

The Beauty 1261

Chapter 1261 Zhu Chuan vs. Chen Junfeng

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Accompanied by the sound of something cutting through the air, several nearly invisible projectiles swiftly shot out towards Chen Junfeng's body. Chen Junfeng tapped his feet lightly, and his speed instantly increased, effortlessly avoiding the attack of the projectiles. However, this was merely the beginning, and the sound of things cutting through the air continued to be heard, with projectiles occasionally flying towards Chen Junfeng.

In just a few tens of seconds, Zhu Chuan had thrown at least seventy or eighty projectiles. Seeing this scene, the audience was amazed and couldn't understand how many projectiles Zhu Chuan was carrying, as he seemed to have endless supplies.

After a round of projectile attacks, Zhu Chuan finally ceased his offensive, maintaining a distance from Chen Junfeng and refraining from close combat.

Chen Junfeng appeared rather relaxed, unlike Zhu Chuan, who was eager to attack. He circled around the arena, changing positions while trying to force Zhu Chuan to move, seeking an opportunity to strike.

Stalemate!

Although this situation wasn't exciting, it brought a psychological tension and pressure to everyone. Everyone understood that this was the calm before the storm. Heavenly List experts would not launch a frenzied attack from the start; they would wait, seeking an opportunity. Once they attacked, it would be like a violent storm, the moment everyone was most looking forward to.

As time ticked by, Chen Junfeng and Zhu Chuan continued their probing. From beginning to end, Chen Junfeng did not make a move, while Zhu Chuan occasionally threw a few projectiles to force Chen Junfeng to change his position.

Chen Junfeng found Zhu Chuan's behavior strange. Zhu Chuan was very precise; every time Chen wanted to attack, Zhu Chuan would throw a few projectiles to disrupt his intentions. What exactly was he up to? Chen Junfeng couldn't figure it out. They've been in a stalemate for so long, it should be time

to really make a move. But from Zhu Chuan's demeanor, it seemed he was still unwilling to engage in a hard fight with him.

Watching the positioning of the two on the field, Chen Quan's expression was somewhat grim. However, compared to him, Su He was in an even worse mood. The longer this battle went on, the worse his mood became; he wished he could leave the scene immediately. However, as the referee, he couldn't leave until the fight was over.

Su He was the one who understood why Zhu Chuan hadn't engaged with Chen Junfeng yet. He was well aware that Zhu Chuan acted this way because he wasn't confident. Zhu Chuan was an assassin, a top assassin, trained in the arts of assassination. In an environment suited to him, he could kill someone even more powerful than a Heavenly List expert. However, in a face-to-face confrontation, Zhu Chuan's chance of winning was minimal.

Su He called Zhu Chuan here mainly as a precaution. Regardless of whom the Dragon Tiger Hall sent, as long as their opponent wasn't a Heavenly List expert, there was no chance of winning, so Su He was very confident. However, what he didn't account for was Ling Chen bringing in a Heavenly List expert.

Faced with a Heavenly List expert, Zhu Chuan would lose his advantage and expose all his weaknesses, such as close combat, which Zhu Chuan wasn't skilled at. Therefore, every time Chen Junfeng tried to attack, Zhu Chuan would promptly stop him.

At this point, the surrounding audience also realized something was off. Zhu Chuan's constant evasions seemed to show no intention of engaging Chen Junfeng. Were it anyone else, the audience would have been impatient long ago. But facing a Heavenly List expert, no one dared to shout insults unless they wanted trouble.

Suddenly, Chen Junfeng stopped in his tracks, looked directly at Zhu Chuan, and said, "After so many years, do you not even have the courage to fight?"

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen on the sidelines was quite surprised, not expecting Chen Junfeng to know Zhu Chuan.

Zhu Chuan looked at Chen Junfeng expressionlessly, not saying a word, as if he didn't recognize the person in front of him.

"Years ago, you chased me for thousands of miles under the orders of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. You wouldn't have forgotten, right?" Chen Junfeng spoke without waiting for Zhu Chuan to respond, "Perhaps you've forgotten, but I haven't. Along the way, I suffered no less than ten life-threatening injuries, narrowly escaping each time. Thankfully, each time I was injured, someone saved me and treated my wounds. But to track me down, you tortured and killed them to extract my whereabouts from their mouths. Such heinous acts could only be committed by your Skyhawk Pavilion."

Skyhawk Pavilion?

As soon as those words were spoken, the entire audience was shocked. Under the orders of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? What did that mean; wasn't Zhu Chuan from the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy? Why was he connected to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? And this Skyhawk Pavilion, it was a name they had never heard before. Just from the name, it seemed to be closely related to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

"Chen Junfeng." Su He suddenly stood up, glared at Chen Junfeng, and coldly shouted, "Shut your mouth, don't you dare slander the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. If you dare speak disrespectfully again, don't blame me for being impolite."

Chen Junfeng glanced at Su He, speaking indifferently, "Others may not know the true face of your Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, but I know it well. Su He, don't think that no one knows about the vile things you have done. You tortured a confession out of me, framed and persecuted me. To get revenge on me, you killed my family and didn't even spare my young daughter, sending people to hunt me down for thousands of miles. For all these days and nights over the years, I've been cursing you."

"Shut up!" Su He's expression changed, and he jumped off the podium, quickly walking towards Chen Junfeng.

Chen Junfeng seemed oblivious to the murderous intent in Su He's eyes and coldly stated, "Your Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is like a whore trying to build a monument to chastity. You were afraid the Dragon Tiger Hall would affect your Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's status, so you created a so-called Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy to strike against them and destroy it completely. The people participating in today's match are actually all from your Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. If you dare to do it but won't admit it, how can you call yourself the world's best?"

"I told you to shut up!" Su He shouted in anger, striking with a palm, unleashing his Inner Strength, leaving no mercy.

Faced with Su He's sudden attack, Chen Junfeng didn't retreat but advanced, throwing out a punch. Instantly, with a 'bang', the two stood firmly in place, neither moving an inch. Feeling the robust Power of Chen Junfeng, a hint of surprise flashed in Su He's eyes.

"Get lost!"

Chen Junfeng bellowed, his entire body surging with Power, forcibly pushing Su He back two steps.

Witnessing this, everyone was shocked. To know that the aura of the world's number one hung over Su He, yet this unknown Chen Junfeng forced Su He back in one move, was testament to his terrifying strength.

"Su He, I know you're humiliated and angry. Since you want to fight, I'll accompany you. Let's see if you truly deserve the title of the world's best."

Chapter 1262 - 1570: Sitting on One's Laurels

"Chen Junfeng, I think you're courting death." Su He said coldly, his aura suddenly surging, causing the surrounding people to feel overwhelmed, hastily retreating for fear of being affected.

"Who's afraid of whom!" Chen Junfeng did not back down, staring coldly at Su He, step by step approaching.

At this moment, Zhu Chuan behind Chen Junfeng suddenly stepped forward two steps, pressing towards Chen Junfeng's back. Hearing footsteps behind him, Chen Junfeng paused slightly, glanced back at Zhu Chuan, and sneered: "What, want two against one? Fine, no problem, anyway, you people from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion are all a bunch of despicable and lowly beings, I suppose you're quite used to it."

"Shut up! You old bastard, watch your mouth. Keep insulting our Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and I'll rip your mouth apart!"

Chen Junfeng looked in the direction of the voice, only to see Wang Hao stepping down from the stands, standing behind Su He, meeting his gaze coldly.

"Since when did it become your turn to butt in here? Su He, your disciple really doesn't know the rules." Chen Junfeng laughed coldly, standing tall and unafraid, saying: "Whether you want two against one, or three together, it's up to you, I'll accompany you to the end today."

At this moment, the audience in the sports hall whispered among themselves, discussing the sudden situation on the field. Chen Junfeng's words just now especially shocked many people. The martial arts community had gathered in East Sea City primarily to enjoy the duel between the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy and the Dragon Tiger Hall, but unexpectedly heard so many shocking news.

If the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy is indeed secretly controlled by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to defeat Dragon Tiger Hall, then the actions of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion would be too despicable. Previously, there were rumors about the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion excluding other forces to rise, but they were just hearsay, no one knew the truth, at most it was tea time chatter. Now, someone publicly accused the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion of crimes. And that person was a master from the Heavenly List.

Being a dignified Heavenly List master, saying these words publicly, already put life and death aside. Therefore, his words have high credibility.

Listening to the discussions from the audience on the stands, Su He's facial expression became very ugly. Things developing to this stage were unexpected for him. If not handled well, it would be a devastating blow to the reputation of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

"Chen Junfeng, our Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has always convinced people through reasoning, repaying grievances with virtue. I've warned you already, but you repeatedly slander the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, disregarding my warning. In that case, don't blame me for being rude." After speaking, Su He turned to the crowd, and said in a deep voice: "Everyone just heard, it was Chen Junfeng who insulted the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion first. Therefore, please understand my actions."

As the words fell, Su He moved his feet, instantly pressing towards Chen Junfeng.

However, just at the moment Su He was moving, an elderly voice suddenly came from the entrance of the sports hall: "Isn't this supposed to be a duel between the Dragon Tiger Hall and the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy? How did it turn into a battle between Dragon Tiger Hall and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

Su He frowned, immediately stopped his steps, and followed everyone's gaze towards the entrance. Instantly, they saw Tong Zhentian sitting in a wheelchair, being pushed in by Tang Guolun.

Tang Guolun looked at everyone on the field, smirking as he spoke: "Elder Tong, are you confused? Is there a difference between the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, aren't they all cut from the same cloth?"

"That's true." Tong Zhentian and Tang Guolun spoke as if no one else was present, seemingly ignoring Su He and others on stage.

Su He frowned slightly, looking at Tong Zhentian in the wheelchair, and spoke: "I heard you were injured, not resting well in the hospital, what are you running here for?"

"I'd also like to stay in the hospital, but as the Martial Arts Hall Master of the Dragon Tiger Hall, with someone intending harm to us, would I just stand by and watch, doing nothing? If it were you, I believe you wouldn't sit still either." After a pause, Tong Zhentian continued: "Su He, in consideration of our long-standing friendship, I advise you, unreasonable actions often lead to self-destruction, better stop early. Otherwise, one day you'll set yourself on fire, putting the entire Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion in danger."

"What the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion wants to do is our business, it's unnecessary for you outsiders to meddle. Tong Zhentian, you're also at an old age, why don't you enjoy your twilight years at home, why mess in this dirty water. If you truly care about our friendship, then you should leave immediately, and don't get involved no matter what happens."

"Sorry, I can't do that." Tong Zhentian said: "If everyone was like me, facing oppression and not resisting, accepting fate, then what future would martial arts have? Are we supposed to rely on your Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? Su He, I still say, don't be too extreme." Speaking up here, Tong Zhentian turned to everyone present, saying: "Ladies and gentlemen, you may not know that some time ago, Huangzekai from the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy came to Dragon Tiger Hall to issue a challenge. After careful consideration, I accepted the duel. However, that very evening, on my way home, I was assaulted by two Heavenly List masters, severely injured, lying in the hospital unconscious."

"Everyone here is from the martial arts world, I believe you can understand the reasons behind this. Today, on the contest stage, the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy once again sent out two Heavenly List masters. I can be certain that these two and the ones who ambushed me are not the same group. Think carefully, which power in the martial arts world can possess so many Heavenly List masters? I believe, I don't need to say that you already know it. Therefore, this duel is a scheme concocted by certain people to target Dragon Tiger Hall, aiming to suppress our influence and thoroughly destroy us. Everyone, our initial intent of establishing Dragon Tiger Hall was not for earning power, nor to become a martial arts hegemon. Actually, we just wanted to contribute a little to the Huaxia martial arts community. Yet, even so, some people can't tolerate our existence and want to eliminate us."

"The Huaxia martial arts community has gone through hundreds of years of history, many ups and downs, and now it's slowly declining. If we keep sticking with inaction, not seeking change, the entire martial arts world will face catastrophic damage. All of you here are from the martial arts community, you should know my words are not alarmist talk. Martial arts shouldn't be dominated by one party alone, that only limits our development and progress, we need a flourishing diversity, contending voices. Only conscientious competition can lead martial arts to revive, offering the next generation a glimpse of martial arts' future. Everyone, please seriously think about it, whether I'm right or not."

Chapter 1263 - 1571: Complete Victory

Tong Zhentian's heartfelt words plunged everyone into deep thought. Seeing such a transformation, Su He and others' faces turned extremely grim. The main purpose of this martial competition was to suppress Dragon Tiger Hall and disgrace it. Yet, no one expected such a dramatic change on the scene.

If mishandled, the reputation of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will plummet.

"I think Elder Tong makes sense." At this moment, a spectator on the stands spoke: "For hundreds of years, the martial arts world has been dominated by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and no force has ever been able to contend against it. Look, for so many years, although the martial arts world is peaceful, has it progressed? No! On the contrary, more and more people have chosen to withdraw, leaving few martial artists today."

"Right," someone chimed in: "Now the martial arts world has become degraded, and if we don't seek change, it will fall sooner or later. I support Elder Tong's view, the martial arts world shouldn't be monopolized; only when all parties thrive can it develop."

As more people expressed their opinions, increasingly, people stated that Tong Zhentian's words made a lot of sense.

For a moment, everyone sided with Dragon Tiger Hall, and no one spoke for the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Although the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has been the dominant force in the martial arts world over the years, its actions have made some people uncomfortable. Yet, due to the strong influence of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, no one dared to criticize it. Now, the public opinion is all in favor of Dragon Tiger Hall, who would defend the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? It's rarely seen that the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion suffers, and it's a delight for many.

Additionally, there's a somewhat significant reason. Everyone here is from the martial arts world, naturally aware of the current situation. Tong Zhentian was right, if they couldn't pull the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion off its pedestal, no one would have a future.

Moreover, as the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has dominated the martial arts world for so many years, people have grown tired of it.

The martial arts world is different from other places; only competition can drive its progress. The more forces rise, the faster the development, attracting more people to join. Although this situation inevitably leads to disputes... isn't that the charm of the martial arts world?

Love and hate, grudges and feuds, without these, what is the point of the martial arts world.

Seeing everyone supporting Tong Zhentian and speaking for Dragon Tiger Hall, Su He realized the plan had failed this time. Not only failed, but he lost big. Once today's events spread, the martial arts world might undergo a transformation. By then, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will undoubtedly become the target of all, attacked by the masses.

No!

Su He gritted his teeth secretly, his eyes flashed with a murderous look. He must stop this momentum, he could not let the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion lose control of the martial arts world. Otherwise, it's a disaster for the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

However, looking at everyone present, Su He suddenly hesitated. There were hundreds of people in the arena, all martial artists from across the country. Could he kill them all? Not to mention whether he could do it, if all these people died, then the entire martial arts world would enter a decline and fall into a slump. By that time, even if the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion dominated the martial arts world, what would be the point?

"Su He."

At this moment, Tong Zhentian's voice came slowly: "Today is the competition between Dragon Tiger Hall and Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy. As a referee, shouldn't you step down?"

Upon hearing this, Su He was slightly stunned and squinted at Tong Zhentian not far away. Feeling Tong Zhentian's gaze, Su He immediately understood the other person's meaning; this was giving him a way out.

Although Su He was very reluctant to accept this way out, he had no other choice, unless he agreed with Tong Zhentian's words.

"Master..." Wang Hao called out, waiting for Su He's decision. On their side, there were three Heavenly List masters; if they took action, they could wipe out Ling Chen and others. As long as the top echelons of Dragon Tiger Hall died, Dragon Tiger Hall would no longer be a threat.

"Retreat!" After a moment of contemplation, Su He finally made a decision. Now wasn't the time to act; he must consider the reputation of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and the impact of this affair.

This decision disappointed Wang Hao somewhat, squandering such a good opportunity. Wang Hao thought simply; in his view, as long as they dealt with all opponents of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and protected its dominant status, everything wouldn't be a problem.

Once Su He spoke, the people of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had no choice but to return to the stands.

After a brief interlude, the martial competition resumed, with Chen Junfeng facing Zhu Chuan again. However, similar to the previous situation, this kind of battle wasn't suitable for Zhu Chuan, who was

completely suppressed by Chen Junfeng. Facing his pursuer of yesteryears, Chen Junfeng showed no mercy, attacking full force, determined to leave Zhu Chuan's life on the field.

Watching the battle on the field, Su He looked gloomy, without a shred of expression on his wrinkled face. Although Zhu Chuan was still resisting, defeat was inevitable. At this moment, Zhu Chuan on the field raised his head, glanced at Su He on the stands.

As their gazes met, Su He nodded slightly. Zhu Chuan instantly understood and, under Chen Junfeng's pressure, found an opportunity and jumped out of the competition area. Of course, to others, he seemed forced out by Chen Junfeng instead of conceding.

Thus, a much-anticipated battle ended theatrically. Su He and the others couldn't sit still; after announcing the result, they immediately stood up and left the arena.

"Sir Chen, well done." Ling Chen walked to the field, smiling and congratulating Chen Junfeng on the victory.

"It's a pity Zhu is too cunning. Otherwise, I would have certainly left him here." Chen Junfeng said reluctantly. If it weren't for Ling Chen repeatedly reminding him to restrain, he would've already killed Su He and the others.

"There'll be opportunities in the future." Ling Chen smiled and said: "After today, the reputation of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is bound to plummet; wait and see, by then the Pavilion will have many headaches to deal with."

While speaking, He Ziyun led a group over and handed a document bag to Ling Chen, "The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is at least credible, accepting defeat gracefully. Here are the documents for those ten properties."

"Mr. He, let's take a look when we get back."

"You should take a look first; there might be an unexpected surprise."

Hearing this, Ling Chen curiously opened the document bag and took out several documents from inside. As he read the contents, Ling Chen's eyes grew brighter, eventually unable to contain his smile.

"The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion must regret bitterly now, actually losing such valuable properties to us."

"Ling Cheng, they're just a few properties; is there anything worth being happy about? Are you short of money?" Xia Yue said.

Chapter 1264 - 1572: Courage

"Fifth Sister, it's not a matter of money or not." Ling Chen said with a smile, "The real estate offered by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion can't be bought even with money. Moreover, these properties are spread across the country. As far as I know, some of these properties are branches of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Besides, the most important thing is the location of these properties. Alright, you won't understand even if I explain now; you'll understand in the future."

After speaking, Ling Chen glanced at the seats of the Dragon and Tiger Martial Arts Academy. Chen Quan had already left with his people. At that moment, the crowd didn't linger and directly returned to the Dragon Tiger Hall.

"Elder Tong, fortunately you appeared in time this time, preventing the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion from succeeding." Ling Chen was very relieved. Tong Zhentian's sudden appearance played a crucial role. Although those words could have been said by anyone, the impact was significant because they came from Tong Zhentian's mouth, affecting all the martial arts community present.

It won't take long for today's events to spread throughout the martial arts community. The impact from this incident will give the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion a headache for a long time.

"Elder Tong, how are your injuries?" He Ziyun asked.

"I can't engage in martial arts for three months; I must recuperate and rest." After speaking, Tong Zhentian turned his gaze to Chen Junfeng beside him, "Chen, it's been many years since we last met, do you remember me?"

Chen Junfeng nodded and said, "The last time we met must have been more than twenty years ago."

"Chen, you've been missing for so many years with no news; I thought something might have happened to you. Seeing an old friend again today deserves a celebration. Unfortunately, the doctor advised me not to drink, otherwise, I'd definitely have two drinks with you."

"There's always another chance in the future."

While speaking, Tian Hanzhong quickly walked in from outside, "Martial Arts Hall Master, many people have come outside the hall."

"What kind of people?" Ling Chen asked, "Surely it's not someone from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion here to cause trouble?"

"It's not anyone from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, they are all martial arts folk who wish to visit Elder Tong."

"Really?" Qiu Yong smiled and said, "It seems Elder Tong's words had an effect; nobody is willing to see the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion dominate alone, everyone wants to change this situation. However, Elder Tong's injuries haven't healed yet, and he isn't well enough to meet too many people. How about..."

"No!" Tong Zhentian interrupted, "This is an opportunity we must seize. Go, invite everyone to the reception room; I'll be over soon."

Shortly, Ling Chen pushed the wheelchair, bringing Tong Zhentian to the reception room. At this moment, the large reception room was filled with people, a good seventy to eighty martial arts folk.

Upon seeing Tong Zhentian enter, everyone stood up as a sign of respect.

Tong Zhentian smiled slightly, pressed his hand down indicating, "Everyone is originally a guest, no need for courtesy, please sit." Once everyone was seated, Tong Zhentian glanced around the room and began, "As the Martial Arts Hall Master of Dragon Tiger Hall, I welcome everyone's arrival. Additionally, allow me to introduce the Deputy Martial Arts Hall Master of Dragon Tiger Hall, who is also the real founder, Ling Chen."

Ling Chen smiled at everyone, clasping his fists, and exchanged simple greetings.

Upon hearing this, the martial arts community present was taken aback. They were not strangers to Ling Chen; during the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony, Ling Chen had stood out, making everyone remember his name. However, what surprised them was that Ling Chen was actually the true owner of Dragon Tiger Hall. How old was he? In his twenties, yet he possessed such capability; indeed remarkable.

Observing the reactions of the crowd, Tong Zhentian smiled and said, "Did everyone come to Dragon Tiger Hall as guests because of my earlier words at the sports hall?"

"Elder Tong," a middle-aged man said, "To be honest, we all agree with your remarks. The dominance of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has persisted for far too many years. The current martial arts realm is like stagnant water, with no hope or enthusiasm. Our thoughts align with yours; we want change. However, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is a mountain blocking us, preventing any means of action."

"Yes, Elder Tong, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has governed the martial arts community for so many years that many fear them. Take today's matter for instance; many people wanted to visit Dragon Tiger Martial Arts Hall, but they were afraid of retaliation from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and dared not come."

"Elder Tong, you are the most senior in the martial arts community; do you have any good ideas?"

The group began speaking amongst themselves.

"I have ideas, but you may not dare to pursue them," Tong Zhentian replied, "I understand you, as the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has deeply established its influence, and no one dares to offend them. Furthermore, over the years, they've shown us countless bloody examples of why opposing them leads to a dead end. However, if the martial arts community wishes to change, to rejuvenate, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is a peak we cannot surpass. Only by overthrowing this mountain can we see a future and hope."

"Actually, you need not fear the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. You all know Ling Chen, he is only twenty-five years old this year. When he first entered the martial arts realm, he was weak, without

major forces backing him, and his words carried little weight; nobody paid attention to him. However, with his full dedication and ambition, he established Dragon Tiger Hall. You all understand what the founding of Dragon Tiger Hall represents. It means he has placed himself at the forefront of opposing the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, determined to face off with them. Everyone, if a young man in his twenties has the courage to do this, why don't you?"

Speaking of this, Tong Zhentian's tone gradually became gentle, "What you lack isn't plans, but courage and guts. If all of you can be like Ling Chen, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion wouldn't be an issue."

After hearing Tong Zhentian's words, the crowd suddenly fell into silence.

After a while, a middle-aged man stood up and said, "Elder Tong, you're right. Often, the issue lies within ourselves; we are used to attributing the reasons to external factors, unwilling to admit our own weaknesses." After this, the middle-aged man looked at everyone in the reception room and said, "Everyone, we can't continue like this; we must take measures and actions. Do you really want to live your whole life under the shadow of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? Honestly, it's better to quit the martial arts world than live timidly."

"Elder Tong, why don't you lead us?" someone shouted.

"Yes, Elder Tong, even if it means tearing face with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, there needs to be a leader. You're the most senior with good relationships; surely, you're the most suitable choice."

Listening to everyone's suggestions and discussions, Tong Zhentian and Ling Chen exchanged a look, and both unconsciously smiled.

Unexpectedly, everyone was so enthusiastic; it was truly beyond their expectations.

Chapter 1265 - 1573: The Death of Ling Beichuan (Part 1)

In the following days, Dragon Tiger Hall received quite a few martial artists, all with the same purpose: hoping Tong Zhentian could lead everyone to resist Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Tong Zhentian readily agreed to these requests. Among these martial artists, many were not lacking courage and determination; they just didn't want to make pointless sacrifices.

Currently, the martial arts world is in disarray aside from Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, making it very difficult to gather everyone together, let alone unite them to collectively combat Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. However, if a leader emerges, the situation could change.

As a martial arts leader with extraordinary influence and being a Heavenly List master, Tong Zhentian is not only able to garner support but also convince everyone of his leadership.

The night falls, and the cool breeze blows gently.

On the balcony of the Dragon Tiger Hall building, a small round table is set, with several kinds of marinated meats and a few bottles of wine on it. At this moment, Ling Chen is picking up a bottle of wine, pouring drinks into the glasses of Tong Zhentian and Chen Junfeng.

With the three glasses filled, Tong Zhentian raises his glass, smiles at Chen Junfeng and Ling Chen, saying, "Come, let's have a toast to celebrate having taken the crucial first step."

Ling Chen kindly reminds him, "Elder Tong, your health is important, you should drink a little less."

Tong Zhentian laughs heartily: "Isn't this a time for joy? Don't worry, it's nothing." Saying this, Tong Zhentian drains his glass in one gulp. Putting down the glass, he says with lingering interest, "Really, I haven't felt this happy in a long time. I've always thought that the martial artists were falling, no longer striving forward, but from the situation over the past few days, that's not the case. Everyone has a heart to advance, it's just being suppressed by Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, lacking opportunities and chances. Now, we just need to ignite the fuse, and the entire martial arts world will be excited."

"Joy is right, but don't be too careless," Chen Junfeng responded, "Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will certainly take measures."

"I know that." Tong Zhentian nods, putting away his smile, and says, "What worries me the most now is the safety of the few of us. Su He set up to ambush me, having a first time means there could be a second. And you two, as the pillars of Dragon Tiger Hall. A snake can't function without a head, a bird can't fly without wings. If something happens to us, this alliance that's been painstakingly established will abort."

Upon hearing this, Chen Junfeng glanced at Ling Chen and said, "We two are fine, even if targeted, our skills could get us out, but it's Ling Chen...he's in quite a dangerous position. His capabilities are low, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion only needs to send a Heavenly List master to easily deal with him."

"That's true." After a pause, Tong Zhentian shifted his tone and asked, "Ling Chen, last time you told me that Qin Chuan secretly attempted to assassinate you that day. With Qin Chuan's ability, he couldn't have failed. How did you escape?"

Ling Chen silently lifted his outer garment, revealing the scar on his chest. Seeing that wound, Tong Zhentian and Chen Junfeng both were shocked. Especially Chen Junfeng, who knew about Ling Chen's serious injury at Xianghe Village, but hadn't expected the wound to be in that spot.

Martial artists know that the location where Ling Chen was injured is vital, any harm there means certain death. Yet Ling Chen survived against all odds, it's astonishing.

"Ling Chen, about your injury..." Tong Zhentian opened his mouth but didn't know what to say.

Ling Chen chuckled and said, "I know. Honestly, even I found it unbelievable when I realized I was still alive. Looking back, maybe it was just my good fortune."

Tong Zhentian and Chen Junfeng exchanged a glance at Ling Chen's optimism, both showing a hint of doubt in their eyes.

This isn't merely good fortune; no one survives such injuries. More importantly, Ling Chen's was a penetrating wound, both his front and back were pierced. Furthermore, he survived days of immersion in water before being rescued, such survival is nothing short of miraculous.

"Ling Chen, have a full check-up at the hospital when possible, your situation is too unusual. I've lived for many years and seen a lot, but never heard of such a case," Tong Zhentian said.

"Alright, I'll definitely go when I have time."

"By the way! Keep Ji Gang by your side for now to avoid any danger from Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion," Tong Zhentian reminded, "We're all in our late years, not much time left, but you're different, you are the future of Dragon Tiger Hall, you must live well."

"I understand."

While speaking, they heard footsteps from inside. Ling Chen turned and saw Tian Hanzhong quickly walking over.

"Brother Tian, do you have something for us?"

"Ling, that Mr. Ling is reaching the end, do you want to take a look?"

Mr. Ling? Ling Chen was slightly taken aback, then suddenly understood. The Mr. Ling Tian Hanzhong referred to was Ling Beichuan. For Ling Beichuan's safety, Ling Chen had specially relocated him from the hospital to Dragon Tiger Hall to prevent people from the Southern Ling Family from coming.

"How's his condition?"

Tian Hanzhong sighed lightly, "Very poor, the doctor just examined him, said he won't make it through the night."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen quickly got up and hurried to Ling Beichuan's residence.

Soon, Ling Chen and Tian Hanzhong arrived in Ling Beichuan's room. At the moment, Ling Beichuan lay on the bed, critically ill, with IV tubes inserted, a few white-coated doctors trying to rescue him.

Ling Chen walked to the bedside, looked at Ling Beichuan's weak complexion and pale face, and asked, "Doctor, how long does he have?"

A white coat without raising his head said, "Making it past midnight would be good. His situation is very bad, all bodily functions are severely depleted, rescue is no longer possible. Considering his condition,

living to this age is already not easy. I checked carefully, he definitely has used many potent drugs to deplete his body's functions and extend life. Now, all his organs are showing signs of failure, beyond recovery."

"Is he still conscious now?"

"He's been in a semi-conscious state, it's hard to say if he has awareness. Mr. Ling, as a doctor, I suggest euthanasia immediately. Whatever we do is just prolonging his suffering. Rather than that, it would be better for him to leave without pain."

Ling Chen hesitated for a moment, then nodded, "Alright, do what you have to do."

The doctor responded and immediately, with his companions, pulled out the IV tubes stopping the rescue. He then took out a syringe, injecting it into Ling Beichuan's body. As the medication from the syringe entered his system, Ling Beichuan's tense face gradually relaxed, seeming as if his whole person became relieved.

Chapter 1266 - 1574: The Death of Ling Beichuan (Part 2)

A few minutes passed, and Ling Beichuan suddenly opened his eyes, which shone brightly, as if he had regained some spirit. However, everyone knew this was merely a fleeting revival; Ling Beichuan's end was near.

"You've come." Ling Beichuan slightly opened his mouth and uttered a few words. Ling Chen nodded, "Mr. Ling, how are you feeling?"

"I know I don't have much time left. This might be my last few minutes in this world." He paused for a moment and glanced at the others in the room, "Could I have a word with you alone?"

"Sure." With that, Ling Chen signaled to Tian Hanzhong, who understood immediately and led a few doctors out of the room.

Once everyone had left, Ling Chen walked over to Ling Beichuan's side and asked, "Mr. Ling, is there something you wish to tell me?"

"Ling Gengqiu..."

Upon hearing Ling Beichuan mention his ancestor's name, Ling Chen immediately understood and said, "Mr. Ling, you also know about the findings from the last tomb—the remains inside were not Ling Gengqiu's, and there are currently no other clues about him."

Ling Beichuan shakily lifted his hand, pointing to the wheelchair he often sat in, with his mouth slightly open as if trying to say something. But when the words reached his lips, it seemed he lost the strength to speak, unable to utter a single word.

"Mr. Ling, what are you trying to say?" Ling Chen leaned his ear close to Ling Beichuan's mouth, trying to catch his words. However, he quickly realized that Ling Beichuan had stopped breathing. Staring at Ling Beichuan's open eyes, Ling Chen sighed lightly. Unable to uncover Ling Gengqiu's secret, Ling Beichuan died with regret.

Closing Ling Beichuan's eyes, Ling Chen left the room and instructed Tian Hanzhong to handle Ling Beichuan's body. After a pause, Ling Chen remembered Ling Beichuan's actions before his death and returned to the room, fixing his gaze on the wheelchair placed against the wall.

Ling Beichuan had pointed at the wheelchair and was clearly trying to convey something, suggesting there might be a secret hidden within it.

With this in mind, Ling Chen pushed the wheelchair into his bedroom. After closing the door, Ling Chen walked around the wheelchair, examining it carefully. The wheelchair Ling Beichuan used was quite ordinary, with a cushion on the seat and a small oxygen tank attached at the back.

Ling Chen took up the seat cushion, tapped the cotton inside, and then tore open a part of the cushion. However, apart from cotton, there was nothing else inside. Ling Chen then checked the oxygen tank, again finding nothing.

How strange! Ling Chen thought to himself. There was nothing on the wheelchair. Could it be that what Ling Beichuan was hinting at wasn't the wheelchair?

"A dying man's words are kind." Ling Beichuan wasn't a good person, but there had to be a significant reason behind his final act, and he wouldn't have any interest in teasing him.

As Ling Chen's mind raced, he decided to sit in the wheelchair, thinking hard. As he tapped the armrest, Ling Chen suddenly realized something and quickly stood up. He found a toolkit from his bedroom drawer and began unscrewing the screws on the wheelchair one by one.

After spending about ten or more minutes, Ling Chen had dismantled the entire wheelchair, reducing it to nothing but a set of rods. Ling Chen sat on the floor and picked up one rod, peering inside. All these rods were hollow, hinting that Ling Beichuan may have hidden the secret within one.

Just as Ling Chen suspected, after inspecting a few rods, he made a discovery. Inside one rod was a finger-thick alloy rod, approximately twenty centimeters long. The top of the alloy rod was a spiral interface, and after unscrewing the nut, a thick scroll of paper was revealed inside.

So, it was here!

Ling Chen's eyes brightened, and he quickly pulled out the scroll of paper. Unrolling it, he saw dense writing covering both sides. It was apparent that Ling Beichuan had written these words personally.

As he looked at the content on the scroll, Ling Chen immediately understood why Ling Beichuan had hidden it so securely— this was likely the work of his lifetime.

However, most of the content on the scroll was already known to Ling Chen, with some parts being Ling Beichuan's own conjectures. Ling Beichuan had marked these conjectures, where crossed-out parts indicated confirmed theories, which could be discarded. The unchecked parts suggested those theories had yet to be verified.

By entrusting this to him, Ling Beichuan probably wanted him to continue pursuing these unverifiable theories. In any case, each theory represented a clue, maybe leading to Ling Gengqiu's secret.

Just as he was thinking that, there came a sudden "knock knock" at the door from outside. Ling Chen stood up to open the door and saw a woman standing there. Seeing who it was, Ling Chen's lips curled into a slight smile, "Lady Zhu, it's been a long time."

The visitor was none other than Zhu Qing.

"Mr. Ling, I'm sorry, it was my mistake last time, please forgive me." Zhu Qing lowered her head, apologetically.

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "Lady Zhu, you were just following orders. It's not your fault, there's no need to blame yourself." After pausing, Ling Chen continued, "Are you back this time to continue protecting me?"

Zhu Qing nodded and said, "Besides me, Mr. Chang is here too, he's waiting to see you in the parlor."

"Let's go, we shouldn't keep Mr. Zhu waiting too long."

Soon, the two of them arrived at the parlor. As they entered, Zhu Houchang's hearty laughter echoed, "Mr. Ling, they say misfortune spares those destined for great things. You must be greatly blessed."

"Mr. Zhu, thank you for your kind words. I certainly hope so," Ling Chen replied with a smile.

Once they were seated, Zhu Houchang spoke again, "Mr. Ling, besides wanting to see you personally, I have another reason for coming. Last time you asked me to look into the information about Guo Qiang hiring the Zhu Family. Here it is." Saying that, Zhu Houchang opened his briefcase and took out a document folder, placing it in front of Ling Chen.

"This is the contract Guo Qiang made with the Zhu Family years ago, dating back several centuries. I had quite a task retrieving it from the Zhu Family's old archives."

At these words, Ling Chen eagerly opened the document folder, pulling out a contract encased in protective plastic. The contract was quite old, and fortunately, the Zhu Family had preserved it well, keeping it intact.

On the front of the contract, the content was written in calligraphy, signed by the Zhu Family and Guo Qiang. The lower left corner bore Guo Qiang's personal signature and a crimson handprint.

The content revealed that Guo Qiang had paid forty thousand taels of silver to hire the Zhu Family to safeguard the tomb, prohibiting anyone from approaching. If necessary, extreme measures could be taken.

Chapter 1267 - 1575: Major Client

Looking at the contents of the contract, Ling Chen frowned slightly, pondering secretly. This was the part that had always puzzled him: the body placed in the tomb by Guo Qiang was not Ling Gengqiu. If so, why did he spend a huge sum to hire the Zhu Family to protect the tomb? Forty thousand taels of silver, that was an astronomical figure at the time. The more Ling Chen thought about it, the more he felt Guo Qiang was overdoing it.

Since the corpse in the tomb was fake, why would Guo Qiang waste so much money?

After thinking for a while, Ling Chen turned to Zhu Qing and asked, "When we were excavating the tomb, you tried to stop us several times. Later on, seeing we didn't heed the warnings, were you prepared to kill?"

Zhu Qing glanced at Zhu Houchang, nodded, and said, "Yes. According to our contract with Guo Qiang, if warnings were ineffective, we would take extreme measures to kill the intruders."

"I see."

From all appearances, Guo Qiang was the key figure. Initially, he snatched parts of Ling Gengqiu's body from a group of men in black. As for how those body parts were handled, only Guo Qiang knew.

"Mr. Zhu, thank you for bringing this to me."

"You're welcome, this was the condition we agreed upon initially." After a pause, Zhu Houchang looked at Zhu Qing and said, "Qing, please step out for a moment. I'd like to have a word with Mr. Ling alone."

Zhu Qing acknowledged, turned around, and left the room.

After Zhu Qing left, Ling Chen asked, "What would you like to discuss with me, Mr. Zhu?"

"Mr. Ling, I am a person who repays kindness. Last time, regardless of whether Zhu Qing followed your orders, she had to take responsibility. According to our Zhu Family rules, if the employer dies, those protecting them should also end their own lives. However, you spared Qing, for which I am deeply grateful. Qing is my beloved niece, and I don't want her to get into trouble. So, regarding this matter, I need to make some amends."

"Then how would you like to make amends, Mr. Zhu?"

Zhu Houchang suddenly lowered his voice and said, "Mr. Ling, every word I'm about to tell you is a secret of the Zhu Family. According to our rules, it's strictly forbidden to disclose client information, but considering what happened with Qing, this is my personal assistance to you." Upon finishing, Zhu Houchang pulled out a document from his briefcase and pressed it on the table with his hand.

"I know you're very interested in Guo Qiang. In fact, besides Guo Qiang, we also have business dealings with other members of the Guo Family."

Ling Chen's heart stirred, and he hurriedly asked, "Who?"

Zhu Houchang slowly uttered the name: "Guo Ming. I've seen the contract between Guo Ming and the Zhu Family. The Zhu Family is responsible for providing a security team, comprehensively ensuring the safety of the Guo Family."

"What's so strange about that?" Ling Chen asked, puzzled. "It's normal for the Guo Family to find someone to protect them, right?"

Zhu Houchang replied meaningfully, "Hiring a security team composed of a hundred elite assassins, do you think that's normal?"

"A hundred assassins?" Ling Chen was taken aback. He thought the Guo Family had only hired a few or a dozen, not expecting there to be a hundred. That was terrifying.

"The Guo Family is considered a major client of ours. There are several managers in our Zhu Family, each responsible for their clients. The Guo Family is taken care of by one of my brothers. I didn't know this

before, but I discovered it when I went to find the contract between Guo Qiang and the Zhu Family. Mr. Ling, to put it plainly, we are merely businessmen. As long as there's demand, we do our best to meet our clients' needs. As for other things, the Zhu Family doesn't interfere much. If you want to understand the reasons within, you will have to investigate yourself. This is as far as I can help you."

"Mr. Zhu, giving me this information is already beyond my gratitude. Thank you!" Ling Chen said. He was genuinely grateful to Zhu Houchang, as this information was extremely important to him, possibly a crucial clue.

"Alright, I've said everything I needed to. Mr. Ling, I still have things to do, so I'll be off. If you need any help in the future, have Qing contact me. You're one of my major clients, and I'll try my best to assist you."

"Thank you!"

After seeing Zhu Houchang out of Dragon Tiger Hall, Ling Chen and Zhu Qing also drove off. Not long after, Ling Chen drove to the Nanrong Family home. After being out for so long, he hadn't been in contact with Nanrong Wanqing. Since he was back, he felt it necessary to visit.

Parking the car outside, Ling Chen walked to the door and rang the bell. Soon, Liu Kun appeared in front of Ling Chen as the door to the living room opened.

"Mr. Ling."

"Uncle Liu, how many times do I have to say it? Just call me Ling Chen, no need to use 'Mr.', it's too formal."

Liu Kun nodded, not saying much more, and promptly ushered Ling Chen and Zhu Qing inside. "How is the old master's health, Uncle Liu?"

"Still manageable, no major issues for now. However, the old master is quite old, and right now he relies on medication, which in turn is straining his body. If the medication is used in the long term, it might not hold up for much longer."

"No worries, I'll find a way," Ling Chen said. Last time when Nanrong Yong was critically ill, Ling Chen procured some special potions from Ling Tao, allowing Nanrong Yong's health to gradually return to normal. However, those potions only temporarily kept Nanrong Yong alive. As Liu Kun said, the medication was straining his body, and once it's overused, there would be no turning back, as was the case with Ling Beichuan.

Ling Chen could watch Ling Beichuan pass away with open eyes but couldn't bear to see anything happen to Nanrong Yong. Therefore, finding Ling Gengqiu's body was of utmost importance now.

"Uncle Liu, where's Wanqing?"

"Did you not know?" Liu Kun said, puzzled, "The young miss is not in East Sea City; she left for Beijing a few days ago. The new company's business is extremely busy lately, and the young miss is commuting back and forth, very tired. Luckily, Mr. Nanrong has grown up, and he is able to help reduce her burden significantly."

"Then Haozi should be at home."

Liu Kun shook his head and said, "The young master is out entertaining clients, probably won't return until very late." After a pause, Liu Kun continued, "The young miss and the young master are both not at home, but the cousin is. Would you like to see her?"

The cousin? Ling Chen's eyes lit up; Su Lin was back.

"Great, she is so busy now, it's rare to get a chance to see her. Uncle Liu, go ahead with your tasks, I'll go see Miss Su myself." With that, Ling Chen took Zhu Qing and headed straight to the villa in the backyard.

Entering the villa, Ling Chen saw Su Lin wearing a pink pajama set with cartoon patterns, lounging on the sofa without a care, her long, white, and slender legs exposed.

Su Lin was very beautiful, a rare sight to behold. However, because she frequently spent time with Nanrong Wanqing, everyone's attention was drawn to Nanrong Wanqing, and few paid attention to Su Lin. Even if they did notice her, Nanrong Wanqing's presence overshadowed her beauty.

Chapter 1268 - 1576: Heredity (1)

Su Lin held the remote control, intently watching the young man on the TV, completely unaware of Ling Chen's arrival. As he approached, Ling Chen folded his arms, watching with interest Su Lin's delicate face and the fullness hidden beneath her sheer nightgown.

Tsk tsk! It's been a while, and this young lady's figure has developed quite a bit.

Perhaps Ling Chen's gaze was too intense. Su Lin, who had been watching TV, felt something amiss and quickly turned her head to look behind the sofa, catching Ling Chen's approving smile. After a moment of surprise, Su Lin immediately reacted, hurriedly sitting up from the sofa and pressing her clothes against her chest to cover herself.

"Pervert!" Su Lin glared at Ling Chen, annoyed.

Ling Chen said with a smile, "Miss Su, how am I a pervert? I'm simply appreciating. Honestly, you are becoming more beautiful with each passing day, almost catching up with your cousin."

Hearing this, Su Lin proudly thrust out her rounded bosom and said with pride, "Of course, I'm naturally beautiful." After saying this, Su Lin changed the topic and asked, "Hey! Why did you come here today?"

Ling Chen shrugged, "I originally wanted to see Wanqing, but she went to Beijing. I heard you came back, so I came to say hello. Why, aren't you welcoming me?" Saying this, Ling Chen already sat down beside Su Lin.

Zhu Qing was tactful and knew Ling Chen was going to meet a woman, so she didn't follow him inside and waited outside instead. At this moment, the large living room only had Ling Chen and Su Lin.

"Hey! A single man and woman alone together, don't you think it's inappropriate?" Su Lin moved aside, trying to keep her distance from Ling Chen. If she'd known Ling Chen would come, she wouldn't have worn such a sexy nightgown; her thighs were completely exposed to Ling Chen's view.

Ling Chen snuck a few glances and laughed, "Miss Su, what are you saying? What era is this, and who cares about that sort of thing these days? Besides, we haven't seen each other for so long, I'm visiting you as a friend, aren't you welcoming? Then you aren't being much of a friend."

Not waiting for Su Lin to speak again, Ling Chen curiously asked, "You've been interning outside for so long, how do you feel? Are you getting used to that kind of life?"

Seeing Ling Chen change the topic to work, Su Lin stopped teasing him and nodded, "It's alright. Though I haven't learned much else, I've grown much bolder. I used to be afraid of seeing dead people, but after seeing so many corpses, it feels like nothing now; it's actually quite interesting."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's mind turned and he asked, "Miss Su, you're studying archaeology and have come into contact with many corpses from ancient times. I want to ask, are there any corpses that have been preserved perfectly for hundreds of years?"

"Of course there are. The ancients were wise people; they had many methods for preserving corpses, such as hollowing out the organs and filling the body with mercury. This way, even after hundreds or thousands of years, the corpse can be perfectly preserved, and there's more..."

"Miss Su." Ling Chen interrupted Su Lin, saying, "I'm not asking about methods. I just want to know, are there any corpses naturally preserved without embalming techniques?"

"Impossible." Su Lin immediately shook her head, "Such a thing has never happened. Besides, it's not like a deity keeping the body from decaying. Hey! Why are you suddenly asking this?"

Ling Chen smiled, "I occasionally read something about this in a book, so I thought I'd ask. Miss Su, do you think such a thing could exist?"

"In the Great Thousand World, anything is possible; I can't give you a definite answer, but so far, what you mentioned hasn't appeared." At this point, Su Lin thought for a moment and continued, "If such a situation did occur, it suggests that person's genes are unique, probably mutated. However, scientific research finds that the probability of natural genetic mutation is one in several billion. Simply put, there might only be one or two people globally."

"Genetic mutation..." Ling Chen murmured, considering the possibility he hadn't ruled out, though his knowledge in this area was lacking and he couldn't research it deeply. Moreover, Ling Gengqiu's genes are top secret, something Ling Tao wouldn't easily disclose to him.

"Miss Su, if a person has genetic mutations, would their genes be passed on to their offspring?" This was Ling Chen's question of interest.

"Yes." Su Lin nodded, "However, it depends on probability. These mutated genes hide in the DNA, mostly dormant, and when dormant, they don't affect the body. But once these mutated genes are activated, they can change the whole body structure. Of course, as I said, probability is everything; not every descendant inherits these mutated genes, some genes skip generations." After she said this, Su Lin looked at Ling Chen's thoughtful face and asked, "Do you understand what I'm saying?"

"I understand." Ling Chen replied casually, although he was pondering Su Lin's words in his mind.

Skipping generations... Could it be that I've inherited Ling Gengqiu's mutated genes, and possess self-healing abilities? Otherwise, after suffering such a severe injury that day, I should have died, yet I survived. Though he continually stressed to others it was his fate, Ling Chen knows it has nothing to do with luck. After hearing Su Lin's insights, he thinks he might have inherited Ling Gengqiu's mutated gene, which might explain why he survived.

At this thought, Ling Chen inadvertently took a deep breath, feeling a bit muddled. If that's the case, then it's a big deal.

"Hey! What are you thinking?" Seeing Ling Chen in a daze, Su Lin asked.

"Nothing, nothing." Ling Chen forced a smile, standing up, "Miss Su, it was great seeing you, but it's getting late, I'll head back now. Let's find a chance to meet later." Saying this, Ling Chen stepped out of the villa.

Watching Ling Chen leave, Su Lin muttered to herself, wondering what was going on with him. It seemed like he had become a different person.

After leaving the Nanrong Family, Ling Chen sat in the driver's seat, hesitating to start the car.

"Ling Chen."

Hearing Zhu Qing's voice, Ling Chen snapped back to reality, smiled apologetically, "Sorry, I got lost in thought. Let's go back."

Not long after, the two drove back to the Dragon Tiger Hall. "Lady Zhu, I'm heading to bed. You should get some rest too; there's a lot to do tomorrow."

Chapter 1269 - 1577: Heredity (2)

Watching Ling Chen leave with a heavy heart, Zhu Qing frowned slightly, a hint of worry flashing in her bright eyes. On the way back from the Nanrong Family, Ling Chen was silent, lost in thought, seemingly a completely different person from before.

After hesitating for a moment, Zhu Qing gritted her teeth and quickly caught up with Ling Chen's footsteps.

Back in the room, Ling Chen sat on his bed, daydreaming for a while. He took a sharp dagger out of the drawer of his bedside table. Then, he rolled up his sleeve, revealing his left arm. Taking a deep breath, he placed the dagger above his arm.

The simple way to prove if I've inherited Ling Gengqiu's mutant gene is to cut myself and see if it heals automatically.

Biting his steel jaw, Ling Chen swung the dagger in his hand and slashed at his own arm. However, just at that moment, there was a 'bang' as the bedroom door was forcibly opened. Before Ling Chen could react, a figure rushed to the bedside, swiftly knocked the dagger out of his hand, and pinned his body to the bed.

Feeling the softness of the figure, Ling Chen's mind went blank, not knowing what had just happened.

After a brief stupor, Ling Chen moved his body slightly. "Don't move!" At that moment, a soft voice came. Ling Chen looked closely and found Zhu Qing lying on top of him, her cheeks blushing, with a hint of embarrassment in her eyes.

Ling Chen was stunned, only then realizing why Zhu Qing was shy. Because Zhu Qing's entire body was pressing on him, and as he moved just now, his chest rubbed against Zhu Qing's ample bosom.

Growing up, Zhu Qing had never been in such intimate contact with the opposite sex. Especially the strange feeling from her chest made her extremely shy.

"Zhu... Lady Zhu..." Ling Chen opened his mouth and asked, "What are you... doing?"

Zhu Qing's pretty face turned red, and she hurriedly got off Ling Chen, looking down at her toes, not daring to meet Ling Chen's gaze.

Seeing Zhu Qing's shy appearance, Ling Chen found it amusing. This little girl was quite interesting. Unable to resist teasing, he said, "Lady Zhu, if you want a man, just tell me. I'm willing to make some sacrifices, but isn't forcing yourself a bit much?"

Hearing Ling Chen's jest, Zhu Qing's face turned even redder. She mustered her courage, glared at Ling Chen, and said, "It's all because of you. I was afraid you were thinking of doing something stupid, so I rushed in to save you."

"Save me?" Ling Chen was taken aback. Looking at the dagger that had fallen to the ground, he realized, and chuckled, "You thought I was going to take my own life? Come on, Lady Zhu. I fought hard to stay alive. Do you think I'd give up easily?"

"If not that, why were you trying to cut yourself?"

"I was just trying an experiment, nothing more." As he said this, Ling Chen suddenly thought of something and looked at Zhu Qing curiously, asking, "By the way! I was in the room, and you were outside. How did you know I was thinking of doing something stupid?"

This was too coincidental. Could it be this girl had some sort of x-ray vision and could see through walls?

Faced with Ling Chen's question, Zhu Qing hesitated then stammered, "I installed a surveillance camera in your room. I can monitor your movements with my phone."

What? Ling Chen was shocked, asking, "You're monitoring me?"

"I... I did it for your safety," Zhu Qing said earnestly. "You're my employer; I don't want you in any danger."

Ling Chen smiled bitterly and helplessly, "Lady Zhu, I know you mean well, but I don't want to be invaded in my privacy. Enough! No more of this. Remove the cameras, and let this go. I don't want this to happen again. Understood?"

Jokingly, if he ever brought a woman back and did something indescribable in the room, wouldn't Zhu Qing see it all? Luckily, he found out early, or else, where would he put his face?

Reluctantly, Zhu Qing nodded at Ling Chen's request and strong dissatisfaction, obediently removing all the surveillance cameras in the room.

Ling Chen counted carefully. Zhu Qing had installed a total of six surveillance cameras in his room, including audio monitoring equipment, with no dead angles.

After sending Zhu Qing out, Ling Chen sat alone on the bed, checking the room again to make sure there were no other monitoring devices before he lay down on the bed at ease.

Interrupted by Zhu Qing, Ling Chen had lost the mood to continue his experiment. At that moment, another matter occupied his mind, about the Guo Family that Zhu Houchang had mentioned.

Guo Ming not only collaborates with the Zhu Family but is also a major client, having hired over a hundred elite assassins to protect the Guo Family's security. There must be something fishy. As far as he knew, this generation of the Guo Family only had Guo Ming. Guo Ming had no children under him. Rumor had it Guo Ming had been married twice in his youth but ended both without offspring. Now, he's too old to have children.

It seemed necessary to investigate this matter. Ling Chen thought to himself.

Three days went by in the blink of an eye.

Having been gone for so long, Ling Chen took the time to accompany his family and make further plans for what was to come.

That day, just after lunch, Ling Chen received a call from Jiang Yunkai.

"Right, I got it. I'll come over immediately." After hanging up, Ling Chen greeted Yang Qingling and then drove to the airport by himself.

An hour later, Ling Chen met Jiang Yunkai and others outside the airport exit. However, Ling Chen's personal arrival wasn't for Jiang Yunkai but for the two special guests.

"Miss Lin, we meet again." Ling Chen walked up to Lin Han with a smile and greeted her.

"Ling Chen."

"Big brother." Lin Chun poked her head out from behind Lin Han. Seeing it was Ling Chen, a smile immediately spread across her little face, and she quickly rushed into Ling Chen's arms.

"Little one, I didn't lie to you. I told you we'd meet soon." Saying this, Ling Chen patted Lin Chun's little head and looked up at Lin Han, "Miss Lin, let's go, get in the car."

"Chen, if there's nothing else, we'll head back first," Jiang Yunkai spoke up.

"Sure, you guys go ahead. Call me if there's anything."

In the car, Lin Chun excitedly looked out at the towering buildings, her little face flushed red, chattering about the experience of flying. For a child born in the countryside and in financial hardship, flying was a very novel experience.

Although Lin Han had stayed in big cities, she was always frugal, typically using trains for long-distance travel and had never flown.

"Ling Chen, why... why did you bring us to East Sea City this time?" After hesitating for a while, Lin Han couldn't help asking.

Chapter 1270 - 1578: Repaying Kindness

Since Ling Chen left, Lin Han's life returned to calm once more. However, just yesterday, Jiang Yunkai unexpectedly drove to Xianghe Village to bring the siblings to Beijing, saying he wanted to take them to East Sea City. She knew this must be Ling Chen's idea, but she didn't understand why Ling Chen brought them to East Sea City.

Ling Chen responded with a smile: "Miss Lin, you are my lifesaver, I said I wanted to repay you well. This time, inviting you to East Sea City is to fulfill my promise."

"No need," Lin Han softly said, "I told you before, I'm a doctor, saving lives is the right thing to do, you don't have to take it to heart."

"You shouldn't say that, you may not think much of it, but I can't otherwise I would be an ungrateful person. Miss Lin, I have no other intentions, I just want to thank you."

Returning to the city, Ling Chen drove, turning left and right, finally arriving at a upscale neighborhood.

After parking the car, Ling Chen walked with Lin Han and Lin Chun along the spacious roads of the neighborhood. This neighborhood was newly built, just recently opened for sale, because the environment here is very nice, although located in the city, it is not noisy. Additionally, not far from the neighborhood is a school, it's very convenient for both travel and schooling.

"Ling Chen, do you live here?" Lin Han asked.

Ling Chen smiled and asked, "What do you think of this place?"

"Very upscale, the house prices here should be very high," Lin Han said, "A former university classmate of mine bought a forty square meter apartment in East Sea City for over a million." Speaking of this, Lin Han was a bit touched, "Everything is great in big cities, except the house prices are too high, ordinary people can't afford it."

While speaking, Ling Chen suddenly stopped and pointed to a three-story detached building ahead, "This is it."

Lin Chun raised his head, said with a face full of admiration, "Big brother, is this your house? It's so big, so beautiful."

"Little guy, do you like it here?"

Lin Chun nodded, "It's much better than my home."

"Come on, I'll take you inside to have a look."

Arriving at the door, Ling Chen pressed the doorbell. Soon, the door was opened by someone from inside, a middle-aged woman in her fifties wearing an apron greeted them with a smile: "Mr. Ling."

"Nanny Huang, let me introduce you, this is Lin Han, and this is her brother, Lin Chun."

"Hello Miss Lin, hello young master. Come in quickly, I've prepared the meal."

Entering the dining room, they found the table laid with a sumptuous feast, a chubby man was devouring the fragrant food with reckless abandon.

Seeing the other's ravenous eating behavior, Ling Chen couldn't help but laugh and scold, "I say, fatty, have you not eaten for days? You're a guest, at least mind your image."

"I've been busy half the day, I haven't even had breakfast. Let me tell you, Nanny Huang's cooking is really good, I didn't hire the wrong person." Saying this, Hu Fei put down the bowl and chopsticks, wiped the grease from the corner of his mouth with a tissue, and walked over to Lin Han with a smile, "You must be Miss Lin. Hello, my name is Hu Fei, I'm Ling Chen's close buddy."

"Hello."

"Ling Chen, I have to go back now as I have something to do. Oh, by the way, all the paperwork is complete, it's on the coffee table in the living room."

"Great, thank you for your hard work."

After seeing Hu Fei off, Ling Chen sat at the dining table, accompanying Lin Han and Lin Chun as they finished lunch. After eating, Nanny Huang brought fruits, snacks, and tea, and then cleared the dishes and went to the kitchen.

"Ling Chen, do you live by yourself? I haven't seen your family."

Ling Chen replied with a smile, "My family doesn't live here, I don't live here either."

Hearing this, Lin Han was slightly taken aback, originally wanting to ask more. But then she realized this was a personal matter and she shouldn't pry.

"Miss Lin, keep these documents safe." Ling Chen placed a document folder into Lin Han's hand.

"Documents?" Lin Han asked puzzled, "What kind of documents?"

"It's the house purchase contract. From now on, you're the owner of this house."

"Wh... what?" Lin Han didn't respond for a moment, looked at Ling Chen in a daze, somewhat doubting her ears had heard wrong.

"Miss Lin, from now on this is your new home. Additionally, I've already contacted the school, starting next week, Lin Chun can start attending school. As for you, in East Sea City, it doesn't matter which hospital you want to work at, as long as you wish. If you want more freedom, you could open a clinic, which would also give you more time to take care of your brother."

"You... no way!" Lin Han, reacting, shook her head hastily, handing the document folder back to Ling Chen, "This thing is too precious, I can't accept it. Ling Chen, if you want to thank me, you can just take me out for a meal, that I can accept. But I can't accept something this valuable."

Ling Chen smiled slightly, he had anticipated that Lin Han would refuse.

"Miss Lin, everyone sees things from different perspectives. Perhaps to you, this house is expensive, but in my eyes, it's just some pocket money, nothing much. My original intention was to give you a luxurious villa, but knowing you as I do, I knew you wouldn't accept, so I chose a simpler house for you."

After a pause, Ling Chen continued, "Miss Lin, even if you don't consider for yourself, you should think about your brother. He's quite grown, at an age to start school. If he delays further, do you know what his future would be like?"

"I..." Lin Han glanced at Lin Chun beside her, falling into silence.

"Miss Lin, don't overthink. Honestly, you saved my life, no matter how much I give you it's deserved, so don't feel any psychological burden, and definitely don't feel you owe me anything. My thoughts are simple, I just hope you and your brother can have a better life. Besides, I've already entrusted someone in Beijing to find connections so that soon, the government will implement a new rural transformation plan for Xianghe Village. Then, all the villagers in Xianghe Village will live happily."

Lin Han looked at Ling Chen puzzled, asking, "Why are you doing this?"

"A drop of water's gratitude should be reciprocated with a spring. It's as simple as that. Okay, put the documents away, later I'll take you around to familiarize yourself with the area, then I'll take you to my home for dinner."

"Thank you!"

"No need for thanks." Ling Chen smiled, stood up and said, "Little fellow, let's go, I'll take you out to play."

During the afternoon, Ling Chen accompanied the Lin Family's siblings on a tour around the city, buying lots of clothes and daily necessities. After dinner, Ling Chen drove them back to their new home.

After completing everything, as Ling Chen prepared to drive home, he unexpectedly received a call from someone.