

The Beauty 1241

Chapter 1241 Chen Junfeng (1)

"Miss Lin, have the examination results come out?"

"Yes, they have. His body is not in serious trouble, just a bit malnourished. He can recover after a period of care." At this point, Lin Han looked at Ling Chen puzzledly and asked, "Why do you want to keep him at the clinic? In his condition, he won't accept treatment at all. If possible, I would have already treated him."

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "I know. However, I think I can persuade him to accept treatment."

"You?" Lin Han asked with half disbelief, "Are you sure?"

Ling Chen nodded, "Whether or not it works, I have to give it a try. It's getting late. You should go back first. Tomorrow, I'll see if I can talk to him."

After Lin Han returned home, Ling Chen stood by the bedside, looking at the sleeping Chen Junfeng, then turned back to his room.

The next day!

Early in the morning, Ling Chen heard movement from the adjacent ward. He immediately got up and quickly headed to the ward, only to see Chen Junfeng awake on the bed. At this moment, Chen Junfeng was vigorously swinging his arms, trying to break free from the chains' constraints. However, because Ling Chen had sealed his meridians with silver needles, he couldn't use his Inner Strength, and breaking the chains with mere physical power was impossible.

"Sir Chen." Ling Chen walked to the bedside and spoke.

Upon hearing Ling Chen's voice, Chen Junfeng immediately cast his gaze towards him and said coldly, "Who are you, and why are you holding me captive?"

"Sir Chen, there's no need to be nervous. I have no intention to harm you; binding you was merely a precaution." Ling Chen tried to soften his tone to avoid further agitating Chen Junfeng, "Sir Chen, I am Ling Chen; you may not know me, but we are both from the Martial Arts world."

"Martial Arts world?" Chen Junfeng regarded Ling Chen with a cold stare, his eyes carrying a sharp gleam, "Were you sent to harm me? Is that right? Hmph! I knew they wouldn't let me off easily. Years have passed, yet they still want me dead." At this point, Chen Junfeng bellowed at Ling Chen, "Come on, since I'm in your hands, kill me if you want, or cut me up, don't waste words."

Ling Chen said with a bitter smile, "Sir Chen, you misunderstood. I'm not here to kill you. Actually, like you, I'm also fallen on hard times here." Ling Chen paused and asked, "Sir Chen, do you remember the girl named Lin Han?"

"Lin Han..." Chen Junfeng thought for a moment and said, "Seems familiar, that little girl tried to treat me before, but I chased her away."

"I am her patient." Ling Chen pulled over a chair, placed it by the bed, and sat down, saying, "Sir Chen, you should be aware of your condition. As a Heavenly List martial artist, if you go berserk and lose your mind, it could easily hurt people in the village. I had no choice but to temporarily seal your meridians. Sir Chen, your situation is very dire. I think you should accept Miss Lin's suggestion and let her treat you so you can recover."

"I don't need treatment. I'm not sick." Chen Junfeng said coldly, "Release me quickly; I want to leave this cursed place."

Ling Chen shook his head, "Sir Chen, I'm sorry, but I can't let you leave. As long as you're not well, you remain a threat to the villagers of Xianghe Village. Think about it, the trouble you've caused them over the years, and yet they haven't driven you away. To be honest, the villagers aren't unkind to you. If one day you go mad and kill them all, how would you face yourself? Whether for your own sake or for the villagers of Xianghe Village, I think you should accept treatment."

At this point, without waiting for Chen Junfeng to speak, Ling Chen continued, "If I'm not mistaken, you must have a painful past that brought you significant mental strain, causing your mental instability symptoms. Don't you want to rid yourself of this pain?"

Upon hearing this, Chen Junfeng fell into silence, seemingly contemplating Ling Chen's words. After a while, Chen Junfeng's emotions seemed to settle, and he looked at Ling Chen and said, "You don't know what I've been through, so you have no right or qualification to persuade me. Besides, even if I want revenge, I don't have the capability. Only by replaying that day's events again and again in my mind can I engrave this hatred."

"Since you cannot achieve revenge, why remember that hatred forcibly? It only serves to increase your pain."

"Yes! You're right!" Chen Junfeng gritted his teeth and said, "I have to make myself feel pain; only pain is my best punishment."

Ling Chen felt somewhat helpless, unsure how to persuade him with such thoughts. Seeing the flames of hatred ignite in Chen Junfeng's eyes, Ling Chen's heart moved, and he asked, "Sir Chen, may I ask boldly, who is your enemy? With your strength, standing at the top, is there anyone you can't deal with?"

Chen Junfeng said self-mockingly, "Heavenly List martial artist or not, does being on the Heavenly List mean invincibility? Young man, there's always a higher sky, and always someone better, never think you're so amazing. As for my enemy, you don't need to know."

Ling Chen pondered for a while and spoke, "In the Martial Arts world, the strongest force likely to make even Heavenly List martial artists feel powerless would be the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion!" When Ling Chen uttered these three words, the flame in Chen Junfeng's eyes instantly intensified. Seeing his emotional change, Ling Chen immediately confirmed his suspicion. Unexpectedly, Chen Junfeng indeed held a grudge against Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, which was quite an unexpected discovery. Moreover, he learned from Lin Han that Chen Junfeng had returned to Xianghe Village over a decade ago, no wonder there were no news or rumors about him in the Martial Arts world.

"Sir Chen, to be honest, I have some disputes with Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion as well."

"You?" Chen Junfeng stared at Ling Chen coldly, his tone tinged with disbelief.

Ling Chen nodded and said, "You might not believe it, but I'm currently considered the number one threat to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Moreover, the reason I suffered serious injuries and ended up here in Xianghe Village was due to an assassination attempt by Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion." After speaking, Ling Chen lifted his shirt, revealing the bandages wrapped around his chest to Chen Junfeng.

Chen Junfeng studied Ling Chen's wound and said sternly, "Are you also a Heavenly List martial artist?"

"No, I'm not." Ling Chen shook his head and said, "My entanglement with Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is too complicated to be explained in a few words. Sir Chen, do you know Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's Qin Chuan?"

"I know him. Just an Earthly List martial artist, not worth my attention."

"That's what he was before; now Qin Chuan has already entered the ranks of Heavenly List martial artists. It was his pursuit that nearly cost me my life."

Chapter 1242 Chen Junfeng (Part 2)

Chen Junfeng appeared somewhat surprised as he carefully observed Ling Chen, saying, "There aren't many who can make the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion send Heavenly List masters after them. What exactly did you do?"

Ling Chen rubbed his nose, "Besides the personal vendettas, I think... the main reason might be that I threatened the position of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"Just you?" Chen Junfeng was incredulous, "You're not even a Heavenly List master. How could you threaten them?"

"I may not be able, but the force I've built has the capability. Sir Chen, this matter is a long story, not something that can be explained in a few words. If you're willing to listen, I can tell you slowly."

Chen Junfeng moved the chain on his wrist, coldly saying, "Do you think I have other choices?"

Ling Chen smiled awkwardly. After spending more than an hour, Ling Chen explained clearly the grudges between himself and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. "Sir Chen, now you should understand."

"I didn't expect your relationship with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to be so complicated." After hearing Ling Chen's account, much of the coldness in Chen Junfeng's eyes had dissipated.

"Sir Chen, if you don't mind, could you tell me your story?" Ling Chen asked tentatively.

"I have nothing to say." Mentioning himself, Chen Junfeng's expression immediately turned cold. Seeing this, Ling Chen was somewhat helpless. He had wanted to exchange sincerity for sincerity, but who knew Chen Junfeng had no intention of doing the same. Ling Chen felt he was at a disadvantage.

"Sir Chen, I won't force you if you don't want to talk, but I think, no matter the reason, you should treat your illness. As long as you're alive, there's a chance for revenge. To put it bluntly, everything you're doing now is avoiding the issue; only cowards do that. Sir Chen, are you willing to be a coward?"

"I'm not!" Chen Junfeng shouted.

"Then you should pull yourself together. Whether revenge is possible or not, you can't go on living muddleheaded like this. You need to..."

"Enough, shut up!" Not waiting for Ling Chen to finish, Chen Junfeng impatiently interrupted him, coldly saying, "Don't say anymore, I'm tired. Leave me alone; I want to be quiet for a while."

Ling Chen nodded, "Then have a good rest. If you need anything, just call me; I'm staying in the next-door ward." After speaking, Ling Chen turned and left.

In the blink of an eye, two days had passed.

The long-awaited rescue team finally arrived at Xianghe Village. Several large trucks and excavators cleared away the dirt blocking the road. After a few hours, all obstacles were removed and the road finally resumed its smooth flow.

Upon hearing that the road was open, Ling Chen didn't feel happy. If he wanted to leave, he could have done so long ago. He chose to stay in Xianghe Village because of Lin Han and her brother, and also

because of Chen Junfeng. Since learning of Chen Junfeng's identity, Ling Chen decided to stay, trying to persuade the Heavenly List master to join his faction. A Heavenly List master was reason enough for him to do this.

"Ling Chen, aren't you planning to follow the rescue team to Fulin Town?" Lin Han came to the clinic and asked, "I've already arranged with the rescue team; if you're willing, you can go with them by car."

"No need, thank you!"

Lin Han asked curiously, "Your injuries are no longer serious, aren't you planning to leave? Didn't you tell me last time that you were worried about your family being concerned for you?"

"Isn't it because I can't bear to part with you and your brother, so I wanted to stay a few more days. Miss Lin, you wouldn't be tired of me eating and using your stuff every day and want to kick me out, right?"

Lin Han's face blushed, and she quickly shook her head, "That's not what I meant, I just..."

Ling Chen smiled and continued, "Miss Lin, I was joking, no need to take it seriously." Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen said earnestly, "I just feel a connection with Sir Chen, hoping to persuade him to accept treatment."

"Do you really think there's hope?"

"It's all about effort; Sir Chen and I are kindred spirits, perhaps I can truly achieve it."

While speaking, Lin Chun appeared, running in from outside the clinic, addressing her sister, "Sis, we have guests at home again."

"Who? It wouldn't be Wang Yan and her boyfriend again, would it?"

"Besides those two, many others have come. Sis, those people are so annoying, barging into our home without my permission." Lin Chun said discontentedly.

Lin Han frowned slightly, "Let's go; I'll go with you to take a look."

"I'll accompany you." Ling Chen offered. The day at the village entrance, he'd overheard Wang Yan and Hao Dong's conversation; they hadn't come to Xianghe Village to catch up but under someone's orders. As for their purpose, Ling Chen didn't know. Regardless, with him accompanying Lin Han and her brother, he could at least ensure their safety.

Soon, the three returned to Lin Han's house. Before even entering, Ling Chen noticed several Ford SUVs parked on the road outside. Beside the cars stood more than twenty security personnel in suits. What a scene! Ling Chen thought to himself. It seemed this time the people who came to Xianghe Village had quite a background; otherwise, they wouldn't bring so many assistants.

Such a large display naturally drew the villagers of Xianghe Village. They gathered around, pointing and commenting, all speculating about the identity of the visitors.

"Little Lin." Before the three even approached the door, an elderly man with a cane came over, "No trouble, right?"

The visitor was the village head of Xianghe Village. Lin Han looked at the vehicles parked at the door and said, "Village head, it should be fine. I'll go inside and check first."

"Alright, let me know if there's any trouble; the villagers are here and none can bully you."

"I know, thank you, village head." With that, Lin Han walked straight to the front door. At this moment, the security personnel guarding the door reached out, blocking the three's path, scrutinizing them, he asked, "Who is Lin Han among you?"

"I am."

"You may go in; the others wait outside."

Upon hearing this, Lin Chun was immediately displeased, "This is my home; why can't I go in?"

Lin Han looked coldly at the person, "You heard him. Either you let us in together, or I leave now."

After a slight hesitation, the security personnel pressed his earpiece, speaking softly as if seeking instructions from above. Shortly after, he nodded and stepped aside, "You may go in."

Entering the house, Ling Chen immediately saw Wang Yan and Hao Dong standing quietly beside each other, silent. Next to them, there was a single sofa, where sat a person, or more precisely, a young man.

Chapter 1243 Li Wen

The young man wasn't very old, looking about twenty-seven or eight, with handsome features and wearing a crisp white suit, holding a cigar between two fingers of his right hand. However, the most attention-catching was the man's face. He had a red scar on his left cheek, and Ling Chen noticed that one of the man's ears was a prosthetic.

While Ling Chen was scrutinizing him, the young man was looking at Lin Han, his lips slightly curved with a faint smile.

"Miss Lin, we meet again. How long has it been? Do you remember? Hmph! You may have forgotten, but I remember clearly, and I think about you all the time, thinking about the day we would reunite."

After hearing the man's words, Ling Chen was curious, wondering what relationship this young man had with Lin Han. While pondering, Ling Chen noticed Lin Han standing there silently. At this moment, he turned his gaze to Lin Han beside him. Now, Lin Han's face was very pale, her lips devoid of color, her eyes full of fear.

She was very afraid of the young man in front of her! From Lin Han's expression, Ling Chen could feel her intense unease.

"What's wrong? Meeting an old friend, there's not even a greeting?" Seeing Lin Han remain silent, the young man continued.

Lin Han moved her lips, taking a while before speaking: "Li Wen, I... I'm already clear of you."

"Clear?" The young man named Li Wen sneered: "That was just the court's verdict, but as I see it, there are still many things between us that are unresolved." As he spoke, Li Wen pointed to the scar on his left cheek, then to his prosthetic ear. Finally, he pointed to his crotch.

"Miss Lin, do you know? I can accept everything else, but I can't accept losing that, do you know what it means to a man?" At this point, Li Wen's face became incredibly ferocious, his eyes filled with deep resentment and venom, "Originally, I wanted those two useless people to trick you into coming to Beijing so I could act. Unfortunately, they're incompetent; I had to come personally to find you. Miss Lin, you've destroyed my life, aren't you going to compensate me?"

Lin Han lightly bit her lip, speaking slowly: "That matter was your own responsibility, it has nothing to do with me, I... I was a victim too."

Hearing this, Li Wen suddenly stood up, angrily shouted: "The real victim is me! My life is ruined by your hands."

"If it weren't for your own indecent behavior, how could this have happened," Lin Han retorted, "In fact, it's all your own doing, you're the one who should be responsible for the consequences."

"Shut up!" Li Wen said coldly: "Do you know, I've been thinking all these years, when I find you, how I should exact revenge on you. After thinking for a long time, I finally came up with a good idea. I've frozen a batch of my sperm, since you made me lose my ability to reproduce, I'll use your body to help me breed descendants."

After speaking, Li Wen waved his hand, and the security personnel standing around the living room immediately stepped forward, preparing to control Lin Han.

Seeing their actions, Ling Chen immediately stepped forward, blocking Lin Han in front, stopping those security personnel.

"Everyone, let's talk it out, no need to resort to violence."

"Ling, this matter doesn't concern you, I advise you to leave quickly, don't ask for trouble," Wang Yan said coldly. "Mr. Li, this is the Ling Chen I told you about."

Li Wen glanced at Ling Chen, didn't say a word, just waved his hand, signaling his men to act directly. Seeing this, Ling Chen raised an eyebrow, moving proactively towards the incoming security personnel. In an instant, no one saw what happened clearly, but a cry of pain was heard, and a security personnel was already on the ground.

"Very good!" Li Wen sneered: "You want to play the hero and stand up for her, do you? Alright, let's see if you have the ability."

"Ling Chen, don't..." Lin Han hurriedly grabbed Ling Chen's arm, shook her head: "This matter doesn't concern you, you don't need to intervene, you..." Lin Han glanced at Lin Chun beside her, pleaded: "Please quickly take my brother and leave, I'm begging you."

Ling Chen smiled slightly: "Miss Lin, don't worry, they can't do anything to me. Besides, I owe you so much in medical fees, it's time to repay a little." After saying this, Ling Chen turned his head, looked at Li Wen and said: "I don't know what grudge you have with Miss Lin, but I believe in Miss Lin, she wouldn't harm someone for no reason. If she really did that, it could only mean you brought it upon yourself, don't blame others. Friend, let me advise you, while things aren't serious yet, take your people and leave, and don't disturb Miss Lin's life again."

"Haha!" Li Wen laughed so much he was furious: "This is the funniest joke I've heard. Ling Chen, do you think you alone can deal with so many people? Also, you may not know who I am, you better ask Miss Lin. I think she will tell you the consequences of offending me."

"Ling Chen..." Lin Han lightly tugged on Ling Chen's sleeve, whispered: He's from Beijing, his family is wealthy and powerful, not someone you can provoke. Initially, he wanted to assault me, and for self-defense, I reacted harshly. Later, I sought help from the police, according to the law, he should have been sentenced. But just because his family is rich and powerful, his imprisonment was turned into probation, he didn't even go to jail. I refused to go to Beijing, mainly out of fear of his revenge. I thought... I thought hiding at home would be ok, never imagined he would still find me."

At this point, Lin Han looked desperate: "If you do something, you should face the consequences, I'll accept it, just beg you to take good care of my brother. Can you?"

Ling Chen shook his head, "Sorry, I can't."

Hearing this, Lin Han's face turned even paler. "Miss Lin." Ling Chen patted Lin Han's hand back, smiled and said: "You're Lin Chun's sister, naturally you should take care of him, it's not for an outsider like me. Alright! Don't think too much, just a rich guy, I'll take care of this for you."

Ling Chen's voice was neither loud nor low, but everyone in the room could hear it clearly.

"Heh!" Wang Yan said disdainfully: "With your kind of quality, you still want to solve this for her? Ling, why don't you take a look at yourself, see what virtue you have. I'll tell you, don't act like a hero in front of us, you're not worthy. If Mr. Li wanted, he could kill you with just a finger."

Ling Chen turned a deaf ear to Wang Yan's sarcasm, brought over a chair by himself, sat in the center of the living room, smilingly said: "Li Wen, right, we're all civilized people, no need to resort to violence. Come, let's sit down and have a good chat."

Chapter 1244 The Miserable Li Wen (1)

"You?" Li Wen glanced at Ling Chen with a sideways glance, a hint of contempt in his eyes, not even interested in replying. Seeing Li Wen remain silent, Wang Yan sneered and said disdainfully, "Ling, what qualifications do you have to negotiate with Mr. Li? Hmph! People like you don't even qualify to be Mr. Li's dog."

Hao Dong chimed in, "Ling Chen, I advise you to leave quickly, this is not something you can control. If you provoke Mr. Li, you won't end well."

Ling Chen smiled faintly, not taking their words to heart. He looked at Li Wen, his expression half-smiling, "I know there are many wealthy people in Beijing, but in a place like Beijing, the least valuable are the wealthy. Mr. Li, here you might be someone important, but in Beijing, you're just a small figure."

"I'm a small figure?" Li Wen sneered, "Then what are you? If I'm a small figure, then you're just an ant I can crush with a pinch."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen's smile grew brighter, "Mr. Li, I haven't spent much time in Beijing, and I don't know many people. However, I think you should have heard of them."

"Are you trying to scare me? I'm telling you, there are many wealthy people in Beijing, but hardly any I would fear."

"What about Hong Wei... no, wait!" Ling Chen said with a smile, "Hong Wei is a thing of the past; his name doesn't hold weight anymore. Let me think... Do you know Ye Liangyong? Or... Zhou Qian and Ren Han? I only know these few, not sure if you've heard of them."

"You know Mr. Ye?" Li Wen's eyes suddenly became strange.

Ling Chen nodded, "Mr. Ye is my elder, of course I know him. It seems Mr. Li knows him too. Look, we're all acquaintances here, no need to make things too tense, don't you think?"

"Don't try to connect with me." Li Wen said coldly, "Even if we both know Ye Liangyong, so what? I'm telling you, I've set my sights on this woman; if anyone dares to stop me, I won't show mercy."

"So there's no room for negotiation?" Ling Chen shook his head helplessly, standing up, "Mr. Li, to be honest, I'm giving you a chance, but alas..." Ling Chen sighed slightly, "If you continue to be obstinate, I can't help it."

Hearing this, Li Wen snorted and said disdainfully, "You're giving me a chance?"

Ling Chen said seriously, "That's right. I said you're a small figure, but you won't admit it. If you truly had status, you wouldn't possibly not know me. Hong Wei is gone; now Beijing is my turf."

"You?" Li Wen was slightly stunned, then couldn't help but laugh, "I've never seen someone so shameless, really boasting beyond belief."

Ling Chen shrugged, "If you don't believe me, there's nothing I can do. In short, you can't touch Miss Lin; she saved my life, and I have to ensure her safety."

"Fine, let's see if you have the capability." With that, Li Wen waved his hand, and several security personnel in the living room immediately moved in on Ling Chen.

Ling Chen felt a bit helpless. He initially wanted to persuade the other party, so Li Wen would back down on his own, but who knew after all the words exchanged, it would still come to this. If he knew, he wouldn't have wasted his breath.

"Stop!" Just as Ling Chen was about to make a move, a voice suddenly came from outside the door.

Everyone turned their heads and saw a middle-aged man in a suit stride in. Upon seeing him, the security personnel immediately halted.

"Captain!"

Li Wen looked displeased at the newcomer and asked, "Captain Xu, what are you doing here?"

The newcomer didn't pay attention to Li Wen, instead observing Ling Chen and asking seriously, "Are you Mr. Ling Chen?"

"That's me." Ling Chen nodded, looking at him curiously, having no impression of him.

"Who are you?"

"I'm Xu Hongming." The middle-aged man stood straight in front of Ling Chen, "I'm a member of Falcon Private Security Company, managing the eleventh team."

Ling Chen's eyes lit up, and he said with a smile, "So you're with Falcon. But how do you know me?"

Xu Hongming replied aloud, "Recently, Manager Jiang gathered everyone in the Beijing Suburb to search for Mr. Ling's whereabouts. I was part of that action."

"I see. Since we're all on the same side then..."

"Mr. Ling, feel free to instruct. I guarantee the task will be completed." Xu Hongming's voice was loud, even with a hint of excitement. Recently joining Falcon as a retired soldier, he was well aware of Ling Chen's identity. Although Falcon Private Security Company was managed by Jiang Yunkai, the top of the company's list bore Ling Chen's name, indicating Ling Chen as the true boss of Falcon Company.

Helping Ling Chen this time and finding him can be considered a significant achievement. Once reported to the leadership, a generous reward would surely follow.

"Captain Xu, as you can see, someone here is trying to bully me." Ling Chen said blandly.

Xu Hongming paused, immediately understanding Ling Chen's meaning, stood straighter and said, "Please rest assured, Mr. Ling." With that, Xu Hongming gave a signal to his subordinates.

Upon understanding, they quickly surrounded Li Wen, Wang Yan, and Hao Dong.

Facing this sudden change, Li Wen and the others were all stunned. They never expected things to turn out this way. "You... you..." Looking at these security personnel with keen eyes, Li Wen opened his mouth and said, "What do you intend to do? Don't forget, you are hired with my money."

Xu Hongming said calmly, "Mr. Li, you are indeed our employer. However, our agreement is clear. If company interests are harmed, we have the right to refuse your orders. Mr. Ling is the chairman of Falcon Security Company, our superior. Do you think we can execute this order?"

"What?" Li Wen and the others' faces changed instantly, looking at Ling Chen with shock. Could what he said be true, not just arrogant boasting?

Thinking of this, Li Wen shivered, involuntarily feeling a chill.

Falcon Private Security Company is a recently opened company. Although it's new, people in Beijing know what Falcon Company represents. Therefore, to curry favor with the people behind Falcon Company, everyone is scrambling to hire Falcon Company's security personnel and establish cooperative relationships.

Li Wen hired people from Falcon Company with this idea in mind, besides the fact that Falcon Company's security personnel are indeed excellent, with high proficiency. However, he never expected that the person he was just talking about dealing with turned out to be the chairman of Falcon Company.

Chapter 1245 - 1253: The Miserable Li Wen (2)

Li Wen felt on the verge of tears, this isn't fair play.

"Mr. Li, remember this, Miss Lin is someone I have to protect. From now on, no matter what, if anything happens to her, even if she loses a single hair, I will hold you accountable. So you'd better pray that Miss Lin lives a long life and doesn't encounter any accidents. Do you understand?"

Ling Chen's words echoed in his ears, and Li Wen didn't dare to utter even a single "no."

"Ling... Mr. Ling... I dare not anymore, it's my fault for not recognizing the greatness in front of me, please forgive me. I... I promise, I won't bother Miss Lin again."

"That's best for you. Alright, get lost now, don't annoy me here." Ling Chen waved him off, and Li Wen, feeling relieved, didn't dare to say another word and slunk away.

Seeing Li Wen leave, Wang Yan and Hao Dong dared not stay behind and hurriedly followed him out the door.

"You two... stop right there!" At this moment, Ling Chen's voice sounded, and the two security guards at the door immediately blocked the exit with their bodies, keeping Wang Yan and Hao Dong inside the room.

Wang Yan was startled, turned around slowly, and said in a tearful voice, "Ling Chen... no, Mr. Ling, we're blind, we offended you, we beg... we beg you, please forgive us and let us go."

Ling Chen said calmly, "Don't worry, I wasn't planning to do anything to you. You're not worth it for me to make a move." Pausing, Ling Chen looked at Hao Dong and said, "Actually, you have a good heart, much better than hers. Truth be told, a woman like her doesn't deserve you at all. If I were you, I would have dumped her long ago."

Hao Dong, with his head lowered, said, "Yes, I... I understand."

"Alright, you two can leave now, and don't disturb Miss Lin's life anymore, especially you..." Ling Chen pointed at Wang Yan, "Don't let me see you again, get out!"

Wang Yan shivered, and without another word, hurriedly left the room.

"Miss Lin." After they all left, Ling Chen turned his gaze to Lin Han. Since the appearance of Xu Hongming, Lin Han had been in a stunned state, what happened before her had left her amazed. She knew well who Li Wen was, to her, Li Wen was someone she could never reach.

But such a person was cowering before Ling Chen, not fighting back, nor talking back. She always thought Ling Chen was just an ordinary person, until now she realized Ling Chen was someone important, someone even Li Wen feared.

"Ling... Ling Chen!" Lin Han opened her mouth, unsure of how to communicate with Ling Chen for a moment.

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "Miss Lin, there's no need to be so restrained, I'm still the Ling Chen you know."

"Big brother, you're amazing." Lin Chun, beside her, was very excited.

Ling Chen gently patted his little head, smiling as he said, "You're the little man of the Lin family, in the future, your sister will rely on you to protect her."

Lin Chun clenched his small fist and nodded, "I certainly will."

"Mr. Ling." Xu Hongming came over and said, "Manager Jiang is very worried about your safety, would you like to come back with us?"

Ling Chen thought for a moment, then shook his head, "I won't go back for now, there are still some things I need to deal with. How about this, you convey to Kai that I'm fine now, tell him not to worry."

"Understood, I will." After speaking, Xu Hongming pointed out a few security guards and instructed, "From now on, your duty is to ensure Mr. Ling's safety, got it?"

"Understood!"

Ling Chen intended to refuse, but then he thought his body hadn't fully recovered, so having someone by his side was a good thing.

Once everything was arranged, Xu Hongming left with his convoy. Before leaving, he specially left an off-road vehicle for Ling Chen as a means of transportation.

"Ling Chen, your injuries aren't that serious anymore, why not go back with them?" Lin Han asked, puzzled.

"What, don't you want me to stay another day?" Ling Chen teased with a smile. Lin Han's face turned slightly red, and before she could speak, Ling Chen said, "I'm staying to further persuade Sir Chen to see if it's possible to convince him."

Chen Junfeng is a master, Ling Chen really hoped to persuade him to help and join his camp. Although the first conversation didn't go very well, Ling Chen still wanted to give it another try.

...

East Sea City.

The Dragon Tiger Hall hasn't been doing well these days. Ever since that Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy opened, Dragon Tiger Hall has faced a certain impact. Originally, Dragon Tiger Hall had many clients, but since the opening of the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy, whether openly or secretly, they have used all sorts of methods to seize clients, deliberately create trouble, and cause problems for Dragon Tiger Hall.

In a word, there hasn't been a peaceful day for Dragon Tiger Hall.

As the Martial Arts Hall Master, Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun were very troubled. They had thought about retaliation, but compared to playing tricks, the two of them indeed were no match for the other party. Moreover, the other party was well-prepared, and whenever Dragon Tiger Hall took action, they would choose to withdraw immediately, all hiding within the Martial Arts Academy.

In such a situation, Dragon Tiger Hall couldn't just forcefully attack the other academy. In doing so, outsiders might think Dragon Tiger Hall was big and bullying others, not giving other academies a chance to survive.

Considering Dragon Tiger Hall's reputation, Tong Zhentian dared not be careless.

"Martial Arts Hall Master," Tian Hanzhong came to the office, looking at Tong Zhentian who was chatting with He Ziyun, and said, "We just received news, those bastards attacked our trainees again."

Upon hearing this, He Ziyun slapped the table and shouted angrily, "Those people are becoming more and more reckless and out of line."

Tong Zhentian frowned and said in a deep voice, "Tell me, what happened exactly."

"Our trainees were out shopping, and on the way back they happened to encounter people from the Martial Arts Academy. They were verbally provoked, and our trainees, being young and hot-blooded, couldn't stand such insults, so a conflict broke out."

"They must have planned it," He Ziyun said.

"This kind of thing has happened more than once, why can't everyone learn from it?" Tong Zhentian said, "Spread the word, from today on, no one is allowed to go out without permission."

Upon hearing this, a trace of difficulty appeared on Tian Hanzhong's face.

Seeing Tian Hanzhong standing there motionless, He Ziyun asked, "What's wrong? Why are you still standing here, didn't you hear what Elder Tong said clearly?"

"N-no, it's just... just..." Tian Hanzhong opened his mouth, hesitated, with a look of wanting to say something but holding back.

He Ziyun naturally saw through Tian Hanzhong's thoughts and said, "Whatever you have to say, just say it directly, don't stutter. We're not going to eat you."

Chapter 1246 - 1254: Martial Arts Academy Showdown

"Yes." Tian Hanzhong composed his words, mustered up the courage and said, "Both Hall Masters, recently the students in the hall have been secretly discussing and feel that we are too cowardly, being bullied to this extent and still remaining indifferent. It makes everyone uncomfortable. If... if we keep them confined in the hall and not allow them out, it might greatly affect their morale."

"Are they thinking we have been too weak?" He Ziyun chimed in.

Tian Hanzhong nodded and said, "Deputy Hall Master, some are already considering leaving Dragon Tiger Hall to join Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy. If we keep retreating, it will only make the students lose confidence in us. I think we need to take measures to restore their confidence in us."

Tong Zhentian pondered for a moment, nodded slightly, and said, "You have a point. However, the situation we are facing now is very complex. To be honest with you, those people are obviously targeting us. They won't stop until Dragon Tiger Hall closes. Otherwise, no matter what we do, they won't give up unless we kill them all."

"Then... what should we do? We can't just let ourselves be bullied."

He Ziyun thought for a while and said, "How about this? If anyone wants to go out, remember to have Qin Genglong and the others accompany them. With experts protecting your safety, those from the Martial Arts Academy won't dare to act recklessly."

"Yes, I understand. If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave now." After saying this, Tian Hanzhong clasped his fists, turned around, and walked towards the office exit. Just as he reached the door, a

young man hurriedly ran over and urgently said, "Hall Master, bad news, people from the Martial Arts Academy have come looking for trouble."

"What?" Tong Zhentian's face turned angry as he suddenly stood up and said, "These scoundrels are truly fearless, daring to come to Dragon Tiger Hall to cause trouble. Come, let's go meet them. I want to see how capable they are."

Not long after, the group arrived at Dragon Tiger Hall's martial arts arena.

At that moment, in the martial arts arena, the students were gathered together, watching the people from the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy.

The people from the Martial Arts Academy were not many, only three or four, one of whom was slightly older, probably over forty, standing in front of everyone, presumably the person in charge.

Seeing Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun approaching, the middle-aged man smiled and clasped his fists, "Elder Tong, Mr. He, my name is Huangzekai. It is my honor to meet two martial arts elders."

He Ziyun said lightly, "Let's skip such courteous words. Why have you come?"

"I'm here today on behalf of our Martial Arts Academy to challenge a match," Huangzekai said. "In recent days, our two martial arts academies have had many conflicts, causing a stir outside. People are eager to see which of our academies has better teaching quality and faculty. After much thought, since we are both running martial arts academies, why not hold a competition to spar against each other? I think this is the best way to demonstrate our strengths. Elder Tong, you are the Hall Master of Dragon Tiger Hall. What do you think of my suggestion?"

"Sorry, I'm not interested in a martial arts match." Tong Zhentian directly rejected the other party's proposal.

"Not interested?" Huangzekai said with a fake smile, "Is it disinterest or fear? Elder Tong, in front of so many students, you need to make yourself clear."

Tong Zhentian's face turned cold, just as he was about to speak, Huangzekai said, "Elder Tong, don't blame me for being blunt. Dragon Tiger Hall is a martial arts academy, yet it doesn't even have the courage for a martial arts match. The students it produces are surely cowards. Everyone..." Huangzekai glanced at the students present and said, "If I were you, I'd leave early, instead of wasting time and energy here. A Hall Master who lacks courage, what do you think he can teach you?"

Hearing this, the expressions of Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun changed slightly. They knew their opponent was using a provocation tactic. Such methods didn't work on them. However, Huangzekai's words caused a change in the students' perceptions, which was Huangzekai's true intention.

Seeing the students murmuring, Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun exchanged glances, and their expressions were not pleasant.

It had to be admitted, Huangzekai's tactic was clever, capturing the students' minds. If Tong Zhentian refused the challenge, and in light of recent events, Dragon Tiger Hall was bound to gain a reputation for cowardice. Once that reputation spread, the influence and reputation of Dragon Tiger Hall would be greatly diminished.

Also, those students would likely choose to leave Dragon Tiger Hall. After all, no one would want to follow a group of cowardly masters.

"Elder Tong." He Ziyun sighed softly and said, "I'm afraid you have no choice but to accept."

Tong Zhentian nodded, he understood the consequences of this matter. Aside from agreeing, he had no other choice unless he disregarded the reputation of Dragon Tiger Hall.

"Fine, you set the time, we'll set the venue."

"Haha!" Huangzekai laughed loudly, nodding, "Finally, Elder Tong shows some courage. Alright, then it's a deal. With so many witnesses, I trust you won't go back on your word, Elder Tong."

After finishing speaking, Huangzekai waved his hand and left Dragon Tiger Hall with a few followers.

Back in the office, He Ziyun frowned slightly and said, "Elder Tong, the other side suddenly proposing a match is undoubtedly well-prepared, we must be careful."

"I know, that's why I told him that Dragon Tiger Hall will choose the venue. This way, we don't have to worry about them tampering with the site. However, we still can't let our guard down. Mr. He, inform everyone to be vigilant, to prevent those people from launching a sneak attack." Although Dragon Tiger Hall's overall strength was not weak, Tong Zhentian was still a bit worried, who knows what tactics those people would use.

"Don't worry, I will brief them." He Ziyun nodded.

As they spoke, Hu Fei came in briskly from outside, full of excitement, and said eagerly, "Two Hall Masters, I've just received great news."

Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun exchanged looks and asked, "What good news?"

"They found Ling Chen."

Upon hearing this, He Ziyun's eyes dimmed, "It's just finding a corpse, what's there to be happy about."

"No, no." Hu Fei hurriedly said, "It's not a corpse, it's a living person. Haha! I knew that guy Ling Chen was blessed and wouldn't die so easily."

"You mean it?" The spirits of the two elders lifted.

Hu Fei nodded and said, "Of course it's true, I just talked to Kai on the phone, I wouldn't deceive you." Pausing, Hu Fei continued, "Kai has already gone to pick up Ling Chen himself, he should be back shortly."

Chapter 1247 - 1255: Heavenly List Versus Heavenly List (1)

"Good, good, good!" Tong Zhentian said the word 'good' three times in a row, expressing his inner excitement.

For a long time, everyone thought Ling Chen had encountered misfortune and was deeply grieved. Now, learning that Ling Chen is alive, their mood naturally lifts. "Hu Fei, remember to notify us as soon as Ling Chen returns."

"Understood." Hu Fei nodded, saying, "Masters, I need to tell Elder Qiu this news, so I'll take my leave."

"Elder Tong, this is good news. Since Ling Chen is alright, we can rest assured about the upcoming martial arts competition," He Ziyun said with a smile. Although Tong Zhentian is the hall master of Dragon Tiger Hall, everyone knows in their hearts that Ling Chen is the backbone of the Dragon Tiger Hall. The reason is simple, whether it's Hu Fei, the eight eccentrics, He Ziyun, or Tong Zhentian, they are all gathered together because of Ling Chen.

If Ling Chen were to die, the bond connecting them would slowly disappear. It might be that in a few months or years, everyone would gradually leave and live their own lives independently.

"We need to quickly inform Ling Chen about this matter and see what he thinks," Tong Zhentian said.

"I'll notify Hu Fei to make sure Ling Chen knows about this as soon as possible."

After finishing up with the Dragon Tiger Hall business, noticing that the sky was gradually darkening, He Ziyun went home first. Although everyone works at Dragon Tiger Hall, only students, martial artists, and some masters originally belonging to the hall reside there.

"Elder Tong, should I drive you home?" Tian Hanzhong met Tong Zhentian at the door and asked.

"No need, I live nearby, it's not far by foot. You go get busy," Tong Zhentian said. Tong Zhentian still holds Tian Hanzhong in high regard. Although his aptitude is so-so, he is incredibly responsible in his work; it is because of this that Tong Zhentian entrusts him with the important role of managing the students.

Walking on the way home, Tong Zhentian's pace is slow, neither hurried nor sluggish. By this time, the sky had completely darkened, and the street lamps emitted a dim, yellowish glow.

The place where Tong Zhentian resides is about three kilometers away from Dragon Tiger Hall. The Tong Family is considered affluent, owning several properties in East Sea City. Moreover, Tong Zhentian doesn't like living elsewhere; accustomed to his own home, he arranges all his properties in the same layout. Thus, no matter where he resides, it feels just like home.

Looking at his residence not far away, Tong Zhentian quickened his pace. But after walking a short distance, he suddenly stopped and stood quietly in place, motionless. If one were to pay close attention, they would notice his ears slightly trembling, listening to the surroundings.

"Come out." After a while, Tong Zhentian slowly raised his head, speaking as if talking to himself, "I know you're here."

As his words fell, a person appeared from the greenery beside him, standing behind Tong Zhentian.

Feeling the presence of the other person, Tong Zhentian turned his head, scrutinizing them. The person before him was dressed in black, with a face veil obscuring their features, but the wrinkles on their forehead and physique suggested that the person's age should be quite advanced.

"Are you from the Martial Arts Academy?" Tong Zhentian asked.

The other remained silent, as if not hearing Tong Zhentian's question. Suddenly, it seemed as if the surrounding trees were swept by a breeze, with the leaves rustling.

Tong Zhentian's eyes narrowed, lightly tapping his foot, instantly retreating over ten meters. Upon looking at his previous position, the ground was deeply caved in. Witnessing this, a hint of astonishment flashed in Tong Zhentian's eyes.

Heavenly List expert!

From the move just executed by the other, their strength is incredibly formidable. Even as a martial arts legend, Tong Zhentian felt a slight pressure at that moment.

"Who exactly are you?" Tong Zhentian continued to ask. The other's power was so terrifying, they were definitely not a nameless figure. Searching his mind for someone who fit these conditions, he could only think of one or two individuals. Could the person before him be one of them?

As he pondered swiftly, the opponent gave no opportunity for Tong Zhentian to catch his breath, their body tilted forward, speed unravelling instantly, fierce fist power roaring as it sliced through the air, ferociously heading straight for Tong Zhentian's forehead.

Seeing the opponent rapidly approaching, Tong Zhentian grabbed a large handful, causing the nearby trees to emit a faint sound. Following this, dozens of leaves fell, landing into Tong Zhentian's hands. With the leaves in hand, Tong Zhentian stepped back while simultaneously flicking his wrists. In an instant, the dozens of leaves shot out as if sharp blades, slicing through the air.

Seeing this, the assailing figure in black twisted their waist, forcibly pulling their body upward, leaping above the leaves. Although the leaves blocked their path, their assault was not stopped, continually pressing towards Tong Zhentian. In the blink of an eye, the two were within a meter of each other.

As the steel fist approached, Tong Zhentian did not continue retreating. He took a deep breath, Inner Strength instantly gathering, raising his palms slightly, meeting the opponent's fist.

Bam!

As fist and palm collided, a strong wave of energy burst forth immediately, spreading to the surroundings, the corners of their clothes lifted by the force, swirling without wind.

Feeling the other's formidable Inner Strength, Tong Zhentian's brows furrowed slightly, his entire body's Power continuously channeled to his palms, resisting the other's fierce strength.

After tens of seconds of stalemate, sweat appeared on both Tong Zhentian's and the black-clad figure's forehead, their breath becoming rapid.

The Inner Strength contest is an extremely dangerous confrontation, lightweight injuries at best, life-threatening at worst. As time passed, the duel between Tong Zhentian and the black-clad figure reached

its final stages. The black-clad figure's face veil made his condition untraceable, but Tong Zhentian's complexion appeared somewhat pale, his arms slightly trembling, evidently reaching exhaustion.

"Why...why are you doing this?" Suddenly, Tong Zhentian stared straight into the other's eyes, speaking word by word.

Upon hearing Tong Zhentian's words, the black-clad figure's eyebrows slightly twitched, remaining silent, merely stepping forward once more, pressuring Tong Zhentian.

As the other's Inner Strength surged, Tong Zhentian felt his body weaken completely, his own power being gradually worn down. If this continued, his life would be at risk sooner or later.

"Do you really want to do this?" Seeing the other not speaking, Tong Zhentian took another deep breath, asking, "You should be aware of my character; if truly pushed, we might as well die together."

The black-clad figure remained silent, seemingly unmoved by Tong Zhentian's words. However, at this moment, a strong sense of crisis suddenly arose in Tong Zhentian's heart. Almost instinctively, Tong Zhentian rapidly turned his head, looking behind him. Instantly, he saw a figure rushing out from the greenery beside him, heading straight for his back.

Chapter 1248 - 1256: Heavenly List vs. Heavenly List (2)

At the critical moment, Tong Zhentian didn't have time to think. He quickly retracted his palms, tapped his toes on the ground, and swiftly shifted to the left. He was fast, but his opponent was not slow either. With a 'swish' sound, a blood-red wound appeared on Tong Zhentian's arm, and blood started to flow down, dripping onto the ground.

Right now, Tong Zhentian didn't care about the injury on his arm; his eyes were fixed on the black-clad assailant who had ambushed him.

Two black-clad men, two Heavenly List experts!

"You really hold me in high regard." Tong Zhentian sneered weakly and said, "It seems... you want me to leave my life here today."

"Attack!" With a light shout, two black-clad men attacked simultaneously from left and right, quickly closing in on Tong Zhentian.

Seeing them approaching, Tong Zhentian shouted fiercely, and his entire aura suddenly surged. His eyes turned blood-red, looking extremely fierce. Instead of retreating, Tong Zhentian advanced against the attacks of the two men, his gaze locked onto one of them.

If today is the day he dies, he would take one of them with him.

Seeing Tong Zhentian's frantic rush toward his companion, the black-clad man who had just competed in Inner Strength with Tong Zhentian hesitated and then shouted in a low voice, "Retreat!" As soon as he finished speaking, the man stepped forward to block Tong Zhentian's assault. Taking advantage of the moment, the other man sped up and quickly vanished into the nearby greenery.

After his companion escaped smoothly, the black-clad man did not continue to tangle with Tong Zhentian. With a single move, he forced him back and then leaped into the forest. By the time Tong Zhentian gave chase, the two men had long since disappeared without a trace.

Biting his teeth, Tong Zhentian unwillingly searched for a while longer, but they had already fled far away. At this point, Tong Zhentian's vision blurred, his body swaying as if he might fall at any moment. Fortunately, there was an alley nearby, and Tong Zhentian staggered to the street, supporting himself against the wall. Then, he took out his phone to call He Ziyun.

However, before the call connected, Tong Zhentian felt a sudden blackout and fell to the ground.

"Why didn't you kill him?"

Inside a Mercedes driving down the road sat the two black-clad men. It was the one in the passenger seat who asked.

"Kill him? Do you think it's that easy?"

"He's already injured. If we join forces, he can't possibly be a match for us."

"You're right; he's indeed not our match, but the price would be steep for us too. You must remember, if he were so easily dealt with, he wouldn't be Tong Zhentian, who is on par with me. Earlier, if I hadn't told you to leave, you might have been dead now. Sacrificing a Heavenly List expert's life to kill him is too high a price. Besides, we've forced out his ultimate move. From what I know of him, once he unleashes that move, it's as if he's lost half his life. So, he won't pose a threat to us for a few months, and we'll have enough time to slowly dismantle the Dragon Tiger Hall.

"Yes, I understand."

"You did a good job on that matter."

"Which matter?"

"Ling Chen. I know you killed him. I was hesitating whether to deal with him harshly. Forget it! He's dead now anyway, not much point in mentioning him."

...

Xianghe Village.

A Land Rover SUV slowly drove to the village entrance. As the car stopped, someone jumped out and quickly walked toward a house.

"Chen! Chen!" Before even entering the door, the person was already shouting.

Ling Chen opened the door and smiled when he saw the visitor, "Didn't I tell Xu Hongming to let you know that I'm fine? There's no need to come all this way to see me."

Jiang Yunkai said excitedly, "I couldn't trust his words. I had to see you in person." Saying that, Jiang Yunkai looked Ling Chen over carefully and asked with concern, "Chen, are you really alright? I brought some doctors from Beijing; do you want them to check you out?"

Ling Chen waved his hand and said, "There's no need for that. With Miss Lin taking care of me, it's enough. Don't just stand outside; come in and sit. I'll introduce you to my saviors."

Inside, Ling Chen called Lin Han and Lin Chun out from the room and introduced them.

"Miss Lin, thank you!" Jiang Yunkai held Lin Han's hand gratefully and said, "You saved Chen, which means you saved all of us."

Lin Han was slightly embarrassed by Jiang Yunkai's enthusiasm, her face slightly red, "I only did my duty as a doctor."

"Alright then!" Ling Chen said with a smile, "Kai, don't just hold her hand; people might get the wrong idea that you're taking advantage of her."

Hearing this, Jiang Yunkai quickly let go of his hands and laughed, "I got a bit too excited, Miss Lin, don't take it the wrong way."

"It's nothing. Ling Chen, you all sit; I'll go cut some fruits." After speaking, Lin Han went to the kitchen with Lin Chun, leaving the living room to Ling Chen and Jiang Yunkai.

"Kai, everything's been fine while I've been away?"

Jiang Yunkai nodded and said, "It's been alright, nothing much happened. But we didn't dare make your disappearance public. After all, your presence is significant; if people knew something happened to you, we'd be in big trouble."

"As long as there are no issues."

"Chen, your injury is no longer serious; aren't you planning to go back? Everyone's waiting for you, and there's a lot you need to handle back there."

"No rush. I have some personal matters to attend to."

"Personal matters?" Upon hearing this, Jiang Yunkai's eyes shifted, looking toward the kitchen with a teasing glance, "Chen, you're not... "

"Get out of here." Ling Chen said irritably, "I'm not as dirty-minded as you think. She's my savior; I have no such thoughts on her." Pausing, Ling Chen continued, "Don't worry about it. I won't be going back for a while yet. Just leave me a satellite phone; you can reach me if anything comes up."

"Okay." Jiang Yunkai nodded, about to reply when the ringtone from his pocket went off. He knew there was no signal in Xianghe Village, so he had prepared a satellite phone for communication before leaving.

When the call was connected, whatever was said on the other end made Jiang Yunkai's face turn grim.

After hanging up, Ling Chen asked, "What's happened?"

"Chen, something big has happened. Hu Fei just told me that Elder Tong had an accident and was just saved from the hospital. Although his life is not in danger, Elder Tong's condition is very serious."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen's expression changed, and he said solemnly, "How did this happen?"

Chapter 1249 - 1257: The Disappearance of Sir Chen

At that moment, Jiang Yunkai described the conflict between the Dragon Tiger Hall and the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy.

"Is there such a thing?" Ling Chen frowned and asked, "What's the background of that Martial Arts Academy?"

"Chen, do we still need to ask this question? I think you know best."

Ling Chen's heart sank, and he slowly uttered a few words, "Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion!"

"That's right, it's them." Jiang Yunkai nodded and said, "Hu Fei just told me that with Elder Tong's strength, whoever hurt him must be a Heavenly List expert, and there was more than one of them. In the whole world, who else but the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has such power. Chen, the people from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion came prepared. Just after the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy agreed to a duel with the Dragon Tiger Hall, Elder Tong was attacked. As the Martial Arts Hall Master, without Elder Tong holding the hall, we are in a grim situation for this duel."

"Don't worry, isn't there still Ji Gang? He can also be useful at a critical moment."

"Chen, Ji Gang can't compare to Elder Tong. Now that Elder Tong is in trouble, we need someone who can hold the position even more. Chen, I think you should return immediately."

Ling Chen pondered for a moment and said, "No, the more it is like this, the less I can leave. Kai, the matters in Beijing can wait for now. You quickly head back to East Sea City and help Hu Fei stabilize the situation there. I will hurry back before the duel starts."

Seeing Ling Chen's determination, Jiang Yunkai said no more, "Chen, take care of yourself. I'll head back to East Sea City tonight."

"Alright. By the way, don't reveal my situation for the time being to prevent the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion from being cautious. To them, I'm already a dead man."

"I understand."

After seeing Jiang Yunkai off, Ling Chen stood alone in the courtyard, gazing at the crescent moon overhead, and let out a gentle sigh.

At last, the people from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion made their move. It seems that the struggle between him and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is inevitable. With that thought, Ling Chen didn't return to his room but went to the clinic instead.

Pushing the door open, Ling Chen walked into the ward, only to see Chen Junfeng lying in bed, staring blankly at the ceiling. Upon hearing footsteps at the door, Chen Junfeng slightly turned his head, glanced at Ling Chen, and then turned his gaze back out the window.

Ling Chen smiled wryly and walked over to the bedside, saying, "Sir Chen, have you been feeling better these past few days?"

"I've said before, you don't need to persuade me. My decision won't change," Chen Junfeng said coldly.

"Rest assured, I'm not here to persuade you, just to have a chat." Ling Chen sat by the bed and said, "You must know Tong Zhentian."

"I met him once." Here, Chen Junfeng hesitated for a moment before continuing, "He's a good man."

"I just received news, Elder Tong was attacked by a Heavenly List expert in an ambush, and it was only after treatment that he was out of danger."

Hearing this, Chen Junfeng turned his head to look at Ling Chen and said, "Tong Zhentian's strength ranks in the top five of the Heavenly List. Who could possibly hurt him?"

"Sir Chen, how many do you think could do it? I think you can guess without me telling you."

Chen Junfeng's eyes narrowed, "Are you saying... I understand. It seems the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is ready to wrap things up."

"That's right. Their first step was Elder Tong, and the second will be Dragon Tiger Hall. Once Dragon Tiger Hall is dismantled, there will be no forces in the Martial Arts world that threaten the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. By then, the dominion of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will remain unchanged, and the entire Martial Arts world will still be their playground. Sir Chen, as someone from the Martial Arts world, what do you think of this?"

"Throughout history, unity comes after long divisions, and division follows long unity. No emperor can rule forever, and the same goes for the Martial Arts world. If the status of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion remains unchanged, it only shows that its time is not up. Wait! Perhaps in decades, or maybe a hundred years, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will eventually disappear and withdraw from the stage of Martial Arts supremacy."

"Wait?" Ling Chen smiled, "Sir Chen, is that your way to solve problems? If everything is left to time, I think each of us would die in discontent. Sir Chen, as a Heavenly List expert, someone without passion, drive, or ambition could never become a Heavenly List expert. I believe you were never like that in the past. It's just that time has worn down your edges and spirit, to the point where now you're no different from ordinary people. To be blunt, maybe you're even worse than ordinary people, because at least they would rise against oppression."

Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen continued, "Sir Chen, I understand how you feel now—it is more painful to live than to die. You've chosen survival and endured suffering merely as a punishment for yourself. I don't know for whom you're doing this, but I must say that your actions are childish and weak. A real strong person is not defined by their power but by their inner strength. No matter how many obstacles lie ahead, they push forward, fearless of danger. Sir Chen, falling down isn't scary—what's truly terrifying is losing the courage to stand up again. Once you reach that point, you're no different than a waste."

"Are you trying to persuade me?"

"No, I just want to tell you that rather than dragging out an ignoble existence, it's better to die. If you don't want to die, then stand up again and do what a man should do. I think deep down, you're conflicted, unsure of what to do. Otherwise, you would have already sought death."

Upon hearing this, Chen Junfeng gazed at the bright moon outside the window, silent and seemingly lost in endless contemplation.

Seeing this, Ling Chen said no more, stood up, and left the ward. He had said what needed to be said; the decision was Chen Junfeng's to make.

The next day.

Ling Chen, yawning, walked out of his room. Ever since Lin Han found out his identity, she was too scared to let him stay at the clinic, so she gave him Lin Chun's bedroom instead.

When he got up, Lin Chun had already prepared breakfast: sweet potato pancakes, which tasted great and smelled delicious. As Ling Chen nibbled on a pancake, he took breakfast and headed to the clinic. These days, it was his responsibility to deliver meals to Chen Junfeng.

Upon reaching the clinic, Ling Chen pushed the door open and headed straight to the ward, only to find the bed empty, the chains thrown on the ground. Besides that, he found dozens of silver needles on the bed.

Escaped?

Ling Chen was shocked—he had sealed Chen Junfeng’s meridians, so how did he break free from the chains? Without wasting time, Ling Chen hurried out of the clinic and sprinted towards the cave where Chen Junfeng used to live.

Before long, Ling Chen arrived at the cave. As he entered, it was pitch dark inside, devoid of any presence, confirming that Chen Junfeng wasn’t there.

Could he have really left? Ling Chen thought to himself. He had wasted so much effort trying to persuade Chen Junfeng to join his camp. But now, he couldn’t even find him.

Chapter 1250 - 1258: Heart Ailment (1)

Ling Chen sighed and walked out of the cave, ready to return to Xianghe Village. He had thought he could persuade Chen Junfeng, but now it seemed Chen Junfeng had completely given up, and no matter what he said, it would have no effect. Escape! That was the only thing Chen Junfeng wanted to do.

Returning to the mountain path, Ling Chen walked down the slope. Not far along, Ling Chen, with his sharp eyes, suddenly noticed a line of footprints on another mountain trail.

He hadn’t taken this path before, but he knew it led to the mountain top in the rear, because the terrain there was quite dangerous, so usually, few would go there.

Could it be Chen Junfeng? Ling Chen thought for a moment and decided to go over and take a look; perhaps he might really encounter him. Following the rugged mountain trail, Ling Chen moved forward. The further he ascended, the narrower the path became, with one side leaning against the mountain body and the other a sheer cliff, where a slight misstep would mean certain death.

Fortunately, his body had recovered well recently, and without much effort, Ling Chen reached the mountain top in the rear. Looking out, Ling Chen's sight captured a silhouette. That figure stood at the edge of the peak, and just a step forward, no matter how strong you are, there's only a dead end.

Observing the other's attire, Ling Chen immediately recognized it was Chen Junfeng, the one he had been persistently seeking.

Nearing, Ling Chen looked at Chen Junfeng's back and spoke, "Sir Chen, why did you run over here?"

Chen Junfeng remained silent, standing quietly, gazing into the distance as if he were alone in the surroundings. Time slowly passed, and Ling Chen did not disturb Chen Junfeng; he could tell Chen Junfeng needed peace and reflection. So, he stood behind, quietly accompanying Chen Junfeng.

An hour or so passed quickly, and Chen Junfeng let out a sigh, then turned around, setting his gaze on Ling Chen.

"Sir Chen..." Ling Chen opened his mouth, just about to speak, but Chen Junfeng stopped him with a gesture.

"You don't have to say anymore, I must admit, what you said last night was very right." Chen Junfeng said quietly, gazing at the foot of the mountain, "I have been standing here since last night, thinking about your words. You're right; instead of lingering in such a miserable state, it's better to die. However, when I wanted to seek death, I found I didn't have the courage to jump from here. Perhaps... it's not that I lack courage, but I'm unwilling. I'm unwilling to die just like this, unwilling to leave this world with hatred. Even if I were to die, I won't die so shamefully. Ling Chen, thank you! If it weren't for your words, I would still feel worse than dead even now."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but smile, "Sir Chen, you've finally come around."

Chen Junfeng gazed at the distant peaks, squinting, "You've always wanted to know my story, right? My enemies are the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, you already know that. Back then, I could be considered a top expert in the Martial Arts, awe-inspiring from all sides, but I didn't like restraint, so I always went alone, free as the wind. Later on, I met a woman. From the first moment I saw her, I knew she was someone I wanted to spend my life with. She wasn't from the Martial Arts World, just the daughter of

an ordinary family, with a job as a kindergarten teacher. Though not particularly outstanding in appearance, she was gentle, serene, spoke sweetly, and had all the qualities of a perfect woman."

"Naturally, we came together. I hid my identity, tried to adapt to her life, and integrated myself into her world. As for the Martial Arts World... it had been temporarily forgotten by me. But, good times didn't last long, after my first daughter was born, I received an invitation from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to attend the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony. However, the true intention of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was to persuade me to join the Yangxin Pavilion, to become a part of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Unfortunately, I enjoyed my free life, and having a family and a daughter, that previous thrilling life walking the edge wasn't suitable for me anymore."

"At that time, I politely declined the invitation from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, expressing my wish to live an ordinary life. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion didn't force me but asked me to reconsider. Returning home, I thought everything had passed, a happy life beginning anew. However, misfortune still befell me. I had friends, many friends, ones with similar interests met throughout my time in the martial world. Though I chose to withdraw, the friendships remained. Occasionally, I would invite some friends over to my house for drinks and chats, nothing more."

"Later, among my friends, someone secretly formed alliances, attempting to resist the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, only to be completely wiped out, leaving no survivors. A person, purposefully implicating me, gave my name, causing the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to mistakenly believe I was the mastermind. Despite my repeated explanations, they wouldn't believe me, demanding I give them an answer. Due to the interference of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, my life was entirely disrupted; my wife and daughter lived in constant danger, anxious and frightened. In a fit of rage, I directly approached Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's Su Zhengyang, causing a commotion, injuring many from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"This act of mine soon attracted the retaliation of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion; one night, my home was burnt down. My wife and infant daughter perished in the flames. When I hurried back, there was nothing left..." Saying this, Chen Junfeng's emotions became very agitated, his body trembling slightly with a glint of red in his eyes.

Feeling Chen Junfeng's emotional fluctuations, Ling Chen was startled, fearing the worst. Chen Junfeng must be recalling the scenes of that night, and if he couldn't control it, he might go berserk again. Chen Junfeng clenched his fists tightly, taking a deep breath, trying hard to calm his emotions, and said, "I attempted revenge, but sadly failed each time, instead drawing their pursuit, suffering injuries all over, ultimately forced to escape back to Xianghe Village. Every night, recalling the tragic death of my wife and daughter, I... I never know how to face it. Over time, as soon as I close my eyes, my mind is filled with burned bodies."

Chen Junfeng sighed, "I don't need to explain what happened afterward; I believe you already know."

"Sir Chen, I'm sorry, it was me who stirred up your sad past."

"It's not your fault; I only blame myself for being useless, for not avenging them. I contemplated it all last night; you're right, if I can't avenge my wife and daughter, what's the point of living? Regardless of success, I must try."

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "Sir Chen, it's best you think this way. Time is getting late; Sir Chen, let's head back. Today might be very busy."