

The Beauty 1271

Chapter 1271 Regaining Supreme Power (1)

"Ling Chen, it's me."

Upon hearing Ling Tao's voice from the other end of the phone, Ling Chen asked, "Is there something you need?" He understood that Ling Tao calling him could only mean he needed Ling Chen's help for some reason.

"I just want to remind you to protect yourself well. We might not be in contact for a long period from now on. I'm not just referring to myself, but also your father Ling Kun and the porridge girl. If you encounter danger, the Northern Ling Family won't be able to provide any help, so be cautious with everything you do."

Hearing this, Ling Chen was stunned and hurriedly asked, "Why?"

Ling Tao spoke solemnly, "The Southern Ling Family couldn't hold back and has made a move. We have no choice but to engage, and both sides have suffered heavy losses. Whether it's your father or anyone else, everyone is wounded. But don't worry, your father is not in life-threatening danger; some rest will make him fine. We have limited manpower now and can't ensure your safety, so you'll have to rely on yourself."

"Don't worry about my safety, as long as you are all okay."

"Alright, take good care of yourself. We have to relocate, and I'll reach out when the crisis is over." With that, without waiting for Ling Chen to ask anything else, Ling Tao had already hung up the phone.

As the busy tone came from the other side, Ling Chen frowned slightly, feeling a bit worried. The full-scale war between the Southern and Northern Ling Family signifies the dangers, and he wonders if his dad and the porridge girl will be alright.

Unfortunately, they have always kept him out of the loop, refusing to share the inside story. Even if he wanted to help, he couldn't start. Besides, he had his own mess to deal with and had no time for anything else.

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Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

In the spacious hall, a few people were seated at the moment: Su He, Du Kang, Wang Hao, and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, Su Mei. The four sat facing each other, the atmosphere felt heavy, and everyone remained silent.

After a while, Su He raised his head, looking at Wang Hao beside him, he said, "Speak about the situation."

"Yes, Master." Wang Hao cleared his throat, and began, "Since the last time we returned, our Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's influence has noticeably weakened. Some time ago, we issued the Heavenly Mechanism Order, asking all Martial Arts people to assist the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion in locating Ling Kun's whereabouts. However, judging from the recent days, everyone's attitude towards the Heavenly Mechanism Order is very indifferent, ignoring it, no one helped. Furthermore, based on intelligence gathered by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, many places have organized local Martial Arts people, secretly holding meetings, preparing to unite against the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's control over Martial Arts."

Su He coldly said, "A bunch of rabble, don't bother with them."

"Master, this time the situation is different from before. Although there have been people resisting the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion before, they were few. But, as far as I know, more than half of the Martial Arts people are involved this time, and many others are watching, considering joining in." Wang Hao expressed concern, "Master, if not quickly dealt with, I fear it would have adverse effects on the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"Is it the people from Dragon Tiger Hall leading?"

"Yes." Wang Hao nodded, "Based on the intelligence we received, Tong Zhentian is preparing to form an alliance, calling all Martial Arts people to join."

"He finally took measures." Su He calmly said, "The last plan failed, I predicted he wouldn't give up easily." After speaking, Su He glanced at Du Kang and Su Mei, asking, "Do you have any good suggestions?"

Du Kang kept drinking from his wine gourd, seemingly oblivious to Su He's question. Su Mei slightly raised her head, her bright eyes flickering with complex light.

Seeing that neither of them spoke, Su He couldn't help but smile, "Su Mei, haven't you prepared mentally?"

Su Mei's heart panicked, she stammered, "I... I don't know..."

"You're not ignorant, you're hesitating. You're a girl, too soft-hearted, emotions can easily cloud your judgment. To be honest, as the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, you are inadequate in this regard."

Faced with Su He's criticism, Su Mei lowered her head, lightly biting her thin lip, silent. Su He continued speaking, "When you became the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, your father should have told you. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master's mission is to live for the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, each decision must start from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's interests. Do you remember?"

"I remember." Su Mei nodded lightly.

"I know you are friends with Ling Chen. I don't deny, Ling Chen indeed provided us with considerable help initially. However, I have already repaid what was owed, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion doesn't owe him anything. Now, he and Dragon Tiger Hall are our enemies."

"Why?" Su Mei clutched her clothes, mustered courage, looking at her grandfather, she asked, "Why can't we coexist peacefully, why must there be a winner and loser? Putting Ling Chen aside, the rise of Dragon Tiger Hall might impact Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, but it won't shake its foundation. As long as we manage well, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion still holds the greatest authority in Martial Arts. Moreover, in this age, there's no need to resolve everything through fists. As the saying goes, winning hearts is winning the world. I feel, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion should learn to embrace and accept, demonstrate broad-mindedness, gesturing kindness, and receiving goodwill, only then will others truly admire us."

"Grandpa, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has stood as a Martial Arts legend for centuries, always holding a dominant position, no one dares to oppose it. But their attitude towards Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion isn't reverence, but mostly fear."

"So what?" Su He said, "Power comes from the barrel of a gun, strength is the foundation. If Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion faces no external threats, it can be like you said, but now, that's impossible; Dragon Tiger Hall threatens Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's core. If we don't take action, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's centuries-old heritage might crumble suddenly." Speaking here, Su He looked at Du Kang, asking, "Mr. Du, what's your view?"

Du Kang opened his drunken eyes, yawned, and said, "I have no view, our Yangxin Pavilion only ensures Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's internal safety, as for external matters, we don't interfere nor have interest."

Regarding Du Kang's dismissive reply, Su He's face slightly frowned, somewhat dissatisfied, but he said no more. The first generation Pavilion Master of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had set the rule that Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion handles external actions, Yangxin Pavilion intervenes only when Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion experiences a crisis. One manages external affairs, the other internal, with mutually exclusive operations. After all, Yangxin Pavilion members are the seniors of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, having made considerable contributions. Despite the Su family managing Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, ignoring Yangxin Pavilion is impossible.

Chapter 1272 Regaining Command (Part 2)

"Master." Wang Hao contemplated for a moment and said, "Capture the leader first to catch the thief. How about... we directly take out the leader? Tong Zhentian has a high reputation in the Martial Arts world, with extensive connections, not inferior to you, Master. Once he's gone, who would dare to lead a rebellion against our Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

Pausing briefly, Wang Hao continued, "And also Ling Chen, keeping him around is always a disaster, he must be eliminated along with Tong Zhentian."

"No way!" As soon as Wang Hao finished speaking, Su Mei opposed, "Is killing all you can think of? Can't you come up with anything else?"

"Pavilion Master, I..."

Before Wang Hao could speak, he was interrupted by Su He, who said, "Wang Hao's proposal is good, but Tong Zhentian is not easy to deal with. Given the first attempt, they will surely strengthen their defenses. So, for now, we cannot take action against them. Wang Hao, go investigate clearly which other Martial Arts figures besides the Dragon Tiger Hall plan to do harm to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and give me a list."

"Understood." After speaking, Wang Hao stood up and quickly walked out of the main hall.

"Grandfather, what are you planning?"

Su He said evasively, "You cannot handle this matter. Leave it to me instead."

"No way!" Su Mei's attitude was firm, "Grandfather, I am still the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. No matter what you intend, I should be informed." At this point, Su Mei seemed to have thought of something, turning the conversation, she asked, "And one more thing, why have you never told me about the existence of the Skyhawk Pavilion?"

Upon hearing these words, a sharp gleam flashed in Su He's eyes, and he said in a deep voice, "What Skyhawk Pavilion?"

"Grandfather, at this point you still want to keep secrets from me? Yes! Neither you nor my parents have told me about the existence of the Skyhawk Pavilion. However, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion stores so much data, including numerous records about the Skyhawk Pavilion. Every past Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has the right to know about the existence of the Skyhawk Pavilion and has absolute control over it, why is there nothing for me?"

"Correct!" Su He nodded, "The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion does indeed have a mysterious organization. However, since you were too young at that time and not mature enough, your father and I decided not to inform you about the Skyhawk Pavilion, intending to wait until you have gradually matured before handing the Skyhawk Pavilion over to you for management. Nonetheless, in the years you've held the reins of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, I have observed you closely from the shadows and believe you are still not qualified to manage the Skyhawk Pavilion, hence why I haven't handed it over to you."

"So, all these years, the Skyhawk Pavilion has been under your control?"

Su He spoke earnestly, "You must understand that everything has two sides. In this world, black and white coexist. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion represents 'white', while the Skyhawk Pavilion represents 'black'. I have withheld information about the Skyhawk Pavilion because I do not want you to become too entangled in the bloodshed."

"In the years I've led the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, there have been numerous massacres in the Martial Arts world. Upon careful investigation, without exception, those who perished had grievances with our Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and some openly resisted the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. I suspect, this must have been the work of the Skyhawk Pavilion."

"As I mentioned, you don't need to concern yourself excessively with these matters. Simply do your own duties well."

"No way. Grandfather, if it were before, you could do as you wish. But now that I am the Pavilion Master, everything should follow my vision. Within three days, I hope you hand over control of the Skyhawk Pavilion to me."

"What are you planning?"

"Nothing, I just want to save the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion from repeating its mistakes. Grandfather, have you considered the consequences if the Skyhawk Pavilion's activities were exposed? At that point, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion would become the target of everyone's attacks."

Seeing the determination in Su Mei's eyes, Su He sighed gently, shaking his head, "Child, your thinking is still too naive. Perhaps placing the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion into your hands was a mistake. Come!"

With that, two men with cold expressions instantly appeared at the door.

"Escort the Pavilion Master back to her room. From today onwards, no one is to allow the Pavilion Master to take a step out of her chambers without my permission, nor receive anyone. Understand?"

"Yes!"

Su Mei's expression changed, taken aback, "Grandfather, are you... are you going to confine me?"

"It's for your own good." With that, Su He gestured, signaling the two men to forcibly escort Su Mei away. Though Su Mei tried to struggle, she was overpowered by the men who grabbed her arms and dragged her out of the hall.

"If there is nothing else, I shall take my leave." Du Kang, swaying the emptied wine gourd, stood up from his seat.

"Do you think I'm wrong?" Su He questioned Du Kang, "Special times necessitate special measures. Su Mei cannot handle it; I must take action myself. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has been handed down for hundreds of years; I cannot let it be destroyed in Su Mei's hands."

"You have your reasons, but Su Mei's words also make sense. Consider this: how many lives have been lost due to the Skyhawk Pavilion's actions over the years? The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is already at the center of a storm. Your authoritarian measures may have an effect, but while strengthening the Pavilion's position, aren't you also pushing it towards the edge of a cliff? Everything has two sides; you only see the good, but not the bad."

Pausing for a moment, Du Kang continued, "The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion needs unity to overcome adversity together. Su Mei is the current Pavilion Master. By imprisoning her, what will others think? You should think carefully about it."

"Will you support me then?"

Du Kang halted, and after a few seconds of silence, slowly replied, "I will do my duties."

As Du Kang left, Su He found himself alone in the expansive hall, lost in thought. After a while, Su He tapped lightly on the table, prompting a figure to appear behind him.

"Notify the Skyhawk Pavilion to prepare for battle; the targets this time may be numerous."

"Understood." The figure hesitated briefly and asked, "I heard Ling Chen didn't die?"

"Correct, I saw him appear before me. A renowned master of the Heavenly List, I hadn't expected you to fail."

"Impossible! I clearly pierced his vital spot. Even if he had nine lives, he couldn't survive unless..."

"Alright." Su He impatiently waved his hand, interrupting the other, "There's no need to discuss this further, as it doesn't greatly impact us. For now, you're relieved of the responsibility for Su Mei's safety; focus instead on handling the affairs of the Skyhawk Pavilion—avoid any more mistakes."

"Understood." The figure responded, instantly disappearing behind Su He.

Chapter 1273 - 1581: Hongyu Group's Expansion

Ling Chen has been having a good few days; everything is going according to plan without much hindrance. However, the only thing causing him a headache is the Guo Family.

According to the intelligence provided by Zhu Houchang, there is definitely something wrong with the Guo Family. Just the thought of Guo Family being protected by more than a hundred elite assassins makes Ling Chen's head spin. Trying to investigate quietly is certainly not an option, as those are professional assassins, adept at stealth.

Moreover, Ling Chen doesn't want to create more trouble for himself right now. No matter what secrets the Guo Family is hiding, making a move would certainly attract their displeasure. He has enough on his plate already and for now, he doesn't want to make another enemy.

Sitting in Lin Han's new home, Ling Chen sat with his legs crossed, holding a remote control in one hand, flipping through TV channels out of boredom. During these days, whenever he had free time, Ling Chen would head to Lin Han's place. It wasn't because he had any feelings for Lin Han; it was just that he thought it was necessary to accompany the Lin siblings, who were new to East Sea City and knew no one there. Besides, it would help improve their relationship.

At this moment, Ling Chen's attention was caught by a news program on TV. It was financial news, with today's focus being on the Hongyu United Investment Company located in Beijing. The news reported

that recently, the Hongyu United Investment Company had been making a series of commercial moves, acquiring many small and medium-sized companies. Most of these companies primarily produced daily necessities, and such a large-scale operation by Hongyu United Investment Company attracted a lot of attention from business circles.

While daily necessities are generally low in price, they have a high turnover rate. It seems Hongyu United Investment Company is aiming to capture market share and dominate the field.

In the news, Ling Chen also saw the reporter interviewing Nanrong Wanqing.

"Miss Nanrong, your company has invested so much capital this time, acquiring dozens of companies. Are you not afraid of the risks?"

Nanrong Wanqing calmly replied, "There is no zero-risk in doing business; the higher the risk, the greater the reward. Besides, with the robust capital of Hongyu United Investment Company, even if we lose, it doesn't matter. We treat it as an experiment."

"What are your next steps, Miss Nanrong?"

"We've raised 30 billion funds to test various industries. Additionally, we will make substantial investments in projects with value and potential. Anyone with innovative ideas and thoughts but lacking start-up capital can come to Hongyu Investment Company, and we'll help make dreams come true."

In the subsequent interview time, the reporter asked many commercial questions, and Ling Chen was left in the fog. Close to the end, the reporter shifted his tone, smiling as he said, "Miss Nanrong, I've asked all about business matters. If you don't mind, I'd like to ask a personal question."

"Please go ahead."

"I wonder when Miss Nanrong plans to leave singlehood and start a family? I think... the single elites in front of the TV are all very concerned about this question."

"Are you talking about marriage? I haven't considered that for now. Hongyu Group is in a development stage, and I need to invest all my time dealing with various matters, leaving little time to find someone to marry."

"Do you have someone you're more fond of now?"

Hearing this question, Nanrong Wanqing hesitated a little and said, "It's hard to say I'm fond of anyone, but there are people I admire."

The reporter smiled and said, "Any man admired by Miss Nanrong must be very outstanding. Alright, today's interview ends here. I wish Hongyu Group to go further and fly higher, and I hope Miss Nanrong quickly finds her other half."

Watching Nanrong Wanqing disappear from the TV, Ling Chen smiled faintly and turned off the TV. Ling Chen knew well about the shareholders of the Hongyu United Investment Company, who were precisely the business people who once attempted to harm the Hongyu Group. Together, they amounted to one-fifth of the entire commercial circle of Huaxia, each member being wealthy and influential, consistently ranking on the rich lists.

Nanrong Wanqing leveraged the past event to tie them all onto the same boat, advancing and retreating with the Hongyu Group. With their assistance, Nanrong Wanqing's business empire would inevitably expand across Huaxia.

Just as he was thinking about it, the sound of the door opening was heard. Nanny Huang was back with Lin Chun.

Under Ling Chen's arrangement, Lin Chun had started attending a nearby elementary school. Seeing Lin Chun with a backpack, walking gloomily, Ling Chen couldn't help but smile as he went forward to stroke his head, saying, "Why aren't you happy? Isn't school fun?"

Lin Chun shook his head and said, "Big Brother, school is not good. I don't want to go anymore."

Hearing this, Ling Chen was surprised and asked, "Why?"

"They all bully me," Lin Chun's eyes started turning red. "They call me a country bumpkin and say I don't know anything."

"Didn't you tell the teacher?"

"I did, and the teacher said they were just joking with me, but they still bully me. Big Brother, can I not go to school anymore? Let me stay at home; I can help with the housework."

"That's not possible. You must go to school. Only by learning can you choose your future." Ling Chen patted Lin Chun on the head, comforting him. "You have to be a bit braver. If anyone bullies you, go to the teacher. If the teacher doesn't help, bully them back. With Big Brother backing you up, you don't have to be afraid of anything. Understand?"

Lin Chun gently nodded his head.

"Alright, go do your homework. We'll eat when your sister returns."

Watching Lin Chun go up the stairs, Ling Chen spoke, "Nanny Huang, please remember to have a word with his teacher when you take Lin Chun to school tomorrow."

"Okay."

As the words fell, a mobile phone ringtone came from Ling Chen's pocket. After checking the caller ID, Ling Chen answered and asked, "Boss Tang, what's up? ... Alright, I'll be there right away."

After pocketing his phone, Ling Chen bid farewell to Nanny Huang and immediately drove to the Dragon Tiger Hall.

Half an hour later, Ling Chen appeared in the conference room of the Dragon Tiger Hall. At this time, many people were seated in the spacious conference room, including Tong Zhentian and Qiu Yong. After Ling Chen took his seat, Tong Zhentian nodded at He Ziyun, who then stood up and said, "Just recently, we received news. A fire suddenly broke out in a hotel in Jinhai City, and there were thirty-two casualties on the spot, with countless injuries."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen curiously asked, "Mr. He, what does this have to do with us?"

"Don't worry, let me explain slowly." He Ziyun took out some documents and said, "Among the thirty-two deceased, twenty-seven were Martial Arts practitioners. According to my investigation, they had arranged to meet at the hotel today."

Chapter 1274 - 1582: Nighttime Infiltration of Tianji (1)

"During this period, martial artists from all over the country have been responding, wanting to join the temporary alliance formed by Dragon Tiger Hall to jointly crusade against Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion under Elder Tong's leadership. The martial artists from Jinhai City can be considered our allies. The main purpose of their meeting at the hotel this time was to recruit more people to join us. However, no one expected such a thing to happen suddenly, all martial artists present were burned to death without exception."

"Impossible!" Ling Chen frowned and said, "They are all trained fighters, how could an average fire trap them? Moreover, not a single survivor, that's too coincidental."

"Indeed!" He Ziyun nodded and said, "Because of this, I summoned all of you here. It's clear that people from Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion took action, this is a reminder and a warning. Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion wants all martial artists to know that anyone opposing Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will not have a good end. Just now, I received several calls from people. Although not very explicit, they subtly expressed their intention to withdraw from the alliance."

"Humph!" Tang Guolun said disdainfully, "They are all cowards who only think about their own safety."

"I think we need to speed up." Qiu Yong said gravely, "If Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion continues like this, this alliance will eventually collapse. While everyone is still united, we should quickly start a war against Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"Now is not the time to start." Ling Chen said, "Compared to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, we are far outnumbered. Also, Elder Tong's health has not recovered, we have effectively lost a Heavenly List master, which is very disadvantageous to us." Ling Chen paused, then continued, "Besides, we need a legitimate reason."

"Correct." Tong Zhentian chimed in, "Starting a war against Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion cannot just be done with a bunch of people surrounding them. We must find a suitable reason. Although I previously stated that Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is a hindrance to martial arts development, that is not a reason, it's too far-fetched, making it seem like our Dragon Tiger Hall wants to usurp."

"Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has committed many evils in the past. As long as we find evidence of this, not only will it be legitimate, but it can also evoke a sense of justice in people's hearts, attracting more martial artists to join us."

As Xu Ming finished speaking, he immediately received unanimous agreement from everyone.

However, having a target is one thing, finding evidence is a problem that needs solving. Ling Chen looked at Xu Ming beside him and asked, "Second brother, you know Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion well, do you have any good suggestions?"

Xu Ming pondered for a moment and said, "Over the years, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has secretly eliminated dissidents, anyone who opposed Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had a bad ending. Either their entire household was exterminated or they were sunk to the bottom of a lake, not a single survivor, it will be difficult to find a witness. Personally, I think it's best to start with Skyhawk Pavilion. Skyhawk Pavilion specifically does some unspeakable tasks for Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and they have detailed records of each mission. If we can find that record and make it public, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will be doomed."

Upon hearing this, Tong Zhentian and others looked at Xu Ming with a touch of surprise.

"Mr. Xu, how do you know so much about these things?"

Xu Ming said lightly, "I have some connections with Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, so I know some things others don't."

"Second brother," Ling Chen asked impatiently, "since you know Skyhawk Pavilion, do you know where it is located?"

"I'm not sure about that." Xu Ming said, "The only thing I can confirm is that Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion definitely keeps records of every action by Skyhawk Pavilion, and these records are very important, usually kept by the Pavilion Master themselves. Ling Chen, you know quite a few friends within Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, maybe you could ask them for help."

"Second brother, you want me to make a trip to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

"That's right! You are the most suitable candidate. As long as you find that record, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will definitely be defeated." Xu Ming's tone was confident.

Ling Chen hesitated for a moment, then nodded and said, "Alright, since this is the only way, I will make a trip."

"Sixth brother, don't worry, we will go with you." Qiu Yong said.

Xu Ming shook his head and said, "Big brother, we have more important things to do, this matter can only be entrusted to the sixth brother." Xu Ming paused, then continued, "Before sixth brother enters Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, we need to create some conditions for him, try to attract Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's attention so they don't focus on their own affairs."

"Mr. Xu, whatever plan you have, feel free to tell us, and we will fully cooperate with you." He Ziyun said.

"You just need to gather a hundred martial artists in a short time; I'll handle the rest."

He Ziyun glanced at Tong Zhentian, and seeing no objection from the latter, he nodded slightly and said, "No problem. Within three days, I'll help you gather enough manpower."

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Two days have passed in the blink of an eye.

Late at night, the forest, which had just been drenched by rain, was full of dew, slowly dropping down the leaves one by one.

In the darkness, a shadow navigated the forest quickly. Shielded by dense leaves and overcast night skies, the forest was pitch black, impossible to see one's hand in front of their face. Suddenly, the moving shadow lunged forward, diving onto the ground, using the surrounding weeds to cover its body, leaving only a pair of eyes staring intently ahead.

Soon, within twenty meters away, two blurry figures appeared. The two silhouettes walked slowly along the forest, occasionally looking around as if searching for something. After a while, a man's voice said, "It's safe here, let's go check over there."

"Okay." The companion replied, and the two quickly headed south.

Only when their figures disappeared from sight did the shadow in the grass slowly stand up. However, he did not rush to leave but climbed a nearby big tree quickly. Just then, the two figures returned again, carefully checking around once more. "Let's go; there shouldn't be anyone here."

Watching them gradually disappear, the figure on the tree branch breathed a slight sigh of relief. "Damn! These guys are getting craftier."

After descending the tree, the shadow moved stealthily along the grass again. After a quarter of an hour, he finally reached a complex of buildings on the edge of a cliff.

"Whew... finally here." Ling Chen breathed lightly. To sneak into Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's territory, he avoided ten waves of obvious and dark posts in total. It seems Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has realized its own crisis and has strengthened its outer defenses.

Chapter 1275 - 1583: Night Visit to the Celestial Pavilion (2)

Looking at the brightly lit Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, Ling Chen found a more concealed spot, lay on the ground, and then pulled out a pack of compressed biscuits from his backpack and slowly started eating. It wasn't yet the best time to enter the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion; only when it was deep into the night would there be an opportunity.

He hadn't visited the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for several months, and now it had seen quite a change. Around the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, it was entirely surrounded by wire fences. Those fences stood at least three or four meters tall, with a guard stationed every twenty meters. Moreover, all the weeds outside the wire fences had been cleared away, not even a single stone was left, ensuring that anyone within ten meters of the wire fence would be discovered by the guards inside without any cover.

After finishing the biscuits, Ling Chen drank some water and continued to lie on the ground, resting and recovering his spent energy. Time ticked by slowly, and at midnight, Ling Chen suddenly opened his eyes and cast his gaze towards the wire fence not far away.

After waiting for over ten minutes, a weak light suddenly appeared in one section of the wire fence, flickering on and off. After flashing four times consecutively, the weak light disappeared. Seeing this, Ling Chen hesitated no more, sprang into action like a released arrow, and charged swiftly forward.

The ten-meter distance was covered in the blink of an eye, and Ling Chen successfully reached the side of the wire fence.

Lying on the ground, Ling Chen took a pair of pincers out of his backpack and carefully cut a small opening in the wire fence, maneuvering through it.

After passing through the wire fence, Ling Chen didn't pause and continued crawling forward. After crawling forward for about ten meters, there was a sentry post, a place specifically for guards to rest. Entering the post, he saw a young man sitting inside.

Meeting gazes, Ling Chen slightly raised the corner of his mouth and asked with a smile, "Everything's good?"

The other person nodded, "Don't worry, I've arranged everything." Saying this, the young man handed a pre-prepared package to Ling Chen, saying, "Everything you need is inside; quickly change into them."

Ling Chen responded affirmatively and immediately took off the clothes he was wearing, donning the new outfit. This was the uniform of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, designed to avoid being recognized.

Once everything was ready, Ling Chen looked at the other person and said, "Thanks, Song Ge!" This young man was none other than Song Ge, with whom Ling Chen had once befriended during the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony.

The current Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion wasn't the same as before; attempting to infiltrate required inside help. Ling Chen thought over it and finally reached out to Song Ge. Among the people in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, it was only Song Ge with whom he had a good relationship.

"No need to thank me. I'm doing this not just to help you, but also for the Pavilion Master."

"Pavilion Master?" Ling Chen was slightly surprised and asked in confusion, "What's the situation with Miss Su?"

"Honestly, Ling, I don't know the Pavilion Master's situation either. Last time after Elder Su and the others returned, I haven't seen the Pavilion Master anymore. Now, all major affairs in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion are handled personally by Elder Su. I did some digging around and found that the Pavilion Master seems to have been confined."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen was taken aback. Su Mei was actually being confined! Without needing further thought, it must have been Su He's doing. Ling Chen couldn't understand why Su He would treat Su Mei, his own granddaughter, this way.

As thoughts raced through his mind, Ling Chen asked, "Song Ge, do you know where Miss Su is being held?"

"In her own room. I wanted to visit the Pavilion Master but there are guards at the door, not allowing entry without Elder Su's orders." Pausing, Song Ge continued, "Ling, I've stayed in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for quite some time, and almost everyone knows me. However, over the past few days, there are many unfamiliar faces in the pavilion."

"Those might be people from Skyhawk Pavilion."

"Skyhawk Pavilion?"

"I'll explain later. Song Ge, I'm going to find Miss Su now."

"Alright. Remember, the guard shifts every four hours. You must get back before then, or you won't have a chance to escape." Song Ge reminded.

"Got it."

Leaving the sentry post, Ling Chen headed straight to Su Mei's residence. Since it was late at night, most people were already resting, with only a few patrolling guards outside. It didn't take long for Ling Chen to reach the high tower where Su Mie resided.

The entrance of the tower was guarded, and the main door was clearly off limits. Ling Chen surveyed the surroundings, confirmed no one was around, then retrieved a claw hook from his backpack, attached to a rope. He threw it lightly, and the hook promptly flew to the top of the tower, wedging between two bricks.

Once the hook was secured, Ling Chen quickly climbed the rope upwards. Before long, he reached the floor where Su Mei resided.

Positioned outside the window, Ling Chen took out a dagger, cautiously inserted it into the gap, and gently nudged it, causing the latch inside to pop open. Pushing open the window, Ling Chen didn't hesitate and climbed in directly. Although Su Mei was the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, she had never practiced martial arts, so he didn't fear being discovered by her.

As expected, at this moment, Su Mei was lying on the bed in her bedroom, already in a deep sleep.

While Su Mei wasn't awake, Ling Chen meticulously searched the room, hoping to find the records Xu Ming had mentioned. However, having searched the whole room, there was no discovery. The bedroom! Ling Chen turned his gaze to Su Mei's bedroom, as it was the only place he hadn't searched.

Entering the bedroom, Ling Chen immediately saw a large wooden cabinet against the wall. Opening the cabinet doors, he looked through its contents, finding only clothes inside. Below the cabinet were several rows of drawers. Ling Chen randomly opened a drawer and felt inside to see if there was any paper or books.

"Who are you?"

Just then, an icy voice startled Ling Chen. Damn! Unexpectedly, Su Mei woke up at this moment.

Before Ling Chen could react, he heard a soft click, and the bedroom lights were switched on. Ling Chen quickly turned his head and saw Su Mei sitting on the bed, glaring coldly at him. Suddenly, for some reason, Su Mei's cheeks gradually turned red, her beautiful eyes showing a hint of angry embarrassment.

Ling Chen froze for a moment, following Su Mei's gaze, only to find he was holding onto several brightly colored intimate garments, a bandeau, and... underwear... Damn! He thought the drawer would contain the items he was seeking, unexpectedly it was filled with Su Mei's intimate clothing.

"You rogue!" Su Mei shouted in anger, "I'm going to..."

Not good! Panic surged through Ling Chen as he hurriedly let go of the intimate garments, swiftly leaping onto the bed, pinning Su Mei's delicate frame beneath him. Simultaneously, he covered Su Mei's mouth with one hand, preventing her from making another sound.

Chapter 1276 - 1584: Nighttime Infiltration of the Celestial Secrets (3)

Knock, knock, knock!

At that moment, a knock came from outside the door, and a man outside asked, "Pavilion Master, are you all right?"

Ling Chen cursed silently, realizing he was one step too late. If the people outside discovered something unusual inside the room, they would definitely barge in. By then, not only would his plan fail, but he might also implicate Song Ge.

Mmm... Mmm... Su Mei frantically waved her fists, pounding on Ling Chen's body while struggling.

"Miss Su, don't move." Ling Chen had no choice but to shout.

Hearing Ling Chen's voice, Su Mei was slightly stunned, looking at Ling Chen in disbelief, "You are..."

Ling Chen smiled bitterly, reaching out to remove the mask from his face, revealing a helpless expression.

"Miss Su, it's me, I..."

Before Ling Chen could finish speaking, the knocking on the door became louder and more urgent, "Pavilion Master, please open the door and let us in."

Su Mei quietly watched Ling Chen, as if not hearing the shouting from outside. After a while, she patted Ling Chen's hand that was covering her mouth, indicating him to let go. Ling Chen sighed quietly; he had no other choice but to comply. If Su Mei didn't make a sound, those people outside would definitely break in.

Had it been someone else, he might have resorted to threats. However, facing Su Mei, his former friend, he couldn't bring himself to do it.

At this moment, Su Mei sat up from the bed and glanced at Ling Chen with a bit of exasperation. Then, she got up and walked to the living room, shouting to the people outside, "Stop knocking, can people rest or not?"

"Pavilion Master, we just heard noises inside the room. May I ask..."

"I'm fine, no need to worry about me," Su Mei replied impatiently. "It's already very late, don't disturb my rest."

"Yes."

Listening to the conversation between Su Mei and the guards outside, Ling Chen couldn't help but be surprised. He thought that Su Mei would have people capture him. Watching Su Mei return to the bedroom, Ling Chen opened his mouth, about to speak, when Su Mei said, "No need to make a big deal."

I'm now just a prisoner under soft imprisonment, with no power, no need to trouble you." Pausing, Su Mei asked, "Speak out, why did you sneak into my room in the middle of the night?"

"I came to find something."

"Find what?"

Ling Chen hesitated for a moment, then smiled bitterly, "Miss Su, it's better if you don't ask. I don't know how to answer you." He couldn't possibly tell Su Mei that he was looking for evidence against the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Su Mei was, after all, the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and would never allow outsiders to infringe on the interests of the Pavilion.

However, as smart as Su Mei was, she could easily guess Ling Chen's thoughts, "No matter what you're looking for, it must be something harmful to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. But you'll likely be disappointed; I have nothing here."

"Miss Su, you're the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. How come you're under soft imprisonment?"

"It's my grandfather's decision."

"Why did he do that? You're the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. What right does he have to imprison you?"

Su Mei sighed softly, shaking her head as she said, "My grandfather and I have different philosophies, so he confined me here." After speaking, Su Mei looked at Ling Chen and said, "Can you chat with me? These days, I've been locked in a room alone, not able to go anywhere, and I don't even have anyone to talk to."

Ling Chen nodded, not refusing Su Mei's request.

Immediately, the two went to the living room. Su Mei brewed two cups of tea and sat beside Ling Chen, speaking softly, "Ling Chen, do you think the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion still has a reason to exist?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen was slightly stunned, not expecting Su Mei to ask such a question.

"Miss Su, you're the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Such words shouldn't come from you, right?"

"There are no outsiders here, just you and me. Ling Chen, I don't have many friends, and you're one of them. Besides talking to you, I have no one else to turn to."

Ling Chen organized his thoughts and said, "Miss Su, since you want to have a heart-to-heart chat, I might as well be honest with you. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion today is not what it used to be. In the past, the Pavilion existed for the peace of the martial arts world. But now, it has become a power center focused on itself; everything it does is to consolidate its position. To achieve this, the Pavilion is willing to resort to any means. Do you think... such a Pavilion still has a reason to exist?"

"The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion..." Su Mei bit her lip lightly and said, "Grandfather is right, sometimes I'm too naive. I always thought that as the Pavilion Master, everything was under my control. However, only recently did I realize that as the Pavilion Master, I'm essentially powerless. The Pavilion is composed of three parts: the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the Yangxin Pavilion, and... the Skyhawk Pavilion. As the Pavilion Master, I can only truly control the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion; the people of the Yangxin Pavilion don't take me seriously, and as for the Skyhawk Pavilion, I recently learned of its existence. Throughout these years, my grandfather never mentioned it to me. Only by taking control of the Skyhawk Pavilion can one truly hold real power. However, after my father passed on the position of Pavilion Master to me, he didn't tell me anything about the Skyhawk Pavilion. Not only that, my grandfather regained control of the Skyhawk Pavilion."

"Miss Su, do you know what the Skyhawk Pavilion is specialized in?" Ling Chen asked.

"I've read some records. The main task of the Skyhawk Pavilion is to identify potential threats, monitor targets, and, if necessary, take necessary measures to maintain the interests of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

Ling Chen chuckled, "Miss Su, the records you saw are too understated. To put it bluntly, the Skyhawk Pavilion is a group of assassins, specifically helping the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion eliminate dissidents. For so many years, why has the Pavilion remained unscathed, with no one openly opposing it? The reason is simple: those people were all killed by the Skyhawk Pavilion."

Su Mei's face changed, shaking her head, "Impossible."

"Nothing is impossible; all the dirty work is done by the Skyhawk Pavilion. Because of their existence, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion can maintain a positive image before the world. You're probably unaware of the recent events; the conflict between the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and the Dragon Tiger Hall is on the verge of breaking out. Just a few days ago, dozens of martial artists allied with the Dragon Tiger Hall were poisoned. Do you think these are coincidences?"

"These past few days, you've been locked in your room, not going out. You may not know that the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has many new faces, likely people from the Skyhawk Pavilion."

"It must be under Grandfather's orders."

Ling Chen nodded, "If I guessed correctly, Elder Su has already made the decision to slaughter the entire martial arts world. Only by doing so can he ensure the interests of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and not let its status be affected."

Chapter 1277 - 1585: Enlightening with Righteousness (1)

"No, that's impossible." Su Mei shook her head, her face full of disbelief as she said, "Grandfather would never do such a thing."

"Facts speak louder than words. Miss Su, don't you find it strange? You've been in charge of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for so long and have never encountered any resistance. Even if there were opposition, those voices and forces would vanish immediately and never appear again." Ling Chen began, "Have you never investigated any of this thoroughly? Or perhaps... you always believed the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was perfect, so no one was willing to oppose it."

"No... that's impossible..." Su Mei murmured to herself, her head lowered, refusing to believe Ling Chen's words.

Seeing Su Mei in a distracted state, Ling Chen sighed softly and said, "Miss Su, I think you won't believe anything I say; only evidence is the best proof."

"Evidence? What evidence do you have?"

"I don't have any now. To be honest, I sneaked into the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion this time to find evidence of the Skyhawk Pavilion's evil deeds. An insider told me that every task of the Skyhawk Pavilion is recorded and kept by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master. However, you're just now learning about the existence of Skyhawk Pavilion, so the record certainly isn't in your hands."

"Then where is it?"

Ling Chen shrugged, "I don't know." Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen continued, "Based on my guess, the record is most likely in the hands of two people: your grandfather or Qin Chuan."

"You mean Elder Qin?" Su Mei asked puzzled, "What does he have to do with this?"

"Miss Su, you might not know this, but Qin Chuan is with Skyhawk Pavilion and holds a high position. Besides that, there's something else I want to tell you. A while ago, when you met me in Beijing, I was attacked by Qin Chuan when I left." Ling Chen said, lifting his clothes to reveal a fierce scar.

"This..." Su Mei's face showed surprise.

"This is Qin Chuan's doing; he wanted to kill me. Luckily, my fate saved me, and someone rescued me. At the time, he thought I was surely dead, so he verbally revealed his relationship with Skyhawk Pavilion. Miss Su, no matter whether you believe it or not, once you find that record, you'll know if I'm telling the truth."

Upon hearing this, Su Mei bit her lips lightly, her eyes flickering, and fell into hesitation.

While Su Mei was hesitating, a 'knock, knock, knock' sound suddenly came from the door, followed by Su He's voice from outside, "It's me, can I come in?"

Su Mei and Ling Chen's expressions changed slightly; they hadn't expected Su He to come by at this time. Before Su Mei could respond, a soft noise came from the door, accompanied by footsteps approaching the bedroom.

Damn! Ling Chen's heart sank; Su He had directly come in. What should they do now? "Quick, come in." At that moment, Su Mei hurriedly climbed onto the bed, pulled the quilt over herself, and signaled Ling Chen to hide beneath it. Ling Chen looked around; the gap under the bed was too narrow, the cabinet against the wall too thin, all unsuitable for hiding. The only exit was the window, but Su He was outside the bedroom and could come in at any moment. Escaping through the window in such a short time would undoubtedly lead to discovery by Su He.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen disregarded any concerns about propriety and quickly slid under the quilt, pressing his body tightly against Su Mei's delicate frame. Immediately, a faint virgin fragrance reached his nose, stirring his heart slightly.

Just as Ling Chen hid, he heard Su He pushing the door open and coming into the bedroom. At this moment, Su Mei turned on the bedside lamp, and under the dim light, the room was not particularly clear.

Su Mei yawned, pretending to have just woken up, rubbing her sleepy eyes, and asked, "Grandfather, why have you come so late?"

"Just came to check on you." Su He glanced around the bedroom, then pulled over a chair, placed it beside the bed, and looked at Su Mei, who was leaning against the headboard, saying, "Dear granddaughter, I know you have grievances against me. I didn't come to you these days because I hope you can think clearly; every decision I made was for the future of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

Su Mei fiddled with her fingers and replied softly, "Grandfather, everyone has their own ideas. I won't force you, but you can't force me to accept your thoughts either."

"I just hope you can understand," Su He said, "Making you the Pavilion Master indeed put you in a difficult position, leaving you to bear such a heavy responsibility alone. As your grandfather, I want you to have an easier time, so I haven't told you some things; I've been secretly resolving the crises the Heavenly Mechanism encountered."

"I know, you don't want my hands to get too bloody."

Su He nodded, "You're right! These days, I've thought repeatedly about what you said. Undeniably, you have a point, but now are extraordinary times, and we must take extraordinary measures. However, I

promise you here, once I finish dealing with this, I'll hand the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion over to you completely, and I won't interfere with whatever decisions you make afterward."

Hearing this, Su Mei asked softly, "Then how many people need to die this time?"

"As long as they are enemies of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, I'll clear them all out."

"A hundred people? Two hundred people? Do you need to kill three hundred people?" Su Mei looked directly into Su He's eyes and said, "Have you ever thought about it? The martial arts world is slowly declining; if you kill so many people, the entire martial arts world will be finished. At that time, what's the point even if the status of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion remains unchanged?"

"That's why you need to rebuild the martial arts world," Su He said with a smile, "Regardless of the future prosperity or decline of the martial arts world, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion must dominate everything. Well, I've said all I need to say; think about it, I'll go now, you rest."

After speaking, Su He stood up and walked straight towards the bedroom door. At the door, Su He suddenly turned his head, carefully observing Su Mei under the lamp's light. He noticed that Su Mei's complexion, for some reason, had suddenly turned red, "Dear granddaughter, are you okay?"

Su He returned to the bedside, looking at Su Mei with concern and asked, "Are you feeling unwell? Come, let grandfather check you." Saying this, Su He reached out, intending to check Su Mei's pulse.

"No... I'm fine." Su Mei hurriedly said, "Grandfather, I'm really okay, you don't need to worry about me."

"But your complexion..."

"I'm just... just..." Su Mei bit her lip lightly, her body trembling slightly, and a trace of shame flashed in her bright eyes, "Grandfather, please don't ask, I... I want to rest."

Chapter 1278 - 1586: Enlightening with Righteousness (2)

Seeing Su Mei's unusual demeanor, Su He couldn't help but find it strange. He proactively reached out to grab Su Mei's wrist, wanting to help diagnose her.

"Don't... don't touch me." Su Mei quickly pulled back her hand, blushing as she said, "Grandpa, I'm really fine, you don't need to worry about me, I... I'm just a girl..." As she said this, Su Mei involuntarily lowered her head, not daring to look at Su He.

Su He, being of a certain age, immediately realized he had asked too much, observing his granddaughter's shy appearance. He coughed slightly and changed the topic, saying, "You're not young anymore, it's time to consider your lifelong matters. Though you are the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, this position will eventually require a successor. There are many outstanding young talents in both the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and Yangxin Pavilion. Is there anyone you have your eye on? Grandpa can help you make connections."

"Grandpa, I don't want to consider this matter for the time being, let's talk about it later." Su Mei politely declined.

"I think Wang Hao is quite good. He's considered the most talented youth in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Given time, his achievements are boundless. Moreover, he's my disciple, having him assist you by your side, I can be much more assured. Of course, it's just a suggestion, the key is still up to you."

Su Mei gently nodded and said, "I understand."

"Alright then, take a rest, I'm heading back." After speaking, Su He turned and walked out of the bedroom.

At the doorway, Su Mei seemed to remember something and quickly called after Su He, asking, "Grandpa, can I go outside for a walk?"

Su He pondered for a moment and said, "You should stay in the room. I've already announced externally that you're unwell, and during this period, I'm temporarily handling the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's affairs. Rest well, don't worry about the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's matters, I'll manage them for you." With that, Su He walked out without turning back.

Hearing the door close outside, Su Mei immediately lifted the blanket, face flushed, and looked at Ling Chen, softly murmuring like a mosquito, "Come out."

Ling Chen sat up, long exhaling a breath. Just now, Su He was right beside him, and he didn't even dare to breathe for fear of being discovered. If Su He hadn't left, he would have suffocated. Taking a few deep breaths, Ling Chen glanced at Su Mei beside him, seeing her blushing face, shy eyes avoiding his, full of the charms of a coy, alluring woman.

Thinking of the previous actions, Ling Chen seemed a bit embarrassed. Su Mei was only wearing a nightgown, which was very short, just reaching the thighs. While lying under the blanket, to avoid Su He discovering someone else beneath, Ling Chen could only tightly embrace Su Mei's delicate body. However, this inevitably led to skin contact between them.

Just under the blanket, feeling Su Mei's white, tender skin, Ling Chen's mind was restless, unable to focus on the conversation between Su Mei and Su He, constantly trying to control his bodily reactions.

Ling Chen was uncomfortable, and Su Mei was even more so. Growing up, she had never been so intimately connected with a man. If it weren't for the fear of being discovered by Su He, she wouldn't have resorted to this strategy. During the conversation with Su He earlier, she clearly felt some natural reactions from Ling Chen's body, tightly pressing against her thigh. That feeling... just thinking about it was embarrassing.

Sensing the awkward atmosphere between the two, Ling Chen lightly coughed twice and awkwardly said, "Your grandfather shouldn't be coming back, right?"

Su Mei shook her head and asked, "Did you hear everything my grandfather just said?"

"I did." Bringing up serious matters, Ling Chen immediately became serious, "Miss Su, like I've been saying, your grandfather is already prepared to cleanse the entire Martial Arts world with blood. If we don't find a way to stop him, who knows how many people will die at his hands. Miss Su, you're a kind-hearted person, do you really want to see the entire Martial Arts world buried by your Su Family's hands?"

Su Mei sighed, "You're right, grandpa indeed made the wrong choice on this matter. But what can I do? He's already taken control of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion again, holding all the power, I can't do anything."

"What you can't do, I can achieve." Ling Chen said, "As long as you can help me find that record, I can stop your grandfather. Miss Su, you..."

Before Ling Chen could finish, Su Mei raised her head and replied, "If I help you stop grandfather, what will you do next? Are you going to expose the evidence against the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, call everyone to attack it, and uproot the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion completely?"

"Ling Chen, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is the hard-earned legacy of our Su Family ancestors. Even if I'm dissatisfied with grandpa's decision, I will never betray the Su Family. I'm sorry! I can't help you with this."

Ling Chen pondered for a while and said, "Miss Su, if I promise to preserve the existence of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and avoid harming its people as much as possible, would you be willing to assist me?"

Upon hearing this, Su Mei looked at Ling Chen in surprise and asked, "What do you mean by this?"

"These years, to resolve the potential threat of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the Skyhawk Pavilion has been killing everywhere, with countless blood on their hands. So, the true culprits are the Skyhawk Pavilion and the people behind them. If everyone knows the relationship between the Skyhawk Pavilion and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, what do you think the Martial Arts world would think? However, I can help you separate the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion from this. In this way, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion won't be affected at all. Of course, you have to make some sacrifices, abandon the Skyhawk Pavilion, not only draw a line between them but also stand out and declare war against them, showing your stance. By then, not only will the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's reputation not be affected, but it will also make people in the Martial Arts world look at you in a new light."

"Abandon the Skyhawk Pavilion?" Su Mei muttered, seemingly shocked by Ling Chen's proposal.

Ling Chen nodded and said, "If you want to preserve the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, this is the only way; the key is whether you are willing."

"The Skyhawk Pavilion is the strongest force of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Abandoning the Skyhawk Pavilion is tantamount to severing an arm. Ling Chen, why haven't I noticed before, that your mind is so scheming? This is your pre-determined plan, isn't it?"

Ling Chen smiled wryly, "Miss Su, I'm helping you find a way to get through the current crisis. In any case, I've said what needs to be said; now it's up to you to choose." After pausing, Ling Chen continued, "Miss Su, you should know my character. I, Ling Chen, always stand by my word, I won't deceive you."

"Can you really preserve the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

"Absolutely. If you don't believe me, we can draw up an agreement, write it clearly on paper."

Su Mei gazed into Ling Chen's clear eyes for a while before slowly saying, "Alright, I'll accept your proposal. There's no need for an agreement if you have any ill intent towards the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, no amount of agreements will be effective."

Chapter 1279 - 1587: Searching for Evidence of Guilt

Su Mei's decision made Ling Chen breathe a sigh of relief; he was really worried that she wouldn't accept. Otherwise, he'd have to resort to some tactics.

"Miss Su, since you are willing to cooperate with me, we should hurry up and find that record as soon as possible. Only with that record in hand can I proceed with the next step of my plan."

Su Mei thought for a moment and said, "I have never been in contact with the Skyhawk Pavilion. If that record truly exists, it must be in the hands of my grandfather. He usually doesn't carry valuable items with him; he has a designated residence in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Additionally, many secret documents are stored at the top of this tower, all from many years ago. Only my grandfather has the key to enter."

"What about Qin Chuan?" Ling Chen asked, "Where does he live? That record might be in his possession."

"Elder Qin lives downstairs from me. He hasn't been in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion lately. He used to be responsible for my safety, but now I'm under house arrest, and my grandfather has sent him away."

Ling Chen's eyes lit up; this was indeed a good opportunity. "Miss Su, wait for me here. I'll go check Qin Chuan's room first." With that, Ling Chen went straight to the window and climbed down using the rope. Opening the window, he smoothly entered Qin Chuan's room without much effort.

The room was not large, with only a living room and a separate bedroom, and the furnishings were simple. Ling Chen searched carefully but found nothing, not even a piece of paper, let alone the record concerning the Skyhawk Pavilion. It seemed the record wasn't in Qin Chuan's possession.

Immediately, Ling Chen returned to Su Mei's room the same way, explained the situation to her, then targeted the tower's top once more. Since only Su He could enter that place, it surely hid many secrets.

"I'll go with you." Su Mei got dressed and spoke up.

"You?" Ling Chen was startled, not expecting Su Mei to make such a request. Su Mei nodded, "What is inside may involve some secrets of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. I must follow along to prevent you from knowing things you shouldn't."

"Alright, if you want to come, let's go together."

Through the window, since Su Mei couldn't perform martial arts, Ling Chen had to carry her on his back, using his hands to grasp the rope and slowly climb upwards. Before long, they reached the top window of the tower. However, this window was extremely narrow, with both length and width less than thirty centimeters, making it impossible for adults to squeeze through, unless they were a two- or three-year-old child.

What should we do! Ling Chen was somewhat troubled, asking, "Miss Su, can we go in through the main door?"

"No." Su Mei shook her head, "The main door is guarded. Moreover, that door is very sturdy and can only be opened with a key." As she spoke, Su Mei glanced at the window, "Should we go down first?"

Ling Chen secured the rope to his body and took out his phone to check the time, "Miss Su, we can't afford much delay now." Before entering the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, he had agreed with Song Ge

that they must leave within four hours. Otherwise, once Song Ge changed shifts, no one would cover for him.

Thinking it over, Ling Chen took a pre-prepared plastic explosive from his backpack and installed it at the window. Seeing his action, Su Mei couldn't help but exclaim, "What are you doing?"

Ling Chen shrugged helplessly, "Since we can't enter, we'll have to blast open the outer wall."

"Are you crazy? Doing this will attract the attention of people from both the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and Yangxin Pavilion. How do you plan to escape then?"

Ling Chen smiled slightly, full of confidence, "Don't worry, I have arrangements in place. Nothing will happen." Saying that, Ling Chen quickly installed the explosive, and the two returned to the room downstairs.

As Ling Chen pressed the remote control with his finger, a loud 'bang' echoed from the tower top, with countless shards flying from the top.

Simultaneously, a series of explosions sounded outside the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, with flames shooting skyward, clearly visible. Standing at the window, Su Mei watched the flames in surprise and asked, "What's happening over there?"

"Nothing, just some distraction tactics," Ling Chen said. Before entering the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, he anticipated this situation and pre-arranged with Qiu Yong and others. Once he used the explosive, Qiu Yong must create an even bigger commotion to divert the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's attention and buy enough time for him.

Watching the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion members running toward the perimeter, Ling Chen couldn't help but smile; Qiu Yong and his team's effects were quite good.

"Miss Su, there's no time to lose. We must go." With those words, Ling Chen carried Su Mei on his back and climbed to the tower top using the rope.

The earlier explosive had already opened a large hole at the top window, and quickly Ling Chen and Su Mei entered the tower top. Looking at the scattered stones around, Ling Chen breathed a slight sigh of relief. Fortunately, he had used a minimal amount of explosives, so nothing inside was damaged.

The tower top was seventy square meters in area, with a desk placed in the middle piled with many documents. Surrounding the desk, the floor was filled with document boxes, all containing files. Ling Chen casually picked up a document, preparing to glance at it, but Su Mei stopped him.

"Don't forget what you promised me."

Ling Chen smiled awkwardly and had to return the document to its place. He knew these files were related to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's secrets, and Su Mei didn't want him to know too much.

Time was limited, and Ling Chen didn't dare delay, immediately searching for the record's whereabouts.

At this moment, outside the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, hundreds of its members gathered together, prepared for action. Su He stood among them, watching the flames outside with indifferent eyes.

"What's happening?" Footsteps approached, and Su He turned to see Du Kang coming over with a wine gourd.

"Someone wants to attack the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"Who?"

"Who else do you think it could be?" Su He sneered, "I thought they wouldn't act so fast. It seems I miscalculated; perhaps the incident in Jin Hai City gave them urgency. Anyway, it's better to resolve things early."

At this, a trace of doubt appeared in Su He's eyes, "I thought I heard the first explosion inside earlier; did you notice it?"

Du Kang shook his head.

"Maybe I misheard." With that, Su He turned his attention back to the blazing fire, frowning, "It's been a while; why is there still no movement."

"Maybe they are testing us."

Just then, a middle-aged man hurriedly ran over, exclaiming, "Old Pavilion Master, there's been an explosion at the tower top; should you go check it out?"

"What?" Su He's expression changed. Without another word, he immediately headed toward the tower.

Chapter 1280 - 1588: Obtaining the Record (1)

At this moment, Ling Chen and Su Mei were in the room at the top of the tower searching for the record concerning the Skyhawk Pavilion's actions. The room was filled with documents piled high, making the search extremely arduous. Ling Chen glanced at Su Mei who was rummaging through a file box and shook his head silently; searching like this was not practical, he didn't have much time to waste. After a moment of thought, Ling Chen focused his gaze on the desk in the center of the room.

There were quite a few documents on the desk, but he had just searched through them and found nothing related to the Skyhawk Pavilion. Apart from the documents, the desk also held a pen holder and a stack of thick white paper. The desk and the chair beside it were completely dust-free and very clean, indicating that Su He frequently came here.

Not long ago, the Skyhawk Pavilion had taken action, killing dozens of martial arts figures. For such an operation, Su He would definitely keep a record of it. Moreover, gathering so many Skyhawk Pavilion assassins meant that more actions would be carried out. If he were Su He, and had to frequently use that record, it would definitely be placed somewhere easy to access.

With this thought in mind, Ling Chen walked straight to the desk and sat down in that seat. "What are you doing?" Noticing Ling Chen's peculiar move, Su Mei put down the material in her hand and asked.

Ling Chen did not speak but fixed his gaze around the desk and its surroundings. After scrutinizing for a few moments, the meticulous Ling Chen suddenly noticed the desk was without drawers, with a tabletop at least ten centimeters thick. He tried to move the desk, finding it not as heavy as he

imagined. If it were a solid wood desk, it would surely be quite heavy. This suggested the tabletop might be hollow.

Thump, thump, thump! Ling Chen tapped the tabletop, and the sound confirmed there should be a layered compartment inside.

Immediately, Ling Chen carefully inspected around the desk. Soon, at the bottom of the desk, Ling Chen found several seams connected together. He gently patted the edge of the seam twice, and suddenly a wooden board loosened.

Upon seeing this, Ling Chen's eyes lit up, and he hurriedly moved the wooden board aside and reached inside. By this time, Su Mei was already standing beside Ling Chen, both hopeful and tense, her exquisite face showing complex emotions.

She desperately hoped to find the record Ling Chen mentioned so she could verify if what he said was true. On the contrary, she was afraid to see the record.

"Found it!" Ling Chen excitedly pulled his hand out, revealing a thick record book made of parchment.

Placing the record book on the tabletop, Ling Chen discovered there wasn't a speck of dust on the record book, indicating it was frequently used by Su He. With anticipation, Ling Chen flipped open the first page, which was inscribed with brush-written characters. Judging by the handwriting and paper, it seemed to be quite old.

On the yellowed paper, several lines read: October 30, 1896, Skyhawk Pavilion ordered to assassinate the Songquan Sect Leader, including the Sect Leader's disciple, killing a total of forty-three people. Below the content was a signature: Su Mu.

"Su Mu was my great-grandfather," Su Mei said from the side.

Ling Chen silently turned to the second page. December 4, 1896, martial artist Chen Zhiqian harbored ill intent, secretly forming factions intending harm to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion; Skyhawk Pavilion ordered to eliminate the threat, killing thirteen people. Again followed by Su Mu's signature.

Turning through several pages, sure enough, all the actions of the Skyhawk Pavilion were meticulously recorded, each time and date clearly documented.

The record book was composed of hundreds of pages, and Ling Chen skipped ahead, directly turning to the middle, where the signature at the bottom changed from Su Mu to Su He. This indicated that the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion at that time was Su He. Ling Chen casually flipped through it, finding that under Su He's tenure, the orders were numerous, more than twice as many as Su Mu. Further on, it was Su Mei's father, Su Zhengyang. However, at the end of this record, the signature once again reverted to Su He.

Ling Chen looked at the content of the last page, eyebrows furrowing.

September 14, 2017, Skyhawk Pavilion ordered to Tianhai City, set fire and killed twenty-eight martial arts figures, Su He.

"Miss Su, I think I needn't say more," Ling Chen said, looking at Su Mei. At this moment, Su Mei's face was pale, her fists clenched tightly, her delicate body trembling slightly, seemingly with tears welling in her eyes.

"Miss Su, these matters have nothing to do with you, you..."

Su Mei shook her head, biting her bloodless lips, saying: "These were done by the Su Family, how can it have nothing to do with me? I always naively believed that the existence of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was to uphold peace in martial arts, but not until now did I realize how wrong I've been. The words my grandfather and father told me were all false, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's deeds were only to consolidate its status."

Ling Chen closed the record book, keeping it close, preparing to offer Su Mei some comfort. However, before he could speak, he heard a loud 'bang' at the door.

Not good! Ling Chen's expression changed, he quickly turned to look at the door. Upon entering earlier, to prevent Su He from showing up, Ling Chen had placed a wooden stick behind the door to block it. But given Su He's abilities, that stick couldn't hold for long.

"It must be grandfather who's arrived," Su Mei exclaimed urgently.

"Let's go, we must hurry down."

"It's useless, we don't have time to escape back," Su Mei glanced to both sides, suddenly approached Ling Chen, saying: "There's only one way now, take me hostage."

"Take you hostage?" Ling Chen was slightly stunned, immediately understanding Su Mei's intent. Indeed, there was no other way. With this realization, Ling Chen whispered 'I apologize,' then put on his mask again, and held Su Mei by the neck.

Just as he finished the movement, a crash sounded, and the door was finally busted open from outside. As Su He and two middle-aged men rushed in, Ling Chen quickly retreated toward the blasted-out window.

"Don't come any closer, or I'll kill her," Ling Chen said coldly.

"Grandfather... save me!" Su Mei struggled desperately, shouting Su He's name.

Watching the hostage situation, Su He, with a somber face, angrily growled through clenched teeth, "Release my granddaughter!"

"Release her?" Ling Chen sneered, saying: "If I let her go, will you allow me to leave?"

Su He's eyes flickered, nodding as he said, "As long as you let her go, I promise you can safely leave."

"Humph! Old Su, do you think I'll believe your words? She's my lifeline, unless I'm safe, otherwise..."

"Who exactly are you?" Su He stared coldly at Ling Chen, "Daring to take hostage of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, you must be tired of living."

