

The Beauty 1231

Chapter 1231 Lin Family Siblings

As everyone agreed, everything was proceeding in full swing. This time, the operation against the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was led by Tong Zhentian, with Qiu Yong and He Ziyun assisting from the side. However, in terms of manpower, Dragon Tiger Hall seemed somewhat deficient. Although Dragon Tiger Hall had recruited many people from the Martial Arts circle, asking them to openly confront the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion would likely scare off many. Currently, Dragon Tiger Hall's reputation had spread, but its prestige had not yet reached the level where it could rival the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

In the eyes of all the Martial Arts practitioners, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion still holds the status of the dominant force.

Therefore, the newcomers recruited by Dragon Tiger Hall could not be used. Moreover, these people entered Dragon Tiger Hall primarily for the martial arts secrets; hardly any would willingly risk their lives for Dragon Tiger Hall. Counting it all up, there were only about twenty usable fighters.

Fortunately, with the addition of the Zhu Family, the manpower was barely sufficient.

In a blink, another week had passed. Now, everyone almost forgot about Ling Chen's existence. Missing for so many days, with no news at all, the possibility of Ling Chen's survival was slim. People like Tong Zhentian had experienced many storms and wouldn't pin their hopes on such slim chances.

Currently, their task was to meticulously plan and make the people from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion pay the price.

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Pain! Such pain!

This was Ling Chen's first sensation upon waking up, the intense pain making his entire body tremble. He clenched his teeth, trying hard to endure the tormenting pain. Suddenly, a slight prickling sensation came, and after a while, the severe pain slowly began to subside.

"You're awake?" A childish voice reached Ling Chen's ears.

Ling Chen laboriously opened his eyes, seeing nothing but a blur. After a moment, his vision gradually returned to normal, and the ceiling above also became clear.

Turning his head, Ling Chen saw a four or five-year-old little boy leaning at the bedside, curiously examining him. Seeing Ling Chen looking his way, the little boy grinned and said, "You finally woke up. I've been sleeping on the sofa for more than a week."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen noticed that the room he was in was covered with posters of cartoon characters, and the table was littered with toys.

Am I... not dead? In a daze, Ling Chen's thoughts gradually cleared. Thinking about the events of that night, he hurriedly reached for his chest. However, as soon as he moved his arm, he felt a prickling needle-like pain, as if it were penetrating his bones, unbearably painful, and even his breathing became rapid.

Seeing sweat breaking out on Ling Chen's forehead, the little boy quickly brought a damp towel and gently wiped the sweat off Ling Chen.

"My sister told me, you shouldn't move around. Your body is very weak right now; you need to rest well," the little boy said.

"Your sister... she... where is she?" Ling Chen asked laboriously.

"My sister just gave you a painkiller injection and left. She's the only doctor here and has many patients to treat, no time to look after you."

"Little one, can you tell me where this is?"

"Xianghe Village in Fulin Town."

"Is it far from Beijing?"

"Not far, my sister said it takes only two hours by car to reach Beijing. Big brother, are you from Beijing?"

Ling Chen shook his head, still thinking about the events of that night. He found it strange that he should have died, yet he was alive. Qin Chuan's sword pierced through him, and sinking into the river, even if not drowned, he should have died from blood loss.

"Little one, do you know who saved me?"

"It was Mr. Lan from our village who saved you. He's a fisherman and saw you floating on the surface while fishing, so he pulled you out. But the one you should thank most is my sister. Without her medical skills, you would probably be dead."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen forced a smile and said, "Then I must thank you properly." After a pause, Ling Chen asked, "When can I see your sister?"

"Wait here; I'll go to the clinic in the front. If my sister is done, I'll call her to come see you." With that, the little boy bounced out.

After waiting on the bed for over half an hour, the little boy finally returned. Behind him was a girl in her twenties. Her features were very delicate, definitively a beauty, though not quite top-notch. However, in a village like this, it's already quite remarkable to have a beauty so lively.

Seeing the girl enter, Ling Chen struggled to sit up. The girl hurriedly stopped him, saying, "Don't move; your injuries haven't healed yet. Best to lie down so the wounds don't reopen."

"Your brother said it was you who saved me. Thank you!"

"No need to thank me; saving lives is a doctor's duty." Saying this, the girl examined Ling Chen carefully and asked, "What's your name, and why are you so severely injured?"

"Ling Chen. I was robbed on my way back, got stabbed, and fell into the river by accident."

"You really have a lucky life. Others would've died from such grievous injuries, yet you survived." The girl found it quite incredible.

"That only shows I'm tough." Ling Chen smiled and asked, "I still don't know your names."

"I'm Lin Han, and this is my brother Lin Chun."

"Um... Could I borrow your phone? I want to make a call to assure my family I'm safe; being missing for so long, they must be worried."

"Sorry, I don't have a usable mobile phone... Well, I have a phone, but it doesn't work." Lin Han explained, "Xianghe Village is quite remote, in the mountains, without nearby signal towers, so phones don't receive signal, unless you go to town. Right now, the entire village has just one landline. You certainly can't move now; how about this? Give me the phone number, and I'll help contact your family."

"Alright, the phone number..." Ling Chen opened his mouth, suddenly stunned. It was only now that he realized he had no idea of Hu Fei's phone number. With mobile phones, numbers are saved directly in phones; who bothers to remember them anymore?

Seeing Ling Chen's dazed expression, Lin Han immediately guessed his plight, "Can't remember the number? No worries, give me your address, and I'll report it to the police to help contact your family."

Ling Chen thought for a moment, finding this option acceptable.

However, just as Ling Chen was about to provide his address to Lin Han, a loud shout came from outside: "The Madman has gone crazy again; everyone run!"

Upon hearing the shout, Lin Han's face slightly changed, quickly instructing: "Chun, stay in the room and don't go out." With that, Lin Han swiftly turned and dashed out.

Chapter 1232 - 1240: Recuperation (1)

Madman?

Ling Chen was a bit curious, looking at Lin Han's tense expression, as if that madman was terrifying.

"Little guy, what's happening outside?" Ling Chen asked the little boy, Lin Chun didn't speak, but carefully walked to the window, lifted a corner of the curtain, and sneakily observed the situation outside. Ling Chen was also interested, but unfortunately, he couldn't move and could only listen to the sounds coming from outside.

At this moment, the situation outside was very lively, and from time to time, the panicked shouts of villagers could be heard. Moreover, the occasional 'bang bang' sound as if something had collapsed could be heard. This situation lasted for over ten minutes before gradually calming down.

At this point, Lin Chun put down the curtain, quickly walked back to the bedside, and honestly picked up an apple to peel. Before long, Lin Han walked in from outside.

Ling Chen glanced at Lin Han from the corner of his eye and noticed that her clothes were dirty, as if she had fallen to the ground when she went out. Moreover, her complexion looked somewhat pale, and she seemed to be suffering from pain.

Seeing this, Ling Chen asked with concern, "Miss Lin, are you alright?"

Lin Han gently shook her head, saying, "Sorry, I need to go back and change clothes, I'll contact your family when I have time."

"No rush, you take care of your things first." Ling Chen said. It was evident that Lin Han was somewhat weak, and it was best for her to rest as soon as possible.

After Lin Han left, Lin Chun finished peeling the apple, took a bite, and said, "Big brother, you take your time to rest, I'm going out to play first." After speaking, he waved his hand and turned to leave the room.

Watching Lin Chun disappear at the doorway, Ling Chen couldn't help but smile bitterly. He had thought that the apple was meant for him. After being in a coma for over a week and relying on nutrient fluids, he was now so hungry that his stomach was pressing against his back. Sighing, Ling Chen slowly closed his eyes and fell asleep again.

Night falls.

Outside the window, a drizzling rain started, but the deeper into the night, the heavier the rain became, with thunder and lightning roaring, the rumble of thunder keeping Ling Chen awake.

In the latter half of the night, there was still no sign of the rain lessening, in a daze, when Ling Chen woke up once more, he found it was already daylight outside. He looked at the wall clock hanging on the wall, it was already past eight o'clock. However, until ten in the morning, Lin Han and her brother had not shown up in the clinic.

Strange!

It's already this late, why haven't they opened the door yet. According to Lin Chun, Lin Han is the village's only doctor, she should be very busy logically. Moreover, even if there are no other patients, she should come to change the medicine for him as a patient.

It wasn't until noon when Lin Chun appeared in the clinic.

"Little guy, you finally remembered me, the patient." Ling Chen asked with a smile, "What were you doing in the morning, didn't see you guys?"

"There was a torrential rain all night last night, causing a mudslide on the slope at the village entrance, blocking the only road and knocking down the electricity poles, so the whole village is without power." Lin Chun said a bit dejectedly.

No electricity? Ling Chen thought to himself, troubled, and quickly asked, "Can the phone still be used?"

Lin Chun shook his head, "No, the whole village has only one phone line, and it's all broken. This morning, the village has already sent someone to town for help, but according to the returnees, a heavy rain has caused disasters in many places last night, the rescue forces are insufficient, and Xianghe Village, being located in the mountains and rather remote, even if things go well, it will take a week for the rescue team to come and help."

"What to do then?" Ling Chen asked worriedly. The phone line is the only way to contact the outside world, he has been missing for so long, if no news gets back, Beijing and East Sea City might be in chaos.

Lin Chun spread his hands helplessly and said, "What else can be done, we just wait, anyway, the village has no shortage of water and food, and there are several backup generators that can provide three hours of electricity daily."

"Where's your sister?" Ling Chen asked. He now can only seek help from Lin Han to quickly get in touch with the outside world.

"My sister is unwell and needs to rest in bed for the next two days." Saying that, Lin Chun brought over the medical kit and skillfully removed the bandage wrapped around Ling Chen's wound. "I'll be helping you change the medicine these days."

Watching Lin Chun's skillful moves, Ling Chen smiled slightly, "Can you change the medicine?"

"Of course! I'm always with my sister, if she's too busy, she lets me help, I've done this many times already." As he spoke, Lin Chun removed the gauze on the wound with forceps. Ling Chen struggled to lift his head, looking at the wound on his chest. After more than a week, the grim wound had slowly started to heal, with no blood oozing out.

With his physical fitness, recovery should be quick. However, because the wound was soaked in water for too long, it led to severe inflammation and festering, recovery to this level was already quite good.

After changing the medicine, Lin Chun didn't stay long in the clinic. Because Lin Han was not well, the little guy had to hurry back to make lunch. This little one also had it tough, having lost both parents, his sister Lin Han was the only college graduate in the village. During Lin Chun's birth, an accident had taken his parents' lives. Since then, Lin Han gave up her bright future in the big city and returned to the village to raise Lin Chun single-handedly.

Lin Chun was very sensible and obedient, always helping his sister manage various things, including household chores and cooking. The saying "poor families raise mature children early" is indeed true.

After resting for another two days or so, Ling Chen's body finally did not hurt as much, and he could barely sit in a wheelchair. Having been lying in bed for so long, Ling Chen was already fed up, and it was rare to get out for some fresh air. The weather was nice that day, sunny and warm, Lin Chun pushed the wheelchair, taking Ling Chen for a stroll around the village.

Xianghe Village has a history of several hundred years, most villagers live in old houses built long ago, made of mud bricks, some houses, probably due to age, can't withstand wind and rain, have been reinforced with cement, giving the houses' exterior walls several different colors.

According to Lin Chun, Xianghe Village has over a hundred households, many young people go out to work and only return during the New Year, usually only the elderly, women, and children remain in the village. Moreover, Ling Chen found that the villagers in Xianghe Village were very kind to Lin Chun, treating him like their own child.

After chatting with Lin Chun, he learned that because Lin Han came back and opened a clinic, the village's elderly benefit a lot. Previously, anyone with an illness would have to go to Fulin Town, dozens of miles away to see a doctor, not to mention the long journey, the road was difficult to traverse, bumpy, unless it was a four-wheel drive, ordinary cars would have a hard time getting in. Due to the limited conditions in the village, the only transportation here was a motorcycle.

Chapter 1233 - 1241: Recuperation (2)

Under Lin Chun's guidance, Ling Chen arrived at the village entrance and saw the road blocked by the landslide. Several dozen meters of road were obstructed by soil, rocks, and collapsed utility poles and trees. Not only were motorcycles unable to pass, but it was also extremely troublesome for people to make a trip out. Plus, the village's equipment was rather rudimentary, making it impossible to clear these things away, leaving them with no choice but to wait for a rescue team to arrive.

While strolling around the village for a while, Ling Chen curiously asked, "Little one, who was the madman you talked about that day?"

Upon mentioning 'madman,' a trace of fear appeared on Lin Chun's young face. "Big brother, that madman is an old man from our village. He left when he was in his teens and disappeared without a trace for about fifty years before returning. Ever since he came back, for some reason, he's been

screaming every night inside his house, like crying ghosts or howling wolves, scaring many villagers. Besides, the madman is somewhat mentally unstable. Once he has an episode, he turns unrecognizable, shouting to hit and kill people, injuring many villagers."

"He's just an old man, isn't there anyone in the village who can subdue him?" Ling Chen found it a bit strange.

"Big brother, you don't know, the madman is incredibly skilled. Even seven or eight young and strong men are no match for him. Every time the madman goes crazy, the entire village has to mobilize. To prevent the madman from randomly hurting people, the village even specially crafted several iron chains and cages to deal with him. But you haven't seen it, those iron chains and cages are useless against the madman. When he goes mad, he can even break the chains. Later, it was only thanks to my sister's return that we figured out how to use tranquilizers to subdue him."

Obviously, the madman was feared by everyone in the village. At the mention of him, Lin Chun's face was full of fear.

Breaking chains... Ling Chen's eyes lit up, and he immediately understood. Possessing such skills, the madman was surely someone who practiced martial arts, and a strong one at that. How interesting, I didn't expect to encounter a master here. What a pity the madman has gone insane; otherwise, I could have had a good exchange with him.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen asked with great interest, "Little one, where does the madman live?"

"Why are you asking this?"

"Just curious," Ling Chen replied.

"The madman doesn't live in the village," Lin Chun said. "Although he sometimes goes mad, when he's not, he acts quite normal. He knows the villagers dislike him, so to avoid harming them, he moved out and lives on the mountain over there."

Lin Chun pointed to the mountain opposite, "There is a natural cave there that the madman lives in, and he forages for wild vegetables on the mountain when he's hungry."

"What's the madman's name?"

Lin Chun thought for a moment and said, "If I remember correctly, the villagers used to call him Yang Junfeng. His parents died early, and he never married, so the villagers pitied him and let him stay in the village; otherwise, they would have driven him away long ago."

Ling Chen nodded without asking further. He guessed Lin Chun didn't know much. After wandering around for more than an hour, Ling Chen felt a bit sleepy due to his still weak body. Returning to the clinic, his keen eyes noticed a crossbow in the corner, with a quiver next to it containing over a dozen crossbow arrows.

"Is that your sister's stuff?"

"Yeah," Lin Chun said. "It's all used to deal with the madman. When he's in a frenzy, no one can get close to him, so we have to fit tranquilizer darts onto the crossbow arrows. Practically every household is equipped with such things."

Tsk tsk! Who would have thought the villagers of Xianghe were so professional, even equipping themselves with such weapons to deal with the madman.

That day, after Lin Han finished changing Ling Chen's bandages, she took him out for a walk as usual. After chatting for a few days, Ling Chen got to know more about her situation. After graduating from medical school, Lin Han interned at a major hospital in East Sea City. Her professional skills were so strong that she received praise and acknowledgment from the hospital management. If she continued to work at the hospital, it wouldn't take long for her to become an outstanding doctor.

However, due to her parents' accident, Lin Han had to abandon city life and return to Xianghe Village, living a mundane life. Still, one could hear from Lin Han's tone that she yearned for life outside the village. If not for her younger brother, she would have returned to East Sea City long ago.

"Lin Chun is not young anymore; are you planning to send him to school?" Ling Chen asked.

"I'm planning to send him to school in town next year. By then, I'll find a job in town and rent a place," Lin Han replied.

"Why not just take him to East Sea City?"

"Living in a big city is nice, but you need enough financial strength. Rent, tuition, living expenses—do you think a newly graduated university student like me can afford it? It takes at least one or two years as an intern before becoming a full-time employee in a hospital, and interns' salaries aren't high. I can't afford to support two people. Besides, my parents left quite a bit of debt before they died, and I have to repay it."

Ling Chen pointed to his nose and smiled, "I can help you. You saved me, and I haven't paid you medical expenses yet."

"You?" Lin Han smiled slightly, "Forget it, you're not exactly rich."

"Oh?" Ling Chen asked with interest, "Why do you think I'm not rich?"

"When I was in East Sea City, I met many wealthy people. A few rich second-generation kids even pursued me. They drove luxury cars, wore designer brands, and the watches they wore cost tens of thousands of yuan. Moreover, the rich second-generation kids who pursued me gave me lots of branded clothes and bags. Although I refused them, I have seen the world. Look at you; your clothes are ordinary, similar to mine. You're not picky about food, eating whatever is available, and you don't talk down to people with that superior attitude. Anyone with a slightly better family background tends to think highly of themselves, but you don't, which means you're like me—maybe a bit better off, but that's it."

Ling Chen chuckled, "Your analysis makes sense."

"Am I wrong?" Lin Han seemed to recall something at his words and gently sighed.

"What's wrong?" Noticing Lin Han's change in mood, Ling Chen couldn't help but ask.

"It's nothing, just thinking of some unhappy things." Without waiting for Ling Chen to ask more, Lin Han changed the subject, saying, "It's getting late. Let me take you back. My brother cooked braised taro for lunch today."

"Your brother's cooking skills aren't bad,"

Lin Han laughed, "Of course, you should see who taught him."

In the blink of an eye, a few more days passed.

Under the meticulous care of the Lin siblings, Ling Chen's injuries gradually healed, and he could already walk on the ground. However, this quick recovery speed surprised Lin Han quite a bit.

Chapter 1234 - 1242: A Friend Arrives from Afar

Lin Han has stayed in big hospitals before and has seen all kinds of patients, but she has never seen someone with a fatal injury survive. Moreover, Ling Chen's recovery speed was several times faster than normal. If it were someone else with such severe injuries, they would be bedridden for at least a few months. Ling Chen had been in Xianghe Village for less than half a month, and he was already able to walk around, which was truly unbelievable.

After his condition improved, Ling Chen began to wander around outside alone. He has been in Xianghe Village for some time, and he had met most of the people in the village; he would smile and greet them when he encountered them on the road.

Looking at the mountain opposite Xianghe Village, a trace of hesitation flashed in Ling Chen's eyes. Since the day he heard from Lin Chun about the madman, Ling Chen had been very interested in the old man named Yang Junfeng and really wanted to go and see him. Previously, because he couldn't walk, he had to dismiss this idea. Now, without Lin Han and Lin Chun following him, it seemed like a good opportunity.

Having made up his mind, Ling Chen set off alone along the mountain path, arriving at the foot of the peak where Yang Junfeng lived. The peak was quite steep, and Ling Chen's body had not fully recovered; halfway up, he was already out of breath and had to sit down to rest and regain his strength.

When Ling Chen reached the top, it was already an hour later. There were many dense trees around the summit; Ling Chen wandered around and soon found the natural cave that Lin Chun had described.

Standing outside the cave, Ling Chen called out loudly a few times, but there was no response from inside the cave, as if there was no one there.

After waiting for a moment, Ling Chen simply summoned his courage and walked directly into the cave. As he walked, he silently prayed not to encounter the old man during a mad episode. If that happened, given his current physical condition, it would be like walking to his death.

This natural cave was more than three meters high, four meters wide, and over ten meters deep. At the innermost part of the cave, there was a pile of burnt-out embers. On top of the embers was a wooden stand, supporting a large pot filled with soup, with a few unidentifiable leaves floating on top. As he got closer, he could smell a strange odor.

Ling Chen shook his head and turned his gaze elsewhere, seeing a layer of straw mats near the wall of the cave, which was probably where Yang Junfeng rested.

The place was truly crude, with not even a single decent piece of furniture. Ling Chen found it strange that a master had fallen to this point, wondering what kind of trauma he had suffered.

At this moment, Ling Chen, with his sharp eyes, suddenly noticed a small wooden table placed at the very back of the cave, covered with a piece of tattered cloth, hiding something unknown underneath.

Walking up to the table, Ling Chen picked up the cloth and carefully lifted it. Instantly, he saw a spiritual tablet underneath. This spiritual tablet seemed very old, with its color faded, except for a few lines of words in the middle that were relatively clear. Ling Chen studied it for a few moments; if he guessed correctly, this should be Yang Junfeng's ancestral tablet.

Below the spiritual tablet, there was a small booklet with yellowed pages. Ling Chen pulled out the booklet, and his eyes were immediately drawn to the words on the cover.

The Yang Family Spear Technique!

This... this was a martial arts manual. Ling Chen eagerly opened a page, seeing various postures and formulas recorded inside.

Although Ling Chen did not know much about spear techniques, he could tell that this Yang Family Spear Technique was a very valuable martial arts manual. After looking at a few pages, Ling Chen immediately returned it to its original place, not continuing to pry. Even though he was very interested in martial arts manuals, places like the Dragon Tiger Hall had plenty of such manuals, and he had no need to engage in such petty theft.

Because of the overpowering odor in the cave, Ling Chen did not stay long. Once outside the cave, he waited a while longer; seeing Yang Junfeng had not returned, he decided not to wait any longer and headed back to Xianghe Village. Having been out so long, if he didn't return soon, Lin Han and Lin Chun would probably start to worry.

When he returned to the clinic, Lin Chun had just brought the freshly made lunch.

"Today's food is so abundant?" Ling Chen asked with a smile while eating Lin Chun's chicken rice. Usually, they ate vegetarian dishes and rarely had meat, but today there was not only chicken but also pork.

"We have guests at home."

"Really?" Ling Chen was curious, "Isn't the road to the village blocked? How did guests manage to come?"

"If people want to come, we can't stop them."

"Are they relatives of your family?"

"No, they're my sister's former classmates and friends." Lin Chun seemed to have little goodwill towards these guests, choosing to stay in the clinic rather than go back.

After lunch, Ling Chen accompanied Lin Chun to play chess in the clinic. Lin Chun was a very clever child; despite his young age, he played chess with an exemplary style, and his chess skill was not much worse than Ling Chen's. It was said that this little guy often played chess with the elders in the village as one of his few pastimes.

As the two of them, one big and one small, were locked in an intense chess battle, the sound of footsteps suddenly came from outside the clinic.

"Hanhan, is this your clinic?" A woman's voice spoke, "Isn't it too shabby? Just a few words painted on the wall, not even a sign."

"We are in the countryside; there aren't so many formalities necessary, as long as everyone knows this is a place for medical treatment. Besides, making a sign would require a trip to town, and it's too much trouble."

"Hanhan, opening a clinic here, how much income can you make in a month?"

"A few hundred bucks. It's not much, mainly to help the elderly in the village."

"You're still as kind-hearted as ever, Hanhan. A few hundred bucks... that's not even enough for a pair of shoes for me. Hanhan, I'm not saying this to criticize you, but with your good background, why should you stay in such a shabby place? If you ask me, you should return to East Sea City. You have no idea, after you left, Mr. Zheng often talks about you and seems to genuinely like you. Why can't you accept him? Turning a sparrow into a phoenix is not an opportunity everyone gets, you need to seize this chance."

"I have no feelings for him. Besides, even if I were to get married, it would be to someone I love, not for material things."

"Alas! Not trying to preach, but your thinking is outdated. Better to cry in a BMW than to smile on a bicycle, don't you understand such a simple truth?"

"Alright, alright! Xu Huan, say no more, everyone has their own ideas, there's no need to impose yours on others. Hanhan, let's take a look around your clinic." A man's voice chimed in.

Upon hearing people entering, Ling Chen signaled to Lin Chun, who quickly put away the chessboard and stood up.

At that moment, the door opened, and Lin Han entered with a young couple, their arms linked, clearly indicating their relationship.

Chapter 1235 - 1243: Wang Yan

The young man looked to be around twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old, very handsome, with a tall and slender build, full of youthful sunshine and vitality. The woman beside him was about the same age as Lin Han, just over twenty, probably a recent college graduate. This woman was well-proportioned with a curvy figure, a full chest, and a face shaped like a melon seed, heavily covered with makeup. As soon as she entered, a strong smell of perfume followed.

Seeing Ling Chen and Lin Chun in the clinic, the young couple was slightly taken aback, then smiled and asked, "Hanhan, who's this handsome guy?"

Lin Han glanced at Ling Chen and said lightly, "He's Ling Chen, a patient of mine."

"A patient? Really a patient?" The woman looked Ling Chen up and down meaningfully, with a smile-not-quite-a-smile, and said, "Could he be your boyfriend? Hanhan, just admit it, I won't laugh at you. Actually, you have good taste, this guy is very handsome, just... his outfit is a bit shabby." With that, the woman gently nudged Lin Han's arm and whispered, "Where's your boyfriend from?"

Lin Han helplessly defended, "I said, he's not my boyfriend, he really is my patient."

Before the woman could speak again, Ling Chen smiled slightly and said, "Please don't misunderstand, Miss Lin didn't lie to you." As he spoke, Ling Chen lifted his shirt to reveal the bandages wrapped around his chest.

However, the pair's attention was not on Ling Chen's wound but captivated by his eight-pack abs. Especially the woman, her eyes lit up at the sight of his physique... clicking her tongue! Even a fitness instructor wouldn't measure up.

When Ling Chen put his shirt down, the woman finally snapped back to reality, smiling and looking at Ling Chen, she asked, "Handsome guy, my name is Wang Yan, a college classmate of Hanhan's, and this is my boyfriend, Hao Dong. Nice to meet you."

"Hello." Ling Chen nodded to them and said, "You all chat, I'll go inside to rest for a bit and won't disturb you." With that, Ling Chen turned to return to the ward.

"Hey! Wait, don't go." Wang Yan hastily urged, "Ling Chen, we're all young people, being able to gather together is fate."

Hao Dong, standing to the side, laughed and said, "Ling, let's chat, maybe we can find a common topic."

Seeing the kind invitation and since Lin Han didn't say anything, Ling Chen had to agree. After all, they were Lin Han's friends, and he couldn't disrespect Lin Han. After staying in the clinic for a while, the group went back to Lin Han's house.

Having lived in Xianghe Village for quite a while, Ling Chen had been to Lin Han's house a few times. Lin Han's family home wasn't very big, two bedrooms and a living room, an old house left by her parents. Because Xianghe Village is quite remote, every household's television uses satellite dishes, barely able to pick up a few channels. Upon entering, there was a twenty-four-inch TV in a ten-square-meter living room with a laptop on the coffee table, probably the only computer in the whole village.

Once everyone was seated, Lin Chun obediently went to make tea for everyone, while Lin Han stayed in the kitchen, washing fruit. Wang Yan was curiously inspecting Ling Chen and asked, "Ling Chen, are you and Hanhan from the same hometown?"

"No, I live in East Sea City." Ling Chen replied, "I was in Beijing for work this time and had an accident in the Beijing Suburb. The villagers here saved me and sent me to Miss Lin's clinic. Thanks to Miss Lin's help, I survived."

"You're from East Sea City?" Wang Yan seemed surprised, she thought Ling Chen was from this village too, little did she expect he came from a big city, "Ling Chen, looking at you, your injuries seem mostly healed, why not go back?"

"Isn't the road at the village entrance blocked? Without transportation, I can't just walk out, right."

Hao Dong chimed in, "You can leave with us, our car is parked outside the village. The landslide and trees have blocked the road, so we could only walk in. Luckily it's not too far."

"What's not too far." Wang Yan complained, "My legs got sore from walking."

"Who asked you to wear high heels."

"I'm sorry, I didn't know you'd come to my place as guests." At this point, Lin Han came over with a plate of fruit, apologetically.

Seeing Lin Han walk over, Wang Yan immediately switched to a smiling face, "It's okay, being able to see my good sister is worth all the trouble." Hearing this, a look of surprise passed through Lin Han's eyes.

After a brief chat with Lin Han, Wang Yan picked up a piece of sliced apple and turned her gaze back to Ling Chen. It was evident she was very interested in Ling Chen.

"Ling Chen, what do you do in East Sea City?"

"I'm unemployed, haven't found a job yet."

"Really? And which university did you graduate from?"

Ling Chen replied flatly, "I didn't continue after high school; I've been working odd jobs ever since."

Hearing this, Wang Yan's smile faded, she lost interest in asking further, and directly shifted her attention to chatting with Hao Dong next to her. For the rest of the time, Wang Yan and Hao Dong had a lively conversation with Lin Han. However, it was mainly Wang Yan and Hao Dong talking, with Lin Han occasionally chiming in. As for Ling Chen... he was completely sidelined.

"Hanhan, not to be preachy, but you really should consider finding a man, do you really want to waste your most precious youth here?" Wang Yan tried to persuade earnestly.

"For now, I don't want to leave, we'll see about the future, I don't have any plans right now."

"If you ask me, you should go to Beijing. It's not far from your home, you can have people in the village help take care of your brother, just pay them every month. Hao Dong has some connections in Beijing, he can introduce you to work in a big hospital. With your ability, you won't have any problems. Once you earn money and find a good man, you can bring your brother to live with you; wouldn't that be great, and no one gets delayed. What do you think?"

Lin Han paused for a while, shook her head, and said, "Thanks for your kindness, but I don't want to leave now."

"You..." Wang Yan said helplessly, "I don't even know what to say to you. Anyway, I've said what I needed, your future and opportunities are at stake, think it over carefully." With that, Wang Yan got up and said, "Hao Dong, let's go back."

Lin Han asked, "You're not staying? I've prepared a room for you."

"No, we booked a hotel in Fulin Town. Sigh, this place is so backward, there isn't even a five-star hotel. Hanhan, if it wasn't to see you, I wouldn't have endured this kind of grievance."

As they reached the door, Hao Dong seemed to remember something and turned around to look at Ling Chen, "Do you want to go with our car to the town?"

Chapter 1236 - 1244: The Mad Expert

Ling Chen opened his mouth, but before he could speak, he heard Wang Yan impatiently say, "Whether they stay or leave, what does it have to do with you? Why bother? Let's go!"

Lin Han escorted Hao Dong and Wang Yan to the village entrance before returning home alone. Watching Ling Chen walking in the living room, Lin Han said apologetically, "Sorry, I initially wanted them to take you to the town with them."

Ling Chen smiled slightly and said casually, "No worries, this place with its beautiful mountains and waters is a good place to recuperate. I want to stay a bit longer too."

After pausing for a moment, Ling Chen asked, "Actually, their suggestion was good, why didn't you accept it?"

Lin Han gently shook her head and said, "Wang Yan is my university roommate, but she is different from me; she likes rich and handsome men. During the four years of university, the words we exchanged add up to fewer than a hundred sentences. Do you think we would be best friends?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen was somewhat surprised, "Then why did they come such a long way to see you?"

"I found it strange too. When I was working in East Sea City, I had occasional contact with her, but she mostly initiated it. Later, after I returned here, due to inconvenient communication, I lost contact with her. Honestly, I'm not sure why she came to my house."

"That really is a peculiar thing," Ling Chen thought for a moment and then said, "Forget it! Since she has left, don't think about it too much. Maybe she indeed came to see you."

"Perhaps."

Looking at the wall clock, Ling Chen stood up and said, "I'll head back to the clinic to rest."

"I'll see you out."

Stepping out of the room, Ling Chen saw more than ten chickens in the coop in the yard, all thanks to Lin Chun. However, what struck Ling Chen as strange was the unique chicken coop, a two-meter-high and one-meter-wide iron cage. The iron bars of the cage were very thick, about the size of an adult's arm. The bars in front of the cage were broken in the middle. Due to constant exposure to wind and rain, the cage had rusted.

"Miss Lin, are you afraid your chickens might escape since you've used such thick iron bars to keep them?" Ling Chen jested.

"This iron cage isn't for chickens," Lin Han explained, "The village specially built a large iron cage to deal with a madman in the village. Unfortunately, the madman's strength was terrifying; once inside, he directly broke the iron bars."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen's expression changed, "What? Broke them?"

He looked into Lin Han's eyes and asked word by word, "Miss Lin, are you sure that person broke it with his bare hands?"

Lin Han nodded, very certain, "I was there that day and saw it with my own eyes, no mistake. If you don't believe me, you can ask my brother; he was there too and saw it clearly. Everyone was scared. Luckily, after breaking the cage, for some unknown reason, the madman suddenly fainted on the ground, avoiding major damage. Oh, by the way!" Saying this, Lin Han seemed to remember something and led Ling Chen to the courtyard behind the house.

"Do you see that pile of chains?" Lin Han pointed to the corner where a bundle of chains, each as thick as an arm, was stacked, "These chains were also specially made to restrain the madman, but he broke them all."

Ling Chen quickly walked over, picked up the rusted chains, and examined them closely. Just as Lin Han said, there were clear signs of breakage in the middle of the chains.

To break such thick chains, is that madman named Yang Junfeng even human?

Heavenly List master!

Ling Chen's heart sank. There was no doubt that Yang Junfeng is surely a Heavenly List master and a very powerful one at that. Otherwise, even an ordinary Heavenly List master couldn't easily break such thick chains with their hands.

At this thought, Ling Chen felt somewhat fortunate. Fortunately, when he went to find Yang Junfeng, the latter wasn't in the cave. If he had encountered him, and if the man went mad, Ling Chen would have

certainly died. Nonetheless, despite his lingering fear, Ling Chen found it strange; given Yang Junfeng's great strength, why would he go mad?

Generally speaking, the stronger one's ability, the stronger their physical qualities, including perseverance, willpower, mental strength, and all aspects. Unless greatly stimulated, they wouldn't suffer from mental disorders.

"Miss Lin, I heard Lin Chun say that the madman isn't always mad, he occasionally returns to normal. Is that true?"

Lin Han nodded, "Though I haven't treated the madman, I think he might have intermittent mental disorders causing mania. When he lived in the village, the madman's meltdowns were frequent, happening every two days, sometimes daily. After he was driven out of the village and moved to the cave, the frequency gradually decreased, sometimes once a week or ten days apart. Comparatively, there's been significant improvement. I think he shouldn't be stimulated by the outside world, meaning he shouldn't have contact with people; otherwise, it would trigger more frequent attacks."

"Is there any way to cure such a disease?" Ling Chen asked.

"Given his current state, it's not too serious yet. If he can't maintain consciousness, then it's incurable. This kind of intermittent mental disorder usually results from trauma; if the madman can calm down and receive therapy, recovery is hopeful. Sadly, the madman is too frightening; no one dares to approach him or talk to him."

Ling Chen thoughtfully said, "So, if someone tries to persuade him to accept treatment, it might work?"

Hearing this, Lin Han stared at Ling Chen and asked, "You wouldn't be thinking of finding him, would you? No way, absolutely not! I don't agree. Do you know how dangerous he is? What if you provoke him? Once he goes mad, no one can save you. You barely survived, do you want to tempt fate?"

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "Miss Lin, don't be so agitated, I was just speaking casually. However, I am indeed curious about that madman."

"You're just as crazy as that madman! I've never seen anyone interested in a madman."

"Alright! I won't talk to you anymore, I'm heading back." With that, Ling Chen waved his hand and headed straight toward the clinic. Walking along the road, Ling Chen occasionally lifted his head and gazed at the distant mountain. Unexpectedly encountering a Heavenly List master like this in such an impoverished and remote place, his luck was truly remarkable. If possible, he really wanted to approach him.

Chapter 1237 - 1245: The Fox Paying New Year's Call to the Hen

The next day.

Ling Chen was staying in the clinic, thinking about how to meet Yang Junfeng. Just then, Lin Chun walked in from outside, pouting with an unhappy face.

Seeing the little one fuming silently, Ling Chen teased with a smile, "What's wrong? Who angered you?"

"It's just those two people from yesterday; they came again today. I didn't want to deal with them, so I came to find big brother." Saying this, Lin Chun sat beside Ling Chen and asked, seemingly to himself, "Big brother, do you think... my sister will really leave with them and leave me alone in the village?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen finally understood the little one's worries. Yesterday, when Lin Han was chatting with Wang Yan, Lin Chun must have eavesdropped, so he's really worried, afraid that Lin Han might leave him alone to develop in the big city. Although Lin Chun is quite self-sufficient, he's still a five or six-year-old kid and needs family care and companionship.

Ling Chen patted Lin Chun's skinny shoulder and said with a smile, "Don't worry, your sister cares so much about you; she wouldn't abandon you." With that, Ling Chen thought for a moment, got up, and said, "Come on, I'll go with you to check it out."

Ling Chen was still a bit uneasy about the return of Wang Yan and Hao Dong. Lin Han also said yesterday that her relationship with Wang Yan was just ordinary friends, not even close ones. Wang Yan bringing her boyfriend all this way to visit Lin Han definitely has her motives. And judging by Wang Yan's appearance, she's absolutely a gold digger, very cunning. If Lin Han, being such an honest woman, gets deceived, what then?

Arriving at Lin Han's home, Wang Yan and Hao Dong were in the living room. Besides them, there were a few movers carrying big boxes into the house. Lin Han stood to the side, watching the busy movers, her exquisite face full of confusion. It was clear that even she didn't know what Wang Yan was up to.

Seeing Ling Chen and Lin Chun approaching, Lin Han smiled slightly. As for Wang Yan and Hao Dong, they directly ignored Ling Chen's presence.

"Miss Lin, what are these things?" Ling Chen asked.

Lin Han shook her head and said, "I don't know either; they're all brought by Wang Yan."

After the movers left, the group returned to the living room, looking at the several large boxes stacked on the floor. Lin Han asked, "Wang Yan, what is this all about?"

Wang Yan smilingly said, "We're good friends, seeing you living so frugally, so we bought you some daily household items. Come, let me show you." She said while signaling Hao Dong to unpack the boxes. The largest box was a fifty-five-inch LCD TV, a Blu-ray player, and some regular appliances.

"Little brother, come here, these are gifts for you." Wang Yan beckoned to Lin Chun. However, Lin Chun didn't move. Seeing this, Wang Yan directly walked over, placing a game console into his hands, "Here! This is the latest game console, and this... a tablet and a learning machine, all city kids use them often."

Looking at the expensive gifts brought in front of him, Lin Chun hesitated and instead looked towards his sister.

"Wang Yan, we can't accept such valuable gifts. You should take them back," Lin Han said.

"How could that be, they're already bought. It's just a little gesture of mine, and not worth much. Besides, the movers have left; do you expect me to carry all these things back myself?" Wang Yan lovingly patted Lin Chun's little head, saying, "It's a pity there's no internet here; these things are fun when connected. Next time, when you have the chance, let your sister bring you to the big city; I'll take you to Disneyland, the most famous amusement park in the world."

"Wang Yan..."

"Alright! Don't say anything else, just accept them." With that, Wang Yan didn't wait for Lin Han to say more and walked to the door with Hao Dong, ready to leave.

Looking at the pile of gifts in the living room, Lin Han bit her lip lightly, hesitated for a moment, then turned and walked into her bedroom. After a little while, Lin Han quickly caught up with Wang Yan, took out a thick envelope from her pocket and handed it to Wang Yan, saying, "There's fifteen thousand yuan in here. I know it's not enough for the things you bought, but it's all I can offer. Please accept this for now, I'll repay you when I've saved enough money later."

Wang Yan pushed away the envelope, displeased, saying, "Hanhan, what are you talking about, those are gifts from me, how can I take your money? If you consider me a friend, just keep the money."

"No way!" Lin Han's tone was firm, "If you don't take it, I'll move those things out immediately. No matter what you do with them, I won't take your things for free."

Wang Yan was slightly taken aback, not expecting Lin Han to be so resolute, leaving no room for negotiation. Hesitating for a moment, Wang Yan couldn't help but glance at Hao Dong beside her. Understanding her look, Hao Dong smiled and said, "Hanhan, it's just a gesture, don't overthink, truly. Besides, given our economic conditions, these gifts aren't really much."

"Exactly." Wang Yan pointed at her shoes and said, "Look, these shoes alone cost over twenty thousand yuan, this branded bag over fifty thousand. The gifts we got for you are practically nothing, just some pocket money." Pausing, Wang Yan continued, "Hanhan, seriously consider what I talked with you about yesterday, as a woman, don't waste your youth here."

Lin Han lowered her head, looked at Wang Yan's designer clothes, suddenly stuffed all the money into her pocket, and walked back without looking back.

After just a few steps, Lin Han turned around, looked at Wang Yan and Hao Dong, and said, "Everyone has their destiny, I have my way of living, thank you for your concern."

Watching Lin Han's silhouette gradually fade away, Wang Yan felt her anger rise, cursing indignantly, "That bitch thinks so highly of herself; I've come to this godforsaken place twice for her, offered such good deals, yet she won't agree, pretending to be all high and mighty! What does she even have? There are plenty of women like her in Beijing."

"Alright, stop complaining," Hao Dong said with a frown, "Now what? If we can't take her back to Beijing, we're at a dead end."

"What else can we do? Tie her up and take her back? I won't do anything illegal." After thinking for a moment, Wang Yan impatiently said, "Forget it! Let's just call him, tell him the situation here, we've done our best, what he decides is his business now. Let's not waste any more time here; I don't want to stay in this godforsaken place any longer."

Chapter 1238 - 1246: Madman Gone Berserk (Part 1)

As Wang Yan and Hao Dong walked away, Ling Chen slowly stood up from the grass not far from the village entrance, watching the two departing figures with a playful look.

It seems Lin Han's guess was right. These two people came all the way to Xianghe Village to find Lin Han not to visit a friend, but with other intentions. From their conversation, it seems they want to take Lin Han to Beijing. Moreover, someone is pulling the strings behind them. How interesting, Lin Han is just an ordinary woman, who exactly wants to harm her?

As he was thinking, Ling Chen suddenly heard a series of terrified shouts from the village: "Run, the madman is here again!"

Madman? Ling Chen's expression changed slightly. Without thinking, he quickly ran towards the village. Soon, he arrived at Lin Han's house and saw Lin Han and Lin Chun hiding in the living room, doors tightly closed, not daring to go out. Seeing Ling Chen return, Lin Han hurriedly said: "Stay here with my brother. I'm going to the clinic."

Before Ling Chen could speak, Lin Han had already hurried out. No need to ask, it was obvious that Lin Han went to the clinic to get the crossbow arrow to subdue the madman with tranquilizer darts, to prevent him from hurting others. Watching Lin Han's departing figure, Ling Chen felt uneasy and advised: "Little guy, stay here in the room, lock all the doors, don't go out, understand?" Lin Chun obediently nodded.

Leaving the house, Ling Chen looked around and noticed that the villagers were all running from the north. The madman Yang Junfeng was likely in the northern part of the village. Immediately, Ling Chen quickly ran in that direction.

Soon, Ling Chen saw the remaining dozen or so able-bodied young men in the village, each armed with a loaded crossbow, shooting continuously at a figure not far away. About thirty meters away, an old man with disheveled hair and dirty clothes was rapidly changing position to avoid the tranquilizer darts.

Ling Chen carefully observed the madman's movements, noticing his incredible speed, as the dozen or so crossbows failed to hit him. Soon, the young men's supply of tranquilizer darts was nearly exhausted. Meanwhile, the madman was advancing step by step towards them, and those young men were in imminent danger.

Seeing this situation, Ling Chen rushed forward, grabbing one of the young men and shouted: "Quick, take your people and find a higher position to shoot from."

Hearing Ling Chen's reminder, the person immediately understood. With a whistle, the others all followed him and ran off.

Watching the madman slowly approach, Ling Chen stood his ground, his eyes fixed on the opponent's face. Unfortunately, due to the filth covering his skin, his features were indistinguishable. "Ling Chen, move!" At that moment, Lin Han's urgent voice came through.

Turning back, Ling Chen saw Lin Han crouching on the ground, holding a crossbow with both hands, aiming at the advancing madman.

Whizz!

With the sound of something piercing the air, a crossbow arrow with a tranquilizer dart was immediately shot out.

Faced with the fast-flying crossbow arrow, the madman swung his big hand, directly swatting the arrow aside. Not only that, but the madman's pace was also gradually accelerating, his blood-red eyes fixed on Lin Han.

"Watch out!" Ling Chen shouted: "What are you waiting for, run!"

Lin Han was momentarily stunned but quickly reacted and hurriedly ran back. Seeing Lin Han speeding up, the madman increased his speed to match. Competing for speed against someone on the Heavenly List was courting disaster. In the blink of an eye, the madman was on Lin Han's heels, ready to knock her down at any moment.

Seeing Lin Han in danger, Ling Chen didn't waste time thinking, instantly using the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, darting forward like a gust of wind. Just as the madman threw a punch, a blur passed in front of Lin Han. Lin Han didn't know what happened, only feeling a lightness in her body, as if she were aboard a plane.

When she came to her senses, Ling Chen was holding her in his arms. Looking at Ling Chen, she saw he was panting heavily, his face a bit pale.

"Are you... okay?" Lin Han asked with concern.

Ling Chen internally gave a bitter smile, how could he be okay. With such severe injuries, it had only been half a month, there was no way he could have recovered. Just barely using the Nine Yang Qiankun Step earlier made his wounds ache faintly, a wave of weakness sweeping through his body.

Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen didn't have time to talk with Lin Han, as the madman had already locked his gaze on them, charging at them. Surveying the surroundings, Ling Chen quickly carried Lin Han over a low wall, placing her in a corner. Then he took the crossbow from Lin Han's hands, quickly loading a crossbow arrow, and let loose at the charging madman.

Unsurprisingly, the madman easily deflected the arrow. However, Ling Chen had achieved his goal by drawing the madman's attention towards him. Immediately, the madman abandoned Lin Han, hidden in the corner, and chased after Ling Chen.

Ling Chen dared not stay in place. Even though his body was straining, he could only exert maximum effort to keep his speed, leaving the madman behind. Still, Ling Chen underestimated the prowess of a Heavenly List expert. Additionally, his actions seemed to provoke the madman, whose speed continued to increase, gradually unleashing the power of a Heavenly List expert.

Whizz!

As Ling Chen rolled forward, flipping his waist, he found an opening to shoot an arrow, slowing down the madman's momentum slightly. Taking advantage of this moment, Ling Chen gasped for air, easing the pain in his chest. After resting for two or three seconds, Ling Chen moved his legs again, quickly circling a building.

At that moment, Lin Han peeked cautiously from the corner, watching Ling Chen sprint like mad, her beautiful eyes filled with shock. In all her life, she's never seen anyone run so fast, unable to even make out Ling Chen clearly, only catching glimpses of a shadow flashing by, the speed incredible.

Lin Han rubbed her eyes, thinking she was seeing things, but the result was the same. Besides Ling Chen, the madman was the same, both moving so fast her eyes couldn't keep up.

Are these... humanly possible? Lin Han thought to herself. If they represented the country in international race events, surely they'd take first place.

Soon enough, a minute passed, and Ling Chen felt his body reaching its limits, ready to collapse at any moment. At this moment, he was holding on by sheer willpower.

Whizz! Whizz! Whizz!

At this time, several piercing sounds cut through the air. Ling Chen looked up to see that those young men had taken his advice, climbing onto rooftops, firing crossbow arrows at the madman from above. With one rapid volley of arrows, the madman's speed finally slowed, giving Ling Chen a moment to catch his breath.

Chapter 1239 - 1247: The Madman Goes Berserk (2)

Roar!

Surrounded by a dense flurry of crossbow arrows, the madman seemed to grow enraged, letting out a loud roar towards the sky. Immediately following, his legs pushed off the ground, as if equipped with springs, and he leapt over three meters high, landing right on the rooftop of one of the houses.

Everyone was shocked by the madman's actions; they had never seen anyone jump so high before. Watching the madman ascend to the rooftop, Ling Chen muttered to himself that things were not going well, and hurriedly rushed towards the edge of the house's outer wall. At that moment, a young man standing on the rooftop saw the madman closing in step by step and was scared stiff, holding a crossbow in his hand, standing there dumbfounded, as if his entire body was petrified and unable to move.

In the blink of an eye, the madman rushed up to the man, swinging a punch towards his face. Seeing the fierce fist approaching, the man felt as though he couldn't breathe, and instinctively closed his eyes.

At this critical moment, the man's body suddenly leaned back, collapsing onto the ground. Before he could react, it felt as though a heavy object pressed down on him, leaving him completely dazed.

"Get up." Hearing a weak voice, the man hurriedly opened his eyes, only to find the madman lying on top of him, seemingly unconscious, a tranquilizer dart stuck in the madman's body.

Seeing the madman fall into a deep sleep, Ling Chen collapsed onto the rooftop, gasping for air. Thankfully, just moments ago, he seized the opportunity while the madman's attention was distracted by the man, and shot an arrow from under the man's legs, hitting the madman squarely. This series of intense movements had nearly torn his body apart, especially the injury on his chest, with blood seeping through his clothes.

Sigh! Ling Chen sighed helplessly; all the time spent recuperating was wasted.

Soon, everyone sent Ling Chen and the madman to the clinic. Originally, the villagers wanted to send the madman back to the mountain cave where he lived, but under Ling Chen's strong insistence, they brought the madman to the clinic instead. The village elders, feeling uneasy, instructed the young men to stand guard outside to prevent any unexpected incidents.

After the villagers left the clinic, Lin Han glanced at the unconscious madman and asked in confusion, "Ling Chen, why did you bring him here?"

"You'll understand when the time comes. By the way, ask the villagers to get some chains and tie up the madman's hands and feet."

"That's pointless; we've tried it before, you..."

Before Lin Han could finish, Ling Chen smiled confidently and said, "Trust me, I have a way to restrain him."

Hearing this, Lin Han, although puzzled, obediently went to carry out the instructions. Not long after, a villager came to the clinic with several iron chains, binding the madman's hands and feet to the foot of the bed. While the madman was still unconscious, Lin Han tended to Ling Chen's wounds.

Seeing the wound burst open on his chest, Lin Han frowned slightly and carefully cleaned the bloodstains around the wound for Ling Chen. After finishing, Lin Han bandaged the wound and gave Ling Chen two injections.

"Feeling any better?"

Ling Chen nodded and smiled, "Thank you!"

"No need to thank me; we should be the ones saying thanks. If it weren't for your help today, more people would have been injured." At this point, Lin Han looked at Ling Chen with curiosity and asked, "How did you manage to do that?"

Ling Chen understood Lin Han's curiosity and patted his firm arm, smiling, "I work out often, so I'm in better shape than most people." This explanation was easier for Lin Han to accept. He couldn't possibly tell Lin Han that he was an expert on the Earthly List. For ordinary people, 'Martial Arts' only existed hundreds of years ago; those skills of flying over rooftops and scaling walls are mere exaggerations from novels and movies, not real. If he told Lin Han the truth, she might think he was crazy.

"No...don't! Don't! Let him go...let him go!"

Suddenly, a heart-wrenching scream came from the ward. Hearing that scream, Ling Chen and Lin Han exchanged glances, their expressions changing instantly, and they hurriedly rushed to the next ward. As expected, the scream came from the madman. At this moment, the madman lay on the hospital bed, his body twitching slightly, cold sweat covering his forehead, and his lips devoid of any color.

Standing by the bedside, they could hear the muttering from his mouth.

Seeing the madman's pained expression, Ling Chen frowned slightly. From the madman's behavior, he was undoubtedly severely traumatized. Moreover, that scene kept replaying in his mind, haunting him like a nightmare. Because of this, the madman had such a strong reaction.

It seemed that only by helping the madman resolve this mental knot could he possibly be restored to his old self. As that thought flashed through his mind, the madman's thrashing grew more violent. Fortunately, the chains held him in place, preventing him from falling off the bed. Seeing that the madman was about to wake up, Ling Chen immediately asked Lin Han to prepare a set of silver needles for him.

Lin Han, not understanding the reason, still complied.

With the silver needles in hand, Ling Chen hesitated not for a moment, and in no time, more than twenty needles had been inserted into the madman's body. After finishing the acupuncture, Ling Chen took the tissue handed by Lin Han, wiped the sweat from his forehead, and gasped, "Alright, even if he goes mad, there won't be any danger."

"You... you know Chinese medicine?" Lin Han looked at Ling Chen, filled with surprise. Although she had been with Ling Chen during this time, she hadn't noticed anything particularly special about him. It wasn't until today that she realized Ling Chen was truly a hidden talent, seemingly knowledgeable about everything.

"I'm just an amateur, nowhere near you professionals." Ling Chen smiled.

"Are you sure he won't harm us?"

Ling Chen nodded confidently and said, "Don't worry, I'm quite sure of that." Earlier, he had used the silver needles to seal the madman's meridians, which were quite special; only martial arts practitioners knew their importance. Once these meridians were sealed, even the most skilled master would become powerless.

Of course, Ling Chen only dared to try this when the madman was unconscious. If it were against a conscious master, this method would be useless.

"Miss Lin, do you have any sedatives? Give him an injection." Ling Chen said, "Judging by his worn-out look, I guess he hasn't had a good rest in ages."

Lin Han responded and quickly went to get a syringe. After administering the injection, the medication quickly took effect, and the madman's breathing gradually became steady, his entire body relaxing. Seeing the madman fall into a deep sleep, Ling Chen turned to Lin Han and said, "Miss Lin, this is an opportunity. Help me conduct a thorough examination and see what issues there might be with his body."

Chapter 1240 - 1248: Subduing Dragons and Tigers

East Sea City.

Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun were sitting in the office of the Dragon Tiger Hall, discussing matters. At this moment, Tian Hanzhong hurriedly ran in and said urgently, "Hall Master, Deputy Hall Master, something's wrong, someone is challenging us outside."

"Challenging us?" Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun were taken aback. Who would be so audacious to come to Dragon Tiger Hall for a challenge? Isn't this seeking trouble deliberately? Although Dragon Tiger Hall is characterized as a new force in the Martial Arts world, it is publicized as a Martial Arts Academy, which is why challenges are drawn.

He Ziyun asked, "What kind of people are they?"

"There are five of them, all very young, but very strong. We sent a few people, and they were all knocked down. Hall Masters, you'd better go and take a look. I think they don't have good intentions."

Hearing this, Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun exchanged a glance and immediately walked out of the office. In a short while, the three of them arrived at the martial arts training ground, where dozens of students from Dragon Tiger Hall gathered. Opposite them stood five young men in their twenties, looking ordinary and inconspicuous.

"Hall Masters, it's those five." Tian Hanzhong pointed with indignation and said, "Those guys are too arrogant. After winning a few matches, they boast that Dragon Tiger Hall is full of useless trash and that we don't even have a decent opponent. They even said we should disband as soon as possible to avoid embarrassing ourselves."

"Mr. He." Tong Zhentian observed the five youths and asked, "Do you know them?"

"No." He Ziyun shook his head and said, "I've never seen them before." After a pause, He Ziyun seemed to think of something and asked, "Do you think they might be from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

"Among the younger generation of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the most formidable ones are in the Yangxin Pavilion. I often interact with their Master, and I've never seen these people, so they probably aren't. But..." Tong Zhentian's tone shifted: "The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is good at hiding their true intentions. These youths might have been secretly trained by them."

Finishing his sentence, Tong Zhentian gave Tian Hanzhong a few instructions. Tian Hanzhong's eyes lit up, and he immediately understood, quickly retreating.

Soon, Qin Genglong appeared on the martial arts training ground behind Tian Hanzhong. Looking at the five arrogant young men, Qin Genglong shouted with his booming voice, "Are you the ones who want to challenge us?"

One of the young men scrutinized Qin Genglong, chuckled disdainfully, and said with his head held high, "That's right, it's us. We heard that Dragon Tiger Hall is the most prestigious Martial Arts Academy recently, as famous as the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, so my brothers and I came to see how strong Dragon Tiger Hall truly is. Unfortunately, after the fight, we found out that Dragon Tiger Hall is just a façade, without any real substance. Besides some flashy moves, there's no difference between you and trash."

"Shut up." Qin Genglong shouted angrily, "Don't insult Dragon Tiger Hall."

"Did I say anything wrong?" The young man shrugged, completely ignoring Qin Genglong's warning, and said on his own, "I've heard that the Hall Master of Dragon Tiger Hall is Tong Zhentian, Elder Tong is a senior in the Martial Arts world. His strength and contributions are well-known. However, taking over as the Hall Master of Dragon Tiger Hall must be the most incorrect decision of his life. Elder Tong, whether

you're listening or not, I advise you to leave quickly, don't stay with these frauds, lest you ruin your reputation and find disgrace in your old age."

"And all of you..." The young man pointed at the people present and said, "Leave now, don't waste your time here. The people at Dragon Tiger Hall only know how to deceive money; they can't teach you real skills. If you want to learn martial arts, you can come to me. Look, I'm about the same age as you, but none of you are my match. What does this mean? It means Dragon Tiger Hall's standards are very low."

Saying this, the young man signaled to his companions on both sides. Immediately, the four young men walked into the crowd and started handing out business cards.

"Please remember, my name is Zhong Haojie. You're all welcome at the Martial Arts Academy I've just opened. As long as you enroll within a week, tuition is half price, and you can enjoy many other benefits that Dragon Tiger Hall absolutely can't provide."

Only at this point did everyone come to their senses. These guys weren't here just to challenge, but to poach and draw all the students away from Dragon Tiger Hall.

Understanding the true purpose of their opponents, Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun chuckled in disbelief. That young man named Zhong Haojie was quite clever, using derogation of Dragon Tiger Hall to elevate the reputation of his own martial arts academy.

At this moment, Tian Hanzhong quickly approached with a business card, passing it to Tong Zhentian with a strange expression.

Looking at the content on the business card, both Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun were stunned.

Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy?

Damn! Isn't this clearly aimed at Dragon Tiger Hall? Tong Zhentian expressed that he could understand Zhong Haojie's approach; in competition, some strategies are to be expected. However, naming his own academy like this was abnormal. Frankly, it was a provocation and an insult to Dragon Tiger Hall.

"Elder Tong, it seems this Zhong Haojie came prepared."

Tong Zhentian nodded, "I'm very curious about who is supporting him, daring to oppose us so openly."

"Who else could it be but the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. With Ling Chen in trouble now, the next step for Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is definitely Dragon Tiger Hall. However, Dragon Tiger Hall's reputation is well-established. Even Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion wouldn't openly attack us. Doing so would give them a bad reputation and affect their image in the Martial Arts world. In this situation, using a new identity to tackle Dragon Tiger Hall is undoubtedly a smart choice."

"I originally wanted to find an opportunity to show the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion a lesson, but now it seems they're more urgent than us, eager to erase Dragon Tiger Hall. Mr. He, how do you think we should handle this situation?"

"Since it's the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, we'll proceed accordingly. But for now, we can't act rashly until we find out more about that martial arts academy. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is surely placing experts to oversee the martial arts academy, and I'm very interested in who that person might be."

"Makes sense." Tong Zhentian glanced at Tian Hanzhong beside him and instructed, "Go investigate Zhong Haojie and that Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy."

"Yes, Hall Master." Tian Hanzhong paused and asked, "Um...Hall Master, what do you plan to do with these guys?"

"Tell Qin Genglong, there's no need to be polite. Throw them all out."