Huaiyang hesitated, as it was a task given to him by Song Mingzhe, who valued Little Fei highly. If Song Mingzhe found out he let Ling Chen take care of Little Fei, he might worry about its safety. Though he trusted Ling Chen, Song Mingzhe did not.

Ling Chen smiled lightly, not minding, and nodded, "Alright, just call me when you feed it."

"Sure, no problem."

In the blink of an eye, over a month passed, and Ling Chen's relationship with Little Fei grew stronger. Initially, Chu Huaiyang was wary of Ling Chen and followed each feeding. However, after over a week, Chu Huaiyang noticed Ling Chen genuinely liked Little Fei and was present for every meal. To find ways to improve Little Fei's diet, Ling Chen tried various foods daily.

Chu Huaiyang noticed Ling Chen's affection for Little Fei. Moreover, Little Fei became more accustomed to Ling Chen, even more so than to Chu Huaiyang. Eventually, Chu Huaiyang felt at ease and entrusted the wooden whistle to Ling Chen, letting him handle Little Fei's daily meals.

A month can seem long or short. Under Ling Chen's team's care, Song Mingzhe's injury recovered quickly, and with Chu Huaiyang's support, he could barely walk.

Besides, an important event was happening with Tang Guolun completing construction and today being the inspection day.

In the morning, after feeding Little Fei, Ling Chen drove to the construction site with Hu Fei. Undoubtedly, Tang Guolun was very efficient and, with several crews working day and night, the main structure of Dragon Tiger Tower was finally completed.

Designed by Tang Guolun, Dragon Tiger Tower is only three stories tall, with two underground levels. Just those underground levels took more than a month.

Besides the two underground and three upper floors, there's a spacious courtyard around it, which can easily accommodate over a hundred people.

The three-meter-high walls stand around, protecting the entire Dragon Tiger Tower. Standing outside these walls, looking at the newly constructed building, Ling Chen felt an indescribable excitement. The establishment of Dragon Tiger Tower signifies his power growing, potentially equaling the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

This isn't arrogance from Ling Chen, but confidence. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion became a superpower in the Martial Arts world chiefly due to its rich heritage. Previously, Ling Chen could not compare with them, but things are different now. With the Ling Family's collection, Ling Chen now possesses a profound family heritage. Even more fearsome, the Ling Family's collection is mightier than that of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. If those lost martial arts secrets were to spread, who knows what kind of stir they'd cause in the martial world.

Upon learning that Ling Chen and Hu Fei had arrived, Tang Guolun, supervising the main building, came out.

"Ling Chen, how is it? Satisfactory?" Tang Guolun asked with a smile.

Ling Chen nodded, not hiding his satisfaction. "Come, let me show you inside." Saying this, Tang Guolun headed straight for the main building.

Though it has only five floors, Tang Guolun installed four elevators for convenience. The three of them entered one and, as the elevator door closed, Tang Guolun took a card from his pocket and swiped it on the recognition device. When the green light came on, he pressed the button for the basement level two, and the elevator descended.

"This is the only elevator to the underground. I've installed identity recognition inside, along with three cameras at different angles. Security will instantly know who's entering. Also, there are many defense mechanisms in the elevator. Even if an enemy enters, no matter how skilled, it'll be hard to escape," Tang Guolun explained.

"Impressive," Ling Chen praised without hesitation.

While building Dragon Tiger Tower, Ling Chen repeatedly emphasized to Tang Guolun that security is vital. With solid security, there's no need to fear anyone invading Dragon Tiger Tower. Tang Guolun, as an expert escape artist, adeptly utilized his skills, making the entire Dragon Tiger Tower virtually flawless.

Chapter 1107 - 1114: Tang Shiyun Pays a Visit

When Ling Chen stepped out of the elevator on the second basement level, he was met with a spacious underground area that was quite large, almost over seven hundred square meters, partitioned by transparent glass in the middle. "Boss Tang, what is this place used for?" Ling Chen asked curiously. Initially, he thought just one basement level would suffice to store important things, but Tang Guolun built two, which clearly had his own reasoning.

"This is our backup base," Tang Guolun replied. "Even though we already have a main base, it's safer to have a backup just in case. Plus, this backup base can be activated anytime as a place for Dragon Tiger Tower to collect intelligence. What do you think?"

Ling Chen thought for a moment and approved of Tang Guolun's design. Indeed, it was better to keep Dragon Tiger Tower and the base, being two different types of forces, somewhat separate.

"Hey! Boss Tang, how's the defense here?" Hu Fei asked from the side.

Tang Guolun replied with a confident smile, "Don't worry. I've put a lot of effort into this. The area is surrounded by reinforced concrete and steel bars, with steel plates in between. Even if someone uses explosives, they won't easily break in quickly. Also, the glass here is bulletproof, so there's no issue with safety. However, for now, only the main construction is complete, and the interior hasn't been decorated yet. I've already contacted a renovation team, and they can start tomorrow. If everything goes well, it can be operational in a month."

"Great," Ling Chen was very satisfied with Tang Guolun's efficiency. Entrusting him with this task indeed seemed to be a wise choice.

After touring the overall structure of the Dragon Tiger Tower, Ling Chen could only think of two words: perfect! Tang Guolun truly lived up to his reputation, having done an almost all-encompassing job.

Back home, Ling Chen finally relaxed. After resolving the Liu Wei matter, Liu Xiyao returned to her home. The Liu Family, now under the suppression of the Hongyu Group, was down and out with no chance to get back on its feet. Therefore, Liu Xiyao no longer had to worry about retaliation from them.

Yang Qingling went out shopping with the Yang Yan couple, so the house was quiet, with only Ling Chen there. Idle and with nothing to do, Ling Chen sat alone in the living room, crossing his legs and flipping through the TV channels with the remote. Modern television had become increasingly banal, filled with pretty young faces, leaving him with no desire to watch.

After turning off the TV, Ling Chen lazily lay on the sofa, planning to doze off for a bit. But at that moment, his phone rang—it was a call from Yang Qingling. They were out shopping and wouldn't be back for lunch, so Ling Chen was told to sort out his own meal. Not in the mood to cook, Ling Chen simply picked up his phone to order takeout.

Ding dong!

Suddenly, the doorbell rang.

He glanced at the wall clock—it was past eleven. Strange! Who would come looking for him at lunchtime? With this in mind, Ling Chen got up, walked to the door, and opened it.

"Ling!" As soon as the door opened, before Ling Chen could clearly see who it was, a figure rushed over, hugging his neck and nearly hanging onto him.

After a brief moment of surprise, Ling Chen, smelling the fragrance from the visitor, immediately realized who it was.

With a grin, Ling Chen said with a smile, "Girl, what brings you here?"

"Ling, it's been so long since we last met. Did you miss me?" Tang Shiyun asked sweetly with a smile.

"Of course I did," Ling Chen gently patted Tang Shiyun's back, smiling, "Alright, come down. If someone sees us, we'll be on the headlines again."

Truth be told, Ling Chen was genuinely scared. Tang Shiyun's fame had skyrocketed, and not to mention hugging, even just having a meal together could lead to paparazzi snapping photos and sensationalizing the news. Last time, due to Zhu Xiaozhu's incident, it was the reporters' coverage that led to Nanrong Wanqing's misunderstanding. Thus, Ling Chen was genuinely a bit afraid.

Tang Shiyun pouted, evidently somewhat reluctant. However, since Ling Chen had spoken, she obediently let go and hooked onto Ling Chen's arm.

Seeing her affectionate gesture, Ling Chen gave a helpless smile.

Once inside, Ling Chen asked, "Are you off today?"

"I wish, but the company schedule is jam-packed with things to do. In a few days, I have to go to another city for promotion." Speaking of work, a trace of tiredness appeared on Tang Shiyun's exquisite face.

Ling Chen, feeling sorry, said, "If you're so tired, why not take a break for a few days? If you overwork yourself and fall ill, what then? Health is the foundation of everything; without it, you can't do anything."

Feeling Ling Chen's concern, Tang Shiyun's heart was filled with joy, and she happily said, "Ling, don't worry. I'll take good care of myself."

"By the way! Where's Xu Hong, your manager? Why didn't she come with you?"

"There's an album launch nearby today, at a nearby venue. Since there's nothing much to do, I came over, and Hong's taking care of other matters over there. She'll call me when she's done."

"Another album? That's quite efficient." Ling Chen said with a laugh, "It's been what, just a while? If I'm not mistaken, you've released two albums already."

Hearing this, Tang Shiyun rolled her eyes at Ling Chen, displeased, "Ling, I've already released four albums. Hmph! It looks like you don't pay much attention to me usually."

"Is that so? Haha!" Ling Chen awkwardly laughed, rubbing his head, "Well... Girl, you know, I've got so many things to keep me busy daily, I barely have time to follow the news."

Tang Shiyun pouted her alluring lips, clearly not buying Ling Chen's words.

Afraid that she might probe further, Ling Chen quickly changed the subject, "Girl, haven't eaten yet, have you?"

Tang Shiyun nodded.

"Alright, I'll check out the kitchen. I'll whip up a couple of dishes for you to try."

Entering the kitchen, Ling Chen opened the refrigerator, finding it well-stocked. Grabbing some ingredients, he started busying himself.

Tang Shiyun stood at the kitchen doorway, leaning against the doorframe, watching Ling Chen cook intently. Her eyes were as if mesmerized, unblinking, shining brightly.

"Girl, why are you staring at me?" Ling Chen turned around and asked, feeling a bit uneasy.

With a giggle, Tang Shiyun replied, "Just looking. Or am I not allowed to look at you?" Then tilting her nose, she said in a mock grumble, "Most people would kill to get my attention, but Ling, you don't realize how lucky you are."

Cough, cough!

Ling Chen gave a wry smile, "Yes, yes, I'm at fault, grateful that Beauty Tang holds me in such regard. I'm wrong. Well then! The kitchen's full of fumes, go lounge in the living room, watch some TV. I'll let you know when the food's ready."

Chapter 1108 - 1115: Mysterious Warning

"Not going, watching TV is not as good as watching you. Hey! Ling, have you ever cooked for other women?" When asking this question, Tang Shiyun's eyes showed a hint of anticipation.

Ling Chen thought for a moment, and truth be told, he had never cooked for a woman before. Back when he was at the Nanrong Family, he did cook two bowls of noodles for Nanrong Wanqing and Su Lin. However, that didn't count as real cooking; only this time did.

"It seems... you're the first one." Ling Chen replied earnestly.

Upon hearing this, Tang Shiyun's eyebrows almost turned into a crescent moon.

Not long after, a lunch was served on the table. There weren't many dishes, three dishes and one soup, two meat and one vegetable, but for two people, it was quite a feast.

After serving the rice, Tang Shiyun, smelling the aroma of the meal on the table, tasted each one, couldn't help but give a thumbs up, praising: "Ling, your cooking is really good, even better than my family's nanny, more than sufficient as a chef."

"Enough, stop flattering, hurry up and eat."

After the meal was finished, Ling Chen tidied up the dishes and utensils and went away, leaving Tang Shiyun sitting in the living room, watching TV out of boredom.

"Oh... Oh my! Ling, Ling, come quickly!"

It was unknown what kind of shocking news Tang Shiyun saw, but she almost jumped up from the sofa.

Hearing Tang Shiyun's excited shout, Ling Chen didn't have time to think more, quickly putting down the dishes and utensils in his hands and briskly walking to the living room.

"Girl, what's wrong?"

"Ling, look at the news." Tang Shiyun pointed at the TV.

At this moment, the TV was broadcasting a piece of local news that interrupted the regular program. The fact that a news report suddenly interrupted the program indicated its significance.

"Dear viewers in front of the television, our station interrupts with a significant news report. Half an hour ago, a major traffic accident occurred on Taolin Road in East Sea City, where an oil truck was hit by other vehicles while turning, causing the oil truck to overturn, and the gasoline leakage affects a very wide area. Police and firefighters are currently controlling the scene. The number of casualties remains unclear for now. We advise all citizens to take note and avoid the area to prevent unnecessary trouble and cooperate with the police..."

The anchor hadn't finished speaking when the TV screen suddenly flickered. A few seconds later, the news reports turned into another screen.

The screen was pitch black, nothing was visible, accompanied by the sound of electrical currents.

After a while, a blurry figure appeared in the darkness. Possibly due to special treatment, the figure presented in several colors.

Ling Chen frowned slightly, the sudden screen brought a strong sense of unease.

While contemplating, a voice processed by a voice changer sounded from the TV: "Three... two... one... boom!"

As the voice fell, Ling Chen immediately heard a loud noise erupt from outside, with even the ground slightly vibrating.

This... this is... Ling Chen's expression changed, quickly rushing out of the room. Looking around, he saw a plume of smoke rising in the distance, very conspicuous.

Explosion!

If he guessed correctly, the direction of the smoke was Taolin Road. Considering the voice that reverberated from the television just now, Ling Chen's heart could not help but sink. This was not an accident, but someone secretly controlling the situation, deliberately triggering the oil truck explosion.

However, what Ling Chen couldn't understand was why the other party would do such a thing. A terrorist attack? Impossible, given Huaxia's crackdown on terrorists, such events couldn't happen domestically. While pondering, Ling Chen returned to the living room, staring at the blurry figure on the TV.

"This is the first time." After saying that, the figure instantly disappeared, and the TV screen returned to normal.

The first time... what does this mean? Could there be a second time?

"Ling, what was that just now?" Tang Shiyun asked worriedly.

"Nothing. Shiyun, let's go, I'll send you back first, I have something important later, I'll come find you when I'm free."

"Alright." Although Tang Shiyun wasn't very willing, she dared not defy Ling Chen's words. Moreover, from Ling Chen's tone, she could tell he wasn't joking.

After sending Tang Shiyun home, Ling Chen directly drove to the base. Such an event suddenly occurred in East Sea City, as the one in control of East Sea City, Ling Chen must find out who is causing trouble on his turf.

"Fatty."

Upon arriving at the control center, Ling Chen immediately found Hu Fei to inquire about the latest situation.

"You're just in time." Hu Fei's expression was not looking good, eyes fixed on the computer screen, his ten fingers flying swiftly over the keyboard.

Soon, a screen appeared on the computer.

"This is the surveillance footage from Taolin Road, look, this is the oil truck."

Ling Chen nodded, watching the footage of the oil truck on the screen, seeing police and firefighters surrounding the area to secure the scene and prevent sparks from exploding the oil truck.

"Fortunately, when the oil truck exploded, the police and firefighters hadn't entered the scene yet, only affected by the air blast without life-threatening danger. However, this incident is very serious, given the television circumstances, it clearly seems deliberate."

Ling Chen asked, "Can we find any clues from the TV footage?"

"No, I've had the technicians process it, no useful clues found. The opponent dare to do this, surely thoroughly prepared, won't let us easily find anything." Speaking of which, Hu Fei's expression showed concern: "My current biggest worry is the second explosion, judging from that guy's messages, he won't easily give up."

"I think so too. By the way, any news from the police?"

"Not yet, even with our resources, no intelligence was gained, let alone them."

"Anyway, we must quickly find the mastermind behind this." Ling Chen instructed.

Daring to cause chaos on his turf, he definitely won't let it slide.

Just as Ling Chen was discussing countermeasures with Hu Fei, suddenly a phone ringing interrupted.

Pulling out his phone and seeing the unfamiliar caller number, Ling Chen directly answered, saying hello, and asked, "Who is this?"

"Hello, Mr. Ling." Hearing the voice from the other end of the call, Ling Chen raised his eyebrows, saying solemnly, "It's you?"

"Seems like Mr. Ling has already guessed who I am."

"Was the explosion incident orchestrated by you?" Ling Chen asked. The voice from the other end was very distinctive, just like the voice on television earlier, both processed by special means, making it easy for Ling Chen to recognize.

Meanwhile, Hu Fei beside him had already instructed his team to track the phone signal.

"Mr. Ling, that was just an appetizer, there's a more lavish feast to come, but I need a bit of time to prepare."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's heart sank, asking, "What exactly do you want?"

"Nothing, I just wanted to call and inform you that our game has just begun."

"Sorry, I'm not interested in participating in your game."

"That's not possible. Mr. Ling, please remember, the one controlling this game is me, not you. So, whether you want to participate or not, you must. Today's explosion was merely a prelude, it didn't cause casualties, but next time I can't guarantee that."

Chapter 1109 - 1116: Old K

"Alright." Ling Chen changed his tone, responding fearlessly, "Since you want to play, I'll play along, but you should at least tell me your name."

"Mr. Ling, there's no need to slyly ask my name. If you need a name, you might as well call me Old K. Well, I've said all I need to. Mr. Ling, a reminder, the second explosion is connected to your friends. If you can't find out within three days, you can just say goodbye to your friends, haha!"

Amidst Old K's wild laughter, the call was actively hung up by the other party.

Putting down the phone, Ling Chen turned to Hu Fei and asked, "Fatty, how is it, did you locate the position?"

"No, that guy is too cunning, the signal keeps changing, so it's impossible to accurately lock it down. If I had ten more seconds, I could have pinpointed his location, but alas..."

Ling Chen nodded, it seems the other party knows his abilities very well, which is why they hung up ten seconds earlier. Someone who knows themselves well, it indicates the other party knows him quite well.

Interesting! Ling Chen squinted his eyes, the enemy hidden in the shadows might be an old acquaintance.

After pondering, Ling Chen put aside thoughts about the man's identity. Now, he had no energy to dwell on these issues. Just now, Old K's words were still swirling in his mind. The second explosion is related to his friends, this is definitely not a joke. He has so many friends, who knows which one the other party might target.

"Fatty, call a few professionals, and let's move immediately."

"Alright."

Leaving the base, Ling Chen separately called Liu Xiyao and Tang Shiyun, among others, telling them to stay home obediently and go nowhere.

Honestly, Ling Chen wasn't sure whether Old K's warning was true, but when it comes to friends' safety, he can't stand idly by. Even if it's false, he must carefully check once and never gamble with everyone's lives.

Arriving at Liu Xiyao's house, Ling Chen brought several professionals to thoroughly search inside and outside the house. Over an hour passed with no findings. After inquiring about some circumstances, Ling Chen spoke, "Yao, if you don't mind, why don't you stay at my place for the next few days."

"Go to your place?" Liu Xiyao was slightly taken aback, not expecting Ling Chen would make such a request, "This... this doesn't seem very appropriate, right?"

"It's perfectly appropriate. Yao, this situation is rather troublesome, that guy called Old K might be a threat to you, even though we don't know if it's true, we can't be careless. Moreover, living in this place, if anything happens, I won't be able to reach first in time. For your safety, it's better to stay at my house." After speaking, without waiting for Liu Xiyao's refusal, Ling Chen had already made the decision for her.

Going separate ways, as Liu Xiyao headed to the villa, Ling Chen took others directly by car to Tang Shiyun's house.

Similarly, Ling Chen didn't say much, just told Tang Shiyun there might be danger, asking her to stay at his place for the time being. Tang Shiyun happily agreed to Ling Chen's invitation. Although Xu Hong was concerned about the implications, she couldn't reject Ling Chen's serious depiction of the situation.

Therefore, both beauties were 'prompted' into Ling Chen's house using the same method.

Besides Tang Shiyun and Liu Xiyao, Ling Chen had quite a number of friends, including Xia Mutong and Nanrong Wanqing, who could become targets of Old K.

Xia Mutong is a police officer, and Ling Chen knows Xia Mutong's skills well. Since Xia Mutong underwent modification by the God Organization, her strength is several times more potent than ordinary people; even skilled experts may not be her match. However strong Xia Mutong is, he ought to remind her to stay cautious, lest any accident happens.

Right away, Ling Chen called Xia Mutong. Ling Chen understands Xia Mutong well, if he reports the facts, Xia Mutong surely will dig deeply. Besides, Xia Mutong has never known what danger is, and this is undoubtedly the greatest danger.

This call, however, aroused suspicion in Xia Mutong. Being skeptical is a normal thing for a police officer. Moreover, Xia Mutong knows Ling Chen well. Even he being so careful indicates something very important.

After much persuasion, Ling Chen managed to convince Xia Mutong to abandon her pursuit.

Furthermore, after accepting several unequal terms, Xia Mutong eventually agreed to stay at the police station dormitory. There, no matter who they are, no matter how much daring they possess, no one dares to cause trouble at the police station, unless they are seeking death.

Xia Mutong's side was resolved, yet the biggest issue remains with Nanrong Wanqing.

Ling Chen felt a headache; his relationship with Nanrong Wanqing is known to most. Although Nanrong Wanqing announced their breakup during an interview, breaking up doesn't mean cutting all ties, the mastermind behind the oil truck explosion might target Nanrong Wanqing.

Getting Nanrong Wanqing to his home is an impossible task now. If it were before, it would have been simpler. But now, he had already broken up with Nanrong Wanqing, and his home currently also has Liu Xiyao and Tang Shiyun, knowing this would likely upset Nanrong Wanqing further.

Forget it!

Put aside thoughts of Nanrong Wanqing, find a way to solve her problem later.

Zhu Xiaozhu... Indeed, ever since rescuing Zhu Xiaozhu, they had never contacted each other, not knowing her current situation. That day, due to live news coverage, everyone witnessed his intimate gesture with Zhu Xiaozhu. Therefore, Zhu Xiaozhu might also be a target.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen called Zhu Xiaozhu. Unsurprisingly, Zhu Xiaozhu was still in East Sea City, as the hospital had a batch of interns, preventing her return to Beijing.

Learning Zhu Xiaozhu was staying at the hospital dormitory, Ling Chen immediately invited her to stay at his place for a while. At moments like this, other matters can be ignored; protecting their safety is all that matters.

Regarding Ling Chen's invitation, Zhu Xiaozhu felt odd, her heartbeat even quickened.

Being asked to stay at his place, what... what does this imply? Could it be... For reasons unknown, Zhu Xiaozhu's heart suddenly harbored a trace of anticipation. After much hesitation, Zhu Xiaozhu eventually accepted.

This is a rare opportunity, she doesn't want to miss it.

By evening.

After a busy day, Zhu Xiaozhu took a taxi to Ling Chen's home entrance.

Pressing the doorbell, carrying luggage and several bags of fruit, Zhu Xiaozhu stood outside waiting for someone to open the door. Knowing Ling Chen lives with his family, she specifically brought fresh fruits to pay her respects to the elders.

Soon, the door opened, and Zhu Xiaozhu's mouth opened, expecting Ling Chen to answer it, ready to call his name. But before she could speak, Zhu Xiaozhu froze.

Chapter 1110 - 1117: Reunion of Three Women

The person standing in front of her was not Ling Chen, but a familiar face.

This is... Tang Shiyun?

To Zhu Xiaozhu, the famous singer known across the nation, Tang Shiyun, was no stranger. On the contrary, she considered herself a fan of Tang Shiyun. When she was alone and quiet, she liked to sit on the sofa, bask in the sun, brew a cup of warm tea, hold a book, and listen to Tang Shiyun's songs. To her, that was undoubtedly the most enjoyable thing.

"Tang..."

Zhu Xiaozhu realized what was happening but before she could greet her, Tang Shiyun was already smiling brightly and said, "You must be Sister Xiaozhu, right? Ling told us about you. Come, let me help you with your luggage. Come in quickly."

Following behind Tang Shiyun, Zhu Xiaozhu was still a bit dazed, not understanding why Tang Shiyun would appear here.

Entering the living room, she saw Yang Qingling and Liu Xiyao sitting on the sofa, chatting away. Having stayed here for a while before, Liu Xiyao was very familiar with Yang Qingling, so she was not as reserved as Tang Shiyun.

When they saw Zhu Xiaozhu walking in, Yang Qingling and Liu Xiyao both got up to greet her.

"Ling Chen, Miss Zhu is here."

Hearing his mom's voice from the living room, Ling Chen, wearing an apron, peeked his head out from the kitchen and said to Zhu Xiaozhu with a smile, "Have a seat first, dinner will be ready soon."

Zhu Xiaozhu nodded. At this moment, her mind was still a mess.

What on earth is going on?

She thought Ling Chen only invited her over, but to her surprise, there were two more beautiful women here.

After dinner, taking advantage of the time when Tang Shiyun and Liu Xiyao were cleaning up, Ling Chen brought Zhu Xiaozhu to the room set up for her and explained the situation to her.

"Xiaozhu, I'm sorry, someone is targeting me, which might possibly affect you all. For your safety, stay here for now. Once the crisis is over, I will send you back."

"Then, what about my work at the hospital?"

"Don't worry about that. I will arrange for people to be your personal bodyguards. When you are out, they will ensure your safety. At home, your safety will be my responsibility. I know this will undoubtedly cause some inconvenience to your daily life, but I really have no better way right now, my apologies."

Zhu Xiaozhu smiled faintly, "It's alright. It's not too much trouble, but it's you who will have to endure the hard work."

"Please don't say that. This has all arisen because of me. I already feel very guilty. I assure you, as long as I am here, nothing will happen to you."

This is probably something the instigator did not foresee: trying to threaten Ling Chen inadvertently gave him the chance to enjoy living with three beautiful women.

Ling Chen's villa was enormous, with multiple bedrooms and separate living rooms on each floor. To avoid disturbing Yang Qingling and the others, Liu Xiyao and the other two women stayed on the second floor, on the same floor as Ling Chen. Whenever they had free time, they would all stay in the second-floor living room, as each room had its own TV anyway.

Liu Xiyao was a successful businesswoman, raised by Lin Guodong from a young age, exuding an elegance and aristocratic air that was unmatched by others. Tang Shiyun, a famous singer with countless fans, needs no further mention. As for Zhu Xiaozhu, though she couldn't compare in fame to Tang Shiyun, she was a genius in the medical field, gaining much attention. More importantly, all three women were top-tier whether in terms of looks or temperament, a rare sight indeed.

Should people find out Ling Chen was living with these three stunning women, who knows how many would die of jealousy.

The next day.

The three women went about their work as usual, only, they were accompanied by a few stern-looking men. These were the security Ling Chen had arranged for them, mainly from Beison's team. Additionally, Ling Chen added a top expert among them to handle any emergencies.

According to Ling Chen's plan, having himself accompany them would be the safest scenario. But the problem was, he was just one person, unable to be everywhere at once, so he had to arrange for extra manpower.

Moreover, Ling Chen still had more important things to attend to.

Hongyu Group.

Ling Chen walked into the lobby alone, immediately spotting Wei Jun rushing toward him.

"Ling, what brings you here today?" Wei Jun greeted him warmly.

Ling Chen grinned, "Wei, you're not here to kick me out, are you?"

"Nonsense! What are you saying? Last time the chairman ordered it, I couldn't do anything about it, you can't hold grudges over that."

"Just kidding, don't mind it."

"The chairman has lifted the restrictions on you, you can go up anytime."

"Alright then, you carry on. I won't disturb your work. Let's go out for a drink sometime."

"Sure, I'm down." Wei Jun chuckled. Even if Ling Chen was just being polite, he was still delighted. Because he knew very well that Ling Chen was no longer the same person he once was. They used to be on the same security team, but now, Ling Chen was doing very well for himself. Also, word within the company was that Ling Chen recently spent billions to buy a plot of land from Hongyu Group.

Within just over a year, Ling Chen's status had changed significantly. The fact that he still bothered to chat a bit with him now was already giving him plenty of face.

Upon reaching the top floor, in the chairman's office, Ling Chen greeted Secretary Wang Lan and walked right in after knocking.

At this time, Nanrong Wanqing was discussing company matters with Nanrong Hao. They both paused for a second, seemingly not expecting Ling Chen to show up so early.

"Chen!" Nanrong Hao's eyes lit up. He hurried forward to greet Ling Chen, offering him a seat, tea, fruits, and cigarettes. He served him better than hotel attendants, making Nanrong Wanqing grind her teeth in envy.

She, being the elder sister, never received such treatment.

Nanrong Hao pretended not to notice Nanrong Wanqing's dissatisfaction, smiling, "Chen, are you here to see Big Sister?" Without waiting for Ling Chen to answer, Nanrong Hao stood up, "Big Sister, since Chen is here to see you, I won't disturb you. We can discuss company matters later. Take your time chatting."

After saying that, Nanrong Hao grabbed an apple and headed out of the office.

Watching Nanrong Hao's departing figure, Nanrong Wanqing felt quite displeased. Was this really her biological brother?

"What brings you to see me?" Nanrong Wanqing asked.

"I've encountered some trouble." Ling Chen didn't waste time, getting straight to the point.

Nanrong Wanqing was startled. She understood Ling Chen's character. Even if he had trouble, he would handle it himself and would never tell anyone. For him to share this with her now meant the problem was big, one that even Ling Chen couldn't solve.

"If there's trouble, you should call the police, why are you coming to me?" Nanrong Wanqing replied casually. When they were a couple, whatever Ling Chen said, she would do, without ever uttering such

words. But now... although she really wanted to help Ling Chen, she still needed to maintain some dignity by not showing it outright.