

The Beauty 1291

Chapter 1291 Siege of Skyhawk Pavilion (Part 1)

Taking advantage of the main force not yet arriving, Ling Chen went alone with his gear, sneaking towards the Skyhawk Pavilion headquarters. Although drones could monitor the entire base of the Skyhawk Pavilion, the camera is ultimately from top to bottom, not very clear for capturing faces. Therefore, someone had to get close to the Skyhawk Pavilion.

Ling Chen moved swiftly, sometimes crawling forward, sometimes sprinting. After about ten minutes, he finally reached a sand dune more than forty meters away from the Skyhawk Pavilion. Lying on the sand dune, Ling Chen covered himself with a piece of earth-colored cloth, blending in perfectly with the surrounding sand grains, making it difficult to notice his presence without careful observation.

Ling Chen took out a high-powered binoculars, observing the situation in the base, and occasionally kept in touch with Liu Dongsheng through radio.

After quietly observing for a while, Ling Chen's sharp eyes suddenly noticed two people walking out of a house in the northeast corner. One was Zhu Chuan, and the other was Zhu Hong. The two walked side by side, talking about something unknown.

There's no need to say about Zhu Hong, back when he was in East Sea City, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had sent Zhu Chuan to participate in a martial arts competition, but he was defeated by Chen Junfeng. Unexpectedly, he was also a member of the Skyhawk Pavilion.

While pondering, Zhu Chuan and Zhu Hong were seen arriving at the center of the base. Soon, more than three hundred members of the Skyhawk Pavilion gathered in the field. It's unclear what Zhu Chuan said, but a few minutes later, all members of the Skyhawk Pavilion dispersed one after another. Soon, the base was empty, and they all entered into the building.

"Mr. Ling, the convoy will arrive in ten minutes."

"Received, I'll be back soon."

Backing down from the sand dune, Ling Chen felt a bit regretful. He initially hoped to spot a few important figures, but apart from Zhu Chuan and Zhu Hong, he found none. As the strongest force of the

Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, Skyhawk Pavilion's masters surely were not limited to just Zhu Chuan. He really wanted to know the comprehensive strength of the Skyhawk Pavilion.

Before long, Ling Chen returned to the previously set up temporary tent, took a brief rest, and then heard the roaring engine sounds. The main force had arrived.

Once Tong Zhentian and others arrived, everyone gathered together to discuss attack strategies.

"To me, it seems safer to attack at night." Yuan Yun proposed, "The area around the base is open terrain. If we come within fifty meters, we'll definitely be detected."

"No way." Ling Chen shook his head, saying: "Attacking at night will be very disadvantageous for us. Brother, don't forget, the Skyhawk Pavilion is a group of assassins. In dark environments, their combat power will multiply. I believe attacking during the day is most suitable, not only can we suppress their abilities, but also can solve the Skyhawk Pavilion before Su He arrives."

He Ziyun contemplated for a moment and said, "Ling Chen makes a valid point. However, how do we approach this base?"

Ling Chen smiled confidently and said, "No need to worry about that, I have my ways." With that, Ling Chen turned to Liu Dongsheng and said, "Uncle Liu, I'll leave it to you."

"I'll get on it immediately."

About ten minutes later, Liu Dongsheng returned to the tent, "Mr. Ling, everything is ready, can we start?"

"Let's start!"

Leaving the tent, everyone stood at a higher spot, gazing at the Skyhawk Pavilion base. Suddenly, there was a loud 'bang,' a loud sound erupted outside, about ten meters from the Skyhawk Pavilion base. Immediately afterward, thick smoke spread out, covering the surrounding area of tens of meters.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Accompanied by more than a dozen loud explosions, the entire vicinity of the Skyhawk Pavilion was engulfed in thick smoke. Those outside couldn't see inside, and those inside couldn't see outside.

"Uncle Liu, give the order, launch the attack immediately."

"Okay."

"Elder Tong, shall we go too?"

At this moment, inside the base of the Skyhawk Pavilion, everyone was stunned by the sudden explosions outside.

"Master, we are under attack." Zhu Hong hurriedly ran into Zhu Chuan's room, reporting the situation outside.

Zhu Chuan appeared relatively calm and asked, "Don't panic, maybe it's Elder Su and his group. As agreed, they will pretend to attack the base upon arrival, and we'll just have to act it out."

"Master, didn't you mention the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion people would arrive at night? It's been such a short time, it's impossible for them to arrive so soon."

Hearing this, Zhu Chuan thought for a moment, nodded, and said, "I'll call Elder Su and ask." With that, Zhu Chuan took out his phone and dialed Su He's number. However, after a few seconds, Zhu Chuan's face suddenly darkened, "The call can't go through, no signal."

"Master..."

"You're right, those outside are not Elder Su's group, we are under attack. Immediately send orders for everyone to prepare for battle."

"Yes."

The Skyhawk Pavilion is a place specifically for training assassins, and after the orders were sent, not two minutes later, over a hundred people appeared around the base, vigilantly watching the surrounding smoke.

Zhu Chuan and Zhu Hong stood at the center of the base, waiting for the enemy to arrive.

As time passed by, suddenly Zhu Chuan, who had his eyes slightly closed, opened them sharply, looking to the southeast, "The enemy is over there."

Zhu Hong turned his head to look, and after ten seconds, the sound of engines entered his ears.

"It's trucks, a lot of them."

"Everyone, gather to the southeast." As Zhu Chuan's voice fell, the assassins around the base quickly rushed to the southeast, forming a defensive line.

Soon, the engine sounds got closer and closer, stopping about thirty meters out.

Due to the smoke between them, they couldn't see anything, just patiently waited for the enemy to appear.

"Why aren't they here yet?" Zhu Hong frowned.

"They're just beyond the smoke." Saying this, Zhu Chuan looked at the thick smoke around them and spoke: "The smoke is about to clear, prepare to engage."

A few seconds later, as the smoke gradually cleared, more than ten military transport trucks appeared in Zhu Chuan's and Zhu Hong's view. However, other than those military transport trucks, no other people were seen.

"Where are the people?"

As everyone was puzzled, a 'boom' sound erupted from behind them. Zhu Chuan and Zhu Hong sharply turned their heads, only to see a huge gap blown open in the northern base wall with over a hundred Asian individuals rushing in from outside.

"It's Ling Chen!" Sharp-eyed Zhu Hong immediately recognized Ling Chen at the forefront of the team and shouted loudly.

"Everyone, follow my lead to repel the enemy!" Zhu Chuan shouted, lightly tapped his toes, and flew towards them.

Ta ta ta! Ta ta ta!

However, just then, a burst of urgent gunfire suddenly sounded. Next, the assassins of the Skyhawk Pavilion began to fall to the ground one after another, their bodies riddled with bullet holes, devoid of life.

"Behind! There's someone behind us!"

Chapter 1292 - 1600: Encirclement of Skyhawk Pavilion (2)

Zhu Hong hurriedly turned to look at the position of those military transport trucks. Just as they were preparing to fend off the enemies coming from the north, hundreds of armed militants suddenly jumped down from the rear compartment of the trucks, each well-equipped with guns and weapons.

"Master!" Zhu Hong shouted anxiously, "We're being ambushed."

"Everyone, retreat into the room," Zhu Chuan didn't hesitate and immediately issued the order to retreat. However, even the Skyhawk Pavilion assassins couldn't outrun bullets. In just the blink of an eye, nearly half the men lay dead in pools of blood, with less than fifty people successfully withdrawing into the house.

Watching the direction Zhu Chuan and Zhu Hong fled, Ling Chen made a gesture, and Chen Junfeng, Qiu Yong, and others immediately followed suit. Capture the leader first! Resolve Zhu Chuan, the expert

from the Heavenly List, first. As for the other assassins of the Skyhawk Pavilion, they can be dealt with slowly.

Within the group, Du Kang stayed by Su Mei's side, ensuring her safety. Witnessing the dire battlefield before them, Su Mei's delicate little face appeared somewhat pale. Although she was the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, she had never seen such a brutal scene and cruel combat.

Here, human lives were like weeds, worthless, liable to be lost at any moment.

At this moment, Ling Chen led the others into a building. This building was only three stories high. Ling Chen signaled to everyone to split up and search for Zhu Chuan and Zhu Hong's whereabouts. Along the way, Skyhawk Pavilion assassins occasionally pounced from both sides, launching sneak attacks. Fortunately, the surroundings were well-lit, and these assassins posed no threat to Ling Chen and his team.

After a brief period, everyone had searched all three floors, yet failed to find any trace of Zhu Chuan and his companions.

"Ling Cheng, could they have escaped?" Yuan Yun asked.

"Impossible, I clearly saw them enter this building." Saying this, Ling Chen glanced outside the three-story building, where the view was entirely a wasteland of yellow sand, devoid of any human shadows indicating Zhu Chuan and Zhu Hong couldn't have fled.

"We've searched the whole building; where could they be hiding?"

Ling Chen pondered for a moment and pointed to the ground beneath him, saying, "Most desert bases have underground structures; maybe this place does too." Pausing, Ling Chen seemed to think of something and remarked, "Earlier, when I was secretly observing this base, there were about three hundred assassins, but we've seen less than half. The rest might be hiding in underground buildings."

After he finished speaking, Liu Dongsheng hurried over, saying, "Mr. Ling, the assassins outside have been resolved."

"How's our casualty situation?"

"It's manageable, combat effectiveness hasn't significantly diminished, Miss Zhu is currently leading efforts to treat the wounded."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Notify everyone to occupy all buildings in the base and carefully search to see if there are any concealed passages."

"Understood."

...

"Master, what should we do now?" Zhu Hong looked at the surveillance display on the computer, his expression somewhat anxious. Despite all calculations, he hadn't anticipated Ling Chen suddenly leading an attack on the Skyhawk Pavilion headquarters, catching them off guard.

Zhu Chuan stood with hands behind his back, eyes fixed on the corpses in the footage, those had been the elite assassins cultivated by the Skyhawk Pavilion over several years, all dead now. It undoubtedly was a huge blow to the Pavilion.

Noticing Zhu Chuan's silence, Zhu Hong couldn't help but speak, "Master, I just did a count; there are less than two hundred usable personnel now. Engaging in an all-out fight won't benefit us. I suggest we hold our position, bolster defenses until Elder Su arrives."

Zhu Chuan glanced at Zhu Hong, pondered for a moment, and spoke solemnly, "In all these years since the formation of Skyhawk Pavilion, when have we been this embarrassed? I want to see who will be the last one standing." With those words, Zhu Chuan turned to summon a man in his thirties.

The latter rushed over, asking respectfully, "Eagle Head, what are your orders?"

"Gather everyone, take a headcount. As soon as it gets dark in an hour and a half, that will be our time for revenge."

"Yes!"

After the man walked away, Zhu Chuan turned his gaze back to Zhu Hong, saying, "Follow me, I'll show you something."

Shortly, led by Zhu Chuan, Zhu Hong arrived at a room equipped with various advanced devices. Zhu Chuan pointed at the equipment lining the four walls and the screens, saying, "This room is the core of this base; everything can be controlled from here." With that, Zhu Chuan moved to the central computer desk, placed his thumb on the fingerprint scanner, and suddenly all surrounding devices and screens powered on.

On the over ten large screens hung on the walls, one could clearly see the movements of Ling Chen and his team, with the entire base being under surveillance via these displays.

Zhu Chuan, seated at the main computer, tapped on the keyboard a few times, saying, "What you're seeing now is the most secret existence within this base."

Upon hearing this, Zhu Hong immediately focused on one of the screens. Moments later, densely packed lines appeared on the screen, covering nearly all areas.

"This...this is..." Awakened to the revelation, Zhu Hong was shocked, looking at Zhu Chuan incredulously, having no idea that the base had such a design.

Another half hour passed.

Da-da-da! Da-da-da!

Amid rapid gunfire, wounded individuals were incessantly carried away for emergency treatment. Ling Chen and others leaned against the wall, watching the combat in front of them, expressions tense.

This concealed passage was discovered ten minutes ago. When they blasted open the outer explosion-proof door to charge in, they faced heavy fire from inside, unable to advance even a step forward. This secret passage was just a meter wide, two meters high, ten meters long, without any cover in between.

Skyhawk Pavilion members hid at the far end, utilizing heavy fire to suppress them, ensuring death for anyone entering the passage.

Both parties had been exchanging fire for over ten minutes; Ling Chen's side faced increasing casualties, while the opposing side remained unscathed.

"Mr. Ling, continuing like this is not a viable solution," Liu Dongsheng spoke, "There are fifty minutes until dark, and the latest update indicates that Su He is just over two hours away from the base; we must hasten the resolution of this battle."

Ling Chen contemplated for a moment, asking, "Uncle Liu, do we have any heavy weapons?"

"Heavy weapons?" Liu Dongsheng thought briefly, replying, "I believe we brought a rocket launcher."

"No, that won't work." Ling Chen shook his head, "That thing can't be used." Joking aside, he knew the rocket launcher's power well— even if it killed the people inside, it would likely destroy the entire passage.

Chapter 1293 - 1601: Encirclement of the Skyhawk Pavilion (Part 3)

"I'll try it." Ling Chen thought for a while and made a decision. No matter what, someone has to charge in and deal with the people on the other side of the secret passage. Otherwise, they will be stuck outside.

Before long, under Ling Chen's arrangement, Liu Dongsheng came over with a bulletproof shield.

After weighing the shield's weight, Ling Chen geared up with simple equipment and headed straight for the passage.

Glancing at the situation inside the passage, Ling Chen took out a few smoke grenades and tossed them in. Instantly, thick smoke spread out, enveloping the entire passage.

Meanwhile, the firepower from the other end of the passage poured out angrily, bullets showering through the passage like raindrops. Hearing the unending gunfire, Ling Chen gritted his teeth, raised the bulletproof shield in front of him, and slowly advanced into the passage.

As Ling Chen entered the passage, the shield immediately rang with a series of crisp sounds, countless bullets striking it. In just a moment, the surface of the shield was riddled with cracks. Fortunately, this bulletproof shield was a reinforced type, temporarily holding up against the relentless assault.

However, the impact from the bullets striking the shield was not easy for Ling Chen to withstand. If it were just a dozen bullets, he could ignore it, but a hundred bullets together formed a terrifying force. Only a master like Ling Chen could withstand it; anyone else would have been pushed back by the impact long ago.

Hugging the wall, Ling Chen briskly walked through the smoke, intending to charge all the way through. However, at that moment, he suddenly heard a slight noise from the ground, like something was rolling towards his position.

What the hell is that?

In the blink of an eye, before Ling Chen could react, a loud 'boom' resounded. Flames shot out, and a powerful shockwave hit the shield, instantly sending Ling Chen flying and crashing heavily to the ground. "Ling Cheng, watch out!" Qiu Yong exclaimed, rushing over to drag Ling Chen out of the passage.

"Ling Cheng, are you okay?" Everyone gathered around, expressing their concern.

Ling Chen shook his head, looking at the cracked shield with a silent sigh of relief. Luckily, the shield had protected him from the grenade's power, or else he would have lost an arm or a leg.

"How about I give it a try?" Chen Junfeng volunteered.

"No," Ling Chen said. "It's too risky. You all saw what just happened. If they threw a few more grenades, even a master from the Heavenly List would find it hard to get through."

"Then what should we do?" Liu Dongsheng asked. "We can't just wait it out; it's not to our advantage."

"Why don't we use an old tactic?" Xia Yue suggested. "If they won't come out, we'll use fire and see how long they can hold out."

Tong Zhentian nodded, "That might be worth a try."

"Uncle Liu, have the helicopter and drone patrol around the base. Since this base has underground structures, there might be escape routes."

"Okay, I'll notify them right away."

Over the next ten minutes, everyone smashed doors, desks, chairs, anything made of wood, to use as kindling. Meanwhile, Xia Yue instructed others to fetch two large fans, aiming them at the passage to blow all the smoke from the burning wood into the entrance.

Time passed by the minute. Ling Chen stood at the passage entrance, waiting quietly. By now, there was no more noise from the other end, but Ling Chen didn't dare relax, unsure if those guys were waiting for a chance.

Cough cough cough! Cough cough!

In the underground building, smoke pervaded the air, affecting many people's breathing. Even with ventilation, the smoke was too dense to be completely expelled.

"Master, the people at the entrance can't hold out much longer," Zhu Hong observed on the surveillance monitors.

"Watch over them," Zhu Chuan instructed. "No matter what happens, you must guard the entrance. Don't let them in."

"Understood," Zhu Hong responded and quickly headed toward the entrance.

At this moment, the passage entrance was piled with debris serving as barricades. Behind them, over twenty Skyhawk Pavilion assassins armed themselves, watching the passage warily to prevent intrusions.

Covering his nose and mouth, Zhu Hong stood by the barricade. After a moment of deliberation, he whispered a few instructions to some men. Shortly after, they returned carrying several fans.

The fans roared to life, the wind blocking the thick smoke at the entrance, blowing it outward.

Not bad, these guys are quite clever! Ling Chen smirked outside the passage, then turned to the busy Xia Yue and asked, "Fifth sister, ready yet?"

"Almost," Xia Yue replied, pouring gasoline from a drum onto a one-meter-diameter sphere. The sphere was made from stacked debris, tied and secured tightly.

After pouring the gasoline, Xia Yue pushed the sphere next to the passage and set it alight. Instantly, fierce flames engulfed the sphere, transforming it into a gigantic fireball.

"Here we go!" Yuan Yun said with a shout, giving the fireball a kick. It rolled directly into the passage.

Da-da-da! Da-da-da!

Hearing the commotion from the passage, the assassins hiding behind the barricades instinctively pointed their guns at the fireball as it drew closer.

But bullets had no effect. In the blink of an eye, the fireball rolled close, and with a 'bang,' exploded, scattering countless smaller flames everywhere.

The assassins behind the barricades couldn't avoid being hit, instantly turning into human torches, their dreadful screams echoing through the passage.

Witnessing this scene, Zhu Hong's face changed slightly, prompting him to retreat quickly.

"Second squad, prepare yourselves." At Zhu Hong's command, dozens of assassins promptly arrived, setting up a temporary defense line behind the passage entrance.

Bang!

Gunfire rang out. Ling Chen, the first to pass through the passage, quickly ducked behind the nearest barricade. Soon, the others followed, sheltering and assessing the situation ahead.

Chapter 1294 - 1602: Siege of Skyhawk Pavilion (Part 4)

"Damn!" Seeing the defensive line twenty meters away, Yuan Yun couldn't help but curse. After so much effort to get through the dark tunnel, who would have thought there was a second line of defense on the other side. At this rate, who knows how long it will take to break through.

"Watch out for grenades," Ling Chen shouted loudly, leaning against the cover. Their cover was barely twenty meters away from Skyhawk Pavilion's second defensive line, just within grenade range. No matter what, they couldn't give the enemy a chance.

Just then, someone from the opposite line suddenly stood up, holding a grenade, ready to throw it over to the cover. "Watch out!" Qiu Yong exclaimed in a hurry when he saw this.

At this moment, Zhang Zhongfeng, who had been hiding under the cover, stood up abruptly, raised his bow and nocked an arrow, completing the motion seamlessly. Before everyone could react, the sharp arrow had already pierced that person's wrist.

A miserable scream was heard, and before the grenade in that person's hand could be thrown out, it fell to the ground.

BOOM!

With a loud explosion, at least four people were blasted off, blood splattering everywhere.

"Good job, Zhang Zhongfeng!" Ling Chen chuckled. With an arrow master here, let's see who dares to throw grenades over now.

As expected, with Zhang Zhongfeng's deterrence, the opponents didn't dare to continue using grenades and all hid behind their cover.

As time went by, Ling Chen became somewhat anxious; this was not working, they had to find a way to break through their line of defense.

Just then, Liu Dongsheng quickly ran over from the dark tunnel entrance, "Mr. Ling, night has fallen, Su He and the others have at most two hours to arrive."

Ling Chen opened his mouth, about to speak. Before he could utter a word, Wei Jiahao came rushing over, urgently saying, "Ling Cheng, there's trouble, the people outside have been attacked."

"By whom?"

"Don't know, we couldn't even see the shadows, and in the blink of an eye, four or five people disappeared."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen's heart sank. Damn it! It must be Zhu Chuan and his men acting. The dark environment is perfect for these assassins to strike.

After pondering for a while, Ling Chen turned to Zhu Qing beside him, and said, "You go outside with Brother Eight and try to ensure everyone's safety."

"No way," Zhu Qing shook her head, "I have to protect your safety."

"Don't worry, I'll be fine, those people outside need your help, quickly go, don't waste time."

Under Ling Chen's urging, although Zhu Qing was somewhat reluctant, she followed Wei Jiahao out.

"Uncle Liu, fire suppression, help me buy some time."

"Alright." Liu Dongsheng responded, and immediately relayed the command. At once, over twenty youths set up guns, aimed at the opposite defensive line, and bullets crazily fired over.

Taking advantage of this moment, Ling Chen swiftly crossed the cover, moving like the wind, charging towards the enemy's defensive line. It seemed someone discovered Ling Chen's position, and quickly stood up, aiming the gun at Ling Chen's body.

However, before they could pull the trigger, only a 'swish' was heard, and an arrow mercilessly pierced through the person's throat.

An invaluable opportunity, Ling Chen lightly tapped his toes, his body leaping high, instantly flying over the defensive line.

Not waiting for his feet to land, Ling Chen twisted his body mid-air, forcefully changing direction, and then drew out two pistols from his waist.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

In the blink of an eye, both pistol magazines were emptied, and over ten Skyhawk Pavilion assassins hiding behind the line fell to the ground, all shot in the forehead, killed instantly.

Seeing this scene, Zhu Hong, who had been cowering behind the line, changed his expression and hurried to retreat.

Damn it! Ling Chen cursed silently, that guy's luck is really good, if not for the empty magazine, Zhu Hong wouldn't have survived.

At this moment, dozens of assassins charged up to support Zhu Hong, Ling Chen let out a loud shout, immediately unleashing the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, rushing straight towards those assassins.

Seeing Ling Chen breaking into the enemy's camp, Tong Zhentian immediately led others to support. The addition of a group of masters made the situation overwhelmingly one-sided. Facing everyone's fierce

onslaught, the killers from Skyhawk Pavilion were utterly powerless to resist. In a short while, the ground was littered with dozens of corpses.

"Master, it's bad, they've broken in," Zhu Hong pushed open the room door and urgently shouted at Zhu Chuan inside.

"I know." Zhu Chuan was sitting in front of the computer, watching the screen's display, his face grim, "Have everyone enter the tunnels. If they can't block them, then we have no choice but to fight to the death." After speaking, Zhu Chuan stood up and said, "You stay here, monitor the situation outside, and report to me promptly."

"Yes." Zhu Hong slightly relaxed, he thought Zhu Chuan would send him to the battlefield. Given his current strength, going would be a death sentence, it was safer to stay here.

After Zhu Chuan left, Zhu Hong locked the room door, sat alone in front of the computer, and activated all signals. Instantly, the computer screen displayed over a hundred red dots.

Each assassin within Skyhawk Pavilion had a microchip embedded, precisely locating their positions. If killed, the microchip would become ineffective, and the signal would disappear from the screen. With this feature, one could ascertain their personnel situation.

Staring at the dense lines on the screen, Zhu Hong felt a bit sentimental. He had to admire those from Skyhawk Pavilion who had dug hundreds of tunnels beneath the base. The purpose of these tunnels was simple, to deal with enemies invading the base. Utilizing these tunnels, they could launch stealth attacks and disappear without a trace.

Two minutes had passed, over twenty red dots on the screen had disappeared, nearly every minute saw a reduction. At this rate, it wouldn't be long before the Skyhawk Pavilion assassins were wiped out.

Such a pity, if only all personnel could be summoned back. Zhu Hong thought to himself.

Skyhawk Pavilion trained more assassins than this, he had asked Zhu Chuan before, according to Zhu Chuan, the total number of Skyhawk Pavilion assassins was nearly a thousand, most were carrying out missions outside, only one-third remained at the base.

If all assassins returned to the base, Ling Chen would never have succeeded.

Thinking of this, Zhu Hong felt very unwilling; he thought he had found a big tree to lean on, but ended up being ruined by Ling Chen.

Bastard! Zhu Hong gritted his teeth, eyes full of hatred. Ending up in this state was all thanks to Ling Chen. If this hatred wasn't avenged, he wouldn't sleep well ever in his life.

While contemplating, Zhu Hong tapped on the keyboard, seizing the chance to check the Skyhawk Pavilion's secret information. This was the base's main computer, Zhu Chuan had already authorized access through fingerprint; all material could be reviewed.

Suddenly, Zhu Hong seemed to discover something, his eyes glued to the screen.

Chapter 1295 - 1603: Encirclement of the Skyhawk Pavilion (Part 5)

"Quick, stop them." At this time, Zhu Chuan, along with other assassins from Skyhawk Pavilion, swiftly arrived at the entrance. Seeing Ling Chen and the others rushing over, Zhu Chuan shouted loudly, leading the charge and swiftly rushing forward to intercept Ling Chen's group.

Just then, a shadow flashed by, instantly appearing in front of Zhu Chuan, blocking his attack.

"Last time wasn't very satisfying, I hope you won't disappoint me again."

Looking at Chen Junfeng standing in front of him, Zhu Chuan's expression immediately darkened. Though he is also a martial arts expert on the Heavenly List, he is an assassin; darkness is where he truly excels. Facing Chen Junfeng directly is undoubtedly a disadvantage for him.

Though reluctantly, Zhu Chuan had no choice but to stop these people; he couldn't allow them to proceed further. Otherwise, the secrets of this base would be exposed.

While pondering, Chen Junfeng launched an attack, lightly tapping his toes as he charged straight at him.

Seeing his opponent approaching, Zhu Chuan's wrist shook, and with a series of 'whizzing' sounds, dozens of concealed weapons flew out immediately, sealing off all of Chen Junfeng's attack routes.

Seeing this, Chen Junfeng had no choice but to stop, quickly change positions, and evade the assault from the concealed weapons.

Having repelled Chen Junfeng, Zhu Chuan did not continue to attack but instead turned around to retreat.

"Everybody, stop!"

Hearing Zhu Chuan's shout, everyone immediately focused their gaze on him. Tong Zhentian stepped forward, came to the frontline, coldly looked at Zhu Chuan, and said in a deep voice, "Surrender, you have no way out."

Zhu Chuan snorted, "It's still hard to predict the outcome until the last moment. Tong Zhentian, take your people and get out of my territory immediately, and I will let bygones be bygones. Otherwise, don't blame me for being unkind."

"At this point, you still persist stubbornly. Fine! I want to see what else you can do. Attack!"

"Hold on!" Zhu Chuan raised his hand and looked at Tong Zhentian, saying, "Tong, do you intend to watch them being slaughtered?"

As the words fell, twenty or so men suddenly appeared behind Zhu Chuan. Each wore black clothes and black masks, giving off an eerie vibe.

Trailing behind these men were over thirty individuals, each looking disheveled, bruised, and battered. Seeing them, Ling Chen and the others' expressions changed involuntarily.

Aren't these the martial artists who accompanied them? How did they end up in the enemy's hands?

"Mr. Ling," Liu Dongsheng spoke beside him, "it's these people. Whenever we were attacked before, someone would mysteriously disappear; it turns out they were all captured."

Ling Chen squinted, looking at the men in black. Being able to abduct people right under the eyes of a group of martial artists shows these people's skills are remarkable.

"Tong Zhentian, withdraw all your men, and I might consider sparing their lives."

Hearing this, Tong Zhentian furrowed his brows and hesitated to speak. After a while, he turned to look at He Ziyun and Ling Chen and asked, "What do you think?"

"Don't retreat." He Ziyun said, "Su He will arrive soon, and once he does, the situation might change."

Ling Chen nodded. Su He is known as the world's number one; no one can ignore his presence. Even alone, he has the capability to alter the situation.

"What then? Are we really going to disregard those people's lives?"

"Well..." He Ziyun seemed a bit hesitant. Abandoning those martial artists is not their style. Yet, besides this option, there seem to be no other alternatives.

At that moment, a delicate hand gently tugged at Ling Chen's sleeve from behind.

Ling Chen turned around, seeing Zhu Qing behind him. He was about to speak when she gestured for silence. Ling Chen immediately closed his mouth and quietly followed Zhu Qing out of the crowd while everyone's attention was on Zhu Chuan and Tong Zhentian.

"Lady Zhu, is there anything you need?"

"I know how they managed to capture people."

Ling Chen said, "The Skyhawk Pavilion was founded by your Zhu Family, so the methods must be similar."

"No." Zhu Qing shook her head, saying, "Our Zhu Family doesn't have such methods. Even the most skilled assassins on the Heavenly List couldn't make people disappear in plain sight."

"Is that so?" Hearing Zhu Qing, Ling Chen became intrigued, asking, "Then how did they do it?"

"Initially, I found it odd, but later I discovered that the base had many underground tunnels built, interconnected, spanning the entire base. They use these tunnels to abduct people and disappear without a trace."

Ling Chen's eyes lit up, asking, "Have you investigated?"

"I've been through the tunnels. Just beneath your feet, there are at least forty concealed assassins who can spring out at any moment and attack."

Damn!

Ling Chen felt a chill down his spine, thankful for Zhu Qing's timely warning. Otherwise, they would be in trouble.

Glancing at Zhu Chuan and Tong Zhentian still in confrontation, Ling Chen whispered, "Lady Zhu, can you take me down there?"

Zhu Qing nodded, leading Ling Chen to the back of the crowd, to a place unnoticed. Then, Zhu Qing crouched down and lifted a floor tile. Immediately, a person-wide entrance was revealed below.

"Go ahead."

Without a word, Ling Chen jumped down. This tunnel could only accommodate one person at a time, and if two people met face to face, they had to turn sideways to pass. Moreover, the tunnel's height was limited, only about one meter, necessitating a bent posture.

With Zhu Qing guiding, Ling Chen ventured down the tunnel for over ten meters and saw a crossroad ahead. Zhu Qing pointed to the left, motioning to Ling Chen that assassins were lurking there.

Ling Chen reached the crossroad and stealthily peeked, noticing a dozen or so assassins in the left tunnel. The presence of these assassins continuously threatened everyone's safety; they had to be dealt with.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen stretched his hand towards Zhu Qing, who understood immediately and handed him over ten flying daggers. As an assassin, these items were carried for emergencies.

With flying daggers in hand, Ling Chen didn't act impulsively, carefully observing those assassins. At that moment, the dozen assassins' attention was fixed upwards, their demeanor suggesting they were awaiting orders.

At this opportunity, Ling Chen swiftly charged forward, his hand moving with lightning speed, casting over ten flying daggers in an instant. In the blink of an eye, over ten assassins had their throats pierced by the daggers, without a sound, and fell silently to the ground, lifeless.

Chapter 1296 - 1604: Encirclement of the Skyhawk Pavilion (6)

With Zhu Qing's assistance, it didn't take long for Ling Chen to take care of all the assassins lying in ambush in the passage. Then, Ling Chen and Zhu Qing used the tunnel to stealthily circle around to the back of Zhu Chuan and his group. They pried open a floor tile, revealing a crack, and Ling Chen took a couple of glances outside. His position happened to be right behind Zhu Chuan and the group of black-clad assassins.

However, the black-clad assassins were holding too many hostages, and rescuing so many people in an instant was undoubtedly very difficult.

After pondering for a while, Ling Chen took off the gear bag he carried with him, unzipped it, and found two flashbangs inside. Pulling the pins, Ling Chen held one flashbang in each hand, and after two seconds, he rolled them along the ground.

Suddenly, the two flashbangs rolled all the way across the ground, reaching the position where the black-clad assassins were standing.

Hearing the sounds from below, a black-clad assassin immediately looked down. As the flashbangs came into their view, the eyes of the black-clad assassins were filled with alarm. But before they could react, the two flashbangs had already exploded, emitting a strong light that temporarily blinded them.

Ling Chen had anticipated this and had left a two-second delay when he threw the flashbangs, giving the black-clad assassins no time to dodge. Taking advantage of their impaired vision, Ling Chen and Zhu Qing rushed out from the tunnel without hesitation, swiftly attacking. Within the blink of an eye, half of the black-clad assassins were killed.

This sudden turn of events shocked Zhu Chuan. Before he could react, Tong Zhentian had already issued an order to attack. Among them, Chen Junfeng was the fastest, closing the distance to Zhu Chuan in an instant, tangling with him and preventing him from focusing on others.

At this time, with Zhu Qing's cooperation, Ling Chen successfully dealt with the remaining black-clad assassins, rescuing all the hostages.

"Sir Chen, spare him," Ling Chen shouted as he glanced at Chen Junfeng, who was still fighting with Zhu Chuan.

Chen Junfeng responded, increasing the force of his attacks, pressuring Zhu Chuan without giving him a moment's respite.

Meanwhile, in the control room, Zhu Hong sat in front of a computer, watching the monitor feed, his face darkening. He had assumed that with Zhu Chuan personally on the scene, he could definitely thwart Ling Chen's advances. Little did he expect Zhu Chuan to be overwhelmed so easily.

This can't go on! He couldn't sit back and do nothing. He had to leave immediately. If he fell into Ling Chen's hands, he could imagine his fate.

Leaving the control room, Zhu Hong hurried along the corridor, soon arriving in front of a wall. Examining the wall carefully, he reached up and gave it two firm pats. Instantly, with a soft sound, a ten-

centimeter gap appeared at the bottom of the wall, and simultaneously, a small keyboard was ejected from the gap.

Gazing at the characters on the small keyboard, Zhu Hong took out a tablet computer, connected it to the keyboard with a data cable. In just a few seconds, the blinking red light on the keyboard turned green. After unplugging the cable, the entire wall slowly moved to the right, revealing a person-sized entrance.

Zhu Hong didn't hesitate and quickly stepped inside.

Proceeding a short distance, Zhu Hong encountered a transparent glass door blocking his path. This glass door was made of reinforced bulletproof glass, difficult to open with brute force. But Zhu Hong wasn't worried. As before, he used the tablet to crack the password of the glass door.

Don't underestimate this tablet; Zhu Hong had downloaded all access permissions to it when he left the control room. Anywhere requiring a password, Zhu Hong could easily bypass with these permissions.

Moments later, Zhu Hong found himself alone in a massive laboratory. The lab was extensive, filled with various large experimental devices. At the center of the facility, there stood a transparent cylindrical liquid container, housing what appeared to be a severed limb, likely a left leg.

Judging by the arrangement of the surrounding equipment, it seemed that the primary research target of this laboratory was that limb. Standing amidst the lab, Zhu Hong examined the area, feeling puzzled. He had just discovered the existence of this lab in the confidential files of the control room. This base was supposed to be a place for training elite assassins; why was there a laboratory?

"Who are you?" A voice suddenly called out from nearby.

Zhu Hong looked intently, seeing a lab-coated researcher rushing over, pointing accusingly at him, "This is a laboratory, higher-ups aren't allowed down here, didn't Zhu Chuan tell you?"

Zhu Hong scrutinized the researcher and asked, "Are you the only one in this lab?"

"The base is under attack, everyone else has evacuated. I'm just here to grab something and leave. You, you'd better get out." With that, the other turned to go. Zhu Hong caught up with the researcher, placing a hand on his shoulder, and asked, "I have one more question. What research does this lab conduct?"

The researcher frowned impatiently and replied, "Why do you ask so much? If it's not your concern, it's best to stay out of it, lest you bring trouble upon yourself. Now move aside, don't waste my time." With these words, the man shook off Zhu Hong's hand.

Zhu Hong smirked coldly, stepping forward swiftly, grabbing the man's throat, and pinning him against a piece of equipment, "If you don't want to die, you'd better answer my question honestly. What's that?" Zhu Hong pointed towards the severed limb in the liquid container.

"You... what are you doing?" The researcher glared, angrily shouting, "If you dare harm me, when Zhu Chuan finds out... ah!" Before finishing his sentence, his words turned into a cry of agony.

A dagger had been thrust into his thigh, and blood gushed out furiously, staining his lab coat bright red.

"Enough chatter, speak, what is that?"

The man, enduring the pain, said with a pale face, "That... that belongs to... Ling Gengqiu..."

"Ling Gengqiu?" Zhu Hong's eyes revealed a deep contemplation. After pondering for a moment, he asked again, "Who exactly is this Ling Gengqiu?" Earlier in the control room, he found a dossier marked 'Ling Gengqiu'. However, he couldn't open it. Even Zhu Chuan didn't have the clearance to view it, indicating that this person's identity was far from simple.

Eyeing the bloodied dagger in Zhu Hong's hand, the man was terrified, fearing to anger Zhu Hong and hide nothing. He truthfully revealed Ling Gengqiu's identity to Zhu Hong.

Chapter 1297 - 1605: Encirclement of Skyhawk Pavilion (7)

"Lived for hundreds of years?" After hearing the other party's words, Zhu Hong was completely taken aback. Having lived for more than twenty years, it was the first time he had heard such a bizarre thing. Could someone really survive for hundreds of years? Zhu Hong couldn't believe it, but looking at the researcher, he didn't seem to be lying.

Watching the severed limb preserved in the vessel, Zhu Hong suddenly realized a problem. Back when he worked for the God Organization, all their research was related to delaying aging, could it be... were they also researching Ling Gengqiu's corpse?

The Southern Ling Family... there might be a connection here. Thinking of this, Zhu Hong pointed at the severed limb and asked, "How long has this thing been here?"

"Over a hundred years, we've been conducting research and experiments here the whole time."

"Have you made any discoveries?"

"We've developed several drugs that can delay human aging and enhance physical strength. Additionally, there's an especially unique self-healing drug. Once consumed, no matter the injury, it can heal in a short time."

"So miraculous?" Zhu Hong's heart skipped a beat, and he asked, "Where are these drugs?"

The man pointed to a nearby refrigeration unit, "All the drugs are stored in there."

"You better not lie to me; otherwise, I'll make you suffer." As he spoke, Zhu Hong raised his knife and stabbed it into the man's other thigh. With a scream of pain, the man fell to the ground, his legs too weak to stand.

After confirming that the other couldn't escape, Zhu Hong quickly walked over to the refrigeration unit, opened the drawer, and found a bottle of the self-healing drug. Returning to the man, Zhu Hong handed him the bottle, motioning for him to drink it.

Not daring to resist, the man obediently unscrewed the cap and swallowed all the contents. A few minutes later, a miraculous scene unfolded. The man's injured legs began to heal slowly, and the wounds quickly scabbed over. Witnessing this, even the seasoned Zhu Hong was stunned by this miraculous self-healing drug. The efficacy of this drug made Zhu Hong abandon all doubts. He believed that Ling Gengqiu's feats were real. Otherwise, with current medical capabilities, it would be impossible to develop such a miraculous potion.

Holding the empty bottle, Zhu Hong's eyes shimmered with a complex light, remaining silent for a long time.

"Can... can I leave now?" the man pleaded.

Zhu Hong glanced at him and said with a half-smile, "You want to leave? Sure, I'll take you with me. Go and pack up that severed limb and all the drugs in the refrigeration unit for me."

Hearing this, the man was startled and asked, "What are you planning to do?"

"This isn't something you should be asking. If you still want to live, you better do as I say."

"Yes, yes!" The man dared not disobey and hurriedly ran to the transparent vessel, carefully extracting the severed limb. In about ten minutes, Ling Gengqiu's severed limb and all the drugs were packed up.

"I previously checked the structure map of this laboratory. If I remember correctly, there seems to be an escape passage. Take me there."

Under the man's guidance, Zhu Hong quickly reached the exit of the escape passage. At the exit, several off-road vehicles were parked, with over a dozen supply boxes around. Zhu Hong instructed the man to load everything and the supplies into the vehicle. Once everything was ready, Zhu Hong drove the off-road vehicle towards the desert.

The escape passage was quite hidden, about a kilometer away from the base. While driving, Zhu Hong continuously observed the surroundings and the skies. He knew Ling Chen had brought an armed helicopter; if it found his trail, he wouldn't be able to leave this desert.

After driving a few kilometers, Zhu Hong felt fortunate not to hear the sound of the armed helicopter. Possibly, the battle at the base had ended, and the helicopter had been withdrawn.

Inside the base.

Zhu Chuan was tied up on the ground. Besides him, a hundred assassins from the Skyhawk Pavilion were captured, with others perishing in the battle. The sudden attack by Ling Chen and Zhu Qing caught Zhu Chuan off guard. Moreover, Chen Junfeng's intervention extinguished all hope for Zhu Chuan. It didn't take long for Ling Chen to end the battle, capturing Zhu Chuan and his men.

"Mr. Ling." At this moment, Liu Dongsheng hurriedly approached and said, "We've searched the entire base; everyone is here, with no one missing."

"No." Ling Chen shook his head and said, "There's one more, Zhu Hong! We haven't seen him since we came in. Uncle Liu, send someone to search again; he's still here."

"Understood."

After Liu Dongsheng left, Ling Chen went straight to Tong Zhentian's side and asked, "Elder Tong, what's our casualty count?"

"We lost over thirty, with half injured. For wiping out the entire Skyhawk Pavilion, the loss is acceptable."

"I just received a message; Su He and his men will arrive in an hour. We better hurry."

"Don't worry, I've already had arrangements made; there won't be any mistakes."

"Mr. Ling."

As they spoke, a young man approached Ling Chen and said, "We've found the main control room of the base, but we don't have authority. Can we borrow that person?" The young man pointed to Zhu Chuan sitting on the ground.

"No problem." Ling Chen smiled slightly. These were the technicians brought by Liu Dongsheng; they handled all the technical matters. "Let's go; I'll accompany you." With that, Ling Chen greeted Chen Junfeng, and the three of them escorted Zhu Chuan to the control room.

With Zhu Chuan's fingerprint unlock, the young man quickly gained control of the entire base.

"Hmm?" The young man leaned close to the computer screen as if discovering something and said, "Mr. Ling, there seems to be a problem here."

"What problem?"

"Below this base, there's another laboratory that we hadn't discovered."

"Laboratory?" Ling Chen was shocked, looking at Zhu Chuan in astonishment. Could it be... that the equipment was used here? On the plane arranged by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, Ling Chen had secretly checked the cargo hold and found many large wooden boxes, all filled with precision scientific equipment. He found it strange, not knowing why the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion transported so much equipment. Now it seemed that the equipment was probably meant to equip this secret laboratory.

"Elder Zhu, what research is your laboratory conducting?" Ling Chen asked Zhu Chuan.

Faced with Ling Chen's query, Zhu Chuan coldly remained silent. Seeing this, Ling Chen shrugged and said, "Alright, since you won't say, I'll go see for myself."

Chapter 1298 - 1606: Desert Ambush (Part 1)

Entering the laboratory and seeing the equipment inside, Ling Chen's expression was a bit surprised. He hadn't expected such a large laboratory to be hidden beneath this base. "The Skyhawk Pavilion's base is built on top of this laboratory," Chen Junfeng, who accompanied him, said. "It seems this laboratory has been around for many years. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion likely constructed the Skyhawk Pavilion here to protect the laboratory's safety."

Ling Chen wandered around the laboratory, noticing the empty central container, the open refrigerator and drawers that were devoid of anything. On the floor of the laboratory, quite a bit of bloodstains remained, left by unknown individuals.

"Did you have the people remove everything?" Ling Chen asked Zhu Chuan.

Zhu Chuan glanced around at the situation, his brows furrowing slightly, clearly unsure.

At this moment, Liu Dongsheng entered with his men from outside, saying, "Mr. Ling, we've searched the entire base and found no trace of Zhu Hong. I questioned the captured assassins, and none of them saw Zhu Hong. He might have already escaped."

Escaped? Ling Chen sighed helplessly, having thought he could solve everything including Zhu Hong, but somehow that guy still had such luck to slip away.

"Forget it! Uncle Liu, take some people to search the surrounding area and see if anything can be found."

"Alright." Liu Dongsheng responded and immediately dispatched the personnel he brought along.

Shortly thereafter, more than a dozen researchers in white lab coats were brought over.

"Mr. Ling, all these people were hiding in the room."

Ling Chen scrutinized the crowd and asked, "Are you all the research personnel in this laboratory?"

The crowd nodded, looking at Ling Chen with fear. Ling Chen glanced at Zhu Chuan, who stood there expressionlessly, and decided to focus his attention back on the research personnel.

"Who's in charge here? Come forward and introduce yourself."

Upon hearing this, the more than ten researchers looked at each other, but none stepped forward. Seeing this, Ling Chen spoke with a faint smile, "What's the matter? Afraid?"

"No... it's not that," one researcher reluctantly said, "The head of the laboratory isn't here."

"Continue searching, find him for me," Liu Dongsheng immediately organized a thorough search of the entire laboratory. However, more than ten minutes passed, and they didn't locate the whereabouts of the person in charge. At this point, a young man hurried to Liu Dongsheng's side, whispering a few words.

"Mr. Ling, we've found the surveillance footage of the laboratory."

"Where is it? Take me to see it."

Very soon, Ling Chen and Liu Dongsheng arrived at the independent surveillance room of the laboratory. After opening the surveillance footage, Ling Chen quickly observed the appearance of Zhu Hong and a researcher. However, Ling Chen's attention wasn't on Zhu Hong; he kept staring at the liquid container in the laboratory. In that liquid container, he saw a severed limb. Ultimately, Zhu Hong packed up the severed limb and took it away.

So... the real purpose of Skyhawk Pavilion being built here was to protect that severed limb.

Ling Chen frowned slightly. He never expected that the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was secretly researching Ling Gengqiu's body. All along, he thought only Ling Family members knew Ling Gengqiu's secret, but from the current circumstances, aside from Ling Family, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion also knew about this secret. Furthermore, the long-standing existence of Skyhawk Pavilion indicated that the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion started researching Ling Gengqiu's body many years ago.

"Mr. Ling, this person is likely the laboratory head they've mentioned," Liu Dongsheng pointed at the man on the surveillance screen and said.

Ling Chen nodded and said, "That's not the main issue. Uncle Liu, have your men collect all the laboratory's data. Remember, no omissions; I want it all."

"Alright." Though Liu Dongsheng didn't understand what Ling Chen was planning, he agreed nonetheless.

Back in the laboratory, Ling Chen walked straight up to Zhu Chuan, looking into his eyes, and asked, "How long have you been researching Ling Gengqiu?"

Zhu Chuan looked coldly at Ling Chen, as if he hadn't heard the question at all.

"Won't talk, huh? No problem, I'll find out," Ling Chen said, then turned to Chen Junfeng and said, "Sir Chen, take all people from Skyhawk Pavilion away and evacuate the base in ten minutes."

"Alright."

The crowd worked efficiently, and in less than ten minutes, most people had left the base in military transport vehicles. From afar, the entire base was brightly lit, with people occasionally passing by outside as if nothing had happened.

An hour passed.

The night grew dark, Ling Chen stood two kilometers away from the base, holding binoculars, observing the movements around it.

"Mr. Ling, the drone has discovered traces of Su He and crew, they're located northeast of the base, about ten kilometers from the destination."

"Notify everyone to prepare."

"Yes."

After another half an hour, Ling Chen finally saw Su He and the others through the binoculars. Besides the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion members, they were followed by over two hundred martial artists. Seeing those people stumbling as they walked, it was clear they had suffered significantly in the desert.

As the team slowly approached the base, Ling Chen set down the binoculars and gestured to Liu Dongsheng, who immediately went to arrange personnel.

More than ten minutes later, Su He's group finally arrived at the base. All who had been waiting at the door swiftly opened it and greeted them promptly.

"Elder Su."

"Where is Zhu Chuan?" Su He asked directly with a gloomy expression. Throughout the journey, he had tried calling Zhu Chuan countless times, with no success. Even with his calm disposition, he couldn't help but get angry.

"Elder Su, not even Eagle Head is here. I also don't know where he's gone," replied a young man honestly.

"Hmph!" Su He snorted coldly, "I don't care what means you use, find him within ten minutes. If you don't bring him to me, then bring me your head."

"Yes." After speaking, the questioned young man looked at the martial artists following behind and asked, "Elder Su, these people..."

"Find a place to settle them, and have someone watch them. Don't let them escape."

"Elder Su." At this moment, the group of martial artists looked at the situation before them, somewhat bewildered. They had followed the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to eliminate Skyhawk Pavilion. Finally arriving at the destination, yet nothing had happened. Moreover, judging by Su He's demeanor, he seemed quite familiar with the people at this base.

Could it be that this isn't Skyhawk Pavilion's headquarters?

Su He turned back, giving a cold glance at those behind him, and spoke, "Rest first. I will come to you later." Without waiting for the martial artists to ask further questions, Su He, along with Wang Hao and others, left without looking back.

Chapter 1299 - 1607: Desert Ambush (Part 2)

After watching Su He leave, the young man beside him immediately gathered his men and brought the group of Martial Artists into the pre-prepared warehouse. Once inside, the young man glanced at the

situation outside and immediately locked the door tightly. Noticing his action, someone in the crowd shouted, "Kid, what are you doing?"

The young man smiled slightly and said, "Please stay calm everyone, I'm saving your lives."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Everyone, we meet again." As the words were spoken, everyone turned to see an old man appear in the warehouse. Seeing the newcomer, they couldn't help but be shocked and asked in surprise, "Elder Tong, why are you here?"

Tong Zhentian spoke, "Everyone, you are currently in a very dangerous situation, with your lives at risk at any moment. If you want to live, it's best to follow my arrangements."

...

At this moment, Su He and others, led by a young man, were preparing to rest. As they walked along, Su He looked at the surroundings of the base, suddenly paused, and asked, "Where are we going?"

"Elder Su, I've arranged accommodations for you." The young man quickly replied.

Su He pointed to the three-story main building not far away and asked, "Shouldn't we be going there?"

The young man explained with a smile, "Elder Su, you may not know, but due to the age of the facilities, they are too old and outdated. Recently, Eagle Head had people remodel the interior of that building, and it's not finished yet. It's in a mess inside, and not suitable for living at the moment."

Hearing this, Su He nodded and did not continue to ask. The young man secretly breathed a sigh of relief; he was really afraid Su He would keep questioning. There had been a fierce battle in that three-story main building just now, and it was in ruins. If Su He were to enter there, he would definitely find something amiss.

Soon, the young man arranged for Su He and others to settle in a comfortable conference hall.

"Elder Su, please take a rest, I will have food sent over right away." With that, the young man turned and left.

"Master, what's going on here?" Wang Hao asked Su He. Even Su Mei didn't know about the relationship between the Skyhawk Pavilion and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, let alone Wang Hao. Following his master's orders, Wang Hao had asked nothing along the way, assuming they were really there to destroy the Skyhawk Pavilion. However, from the current situation, it seemed that wasn't the case.

Su He glanced at Wang Hao, neither warmly nor coldly, and said, "You don't need to ask so much, just do as I say."

A few minutes later, a table filled with sumptuous dishes was brought in.

"Elder Su, please enjoy your meal slowly, I need to arrange meals for the others."

Su He waved his hand, signaling the person to leave.

After finishing his meal, Su He checked the time and frowned, asking, "Why hasn't Zhu Chuan arrived yet?"

"Master, should I go out and check?"

"Go ahead."

Wang Hao nodded, quickly got up, and left the conference room. Not long after, Wang Hao hurriedly ran in from outside, exclaiming, "Master, I just went outside to look, and there's no one there."

"No one?" Su He's face sank, and he stood up abruptly, striding outside. After leaving the conference room, Su He took Wang Hao to look around. Just as Wang Hao said, there wasn't a single living soul to be seen anywhere in or around the base.

Seeing this, Su He immediately felt something was wrong and said in a deep voice, "Where are our people from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? Where have they been taken?"

"They should have been taken to the warehouse over there."

"Let's go, follow me there to check."

Before long, the two quickly reached the warehouse. As soon as they entered, Su He was stunned by the scene before him. At this moment, over two hundred members of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion were lying unconscious in the huge warehouse, each with foam at their mouths and faces pale, all fallen into a coma. Beside them, there were many scattered food containers.

Wang Hao glanced around, his face ugly as he said, "Master, they... they must be poisoned." As he finished speaking, Wang Hao seemed to realize something, his face suddenly changed dramatically, and he exclaimed, "Oh no! We ate that food too."

"Don't panic." Su He said coldly with a dark expression, "With me here, you won't die."

"Master, who could have done this?"

Su He pondered for a moment and was about to speak when he suddenly heard footsteps behind him. He turned around abruptly, looking at the newcomer in shock.

"What are you doing here?"

"Grandfather, please stop, don't make things worse." Su Mei looked at Su He and pleaded.

Su He frowned slightly, pointing to the unconscious people in the warehouse, and asked coldly, "Did you do all this?"

"Grandfather, they're not in danger of dying—they've just temporarily lost their ability to move. They are the elite of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and I don't want anything to happen to them."

"So you chose to betray me?" Su He's gaze gradually grew cold, carrying a trace of killing intent.

"The Pavilion Master did it for the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion." Came a voice, and Su He looked over, speaking in a deep voice, "Mr. Du, are you also going to go against me?"

"I am from Yangxin Pavilion, and Yangxin Pavilion only cares about the safety of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Su He, your actions have already seriously threatened the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. I advise you to stop immediately. If you continue to be stubborn, you will sooner or later bring the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to ruin."

Su He laughed coldly and said, "Is that your realization? Du Kang, I didn't think your vision would be so short-sighted. At this point, only bloodshed can make the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion rise again." With that, Su He turned to Su Mei and said, "Dear granddaughter, do you not even trust your own grandfather? Everything I've done is for the sake of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, you should be able to understand my efforts."

Su Mei nodded gently and said, "Grandfather, I can understand, but I don't agree. Looking through history, which dynasty doesn't have its ups and downs? Even the most glorious empire has a day when it declines. If the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion really reaches such a point, I will accept it calmly and never resort to such extreme measures. Grandfather, if you truly care for the future of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, you should stop immediately. As long as you do as I say, there's still a chance to make amends."

"Was it Ling Chen who called you here?" Su He acted as if he hadn't heard Su Mei's advice and asked abruptly, "Where is he? Tell him to come see me."

"I am here." As the voice fell, Ling Chen emerged from the corner of the warehouse, "Elder Su, what can I do for you?"

Su He carefully observed Ling Chen, and suddenly laughed, "I must admit, I underestimated you."

"I just happen to have good luck. I've been to this desert before, so when you brought me in, I knew you wouldn't surrender willingly."

"If you weren't Ling Kun's son, I would have taken you as my direct disciple. Compared to you, Wang Hao is far inferior."

Chapter 1300 - 1608: Desert Ambush (Part 3)

Upon hearing Su He's evaluation of Ling Chen, Wang Hao's face instantly turned ugly. Ever since becoming Su He's disciple, he had been striving hard, hoping to gain Su He's recognition and praise. However, no matter what he did, it always seemed mediocre in Su He's eyes.

It turns out that in Su He's heart, he had always been comparing him with Ling Chen. Especially the phrase 'miles apart,' which struck his self-esteem.

Could it be... in Master's eyes, he's this inept? He is, after all, the most outstanding disciple of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion in a hundred years.

At this moment, no one cared about the changes within Wang Hao's heart; everyone's eyes were on Su He, hoping to persuade him to turn back.

"Ling Chen, if you want me to admit defeat, you'll probably be disappointed. Since I've chosen this path, I won't regret it. Besides, do you really think you've won?"

Ling Chen didn't speak, just took out the signal flare in his hand and fired it into the night sky.

In an instant, more than ten spotlights beamed in from the surroundings, one of the beams coming from the armed helicopter above.

Looking at the approaching Martial Arts experts around, Su He's expression remained indifferent, unmoved. When all the ambushers were present, Ling Chen spoke: "Elder Su, in this situation, I don't think you have a slight chance of winning. Although you are the number one in the world, you are not omnipotent. Surrender. I guarantee you will be unharmed and suffer no injury."

Su He shook his head and looked at those present, remaining silent. He thought his plan was foolproof, but he hadn't anticipated such a result.

After pondering for a while, Su He cast his gaze on his granddaughter and said faintly, "I hope your choice is the right one."

As his words fell, Su He's body instantly became a shadow and disappeared from where he stood.

Nine Yang Qiankun Step! Ling Chen's pupils contracted slightly, and he hastened to shout, "Contract the encirclement."

However, Ling Chen's reminder was still a step too slow. More than ten Martial Arts figures to the east were blown away directly, breaking the encirclement in an instant. From beginning to end, no one saw Su He's figure; he seemed to have merged into the night.

"Over there." At this time, Tong Zhentian pointed to the north of the base. Although Tong Zhentian's body hadn't fully recovered and his strength hadn't returned to its peak, his observation remained at the level of a Heavenly List expert.

"I'll go after him." Chen Junfeng tapped his toes lightly, turning into a gust of wind, chasing toward Su He's position.

Watching Chen Junfeng's figure disappear from view, Ling Chen shook his head helplessly. The battles between Heavenly List experts were not something he could intervene in. He knew Su He's strength was formidable, so he arranged all personnel here to encircle Su He. However, he still underestimated Su He's might. The Nine Yang Qiankun Step was originally the number one movement technique in Martial Arts, and its power was terrifyingly amplified when Su He used it, making even his shadow untraceable.

Now, he could only pin his hopes on Chen Junfeng, hoping he could stop Su He.

In the anxious wait of everyone, more than ten minutes passed, and Ling Chen looked far ahead, finally seeing a blurred figure walking in this direction. When the figure got closer, Ling Chen recognized it as Chen Junfeng. He came back alone, presumably allowing Su He to escape.

"Sorry, he was too fast, and I couldn't catch up to him."

"It's alright." Ling Chen smiled faintly, "Although Su He escaped, our primary mission this time is considered accomplished."

Despite his words, Ling Chen felt somewhat disappointed. Everything was arranged, yet Su He still escaped. After today, he and Su He became mortal enemies, and Su He would not let him off. Just thinking about possibly facing the ambush of a Heavenly List expert in the future made Ling Chen's back feel a chill, making him extremely anxious.

Sigh! What can be done here?

A night passed.

Ling Chen went to the makeshift command center and asked Liu Dongsheng, who was busy, "Uncle Liu, is everything sorted out?"

"All done." Liu Dongsheng handed a thick file folder to Ling Chen, "These are all the materials I found from the laboratory, and I put some electronic documents in there too."

Ling Chen nodded. These were research materials on Ling Gengqiu from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, extremely valuable. After securing the file folder, Ling Chen asked, "How about matters?"

"All one hundred plus prisoners from the Skyhawk Pavilion have been sent back, and those Martial Arts figures have been arranged vehicles to be sent to the airport. As for the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, they said they'd handle it themselves."

"That's good. Hey! Uncle Liu, I think this base isn't bad. Do you have any ideas..."

Liu Dongsheng's lips curled up, revealing a smile on his dark face, "I have the same thought. This base's location is excellent, and its area is large, facilities complete; it can be used as our backup base. Moreover, as the number of personnel increases, our current base will surely be insufficient."

"Alright, since you've already had an idea, I won't say more. In short, you are in complete charge here, and if there's any unsolvable problem, contact me anytime, I'll find a way to sort it out for you."

"Okay."

After a bit of small talk with Liu Dongsheng, Ling Chen walked out of the temporary command center, joined Tong Zhentian and others, and left the desert by car.

The Skyhawk Pavilion was completely defeated, and Su He escaped. The desert trip had already reached its conclusion; there was no need to stay longer. Sitting in the car, Ling Chen sat alone in the back seat, holding the lab materials he had retrieved, carefully reading through them.

This document was extremely detailed; from the first experiment conducted since the lab's establishment to the last experiment, all were meticulously recorded.

Three thousand seven hundred and twenty-one times! Seeing this number, Ling Chen was really shocked. Over the years, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had conducted thousands of experiments, and their greatest achievement was developing a self-healing medicine that could restore a person's external injuries in a short time.

However, although this self-healing medicine was good, it had its drawbacks. The reason people age is that internal organs cannot maintain their vitality, and if this self-healing medicine cannot affect internal organs and cells, it's merely a good medicine, not particularly valuable.

From the materials, it seems the research team from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is tackling this issue, but no success has been achieved yet.

After more than two hours of driving, Ling Chen and his party finally arrived at the airport.

As Ling Chen was about to board the plane to return to East Sea City, he suddenly received a phone call. It was from Hu Fei; during their absence from East Sea City, a significant problem had arisen in Beijing. This trouble was unrelated to Ling Chen but was caused by Nanrong Wanqing.